

Col. George Bradley

(April 4, 1832 - February 11, 1879)



George Bradley was born on or about April 4, 1832 in Charleston, Maine.¹ He attended Colby College, graduating in the class of 1852.² He studied law, was admitted to the Maine bar, and practiced for a while in Bangor. Restless, adventurous and ambitious, he removed in Minnesota in 1856, settling in Belle Paine. He was twenty-three years old. In October 1857, he was elected to represent Scott County in the Minnesota House of Representatives, and when the House convened in December, he was appointed its first President *pro tem*.³ In the meantime, he resumed practicing law.⁴ In 1860 he was appointed Receiver of the U. S. Land Office, a plum assignment for a fledgling lawyer at the time.

Responding to a call from President Lincoln for volunteers, the Minnesota Seventh Regiment of Infantry was organized in August 1862. It was led by Colonel Stephen Miller, Lieutenant Colonel William R. Marshall and Major George Bradley. After subduing native tribes in Minnesota, it was ordered to Missouri in October 1863, then to Tennessee, where it became part of the Sixteenth Army Corps. By this time Bradley had been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

After the battle of Tupelo, Mississippi, in July 1864, the Seventh was sent to track down Confederates in Missouri. Its final battles were at Nashville in December 1864, and Mobile, Alabama, in March and April 1865. After both engagements, Bradley wrote an official "report of the part taken" by his regiment in the fighting. They are reproduced in the Appendix. Over forty years later, Lucius F. Hubbard, who also fought in these battles, co-edited a history of Minnesota in which the fighting of four Minnesota infantry regiments was described.⁵ Here is Hubbard's account of the Seventh's sacrifices and successes in the battles of Nashville and Mobile:

¹ Bradley's actual birth date is not known for certain. The years 1832 and 1833 are listed in various sources. A notation on Ancestry.com states that he died at the age of "46 years, 10 months and 7 days." If so, he was born on April 4, 1832.

² *Second General Catalogue of the Officers and Graduates of Colby College, Waterville, Maine, 1820-1887* 35 (1887) (one paragraph of biographical data).

³ Journal of the House of Representatives, December 22, 1857, at 80.

⁴ On July 22, 1858, he was admitted to the Minnesota bar. 1 Roll of Attorneys: Supreme Court, State of Minnesota, 1858-1970 3 (State L. Library, 2011).

⁵ Hubbard, who was a colonel in the Fifth Minnesota Regiment, which was also part of the Sixteenth Corps, "had three horses shot under him on the sixteenth [of December 1864]. Going

The regiment left St. Louis with the Sixteenth Army Corps November 24 [1864], proceeding via the Mississippi, Ohio and Cumberland Rivers to Nashville, Tennessee, where it arrived on the thirtieth of the month.

General George H. Thomas had here concentrated an army of about 40,000 men, which was confronted by a Confederate force somewhat larger, commanded by General J. B. Hood. It was evident that a great battle must be fought at Nashville, the issue of which would determine the ability of the Union forces to permanently check and turn back the enemy, who had thus far advanced in his purpose to penetrate northward to the Ohio River. The battle was opened on the fifteenth of December by an attack by General Thomas on Hood's advanced lines, the Sixteenth Corps holding the advance on the right of the Union line. The enemy was steadily driven during the day, several fortified positions being carried by assault the Seventh Regiment participating with its brigade in the capture of a redoubt that held the key to a strong position. In this affair the officer commanding the brigade, Colonel Hill of Iowa, was killed, the command then devolving on Colonel Marshall of the Seventh Regiment, who thereafter continued in the permanent command of the Third Brigade. In the final charge of the following day against the last position held by the enemy, the Seventh Regiment in line with the Fifth, Ninth and Tenth Minnesota Regiments, together constituting a large part of the front of the First Division—each brigade being formed in double lines—showed its admirable discipline and splendid fighting qualities by its steady advance over difficult ground in the face of a withering fire from infantry and artillery, and carrying the enemy's works with a dash and an impetuosity that prevented anything in its front from escaping capture. It was a brilliant achievement, though won at a serious sacrifice. Seven men killed and forty-eight wounded was the price it paid for its valor. General McArthur, the Division Commander, in his official report, says: "I wish particularly to mention the gallant conduct of Colonel William B. Marshall, Seventh Minnesota Infantry, commanding Third Brigade; called to take command during the first day's battle, his admirable management and example stamp him as an officer of rare merit."

into action with a total of 1,421 muskets in his brigade, he captured over 2,000 prisoners, 9 pieces of artillery and 7 stands of colors, and the casualties of his brigade number 315." Lucius F. Hubbard & Return I. Holcombe, eds, 3 *Minnesota in Three Centuries* 173 (1908) (quoting an official report of the commanding general).

