

Regular Meeting

Wed eve May 17th 1882

Pres Messert. Below. Casey. Raymond. Vollmayer--
Absent Pres Romalis

An motion for Raymond was elected Pres Pro Tem

The minutes of the last meeting were read and after a correction making Harry Cherry 2nd instead of 3rd detector and the erasing of that part which referred to scalps they were adopted.

Chief Steedman Presented a communication. I respectfully request your Honorable Board to authorize me to have a Telephone put in my residence for the obvious reason that I can be communicated with or summoned to Head Quarters speedily in case of a destructive disturbance or any other emergency requiring the Chief of Police and can give orders at once in case of sudden necessity. A Telephone will certainly enable me to discharge the duties of my office effectively and with more promptness than would be possible without one. The expense to the city of a Residence Telephone will be forty dollars per year payable quarterly in advance. I also recommend that your Secretary be required to act as Secretary to the Captain as acting Superintendent of Police and his salary be fixed at eight hundred dollars per year. In my opinion this action by your Board will enable the Chief to devote more of his time to the important duties of his office. That he can do if compelled to do all the clerical labor required in his position and will be in the interest of economy as well as efficiency and thoughtfulness. My predecessor not having a clock was obliged to detail a policeman to do a great deal of writing required to keep the records and had him in his office more than half his time. I also request your Board to authorize me to

Adjourned Meeting

Pursuant to adjournment the board convened at 8:30 pm President in the Chair full board present. The President states the first business in order to be the election of a Chief of Police. General James B. Stehman received four votes on the fifth ballot & Mr. P. Scott one (Major Romis) Mr. Stehman was declared elected Chief.

By Mr. Vollmayer That James Pulger, Second, be promoted to first, and James O'Brien third be promoted to Green Detectives.
Carried Ays 5. No.

After nine ballots Harry Ching Salzman was elected third Detective

By Mr. Raymond That the Health office be declared vacant.
Carried Ays 3. No. President Casey

The names of Mrs. Rideour VanBelt, Aris. Wright, Bowen, Jungbluth and Cronise were placed in nomination and upon the third ballot Dr. VanBelt having received a majority vote was declared elected.

Upon ballot the following gentlemen were elected. Dist. Physician
Co. 1st District No. II. Dr. Harington II. Dr. Hallister III. Dr. Chamberlain
III. Dr. Nancy.

By Mr. Vollmayer That the office of Secretary be declared vacant.
Carried Ays 5.

By Mr Raymond That the health office be declared vacant ^{Carried} Ays 3 Nos 1 ^{President} 6 aye

The names of Sres Rideman VanBelt, Aris. Wright, Gourm. Jungbluth & Cronse
were placed in nomination ^{and} upon the third ballot Dr VanBelt having received a majority
vote was declared elected

Upon ballot the following gentlemen were elected - District Physician
to West District N. T. Dr Harington, II. Dr Hollister ~~III~~ Dr Chamberlain
~~III~~ Dr Nancy

By Mr Vollman That the office of Secretary be declared vacant
^{Carried ays 5}

On the 9th ballot Mr Hayden having received a majority of votes
was declared elected

There being no more business to take the board
modestly adjourned

Attest
John A McGuire
Jee Peterson

Memoranda for Health physician filed by Bro Jung 6/11/82
Gorsuch & Bowen

Petitions

May 3, 1882

Major Dadd presented a petition requesting the appointment
of General James B. Steiman as Chief of Police
Accepted ordered filed

Balloting

The President stated the next business in order would
be the Election of Chief of Police and the following
names were placed in nomination

By John Bolan. Jas B Steiman By Pres Romes Mr P Scott
By Mr Casey Chas Kennedy By John Valluwayr. J. C. Purdy

At the Conclusion of the one hundredth and
twenty seventh ballot no election being declared
the board adjourned until Thursday May 4. 3pm

Attest
John H McGuire
Secy pro tem

May 4, 1882

Convened at 3:30 pm President in the
States the first ballot in order to be the
man. Dr. A. Sterman received four votes on
is) & Mr. Sterman was declared elected

Julian Decon, be promoted to first, and

Debechere

Carried Ays 5 No

was elected third Detective

be declared vacant ⁱⁿ ^{Carry} Ays 3 No 2 ^{President} ^{Cooney}

right. Power. Jungbluth and Termer

t Dr. Van Pelt having received a majority

re. Thomson were elected. Dist. Physician

... names

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After nine ballots Henry

By Mr Raymond that the health

the name of Mrs Richmond

... upon the

... vote was declared elected

When called the for

Steedman, James Blair, 1817-1883.

- R977.1 Scribner, Memoirs of Lucas co. & Toledo 1:122-124; 2:138-142
- qR977.1 Winter, History of northwest Ohio 1:265,267-268,468
- qR920 Cyclopaedia of American biography (Appleton's) 5:659
- qR920 Biographical encyc. of Ohio:352-353
- R977.11 Maumee Valley pioneer assoc., Addresses, 1900:198
- qR977.112 Waggoner, History of the city of Toledo & Lucas co., O.:15,85-87,226,254,272,338,340,343,345,350,358,359,446,448,683,914

Revised 3/1982
Genealogy

Steedman, James Blair, 1817-1883.

- qR977.1 Galbreath, History of Ohio 1:383
- FR912 Hardesty, Historical handatlas...Lucas co.:227
- "The people chose freedom," by John M. Morgan.
R977.1 NW Ohio qtly. 22, Summer 1950:106-119
- R977.11 A memorial: record of the soldier spirit of Waterville (Ohio) 1899:113
- The Steedman story, by Seymour Rothman. Blade, Sunday mag., June 26, July 3, 1966.
- Gen-Biog. File - Steedman
- Obituaries for Harry Hirsch and wife, Mary Steedman Hirsch, daughter of General Steedman.
- Gen.-Biog. File - Steedman

Revised 3/1982
Genealogy

Steedman, Gen. James Blair, 1817-1883.

- Monument R 977.1 Soldiers' memorial bldg.
- qR 977.112- Killits- Toledo and Lucas County 1:164-165 Ohio. Vol. 1, p. 170, portrait-166
- R 977.1 Men of Toledo and Northwestern Ohio. p. 34
- FR 917.7113- Toledo Commercial p. 114
- qR 977.1 Van Tassel- Story of the Maumee Valley, Toledo and Sandusky Region. Vol. 2, p. 1193
- see Steedman Monument - Picture Records
- FR977.1 Van Tassel Book of Ohio 3:741 (Portrait)
3:869 (Monument)

Genealogy

Steedman, James Blair, 1817-1883.

Monument:

- Toledo, Ohio; photographic Views 1893 p. 28
- Toledo Views pam. 4 p. 26
- R977.113 Toledo Cadet Veteran Corps. "Route Step:" p. 7 (portrait)

Toledo Biography Scrapbook
Genealogy-Vertical File - Steedman - *Over-ridge*
Toledo History Scrapbook - Homes

Toledo History Scrapbook - Monuments
Shanks Personal recollections of distinguished Generals

Steedman, James Blair, 1817-1883.

- FR369.151 GAR Ford Post p. 351
- R977.1 "Old Steady" at battle of Chickomanga Northwest Ohio quarterly 22:73, 113
- Monument Picture of Unveiling 40 years ago Blade May 26, 1927 p. 11
- FR977.113 Knabenshue Toledo 1903-1904 (Picture of Monument) p. 21
- Monument Dedication May 1887 - Summit & St. Clair
- Picture of statue May 26, 1887
- Toledo Picture File - Monuments

Genealogy

Genealogy

923.5

Shanks

1876-73

Leading word perfect use in a word

1876-73

Genealogy

3

2

4

Steedman, James Blair, 1817-1883.

R977.11 Knapp History of the Maumee Valley p. 651
Mss. Toledo Monuments - James B. Steedman
Dedication at Riverside Park July 4,
1920

Toledo Vertical File - Monuments and Memorials

Clippings and pictures about Gen. Steedman and
Monument. S. P. Jermain Scrapbook - Toledo
Parks and Playgrounds Vault Case 2^o Shelf 5

Commercial Telegram Oct. 19, 1883 Supp. *Hall Case*
Death of James B. Steedman (and Portrait) *Shelf 3*

Genealogy

Steedman, James Blair, 1817-1883.

buried in Woodlawn Cemetery Toledo Ohio section 9)
Funeral Stereoptican Views

1. Horse drawn army wagons
 2. Funeral cortege
 3. Funeral parade
 4. " "
 5. " "
- Funeral flowers in cross

Gift of Cordelia O. Hopkins Case 2
Shelf 11

Genealogy

Steedman, James Blair, 1817-1883.

Funeral
Cortege passing St. Paul's Church. Sketch in color
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper Nov. 3, 1883
Bust of Steedman in uniform
Hall Vertical File - Portraits

Genealogy

Steedman, James Blair, 1817-1883.

Monument of Steedman.

Pic. File - Monuments & memorials - Steedman
Rundell spbk.:23,32

Gen.-Biog. File - Rundell
R917.7113 McKinney, Industrial advantages of Toledo,
1892:l (pict.)

FR917.7113 Toledo illustrated, 1888:105
Blade, May 26, 1887:1; Je. 3, 1905:3
R917.7113 Souvenir of Toledo, 1887
FR917.7113 Parish pub. co., Artwork of Toledo, O.:
145 (pict.)

Steedman, James Blair, 1817-1883.

Monument of Steedman.

Toledo history spbk. - Monuments - Steedman.
Dedication of monument, Riverside pk., July 4, 1920.

Mss. Index - Toledo. Monuments - Steedman
Steedman's action at Dalton (Georgia) 1864, by John M.
Morgan.
R977.1 NW Ohio qtlly. 53, Summer 1981:71-82, ports.,
map
Toledo metropolitan 3, April 1987:40-41 + port., pict.

Genealogy

Genealogy

dozen dynamite cartridges, and a copy in Irish paper. In Brackett's a loaded lever, and a lot of dynamite cartridges. Their room at the Parker House were valises, one containing 40 pounds of nitrate, the other 60. Their object is not war, but it is supposed they are either snuff-brokers or burglars. It is said that a wire here the time of the Fenian's last Spring.

HALIFAX, N. S., Oct. 13.—There was considerable excitement in the City last evening over the arrest of two men with a large quantity of dynamite in their possession. Very late information was received from New York that an attempt would probably be made by Fenians to destroy public proper- ties. Extra precautions were taken by the appointment of extra police and other means, but nothing occurred, and the matter was quieted over; about a month ago Lieut. V. Ritchey got warning from Ottawa of the departure from New York for Halifax of persons of suspicious characters, supposed to be connected with the dynamite branch of the Irish Brotherhood. Again nothing happened. Two men, giving the names of A. Bracken and James Holmes, arrived on Friday last and put up at the Parker House. It is believed they came from New York. They gave no name to the hotel, and paid a week's board in advance. Detective Power watched them, searched their rooms in their absence, discovered dynamite, which was secured, then found the men and arrested them.

Substitutes of the Switchmen's Strike Extending.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 17.—Sheriff Roubiebof, St. Clair County, Ill., swore in about 30 men as Deputy Sheriffs this morning, and distributed them in the different railroad yards of East St. Louis. Seven United States Deputy Marshals are also on the ground, but they are especially assigned to the Ohio & Mississippi yards, that road being under the protection of the United States Court. In the Castro Short Line yards one new man was assaulted and all other new men in that yard were driven out by the strikers, but after the Deputy Marshals made their appearance the strikers fled and the new men resumed work. All roads are working small forces made up partly of employees of other departments, and trains move slowly except in the Ohio & Mississippi yard, where the usual work is being done under protection, and where there is nearly a full force. On this side of a river the situation is much the same as at East St. Louis, except that there are no special officers on duty. Clerks and other employees are doing the same work and reliable freight is being moved reasonably well, but there is little left in the yards. The railroad managers held a meeting this noon, but it is impossible to ascertain its action. The strikers assert that the strikers in Indianapolis, Cincinnati and it is said here will strike within a week, and their demands will be the same as those made here.

The Sun Shines for Thurman.

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—The New York Sun says now that the Legislature of Ohio is assuredly Democratic, a strong desire is expressed by the best men of the party for the re-election of Mr. Thurman to the United States Senate. This wish, says the Sun, is not confined to the State, nor indeed is it limited by personal or political particularities. After writing Mr. Thurman's name to the Senate, Mr. Dana says: "Mr. Thurman's place in the Senate has been a great one, and he left it. The Legislature of Ohio will gratify the party throughout the country, and thousands of Republicans will respect his character and statesmanship, by sending him back to the Senate."

Justice by a Circuitous Route.

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—The Surrogate of Westchester County gave an important decision this morning. It gives to four young ladies an estate valued at \$50,000. Dr. M. Miller, of New York, had four daughters at the time of his second marriage. He gave his wife deeds of his real estate, and left all his personal property in his will, and disinheriting his daughters. After his death, Mrs. Miller, who had no children, adopted a girl and named her Lily May Miller. Mrs. Miller died without heirs. The Surrogate now decides that the property reverts to the four daughters by his first marriage.

