

Please find enclosed the story of my great-great uncle, Richard Butler, who was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, and served in the American Civil War. I believe his story is unique because of the nature of his service. He served in a volunteer infantry unit that remained together over a period of 16 months, fought in all battles of four continuous campaigns under a single command structure, marched over 2,500 miles, and never missed a day on duty!

Richard B. Butler

Enlisted: December 22, 1863 Age: 29 Platteville, WI 25th Wisconsin Vol. Infantry Co. B Three-year term. Born: Beaver County, Pa Occupation: carpenter Description: YB"; dark hair; dark eyes; fair complexion

Unit muster rolls show Richard was mustered in on January 9, 1864, with the rank of private. On February 1, 1864, his regiment moved to Vicksburg, Mississippi. At Vicksburg the regiment became part of the Army of Tennessee, XVI Corps, Fourth Division, and First Brigade.

Richard was shown "present" on all muster rolls from February 1, 1864 to the date he was mustered out July 16, 1865! He experienced only two periods of illness - both near Atlanta in September 1864 - but he never missed a day absent from duty! His regiment participated in the following campaigns under the command of Major General William T. Sherman: the Meridian Campaign from February to April 1864, and the Atlanta Campaign from May to September 1864. Near Atlanta his regiment was placed in the XVII Corps, First Division, and Second Brigade.

The XVII Corps, commanded by Major General Frank Blair, took part in Sherman's famous "March to the Sea" from November 15 to December 21, 1864, where the Union Army entered Savannah, Ga.

With only a month of rest there, Sherman organized and began his next move - the Campaign of the Carolinas - which began on February 1, 1865.

Sherman organized his force into two wings. Richard's regiment remained in the XVII Corps within the Right Wing. On February 10, Sherman's Army marched toward Columbia, SC and entered the city a week later. The XVII Corps did not enter Columbia

but camped 4 miles above the city along the river. From Columbia, South Carolina, the Union Army under Sherman marched into North Carolina leading to the surrender of the Confederate Army under Johnston at the Bennett House near Raleigh on April 26, 1865. Richard was granted a furlough, and also a transfer to the 12th Wisconsin Vol. Infantry, Co. K. He was honorably mustered out of military service on July 16, 1865 in Louisville, KY. It was estimated that the average number of miles marched by the XVI and XVII Army Corps in which Richard Butler served under the command of Major General W. T. Sherman in these campaigns would total 2,584 miles!

Richard applied for and was granted a soldier's military service pension in 1891. He received the amount of \$8.00/month until the date of his death in April of 1898 at the age of 63. This brave soldier is buried beside his wife, Mary Houk Butler, and their children and grandchildren in Grove Cemetery in New Brighton, Pennsylvania.