

## George Edward Waldo 1st WI Infantry, Company K

Born: 1834 in New York

1860 Federal Census: WI, Manitowoc County, Manitowoc Twp/Charles Walker family:  
Geo. E. Waldo, 25, Lawyer, b New York

Enlisted on 5/15/1861 as a Private, from Manitowoc, WI, 27 year-old Lawyer, 6'1", gray eyes, brown hair.

Promotion: August 4, 1861 as Captain of 14th WI Infantry, Company E

Mustered Out: August 21, 1861 at Milwaukee, WI

Commissioned: October 14, 1861 into "E" Co. WI 14th Infantry

Killed: April 7, 1862 at Shiloh, TN

Buried: Evergreen Cemetery, Manitowoc, WI

George Edward Waldo was not a native of Manitowoc. He had migrated there with his older brother William from their family home of Prattsburg, New York, sometime in the 1850's. In Manitowoc, William taught school, married Dolly Wood from Maine, and became the justice of the peace while George read law in the office of Judge Charles H. Walker and was admitted to the bar. George was a tall—six foot, one inch—good looking young man. He had dark brown hair and grey eyes and was described as being "calm and collected, [and] to all kind, humane, courteous and polite." At the outbreak of the Civil War, George took a ship to Milwaukee in early May where he enlisted as a private in company K of Colonel John C. Starkweather's First Wisconsin Volunteers. He joined up with his friend Don Shove, another young attorney from Manitowoc. Soon after enlisting they were issued grey uniforms and sent off to Harpers Ferry, Virginia, where they expected to participate in the ending of the war.

In mid July they saw action in the Battle of Bull Run from which he and Don Shove were praised in the Manitowoc Herald as being "themselves good soldiers, brave and true men," in their initial encounter with enemy fire. At the end of their 3 month enlistment, George and Don returned to

Manitowoc and within weeks of their homecoming began recruiting a new infantry company from Manitowoc and Kewaunee Counties. George was elected Captain of the new company and by early October was drilling his men twice daily, north of the River in what became Union Park. On Thursday, November 22, 1861, the new recruits boarded the steamship Comet at the north pier and headed for Sheboygan where they caught a train to Glenbeulah and then a wagon to Camp Wood just outside Fond du Lac. Once in camp, they became Company E of the Fourteenth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment.

On the 8th of December they were issued their new blue uniforms and stayed in camp



Marker for George Waldo in Shiloh National Cemetery: Captain, Co E, 14th WI Infantry, died 4-7-1862.



Marker for George Waldo in Prattsburg Rural Cemetery, Prattsburg, New York: "Capt. Geo. Edward Waldo, of the 14 Wis Reg't Co E was killed April 7, 1862 in the Battle of Shiloh, Tenn, aged 27 years 11 m's & 13 d's"



Evergreen Cem. Marker, Manitowoc, WI

until early March of 1862 when orders arrived to move out. George Waldo and the rest of the fourteenth regiment left for Chicago and then to St. Louis and then to Camp Benton, Missouri. On March 28 the regiment landed at Savannah, Tennessee where they would wait another ten days. The waiting ended just after sunrise on April 6th as they heard the sounds of war for the first time coming from around the area of the Shiloh church. The fourteenth was fortunate to be spared that first day of the Battle of Shiloh. That night Waldo and his men were ordered toward the Landing. As daylight broke the next day they formed a line for battle among the dead from the previous day. George told his men "to do our duty, saying not a man should return to Manitowoc that proved a coward that day." The Fourteenth was positioned just to the right of center in the six-mile long Union battle line.

