

# 54TH ILLINOIS INFANTRY REGIMENT

The 54<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry was organized at Camp Dubois, Illinois in November 1861, Colonel Thomas W Harris, commanding. The regiment was incorporated in what became known as the Kentucky Brigade.

The 54<sup>th</sup> had the largest number of Mattoon men in its ranks than any other regiment, 235 men spread throughout several companies. The 54<sup>th</sup> also had a large compliment of officers from Mattoon, 13 altogether.

Colonel Greenville M Mitchell, had served as a Captain with the 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois Cavalry and was transferred to the 54<sup>th</sup> as Lt Colonel, rising to command the 54<sup>th</sup>. On 22 August 1865, Mitchell was breveted up to Brigadier General.



Greenville M Mitchell



Thomas P James



George Pomeroy

Lt. Thomas P James and Captain George Pomeroy, both from Mattoon served in Company K.

James T Smith, served as Adjutant to the Regiment.

James was killed in a skirmish on 24 August 1864



James T Smith, Adjutant  
54th Infantry

The 54<sup>th</sup> re-enlisted as veterans on 9 February 1864 and was furloughed to Camp Grant in Mattoon for 30 days. Upon the end of the furlough, the regiment re-assembled and on the same day a group of Copperheads attacked some members of the regiment in Charleston, killing Major Shubal York, Surgeon and four privates. Colonel Mitchell was wounded in the altercation. Within an hour the 54<sup>th</sup> arrived from Mattoon and put down what came to be known as the Charleston Riot.

The regiment participated in the battle of Bayou Forche, and the siege of Vicksburg, but saw much action in skirmishes throughout the war.

The Regiment mustered out on 15 October 1865.

Losses were 1 officer and 11 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded and 2 officers and 171 men by disease.