



CYRUS E. BROWN

## Veteran Treasures Shot Which Nearly Cost His Life In Battle of Wilderness

---

---

Cyrus E. Brown, 87, of North  
Volney, keeps Ball Taken  
from Shoulder

---

---

### Once Given Up For Dead Left on Battlefield of Wilderness Eight Days After Being Wounded

---

---

Fulton, Sept. 10 1864 – Wounded in the left shoulder by a 13-ounce round grape shot section and left on the battlefield for eight days as given up for dead, Cyrus E Brown, 87, of North Volney, is still alive to tell the story. He received the wound in the second days' engagement of the Battle of the Wilderness on May 6, 1864.

Given orders to rush a Confederate battery, which was raising havoc with the Union forces, a skirmish line in which Mr Brown was a unit advanced towards the point of woods wherein was concealed the battery. As they neared the place of concealment their presence was discovered and the battery opened on them with grape shot. The grape shot was hung, Mr Brown said, on a center attachment so that it looked like a bunch of grapes, and had the effect of the shrapnel which was used in the recent world war.

#### *Pierced Through Shoulder*

During the shower of shot which was poured on them, another Fultonian, Patrick Murphy, was killed alongside Mr Brown. It was in this battle Mr Brown received his wound, when he was pierced through the shoulder by a 13-ounce piece of grape shot. He was given up for dead on the field and for eight days lay there unable to move, he

says. It took him some time after that to get back to his lines, where he could receive medical attention.

The ball entered the shoulder, breaking the collarbone and traveled downward, lodging in a point just below the shoulderblade. He carried the ball, lodged there, for three weeks and said that he did not know what it was. He supposed that the ball had gone through.

### *Ball Removed by Surgeon*

Dr G R Clarke of Oswego town, who was divisional surgeon, removed the ball. Mr Brown treasures this relic which nearly cost him his life.

In the Battle of the Wilderness, Union losses, in killed and wounded totaled 17,500 men, while the Confederates lost 18,000 killed and wounded. There was much hand to hand fighting and some of the generals who took part in it said it was the worst battle of the Civil War.

Of all the men in the One Hundred Forty-Seventh N.Y. Volunteers, but one besides Mr Brown is alive today. The other is William Ellis of this city.

Mr Brown was born in Oswego town, February 2, 1840. He went to school in the old schoolhouse at Myers' Flats. After a few years, his parents, Reuben L and Elmira Brown, moved to North Volney where they engaged in farming. There Mr Brown continued his education in the schoolhouse that still stands.

### *Enlisted Following First Call*

Following the bombardment of Fort Sumter, which precipitated the Civil War and in answer to President Lincoln's call for volunteers, Mr Brown was one of the first to enlist. He was assigned to Company D, which was under the command of Captain Alexander Hulett.

The regiment was sent to Elmira, N.Y. where the men received their arms. They first saw action at Aqua Creek in Virginia, where they were under command of Brig-Gen Alexander Cutler.

Mr Brown was wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg, July 2, 1863. He was with the other members of his regiment, pursuing a Confederate detachment when a rifle ball pierced both thighs. He was in the hospital several months, but joined his company in time to participate in the Battle of the Wilderness.

### *Resides With Daughter*

Mr Brown makes his home with his daughter, Mrs Katherine Allen. He has one other daughter, Mrs George (Amy) Battles of this city. His wife, formerly Miss Savalla Druce, died a number of years ago.

As a result of the wound received in his left shoulder, Mr Brown for a time lost the use of his left arm. The use has mostly returned now, however. He said today that he

had not been to this city for 30 years and during the time he has but twice journeyed to the four corners, about a quarter of a mile from his home.

newspaper article, date unknown