

## Brigadier-General James M. Tuttle

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ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

Huff, Sanford W. "Brigadier-General James M. Tuttle." *The Annals of Iowa* 1868 (1868), 233-237.

Available at: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/annals-of-iowa/vol1868/iss3/10>

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the joy of once more beholding the beloved banner under whose folds, bravely battling for home and country, he was finally compelled to yield himself to the power of his enemy; and the solemn, thankful gratitude with which he folds in the embrace of his love those who are dearer than his own life; will need no such tame description as the most gifted pen could only give.

We arrived in Richmond on the 12th, spent one night in the famous Libby Prison, and on the 13th of October, 1862, were paroled and delivered on board the United States truce boat, at Aiken's Landing, on James River.

I have thus given, *entirely from memory*, such a sketch as I was able, of the principal incidents of our prison life in 1862—six years ago. I have undoubtedly omitted many things that would have interested some of my readers; and I have enlarged upon others which, perhaps, possess but little interest for the general reader. I have written at all, only because I thought some memorial, however slight and feebly executed, should preserve the remembrance of this otherwise blank period in the history of a portion of Iowa's gallant heroes. I am sorry the task has been so illy performed, and crave the considerate indulgence of my readers, and especially of my former prison associates, in consideration of the motive that has prompted me.

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**BRIGADIER-GENERAL JAMES M. TUTTLE.**

We publish in this number the picture of General Tuttle, a very fine steel engraving, by Buttre, of New York. The following *facts* of his life we have gathered from several reliable sources.

James Madison Tuttle is a native of Ohio; was born on the 24th of September, 1823, near Summerfield, in Monroe county. His father emigrated to Fayette County, Indiana, when James was ten years of age. Here he remained until grown to the years of maturity. His opportunities for education were the Common Schools. Soon after arriving at his majority he came to Iowa, and located at Farmington, Van Buren County, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits. His capacity as a

business man and deportment as a reliable citizen were recognized by the people of the county, in his election to responsible positions. In 1855 he was elected Sheriff, and two years afterwards Treasurer and Recorder of the county. Although not a supporter of Abraham Lincoln in the memorable canvass of 1860, yet when the flag of the nation had been lowered to the rebels at Fort Sumter, and it became plainly a question between the Government and traitors to be settled by the arbitrament of the sword, he was among the first to respond to the call of the President for volunteers, and offer his services in the defence of the Government. Closing his business hastily, immediately after the call, he recruited a company, of which he was elected Captain. But so deeply had the patriotic sentiment of the State been stirred by the events of the few previous weeks, crowned by the open assault at Charleston, and so rapid in consequence was the response to the President's call, that only a small portion of those who came to the rescue could find admittance into the service under that quota. Capt. Tuttle and his company were of the surplus volunteers who were unable to be mustered in. But, biding his time patiently, his company was in the following May assigned to the Second Iowa Infantry, and mustered into the United States' service on the 27th of that month, President Lincoln's proclamation calling for additional troops having been issued on the 3d of the same month.

The rendezvous of the regiment was at Keokuk. Here Capt. Tuttle was elected, by the officers and men of the regiment, its Lieutenant-Colonel, Samuel R. Curtis having been made its Colonel. On the 13th of June it left Keokuk for Hanibal, Missouri; was pushed forward at once to St. Joseph, where its actual military career commenced. We pass over with a simple allusion its operations in Missouri. Its onerous, important, hazardous, but unobtrusive service at St. Joseph in the northwest, and at Bird's Point and Pilot Knob in the southeast portion of the State. Also its stay at St. Louis—which it left in disgrace, without music and with colors furled, in consequence of depredations committed by some individual of

the command on the museum of McDowell's College, at a time when Federal commanders were tender of rebels and careful of rebel property, and martinets in subordinate commands had not learned the difference between the incentives to duty of the volunteers of the patriot army and the old *regulars*, their former commands—or learned the modifications necessary for guiding and controlling the high and gallant, but at this time half insubordinate spirit of the one, from that customary in dealing with the repressed and subdued characters of the other. Except that we will mention that Lieut.-Col. Tuttle had in the meantime (Sept. 6th) been made its Colonel, Col. Curtis having been promoted Brigadier-General, we pass at once to Fort Donnelson, where, in the first great battle in which they were engaged, the regiment and their gallant leader won renown. Having been tendered and accepted the honor of leading the charge—the forlorn hope—upon the enemy's works, on the third day of the investment, after it had been offered by Gen. Smith to other regiments and declined by their commanders, Col. Tuttle moved with his regiment, now reduced by sickness and death to considerably less than four hundred men, gallantly forward in face of a terrific fire, upon their outer works; a terrific fire concentrated upon them by three regiments of the enemy, numbering not less than two thousand men. Upwards of one-half this little band fell killed or wounded; yet without a halt they pressed steadily forward, and were the first who gained possession of the works, the enemy flying at their approach. Through this terrible charge Col. Tuttle led his men in person, and after gaining the outer works, pushed forward, and was forcing the enemy back toward the main fort when he received support. The key to the possession of Fort Donnelson had now been gained, and it fell the next morning by capitulation.

