

Henry Carter Hamilton
21st WI Infantry, Field and Staff

Born: July 30, 1827, Clarendon, New York

1860 Federal Census: WI, Manitowoc County, City of Two Rivers:

Henry C. Hamilton, 33, Miller, b New York

Diantha Hamilton, 30, b New York

Chd: James E-8, Laura A-6, George-4, all born Wisconsin

Enlisted: July 22, 1862 as 1st Lieutenant.

Promotion: July 22, 1862 to 1st Lieutenant and Quartermaster

Resigned: May 23, 1863 and became Sutler for Regiment

Died: April 4, 1864 at Nashville, TN

Buried: Pioneers Rest, Two Rivers, WI

Gravesite: Lot 188, Block 1

1890 Veterans Schedule of Manitowoc County:

Henry Hamilton (deceased) Diantha (widow), 1st

Lieut. 21st, post office Two Rivers

"History of Manitowoc County Wisconsin" by Dr. L. Falge, 1911-1912, v.2, p.662-665:

Born at Clarendon, Orleans county, New York, July 30, 1827. Died at Nashville, Tennessee, April 4, 1864. When the subject of this sketch was five years of age, his parents removed to the city of Lockport, Niagara county, New York, where he resided until he arrived at young manhood. While still a young lad, he was bound for a term of five years under the old apprenticeship system to John W. Merchant, a patent medicine manufacturer of Lockport, New York, whose concoction was marketed for two generations as "Merchant's Gargling Oil; a medicine for Man and Beast." The old documents show that the term of apprenticeship was not completed and for a consideration paid said Merchant, he was released from bondage. In 1848, when twenty-one years of age, he started for the west, going first to Milwaukee and thence to Two Rivers, about the beginning of the year 1849, where he continued to reside practically all of the time until his death. He must have entered at once into the life of the community. His old documents contain a carefully prepared paper—a temperance lecture, delivered May 22, 1849, before the Twin River Washingtonian Society. He was one of the chief factors in advocating the system of manufacturing establishments for which Two Rivers has always been noted, being at the head of H. C. Hamilton & Company, who built the first pail factory in the year 1857. He also conducted a general merchandising business, entering into partnership with John C. Henderson in 1851, the firm name being



"Henderson & Hamilton, Dealers in General Merchandise, Fish, Lumber, Supplies, Etc." He also engaged in various other commercial pursuits up to the time of his removal to Fond du Lac county just previous to the breaking out of the Civil war. He was one of the incorporators in 1850 of the Two Rivers and Green Bay plank road and two years later of the Two Rivers and Green Bay plank road, the familiar highway now known as the Mishicot road running northwest of Two Rivers. He was also an incorporator and promotor of the Two Rivers and Manitowoc plank road, now the sandy lake shore road between the two cities. This was maintained as a toll road until the year 1876, when it was purchased by the towns and opened to the public. He was one of the charter members of the Two Rivers Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 66, established January 21, 1853, and was soon elected to the position of noble grand. He was of strong political inclinations—a man of considerable influence in local politics, and had his span of life been longer, it was predicted by his friends that his influence would have extended far beyond the community in which he lived. He was supervisor of the town of Two Rivers previous to the incorporation of the village of Two Rivers, and was elected president of the village council at the first village election held in Two Rivers on May 4, 1858. At this election there were two hundred and fifty-six votes cast, of which Mr. Hamilton received one hundred and fifty-one, as the old records in the city hall show. He was elected trustee supervisor, equivalent to what is now a member of the county board, on May 3, 1859, and was twice elected to the legislature of the state of Wisconsin—first in the session of 1858 from Manitowoc county, and later in 1862 from Fond du Lac county, where he had removed in 1861 to engage in the general merchandising and milling business at Waucousta. On March 27, 1858, he was appointed a member of the staff of Governor Alex W. Randall, which position entitled him to the rank of colonel. He was married to Miss Diantha Jane Smith, of Two Rivers, a daughter of Hezekiah Huntington Smith, on the 23d of December, 1849, and started housekeeping in a little log house which stood on the site now occupied by the Berners property near the corner of Jefferson and Sixteenth streets. The wedding was on a Sunday and the officiating minister, Mr. David Lewis, located at Sheboygan Falls, was forced to walk the distance of thirty-five miles to Two Rivers. The day was gloomy, with a blinding snowstorm, and the parson was delayed. Toward the close of the day the anxious wedding party discerned the faithful dominie plodding through the drifting snow banks, but all thought of the storm was soon forgotten in the hilarity of the wedding feast which soon followed. The children born of this union were: James Edward Hamilton, born at Two Rivers, May 19, 1852; Laura Adelia Hamilton, born at Two Rivers, April 4, 1854; George Dann Hamilton, born at Two Rivers, April 3, 1856;



