

South Acton Mass:

March 31 1899

To the Chief of the Record and Pension Office
War Department Washington D.C.

Dear Sir

I have the honor to inform you that
I have this day received by mail. the Medal
of Honor awarded to me by the President and
Congress. forwarded through your office

Respectfully and Thankfully
Yours

Nathaniel M Allen

late Corp Co B 1st Mass Vol Infy.

Subject: Medal of honor.

530,247.

Record and Pension Office,
War Department,
Washington City,

March 13, 1899.

M E M O R A N D U M .

The Assistant Secretary of War has directed the issue of a medal of honor to Nathaniel M. Allen, late corporal, Company B, 1st Massachusetts Infantry Volunteers, the medal to be engraved as follows:

The Congress
to
Corp. Nathaniel M. Allen,
Co. B, 1st Mass. Inf.,
for
gallantry at Gettysburg, Pa.,
July 2, 1863.

[Signature]
Chief, Record and Pension Office.

Boston, Mass., September 22, 1898.

To the Honorable the Secretary of War,

Sir:--

In forwarding the petition from certain survivors of the 1st Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry for a medal of honor for Corporal Nathaniel N. Allen of Co. B. the committee appointed by the Regimental Association to take charge of the application desire to state that: Corporal Allen having received the National Colors while under fire from color sergeant Eaton would have done in our judgment his whole duty if he had simply brought the National Colors safely off the field, and in turning back to save the state colors he performed a signal act of bravery outside the line of his duty, making him, in our opinion, eligible for consideration in the award of medals of honor. We also desire to state that all the field officers of the Regiment are deceased, also all the members of the color guard of July 2nd 1863, except two whose whereabouts are unknown.

Hoping to receive a favorable reply to our petition, I have the honor to be

Yours with respect

L. Edward Jenkins.

Late Capt. 1st Mass. Infantry &

2nd Mass. Artillery,

Chairman of committee

110 Prentiss St.

East Boston.

Mass.

R. & P. 530,247.

Case of

NATHANIEL M. ALLEN,

late corporal, Company B, 1st Massachusetts Infantry Volunteers.

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Application for medal of honor.

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In a letter addressed to the Honorable The Secretary of War, dated Nahant, Massachusetts, October 10, 1898, the Hon. H. C. Lodge applies for a medal of honor in behalf of Nathaniel M. Allen, late corporal of Company B, 1st Massachusetts Infantry Volunteers, for gallant and meritorious conduct at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 2, 1863.

Accompanying the application are the following papers:

1. A letter signed by L. E. Jenkins, late captain, 1st Massachusetts Infantry Volunteers, and the 2d Massachusetts Artillery Volunteers, dated September 22, 1898, as follows:

"Boston, Mass., September 22, 1898.

"To the Honorable

"The Secretary of War.

"Sir:

"In forwarding the petition from certain survivors of the 1st Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry for a medal of honor for Corporal Nathaniel N. Allen of Co. B, the committee appointed by the Regimental Association to take charge of the application desire to state that: Corporal Allen having received the National Colors while under fire from color sergeant Eaton would have done in our judgment his whole duty if he had simply brought the National Colors safely off the field, and in turning back to save the state colors he performed a signal act of bravery outside the line of his duty, making him, in our opinion, eligible for consideration in the award of medals of honor. We also desire to state that all the field officers of the Regiment are deceased, also all the members of the color guard of July 2nd, 1863, except two whose whereabouts are unknown.

"Hoping to receive a favorable reply to our petition, I have the honor to be

"Yours with respect,

"L. Edward Jenkins,

"Late Capt. 1st Mass. Infantry & 2nd Mass. Artillery,

"Chairman of committee,

"110 Trenton St., East Boston, Mass."

[530,247.--2.]

2. A petition, dated Boston, Massachusetts, March 17, 1898, as follows:

"Boston, Mass., March 17, 1898.

"Hon. Russell A. Alger,
"Secretary of War.

