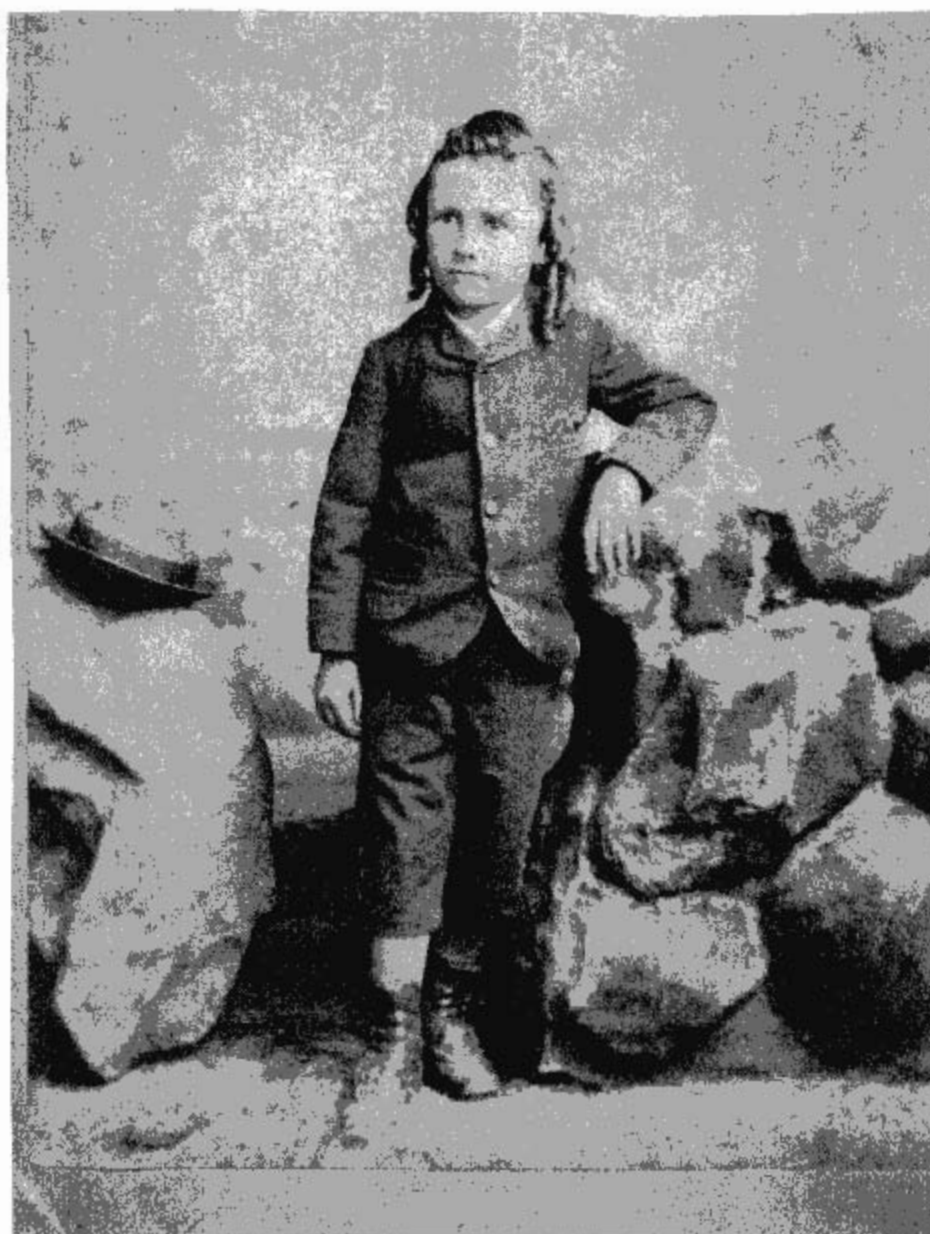


Captain Charles William Needles

1847 - 1944

**Prepared by David Scott Needles,
Great Grandson**



My great great grandfather, John William Needles, and great great grandmother, Elizabeth Bradford, were married in Xenia in January, 1842. Their marriage is recorded in the court house there. They settled in Urbana. My great grandfather, Charles William Needles, was their fourth child and was born in September, 1847.

About a year after "CW" (as he was called) was born, John W. Needles enlisted in the Michigan Volunteers and went to Vera Cruz, Mexico to fight in the Mexican/American War where he died of Yellow Fever during that campaign.

Little is known about CW's childhood, but we do know that, as a fatherless young man following in his father's footsteps, CW enlisted in the army on Feb. 23, 1864 for a three year period in Company H of the Eighth Regiment of Ohio Cavalry. But this was not to be. CW, although anxious to serve, was considered to have too slender a build for the rough and tumble life of active cavalry service. He was discharged on June 6, 1864 for "insufficient general development". At the time of his discharge, CW was described as being 5'5" tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair and by occupation, a shoemaker.

