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# LINDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## FRAUDSTER TARGETED TWO LINDEN CIVIL WAR VETS

Scammers seem to be timeless, even today veterans may be more willing to trust someone who claims to have served in the military than those who have not. Such was the case with John Glanville and James Gregory, both of whom saw combat and had service connected disabilities for which they received a pension.



Linden civil war soldier James Gregory experienced hardships both during his service to country and after his return to civilian life. During the war he was wounded twice and taken prisoner twice in his three year tour of duty. After the war he was injured in a mine cave-in at Linden, was the victim of a civil war pension fraud and died at the age of 50 from complications of his battle wounds.

Gregory was an immigrant, born in Ashburton, Devon, England, to James and Ann Gregory, coming direct to Mineral Point with his parents at the age of 12. The younger James Gregory joined the Miners Guard Militia Corps in Mineral Point in May, 1860, where he attained the rank of Third Sergeant and was a Sergeant when the war ended. Just one year later the Miners Guard received orders to report to Camp Randall in Madison where they became Company I of the Second Wisconsin Infantry. They boarded a train for Washington D.C. and on June 25, 1861 were brigaded with the 19th Indiana Infantry; The Sixth and Seventh Wisconsin Infantry and Battery B of the 4th U.S. Artillery in what would later become known as the famous Iron Brigade.

*The military head stone for James Gregory was one of seven markers placed at the graves of Linden civil war veterans in 1898. The other six were for: Thomas Goldsworthy, James Smith, Charles Baxter, John Glanville, John Holmes, and Henry Sampson.*

## LINDEN CIVIL WAR VETS, CONTINUED

The brigade Gregory and the original Miners Guards were a part of were given the fighting name of the Iron Brigade by General George McClellan who said the men stood like iron in battle. Both Glanville and Gregory served their entire three years enlistment.

John Glanville was the son of Johnson Glanville, a Cornish immigrant, who enlisted in the Miners Guard at the age of 19 as a private. According to the 1890 census of surviving soldiers and family survivors who received a pension, it was stated that Glanville was a prisoner, that he had malarial poisoning and rheumatism.

Just one month after their arrival in Washington, D.C. the Second Wisconsin Infantry distinguished themselves in the first battle of Bull Run in Virginia. They faced a much larger, more experienced force of Confederates commanded by General Stonewall Jackson. The South won that battle with heavy casualties on both sides.

In that baptism of fire it was stated, "The men of the Second Wisconsin fought with the bravery and coolness of veterans and when ordered back, supposed it was to take a better position. They were the last to leave the field and did not know they were retreating." (Chapter 12, E. B. Quiners Military History of Wisconsin, on file at the Mineral Point Archives)

In that retreat and the subsequent advance of the Stonewall brigade, the Second Wisconsin was unable to seek out their wounded on the battlefield. In the chaos and confusion of battle, 16 men from the original Miners Guard were

reported as killed, wounded or missing in a letter back to the *Mineral Point Tribune*. Gregory was one of those listed as missing. However, he was wounded and laid on the battlefield where he was captured by the Confederates and taken to the notorious Libby prison near Richmond, Virginia.

Six months later, Gregory and others were part of a prisoner exchange that allowed him to return to the Second Wisconsin and fight another day. On August 28, 1862 Gregory was wounded in the left hip at the battle of Gainesville, Virginia and this wound caused him problems in later years.

After the war James Gregory moved to Linden where he was employed as a miner and in 1879 he married a local widower, Mrs. Carolyn "Carrie" Short. In September, 1881 Gregory was injured in a rock fall after an underground blast in a local mine, he recovered and went back to work. Gregory was also able to be a starter on the Linden village baseball team for awhile.

By April, 1883 Gregory was struggling financially and his \$5 per month government pension did not meet the needs of his family. Glanville also received a like amount at the time. An official looking man came to Linden that same month who sought out the location of James Gregory and John Glanville, another original member of the Miners Guards.

R. W. Sampson, Linden correspondent for the *Dodgeville Chronicle*, gave an excellent account of the man who professed to be a representative of the U.S. government.

## LINDEN CIVIL WAR VETS, CONTINUED

Sampson wrote, in part, "A very fine looking gentleman, dressed in United States uniform, and wearing two badges bearing the inscription, 'U. S. D. C.,' on one and 'U.S. A.' on the other and represented himself as T. C. Bentley, United States pension agent, and claimed to be a nephew of the late commissioner of pensions, Colonel J. A. Bentley."