"Dear Sir:--

"The undersigned late members of the First Mass. Vol. Infy. and who were present with the regiment in action at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa., July 2, 1863, respectfully petition that Nathaniel M. Allen, of So. Acton, Massachusetts, late a corporal of Co. B, of said regiment, be given a Congressional Medal of Honor for meritorious conduct at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa., July 2nd, 1863. We hereby certify that we are conversant with the following facts:

"About 11 A. M. on the 2nd of July, the regiment was deployed as skirmishers in front of the First Brigade, Second Division, Third Army Corps, near the Rogers House on the Emmettsburg road, and remained in that position until late in the afternoon when the regiment was forced back by the advance of the Confederates in force and rallied on the regimental colors on the right of the brigade. While executing a movement of change of front to rear, the Brigade received the assault of the enemy in open field and after a stubborn resistance, and heavy loss, was forced back towards Cemetery Ridge.

"During said engagement, Corporal Nathaniel M. Allen, who was one of the Color Guard, received the National Color from Color Sergeant William W. Eaton, who was wounded. As the line of battle gave way, and was rapidly falling back, under a heavy fire and closely pursued, Corporal Allen saw Color Sergeant William Kelren, who carried the State Color, fall dead with his colors under him, and seeing that the State Color would in a moment fall into the hands of the enemy, Corporal Allen in the face of a galling fire, and none too quickly, ran back, pulled the flag and staff from under the body of Sergeant Kelren and brought both colors off the field. The severity of the fire at that portion of the field is shown by the fact that the Color Co. (B) lost 17 men, killed and wounded, and the company to the left of the colors (C) lost 18 men, killed and wounded, more than half of each company that went into action, total loss in the regiment in this action 122 men.

"We desire to state that while these facts have always been known and frequently commented upon by members of the regiment, Corporal Allen could never be persuaded to apply for a medal of honor, always modestly saying, 'I only did my duty.'

"We, his comrades, believe he should even at this late day, receive proper recognition for the brave and gallant act at that time.

"Honorable Secretary, it is at the request of the survivors of the regiment, expressed by unanimous vote, that you are petitioned to render this act of justice.

"From 'Cudworth's History of the Regiment,' published in 1865, 'Another manifestation of intrepidity worthy of record was made by Corporal Nathaniel M. Allen of Co. B, who observing that the color sergeant had been shot down, and that the flag must fall into the hands of the enemy, who were then rapidly advancing, turned back, and under a shower of bullets, raised the flag from under the color sergeant and bore it off the field in safety.'

"With the earnest hope that our request may be early and favorably considered, we have the honor to be,

"Yours with respect,

"William P. Drury, Late 1st Lieut. Comdg. B Co.,
"1st Regt. Mass. Vol. Infy., July 2nd, 1863,
"and now Chief of Police, Chelsea, Mass."

"George Murphy, Late Sergt. B. Co., 1st Mass. Infy.,
"July 2, 1862, and now Chief of Truant Officers of
"Boston, Massachusetts."

"Lionel D. Phillips, late Sergt. Co. H.

"Frank T. Palmer, Sergt. D Company.

"Geo. S. Campbell, Private, Co. C.

"Lewis W. Chase, Private, Co. B."

[530,247.--3.]

"Boston, Mass., August 27, 1898.

"At the battle of Gettysburg, July 2/63, the undersigned was acting ordnance sergeant of the 2d Division, 3d Army Corps and consequently was not in position to be an eye witness to Corporal Allen's rescue of the State Colors; but in 1886 I personally investigated the matter taking the evidence of many members of the regiment who did see it, and a majority of whom are now deceased, all of whom testified substantially to the facts above given.

"Isaac P. Gragg, Corporal Co. D, 1st Mass. Vol. Infantry, and 1st Lieut. & Bvt. Captain, 61st Mass. Vol. Infantry."

"Boston, August 29, 1898.

"Being on the staff of Brig. General Joseph B. Carr, 1st Brig. 2nd Div., 3d Corps, at Gettysburg on July 2nd, 1863, and being wounded during the movement of the brigade as above described, I was not a witness to the gallant act of Corp. Allen, but am positive from statements frequently made to me by those who did see it, that the facts as stated above are correct and true.

