My health is good, but I feel rather old. I do not like to hear bullets whistling around my head, or see my comrades fall dead by my side. But when one sees men from his own state who were bayoneted after being wounded I tell you it is enough to make him delight in drawing a fine sight at the butternut [Confederate] villians...I am thankful that I have come out alive. Poor John [Keyes], I am afraid we shall never see him again, he was a good boy and a brave soldier.
(Charles H. Bassett, 16th Wisconsin Infantry, at Corinth Mississippi, October 1862)

Men from Adams County answered Abraham Lincoln’s call for volunteers in the spring of 1861. Adams men served throughout the Union army and navy, but the units with the strongest links to the county were the 4th, 12th, 16th, 18th and 38th Regiments of Wisconsin Infantry.

Company E of the 4th Wisconsin was made up of men from Dell Prairie and Springville, including Isaac Earl and Joseph Bailey. It was one of the first Wisconsin regiments recruited and the longest to serve, remaining under the colors from June 1861 to June 1866. The Fourth was initially an infantry regiment, but was converted to cavalry in September 1863. It served in Louisiana and in Arkansas, where Bailey’s engineering exploits on the Red River won him a Congressional commendation. Earl was a scout who was captured and executed by the Confederates but decorated for heroism by the Union.

The largest contingent of Adams County men to the 12th and 18th Wisconsin came from the southern half of the county, especially New Haven, Dell Prairie, Jackson, Springville and Quincy.

Company E of the 16th Wisconsin, whose men called themselves the “Adams County Rifles” came from Strong’s Prairie, Quincy, Monroe, Rome, Richfield, Lincoln and Adams. They were recruited by William Dawes, Monroe, and William Niles, Quincy, and they marched off to war bearing a flag hand-made by wives, mothers and sweethearts.

The 12th, 16th and 18th Wisconsin were organized in 1861 and early 1862 and took part in the western campaigns commanded by Generals Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman. They fought in the bloody battle at Shiloh, Tennessee, and were among the 24,000 casualties there. Losing one-quarter of its men, the 16th had the longest casualty list of any regiment at Shiloh.

After fighting at Corinth and other battles in northern Mississippi, they manned the trenches at the siege of Vicksburg. The fall of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863 was one of the most important victories of the war and gave the Union command of the Mississippi River. The Adams men then soldiered on with Sherman at Bald Hill and Atlanta, Georgia, and took part in his famous “march to the sea.”

The 38th Wisconsin was organized for one of the war’s last musters in 1864. Company K of the 38th was recruited by
Thomas Marsden and Solon Pierce of Friendship. They were joined by men from the towns of Big Flats, Adams, Easton, Newark Valley and Quincy. The 38th took part in the final battles of the war at Petersburg, Virginia and the Wilderness campaign.

These first American soldiers from Adams County to serve in defense of their country were described by Solon Pierce to be “as brave and noble a band of men as ever battled for the Right.” They were not the last. Adams County men and women served in all theaters of all American wars ever since.

A complete roster of Adams County people who served in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War and in other military events of the last 140 years is not available. What is available is a list of soldiers who died in military service during war time from the Civil War in 1861 to Lebanon in 1983 and who are buried or memorialized with a gravestone in Adams County. They are listed here by alphabetical order of cemetery.

Thomas Shipway: Civil War, Big Flats Cemetery, died from disease in Loudon, Tennessee on December 18, 1864.

Edward Arsmos: World War II, U.S. Marine, Big Spring Cemetery, killed on the island of Saipan while charging an enemy cave on July 10, 1944.

Walter Kingsley: Lebanon, U.S. Marine, Big Spring Cemetery, killed in the terrorist bombing in Beirut, Lebanon on October 23, 1983.

Orin Clough: Civil War, Big Spring Cemetery, died from disease on August 20, 1865.

Jeremiah Landt: Civil War, Big Spring Cemetery, died from disease on January 9, 1865.

Archie Ramsey: World War II, Big Spring Cemetery, killed in action in France in 1944.

Sidney Richardson: Civil War, Big Spring Cemetery, killed at the Battle of Fort Donaldson, Tennessee on February 15, 1862.