Bentley introduced himself to James Gregory and was welcomed into the home. According to Mr. Sampson, Bentley spent considerable time asking Gregory details of his service connected disability and then asked to see his discharge papers. Bentley convinced Gregory to sign an affidavit to him for his discharge papers.

Sampson reported, "(Bentley) then told Mr. Gregory his case was a bad one, and he would increase his pension from \$6 to \$17 per month. Mr. Gregory thanked him, and told him he was glad the government had appointed agents to hunt up those who really needed their pensions increased. (Bentley) then told Mr. Gregory it would be necessary for him to sign over his discharge papers to him to him and he would send them to Washington and get them back in fifteen days, and his increased pension would accompany them. Mr. Gregory was satisfied and signed over his discharge papers to him."

Sampson continued, "Bentley then stated that the government fee was nothing, but their charges for making out the affidavits, government stamps, stationery for the back pensions and discharges for land warrants, would be five dollars.

*John Glanville has two markers in the Linden cemetery. The smaller grave stone in the foreground was part of a group of 30 headstones received by the George H. Legate G. A. R. post of Mineral Point to be placed at the graves of deceased Civil War veterans in 1898. John's family placed the taller tombstone directly behind the military marker at the time of his death in 1894.*





## LINDEN CIVIL WAR VETS, CONTINUED

Mr. Gregory told him he was in almost destitute circumstances, not having in fact any money. Bentley politely said it was all right; he would keep it back from the first month's pension. Mrs. Gregory told her husband she had \$1.25 of her own hard earnings which she thought he might give the gentleman to help pay his expenses. Mr. Gregory agreed to this, and handed it to Bentley, saying at the same time, 'This is the last cent in our house, and my wife worked for that.' 'Well', said Bentley, 'I never was known to take the last cent from anyone, consequently here is twenty five cents back.' Mr. Gregory thanked him."

One thing that does not change with con men over time is that they can be smooth talkers and tell convincing stories. Sampson wrote that Bentley concluded his visit with James Gregory by telling war tales and also incidents from the fifteen years he had supposedly been a minister of the gospel in Pennsylvania.

Sampson further recorded, "We interviewed John Glanville. His story is about the same as Gregory's, but Bentley charged him nine dollars, and promised to give him eight dollars per month as a pension. After the papers were drawn up and Glanville's discharge papers signed over to him, he collected his fee and ate supper with Mr. Glanville. After supper he told some war stories, and Mr. Glanville invited him to stay all night. (Bentley) said he had hired a room at the hotel, but would stay with him in preference, as he liked to meet a soldier that everybody described to him as being a hero in the late rebellion."

Sampson wrote, "(Bentley) showed Mr. Glanville the place he was shot in the left side, and still has a running wound, which he dressed before retiring. He said he was Colonel of the 14th regiment Pennsylvania infantry. He then retired to rest. Mr. and Mrs. Glanville had their regular family prayer. In the morning (Bentley) said he was not aware they were members of the church or he would have taken part in their worship before retiring to rest."

After the Glanville's finished breakfast, Bentley offered up a scripture he had chosen out of the bible from the 6th chapter of Matthew, starting with the 20th verse, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal."

That morning Bentley took the stage for his next stop in Cobb. Just prior to leaving town, John Glanville introduced him to the *Chronicle* correspondent R. W. Sampson who, like others in town, had suspicions on the character of Bentley.

Sampson penned of his first impressions, "He was a man well dressed, in officer's clothes, and wore a large buffalo overcoat. He is of light complexion, with light moustache, and would weigh about 135 or 140 pounds; had a scar over the left eye: was quite intelligent.



