

STONEHAM SENTINEL
Saturday September 3, 1864

FUNERAL OF COL. GOULD

The funeral of the late Col. J. P. Gould, of the 59th Mass. Regt., took place at the Orthodox Church, Stoneham, last Saturday afternoon, and was largely attended. The military escort for Cos. A and C. 1st Batt. Heavy Artillery from Fort Warren, under command of Capt. Baldwin, and accompanied by the Boston Brigade Band. Members of the following Masonic lodges formed part of the funeral procession. Mount Horeb Lodge, Woburn, Wyoming Lodge, Melrose, Mt. Vernon Lodge, Malden. Parkman Lodge, Winchester, Mt. Hermon, Medford. The remains were escorted from the late residence of the deceased, to the church. Lieut. Col. Hovey, Major Eliot C. Pierce, Capt. J. A. Howe, Lieut. E. W. Cody, Lieut. A. N. Sampson, and Asst. Surg. W. Hixon of the 13th, acting as pall bearers.

The church was appropriately decorated with mourning emblems and the national flag and the vacant pew of the deceased was draped in mourning. The coffin was placed beneath an arch of evergreens in front the pulpit and the national flag, and his sword and belt placed upon it.

The services commended with a selection by the choir. "I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me, write: Blessed are they who die in the Lord." The Scriptures were read and prayer offered by Rev. S.H. Tolman, of Wilmington, who is pastor of the young lady to whom the Colonel was betrothed, and to whom he expected to be married in a few weeks. Rev. Swift Byington, pastor of the Congregational Church, then made a touching address, in which he embodied the principal facts in the life of the deceased.

Jacob Parker Gould was born at Stoneham, May 15. 1822. He graduated from the Military Academy at Norwich, Vermont, in 1849. After having engaged successfully in teaching for some years, he finally became by profession a civil engineer. The New York Central Railroad, other works in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and several of the horse railroads centering in Boston, testify to his skill and thoroughness. When the war broke out he entered into the cause of his county with his whole heart. He raised a company in Stoneham, and went in command of it to Fort Independence, when it became part of the 13th Regiment. He was soon commissioned Major of the regiment, and went into the field. For a time he was detached with three and four companies, for special duty at Harper's Ferry, and so distinguished himself that he received in General Orders the thanks of the commander of the department. He had command of the regiment at the battles of Thoroughfare Gap, the second battle of Bull Run, and Chantilly, at South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, his ranking officers being either sick or on detached duty. He was in fifteen or more engagements before promotion, gaining the highest esteem and affection of the line officers and men, not less by his gallantry and kindness than for his stern fidelity to the post of duty, which last gave him the appellation of the "Fighting Major."

At the organization of the three veteran regiments, Gov. Andrew offered Major Gould the command of one of them, and the regiment was attached to the 9th (Burnside's) Corps, which he accepted. In the battle of the Wilderness he had command of two brigades, where he was taken severely ill through excessive toils and exposures, and was laid up at Fredericksburg for a fortnight. He rejoined his command at Hanover town, eighteen miles from Richmond; and henceforth to this death he acted as Brigadier General. He particularly distinguished himself in the capture of the first line of the Petersburg defences [sic], June 16, when in charge of three brigades he led the front line of attack, the centre being under his immediate personal

command. Gen. Grant, on visiting the works shortly after, expressed his admiration of the achievement.

Again in the late unsuccessful assault after the explosion of the mine at Petersburg, July 30, he was in command of a brigade, and as he was mounting the fort he was struck by a rifle ball just below the left knee, by which the knee was shattered, and it was found necessary to amputate the limb above the knee that afternoon. He was calm and serene after the amputation and expressed himself resigned to the will of God. The chaplain of the field hospital, in writing to his family said: "He will be tenderly cared for, here, as he is widely known in the corps and beloved by all. He has an advantage from his freedom heretofore from intoxicating drink. I expect he will recover fast, and in a few weeks will be able to communicate with you personally." As soon as he was able to bear it, he was removed to the hospital at City Point, Virginia, and afterwards to Philadelphia, where he arrived Saturday noon, the 20 instant, suffering somewhat from the journey. On the following (Sunday) morning an artery opened in the wound, and he was so much weakened by the hemorrhage that he sank away and died in the afternoon.

Col. Gould was a devoted, Christian man. "He united," said the pastor, "with this church by profession in Jan., 1852, and in March, 1858 he was chosen deacon by every vote except one, which was his own. The office he declined, either through modesty, or because he felt an older man should be appointed. He was an active and useful member of the church, and was strongly attached to its faith, but held it in such a genial and charitable spirit as not to render himself odious to men who held other views. His character and example were commended as testimony to the value and help of a Christian faith to give genuine respect and success in all the circumstances and varied positions of life and duty. To his fellow soldiers he has left an

example of how a soldier may be a sincere Christian, and in that hard field of duty win laurels to be laid at the Redeemer's feet.”

Col. Gould was actively identified with political and educational enterprises, and has represented the town in the Massachusetts Legislature. Probably no young men had gained so well deserved a popularity. Mr. Byington closed his interesting sketch by some feeling words of religious application, and of Christian sympathy with the mourners.

Rev. Mr. Squiers of Franklin, formerly pastor of the Universalist Society in Stoneham, addressed the mourners and the Masonic brethren, an original hymn was sung by the choir and the benediction was pronounced.

The church was crowded in every part, and when opportunity was given to view the remains, the friends were nearly an hour in passing. The funeral was then re-formed, and proceeded to the Cemetery, where the remains were interred with military honors. We noticed several military gentlemen from other regiments at the funeral, and the following members of the 13th, his old comrades in arms: Capt. F. W. Fiske, Capt. W. B. Kimball. Lieut. S.C. Whitney, Lieut. G. E. Craig. Lieut. M. S. Smith. Lieut. R. M. Armstrong. Flags were displayed at half-mast throughout the town, and all the stores were closed.

Notes: The date of the funeral was Saturday August 27, 1864.

Col. Gould's date of death is reported as August 21, 1864 in his military record, on the Civil War monument in Lindenwood Cemetery and the Stoneham Town Clerk's records. The date of August 22, 1864 is recorded on his gravestone in Lindenwood Cemetery.

The Orthodox Church referred to in the article is the First Congregational Church built in 1840 on Main Street between what is now Common Street and Church Street.

Our thanks to Joan Quigley for locating this document in the Woburn Public Library and to Marcia M. Wengen for transcribing it.

~mmw 2.5.2014