

PUTNAM COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR - 1961

by
Horace E. Hillery

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PUTNAM COUNTY HISTORIAN
Horace E. Hillery
Patterson, New York

PUTNAM COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR - FIRST EDITION

Fellow Putnamites, This is the first of six or more editions on "Putnam County in the Civil War". You will read, hear and see much on our Nationwide Centennial Commemoration. Do you know what part our County had in its outcome? Both our military and economic contributions were considerable.

This first edition seeks to cover, "The First 100 Days." This edition indicates what to expect from following editions. If you want to insure every edition reaching you, write me as copies are limited. Some have expressed a desire for an extra copy of all editions under one cover for preservation. If so, let me know within 30 days. Cost \$2.00. Pay now or when ready. Do it now.

May I continue to thank those who are helping to put together our County's part in the Civil War. We thank Miss Gladys Ladu of the State Library for supplying much additional information, "beyond the call of duty," to our County's history. Dr. Albert Towner, Mrs. Geo. Griffith and Mrs. William Miller have added a number of Veterans to our Honor Roll. We have Mrs. Walter Welcher's grandfather, Louis Bartedis discharge, Mrs. Harriet A. Ferris has located a photo of officers of the Fourth Heavy Artillery with names. Will any one volunteer to associate names and persons? Henry H. Wells has given us a biography of his father, Maj. Frank Wells, Gen. Charles S. Stevenson sends news of the proposed reenactment of the Battle of Bull Run in July. Mrs. E.S. Haviland from Florida writes additional information on the Fourth Heavy Artillery. Allan Dewey informs us that Miss Jean Saunders has catalogued the historic materials of the Putnam County Historical Society.

Fred Haida has located for us a rare copy of Barber and Howes first edition of "Historical Collections of the State of New York". John Deinhardt contributed two broadsides on politics in the County in the 1820s. Thanks to some one sending photos of the SouthEast house built in 1719.

Additions to our Civil War Veterans' Honor Roll from A to H.
Charles Bradley, John Burnell (1st Eng.) Herman H. Cole (4HA)
Ephraim Davis (4HA) Norman Davis (4HA) Horace Eastwood (4HA)
Carl Foster (1 Mtd Rifles) Henry Fuller, Thaddeus Ganung, Lewis A. Garrison, George Gay, John Griffen, James Griffen, Henry W. Hayden, (4HA) Edward L. Hazelton, George Heady, Lorenzo Hill, George Hubbard (4HA) Isaac Hunt (38) James Hyatt (38).

Help Wanted - There will be an exhibit of Civil War books at the Sportsman Show. Will six people volunteer two or three hours either the first or second day? Write to H.E. Hillery.

What do you know about the First Engineer's Regiment?

Geneology Exchange - Many requests come asking about early settlers in Putnam County. Will you help these people locate their ancestors. William Young mar. about 1789 - also Hays, Curren - (Westchester). Covey, Hatch, lot 6 - Baptist. Hezekiah Miller - Elizabeth Mar. Daniel S. Dykeman-Eliz. Dykeman mar. David Taylor about 1821. Charles Townsend ancestor born 1760. Edmund Fowler's ancestor mar. Hannah Townsend in 1807.

PUTNAM COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR
FIRST EDITION - THE FIRST 100 DAYS

CAUSES OF THE CIVIL WAR

Looking back both North and South are agreed that we never should have embarked on such a holocaust. Extremists on both sides got out of hand and the majority found themselves committed to a war from which they could not, and then would not, draw back. Only when Ft. Sumter was captured, the North suddenly found itself in its will to preserve the Union.

Differences in ways of life made for misunderstanding. Shifts in population growth, with shrinking representation in the South, made "State's Rights" a means of dealing with sectional interests. Tariffs favorable to the industrial North disadvantaged the South. Whitney's Cotton Gin made cotton king of Southern livelihood.

Slavery which was practiced in all the colonies had its first group protest here on Quaker Hill. In 1800 Putnam County still had more than 100 slaves. New York State abolished slavery in 1827. Only after long months of agonizing war, was Emancipation from slavery, clarified and promulgated.

