

## George Mathias Bleyer 24th Wisconsin Infantry

Obituary from Daily Wisconsin Newspaper 1863

Daily Wisconsin [handwritten]

1863 [handwritten]

DIED:

At Murfreesboro, on Sunday, January 25th, from wounds received at the Battle of Stone River, Lieutenant GEORGE BLEYER aged 22 years, 8 months and 29 days.

Funeral services will be held at the Spring Street Methodist Episcopal Church, On Thursday, at 2 P.M. Friends of the family are invited to attend.

Death of Lieut. Bleyer Daily Wisconsin Newspaper

DEATH OF LIEUT. BLEYER.

Yesterday the sad intelligence was received that GOERGE BLEYER, a Lieutenant in Co. A 24 Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers, died of his wound received at the memorable battle of Murfreesboro. The wound was at first supposed to be so slight that no danger to his life was apprehended; but all these chances are in the hands of God, who has taken away this noble and gifted young man.

We have known young BLEYER for many years—in truth, since as quite a child he came into the DAILY WISCONSIN Office to learn the printing trade. As this little boy did all things well, he gradually advanced himself until at the breaking out of the rebellion, he was accounted among the very first compositors in the State. In the meanwhile he had not neglected the improvement of his intellect. He read a great deal, studied the language carefully, and had become a most graphic and interesting writer. In truth he was full of every good promise. He was temperate, orderly, diligent, and faithful in every trust.

At the first summons to arms he enrolled himself as a volunteer in the 1st Wisconsin Regiment. After the expiration of his first term of enlistment, he re-enlisted as a private in the First. Knowing the full value of this young man, the proprietor of this journal offered him a situation as an editor of the WISCONSIN. In his modest way he replied, "After the war is over I will gladly come, but now no consideration on earth can induce me to leave the army." His worth was so conceded by every one who knew him, and he was recommended so highly by The Colonel of his regiment, for even a field officer's

position, that Gov. Salomon sent him a Lieutenant commission in September last, in the [blacked out] regiment. There, as ever, he was [blacked out] and beloved by all the officers and privates of the regiment.

His bravery and modesty, his earnest patriotism, his fidelity, and his growing intellect, combined with habits as temperate as a Puritan, filled us with the hope that this young man would become one of the useful men of the nation. We have sometimes thought we saw in him one of this gifted men who was to lead our armies to victory. But he is cut off in the morning of his days—beloved, respected, esteemed, as few young men are; and those who knew him well sorrow that one so gifted and so full of every noble promise should die so young.

Lieut. BLEYER is widely known to the readers of the DAILY WISCONSIN, as our favorite Army Correspondent "MARION." These letters alone would be a monument to his fame. They were equalled by few letters in the metropolitan journals of New York. They were interesting, truthful, and graphic, and marked by an ability which proved that he was a writer of [?] merit. We can also add that he was quite a Poet, and has written sonnets that are worthy to be preserved.

#### Death of Lieutenant George Bleyer

Death of Lieut. George Bleyer.

The many friends of Lieut. George Bleyer will be pained to learn of his death. A dispatch announcing the sad tidings, was received yesterday. No particulars were given Louis Bleyer will leave Nashville with the remains of his brother to-morrow.

Lieut. Bleyer has been in the army ever since the war commenced. By his exemplary conduct and soldierly qualities he had won his way up from the ranks to the position he held at the time of his death. Of a genial and friendly disposition he was beloved by the officers and men of his Regiment. He was a young man of more than ordinary ability, as his letters from the army signed "Marion," will readily attest. Occasional gems of poetry still more spoke of the intellectual capacity within him. Had he lived through this terrible war he would easily have gained an honorable position in civil life. As it is he has perished on the threshold of an honorable career. Society has lost one who gave bright promise of future usefulness, and the country has lost a staunch and gallant defender. His relatives and friends can shed silent tears over his early grave, and take consolation from the thought that he died while defending the liberties of the Republic.

Obituary of George Bleyer  
OBITUARY.

