

**THE EXCEPTIONAL AND COMPLETE MEDAL, DOCUMENT, LETTERS AND MILITARIA GROUP BELONGING TO A SOLDIER OF THE 27TH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY WHO ENLISTED IN 1861 AGE 15 AND SERVED THROUGHOUT THE WAR, BEING WOUNDED AT THE GREAT BATTLE OF ATLANTA AND ATTAINING THE RANK OF SERGEANT MAJOR BY THE TIME HE WAS 19! IN LATER LIFE HIS WAS AN OHIO STATE SENATOR**

GROUP TO OSCAR SHEPPARD 27TH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY CONSISTS OF:



**A GLAZED FRAME CONTAINING:**

- 1) A Union Enlisted Mans breast plate
- 2) State of Ohio Civil War Veteran medal, named 'Oscar Sheppard, Co C 27TH Regt Infy'
- 3) A CDV photograph of a 16 year Oscar Sheppard in a Privates Uniform
- 4) Sheppard's original 1865 discharge papers. At the bottom of these is a small section of battle flag, presumably part of the 27th Ohio flag.

**CIVIL WAR PERIOD RELATED ITEMS:**

- 1) Civil War Officers leather haversack, named inside 'Sgt Maj. Oscar Sheppard 27th Infantry' Good condition, minus removable straps.
- 2) Civil War period letters pouch/binder; imitation leather/tarred canvas, brass clasp broken.
- 3) Japanese type celluloid pipe holder with brass and wood pipe, leather pouch with bird clasp which contains bag of what looks like 150 year old tobacco in is paper packet!
- 4) Leather wallet/billfold, named 'Oscar Sheppard' inside. This looks post Civil War
- 5) Book; an 1844 edition of 'History of French Revolution', named inside 'Oscar Sheppard' and also 'confiscated at Tho F. Browns farm on Elk River Tenn'; clearly picked up by Sheppard from a Confederate far whilst on campaign.
- 6) Small 1862 book of Psalms, this presented to Sheppard's wife to be in 1863.
- 7) Leather pocket ledger with numerous names and address of fellow members of the 27th

8) Photograph of a 16 year Oscar Sheppard in a Privates Uniform (same as in frame)



9) CDV photograph of Milton Davis, another young soldier in the 27th Ohio who was a hometown friend of Sheppard's. The both enlisted and were discharged at the same time and Milton is mentioned many times in Sheppard's letters

10) An early 1864 regimentally published booklet "*Brief record of the Long and tedious marches made by the 27th Ohio Volunteer Infantry*" by Thomas Heath; 'C' Company 27th Ohio (Sheppard talks about a number of errors the author had in the booklet in one of his letters!) deals with service pre Veteran reenlistment.

11) 31 December 1863 discharge papers (he immediately enlisted as a Veteran)

12) 1 July 1864 promotion to Corporal Certificate; couple of small period repairs

13) 11th Jun 1865 promotion document to Sgt. Maj; has a small hole in it

14) Five sets of orders glued to paper; 29th June 1865 Witness to case against a Pvt., 30 March 1865 order to report to headquarters for duty, Apr. 26th 1865 Witness for defence Court Martial, Jul 3rd 1865 three day pass to city, orders to detail 4 men for guard duty and a man of good appearance in front of headquarters (Gen. Sherman coming through)

15) A period newspaper; "*Brownlow's Knoxville Whig And Rebel Ventilator*", dated August 10 1864.

16) A very large (folded) 1 January 1864 through 9 July 1865 Field and Staff Muster Out Roll. This is the original final handwritten muster roll for Officers and Staff of the 27th Ohio Infantry. Its in remarkably good condition.