The coalition of several splinter parties brought the new Republican Party into national power. Lincoln carried New York State. The Republican Governor Morgan, along with a Republican Legislature, were elected. Putnam County sent Democratic Charles T. Brewster as our Assemblyman.

NEW YORK STATE'S EIGHTEENTH MILITIA REGIMENT

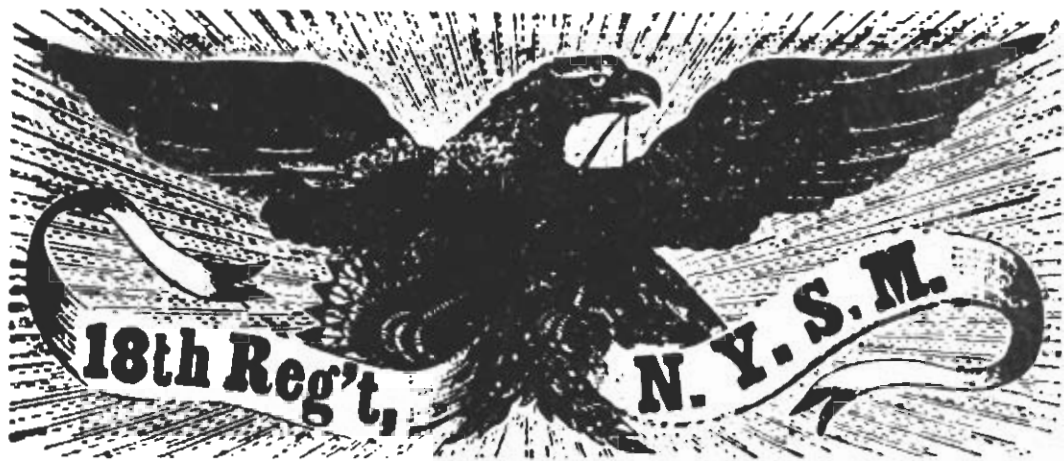
New York State's militia had been extensively reorganized during the Mexican War. Putnam County was part of the Eighteenth Regiment The Sixth Company was in Philipstown. The Seventh Company included Putnam Valley, Kent and Patterson. The Eighth Company was from South East and Carmel. In 1851 Captain James Ryder from South East was made Colonel. During the Civil War, he became Brigadier General of the State's Seventh Division.

With Lincoln's call for state militia, only large units from cities were accepted. Later when enlistments were opened to militia men, less than ten percent of one County Company went into active service. Many of these men were doubtless too old for service. However, with the declaration of war, militia enlistments jumped. One list of new militiamen indicates every new enrollee was in service but not as a militia man.

General Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania in 1863 called militiamen to service. Major General Darius Couch from South East was in charge of this special call to the nation. The Sixth Company from Cold Spring was delayed in their arrival at Gettysburg and were detoured to Maryland. The Company saw no battle action and was mustered out after 45 days service. The following year some of the Regiment were called up for service in New York City.

Two years after the War, the Eighteenth Regiment was disbanded and has not been activated since.

VOLUNTEERS!



A call is hereby issued to young men desirous of forming a company of infantry, to be attached to the 18th Regiment, to enroll themselves for service.

The books will be open for enlistment at
CARMEL, Tuesday, April 23d., at 10 o'clock A. M.,
LAKE MAHOPAC, Wednesday, April 24th,
PUTNAM VALLEY, Thursday, " 25th.

G. C. BROWN,

Carmel, April 20th, 1861.

"Courier Print" Carmel. N. Y.

The Thirty-Eighth Infantry Regiment

President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 state militia men to serve for 90 days on April 15, 1861. New York State's quota was for 13,000 men. When the New York State Legislature heard the call, they were about ready to adjourn for the year. They not only sent seventeen militia regiments to the front, most of them going forward within eight days, but they also proposed to call up 30,000 volunteers to serve for two years. Within three weeks this volunteer quota was more than filled. Some time was lost in selecting which companies would be sent. But most of the volunteer regiments had gone forward by June. A total of more than 46,000 from New York State were in service within six weeks.