In common with the army generally, the regiment had a severe experience in the pursuit of the enemy after the battle; the condition of the elements, and a long separation from its supply train subjecting the men to much suffering and privation. It reached Eastport, Mississippi, on the Tennessee River January 7, 1865, where it was given a rest, though required for a time to subsist on meager rations, owing to an ice embargo on the Tennessee River; a condition that indicates the severe weather with which the army had to contend.

Early in February the regiment moved with the Sixteenth Corp to New Orleans, Louisiana, where it was assigned to the Army of the Gulf, commanded by General E. R. S. Canby. In March following it moved via Lake Ponchartrain to Dauphin Island, Mobile Bay, and from there to Fish River on which there had been established a base for operations against the defenses of Mobile, Alabama.

On the march in the advance against Spanish Fort, on the twenty-fifth of March, Colonel Marshall was quite seriously wounded by a sharpshooter, but he continued on duty as though nothing had happened. In the siege of Spanish Fort the regiment performed arduous duty in a new line of service. In the construction of the approaches to the enemy's works, it was given opportunity to become familiar with engineering details of the military art. It constructed trenches, zig zags, saps, parallels and emplacements according to scientific engineering plans, and kept its approaches well advanced as the siege progressed. It occupied Spanish Port with its brigade as the Confederates evacuated on the night of April 8, and next day moved in front of the enemy's position at Blakely. Here it cooperated in such service as the Sixteenth Corps generally performed in the capture of Blakely on the ninth, which constituted its final participation in the hostile operations of the war.

Following the surrender of the city of Mobile, which occurred on the twelfth of April, the regiment marched with its command to Montgomery, Alabama, from whence it was transferred to Selma, where it remained until July 20. On that date having received orders to return to Minnesota, it started on its final march homeward bound, and received its discharge from service at Fort Snelling, August 16, 1865.⁶

Bradley, back in civilian life, returned to Minneapolis and formed a law partnership with F. R. E. Cornell, who was elected attorney general in 1867. The firm

⁶ Id. at 181-183.

dissolved when Cornell was elected to the state supreme court in 1874.⁷ He then joined forces with H. G. O. Morrison. Their firm lasted until Bradley's death.

On the night of February 10, 1879, Bradley spent some time at the Nicollet House, a popular gathering site in downtown Minneapolis. About 11 P.M. he returned to his rooms which adjoined his law firm's office on the second floor of a nearby building. At the top of the stairs, he suffered an attack of "apoplexy" — or perhaps he just slipped — and fell down the stairs, striking his head as he landed.⁸ There he lay unconscious in a pool of blood until he was discovered the next morning. He was rushed to a doctor's office, but died in the early afternoon. The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* carried the story:

SUDDEN DEATH OF COL. BRADLEY.

He is Stricken with Apoplexy,
and Dies in Twelve Hours.

About 7:30 o'clock yesterday morning an employe of Miller's hardware store, at 111 Washington avenue south, had occasion to visit a room in the building over the store, but on going to the door leading from the street upstairs he discovered some object against the door which prevented it being opened. Officer Wescott was notified, and on forcing open the door discovered Col. George Bradley lying on his face, unconscious, in a pool of blood. Word was immediately sent for a carriage, and he was removed to Dr. Kimball's office, where everything possible was done for him but without avail.

At 10 o'clock he was removed to room 91 in the Nicollet [House], where he died at 12:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon. He was unconscious at the time he was discovered and remained so until he died.

The theory advanced by Mr. H. G. O. Morrison that Mr. Bradley had been foully dealt with, is dispelled from the fact that his pocket-book, watch and private papers were undisturbed.

