

Moore Brothers: A Narrative of Three Brothers' Experiences in the Civil War

Eadward [sic] A. Moore Narrative

Eadward [sic] A. Moore, Being first to Enlist.

On Aug. 20 1861 I enlisted as a soldier in the service of the U.S. Army. I served in the 10th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. We were sent to Cairo, IL. to join our Regiment, where we were mustered, examined and sworn in the Regt as Company E and the next day I was appointed Corporal. When our Regt. was fully organized we was sent up the Mississippi river to Mound City to guard 3 gun boats that was being built there. We lay at Mound City ten months, about three months of the time I was down with the measles, I was placed on duty too soon on a rainy day and the measles settled on my lungs and I lost my voice, which I did not regain until the warm days of Spring.

In the Spring of 1862 we was sent to Birds Point, MO. While there our company went on a two days scout after Jeff Tompson. We routed him out of the swamps and came back to Birds Point. About three weeks after this we marched to New Madrid to reinforce the troops that was bombarding Island No. 10, we took part in the bombardment, and after the rebels evacuated New Madrid I was in the force march to Tiptonville to head off the rebel army, which we did, and captured 6000 men and as many stand of arms, with 18 pieces of artillery.

After placing our prisoners on boats and starting them off for Rock Island, we returned to New Madrid. We lay there about three days, then we went down the river on steam boats, to reinforce the troops at Fort Pillow, but before we reached there, we got orders to go back and report to Gen Grant at Shiloh. Arriving there on Friday after the battle.

We took part in the bombardment of Pulaski and the battle of Corinth May 27, 1862. We was in the battle of Iuka Sep. 19. We then marched to Nashville Tenn [sic] and on Dec 31 and Jan 2, we took part in the battle of Murfreesborough. [sic]

We lay in Nashville ten months, to hold that point, while there, we, the 10th Illinois, built Fort Negley, on Negley Hill. We was relieved of the post by some eastern troops and we went to Rossville, Ga where on Dec 31, 1863 we was discharged, mustered out and remustered [sic] into the service again [sic] and received Veteran Furloughs for 30 days and went home. When the time was up we returned to our Regt. which was then camped at Rossville, GA. On my arrival there I was promoted from Corporal to Sargent, [sic] in which capacity I served until the close of the war.

As soon as the veterans had all returned, we was pushed on in the direction of Atlanta, Ga. We took an active part in all skirmishes and a part of the battles along the route.

We fought at Buzzard Roost Gap, Peach Tree and Pumpkin Vine Creeks, Resaca, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Kennesaw Mountain and Atlanta.

After we had captured Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, and Missionary ridge, we, the 10th, and 16th Illinois Regiments was sent in pursuit of the rebels. We followed them about ten miles and captured a part of their rear guards then returned to Chattanooga where we lay in camp a week to recruit. We were then ordered at forced march to Knoxville Ky (I think its [sic] Knoxville, TN) a distance of 180 miles, to reinforce Gen Burnside's. When we were within 20 miles of Knoxville the rebel Gen. heard of the reinforcements coming and retreated into Virginia. We was then ordered back to Chattanooga where we lay about a week and pushed on in the direction of Atlanta. The march from Chattanooga to Atlanta was almost a continuous battlefield.

On the 14th of Nov. we burned Atlanta and began the famous March to the Sea, more than 250 miles away, with 60000 men. We entered Savannah on the morning of Dec 21, 1864.

After a stay of about a month at Savannah, our division took transportation on board a steamer and went by water to Hilton Head S.C. from there we marched by the way of Charleston SC to Raleigh NC arriving there April 13. This was the end of the great march. A short time after this the southern army surrendered to Gen Grant. After this we was ordered to march to Washington to pass a final grand Review of the Union Army. We were at Washington about four weeks and then was sent to Louisville, Ky where we was mustered out of the service on the 4th day of July. We stayed at Louisville about two weeks, when we was sent to Chicago Il where we received our discharge on the 17th day of July 1865 and we was free to go home.

I stayed in Chicago about a week and arrived home on the 26th. I was then confronted with the problem of making a home. I had given four years of the prime of my life to the service of the country. Patriotically, I am proud of it. Financially, I see my mistake. Those who did not respond to our country's call, but remained at home and reaped the harvest of high prices of crops, brought about by the war, was already on the road to wealth.

I struggled along and when my health began to fail I obtained a pension of \$6.00 per month. I am now an old man, my health is broken down. I shall soon answer the last great roll call.