Henry Pierpont Hamilton, born at Waucousta, Fond du Lac county, April 21, 1862. About two years after his removal with his family to Waucousta, Fond du Lac county, he received on July 22, 1862, a commission as quartermaster and first lieutenant of the Twenty-first Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers; being mustered into service on the following day, and entered at once upon his duties, following the regiment to the field where it joined the Army of the Cumberland in Tennessee. He retained the commission until his resignation was accepted on the 23d of May, 1863, after which he remained in the field supplying the troops with provisions and supplies on his own account as a sutler until his death on April 4, 1864, at the age of thirty-seven years. His body was brought to his old home at Two Rivers' where it was interred in the family lot. A meeting was held by his army friends at Nashville after his death and the following is taken from the Nashville Press of April 7, 1862: At a meeting in this city, on the 4th instant, of the friends of Henry C. Hamilton, deceased, late quartermaster of the Twenty-first Wisconsin Regiment, Captain J. Edward Stacy was called to preside, and Mr. Gilbert Hagan appointed secretary. On motion, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to draft resolutions expressive of the grief and condolence of the meeting upon learning of the death of Mr. Hamilton, towit: Captain J. Edward Stacy, chairman, and Messrs. Charles H. Warner, Joseph Kalb, J. W. Barnes, W. W. Pader and Ralph Church; who submitted the following preamble and resolution, which were unanimously adopted: Whereas, In the inscrutable wisdom of Providence, it hath pleased Him to remove from our midst and companionship, by the sudden visitation of death, our much esteemed friend, H. C. Hamilton, late of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, but more recently connected with the Army of the Cumberland; therefore, Resolved 1st, That in the death of our well known and faithfully tried friend, H. C. Hamilton, his numerous friends in the army, as well as in the community in which he resided, have sustained an irreparable loss, only consolable by the reflection that it is appointed unto man once to die, and that an all-wise God hath the dictating of the time and circumstances. Resolved 2d, That we sincerely condole with the bereaved family in the deepest of human afflictions, when both a husband and father are removed in the prime of life, and can only tender the widow and children our heartfelt sympathy in so overwhelming a calamity, and one which no human agency could avert but which in its sorrowfulness calls upon us all to bow in humble submission to Him who made us, and who alone "tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," and comfort ourselves with the consoling hope that our loss is his eternal gain. Resolved 3d, That the city papers be requested to publish the preamble and resolutions adopted by this meeting, and that the committee transmit a copy of the same to the family of the deceased. CAPT. J. EDWARD STACY, President. GILBERT HAGAN, Secretary. A committee of army friends and associates was appointed to convey the body to his old home and to personally report the sad particulars of his death to his family. The following testimony which was found among his old papers will show in what esteem he was held by his army associates: Camp Twenty-first Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers, Near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, May 25, 1863. Henry C. Hamilton, Late Quartermaster Twenty-first Wisconsin Volunteers: Sir: We, the undersigned officers of this regiment, take this manner of expressing to you, before your departure from this regiment, their regret at losing..... "