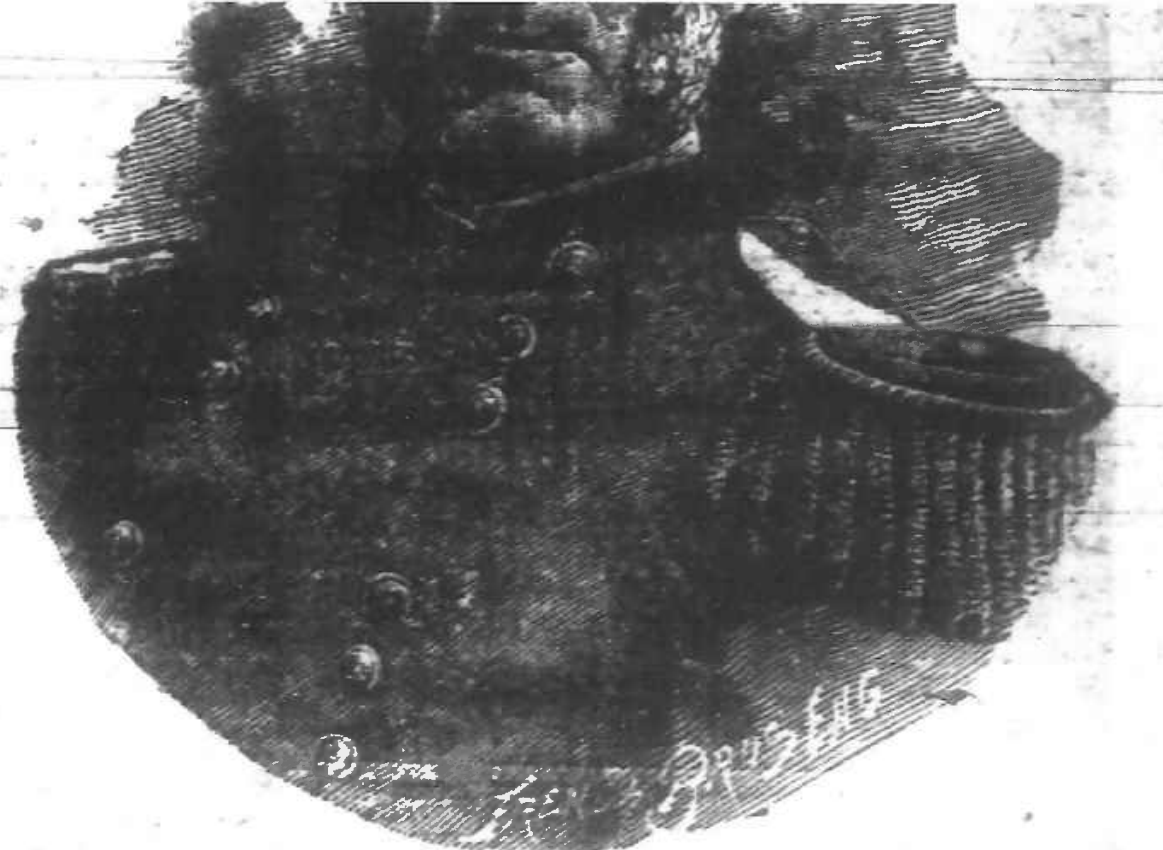
Headly and the Colored Vetere.

CINCINNATI, Oct. 17.—Judge Headly says he believes about 7,000 colored men voted for him, which, if true, elected him. He intimates that this mark of their confidence will not be lost sight of by him in the future.

3:30 P. M. Cash Board.

The following are the closing quotations at the afternoon's (Thursday) session of the Toledo Produce Exchange:

Wheat—	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
No. 1 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 2 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 3 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 4 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 5 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 6 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 7 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 8 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 9 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 10 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 11 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 12 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 13 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 14 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 15 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 16 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 17 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 18 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 19 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2
No. 20 Red.....	89 1/2	90 1/2	101 1/2



BEATEN AT LAST.

"Old Chickamauga" Succumbs to the Natural Enemy.

Death of Gen. James B. Steedman—He Breathes his Last this Afternoon—Biographical Sketch of the Old Hero.

Gen. James B. Steedman, after a long struggle with the common enemy, was forced to succumb this afternoon, and at 7:15 o'clock breathed his last, in the midst of relatives and friends, at his home on Missouri street. About three weeks ago he took a severe cold, that brought on a severe attack of asthma, and later an attack of double pneumonia. He bore up wonderfully well, and though his physicians pronounced his case nearly hopeless ten days ago, his many friends hoped against hope, and believed that his naturally strong constitution would carry him through. Hopes were vain however, and though the fight was long and stubborn, extending through 17 days, death came off victorious. He was not conscious of the approach of the grim reaper, and passed away quietly, as though sinking to sleep.

Gen. Steedman has so long been a prominent figure in Toledo's history that to disconnect him from its affairs would not be possible. He came here from Henry County a young man, while the City was a village, and here he has since resided, interesting himself in its growth and development, and feeling a pride in its substantial progress. His position in the late war is well known to the majority of readers. During life he was active in politics, and was an ardent Democrat. For the past year he has been at the head of the Police Force of the City, and has been an efficient officer. By his death he leaves a young wife and two children.

The following relative to Gen. Steedman's military career, taken from "Ohio in the War," will be of general interest at this time:

James B. Steedman, a noted Democratic politician, and during the war an officer of volunteers, always distinguished for energy and gallantry, was born in Northumberland County, Pa., on the 30th of July, 1818. He was not a good student, and, owing to the want of a common school system, he received only an indifferent education. At the age of 15, he was sent to a school, but he never learned more than the rudiments of most of the States now set up as models for the poorest of their children. He practiced to learn the printing business in a newspaper office.

The newspaper was the Lewisburg (Pa.) Democrat, then edited by Judge George H. Barrett. Here the apprentice once learned Democracy, rudimentary branches of education, and business. So well did he improve his opportunities that in a couple of years he had come to be regarded as fit for a man's work and responsibilities. About this time an opportunity was offered him to leave that printing office and take charge of a gang of hands engaged on one of the public works. He succeeded so well that he was emboldened to undertake similar contracts on his own account. Removing to Ohio, he established himself at Napoleon, Henry County, and, while awaiting some opening in public works, which he had reason to expect, he

ing for three years, it entered into Kentucky, took part in the affair at Wildcat, was the first to enter the Rebel work at Mill Springs. By this time the merit of Col. Steedman as an officer was so well recognized that he was withdrawn from the Regiment and placed in command of a brigade. In the advance of Bell's army he had no further opportunity for fighting, but he so well handled his command that there was a general feeling of approval in the army when, on the 17th of July, 1862, he was appointed a Brigadier-General of volunteers.

His first important action was at Paducah. Here he had a large brigade in being 4,100 muskets supporting McClellan, and preventing the enemy from turning right. He came into the battle at an opportune moment, saving Loomis' battery which the enemy was just taking possession of. His conduct received the commendation of so cautious a critic as Gen. Buell who complimented him for his energy and gallantry.

Gen. Steedman next marched with the army as far as Tunnel Hill, when, with his brigade, he was halted to clear and repair two tunnels—half a mile each in length which had been partially destroyed by John Morgan. After putting the tunnels in the repair, he again joined the army, and skirmished with the enemy's cavalry during the battle of Stone River, but was not heavily engaged during any part of the action.

Shortly after the battle of Stone River Gen. Steedman was assigned to the command of a division of infantry. For the next three months he held an independent position on the Nashville Turnpike, 15 miles south of Nashville, and 15 miles from the main army—skirmishing with the enemy almost every day. Gen. Thomas, with whom Steedman was always a great favorite, now complimented him for the energy and capacity he displayed in these affairs, and when obliged to supersede him on account of rank, expressed in written form, his regret that "rank and length of war" should deprive Gen. Steedman of a command in which he had given so much satisfaction to his commanding officer.

In the campaign from Murfreesboro, which forced Bragg's army out of Tennessee, Gen. Steedman was in command of a brigade which occupied the Old Tullahoma Road, and after heavy fighting with the Rebels, who were posted to hold that approach, was the first to enter the enemy's works at Tullahoma. When the Army of the Cumberland was concentrated at Winchester, Tenn. in July, 1863, Steedman was assigned to the command of the First Division of the Reserve Corps. He marched his division from Murfreesboro to Chickamauga. Here he took a distinguished part. He was stationed at "Red House Bridge" over the Chickamauga River, and was ordered to "hold it all hazard." In front of him was no enemy. He knew that the Rebels were sore pressed, and that his

division was to be the first to enter the enemy's works. He was the first to enter the enemy's works at Tullahoma. When the Army of the Cumberland was concentrated at Winchester, Tenn. in July, 1863, Steedman was assigned to the command of the First Division of the Reserve Corps. He marched his division from Murfreesboro to Chickamauga. Here he took a distinguished part. He was stationed at "Red House Bridge" over the Chickamauga River, and was ordered to "hold it all hazard." In front of him was no enemy. He knew that the Rebels were sore pressed, and that his division was to be the first to enter the enemy's works.

In this battle Gen. Steedman's conduct was the subject of general admiration—the officers and soldiers of the army being his warmest eulogists. He was shortly afterwards "for distinguished and gallant services in the field," made Major-General of volunteers. He took an active part in the campaign of the Chickamauga which resulted in the fall

Check newspapers

May 4, 1882 / June 2, 1882 (start)

Conf. election?

as
may 15-10
ment of chief
by name of 1882
June 4, 1882

start?

ref 2 as chief in
pro. no doc as being
appt on June 4, 1882
to July 1, 1882

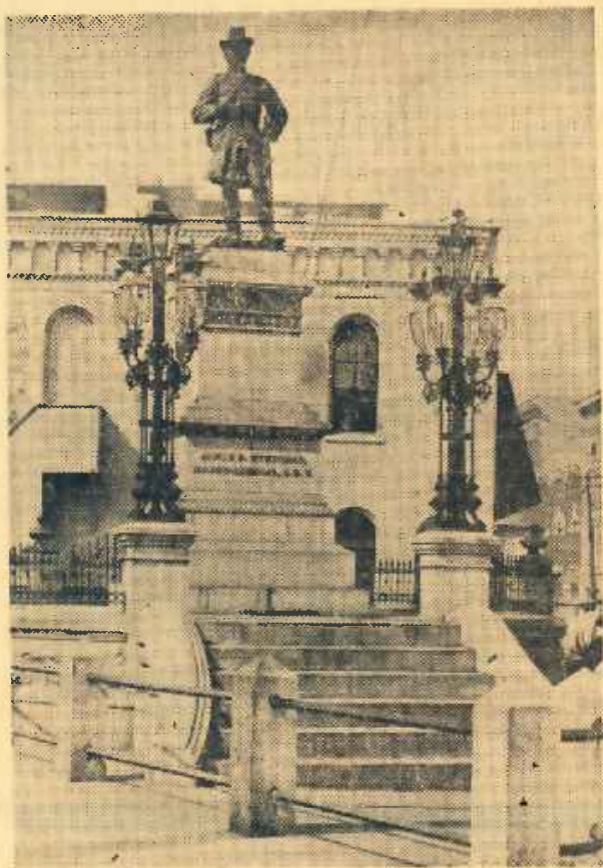
ref 2 him as
chief on June 8, 1882, to
page 3, column 6
can not confirm actual
fact

May 16, 1881 - June 20, 1881
no mention of Steedman in
proceed. Much mention of
that time being appt list @

June 4, 1881 To Blade
pg 5 col 1 ref made he id
accept if appt. no conf. in
Blade - looked up to June 10, 1881

June 4 Blade
Unavail

Just recently I saw an old picture post card with a scene from Steedman Square, St. Clair and Summit streets in Toledo. Would appreciate having the history on this.—V.D.S., Sylvania.



The history of the monument to Maj. Gen. James Blair Steedman (pronounced Steadman), Toledoan and nationally famous commander with the Union forces in the Civil War, is brief, but the history of the man is long and exciting.

General Steedman (1817-1883) was born in Pennsylvania. He was a large man and a hard fighter from boyhood. He came to northwestern Ohio as a canal-builder on a section of the waterway around Waterville, settling in Toledo. He left here in 1861 for California, then returned to help form the 14th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, comprised mostly of northwestern Ohio men.

Steedman returned to Toledo in 1869, a national hero because of his exploits at Chickamauga, Nashville, and a score of other engagements. He entered politics, edited a newspaper at Defiance, and for five violent months preceding his death was Toledo's chief of police.

William Finley, a Toledo brewer and land-owner whom Steedman had befriended in his youth, donated the land, commissioned sculptor Alexander Doyle to make a massive statue, paid for it, and gave it to the city as a park, as shown above. It was dedicated May 26, 1887.

In 1920, it was proposed to build a public restroom beneath the statue, but a public howl went up, led by Steedman's wife. She was 16 when she married. Mrs. Harry Hirsch, her daughter, still lives in Toledo. The statue was moved to Riverside Park, where it now stands.

A Thesis
entitled

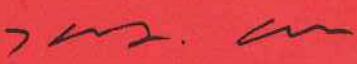
MAJOR GENERAL
JAMES BLAIR STEEDMAN

by
Mary Ann Steedman Wanatick

as partial fulfillment of the requirements of
the Master of Liberal Studies Degree



Advisor



Dean of the Graduate School

The University of Toledo
June 1988

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To achieve long time goals is gratifying, doubly so when they can be combined. For many years I have wanted to further my formal education; another desire has been to learn more about, and record the exploits of my noted grandfather. The Master of Liberal Studies Program has provided me with the ideal vehicle for these purposes. I am grateful to Dr. Michael Manheim, the original chairman and The University of Toledo for developing such a program and accepting me as a student.

It would be difficult to name everyone who has offered me their cooperation in this endeavor but my deepest debts of gratitude go to Miss Lucille Emch, Dr. Gregor Sido, and Mr. Merle Gore for endorsing my request for admission to the Graduate School, as well as their early encouragement on my choice of thesis topic.

My sincere appreciation goes to the excellent professors who opened new worlds for me in their classes. In particular I thank Dr. William Longton, my advisor for his knowledge, guidance and counsel in helping me to complete this work.

My thanks go to Mr. Seymour Rothman of The Blade, Mr. John Morgan of The University of Toledo Carlson Library and all the other wonderful librarians at The University of Toledo, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's Local History Department, the Napoleon, Defiance, and Perrysburg Libraries,

and the Rutherford B. Hayes Memorial Library in Fremont, Ohio. They all provided invaluable assistance in "uncovering" the information I needed.

Dr. Harold Lee, the present chairman of the Master of Liberal Studies program, Mrs. Pamela Schaefer, and Mrs. Janet Vezner, program secretaries have been most generous with their time and help.

My grandmother, my "Aunt May," and other family members past and present from whom I gleaned so much information about the subject, must be included on this list. My heartfelt thanks to my always supportive sister Margaret, son Bob, and husband Mike who sustained me in indulging my ambition, and finally to my grandfather, "The General" for leading such an interesting life.