"George E. Henry, late Capt., 1st Mass. Vol. Inftry., & A. D. C., Staff Gen. Carr."

"Boston, Aug. 30, 1898.

"Having attended all the meetings and reunions of the survivors of the First Mass. Vol. Inftry. since the war, I am able to testify that the above statements have always been accepted by the members as correct, the chief reason of the long delay in this matter being brought to the attention of the War Dept. has been Corporal Allen's modesty, and I now trust he will be awarded the medal of honor which he richly deserves.

"Joseph H. Dalton, Presdt. 1st Mass. Vol. Inftry. Vet. Association, late 1st Lieut. 1st Mass. Vol. Inftry."

"Most of these signers are personally known to me and I certify that their statements may be depended upon as trustworthy and true.

"D. E. Sickles, Maj. Genl. Comm'd 3rd Cavy. Corps. New York, Sept. 1, 1898."

3. An extract from the records of the 1st Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Association as follows:

"First Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Association,
"Boston, Sept. 16, 1898.

"Extract from the records of the Association of proceedings at the Annual Reunion held at Boston, May 25, 1897:

"On motion of Captain L. Edw. Jenkins, Voted-- That the officers of the Association be instructed to petition the Secretary of War that a Congressional Medal of Honor be awarded to Corporal Nathaniel M. Allen of Co. B, for gallantry at Gettysburg, in saving the Regimental colors, and that they have authority to add to the number."

"A true copy, Attest.

"William G. Bird, Secretary."

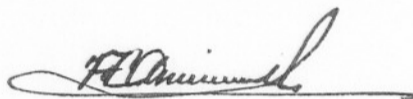
The records show that Nathaniel M. Allen was enrolled and mustered into service May 23, 1861, as a private of Company B, 1st Massachusetts Infantry Volun-

[530,247.--4.]

teers, to serve three years; that he was promoted to the grade of corporal January 25, 1863; and that he was mustered out and honorably discharged the service, May 25, 1864, with his company, while holding the grade of corporal.

It appears from the records that he was present with his company in action at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 2, 1863, but no special mention of him in connection with that engagement has been found of record.

It further appears from the records that the petitioners, with the exception of Messrs. Gragg, Henry and Dalton, were present with their respective commands at the engagement at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 2, 1863, as alleged.



Colonel, U. S. Army,

Chief, Record and Pension Office.

Record and Pension Office,

War Department,

October 14, 1898.

[530,247.--2.]

2. A petition, dated Boston, Massachusetts, March 17, 1898, as follows:

"Boston, Mass., March 17, 1898.

"Hon. Russell A. Alger,
"Secretary of War.

"Dear Sir:--

"The undersigned late members of the First Mass. Vol. Infy. and who were present with the regiment in action at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa., July 2, 1863, respectfully petition that Nathaniel M. Allen, of So. Acton, Massachusetts, late a corporal of Co. B, of said regiment, be given a Congressional Medal of Honor for meritorious conduct at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa., July 2nd, 1863. We hereby certify that we are conversant with the following facts:

"About 11 A. M. on the 2nd of July, the regiment was deployed as skirmishers in front of the First Brigade, Second Division, Third Army Corps, near the Rogers House on the Emmettsburg road, and remained in that position until late in the afternoon when the regiment was forced back by the advance of the Confederates in force and rallied on the regimental colors on the right of the brigade. While executing a movement of change of front to rear, the Brigade received the assault of the enemy in open field and after a stubborn resistance, and heavy loss, was forced back towards Cemetery Ridge.

