

Jeremiah Sullivan's Account of Civil War Battles

Civil War Record of Jeremiah (Jerre) Sullivan

[image: map hand drawn by Gerard O'Sullivan of states involved in the western theater fighting.]

B. Limerick City, Ireland – Jan. 6- 1817

D. Richmond, Indiana- USA- June 26 – 1890

Gerard is a descendant of Daniel O'Sullivan, Jeremiah's brother, and drew the map in October of 2018. The map shows the travels of Jeremiah with the following numbers and captions:

- 1 Enlisted 8th Indiana (Union) Regiment 14-April 1861 (Col. Benton)
- 2 Battle of Rich Mountain (West Virginia) July 1861 (Col. Benton)
- 3 Battle of Pea Ridge (Arkansas) March 1862 (Gen. Davis)
- 4 Battle of Shiloh (Tennessee) May 1862 (Gen. Davis)
- 5 Present in Louisville (Kentucky) Shooting of Gen 'Bull' Nelson by Gen. Davis. Sept. 1862
- 6 Battle of Stones River (Tenn.) Dec 1862-Jan 1863 (Gen. Davis)
- 7 Stationed in Vicksburg June 1863 (Gen. Benton)
- 8 Battle of Jackson (Miss) July 1863 (Gen. Benton)
- 9 New Orleans Aug. 1863 (Gen. Banks)
- 10 Battle at Brazos (Texas) (Gen. Banks) Nov. 1863
- 11 Battle at Hisparaza (Near Indianola) Texas
- 12 Jeremiah discharged from Army of the Gulf (1865)

Biography of Jeremiah Sullivan

American Civil War Biography of Jeremiah Sullivan Of 8th Indiana Infantry Company (Union Army)

Jeremiah (O') Sullivan was a native of Limerick, Ireland, and the hand-written note below was found amongst the family papers of his O'Sullivan Irish cousins in Limerick, Ireland. Jeremiah had emigrated from Ireland to the USA in the mid 1800's and had settled in Indiana before enlisting in the Union Army at the start of the U.S. Civil War. Jeremiah had a very eventful war career and fought in many significant Battles, including the Battle of Stones River, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Jeremiah Sullivan was an orderly to Gen Jefferson C Davis during the time he (Davis) achieved notoriety for

slaying a fellow officer (Bull Nelson) in the middle of the Civil War in Sept 1862. Davis later recalled Jeremiah when providing evidence in support of Jeremiah's pension application. (See hand-written note by Davis -"I remember this soldier well – Sullivan was a very brave and faithful soldier"-)

Jeremiah's brother, Daniel, remained in Ireland and set up a Building Contracting business in Limerick City, Ireland, Jeremiah's birthplace.

[image: Hand written account by Jeremiah Sullivan of his Civil War record]

War Record

"I, Jeremiah Sullivan enlisted in the 8th Indiana Infantry company and in the three months service, on the 14th day of April 1861 under Colonel Benton, and took an active part in the battle of Rich Mountain, West Virginia, and afterwards volunteered in the 3 years service, early in September 1861, under Colonel Benton and remained with him until I was detailed as orderly to General Jeff C Davis of Indiana in the beginning of the year 1862. The next battle in which I took part was Pea Ridge at which engagement my horse was shot from under me by a ball from a Rebel Battery. My next engagement was Shiloh in May 1862. I also took part in the Battle of Stone [sic] River in 1863, still under Gen. Davis. By an order from the War Department, I joined my regiment in June 1863, which was then stationed at Vicksburg, Mississippi [sic] under Gen. Benton.

I was at the Battle of Jackson, Mississippi, [sic] under Gen. Benton and afterwards to New Orleans, and there joined the army of General Banks and went with him across the Gulf of Mexico and landed at Bracos, Texas. I took part in almost all the engagements in Texas. I was at the taking of (Hook) Hisparanza, near Indianola, Texas and remained in the army of the Gulf until I was discharged at the close of the war in 1865".

List of Engagements

Battle of Rich Mountain, West Virginia. 1861 July 11th

Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. 1862 March 6-8

Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee. 1862 April 6-7

Battle of Stones River, Tennessee. Dec 31st 1862-Jan 2nd 1863

Stationed at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Battle of Jackson, Mississippi. 1863 May 14th

New Orleans

Brazos, Santiago, Texas.

Hisparanza, Indianola, Texas.

[image: hand written letter by Brevet Major General Jefferson C Davis]

Jefferson C. Davis Letter

Head Qrs [sic] 14 A.C.

Louisville, Kentucky,

Aug 1st 1865.

I remember this soldier well and will try to give all the particulars of his history while under me as far as I can call them to mind in the absence of official records-Sullivan was an enlisted man in the 8th Ind Vol Infy [sic]-

Early in the war in the State of Mo. he was detailed as an orderly at my Head Quarters – this in the winter of 61 and 62 – he served in this capacity through all the campaigning of Mo. and Ark – went with me into Miss and Tenn [sic] was with me in the battles of Pea Ridge and Stones River – shortly after the latter battle he left me – whether he was discharged or went home on furlough I do not remember now – I have not seen him since – he was rather over age when he enlisted and by his steady habits and devotion to duty he performed a great deal of duty before he became physically disqualified for active service-

Sullivan was a very brave and faithful soldier, and became disqualified for service while in these Campaigns, but in what manner I can not remember.

