

= Voltaire P. Twombly =

Voltaire Paine Twombly (February 21 , 1842 ? February 24 , 1918) was a Union veteran of the American Civil War and a recipient of the Medal of Honor . He received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Battle of Fort Donelson on February 15 , 1862 , when he picked up and carried his company 's colors after three other members of his regiment were killed or incapacitated by Confederate fire while attempting to secure the flag . Twombly also participated in a number of other engagements in the Civil War , including the Siege of Corinth and Sherman 's March to the Sea .

After being mustered out of service in 1865 , Twombly attended business school and entered into a number of business ventures . In 1880 , he entered politics upon being selected to be the treasurer of Van Buren County , Iowa . He served as the mayor of Keosauqua , Iowa from 1884 to early 1885 , and as the treasurer of Iowa from 1885 to 1891 .

= = Early life = =

Twombly was born to Samuel Twombly and Dorothy Twombly (nee Wilder) on February 21 , 1842 , near Farmington , Van Buren County , Iowa Territory . His father died in September of 1842 , leaving Twombly 's mother responsible for raising him . While growing up , Twombly was educated at several common schools and at the Lane Academy of Keosauqua .

= = Civil War = =

Twombly enlisted in the Union Army on April 24 , 1861 , after President Abraham Lincoln had called for soldiers to counter the secessionist Confederate States . On May 27 , 1861 , he was mustered into Company F of the 2nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment as a private in Keokuk , Iowa . The 2nd Iowa Regiment left for Northern Missouri on June 13 , 1861 , and was stationed at St. Joseph , Missouri to protect the city 's railroad lines . On July 21 , 1861 , the 2nd Iowa regiment was transferred to Bird 's Point , Missouri . The regiment would continue to be transferred throughout Missouri during the remainder of the year , but saw little combat . In October , Twombly was promoted to the rank of corporal and assigned to the color guard . In February of 1862 , the Second Iowa Infantry Regiment was incorporated into the Army of the Tennessee , which was under the command of Major General Ulysses S. Grant .

On February 15 , 1862 , the Army of the Tennessee attacked Fort Donelson in Tennessee . During the battle , Twombly picked up and carried his company 's flag after the color sergeant and two other corporals had been killed or injured by the enemy . Twombly was knocked to the ground by cannon fire , but managed to carry the flag for the duration of the battle . For his actions during the battle , Twombly was promoted to sergeant and later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1897 . His citation reads :

Took the colors after 3 of the color guard had fallen , and although most instantly knocked down by a spent ball , immediately arose and bore the colors to the end of the engagement .

Twombly carried his company 's flag during the April 1862 Battle of Shiloh and participated in the Siege of Corinth , Mississippi as an acting second lieutenant . In October of 1862 , Twombly received a knee injury during the Second Battle of Corinth . He was hospitalized and placed on leave for six weeks to help him recover from the injury . In 1863 , Twombly 's regiment was formally stationed in Corinth , and engaged in numerous actions against the cavalry forces of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest .

In October 1863 , Major General William Tecumseh Sherman replaced Grant as the commander of the Army of the Tennessee . In November of 1863 , Twombly and the Army of the Tennessee marched northeast into Tennessee ; his regiment spent the winter of 1863 ? 1864 in Pulaski , Tennessee . Twombly went on to participate in the Atlanta Campaign and Sherman 's March to the Sea . He was promoted to first lieutenant in July of 1864 and to captain in November of 1864 . While stationed in Savannah , Georgia in January 1865 , Twombly was made the assistant inspector general of the Third Brigade of his division .

In early 1865 , Twombly and the Army of the Tennessee marched North through the Carolinas and fought Confederate forces in Columbia , South Carolina and Bentonville , North Carolina . Twombly reached Goldsboro , North Carolina by the end of March and was present at the surrender of Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston near Raleigh , North Carolina . Following the surrender , the Army of the Tennessee headed north to Washington , D.C. , where Twombly and the 2nd Iowa Infantry participated in the Grand Review of the Armies . Twombly was mustered out of service on July 12 in Louisville , Kentucky and formally discharged on July 20 in Davenport , Iowa .

= = Later life = =

From August to December 1865 , Twombly attended Bryant & Stratton 's Business College , a commercial school in Burlington , Iowa . After completing his education , he entered into a number of business ventures . From his graduation until December 1867 , Twombly worked as a flour merchant in Ottumwa , Iowa . He opened a milling company in Pittsburg , Van Buren County in January of 1868 , which he ran until April of 1876 . He later moved to Keosauqua , Iowa where he worked as a merchant until 1880 .

Twombly , who had consistently supported the Republican Party since reaching voting age , accepted the position of treasurer of Van Buren County in 1880 . He served in that position until 1884 , when Twombly became the Mayor of Keosauqua . In January 1885 , Twombly was elected the Treasurer of Iowa . He served three terms in the position before stepping down in January of 1891 .

After his term as Treasurer of Iowa had concluded , Twombly assisted with the creation of the Home Savings Bank of Des Moines . He became the director and president of the bank in June of 1891 , and maintained the two positions until January of 1901 . In October of 1891 , Twombly became the half @-@ owner of the Capital Hill Granite & Marble Works . Twombly stepped down from the position and retired from business in June of 1905 .

Twombly spent the last years of his life in retirement . He died in his home in Des Moines , Iowa on February 24 , 1918 , after having suffered from an illness for several months .

= = Personal life = =

Twombly married Chloe Funk on May 1 , 1866 . They had one daughter , Eva , on November 10 , 1878 .

Twombly had joined the Free Masons in 1866 , and remained a member for much of his life . He was also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic , and had served as the commander of his post .

Twombly worshipped in the Congregationalist Church .

= = Publications = =

Twombly , Voltaire (1897) . The Second Iowa Infantry at Fort Donelson , February 15 , 1862 : together with an outline history of the regiment from its organization at Keokuk , Iowa , May 27 , 1861 , to final discharge at Davenport , Iowa , July 20 , 1865 . Plain Talk Printing House .