

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.



ULYSSES S. GRANT.

General Porter moved, on May 27, upon the enemy stationed at Hanover Court-House, and after four hours' hard fighting, drove them from their position. The Forty-fourth left camp at two A.M., and marched fifteen miles in a northwest direction, through a region of swamps,—mud to the knee, and rain falling in torrents. Having arrived at a cross-roads, four miles from the court-house, Allen's Fifth Massachusetts and Martin's Third Rhode Island Batteries were put in position, and the Forty-fourth placed in support and in reserve. Meanwhile, Martindale's Brigade and Berdan's Sharpshooters pushing forward, skirmishing began, and the enemy giving way in front swung round upon the rear and prepared to profit by the situation. The Forty-fourth advanced to the support of a section of Allen's Battery, as the presence of the rebels became known. Four companies were deployed as skirmishers, to guard the left flank, and were fired upon, while in the open ground a North Carolina regiment, with colors flying, was seen in motion towards the battery. At a double-quick the skirmishers were gathered in, and the regiment drawn up to receive them. The enemy turned and retired to the woods. Presently, in front and on the right, a hot fire opened, and the men, retiring to the road, lay there for one and a half hours, exposed to a severe cross-fire. Yet they and the Second Maine held a brigade at bay, and kept up a galling fire. Wounded and dying, the soldiers expressed fealty to their flag and heroic devotion. They became weary, and the fire upon them redoubled; but just then the sound of a few shots, then a volley, then a continuous crackling of musketry told that the rebels were attacked by our returning troops, and speedily the action was at an end. Of five hundred in action, nineteen were killed and sixty-five wounded, of whom eight died. The colors were pierced by forty-three balls, and the staff by one, making the number of the regiment. Not a man left the ranks, and all were a unit in the battle. Leland, a soldier of "F," after being twice wounded in the head and having a finger shot away, fired twenty rounds. Two hundred killed and wounded rebels lay on the field, as evidence of Union marksmanship. On June 7, the regiment had advanced to the eastern bank of the Chickahominy, and took their part in duty on the picket line. He who follows the regiment forward through its varied fortunes, will see them bear the battle's brunt with courage, and sustain their name with honor. They were discharged upon the expiration of term of service, September 30, 1864. Out of one thousand choice young men who went out to battle three years before, about one hundred were left to return to their families.

THE FIFTIETH NEW YORK ENGINEERS.

This regiment, which achieved such distinction during the war, was organized by General Charles B. Stuart, in the months of July, August, and September, 1861, at Elmira, New York, by direction of the Secretary of War, as a regiment of engineers, pontoniers, sappers, and miners, and was mustered into the service on September 18, as "Stuart's Independent Volunteers." At the breaking out of the Rebellion there was only a battalion of engineers in the service belonging to our small regular army, and it was soon apparent that the command was entirely inadequate to perform the constantly increasing duties of their branch of service. General Stuart, eminent as an engineer, was empowered to raise a regiment for this duty from among those whose occupations adapted them to its performance. The organized regiment had men qualified to build railroads, run locomotives, and conduct trains, and ranged from common laborer to first-class lawyer, and, what was to the purpose, first-class engineers. Starting for the seat of war September 18, 1861, the Engineers were quartered for a few days on the Battery, at New York, to receive arms and equipments; then proceeding to Washington, they received quartermaster's supplies on Meridian Hill, marched through Georgetown and continued to Fort Corcoran, and pitched their first camp on rebel soil. Here arose a serious difficulty. Enlisted for a special service, and promised the allowances pertaining, the War Department had made no provision for this class of soldiers, and the men were ordered into the field as infantry. Severe denunciation of officers followed for making promises they could not fulfill. Subsequently, a special Act of Congress was passed which placed the regiment upon its proper footing. Orders were received to proceed to Hall's Hill, Virginia, and report to General Butterfield, then commanding a brigade in Fitz-John Porter's division. This force, under McClellan's favorite officer, was composed largely of regulars, and contained many of the best regiments in service. General Butterfield gave the regiment incessant exercise in the line of duty. There were drills by squad, company, regiment, and battalion, accompanied by guard and picket duty, while recitations in military tactics were the order for the night. During this time the regiment was reviewed four times,—once by General Porter, three times by General McClellan. About November 1, the Engineers were ordered to Washington to receive instruction in especial duties of their branch, and, going into camp near the Navy Yard, the practice of bridge-building, by the French ponton system, was commenced. Thorough instruction was given in the construction of field fortifications, to military roads, and to war appliances, such as gabions,

fascines, chevaux-de-frise, stockades, palisades, sap-rollers, and block-houses. Early in the spring of 1862, the regiment moved into Virginia, under command of General Woodbury, of the regular engineers, and was assigned to General McDowell's corps, then covering Washington.

