

Book Review: *Duty Well Performed: The Twenty-First Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War.* Bradley Quinlin & Joshua Haugh. Milford OH: Little Miami Publishing Company, 2011. 221 pages, cloth. \$29.95. <http://www.littlemiamibooks.com>. Reviewed by Dan Reigle. Originally written for *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal*, www.ogs.org.

This valuable regimental history of the 21st OVI is built on extensive research organized into two sections, a narrative of the unit's history in its 3-year organization and an expanded roster. Each section is just under 100 pages in length, and offers the results of recent research by three 21st OVI reenactor/historians, Brad Quinlin and Joshua Haugh, with map research by Mark Stibitz.

The narrative history goes beyond recounting the well-known events of the western armies to include information from primary sources that will be of interest to Civil War genealogy researchers. For example, the regiment's daily work and drill schedule from its Special Orders Number 1 during its training period at Camp Dennison was likely similar to the many other Ohio units that trained at Camp Dennison. One enlisted man's detailed sketch of sleeping arrangements for twelve men (by name) in their new Sibley tent, with location of equipment and sketches of articles of equipment, is provided from the extensive collection on the 21st OVI at the Jerome Library, Bowling Green State University. The information on the weapons available to the unit at various points of its history provides a perspective on its fighting strength not often available in unit histories. 385 new Colt revolving rifles, firing five rounds from a rotating cylinder before it had to be re-loaded, were obtained in early 1863 and dispersed across eight of the ten companies to increase the regiment's overall firepower, while the rest of the men were still armed with the more traditional Enfield rifles. Going into the battle at Chickamauga, the unit was armed with 305 Colts and 141 Enfields. The firepower became essential during the 21st's involvement in the famous fight on Snodgrass Hill. There is a fascinating account of their desperate attempts to use the Enfield's .58 caliber ammunition in the .56 caliber Colts when their Colt ammunition had been expended.

Although the narrative section is strong overall with good sections on Stones River and the Atlanta Campaign, the finest part of this book is the detailed account of Chickamauga, including excellent regiment-level maps. The 21st lost 21 men killed in action, 21 mortally wounded, 88 wounded, and 135 captured when the Snodgrass Hill position was lost. The Chickamauga section would be valuable to anyone studying that battle in depth, including the 35th OVI and 89th OVI that were also involved in the defense of Snodgrass Hill.

The roster section of the book is not a simple recitation of the Ohio *Official Roster*. Starting from Captain Silas Canfield's 1893 *History of the Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry*, the authors' National Archives research has included collecting a copy of the Compiled Military Service Record of every member of the unit, supplemented by pension records, regimental order books, court martial records, and diaries and letters from the BGSU collection and private collections. There are many photographs included, many from the private collection of Bob Van Dorn. An attempt has been made to locate the death and burial record of every member down to John Hart, who survived typhoid after Stones River and a wound in the arm in the Atlanta Campaign to become the last survivor of the regiment when he died in Cleveland in 1944 at age 101. An example of the effort put into this research is Brad's *OCWGJ* article, full citation below, on the search for the grave of Private James Clymer at Marietta National Cemetery.

This book is an excellent contribution to keeping alive the memory of the men of the 21st OVI, one of whom was Isaac **Dunifin**: "Sergeant (28 years old.) Enlisted August 20, 1861. Captured on September 20, 1863, at the battle of Chickamauga, Georgia. Sent to Belle Isle Prison in Richmond, Virginia; Danville Prison, Virginia; and then to Andersonville Prison, Georgia. Released on April 8, 1865. Boarded the steamer *Sultana* at Vicksburg, Mississippi. The *Sultana*'s boiler exploded on April 27, 1865, and Isaac died in the Mississippi River. He is buried in an unknown grave at Memphis National Cemetery in Memphis, Tennessee."

See also two other publications from Brad Quinlin in *OCWGJ*: "The Search for James Clymer, Company I, 21st OVI" *OCWGJ*, Volume XII, 2008, #1, pages 41-45; and *Rest Brave Comrades - Your Work Is Done. Letters from the Marietta National Cemetery*, reviewed in *OCWGJ*, Volume XV, 2011, #3, page 117