
MADDEN, MICHAEL PETER

Rank: Private
Assign: Company K
LBH: In hilltop fight - wounded

Born: 1836, Galway County, Ireland
Died: Dec. 18, 1883, California, MO

Wounded in the right leg (double fracture below knee) in the first water party during the hilltop fight on June 26. Dr. Porter amputated, four inches below the knee, on the battlefield. Sent to Fort A. Lincoln, D.T., on the steamer *Far West*.

“In our first venture to the stream, we found Trooper Mike Madden lying in a coulee, shot through the ankle. Mike was a big husky fellow and had accompanied the first detachment [to obtain water for the wounded]. His leg was amputated in the hospital ... Before amputating ... the surgeon gave Mike a stiff horn of brandy to brace him up. Mike went through the ordeal without a whimper, and was given another drink. Smacking his lips in appreciation, he whispered to the surgeon, ‘Dothor, cut off me other leg!’ ” (William Slaper in Brininstool, *Troopers with Custer*, p. 59.)

Enlisted on Apr. 30, 1864, in Company A, 77th Missouri Militia, and discharged Dec. 19, 1864. Enlisted Mar. 23, 1865, in Kansas City, MO, in Company A, 52nd Missouri Infantry. Transferred May 1, 1865, to Company E, 51st Missouri Infantry. Discharged Aug. 31, 1865, at Benton Barracks, MO. Enlisted on Aug. 10, 1866, at a reported age of 25, in Cincinnati, OH, by Capt. Nelson B. Switzer. Sent to Carlisle Barracks, PA, transferred from Carlisle Barracks to the 7th Cavalry, Dec. 7, 1866. Assigned to Company H, 7th Cavalry, Fort Riley, KS, Dec. 7, 1866, per R.O. #3, Hdqs., 7th Cavalry. Appointed saddler Dec. 13, 1866. Transferred from Company H to NCS and appointed saddler sergeant Mar. 9, 1867. Reduced to private and transferred from NCS to Company D, Oct. 19, 1867, per S.O. #121. Appointed saddler Oct. 25, 1867, per G.O. #11. Participated in the 1868 Washita campaign. Discharged on Aug. 10, 1871, at Mt. Vernon, KY, on expiration of service as a saddler. Enlisted on Aug. 28, 1871, at a reported age of 30, at Louisville, KY, by Lt. William Cooke. Previous occupation was saddler. Assigned to Company K, Yorkville, SC, Aug. 29, 1871, per S.O. #128, Hdqs., 7th Cavalry. Appointed saddler Apr. 1, 1872, and reduced to private Dec. 1, 1874. Appointed sergeant from private, effective June 26, 1876, for distinguished bravery in action, per S.O. #59, Hdqs., 7th Cavalry, July 12, 1876. Discharged on Aug. 28, 1876, at Fort A. Lincoln, on expiration of service, as a sergeant of excellent character. Discharged from the Post Hospital, Fort A. Lincoln, D.T., on Sept. 13, 1876. Received a pension of \$18 per month starting on Aug. 29, 1876. Worked in the Quartermaster Dept. stables in St. Paul, MN, from Sept. 1876, to Apr. 1877.

“General R. W. Johnson, retired [a St. Paul attorney], publishes a card in the St. Paul papers asking aid for Sergeant Michael P. Madden who lost a leg in an attempt to gain water for Reno’s command. Madden’s term expired on the 28th.” (*The Bismarck Tribune*, Sept. 13, 1876.)

Admitted to the U.S. Soldiers Home on Aug. 15, 1877. His pension was increased to \$24 per month on Apr. 26, 1883, and to \$30 on Sept. 15, 1886. Resided at 318 Chestnut St., St. Louis in 1883. Apparently died on Dec. 18, 1883, in California, MO, as a result of alcohol induced delirium tremors. He had gray eyes, dark hair, light complexion, was 6’1 1/2” tall, and was illiterate. (There is an extensive article by Douglas D. Scott on Madden in CBHMA’s annual research magazine *Greasy Grass*, May 2009.)