Jeff C Davis

Bvt [sic] Maj Gen

Comdg [sic]

Additional Evidence in case of Jeremiah Sullivan No 65.059

Filed by R F Mitt Indianapolis Indiana

Appendix A

Jeremiah ('Jerre') Sullivan's Death from the Richmond Item of Richmond, Indiana
Thursday, June 26, 1980, page 4

DROPPED DEAD

Jerre Jullivan's [sic] Sudden Death.

This morning Jerre Sullivan arose and went up town to get groceries for breakfast. As he was returning home on the railroad between 7th and 8th streets, he was seem [sic] to set down on a telegraph pole lying beside the railroad and three men, Peter Longinecker, Frank Cobb and Will McDonald, sectionmen, [sic] saw that he was about

to fall and they went to him and laid him down on the ground, and he immediately expired. Coroner Zimmerman was sent for and removed him to his late residence, No. 506 north [sic] 5th street. Mr. Sullivan was one of the best known men in our city. He was truly one of nature's noblemen. He was one of the first to enlist in the late war. He enlisted the very next day after Sumpter [sic] was fired on, and was in service thus continually until the close of the war, serving in the capacity of orderly to Jeff. C. Davis. He was an honored member of Sol. Meredith Post, G.A.R. For the last twenty years he has served as janitor at the Garfield school building in this city. He was about seventy-nine years old at the time of his death. For some time past he has been subject to sudden attacks of sickness, but his general health is good. He was particularly happy last evening because of the graduation of Maggie Pultz, his granddaughter, at St. Mary's school. He presented her with an elegant gold watch and chain, and could not have been in a more happy frame of mind. He was one of the bravest soldiers in war, and one of the kindest and most lovable men in peace. His funeral has not yet been arranged. The G.A.R. will probably have charge of it. He was one of the pillars of St. Mary's church, and his familiar face will be missed by all the congregation.

Jeremiah ('Jerre') Sullivan's Final resting Place

[image: headstone with caption- Jere. Sullivan, Co. D., 8th Ind. Inf., Born Jan. 6, 1817, Died June 26, 1890, Aged 73 yrs.]

Sullivan, Jeremiah "Jerry" was born January 6, 1817 in Limerick City, Ireland, the son of William and Mary (Fitzgibbons) O'Sullivan. He married Hanorah "Annie" O'Brien on November 3, 1839. They had ten children: William, Catherine, James, Jeremiah Junior, Mary Anne, Margaret A., John, Gabriel, Thomas and Hanorah J. (The first seven children were born in Limerick City, Ireland. The family arrived in New York City in 1853. Gabriel was born in Philadelphia. The last two were born in Indiana. According to his wife's obituary, they had thirteen children.) He was forty when he enrolled at Cambridge City as a private in Company B April 18, 1861 and mustered in April 21. During the Battle of Rich Mountain, he ran through a flower garden full of "peonas" (peonies). After the battle, he came back and dug up some roots and sent them home where they were planted in his garden. (These flowers did not bloom for twenty-seven years. When they did bloom, he picked them and laid them on his son Jeremiah's grave.) He was a member of Company A when he mustered on August 2, 1861. He was a 5 feet 5 inches forty-year-old gardener with light complexion, hazel eyes, and dark hair when he enrolled at Milton as a private in Company D August 13, 1861 and mustered in August 14. He served as an orderly for General Jefferson C. Davis in early 1862 until June 1863. While carrying a dispatch from General Davis to general Curtis at the Battle of Pea Ridge, a ball from a Rebel battery shot and killed his horse under him. He was present at the Galt House in Louisville, Kentucky when Davis killed William "Bull" Nelson. "And, after the shooting, General Davis handed the revolver to Jerry, saying: "Here, Orderly, I am done with this." He rejoined the Eighth Indiana Infantry in June 1863. He received a disability discharge May 27, 1864. He enrolled and mustered in as a recruit/private in Company D on April 6, 1865. He mustered out May 15, 1865. He

divorced Hanorah in November 1870. He moved to Richmond and became a school janitor. He became a member of Sol Meredith G.A.R. Post No. 55 in Richmond, Indiana. He died of apoplexy (a stroke) June 26, 1890 at the Richmond Rail Yard while walking home from getting his groceries. He lies buried in section 3E, lot 87 of City Cemetery in Connersville, Indiana (two graves away from his son Jeremiah).

[image of head stone which says- Jere. Sullivan Co. D. 8th Ind. Inf. Born Jan. 6, 1817 Died June 26, 1890 Aged 73 yrs.]

Appendix B

(Jeremiah (Jerre) Sullivan was Gen. Davis orderly at the time of these events and was present at both.)

[image: Jefferson C. Davis shooting William Nelson with the caption: The Assassination of General Nelson by General Jefferson C. Davis, - Sketched by Mr. H. Mosler October 18, 1862 Harper's Weekly]

[image: battle map of Stones River showing Union and Confederate forces with heading: General Davis participated at Battle of Stones River: Dec 31st 1862. and caption: Fighting at Stones River centered on the macadamized Nashville Turnpike and the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, which ran parallel to the pike. Confederate efforts concentrated on getting behind the Union army and the two thoroughfares.]