

## ZOLLICOFFER

1877 – Plattsburgh Sentinel

Zollicoffer, the old war horse, died at the residence of Rev. F. B. Hall, last Monday. He served through the entire war and was known to be over 30 years old. He had been tenderly cared for by Mr. Hall. The veterans of the old 16<sup>th</sup> will all remember him. Ever Decoration Day, he was assigned a prominent position in the procession and nothing seemed to arouse his youthful spirits as did the music and firing of canon.

May 26, 1899 – Plattsburgh Sentinel

Zollicoffer was wont to take part in the Decoration Day ceremonies, and drew the loads of flowers that were used in decorating the graves of dead heroes every year. It was fitting and beautiful, but also had something of the pathetic in it. He was an intelligent horse and did not forget the stirring times of his earlier life. At a strain of martial music, he would prick up his ears, showing evidences of the old patriotic fire. He was only a horse, but a good one who never shirked a duty.

He served faithfully in the War of the Rebellion, and carried his master, Rev. F. B. Hall, then chaplain of the brave 16th N. Y. Vols., on his errands of mercy and duty. How proud and willing he was to do his part in helping decorate the graves of comrades, after the cruel war was over, in the years that followed.

When Zollicoffer died a few years ago, he received honorable burial in the middle of the garden in the rear of his master's home. It is a pretty and true story, that a bed of white flowers grew upon his grave, a spontaneous floral memorial to the noble pet beneath, who died, aged thirty years.

June 3, 1882 – Plattsburgh Sentinel

One of the notable features of the procession on Decoration Day, was a wagon load of flowers drawn by a fine large black horse, which, though somewhat stiff in the limbs, was evidently proud of his post of honor, and minded his paces and general deportment with as much care as if he knew the admiring eyes of his country were upon him, and that he was expected to do his duty. That horse was Zollicoffer, 26 years old, and belongs to Rev. F. B. Hall, chaplain of the old 16<sup>th</sup> NY Regiment, who first procured him at Antietam of Surgeon Crannell. and has kept him ever since and will probably never part except by death.

The following is Zollicoffer's record of service for his country, so far as can be gathered:

The first installment of historic particulars as to the life of old Zollicoffer, was his installment in the government stables at Washington in 1861. From which point of the compass he entered Washington, Zollicoffer has persistently refrained from disclosing. His first prominent arena of action was the battlefield of Bull Run, which he left in disgust, but at what particular gait he has never definitely stated.

Shortly afterwards, however, between Camp Franklin and Alexandria, while at the very top of his speed, he leaped over a cow, which makes clear without further

comment his relation to back-bone. He subsequently figured at West Point on the Peninsula which point it was, that Richmond was distinctly visible from the tops of the trees, but it is not known from the top of what tree it was that Zollicoffer surveyed the Rebel Capital. He was all through the battles of the seven days' fighting, when McClellan was describes as changing his base in crossing over the James River, but that Zollicoffer characterized the whole as "thorough base" is only conjectured and not well authenticated. Next came his experiences in the Second Bull Run, and it is beyond all controversy, that he went there more quickly than those reinforcements that indulged in marking time in their journey thitherward.

Subsequently, he appeared at Crampton Gap in the Battle of French Mountain, but he never stated how many of the 500 prisoners from Colt's Legion he individually secured. It is altogether untrue, however, that he captured the colors of the Georgia regiment. That Rebel ensign was taken by the old 16<sup>th</sup> by James Allen of Co. F, after Col. Frank Palmer had so luckily altered the complexion of the fight by ordering up, and on his own responsibility, the 18<sup>th</sup> NY as reinforcements, notwithstanding the unwillingness of the subaltern officer in command to let his regiment advance. Zollicoffer next figured at Antietam, but he never acknowledged that he actually saw McClellan making signs to the enemy. He was present at the First Fredericksburg and being unable to reconcile Burnside with his officers, wholly approved of the retreat across the Rappahannock, and as an eye witness of the entire movement, admired the skill with which it was executed. But it was a sore grief to him to have participated in the other adventure of Burnside's Mud Expedition, and thus expose himself to Dr. Charlie Pardie's painful reflections on seeing Zollicoffer's ribs so apparent, exciting the Dr.'s apprehensions as to what might be expected when Zollicoffer had exhausted his rations of barrel staves.

In the Second Battle of Bull Run, or the Sixth Corps' part of Chancellorsville, Gen. Brooks remonstrated with him for necessitating the rider's being paddled across the river in the first pontoons, the Gen. giving him to understand that he meant no personal disrespect to him as an individual horse, but that horses were to cross when the bridge was constructed. In the different engagements in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fredericksburg, the enemy selected him for artillery practice, but as he was particular in not allowing himself to be found twice on the same spot, the gunners were somewhat at a loss in triangulating for his exact position. The men of the regiment had committed to his custody a number of thousand dollars, together with many of their watches and other valuables, and Zollicoffer, for this reason, felt it all the more important to confuse the triangulations.

In the Battle of Salem Church, Zollicoffer was astonished to see the horse of Capt. Reed walk on deliberately for a rod or so after a shell had penetrated his body lengthwise. He highly commended the style in which the 16<sup>th</sup> defended the...

You can also read more about Zollicoffer at the Kent-Delord House site at:

<http://www.kentdelordhouse.org/the-tangled-skein-of-history-continued-or-frank-hall-goes-to-war-and-buys-a-horse-selected-civil-war-letters-december-1862/>