Gerard Brown, from near Croton Falls, was at the time a Freshman at Yale. On hearing Lincoln's call, he left at once for home. The next day under the direction of Col. James Ryder, Brown began to enlist a company from the Eighteenth Militia Regiment from Putnam County and upper Westchester. Two days later, the Putnam County Courier put out a broadside 12 by 14 inches. It is reduced on the accompanying page. When these broadsides were distributed in the County, "the alarm of the people was indescribable." Many had not heard of the call to arms. As only complete militia regiments were being accepted, those who volunteered had to find a two-year volunteer regiment that would accept them. Twelve days after Lincoln's call, Brown telegraphed Colonel Ward, who was forming a regiment in New York City, "I have fifty men from the Highlands of Putnam. Should I bring them down, and when?"

Colonel J. Henry H. Ward had served in the Mexican War and was later a Commissary Officer. Eighteen months after organizing this regiment, Ward was made Brigadier General. At first it was called the "Second Scott's Life Guard", then the Thirty-Eighth Infantry Regiment.

Brown and his volunteers went to New York City and camped in a flat. They were almost without money and without hope of getting into a regiment, when a summer resident of this area, visited the men. He left them a good-sized check and by May 25, they had been mustered into the Thirty-Eighth Regiment. Their patron was none other than Horatio Seymour, the next Governor of New York.

On June 19, the Regiment was on its way. They were located at Camp Scott in defense of Washington. On July 6 they joined General McDowell's Army.

The usual custom was for the recruiting officer to be elected Captain but Col. Ward insisted that George Britton, a classmate of Ward's for one year at West Point and twice Brown's age, be Captain of Company G. Gerard Brown was First Lieutenant.

By early July, 100,000 raw recruits were assembled. General McDowell had 35,000 at Washington and General Patterson (active in the War of 1812) had 18,000 at Harper's Ferry. Both armies outnumbered their opposing Confederate armies three to two.

As McDowell marched toward Richmond, he met General Beauregard's Army at Bull Run. Patterson moved up the Shenandoah Valley. But Jeb Stuart's calvary activities made Patterson over cautious. Taking advantage of Patterson's caution, most of the Confederate troops under General Johnston, marched 25 miles in one day and entrained for Bull Run. Arriving at the full tide of battle, Johnston threw the Union Army into full retreat. The Thirty-Eighth Regiment lost heavily. No less than 56 were captured or reported missing. Captain Britton of Company G was wounded and later discharged.

Winter was spent near Washington. Their drill formations brought the commendation of their General.

In May 1862, The Regiment was under General McClellan in his Peninsular Campaign against Richmond. At Williamsburg an abatis so protected the Confederate defense that the Regiment was driven back twice with heavy loss before carrying it. Their Lt. Col. James C. Strong was severely wounded.

In December 1862 at Fredericksburg, they had their heaviest battle. The Regiment was surrendered, then paroled, exchanged and was back in service within four months. The next year, General Grant cancelled all such exchanges.

Altogether nearly a third of their total enlistment of 1500 suffered casualties. About half were killed in action, died of wounds or disease, or were missing. Slightly more than half were wounded but recovered, though many were to carry their injuries all through life.

When the two year volunteers were mustered out in New York June 22, 1863, their Lt.Col. James C. Strong had recovered enough to be present. As he looked at his depleted Regiment, his thoughts were, "so thin, that it was but a mere shadow of its former self."

The three year replacement volunteers were transferred to the Fortieth Infantry Regiment and went through the ordeal of Gettysburg two weeks later.

About half of those who were mustered out, reenlisted. They became part of the Seventeenth Veteran Regiment. Later, they served with General Hooker in Tennessee. Still later, they marched with General Sherman into the deep South and then North until General Johnston's surrender in April 1865.

MAJOR GENERAL DARIUS COUCH
The man who refused command of the
ARMY OF THE POTOMAC



Darius Couch was born near Milltown in 1822 and died 74 years later in Connecticut, not far from his place of birth.

While studying to become a civil engineer, he received appointment to West Point. He graduated in 1846. In the Mexican War, he was in the Artillery Service. For bravery at the Battle of Buena Vista, he was promoted.

After the war, he was stationed in Mexico, Fortress Monroe, Florida and other places. For a time, he was in the Department of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institute.

In 1855 he resigned from the Army.

When Fort Sumter fell, he was in business in Boston. He was appointed Colonel of a Massachusetts Regiment. In May he was made Brigadier-General.