It was with feelings of deepest sorrow that we heard, on Wednesday of last week, that First Lieut. Geo. Bleyer, of the 24th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers, had died near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, from a wound received in the battle near that place on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult.[?] The announcement that his friends here should see his face no more lit up with the genius and spirit, the sparkling wit and generous warmth of a noble and chivalrous soul, cast a gloom over hundreds, aye thousands, we doubt not, as it did ever us, which could only be broken by the memory of his many virtues as a man and his qualities as a soldier.

In private life, before this desolating war broke out, which is robbing this country of so many of its brightest and most promising young men, he was highly esteemed by a large circle of friends and acquaintances in this city; and since he became a soldier, having joined [sic] the First regiment at its first organization, and only leaving it to join the 24th as Second Lieutenant, a few weeks previous to the battle of Perryville, he has been the constant and highly valued correspondent of the *Daily Wisconsin* [in italic]. In that capacity he has won hosts of friends, who will sincerely mourn his untimely death. Over the signature of "MARION" his racy pen has given many graphic

Pictures of the scenes through which the "gallant First" wound its weary way over the hills and through the valleys of Maryland and Virginia, in its first campaign, and there over the "dark and bloody ground," Kentucky, thence through Tennessee and portions of Alabama and Mississippi. Like a true poet he was (though not much given to rhyming) his eyes were ever open to catch the first indications of beauty or novelty in nature's face, and well could he portray their various hues and features for the pleasure and profit of his friends. And when so many hearts were almost dead with fear for the safety of sons, brothers and husbands, who were with him perilling their lives in the sacred cause of their country, how cheering it was to see the familiar heading to his letters—"War Notes from Tennessee," or elsewhere as the regiment happened to be located, and how eagerly was the entire letter perused, to the last word, we can testify and so can hundreds of others.

But his last battle is fought, his last victory won, his last letter written. Our ardent hope that we should live to take him by the hand and welcome him home, is gone, and we are left in sorrow.

"Call it not vain; they do not err  
Who say, that where the post dies,  
Mute nature mourns her worshipper,

And celebrates his obsequist's."

## LAY OF THE LAST MINSTREL

Lieut. Bleyer was born in Milwaukee, and was twenty-three years of age.

We learn, and place it upon record with emotions of deep satisfaction, that two ladies, residents of Edgefield, Tennessee—Mrs. Raiford and Mrs. Benson—having become acquainted with Lieut. B., upon learning that he was wounded, made efforts to have him removed where they could take care of him during his illness, but found it impossible to do so without probable injury to his health. Upon learning his death, they prepared a beautiful wreath of flowers, composed of mistletoe, holly, magnolia, &c., &c., to be placed upon his body in honor of his manly qualities which they had been quick to appreciate. We receive it not only as a well merited tribute to departed worth, but also to the cause in which he so gloriously fell.

Since writing the above we have been favored with the following tribute to his memory by a lady of this city, and to which we give place with much satisfaction:

And is dear "Marion" dead!  
We scarce can think it so:  
We saw him in the bloom of youth,  
But a few months ago.  
O, cruel war! could'st thou not spare  
One so esteemed, and loved so dear.

'Twas patriotic zeal

That led him from his home;  
And now dear "Marion's" dead!  
We'll bear him to his tomb,  
And o'er his body we will spread  
The Stars and Stripes for which he bled.

But many are the friends  
Our "Marion" leaves behind  
Dear youth of noble powers,  
And of superior mind.  
We mourn his death, yet don't complain.  
Trusting our loss may be his gain.

May hope sit by his grave,  
While love stands there to weep,  
And whisper to our sorrowing hearts,  
It is not death, but sleep.  
May angels guard with watchful eyes  
Till God shall bid the dead arise.

From the 24th Regiment—Extract from a Private Letter from One of the Wisconsin Office Boys.[bold lettering]

Letter from camp near Murfreesboro January 30, 1863 from G.T.F.

IN CAMP NEAR MURFREESBORO, Friday Jan. 30, 1863.