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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY LIBRARY

INTRODUCTION

Some men of achievement leave long written accounts of their lives; others become subjects of lengthy biographies, while others still, leave descendents who keep the memory of their ancestors' fame current from generation to generation. But in the case of the Toledo, Ohio, Civil War hero and political activist Major General James Blair Steedman, few Toledoans nowadays recognize the man's name or even know who he was. Although a statue of him (the only Toledoan to be so honored) stands at the entrance to Riverside Park in the city where he lived so long in public life, many residents know less about the man the statue represents than they do of the calamitous accident which, in 1979, knocked the monument down, and about the accounts of the long and difficult efforts to repair and remount it.

Occasional historians have written brief accounts of some phase of the General's life; Civil War buffs in particular tend to remember him for notable deeds he performed in the war. But there are no major biographies of him; his own personal papers have long since disappeared, and of the family members who remain to tell his story, there are too few who remember too little.

As one of those remaining family members, it is my hope to rescue General Steedman, who was my grandfather, from the obscurity to which neglect has consigned him. But if family pride first encouraged me to write this biography, what I learned while

researching it provided me with another reason for doing it altogether. I have come away from this study with an intense admiration for this man whom, although my grandfather, I have just met. The official documents that record his doings and comings and goings, and the scattered sketches and remembrances of bits and parts of his life and character, reveal a man gifted by nature with rare courage, a man at once bold and prudent, one whose magnetism and ability to inspire and lead are awesome.

He was known to be warmhearted and spontaneous. In positions of authority, the General earned a reputation for being just, lenient, and understanding.

James Blair Steedman was forthright, sincere, determined; always loyal to friends, country, and cause. This chronicle hardly does him justice.

CHAPTER ONE

EARLY LIFE AND POLITICAL CAREER

James Blair Steedman, publisher, editor, statesman, Major General, U.S. Volunteers, was born July 29, 1817 in Caillesque Township, Northumberland, Pennsylvania.¹ His parents Mellum and Margaret (Blair) were rugged Scotch farmers, who early inculcated the principles of honesty, truth, and justice into his mind. He was sent to the village school and there obtained a rudimentary education. He had just entered his thirteenth year when he became an orphan. His mother and father both died within twenty-four hours of each other from an epidemic of scarlet fever and he was left to support himself, a sister, and two younger brothers.² Compelled to leave school, he became an apprentice printer in a newspaper office.³

The newspaper was the Lewisburg (Pennsylvania) Democrat, then edited by Judge George R. Barrett. Here the apprentice not only learned the art of printing and a knowledge of the business, but also the grand principles of Democracy.⁴ Two years later he went to Louisville, Kentucky, where he worked at printing for a time, but soon joined General Sam Houston's expedition for the independence of Texas.⁵ Returning to Pennsylvania in 1836, he was offered an opportunity to leave the printing business and take charge of a gang engaged on one of the public works. His efforts were so successful that he decided to pursue similar contracts

on his own.⁶

Not yet twenty-one, Steedman migrated to Napoleon (Henry County) Ohio, where he pursued contracts on the Wabash and Erie Canal. With that inborn command of men which lasted him through life, he soon hired and directed a gang of three-hundred workers. He managed his canal contract well enough to turn a profit and then entered a series of similar undertakings. Joining forces with General R. A. Gilson, he contracted for and built fifty miles of the Toledo, Wabash, and Western Railroad between Defiance (Ohio) and Fort Wayne (Indiana). These and similar operations placed him in comparatively easy circumstances.⁷

Shortly after arriving in Napoleon, he married (1838) a popular young lady of the village, Miranda Stiles, recently from New Jersey. As he prospered he bought the Roche de Boeuf farm (River Tract #39) at Waterville, where they presumably lived. Their only child was Lewis Cass Steedman (1849-1876).⁸

As the name that he gave his son shows, Steedman was much interested in the Democratic Party. He now became one of the local leaders of his party, recognized as one of the powers of the party in the State, and highly esteemed by the inhabitants.⁹ He was elected to the House of Representatives of the Ohio Legislature for Allen County (Hardin, Paulding, Putnam, Shelby, and Van Wert were then combined as Allen). His term of service was in the Fortieth and Forty-first General Assemblies, convening December 6, 1841 and December 5, 1842, respectively.¹⁰

After his stint with the state legislature, he opened a printing office in Defiance. The press and type were purchased

in Columbus in company with Horace S. Knapp. Knapp was to be the editor while Steedman furnished the money.¹¹ The first number of the North-Western, was issued June 1, 1843.¹² The North-Western was Steedman's vehicle to express his fearless and unreserved opinions. He never occupied any neutral ground on the great issues of the time and for his frank and open view of men and measures he commanded the admiration of his enemies as much as his friends.¹³

The adventurous young man is said by some historians to have joined the "Argonauts of '49," leading a Toledo group to the California gold fields. He was involved in California politics and wound up as a delegate to the convention that fashioned the state's constitution, but he returned to Ohio shortly after.¹⁴

A local citizen noted in his memoirs that the contract for building the Wabash Railroad, then called the Toledo and Illinois Railroad, was let in 1853. R. H. Gilson, John Paul, and J. B. Steedman, partners as R. H. Gilson and Company, took the contract of tying and grading the road from the Maumee River to the Indiana state line. With all his public interests, Steedman continued his business pursuits.¹⁵

Steedman's next political move, in 1852, was a candidacy for the Board of Public Works. (He was listed in the Democratic Party endorsements along with 1852 presidential candidate Franklin Pierce in the local newspapers.)¹⁶ He was a popular candidate for this important state board because of his past experience as a contractor. He was elected, and re-elected, and re-elected again and ultimately was elected for four consecutive terms, serving as president of the board for three.¹⁷ During his tenure, the Board

was charged by the Ohio House of Representatives to determine a solution to the problem of extreme competition between canal traffic and the railways. There was a question regarding the right of the railways to construct bridges over the canals. The members of the board in addition to Steedman, were George Manypenny, and A. P. Miller. They remedied the situation by requiring the removal of any railroad bridges erected by them across the Public Works of the State. They further ruled against any future erection of bridges across the canals by railroad companies.¹⁸

Steedman became a real force in the community. His exceptional leadership qualities caused him to rise to a position of prominence in the many civic and political organizations to which he belonged. In 1854 he was elected as a delegate from Lucas County to the State Democratic Congressional Convention for the Toledo (5th) District.¹⁹

The main campaign question in 1854 was the repeal of the Missouri compromise line of 1820, dividing slave from free territory belonging to the United States. The Democratic platform declared that slavery was an unmitigated evil, and that they opposed its extension to any of the territories. The Democrats said that they would do what they could to confine slavery to its present limits.²⁰

Becoming more involved in the affairs of Lucas County, the Steedman family purchased a home July 2, 1856, at the corner of Jefferson and Superior Streets in Toledo (then called Lot 205 in the Port Lawrence addition).²¹ They lived there until shortly after the death of Miranda in 1872.²²

Steedman held membership in the Ohio Militia as well. At a convention of several military companies, held in June 1857, he was unanimously chosen for the position of Major-General of the Fifth division.²³ He held this position until the outbreak of the Rebellion and was referred to as "General" by his fellow citizens thereafter. During this period he was admitted to the Bar as an Attorney-at-Law.²³

His fame had now become national. In 1857, after a vigorous and protracted contest, he was elected public printer at Washington for the United States House of Representatives.²⁴ A Toledo Daily Herald and Times newspaper editorial pointed out the advantages Steedman would bring to the post, as well as some of his opposition even from President Buchanan himself:

Mr. Buchanan, it is well known retains hatred in his nature, without abatement in the least degree by the lapse of time. Mr. Steedman opposed him at Cincinnati vehemently after the democratic fashion of fighting to the death in caucus, but when settled there 'twas an end to opposition. Mr. Steedman was backed up for the post which he sought by an array of influence seldom executed in behalf of an official aspirant. Steedman sought an interview with the President. To the interrogatory, why his claims, backed up as they were should be treated so cavalierly? - Mr. Buchanan answered - "Mr. Steedman, I cannot overlook the opposition you gave me at Cincinnati," - to which Mr. Steedman replied - "True sir - I did support Judge Douglas at Cincinnati, because I sincerely believed him the ablest and fittest man presented, and I still am of that opinion, yet I believe Mr. Buchanan had no more ardent and hearty supporter during the canvass, than myself - after which he bade the President good morning" and retired. If the post of printer to Congress was within the award of the President, it is our opinion that Mr. Steedman would not claim to be counted in.²⁵

The editorial concluded by describing Steedman's politics, and endorsing him for the office:

Mr. Steedman is a devoted partisan, - we might almost say an unscrupulous one - certain it is, his actions would seem to say that all is fair in politics. He can take a defeat

like a philosopher. He never lies down under it - but is up and at the enemy again, 'with a perseverance and adroitness which if it don't command success, shows him pluck to the bone. If Northwestern Ohio is to furnish an officer for the federal government to reside at the capital - and that one must come from the ranks of the democratic party - the selection of General Steedman perhaps could not be improved upon.²⁶

Representative Thomas S. Bocock of Virginia nominated for Printer of the House James B. Steedman of the State of Ohio. The vote followed with James B. Steedman receiving 121 votes; George M. Weston, 89 - Gales and Seaton 3 each, and Robert Cawthon, 1. James B. Steedman having received a majority of the votes cast, was declared duly elected Printer of the House for the Thirty-Fifth Congress on December 9, 1857.²⁷

There had been charges of corruption against other candidates, and his election was heralded by leading organs of the Democratic party as a great moral triumph. The defeated party chose to regard this in a jocosse light. Long after they spoke of the public printer as "Moral Triumph Steedman."²⁸

Steedman had become one of Stephen A. Douglas' most loyal supporters. This loyalty was to cost him his job as public printer and a political office later on.

When Buchanan and Douglas broke over the Kansas slavery issue before the election of 1860, most of the presidential patronage people turned away from Douglas. One remarked that he would "cane" the Little Giant. On hearing this, loyal Jim Steedman seized the man by the collar and shook him mightily. Buchanan called Steedman in the next day to account for his outburst. At this point Steedman regarded it as a big joke and thought the President agreed. When Buchanan referred to Douglas as "the little traitor" Steedman

blanched and repeated his earlier support for Douglas. "Mr. President," he said, "I have been a warm friend of Stephen A. Douglas for many years. I supported him in the convention which nominated you for the presidency because I believed him to be the ablest and best man for the position. I think so still." A few hours later Steedman was no longer public printer.²⁹

During these years Steedman was present at most civic and social functions in Toledo. His name runs through many accounts of meeting announcements, often along with such other leaders of the community as Morrison R. Waite, James M. Ashley, E. B. Bronson, and George Walbridge. He and these others belonged to several social clubs, one of which was the Sons of Malta, described as "nominally secret with the precise character and object never settled in the public mind."³⁰ He served on the Executive Committee for the grand opening of the fabulously beautiful new "Oliver House," which opened in the spring of 1859 on Broadway and Ottawa Streets.³¹ His presence was noted on the occasion of the arrival in Toledo of a noble craft called the Western Metropolis in October of 1857. The arrival was cause for a grand civic celebration led by the Honorable D. O. Morton. General Steedman was called upon to make a few remarks as to the honorable position held by the ship's captain, Issac Pheatt. Steedman did so in his "usual earnest manner."³²

Steedman was selected as a delegate to the national Democratic Convention, which convened April 26, 1860, in Charleston, South Carolina because of his staunch support for Douglas. His departure for Charleston and the "progress of the fight" was

reported almost daily by the newspapers.³³ Which side of the fence the newspapers were on was very obvious by the articles. The Blade called The Times the "Douglas organ." Details of General Steedman, the "Charleston Delegate," W. W. Howe, Esq., and D. Coughlin, Esq. (the Toledo Douglas delegation to Charleston), included the claim that Steedman came to Toledo for the express purpose of being a Democratic manager; that he converted the old "Know Nothing" organ to the use of Douglas democracy and installed himself as editor.³⁴ Steedman served on the committee for credentials at the reassembled Baltimore Democratic Convention where Steven A. Douglas and Herschel V. Johnson were nominated as the party standardbearers.³⁵

On his return from the convention, Steedman set about to win the Democratic nomination for Congressional representative in the 1860 race. The candidate's appearance at the political rally in Napoleon was described in the Northwest Democrat. "The stands were gaily decorated, and an estimated 6,000 people were in attendance this August day. Steedman was at the stand designated for the English speaking, where he addressed the people for two hours, reviewing the issues before the country at the time and explaining in his lucid and argumentive style, the real and precise points of controversy in the pending political contest." The report concluded by adding that, "He enchanted the attention of the audience in a most clear, satisfactory, and unanswerable process of reasoning, and was frequently interrupted by loud and enthusiastic applause."³⁶

The Democratic Congressional Convention meeting August 22, 1860, elected Steedman over E. H. Leland of Defiance by a vote

of 137 1/2 to 78 1/2. He was declared the nominee to oppose incumbent Republican, James M. Ashley. "Steedman appeared, was enthusiastically greeted and informed of his nomination to which he returned thanks in eloquent remarks."³⁷ Steedman's platform was essentially Congressional non-intervention on the slavery issue and to let the people regulate their institutions in their own way. "James B. will not shrink from encountering James M. on the stump in the elucidation of the principles that divide the party."³⁸ The Herald and Times, a Democratic paper, ran daily, large endorsements of Steedman. It regularly reported the candidates' joint discussions, and travels throughout the district. It hailed a "Great Democratic Rally September 28, in Wauseon with 6,000 people in Council," and a "Torchlight Procession, October 8, for James B. Steedman address" (to corner of Summit and Monroe.)³⁹ The coverage always praised Steedman's views while denigrating Ashley's.

In fact, there were few differences in the platforms of the two men. The main point at issue was the question of slavery in the territories. On this point both men attempted to follow the leads of their respective standard bearers. Lincoln stated that he was against any extension of slavery, and that he would do all in his power to prevent its spread. Ashley expressed the same view, which eliminated any confusion over where he stood on the issue.⁴⁰ Douglas sought to apply his doctrine of popular sovereignty. The basis for this was a majority vote by the people of a state or territory on the decision of whether or not there would be slaves.

Problems in Kansas and the pro-slave LeCompton Constitution, caused Douglas to become an opponent of the Buchanan administration.⁴¹

Could the Congress exclude slaves from a territory? Lincoln and Ashley said yes. Douglas said no. This question eventually caused Steedman to lose his bid for Congress.

