

## **CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR**

**By Jill Greenlees Smith Herman**

### **Corporal John M. Greenlees**

John M. Greenlees, my great grandfather, was born on a farm near Tappan, Ohio on June 14, 1848. At age 16, he enlisted, and after 4 months of training, he was assigned to Company I, Eleventh Regiment, of the Ohio Eleventh Cavalry. Company I, was organized at Ft. Laramie of the Dakota Territory. The operations of the company were in hostile Indian Territory, before the formation of the Wyoming Territory. The Eleventh Ohio cavalry constructed numerous outposts and guarded over 1000 miles of communication and supply lines from marauding Indians.

Although I do not have documentation of any specific battles or engagements involving my great grandfather Greenlees, it is known that detachments of the Eleventh Ohio were involved in over two dozen Indian encounters, including several involving the fabled Chief Crazy Horse. Many of these Indian attacks followed the Sand Creek massacre of over one hundred Indian women and children by a detachment Colorado troops.

My grandfather was honorably discharged at Ft. Leavenworth on July 14, 1866. Later family members who took charge of his discharge papers noticed that the document misspelled his name as "Greenlease"-a testament perhaps to the difficulty of accounting perfectly for the many men who served.