

## Israel Green Heaps, Lieutenant, Co. I, 27 IL Infantry, US

1839 November 13: Born in Lancaster County, PA to William Gladden and Hester Ann Green Heaps. His parents were former Mennonites.

1848 The Heaps family migrated from Pennsylvania to Henry County, IL.

*“Israel G. Heaps, a resident of Kewanee, came to Henry county in 1848, when his father, the late William G. Heaps, cast his lot with that of the early pioneers of this part of the noble prairie state. In 1844 William G. Heaps came to Illinois, taking up his abode in Adams county, but two years later moved to Wisconsin, hoping to better his financial condition. He did not find as congenial a climate as he expected, however, and another removal was made in the autumn of 1848, at which time he settled on a tract of government land in Annawan township, Henry county, which became the old family homestead. By unfortunate investments in Wisconsin the father became in straightened circumstances and had a large family of small children to support. He possessed, however, strong arms and a brave heart but had nothing else to assist him when he settled in Henry county. Israel G. Heaps well remembers that in the winter of 1848-49 twelve cents was the postage which had to be paid on the delivery of a letter and on occasions they had to wait some time before the money could be obtained to “life it.” The tract of land on which the family settled was in its natural condition, not a furrow having been turned and there was no shelter for the family until a cabin could be erected. For a few years the struggle for a livelihood was severe but both parents worked hard, practiced the strictest economy and soon succeeded in placing the family in comfort.”*

1850 September 17: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Henry County, IL showed 10-year-old Israel living with his parents and siblings. His father, William, was a farmer.

*“In early life Israel G. Heaps had small opportunity for obtaining anything like what would at this day be considered a fair education. He learned to read, however, and was fond of books, eagerly perusing those which he could obtain. The schools were either non est altogether or were of the same primitive character as the other surroundings, and if there had been the best schools and the best opportunities he could not have availed himself of them for in summer he had to drive five yoke of oxen to a breaking plow and in winter had to haul rails from the woods to fence the farm, although he was not yet twelve years of age. If he could get a day off he would drive a breaking team for some of the neighbors, for which he would receive the munificent sum of twenty-five cents a day. For three winters after reaching his fifteenth year he attended the country schools and by extra exertion succeeded in securing a knowledge of the English branches taught in the district schools that had been established in the neighborhood. Having learned the way to study he made a considerable progress in the higher branches”*

1860 Attended Lombard University in Illinois.

*“In 1858 he entered the preparatory department of Lombard University, at Galesburg, Illinois, and for several years he taught school and attended that institution alternately. Notwithstanding the interruption in his course he was able to keep his standing in his classes and often acted as tutor. In 1860 he was admitted to the junior year and looked forward confidently to the time when he should complete his course and enter upon the study of law and personally take a part in the work of the world.”*

July 19: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Annawan, Henry County, IL showed 21-year-old Israel, a farmer, living his parents and siblings. His father William was a farmer as well.

- 1861 September 15: Enlisted in the U.S. Army and mustered into Co. I 27th IL Infantry. Description: Height-6'2, Hair-Brown, Eyes-Gray, Complexion-Light, Occupation-Teacher, Age-25, Marital Status-unmarried, Residence-Annawan, Henry County, IL

*“But the dark clouds of war had been gathering around the horizon of the beautiful sunny south-land and their rumblings were abroad in the ears of the people of the north. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, 1861, the shot was fired upon Fort Sumter that caused the patriotic wrath of the northern people to blaze forth. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of that month a great war meeting was held in the Baptist church in Annawan, at which speeches were made by Elder Hiram Pettys, J.M. Allan and Elder McDermond, who reviewed the causes leading up to the outbreak of hostilities and in the language of Webster declared “that the Union shall and must be preserved.” The call had been made for troops and at the close of the meeting it was decided to raise a company for the war and Mr. Heaps was the first man to put his name on the list of enrolled volunteers, thus being the first man to enlist in Henry county in the great Civil war. He was quickly followed by fifty-three others and when the election for officers of the company was held he was unanimously chosen captain, with H.C. Carroll as first lieutenant and Richard Linnehan as second lieutenant. When the company offered its services to the government it could not be accepted as the six regiments called for were full, and after repeatedly trying to get into the services without success the company was partially disbanded, but on the second call for three hundred thousand more men most of the men went to Camp Butler and joined Company I, of the Twenty-seventh Regiment, which had a full complement of officers of all grades but not enough men. At that time Mr. Heaps was helping to raise Company H, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, and as soon as it was full joined his old boys of the Twenty-seventh, with whom he fought for nearly four years, and the history of that grand regiment is part of his war history.*