CW returned home, but still anxious to serve, a few months later he enlisted again. On February 7, 1865 he enlisted for a one year period in Company E of the 184th Regiment of Ohio Infantry, under Captain Douglas Moler. The 184th Regiment was organized at Camp Chase, Ohio and mustered in on February 21, 1865, leaving for Nashville, Tennessee that same day. From there they moved to Chattanooga. On March 21, 1865 they were ordered to Bridgeport, Alabama where they guarded the railroad bridge over the Tennessee River at Bridgeport.

During this service, March 21 to July 25, 1865, they had frequent skirmishes with rebel cavalry and guerrillas. They also participated in the battle of Lookout Mountain where CW was wounded in the shoulder by a mini ball. Again, CW was not to complete his enlistment. He was mustered out on September 20, 1865 at Nashville. At the time of his discharge, he was described

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as being 20 years old, 5'9" tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, dark hair, and by occupation when enrolled, a farmer.

CW again returned home, but by this time, the lure of the life of a soldier was strongly implanted and he again enlisted on January 26, 1866 - this time in Company "D" of the Sixth Regiment of The United States Army. Soon after his enlistment, his regiment was assigned to Fort Gibson, Indian Territory (now the state of Oklahoma) where Corporal Needles (a rank he soon attained) was stationed for the three years of his enlistment.

Here CW found excitement sufficient to satisfy his craving for the adventurous life of a soldier. The Indian Territory during that time was raw country with trading posts and tiny settlements few and far between. The Indians were plentiful and warlike.

One of the most exciting of CW's many experiences during that period, he recalled in a newspaper interview in 1939, it was a period in which he delivered the dispatches between Fort Gibson and Fort Wichita in the Kansas Territory, a distance of 250 miles. He recalled that the regular carrier had been killed by Indians and the young CW was selected to replace the carrier because he was the best of the few horseback riders in the Regiment.

On one of the trips back to Fort Gibson, CW was but a few miles from the Fort when he was attacked by, and I quote, "a crowd of Indians". Fortunately, the Indians were armed only with bows and arrows and their horses were not as speedy as the one on which CW was mounted.

CW recalled that he laid close to the side of his horse and urged the animal on, and even though his horse was struck by arrows several times, he "outspeeded the Indian horses and arrived safely at Fort Gibson." During this pursuit, CW, however, was wounded in the throat where an arrow had cut deep, but did not sever the jugular vein. He carried the scar from that wound for the

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rest of his life.

This wound did not bother him as much through the years as the shoulder wound that he had received at Lookout Mountain where the mini ball had penetrated his right shoulder, leaving his right arm and hand partly crippled.

CW was again discharged on January 26, 1869. The personal information on his third discharge shows the result of advancing years and Army life, for it showed that he was “22” years old, 5’10” tall, ruddy complexion, grey eyes, brown hair and by occupation at the time of enlistment, a laborer.

This time, after his discharge, CW was satisfied to retire to private life. He settled down in Springfield, Ohio at 125 East Harding Road. CW married Elenora Hill, a widow with two sons. The family was listed in the 1870 Census. CW and Elenora had two more sons, Charles, Jr. and my grandfather, John Wood Needles. Elenora passed away sometime later and CW was remarried to Martha Ream Hamilton. No children resulted from this marriage. In civilian life, CW worked as a blacksmith, a public school custodian and for twenty years, as a maintenance engineer in the IOOF Home.

CW passed away quietly in his home at 125 E. Harding Road on September 16, 1944 at the age of 96 years, 11 months. For 65 years CW was an active member of the IOOF. He had membership in Ephriam Lodge, Mad River Encampment, and IVOR Rebekah Lodge, and also in the Ohio GAR. He was an associate member of the Women’s Relief Corps, an honorary member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Keifer Camp, United Spanish War Veterans and the Clark County Veterans Council.

CW was the only honorary member of the Last Man’s Club and was Grand Marshal of the Memorial Day parade for many years. He also regularly attended GAR Encampments and was escorted to the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, held at the battlefield, by Russell D. Rouch, of the Clark County Veterans’ Council.

At the time of his death, C.W. Needles, was senior vice commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Ohio, achieving the rank of Captain. He was not only the last member of the GAR in Clark County, but also one of 16 in the state.

Captain C.W. Needles was laid to rest on September 20, 1944 in Ferncliff Cemetery in Springfield with full military honors. Excerpts from CW's obituary state that "under the colors of the United States he served, committal services were read for Captain Needles by the Reverend Wilbur H. Fowler, and military services were conducted by George L. Fetter, representing the VFW; Horace S. Keifer of the American Legion; Charles Lewis, Navy Club; Thomas N. Turnbull, Last Man's Club; Paul Yeazell, Spanish War Veterans; and Russell D. Rouch, Clark County Veteran's Council."

