

Union Saved by Army of Schoolboys



Orion P. Howe

Nearly 1,000,000 Soldiers Who Served in Federal Army Were Under 16 Years of Age



Orion P. Howe as a Soldier

THE FACT that the draft law under which the United States is now raising its armies placed the minimum age of men to be included in the draft at twenty-one years has called attention to the extreme youth of the men who made up the forces that fought and won the Civil war.

It may truthfully be said that the war was won by an army of school-boys. The younger generation probably is not aware of the fact that nearly a million of those who carried muskets on behalf of the Federal cause were less than sixteen years of age when they enlisted. Statistics show that there were exactly 844,891 boys under that age in the Federal army. There were 1,151,438 under eighteen years of age, and of the total enlistments of 2,778,300 there were 2,150,798 under twenty-one years of age.

Not only was the great majority of privates less than twenty-one years of age, but the records show that companies, regiments and brigades were commanded literally by schoolboys. At the close of the war, it is said, it was the exception to find a brigade or division commander who was more than thirty years old.

Brig. Gen. John L. Clem is generally credited with being the youngest soldier on record. He was born in Newark, O., August 13, 1851. He was not quite ten years old when he entered the volunteer service as a drummer at the beginning of the war. Two years later, when he was still not quite twelve years old, he was regularly enlisted and took his place in the ranks. He was made a sergeant for bravery displayed in the battle of Chickamauga and served until the close of the war. He returned to school when the war ended and graduated from the Newark high school. In 1871 he was appointed a second lieutenant in the regular army and remained in the regular service until 1915, when he was retired with the rank of brigadier general.

Among the heroes who were awarded the congressional medal of honor for valor shown upon the field of battle there were many who were mere children. A veteran officer of the Federal army, writing in the Philadelphia Public Ledger, recalled some interesting history connected with some of these youthful heroes. The writer gave the following account of some of these unusual cases:

"Robinson B. Murphy was born May 11, 1849. He enlisted as musician at the beginning of the war and the official statement of the action for which he gained his congress medal reads:

"At Atlanta, Ga., July 28, 1864, being orderly to the brigade commander, he voluntarily led two regiments as re-enforcements into line of battle, where he had his horse shot from under him."

"He enlisted August 6, 1862, at the age of twelve years, two months and twenty-four days, in the One Hundred Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was made orderly to the colonel of the regiment. In January, 1864, he was made orderly to Gen. J. A. J. Lightburn, and participated in several hard-fought battles. In the army he was known as 'Bob.' When he performed the wonderful feat that gained him the medal he was only fifteen years old. The circumstances under which young Murphy led two regiments into battle were as follows:

"The division in which General Lightburn commanded was that day on the extreme right of the army, which was being flanked by the enemy. Young Murphy was sent to the right by his general to find out the situation, and finding that the enemy had flanked the right wing and was driving them, he rode on his pony down the line and met General Logan, who commanded that day, and begged him with tears in his eyes for re-enforcements, telling him they were cutting our right all to pieces. The general replied: 'I have ordered re-enforcements from the left, and here they come now, and if you know where they are needed, Bob, show them in.' And that is how he came to lead the two regiments that day. General Lightburn wrote regarding Bob that he was 'not only brave and faithful, but displayed remarkable judgment for one of his age, as I soon found out. I could depend on him under any circumstances that might arise.'

"And here is another very little chap who gained his medal, Orion P. Howe, born December 23, 1848. He enlisted early in the war and was wounded at Vicksburg and three times at Dallas, Ga. His record in a brilliant one, and General Sherman tells the story in a letter of August 8, 1863:

"Headquarters Fifteenth Army Corps, Camp on Black River, August 8, 1863.

"Hon. E. Stanton, Secretary of War.

"Sir: I take the liberty of asking, through you, that something be done for a lad named Orion P. Howe of Waukegan, Ill., who belongs to the Fifty-fifth Illinois, but at present is home wounded. I think he is too young for West Point, but would be the very thing for a midshipman. When the assault at Vicksburg was at its height, on the 19th of May, and I was in front near the road, which formed my line of attack, this young lad came up to me, wounded and bleeding, with a good, healthy boy's cry: 'General Sherman, send some cartridges to Colonel Malmburg; the men are nearly all out.' 'What's the matter, my boy?' 'They shot me in the leg, sir, but I can go to the hospital. Send me



Gen. John L. Clem, youngest soldier on record

cartridges right away." Even where he stood the shot fell thick, and I told him to go to the rear at once. I would attend to the cartridges; and off he limped. Just before he disappeared on the hill, he turned and called as loud as he could: 'Calliber .54.' I have not seen the lad since, and his colonel (Malmburg) on inquiry gives me the address above, and says he is a bright, intelligent boy, with a fair preliminary education. What arrested my attention then was—and what renewed my memory of the fact now is—that one so young, carrying a musket-ball through his leg, should have found his way to me on that fatal spot, and delivered his message, not forgetting the very important part of the caliber of his musket, .54, which you know is an unusual one. I'll warrant that the boy has in him the elements of a man, and I commend him to the government as one worth the fostering care of one of the national institutions. I am, with respect,

"Your obedient servant,

"W. T. SHERMAN,

"Major General Commanding."

