



General Philip Sheridan was returning from Washington at night on his horse, Rienzi, he heard enemy fire in the distance. He rode into the battlefield at Winchester to rally his men. Thomas Buchanan Read wrote a poem, "Sheridan's Ride", to commemorate the event. The poem was used to promote the northern war effort and helped get Abraham Lincoln reelected.

Merrill Gilbert Lasell died at his home Wednesday, January 17, 1917, at about 8 o'clock after a long illness. He was conscious at his last moments and recognized all the members of his family who were gathered about him.

Mr. Lasell was born in St. Albans, January 10, 1847, and spent his boyhood days there. The family moved to Ellenburg Depot in 1860. At the age of 17, he entered the Union Army and served the last year of the war in Company K, 6th Regiment, New York Heavy Artillery but did infantry duty. Among the many battles in which he served his country was that of Winchester and was on guard the night of Sheridan's famous ride. The young soldier saw the horseman riding toward him in the dark and halted him three times demanding the countersign. Sheridan dismounted and when the boy soldier who it was, was thoroughly frightened at what he had done. Sheridan, however, slapped him on the back and said, "You did just right, young man, you did just right". The great general then mounted his horse and disappeared

in the darkness to turn the tide in Winchester the next day.

At the close of the war, Mr. Lasell returned to Ellenburg and later attended Plattsburgh Academy. Sometime afterward he engaged in the lumber business in Chateaugay and Clinton Mills. He again returned to Ellenburg Depot where he lived for a number of years. He came to Plattsburgh to make his home in 1890.

A loyal member of the Free Will Baptist Church and McGregor Lodge G.A.R., Ellenburg Depot, his interests were always in his home and in his family. He was quiet and unassuming and those who knew him best, loved him most.

To mourn his loss, he leaves a wife and three children, **George M.** of Bridgeport, CT; Mrs. **Charles E. Fleming** of Ottawa, ON; and **Alvah D.** of Plattsburgh. He also leaves a sister and six brothers. The funeral services will be held from his home at 92 Broad Street. The interment will be at Ellenburg Depot.