## LINDEN CIVIL WAR VETS, CONTINUED

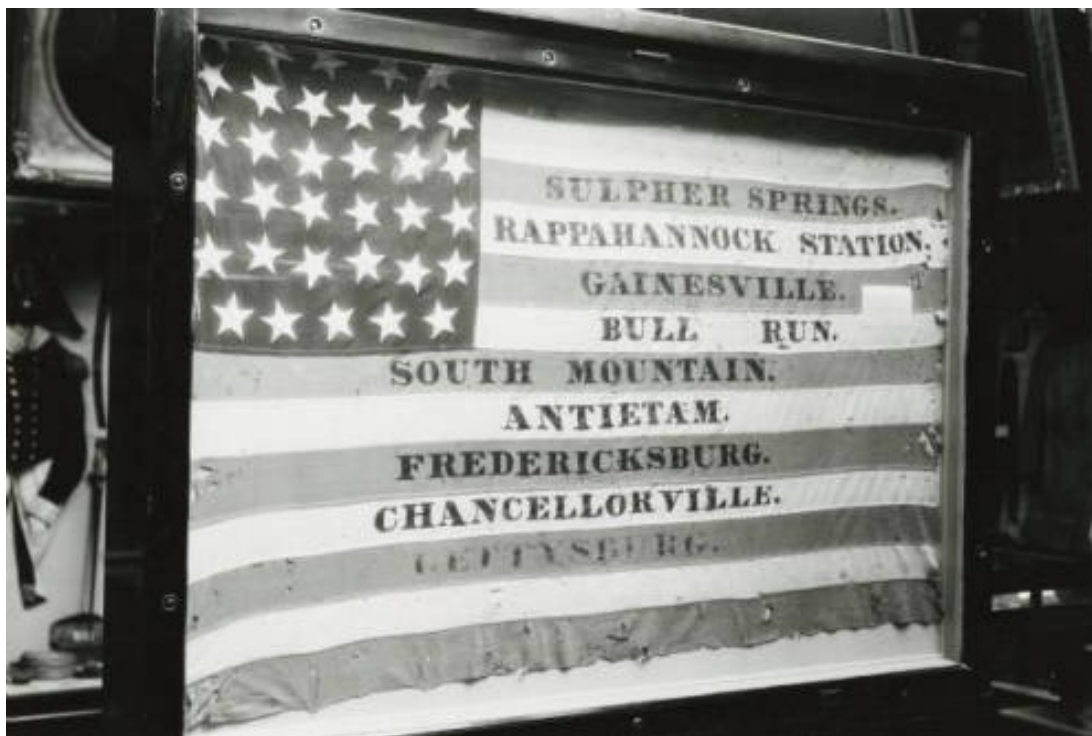
He told us not to publish him, as he was partially a detective, and was hunting out those parties who received pensions fraudulently. I told him it was too late to get any report of his being here in the present week's issue. He said he was glad he met Messrs. Gregory and Glanville, and if ever two men deserved pensions it was them. This is the only truth he told while here. He left here by the stage for Cobb, on Friday morning politely bidding all good bye, leaving your correspondent a pencil

to be from the commissioner of pensions and used the name of Colonel Summers. Sampson reprinted the article in his expose, part of which stated, "A good many pensioners paid sums ranging from \$4 to \$10 for increasing their pensions, which (Summers) claims to have authority to do. He was hunted out of Louisa County by the officers, but managed to get away, and soon will be heard of in some other locality. The pension agent at this place again desires to warn all pensioners against paying to

any one claiming to be an officer of the pension bureau. No pensions can be granted or increased except at Washington, and there are no government fees. Therefore, any one professing to be an officer of the government who charges a pensioner a fee for any service is a swindler and should be arrested."

Sampson summed up the feeling of Linden residents when he concluded, "We sympathize with our two veteran soldiers. The rascal beat Glanville out of nine dollars and Gregory

out of one dollar and both discharge papers. The latter is of no use to (Bentley), but will cause the boys some trouble to get new ones from Washington. We are reliably informed there is a detective after him from Madison. We hope the villain will be caught and brought to justice, which is the nearly universal sentiment of all."



*Miner's Guard Flag of Company I, Second Wisconsin Infantry of the Iron Brigade carried during the Civil War. The flag was made by Mrs. George Cobb of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, and is owned by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Photo from Wisconsin Historical Society.*

with which to report him."

"Several of our citizens set him down as a fraud after thinking over his actions among us, very soon after he left," Sampson added.

A few days later, a Linden subscriber to the *Chicago Times* newspaper read an article of a swindler who recently operated in the Mississippi river counties of Iowa who claimed

## LINDEN CIVIL WAR VETS, CONTINUED

The authorities did eventually catch up with Bentley and as Gregory's condition worsened his pension was increased. The Mineral Point G.A. R. George H. Legate Post likely helped both Gregory and Glanville with pension questions and sources to contact. Both men were active members of the Mineral Point post

The Linden memorial day observances of 1883, one month after Bentley visited here, were arranged by A. D. Prideaux and local physician Dr. Benjamin Gill. Doctor Gill was himself a disabled civil war veteran who had suffered a gunshot wound to his left hand and received a pension but along with several other Linden veterans was not targeted by Mr. Bentley.

James Gregory was chosen to lead the memorial day parade in late May of 1883. Again, R.W. Sampson wrote a summary of that day: "At half past three P.M. a procession was formed on Main street, consisting of all the scholars of our schools, together with a general turn out of the citizens of the village, and a great many from the country, which made quite a long procession, nearly ever member of which bore a wreath, a basket or bunch of flowers. The procession was led by the Linden band, and the veteran soldier James Gregory, who bore the stars and stripes."

