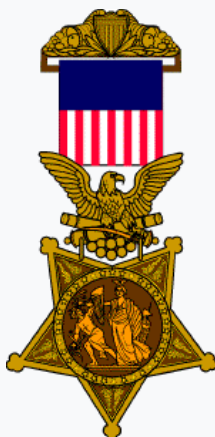



Edward Settle Godfrey



Born	October 9, 1843 Kalida, Ohio
Died	April 1, 1932 (aged 88) Cookstown, New Jersey
Allegiance	United States of America
Service/branch	United States Army
Years of service	1861, 1867–1907
Rank	 Brigadier General
Unit	21st Ohio Infantry 7th United States Cavalry
Commands held	9th Cavalry Regiment Department of the Missouri
Battles/wars	Civil War Battle of the Little Bighorn Indian Wars Spanish–American War Philippine–American War
Awards	Medal of Honor

Edward Settle Godfrey (October 9, 1843 – April 1, 1932) was a United States Army Brigadier General who received the Medal of Honor for leadership as a captain during the Indian Wars.

Godfrey was born October 9, 1843 in Kalida, Ohio and attended Vermillion Institute in Harpsville, Ohio. The son of Charles and Mary Chambers Godfrey, he enlisted on April 26, 1861 in Company D, 21st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He fought with that unit at Scary Creek, Virginia.

After being discharged, he was then appointed to the United States Military Academy in 1863, and graduated 53rd of 63 in the Class of 1867.

On June 15, 1869, Godfrey married Mary J. Pocock in Harpersville, Ohio. The couple had four children.

Godfrey joined the 7th United States Cavalry and as a lieutenant. Godfrey's career with the Seventh Cavalry would span twenty-five years. Godfrey became the only officer of the Seventh Cavalry to see action in all major engagement with the Plains Indians. This list includes the Washita (1868), the Yellowstone Expedition (1873), the Black Hills expedition (1874), the Battle of the Little Bighorn (1876), and Wounded Knee (1890).

In the Little Big Horn campaign, Edward S. Godfrey was a Lieutenant in Captain Benteen's force, which, with Major Reno's troops, was operating in support of Colonel Custer's main body. When scouts reported an Indian village in an unexplored country, Custer divided his command into three "battalions," Reno was ordered to begin an attack on the village; Custer was to proceed up the river to reinforce Reno; while Benteen had orders to

scout to the left and deal with bands of Indians he encountered. Major Reno had only 112 men, and, finding in his front a greatly superior body of the enemy, halted, took cover, and finally retreated across the river. Godfrey severely criticized the tactics of Reno, holding that if he had engaged the Indians their concentration on Custer might have been prevented.

He wrote an account of the battle and his experiences in it, originally published in *Century Magazine* in January 1892, which was highly influential in shaping perceptions of the battle and Custer's generalship. An excerpt of this report can be found at the following webpage:
http://www.astonisher.com/archives/museum/edward_godfrey_little_big_horn.html

After the Battle of the Little Bighorn Godfrey was promoted to Captain due to the many officer deaths.

Despite being severely wounded at the Battle of Bear Paw Mountain against Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce Indians, September 30, 1877, Godfrey continued to lead his men in battle. He received the Medal of Honor in 1894 for his leadership actions during this battle.

Godfrey was breveted major on February 27, 1890. In December of that year, his unit was involved in the incident at Wounded Knee. His report on that event can be found at the following website:
<https://armyatwoundedknee.com/2014/02/08/general-godfreys-recollections-of-wounded-knee/>.

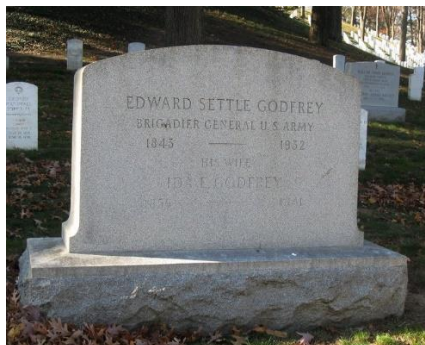
He served in Cuba in 1898 during the Spanish–American War and in the Philippine–American War overseas (1899–1902). Appointed major of the First Cavalry in 1896, the following year he was transferred back to the Seventh

Cavalry. Godfrey remained with the regiment until 1901, when he was appointed lieutenant colonel of the Twelfth Cavalry following service in Cuba. That same year he was promoted to colonel of the Ninth Cavalry and commanded the regiment in the Philippines. Godfrey ended his forty-year military career on October 9, 1907 as brigadier general in command of the Department of the Missouri.

His first wife died before the turn of the century. Their surviving children in 1932 were Mary Godfrey and E.S. Godfrey, Jr., who became a physician. On October 6, 1892, Edward married Ida D. Emely Godfrey (1856–1941), his second wife.

At the ceremony of the burial of the Unknown Soldier from World War I in Arlington, Virginia, Godfrey led two platoons of Medal of Honor recipients as participants.

Godfrey died on April 1, 1932, at his home in the Cookstown section of New Hanover Township, New Jersey. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Section 3. His second wife, Ida Emely Godfrey, was buried with him after her death.



General Godfrey was at the time of his death the oldest graduate of the Military Academy and the only surviving officer of the Little Big Horn campaign, in which Colonel George A. Custer and 277 troopers of the Seventh Cavalry were, killed to a man by Indians ten times their numbers, who were better armed with repeating rifles.



Rank and organization: Captain, 7th U.S. Cavalry. Place and date: At Bear Paw Mountain, Mont., 30 September 1877. Entered service at: Ottawa, Putnam County, Ohio. Born: 9 October 1843, Ottawa, Ohio. Date of issue: 27 November 1894.

Citation:

Led his command into action when he was severely wounded.