

February 20, 1864, as a private in the Union army, becoming a member of Company B, Thirty-sixth "Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. When the company was mustered in he was made second sergeant and was commissioned second lieutenant, June 27, 1864. On the 10th of November, 1864, he was advanced to the rank of first Lieutenant of his company, which he commanded in two engagements—one at Deep Bottom, Virginia, and the other the battle of Ream's Station on the 25th of August, 1864, in which he and the greater part of his regiment were taken prisoners, one hundred and forty-eight of the one hundred and eighty-five who went into this battle being either killed, wounded or captured. He was confined in Libby prison, also at Salisbury and Danville for a period of six months, being paroled on the 22d of February, 1865. After arriving at Annapolis, Maryland, he was granted a leave of absence (prison fare had left him weak and emaciated) of thirty days. He rejoined his regiment at Burkville, Virginia, and was offered a position on the brigade staff which he declined. He was also offered the command of a division of the provost guard but declined this also, expressing himself as preferring to remain with his men.

He participated in the battles of North Anna, Totopotomy Creek, Bethesda Church, Cold Harbor, the charge over the Melon Patch, Jerusalem Plank Road, Deep Bottom, Petersburg and Ream's Station. The thirty-sixth Wisconsin's percentage killed was fifteen and four-tenths per cent as compared with the average loss of the whole northern army of five per cent. This shows that its service of but one year and two months was located where action was severe and incessant. Lieutenant Parker had command of one company front, or twenty files, in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., on the 23d of May, 1865.

After his regiment was mustered out, July 12, 1865, Lieutenant Parker returned to Dane county, Wisconsin, and engaged in the grain business at Brooklyn near his old home. This, however, did not prove a financial success and he traded his warehouse and stock of grain for a half interest in a mercantile business at Clermont, Iowa, thus becoming identified with the interests of this state. His partner was Isaac Mason, later, his father-in-law.

It was at Clermont, on the 30th of December, 1866, that lieutenant Parker married Ettie Mason. In 1870 he removed with his wife and one daughter to Lawler, Chickasaw county, where he resided at the time of his death, June 12, 1912. Following his removal to Lawler he engaged in the implement business, which he continued seven years. He then traveled for the Walter A. Wood Harvester Company for three years through eight mid-western states. In 1887 he purchased the Bank of Lawler, afterward the First National, and actively managed the business until the last six months of his lifetime. He was a man devoted to his undertakings and carefully developed his interests making his institution a valuable asset to the business interests of the community.

In politics, Lieutenant Parker was a republican and became a prominent factor in his party's councils in Iowa. He served repeatedly as a delegate to county and state conventions and in 1896 was chosen an alternate delegate from the fourth congressional district of Iowa to the republican national convention in St. Louis. From 1881 until 1886 he was postmaster of Lawler and again from 1890 until 1893, occupying that position for nine and a half years. His interest in national affairs never abated. At noon on the day of his death he walked to the telephone and asked that his daily paper be brought to him that he might see "what they are doing in Chicago." The republicans were in national convention and nominated Taft that day. He was town mayor and a member of the school board at various times and served many years as a member of the town council.

Mr. Parker inherited the strong character and sterling integrity of his Puritan forefathers. While he was ever kindly to his fellowmen, he held them to the strictest accountability and gave honor only where it was due. He shunned the unworthy or dishonorable. In works of charity, he was entirely free from ostentation but those familiar with his private affairs found repeated evidence that he wilfully let his heart govern instead of his keen shrewd knowledge of human nature and loaned where he knew there would be no day of settlement. He enjoyed helping young men establish credit and liked to recall that he seldom found his credit or confidence misplaced. He