



Town of Southampton ~ Civil War Veterans

Edwin Bill

Hometown: Sag Harbor

Bill served in the 127th New York State Volunteer Infantry Regiment, known as the "Monitors," in Company K.

On September 8, 1862, at the age of 38, he mustered in with the rank of Private and mustered out on June 30, 1865, at Charleston, S.C.

He is buried in the Oakland Cemetery, Sag Harbor.



1861~1865



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Bill, Edwin

Oakland Cemetery, Sag Harbor

DEATH OF "FORTY-NINER"

Edwin Bill, Sag Harbor's oldest male citizen, died on Wednesday last, at his home in that village. He was ninety-three years old, a good sailor, whaleman, veteran of the Civil War, a member of Edwin Rose Post, G. A. R., and during the latter part of his life had followed the trade of a painter.

Captain Bill's life is interesting, not only to his acquaintances, but to many people in East Hampton, for he was a shipmate of H. L. Van Scoy, of this village, when they both joined the great rush for gold in California, in 1849. Mr. Van Scoy, who is ninety-one years old, sailed from the Sag Harbor port, with Captain Bill, on the ship, "Little Hamilton," with Shamgar Slate, as captain. The success of these pioneers finding gold was not very great. Mr. Van Scoy remained in the West and Mr. Bill returned to San Francisco, where he shipped on a voyage aboard the merchant vessel, "Natchez," bound for Hong Kong.

In 1852 he married Eliza Ann Miller, of Sag Harbor. He is survived by two sons, Frederick and Frank, one daughter, Mrs. Edwin Fordham, all of Sag Harbor, and another daughter, Mrs. John Hildreth, of Southampton.

Now that Captain Bill is dead, H. L. Van Scoy is said to be one of the last, if not the last "forty-niner" in this state.

Sag Harbor Whaler Dies at 94

Captain Edwin Bill, oldest citizen of Sag Harbor, died at his home there on August 2d, aged 94 years.

Born in 1824, Captain Bill, when 18 years old, shipped as a whaler aboard the ship Daniel Webster of Sag Harbor. The vessel sailed around the world, going out Cape Good Hope way and returning around Cape Horn. His next voyage was with Captain Atkins Eldredge, in the Sag Harbor bark Laurens. In 1849, when gold was discovered in California, Captain Bill shipped with a company of Long Island Argonauts in the Little Hamilton of Sag Harbor. At the mines his luck was indifferent and he soon tired of the life of a miner and returned to the sea.

When the Civil War started Captain Bill was among the first young men of Sag Harbor to volunteer. He entered service in the 127th Regiment of New York Volunteers and was honorably discharged at Charleston, N. C., at the conclusion of the hostilities.

In 1852 Mr. Bill married Eliza Ann Miller of Sag Harbor. She died a few years ago. He is survived by two sons, Frederick and Frank, of Sag Harbor, and two daughters, Mrs. Lydia Fordham, of Sag Harbor, and Mrs. John Henry Hildreth, of Southampton.

Port Jefferson Echo, August 11, 1917