⁷ Francis Russell Edward Cornell (1821-1881) served three terms in the Minnesota House of representatives as a Republican; was elected attorney general in 1867 and served three terms, 1868-1874; and was elected in November 1874 to the state supreme court, where he served from January 1875 to death in May 1881. It appears from Bradley's obituary that Cornell was his law partner while acting as attorney general.

⁸ At this time, "apoplexy" was applied to a host of neurological impairments, including strokes.

The best information that could be gleaned as to the cause of his death is the following: Mr. Bradley was at the Nicollet during the evening, left there for his room at 111 Washington avenue about 11 o'clock. It is supposed by the doctors that he had a fit of apoplexy as he reached the head of the stairs and fell to the bottom; he was bruised slightly about the face, but his death was not caused by the fall but by apoplexy.

His brother and sister at Bangor, Maine, and his cousin Edward Bradley, of Milwaukee, were notified of his death, and Edward Bradley, of Milwaukee, will arrive here this morning. The following is a short sketch of Col. Bradley's life:

Col. George Bradley was born at Charlestown, Maine, in 1833, graduated at Waterville college in Maine with high honors at the age of twenty-two, and shortly after was admitted to practice at the bar, and was a prominent young lawyer at Bangor for several years. In 1856 he removed to Belle Plaine, where he formed a law co-partnership under the firm name of Baldwin & Bradley, and practiced with success. He was the speaker of the first House of Representatives of this State, and at the breaking out of the war was appointed major of the Seventh Minnesota regiment, and served until the close of the war, during which time he received a colonel's commission. He returned to Minneapolis and formed a law partnership with Judge F. R. E Cornell, which continued until the appointment of Mr. Cornell to the supreme court bench. He then joined H. G. O. Morrison, Esq., in the same business, and was so connected at the time of his death. He has held, at times, various offices of public trust, and was one of the best lawyers in Minnesota, and was recently elected a director of the Minneapolis athenæum.

The death of Col. Bradley will be deeply felt by the legal fraternity of the State and city, and by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He was past senior warden of the Grand Lodge of Masons, and also a member of the Bar association. He was an unmarried man, and leaves an estate, including personal and other property, estimated at \$50,000.

The body is at the Nicollet, and will remain there until the funeral, arrangements for which will be determined upon this morning, when his cousin, Edward Bradley, will arrive from Milwaukee. Col. Bradley being well known in the city, his sudden death was the general topic of conversation last evening.

The members of the Bar association, of this city, will meet at the court house, this morning, at 10 o'clock, to take action in regard to his death.⁹

This editorial appeared in the *Pioneer Press* that day:

DEATH OF COL. BRADLEY

Walking and moving us yesterday, in the fullness of his manly and intellectual strength and vigor, beloved by all his personal friends and acquaintances, and thoroughly respected by every citizen of Minneapolis, was Col. George Bradley. To-day we miss him, and know that he walks no more among the living. This friend, who has suddenly gone out from among us, was more than an ordinary man. He was possessed of a large and tender heart, of quick, warm sympathies; of noble and generous impulses; of high personal honor and strict integrity, and was richly endowed with rare intellectual gifts and graces. Warm and sympathetic in his nature and manners, Col. Bradley was a man who drew to himself many ardent and admiring friends, to whom his sudden and unexpected death comes as a great grief and sorrow. Born in Charleston, Maine, in 1833, and completed his education at Waterville College of that state, at twenty-two, he studied and entered upon the practice of law in Bangor, but in 1856 removed to Belle Plaine, in the State, where he formed a law partnership and commenced the practice of his profession. He was elected a member and speaker of the first house of representatives of the State of Minnesota. At the breaking out of the war he entered the Seventh Minnesota regiment of volunteers as a major, and returned home at the close of the war with a record of a brave and gallant soldier, the love and esteem of his army associates and a colonel's commission. After being mustered out of the service, he moved to Minneapolis, and formed a law partnership with Judge F. R. E. Cornell, with whom he remained until the election of Judge Cornell to the supreme bench, when, after a few months, he associated himself with our well known citizen, H. G. O. Morrison, in a law partnership which had just been broken by his sad and unexpected death. As a lawyer Col. Bradley stood in the front rank of his profession and his legal opinions always commanded the highest respect among his professional associates. But we need not dwell upon the life and character of this friend and citizen who has so suddenly left us. By that life, which we may not claim to have been wholly free from the ordinary weaknesses of mankind, yet