After some postponements, four debates were scheduled. The debates were scheduled for September 15 in Napoleon, Henry County, Defiance, Defiance County, Bryan, Williams County and in Toledo, Lucas County, on the fourteenth, fifteenth, twenty-second and twenty-fourth of September.⁴²

Ashley put Steedman on the defensive during the first debate in Napoleon about his views on popular sovereignty.⁴³ Finally, in the debate in Bryan before a German and Irish group, Ashley demanded of Steedman: "Do you recognize the right of the majority in a territory, by popular vote or legislative enactment, to reduce any class of mankind and their descendants to perpetual slavery?"⁴⁴ Ashley continued, "You mean that this can be done to Negroes?" "I do." "If a settler's vote can enslave Negroes then can the same settlers vote to enslave the Germans or the Irish?" Steedman was forced to concede that it did, putting popular sovereignty and his views in a bad light. Finally, Ashley won re-election over Steedman 10,645 to 9,974.⁴⁶ Steedman's man Douglas fell to Lincoln in the same election of 1860. Editorials followed the election in The Toledo Herald and Times: "We are beaten, badly beaten" carrying forebodings of war and secession.⁴⁷

NOTES

CHAPTER ONE

EARLY LIFE AND POLITICAL CAREER

1. John M. Killits, Ed., Toledo and Lucas County, Ohio, vol. 1 (Chicago & Toledo: The S. J. Clarke Publishing, 1923) 165-66. Northumberland County is in the mountainous area of central PA., near the Susquehanna River; Shamokin and Sunbury are the two largest cities in the County.
2. Steedman, Biog. File. Local History and Geneology, (Toledo-Lucas County Public Library).
3. Whitelaw Reid, Ohio In The War: Her Statesmen, Generals and Soldiers, vol. 1 (Cincinnati: The Robert Clarke Company, 1895) 784-85.
4. Ibid.
5. Clark Waggoner, Ed., History of the City of Toledo and Lucas County, Ohio (New York: Munsell and Company Publishers, 1888) 254.
6. Reid, Ohio In The War, 784.
7. Ibid.
8. Midge Campbell, "Waterville lore, General Steedman (1817-1883)," Anthony Wayne Standard, October 22, 1970; Revised 1984, 42-3.
9. Reid, Ohio In The War, 785.
10. Edward Howard Gilkey, The Ohio One Hundred Year Book (Columbus: Fred J. Heer State Printer, 1901), 206.
11. "Memoirs of Edwin Phelps," Northwestern Ohio Quarterly, 17, no. 1(1945):105-17.
12. Defiance County Historical Society, History of Defiance County (Chicago: Warner, Baer and Company, 1883), 166. The Northwestern was discontinued in the summer of 1844.
13. Article appearing after death of J. B. Steedman, Toledo Evening Bee, October 22, 1883.
14. Seymour Rothman, "Toledo's Civil War Tiger," Toledo Blade, June 26, 1966, Sec. Sunday Magazine, 6.

15. "Memoirs of Edwin Phelps," 117.
16. "Democratic Nominations," (Perrysburg) Northwestern Democratic, July 17, 1852, 3.
17. Waggoner, History of the City of Toledo, 254.
18. Ibid., 448.
19. Ibid., 344-345.
20. Ibid.
21. Title of Deed, Jas. B. Steedman [sic], July 2, 1856. Lucas County Auditor's Office, Toledo, Ohio.
22. Campbell, Anthony Wayne Standard, 43. For a time the house was used for commercial purposes, then was moved to 424 Eleventh Street, where it was still standing in 1930. Forty years after its removal from Superior and Jefferson, the Commodore Perry Hotel was built on the site.
23. Waggoner, History of Toledo, 82.
24. Ibid., 254.
25. "The House Printer," The Toledo Daily Herald and Times, December 9, 1857.
26. Ibid.
27. U. S. Congress, House. Election of the Public Printer, 35th Congress, 1st. session, Congressional Globe (December 9, 1857), vol. 27, pt. 1, 23.
28. Reid, Ohio In The War, 785.
29. Rothman, Toledo Blade, 7.
30. Waggoner, History of Toledo, 731.
31. "The Oliver House," Northwestern Ohio Quarterly, 19, no. 1 (1947):120.
32. "Captain Issac Tichenor Pheatt," Northwestern Ohio Quarterly, 21, no. 1 (1949), 26.
33. "Progress of the Fight," Toledo Blade, April 23, 1860.
34. "Off For Charleston!" Daily Toledo Blade, April 12, 1860.
35. "J. B. Steedman appointed to Committee on Credentials For Democratic Party Convention," The Toledo Herald and Times, July 2, 1860.

36. "August 16 Rally" (Napoleon) Northwest Democrat, August 22, 1860.
37. Ibid., August 29, 1860.
38. The Toledo Herald and Times, August 23, 1860.
39. Ibid., September 28, 1860; October 8, 1860.
40. John M. Morgan, "James M. Ashley and Emancipation" (Master's Thesis, Canady Center, The University of Toledo, 1949), 18-24.
41. Ibid.
42. Toledo Blade, September 7, 1860, 2.
43. Morgan, 22-23.
44. Toledo Blade, September 18, 1860, 2.
45. Ibid.
46. Waggoner, History of Toledo, 85.
47. The Toledo Herald and Times, November 9, 1860.

CHAPTER TWO

MILITARY SERVICE

The most picturesque and distinguished portion of General Steedman's life was now before him. Politics aside, as soon as Fort Sumter was fired upon Steedman joined with other leading Toledoans to come "stand by the flag." In pursuance of this call to Rally, April 15, 1861, an immense assemblage of citizens gathered at the Union Depot. The General spoke along with other notables and was made a member of the group's committee on resolutions. The committee reported the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The Flag of our Country has been fired upon and struck down by rebels and traitors, who avow their purpose to march upon and capture the Capital and overturn the Government, therefore,
Resolved, That, as citizens, we pledge ourselves to ignore all past distinctions and give our united aid and support to our Government; to protect the Capital; maintain the Government; punish the insult offered our Flag; and restore peace and tranquility to the Country.

Resolved, That in our opinion, the Legislature of Ohio ought to make an appropriation of \$5,000,000 and provide for raising a force of 50,000 troops in sustaining the National Government.

In less than three days from President Lincoln's call for troops, the Fourteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry was ready for the field, believed to be the first regiment accepted by the government.² This command left for Camp Taylor in Cleveland April 25, and James B. Steedman, at age forty-three, was mustered

into the service April 27, 1861 as its Colonel.³

On May 22, 1861, the Fourteenth Regiment left Camp Taylor and proceeded at once to the front. They reached Zanesville and Marietta on the twenty-third, and embarked for Parkersburg on the twenty-seventh. The Fourteenth was among the first Union troops to tread on Rebel soil. Colonel Steedman and his command proceeded toward Phillipi, building two railroad bridges that had been destroyed and repairing the track. Steedman and his men participated in the battle of Phillipi on June 3, and led the advance in pursuit of the rebels from Laurel Hill to Carrick's Ford. At Carrick's Ford the Rebel army under General Robert Selden Garnett gave battle, but Garnett was killed and the Rebels hastily retreated.⁴

Their three month's term of service expiring in July, Steedman and his men returned to Toledo where they were greeted with joy and pride. With its energetic Colonel at its head, the regiment was recognized as among Ohio's best and trustiest.⁵ They were again mustered into service and in September, were again in front of the enemy under the command of General George H. Thomas in Kentucky. Steedman and his regiment were to destroy a rebel regiment organizing in Bourbon County, which they did in short order. Returning to headquarters early in October he was sent with his command to relieve the Second Kentucky then engaged in fighting General Felix Kirk Zollicoffer. Steedman arrived just in time to save the regiment from destruction, and on October, at the battle of Wild Cat, he administered a sound thrashing to the rebel general, putting him to route.⁶

Camp Dick Robinson was one of their stopping places and was reached on the evening of October 24. While there, a regiment of loyal East Tennesseans arrived. The then United States Senator Andrew Johnson, and Congressman Horace Maynard were with them, on their way to Washington City. Colonel Steedman invited Johnson to share his tent for the night. The rough attire and begrimed appearance of Johnson caused "the boys" of the regiment to remark that "Old Jim Steedman" would invite "Andy" to a free use of soap before he would allow him to bunk with him.⁷ Perhaps this meeting laid the foundation for their long friendship.

Steedman and the Fourteenth Ohio were then ordered to Lebanon, Kentucky, where the command was attached to the division coming from the east, commanded by General George H. Thomas, (then known as the Fourteenth Army corps, and later as the Army of the Cumberland). At the battle of Mill Springs, January 19-20, 1862, Steedman and his regiment took an active part and fought with valor. He returned with Thomas to Lebanon and went from there to Louisville and after the fall of Fort Donelson, proceeded with his regiment to Nashville. On April 6 and 7 the "Old Fourteenth" was engaged in the terrible battle of Shiloh and two weeks later took part in the siege and capture of Corinth, April 30.⁸

Steedman served with General Thomas in the campaign which ended with the battle of Perryville. The division to which he was attached lay all day within hearing of the fight and Steedman chaffed to be ordered forward but he did not receive permission to advance until later in the afternoon.⁹ He at once pushed his brigade to the front where the fighting was the fiercest, and

arrived on the line just in time. The rebels had broken the union line and were pushing a heavy column into the gap. He rushed his battery, well-supported forward to within 100 yards of the enemy, and opened fire from the edge of a wood with terrible effect. The rebel advance was instantly checked by this bold move and the battle ended there.¹⁰ He was made a Brigadier-General for his gallant conduct in this action (August 17, 1862).¹¹ During the later days of 1862 his brigade was engaged in the battle of Stone's River, holding the extreme right.¹² Early in 1863 he was assigned to the first division of the Army of the Cumberland, 10,000 strong and posted at Triune, Tennessee, an important post, where for sixty days his command was almost constantly fighting with the enemy.¹³ In May he was assigned to the command of the post of Murfreesboro, and the railroad defenses.¹⁴ He found time to fight the battle of Hoover's Gap on June 27. General Rosecrans relieved him from this command in August and ordered him to the front in command of the first division of the reserve corps.¹⁵

Steedman's growing importance and the value of his knowledge and opinion is illustrated by his being one of those consulted about General Don Carlos Buell's command before the commission investigating Buell's actions. Though Bragg retreated from Kentucky, Buell's failure to pursue him disappointed his superiors and enraged the public. General Steedman was quoted as saying "I frequently heard officers express doubts of General Buell's loyalty." Such officers brushed aside timidity and prudence as explanations, and said, simply, though with no evidence except his behavior, General Buell did not desire to whip Bragg." Buell was removed from his

command October 24, 1862 and never led troops again.¹⁶

Another interesting instance when Steedman's opinion was sought, occurred when a telegram from President Lincoln requested Steedman to come at once to Washington. On the instructions of General Thomas, Steedman went. Even though he had supported Douglas, he had come to Lincoln's attention because of his quick thinking and valor at Chickamauga. The conversation reportedly opened as:

Lincoln greeted him warmly and abruptly asked, General Steedman, what is your opinion of General Rosecrans? Steedman (hesitating), Mr. President, I would rather not express my opinion of my superior officer. Lincoln, It is the man who does not want to express an opinion whose opinion I want, I am besieged on all sides with advice every day. I get letters from army officers asking me to allow them to come to Washington to impart some valuable knowledge in their possession. Steedman, Well Mr. President, you are the Commander-In-Chief of the Army and if you order me to speak I will do so. Lincoln, Then I will order an opinion. Steedman went on to say that he felt General Rosecrans was a splendid man to command a victorious army. On, further urging by President Lincoln, Steedman named General George H. Thomas as his top choice. Lincoln said that would be his opinion but the Secretary of War Stanton did not trust Thomas because he was from a rebel state. Steedman countered with the statement, A man who will leave his own State, his friends, all his associations to follow the flag of his country, can be trusted in any position to which he may be called.¹⁷

Had Steedman been completely unknown before Chickamauga his actions there would have sufficed to make him a national hero. Many historians credit him with saving the day by coming to the rescue of General Thomas' troops. Two of the most emphatic endorsements of his heroism are from J. T. Woods, Steedman and his Men at Chickamauga and Glenn Tucker, Chickamauga: Bloody Battle in the West. His main detractor, was a political foe, and his book, Honors at Chickamauga, claims that General Gordon Granger,

(Steedman's superior officer) deserves full credit for giving the orders, and that Steedman's claims of taking the lead in the action were false.¹⁸ However, all agree that if it had not been for the timely arrival of the reserve corps, General Thomas' resistance on Horseshoe Ridge might have crumbled.

Narratives telling of Steedman's important part in the battle by some of those present on the field that day will give appropriate information so that the reader might draw his own conclusions. Included are the accounts of General William S. Rosecrans, Commander of the Army of the Cumberland; General Joseph S. Fullerton, General Granger's chief of staff; and General Steedman himself.

Rosecrans:

General Steedman, taking a regimental color, led the column. Swift was the charge and terrible the conflict, but the enemy was broken. A thousand of our brave men killed and wounded paid for its possession.¹⁹

Fullerton:

Brigadier General James B. Steedman was in command of W. C. Whitaker's and J. G. Mitchell's brigades, the Twenty-second Michigan and the Eighty-ninth Ohio, all of the First division, and were under his immediate command. Granger, with his staff and escort, rode in advance. Steedman, after accompanying them a short distance rode back to the head of his columns. Thomas was nearly four miles away. The day had grown very warm, yet the troops marched rapidly over the narrow road, which was covered ankle-deep in dust that rose in suffocating clouds. Completely enveloped in it, the moving column went along like a desert sandstorm. Three-quarters of a mile to the left the enemy's skirmishers and a section of artillery opened fire on us from an open wood. This force had worked round Thomas' left and was then partly in his rear. Our skirmishers had not gone far when they came upon Thomas' field hospital, at Cloud's house, then swarming with the enemy, who were helping themselves to everything portable. They came from the same body of Forrest's cavalry that had fired on us from the wood. They were quickly driven out, and our men were warmly welcomed with cheers from hundreds of dying and wounded men. A

little farther on we were met by a staff officer sent by General Thomas to discover whether we were friends or enemies; he did not know whence friends were coming - the enemy appeared to be approaching from all directions. Bragg's whole army was rolling up against the heroic troops of this grand soldier. To the right of Thomas' line, Confederates were forming on a ridge for an assault, to the left the guns of a battery was being unlimbered for an exploding fire. There was not a man to send against the force on the ridge. None to oppose the pending assault. The enemy saw the approaching colors of the reserve corps and hesitated.

