

[Boughton, Eugene T.]

OBITUARY.

Killed, while charging at the head of his company, across the Escambia river in West Florida, Dec. 17th, 1864, Lieutenant E. T. Boughton, aged 24 years. He was the eldest son of Rev. Harvey Boughton, late pastor of the Universalist societies of Lima and Scipio, and now chaplain of the 97th Regiment, U.S.C.I. He enlisted as a private in the 75th Regiment, N.Y.S.V., and did honorable service therein for nearly two years. On the organization of the 97th Regiment of colored troops, he re-enlisted and was appointed to the position of Lieutenant therein. In this capacity he served under General Banks, through the Red River campaign, but was subsequently transferred with his regiment to the vicinity of Pensacola, near Fort Barancas.

The brigade of which his regiment formed a part was ordered to make a raid into the interior for some distance in order to destroy a Rail Road. They had accomplished their purpose and were returning to camp when they were pursued by a large force of rebels. On approaching the Escambia river, they discovered that a body of the enemy had taken possession of the only bridge upon which they could cross, had removed a part of the planks, fortified the opposite end, and made arrangements to dispute their passage.

The Colonel commanding ordered the regiment in which Lieut. Boughton was leading a company to carry the bridge. This they performed in the most gallant manner. It charged across the bridge in the face of the most deadly fire, drove the enemy from his breastworks, and put him to flight. But just as the glorious work was being accomplished, Lieutenant Boughton was pierced through the body with a rifle ball. For a moment he stood perfectly erect and said to the Sergeant who came to him, "*Never mind me, go right on with your men,*" and then fell forward upon his face and instantly expired. His remains were conveyed to camp where his father took charge of them and brought them to his home in Genoa.

On Wednesday, the 25th instant, a large concourse of people assembled at the Universalist church in that village, to pay their last respects to the heroic dead and to sympathize with the bereaved family. The religious services of the occasion were conducted by the writer, assisted by Elder Boughton of [Milan?]. A military escort was formed of the returned members of the 75th regiment, his old companions in arms, and his remains were deposited in the beautiful cemetery of Genoa, with the honors of war. Thus has another brave young life been sacrificed in the service of human freedom and of our country's redemption.

Lieutenant Boughton possessed all the virtues of a true soldier: intelligent, cheerful and brave, and yet kind and gentle in disposition. So effectually had he won the hearts of the colored troops by his considerate kindness, that they wept like children when he fell.

He leaves a father, mother, two brothers and four sisters to mourn his loss. May they all find sweet consolation in that blessed faith, which looks forward to a happy reunion beyond the grave...

S. [Stephen] Crane

Cortland, Feb. 2d, 1865

*Christian Ambassador*, New York NY, Sat. 18 Feb 1865