

All in the Family

By Larry Kaufman

My name is Larry Kaufman and I am from Phoenix Arizona.

When I was accepted into this fine organization I was told that I would be required to give a talk at a future meeting. This has been on my mind ever since I joined.

I looked at the guns and other items that were gun-related in my gun room. I examined Colt single actions, 1903 Springfields, Spanish American and Indian War weapons as well as World War II guns. In all fairness, I couldn't see how I could give a thirty minute talk on items that most everyone in the Society has seen and probably owned. However, I found some material that I believe will be somewhat educational and interesting to you. I hope it will.

Today's talk is titled "All in the Family." No, not Archie, Edith, Gloria and Meathead (Figure 1). It is about the Sills, Cranes and the McDowells.

My talk will not be about firearms, other weapons or makers or the manufacturing of specific items. I will review a family and associated relatives that served our country in King Philip's War, The Revolutionary War, the Civil War and various extraordinary deeds performed. The firearms, swords and documents I will address are on my table for examination by all having an interest. This is how I came to acquire them.



Figure 1. Not this family.



A few years ago a young man in his mid-forties came into my little gun store. I asked if I could help him and he said he hoped that I could. He said that I was recommended by a couple of gun stores in Phoenix to inspect the arms, identify them and estimate what they might be worth. He went back outside to his car and returned with a paper bag containing a 1860 Colt Army and small flintlock pistol. He shared that they had been in his family for hundreds of years, and said that the items had historic value. He and his sister were attempting to research the arms.

The discussion continued with him asking me if I had ever heard of Lyme, Connecticut. I told him I was quite familiar with the town as I was born in Connecticut. He said that his family settled the community of Lyme. He added that his father, who was a lawyer and served as a Major in World War II, had been doing research on the family and recently passed away. The young man then reemphasized his interest in researching the items. I told him what I believed the guns to be worth, and added that if he ever decided to sell them to please consider me.

About a year later the same young man came into the store with a paper bag. He reminded me that I had looked at these two guns before, but then added that he and his sister were tiring of researching their family and said that they could use the money. I looked at the items and remembered them from the previous visit. I asked what I quoted him for the items. He told me, and I agreed to the price.

The young man then said that he had to get the rest of the "stuff" from the car. He then brought in two swords, a



Figure 2. Guns swords and documents purchased from the Crane family.

holster and a number of family documents handed down over the years from generation to generation. Included in the assortment were (Figures 2-10):

- A small flint pistol carried in the medical bag of Lt. Colonel John McDowell, who was a surgeon in the 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment in 1777
- An 1860 cavalry sword that was carried by Captain William E. Crane, who served in the 4th Ohio Cavalry during the Civil War
- An 1860 Colt Army and a presentation sword, carried by General Joshua Woodrow Sill, who served in the 33rd Ohio infantry
- Numerous documents supporting the items listed

The young man then introduced himself as Joseph Holden Crane. After a brief discussion regarding the items, I told him that my old quote no longer stood, and further added that it was now “a new ball game.” The new material added such value to the items and the grouping appeared to me to be 100% real, making a fantastic collection. I told him what I would now pay him and he was quite pleased. The price was quite fair!

Several days later I took the documents to a friend, Rita Fishman, who does genealogy research. I asked her to develop



Figure 3. A close up of the sword carried by Captain William E. Crane.

THAT THE SERVICES OF...Captain Joseph Sill
 in the American Colonial Wars, upon which his claim of eligibility to membership is based, were as follows:
 Captain, Mass. Forces in King Phillip's War, 1675-1676, Captain
 of Lyme Company, 1692. Fought in Mass., also on Merimac River,
 Casco Bay, and Ossipee River in New Hampshire.

AUTHORITIES AS TO SERVICE
 Records of Mass Bay Colony, Vol. 5, p.506; Conn. Colony Record, Vol. 4
 p.69; Rev. Wm. Hubbard's History of French and Indian Wars, pp.128,
 194, 201, 224, 281 of vol.1. Soldiers of King Phillip's War, Bodge,
 pp.11, 26, 78, 82, 87, 98, 100, 104, 105, 222, 224, 227. Register (1944) of Mass.
 Soc. of Colonial Dames. AUTHORITIES AS TO DESCENT of America, p.617.