⁹ *St. Paul Daily Globe*, February 12, 1879, at 3 (several paragraphs have been divided).

which was marked by so many bright virtues and ennobling characteristics, he will be judged and lovingly remembered by the many friends who to-day so sincerely mourn his death.¹⁰

Bradley's funeral, held on February 13, 1879, was reported in the *Pioneer Press* the next day:

DUST TO DUST.

The Last Tribute to the Memory of a
Noble Man Funeral of the Late Col.
George Bradley.

The spacious parlors of the Nicollet were filled at 3 p.m. yesterday on the occasion of Col. George Bradley's funeral, by friends of the deceased, men who had known and respected him for many years, not only as a professional man, but as a true honest citizen, and a high-minded and honorable gentleman. The bar of this city, St. Paul, St. Cloud and other cities in the State were largely represented, and there were several members of the old Seventh regiment present to pay their tribute of respect to their former commander.

The remains were enclosed in an elegant, metallic casket, and lay in the ladies' parlor. On the casket plate, and surrounded by a wreath of fragrant and beautiful flowers, was this inscription:

GEORGE BRADLEY,
Died February 11, 1879,
Aged 46 Years.

At the foot of the casket was a beautiful floral cross.

Among the gentlemen from the neighboring cities present we noticed Judge J. M. McKelvy and Hon. L. W. Collins, of St. Cloud; ex-Gove W. R. Marshall, Chief Justice Gilfillan (who was a member of Col. Bradley's regiment), Judge Chas. E. Flandrau and Stanford Newel, of St. Paul, and others whose names we do not recall; but in the large assemblage were many eminent men, the clergyman of several of our city churches, and citizens of various walks of life, all of whom sincerely mourned the death of this friend and brother of

¹⁰ *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, February 12, 1879, at 6.

all mankind, and thus testified to their appreciation of his virtues and worth.

The burial service of the Universalist church was read by Rev. J. H. Tuttle, the responses and other appropriate selections being rendered by the choir of the Church of the Redeemer, following which Mr. Tuttle delivered an address, in which he made the following appropriate reference to Col. Bradley's excellent qualities.

"It is a beautiful trait in our common nature that we allow the dust to cover a man's sins along with his body, that we enter into an earnest compact to speak henceforth only of the good that as in him. Possibly we may often be unconsciously drawn by our sympathies and sorrows to the other extreme, and bestow upon the few feeble virtues we discover a need of praise they did not deserve; but if we must err at all, is it not better that we err on the side of charity?"

But in this case there is no need of even the less objectionable exaggeration. We are not obliged on this occasion to draw on our imagination or our charity for those excellencies of character which we delight to mention in the presence of death. For it is seldom that one has passed away from us for whom more genuine respect and friendship have been expressed than for Col. Bradley. That he was a man of noble spirit, of untarnished integrity, is readily conceded by all. The instances are rare where all classed of citizens unite so frankly, so kindly and so earnestly in ascribing to one pure, unflinching honesty.

"His profession was one which exposed him—so it is commonly considered—to great temptation; most certainly it exposed him to the severest judgments of the world, since he must have often come in direct collision with other men's interests and opinions, and that he stood the test of this extraordinary strain on his life, and came out after years of trial retaining the unreserved and confidence of legal brethren and the united respect of society at large, is no small eulogy upon both his intellectual attainments and his moral character."

Following these remarks Dr. Tuttle offered fervent prayer, which closed the services.

THE PALL BEARERS

Were: Ex. Gov. Wm. R. Marshall and Judge Chas. E. Flandrau, of St. Paul, Judge J. M. McKelvy, of St. Cloud, Judge F. R. E. Cornell,

Hon. W. D. Washburn, Hon. W. W. McNair, H. G. O. Morrison, and F. S. Gilson, of this city.

The remains were placed in the hearse, and followed to the Milwaukee & St. Paul depot by a large number of professional men and citizens, on foot.

