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The Boston Globe (Boston, Massachusetts) · Wed, Jul 8, 1896 · Page 8
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# REWARDED FOR BRAVERY.

## William H. Selee Was Decorated With a Victoria Cross, by the Queen's Own Hand.

NORTH EASTON, July 7—William H. Selee, who 20 years ago lived with his family in this town, has just returned from a voyage to Port au Prince, Hayti. Mr Selee thinks he is the only man of American birth now living in the United States who has been honored by being decorated with the Victoria cross, Queen Victoria in person having pinned the cross to the lapel of his coat. Two other men in this country have received the same mark of distinction, but they are of English birth.

Mr Selee when quite young entered upon a seafaring life, and was a bold and reckless adventurer. He achieved a record for courage and bravery surpassing that of any other man in this section.

At an early age he went to England and enlisted in the English army. While crossing the ocean a man fell overboard, and Selee at once sprang over the rails into the water and saved the man's life, at the peril of his own.

Mr Selee knows well the waters of Japan and China, but is reticent in relating the story of his travels. He says, "I do not like notoriety."

While in the English army in India in 1856, a forlorn hope was called for, and Selee immediately volunteered. While crossing a defile the officer that led them was shot down, and Selee took him on his back and hastened to a place of safety. When they entered the deadly breach the forlorn hope had a hand-to-hand encounter with the enemy, in which nearly all of the assailants were killed.

Selee was badly wounded, and his face was fearfully lacerated by saber strokes. The scars on his face he will carry to the grave. When he returned to England and the troops paraded, he and 20 other men were called to the front, and Queen Victoria pinned upon his coat the medal for bravery.

Of the party of 20 left of the forlorn hope, Mr Selee is the only one alive today. He receives a pension from the English government.

Mr Selee married a daughter of Clerk Berry, who for several years lived here on what was then called "Yankee st," now Depot st. She died at Leominster in March, 1895, and was buried at Stoughton. He has a daughter living in California.

William H. Selee

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