NO REFERENCES ARE REQUIRED FOR THE FIRST, SECOND, OR THIRD GENERATIONS

Figure 4. Joseph Sill's service record.

State Society No. _____
General Society No. _____

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

August 4 19 58

TO THE COUNCIL,

Society of Colonial Wars

IN THE STATE OF Ohio

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for membership in the Society by right of lineal descent from*

Captain Joseph Sill (1636 - 1696)

who was born in England on 1636 was a
resident of Lyme, Connecticut and died at Lyme, Conn. on August 6, 1696

I declare upon honor, that if admitted to membership, I will endeavor to promote the purposes of this Institution, and observe the Constitution and By-Laws of this Society and that I have never applied to any other State Society for membership and been rejected thereby.

(Full name of Applicant) Holden Irving Crane, Jr.
(Occupation) Executive
(Address) 417 Wood Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio

We, the undersigned, approve and recommend the above application for membership in this Society, and, from *personal acquaintance*, believe the said applicant to be eligible and worthy, and that, if admitted, he will be a desirable member:—

*When the applicant derives eligibility for membership by descent from more than one ancestor, and it is desired to take advantage thereof, separate blanks marked "Supplemental Record" and furnished by the Secretary, or Deputy Secretary, may be filed after the applicant's admission and payment of dues.

APPLICATION MUST BE IN DUPLICATE

Figure 5. An application for membership in the Society of Colonial Wars with Crane family verification of Joseph Sill's service.

as much of a profile as possible on each individual. She called me a few days later and told me I had hit the lotto. She had found a great deal of information on the family and interrelationships, which I want to share with you.

The Crane family left England in the mid-1600s because of religious persecution. They were very early settlers in Connecticut and chose to settle in Lyme. The Cranes were farmers and little else is known of the early family and what, if any, significant achievements they made.

Joseph Sill settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1637. Joseph was married and had six children. Three of his children died very early in life. When King Philip's War began (1675-1677), Joseph Sill was a Freeman which entitled him to vote, hold office and become a military officer. With his military experience he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Sill served under a Captain named Beers. Beers' company with Sill as Lieutenant was ordered

to relieve the garrison at Brookfield, Massachusetts. On August 6, 1675, Lieutenant Sill was ordered to remain at Hadley, Massachusetts with a portion of the company while Captain Beers went on an Indian scouting expedition with 26 of the men. The ill-fated expedition ended with Captain Beers and almost all of his party being killed. After the disaster Sill took command of the rest of the company. Sill, along with a Captain named Appleton and 199 men, marched to defend Springfield, Massachusetts.

After numerous engagements with the Indians, the Council to Major Pynchon directed that Lieutenant Sill be returned to his family. He must have been "hell on wheels in battle" if they elected to relieve him at that time. Subsequently, Sill was recalled to service, promoted to Captain, and given charge of a company.

Sill fought throughout the states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Northern Connecticut. He was instrumental in the capture of some 300 Indians. Sill also had duty escorting wagons between Groton and Boston, resisting Indian attacks all the way. After these wars and skirmishes, some of his friends were concerned about retaliation and convinced him to move. He then returned to Lyme, Connecticut. According to records, Sill's wife died shortly after the move.

I believe he must have been one really "bad actor" if he had to move due to some of his deeds. He reminds me of the

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE NATIONAL SOCIETY
OF THE
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

State Ohio
City Cincinnati
Name of Chapter Cincinnati

National Number 205190
(Mrs or Mrs) Katherine Sill Crane
Wife or Widow of Mr. Holden Irving Crane
Residence 362 Warren Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
Number 1 Street 1 City 1 State 1

DESCENDANT OF
Dr. John M. Dewell, Sr.

The undersigned have investigated and approved the applicant and her application.

Dec. 13, 1937
Mary Ann Collins Chapter Regent
Edley Dale Chapter Secretary (Past Term)
Camilla Buchanan Chapter Registrar

Application and duplicate received by National Society DEC 16 1937
Fees received by National Society Nov. 16 1937
Application examined and approved JAN 8 1938

Accepted by the National Board of Management FEB 1 1938

Lucy Reynolds Spencer Registrar General
Mary Ann Adams Recording Secretary General

Endorsement for membership at large:
State Regent.