Mr. Edward Bradley, of Milwaukee, a cousin of deceased and the only relative present at the services, accompanies the remains to their final resting place in the family church yard at Bangor, Maine.

We echo the universal sentiment of this community in saying that in George Bradley's death Minneapolis lost one of her best and most valued citizens.

Peace to his ashes! ¹¹

On February 18th, the Hennepin County Bar Association met and adopted resolutions in tribute to Bradley:

Bar Association Meeting.

The members of the Hennepin County Bar association met in the District court room yesterday afternoon to take action on the death of Col. George Bradley.

The meeting was called to order by J. M. Shaw, Esq., and the committee on resolutions presented the following, which were adopted, and will be entered upon the court records:

WHEREAS, Upon the sudden death of Col. George Bradley, a distinguished member of the legal profession, in the prime of manhood and in the midst of a career of usefulness and honor, it is proper that his professional brethren, bound to him by the closest ties of personal and professional friendship, should signify their profound sorrow, their high appreciation of his worth and ability, and should recognize and endeavor to perpetuate his well-earned fame; therefore,

Resolved, That we proudly hold up for admiration and emulation the marked integrity, learning and faithfulness of our deceased brother; ever self-reliant, courteous to all, generous to the younger members of the profession, he possessed in a remarkable degree all those endearing qualities of mind and heart, which constitute

¹¹ *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, February 14, 1879, at 6. A shorter account appeared in the *St. Paul Daily Globe*, February 14, 1879, at 5.

the true character of the true gentleman, the true friend, the eminent counsellor, and distinguished and successful legislator. Those who knew him best would as soon have expected to see the earth wander from its orbit, as that he should swerve from the calls of justice, friendship or honor.

Resolved, That the fact that while yet a young man, just graduated from a college in his native State, our deceased brother came to Minnesota while it was yet a Territory, giving to the formation of our State government the assistance of his splendid abilities, himself identified with the people and the legislative and judicial history of the State, but ever retaining his quiet, unassuming manners, and his love for the people from whom he sprang, is a matter of which this bar may well be proud, and that we honor ourselves in honoring his memory and that in his unsullied career and faithful services as a legislator and soldier he has earned and deserved the gratitude of the people of the State of Minnesota.

Resolved, that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the near relatives of the deceased in the irreparable loss they have sustained.

Resolved, That a committee of the Bar association of Hennepin county be appointed to present these resolutions to the district court of this county, now in session, and request the court to spread them upon the records.

Judge Atwater, in behalf of the members of the Bar association, delivered a brief address on the life of Col. Bradley, and he was followed by Judge Rea, W. W McNair, Mr. Stewart and others, who made short eulogistic remarks of the deceased.¹² △



APPENDIX

Colonel Bradley was involved in many skirmishes and battles during the War of Rebellion. Two of his official Reports follow. The first is about the Battle of Nashville in December 1864, the second about the Campaign of Mobile in late March and early April 1865.¹³

¹² *St. Paul Daily Globe*, February 19, 1879, at 3.

¹³ 2 *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars, 1861-1865* 595-96, 627-28 (1899)(2nd ed.).

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE

Report of Lieut. Col. George Bradley, Seventh Minnesota Infantry

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGT. MINN. VOL. INFY.,
IN THE FIELD, *Dec. 20, 1864.*

Lieut. HENRY Hoover,
Act. Asst. Adjt. Gen., Third Brig., First Div., Detachment Army of Tenn.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the Seventh Regiment Minnesota Infantry in the engagement of the 15th and 16th instant.

On the morning of the 15th instant the regiment commanded by Col. William B. Marshall moved out from camp near Nashville with the brigade to which it belonged at 6 o'clock A. M. They moved out on the Harding pike about a mile, when they formed line of battle and halted. During this halt the extreme right of the army appeared to be quite heavily engaged. Company B of my regiment, commanded by Capt. A. H. Stevens, were ordered to advance and deploy as skirmishers in front of the regiment. Soon after the whole line moved forward, crossing the Harding pike obliquely to the left, until they arrived in front of the enemy's works, about three miles from the camp we had left. Here our line was moved somewhat to the left, which brought the regiment into an open field, where they were ordered to lie down, while the artillery in our line opened upon the enemy. The enemy were posted upon a range of high hills, upon which they had erected strong fortifications, from which it was our business to dislodge them. The regiment lay in the field before referred to until the first of the fortifications on the enemy's left were charged and taken by the brigades of our division upon our right, when our brigade was moved forward to a hill opposite a fortification still occupied by the enemy, conforming our movements to those of the troops upon our right. We were shortly moved forward again to the foot of the hill upon which the fortification last named was situated, from which point we charged the enemy in his works, driving him in confusion.