Marching to Manassas past the formidable Quaker guns, which were the occasion of mirth and cheer, the command proceeded to Bristol Station, where Captain John B. Murray was directed to deploy a portion of "K" Company, under Lieutenant McDonald, to skirmish the road in advance, as hostile cavalry had been seen hovering upon our flank. While thus advancing and eager to meet the enemy, a halt was sounded, and an order read from General McClellan directing a return of the engineer brigade to join his force at Yorktown. With cheer upon cheer at the prospect of active service under the commanding officer, the men countermarched at quick time for Alexandria. Arriving on April 10, the steamer Louisiana took the Fiftieth on board and conveyed it to Cheeseman's Landing, near Yorktown, on the 13th, when duty at once began in the trenches under incessant fire of the enemy's batteries. The regiment was now ordered to bring up their ponton boats, and throw bridges across the various streams that obstructed communications with different parts of the field, and to open roads for the passage of heavy artillery. It is difficult to realize the firmness required to perform these hazardous duties under the demoralizing effect of ponderous shells constantly exploding in their midst. During the siege, an immense battery for ten thirteen-inch mortars was constructed by the regiment, and was to have opened on the enemy the very day of the evacuation. On the bright sunny Sabbath morning of May 4, while the men in the camps excitedly awaited the opening of the mortar battery with its one-hundred-pound shells, the news spread that Yorktown was abandoned and the enemy in retreat. Captain Murray and another officer riding within the works, the latter's horse trod upon a buried shell and was blown to pieces; the former marvelously escaped unhurt. Lieutenant McDonald, with K Company, was ordered up to remove buried torpedoes and shells, which duty was performed with many misgivings, except by John B. Parker, who, finding an immense shell, removed the plug by aid of his knife and poured out the powder; the men jocosely offered him the contract for the rest of the job without claim in a share of the profits. Gathering up the siege material, bridge trains, and tools used in investment, the regiment followed in pursuit of the enemy up the Peninsula by way of the Pamunkey River. Marching from West Point on this river to the White House, thence to the Chickahominy, near New Coal Harbor, bridges were at once commenced across this treacherous stream. At Bottom's Bridge, a portion of the structure was left standing, and it was rapidly rebuilt for the passage of Casey's Division to the battle-field of Seven Pines.

The Chickahominy, near Richmond, in a dry season, is a mere brook, with more or less marsh on either side, and is often not more than ten to twenty yards wide; but on the night of March 30, while attempting to build a timber bridge across the stream at a point near Gaines's House, it rose so rapidly during the prevalence of a heavy rain that the approaches to the bridge were entirely under water, and in five hours the stream had widened to ten times its ordinary channel. For a time, it was believed the enemy had dammed the stream above and had let down the accumulated water to destroy the bridges. It seemed a very crisis, and the Engineers, in water to the waist, worked like beavers, momentarily expecting the enemy to open on them from the wood beyond. Anxiously awaiting to cross this bridge was the Forty-fourth Regiment of Butterfield's Brigade, who had taken the place vacated by the Fiftieth the year before at Hall's Hill. Edwin W. Viele and E. J. Emmons, of Seneca Falls, were in the ranks, and had been engaged in the fight at Mechanicsville a few days before.

Six bridges at different points were rapidly constructed, covering a distance of six miles from one extreme to another, and known officially as Sumner's, Woodbury's, Duane's, Alexander's, the Grapevine, and New Bridges, near Coal Harbor. On June 26, Porter ordered the bridges on his front destroyed, as the battle of Mechanicsville had that day commenced. During the battle of Gaines's Mills next day the pontoons were taken up and a portion of the regiment ordered forward, while the remainder were placed at different bridges to blow them up as soon as Porter's Corps should cross from the battle then pending. Pushing on rapidly during the night, Captain Spaulding and Lieutenant McDonald built two bridges at White Oak Swamp in time for Keyes's Corps, who had the advance towards the James on that day. These two bridges were destroyed the next day by General French, commanding the rear guard, just before the arrival of Stonewall Jackson at the swamp.

