

TIMOTHY KELLEY AND BRIDE - HAPPY IN DECLINING YEARS

Native of Ireland and Veteran of Civil War Celebrates 80th Birthday Anniversary
Golden Wedding Observed 5 years ago – By Addison Bennett

62nd Infantry Beekmantown

KELLY, TIMOTHY — Age, 21 yrs. Enlisted at New York City, to serve 3 yrs, and mustered in as private, Co. K, Aug. 19, 1861; **wounded in action, May 3, 1863, at Fredericksburg, VA**; transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, Oct. 24, 1863; also borne as Kelley. **TC BE ~ res. Beekmantown; b. Jan. 27, 1841, Ireland; enlisted in Essex, NY, Aug. 13, 1861; W; S; p. John and Mary Kelley; occ. farmer; discharged, Aug. 15, 1864, by reason of exhaustion of service; was in both Battles of Yorktown, Antietam and Fredericksburg, Fair Oaks and Seven Day's Fight; was wounded at Malvern Hill and at Fredericksburg.**

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Charles Luttmann of Portland, OR, submitted this story to Susan Tobias, a writer for the Plattsburgh Press Republican, in November of 2013. She sent it to us for our "Lifelines". The author of the newspaper story died shortly after he wrote it.

Timothy enlisted in Beekmantown in the 62nd NY Infantry on August 19, 1861.



When the editor told me to go out to Portsmouth and see Timothy Kelley, who was celebrating his 80th birthday, I imagined I was going to interview an old man, described in of his ballads:

*When he is forsaken, withered and shakes,
What can an old man do but die?*

But when I reached the neat Kelley cottage on Gloucester Street, adjoining the big Portsmouth School building, there I found a man who looked to be about 50 years old, and acted like one of 40, and by his side, the wife of his youth, who looked still younger – aye – many years younger. So I met Tim Kelley and his wife, who celebrated their golden wedding more than five years ago.

I can impart here a hint of the youthful appearance and actions of Tim when he says he was born in County Sligo, Ireland, a country that has given our country more good patriotic citizens than almost any other like-sized territory in the universe. But the sweetheart of his youth, Mrs. Kelley? Well, she was born in Plattsburgh, NY, coming from good old Irish stock.

Fighting Contract Taken

Tim Kelley's parents left the old Sligo home when Tim was a wee, little chap a year old. So they left him with is dear old grandmother Kelley, who kept him until he was 12 years old, when his parents sent for him. When he reached the Kelley farm near Plattsburgh, he found two brothers and a sister born in the American home. And what an illustrative voyage young Tim had! He sailed on the "fast" steamer **Industry** from Sligo, and was 45 days in making the "swift" passage to Quebec. From there he took another vessel to Montreal, then by rail to Plattsburgh – that was in 1852 (sic).

Tim worked on the farm until the Civil War broke out. He did not think it would be enough of a scrimmage for an Irishman to get warmed up in, so he did not enlist until August 1861. Then he took a three-year contract to fight the Johnnies. Later his father, two brothers and two uncles enlisted and the Clan Kelley of Plattsburgh was pretty well represented.

Tim remembers every date of every battle he participated in, every march he took, every pig he "swiped", and every fence rail he "appropriated" for fuel. Memory – never in all of my newspaper experience did I interview a man or woman with keener, brighter, quicker memories than Father and Mother Kelley. Tim was most of the time in the Army of the Potomac. Let me mention some of the disturbances he participated in: Yorktown, Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Fair Oaks and the Seven-Day Fight Before Richmond, also Malvern Hill and the two Battles of Fredericksburg – I have overlooked Antietam and the Second Battle of Bull Run.

His bloodiest and last battle was the Second Battle of Fredericksburg. The division he was in had spent the winter of '63-'63 in the heights above Fredericksburg in "watchful waiting". But on Sunday, May 2, 1863, the bloody battle began when the Union troops crossed the Rappahannock, passed up through the town of Fredericksburg and stormed Marye's Heights. In the once-tall grass of the meadow between the town and stone wall at the foot of the Heights, Tim was shot through the mouth and was carried from the field for dead.

Comrade Has Surprise

It was a fearful wound, carrying most of his teeth and portions of both upper and lower jaws away. He was soon well enough for light duties and served as guard over prisoners of war and such like until he was discharged at the expiration of his enlistment. I said he was reported dead. One of his comrades and pals of his company, Billy Monsha, now of Eugene, OR, supposed he was dead, like most of our other companions. But over 40 years later, Mr. Monsha heard of a Tim Kelley in Portland. He hunted him up and had a real reunion. As it was just before the lid was clamped down tight by prohibition - I think the reunion lasted until after the closing hours – and then some. Just imagine the feelings of meeting one you loved whom you had for 40 years counted as dead?

And what did Tim do when he got home? Why, there was that sweetheart. Mary Jane Etheridge, who had been waiting, watching, praying three years for her soldier boy lover! And just a few weeks after his return, on October 3, 1864, they were married – to be still sweethearts and lovers after almost 55 years. Think of it you newlyweds who are appealing to the courts to have the holy know untied! In October 1863, they came to Knappton, WA, and worked at "Cappy Rick's" mill for 14 years. Later he bought a farm at Vader, WA, and removed to his present home 14 years ago.

The editor told me to give the story about 700 words, so I must skip about two-thirds of my story and thus fair to specifically mention the four fine boys and two charming girls the Kelleys have raised, all of

Obituary

Timothy Kelley

Timothy Kelley, 85, who died recently at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Nellie Reynolds, on Portsmouth Avenue, was a veteran of the Civil War and a native of Ireland. He had been a resident of America since he was 12 years old.

During the Civil War, he was in the Army of the Potomac and participated in the Battles of Yorktown, Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Fair Oaks, Richmond, Malvern Hill, Fredericksburg, Antietam and the 2nd Battle of Bull Run. He was seriously wounded at Fredericksburg.

Mr. Kelley is survived by his wife, two daughters, Mrs. Nellie Reynolds and Mrs. Annie Simmons; four sons, John E. Kelley, James E. Kelley, William E. Kelley and Matthew Kelley. All live in Portland.

The funeral was at the Holy Cross Church and interment was at Mount Calvary Cemetery. A special service was held by the St. Johns Post of the Grand Army of the Republic and the members of the Woman's Relief Corps.

whom are our 100 percent American citizens. They all live here in close proximity to their parents, and these six have 13 children, and there are three of the fourth generation.

Tim Kelley is a happy man. His good wife is a happy woman. They are at peace with themselves, their maker and all mankind. They are not possessed of great wealth, never ascended to great heights in society or officedom, but I know of neither man nor woman in Oregon of whom they could be more envious.

May Tim and his bride live to celebrate their diamond wedding and have a better scribe than this to write about it.



Mary Jane Kelley - August 4, 1848 - October 31, 1925 Timothy Kelley - January 27, 1840 - April 27, 1925

Tom Boyce of Barre, VT, added this story to Ancestry – This is the original headstone of my 2nd great-granduncle, Timothy Kelley, and his dear wife, Mary Jane Etheridge Kelley. A gentleman by the name of Charles Luttmann happened to stumble upon this headstone one day while he was walking in some nearby woods. It looked to be discarded, and through his efforts to find out more information on this unknown couple, he was not only able to locate the second headstone located within a cemetery in Portland, OR, but he also located several relatives of the deceased. One relative lived only three blocks away on the identical street Charles Luttmann was currently living! I don't know about you, but there must have been divine providence lending a guiding hand to this individual, because his heart is most certainly of generous warmth to invest so much of his personal time bringing delight and joy to the deceased parents shown as "Mother and Father."