By the death of the gallant officer commanding the brigade, Colonel Hill of the Thirty-fifth Iowa, who was killed just as he reached the top of the hill upon which the fortification was situated, Colonel Marshall was called to the command of the brigade, and the command of the regiment devolved upon me. It was now dark and the regiment bivouacked in its place in the brigade for the night. In this action the regiment lost eighteen men wounded, whose names appear in my report of casualties. Lieut. A. A. Rice, of Company B, was severely wounded while in the skirmish line. He is a gallant officer and performed his duties up to the time he was wounded with courage and ability. In this day's action the regiment captured over fifty prisoners, who were turned over to the provost

marshal general, and shared with the other regiments of the brigade the capture of three guns. On the morning of the 16th instant, we again moved upon the enemy, and took a position on the left of the Twelfth Iowa in the front line of the brigade, behind a fence directly in front of a strongly fortified position held by the enemy. The right of the Twelfth Iowa rested on the Granny White pike. The enemy was protected by a high and thick wall of stone, which was strengthened by earth thrown up against its front along a portion of the wall, and by large rails planted firmly and standing from the top of the wall to the ground along the remainder of it. Inside of the wall cannon were planted and deep pits dug for the protection of the men against our guns; outside the walls and some rods advanced, were barricades made of rails piled closely together, with rifle-pits behind them, from which the enemy's sharpshooters continually fired upon our line. Here my regiment remained the greater part of the day, the left of the regiment keeping up a fire upon the enemy the most of the time. We had some men wounded while occupying this line, and two killed while advancing to it. A heavy cannonading upon the enemy was kept up the whole day by the batteries upon our right and in our rear. Toward the close of the day a charge was made upon the enemy's works; commencing upon our right, the brigades of the First Division moving rapidly one after the other until the whole line was in motion. My regiment moved forward with the line in the face of a heavy fire of grape and musketry poured over the works of the enemy, who were completely routed, capturing their guns and many prisoners. The ground over which the regiment passed was soft, a portion of the way was a cornfield, rendering the rapid movement of the line exceedingly difficult, and greatly adding to the hazard of the movement. We advanced as far as a high hill, beyond the line of works where we charged the enemy, and bivouacked for the night. In the charge the regiment captured four of the enemy's guns, and more than 200 prisoners, making with those taken the day before, 250 prisoners taken by them. Major Burt of my regiment had charge of the brigade skirmish line during the day, and discharged his duties with his usual skill and fidelity. Our losses in this day's fight were 43, 7 killed and 36 wounded, whose names have been furnished in a previous report. The most of the losses occurred in the charge. Captain McKelvy, of Company I, and Lieutenant Potter, of Company E, were both wounded in this charge, the first slightly, the latter somewhat severely. In conclusion I ought not to omit to mention Corporals Sylvester, of Company I, and Dowling, of Company B, who bore the colors of the regiment in both day's fight. Cool and intrepid, they pushed steadily on through the terrific charges made upon the enemy, unmoved by the "leaden rain and iron hail" which fell thickly around them, mindful only of the honorable duty of bearing the colors erect in the van of the fight. Assistant Surgeon Mattocks was constantly with us in the field, fearlessly exposing himself wherever his presence could benefit the wounded, and faithful and untiring in the discharge of all his duties. Dr. Ames was on duty at the hospital during the fight, by order of the division surgeon. Chaplain Edwards was active and zealous in his administrations to the wounded, constantly and effectually exerting himself

in their behalf. Of the officers of the field, staff and line of the regiment, I can only say that the conduct of all was such that any distinction would be invidious. It is enough to say that all were earnest, zealous and efficient in the discharge of every duty. Lieutenant Potter, though wounded by a shot through the arm, still pushed on with his company and did not fall back till the works had been carried. The conduct of the men present in the two days' engagement was unexceptionable; they were fearless amid the dangers of the battle, and cheerful and uncomplaining in enduring hardships and exposures of the bivouac and the march.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE BRADLEY,
Lieutenant, Colonel, Commanding the Regiment.



