

This article and picture are sent in response to your request for Civil War ancestry stories:

William McCarty, my great grandfather on my father's side, was born in McConnelsville, Morgan County, Ohio, on November 11, 1840), where he spent his young manhood. He enlisted in the 97th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Company C, on August 9, 1862, and was mustered into service at Camp Zanesville, Ohio , on September 1, 1862. He is listed in the regimental history as a wagoner. He took an active part in a number of battles in the western theater, including the Battle of Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he received a gunshot wound in the assault on Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863. After his recovery, he rejoined his regiment, which served under Sherman during the Atlanta campaign. At the Battle of Kenesaw Mountain, he served with distinction, according to W. D. Thompson, first lieutenant of the 97th, who noted in an article entitled, "Another Raid on Bosworth's Bakery," published in the National Tribune: "In preparing for the charge on Kenesaw Mountain, a detachment of the 97th O. V. I., consisting of 145 men and two officers, was ordered to drive in rebel pickets in front of second division, fourth corps, and hold their pits. They did it with a loss of more than 100 men - more than 70%, and permit me to place upon record an incident connected with the above that marks the principal character as one of the heroes of the war. During the fiercest part of the struggle the survivors called for more ammunition. To go along those captured rifle pits, within a few rods pf the enemy's main line, and distribute cartridges under the fire of the enemy, and where 100 men had fallen within ten minutes, was to enter the jaws of death, and required undaunted courage. Yet Will McCarty, Co. C, 97th O. V. I., did it, and came out unharmed. Honor is justly due this hero." William McCarty was mustered out of service on June 10, 1865, at Nashville, Tennessee, having served three years. After the war, William McCarty and his family moved to Galva, McPherson County, Kansas, where he passed away on February 16, 1909.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard L. Hill