In the Peninsular Campaign, Couch commanded a division. At the Battle of Fair Oaks, his division was isolated. His flank was exposed to extreme pressure but the division held its position until reinforced. Later at Malvern Hill, his division won distinction for maintaining the army's left flank.

Couch led the Second Corp under Burnside. In December 1862 at Fredericksburg, Couch spearheaded the battle against Lee. His proposed plan of attack was refused by both Burnside and Hooker. After severe losses, the Union forces retreated.

In May 1863, the Battle of Chancellerville was fought. For the first time, the Union forces caught Lee off balance but this advantage was given up over urgent protest by Couch. This enabled Lee to both extricate himself and to strike the Union's exposed flank. Couch's corp was the last to withdraw. He was twice wounded and his horse was killed under him.

This battle might well have led to the South's defeat. In exasperation, Couch appealed to President Lincoln for a new commander. Lincoln offered Couch the command but he refused. When no change was made, he resigned from the Army of the Potomac.

When Lee invaded the North, leading up to the Battle of Gettysburg, Couch was in charge of forwarding militiamen to the front. Under General Ryder, the Cold Spring Company was called up. Due to late arrival, they were diverted to Washington. After 45 days in service, without action, they were mustered out.

During Sherman's Campaign into the deep South, Couch again commanded a division.

On his return to civilian life, he ran for Governor of Massachusetts but was defeated.

In the last years of his life, he served Connecticut's militia organization.

PUTNAM COUNTY HISTORIAN
Horace E. Hillery
Patterson, New York

PUTNAM COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR - SECOND EDITION 1961

Fellow Putnamites - Thanks to you who have let me know that you want to receive all six editions of "Putnam County in the Civil War". Alas, 200 others are being dropped from the mailing list. More to follow. Also thanks to those who reserved a complete bound copy when ready.

Your contributions on the Civil War are a great help. Colvin T. Naylor, Jr. of Peekskill is working along similar lines. He will publish his work soon. If interested write c/o Highland Press. Miss Jean Saunders has classified nearly 300 items in the Putnam County Historical Society's collection, many dealing with the Civil War. Their Work Shop is open Fridays 7-9 at Butterfield Library, Cold Spring. Mrs. George Stacy, Mrs. Theodosia Swenson, Mrs. George Crasswell, Mrs. William Miller, Mrs. Addison Hopkins, Mrs. George Griffith have volunteered loan of tintypes or other photos of veterans for publication or information about veterans. What do you have?