Also from CW's obituary, "The three volleys of shots fired by the firing squad, provided by Patterson Field, punctuated the burial service, and the soft bugling of '*Taps*' by Harry C. Hawken and Charles Alexander sounded requiem for an honored servant of his country." The bugle that Harry C. Hawken played that day was from the Last Man's Club on which CW's name was engraved.

Captain Needles outlived both of his wives and all of his children and step-children. He was survived by nine grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. At the time of his death, two of his grandchildren were in the Army and one in the Navy. They were my uncles, Floyd Needles and Norman Needles, U.S. Army, and my father, Darrell D. Needles, U.S. Navy.

As one of his great grandchildren, I do not have any remembrances of this "gentle man", as my family called him. But I do have a photo of me at the age of 3 sitting on my great grandfather, Captain C. W. Needles' lap. So, he knew who I was.

Credits

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Springfield News/Sun article | May 30, 1939 |
| Roster of Ohio Troops | Pages 440, 735 |
| Regimental Histories | Page 1555 |
| Family documents | |

Photos Included:

A photo of C.W. Needles at around age 11. (Title page)

A photo of C.W. Needles in Civil War uniform

A copy of one of C.W. Needles enlistment papers

A copy of C.W. Needles company muster and descriptive roll

A photo of C.W. Needles in his Captain's GAR uniform

A photo of C. W. Needles in his IOOF uniform

A photo of C.W. Needles with great grandson, David S. Needles, on his lap and two cousins standing beside him.



73 Dec 1865

Volunteer Regiment
entitled to Bounty

VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF

Ohio



City TOWN OF Springfield
1st Ward.

I, William Ruedle, born in Champaign Co
in the State of Ohio, aged Twenty years,
and by occupation a Turner, Do HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to have
volunteered this Seventh day of Feb, 1865 -
to serve as a Soldier in the Army of the United States of America, for
the period of THREE YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority;
Do also agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may be,
established by law for volunteers. And I, Wm Ruedle, do
solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States
of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all
their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the
orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers
appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at Springfield, Ohio
this Seventh day of Feb, 1865.
Before: Joseph A Blair Jr - Notary

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above-named Volunteer, agreeably
to the General Regulations of the Army, and that, in my opinion, he is free from all bodily defects and
mental infirmity, which would in any way disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

Charles H. Spang
Asst Surg Bd Enroll 7th Dist
EXAMINING SURGEON.

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer
previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my
judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the
duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting
service. This soldier has Blue eyes, Dark hair, fair complexion, is five
feet nine inches high.

Joseph A Blair Jr
1st Regiment of Ohio Volunteers,
RECRUITING OFFICER.

Mastered into the service of the United States, for three years or during the war, from date of enlistment, in Company 1st
Regiment of Ohio Volunteers, on the 8th day of Feb, 1865, at Springfield Ohio

Charles H. Spang
Asst Surg Bd Enroll 7th Dist
Wm Ruedle

N | 184 | Ohio.

William Needles
Pvt, Co. E, 184 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on Returns as follows :

July 1865 absent on
detached service as
mounted patrol
Edgefield July 25, 1865

Aug 1865 absent Detailed by
order Genl Boone,
Detailed July 25, 1865,

Book mark :

(546)

D. G. Struble
Copied

K | 184 | Ohio.

William Kneedes

Priv., Co. D, 184 Reg't Ohio Infantry.†

Appears on

Company Muster and Descriptive Roll

of the organization named above. Roll dated

Camp Chase Ohio Feb 19, 1865.

Where born Champaign Co. Ohio

Age 20 y'rs; occupation Farmer

When enlisted Feb 7, 1865.

Where enlisted Springfield Ohio

For what period enlisted 1 year.

Eyes Blue; hair Dark

Complexion Fair; height 5 ft. 9 in.

When mustered in Feb 8, 1865.

Muster-in to date Feb 7, 1865.

Where mustered in Columbus O

Bounty paid, \$ 100; due \$ 100

Where credited 1st Ward Springfield
Clarke Co. 7th Cong. Dist. Ohio

Company to which assigned

Remarks: Am't Local Bounty

deposited by the Soldier

under G.O. 305. A.G. #370.

(over)

† This organization subsequently became Co. E, 184 Reg't Ohio Inf.

* The caption of this roll shows that the company was organized pursuant to G.O. 243, A. G. O., August 9, 1864, which required recruits to be mustered in to date from date of enlistment.