Eadward [sic] A. Moore

William H. Moore Narrative

On Aug 2, 1862 I was sworn into the U.S. service by Squire Samuel [sic] Harvey, for three years or during the war. My recruiting officer was Alva Paul.

We went to Springfield, IL and went in camp six miles East of Springfield, at camp Butler, and there we was organized and officered into the 91st Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry and was mustered into the U. S. service as Company B on the 8th of Sep 1862. We was drilled; and guarded prisoners there until Oct 1 when we were shipped by rail to camp Jo Holt, Ind then we marched across the Ohio river on a pontoon bridge, and through Louisville Ky to camp Oakland and from there to Shepherdsville, 30 miles south. We lay in camp here until the 14th, then marched 60 miles farther south where we scouted and skirmished with rebel Gen John Morgan's forces. Then guarded railroad bridges until the 25th when our Co. with Co's A and C was sent back to Shepherdsville, where we expected to stay all winter but on Dec 9, we marched south along the L and N Railroad.

Five Co's of our Regt. was left at Elizabethtown. Our Co was sent 14 miles south to Bacom Creek, where we worked hard to strengthen our stockade and prepare for winter. But on the 26th of Dec our guards was drivin [sic] in, and we was completely surrounded by Gen. John Morgan's forces consisting of five regiment of mounted infantry and five pieces of light artillery. We had 64 men in the stockade. A flag of truce was sent in to us, with a demand to surrender but we would not and fought them five hours.

We then surrendered on conditions. Having none killed and but five wounded. I received a shot over my left ear, thought at first to be serious but proved to be only slight. For fear of being recaptured; they did not undertake to get us to Libby or Andersonville prisons so they disarmed us and turned us loose on parole of which the following is a duplicate.

Headquarters, Army of Ky.
Harden Co. Ky.
Dec 26 1862

Wm H. Moore private Co. B 91st Regt Ill. Vol. Having this day been taken prisoner by the Confederate States forces, is released on parole, on the conditions agreed upon in the Cartel regulating the exchange of prisoners between the United States and Confederate States.

The next day we followed the rebel army until we came to Elizabethtown, where 8 Co's of our Regt. had concentrated and stood them a fight. Several men were killed.

We were on a hilltop where we could see both armys [sic] fighting. About sunset we could see our men heist the white flag and surrender. Then Gen. Morgan had us shut up in the measles hospital and we were all exposed.

Early Sunday morning, Dec 28th, we started for Louisville, KY a distance of 100 miles with no money or food, by begging and foraging we arrived at Louisville by noon of the 30th. Then we crossed the river to New Albany and took the cars and went home.

I was home about six weeks, then I went back to my Regt. Benton Barrack, St. Louis, Mo. There to await the exchange of prisoners of war which was made the first of June 1863.

About July 7, we went on board transport boats for Vicksburg, where we landed on the 16th and camped until the 23rd when we boarded transports and moved down the river to Port Hudson, where we camped until Aug 6th when we went to guard the 1st Ind. heavy artillery of 100 wagons, to Baton Rouge. We then returned to Port Hudson.

On Aug 12, 1863 we boarded the transports and moved down the river to Carrollton, Miss. There were 15 steamers in line, and the fog was so heavy we could not see the boat ahead or behind us, the length of a boat apart. We camped about one mile North of New Orleans.

While there our troops were reviewed once by Gen. Banks and twice by Gen U.S. Grant. This is the only time I saw Gen. Grant.

After this, quite an army, with Gen. Herron in command, was sent by transports, up the river to Morganza La. where we fought the battle of the Atchafalla [sic] River. The first days fighting was in the Cyprus Swamps. The weather was very hot, we was without water so long and when we did get water it was very bad and I drank too much which started a diarrhea. Which in spite of the doctors lasted three months.

Oct 10, 1863 we was sent back to New Orleans to recruit, until the Red River Expedition in which we took a part. On the 23rd we was put on board gulf steamers. We was a detachment of the Red River Expedition sent to cut off the rebel supplies [sic] from foreign nations.

There was 32 boats in the fleet, we encountered a bad storm and two boats were wrecked and sunk. I was very seasick for 8 days which completely cured me of the diarrhea. We landed on Brazos Island, from there we marched 40 miles up the river to old Ft. Brown. We remained here on garrison duty until about the middle of July 1864 when we left Brownsville and came back to Brazos Island. We stayed until Christmas day when our regt. was put on board a gulf steamer and sent back to New Orleans.

