

Jacob Wilson Parrott



Born	July 17, 1843 Fairfield County, Ohio
Died	December 22, 1908 (aged 65) Kenton, Ohio
Place of burial	Grove Cemetery Kenton, Ohio
Allegiance	United States of America
Service/branch	United States Army (POW)
Years of service	1861 - 1865
Rank	First Lieutenant
Unit	Company K, 33rd Ohio Infantry
Battles/wars	American Civil War
Awards	Medal of Honor

Jacob Wilson Parrott (July 17, 1843–December 22, 1908) was the first recipient of the Medal of Honor, a new military award first presented by the United States Department of War to six Union Army soldiers who participated in the Great Locomotive Chase in 1862 during the American Civil War (1861–1865).

Parrott was a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, the son of Thomas Parrott and Elizabeth Parrott. He joined the United States Army in 1861 as a private in Company K, 33rd Ohio Infantry and first saw combat in the Battle of Ivy Mountain. In April 1862, he volunteered to take part in a daring raid with twenty-one others (later known as "Andrews' Raiders" because they operated under the command of James J. Andrews). At 19 years old Parrott was one of the youngest raiders.

After infiltrating Confederate lines and hijacking the locomotive "General," they were captured and imprisoned. While being held captive, Jacob endured being whipped over 100 times, on his bare back, by the confederates as they tried to gain information from him. Parrott and fourteen others managed to escape, but only six of them reached friendly lines. Parrott was eventually returned to the Union in a prisoner exchange in March 1863. He was taken to Washington, D.C. meeting President Abraham Lincoln and was presented with the Medal of Honor by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. He served with the Union Army for the rest of the war. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1863 after the Battle of Stones River and as a first lieutenant in 1864.

He returned to Kenton, Ohio after the war and remained a cabinet maker and ran a stone quarry out south of Kenton, Ohio. Parrott suffered a heart attack and died while walking home from the county courthouse in Kenton, Ohio. He is buried in Grove Cemetery, on State Route 309, east edge of Kenton, Ohio.

Family links:

Spouse:

Sarah A. Lawrence Parrott (1845 - 1911)

Children:

John M. Parrott (1867 - 1926)

Citation

One of the 19 of 22 men (including 2 civilians) who, by direction of Gen. Mitchell (or Buell), penetrated nearly 200 miles south into enemy territory and captured a railroad train at Big Shanty, Ga., in an attempt to destroy the bridges and track between Chattanooga and Atlanta.