Lee McAllister: World War II, Colburn Leola Cemetery, killed in action in Germany in 1945.

Franklin Howell: Civil War, Davis Corners Cemetery, died from disease on May 1, 1864.

Harold Larkin: World War I, Davis Corners Cemetery, killed in action on August 31, 1918.

Alvin Ohm: World War II, Davis Corners Cemetery, killed on Negros Island in the Pacific on April 21, 1945.

Lloyd Erickson: World War II, East Arkdale Cemetery, killed in action in Italy on January 23, 1945.

Cephas Brown: Civil War, Easton Cemetery, died while a prisoner in Andersonville, Georgia on June 9, 1864.

Darius Omlstead: Civil War, Easton Cemetery, died from disease in Brashear City, Louisiana on October 9, 1864.

Ernest Richardson: World War I, Easton Cemetery, died on May 13, 1918.

Horace Sheldon: Civil War, Easton Cemetery, died on May 31, 1863 at Grand Gulf, Mississippi from wounds received at Port Gibson, Mississippi.

Edwin Snider: World War I, Easton Cemetery, died on January 26, 1918 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

World War I veterans line up in uniform on corner of Second and "Belfast" Street, Friendship, 1919.
Charles Wines: Civil War, Easton Cemetery, died from disease at New Madrid, Missouri on April 14, 1862.

Harold Hodge: Korean War, U.S. Army, Fordham Cemetery, died on December 6, 1950.

Edward Prasil: World War II, U.S. Army, Fordham Cemetery, killed in action in Germany on December 2, 1944.

Elliott Payne: Civil War, Gould Rock Cemetery, died from disease on August 20, 1863.

Adelbert Smith: Civil War, Gould Rock Cemetery, died from disease on August 20, 1863.

James Wallace: World War II, Gould Rock Cemetery, killed aboard the U.S.S. Arizona in the Hawaiian Islands on December 7, 1941.

Roy Byers: World War I, Lakeview Cemetery, died in France on October 19, 1918.

Rufus Phillips: Civil War, Lakeview Cemetery, died from disease on December 10, 1862.

Benjamin Dunbar: Civil War, Monroe Center Cemetery, died of disease at Petersburg, Virginia on May 8, 1865.

Franklin Rogers: Civil War, Monroe Center Cemetery, died from disease at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on December 24, 1862.

George Walker: Civil War, Monroe Center Cemetery, died from disease at Beaufort, South Carolina on December 28, 1864.

John P. Wills: Civil War, Monroe Center Cemetery, killed at the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee on April 6, 1862.


Ray Alderman: World War II, Mount Repose Cemetery, killed on the island of Okinawa on April 10, 1945.

Charles Besaw: World War I, Mount Repose Cemetery, killed in action on November 1, 1918.

McKinley Cole: World War I, Mount Repose Cemetery, killed in action on August 12, 1918.

Elmer Feldman: World War I, Mount Repose Cemetery, killed in action on August 16, 1918.

Augustus Hill: Civil War, Mount Repose Cemetery, died from disease at Farmington, Mississippi on May 31, 1862.

Richard Pease: Korean War, Mount Repose Cemetery, killed in action in 1950.

Edward "Dennis" Rank: Vietnam War, Mount Repose Cemetery, killed in Vietnam.

Ralph Romell: World War II, Mount Repose Cemetery, killed in action in Germany on November 9, 1944.

Phillip Sampson: Civil War, Mount Repose Cemetery, died in Washington, D.C. from a contusion on December 16, 1864.

Francis Schofield: Civil War, Mount Repose Cemetery, died from disease on June 15, 1864.

John Shafman: World War I, Mount Repose Cemetery, killed in action in 1918.

Charles Westlake: World War I, Mount Repose Cemetery, died on February 10, 1917.


Aaron Bonnell: Civil War, Olin Cemetery, killed in Atlanta, Georgia on August 1, 1864.

Freeman Goff: Civil War, Olin Cemetery, died from disease in Dalton, Georgia on February 14, 1865.

Alexis Paishall: Civil War, Olin Cemetery, died from disease in Helena, Arkansas on August 14, 1863.