*The regiment received its first baptism of fire at Belmont, November 7, 1861,-- the first battle in which Grant, Logan, McClernand and others who wrote their names high upon the roll of fame, took an active part. Mr. Heaps, re-enlisting as a veteran, volunteered to serve three years more before his first enlistment expired and most of the old boys who had not been killed who had enlisted in that first company at Annawan, remained with him. He was always at the front and took an active part in sixty-six battles and heavy skirmishes, among which were Belmont, Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Rocky Face, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Franklin, etc. At the battle of Stone River he was severely wounded in the right arm near the shoulder, the bone being shattered. The surgeons wanted to amputate the arm but he refused to let them and as he was young and healthy his wound did nicely and he was ordered to join the invalid corps. This he refused to do and he was then told that he would be discharged from the hospital, but slipping away he joined a party who were being sent to the front and on March 16, 1863, he joined his company at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. At Chickamauga, when Sheridan charged Longstreet's corp, he was shot in the breast and left upon the field for dead, but when the wounded were gathered up it was found he was still alive and he was sent to the*

hospital at Chattanooga and recovered sufficiently in time to join his company and go with Sheridan on the grand storming and capturing of Missionary Ridge. He then went with his command to East Tennessee to relieve Burnside. The months of January and February were spent among the mountains of Tennessee in fighting Longstreet. In March, 1864, he was granted a veteran's furlough for thirty days and for the first time since entering the service returned to his home to see his mother and the other loved ones he had left when he went to the front.

At the expiration of his furlough Mr. Heaps joined the army which was being massed for the great advance on Atlanta by General Sherman and took part in that glorious campaign, sharing in the hardships, dangers and toils of that "one hundred days of battle."

1862 August 12: Brother John enlisted in the U.S. Army and mustered in to the 112th IL Infantry.

1864 May 14: Brother, John, was killed at Resaca, GA.

*"At the battle of Resaca his brother, John B. Heaps, a member of Company A, One Hundred Twelfth Illinois Regiment, was killed after the shadows of night had drawn a curtain over the bloody work and the fighting had ceased, and only the crack of the rifle of the skirmisher and the moanings of the wounded could be heard, Mr. Heaps received permission to go to the field where the dead had fallen to find the body of his beloved brother. He went alone to the scene of carnage where the forms and faces of those who had died that the nation might live were lying in bewildering confusion, and by the feeble glimmer of a single candle peered into the faces, cold in the awful silence of death, until the one he sought was found, and there in the darkness of the midnight hour the living brother dug the grave for the dead one, wrapped his own blanket about the still form and carried it in his arms to its final resting place beneath a large tree near by. But few more lonely and pathetic scenes were enacted during that long four years struggle than this one on that dark and somber night amid the murmuring pines."*

June 27: Promoted to Lieutenant.

July 20:

*"At the battle of Peach Tree Creek, July 20, 1864, Israel G. Heaps was sent with his own and two other companies to guard a crossing of the creek to keep the Confederates from flanking the Fourth Corps, and although the small band was attacked several times by overwhelming numbers the position was held during the entire afternoon and for the grand and heroic defense made the command was congratulated and thanked in a general order by the division commander. When Sherman swung his army around Atlanta his command was heavily engaged at Jonesboro and fought and ready in driving the enemy from their stronghold, thus forcing the evacuation of Atlanta—the prize for which forty thousand brave soldiers went down in action. When General Sherman decided to cut loose and march to the sea the Fourth Corps, to which Captain Heaps' company belonged, was sent back with the Twenty-third corps to take care of General Hood, who, with the Confederate army, had marched north to invade Tennessee."*

November 30: Fought at the Battle of Franklin.

