

Edward Francis Stirn 5th WI Infantry, Company A

Born: August 17, 1841 in Prague, Austria

Immigrated: 1852 from Bohemia

Enlisted on 4/19/1861 as a Corporal from Manitowoc, WI, 19 years old.

Transferred out: September 1, 1863

Transferred in: Veteran Reserve Corps

1875-76 Manitowoc City Directory: Stirn Frank, bookkeeper Ohlson, Mendlik & Thompson, Rapids Plank rd

1883 Pensioners Manitowoc County: Francis Stirn, Manitowoc P.O., wound leg, \$2/month from March 1879

1885 Soldiers & Sailors of the Late War, Residing in Wisconsin, 1885: S. Stirn, Corporal, A 5 WI, Post Office Manitowoc

Ralph Plumb book: **1887 City Treasurer: Francis Stirn**

1888 City Treasurer: Francis Stirn

Soldiers' And Citizens' Album Biographical Record Grand Army Of The Republic 1888 Pg 497- 8: FRANCIS STIRN, of Manitowoc, Wis., member of G.A.R. Post No. 18, was born August 17, 1841, in Prague, a prominent city of Austria. When he was 11 years old he came to America in 1852, joining his father in New York, with his brothers and sisters. After six years of struggle, the mother with her flock of children started for the New World and died during the passage. The father came to Manitowoc with his family. Just one week after the assault on the forts in Charleston Harbor, April 19, 1861, Mr. Stirn enlisted in Company A., 5th Wisconsin Infantry, for three years, and on the organization of his company was made Corporal. The regiment was assigned to the brigade of General Rufus King, and soon after was transferred to Hancock's brigade and he performed camp duty until March 1862, when he was in the advance against Manassas and went with the command to Alexandria, preparatory to the Peninsula Campaign. He was in the action at Young's Mills and Williamsburg, fought at Golden's Farm, at Savage Station and White Oak Swamp. He was in the action at Malvern Hill and participated later in the fight at Crampton's Gap and was present at Antietam and at Fredericksburg. May 3rd, 1863, he was in the storming of Marye's Heights under Colonel Allen and was wounded in the charge. He went to the field hospital with a severe wound in his leg and was mentioned in the dispatches. He was wholly disabled for field service and was transferred Sept. 1, 1863, to the Veteran Reserve Corps. at Washington and remained on duty until the expiration of



Francis Stirn at Gettysburg July 3, 1913 as a surviving member Co A 5th WI.



his term of service, July 13, 1863. He was on duty at the Capital during Early's raid in the defense of the city. Mr. Stirn was married Oct. 8, 1865, to Bertha Eckardt, of Manitowoc. He is the City Treasurer of Manitowoc (1888).

1890 Veterans Schedule, Manitowoc County: Frances Stirn, 21 K; Chronic diarrhea-Chickahominy before Richmond

1895 June 20 Veterans Census of Manitowoc County: Francis Stirn, Cpl A 5 Infantry, post office Manitowoc, WI

Der Nord Westen, 12 October 1905: "Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stirn here celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary last Sun. with friends."

Der Nord Westen, 11 June 1908: "Death from a heart attack late Saturday night of 63-year old Mrs. Bertha Stirn, wife of Frank Stirn here. Mrs. Stirn, who until now had always been healthy, complained of feeling unwell Saturday evening and while taking a bath fell from the tub to the floor. Mr. Stirn made her comfortable and remained with her until both fell asleep. He awakened at 3 a.m. with the terrible discovery that his wife was dead at his side. Dr. Meany was called and could only verify that she had been dead about 2 hours. The couple had no children. She is survived by her husband as well as 2 brothers -Hermann Eckhardt in Gibson, and Fred Eckhardt in Park Falls. The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon. [cause: heart failure]"



1910 Federal Census: WI, Manitowoc County, Manitowoc Ward 2:

Francis Stirn, 58, Marr2, b Austria, Immig 1852 Naturalized, No occupation listed, owns mortgaged home, Member of Union Army
Mary Stirn, 58, Wife, Marr2, 3births/3living, b Bohemia, Immig 1860.

Died: May 18, 1922

Buried: Evergreen Cemetery, Manitowoc, WI

Gravesite: 1-29: "Corpl./Francis STIRN/Co. A/5 Wis. Inf."

Manitowoc Pilot, May 25, 1922: Francis Stirn, age 82, civil war veterans, died last Thursday afternoon from the results of injuries received when he was struck by an automobile. He stepped into the way of a car near the corner of Jay and Tenth Streets and was thrown violently to the pavement. At the hospital it was learned that his skull was fractured and he soon died without gaining consciousness.

Mr. Stirn was born in Bohemia and came to America and to Manitowoc in 1854 and has made his home here since. At first call for troops his name headed the list of the first company organized in Manitowoc County, the date of his signing being April 19, 1861, four days after President Lincoln's first call for troops. The company was mustered into the national service on July 10, 1861, at Madison, as Co. A, 5th Wisconsin and joined the Army of the Potomac. Mr. Stirn was in all the general engagements of the Army of the Potomac until a severe wound received at the storming of Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg retired him from field service. He was discharged July 27, 1864, after over three years and three months of service. For many years after the war he was an accountant and served the city as chief of police. Mr. Stirn was active in Odd Fellows circles and also in Grant Army affairs, having served as commander of the local post years ago. He was popular with all classes and his tragic end sixty years after passing through three years of battle was a sad and deplorable ending. He was justly proud of his military record but never in a braggart spirit and he never sought to capitalize it or live in its memories. With his passing Judge J.S. Anderson is the sole local survivor of the first company of 105 young men who sailed from the old North Pier one day in July, 1861, on the little steamer Comet to the cheers of the little community. Thirteen of them, including Mr. Stirn,

gathered at Gettysburg on the fifteenth anniversary of the battle eleven years ago. The other five survivors are John Gilbert, Valders and John Mill, Centerville in this county and Joseph Cox and W. C. Crocker, Milwaukee and Julius Enert of California.

The funeral was held Sunday afternoon from the home with interment at Evergreen. There was a eulogy by Judge Anderson and taps and three honorary volleys by the American Legion Squad over the casket draped with a tattered company flag as the remains of the gallant, modest soldier of the Republic was laid to rest. Miss Minnie Stirn, of Milwaukee, a niece of Mr. Stirn, and who was reared in his household here, sent to Judge Anderson a letter of thanks for and appreciation of this eulogy, the following lines:

To the Old Boys of Company A
Tramp, Tramp, Tramp the boys are marching,
The Comrades slowly pass away,
But their memory's dear, and
Their deeds we'll ever cheer,
While about their sacred tombs we love to stray.

Tramp, Tramp, Tramp the boys are marching,
but their ranks are growing thin,
They're deserving of our care, -ere
They march for "over there,"
Where their long and final bivouacs begin.

Edw. Francis Stirn/1841-1922,