Nominated and recommended by the undersigned members of the Society. Two names of endorsers required, one of whom at least must live in the same town in which the applicant resides, provided there is a Chapter in that town. If there is no Chapter, at least one of the endorsers must be a resident in that State.

ENDORSERS
Name John A. Little Name Miss J. Thomas
Residence 357 North Ave Residence 207 Myrtle Av.
John A. Little John A. Little

This blank and properly filled application must be forwarded with Treasurer General, U.S.D.A.R. National Convention Hall, Washington, D.C. with the necessary fee and dues. When approved by the National Board one copy will be returned to the Registrar of the Chapter or to the individual, if joining at Large, and the other will be filed with the National Society.

Figure 6. Mrs. Katherine Sill Carne's application for membership into the Daughters of the American Revolution. Note the Sill-Crane-McDowell relationship.

432 f

McDowell, John
2 Pennsylvania Regiment.
(Revolutionary War.)
Surgeon Surgeon

CARD NUMBERS.

1	39156480
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Number of personal papers herein _____

BOOK MARK _____

See also _____

Figure 7. Military record of 1st Lieutenant John McDowell, surgeon, 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment.

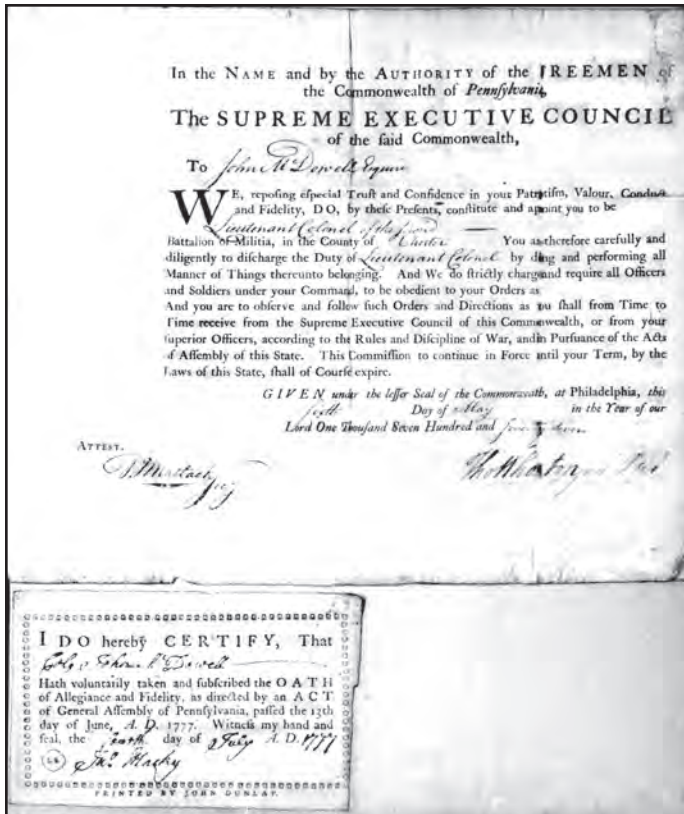


Figure 8. John McDowell's promotion to Lieutenant Colonel on June 3rd, 1777.

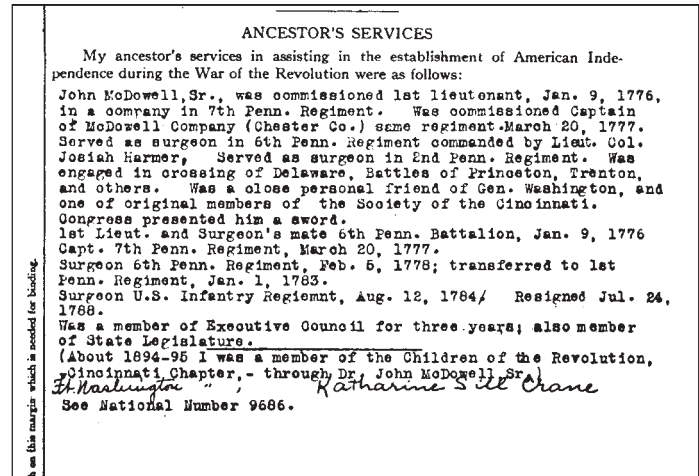


Figure 9. Lieutenant John McDowell's service record.

movie "The Patriot" with Mel Gibson. He was the same type of fighter—just a different war.