CAMPAIGN OF MOBILE.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY,
IN THE FIELD, *April 9, 1865.*

Hon. STEPHEN MILLER,
Governor of Minnesota,

DEAR SIR: Last night we took possession of Spanish Fort, after a siege of thirteen days. We took about 700 prisoners and 30 to 40 guns. I have not had an opportunity to learn the casualties in the Minnesota regiments, but they are not very great. In my regiment we had one killed, Charles Fadden, Company I, shot on the 27th and died a few days later; one man missing, Robert Seely, Company F, and four wounded, one of them badly, loss of right leg, the others slightly. The health of the regiment is good, and all are in the best spirits.

We are lying near Blakely to-night, and the rumor prevails in camp that that place has surrendered to Steele. The enemy evidently are hopeless, and everything now indicates a glorious termination of the war against the rebellious states.

Very respectfully yours,

GEORGE BRADLEY.



Report of Lieut. Col. George Bradley, Seventh Minnesota Infantry.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT, MINNESOTA INFANTRY,
IN THE FIELD, *April 12, 1865.*

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by my regiment in the operations at Spanish Fort. On the morning of the 27th marched; the regiment was formed in order of battle on the left of the brigade, which was on the extreme left of the Sixteenth Army Corps, and advanced towards the works of the enemy. Company C, Captain Thomas, was advanced and ordered to deploy as skirmishers in front of the regiment. During the afternoon this company was relieved by Company K, Captain Carter, in consequence of having expended their ammunition. The skirmishing during this day was heavy, and our skirmishers drove the enemy back a considerable distance, and established our advance line about 200 yards from the enemy's main line of works. The ground over which the skirmishers advanced was very much broken and covered with fallen trees, rendering the advance quite difficult. Our casualties this day were as follows: First Lieut. H. F. Folsom, Company C, struck in the fleshy part of the thigh by a fragment of a shell, making a severe bruise, but not sufficient to put him off duty; Private Andrew Agren, Company C, wounded in right leg, suffered amputation above knee-joint; Corporal John Dillen, contused wound in thigh, slight, has since returned to duty; Sergeant Omar H. Case, Company E, flesh wound in left shoulder, slight; Private Charles Fadden, Company I, shot through the body, injuring the spine, since died. On the evening of the 27th the regiment went into camp in the rear of the Thirty-fifth Iowa, the brigade there being in column of regiments. From this time to the 30th we occupied this camp, furnishing heavy picket detail and fatigue parties to push forward lines of intrenchments, erect forts, and do the various work incidental to siege operations.

On the 30th of March we moved with our brigade to the left, occupying a space left vacant by the removal of General Veatch's division of the Thirteenth-Corps. We remained here until the 4th of April, working incessantly night and day. On the night of the 3rd our pickets, in connection with those of the other regiments in the brigade, under the direction of Major Burt of my regiment, advanced the front line of our works from 150 to 200 yards. On the 4th of April we returned to our first place in the line and reoccupied it. On the 6th we commenced intrenchments in an advanced position with a view to its occupation. The work, however, could be prosecuted only in the night, the ground being open and within short rifle range from the fort, and the works were scarcely completed when the enemy evacuated and our forces took possession of Spanish Fort and the works adjacent, which occurred on the night of the 8th instant.

On the 9th we moved with our command towards Blakely, going into camp about two miles from the works of the enemy, which were captured that day by a portion of our army. Throughout the entire siege the conduct of officers and men was all that could be desired. They were always ready and willing to brave any exposure or undergo any fatigue which promised to advance the objects of the campaign.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. BRADLEY,

Lieut. H. HOOVER,

Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen., Third Brig., First Div., Sixteenth Army Corps. △



Afterword

This is one of a series of biographical sketches of Minnesota lawyers who served during the Civil War. ■

