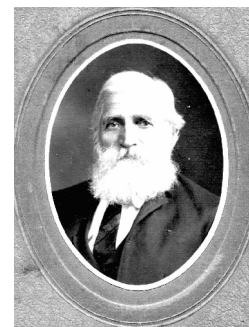


APPENDIX
THE FIRST PERSON STORY OF JOHN MARTIN

NOTE: This is the story of our first ancestor in America, John Martin, as told by himself to the Galesville *Republican* newspaper of Galesville, Wisconsin, in a Thursday issue in December in the late 1800s, possibly 1888. The specific date of the paper is not known and was not available in any newspaper or museum archive. It was apparently story number seven in a series, of men from Galesville, Wisconsin who had served in the Civil War (which began in 1861). At the time this was written and published, John Martin was living in Bancroft, Nebraska.

Soldier Boys of '61 STORY No. VII

**Recollections of John Martin, who served in the War with Mexico
and Went to the Front again in '61.**



There are not many men living today who were "Boys of '48" and "Boys of '61 ". There is at least one, a former resident of the town of Gale, who is also an old member of The Republican family. Mr. Martin lived on a farm in Crystal Valley some 30 years ago. He removed from Wisconsin to Bancroft, Neb., where he is now enjoying his declining years as best a man of his age can. The Republican has long known of him as a veteran of two wars and has succeeded in obtaining the following sketch, which is given in his words.

"I was born in Prussia, Germany, April 4, 1827. I left there at the age of 20 years, but not to escape military service. I landed at Quebec, Canada, and went from there to Chicago, where I worked a month at my trade, that of a shoemaker. I then went to St. Louis and spent six months in that city. All the time shoe-making or repairing. "About Dec. 20, 1847, I enlisted in the Missouri Volunteers for the war with Mexico and served under Lieut. Allen Bertillion. In April, 1848, we started on our march overland from Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, to Santa Fe, Mexico, with 500 wagons loaded with provisions and ammunition for the army. To each wagon were attached five yoke of oxen in charge of two drivers. There were 1000 teamsters and 500 soldiers. With little difficulty we arrived at Santa Fe about August 20, peace having been declared before we reached there."

"After resting in Mexico eight days I took my discharge and then re-enlisted in the regular service, first request for five-year enlistments. My regiment was the First cavalry, Co. G, under command of Lieut. Taylor. We were first stationed at Albuquerque and for a year were scouting this country for Indians. At one time a detachment of 15 men were sent out to the Sacramento mountains. It took us from noon to the next morning to climb the mountains. At the top the view was fine and there was timber, water and grass in abundance. We scouted around until late in the afternoon. We saw but two Indians. There were fired upon, but whether or not the shots took effect we never learned. The reds fled into the timber and there we found a trail. Going down the mountains we got a good view of the Indians hid in the rocks.

There were many savages and they got pretty busy with their rifles. Finally we charged them and two of our men received slight wounds. Farther down we came to a place where there was a straight cliff 300 feet high. A narrow trail led down and as we descended, the Indians appeared above and commenced to roll rocks down on us. These we managed to dodge. As we were nearly out of provisions we returned to the fort.”

”In July 1849, 39 men of our company (of which I was one) were sent to California to escort some of the commissioners. We had about 150 mules and each mule had 300 to 400 pounds to pack. Along in the center of Arizona we came to a peaceable Indian village where they were threshing wheat by tramping it out by foot. Our next experience was an eight-day-and-night fight with Indians. We captured the chief, but he escaped. So long as we had the chief the Indians did not fire on us.”

”In crossing the Colorado river between Arizona and California we improvised a ferry by placing boards across two canoes and lashing them together. However, in the crossing we lost our captain and four men by drowning. Here we again ran short of provisions and we were about to march through a desert with 90 miles to the nearest water point. The pack mules were loaded with water and we were placed on half rations. We got through after considerable hardship and reached Santiago and wintered there. In the spring I was transferred to Co. E and was marched back over the same road across the desert. Our command was made up of two companies of infantry and one of cavalry. Later on 30 of us were ordered to Youma for provisions and when we were about half way to the post we were attacked by 300 Indians. We had but 20 rounds of ammunition, so we could fire only when it would be the most effective. We lost seven men and we estimated that we killed 50 of the redskins, including their chief.”

”A short time later our company crossed the desert a third time when we were sent from Santiago to San Francisco. From there we went to Port Oxford, Oregon, by ship. The ship anchored about two miles from shore and we were landed by whale boats. The boat I was in capsized and we were thrown into the water. We climbed onto the overturned boat and hung on until the wind drifted us to land.”

”We scouted for Indians two weeks and then returned to California overland. In all, our forces spent nearly two years chasing Indians in Oregon and California. In August, 1854, I got my discharge and \$100 traveling expenses. I left San Francisco on ship on the return trip, crossed the Isthmus of Panama and then on to New Orleans. ”I went up the Mississippi by boat to St. Louis and then on to Chicago and Milwaukee. A few weeks later I started out to look for land and finally located in what is now known as Crystal Valley, near Galesville. Here I lived until 1861, when I enlisted for the civil war and was in the service 15 months. I was a member of Co. C, Thirtieth Wisconsin. I was discharged from the service because of sickness.”

JOHN MARTIN