"When the poet, George H. Boker, learned of the episode of young Howe, he put the story in verse.

"John Cook, too, gained a medal of honor when a mere child. He was born in Ohio, August 10, 1847, and enlisted in Battery B, Fourth United States Artillery, at the breaking out of the war. He was serving as bugler at Antietam, and certainly did enough to merit his medal. The boy distinguished himself at Antietam and in every fight in which the command was engaged. At Antietam the battery was knocked to pieces, losing about 50 per cent of the men, killed or wounded. Captain Campbell fell, severely wounded, and young Cook assisted him to the rear, quickly returning to the firing line, where, seeing nearly all the men down and not enough left to man the guns, the little fellow unstrapped a pouch of ammunition from the body of a dead gunner who was lying near one of the caissons, ran forward with it and acted as gunner until the end of the fight.

"J. C. Julius Langbein was a very small boy, indeed, when at the battle of Camden, North Carolina, April 15, 1862, he won his congress medal. The official record states that 'when a drummer boy, he voluntarily and under a heavy fire went to the aid of a wounded officer, procured medical aid for him and aided in carrying him to a place of safety.' After the battle he was granted a short leave of absence to visit his parents, and what a thrill of happiness the boy must have felt when he handed his mother a commendatory letter from his company commander.

"And here is another boy who wears the congress medal of honor, nobly won: George D. Sidman, a schoolboy from Michigan, a mere child in years, when he made his great record and won the medal for 'distinguished bravery in battle at Gaines Mills, June 27, 1862.' This battle, the second of the 'Seven Days' Battles' before Richmond, was one of the most disastrous battles of the Civil war, wherein Fitz John Porter's Fifth army corps was pitted against the three army corps of Generals Longstreet, Hill and 'Stonewall' Jackson.

"Reg. Gen. Daniel Butterfield's brigade, composed of the Twelfth, Seventeenth and Forty-fourth New York, the Eighty-third Pennsylvania and Sixteenth Michigan Volunteer Infantry regiments, that day occupied the left line of battle in the form of a curve, with the Sixteenth and Eighty-third on the extreme left and resting on the border of Chickamauga swamp. Here the brigade was called upon to resist several desperate charges of the enemy during the day, which, in every instance, resulted in defeat of the attacking forces.

speedily followed by a number of others, and winning the approbation of Major Welch of his regiment, who was a witness of the heroic act. He was in the front rank of the charge back upon the enemy, and in the almost hand-to-hand conflict that followed fell severely wounded through the left hip by a minnie ball.

"On the morning of December 13, 1862, while the Fifth corps was drawn up in line of battle on Stafford heights waiting for orders to cross the Rappahannock river and enter Fredericksburg, Colonel Stockton, commanding the Third brigade, First division, called upon the Sixteenth Michigan for a volunteer to carry the new brigade flag that had just reached the command. Sidman, but now partially recovered from his wound, sprang from the ranks and begged for this duty. His patriotism and fidelity to duty, well known to Major Welch, now commanding the regiment, won for him the coveted prize, much to the chagrin of several other comrades who valiantly offered their services. Leading his brigade on its famous charge up Marye's heights, in that terrible slaughter under Burnside, he was again wounded, but not so severely as to prevent him from planting the colors within 150 yards of the enemy's line, where they remained for 30 hours. Three days later he proudly bore his flag back across the Rappahannock, marked by a broken shaft and several holes, caused by the enemy's missiles during the charge.

"It was in this battle, Sunday, December 14, 1862, while the brigade lay all day hugging the ground behind the slight elevation a few yards in front of the enemy, momentarily expecting an attack, that Sidman, with a comrade of his own company, displayed humanity as well as remarkable valor by running the gauntlet through a railroad cut for canteens of water for the sick and wounded comrades who could not be removed from the lines; this at a time, too, when the enemy's sharpshooters were so stationed as to command the ground a considerable distance in the rear of the brigade lines. It was this distinguished service of humanity at Fredericksburg, in the face of a vigilant enemy and with almost certain death staring him in the face, that prompted his officers in recommending him for the medal of honor. The war department, with a full record knowledge of his service from Gaines Mills to Fredericksburg, and for reasons best known to itself, decided that the medal was earned at the first-named battle, with continuing merit to the end of his military service.

