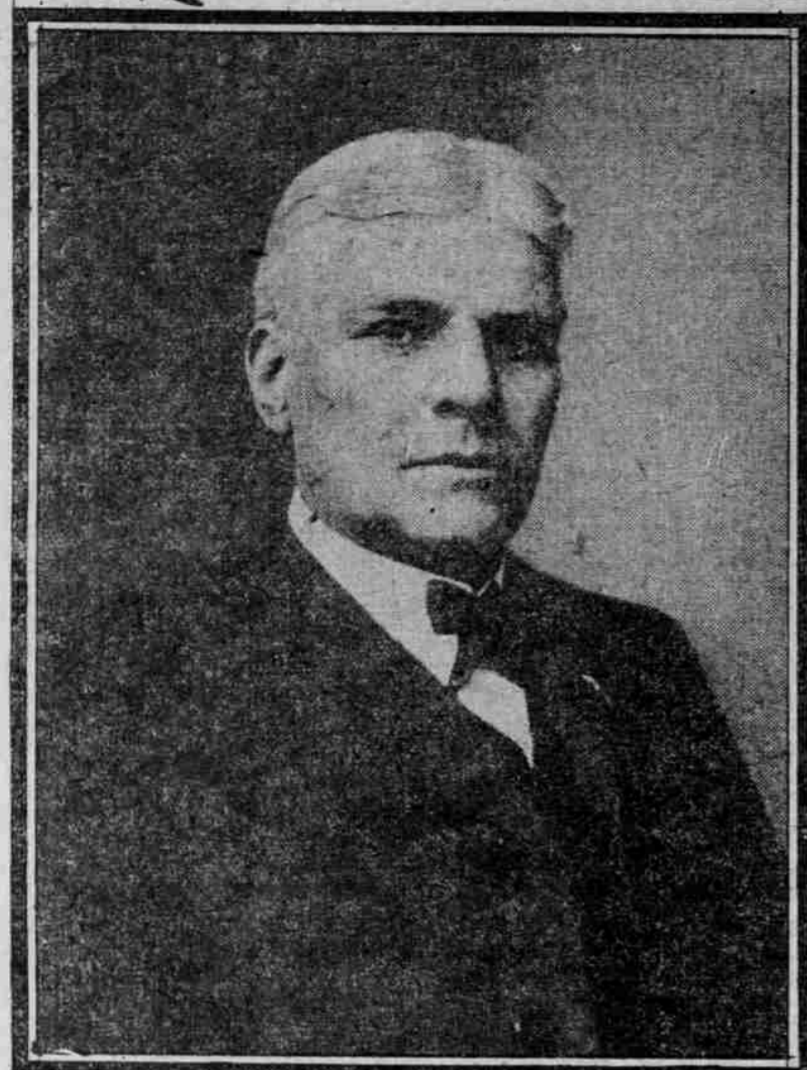


DAREDEVIL CIVIL WAR FIGHTERS WHO ARE NATIONAL LEGISLATORS

Congress Now Contains Eighteen Senators and Thirty-four Representatives Who Fought On One Side or the Other



REPRESENTATIVE BRADLEY OF NEW YORK A MEDAL OF HONOR MAN

BY JOHN S. HARWOOD.
In the present Congress there are 18 Senators and 34 Representatives who fought on one side or the other in the Civil War—34 for the Union and 18 for the Confederacy. The war records of all these national legislators show that they fought valiantly for what they thought was right. In addition, the records of not a few on each side reveal the fact that they were regular daredevils in battle. Among the Federal daredevils are four Congress medal of honor men, and among the Confederate veterans are such well-known men as Senator Johnston of Alabama, Representative Spight of Mississippi, Senator Daniel of Virginia and Representative Gordon of Tennessee, each of whom performed deeds in the heat of battle that probably would have won them Congress medals of honor had they fought for instead of against the Union.

Of the medals of honor men, two are in the senate—Warren of Wyoming, and Du Pont of Delaware—while the medals in the House are won by Henry H. Bingham of Pennsylvania and Thomas W. Bradley of New York.

Any one who has ever read a good account of the Battle of the Wilderness will recall the exceedingly bloody character of the fighting, the fierce assaults of the Confederates being a feature of the contest. As a result of these persistent onslaughts many of the Union troops at last gave way and began retreating in great confusion. Then it was that Henry H. Bingham, captain of Company G, 14th Pennsylvania Infantry, who had distinguished himself and been wounded at Gettysburg less than a year before, jumped into the breach, and by exhortation and disregard for his own skin, succeeded in rallying a portion of the broken line and, what's more, led it, cheering, into the thick of the fight again.