**G.A.R. MATERIAL, INCLUDING:**

- 1) Two handwritten copies of speeches Brevet Major General John W. Fuller
- 2) 1912 Ribbon Badge for Reunion of Fuller's Brigade..Army of the Tennessee; 'travelled over 7000 miles, fought fifty engagements in seven confederate states without single defeat'
- 3) 1878 Newark, Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Reunion programme
- 4) 1883 Preble County Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Reunion programme
- 5) 1888 Ohio Brigade reunion pamphlet, detailing those present and addresses
- 6) Large 1881 verse on the Battle of Corinth by a Captain of the 63rd Ohio Infantry

**82 CIVIL WAR LETTERS WRITTEN BY OSCAR SHEPPARD 1861- 1865;**

- 1) 10 letters from 1861, 5 with envelopes and couple stamps
- 2) 20 letters from 1862, 3 envelopes
- 3) 23 letter from 1863, 17 with envelopes and couple of stamps
- 4) 20 letters from 1864, 14 envelope a couple of stamps
- 5) 9 letter from 1865, 3 with envelope and stamps.
- 6) 15 x 21 cm leatherette binder with the entire content of the letters typed out in order. This was done a long time ago, may even have been done by Sheppard or his direct family. What's really nice about this is its been typed out word for word, including the great number of spelling mistakes. This greatly adds to the reading experience as the spelling mistakes in the main read how he pronounced words and also saves damaging the letters. There are 97 double sided pages so near 200 pages of text! – see pics for example.

The 82 letters tell quite a story, in the main they are written to his father, but there are also ones to his sister. The content of the letters is wide ranging; there are letters about camp life, friends, day to day activities, his views on how things are going and many talking about battles and skirmishes. Sheppard often mentions unit details, commanders etc and as letters

are all dated, its easy to follow where he was comparing to regimental service references. He is very graphic at times when it comes to engagements with the rebels, battle casualties etc etc



The letters are preceded by an exert from a Memorial Day Address the then Hon. Oscar Sheppard gave in 1898.. The gist of the story is about 6 young boys 2 miles north of city Newark in June 1861. They were swimming in a basin of an old factory when it was suggested by one to set up a Union Pole. This they did at great effort that day only for it to be chopped down that same night. Goes on to talk of the outrage and construction of new one...All this leads to his final remarks..Within two months after this occurred, those six boys were all wearing the uniform of the federal army, and carrying the musket in defense of the flag. But where are they today? For 33 years Thomas J. Owen has been traveling the rugged pathway of life upon one leg. John B. Emrick has been fighting the battle of life with one arms. Lewis King and Silas B. Gibbony were shot down and killed upon the battle field. Little Dan Ormsby rotted and died in Andersonville Prison, and I, thank God, am permitted to be here today. Some short exerts from a few of the letters, giving different content type are as follows:

June 10 1862 (after battle of Corinth) ‘ ..the rebels ware now advancing driving plummers men right back to wards us we war orderd to lie flat down and let plummers men walk back right over us and then get up and stand like a wall and every man shoot low so as to be shure sand not shoot over them but when tha had fallen back to with in one 100 yards tha formed in a kind of a holler the rebels was on a hill above them and shot over them their balls came right among us. I tell you it makes one bat his eys to here them go zip zip past his hed so fast he cannot count them..’

Aug 25, 1862, Camp at Iuka Springs; ‘ ..we are living fat off the late order from the president about taking every thing we can make uss of on our trip down here, we camped one night on a

farm belonging to A cesesh. A parcil of us went to the spring to get some watter and out come an old woman and commenced you dirty theaving mudering vilons you clear out that watter in the run is good enough for you black abolishionists. You then we went for her chickens peaches roasting ears and everything we could find..'

Set 29 1862, Camp at Jacinto; '..old officers hoo have fought in mexico and else whare say tha never herd such hard firing it sound as iff all the trees with in 5 miles was all falling at once and the balls sounded like a tremendous wind storm.....we laid on the fields that night and the crys and grones of the wounded and dying was constant all night both among the rebels and our selves. One among the rebels could be herd above all the rest crying out every once and a while oh my mother oh my mother I saw men shot and mangled in every conceivable manner....'