An aside from my earlier life: in 1974, while I was working for the Horton Company in Hartford, Connecticut, I had a conversation with their bookkeeper, Rebecca. She was aware of my hobby of arms collecting and my love of history. Somehow we got into a conversation regarding King Philip's War. She related that she had relatives in Deerfield, Massachusetts about 30 miles from the Vermont border.



Figure 10. A close up of the cannon barrel flint pistol carried by John McDowell in his medical bag.

They had narrowly escaped a large Indian attack. During that attack, a 9-year-old girl in the community was not so lucky. She was taken hostage and never heard from again. Rebecca later brought in a family bible that had a description of the events of the raid. The attack with the little girl as the only casualty is described in the book *FlintLock and Tomahawk*. Captain Sill is mentioned in the book numerous times.

Research indicates there were numerous marriages between the Sills, the Cranes and the McDowells. Joseph Sills remarried and had two sons. He died August 6, 1696 and is buried in the Duck River cemetery in Old Lyme, Connecticut. Descendents of the original families settled in many different states. Some of the McDowells moved to Pennsylvania, and some of the Sills moved to New York state and Ohio. The Cranes moved to New York and eventually settled in Cincinnati. The Sills eventually settled in Chillicothe, Ohio.

Dr. John McDowell was a surgeon and was commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant in 1776, Captain in 1777, and later in 1777, as a Lieutenant Colonel in the 2nd Pennsylvania. He was a close personal friend of George Washington, being engaged in the Crossing of the Delaware as well as the battles of Princeton, New Jersey and other conflicts. He was later presented a sword by Congress for his exemplary service to the nation. McDowell resigned on July 24, 1788. He later became a member of the Executive Council for three years, and later still, a member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

Ephraim McDowell (Figure 11) was born in Virginia and moved to Kentucky at the age of 11 years. He was educated and started medical practice in the state of Kentucky. He moved to Edinburgh, Scotland in 1793 to further his medical studies. Dr. McDowell returned to Kentucky in 1795. His accomplishments included performing the first elective laparotomy. In 1809, on Christmas day, his practice led him to a Mrs. Jane Todd. He visited her log cabin in the country and performed elective surgery there—an oophorectomy in the front room of the cabin without anesthesia. The whole procedure took 25 minutes and she recovered without complications. He never published this procedure until 1817, after two operations were successfully performed. Though widely criticized in English surgical literature, there is evidence that he performed 12 more operations for ovarian pathology.



EPHRAIM McDOWELL
(1771-1830)

Figure 11. Dr Ephraim McDowell as a practicing physician.



Ephraim McDowell
(1771-1830)

Figure 12. Ephraim McDowell 4 cent postage stamp.

In 1817, Dr. McDowell performed another major operation, removing a 15-pound substance after cutting through the fallopian tube and extracting the sac. Five days later Dr. McDowell visited Mrs. Todd and to his astonishment she was up and about, making the bed.

Dr. McDowell hated to see women suffer with ovarian problems and he was the first surgeon to perform ovarian surgery worldwide. His leadership in his field led the United States Government to dedicate a four cent postage stamp with his likeness (Figure 12). Much later (in 1942), students in Kentucky developed a "Hall of Fame" for distinguished Kentuckians, and Dr. Ephraim McDowell was selected along with the likes of Abraham Lincoln, Zackary Taylor and Daniel Boone (Figure 13).

