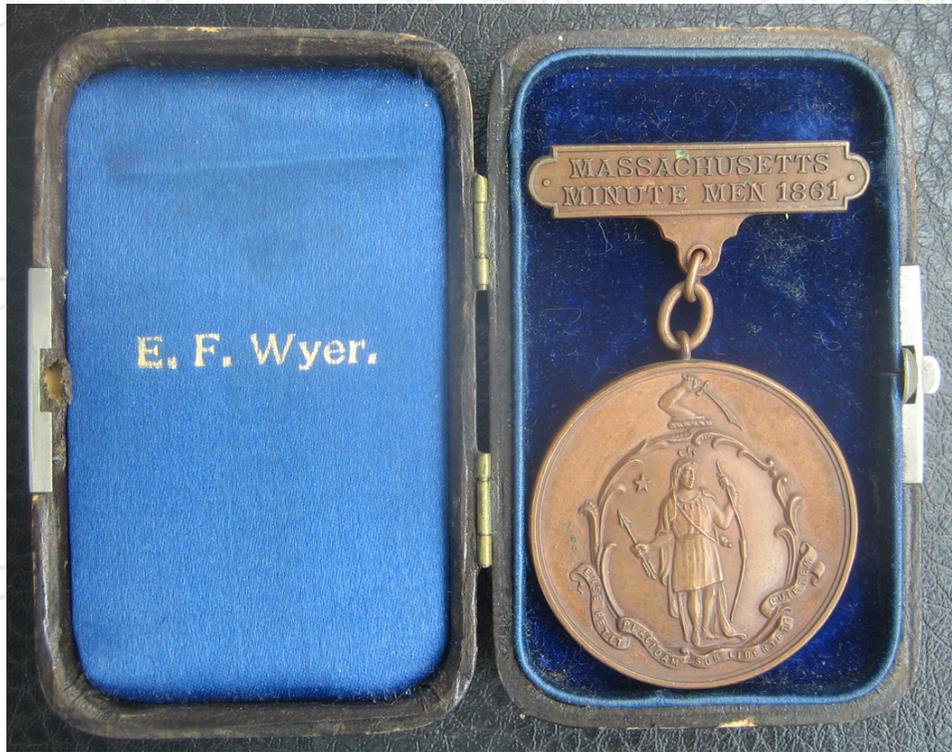


A SCARCE MASSACHUSETTS MINUTEMAN MEDAL TO A SOLDIER OF THE 5TH INFANTRY WHO WOULD HAVE SERVED AT 1ST BULL RUN. LATER COMMISSIONED 1ST LIEUTENANT AND ADJUTANT, POST WAR AS A SENATOR IN THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE LEGISLATURE

MASSACHUSETTS MINUTEMAN MEDAL 'EDWIN F. WYER, PRVT. I. 5TH. REG.'



Edwin Francis Wyer was born on 28 September 1832, in Cambridge, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. At the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisted as a Private in the Fifth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Militia on 13 June 1861. Assigned to Company 'I' and was initially stationed for the defence of Washington. The Regiment was one of just three Massachusetts regiments to see action at 1st Bull Run, the first battle of the Civil War. During the battle the regiment was heavily engaged, loosing 9 killed and 11 wounded and 22 prisoners. Of the 3 Massachusetts regiments at Bull Run, the 5th was the only 3 month Militia unit and as such were the only regiment to receive the Minuteman medal. Devereaux and his regiment was Mustered Out just days after Bull Run on 31st July 1861 at Boston, MA.