Pressing forward through the woods with their muskets slung, the men plied their axes vigorously, opening parallel roads for the immense trains of heavy artillery hurrying on to Glendale and Malvern Hill. At this latter place the regiment slashed the woods for a long distance, to enable the gunboats to open on the enemy during the expected battle there, and rendered very effective service in placing formidable obstructions along the right of the line, where the

rebels subsequently attempted to capture our batteries. While on this battle-field, the members of the Fiftieth from Seneca had an opportunity to exchange greetings with their comrades of the Thirty-third. Still pressing forward in the advance with the ponton bridge, great difficulties were encountered from fugitives from our own army while laying the bridges over the swollen streams on our route, and not until General Kearney had ordered the cavalry to clear the way did the Engineers succeed in completing the last crossing that landed our heavy trains at Harrison's Landing.

While at the landing, the enemy making a demonstration on our front, the Engineers were ordered up to take part in the expected fight. Cheerfully and promptly they responded; but the movement proving a feint, the men returned to their more legitimate duties. Anticipating an attack, McClellan ordered bridges constructed over Herring Creek and several smaller streams for the rapid cooperation of the different corps, then occupying a line of about five miles in extent. While the bulk of the army seemed at rest, this regiment was constantly on duty, strengthening the defenses of the camp and increasing the surrounding communications by opening new roads and facilitating the passage of supply trains from the landing to the more distant troops on the outposts.

On July 22, Captain John B. Murray, of "K" Company, resigned to assist in organizing the One Hundred and Forty-eighth Regiment, then about being raised in Seneca County. Lieutenant Lamb also resigned, and left the company under command of Lieutenant McDonald, who was promoted to the captaincy vacated by Murray. On August 13 the regiment was divided into detachments, and Captain McDonald with "K" was ordered to the Chickahominy, some twenty miles distant, to prepare the way for the army about to evacuate the Peninsula. Arriving at Charles City Court-House, a gallows standing in the court-house yard greeted the vision of the men, while an aged negro gave the information that it had been used to hang such of his race as had attempted to escape slavery. An axe was laid to the root of this evil, and the boys cooked their coffee over a fire made of its material. Each man, in addition to arms and forty rounds, was obliged to carry an axe or spade, three days' rations, and a knapsack. Finding this load too heavy for the rapid marching and heavy road-work, a young man on his way to mill with a mule-team was impressed; the wagon filled with knapsacks, and, thus lightened, the men pushed on rapidly, repairing several bridges on their route, and reached the mouth of the Chickahominy at Barnett's Ferry next day. Here the company assisted Captain Spaulding of the Fiftieth to lay a ponton bridge nearly sixteen hundred feet in length. McClellan arriving on the 17th, declared this the longest bridge known to him in history. During three days and nights the bridge was occupied by the passing of infantry, cavalry, artillery, and the interminable supply trains.