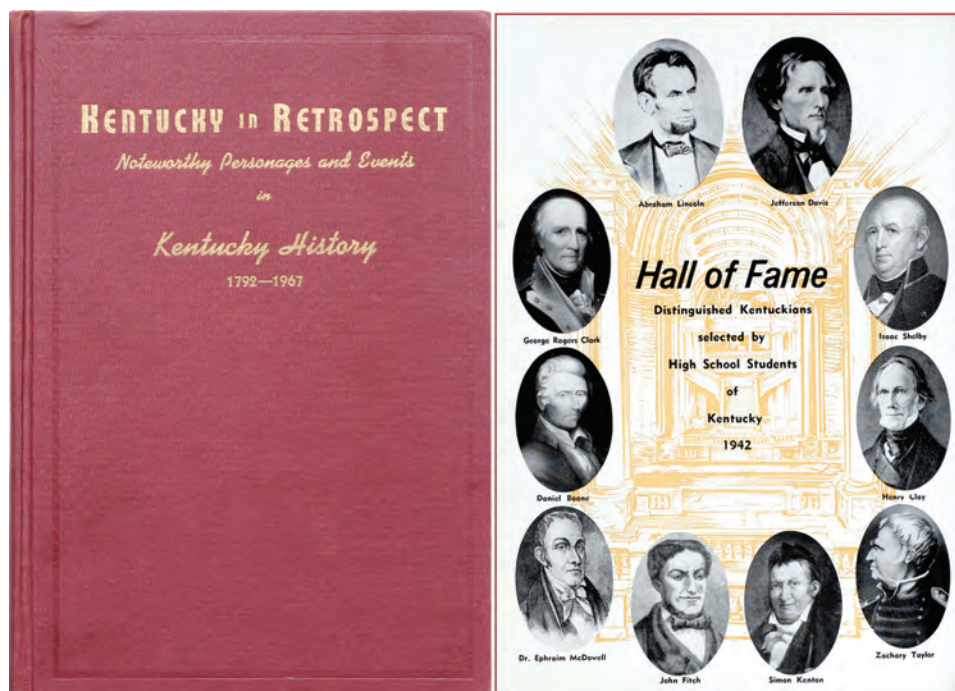
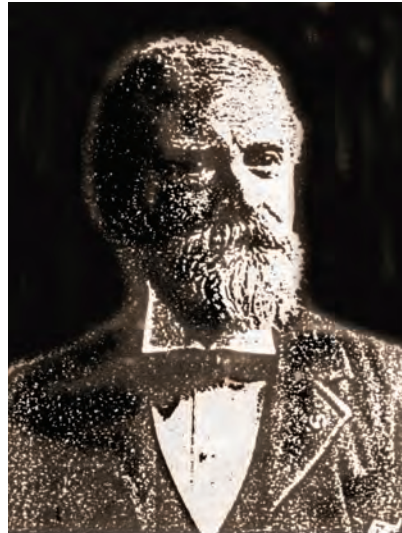


Figure 13. Ephraim McDowell on the cover of "Kentucky in Retrospect-Noteworthy Personages and events of Kentucky History".



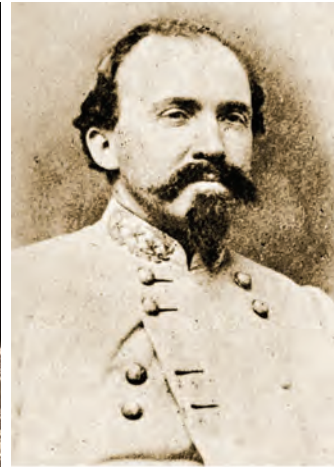
CAPT. WILLIAM E. CRANE.

Figure 14. Captain William E. Crane.



Private Crane

Figure 15. Captain Crane in private life.



JOHN HUNT MORGAN
(1825-1864)

Confederate cavalry commander, raider
Courtesy Library of Congress, Brady Collection

Figure 16. Confederate General John Hunt Morgan.

Huntsville, Alabama, Chickamauga, Tennessee, Rome, Georgia, Stones River, Tennessee, and Louisville, Kentucky (Figure 17). He is mentioned throughout the 1912 booklet "The Story of The Fourth Regiment" (Figure 18).

Captain Crane was a prominent Mason and a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. He died December 23, 1905 and is buried in Cincinnati, Ohio (Figure 19).

Captain William Edmund Crane (Figures 14-15) was born in Syracuse, New York in 1835, and in his early years moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. He was educated in the city and graduated from Woodward College. Crane was a business man but when the Civil War broke out he volunteered his services. He entered the service September 15, 1861 as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th Ohio Cavalry. He was promoted to the rank of Captain March 16, 1863.

Captain Crane was a gallant soldier and saw action engaging Morgan's Men (Figure 16) in Nashville, Tennessee,

General Joshua Woodward Sill was born December 6, 1831 in Chillicothe, Ohio. He represented the 7th generation of the Sill family. Sill was educated largely by his father, who was a practicing attorney in the town. He applied and was accepted to the Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1849. He ranked as one the best scholars, graduating third in his class (Figures 20 & 21). He majored in Mathematics and Civil Engineering. He graduated in 1853 with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant-Ordinance. Joshua was assigned to the Watervliet



Figure 17. Lieutenant/Captain Crane's service record.

