

1864 Newspaper clipping describing

7th Missouri Infantry – Members of the Seventh Missouri Regiment who had re-enlisted as Veteran Volunteers in 1864. They arrive back at St. Louis to begin the promised furlough upon Re-enlisting as Veteran Volunteers – A new Veteran Volunteers Flag is presented to them.



ARRIVAL OF THE 7TH REGIMENT MO. AND 17TH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS—PRESENTATION OF A FLAG.—The 7th Regiment Missouri Volunteers, and the 17th Illinois volunteers, arrived in town yesterday, and were duly received by the Veteran Reception Committee and Boehm's band, and escorted to Turners' Hall, where they partook of a dinner, and the 7th Missouri was presented with a flag.

This latter regiment was organized in June, 1861, under the command of Colonel (now Brigadier General,) John D. Stevenson. It was first ordered to Boonville, about the 18th of July, 1861, remained there until the 5th of August, when it was ordered to Rolla, where it remained until Gen. Fremont's expedition to Springfield, when it was attached to Gen. McKinsty's division. It was afterwards stationed at different points in western Missouri, until May, 1862, when it was ordered to Pittsburg Landing, where it did guard duty, mostly. The ensuing August it was ordered to Jacksonville, Tennessee, where it performed guard duty. About the 10th of October, the same year, it engaged the enemy under Gen. Armstrong, at Medon Station, repulsing him with loss, and on the following day marched to the assistance of Gen. Dennis at Britton's Lane. From Jackson it was ordered to Corinth and attached to a division commanded by Gen. McPherson, and when the rebels retreated it was in the advance of the forces following them up. In November, 1862, it was ordered to Lagrange, Tennessee, and was soon after assigned to the Third Division, commanded by General John A. Logan. It performed duty at various points in Mississippi and Tennessee until February, 1863, when it was ordered to Lake Providence, La. From thence it was ordered to Milliken's Bend, and subsequently took an active part in the siege of Vicksburg. At Bayou Pierre, during a short skirmish with the rebels, Colonel Oliver was severely wounded in the foot. It continued to follow up the enemy until they made a stand at Raymond, Miss., where an engagement ensued and the regiment lost

heavily. It subsequently took part in the battle of Champion Hills, and on the 22d of May, was detailed to lead the advance in the assault upon Fort Hill, which it did with heavy loss and great gallantry. After the surrender of Vicksburg, it accompanied expeditions into the interior of Mississippi, under Gen. Stephenson, Gen. McPherson, and more recently under General Sherman, all of which were highly successful.

The regiment is composed largely of Irishmen, and the flag of Erin has been borne side by side with the stars and stripes in all the engagements.

Colonel Oliver and Major Collins remained behind at Vicksburg, in charge of the rest of the regiment. The officers having charge of this detachment are Lieutenant Colonel Buchanan, Captains H. Switzer, James H. Coffee, Joshua W. Bowen, Thos. Russell, and Lieutenants Chauncey F. Wilson, Wm. F. Followell, and Sergeant Major Farrell.

The 17th Illinois Regiment is commanded by Col. Smith, and its history during the Tennessee and Mississippi campaigns, is substantially the same as that of the 7th Missouri.

Previous to the dinner, the 7th Missouri was presented with an elegant flag, Judge Dailey making the presentation speech. Col. John O'Fallon was present, and was greeted with much enthusiasm. Colonel O'Fallon took an active part in organizing the Regiment, and officers and men yesterday manifested great affection towards him as with feeble and tottering steps he was ushered into the hall. Previous to the presentation speech, Mayor Thomas called for three cheers for the old soldier of 1812—Colonel John O'Fallon—and they were given with great vim.

Judge Dailey, in presenting the flag, alluded to the changes that had taken place in this region since they first rushed to arms in defense of country, and said that many things would doubtless appear novel and strange to them. They would recollect how, three years ago, treason seemed about to triumph in our midst, when the Minute Men floated the rebel flag from the old Berthold Mansion, and when the State Convention was in session debating the question of Secession or Union. Today, however, their fellow-citizens met them in proud triumph and welcomed them with the music of our National airs, while everywhere in our midst floated the proud emblem of our nationality which they had carried on to victory and triumph during the last

carried on to victory and triumph during the last three years.

A majority of us, I will say, (continued Mr. Dailey), are loyal, true, and sincere, but you will go among many who are Union men under false pretenses. In your associations with our people, you who have stood before rebels in arms, will be able to discern the true from the false. You will be able to tell immediately whether a man is sincere in his devotion to his country and flag, or whether he has got "ifs" and "ands" in connection with it; because the stain of the butternut will always leave its mark, like that which the Almighty put upon the first criminal, and you can always tell a rebel wherever you find him. There is another class in the community, though small—and I think heaven it is so—who will, perhaps, abuse your Government, declare that slavery was the greatest and noblest of our institutions, and say that the Constitution is gone. Such men you can have no sympathy with, and you will pass them by with that silent contempt which a soldier can but feel at the name of a "Copperhead," and go and rejoice among those who are truly loyal, and gladly welcome you back. [Cheers.]

After alluding briefly to the history of the Regiment, he continued: Your Regiment was known as the first Irish regiment that was organized in St. Louis in the dark hours of 1861, and that glorious emblem of the nationality of Erin, whose history proves it to have always been raised against oppression and tyranny wherever found, has been found side by side with the stars and stripes, ever borne aloft in defence of liberty, justice, equality and freedom. [Cheers.] Every Irishman who truly knows the history of his country, will readily rally under the stars and stripes. [Cheers.] True, it may be that some who were born in Ireland, are not what they should be in this great crisis, but yet it is a fact, and history will record it, that the Irish heart, throughout the length and breadth of this country, is true and loyal to the stars and stripes. [Cheers.]

In all the battles that your brave men have been in, you have nobly done your duty, and the emblem of our nationality, has never trailed in the dust. It is a proud thing that the Mayor of St. Louis can stand before you to-day, loyal and true in heart, and welcome you back. [Cheers.]

In conclusion, he said St. Louis owed everything to

for nearly three long years are also entitled to the gratitude of the loyal people of Missouri. Their term of service will expire the last of next month, and a majority of them have declared to me that as soon as they have seen their friends, and provided for their families, they intend to re-enlist with the Seventh Missouri Volunteers. [Cheers.] We yet hope to merit your regard and esteem in assisting to drive from our once happy land those men who have forfeited all right to the name of an American citizen. [Cheers.] Gentlemen, again allow me to thank you.

The two regiments then dined, and subsequently the Illinois regiment left for home.

Pictured Below – The Veteran Volunteers Flag that was presented to the 7th Missouri Veteran Volunteers when they returned to St. Louis. – This is the flag the newspaper article is talking about and is currently at the Missouri State Museum in Jefferson City MO.

