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## STORIES FROM THE HOME FRONT

### IRA ADAMS

Captain Ira Adams, Company B, First Wisconsin Cavalry, was born June 1, 1840. He died September 23, 1862, at Helena, Arkansas.

Ira's parents were John and Calista Adams, who came from New York and settled in Ripon in 1855. Calista's sister was Mrs. Samuel Pedrick, who had come to Ripon with her husband and family in 1849. They also had two daughters, one being Melissa, who married Charles Lawson. Melissa and Charles were the parents of Belle Lawson.

Ira Adams was the uncle of Belle Lawson who lived at 515 Ransom street with her mother, a house she bequeathed to the society upon her death in 1973. In her scrapbook, Belle wrote about Ira and Ripon during the Civil War:



Above: Ira Adams when he enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War, September 1, 1861

*"My mother told of taking doughnuts to Uncle Ira, (her brother) when the soldiers were camping, in tents, on the College Hill, in Ripon. Later, the boys went South, and in September, of the next year, word came of his illness. Modern medicine could have saved many lives, but at that time, dysentery caused the soldiers to die like flies."*

*Belle Lawson*