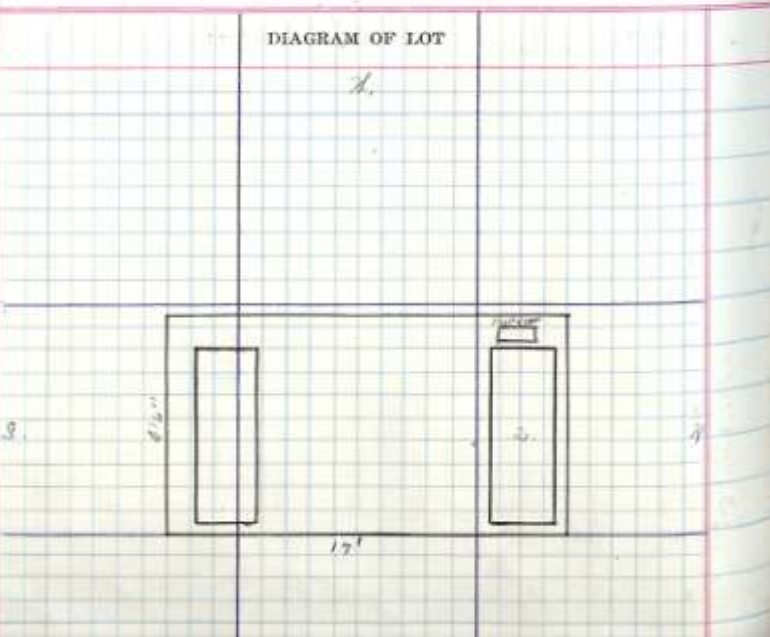
After the first hour of intense fighting the Manitowoc boys were able to push the rebels back and kept pushing until they had finally captured the high ground. It was during one of the attacks that George Waldo fell. "He was in advance of our line, with his sword in one hand and his hat in the other, pressing close to the enemy and calling his men to follow," wrote Done Shove. Waldo was hit in the left chest just above the heart. Shove and a couple of other men carried George off of the battle field to find safety. By the time Don Shove could find medical help for his friend, he was dead. George Waldo died in the early afternoon of April 7, 1862 on a Tennessee hillside. The news of the Captain's death did not reach Manitowoc until April 17. A deep gloom came over the town and the flags of the village were raised to half mast. That same day the town's people raised a collection of \$100 to send Rev. Geo. Engles south to recover the body. Ten days later the casket containing George Waldo's remains arrived home and were taken to the Masonic Hall, where they lay in state. The hall was draped in mourning for sixty days. At two o'clock Sunday afternoon, April 28th, the people of Manitowoc commenced their quiet march through the north side of town toward Evergreen cemetery where the mourners were reminded that "a man hath but a short time to live. He cometh up, and is cut sown, like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow." No truer words were spoken as Manitowoc's first son was laid to rest."

Evergreen Cemetery, Manitowoc, WI burial notes

128 | Burial Apr '62 | Waldo

NAME *Eliza Ann Clark* RESIDENCE \_\_\_\_\_  
 LOT NO. *4* BLOCK NO. *27* SECTION *East Half* AMOUNT PAID \$ *2.00*  
 TRANSFERRED TO \_\_\_\_\_ DATE *April 25, 1852*

REMARKS

Burial Number	Grave Number	NAME OF INTERRED	DIAGRAM OF LOT
<i>1363</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>No record Mark A. Waldo</i>	



# Waldo Boulevard: Ever-changing traffic artery



**MARGE MILEY**  
*Milestones*

They're at it again. Waldo Boulevard is undergoing more major changes, this time between Lincoln Boulevard and North 12th Street on Manitowoc's north side.

Because Waldo is such a busy traffic artery from Lake Michigan to the western city limits and beyond, it is hard to imagine a time when the boulevard was not there.

Several pictures showing the original construction of the boulevard more than 75 years ago were loaned to me a while back by Harold Radandt of Manitowoc. They are undated, but he told me the year was 1927.

The cranes and other excavating equipment in the photographs are identified in large lettering as machinery owned by Gray-Robinson Construction Co. of Manitowoc.

A note on the back of one picture says the Moore Crane shown on the photo was used for back-filling and laying of the 54-inch concrete pipes along the route of the new boulevard.

(In 1925, manufacture of the Moore Speedcrane shovels was started by the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Corp. The relatively small Moore crane used by the Gray Robinson Co. in building Waldo Boulevard, would have been a predecessor of the enormous cranes now produced by Manitowoc Cranes Inc.)

There are many fond memories of the early days of Waldo Boulevard.

Joretta Chermak Mountford told me when her father, Harry Chermak, then president of Chermak Meat Market, had their home built at 1124 Waldo Blvd. in 1933, the land north of their house was the McDonald farm.

"The land where Holy Innocents Catholic Church and school were built was a forest when we were kids," Joretta said. The original boulevard separating the streets was so wide



Photo from Harold Radandt's collection

When Waldo Boulevard was constructed in 1927, it was on the northern limits of the city of Manitowoc. Crews from the Gray Robinson Construction Co. used a Moore Speedcrane shovel for excavating the route and for laying and backfilling the 54-inch concrete pipes. Much of the land north of the boulevard was then open farm fields, woods, swamp and deposits of clay.

the children used to play games there, she said.

Both Joretta and her sister, Janet Chermak, remember when residents along the boulevard could park cars and other vehicles in front of their homes.

Today there is no parking the entire length of Waldo. Janet has lived in the Chermak family home since retiring and moving back to Manitowoc several years ago.

Janet told me, "Dad used to park the Chermak Meat Market delivery truck in front of the house at night. About two or three times a year it would be hit and one time it was bumped so hard it landed on the lawn."

The sisters also remember, along with many of us, when the boulevard was lined with beautiful red maple trees. When the streets were widened and the center boulevards narrowed, many of the trees were cut

down.

The trees in front of homes had to be trimmed on the street side so they wouldn't hinder the big trucks using Waldo Boulevard.