*On November 29, 1864, the armies met at Spring Hill and the next day at Franklin. Then the hardest and bloodiest battle of the war was fought. While Captain Heaps was on the advance skirmish line in front of the army the enemy flanked him and got in the rear and captured him and his company. They were sent to Corinth, Jackson, Selma, Cahaba, and finally landed in that death hole, Andersonville. In March, 1865, they were passed through the lines at Vicksburg and from there were sent to St. Louis where the captain was placed in command of three companies in the parole camp and where he remained until his mustering out, June 22, 1865, on account of the close of the war. He was promoted from private to first lieutenant on June 27, 1864, for gallantry at the charge of Kenesaw Mountain, and was afterward mustered into the service as Captain to date, December 15, 1864, by the war department, "for faithful and meritorious service during the war."*

1865 February 23: Promoted to Captain.

May 15: Discharged from the U.S. Army.

May 16: Married Rhoda Petteys.

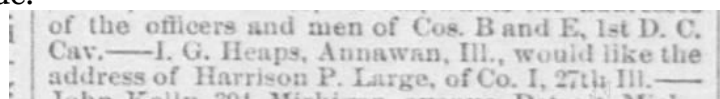
*"Returning to Annawan, Captain Heaps was married to Miss Rhoda A. Petteys to whom he had long been engaged. They settled on a farm belonging to Mrs. Heaps' father and he engaged in teaching school in the winter months, but soon devoted his entire time to farming and stock raising. For many years he was traveling correspondent for the Drover's Journal, of Chichago, and in that capacity visited all the states and territories in the west and also Mexico. His letters describing the resources and wonders of that great west and the habits and lore of the ancient inhabitants of that vast district attracted wide attention and comment, not only in this country but in Europe as well. In politics and religion he is independent, not being tied to any party or creed. He was a supervisor of Annawan township for ten years and also served as accessor."*

1866 December 8: Heaps applied for and was granted a pension for his military service during.

1870 July 23: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Annawan, Henry County, IL showed I.G., a farmer, and R.A., living with their children. The family also has two servants living with them.

1880 June 7: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Annawan, Henry County, IL showed Israel, a farmer, and Rhoda living with their children.

1888 November: Heaps placed a notice in the National Tribune looking for the address of a comrade.



of the officers and men of Cos. B and E, 1st D. C. Cav. — I. G. Heaps, Annawan, Ill., would like the address of Harrison P. Large, of Co. I, 27th Ill. — John Kelly, 291 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Mich. 1

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<sup>1</sup> The National Tribune, Washington, D.C. Thursday 8 Nov 1888, pg. 6

1890's

*“Mr. Heaps has taken an active part in agricultural and live-stock affairs and has been a frequent contributor to the leading agricultural and live stock journals on those subjects. He has also been a speaker of wide repute at farmer’s institutes and live-stock associations, and was for several years editor of the Farmer’s Tribune, of Des Moines, becoming known as one of the most forceful and able writers in that state. In 1892 he left the farm and removed to Kewanee in order that he might better educate his children, and since has devoted his time to looking after his agricultural interests and the welfare of his children.*

*When the battleship Maine was blown up in the harbor of Havana and two hundred and fifty-seven American sailors were lost on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, 1898, Mr. Heaps, knowing the strained condition between this country and Spain believed that war was inevitable and each day more fully confirmed him in this belief. Thinking that a call would soon be made for troops, on March 23, 1898, he wrote a letter to the governor tendering his services in any capacity in which they could be used in the event of war.*

*Notwithstanding the early tender of his aid Mr. Heaps was unable to get into the service and take part in the Spanish-American war. He very much regretted this and no reason was ever given for refusing his offer of service in any capacity in which he could be of use to the state and nation.”<sup>2</sup>*

1890

**TAKEN BY TENNESSEANS.**

An Illinois Regiment Would Like to Secure Its Old Flag.

Mr. I. G. Heaps, of Annawan, Ill., and Captain of Company I, Twenty-seventh Illinois Infantry, has written to Adjt.-Gen. McCord as follows: “At the charge upon the Kennesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864, our regiment, the Twenty-seventh Illinois, lost our flag, and we think it fell into the hands of a regiment from your state. I am informed that Gen. Hardee, commanding the corps, gave it to a Confederate Sergeant who captured it. At our last reunion it was decided to try and hunt it up. As it fell into the hands of troops from your state, it was probably taken to that state, and I write you to ascertain if you have any knowledge of it, and can give me any information how I can find it. I am not certain as to all the letters upon it, but think it was, “Presented to the Twenty-seventh Illinois Infantry by Brig.-Gen. N. B. Buford.”