This occurred on May 6, 1864. Spottsylvania was fought the following day and the day after that. In that battle Captain Bingham received his second wound. A third bullet was stopped by him at Farmville the last year of the war. He was awarded his medal of honor August 21, 1864, but before he was mustered out in 1866 he had been brevetted major, lieutenant colonel, colonel, and finally brigadier-general for distinguished gallantry.

"Handsome Harry," as he is called by his Congress colleagues and his constituents, is fairly worshipped by the G. A. R. men of his state. At national encampments he is one of the veterans most sought after, and Congress is among its most popular members.

Seriously wounded at Gettysburg and again by a bullet at the Wilderness, it was at Brandy Station and his company, and three days before Bingham won his medal, that Representative Bradley displayed the gallantry that led Congress to issue him a medal of honor on June 10, 1864.

Bradley at the time was sergeant of Company H, 12th New York Infantry, and he was less than a month past his 18th birthday. Suddenly, at the height of the fighting, the discovery was made that the supply of ammunition was running perilously low. Did no fresh ammunition arrive in a few minutes the company would be without food for its guns. It was done—a call was made for volunteers to go and get ammunition.

Sergeant Bradley volunteered and was accepted, "and alone, in the face of a heavy fire of musketry and canister," he went and returned with his comrades. "So simply reads the ground of award. But if you should chance to run across a surviving member of Sergeant Bradley's company and ask him about the incident of the sergeant's trip for ammunition he will not deal in language so simple. Among other things he will tell you that as deadly was the Confederate fire at the time that not a member of the company who knew of Sergeant Bradley's undertaking in their behalf ever expected to behold him alive and in flesh again. And he will tell you, too, how the battle-begrimed men, when they beheld their comrade return laden with ammunition, set out a cheer that could be heard above the roar of battle, and then, inspired by the brave deed, returned to the grim work of plugging at the 'Johnnies' with more vigor than ever. It was while he was fighting before Petersburg that Bradley received his third body badge of courage. By the time the campaign terminating at Appomattox was on he had won a captaincy, and because of his display of daring in that campaign he was brevetted major.

Corporal Francis E. Warren, like Sergeant Bradley, won his medal of honor by stepping forward when a call for volunteers was made. And it was 24 days after Bradley had secured am-



REPRESENTATIVE S. W. SPIGHT, AND THOMAS SPIGHT, TWO DAREDEVIL "JOHNNIES"

H. A.



SENATOR H. A. DUPONT, ONE OF THE FAMOUS ARTILLERY OF '61-'65

munition for his company that Warren became a member of the little column of volunteers before Port Hudson called by their comrades "The Forlorn Hope."

Corporal Warren lacked a month of being 19 years old, and was a member of Company C, Forty-ninth Massachusetts Infantry, which, on May 27, 1867, was called upon to furnish a few men

for John Pelham, of Stuart's Horse Artillery, and one of Du Pont's West Point classmates. Descendant of a famous French fighting family, when he graduated from West Point in May of '61, Du Pont refused to take the three months' leave due him and once headed for the front. In the autumn of that year he was placed in command of a six-gun battery of 12-pounders.

Soon after that it did begin to give a splendid account of itself, and as a speedy result Du Pont's battery thereafter was almost invariably given the post of honor in the line of the Army of the Potomac.

Four times was Captain Du Pont brevetted and thrice he received the honor. When Custer and Merritt were made Brigadier-Generals of Volunteers after Chancellorsville, Du Pont was offered similar promotion. "No," he answered, "I'll stick to what I understand." And stick to it he did until the war's end. Then he went to making powder instead of burning it. An artillery lieutenant, a soldier in either branch of the National Legislature holds a Congress medal of honor. Nevertheless, some of them were as daring in battle as Warren and Bradley.

There is John H. Bankhead, the senior Senator from Alabama. He was stopped three times by Yankee bullets; a soldier division of Lee's forefront of the thick of battle to get wounded so often. Senator James B. McCreary, of Kentucky, was a Major and Lieutenant-Colonel under Morgan and Breckinridge. He, too, was wounded and he spent some time on Morris Island in company of "the Yanks" as a prisoner. Senator Daniel of Virginia, has a brilliant war record stretching from the first Manassas, when he received his first wound, to the Wilderness, when he got his fourth wound, which so crippled him that he was eventually forced back to civilian life. His bravery is summed up in the statement that he was a member of the famous "Stonewall" brigade.

The only West Point graduate among the Congress veterans, Senator Du Pont, the fourth medal of honor man, was 26 when he displayed that getting into the field of battle which, on April 2, 1862, got him the coveted decoration.