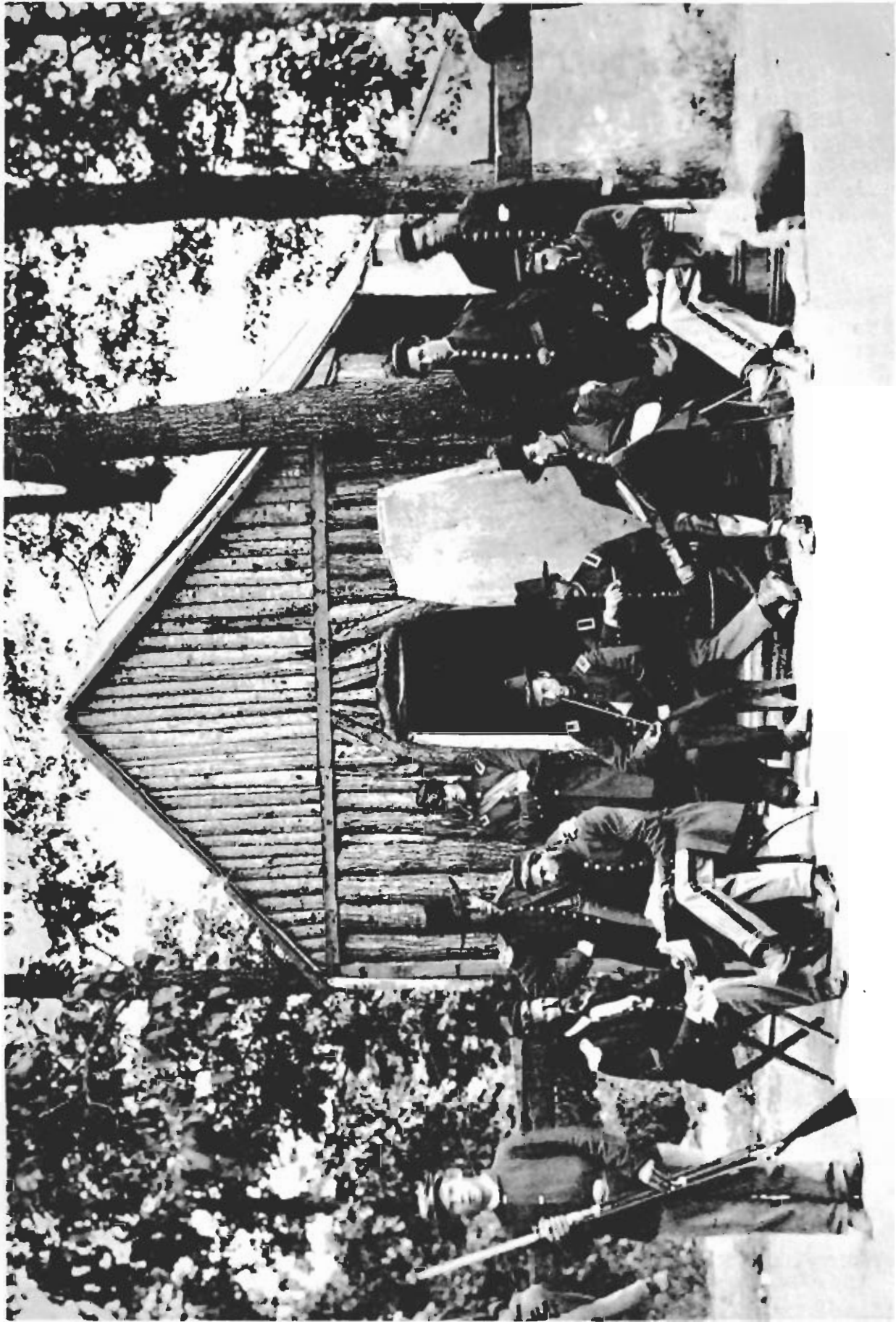
Mr. W. J. Dykeman has sent an 1836 publication about Enoch Crosby which is both rare and very interesting. John Gemmill sent veteran stationery which appears in this issue. John Campbell- the West Point Foundry, Mrs. Harriet A. Ferris-officers of the Fourth Heavy Artillery. Wallace Hopkins has presented the county with copy of 1804 Carmel deed. B.D. Seymour has given 30 pages of hand-written geneology of Putnam families. Henry Wells lists charter members of Crosby G.A.R. Post 1882.

Meet us at the Sportsman Show, Carmel School, March 25-26. A number of volunteers will show books of Civil War History. Robert Seymour and Mrs. Towner Kent have an unusual group of pen sketches and photos of the War.

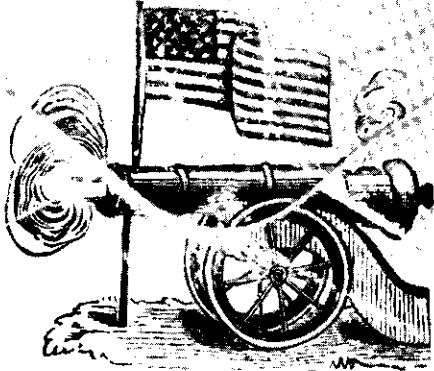
The first 100 days of the Civil War ended in elation by the Southern states and in the North came first a feeling of shock, followed by grim determination. The Battle of Bull Run was largely waged by 90-day militia men. During the battle one regiment marched out of battle because their 90 days were up. Of course, many 90 day men reenlisted when they returned home. Only one man from Putnam County was among these 90 day men. John Cox was a member of the Brooklyn 13th Militia. Every member of the regiment was to be ready to sail and properly armed. 200 were left behind for lack of arms.

General Charles G. Stevenson has kindly given us additional information on the 38th Infantry Regiment. After the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862, the 55th Regiment had been reduced to one-fourth its original strength. In January the 55th was consolidated with the 38th under Colonel de Trobiand, former Commander of the 55th. "At the Battle of Chancellorville on May 2-3, 1863, the regiment was engaged for 24 hours of nearly incessant fighting. During the battle, the 38th participated in a night attack in the moonlight in heavy woods which helped to slow down Stonewall Jackson's famous flank attack. General Sickles congratulated Colonel de Trobiand the next day and promised him promotion". Unfortunately, it was eight months before his promotion to Brigadier-General was confirmed.