Gregory's health was now in a steady decline. In February, 1884 his pension was increased to six dollars a month. His wound in the left hip became sciatica which later affected his spine and he was completely paralyzed by the summer of 1885.

The Linden correspondent of the *Mineral Point Tribune* partially explained what must have been a struggle to go through the proper

channels for an increase in Gregory's disability payment. "All the friends of James Gregory will be glad to know that he has succeeded at last through his attorneys, Lanyon and Spensley, with the aid of Congressman LaFollette, in securing his claim for increase of pension. He gets \$50 per month with something over \$300 back pension. This is as it should be, for there was not a better soldier in the army, nor a more deserving one. He has been in needy circumstances for some time and has received substantial help from the funds of George H. Legate post on several occasions. Comrade, all we have to say is, it serves you right, and hope that you may live many years to enjoy it."

Unfortunately Gregory's years left on earth were numbered. The paralysis worsened to the extent that he, "could neither dress, undress or feed himself unaided," wrote the Linden correspondent in the *Mineral Point Tribune*.

The same writer described Gregory's standing in the community when James passed away on March 15, 1891: "He was naturally of a very joyous disposition, and exceptionally popular with his comrades and associates. The people of Linden village and vicinity by their presence (at the funeral) and expressions of sorrow, attest the esteem in which he was held by his neighbors."

John Glanville's remaining life somewhat paralleled Gregory's, in that his health also worsened and his pension increased. At the end of their short lives both men were receiving \$72 per month pension. Both men had appropriate military funerals provided by the Mineral Point Grand Army of the Republic post (G.A.R.) at the Linden cemetery.

## LINDEN CIVIL WAR VETS, CONTINUED

John W. Taylor, editor of the Linden *Southwest Wisconsin*, wrote in John Glanville's obituary, "A veteran tried and true, who passed through unscathed through all the battles in which the Iron Brigade participated, finally died of the illness contracted by lying on the wet ground during the Wilderness campaign of '64; and so it may truly be said even at this late day that he died a victim of the Rebellion."

Taylor added, "The deceased was a very quiet, unobtrusive man. A stranger, judging from his manner, would never pick him out as one of the bravest soldiers who carried a musket during the late war. At the time of his death the deceased was a pensioner, receiving \$72 a month pension, and had been in receipt of same for several years. He was physically a complete wreck for years. At the time of his death he was about 55 years of age.

J. H. Goldsworthy, Linden correspondent of *The Dodgeville Chronicle*, wrote of Glanville, "He was in twenty-four engagements, some of the hardest fighting that was done. He was cool and collected on the field of danger, and his officers spoke well of his bravery."

**THANKS ARE DUE NANCY PFOTENHAUER AT THE MINERAL POINT ARCHIVES FOR SOURCE HELP IN COMPILING THIS ARTICLE.**

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**\*\*\*\*PHOTO AND DOCUMENT DONATIONS ALWAYS APPRECIATED\*\*\*\***

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If you have any photos or documents on Linden area history we would love to make a copy for our archives. Photos and documents can be scanned and returned to you if desired. Contact either the President or Vice-President listed below. Membership in the Linden Historical Society is \$10 per year, lifetime membership \$100. Make check payable to Linden Historical Society and send to Treasurer Robin Lindner.

### HOW TO CONTACT US

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## GRADE SCHOOL GRADUATION FROM 8TH GRADE AND A LEG CAST

Valentines day, Feb. 14, 1967, Linden grade school classmates Sarah White and Patty Thompson were walking to school in front of the community building when Sarah slipped on a patch of ice. Sarah remembered that both girls heard the femur bone break in her leg. Patty ran back up the street to get store owner Tyrus "Bud" Faull's help.



*Sarah White, down to one crutch at Linden 8th grade graduation held at the Iowa-Grant high school. Next to her is friend, Mary Lindner.*

Bud and Chalmore "Shag" Faull both came running back down the street to assist. Sarah recalled that both men pressed on her leg to make sure it was broken and each time Sarah screamed. The only ambulance available was Bud Faull's station wagon and both men lifted Sarah into the back of the car as carefully as they could without the help of a stretcher.

Sarah was driven to what was then St. Joseph's hospital in Dodgeville where she was fitted with a leg cast from her groin to the edges of her toes. She said it was difficult to maneuver with the cast on. During her week long stay at the hospital, Sarah remembered a "really mean" nun who came into her room with a wash basin and washcloth with orders to wash herself up.