Who has not heard of the battle of Cedar Creek and Sheridan's ride from Winchester, 20 miles away, to stem the tide of Confederate victory? It was at this battle that Captain Du Pont, in command of the Fifth United States Artillery, when the Union line had been broken by the crushing Confederates, voluntarily exposed himself to the enemy's fire, solely by his own efforts and example kept his men by their guns, and so checked the advance of the enemy. And to round out the brave deed he brought off most of his pieces when the reason for the stand he had made was over.



SENATOR WARREN, OF WYOMING, WHO WON HIS MEDAL OF HONOR BEFORE PORT HUDSON

command of Generals Beauregard, Bragg, Johnson and Hood. Wounded several times, he was seriously wounded once. This was at Atlanta, on July 22, 1864. Weighing only 125 pounds, Captain Spight was carried by two litter bearers one and a half miles to the field hospital. He had bled almost to complete exhaustion, and it was necessary to cut a bullet from his body. The surgeon thought it proper to administer chloroform. To this the wounded man objected, and the bullet was taken out with him looking on.

Representative Spight feels that to the devotion and careful nursing of his negro servant, a boy about his own age, he is indebted largely for the preservation of his life while suffering from his wound. The old servant, still living, he draws a Confederate pension from the state of Mississippi.

Federal pickets on the other. By mutual consent hostilities were suspended until an attempt to advance was to be made by one side or the other. Although the orders were strict that there should be no communication, the "boys" had a very pleasant time for a few days. The Confederates had plenty of tobacco but no coffee. The Federals had coffee and but little tobacco. The result was a satisfactory exchange of the commodities. On the Confederate side we would load up a little bark canoe with tobacco and push it across the creek. When it reached the other shore it was unloaded and filled with coffee in return.

"On the morning of November 24 the Yanks, true to their manhood, shouted across the creek, 'Look out, Johnnies, we are coming!' and the fighting commenced. "What a sad commentary upon the brutality of war! Here men of the same race and blood, who had spent the days in pleasant, friendly intercourse, now, at the order of their respective commanders, without provocation or offense, began to kill each other. When will the nations cease to have war?"

It was during the siege of Port Hudson, where Senator Warren won his medal of honor, that his Minnesota colleague, Knute Nelson, also showed that he was made of real warrior stuff. On June 14, 1863, when Nelson, who went through the war as a private and a "non-com," was a little over 20 years old, an attempt was made to capture Fort Hudson by storm. Two charging columns were set in motion. The regiment to which Nelson belonged, the Fourth Wisconsin, was at the head of one of these columns, which advanced to the attack over an open abandoned sugar-cane field and was exposed to the fire of the enemy for something like three-quarters of a mile. The boys in blue, with the Badgers valiantly leading, advanced right up to within a few rods of the breastworks, but by that time there were so few of the column left standing that they were unable to get inside.

Nelson was among the handful that got closest to the breastworks. He was only eight or nine rods away when he was laid low by a bullet penetrating a hip and was unable to proceed further. The attack took place early in the morning, about sunrise. All that day Nelson lay on the battlefield, a dazed but conscious man, crawling back to his own lines, was observed by a Confederate picket posted outside the works, made a prisoner and taken inside the works and placed in the hospital. Here he remained until July 9, when Port Hudson fell, and the Mississippi was open again.

"I received as good care as their own wounded," said Senator Nelson, "but provisions ran out, so that during the last 10 days of the siege our food consisted of a little cornbread, mule meat and sassafras tea."

After he rejoined his company and had recovered from his wound, Nelson fought for his country until the end of the war. Then he took to law, like a majority of the veterans on both sides in Congress, and it was not long after he became a lawyer that he got into politics, and became a majority of the Civil War men in Congress.

The story of Senator Foraker's Civil War bravery has been told often. The same is true of the battlefied general, Representative J. Warren Keifer of Ohio, who entered the Union Army as a major on April 27, and on November 30, 1864, was appointed brigadier-general by brevet for "gallant and distinguished services during the campaign ending in the surrender of the insurgent army under General R. E. Lee."

Fourteen years old when the war broke out, Representative Philip Knopf of Illinois, the only member now in Congress who served in the 24th Illinois Infantry and served out at Savannah. Representative Hall of Iowa was so badly wounded in charge of Black River, May 17, 1863, that he was compelled to resign his captaincy in the Twenty-third Iowa. The other well-known Iowa Representative, W. P. Hepburn, was a dashing captain and major and then lieutenant-colonel of the Second Iowa Cavalry.