More additions to our Civil War Veterans Honor Roll. from A to M. Lt. Frank Burdick (4HA-Brewster), Charles Clarkson (Patterson), Elbert Fuller (?) Carmel, Benj. Lockwood (38-Car) Hosea Lounsbury (?) James McCollum (1st Mounted) B. McEnnoly (4 HA) McGloblin (4HA) Morgan Mead, Wm. E. Merson, Daniel Merritt (?) John Bliss Miller, James Morey (4HA) Joseph Mowatt.



N. Y. Vol. Fourth Heavy Artillery, Company A. — Capt.-Maj. Thomas
Sears; 1st Lt. Martin V. B. Akin; Sgt. Oscar Knapp; Elijah Penny;
Lindon Cowl. Capt. Marshall McKeel (?); Major Williams (?)



4th New York Volunteer Artillery Company A

With Lincoln's first call to arms, artillery, engineers and cavalry volunteers were refused in favor of the infantry.

Jeb Stuart's cavalry gave the South advantage of movement and intelligence which took the North two years to equal.

The South captured one-third the North's artillery at Bull Run. A frantic call

4th New York Vol. Artillery, Colonel DeBussy.

H. H. Hall

for artillery defense of Washington went out. Washington as the symbol of "Union" was potentially vulnerable all during the war. Artillery for both defense and offense had to be produced, almost from scratch.

Two volunteer regiments of artillery were to be enlisted in New York State. The Fourth Heavy Artillery Regiment was enlisted under Colonel T. D. Doubleday. Company A of this Regiment was principally recruited in Patterson, SouthEast, Pawling and Croton Falls. Enrollment began within a month of the Battle of Bull Run but it was six months before they reached Washington. The picture on the preceding page shows eleven men of Company A. They include Captain Thomas D. Sears, later Major; First Lt. Martin V. B. Akin, both of Patterson; Lt. Henry W. Hayden of Milltown, Lt. Frank L. Burdick enlisted from Brewster. He lost his life in the Battle of Ream's Station, south of Petersburg. This is a Putnam County Veteran who is missing from our Honor Roll.

The Fourth Heavy Artillery was placed in defense of Washington where they spent most of their time during the next two years. The letter at the top of this page came from there. During that time they were joined by the Sixth Heavy Artillery enlisted from this area. Altogether an artillery defense of 900 cannon was built up around Washington. Later General Early in a raid into Maryland considered an attack on Washington but decided against grappling with such strongly guarded defenses.

When General Grant assumed command of the Army of the Potomac, the artillery forces were reorganized to do double duty as engineer's and artillery men. The Fourth Heavy Artillery Regiment had a total enlistment of nearly 4000. In their last year, beginning at the Wilderness Battle and ending at Appomatox, they had 800 casualties.

Because of the nature of the battles from the Wilderness to the Seige of Petersburg, a period of constantly change of position, the artillery was left behind. But with the seige of Petersburg, heavy artillery was in demand. A seige "train" was organized. The heavy artillery regiments were called upon to use weapons up to more than ten inches caliber. When the famous "Crater" mine was exploded, the Fourth shared in the cannonading, but the effort was unsuccessful.

But within three weeks, Grant sent General Warren and then General Hancock against the southern right wing in an effort to cut off supplies from the South. This Battle of Ream's Station was the heaviest loss suffered by the Fourth Heavy Artillery. 318 men were missing after their repulse.