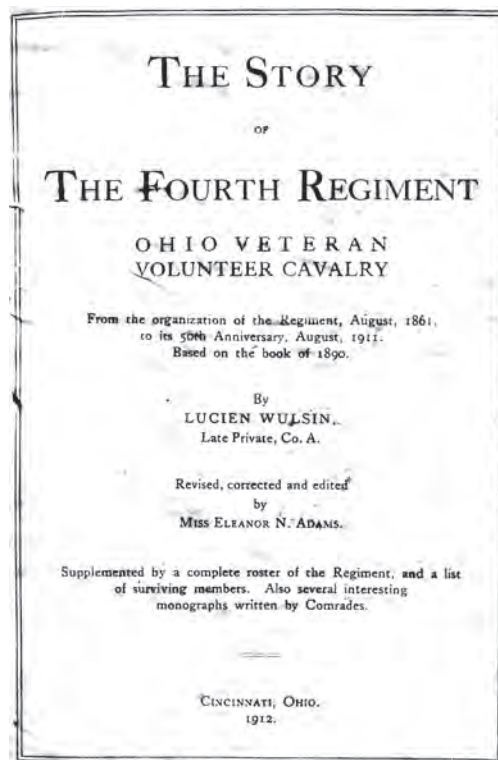


Figure 18. Cover of "The Story of the Fourth Regiment".

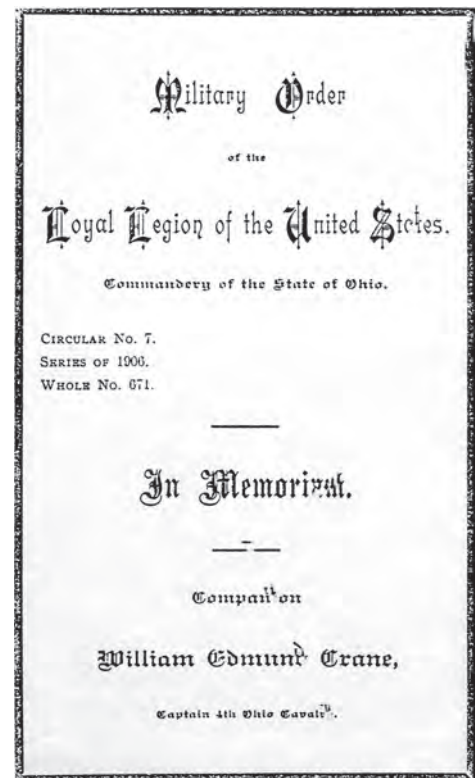


Figure 19. In memoriam of Captain Crane.

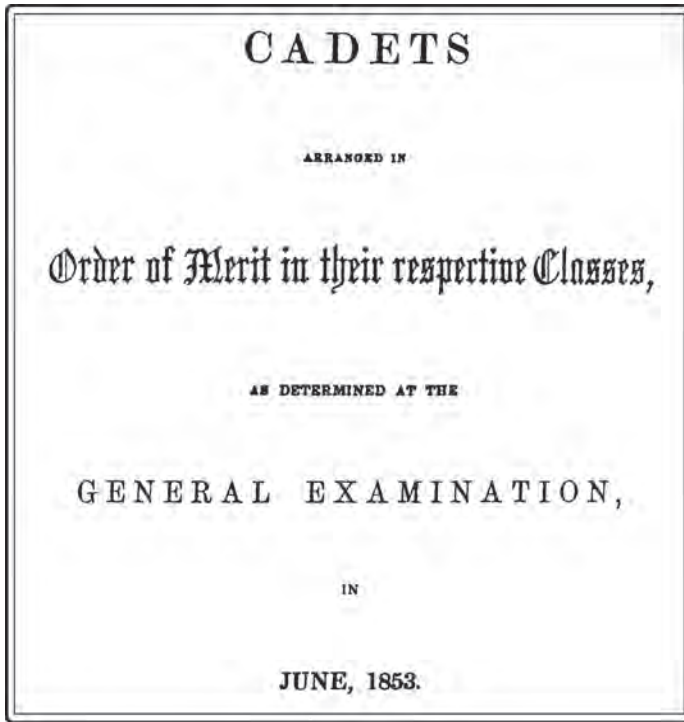


Figure 20. Cover for class standings

7

FIRST CLASS—55 MEMBERS—1853.

