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Somerville Journal

Sept. 13, 1911

Charles H. Tracy

Charles H. Tracy who was one of the best known Civil War Veterans in this state, and only man in the city who wore a medal of honor awarded by Congress for his service, died Tuesday afternoon after a stroke in his home, 15 Curtis Street, from a complication of diseases. He had been an invalid nearly five years, and his condition was critical during the ten days.

BOSTON GLOBE

BOSTON EVENING TRANSCRIPT

TUESDAY SEPT. 13, 1911

TRACY

^{Somerville}
At west **Summerville.** Sept. 12.

Mr. Tracy was born in Jewett City, Conn. October 3, 1833 and was the son of Albert Tracy. He was 77 years, 11 months, 9 days. Funeral services at his late residence, 15 Curtis Street, Thursday Sept. 14 at 3 P.M.. Services at chapel in Fairview Cemetery Chicopee, Mass. Friday Sept. 15 at 2:00 P.M.. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

Springfield papers please copy.

In 1870 he came to Chicopee and was a night watchman at the custom house for sixteen years until the spring of 1906, when he was compelled by ill health to give up active life. During his employment at the custom house he made his home in Charlestown where he was well known and highly respected. He came to live in this city four years ago.

In August 1861 at Chicopee, Mr. Tracy enlisted in Company A, Thirty-seventh Massachusetts Volunteers, which was mustered into the service at Pittsfield on September 4, 1861. Mr Tracy was honorably discharged July 4, 1863 at the end of an active service that lacked one month of being three years.

During the latter part of his service he was detached and with the rank of sergeant assigned to the perilous duty that fell to the lot of the brigade



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Somerville Journal

Sept. 15, 1911

Charles H. Tracy

Charles H. Tracy who was one of the best known Civil War Veterans in this state, and probably the only man in the city who wore a medal of honor awarded by Congress for bravery in that service, died Tuesday afternoon after a stroke in his home, 15 Curtis Street, from a complication of diseases. He had been an invalid nearly five years, and his condition was critical during the ten days before the end. He was in his seventy-eighth year.

Mr. Tracy was born in Jewett City, Conn. October 3, 1833 and was the son of Albert Tracy and Mrs. Harriet (Birch) Tracy. After leaving school he learned the machinists trade, and about 1853 went to Chicopee, where he was employed and made his home until 1890. There he worked in the cotton mills of the Dwight company and the Ames Manufacturing company. From 1888 to 1890 he was employed at the United States arsenal in Springfield.

In 1890 He came to Boston and was a night watchman at the custom house for sixteen years until the spring of 1906, when he was compelled by ill health to give up active life. During his employment at the custom house he made his home in Charlestown where he was well known and highly respected. He came to live in this city four years ago.

In August 1862 at Chicopee, Mr. Tracy enlisted in Company A, Thirty-seventh Massachusetts Volunteers, which was mustered into the service at Pittsfield on September 4, 1862. Mr Tracy was honorably discharged July 4, 1865 at the end of an active service that lacked one month of being three years.

During the latter part of his service he was detached and with the rank of sergeant assigned to the perilous duty that fell to the lot of the brigade

pioneers of the sixth army corps, which prepared for the advance of the Union troops and were the first to encounter the Rebel sharpshooters.

On the morning of April 2, 1865, he was with a detachment of pioneers detailed to cut away the abatis before Petersburg, Va. While engaged in directing the hazardous work he was five times wounded and it was while lying in the field severely wounded, encouraging his comrades to continue their task that the last Rebel bullet pierced the right knee joint. To save his life it was necessary to amputate the leg above the knee.

He was subsequently promoted to the rank of second lieutenant in recognition of his bravery and in later years he was awarded one of the much coveted congressional medals of honor. He was a charter member of Otis Chapman post, 103 G.A.R. of Chicopee, of which he was adjutant in 1881 and commander during the three succeeding years. In 1884 he was a member of the department council of administration and in 1891 he transferred his membership from the Chicopee post to Abraham Lincoln post 11 of Charlestown.

