

James Flannigan

Born

1833, Montreal, Canada

Entered Service

Enlisted at Fort Snelling (MN) as a private on Oct. 7, 1861
Company H, Second Minnesota Infantry Volunteer Regiment

Civil War

Died

Oct 4, 1905 Massena, St. Lawrence, NY

Early Years:

James Flannigan/Flanagan, was born in Canada in 1833. His parents, James and Catherine (Fury) Flanagan, emigrated from county Queens, Ireland, to Montreal, Canada. After James was born, the family moved to St. Lawrence County, New York, and purchased an 80 acre dairy farm. His siblings included Bridget, John, Peter, Thomas, Catherine, Maria, Mary, and four who died young. James was educated in Louisville's country schools, and then left his family and moved west to seek his fortune. He was engaged in the lumber business.ⁱ

The War Years:

At age 28, in 1861, Flannigan enlisted as a Canadian soldier in the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry regiment. (**Company H. 2d Minnesota Infantry**). He resided in Louisville, Scott County, Minnesota and entered service at Ft. Snelling. Flannigan was one of 1,176 Canadians fighting with Minnesota units during the war. ⁱⁱ He served as private about three years in the Civil War with the Minnesota regiment. He was with the western army under General Thomas and fought at the battles of Mill Springs, Shilo, Perryville, Mission Ridge, Chattanooga, and Chickamauga, and was in Sherman's March to the Sea. ⁱ During his service, he was promoted to corporal and later to sergeant. ⁱⁱⁱ

Medal of Honor:

Flannigan received the United States' highest award for bravery during combat, the Medal of Honor, for his action at Nolensville, Tennessee on 15 February 1863. He was honored with the award on 11 September 1897. ^{iv} He is the only Scott County, Minnesota resident to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. ⁱⁱⁱ

Citation: Was one of a detachment of 16 men who heroically defended a wagon train against the attack of 125 cavalry, repulsed the attack and saved the train. ^v

There are many references online about Flannigan, his regiment, and his Medal of Honor award. They all highlight Flannigan's special service and gallantry. The Canadian Medal of Honor website has an interesting article about James Flannigan:

“During the war there were often times when troops on either side in the conflict had to scourge the area they were in for supplies. This was the case in mid-February of 1863 when Vale, Flannigan and 14 others were involved in the obtaining of supplies within a little wagon train of 10 carriages. Four of these had broken off and gone a distance when they came under very heavy fire from about 150 Confederate Cavalry. A skirmish broke out that saw the men being rallied by their Sergeant and

moved into a cabin, returning fire and ultimately rebuffing the enemy who turned away. Five of the Confederate soldiers were wounded and 3 of these ultimately became Prisoners of War. Four enemy horses were also killed and 3 were captured, as were 7 saddles and 3 guns. Two of the Union men were wounded in the battle.”ⁱⁱ

In *The Story of a Regiment: Being a Narrative of the Service of the Second Regiment, Minnesota Veteran Volunteer Infantry, in the Civil War of 1861-1865* by Judson Wade Bishop (1890), the Report of Brigadier General James B. Steedman is as follows:

“The Colonel commanding the brigade, takes pleasure in commending the conduct and sturdy valor of Lovilo N. Holmes and fourteen non-commissioned officers and privates of Company H, 2nd Regiment Minnesota Volunteers, for the heroic defense made by them near Nolinsville on the 15th inst., against the attack of two companies of rebel cavalry numbering one hundred and twenty-five men, and repulsing them with loss.

This little affair is one of the most creditable of the campaign and deserves to be remembered and cited as worthy the emulation of all.

The Colonel desires that the names of these worthy men and brave soldiers may be preserved.

First Sergeant Lovilo N. Holmes.

Corporals Samuel Wright and William A. Clark,

Privates Nelson Crandall, James Flannigan, Samuel Leslie, Louis Londrash, Charles Liscomb, Joseph Burger, Byron E. Pay, Charles Krause, John Vale, Samuel Loudon, Milton Hanna and Homer Barnard, have his thanks. By order of F. Van Derveer,

Colonel commanding 3rd Brigade. John R. Beatty,

A. A. Adjutant General.

GENERAL STEEDMAN'S REPORT.

(War of Rebellion, Official Records, Vol. 22, Part 1, page 49, Series 1.)

Report Of Brig. Gen'l James B. Steedman.

Concord Church, February 15th, 1863. Colonel :—A forage train of ten wagons from my command, with escort of two companies of infantry; and while four of the wagons guarded by 13 privates under the command of a Sergeant, were being loaded one and a half miles from Nolinsville, were attacked by one hundred and fifty rebel cavalry. The Sergeant immediately formed his men, took shelter in a cabin near the wagons and repulsed them, wounding five, three of whom I have prisoners, killing four horses, capturing three horses, seven saddles and three guns.

Two of our men were slightly wounded.

Very respectfully,

James B. Steedman, Brigadier General Third Division. Colonel. C. Goddard,

Assistant Adjutant General and Chief of Staff.”^{vi}

Flannigan continued to serve with his unit at major battles. There are several monuments in Tennessee, Georgia, and Minnesota, honoring the 2d Minnesota Infantry regiment. He reenlisted in 1864 and served until the end of the war.^{vii}

Post War Years:

After the war in 1865, Flanagan returned to his family's 80-acre dairy farm in Louisville, New York. He married Kate Mallen of Waddington, NY, in Sept 1868. They were the parents of four children: Frederick James, Agnes, Thomas and John. ⁱ

When Flannigan died 04 Oct 1905, age 72,^{viii} he was buried at Saint Lawrence Cemetery, Louisville, St. Lawrence County, NY. The photo of the headstone is at findagrave.com.^{ix} The transcription indicates that this veteran was a recipient of the Medal of Honor.