Having been promoted 1st Sergeant on 1 September 1862. his Regiment were called out for service again on 16th of that month, Wyer this time being assigned to company 'E'. During their service, the Regiment participated in the battles of Kinston, Whitehall, and Goldsboro. The Regiment were mustered out of service on 2 July 1863 but were mustered into service for a final time on 27 July 1864. Wyer had by this time been Commissioned 1st Lieutenant in Company 'G' and was appointed Adjutant on the 24 August that year. The Regiment mustered out of service for the final time during the Civil War on 16 November 1864. See the following link for more details of the 5th Massachusetts:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/5th_Massachusetts_Militia_Regiment

After the deactivation of his unit from federal service he remained in it, attaining the rank of captain before retiring to private life in 1872. He served two years as a senator in the

Massachusetts State Legislature, being elected in 1891 and again re-elected in 1892. He was also postmaster for the city of Woburn for a total of seventeen years, serving under the administrations of Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft and the first years of Woodrow Wilson.



LIEUTENANT WYER DURING THE CIVIL WAR

When he died on 25 February 1926, he was the oldest Civil War Veteran in his hometown of Woburn, Mass. when he died at age 93. He was commander of the G.A.R. post #161 in Woburn at the time of his death

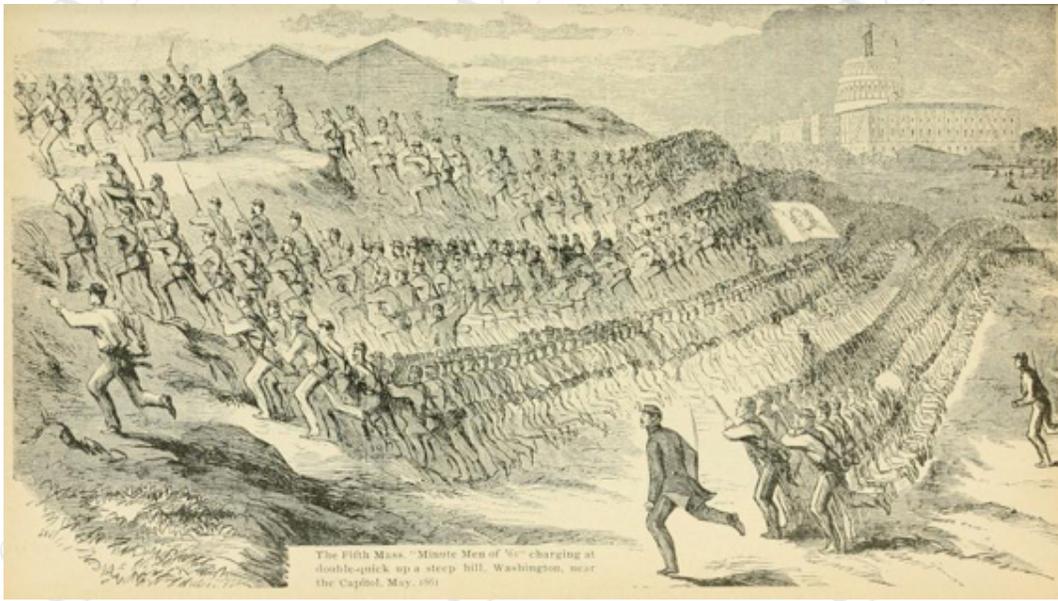
Condition EF, with original box of issue, medal contained in an attractive small black leather and velvet backed case with name 'E. F. WYER' in gold script to inside. Sold with CD containing Wyer's musters for his entire Civil War service. A very fine cased medal

FIFTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER MILITIA (INFANTRY) THREE MONTHS

The 5th Regt. Mass. Vol. Mill, "Minute Men," was ordered to report for active duty and to proceed to the city of Washington by Special Order No. 35, issued by the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, April 19, 1861. To the five companies of the 5th Regt. were added four from the 7th Regt. and one from the 1st Regt., thus making up a full regiment of ten companies. On Sunday, April 21, the 5th entrained for Washington, where on May 1, its members were mustered into the service of the United States. For nearly four weeks it remained in the city of Washington, then on May 25 it was transferred to the Virginia shore, where it remained in camp near Alexandria.

