

**REMINISCENCES OF  
A BOY'S SERVICE  
WITH THE 76TH OHIO**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649750245

Reminiscences of a boy's service with the 76th Ohio by Charles A. Willison

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**CHARLES A. WILLISON**

**REMINISCENCES OF  
A BOY'S SERVICE  
WITH THE 76TH OHIO**



REMINISCENCES  
OF  
A BOY'S SERVICE  
WITH THE 76th OHIO

In the Fifteenth Army Corps,  
Under General Sherman,  
During the Civil War, By  
that "Boy" at Three Score.



CHARLES A. WILLISON,  
PRIVATE SOLDIER

---

*(All rights reserved)*

F 3785  
.5  
1920

PRESS OF  
THE GEORGE BANTA PUBLISHING COMPANY  
MENASHA, WISCONSIN

2144000  
1920  
1920

It seems unfortunate that the brave old 76th Regiment, embracing in its ranks so many men of bright mind and literary qualifications—has not developed an historian eloquent to do the subject the justice its stirring record invites—as Capt. Kibler wrote the author of this little work when urging that these reminiscences be put in permanent form: “We haven’t in print a great deal of the history of the active part performed by the Regiment in the war, and pity it is that it is so.”

To the members of the dear old 76th—the few who yet survive—and the memory of the host who have passed over the divide, this little work is humbly dedicated.

THE AUTHOR.





## WITH THE 76TH OHIO IN THE CIVIL WAR

---

In the olden times, before books were as common as now, it was the custom of grandfathers to gather their children and children's children about them to relate their own personal experiences and adventures of some eventful period, and thus instil a spirit of patriotism and healthy ambition in the rising generation. With some such motive I have felt like gathering about me the boys and girls of the present time to tell them something of a period in the history of our own country and times that for excitement and adventure and suffering and bloodshed has never been surpassed or resulted in greater good to humanity. Among you to-day in almost every village are a score or more of old men, hardly noticed as you pass them by, any one of whom could, had they the gift of putting it into words, write a narrative out of their own actual experience during Civil War days that would be as stirring reading as any book of adventure in your libraries. On the breast of each of these old men, close to his heart, you may notice a modest little bronze button which he prizes above money value. Why? Because it is the certificate of his service—emblem of the Grand

## WITH THE 76TH OHIO IN THE CIVIL WAR

Army of which he is a member, an army of citizen soldiers which, dissolving victoriously out of one of the bitterest and hardest fought wars of history into the paths of peace has adopted for its motto, "*Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.*" This badge no one else can wear but he who has the credentials of honorable service. The laws of our country forbid it. It cannot be bought. The right to wear it cannot be transferred. A Bishop, shaking hands with me and noticing my bronze button, remarked that he would give ten years of his life for the right to wear that badge—he having been too young to serve in the war.

After this little talk by way of introduction, I want to try to tell you of the experiences that just one boy went through in the great Civil War between the Northern and Southern states, and how he has come to view them in his later years. This is not a story of the imagination. The scenes and events related were actual, mainly recalled by means of the writer's army letters written to his home people at the time or from his memory when the events stand out clear. It will inform you what sort of boys made up that magnificent army; how they were dressed, what pay they received, how they were armed and equipped, what they suffered and endured and how they fought and died. Through their heroism you and all of us are enjoying the wonderful privileges of our national life to-day. And by their example I have no doubt,

## WITH THE 76TH OHIO IN THE CIVIL WAR

should the test ever be required, you boys will stand as firmly, shoulder to shoulder for the right and fight as bravely and manfully as they did, always bearing in mind, however, that as great, if not greater heroism is required for the righting of wrongs in time of peace as amid the glare and excitement and turmoil of war.

The Seventy-sixth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which I served, was organized and mustered in at "Camp Sherman," Newark, Licking County, Ohio, on February 6, 1862. The ten companies composing it had previously been mustered into service at the same camp at various dates from October 1, 1861, to February 1, 1862. These companies had been raised at different points in the state—two (I and K) in my home county (Stark), one in Columbiana County and most of the others in Licking County and its vicinity. The original field and staff (regimental) officers were, if I am not mistaken, all from the latter county.

Attached to the regiment at its organization was a regularly enlisted band of musicians, about twenty in number. But for some reason the Government before long got rid of this band and its members were mustered out on August 16, 1862, by order of the War Department.

It is to be presumed the reason was that good, lusty young men with guns could render more effectual service than with musical instruments. At any rate this sort of a band was got rid of and their