

53RD ILLINOIS INFANTRY REGIMENT

The 53rd Illinois Infantry was formed in Ottawa, Illinois in January of 1862, Colonel W H W Cushman, commanding.

Major Robert H McFadden, of Mattoon was transferred to the 53rd Illinois Infantry from the 41st Illinois Infantry when the two regiments were combined. He rose to the rank of Colonel in the 53rd, commanding the Regiment in the latter months of the war.



Robert H McFadden

Fifteen men from Mattoon served in Company K of the 53rd Regiment, under Captain David H McFadden. Another half dozen Mattoon men served in Company G.

Before being sent to the war zone, the 53rd Infantry along with other units was utilized in guarding the thousands of Confederate prisoners shipped to Chicago from Fort Donelson.

The 53rd Illinois Infantry participated in the following campaigns:

Atlanta, Bentonville, Corinth, Jackson, Jonesborough, and Vicksburg. The Regiment also was in the March to the Sea.

The Regiment mustered out on 22 July 1865.

Losses for the 53rd Illinois Infantry were: 8 officers and 80 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded and 2 officers and 137 enlisted men by disease.