At this early part of the war, both Union and Confederate Armies with clothed in a multitude of different coloured uniforms, due to the amount of Milita/Volunteer units hastily gathered into both armies, each with their own distinctive dress. However the 5th Massachusetts was

one of very few volunteer units to take the field in Regular Army uniforms and were frequently mistaken for Regular troops during the Bull Run campaign. On July 13, the 5th Massachusetts received orders to march for Centreville, Virginia. On July 21, 1861, just days before the end of their 90 day term of service, the 5th Massachusetts took part in the First Battle of Bull Run the first major engagement of Civil War. Before their departure from Alexandria, Major General McDowell commanding the Union Army of Northeastern Virginia, addressed the 5th Massachusetts and, in light of their term of service being nearly at an end, offered them the option of foregoing the campaign. The 5th Massachusetts voted unanimously to go with McDowell's army. Assigned to the First Brigade (Franklin's) Third Division (Heintzleman's) of the Army of Northeastern Virginia, the 5th Massachusetts was among those units sent to probe the Confederate right flank on July 18 resulting in the Battle of Blackburns Ford. When this maneuver failed, McDowell opted to send a large portion of his forces on a wide flanking maneuver across Sudley Springs Ford, hoping to get around the Confederate left flank. On July 21, precisely three months after they departed Boston, the 5th Massachusetts crossed Sudley Springs Ford and participated in the heaviest of the day's combat on Henry House Hill.



The regiment advanced more than a mile from Sudley Springs Ford to Henry House Hill at the double-quick in full gear. When they reached the foot of the hill, General Heintzelman led the 5th Massachusetts, the 11th Massachusetts and Ricketts Battery up the slope in an effort to retake several Union batteries and turn the Confederate right flank. Confederate artillery stopped their advance and the 5th Massachusetts was ordered to lay prone on the slope of the hill under direct artillery fire. Color Sergeant W. H. Lawrence stood during this time and was killed by artillery fire. Col. Lawrence, who also remained standing at the center of his regiment, was among the wounded and carried from the field. When Confederate General Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson led a counterattack, the 5th Massachusetts retreated in disorder from Henry House Hill with the rest of the Union Army. The unit suffered casualties of 9 killed and 11 wounded and 22 prisoners.

The 5th Massachusetts embarked for Boston less than a week after the Union army's retreat back to Washington. They were mustered out on July 30, 1861

**FIFTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY (MILITIA)
NINE MONTHS**

Under the call of August 4, 1862, for 300,000 militia to serve nine months, 19,080 of whom were assigned to the quota of Massachusetts, the 5th Regt. again volunteered for duty, thereby helping to avoid the employment of the draft. Its rendezvous was at Camp Lander, Wenham, Mass., where it was recruited to war strength, and where its companies were mustered into the service between September 16 and 29, 1862. Its field and staff officers were mustered in October 8. Ordered to the department of North Carolina, it reached Beaufort October 26, the same day as the 3d Regt., and there entrained for Newbern. Between November 2 and 13 it took part in the expedition toward Williamstown, N.C. On December 10 it joined the Goldsboro expedition, and during the succeeding eleven days marched 180 miles and participated in the battles of Kinston, Whitehall, and Goldsboro. It took part in two expeditions for the relief of Washington, N. C., which was besieged by the Confederates, also in the so called Gun Swamp expedition in May, 1863. On June 22 it proceeded to Morehead City, where it embarked on the steamer "Guide" for Boston. Arriving at Boston on the afternoon of the 25th, on July 2 it was mustered out of the service at Camp Lander, Wenham



CAPTAIN WYER IN LATER YEARS

FIFTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER MILITIA (INFANTRY) ONE HUNDRED DAYS

During the latter part of July, 1864, the 5th Regt. was again mustered into the service, this time for one hundred days, and was sent to Baltimore, Md., where it did guard duty at Fort McHenry, Fort Marshall, Federal Hill, and other places. Companies and detachments were stationed at various points in eastern Maryland where they were needed, especially during the autumn elections. On November 7 the regiment returned to Boston, and was mustered out at Readville, Mass., November 16