You have undoubtedly ere this been pretty well posted as to our late battle, and are aware that the Old Wisconsin office has lost another of her typos who went to do battle for our country. George Bleyer fell the first day of the fight, and I can remember the expression of his countenance as he was struck as though it was to-day. We lay in a cornfield, and a battery was back of us in the edge of the woods firing directly over us, when the cap to one of the shells flew off and struck him just below the knee joint. At the time, and in fact for weeks after, the wound was not considered mortal, but for three days before his death he gradually seemed to sink away, and last Sunday, a little before noon, he laid his life, upon the altar of his country. Thus our regiment has lost one of its best officers, and a perfect gentleman in every respect. All through our marches in Kentucky and Tennessee, he ever had a kind word for all the boys, and did more to cheer us up when we were tired, by showing his willingness to put up with the same inconveniences as the privates, than any other officer in the regiment. We lost another of our boys the same day that George died. His name was Leavett Case, a son of Mr. Case, who lives in the town of Wauwatosa. He died of the camp fever, four days after he first complained of being sick. He was a splendid fellow, and well liked throughout the company, both by offices and men. There is some sickness in the regiment, but taking everything into consideration, it is in better state of health than can hardly be expected. Our regiment numbers between 400 and 500 men fit for duty. When we left Camp Sigel we numbered over 1,000—quite a falling off. We have a very pleasant camp on Stone River, and have the reputation of keeping it in the best order of any regiment in our brigade. The weather at present is beautiful, but rather cool, although we have had some heavy rains, and an occasional sprinkling of snow lately. Our regiment at present is under the command of Major Hibbard. Capt. Austin is acting Lieut. Col., and Capt. Root acting Major. Capt. Austin is well liked by the boys in his company, and showed the greatest bravery during the late battle. Lieut. Balding has

command of our company at present, and an officer never was better liked than he. Henry Drake, our late Orderly, has been promoted to 2d Lieutenant, and given promise of making a first class officer. There is not much news to write about, and if there was I have not time to write, as we have got to "fall in" for batallion drill.  
G.T.F.

### The Remains of Lieutenant Bleyer

THE REMAINS OF LIEUT. BLEYER—The remains of this officer, (for a long time connected with the 1st, and afterwards promoted to the 24th,) whose death we announced some days ago, arrived here yesterday afternoon, in charge of Louis Bleyer, brother of the deceased. Mr. Bleyer found his brother already buried; at or near Murfreesboro, and he was unable to get through the lines to where he was. They were very strict about admitting any one through the lines, not even permitting sutlers to pass through.

Bleyer sent word to the front, informing officers in the 24th of his wishes, when the body was disinterred and brought to him. He had been laid in a large rough pine box, with his clothes upon him, and when he was first wounded no one dreamed that he would die from it. It was a piece of the cap of a shell that struck him, and had the injury occurred to him here at home, doubtless he would have been about, as well as ever in a few weeks. Bleyer found some Milwaukees [sic] at Nashville, who assisted him in the duties of his sad mission, and he became acquainted with a Union family, across the river from Nashville, with whom his brother had become acquainted, and the ladies of the family thoughtfully and humanely twined a wreath of evergreen and flowers, which was placed over the breast of the Lieutenant as he lay in the coffin.

Bleyer then had the coffin hermetically sealed, and enclosing it in a larger box started for Milwaukee, arriving here as we have stated, yesterday afternoon. His father's family, a delegation from the SENTINEL and the WISCONSIN, newspaper officers, and one or two of his associates who were connected with him in the 24th, received the body at the depot, and having placed in in a hearse, conveyed it to the residence of his parents.

The coffin was there opened, and the body was found in an excellent state of preservation, it being an easy task to trace the resemblance between the cold pallid face of him who lay in death before us, and the noble young man who was formerly a companion and a friend,

whom none knew but to love and esteem, and who has died the death of a brave and true-hearted christian [sic] patriot. May the sunlight of Heaven forever linger over his grave.

The funeral of the deceased is to take place to-morrow, at 2 P. M., from the Spring Street M. E. Church. His remains will be deposited in the Forest Home Cemetery.

Milwaukee, Wis.