July 1863, Memphis Tenn; '..their is a considerable excitement in out brigade over a report that the brigade is going to cross the planes of utah or fort karny, every body is keen to go and I would like very much to go but it will bee a long trip..'

Sept 13 1863, Memphis Tenn; '..we are all well and harty here is a gooddeal of ague in the regiment besides the aguethere is very little sickness compaired with this time last year in camp clear creek missippi. We are going to turn over out Whitney rifles and draw new Springfield rifles I guess tha want to issue these guns to the mounted infantry because tha are the shortest gun used by the infantry altho the Springfield rifle is the best gun in the service I an loat to give up my old gun that has so often in my hands delt out death to traitors..'

Jan 7 1864, Dalton Ga; '..I now have charge of a military prison in which is confined some very desperate characters guerrillas spyes etc each morning I have to inspect their irons (for we have some of them chained). The town has been rife with rumeros about us joining our command. I do not know how long we will stay here but judging form the citation in the department we will not stay here much longer. Gen' Steadman arrived in Chattanooga to day and hois corps will arrive in a few days when I would not be surprised if we would not be releaved from out duty here as Col' Culver commanding out detachment is verry ancious to join the corps in Savananah..'

April 25/64, Decatur Ala'; '..I will mail at the same times this letter 2 copies of Marches Battles etc of 27 ovi by Tom' Heath (One of these in group) which has just got printed. It is very imperfect he makes several mistakes and misstatements but on the hole it is correct..'  
p.s' don't buy any more of them envelopes that are pasted together at each end for they are always open at the ends when they get here..'

May 22/64, Bivouac Nere Kingston Georgia; '..I don't think there is less than 100 000 men here the rebels have fallen back to their fortifications South of Chattahooch River which is a short distance this side of Atlanta. I think tha will make a final stand their qand make it their last ditch the place tha have been talking about somuch but if tha stop it will bee to defeited for in my opinion Sherman is the best General in the World (Grant not excepted) and he has got the best army in the world so sucess must attend his efforts..'

Aug 3d 1864, 4th Divisional Hospital, Marietta Ga (after wounded at battle of Atlanta); '..we came up from hospital at the front to this place of 27th july. It was the sorryest old rifde I ever had I never want to take such another in Army wagons especially. We are getting along fine the wounds are doing fine and we have good care and plenty to eat which is the main thing. Today we got some appels I am abel to hobel around a little on crutches.I cannot bare any weight on my leg. Tom owens is getting along fine he is able to walk around all over the town.



