

(U.S.) FT. DUFFIELD

**Colonel William W. Duffield, Commander
9th Michigan Volunteer Infantry**

(Taken from research by Richard Briggs, West Point, Kentucky Historian)

On December 4, 1861, Colonel Duffield wrote the following in a report:

“The weather is severe for this locality, the thermometer last night was five degrees below zero and we have now six inches of snow upon the ground. I am glad to see this as I trust it will have a tendency to stop the prevalence of typhoid which has decimated our ranks.”

Colonel Duffield was truly loved by his men. One enlisted man wrote home this glowing tribute on December 16, 1861, while the regiment was in West Point:

“We have a bully regimental commander. We had a good drill this afternoon and the Colonel praised us highly for doing so well after being idle from sickness so long. We have a noble Colonel. I have never heard him speak a cross word and he is very kind to his men. Several times he has told the boys when in line on parade, before the officers, to report to him if the officers mistreat them in any way. His greatest care is for his men.”

What better praise can an officer get from his men?

In a letter to Brigadier General John Robertson, Adjutant General, State of Michigan, on December 23, 1861, Colonel Duffield wrote:

“I am happy to report that our sick list is rapidly decreasing and now shows only one hundred & fifty six (156) instead of three hundred & sixteen (316) as per enclosed monthly return. The men are improving in both health & spirits and making rapid progress in Battalion Drilling and quietly settling down into the discipline of camp.

I have agreeably, on orders from Head Quarters, placed the entire command in log huts.

We have past through a most severe ordeal but need have no fears for the Future. I have had all the men and officers of this command vaccinated to Guard against a visitation from Small Pox which is prevalent in several Brigades now in Kentucky.

I have since my last to acknowledge the receipt of Hospital Stores for which We are indebted to the prompt and liberal action of the State Military Board As well as the kindness of various ladies aid societies both in the States of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.”