

## Stuard (Stewart) Collection Letters

Guide to Private Thomas E. Stuard Collection, Company E, 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Illinois Volunteers

### DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

#### Repository

Civil War Museum, Resource Center, Kenosha, Wisconsin

#### Language of Material

Material in English

#### Abstract

This collection consists of 5 documents and images verifying the military service of Private Thomas Stuard (Stewart).

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

#### Use Restrictions

None.

#### Preferred Citation

(Identification of item), Private Thomas E. Stuard (Stewart), Company E, 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, The Civil War Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin

#### Processing Information

Processed by Frederick J. (Rick) Holtz, 2013

#### Biographical note:

Thomas E. Stuard (Stewart) was enrolled on the Sixteenth day of August, 1861, under Captain Baker in Peoria, Illinois, to serve three years, and was honorably discharged from the service of the United States, and was mustered out by Lietenant Sumner on October 11, 1864, at Springfield, Illinois. At age 20 he listed his residence in the town of Cincinnati, Tazewell County, Illinois. He was 5' 9" tall with brown hair and gray eyes. He was single and listed his occupation as a farmer, originating from Muskingum County, Ohio. Private Stuard (Stewart) was engaged in the following battles; New Madrid and Island No. 10 at Farmington, Mississippi (May 6, 1862) Corinth, Mississippi (May 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, September 19<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 1862), Jackson, Mississippi (May 14, 1863), Assault on Vicksburg (May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1862), Sieges of Mechanicsburg, Vicksburg and Satartia, Mississippi, Richmond La Fort De Russy La Henderson Hill, Louisiana, Pleasant Hills, Louisiana (April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1864), Tupelo, Mississippi (July 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 1864 and August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1864), respectively.

## COLLECTION OVERVIEW

It is apparent that Private Stuard (Stewart) gained much battlefield experience as a veteran of many engagements, based on his distinguished service record.

We are uncertain as to if he sustained any injuries while in the field, was ever hospitalized/treated for any wounds, and apparently survived the Civil War in good physical condition. His photo in uniform shows him to be a healthy young man in distinguished military appearance.

We have no further information on him other than listing his occupation in Illinois as a farmer at the time of his enlistment. Nor do we have any insight as to his personal or family life, etc., as no personal letters are included in this collection of just 4 documents.

## COLLECTION LIST:

Doc./Photo #1 of 4: A photo of Thomas Stuard (Stewart)

Doc. #2 of 4: The Honorable Discharge Paper of Private Stuard (Stewart), entitled, "To All Whom It May Concern".

Noteworthy: It lists his biographical information, enlistment and discharge dates, and the various engagements he participated in as mentioned above in his biographical notes.

As was typically found in discharge documents, the commanding officer in attendance would often hand write vertically over the final wages paid out to the discharged soldier. In this case Private Stuard (Stewart) was "Paid in Full & 100 Bounty" by Second Lieutenant Hays, Paymaster, U.S.A., October 15, 1864. by "The Act of July 28<sup>th</sup>/66" (stamped at the bottom of the page). Another signature, George Truesdell, dated, March, 1867, is also found at the bottom of the page.

Doc. #3 of 4: A visual document from the State of Illinois Registration and Education, certifying that T. E. Stewart is "duty registered and entitled to practice as a "REGISTERED HORSESHOER" This is given under the provisions of "An Act for the regulation of the business of Horseshoeing", on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1917.

The document was signed by Director Francis W. Shepardson, and attested by F. C. Dodds, Superintendent of Registration.

Noteworthy: We can surmise that if Thomas Stuard (Stewart) was 20 years of age in 1861 when he was mustered into service, 56 years passed when he received this document to be a “registered horseshoer”, making him 76 years old. This would indicate that Mr. Stuard (Stewart) at this age was very physically fit to be shoeing horses, and that maybe he was looking for other ways to supplement his income other than farming.

Doc.# 4 of 4: Photographic image of “The Oath of Identity”. This was given to enlisted soldiers to have documented proof of “who they said they were”. Even under a powerful magnifying instrument is difficult to ascertain the information asked for or given by Private Stuard (Stewart). The document was signed on August 11, 1861 on the day of his enlistment.

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