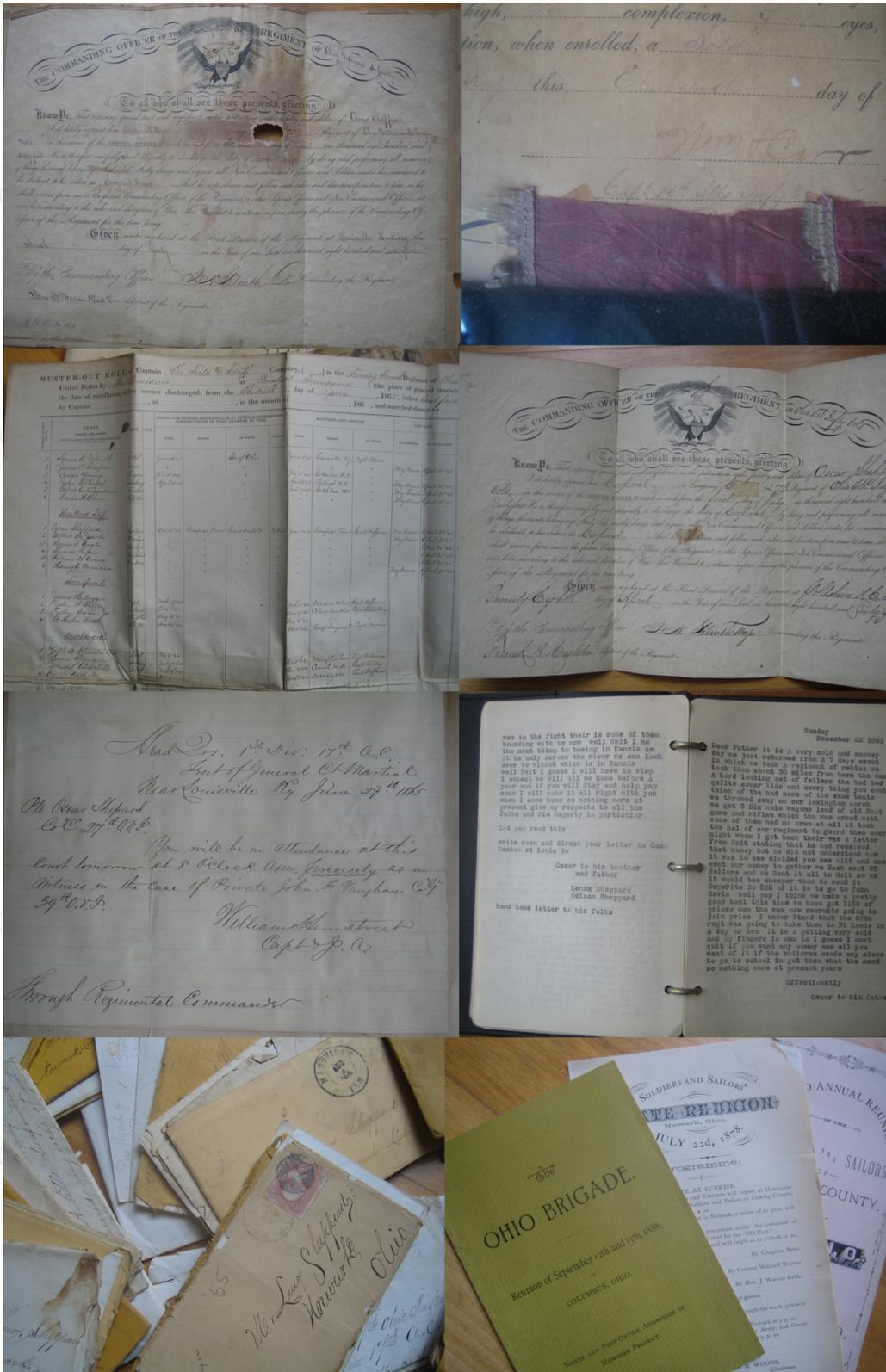
April 9 1865, camp 27 Ohio Inf, Goldsboro NC; ‘..James McGune the little Irishman who was wounded in the mouth got back to the company to day. Enclosed you will find the document with which to draw my local bounty tak it and my old discharge, the one that has , Paid in full By Major Somebody written with red ink across the face of it (this discharge in group) you will find it in the old bible an present them to gether..’

May 22 1865, camp 27 Ohio Inf Near Alexandria, VA; ‘..I improved a half a day however and went over into Richmond to see the Sights among the interesting objects I visited their was Castle thunder and Libby Prison. I went all throug this establishment and Saw the hole which Colonel Straight and his comrades boared throug under the street by which he and some 60 others escaped. I visited the residence of Jeff Davis (now Genl. Hallicks Head Quarters) and the capital and Park which is the most splendid Park I ever Saw. .. I went down to see the residence of Genl. Robert E Lee and when I got there the old General his daughter and some friends were sitting on the stoop So I had the excellent opportunity of Seeing that World renounced commander in chief of the rebel armies...’

July 1st 1865, camp 27 Ohio Inf, Near Louisvill K.Y.; ‘..Well pap you may calculate to have a loafer around you in a couple of weeks. Out regiment will bee mustered out as soon as the muster rolls can be completed (final staff muster in group) then we will go to camp Dennison or Camp Chase to receive our final payment and discharge... we were paid off yesterday and today Milt has gone into the city to send some money home. ...’







