

Missing Medfield Civil War Soldier Found

by George Gray

I became interested in Daniel McMahon, a Medfield soldier who was killed in battle a few miles from where my daughter and her family live in Chattanooga, TN. Since Daniel was one of the seven Medfield soldiers lost on a Civil War battlefield, I thought that I would try to find his unmarked grave.

My first step was to read *The Regimental History of the 33rd Massachusetts Infantry*, especially anything pertaining to his Company H, so as to have a better understanding of Daniel's experiences from the day he and eight Medfield buddies were "mustered in" for basic training in August 1862 at Camp Edwin M. Stanton in Lynnfield. The other eight Medfield men who joined with Daniel were Ebenezer Granville Babcock, John Brown Chenery, James Griffin, Michael Griffin, William R. Holbrook, David Maney (Meany), (our Police Chief Meany's great grandfather), Joseph Saguski, and William Vennoh.

Eventually, they travelled by train from Boston to Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C., where they were put up in hotels. They started for the field on October 10, 1862 but still had had no weapons' training.

The 33rd saw action at Gettysburg (July 1863), and in September they travelled by train through six states and arrived at Nashville, TN, where they began to march southward towards Chattanooga. The 33rd was involved in a deadly night battle at the bottom of Lookout Mountain in Chattanooga, called the Battle of Wauhatchie, on October 29, 1863. This is when Daniel McMahon was killed and presumed lost on the battlefield.

This past February, my wife and I visited Chattanooga and spoke with James Ogden III, historian at the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, who advised us to look for Daniel at the National Cemetery in Chattanooga. We were greatly surprised to find a headstone for the missing Daniel in Section B grave 541, alongside many other members of his regiment. Hopefully, the grave locations of the other missing Medfield men will be found someday.