"During said engagement, Corporal Nathaniel M. Allen, who was one of the Color Guard, received the National Color from Color Sergeant William W. Eaton, who was wounded. As the line of battle gave way, and was rapidly falling back, under a heavy fire and closely pursued, Corporal Allen saw Color Sergeant William Kelren, who carried the State Color, fall dead with his colors under him, and seeing that the State Color would in a moment fall into the hands of the enemy, Corporal Allen in the face of a galling fire, and none too quickly, ran back, pulled the flag and staff from under the body of Sergeant Kelren and brought both colors off the field. The severity of the fire at that portion of the field is shown by the fact that the Color Co. (B) lost 17 men, killed and wounded, and the company to the left of the colors (C) lost 18 men, killed and wounded, more than half of each company that went into action, total loss in the regiment in this action 122 men.

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"With the earnest hope that our request may be early and favorably considered, we have the honor to be,

"Yours with respect,

"William P. Drury, Late 1st Lieut. Comdg. B Co.,

"1st Regt. Mass. Vol. Infy., July 2nd, 1863,

"and now Chief of Police, Chelsea, Mass."

"George Murphy, Late Sergt. B. Co., 1st Mass. Infy.,

"July 2, 1862, and now Chief of Truant Officers of

"Boston, Massachusetts."

"Lionel D. Phillips, late Sergt. Co. H.

"Frank T. Palmer, Sergt. D Company.

"Geo. S. Campbell, Private, Co. C.

"Lewis W. Chase, Private, Co. B."

A. | 1 | Mass.
Nathaniel M. Allen
Co. B, 1 Reg't Mass. Inf.

NOTATION.

Book mark R. P. 530 247.

Record and Pension Office,

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington, April 1, 1899.

Medal of honor awarded
Mch. 11, 1899, for most dis-
tinguished gallantry in
action at Gettysburg, Pa.,
July 2, 1863.

A. G. N.

Copyist.

A | 1 | Mass.
Nathaniel M. Allen
Copt., Co. B, 1 Reg't Mass. Infantry.

Age 21 years.

Appears on Co. Muster-out Roll, dated

Boston, Mass., May 25, 1864.

Muster-out to date May 25, 1864.

Last paid to Feb. 29, 1864.

Clothing account:

Last settled, 186; drawn since \$100

Due soldier \$100; due U. S. \$100

Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$100

Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$100

Bounty paid \$100; due \$100

Remarks: Atd. Co. B. Jan. 24/63. Dec.
W. on clthy. acct. to May
25/64, \$13.98. Present.

Book mark:

Nathaway
Copyist.

A | 1 | Mass.
Nathaniel M. Allen
Pot, Co. B, 1 Reg't Massachusetts Inf.
Age 21 years.

Appears on a

Roll

of Company B, of First Regiment of Infantry in
the First Brigade, First Division, of the Massa-
chusetts Volunteers, under the command of
Robert Cowdin, as corrected on the fifteenth
day of June, 1861.

Roll dated

Not dated, 186.

Residence 2 Irving St.
Boston

Occupation Watchman

Where born Boston Mass

Married or single Single

Remarks: Parents living

Book mark:

J. Ausmus
Copyist.

A | 1 | Mass.
Nathaniel M. Allen
Pot, Capt. Pearl's Co., 1 Reg't Mass. Inf.
Age 21 years.

Appears on

Company Muster-in Roll

of the organization named above. Roll dated

Boston Mass May 23, 1861.

Muster-in to date May 23, 1861.

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When May 23, 1861.*

Where Boston Mass.*

Period 3 years.*

Bounty paid \$100; due \$100

Remarks:

† This organization subsequently became Co. B, 1 Reg't Mass. Inf.
* Muster-in roll shows enrollment and muster-in of this com-
pany as of same date. See enrollment on subsequent card or cards.

Book mark: R. P. 530.247.

Barnes
Copyist.

Personal.

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

Nohant, Mass.,

Oct. 10, 1898.

My dear Sir,

I forward herewith a petition from the survivors of the First Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry asking that Nathaniel N. Allen, of that regiment, may receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, for gallant and meritorious conduct at Gettysburg. I believe Mr. Allen to be thoroughly entitled to the medal asked for by his surviving comrades, and I desire to express the earnest hope that the request of the petitioners may be granted.

Very truly yours,

N. C. Lodge

Honorable Russell A. Alger,

Secretary of War.

