

Chapter 00800 1865

James Barrett STEEDMAN

1818—1883 (65)

and

S. Miranda STILES

Fairfield NJ and Toledo, Ohio

Edward Pearce branch #3

Major General James Steedman is an in-law
via his wife's sister Malvina Stiles who married
Elijah Dodd, whose brother Ezra Squires Dodd
married our 3rd generation **Sarah Ann Pearce**.

3/23/2025

STEEDMAN, James Barrett, soldier, was born in Northumberland county, PA., July 30, 1818. He became a contractor on the Wabash and Erie canal in 1837, and removed to Ohio, where he was a Democratic representative in the state legislature, 1841-43.

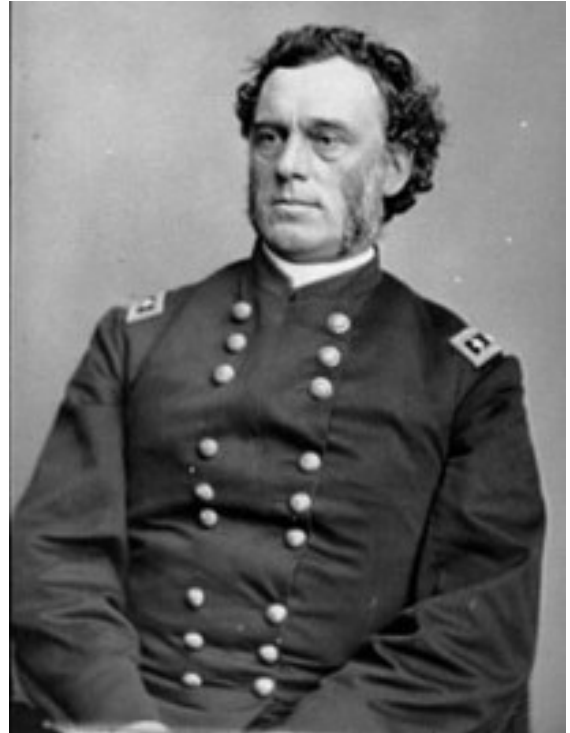
He went to California in 1849, but returned in 1850, and became a member of the Ohio state board of public works, 1852-56. He was a public promoter in Washington, 1857-60, and a delegate to the Democratic national convention held at Charleston, S.C., in 1860, where he advocated the nomination of Stephen A. Douglas.

In 1861 he enlisted as colonel of the 14th Ohio regiment; took part in the battle of Philippi; was promoted **Brigadier-General**, 7/17/1862, and drove back the Confederate assault at Perryville. He commanded the 1st division, reserve corps, Army of the Cumberland, at Chickamauga, where he reinforced Thomas at a critical moment, thus saving the army from defeat.

He was promoted **Major-General**, April 24, 1864, and served in the Atlanta campaign, defeating Wheeler's cavalry in June, 1864. He commanded the provisional detachment of the Federal army under Thomas, composed of about 5000 men, partly colored troops from Sherman's army, who had arrived from Chattanooga too late for their proper commands, and did good service at Nashville, Dec. 15-16, 1864. He served as provisional governor of Georgia, and resigned, July 19, 1866. He was U.S. collector of internal revenue at New Orleans, but became involved in financial difficulties, and returned to Ohio in 1879. He was State Senator, 1879-80, and was chief of police at Toledo and editor of the Weekly Ohio Democrat. A monument was erected to his memory at Toledo, 5/26/1887. He died in Toledo, Ohio, 10/18/1883.



James
Steedman
of Ohio



Chickamauga, Tenn. Sept 1863

Union General Steedman moved quickly and arrived about 2:30 p.m., just in time to stop Confederate Lt General James Longstreet's attempt to turn Union General Thomas's right.

Steedman is credited with "performing the most conspicuous act of personal courage recorded by any army officer during the Battle of Chickamauga" and preventing Rosecrans' defeat turning into a Union "disaster."

Military historian Ezra J. Warner stated that "His heroism was virtually the salvation of the Union forces left on the field" at Chickamauga.

During the fight, **Steedman was wounded** when his horse was shot and killed under him.

“MAJOR - GENERAL JAMES B. STEEDMAN.

“General James B. Steedman, who was one of the famous Ohio officers during the War, was living at Toledo when the War began. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1818, and previous to the War he had filled various positions of public trust. Two days after the call for volunteers, he telegraphed to Governor Denison, offering a regiment of troops, and three days

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after he was appointed Colonel the regiment was ready to take the field. The regiment, after a time spent in Camp Taylor, passed through many engagements, and in July, 1862, he was appointed a Brigadier-General. His service during the War was distinguished and highly honorable, and was regarded as most valuable. He was bold and energetic, and his troops possessed unbounded confidence in him.

History of the Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument

1894 book by William J. Gleason

Democrat President Andrew Johnson asked Steedman help:

While at New Orleans, says the same correspondent, General Steedman one day received a telegram from the President in these words:

"You will proceed at once to the city of Mexico as commissioner of this Government to intercede for the life of Maximilian. Papers and instructions will reach you at Galveston."

His reply was, "Mr. President, I have seen my country stand idly by while my fellow-countryman, Walker, and his brave comrades were murdered in cold blood for their efforts in the cause of liberty, and after such an episode I respectfully decline to risk my life for that of a royal freebooter."

Hdqrs. Dist. of the Etowah,

Chattanooga, June 24, 1864.

Capt. L. M. Dayton, Aide-de-Camp:

I have just received the following from Colonel Watkins, at La-Fayette, Ga.:

The rebels under Brig. Gen. G. J. Pillow, with 2 brigades, attacked this place at 2 o'clock this morning, and were handsomely repulsed. We have 70 prisoners and over 100 dead bodies, and many wounded. My loss is severe. The 4th Kentucky Mounted Infantry has just arrived and will pursue them. I fear Colonel Faulkner, of the 7th Kentucky Cavalry is captured. Prisoners continually being brought in. Pillow had 3000 men in his command.

I have ordered a cautious pursuit and an additional force to within supporting distance of LaFayette.

James B. Steedman, Maj.-Gen. Commanding.

Hdqrs. Mil. Div. of the Mississippi.

Near Kennesaw Mountain, June 24, 1864.

General Steedman, Chattanooga:

Good for Watkins. If he has force enough let him follow Pillow as far as he pleases. He always had Resaca and Rome to fall back on.

W. T. Sherman, Maj.-Gen. Commanding.

(General William Sherman)

Steedman reported to General Sherman during the March to the Sea.