Order of general merit.	Names.	State.	Date of admission.	Age at date of admission.		Order of merit in					Demerit for the Year.
				Years.	Mos.	Engineering.					
						Engineering.	Etiquette.	Mineral & Geol.	Infantry Tactics	Artillery.	
E *1	James B. McPherson,	Ohio,	July 1, '49	20	7	1	3	1	2	1	48
E *2	William P. Craighill,	Va.	do.	16	0	2	5	3	9	3	30
E *3	Joshua W. Sill,	Ohio,	do.	17	6	9	1	2	4	2	76
E *4	William R. Boggs,	Ga.	do.	20	3	5	10	8	3	5	10
E *5	Francis J. Shunk,	At Large,	do.	16	7	4	2	5	8	9	78
E *6	William S. Smith,	Ohio,	do.	18	11	8	4	10	10	6	90
T E 7	John M. Schofield,	Ill.	do.	17	9	3	7	17	1	11	196
T E 8	Matthew M. Blant,	N. Y.	Sept. 1, '49	19	0	10	6	4	16	13	3
T E 9	Thomas Hight,	Pa.	July 1, '49	19	6	7	12	9	7	4	13
T E 10	George R. Bissell,	Mo.	do.	19	3	11	20	6	6	7	30
T E 11	Thomas M. Vincent,	Ohio,	do.	16	7	17	11	7	5	10	34
T E 12	Henry C. Symonds,	Mass.	Sept. 1, '49	17	6	12	14	11	11	12	109
T E 13	John S. Bowen,	Ga.	July 1, '48	18	9	6	8	12	22	9	82
T E 14	George Bell,	Md.	do.	20	3	18	29	19	13	16	25
T E 15	James D. Burns, Jr.,	Ill.	July 1, '49	19	6	13	15	14	23	23	129
T E 16	William R. Terrill,	Va.	do.	16	2	20	26	23	18	14	187
T E 17	Lewis H. Pelouze,	Pa.	do.	18	1	27	17	15	14	20	99
T E 18	Owen F. Solomon,	Ga.	do.	19	9	22	16	27	20	23	124
T E 19	La Rhett L. Livingston,	N. Y.	do.	18	4	19	30	24	24	19	193
T E 20	Richard C. Duryea,	N. Y.	do.	18	9	14	19	32	19	26	181
T E 21	John G. Chandler,	Mass.	Sept. 1, '48	17	8	24	25	13	13	15	196
T E 22	Robert O. Tyler,	Conn.	July 1, '49	17	6	33	13	20	25	27	151
T E 23	Walworth Jenkins,	At Large,	do.	16	7	26	41	16	32	38	181
T E 24	N. Bowman Sweltzer,	Pa.	do.	19	1	23	37	36	35	37	187
T E 25	James L. White,	Fla.	do.	19	0	32	21	26	36	18	195
T E 26	Benjamin Allston,	S. C.	do.	16	5	21	28	18	30	21	190
T E 27	Benjamin F. Chamberlain,	N. Y.	do.	19	0	28	31	45	31	32	84
T E 28	John H. Edson,	At Large,	July 1, '48	17	5	29	9	40	21	17	198
T E 29	Thomas Wilson,	At Large,	July 1, '49	16	11	36	18	35	26	36	154
T E 30	William W. Lowe,	Iowa,	do.	19	8	15	32	25	28	35	189
T E 31	John R. Chambliss, Jr.,	Va.	do.	16	5	48	38	51	39	39	186
T E 32	Wm. McE. Dye,	Ohio,	do.	18	5	38	35	33	40	34	190
T E 33	Henry B. Davidson,	Tenn.	July 1, '48	17	4	16	23	29	17	25	195
T E 34	Philip H. Sheridan,	Ohio,	do.	18	1	40	33	28	47	40	189
T E 35	William A. Webb,	Me.	Sept. 1, '49	18	4	42	24	22	15	24	180

Figure 21. Lieutenant Sill's standing—3rd in his class. His future Division Command Philip Sheridan ranked 34th.

