

**THE MILITARY MEMOIRS
OF CAPTAIN HENRY
CRIBBEN OF THE 140TH
NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649032273

The Military Memoirs of Captain Henry Cribben of the 140th New York Volunteers by J. Clayton Youker

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

J. CLAYTON YOKER

**THE MILITARY MEMOIRS
OF CAPTAIN HENRY
CRIBBEN OF THE 140TH
NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS**

Chas. M. Norton

From Mrs. Henry Gibbons

OAK TALK.

Jan. 3, 1912.

1/5-8 1912



CAPTAIN HENRY CRIBBEN

The Military Memoirs

of

CAPTAIN HENRY CRIBBEN

of the

140th New York Volunteers

Edited by
J. Clayton Youker

Privately Printed

UB
CR
9

foreword

Henry Cribben was born on the Isle of Man, December 18, 1834. When he was very young his parents died, and he was brought to America by relatives who settled at Rochester, N. Y. There he was raised. As soon as he was old enough to work he left the public school and began to learn the iron molder's trade, which he mastered and followed continuously (except while he was in the Federal army in the Rebellion) until 1868, when he organized the Co-operative Foundry Company of Rochester, N. Y., of which corporation he was the president many years. In 1872 he removed to Chicago, where he began the business which is now conducted by Cribben & Sexton Company.

As a journeyman molder Mr. Cribben occupied a prominent place in the councils of the International Molders' Union of North America. He understood thoroughly the rights, the aspirations and the hardships of labor; and when he himself became a stove manufacturer this knowledge was of inestimable value as it enabled him to reconcile differences between the stove manufacturers on the one hand and the workmen on the other. Through his earnest advocacy an organization of the stove manufacturers was effected in June, 1886, and an agreement was consummated in 1891 between this organization and the International Molders' Union by which representatives of each body were to meet in an annual conference for the purpose of harmoniously adjusting all matters affecting their joint interests. The annual conference has been held yearly

since that time, and it has accomplished very much good. Mr. Cribben was elected the first president of the stove manufacturers' association, and held that responsible office ten consecutive years. It was, therefore, fitting that at the first meeting of the association following his demise a eulogy upon him should be pronounced, which was feelingly done by Mr. K. Lazard Kahn, the vice-president, who said in part:

Henry Cribben in the prime of life was a giant among his fellows; of splendid physical and intellectual mold, he was aggressive, blunt, firm, forceful, kind and just; quick to resent a wrong, he was equally quick to support and defend the right; he was a friend without guile. Flattery inspired by the hope of gain, hypocrisy inspired by meanness, envy inspired by selfishness, were strangers to him. He praised and condemned in the open with equal freedom, and won his cause by the fairness and fearlessness of his contentions. He was a full-fledged man, without affectation or veneer; brave, faithful, honest and true; he was courteous and considerate, democratic, humorous and warm-hearted. It is doubtful if under the strongest provocation, he could have done or spoken ill or wounded the legitimate susceptibilities of another without regret, or failed to greet an acquaintance, to say nothing of a friend, without a smile that provoked good cheer. His was eminently the policy of "live and let live," and if he acquired a larger than average competency, it was because he applied steadily to his ideals and his work such talents and industry as he had, and performed his duty as long as his strength permitted.

He was essentially a self-made man, and proudly proclaimed his humble beginning. The

tribulations of honest labor and poverty; the incentives of worthy ambitions; the cost and honor of commercial success; the reproach of shiftlessness and irresponsibility; the impotency and wastefulness of labor strikes; the blessing of harmony among all men, were topics each of which this masterful man fully understood. He was a splendid citizen and patriot.

Mr. Cribben entered the military service of the United States in the summer of 1862, enlisting as a private in the 140th New York volunteers. He was promoted from time to time for courage and efficiency, and held at the end of the war the rank of captain.

His regiment formed a part of the Army of the Potomac. He participated in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Rappahannock, Mine Run, the Wilderness, Laurel Hill, Spottsylvania, North Anna River, and Bethesda Church, where he was taken prisoner, June 2, 1864.

He was confined in a number of the Southern prisons, and suffered with his comrades the awful barbarities of the rebel prison pens. He was finally confined in a stockade near Charlotte, N. C., from which he succeeded in making his escape February 16, 1865. After tramping over four hundred miles, suffering on the way appalling hardships, he and his companions reached the Union lines not far from Knoxville, Tenn., March 16, 1865. Returning to his home in Rochester, he was so emaciated that his best friends did not know him. He found that it had been reported in the public press that guerrillas on the Tennessee line had

hanged him, and this report being believed, his funeral sermon had been preached in his home church a few days before his return. After a short furlough he rejoined his command at the front, took part in the grand review in the city of Washington and was mustered out with his regiment at Rochester, N. Y., June 15, 1865.

From time to time Mr. Cribben yielded to the solicitations of his Grand Army comrades to narrate some of his army experiences. Many of his hearers importuned him to write the complete story and put it into permanent form. This he never did, and the only memoirs which he left of his stirring military life are these which this volume contains.

While these memoirs are published by Mrs. Cribben solely as a loving memorial of her beloved husband to be given to intimate friends only, still the editor cherishes the hope that because of their historical value they will eventually find their way into the public narratives of the great Rebellion.

Mr. Cribben was a practical man in word and deed. His phraseology had the charm which always inheres in honest and rugged speech. It will, therefore, be a gratification to the readers of this volume to know that the language of these memoirs is his own.

Although he had suffered so terribly at the hands of the rebel government, yet he cherished no vindictive feelings against the Southern people. In the year 1900 a Confederate veteran spoke in Mr. Cribben's church on a Sunday evening. At the conclusion of the service the pastor invited the Union veterans who