6-1-1961

Analysis of the Roster

William J. Petersen

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest

Part of the United States History Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest/vol42/iss6/4

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Palimpsest by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.
Analysis of the Roster

The following Iowa soldiers, according to the Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion, were buried in Andersonville. Most of the men died as prisoners but a number were killed, wounded, or died in the vicinity and subsequently reinterred in Andersonville. The name, age, home, nativity, and service record are shown, followed by date of death and gravestone number in the Andersonville Cemetery.

The volume and page where this record appears in the Roster and Record has been added by the editor in parentheses. The reader will note occasional variations in the spelling of the name, gravestone number, and military attachment in the Roster and Record from that given by Benj. F. Gue.

The nativity of Iowa troops buried in Andersonville follows the pattern enumerated in the Census of 1860. Since Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois (three states of the Old Northwest) had contributed the largest number of settlers to Iowa before 1860, it is not surprising that approximately 90 of 200 names should hail from these three states. New York and Pennsylvania had the largest representation among Iowa soldiers originating from
eastern states, hence 40 Iowa men buried in Andersonville came from the Empire and Keystone states as illustrated below:

**Nativity of Iowa Population in 1860**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Where Born</th>
<th>Nativity of Iowa Troops Buried in Andersonville</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>99,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>57,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>26,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>52,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>46,053</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fourteen New England-born Iowa soldiers lie buried in Andersonville. Surprisingly, only eighteen Iowa-born soldiers are represented among those sleeping in Andersonville.

Iowa soldiers born in foreign lands and buried in Andersonville included 8 from Germany, 4 each from England and Ireland, 3 from Canada, 2 from Norway, and one each from Holland, Sweden, and Wales.

The above figures may not seem so amazing when it is remembered that the total population of Iowa in 1860 was 674,913; the native born population was 568,832; and the foreign born 106,081. Of the total native born population, 191,148 were born in Iowa. Since the bulk of these was born during the 1850’s, relatively few native Iowans were old enough to serve.

One is struck by the comparative youth of the Iowa troops who underwent the horrors of Ander-
February, 1864
What a Few Months at Andersonville Did to the Author
From John McElroy's *Andersonville*

July, 1864

Iowa Monument at Andersonville
Execution of the Six Raiders by Andersonville Prisoners

Religious Services at Andersonville
Southern Family Treats Escaped Prisoners with Kindness as the Mother Expresses Hopes Her Sons Might Be Treated Kindly if Captured by Federals.

From Rev. J. B. Vawter's *Prison Life in Dixie*

Death Was the Result of Crossing the Deadline
LET US FORGIVE.

ANDERSONVILLE PRISON STOCKADE AND HOSPITAL: The only true and correct Picture copied from the original Pencil Sketch, made by Felix de La Baume. KEY TO THE HOSPITAL AND STOCKADE: 1. The Cook's Tent; 2. The Provision
Tent: 3. The Woodcutters' and Assistant Cook's Tent; 4. Cast Iron Kettles, in which they cooked Mush and Soup for 1,500 Sick Prisoners; 5. The Bakery and Cook House for the Stockade; 6. The Stockade

See pp. 279-280 for additional explanations.
WIRZ STAMPING ON A PRISONER

HOW THEY ROBBED PRISONERS

CRAWLING TO THE SWAMP FOR WATER

MUD BURROW

DOGS TEARING A PRISONER

FIGHTING FOR BONES

BALL & CHAIN

SHOT ON THE DEAD LINE FOR A PIECE OF MOULDY CAKE

From Harper's Weekly, September 16, 1865

Life in Andersonville Prison
Returning Prisoners Greet Freedom and Hail Old Glory After Release

From Harper's Weekly, November 25, 1865

The Execution of Wirz in Washington, D. C.
IOWANS BURIED AT ANDERSONVILLE

The youngest was seventeen; sixty others were also teen-agers. Eighty-four men, or almost one-half, ranged from 20 to 24 years in age. Over two-thirds ranged from 17 to 24 years of age.

In contrast, those ranging in age from 25 to 44 numbered fifty-four, over half of whom were still in their twenties. The youngest Iowa soldier buried in Andersonville apparently was Rienza R. Reid, a 17-year-old native of Indiana, who resided in Vinton. Reid enlisted on December 26, 1863, and died on August 16, 1864. Only six men were forty and over, the oldest being 44-year-old Henry Beadel, a native of New York, whose residence was given as Douglas in Fayette County.

Almost one hundred Iowa communities and counties are represented in the following compilation of Iowa dead buried at Andersonville which is taken from the *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*. Their sufferings were recounted around many a home fire by those who were fortunate enough to be released at the close of the war. Time has not dimmed the memory of their sacrifices.

William J. Petersen