In the fall of 1869 Mr. Sheppard came to Preble County to teach a district school. Two years later he located in West Alexandria and for the next six years was principal of the West Alexandria schools. During the time he was teaching, Mr. Sheppard studied law with Judge

In 1877 Mr. Sheppard was married to Alice Carey Gale, the daughter of John and Catherine (Halderman) Gale. Mrs. Sheppard is a sister of Oscar Gale, whose biographical sketch may be found elsewhere in this volume and in which the genealogy of the Gale family is given. To Oscar and Alice Carey (Gale) Sheppard three children have been born, all of whom were graduated from the West Alexandria high school, Bayard G, Ruth and Marie. Bayard G. took a course in civil engineering at the Lebanon State Normal and for several years was assistant county surveyor and engaged in railroad construction. Ruth took a musical course at Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware and married C. D. Coffman. They reside in Wheeling, West Virginia. Marie attended the Oxford Normal and for several years has been a teacher in the West Alexandria public schools.

Mr. Sheppard has been a Republican all his life. For ten years he served as a member of the board of school examiners for Preble County. In 1881 he was elected to the state Legislature and was re-elected in 1883. In the Legislature he served on the following committees: Insurance, library, military affairs, revision and schools and school lands. In 1897 he was elected a state senator for Preble and Montgomery counties and was re-elected in 1899. During his first term he served on the following committees: Benevolent institutions, finance, judiciary, municipal corporation's No. 1, military affairs, penitentiary, railroads and telegraphs, rules and taxation, being chairman of the latter committee. During his second term, Mr. Sheppard served as president pro tern of the Senate, by the unanimous choice of the Republican members of that body. He also served on the following committees: Railroads and telegraph, benevolent institutions, penitentiary, soldiers' and sailors' home, fees and salaries, military affairs, taxation and rules, being chairman of the two latter committees. While chairman of the committee on rules, he codified and consolidated the rules of both Senate and House and brought them together in a single volume. From 1892 to 1898, first by appointment by Governor McKinley, he was one of the trustees of the Dayton state hospital. He resigned this position upon his election to the Senate. During 1902 and 1903, by appointment by Governor Harris, he served as a member of the board of trustees for the Ohio state school for the blind. From 1884 to 1887 Mr. Sheppard's time was taken up largely with the construction and routing of the Cincinnati Northern Railroad. He was instrumental in having this road come through West Alexandria and follow the route which it does. For a number of years after this road was built, and until it became a part of the Vanderbilt system, Mr. Sheppard was a member of its board of directors. Mr. Sheppard was one of the incorporators and builders of the Dayton & Western traction line, running from Dayton to Eaton, Ohio, and is attorney for the Twin Valley Bank at West Alexandria.

