



A drum is the heartbeat of an army. Its tempo lets you know whether to hurry along, steady yourself, or take to your heels. It tells you when to get up, eat, and go to bed. And the fellow who taps out the calls is the very heart of every company in every regiment in every army. They called us drummer boys.¹

Amongst the artifacts in the Espy Post is a drum belonging to Zachariah T. Benedick. Documentation for the artifact shows the drum was presented to him by the members of his company on February 5, 1863. The drum was carried by him until his discharge at the close of the war in 1865.

What a thrill it must have been for a young boy to march off to war. What courage he must have possessed for one so young to say goodbye to family and friends. Who was this drummer boy and what military action did he and his drum witness?

Membership papers for the Espy Post show Zachariah joined the post on July 9, 1906 at age 61 stating he was born in Harrison County, Ohio (1846). He mustered into Co. A of the 126th Ohio Volunteer Infantry on July 27, 1862, one of some 464,000 who volunteered from Ohio during the Civil War. He served until his muster out on June 25, 1865 at Washington, D.C.

Without viewing his military service record at the National Archives, one cannot say for sure, but it would appear that Zachariah and his drum saw heavy action at Manassas Gap, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Petersburg and Cold Harbor to name a few. Some of the bloodiest battles of the entire war. Zachariah died March 31, 1913 and is buried at Chartiers Cemetery.

For more information on this and other artifacts in our collection, click on the Civil War Room tab at www.carnegiecarnegie.com and look at the 1911 Annotated Catalog.

1. Wisler, G. Clifton. *Mr. Lincoln's Drummer*. New York: Penguin Books, 1995.