Whitaker's and Mitchell's brigade under Steedman were whirled into position and protected against the enemy in the gorge and on the ridge. With ringing cheers they advanced in two lines by double-quick. Over open fields through weeds waist-high, through a little valley, then up the ridge. The enemy opened on them first with artillery, then with a murderous musketry fire. When well up the ridge the men almost exhausted, were halted for breath. They lay on the ground two or three minutes then came the command "Forward." Brave bluff old Steedman, with a regimental flag in his hand, led the way.²⁰ On went the lines, firing as they ran and bravely receiving a deadly and continuous fire from the enemy on the summit. The horrible din from muskets and the scarcely intermittent roar of the artillery drowned the voice of the command. The Confederates began to break, and in another minute they were flying down the southern slope of the ridge. In twenty minutes from the beginning of the charge the ridge had been carried.

Granger's hat had been torn off by a fragment of a shell; Steedman had been wounded; Whitaker had been wounded, and four of his five staff-officers killed or mortally wounded. Twenty percent of Steedman's two brigades numbering 3,500 muskets had been killed and wounded in that twenty minutes, and the end was not yet.²¹

Before going into the battle Granger asked Steedman in case of an accident, he wanted to leave any message. This was the reply of the man who knew no fear and is very characteristic: "Wall, General I don't know what you could do for me except, by Gawd, to see that those d____d reporters spell my name with two ees."²²

(Pronounced Steadman, it is usually misspelled.)

Steedman's own account:

When asked at one time to tell about the battle of Chickamauga, Fighting Jim replied, "Why, my boy, there wasn't much of it. I was in charge of the first division of the reserve corps Army of the Cumberland, and had been stationed at Ringold, or Redhouse Bridge. My orders were explicit to hold the bridge at all hazards, and prevent the enemy from flanking Thomas. The enemy disappeared from our front. The sound of cannonading and battle to the northward told me the enemy had massed against our center and a great battle was on. From the noise of the conflict I judged and rightly, that Thomas was sorely pressed. I felt that command was needed and yet could not understand the lack for new orders. I waited impatiently from daylight until afternoon, hoping for some (part of page missing) rather than see the union army destroyed through inactivity on my part. Calling a council of officers and men, I explained the situation, read my orders, told them my decision, and that on my shoulders should fall whatever responsibility attached to the disobedience of orders. You know the inexorable military law is 'To ask no questions obey all orders and accept consequences,' I knew that if my movement was a failure, my judgement mistaken, nothing less than a court martial awaited me. But the battle was on, and every fiber in me said I was wanted. We burned the bridge, and marched by the cannon's sound to Thomas' aid. Through cornfields, thickets and oak woods, we made a fearful tramp, for no man in the command knew the country, and our only guide was the cannon's boom. When I reported to Thomas he was in despair at the loss of the key of his position, which had just been captured by General Hindman's rebel corps.

The place was indicated to me by the flash of guns and rattle of canister, on the dry leaves of the trees which Thomas and I stood. It was a steep ascent with a densely peopled crescent, ridge they lay before us. Then was a forbidding thicket between us and the rocks that marked the edge of a broad plateau, which the enemy held, jubilant with victory. 'There, there' said Thomas as the guns flashed again, now you see their exact position. You must take that ridge! My reply was: 'I'll do it.' In thirty minutes after we reached the field we were storming the rock of Chickamauga. It was an awful contest up that slope, every foot of which was planted with death. We went in with 7,500 men and only 4,000 reported for muster next day. We went up, up, till we reached the summit and planted ourselves there to stay.

It was a terrible hot place and we made the plateau a lake of blood before we drove Hindman back. I rode up to and reported to General Thomas. I was bloody from head to foot. He clasped me by the hand and said with great emotion: 'Steedman, you have saved the army' I got my

stars not long afterwards, and that's about all there was of it. Yes it was a big risk but I was right and I knew it."²³

Steedman's stand permitted the orderly and protected withdrawal of the Army of the Cumberland to Chattanooga where it was reorganized and remained to fight another day. For his splendid achievement his comrades conferred upon him the soubriquet of "Old Chickamauga."²⁴

General Steedman was with General William Tecumseh Sherman in the Atlanta campaign and when that officer began his famous "March to the Sea," was assigned to the command of the "District of Etowah."²⁵ Etowah extended from Stevenson, Alabama, to the rear of Sherman's army, wherever it should be.²⁶ Sherman was in no mood to worry about lines of communication. He would rush his army along and leave it to General Steedman to protect the rear. Steedman was to help General Thomas in Nashville as needed also.²⁷ His headquarters were in Chattanooga. He was to protect the railroads. Steedman led his troops in a number of skirmishes but his next notable effort was the Nashville Campaign.²⁸

Nashville, called by some "the most decisive battle of the war" showcased once more Steedman's traits and qualities of leadership, organization, and bravery and fairness.²⁹ When Confederate General John Bell Hood menaced Nashville, Steedman embarked with 1,400 men on 14 trains and arrived in time to participate in the battle. He was ordered by Thomas to "make a feint" against the Confederate right to divert attention to the main attack. Ice and snow and dense fog impeded his movement. In addition, Steedman's division included several regiments of blacks who

had never been under fire. However, Steedman and his provisional detachment (mainly recruited from the Quartermaster's Corp) drove Hood back half a mile and captured two lines of earthworks. General Steedman immediately reformed the troops, and on the next day routed the enemy at Overton Hill. After the battle he pursued the enemy as far as Florence, and captured a large force of cavalry.³⁰

After the battle, General Thomas rode over the battle-field and saw the bodies of colored men side by side with the foremost on the very works of the enemy. He turned to his staff, saying: "Gentlemen, the question is settled; Negroes will fight."³¹ General Steedman, who was said to be opposed to the enlistment of Negro troops, stated in his official report: "The larger portion of these losses amounting in the aggregate to fully 25 percent of the men in my command who were taken into action, it will be observed, fell upon the colored troops. The severe loss of this part of my troops was in their brilliant charge on the enemy's works on Overton Hill on Friday afternoon. I was unable to discover that color made any difference in the fighting of my troops. All, white and black, nobly did their duty as soldiers."³² The survivors, as they rejoiced together over a hard fought-field won by a common valor, remarked that "General Steedman congratulated us saying his only fear had been that we might fight too hard."³³

With Nashville ending the challenge of the Confederacy in the West, Steedman returned to his post in Chattanooga as Commander of the District of Etowah. One incident that came before the end of the war demonstrated his gallantry toward and sensible treatment of those offering no threat to his command. Several young girls

had been arrested by Hamilton County Federal soldiers. The young women were marched from their homes near what is now Dayton and put on a cattle boat for Chattanooga. They were marched through the streets to the Chattanooga post and turned over to Colonel Moe, Steedman's adjutant, charged with having organized a company of Home Guards. The girls had organized themselves into a troop, but for the purpose of the relief and assistance of widows and orphans of Confederate soldiers, the forerunner of the Confederate Memorial Association and the Daughters of the Confederacy. When Steedman heard the charges against the girls he released them immediately, directing the arresting officers to see them home safely. In discharging the group from court he complimented them on their work, saying such associations were necessary for both armies and that he would encourage their formation. The young women, all members of prominent families went home feeling better toward the general and their "enemy."³⁴

Appomattox came, then Lincoln's assassination. In the first confused weeks Andrew Johnson began the challenge of administering the government in Southern cities. This was effected through the army. Military divisions were established and military governors appointed.³⁵ Georgia went to General Steedman, one of only two non-West Pointers to be given high station in the South at this time.³⁶ He assumed office in June 1865. Steedman was perhaps the most politically oriented officer to receive a Southern command.³⁷ He was headquartered in Augusta. No slate of instructions could have foreseen all aspects of the problems that were to arise in the months to come, but General Steedman is credited with issuing

one of the most comprehensive orders to his Georgia command. Steedman's provisions fell into five categories. First, the general declared that the army would furnish the military governor any military assistance necessary, but not interfere in any way. (This order was of paramount importance since the orderly progress of Presidential Reconstruction depended on cordiality and cooperation between the military authorities and the provisional governments.) Second, the army was to protect all citizens in their lawful rights, and no military arrests were to be made without an oath to justify the complaint. Third, military aid was available to civil officers of the federal government in their duties, especially treasury agents engaged in collecting Confederate cotton. The fourth category embraced the problems of the Negro. Plantation owners were not to force the aged or helpless freedmen to leave their property, and able-bodied Negroes were warned not to be idle or vagrant. Finally, Steedman demanded that the troops maintain strict discipline but not to be offensive or provocative in their dealings with citizens.³⁸

The caution which General Steedman displayed in his guide concerning military arrest of civilians was typical of other commanders. Thomas had issued similar instructions in Tennessee and Steedman's order was modeled on that of Thomas. However, this cautiousness did not mean they would let crimes go unpunished. In one instance, a Georgian was hanged for the murder of a Negro woman, the sentence being approved by both Steedman and the President.³⁹

Progress was made in reorganizing courts and local bodies of administration on the basis of loyalty. Military authority was more and more restricted to measures of maintaining peace and enforcing justice where the civil authorities failed. General Steedman wrote to President Johnson from Georgia on August 15, 1865:

In my opinion, everything is moving satisfactorily toward the complete restoration of this state upon a basis that will be perfectly satisfactory to you and the country, as well as a triumphant indication of the wisdom of your policy....[sic] with the exception of a few isolated cases of outrages upon them - and these cases, would have been as likely to occur in Ohio or New York as in Georgia - the Freedman have been kindly treated, and have conducted themselves well.⁴⁰

After the truce, two articles appearing in The Toledo Blade reflected Steedman's character. On June 14, 1865, The Toledo Blade reported that on the General's way back to Georgia from a visit to Toledo, he stopped overnight in Cincinnati. The report went on to say that "he spoke to the Ninth German Regiment and was serenaded by some political friends at the Brunet House." The General praised President Johnson, calling him a "Moses in the Wilderness." He praised the army for "our blessed peace." He continued by saying that he was not running for governor or any public office. "I am now going back to my command where I expect to remain as long as my country needs me, then will return among you as a humble citizen." He bid everyone goodnight among cheers.⁴¹

On August 8, 1865, The Toledo Blade reported a Georgia Railroad accident between Augusta and Atlanta in which General Steedman's personal car was derailed and he was injured slightly. They quoted him as saying, "Confederates are taking the 'Oath of

Allegiance' to the Union everyday." The Toledo Blade assessed General Steedman as "firm in his purpose and yet is very popular among all classes for his manly and straightforward approach."⁴²

In the spring of 1866, Generals Steedman and J. S. Fullerton were appointed by President Johnson to investigate the conditions of the Freedman's Bureau in the Southern states. The report, commissioned by the War Department, was addressed to the Honorable E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War and dated May 6, 1866. There were two sections to the report. The first covered observations in Virginia and North Carolina and the second, the operations of the Freedman's Bureau in the Military Departments of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The second also included the condition of the freedman's settlements on the sea islands and sea-coast under General Sherman's order.

The report included: the number of officers and others employed by the Bureau together with their salaries and the number of freedmen receiving rations from the Bureau (in Virginia, 9,000 received rations in December, 10,260 in January, and 9,938 in February). Some of the conclusions the report reached were that "a majority of the freedman would be fit for labor if they were moved to areas where labor was needed rather than accumulating in large numbers where the land is unproductive and the demand for labor is limited;" much of the success of the program depends on the harmonious actions of the agents. There is a hostility among the white people of Virginia toward establishing schools for the freedmen. "There appears to be a contrariety of opinion as to whether the effect of the operations of the Bureau on the freedmen has been to promote habits of industry or idleness among

them." The freedman seem secure because of the recognition of their civil rights, if left to the care of the law and the protection of the troops.

Similar investigations in North Carolina, revealed several incidents of misconduct among the agents. In particular, "some of the officers are operating saw mills, working plantations and manufacturing turpentine and tar bringing them in competition with the citizens who are employing freedmen. There is a more universal feeling in North Carolina on the part of all classes to have the Bureau removed." Salisbury is cited as "a bright exception" in that the agent administered the bureau in a judicious and honest way. Cruelties, oppression and outrages practiced by the agents toward the freedmen prompted the generals to recommend the transference of the officers in charge to other posts.

The inspection in South Carolina was confined to Columbia, Charleston, and Hamburg because of the inaccessibility of other stations; in Georgia, to Savannah, and the Sea Islands.

Generals Steedman and Fullerton's report continued by drawing a comparison of the conditions of the freedmen on the South Carolina Islands and those in Florida and Southwest Georgia. "It clearly demonstrated that the freed people who stayed on the plantations and were aided by the advice of sensible and practical military and Bureau officers, were infinitely better off than these who have been assisted with rations and clothing by the government." The generals' recommendation for the most equitable solution to the question of occupation of the Sea Islands and the coast under General Sherman's order was to surrender the

lands to the former owners on the "1st day of January next," requiring the land owners to pay to the freedmen the value in money of all improvements made by them while occupying the land.