The first major construction project on the north side of the boulevard was Woodrow Wilson Junior High School. The school was built in 1931 between North Ninth and 11th streets.

In addition to classrooms for seventh, eighth and ninth graders, there was a large kindergarten room in the bowed-out section east of the main entrance.

Janet and Joretta attended kindergarten classes at Wilson. The kindergarten unit was continued for 37 years. The last kindergarten teacher there was Louise Mittnacht and she closed the unit in 1968.

Millie Fischl, who has lived on Waldo Boulevard for 49

years, told me, "At least three times since we lived here, the street has been closed for construction and we had to park on the side streets." During other construction on Waldo years ago, the residents signed petitions to save the trees on the boulevards.

Two weeks ago all the remaining trees on the boulevard between 11th and 12th streets had to be cut down and removed, she said.

The boulevard was named after the Waldo family, pioneer Manitowoc residents. William Williams Waldo, an early teacher in Manitowoc, and later a businessman and county judge, who came to Manitowoc in 1850. He could trace his ancestry to 1654 and the settlers of the American colonies.

George E. Waldo is best

See MILEY, D4

## MILEY

From D3

remembered as an early Civil War casualty from Manitowoc. He was a captain and commanded Company E, 14th Regiment, of the Union Army. He was killed at Shiloh, Tenn., in 1862, less than a year after he enlisted in the army.

It is said his funeral was the largest ever held in Manitowoc. There is a large Waldo family monument in Evergreen Cemetery, but no stone to mark Capt. George Waldo's grave.

The Waldo home was on North Fifth Street and in later years became known as the Waldo Apartments.

Crews and equipment from the Vinton Construction Co. are working everywhere along Waldo between Lincoln Boulevard and North 12th Street. There is a single lane of traffic on each side, marked off with a seemingly endless line of orange

cones and barrels.

Some big semi-trucks, going north on Eighth Street, have to really "thread the needle" to make a left turn to go west on Waldo Boulevard.

One day I was part of the backed-up traffic going south on Eighth and planning to make a right turn on to Waldo. A big, really big, moving company truck couldn't quite make the left turn on the first try. We all watched while the driver backed the big rig and tried again, and this time was successful. Whew! I was glad to get out there!

It is said that Wisconsin has two seasons, winter and construction. Both are necessary, but we're happy when each one ends.

*Marge Miley of Manitowoc is a retired managing editor of the Herald Times Reporter. E-mail messages may be sent to her attention at: [hmnews@mgsgunn.net](mailto:hmnews@mgsgunn.net).*



# Burial plot of George Waldo sought

By MARCIE BAER  
Herald Times Reporter  
Correspondent  
MANITOWOC — Roy Pfeiffer of Manitowoc is searching for Waldo.

No, not the fictitious Waldo featured in Martin Handford's best-selling series such as "Where's Waldo?" and "The Great Waldo Search."

Nor will he be found in the rural Wisconsin community of Waldo.

Pfeiffer is trying to find the exact lot in Evergreen Cemetery where a Civil War hero, Captain George Waldo, is buried.

When Pfeiffer, a Manitowoc funeral director and Civil War buff, learned there was no grave marker for Waldo, he decided to do something about it. There is a large "Wood-Waldo" marker on the family lot and some smaller markers for individual Waldo members, but no other information on the large stone as to who is buried there.

Pfeiffer plans to apply for a government marker to identify the Civil War veteran's final resting spot. Before he does, however, he intends to check every avenue to make sure it's placed on the right spot.

"Actually, I think we're 30 years too late," he said. Still he hopes there's someone reading this who may have been told by a relative about the captain, his funeral, and perhaps even the exact plot where he was buried. Except for that one tiny, vital

detail, there is no doubt that Captain Waldo is indeed buried at Evergreen.

The May 1, 1862 issue of the *Manitowoc Herald* details Capt. Waldo's funeral: "The remains of Capt. Waldo were brought to this place on the Comet on Saturday morning and the funeral ceremonies took place on Sunday."

"Upon arrival of the body it was taken to the Masonic Hall, where it remained until 2 p.m. on Sunday, the time appointed for the funeral. A portion of the masonic burial service was recited in the hall, in the presence of Manitowoc and Tracy Lodges after which a procession was formed in York Street."

"The procession moved to the Episcopal Church, and after reading of the burial service, was returned in the same order and moved to solemn music by the Manitowoc Band, to Evergreen Cemetery, where the impressive funeral service of the masonic order was completed."

In the Friday, April 10, 1862 issue of *The Pilot*, it states, in part: "On Tuesday, our citizens were astounded by the sad announcement in the Milwaukee papers that George E. Waldo, late of this village, and Captain of Co. E. 14th Wisconsin Regiment, had fallen in the battle of Pittsburg, another martyr to the cause of his country..."

