

Mickey Sullivan: 6th Wisconsin Materials

Finding Guide to Mickey Sullivan, 6th Wisconsin Newspaper Account, “The Charge at Gettysburg.”

Descriptive Summary

Repository:

Kenosha Civil War Museum Resource Center

Language of Material:

Material in English

Abstract:

This article describes the entire three-day battle of Gettysburg and its aftermath on July 4. Written by eyewitness Mickey Sullivan, Company K, 6th Wisconsin Volunteers, it includes an account describing the charge of the 6th Wisconsin at the railroad cut, July 1, 1863.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The Resource Center of the Kenosha Civil War Museum is open Wednesday-Friday, Noon – 5 p.m.

Use Restrictions

Photocopying available upon request. Fee required.

Preferred Citation

Identification of Item: 6th Wisconsin. The Civil War Museum, Kenosha Wisconsin.

Sullivan, J. P. (Mickey of Company K.). “The Charge at Gettysburg.” *Milwaukee Sunday Telegram*. January 20, 1884.

Provenance

Material donated to the Civil War Museum by Mr. Lance Herdegen.

Processing Information

Processed by Richard Zimmermann

Biographical Note

Mickey Sullivan, serving in Company K of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry, was an important figure whose writings provide detailed information for research on the Iron Brigade. James Patrick Sullivan was born in Ireland on June 21, 1843, emigrated to the U. S. with his family, and served with the 6th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry from 1861-1865. He fought in numerous battles and was wounded five times. After the Civil War he returned to Wisconsin and in the 1880's began writing about his wartime experiences. Articles authored by Sullivan appeared in the *Milwaukee Sunday Telegraph*. Several books edited or authored by Lance Herdegen and William J. K. Beaudot include extensive remarks drawn from Sullivan's exploits. They include such works as the following: *An Irishman in the Iron Brigade*, *Civil War Memoirs of James P. Sullivan*, *In the Bloody Railroad Cut at Gettysburg*, *The Men Stood Like Iron*, and *The Iron Brigade in the Civil War*.

Collection Overview

"The Charge at Gettysburg," by Mickey Sullivan is a primary source document describing the action of the 6th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry at the railroad cut northwest of Gettysburg beginning on the July 1, 1863 and carries his first person account forward for the remainder of the battle. Sullivan's article includes the following material:

July 1:

- Approach march of the 6th Wisconsin.
- The brigade band plays.
- Gen. Reynolds is killed.
- Account of the action at the railroad cut where Mickey is wounded.
- Mickey retreats into Gettysburg, is captured, and remains in the town as the Confederates advance.

July 2:

- Mickey remains in Gettysburg during the second day of battle and talks to Confederate soldiers.

July 3:

- The Confederate artillery barrage begins.
- Mickey observes Pickett's Charge and the Confederate defeat.

July 4:

- Mickey observes the Confederate retreat from Gettysburg.
- Mickey enumerates the losses sustained by the Iron Brigade and summarizes the meaning of the battle.