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Address: "Chief of the Record and Pension Office, War Department, Washington, D. C."

-384924-

Subject: Medal of Honor.

## Record and Pension Office,

War Department,

Washington City,

April 13, 1894.

Mr. Stephen Welch,

Late 1st Lieut., Co. C, 154th N. Y. Vols.,

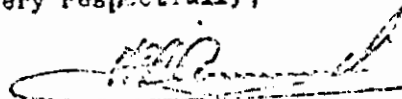
Allegany, New York.

Sir:

I am directed by the Secretary of War to inform you that, in accordance with the act of Congress approved March 3, 1863, providing for the presentation of medals of honor to such officers, non-commissioned officers and privates as have most distinguished themselves in action, a medal of honor has been awarded to you for most distinguished gallantry in action at Dug Gap, Georgia, May 8, 1864, in voluntarily risking your life in rescuing, under the fire of the enemy, a wounded comrade lying between the lines.

The medal has been forwarded to you by registered mail. Please acknowledge receipt.

Very respectfully,



Colonel, U. S. Army,

Chief, Record and Pension Office.

E. I.  
Subject:

Address: "Chief of the Record and Pension Office, War Department, Washington, D. C."

No. 384, 924.

# Record and Pension Office,

War Department,

Washington City,

APRIL 5, 1894.

## MEMORANDUM.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The Acting Secretary of War has directed the issue of a medal of honor to 1st Lieut. Stephen Welch, Company C, 154<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers, the medal to be engraved as follows:

The Congress

to

1st Lt. Stephen Welch,

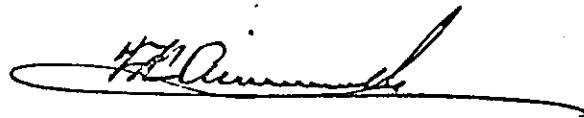
Co. C, 154<sup>th</sup> N. Y. Vols.,

for

most distinguished gallantry in action at

Dug Gap, Ga.,

May 8, 1864.

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Colonel, U. S. Army,

Chief, Record and Pension Office.

R. & P. 366,075.

Record and Pension Office,

War Department,

May 23rd, 1893.

CASE OF

CHARLES W. McKAY and STEPHEN WELCH,

late sergeant and lieutenant, respectively, of Company C, 154th  
New York Volunteers.

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Application for medals of honor.

Hon. C. K. Davis, U. S. Senator, forwards, and commends to favorable consideration, an application by Charles W. McKay for medals of honor for himself and Stephen Welch, both late of Company C, 154th New York Volunteers.

This application is embraced in a sworn statement by McKay, in which he testifies that he was present with his company and regiment "without one day's absence or one hour's excuse from duty" until August, 1863; that the 154th New York Volunteers was a part of the brigade under command of Col. Adolph Bushbeck, concerning which, deponent asserts, Gen. Hooker says in his "Chancellorsville Revisited:" "This Brigade held their ground here, and saved the Artillery and trains of the Corps and enabled me to get my reserves into position, and thus check the advance of the enemy and save the Army;" that Gen'l Abner Doubleday in his book, "Chancellorsville

*Courtesy of Mrs. Patricia Velder, Allegany Area Historical Association,  
Allegany, N.Y.*

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and Gettysburg," also tells the story of the gallant fight made by Bushbeck's brigade at Chancellorsville; that he (deponent) was present with the regiment on July 1, 1863, at Gettysburg, when the brigade was sent, about 4 o'clock, P.M., to cover the retreat of the troops then engaged; that when the brigade was almost surrounded, he was one of the few who avoided capture; that he was slightly wounded in the scalp and was without doubt one of the last two union soldiers who came back through the village that day; that in recognition of his services on that occasion, and because he had been a faithful soldier up to that time, he was detailed as one of the recruiting party, about the 1st of August, 1863, and remained on that service until April, 1864; that he rejoined his regiment in Lookout Valley, Tenn., and was present at the attack of Dug Gap, Ga., on May 8, 1864, the reports of which may be found in the Rebellion Records, and from which it will be seen that the 154th regiment conducted itself on that day in a most gallant and courageous manner; that he was one of the "Adventerous advance" who actually helped to plant the colors of the 154th regiment on the crest of the mountain; that after the troops were recalled from the base of the "palisades," while the Union line was near the crest of the "false ridge," mentioned in the official reports, it was discovered that several of the Union wounded were lying between the lines, and under the fire of the enemy; that Geo. Greek, of deponent's company, who was a corporal and one of the Color Guard, was discovered to be lying out there wounded and "unable to crawl off;" that Stephen Welch, a sergeant of his company, and himself, went out at the risk of their lives - as it was within point blank range of the confederates, - and finding that Greek was wounded in both legs they rolled

him in a piece of tent and carried him to a place of safety, where they turned him over to the stretcher carriers; that when they started to bring in their wounded comrade, the enemy made them the target for a brisk musketry fire; that he believes that Sergt. Welch was the first to propose to go to the relief of the wounded comrade, and that the sergeant's conduct throughout was of the most courageous and soldier-like character; that he has seen him under many trying circumstances and he was always brave and true; and that if his (deponent's) prayer should be granted and the medal should be awarded to them, he humbly craves that he may be "detailed" to present to Welch the one awarded to him. Affiant further states that Welch does not know of this application.

The records show as follows: Charles McKay, Company C, 154th New York Volunteers was enrolled July 26, 1862, for three years and is reported on rolls of the company to June 30, 1863, present; to February 29, 1864, "Absent det. in N.Y.;" April 30, 1864, present; to August 31, 1864, "In hospital since May 25, 1864;" to April 30, 1865, present. He was mustered out of service with the company as sergeant, June 11, 1865.

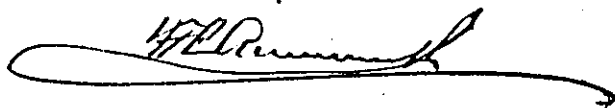
Stephen Welch, sergeant, Company C, 154th New York Volunteers, was enrolled August 11, 1862, and is reported on the rolls of the company to April 30, 1863, as present. He was captured at Chancellorsville, May 2-3 1863; confined at Richmond, Va., May 9, 1863; paroled at City Point, Va., May 15, 1863; reported at Camp Parole, Md., May 18, 1863; was furloughed from July 27, 1863 to August 27, 1863; reported a deserter September 4, 1863; returned to camp October 3, 1863; and was sent to 11th Corps October 6, 1863. He was mustered

(366,075,-4)

in as first lieutenant, 154th New York Volunteers, August 6, 1864, to date June 9, 1864, and was discharged June 13, 1865, per special orders No. 300, Adjutant General's Office.

The records show that George Greek, Company C, 154th New York Volunteers, was wounded May 3, 1864, at "Rocky Faced Ridge."

No official reference to the soldier's conduct in battle has been found.



Colonel, U. S. Army,  
Chief of Office.