Sarah recalled, "I said to her, I can't reach my toes. The nun said, Yes you can, you're much younger than I am! She would leave the room, come back and check to see if I washed my toes."

Sarah and her family lived in a house across the street from the old fire station on West Main street. Without a phone in their house, Sarah's mother walked to the corner of Franklin & Main

streets on the front steps of the Faull's store building to use the pay phone. Her mother, Hazel, was walking to the phone to call the hospital and leave a message for Sarah that she would not be in to see her because of icy roads when she fell and broke her wrist. The family did not own a car at this point in time and Hazel found a neighbor or friend to bring her to St. Joseph's where she had a cast made for her wrist and was temporarily placed in the bed adjacent to Sarah. So Hazel did get to visit her daughter that day after all

# GRADUATION, CONTINUED

After one week in the hospital Sarah returned to Linden and faced with the task of catching up on homework and getting up and down the steps inside the school with a leg cast. On that return, Sarah recalled, "School was an adventure, but when you're young you just barrel through it. I would get on one crutch, climb the steps, someone else would hold my books."

All of Sarah's classmates autographed her cast and those signatures would not survive rain or snow, so one of her friends would clean off the old names and everyone would sign again. Getting on and off a school bus was also difficult, but that situation only happened twice. One time was the class trip to Wisconsin Dells and the second time involved going to Iowa-Grant high school to take the 8th grade exam.

Just before the 8th grade graduation Sarah was able to have the cast removed, although she still had to use crutches for awhile. Sarah was always very thankful for the help and kindness shown to her and her family by the Linden community. One special friend of the family was the late Marge Womack who was the most likely to take Hazel for out of town doctor appointments, etc.

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## LINDEN CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS AID SOCIETY

Back on the Linden homefront a group of women during the civil war sent parcels to the Local young men serving on the battle fields. A January 21, 1863 article in the *Mineral Point Tribune* chronicled the efforts of the Linden Soldiers Aid Society, chair person was Elizabeth Chenoweth. A week previous to when the article was published, Linden people sent the following to the Chicago Sanitary Commission who would then forward the articles

Three sheets	Two pillows	Six pillow cases
Six sand bags	8 handkerchiefs	Six towels
3 bed sacks	11 shirts	14 pair drawers
17 pair socks	2 rolls bandages	1 roll old linen
1 roll cotton	Dozen small napkins	

## **LINDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING**

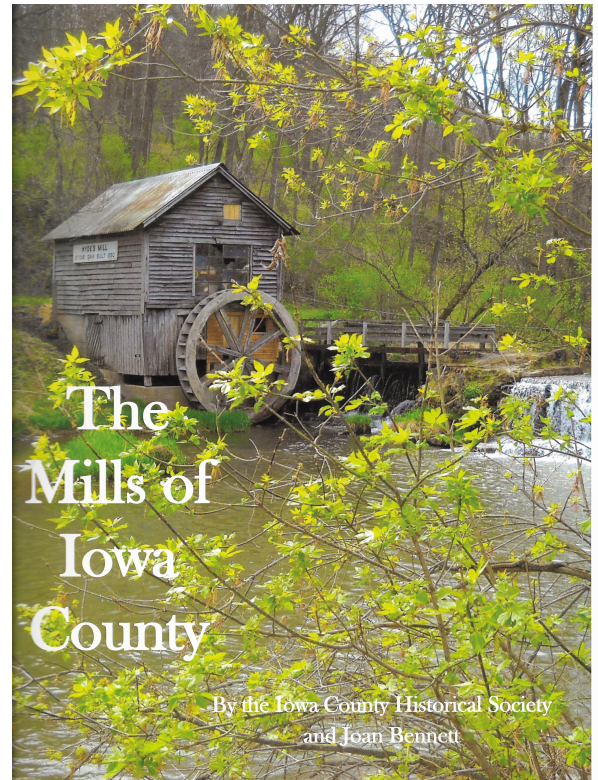
**SATURDAY, MAY 19 1:30 PM**

**AT LINDEN VILLAGE HALL/FIRE STATION ON  
MAIN STREET**

**SHORT BUSINESS MEETING, ELECTION OF TWO  
NEW DIRECTORS**

**PROGRAM ON THE MILLS OF IOWA COUNTY.**

**Joan Bennett will be our featured speaker and will talk  
on the mills located in  
the Linden area. The Iowa County Historical Society  
published earlier this year  
its latest book, The Mills of Iowa County.**



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