Florida seemed calm except for Jacksonville, where a few days earlier, much bad feeling between white and colored people had been produced by false reports circulated by vicious people, but through the efforts of the Governor, the Department Commandant, and the officers of the Bureau, harmony and mutual confidence were restored. Steedman and Fullerton concluded by reporting that throughout the state of Florida, the military, the Bureau, and the civil authorities were generally acting in harmony, which in their opinion, was the main reason that the freedmen were satisfied, quieter more orderly, and thriftier there than they were in localities where there was antagonism among these powers.⁴³

Some thought the report complacent in relation to some of the reported outrages against the freedmen.⁴⁴ But, in summary, the report concluded that faithful agents have been aided by the goodwill of the citizens; incompetent and meddlesome ones, have aroused bitterness and opposition. A further conclusion was that "nearly all the Bureau officers are in correspondence with Radical senators and Radical newspapers."⁴⁵

Shortly after the completion of this assignment, Steedman resigned his position as Major General of Volunteers, and was honorably discharged from this position, August 18, 1866. His military service was ended, but not his public life.⁴⁶

NOTES
CHAPTER TWO
MILITARY SERVICE

1. Waggoner, History of the City of Toledo, 85.
2. Ibid., 127.
3. General Services Administration, Military Service Record, James B. Steedman, National Archives, Washington, D. C.
4. Waggoner, History of the City of Toledo, 128; Garnett was the first General to fall in the Civil War, July 13, 1861.
5. Ohio In The War, 785.
6. "Steedman! Chickamauga's Hero," Toledo Evening Bee, May 26, 1887, 1.
7. Waggoner, History of Toledo, 128.
8. Toledo Evening Bee, May 26, 1887.
9. War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington, D. C., 1880-1901), Series 1, vol. 16, p. 1035. Hereafter cited as O. R. (Official Records); Union forces commanded by Don Carlos Buell at the Battle of Perryville, or Chaplin Hills, KY., October 8, 1862. Third Brigade, Brigadier General, J. B. Steedman; O. R. Series 1, vol. 16, 1041; Whitelaw Reid, Ohio in the War, 785-86.
10. Toledo Evening Bee, May 26, 1887.
11. Ibid.; National Archives and Record Service, 1961. He was mustered out and honorably discharged, August 16, 1862. He accepted appointment as Brigadier General of Volunteers August 17, 1862. There is some confusion in the record as to why he was promoted.
12. O. R. Series 1, vol. 20, 17; 403 (Stone's River).
13. Toledo Evening Bee, May, 1857, 1.
14. O. R. Series 1, vol. 23, 306-07.

15. Joseph C. McElroy, Chickamauga: Record of the Ohio Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park Commission (Cincinnati: Earhart & Richardson, Printers and Engravers, 1896), np.
16. Kenneth P. Williams, Lincoln Finds A General (New York: The MacMillan Company, 1956) 66-67.
17. Carl Sandburg, Abraham Lincoln: The War Years, vol. 2 (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1939) 434-35; Rosecrans was relieved of his command of The Army of the Cumberland by October 19, 1863. James M. McPherson, Ordeal By Fire (New York: Alfred A. Kopf, 1982) 339.
18. Glenn Tucker, Chickamauga: Bloody Battle in the West (Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Press, 1984) Entire book devoted to Battle of Chickamauga and Steedman's participation.
19. Toledo Evening Bee, May 26, 1887; According to the official returns the entire loss during the afternoon in Steedman's two brigades (including 613 captured or missing) was 1787.
20. Frazar Kirkland, The Pictorial Book of Anecdotes of the Rebellion (St. Lewis: J. H. Mason Publisher, 1889) 317; Tucker, Chickamauga, 348.
21. Toledo Evening Bee, May 1887. The reserve corps of the army of Chickamauga commanded by Steedman, consisted of 3,700 men, 1,175 were killed and wounded, 613 were missing, all prisoners. The total loss was 1,788, nearly 50 per cent lost in one afternoon. General Steedman's horse was killed and he himself was wounded in this battle.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid. Tucker, Chickamauga, 350. During the lull that preceded the advance by Bushrod Johnson at Horseshoe Ridge, Steedman mounted on a fresh horse rode along the artillery. He told the men to double-shot their guns. The lieutenant, named Closskey, said "Been doing it for ten rounds, General," "Then treple-shot them," he ordered. "Never heard of it before," declared Closskey. But he turned to his gunners "Treble-shot 'em boys," he ordered.
24. Woods, Chickamauga.
25. Although exact date of assignment cannot be located, numerous communiques are sent to Steedman as Commander of the District of Ethowah. O. R., Series 1, Vol. 52, pt. 1, 566, 570, 571, 646, 660.
26. The district was changed as "The March to the Sea" progressed. O. R., Series 1, vol. 52, pt. 1, 605.
27. Rothman, Toledo Blade, June 26, 1966, 37.

28. Ibid.
29. Stanley F. Horn, "Nashville, the Most Decisive Battle of the War," Civil War Times Illustrated (Special Nashville Campaign issue) 1964, 4-5.
30. O. R., Series 3, vol. 45, 502-509 (Steedman's report on Nashville); O. R., Series 3, vol. 5, 198, 503; The Union Cavalry in the Civil War, Vol. 1 (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Press, 1979) 10, 12; Benjamin Quarles, The Negro in the Civil War (New York: Russell & Russell) 1950, 306-380, 310; Richard O'Conner, Thomas: Rock of Chickamauga (New York: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1948) 318.
31. James M. McPherson, The Negro's Civil War (New York: Pantheon Books, 1965) 233.
32. O. R., Series 1, vol. 45, 509.
33. McPherson, Negro's Civil War, 233.
34. Zella Armstrong, The History of Hamilton County and Chattanooga, Tennessee (Chattanooga: Lookout Publishing Company, 1931) 54. Personal reminiscences of Captain Mary Elizabeth McDonald who gave this information to her step-daughter-in-law.
35. James E. Sefton, The United States Army and Reconstruction: 1865-1867 (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Press, 1967) 8-16.
36. Ibid, 21.
37. Kenneth W. Wheeler, ed., For The Union: Ohio Leaders in The Civil War (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1968) 80; Steedman, a Douglas Democrat, owed his military opportunity to his position as a spokesman for that faction. One of four Ohio Generals completely innocent of military knowledge when the war began.
38. Sefton, The United States Army, 25-26.
39. Ibid, 35-36.
40. Mildred Thompson, Reconstruction In Georgia; Economic, Social, Political, 1865-1872 (Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1964) 163.
41. Toledo Blade, June 14, 1865.
42. Toledo Blade, August 8, 1865.
43. U. S. Bureau of Refugees, Freedman and Abandoned Lands. "Reports of Generals Steedman and Fullerton on the Conditions of the Freedman's Bureau of the Southern States" (Washington, D. C., 1866) 1-16.

44. Alan Conway, The Reconstruction of Georgia (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1966) 81.
45. Robert Selph Henry, The Story of Reconstruction (Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1963) 148-49; The 1866 Congressional campaign was in progress and the possibility of using the Bureau to further the Radical position was suggested.
46. G. S. A., National Archives.

CHAPTER THREE

POST-WAR PUBLIC LIFE

During all of Andrew Johnson's troubled presidency, General Steedman was a close and trusted confidant. Considered a "power behind the throne," and one of The President's most trusted military politicians he was often in President Johnson's entourage, a "Johnson man." Steedman was chairman of an important committee of a coalition formed in support of Johnson at the National Union Convention in 1866 in Philadelphia.¹ An instance of his influence was in the noted Bowles and Milligan cases.² These two men were arrested for discouraging enlistments, tried, and found guilty with the penalty of death. The facts in the case were not such as to warrant the hanging of the men. Steedman, returning from the front, was requested to go to Washington in their behalf. He pressed their cause and after two hours' consultation with the President, was permitted to telegraph their friends that the death sentence had been commuted. They were afterwards released.³

Steedman was offered a number of government positions including special commission to Mexico, which he refused. He did accept the appointment of Collector of Internal Revenue at New Orleans, a post which he assumed in 1867 and kept until his resignation in 1869.

Steedman was often mentioned as a replacement to Secretary of War Stanton when President Johnson was soliciting the former's

resignation.⁴ Letters of recommendation for General Steedman reached the President from Dean Richardson, Samuel J. Tilden, George H. Pendleton Of Ohio, Horace Greeley, and Augustus Schell, the influential and affluent brother of William H. Seward's friend, Richard Schell. A change in the post of Secretary of War could have signaled a new direction not only in respect to personalities and patronage but also in regard to the role of the army and The Freedman's Bureau.⁵ Rumors of Secretary Stanton's exit from the cabinet proved premature and this appointment was never to come to Steedman.

During his Collectorship in New Orleans, an issue arose over the control of the New Orleans police force. Two police forces had been formed, and there was a danger of a collision between the rivals. General Rousseau, commander of the Department of Louisiana prevailed upon the Metropolitan Police Board to appoint General Steedman as chief of police and the appointment was said to have a salutary effect on the situation.⁶

Steedman had jumped back into politics after he resigned his commission, and was elected to a number of political conventions. One, the Soldiers and Sailors Convention in New York in 1866 was to be held in connection with the Democratic National Convention and to advance the candidacy of Winfield Scott Hancock.⁷ Horatio Seymour was the man finally selected as candidate and the Democratic standardbearer in 1868, losing the election to Ulysses S. Grant.

After retiring from the Collectorship at New Orleans, his venturesome spirit and strong Democratic principles prompted Steedman to embark on a most hazardous expedition to Cuba in aid

of the cause of independence. This adventure came near proving his last. A complimentary notice in the New York Tribune put the Spanish authorities on the alert. He was captured on the island and thrown into a dungeon, from which he would have been speedily taken out and executed for the timely interference of the United States government.⁸

Upon his return to private life in Toledo, the General resumed his editorial life with the Northern Ohio Democrat and Sunday Democrat.⁹ Soon after he was called upon to fill a responsible position as member of the 1872 Constitutional Convention of the State of Ohio. He was enlisted to fill the vacancy created by the appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court of Toledoan Morrison R. Waite.¹⁰

Respect for Steedman's political prowess is noted in a letter reviewing the Ohio Campaign from George Sheridan to President Hayes before the 1877 election. "...only in one place have I found reason to fear for the harmony of the party - that is Toledo. I am afraid Steedman will be elected Senator."¹¹

The General was elected to the Ohio State Senate in 1877. He represented the Thirty-third District, which included Hancock, Wood, Lucas, Fulton, Henry, and Putnam counties in 1878 and 1879.¹²

Always a Democrat he backed Governor Samuel Jones Tilden of New York for President in the 1876 election. The returns were disputed with an apparent Tilden victory being overturned after a special electoral commission decided in favor of Rutherford B. Hayes.¹³ Steedman threatened to raise 100,000 men in a march on Washington if Tilden was not inaugurated. Tilden discouraged

Democratic militancy and finally acquiesced to the election of Hayes.¹⁴

During this postwar period, the General was very active in veteran organizations. He was Department Commander for the Department of Ohio of The Grand Army of the Republic. Numerous invitations over General Steedman's signature to attend the various meetings, reunions and other activities of the G. A. R. are to be found among the private papers of the Rutherford B. Hayes collection at his memorial library in Fremont, Ohio.¹⁵ The General's prominence in this position is mentioned in several biographical sketches.¹⁶

Steedman served as a delegate from the Toledo district for the Democratic National Convention of 1880. He put his support behind Hancock, whom he had originally backed in 1866. Hancock was nominated by the convention but failed in his bid for the presidency.

He met and married Rosa Barr, his second wife. The story goes that he became enamoured with her "when she heard a man yell 'hurrah for Jeff Davis', on the street, and knocked him down." His second wife died in 1876.¹⁸

General Steedman met and married his third wife, Margaret Gildea, of Toledo, in 1878. This was a May-December romance with the bride only seventeen while the groom, although still a dashing figure, sixty-one. The couple eloped to Monroe, Michigan, and the event was said to have created quite a "stir" in the city at the time.¹⁹ The couple met when Miss Gildea was hired to look after the General's grandchildren.²⁰ He had been left with their care when their parents, his only son and daughter-in-law had died. The house on Missouri Street in Toledo, where the Steedman family

lived, belonged to his grandchildren.²¹ He had given the house to his son during an earlier period and it had descended to the son's children after his death.²²

The General's last marriage produced three children: Rebecca Blair, Samuel Jones Tilden, and Mary Moore.²³

General Steedman's final public service was in the office of Chief of Police for the City of Toledo. In May of 1882 he was elected to this office after an exciting contest in which there were 130 ballots cast.²⁴ Steedman was the first "civilian" chief to be elected in Toledo.²⁵

During the time that the General was chief of police no events of any special import or consequence occurred. Under his ruling the police force performed excellent service, and, uniting and operating in unison with their chief, the men put forth their best efforts to suppress vice within the city. A period of law and order was in effect during his term.²⁶

The following anecdote may serve to illustrate the determination with which General Steedman enforced his orders.

It was a well-known fact that gambling was prohibited on the fairgrounds, an always vigorously enforced rule. General Steedman, in days past had been known to gamble occasionally, a fact which the gamblers knew, so they were delighted with his appointment. One of these men who had engaged the chief in a friendly and spirited conversation, he thought he could easily gain the chief's consent to operate a gaming table on the fair-ground and brought up the subject. "Well, General are you going to allow us to run one of our wheels at the show?", asked the

gambler. The General answered with a curt "No!" The man persisted and the General was becoming more angry with the man's argument.