The article stated how flags were flown at half-mast for the

28-year-old Waldo and how "measures will be taken to have the remains of the gallant soldier brought from the battlefield to his home in Manitowoc for interment."

In an in-depth article in the summer 1986 *Voyageur* (published by the Brown County Historical Society and the History Department of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay) about Manitowoc's entry into the Civil War, UW Center-Manitowoc County historian Dr. Terry Trask writes about April of 1862 when the town lost its first son to the Civil War. "George Edward Waldo fell in the Battle of Shiloh in the valley of the Tennessee River. He died with a gaping hole in his chest in the early afternoon April 7. Three weeks later his body was brought home for burial..."

According to one account, Pfeiffer said, the governor of Wisconsin traveled south to ship back Waldo's body and two soldiers from Michigan. The governor drowned accidentally and the money to cover the trip home was gone.

Trask relates how the townspeople raised \$100 to send the Rev. George Eagles, rector of the Episcopal Church, south to find and bring home the body of Capt. Waldo.

"Ten days later the Comet bumped against the timbers of the north pier, and deck hands carried ashore the metal casket containing the remains of George Waldo. His brother

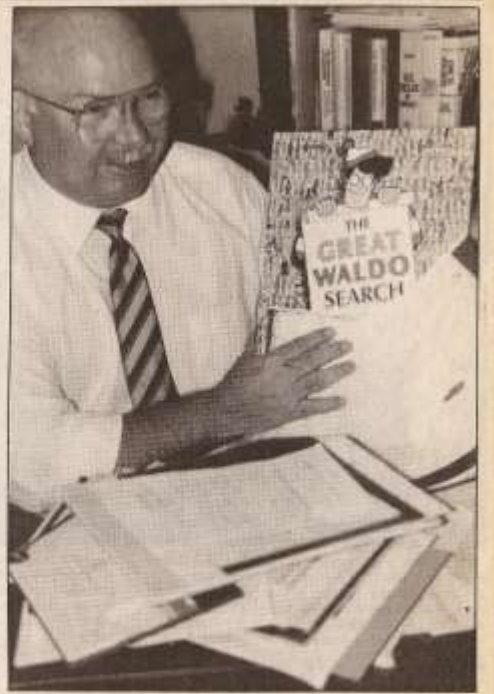
William had gone to Milwaukee to accompany the body home by water after it had been delivered there by train from the Tennessee Valley..." It was only five months earlier that George Waldo and his volunteers had sailed off on this same steamboat.

Trask describes the funeral procession: "The coffin was flanked by Waldo's brothers and followed by other relatives, as well as a great assembly of lawyers, civic officials and citizens. They all made their somber way to the open grave in Evergreen Cemetery high upon a bluff overlooking the river..."

Young Waldo, the account stated, migrated to Manitowoc with his older brother, William, from their family home at Prattsburg, N.Y., sometime in the 1850s. William married Dolly Wood from Maine. George read law in the office of Judge Charles H. Walker and lived in the Walker home next door to William's home. At the outbreak of the war at age 26 he was recently admitted to the bar.

Evergreen Cemetery records show a burial fee of \$2.50 was paid April 28 for a "Mr. Waldo (sp)..." no lot number. Therein lies the problem Pfeiffer hopes to solve.

If anyone has any helpful information contact Pfeiffer. Regardless of the final outcome of his search for Waldo, he does plan to apply for the grave marker, a long overdue recognition.



Roy Pfeiffer of Manitowoc looks at some of his material on Captain Waldo and the "Waldo" book he received as a gift.

Photo by Marcie Baer

Sunday November 10, 1991

## THE STATE

### Manitowoc

# Waldo of Civil War has man searching

Where's Waldo?

Roy Pfeiffer wants to know in the worst way.

But he's not looking for the fictitious character Waldo featured in a best-selling series by Martin Handford. Nor is he trying to find the rural Wisconsin

community of that name in neighboring Sheboygan County.

Instead, Pfeiffer is trying to pinpoint the exact burial place of a Civil War veteran, Capt. George Waldo.



PFEIFFER

Waldo, a lawyer turned soldier, served in the 14th Wisconsin Regiment, Company E. He died in 1862 in the bloody Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee, at age 28. Waldo was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, but no one knows exactly where.

When Pfeiffer, a Manitowoc funeral director and Civil War buff, learned there was no grave marker for Waldo, he decided to do something about it. So far, Pfeiffer has checked historians, cemetery records, news accounts from the time and relatives of the captain living in Chicago. He's used a metal detector and probe to check possible graves — all with no luck.

But he's determined to persevere. And when he does pinpoint Waldo's final resting place, he'll mark the spot with an official government plaque to give the captain some long overdue recognition.



Waldo family monument in Evergreen Cemetery, Manitowoc, WI