Book mark:

(866d)

Waddington

Copyist

K | 184 | Ohio.

William Kneedes

Appears with rank of Priv. on

Muster and Descriptive Roll of a Detachment of U. S. Vols. forwarded

for the 184 Reg't Ohio Infantry. Roll dated

Springfield O, Feb 8, 1865.

Where born Champaign Co. Ohio

Age 20 y'rs; occupation Farmer

When enlisted Feb 7, 1865.

Where enlisted Springfield O

For what period enlisted 1 year.

Eyes Blue; hair Dark

Complexion Fair; height 5 ft. 9 in.

When mustered in Feb 8, 1865.

Where mustered in Columbus O

Bounty paid \$ 100; due \$ 100 100

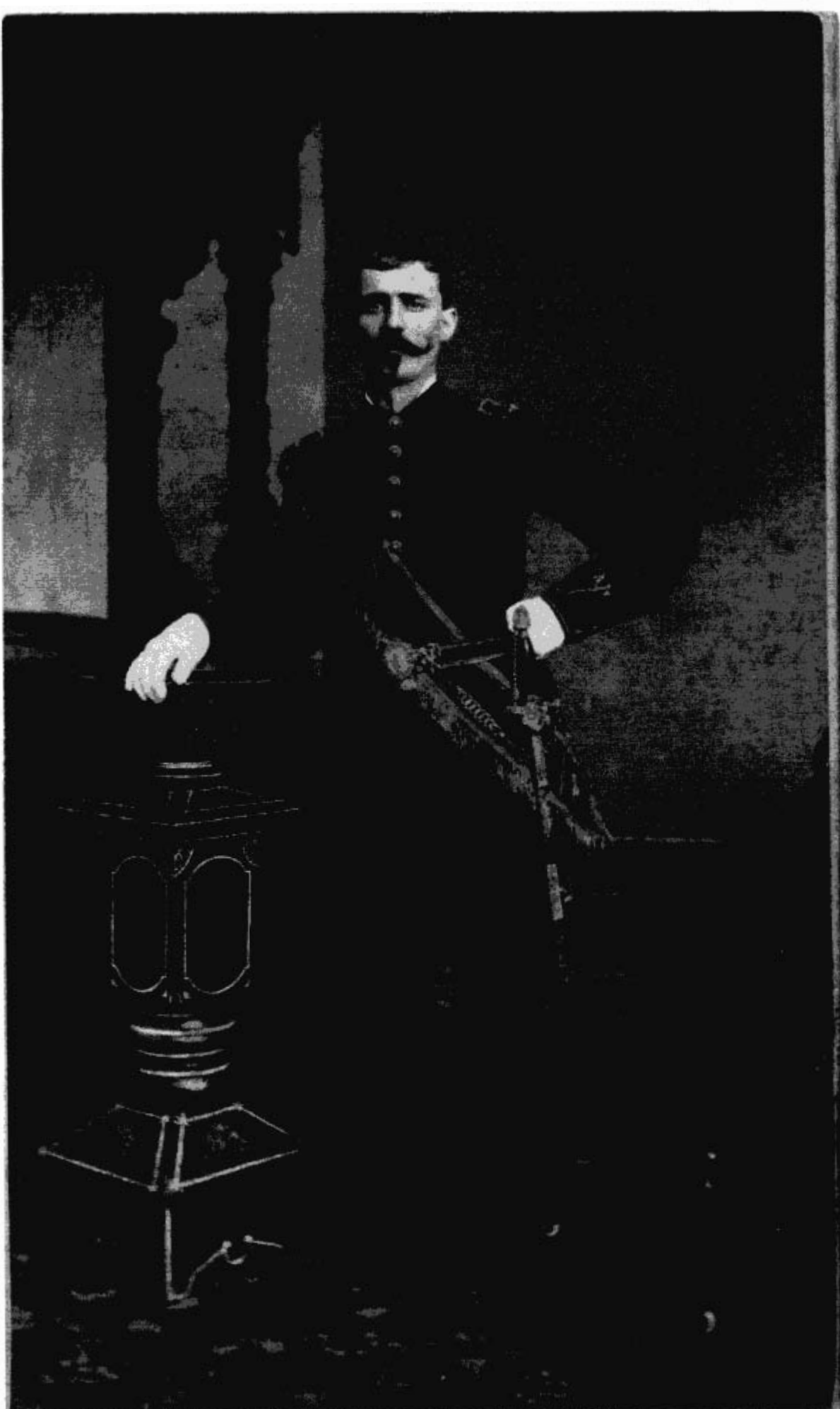
Where credited 7th Cong. Dist 1st Ward

Springfield O

Company to which assigned

Remarks:

Book mark:



Cass & Smith, C. W. Needles, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