"But, General you used to play yourself, and so you shouldn't be so hard on us." The General arose, drew himself to his full height, resplendent in his uniform. His eyes flashed fire. He hurled the torrent of his wrath on the unsuspecting gambler. "Yes by G d but I wasn't Chief of Police then, and if I find you fellows running anything around her, I'll run you out of town."²⁷

The Democrat, the newspaper for which General Steedman had been editor the last ten years, dedicated the whole Sunday issue October 21, 1883, to his memory. Details of his illness, his last few days and his career filled the pages containing the account of his last weeks. His illness began October 1 with what was thought to be a cold or a passing attack of asthma that a day or two's rest would cure. It soon became apparent that instead of improving, his symptoms were becoming alarmingly worse. Further investigation by his doctors revealed that he was suffering from double pneumonia. Heart irregularities added to the complications as his breathing became more difficult. As fears for his recovery spread, messages came from all over the country expressing solicitude; among those received were ones from Samuel J. Tilden and General Hancock. His condition did not improve. He lost nearly all hope of recovery himself and remarked: "It's no use. I am steadily crumbling away." He became delirious and his case was pronounced incurable by medical authority. Still his young wife and innumerable friends clung to a forlorn hope. His brother's daughter Rebecca McCann Steedman tended him day and night. But finally the end came and

the great and noble heart ceased to throb with suffering and with life. He died October 18, 1883, aged 66 years' 2 months' 21 days.²⁸

WILLIAM
 THE SUNDAY
 PUBLIC LIFE

1. Sutton, The United States Army and Reconstruction, 1865-67
2. The Sunday Telegraph, October 21, 1883.
3. Wheeler, General in Chief, 1865-1867, 1868, The Military Code as tried in the U.S. Supreme Court with the decisions, the Military Code of officers in her-war, Long's 1868-1869, 1870-1871.
4. James F. Wilson, George Jackson and the Days of Reconstruction, Boston, Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1901.
5. Wilson, James F., Politics, Principles and Prejudice, 1865-1866 (New York, The New York of Science, 1963) 176.
6. Sutton, The United States Army and Reconstruction, 1865-67.
7. Charles M. Johnson, The Election of 1868, The American Historical Association, New York, October 1963, 1971.
8. The Family, October 21, 1883.
9. The Northern Ohio Democrat and The Sunday Telegraph were published at 100-101, 1883.
10. Wheeler, The Code of Federal Hill, The House of Chief Justice, 1865, and General Wheeler's 1865-1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.
11. George A. Shepley, General's Office in Reconstruction days, October 21, 1883. Private papers, Richardson S. Hayes, Richardson S. Hayes, 1865-1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.
12. Richard S. Hayes, The Ohio 100 Year Book, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.
13. Richard S. Hayes, 1865-1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.

NOTES

CHAPTER THREE

POST-WAR PUBLIC LIFE

1. Sefton, The United States Army and Reconstruction, 103-04.
2. The Sunday Democrat, October 21, 1883.
3. McPherson, Ordeal By Fire, 349, 448, 534; The Milligan case was tried in the U. S. Supreme Court with the decision that Military trials of civilians in non-war zones were unconstitutional.
4. James E. Sefton, Andrew Johnson and the Uses of Constitutional Power (Boston, Toronto: Little, Brown and Company, 1980) 160.
5. Lawanda Cox and John H. Cox, Politics, Principle and Prejudice. 1865-1866 (New York: The Free Press of Glencoe, 1963) 176.
6. Sefton, The United States Army and Reconstruction, 215-16.
7. Charles H. Coleman, The Election of 1868: The Democrats Effort to Regain Control (New York: Octagon Books, 1971) 174; Hancock was not nominated in 1868 but was the Democratic candidate in 1880, losing to James Garfield.
8. The Sunday Democrat, October 21, 1883.
9. The Northern Ohio Democrat and The Sunday Democrat were published at Toledo, Ohio.
10. Waggoner, History of Toledo, 141; The graves of Chief Justice Waite and General Steedman are across the road from one another at Woodlawn Cemetary, Toledo.
11. George A. Sheridan, Columbus, Ohio to Rutherford Hayes, September 30, 1877. Private papers, Rutherford B. Hayes, Rutherford B. Hayes Library, Fremont, Ohio.
12. Edward Gilkey, The Ohio 100 Year Book, 178; Waggoner, History of Toledo, 350.
13. McPherson, Civil War, 600-01.

14. Ibid, 601; Rothman, Toledo Blade, July 3, 1966, Sunday Magazine, 6; James M. Howland to ex-President Hayes, September, 1889. Private papers, Rutherford B. Hayes, Rutherford B. Hayes Library, Fremont, Ohio.
15. Rutherford B. Hayes papers, R. B. Hayes Memorial Library, Fremont, Ohio.
16. Waggoner, History of Toledo, 255; Killits, Toledo and Lucas County, Ohio, 169; Scribner, Memoirs of Lucas County, 141-42.
17. McPherson, The Civil War, 606-07.
18. Rothman, Toledo Blade, July 6, 1966, Sunday Magazine, 6.
19. Margaret Gildea Steedman, interviewed by author, Conversations, 1937-1948; The General's widow and the author, her granddaughter, lived in close proximity of one another.
20. Florence Gildea Crockett, interviewed by author, Conversations, April 24, 1988; Mrs. Crockett is a niece of the General.
21. Missouri Street near Collingwood in Toledo was changed to Pinewood Avenue several years ago.
22. The Toledo Evening Bee, October 21, 1883.
23. His son was named for the General's long time friend and 1876 presidential candidate. This son was the author's father.
24. The Sunday Democrat, October 21, 1883.
25. Lieutenant Deck, Toledo City Police Department, interviewed by author, Conversation, April 19, 1988.
26. The Toledo Evening Bee, May 26, 1887; There are no Toledo Police Department records from before 1900.
27. Ibid.
28. The Sunday Democrat, October 21, 1883.

CHAPTER FOUR

TOLEDO PAYS TRIBUTE

Newspaper headlines read: "BEATEN AT LAST": "Old Chickamauga, Succumbs to the Natural Enemy."¹ News of the General's death spread rapidly. Within an hour of his last breath, a group of the city's leading citizens met to plan his obsequies.² The widow had expressed the wish that he be given a soldier's funeral and the group went about the business of doing so.

The Woodlawn Cemetary association offered the gift of a lot in that cemetary for the burial, providing that the citizens would erect a suitable monument.³ It was suggested that the casket be borne to the cemetary on gun carriages drawn by four horses with dismounted postillions.⁴ General Charles Young, one of the committee members was to furnish the last horse on which General Steedman ever rode as the "riderless horse," in the procession. Invitations were issued to local military organizations and the police force offered assistance wherever needed.⁵

The General's remains were removed to the City Council Chambers, escorted by a squad of police. A platoon of the Toledo Cadets were to remain in attendance while the body lay in state until the hour of the funeral.⁶

The extensive plans included the order of the funeral procession, with the Marshall and Aids leading off. Following,

in this order were to be: Police; Band; Sixteenth Regiment, Ohio National Guard; Grand Army of the Republic; platoon of Toledo Cadets; Fourth Ohio Battery, in charge of the remains; a second platoon of Toledo Cadets; pall bearers in carriages; the survivors of the Fourteenth Regiment O. V. V. I.; family and relatives; Police Board; Press Club; city officials; civic societies, and citizens. The line of march was to follow on Madison Street to Seventeenth Street; Seventeenth to Monroe Street and Monroe to Woodlawn Cemetery.⁷

The sextons of the church were requested to toll the bells while the cortege was moving from the Council Chamber to the cemetery. A committee of twelve leading citizens were appointed to receive important guests and ten pall bearers were named. The G. A. R. was to perform their ritualistic service as burial rites. Expressions of sympathy poured in from all over the country. Of note, from old political allies S. J. Tilden and W. S. Hancock. All civic societies in the city were urged to attend the funeral along with the G. A. R. and Colored Veterans Association. Businesses were requested to close between two and five o'clock and schools were asked to close on the day of the funeral.⁸

The newspapers were filled for the next several days with expressions of sympathy from old comrades, further details of the funeral preparations, and incidents pertaining to the dead hero. Throngs of sorrowing citizens were said to be viewing the body lying in state at the Council Chambers. A note of interest was included in the expressions of sympathy from the Continental Guards of New Orleans. "The spontaneity of sympathy gives evidence

of the kindly feelings which exist between the soldiers in Blue and those in Grey, many of the guards having served in the Confederate Army."⁹

The entire October 21, 1883 issue of The Sunday Democrat was dedicated to the memory of their deceased editor. Headlines read, "DEPARTED; THE ROCK OF CHICKAMAUGA." "MAJOR-GENERAL JAMES BLAIR STEEDMAN Peacefully Surrenders His Life on Earth." "The Nation Mourns the Loss of Her Knightly Son." The paper carried the General's biography and complete details of his illness and funeral preparations, including details of the styling of the casket, the inscription it carried, and of the General being laid to rest in full uniform. "On the casket was his sword with which he so often led his command to victory."¹⁰ Expressions of sympathy from over the nation were reprinted. Toledo, and the nation was mourning one of their most prominent citizens.

The funeral was said to be most impressive. "The spectacle presented was impressive in the extreme. To the sound of muffled drums and dirges the cortege moved with slow, measured step." Historian Clark Waggoner said: "His funeral was attended by the most general demonstration known in Toledo on a like occasion."¹² Pictures of the procession were included in later issues of the newspapers along with numerous reprints of articles carried about the General in other Ohio and nationwide papers. The Cleveland Penny Press started the "Old Chickamauga Fund" to perpetuate his memory; a donation of twenty-five cents was suggested.¹³ A movement was begun to establish a fund for the benefit of his family and the erection of a monument by the Forsyth Post of the

G. A. R. The General was gone but certainly not forgotten.

"He needs no marble shaft, no monumental pile to perpetuate his memory. His name is forever entwined in the annals of his country," read one of the editorials following his death.¹⁴ But, General Steedman was to have a magnificent statue dedicated to his memory. Not as one might think from the community, but from a grateful friend; one he had helped back during the canal days. A fine monument to his memory was unveiled in Toledo on May 26, 1887; a gift to the city from his life-long friend, Colonel William J. Finlay.¹⁵

A little while after the General's death, Finlay proposed to erect a monument to his memory at St. Clair Place; at the junction of Cherry and Summit Streets in downtown Toledo. The City Council set apart the ground known as "St. Clair Place" for the purpose of erecting the monument. In an ordinance passed by the Council January 18, 1886 the name "St. Clair Place" was changed to "Finlay Place." The ordinance further stated that "after the said statue shall be so erected and placed on said ground, the City of Toledo ...[sic] shall have exclusive control and possession of said premises, and shall forever maintain and keep the same in proper condition for said purposes."¹⁶

The pages of The Toledo Evening Bee of May 26, 1887 carried glowing accounts of the unveiling of the monument and attendant festivities. The affair was a week-long event, with friends and dignitaries from throughout the country participating. Toledo was said to be "in holiday attire, decked out in the brightest of colors;....[sic]. An immense crowd was present and the weather splendid." The statue was covered in red, white, and blue bunting

the night before the unveiling. Standing guard were four men in full uniform from the Forsyth Post, G. A. R. With lights shining, the whole was said to form a "brilliant picture, almost without description."¹⁷

Colonel Finlay, in reply to the question of why he decided to erect this statue in Steedman's honor, gave three reasons. "First, when I was a mere boy (an immigrant from Ireland), General Steedman gave me a little office on the canal that paid me \$550 a year...small, but the foundation of my fortune." "The second reason was that in 1857, General Steedman, who had been elected Major General of the Fifth division of Ohio Guardsmen, again remembered me and appointed me to a position on his staff." The third reason was my great admiration for the brave and gallant soldier in time of war, and the great and wise statesman in time of peace. It is the tribute of a friend to a friend. He helped me when I needed it and I am repaying him in my small way."¹⁸

The statue of bronze was created by the sculptor Alex Doyle, an Ohio native. It was reported that Mr. Doyle learned his craft at the Government Art Academy, Florence, Italy. He had gained renown from his statue of General Robert E. Lee at New Orleans, General Philip Schuyler at Saratoga, New York, and others throughout the country. He was said to be newly contracted for a memorial statue of President Garfield to be erected over Garfield's grave at Cleveland, Ohio.¹⁹

The base for the statue is nine feet square and of Vermont marble. Resting on this base is a die on the four sides of which are inscriptions giving the General's date of birth and death;

the words, "Carrick's Ford," "Perryville," "Chickamauga," and "Nashville," (four battles in which the General distinguished himself), and "Erected by W. J. Finlay." Above the die is a pedestal surmounted by the bronze statue of General Steedman, a little larger than life size, standing with his field glasses in hand, his left foot slightly in advance as if to say, "always on the lookout for the enemy."²⁰

Lieutenant Governor L. C. Smith of Illinois gave a masterful oration for the unveiling. He traced the practice of erecting a statue in commemoration of a notable person or event, back to the ancient custom of mound building. Lieutenant Governor Smith told of how he had served under General Steedman, and called him "the foremost volunteer soldier from the state of Ohio." Smith went on to praise Finlay, the donor and all those present for honoring the dead hero. The General was further eulogized in Smith's moving speech. The ceremony ended with the General's young granddaughter, Emma Steedman laying a wreath on the monument; and his niece, Mrs. Rebecca Steedman McCann reciting the poem "Old Chickamauga."²¹ The full ceremonies, the long procession, the dignitaries present and the related events combined to make the celebration the most brilliant in Toledo History.²²

The same sculptor of the statue, Alex Doyle created a bust of the General for the Steedman graveside monument at Woodlawn cemetery, the work being one of the most impressive in Toledo. The General's widow made weekly trips to the cemetery with her children to decorate the grave. When a newspaper carried a report that the gravesite was in poor condition, Mrs. Steedman,

was offended and she visited the paper's city editor, ready to do battle. She was active in volunteer organizations such as the G. A. R. and Women's Relief Corps to help maintain respect for the General's memory.²³

In 1920, it was proposed that public restrooms be installed in the base of the statue. Mrs. Steedman contacted the city council at that time and strongly objected. Because of the family's objections, increasing traffic and some vandalism to the statue, it was moved to Riverside Park in 1920.²⁴

Another grand ceremony was planned for the dedication of the monument at its new site. The program of exercises was held July 4, 1920.²⁵ S. P. Jermain was the Chairman of the ceremonies, addresses were given by several of Toledo's leading citizens, and the poem written for the first dedication, "Old Chickamauga," was recited. The dedication wreath was placed upon the monument by James B. Steedman, five year old grandson of General Steedman.²⁶

Not too much was heard of the General in the next several years, except for an occasional article in a local periodical or reference made to him in obituaries at the time his widow or a descendant died.²⁷ The General's statue stood guard at the entrance of Riverside Park, sustaining occasional vandalism, until it was ignominiously knocked from its base by a reckless driver in 1979. The statue was damaged slightly, the base demolished.²⁸ The driver was insured, but estimates of repair were so high, up to \$250,000.00, that the statue lay in the city's Division of Streets and Bridges garage for almost four years while the City Council, the Toledo Arts Commission and other interested

citizens tried to determine what could be done to restore the statue. The North Toledo community finally provided the monument's restoration.