Thus the regiment which five days before had left St. Louis, under an order disgracing it, was the most prominent in winning this stronghold, and a national renown for itself and its intrepid commander at the same time. Gen. Halleck, whose District Commander at St. Louis had issued the order of disgrace, wrote to the Governor of their State:

“The Second Iowa Infantry proved themselves the bravest of the brave; they had the honor of leading the column which entered Fort Donnellson.”

Col. Tuttle entered the battle of Shiloh on the 6th of the succeeding April, in command of a brigade composed of the 2d, 7th, 12th, and 14th regiments, Iowa Infantry, which formed a portion of that famous front line which held the enemy in check until late in the day, and saved, as it has been claimed, the Federal army from overwhelming disaster; but saved it at the sacrifice of the capture of the 8th, 12th and 14th Iowa, and several other gallant regiments, which in strict obedience to orders had maintained their position in the line until, unaware of the giving way of the line on either flank, they found themselves surrounded by many times their own numbers of the enemy, simultaneously approaching in front, rear, and flanks. In some of the movements of the day, however, the 2d and 7th had so changed their relative positions as not to be within the captured section of the line; and Col. Tuttle, who had just assumed the command of the division vacated by the fall of Gen. W. H. L. Wallace, also escaped capture. His intrepidity at Fort Donnellson, and cool self-possession at Shiloh, won him promotion, and on the 9th of the following June he was commissioned Brigadier-General.

During the fall of 1862 and the following winter, he was in command of Cairo, Illinois; but in the spring of 1863, when the stirring and vigorous campaign of the West was opening under Grant, he was relieved from this comparatively idle position, and assigned the command of a division of General Sherman's Corps, participating in the campaign against Vicksburg, and the capture of Jackson, Mississippi. In the fall election of this year he was the Democratic candidate for Governor of Iowa. His competitor, the candidate of the Republican party, was Col. William M. Stone, of the 22d Regiment Iowa Infantry, who had also won distinction in the field.

The following is an extract from Gen. Tuttle's address to the people, put forth during that canvass, expressive of his views upon the great questions then at issue:

“I am in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war to the full extent of our power, until the rebellion is suppressed; and of using all the means that may be

in our possession, recognized by honorable warfare, for that purpose. I am for the Union without an *if*, and regardless of whether slavery stands or falls by its restoration; and in favor of peace on no other terms than the unconditional submission of the rebels to the constituted authorities of the Government of the United States."

It was not probably because the General was not believed to be sound upon the great war issues of that day; not because he did not express his political views in unequivocal English; not because there was any want of appreciation of his valor and efficient services in the field; not because he was not a favorite of the soldiers, that he was not elected. But simply because he was not the candidate of the dominant party in the State, and was the candidate of a party which, however correct its intentions at that time, had affiliations with, and contained elements not calculated to inspire confidence in the then state of public feeling, and in consequence failed to rally to itself sufficient strength to make head against the current of exalted patriotic sentiment of the time.

Returning to the field, he performed efficient duty until the spring of 1864, when he was mustered out of the service. The General is now a resident of the city of Des Moines.

EDITOR.

#### LAWS RELATING TO THE IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

There are, perhaps, some of the more recently elected members of the State Historical Society, who are not familiar with the earlier legislation concerning it; and there are, no doubt, many of the readers of *THE ANNALS*, not members of the Society, who have never made themselves acquainted with its exact legal status. We therefore publish in this number the amended law as it read at the time of the meeting of the last (12th) General Assembly; the petition of the Board of Curators of the Society to it, setting forth the accomplishments and needs of the Society; and also their enlightened and liberal enactments relating to it.

AN ACT to provide for annual appropriation for the benefit of  
a State Historical Society.

[*Passed January 28th, 1857; took effect July 4th, 1857. Laws of Sixth General Assembly, Chapter 203, Page 337.*]

SECTION 1959. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, That there is hereby annually appropriated until the Legislature shall by law otherwise direct, to a State His-*

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