While at Brownsville our chaplin [sic] held a series of meeting and I gave my heart to God. While here I witnessed the execution of a soldier for desertion. I enjoyed the trip back to New Orleans very much. We stayed in the city six weeks on provost duty. Then we went to Lake Ponchartrain [sic] and took boats and went to the mouth of Mobile Bay and went in camp three days at Navy Cove. Then began that difficult march around the East side of Mobile Bay to Spanish Fort before Mobile where we engaged in a 13 days siege and took the fort. Then we crossed the bay and marched through Mobile to Whistler Station, where we overtook the enemy and had quite a fight.

From there we went up the Mobile River to Nina Hubba Bluffs and camped a few days. We was there when Lincoln was assassinated. Then we moved on up the Tombigby

[sic] River to McIntosh Bluff, there we lay in camp until the surrender of Dick Taylor and Gen. Lee and war was over.

When the rebel gun boats and transports came along our men took charge of the fleet and got aboard the boats and came to Mobile and camped at Whistler Station. While there I saw the explosion of the magazine that contained all the amunition [sic] that Dick Taylor had surrendered. The shock was so great it leveled three blocks, broke every window in the city and brought horses to their knees in our camp 3 ½ miles away.

We were mustered out of the service July 11, 1865 at Mobile. Then we went to New Orleans and took boats to Cairo, IL and by rail to Camp Butler where I was mustered into the service 3 years before. There I got my final discharge and started home. Home once more, with father, mother, brother, sisters, and friends. Oh! the joy!

When I look over that three years of my soldier life it seems like only a dream.

William H. Moore

Samuell F. Moore Narrative

When my brother Eadward [sic] enlisted as a soldier, I had a great desire to join in the conflict for the preservation of the Union. But being only 13 years old, I had to remain home awhile longer.

Then in 1862 when brother William enlisted the flame a patriotism again flashed up, and I resolved to enter into the service at the first opportunity, which privilege was refused me until brother Eadward [sic] came home on veteran furlough. I succeeded in enlisting in Co. E, Ill reg. Vol. Infantry Jan 16, 1864 at Oquawka, Il and was mustered in as a U.S. Soldier being 15 ½ years old.

When the army broke camp near the Chattahooche [sic] river to move on Atlanta I was taken sick with Typhoid fever and was taken by ambulance to the division field hospital. July 17th and the next day I was put aboard an old box car and was taken to the General Field Hospital at Chattanooga, Tenn. I remained there several days. Then I was agina [sic] put in a box car with as many others as could be put in; but this time there was a whole train load of sic [sic] and wonded [sic]. In the car I was in some would pray and moan and groan with pain; and others would moan, groan and swear; but before we got to Nashville I became unconscious and when I recovered consciousness I found myself in the first division 3rd war, general hospital, No 19 Nashville, Tenn., where I remained under doctors [sic] care until I had recovered enough to be able for light duty when I was detailed as assistant nurse. I served in this capacity until about Nov. 1, 1864.

Then came an order from Sherman for all who was able for duty to report; Accordingly, about 800 of us started for the front; but when we got to Chattanooga we was ordered

to go into camp where 50 of us was detailed to guard a Military Prison to prevent the prisoners excaping [sic] and take them out in turns to work.

We remained on gurd [sic] duty there until Feb 1st, 1865 when Sherman again ordered us to the front. So we were organized in Co's and Battalions, with 100 men in a company and 10 companies in a battalion with such officers as was available in command.

About Feb 15th we started to join Shermans [sic] army going by rail to Nashville, Tenn [sic] then to Louisville, Ky and from there by steamboat up the Ohio river to Cincinnati then by rail to Pittsburg, Pa and Annapolis Md arriving there Feb 26th. We stayed there until Monday March 5, we went aboard the large ocean steamship, New York, and started for Beaufort, N.C. about 36 hours run. But Monday night we encountered a violent storm which lasted until noon the next day. The ship became unmanageable and was driven south until we were below Savannah. It was Saturday evening when we got back in sight of the harbor of Beaufort. Sunday, March 13, we were piloted in and we got off the vessel and camped for the night.

Then we went by reail [sic] to Kingston to take part in a battle that we fought there. We remained there a few days after the battle, then we marched to Goldsborough, N.C. There we met Shermans [sic] army and joined our own regiment.

We remained here until April then marched to Raleigh where Sherman received the surrender of Johnstons [sic] army and the war came to a close. We then marched to Washington where in May the war-warn Union Veterans 65,000 in number with their faded uniforms and tattered banners passed in Grand Review through the streets of the National Capitol.

We then disbanded and we went to Louisville, Ky and was mustered out of the service July 4th. Then we went to Chicago and received our discharge [sic] on the 17th of July 1865. We was then free to go home.

Samuell [sic] F. Moore