

77-YEAR-OLD MEMORIAL ON WALL OF W. H. STEELE HOME

An unusually important war document, a soldiers' memorial, published on August 29, 1862, was brought recently to the Daily News office by W. H. Steele, well known Cooper county farmer, who resides seven miles south of Boonville.

"It seems that most everyone lately is interested in war and war news, but all the News so far, we are glad to hear, is about foreigners. This document is one of war, too, but it concerns us right here, almost at home.

Steele slid a 72-year-old paper over the desk. "This, he said, has been hanging on the wall at the house for the past 72 years. It was given to my mother, the late Mrs. J. A. Steele, by a member of the company, Company 'A.'" The member of the company referred to was David R. McClammer, believed to be a former resident of Howard county.

The Steele farm was purchased by J. A. Steele 72 years ago, "and I have lived in the house for the past 70 years. I was born February 13, 1869, and have since lived in the same house.

"The memorial was framed and has been hanging on the wall since before my birth," Steele continued, "now you can figure just about how old the paper is—it must have been hung on the wall only a few years after it was printed."

Company "A," the document shows, was under the following regimental officers: Col. Clinton B. Fisk, Lt. Col. W. A. Pile, Major W. H. Heath and Adjutant, George A. Holloway, and was part of the Thirty-third Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry.

David R. McClammer, who gave the document to Mrs. Steele, was serving as a sergeant, one of five on duty with the company during the Civil War.

The following brief history appears as part of the document: "This company was organized at Sedalla, Pettis county, Mo., on the First of August, 1862, and mustered into the U. S. Service with the Regiment by Lieut. J. T. Price, U. S. A. on the 5th of September 1862, at Benton Barracks, St. Louis.

"The Regiment was ordered to Southwest Missouri with Gen. Warren's Brigade to expel the guerrillas from that portion of the state. In this campaign the army of the national troops was nobly sustained by the brave men of this regiment.

"After a campaign of three months in Missouri, the regiments were ordered to St. Louis to prepare for a further campaign in the south. Arrived at St. Louis on the 21st day of December. On the morning of the 23rd, left St. Louis for Columbia, then threatened by the enemy.

Arrived at Columbia and was ordered to garrison two of the forts of that place, under the command of Brig.-Gen. Fisk. Difficulties arising in Arkansas, the regiment was ordered to Helena, Ark., then the base of operations.

"Upon arriving at Helena, the regiment was ordered to join an expedition under Brig.-Gen. Gorman, then going up White River in the interior of the state to dislodge a portion of the rebel army then entrenched at Duvall's Bluff.

"After a tedious journey of 14 days, the expedition arrived within five miles of Duvall's Bluff. Here the regiment was ordered to land and to proceed by a circuitous route to rear of enemy's works. After a hard march of four hours across hills and streams which had to be forded with the ground covered with snow, arrived at its destination, but the 'bird had flown.' The Rebels made good their retreat.

"On the march, captured 10 prisoners and 300 stand of arms; all being accomplished, the expedition again started for Helena and arrived on January 26th. As troops were needed in Mississippi, was again ordered into the field under Brig.-Gen. Ross to proceed to Yazoo river by the Yazoo pass. After considerable difficulty, the troops arrived in front of Ft. Pemberton, some 500 miles in the interior of Mississippi.

"After engaging the enemy with the land batteries and gun boats for seven days, the expedition was abandoned and were forced to return without accomplishing anything. Again started for Helena where all the troops arrived on April 8th.

"Soon after arrival, was ordered to garrison the fort and batteries, five in number, and in the battle of Helena on the Fourth day of July, 1863, sustained its reputation as a fighting regiment and showed its skill in heavy artillery.

"In this battle captured two stand of Rebel colors and 400 prisoners. The loss to the regiment in this engagement was heavy being in the front and having to stand the brunt of the battle. The enemy force consisted of 16,000 men, commanded by Lieut.-Gen. Holmes and Maj.-Gen. Price. The federal force was 3,500."