Representative Isaac H. Sherwood, of Ohio, enlisted as a private in an Ohio regiment the day after Lincoln made his first call for volunteers. He took part in the first battles of the war—Phillippi, Laurel Mountain and Carracks Ford—the only member now in Congress who has this distinction. Because of his intrepid fighting qualities he was promoted to be a Major of his regiment on the recommendation of all his brother officers. Beginning with the Morgan raid in 1862 to the muster-out in July of 1865, he commanded the 11th Ohio during its entire field service, in that time taking part in no less than 30 battles and engagements, many of them of the first order. Because of conspicuous gallantry displayed by him at Resaca, Franklin and Nashville, he was made Brigadier-General.

When his own State of Pennsylvania would not take him because his quota was full, Representative William H. Graham, with some companions, chartered a steamboat, sailed it down to Wheeling and got into the late scrimmage as members of the Second Virginia Infantry, which later became the Fifth West Virginia Cavalry. Representative Graham, who was it when he became a soldier, saw much hard fighting under three noted cavalry leaders, Averill, Crook and Sheridan, and a bullet found him at the battle of White Sulphur Springs. When the armies were facing each other at Appomattox.



SENATOR JOHNSTON, OF ALABAMA, WHO RAN AN EXCITING RACE FOR A UNION FLAG

Senator Johnston quit school to shoulder a musket. He was then under 13 years old; indeed, most of the veterans in Congress were under age when they took to war. He began as a private in the 10th Alabama, and during the battle of Shiloh won him a second lieutenantcy. He remained with the Western Army until after Chickamauga, in which his right arm was broken by a gunshot, his first of four wounds. He was in Early's campaign in the Shenandoah and in all the battles around Petersburg. At the battle of Newmarket he was seriously wounded for the second time, and in March of 1865, while before Petersburg, he received his fourth, and his third serious, wound. Just before this his last battle, he had been promoted to captain of Company A, Twelfth North Carolina Infantry. Truly an adventurous war record.

Two of the eight Confederate veterans who are in the House were particularly daring in battle—George W. Gordon of Tennessee and Thomas Spight of Mississippi.

Representative Gordon holds the Congress record as a prisoner of war. Three times he was captured, the last time he was held in Fort Warren, Mass., until the war was over. He was also dangerously wounded once, but despite these four inconveniences to which the Yanks subjected him, Gordon managed to do his part in every battle in which his command fought except two—Nashville and Bentonville. When these were being decided he was feasting on Federal food down East. Representative Gordon began his civil war career as a drill master for Tennessee troops. Soon after he entered the service of the Confederacy, and by his bravery became captain, then lieutenant colonel, next colonel of his regiment, and finally brigadier-general in 1864.

Thomas Spight, the only ex-Confederate in the Mississippi delegation, went from college into the army when a mere boy. He enlisted as a private and went through all the intermediate grades until he became a captain before he was 21. In years he was the youngest officer of his rank in the line of the famous Walthall's Mississippi brigade. He was in nearly all of the battles that were fought in the Western Department while it was under the

and his old master has impressed upon his children that if the servant outlives him they are never to allow him to suffer for need of anything in their power to give him. Captain Spight returned to his command on crutches when General Hood, Tenn, in the Winter of 1864.

In the far-famed Battle Above the Clouds, Captain Spight was in command of three companies of Walthall's brigade, which constituted the greater part of the Confederate force engaged against Hooker's corps. He and his command were surrounded, overpowered and nearly all captured. Spight himself, by desperately risking his life between the infantry fire on one side and a Federal battery on the other, managed to escape.

When the Confederate army was reorganized Captain Spight, though the youngest officer of his rank in his regiment, was the only one of the captains retained, and he was in command at Greensboro, N. C., when the regiment, on April 26, 1865, stacked arms for the last time. Besides being distinguished among the warrior-Confederates as the youngest captain in the service on either side, Representative Spight is the only national legislator who took part in what has been called the greatest snowball battle in all history.

After the Confederate army retreated from Chattanooga in November of 1864, it went into winter quarters at Dalton, Ga. Here it was overtaken by a heavy fall of snow. At first only a few individuals began snowballing the general, but the snowballing fun rapidly extended to companies, then regiments, brigades and divisions, until practically the entire army was engaged in the only battle of the war which resulted in no serious casualties.

"One of the peculiar incidents of the war, which demonstrated the brotherhood of man" and at the same time illustrated what General Sherman meant when he said, "war is hell," occurred on the picket line just before the Battle of Lookout Mountain. Representative Spight told me the other day. "The two lines were separated by Lookout Creek, with the Confederate pickets on one side and the

Like a good many other civil war fighters on both sides in Congress, Sen-