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<sup>2</sup> Kiner, Henry L, History of Henry County, Illinois v.2, Pioneer Publishing Company, 1910, p. 517-522

<sup>3</sup> Nashville Banner, Nashville, TN, Wednesday 23 Apr 1890, pg. 6

1892

—I. G. Heaps, Annawan, Ill., offers a recipe for one dollar that he warrants to cure lumpy-jaw in animals. 2t

1900 June: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Kewanee, Henry County, IL showed Israel, a landlord, and Rhoda living with their grown children. Also in the household are four boarders.

1903

**FARMERS INSTITUTE.**

**Grundy County Farmers Will Meet  
January 19, 20 and 21.**  
Special to Times-Republican.  
Grundy Center, Jan. 7.—Grundy county Farmers' Institute will be held here Jan. 19, 20 and 21. The following program has been prepared:

**MONDAY, JAN. 19.**

1:00 p. m.—Reading of the minutes of last meeting.

1:15 p. m.—“Why one man raises only twenty-five bushels of corn and his neighbor raises seventy-five bushels.” Capt. I. G. Heaps, of Des Moines.

2:30 p. m.—“What will be the effect of the new road law?” John F. Richmond, M. E. Hunter, Wm. Mooty, L. B. DeSeelhorst.

3:00 p. m.—“How to enter the thoro-bred stock business.” E. S. King, Geo. Frost, Fred Stout, John Cross, John Lister.

7:30 p. m.—Music.

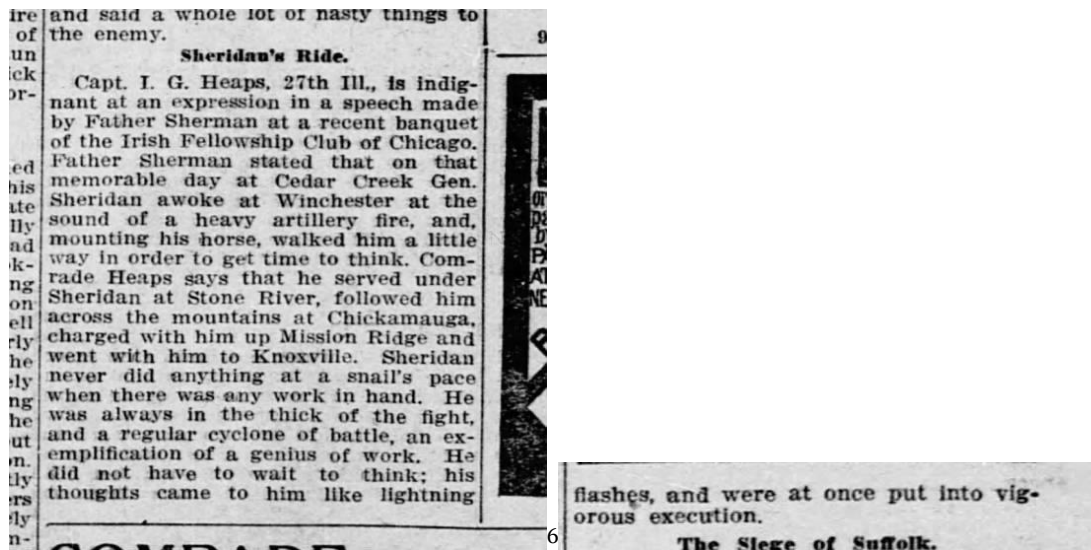
Lecture, “Duties and Responsibilities of Citizenship.” Capt. I. G. Heaps.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 20.**

<sup>4</sup> Hagerstown Exponent, Hagerstown, IN, Wednesday 6 Apr 1892, pg. 3

<sup>5</sup> Evening Times-Republican, Marshalltown, IA, Wednesday 7 Jan 1903, pg. 8

1908



1910 April 10: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Kewanee, Henry County, IL showed a retired I.G living with his wife Rhoda.

1919 September 8: Israel Green Heaps died in Kewanee, Henry County, IL. He was buried at Pleasant View Cemetery.



December 2: Widowed Rhoda applied for a military pension for her husband's service during the war. She lived until 1928.

<sup>6</sup> The National Tribune, Washington, D.C. Thursday 26 Mar 1908, pg. 2

<sup>7</sup> Photo from findagrave/user/Har37x

<sup>8</sup> St. Louis Globe-Democrat, St. Louis, MO, Tuesday 9 Sep 1919, pg. 7