"Perhaps the most dangerous duty that a soldier can be engaged in is that of scout. In a book published after the war, and called 'Hampton and His Cavalry,' the following definition of a scout is given: 'The scouts of the army did not constitute a distinct organization, but suitable men volunteering for this duty were detailed from the different commands. The position required not only coolness, courage, zeal and intelligence, but special facilities born in some few men.'

"The line of demarcation between a scout and a spy was at times very ill-defined, for, as the scouts were usually dressed in enemy's uniforms which they had captured, they were by strict military law subject to the penalty of spies if taken within the enemy's lines, and they were not without pleasant experiences of that sort.

"Undoubtedly one of the most distinguished of this class was Archibald Hamilton Rowand, Jr., who received the medal because of the indorsement of General Sheridan, who knew and appreciated his great services to the cause.

"Rowand was born March 6, 1845, in Philadelphia, Pa., and enlisted June 17, 1862, in Company K, First West Virginia Cavalry, and served until August 17, 1865. His services were not only remarkable, but most valuable to the cause. He was one of the most daring and most trusted of Sheridan's scouts.

"Once, while scouting for Averill, he was captured, but told such a plausible story to the Confederate officers about being a Confederate scout with verbal orders from one distant general to another that he was allowed to depart. The first time he was detailed on scout duty his two companions were shot and killed. On his next trip his command and his own horse were killed when they were 18 miles inside of the Confederate lines, but Rowand managed to dodge the enemy's bullets and get back alive, vowing at every jump never to go on scout duty again. He soon recovered from his fright, however, and started out on another trip. While with Sheridan he was asked to locate the notable partisan leader, Maj. Harry Gilmore, and, if possible, effect his capture.

"After several days' hard work he found Gilmore working in a large country mansion near Moorfield, W. Va. This he reported to Sheridan, who sent with him about fifteen scouts under Colonel Young. They dressed in Confederate uniforms and, followed by 300 Federal cavalry at a distance of several miles, to be of assistance in case the true character of the scouts was discovered, they arrived near Gilmore's command about daybreak, and Rowand went forward alone and, single-handed, captured the vidette without a shot being fired. The scouts then entered the family mansion and took Gilmore out of bed and back to Sheridan's headquarters."

HOME TOWN HELPS

GOOD IDEA THAT IS SPREADING

Few Places Now in the Country That Do Not Recognize Need of Beautification.

Time was not so very long ago when the thought of civic beauty and the recognition of the importance of city beautification belonged to a few people only.

When the first of the larger cities of Texas set about the process of making beauty where only ugliness had been before, many taxpayers objected on the ground that it was not wise to expend public money for such purposes.

But that larger city persisted. A landscape architect was employed. A comprehensive plan for future development was drawn up. Appropriations looking far into the future were planned. An educational campaign to teach the people the need for beauty was gotten under way. Today that city is far to the front as an example of what may be accomplished in a few years of labor intelligently applied.

Other cities followed. One by one the centers of population fell into line. Directly the smaller cities began to lay plans for that day when they, too, shall be large cities. Only recently the city of Denton, urged on by public-spirited citizens, employed a well-paid expert to make a survey and lay down a comprehensive plan of artistic development. And within the next few months practically every Texas city will have proved that even in the stress of war Texas people recognize the value of beauty and the importance of the artistic in the everyday life of the people.—Houston Post.

WHERE CENSOR IS NEEDED

Successful Outcome of Allotment Development Depends Largely on Intelligent Forethought.

The successful outcome of an allotment development as an asset to a city depends largely upon the type of neighborhood established by the realtor in selling his property.

It is true, however, that some properties are assured of ultimate individuality before development on account of their natural location.

The average allotment, however, is dependent on the method of sale of separate lots and the restrictions imposed upon them, which have an important bearing on the ultimate up-building.

But the character of a neighborhood is far from assured because of imposed restrictions as to price of house to be erected, as is shown in numerous cases about Cleveland.

Perhaps the most apparent reason for a development not proving what was originally intended are, first, that the building operations (to set the pace, so to speak) were not carried on by the developer to show what was expected, and, second, the censoring of building plans.—Cleveland Leader.

Kind of House in Demand.

