

CW/VFM 58: *Robert Love (book)*

- “A Boy Volunteer’s War Record”—volume published in 1908 as a Christmas present for daughter Marian Taylor Love. An account of the war experiences of the 10th New Jersey Volunteers. Ms 130+ pp.

The book opens with Love’s interpretation of the political situation before the war—it is clearly biased and more based on perception than fact. Love then relates his experience (unsuccessful at first) of enlisting and the friends that join up with him (John “Jack” Pepper, George Thorn, and John Johnson). Love is mustered into Company C as a sergeant. His unit is sent to Camp Clay to be part of the defenses of Washington D.C. They are briefly moved to Camp Monmouth near Poolesville and encounter Turner Ashby’s skirmishers, but are kept mainly in Washington. As sergeant, Love is put up to some remarkable duties, including at one point being escort to the distinguished prisoner W.H.F. Lee to Fortress Monroe.

In March of 1863, Henry O. Ryerson takes over as Colonel of the 10th NJ and gets them moved onto active duty. They are transferred to Suffolk, VA and sit out the Gettysburg campaign there. Then they are sent to help assist with the suppression of the New York draft riots, but do not arrive in time. They camp in Philadelphia and then are sent to Hagerstown to deal with Confederate Raiders. During this time, Love passes an exam to receive a lieutenant’s commission. The regiment is then sent to deal with uprisings of Molly Maguires for the Smith and Hull Coal Company in Audenreid.

When Love receives the lieutenant’s commission, he is sent to serve as an Aide to General Sigel at Reading. When Sigel is transferred to the Army of the Shenandoah, Love returns to his unit in the Army of the Potomac. At Brandy Station, they are attached to the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, VI Corps. On 3 May, the unit begins their march toward the Wilderness.

Love proceeds with an account of the battle of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and his unit’s involvement with the siege of Petersburg. They are then dispatched back to Washington D.C. to aid in the defense of Ft. Stevens. They participate in the pursuit of the raiders down Snicker’s Gap.

Love is wounded shortly thereafter near Berryville and is out of action for the rest of the war.

Keywords: Union – East – New Jersey – 10th; Regimental Histories; Army – Infantry; Soldier – Commissioned Officers

Location: Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives,
Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.

See also: [Civil War Sources in Special Collections](#)