Personal.

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

Nahant, Mass.,

Oct. 10, 1898.

I forward herewith a petition from the survivors of the First Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry asking that Nathaniel M. Allen, of that regiment, may receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, for gallant and meritorious conduct at Gettysburg. I believe Mr. Allen to be thoroughly entitled to the medal asked for by his surviving comrades, and I desire to express the earnest hope that the request of the petitioners may be granted.

Very truly yours,

N. C. Lodge

Honorable Russell A. Alger,

Secretary of War.

RECORD & PENSION OFFICE

OCT 13

530247

1898

WAR DEPARTMENT

NOTATIONS CARDED

Nahant, Mass

Oct 10/98

Nathaniel M. Allen
Co B 1 Mass Inf.
55-3763
July 15/99

Letter of

Hon H. C. Lodge U.S.

Congress Medal of Honor

Letter to Hon. H. C. Lodge March 11, 1899.
Letter & medal to Allen March 29, 99.

Address: "Chief of the Record and Pension Office, War Department,
Washington, D. C."

Record and Pension Office,
WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington, October 14, 1898.

Respectfully submitted to

The Honorable

The Secretary of War,

with report inclosed.

F. A. Minner

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Chief of Office.

[Four inclosures.]

RECORDED MAR 11. 1899

War Department,
Washington, March 11, 1899.

By direction of the President a medal of honor is hereby awarded to Nathaniel M. Allen, late a corporal, Company B, 1st Massachusetts Infantry Volunteers, for most distinguished gallantry in action at Gettysburg, Pa., July 2, 1863.

On this occasion Corporal Allen went back in the face of a deadly fire from the advancing enemy, pulled the regimental flag from under the body of the color bearer who had been shot down and left behind as the

regiment retired, saved the color from capture and brought it off the field.

G. M. Johnston

Assistant Secretary of War.

4 inclosures.

United States Senate,

Personal.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

March 16, 1899.

My dear sir:-

I thank you very much for your kind letter telling me that the Medal of Honor had been granted to Corporal Nathaniel M. Allen for gallant services during the Civil War. The G.A.R. Post of which Corporal Allen is a member desire very much to present the medal to him with some appropriate services and have asked me to enquire if it would not be possible to have the medal sent to me for delivery to the committee having the matter in charge. I should be very glad if you could oblige me further in this matter and have the medal sent to me for delivery to this committee.

Very truly yours,

N. C. Lodge

Honorable George D. Meiklejohn.

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT.

779049

1st Mass Sup'ty

State of Mass, County of Middlesex, SS:

In the matter of Claim for continuance of Penne
of Nathaniel M. Allen

Personally came before me, a Notary Public in and for aforesaid County
and State, Nathaniel M. Allen, aged 53 years

citizen of the town of Acton, County of Middlesex, State of
Post-Office address.

Mass, well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who,
being duly sworn, declare in relation to aforesaid case, as follows:

[NOTE.—Affiants should state how they gain a knowledge of the facts to which they testify.]

I am disabled from doing manual labor by reason of Heart disease, Piles, Keracoe ruins of left leg and testicle, so much so that I cannot do half an hours work that requires muscular exertion. My eye sight is so much impaired that I can do but very little work at my trade (Watch and Clock repairing) I am obliged to send the finer parts away and so loose my profits. I am allowed the use of beach room by kindness of friends, free. If I had to pay rent and fuel I could not pay my board. I own no real estate, and my personal estate consisted of my tools. I have no stock of goods. I have no income from any source except my work.

Further declare that no interest in said case, and not concerned in its prosecution. This is my own handwriting unaided by any oral or written statement of any person

1 }
2 } Nathaniel M. Allen
Signature of Affiant.

NOTE.—In the execution of papers and evidence, whenever a person or witness signs by mark, (t.) two persons who can write must attest the signature by signing their names opposite.
The official before whom papers are executed is not a competent witness to a mark.

I also claim and assert that my disabilities are not the result of vicious habits