The last matter influencing cost is "marketability." To be saleable a house must measure up to and down to a standard. Mahogany and quartered oak wainscoting, plate glass windows and other similar embellishments do not increase the selling value to any great extent. By the time you are ready to sell the style in these things will have changed, and they are then more likely to decrease than increase the value. Be measurably conventional, and comfortably normal in your ideas. The best houses are not the most expensive or the most peculiar. They are almost always the expression of a "type," and follow the main features of their type, departing from the normal only in minor ways. This is the kind of house that is always in demand.

Your War Garden.

Don't rob yourself of flowers even in war times. There is no better antidote for the war horror, and there is no reason why the vegetable garden should not be bordered with such plants as gladioli, dahlias, sunflowers and various other annuals. Indeed, some of the vegetables themselves have beautiful blossoms. The scarlet runner bean and the sugar pea, for example, have beautiful flowers and both are excellent vegetables. Old-time gardens are often bordered with parsley, and most of the herbs when grown in little beds are delightful to look upon.

Site of Ancient City Discovered.

News has been received at Madrid, Spain, of the discovery in Brazil of the site of the Inca city known to early Spanish and Portuguese explorers as El Dorado, and hitherto regarded as legendary. The ruins are located in the Amazon region, near the Bolivian frontier. In the midst of a dense forest. An archaeological expedition, including Brazilian Spanish and Portuguese scientists, will make a detailed study of the district.

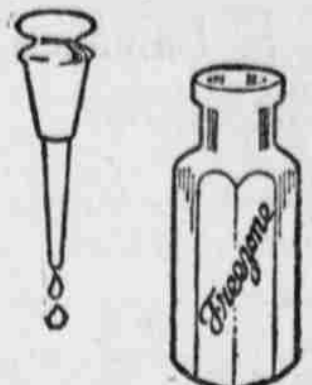
Force of Habit.

"These crowded street cars are spoiling my oratorical style."
"How can that be?"
"Every time I put my arm into the air to make a gesture I paw around as if I were reaching for a soap."

SO EASY! CORNS LIFT RIGHT OUT

DOESN'T HURT AT ALL AND COSTS ONLY FEW CENTS.

Magic! Just drop a little Freezone on that touchy corn, instantly it stops aching, then you lift the corn off with the fingers. Truly! No humbug!



Try Freezone! Your druggist sells a tiny bottle for a few cents, sufficient to rid your feet of every hard corn, soft corn, or corn between the toes, and callouses, without one particle of pain, soreness or irritation. Freezone is the discovery of a noted Cincinnati genius.—Adv.

BOY PROBABLY TOLD TRUTH

Chances Are There Was Good, Hard Bottom to Slough if Traveler Had Reached It.

Occasionally there are times when a lie is the truth. The following story illustrates that paradox:

In Oregon there are many sloughs of mud or quicksand which are difficult and dangerous to cross. A certain Methodist missionary in that state, in the course of his travels, came to a slough which looked so formidable that he called a boy, who was chopping wood on the other side, and said:

"Boy, is that a safe slough to cross?"

"Oh, yes."

"Has it a good hard bottom?"

"Oh, yes," said the boy.

The man started to cross; his horse waded, and he had to dismount and wade out. Naturally he was angry.

"Why did you lie to me?" he demanded. "Didn't you say the slough had a good hard bottom?"

"Oh, yes," said the boy. "the bottom is good and hard, but you didn't get down to it!"—Methodist Centennial Bulletin.

Test Soldier's Brains.

The psychological and brain tests to which our enlisted men are being subjected are something new in military tactics. In other wars men were not put into the ranks if they showed noticeable signs of mental infirmity. Now they do not stop with asking if he is crazy, but they go further and determine by established tests whether he is apt to go crazy if exposed to the strain and shock of battle. Doctor Gorgas instituted this new examination, and under it many men have been turned back from the path to "over there" and detailed to some phase of government service "over here." They are not generally told why the change is made, but are expected to give soldierly obedience to the order. To tell them would be to set up a state of self-suspicion that would be very harmful.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Cause for Wonder.

Patience—This is my lunch hour, you know.

Patience—Oh, can you afford in these times to eat for an hour?

One Exception.

"He handles his subjects without gloves as all men ought to do."

"All men? How about a lineman?"

War Demands

Saving of Sugar,
Saving of Fuel,
Use of other
Grains with Wheat
—No Waste.

Grape-Nuts

answers every demand. It's an economical, nourishing and delicious food, a builder and maintainer of Vigor and Health.

Try it.
"There's a Reason"