Arsenal. In 1855 he was assigned to supervise the building of an arsenal at Vancouver, Washington Territory. However, difficulties with the British caused the Government to abandon the idea, so he was reassigned to the Watervliet Arsenal. Later, he was assigned to West Point as an instructor. There, he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and taught Mathematics and Civil Engineering.

Sill resigned his commission in January of 1860 and became a professor at Brooklyn Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute where he also taught Math and Civil Engineering. When the Civil War broke out he resigned and offered his services to the State of Ohio. Ohio gave him the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the 33rd Ohio Infantry. His students purchased a presentation for him as a token of their appreciation (Figures 22-23).

After numerous campaigns in eastern Kentucky, Colonel Sill was shipped with the Ohio 33rd to Murfreesboro, Tennessee. There, he joined the division of his former classmate General Sheridan at Stones River, Tennessee. By act of the United States Senate, Colonel Sill was promoted to Brigadier General (Figures 24-25) and he took charge of a brigade. The Stones River Battle turned out to be one of the bloodiest campaigns of the War.



Figure 22. Sword presented by students of Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute to Professor Sill. Latin translation from pommel "Either arms from both sides be prepared".



Figure 23. Close up of sword presentation inscription.

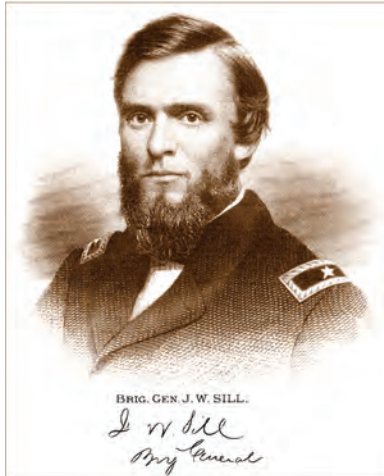


Figure 24. Brigadier Sill.

During the battle General Sill heard a lot of activity in one sector of action led by Colonel McCook. He alerted General Sheridan and the two found McCook asleep and possibly intoxicated in a haystack. When confronted about these concerns, McCook assured Sheridan he would take care of the situation. On the way

back to the command,

both generals doubted that McCook would resolve the issue, so Sheridan asked Sill to reinforce the sector in question. As Sill departed for the line he took Sheridan's frock by mistake. On the next morning, December 31st, 1862, a Confederate attack was blunted but then made a flanking movement that broke through Colonel Johnson's line. General Sill saw the breakthrough and ordered his men to engage the enemy. As his brigade ran out of ammunition, he ordered a fixed bayonet charge. While leading the charge wearing General Sheridan's frock, a Confederate sharp shooter fired at Sill. The miniature ball penetrated his upper lip and lodged in his brain. He died instantly. His body was found by Confederates and buried on-site with military honors. Two years later his family had the body exhumed and returned home to be buried at Grandview Cemetery in Chillicothe, Ohio. An epitaph from one of his officers stated that "No man in the entire Army I believe was so much admired, respected and beloved by inferiors as well as superiors in rank as was General Sill."

In 1869, his West Point classmate and division commander, General Sheridan, established a military post in the Wichita Mountains of the Indian Territory which is now Oklahoma. He named it in memory of General Sill. Today Fort Sill is the largest artillery center in the world.

There are a number of other active distant relatives in this family. Some include Reverend Cotton Mather of the Salem Witchcraft Trials, General Irving McDowell, noted for his failures at the Battle of Bull Run, and Isaac Ridgeway Trimble, Major CSA



Figure 26. Some notable distant family members.



Figure 25. General Sill's 1860 Colt revolver.

(Figure 26). He saw action at the Second Bulls Run and Pickett's charge at Gettysburg. This trail of a portion of our early history unfolded due to a chance visit to my small gunshop in Phoenix, Arizona.

REFERENCES

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- Flintlock and Tomabawk, King Philips War* by Leach
- The Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania
- The National Archives
- Kentucky in Retrospect - Kentucky History
- Battle of Stones River - Murfreesboro, Tennessee* by McDonough
- Generals in Blue* by Warner
- Story of the 4th Ohio Cavalry - Reunion 1912
- U.S. Military Academy Library, West Point
- Personal Memoirs, General Philip H. Sheridan 1888*