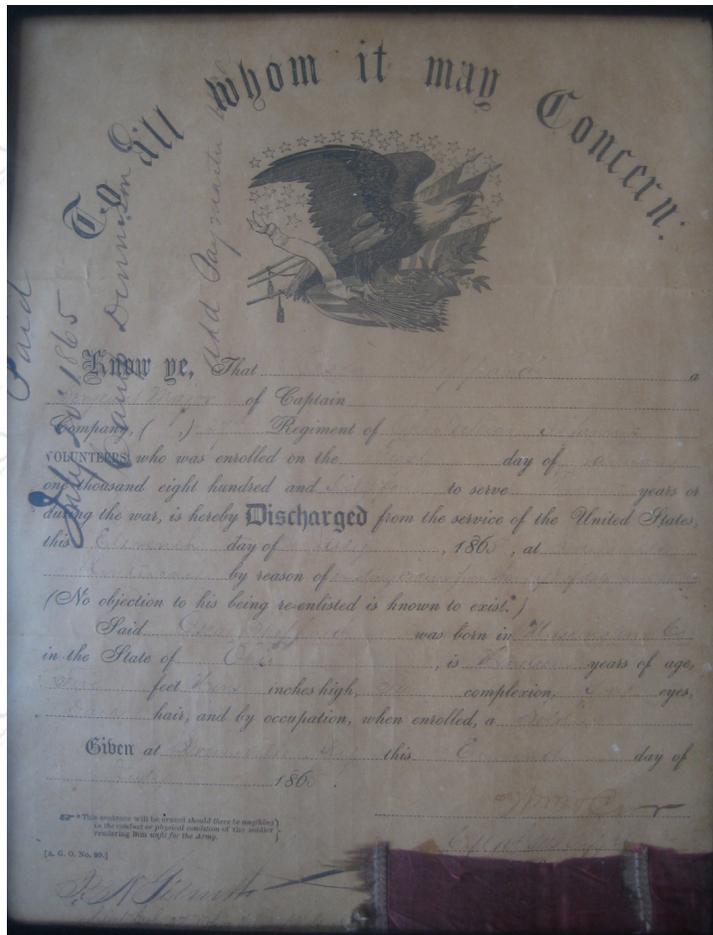
Mr. Sheppard is a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Grand Army of the Republic. When one recounts what Oscar Sheppard has done for and in behalf of the town where he has spent most of his life and the town which he calls his home, no further evidence is needed of his active public spirit. Throughout his long life he has stood for the best things and well merits the universal esteem with which he is blessed in these latter days. Few men in Preble County have been possessed of wider influence than Oscar Sheppard and few men have used that influence more unselfishly than he.

See also; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar\\_Sheppard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_Sheppard)

## **27TH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY**

'This regiment was organized at Camp Chase from July 15 to Aug. 18, 1861, to serve for three years. On the morning of Aug. 20, the regiment marched out of camp, 950 strong, and took the cars for St. Louis, Mo. In December it shared in the capture of 1,300 recruits, who were endeavouring to join the Confederate Gen. Price. The regiment was actively engaged during the siege of New Madrid and after the surrender of the town remained in camp about two weeks, constantly engaged in drilling. It then moved to Island No. 10, assisting in the capture of that place, and a few weeks later moved to the vicinity of Fort Pillow. During the

siege of Corinth it was repeatedly under fire and in every instance behaved well. It was a part of the force sent to recapture Iuka in September and participated in the fight at that place. In the following engagement at Corinth it was in the heat of the conflict and lost about 60 men. It was with the brigade that encountered Forrest at Parker's cross-roads, Tenn. and took an active part in the engagement at that place, capturing 7 guns, 360 prisoners and 400 horses. At the close of 1863 the soldiers of the 27th re-enlisted as veterans and after their furlough home in May, 1864, joined the main army at Chattanooga. It was engaged with Hood's corps at Dallas, skirmished at Big Shanty, fought at Kennesaw mountain, losing heavily, both in officers and men; participated in the action at Nickajack creek, advancing at the head of a division with fixed bayonets and charging the Confederate works with complete success.



On July 22, before Atlanta, the regiment was engaged in one of its most severe battles, and sustained its heaviest loss. From the time it left Chattanooga till the fall of Atlanta the regiment had lost 16 officers and 201 men, only 6 of whom were reported "missing." This was a loss of more than half the men present for duty when the regiment left Chattanooga. It pursued Hood northward, then marched with Sherman to the sea, skirmishing near Savannah with slight loss. It shared in the campaign of the Carolinas and at the crossing of the Salkehatchie river literally hewed its way through forest and swamp, with water nearly up to the waist, for more than a mile, and was among the first to find a way to cross the river. At Cheraw it was the first regiment to enter the town, skirmishing with the Confederate cavalry, driving them through the streets and across the Pedee river. At Bentonville, N. C., Monroe's division, to which the 27th belonged, attacked the enemy's left and pushed forward so vigorously that the skirmish line was at Gen. Johnston's headquarters before they were aware of it. The regiment was mustered out of service on July 11, 1865.'