The Henry Gurtzwiler Company, a North Toledo structural erection company, volunteered their services to repair the statue. The North Toledo community had adopted the statue as their own because of its long residence there. Gurtzwiler craftsmen, along with the City of Toledo Department of Natural Resources, the North Toledo Area Corporation and the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo cooperated in restoring the statue and the surrounding area.²⁹

A third dedication was held. Not as grand as the first two, but again, led by the Mayor of Toledo (Doug DeGood), other local dignitaries and the remaining members of the Steedman family. About one hundred spectators were on hand.³⁰

The last public acknowledgement to the Statue of General Steedman was made during the Riverside Park grand reopening ceremonies, September 21, 1984. The mayor, members of the city council, several community leaders, and the residents of the area picknicked and played games. A special color guard escorted Mrs. Margaret Stone, Mrs. Mary Ann Wanatick and Mr. John Steedman, grandchildren of the General to the monument for the ribbon-cutting ceremonies. The crowd looked on with excitement as the special new lights illuminating the statue were turned on for the first time. Once more Toledo paid tribute to its Civil War Hero.³¹

"Old Chickamauga"

Men of the Cumberland! rally again!
 Old Chickamauga is calling his men;
 Hail and salute! for the living and dead,
 Marching once more with their chief at their head.

Charging full speed at the roll of the drum,
 Danger ahead and disaster to come;
 Swinging their standards like Titans abreast,
 Scouring the valleys and storming the crest.

Men of the Cumberland! have you forgot
 Thomas, your hero, as though he were not!
 Lo, he is here with his men as of old,
 Standing with Steedman, stout-hearted and bold.

Perish the Present, the day of small things,
 Call back the Past, with its princes and kings;
 Tear off the mask, give to Valor her due,
 Old Chickamauga is calling to you!

Hark, 'tis the hammer and clamor of war,
 Thomas is pleading for help from afar;
 Mount to your saddles, get down to your gait,
 Stay not for orders, 'tis craven to wait!

"Double quick, march," and the miles melt away,
 Scream out shrill shells, ye bold batteries bray!
 Never such scenes did a Sunday disclose
 Since our lord rose from the thralls of his foes!

Here stands "Pap" Thomas, a lion at bay,
 Fury and Frenzy encompass his way;
 There goes the riderless horse to his death,
 Hot blows the blast of dread Angel's breath!

Halt and salute! the twin Titans are met,
 "Steedman, the right," and our faces are set;
 "Double quick march," and the lines surge along,
 Strident and stern as the tide, and as strong!

Spurning the dying and trampling the dead,
 Hurling and swirling and swinging ahead;
 Grappling and grim in the rush and the roar,
 Saber to saber and God at the fore!

Fighting all yesterday, fighting to-day,
 Here comes the panic struck, mad from the fray,
 Cursing and staggering, dazed with defeat,
 Fierce in their frenzy to swell the retreat!

Old Chickamauga rides up in his wrath,
Colonel and Captain he halts in their path;
Snatches the colors, "Though cowards ye be,
The flag shall go forward. Brave men follow me!"

"By the right flank! By the right flank!" And now they are led
By chieftain and hero the men dash ahead,
His dark tossing curls fan his forehead like plumes,
The fire of the Spartan his visage illumines.

"Forward, men, forward!" the crest is on fire,
Hindman's grim gunners are gods in their ire
"Forward!" - his horse staggers down with the dead,
But Old Chickamauga, our flag flames ahead.

So, on the right, in the wrath and the roar,
Thomas was saved, with our chief at the fore;
So were the deeds of our brave volunteers
Borne where'er fame flies to listening ears.

Volunteer soldiers! America's pride --
Proved in the furnace, in war's travails tried;
Hail and salute! 'tis a world offers praise,
Peace pipes with plenty to brighten your days.

Hail and salute! gallant sons of the soil,
Slow in your anger, swift-footed in toil;
Here towers the type of the men ye revere,
Mustered for freedom, unfettered of fear.

Men of the Union! pass on in review,
Old Chickamauga is calling to you:
"Forward men, forward," he thunders again,
Heroes and patriots count now as then.

Hail and salute! fling the old colors out,
Step to the bugle, march on with a shout!
Old Chickamauga! 'tis victory's gun;
E Pluribus Unum - the Many in One.

-- Kate Brownlee Sherwood

"In May, 1867, Gen. George H. Thomas came to my rooms, at Willard's Hotel, Washington, and spent the whole evening, 'till late, going over his campaigns, with two veteran officers present, General W. P. Wainwright and Major Willard Bullard. * * * In the course of conversation I asked him, 'Who was the best Division Commander that you had under you; trusty, efficient?' He answered, 'Steedman!'"

-- Major General J. Watts De Peyster

NOTES

CHAPTER FOUR

TOLEDO PAYS TRIBUTE

1. Toledo Blade, October 18, 1883.
2. The Toledo Evening Bee, October 18, 1883; obsequies - funeral rites or services.
3. Ibid.; Buried Woodlawn Cemetary, Toledo, Ohio, Section 41; Lot 190. The gravesite is in line with a large Civil War monument in the same section. His widow and several descendants are buried in the same lot.
4. Ibid.; postillions - one who rides the near horse of the leaders to guide the horse drawing a coach.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.; Toledo Cadets - a local group of military nature, who were attendant in full dress uniform.
7. Ibid.
8. The Toledo Evening Bee, October 20, 1883.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.; The General's widow donated his swords for display at the G. A. R. Memorial Hall (a building on Adams Street across from the Courthouse, until 1950's.) The swords were loaned to the Toledo Zoo where they were displayed for many years at their museum and later stored there. The museum relinquished the swords to the Michael Wanatick family (General Steedman's descendants.) A Knight Templar Sword and Sheath; a Field Sword, and a Dress Sword and Sheath, as well as fuse shells from the Tenth Confederate Battery at Hotchkiss, from this collection are on loan to the Toledo Police Museum; located at The Safety Building, 525 N. Erie Street, Toledo (June 26, 1987).
11. The Toledo Evening Bee, October 23, 1883.
12. Waggoner, History of Toledo, 255.
13. The Toledo Evening Bee, October 13, 1883.

14. Ibid., October 18, 1883.
15. Henry Howe, Historical Collections of Ohio (Cincinnati: C. J. Krechbiel and Company, Printers and Binders, 1902) 2:160.
16. The Toledo Evening Bee, May 26, 1887, 2.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.; W. J. Finlay, always grateful to Steedman for giving him his start, amassed a large fortune from his enterprises; mainly as a successful brewer.
19. Ibid.
20. Killits, Toledo and Lucas County, 169.
21. Ibid., 4; The poem "Old Chickamauga," was written for the occasion by Mrs. Kate Brownlee Sherwood.
22. Ibid.
23. Rothman, Toledo Blade, July 3, 1966, 7.
24. Ibid.
25. "Dedication of the Monument of General James B. Steedman," Riverside Park, Souvenir Program (Toledo: The Blade Printing and Paper Company), July 4, 1920, Steedman family papers, Toledo.
26. Grandson, James Blair, was son of Samuel Jones Tilden Steedman.
27. Rothman, "The Steedman Story," Toledo Blade, Sunday Magazine, July 26, 1966; John M. Morgan, "Old Steady": The Role of General James Blair Steedman at the Battle of Chickamauga," Northwest Ohio Quarterly 22(1950): 72-93; Steedman General File, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library.
28. The Blade, 1979.
29. "Dedication of the Monument of General James B. Steedman," Riverside Park, Souvenir Program (City of Toledo/Department of Natural Resources: North Toledo Area Corporation) June 2, 1983, Steedman family papers, Toledo; Extensive work was done to the bronze base and the General's left arm. Heat was then applied to the leg area to return the General to a more upright stature. Craftsmen Ferd Miller and Jack Murdaugh are credited with the completed restoration.
30. The Blade, second news section, June 3, 1983.
31. "Riverside Park Grand Reopening," Souvenir Program (City of Toledo and North Toledo Area Corporation) September 21, 1984, Steedman family papers, Toledo.

CONCLUSION

This was James Blair Steedman. As a boy he commenced fighting the battle of life for himself and others. He was even then chivalrous and brave, winning the respect of all.

There were events in his personal life that few have passed through. As a soldier there was none more knightly or possessed more valor. His headquarters were in the saddle, and that was always between the enemy and his command.

General Steedman was a splendid specimen of the volunteer soldier. He believed thoroughly in the great cause for which he fought. He threw all his energy, intellect, and heart into the conflict. He was well-known throughout the Army of the Cumberland as a fighting general. He was popular with his subordinates as he was with his superiors. Easy, cordial, hearty, and friendly in his relations with his men, he was their universal favorite. As a devoted, cautious leader, he stands prominently as one of the most conscientious and most endeared.

As a man and citizen, he had few equals. When he extended the hand of friendship, his heart went with it. He was always ready to champion the cause of the weak and needy. He never deserted a friend, even though his intense loyalties did not always serve him well in personal advancements.

In the political period of General Steedman's life, he evidenced the same zealous care for the people's welfare as was

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ADDENDUM TO
MASTER'S THESIS TITLED:

MAJOR GENERAL
JAMES BLAIR STEEDMAN

by
Mary Ann Steedman Wanatick

- I. Chronology of Events of Life of James Blair Steedman
- II. Photograph of Statue of James Blair Steedman

July 1988

CHRONOLOGY

MAJOR GENERAL

JAMES BLAIR STEEDMAN

1817-1883

Pre-War

1817, 29 July. Born, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania.

1832 - Apprentice printer for Lewisburg, Pa. Democrat.

1837 - Moved to Napoleon, Ohio. Recruited workers for Wabash and Erie Canal.

1838 - Married Miranda Stiles (died 1872). One son Lewis Cass (1849-1876).

1841-1842 - Representative from Allen County to Ohio State Legislature, House of Representatives.

1843-1844 - Published North-Western Defiance, Ohio.

1849 - Contractor; traveled to California during "Gold Rush."

1852-1856 - Elected to the Ohio Board of Public Works, three terms as president.

1853 - Contracted for and built 50 miles of railroad on the Toledo, Wabash and Western Railroad (then called the Toledo and Illinois), between Defiance and Fort Wayne.

1854 - Delegate to Ohio State Democratic Convention.

1856 - Bought house at Jefferson and Superior, lot 205, Port Lawrence addition, Toledo. (Now, site of Commodore-Perry Hotel.)

Steedman Chronology, continued (2)

- 1857 - Elected as Public Printer by the United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. (Buchanan administration).
- 6 June, Commissioned Major-General of the Fifth Division, Ohio Militia. (The old Toledo Guards.)
- 1860, 12 April - Elected to Democratic Convention. Which nominated Stephen Douglas as presidential candidate.
- 1860 - Nominated as Democratic Candidate and waged unsuccessful campaign against James Ashley as Representative for the Ninth District to Congress.
- 1861 - Admitted to the Bar.

Civil War Service

- 1861, 27 April - Mustered into the service at Camp Taylor as Colonel, 14th Regiment Ohio Infantry (3 months, 1861). Mustered out and honorably discharged August 13, 1861 at Toledo, Ohio. He was again mustered into the service to date 1861, 1 September as Colonel, 14th Regiment Ohio Infantry to serve three years.
- 1862, 16 August - He was mustered out and honorably discharged to enable him to accept promotion. 17 August. Accepted appointment as Brigadier General of Volunteers.
- 1864, 20 April - Appointed Major General of Volunteers.
- 1866, 18 August - Honorably discharged by the acceptance of his resignation.

Main Battles And Military Assignments

- 1861, 3 June - Phillippi, western, Virginia.

Steedman Chronology, continued (3)

- 1861, 13 July - Carrick's Ford, western Virginia.
- 1862, January - Mill Springs, Kentucky.
- 1862, April - Corinth, Mississippi.
- 1862, 8 October - Perryville, Kentucky.
- 1862, 16 October - 20 December - Vicksburg, Mississippi.
- 1863, 23, June - 3 July - Tullahoma Campaign.
- 1863, August-September - Chickamauga, Georgia.
- 1863, October-November - Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- 1864, 3-31 August - Atlanta, Georgia.
- 1864, November-December - Sherman's March to the Sea.
- 1864, 15 December - Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1864, 29 November / 1865, 13 January - until end of War, Commander of the District of Etowah.
- 1865, 27 June - 1866, 28 July - Commander, Department of Georgia.
- 1866, 8 May - "Report on the Freedman's Bureau," Generals Steedman and Fullerton.

Post-War

- 1867, February - 1869, January - Collector of Internal Revenue, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 1869-1883 - Editor of The Northern Ohio Democrat and The Sunday Democrat.
- 1872 - Member of the Ohio State Constitutional Convention, to fill vacancy created when Morrison R. Waite was appointed Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Steedman Chronology, continued (4)

- 1874 - Delegate to state Constitutional Convention. Married Rosa Barr (died, 1876).
- 1876 - Tilden/Hayes presidential campaign. General Steedman offered to lead an army of 100,000 on Washington in protest of Tilden defeat; son, Lewis Cass died.
- 1877 - Son's wife, Edith K. (1852-1877) died. Two grandchildren, James B. and Edith (Mellinger) became wards of the General.
- 1878-1879 - Senator, 33rd District, Ohio State Legislature, 63rd General Assembly.
- 1878, 16 September - Married Margaret Gildea (1862-1948). (3 children: Rebecca, 1879-1916; Samuel Jones Tilden, 1881-1952; Mary Moore (Mary Steedman Hirsch), 1883-1975.
- 1879 - Department Commander, G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic).
- 1880 - Delegate to Democratic National Convention.
- 1882, May - Chief of Police, Toledo, Ohio. First civilian chief.
- 1883, 18 October - Died in office. Aged 66 years' 2 months' 21 days.
22 October - Funeral 2:30 p.m. Buried Woodlawn Cemetery, Toledo, Ohio. Section 41, lot 190.
- 1887, 26 May - Statue unveiling ceremony at Finlay Place, at junction of Cherry and Summit Streets, Toledo. Erected by William J. Finlay.
- 1920, 4 July - Statue relocated to present site. Riverside Park, Toledo.
- 1983, 2 June - Statue rededicated.
- 1984, 21 September - Riverside Park - Grand reopening in honor of General Steedman.

