

## August C Terens 2nd WI Cavalry, Company H

Born: October 23, 1842, Kempen, Prussia

Enlisted: January 31, 1862 as a Private from Manitowoc, WI, 19 year old Farmer, 5'9", gray eyes, blond hair

Mustered Out: November 15, 1865 at Austin, TX

The History of Northern Wisconsin, Vol II. Chicago: Western Historical Pub. Co., 1881, p. 541: (August Terens) Proprietor of Badger State House, Mishicot. Born Oct. 23, 1842 in Prussia. In 1847 came with his parents to Sheboygan County. Enlisted in 1862 in Company H, 2d Wis. V. C.; served to the end of the war. In the Spring of 1866 he entered the hardware business with his brother, continued until 1870, when he sold out his interest in that business, and bought this hotel, which he has since conducted. Married, in 1867, to Bertha Meyer, of Mishicott. They have six children, two sons and four daughters

1890 Veterans Schedule, Manitowoc County: August Terens, Corporal 2 H, post office Mishicot; Chronic rheumatism-re-enlisted veteran-used up

1895 June 20 Veterans Census of Manitowoc County: August C. Terens, Cpl H 2 Cavalry, post office Mishicot, WI

Wisconsin Census Enumeration, 1905 June 1, Ex-Soldiers & Sailors Residing in WI:  
Terens, August, Pvt, Co H, 2nd WI Cavalry, Post office Mishicot

Two Rivers Reporter, Monday, Oct. 24, 1932: Mishicot's "Grand Old Man," August Terens, Observes His Ninetieth Milestone Sunday Nearly 50 relatives, friends and neighbors helped August Terens, Mishicot's "grand old man," and lone survivor of the local G.A.R. post celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary on the old homestead in "French Settlement," a mile and one-half southwest of that village Sunday. Despite his advanced age, Mr. Terens is in the best of health and expects to reach the century milestone. He is living in retirement on the old homestead now operated by his son, Oscar, and is again enjoying the hunting season. For more than 75 years Mr. Terens has been an ardent disciple of Izaak Walton, and most always brings home the prized game of that vicinity. He has not missed securing a hunting license for years. Mishicot's "grand old man," beloved by its citizens and neighboring residents for miles around came to Mishicot from Germany in his early youth, and has always resided in that vicinity since. When the "North" called for volunteers August Terens was among the first to answer, and he now remains the sole survivor of the Grand Army Republic post of this city. For more than 50 years he has been a member of the Odd Fellows of this city, having been honored by the local lodge here two years ago. Nearly 50 years ago Mr. Terens built the first brick structure in Mishicot, the Badger State Hotel, which he operated for many years. Retiring from the business more than 25 years ago he sold the hotel to Fabian Cretton, who died early this year. Following his disposal of the well known old hostelry in Mishicot he purchased the farm of the late Anton Cayo on the King's Bridge road, with his son Oscar operating it in later years. For years Mr. Terens has been a colorful figure in the Memorial Day ex-



ercises in Two Rivers. Two years ago the carriage conveyed his only other comrade, the late Matt Haag of the town of Mishicot, but he rode alone this year.

Died: June 18, 1934

Buried: Holy Cross II, Mishicot, WI

Gravesite: 1-5: "Corp./August Terens/Co. H./2 Wis. Cav."

August C. Terens/1842-1934

Unknown newspaper, 18 June 1934: August Terens, 92, Last of G.A.R. Roster In Two Rivers, Gets Call - Civil War Veteran Dies At Home Near Mishicot On Monday Evening

August Terens, 91 years old, last member of the Rankin post. G.A.R. of Two Rivers, died at 10:15 o'clock Monday night at his home, two miles southwest of Mishicot.

His death leaves but one Civil war veteran in Manitowoc county, Carl Rieck, 85, who resides three miles northwest of the village of Cleveland.

Mr. Terens' death was due to the infirmities of old age. He had been in failing health for some time and was confined to his bed for the last month. His health was such as to prevent his participation in the Memorial Day services this year.

Up to two or three years ago, however, he enjoyed good health and was able to indulge in his favorite recreation—hunting in the woods. An enthusiastic woodsman and hunter, he preferred rabbits and partridge for his game. His other hobby was sheephead.

Mr. Terens was born in Germany Oct. 23, 1843 and came to Wisconsin at the age of four years. His father was French and his mother German. He related that his grandfather died in the Napoleonic wars in Europe. After arriving in the United States the family tried out settlements at Sheboygan, Port Washington and the Town of Franklin in Kewaunee county before establishing a permanent home at Mishicot.

#### **Enlisted in 1861**

Mr. Terens enlisted in the union army in 1861, joining the Second Wisconsin cavalry under Col. Washburn. He was Col. Washburn's orderly and as such was sent on many important missions. At one time he was a member of General U. S. Grant's bodyguard. He and Col. Washburn were the first men to ?? at the surrender of Vicksburg. Mr. Terens was extremely proud of the latter fact. Despite active duty Mr. Terens escaped injury during the war.

He served in the army three years and 10 months and also did some Indian fighting under General Custer before he returned to Mishicot. Mr. Terens was a tin-smith by trade in the early days but he was credited with the erection of the Badger State House at Mishicot which still stands. He built and operated a saloon at Mishicot and with his brother, John, operated a hardware store.

In 1881 Mr. Terens traded the saloon for the homestead farm where he resided up to the time of his death. In later years, the farm was owned by his son, Oscar, but Mr. Terens up to a few years ago maintained "bachelor" quarters which were an attraction for men of the community. Near his stove in his small sitting room Mr. Terens would hold the center of attention, telling of experiences of his youth and of the community, formerly known as French Settlement.

#### **80 Years Ago**

Mr. Terens, in telling of his war experiences, related that the members of the company to which he was attached were frequently utilized as scouts and often called in to the rescue of infantry found to be in a "tight squeeze." He also related that his family when it settled in this part of the state more than 80 years ago suspected that Indians were responsible for the destruction of their home by fire.

In 1867, Mr. Terens married Miss Bertha Meyer. The ceremony was performed by Senator Joe Rankin . ." (article cut off)

The Badger State House, Mishicot Main Street MAGIC Newsletter, Vol. 7, #2, 2006:

"In 1864, two Mishicot brothers, August and John Terens were mustered out of the Civil War after serving three years in the War of Lincoln, and went to work on the erection of the hotel (The Badger State House, Mishicot) later that same year. It

was considered one of the most handsome in the vicinity and the first brick building in Mishicot.

August and John were born in Kempen, Prussia, of French and German parents and came to Wisconsin in 1846, settling first in Port Washington and then Sheboygan before coming to Mishicot. Their parents, Nicholas and Adele Terens, died in 1876 and 18690 respectively and are buried in our village cemetery. Soon after Nicholas and his sons arrived here, the news of the war broke. John and August enlisted and had very colorful experiences in the war.

August was 19 when he enlisted and served as an orderly to Major General Washburn and had acquaintances with both General Custer and General U.S. Grant.

After the construction of the Badger was complete, August managed it as a hotel and bar room. His brother John Terens built a tin and hardware store where the Pictorium now exists (2006) and played an active role in the business life of the village until his death in 1904.

In April of 1885 Mr. Terens sold the Badger to John Roemer, whose farm (located at 1033 Ridge Rd.) was part of the deal. After moving to the farm, August was very active in veterans' groups and loved to tell of his Civil War adventures. August lived there until his death. August was the last survivor of the Civil War in the county when he died on June 19, 1934."

<http://terens438.myheritage.com>