

My love of the Civil War started as a child back in 1957 when the T.V. Series (THE GRAY GHOST) aired. This show was based on the true story of Major John Singleton Mosby a confederate cavalry officer from Virginia who commanded a cavalry battalion. Time and time again I would dream of being a confederate soldier and actually sewed buttons on my old gray coat to simulate a double breasted confederate shell jacket. In 1961 two board games appeared on the market (BATTLE-CRY) by Milton Bradley and (CIVIL WAR GAME 1863) by Parker Brothers. These board games were great games for the era we lived in and my friends and I played them constantly. The two board games can be purchased used online and Battle Cry is reissued as the (150th CIVIL WAR ANNIVERSARY EDITION). I have my BATTLE CRY game from 1961 on the shelf at home. During my teenage years the Civil War took a back seat because girls,cars and motorcycles were more interesting. While serving in the Navy and attending a Navy school in Pensacola, Florida I noticed the base had a huge section of books on the Civil War in its library and I spent a lot of time reading about the war. There is a confederate fort on the base that over looks the harbor which I visited. The base library and the fort helped to bring me back to and reopen the door to the Civil War.

In recent times I decided to attend a family reunion and discovered that I had a direct connection to the Civil War. Two of my relatives attending the reunion were genealogists and had documented the family as far back as 1637 in the Americas. I am descended from Josiah McCowin and Matilda Cory and both families were founding families of Beaver County. Researching family participation in the Civil War I discovered a large number of soldiers of the two clans and have chosen four for this article.

Corporal William Henry Harrison McCowin _ Company E 3rd Reg. Iowa Vol. Inf.

Corporal McCowin was wounded at the skirmish of Blue Mills Landing in Clay County, Missouri on 17 April 1861 in the Battle of Lexington. He recuperated at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and returned to fight in the Battle of Shiloh where he was wounded in the side by gunshot and disabled.

Sergeant Nathan E. Cory _ Company C 101st Reg. Pa. Vol. Inf.

Enlisted (10 Sept. 1861) Wampam, Lawrance Co.,Pa.

(13 Aug. 1862) Promoted Corporal

(1 Apr. 1863) Promoted Sergeant

(1 Jan. 1864) Reenlisted

(20 Apr. 1864) Captured at the Battle of Plymouth and held prisoner at the notorious Andersonville,Ga. Prison and paroled (11 Dec. 1864)

(1 June 1865) Commissioned 2nd Lt.

(25 June 1865) MUSTERED OUT

Sergeant Josiah J. T. McCowin / McCune _ Company I 134th Reg. Pa. Vol. Inf.

Josiah was born about 1833 and there were three Josiah McCowins living in the same neighborhood so he changed his last name to McCune.

Josiah was wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg and suffered from exposure. He was sent home and died (5 Sept. 1863).

Pvt. Thomas Jefferson Cory _ Company I 6th Reg. Virginia Vol. Inf.

Served in Mahone's Brigade at the Battle of Gettysburg

(14 July 1863) Captured at the Battle of Falling Waters, Md.

(3 Mar. 1864) Paroled and Exchanged

(30 July 1864) Killed in action at the Battle of The Crater. Confederate dead were covered over with dirt in the bottom of the Crater and a new fortification was built above them.