John Wilcox: Vietnam War, Olin Cemetery, wounded and awarded the purple heart, died on November 22, 1968.

Francis Webster: Civil War, Olin Cemetery, died at Chattanooga, Tennessee on November 12, 1964.


Granville Palmer: Civil War, Pine Grove Cemetery, died from disease at Helena, Arkansas on November 24, 1863.

Sylvester Palmer: Civil War, Pine Grove Cemetery, killed in the Battle of Luka, Mississippi on September 19, 1862.

Artemus Buck: Civil War, Plainville Cemetery, died from disease at Cairo, Illinois on May 23, 1865.

Joseph Edmonds: Civil War, Plainville Cemetery, died from disease at Natchez, Mississippi on August 30, 1863.

Reuben Thompson: Civil War, Prairie Cemetery, died from disease on September 3, 1864.

Enos Greenwood: Civil War, Quincy Cemetery, died from disease at Nashville, Tennessee on October 8, 1862.

Mellen Greenwood: Civil War, Quincy Cemetery, died from disease, New Albany, Indiana on November 11, 1862.

Henry Morehouse: Civil War, Quincy Cemetery, died at Lanesville, Georgia on November 29, 1864.

Thomas Ramsey: Civil War, Ramsey Cemetery, died from disease in Cairo, Illinois on November 2, 1864.

Edward Cutsforth: World War I, South Burr Oak Cemetery, died on October 22, 1918.

Ira Dimmick: Civil War, South Burr Oak Cemetery, killed at the Battle of Corinth, Mississippi on October 3, 1862.

Marvin Winegarden: World War I, Spring Branch Cemetery, died on November 11, 1918.

Lewis Knight: Civil War, Strong's Prairie Cemetery, killed at the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee on April 6, 1862.

Ebenezer VanKuren: Civil War, Strong's Prairie Cemetery, died from disease at Shiloh, Tennessee on May 22, 1862.

George Williamson: Civil War, Strong's Prairie Cemetery, died at Lake Providence, Louisiana on July 31, 1863.
The "Roll of Honor" of county people who served in World War II stood on the court house lawn during the war.

Benjamin Erickson: World War I, West Arkdale Cemetery, died on March 2, 1919.

Frank Ferris: Civil War, White Creek Cemetery, killed at Port Hudson, Louisiana on June 14, 1863.

Henry Jacobus: Civil War, White Creek Cemetery, killed at the siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi on May 27, 1863.

Wesley Maxey: World War I, White Creek Cemetery, died of disease on October 12, 1918.

Ennis Reed: Civil War, White Creek Cemetery, died on April 22, 1862.

Devillo Van Wie: Civil War, White Creek Cemetery, died from wounds on April 4, 1865.

James Van Wie: Civil War, White Creek Cemetery, wounded near Richmond, Virginia and died at Fair Oaks, Virginia on October 27, 1864.

James Woolsey, Jr.: Civil War, Woolsey Cemetery, died from disease on November 13, 1865.

Samuel Woolsey: Civil War, Woolsey Cemetery, died from disease on February 28, 1863.

Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud

Mitchell Red Cloud was born and raised near Black River Falls. He is linked to Adams County through relatives in the Winneshiek family, whom he visited while a boy in the 1930s. He enlisted in the United States Marines at age sixteen in 1940. As a combat Marine during World War II, he earned two Purple Hearts for wounds suffered in action. In Korea he earned another Purple Heart and then became one of eight Americans awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in that conflict.

The citation read: "From his position on the point of a ridge immediately in front of the company command post, he was first to detect the approach of Chinese Communist forces...Springing up, he delivered devastating point-blank automatic rifle into the advancing enemy...With utter fearlessness he maintained his firing position until severely wounded by enemy fire. Refusing assistance, he pulled himself to his feet and wrapped his arm around a tree, continuing his deadly fire until again, and fatally wounded."

Red Cloud’s mother Nellie, received the Medal of Honor from General of the Army Omar Bradley in 1951. The American Legion-VFW Post in Adams was named in his honor shortly after.