

Goodlet Goodletson

Born: 1/8/1843
Sogne, Norway

Died: 7/16/1915 in
Menominee, MI

Period of Service: Civil War
Sources: J Miner, *Early Days*,
*Military Record of Rock
Island*, B10 F2, Cemetery-
block 1 Lot 11. Carol O'Neil

According to Jesse Miner, " Goodlet Goodletson enlisted in Company G of 18th US Infantry in the Regulars on June 11, 1862 at the age of 18 years, 5 months and served 23 months. Then transferred to the Navy for the remainder of his three years service. Was in the battles of Chickamauga and Mission Ridge "Saw plenty of hard service." *Early Days* His father, Thomas Goodletson, attested to his age and signed his permission.

His army service included battles of Murfreesboro, TN, Dec ember 31, 1863 to January 1, 1863, Hoover's Gap June 26, 1863, Chicamauga September 19 and 20, 1863, and Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863. He ended up on sick calls Feb 28, 1863 in Cincinnati, June 30, 1863 in Murfreesboro, TN, and October 31, 1863 at Chattanooga, TN.

He was "absent on detached service at Chattanooga April 30, 1864 to June 2, 1864, being examined for transfer to the Navy.

On May 2, 1864, Goodlet boarded the *Clara Dolson*, called a 'receivng ship', in current terms, a troop transport. On May 12, 1864 he became Fireman 2nd class on the *USS Chickasaw*. On June 24, 1865, he boarded the *North Carolina* bound for New York, and on July 6th, 1854, he was discharged at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

The USS Chickasaw was a monitor class (iron clad) ship launched in February 1864 and commissioned May 14, 1864, and until June 30, 1864, it patrolled the Mississippi River. She then sailed to New Orleans where she joined the West Gulf Blocking squadron, and in August 5, 1864 participated in Admiral Farragut's victory at Mobile Bay. She is mentioned as coming to the aid of another ship which was surrounded by Confederate ships. She was said to have suffered eleven enemy shells (torpedoes). This is when Farragut coined the phrase "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" The *Chickasaw* also participated in attacks on Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan in August. She was decommissioned in New Orleans in July 6, 1865. For a couple of months in 1869 she was named *Samson* and later renamed *Chickasaw*. She was sold at New Orleans in September 12, 1874.

The officers and enlisted men of the 15th, 16th, 18th, and 19th US Infantry and Battery H5 US Artillery who were wounded and died at the battle of Stone River, TN (better known as the Battle of Murfreesboro) December 31st 1862 to January 3, 1863 had a column dedicated to their struggle. Goodlet Goodletson contributed to the cost of the monument. It was one of the oldest monuments to the Civil War

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He married Inga Mary Gunderson (born in Norway 9/23/1841), on January 1, 1866 in Ephraim, WI, and had six children- Kate, Ida, Cornelius, Centela, Alfred, and Gilbert. Their first child, George, was born on Rock Island and died in infancy.

“He came to Rock Island in 1866 and fished there summers until 1875, when he came to Washington Island.” Jesse Miner in *Rock Island*

Article in DCA 4/4/1869 noted he was elected constable on the Island. He was Town Treasurer in April, 1874, and Town Supervisor in April, 1876.

His headstone was supplied by the War Department's Office of Quartermaster for Headstones, and he applied for a pension in July, 1893, reapplied in 1912, and got pension #26103 for \$25, last paid July 4, 1915.

Goodlet recalled that in the bitter winter of 1857, the children were clothed in buckskin, and mittens were made of dogskin and catskin. The snow was deep, traffic was blocked, and people had to tunnel paths to get from the house to their stock in the log sheds. Provisions ran low and people lived on potatoes and salt. Ducks flew in search of food and fell dead upon the snow.

His son was Alfred Goodlet, his grandson Victor.

Picture in AL Scrapbook in Box 17.