Photo of grave marker courtesy of Don Morfe, "Find A Grave" contributor who researches and photographs Medal Of Honor Recipient gravesites. Two obituaries from St. Lawrence County Newspapers in 1905.

turn tip home Sunday.
 Serjt. James Flanagan, a volun-
 teer and veteran of the Civil War,
 died Wednesday evening of acute indig-
 gestion. He had suffered many years
 from diabetes. He was a brave sol-
 dier, receiving from Congress an award
 of a beautiful carved medal of honor
 "For Most Distinguished Gallantry in
 Action," the following being a state-
 ment of the particular service: "At
 Nolinsville, Tenn., February 15, 1863,
 this soldier, then a private, Co. H,
 2nd Minnesota Infantry, was one of a
 detachment of sixteen men escorting a
 wagon train that was attacked by one
 hundred and twenty-five cavalry. Af-
 ter a most heroic defense, the attack
 was repulsed and the train saved."
 The funeral of Mr. Flanagan was held
 from the R. C. church Friday morn-
 ing. He leaves a wife and sister,
 Miss Kate Flanagan, one daughter,
 Miss Agnes Flanagan, and three sons,
 Frederick, a practicing attorney at
 Norfolk, John, of St. Louis, and
 Thomas, of Pittsburg, Pa., who ar-
 rived home Friday evening. The fam-
 ily have the sympathy of many friends.
 Mrs. Mary Watson is visiting at home.

LOUISVILLE.
**Death of James Flanagan. Marriage An-
 nouncements. News Notes.**
 Louisville, Oct. 10. The funeral of
 James Flanagan, who died of Bright's
 disease on Wednesday evening, at his
 home on the country road, took place
 from the R. C. church on Friday.
 Father Tierney of Canton, said the re-
 quiem high mass and Mr. and Mrs.
 Francis R. Guay of Massena, sang.
 Mr. Flanagan was 78 years old and a
 life resident of this town. He served
 in the civil war. Besides his wife he
 leaves three sons and one daughter
 and a sister. Frederick of Norfolk,
 and Agnes were the only ones present
 at the funeral. Thomas who is at work
 in Pittsburg, Penn., arrived home on
 Friday afternoon. John is in St. Louis
 and was unable to get here. The mar-
 riage of Miss Florence McQuaid to Mr.
 Finn will take place in the R. C.
 church Tuesday morning. William

NOTES:

ⁱ Genealogical and Family History of Northern New York: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation, Volume 3; Lewis historical publishing Company, 1910 - Clinton County (N.Y.); edited by William Richard Cutter; Pp 1158-1159

ⁱⁱ Canadian Medal of Honor Website
<http://www.canadianmedalofhonor.com/sunday-evenings-blogs/archives/02-2013>

ⁱⁱⁱ *Scott County's Civil War Veterans remembered*, by Scott Stone.
<https://www.scottcountymn.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/147>

^{iv} Fold3; Content Source: Fold3 Publication; Medal of Honor Recipients, 1863-2013; Content Source: U.S. Government Printing Office; Fold3 Publication Year: 2013; Fold3 Job: 13-049; United States; Short Description: Medal of Honor recipients, published in two volumes, 1863-1978 and 1979-2013. Volume: 1863-1978; Page: 87; https://www.fold3.com/page/632472461_james_flannigan/stories/
^v United States War Department. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. 70 vols. in 128 parts. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880–1901. Reprint: Harrisburg: National Historical Society, 1971. (Series 1, vols. 7, 30 and 31.)
<http://archive.org/details/warrebllionaco17offigoog>

^{vi} *The Story of a Regiment: Being a Narrative of the Service of the Second Regiment, Minnesota Veteran Volunteer Infantry, in the Civil War of 1861-1865* by Judson Wade Bishop, 1890 - United States. Pp. 215, 216
<https://books.google.com/books?id=RTgWAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA216&ots=8A0id80NpD&dq=Concord%20Church%2C%20Brig.%20Gen.%20James%20Steedman&pg=PA216#v=onepage&q=Concord%20Church.%20Brig.%20Gen.%20James%20Steedman&f=false>

^{vii} *Watertown Daily Times*; "Flanagan: Louisville's Medal of Honor Recipient"; PUBLISHED: THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2014 AT 2:03 AM;
<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20140605/BLOGS23/140609651>

^{viii} "New York Deaths and Burials, 1795-1952," database, FamilySearch; <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FD18-NJ5> : accessed 3 May 2016), James Flannigan, 04 Oct 1905; citing Louisville, St. Lawrence, New York, reference item 1 rn 296; FHL microfilm 1,311,929.

^{ix} Find A Grave; Photo by Alan Brownsten; Created by: Don Morfe; Record added: Jan 04, 2004; Find A Grave Memorial# 8242591;
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=8242591>

Obituary 1: *The Massena observer*. (Massena, St. Lawrence County, N.Y.) 1897-1989, October 12, 1905, Page 1, Image 1; Image provided by Northern NY Library Network; Persistent link: <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031311/1905-10-12/ed-1/seq-1/>

Obituary 2: *The Ogdensburg advance and St. Lawrence weekly Democrat*. (Ogdensburg, N.Y.) 1867-1927, October 12, 1905, Page 1, Image 1; Image provided by Northern NY Library Network
Persistent link: <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn83031423/1905-10-12/ed-1/seq-1/>