In a further effort to cut off supplies from the Shenandoah Valley and to curtail threats from Jubal Early's hit and run cavalry, Sheridan with 8000 cavalry and 22,000 other troops were sent west to blot out both men and supplies from the valley. The Fourth Heavy Artillery were part of this army. Within a month, Early was beaten

and the 100 mile valley was laid waste. Sheridan moved nearer Washington. But Early, receiving reinforcements, followed Sheridan. While Sheridan was at Washington for a strategy conference, Early struck the army at Cedar Creek. The northern Army was thrown into panic. All their artillery was captured. Many of the officers in the 4th Artillery, Company A were wounded. The cavalry were far enough away from the initial surprise attack to save the northern army from utter rout. Sheridan, returning from Washington, rallied the fleeing men as he rode toward the front. Using the defenders as a pivot, the weight of the Northern Army soon turned Early's army into rout. All the artillery, both North and South, was captured. The cavalry cut the fleeing army to pieces. Sheridan then turned his attention to Mosby who had been a thorn in the flesh.

After Cedar Creek, the three year men of the Fourth Heavy Artillery, were mustered out of service. Major Sears of Company A drifted west and became a Wyatt Earp in the enforcement of law and order in the turbulent West. Lieut. Martin Akin had suffered casualties sometime between May and July and was discharged for disability. He visited relatives in Illinois, married, but died soon after the War.

By early March, Sheridan again struck the depleted remnants of Early's army and returned to his position on the right flank of Lee's Army.

In desperation, Lee took the offensive. Sixteen days before Appomatox, General Gordon cracked the northern line. But his forces were too thin to carry a complete break-through and within four hours the breach had been restored. A week later, Sheridan hit Pickett, of Gettysburg fame, at Five Forks. Pickett counter attacked. But the next day, a major attack by the North, cracked the extended and weakened right flank of the South. That night, Lee began his retreat westward. Gen. Ewell's corps was cut off at Saylor's Creek and 6000 men surrendered. The Fourth Heavy Artillery suffered sharply in this attack. Sheridan's cavalry finally cut off Lee's retreat. To save needless bloodshed, Lee overtured surrender. Grant and Lee met at Appomatox.

Southern troops under Johnston were in North Carolina. They capitulated to Sherman soon afterward.

The harrowing reconstruction days for both North and South now confronted an exhausted nation.



MAJOR GENERAL DANIEL BUTTERFIELD
A PUTNAMITE BY CHOICE

The blood of pioneers was in the veins of Daniel Butterfield. His father, in order to break the monopoly of mail service by way of Panama to the California gold fields, organized the Butterfield Stage Service from San Francisco to St. Louis to 23 days travel. They went through Southern California, across the desert, north from Texas to Western Missouri, connecting with the rail branch into St. Louis. This was the forerunner of the Pony Express and present day express companies.

Daniel was born in Utica in 1831. He graduated from Union College in 1849. He followed his father into the express business. His interest in military affairs resulted in his becoming Colonel of the New York Militia Twelfth Regiment in 1859.

Upon Lincoln's first call for militia regiments, the Twelfth was on its way before a week had passed. Butterfield seemed to have a faculty for being in many of the major engagements of the Civil War. He served under both Generals McDowell and Patterson. On September 7, he was commissioned Brigadier-General.

The Regiment was in the Penninsular Campaign. Their corps covered the Army's right flank. Butterfield received a Medal of Honor for his service at Gaines' Mills. In the second Battle of Bull Run, he commanded a division under Hooker. In November, he was promoted to Major General. At Fredericksburg, his division participated in the North's defeat at Marye's Heights. His corps covered the retreat across the the Rappahnock.

In January he became Chief of Staff to General Hooker. At the Battle of Chancellorville in May, the North was again outgeneralled by Lee. When General Meade succeeded Hooker, Butterfield remained as Chief of Staff. He was wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg.

When Hooker was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland, Butterfield went with him as Chief of Staff. He was in the Battle of Lookout Mountain. Under General Sherman, he commanded a division in the march into Georgia.

In March 1865, he was made Major General of the U.S. Army. This was a distinction that few non-West Pointers ever attained. After the War, he remained with the army four years.

On his resignation, he became United States Sub-Treasurer at New York. His experience in handling large bodies of troops made him a frequent Grand Marshall of great parades.

In 1886, he married Mrs. Julia L. James, a widow of means. He participated in many business enterprises but as his energies declined, his interest in his community of Cold Spring developed. On his death in 1901, he was interred at West Point with military honors. His monument looks towards the County of his adoption.

The Butterfield Hospital and the Butterfield Library at Cold Spring speak of the interest of the General and his wife in their community. The Putnam County Historical Society has preserved many of his military records.