He was a past grand of St. John's lodge, 62 I.O.O.F. of Chicopee, and was a member and a former president of the Thirty-seventh Massachusetts Regiment Association.

At Upton, Mass. December 27, 1853 he married Miss Mary Elizabeth Corbin who died in Charlestown March 6, 1905. He is survived by two children: Oliver Edward Tracy, of Dorchester and Miss Nellie Tracy, who always made her home with him. In addition to one grandson he leaves two brothers: Rev. Thomas Tracy, a Presbyterian missionary at Dehra Doon, India, and William C. Tracy of Chicopee. The former has been a missionary in India thirty-six years: he spent two or three years at home recently returning to India last fall with his wife. A sister, Mrs W. H. Leavens lives in Wauregan, Conn.

The funeral was held at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the Curtis street home. The body of the veteran was dressed in the Grand army uniform which he loved so well, and the casket was covered with the stars and stripes, in whose defence he fought so bravely. There were many handsome floral tributes and a large attendance of relatives, old-time neighbors, former associates at the custom house, and Grand army comrades. Rev. Dr. Ransom Greene, pastor of the First Universalist church of Charlestown, officiated.

The final service in charge of St. John's lodge I.O.O.F. will be held this afternoon at the chapel in Fairview cemetery, Chicopee, where burial will be in the family lot beside the grave of Mrs. Tracy. The flag at the quarters of post 11, on Green street, Charlestown, has been at half mast since the death of its comrade.



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Springfield Union

Sept. 14, 1911

CHARLES TRACY

WELL-KNOWN CIVIL WAR VETERAN DEAD

Charles Tracy a former resident of this city and one of the best known veterans of the Civil War in the state, died in his home in West Somerville Tuesday after a lingering illness. Mr. Tracy was almost 78 years old and until poor health caused his retirement two years ago, was watchman in the Boston custom house.

Mr. Tracy was for many years a resident of Chicopee, being formerly employed by the old Ames Manufacturing company as a machinist. He left this city in 1897 to take the position in the Boston custom house, living for a time in Charlestown and later moving to his home in West Somerville where he died. Mr. Tracy was born in Jewett City Conn, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Tracy. He received his education at that place and came to Chicopee when a young man. It was here he learned his trade as machinist. On Aug. 6, 1862, he enlisted in the 37th Mass Vols., A Co. He served for three years and was mustered out July 4, 1865, in Chester, Pa. During the war he took part in eight important battles and at the battle of Petersburg he was struck in the knee with a portion of a shell, inflicting a wound which later caused the removal of his right leg near the hip.

At the conclusion of the war Mr. Tracy returned to Chicopee and lived here until he went to Charlestown 1897. Mr. Tracy was a member of the G.A.R and while a resident of this city took a great deal of interest in the organization. He was first at recounting incidents of the war and was known as an excellent speaker. His many friends who still in this city remember well the stories of the great war told by him in the old G.A.R rooms. There was a great deal of regret when he left the city to take up a position with the Government in Boston and his frequent visits to this city, where a brother still lives, were looked forward to with pleasure by his friends. He was also a member of the Chicopee Lodge of Odd Fellows.

Thomas Tracy

Mr. Tracy's wife died about four years ago and it was shortly after that his health began to fail. Two years ago he was obligated to give up his position with the Government in Boston. It was not until a few months ago however, that he was taken seriously ill. Since then he was unable to leave his house and he failed rapidly until his death yesterday. Mr. Tracy leaves one son, Oliver E. Tracy, and one daughter, Miss Nellie A Tracy, both of whom live with him in West Somerville. He leaves two brothers, William of this city and Thomas, who is at present living in India, and one sister, Mrs. Susan Leavens of Wauregan, Conn. The body will be brought to this city Friday morning and the funeral will be held in the new Spaulding memorial chapel in Fairview cemetery, Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The service will be in charge of the local lodge of Odd Fellows. Burial will be in Fairview cemetery.

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