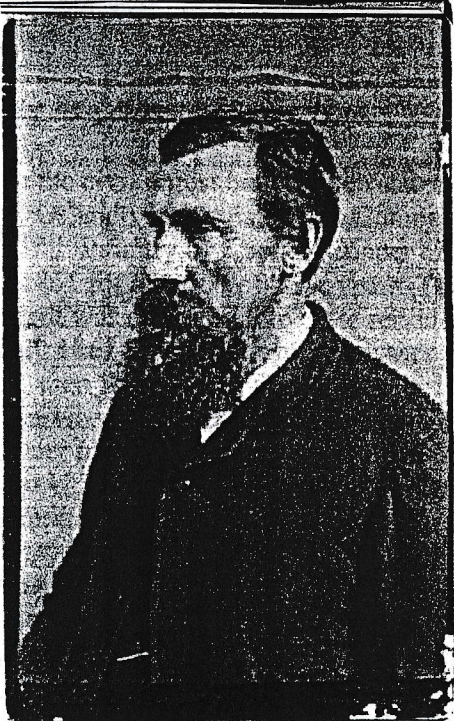


Orlando Devere Schooley

Company G, 18th Illinois Volunteer Infantry



Orlando Devere Schooley Sr.

Orlando Devere Schooley was born in Minerva, Stark County, Ohio on 29 March 1838 to William Schooley and Matilda Hollingshead (England) Schooley. The eldest son of this union, he moved with his family to Illinois in 1840 settling in Maysville, (later Clay City), Clay County, Illinois. They traveled from Ohio to Illinois via flat-bottomed boat on the Ohio River landing at Shawneetown. The family drove through to Clay County, stopping at Maysville, on the "Vincennes and St. Louis Stage Route".

Orlando's father William was a pioneer preacher of the Church of Christ, his name being found in the "History of the Western Reserve of Ohio". While in Illinois he continued his spreading of the Gospel as a "circuit riding" preacher, riding on horseback from Saturday evening until Monday morning and conducting religious services for all who sought them. He founded several churches in southern Illinois, including the first in Clay County.

The family remained in Maysville, IL. for several years until poor health forced William and Matilda to sell out and move with their family to Fulton County, IL. After a few years there they moved to Schuyler County, IL where William repaired overshot grinding mills. Later, they relocated again, this time to Pleasant View, IL. In 1851, when Orlando was age 13, the family had to take back the land previously sold in Maysville, so they relocated for a final time to Clay County. Because of the parent's emphasis on the importance of academics, Orlando received a robust and complete education. After finishing his own education and training, he became a school teacher in the pioneer school of Clay County, later serving as a director of the school.

When the civil unrest between the states arose, Orlando was enlisted into Company "G", 18th Infantry by Captain Cooper on 11 May 1861 for a period of three years. The regiment was mustered into State service on 19 May 1861 for thirty days by Ulysses S. Grant, then State Mustering Officer, and into U.S. service on 28 May 1861.