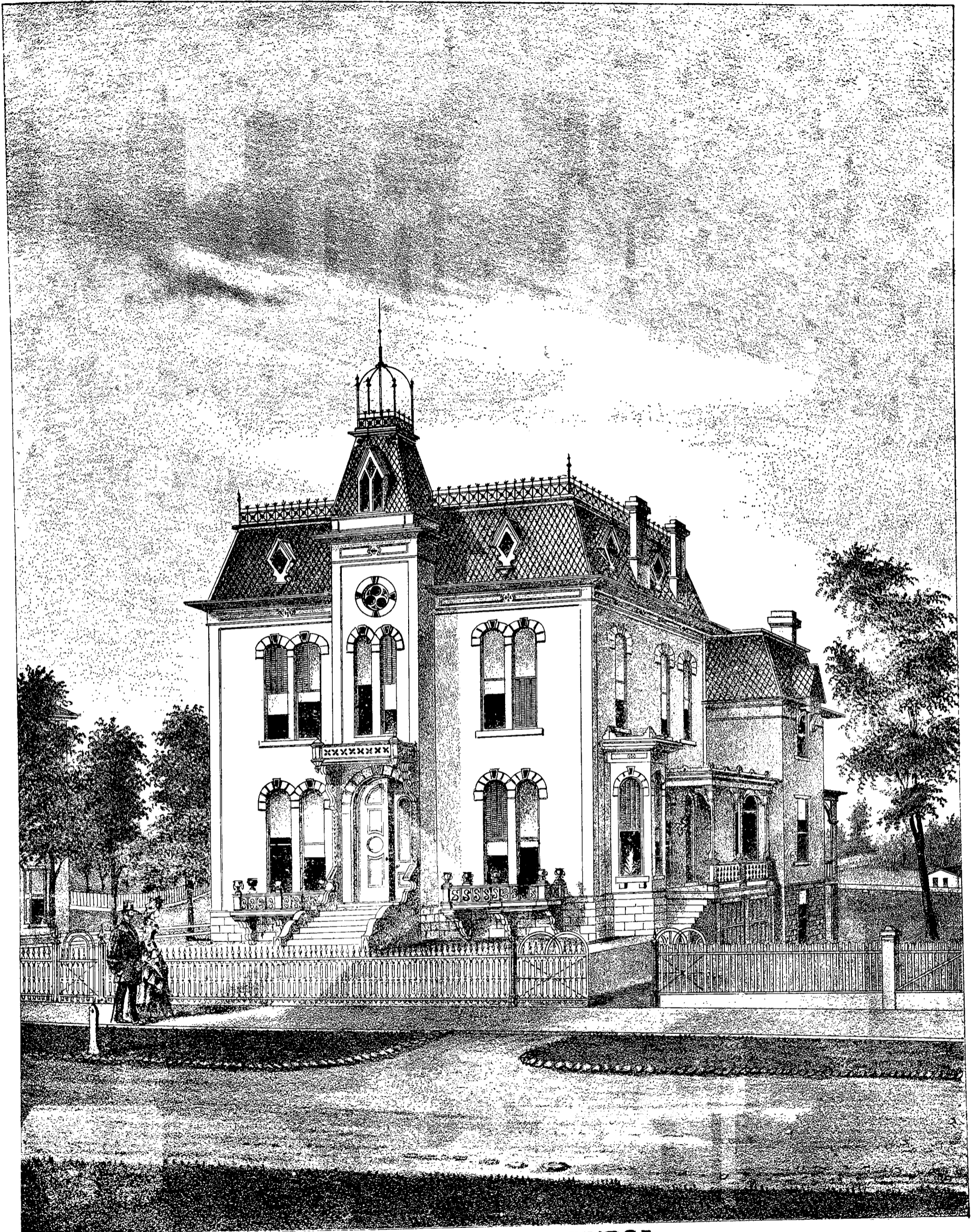
On the morning of the 19th, General Pleasonton came up with the rear-guard, and two gunboats took position to restrain the enemy while the bridge was dismantled. K, taking thirty-nine pontons, started for Fortress Monroe via the James, and, arrived, received orders to bring the bridge-trains to Aquia Creek. The company was placed in charge of six barges loaded with bridge-equipage and other valuable engineer property. Taken in tow by an old blockade-runner recently captured, the barges started on the evening of August 23, on Chesapeake Bay, for the Potomac.

During the morning of the next day, early, the wind blew fresh, and at sunrise had risen to a gale; besides the soldiers, there were on board forty civilian teamsters, who, panic-stricken, attempted to throw overboard the heavy ponton-wagons, lashed to the decks. A squad of the Engineers, with fixed bayonets, repelled the attempt. Meanwhile the gale became furious, and the scene appalling; two of the barges in the rear came together with fearful crashes, and threatened each moment to go down. The men on board of them were shouted to cross by the connecting hawser to the leading barge. Calling each man by name, he crossed upon the rope, hand over hand, till ten men were rescued. The last to cross was Albert Kissinger, strong, young, and an excellent soldier; as he seized the hawser and started on his perilous way, the abandoned barge gave a sudden lurch, and went down, tearing out the Samson part to which the hawser was attached, and Kissinger was forever lost to view. From Fortress Monroe, the steamer *Canonicus*, and the powerful tug, *Seth Low*, were sent to the rescue, and soon towed them round "Old Point Comfort," where a safe landing was made. Orders to proceed to Alexandria came next day; a new bridge train was made up, and September 3 the company set out for Aquia Creek, to build bridges for General Burnside, then about to evacuate Fredericksburg. On September 7, the men were ordered back to the Fortress, to convey ponton boats and bridge equipage from that depot to Washington. A start was made on September 20 for Harper's Ferry via Rockville and Frederick City, with bridges, to replace those destroyed by the enemy on their retreat, after the battle of Antietam. The pontons being laid at the ferry, the company used as a guard-room the old "Engine House," made famous in history as John Brown's

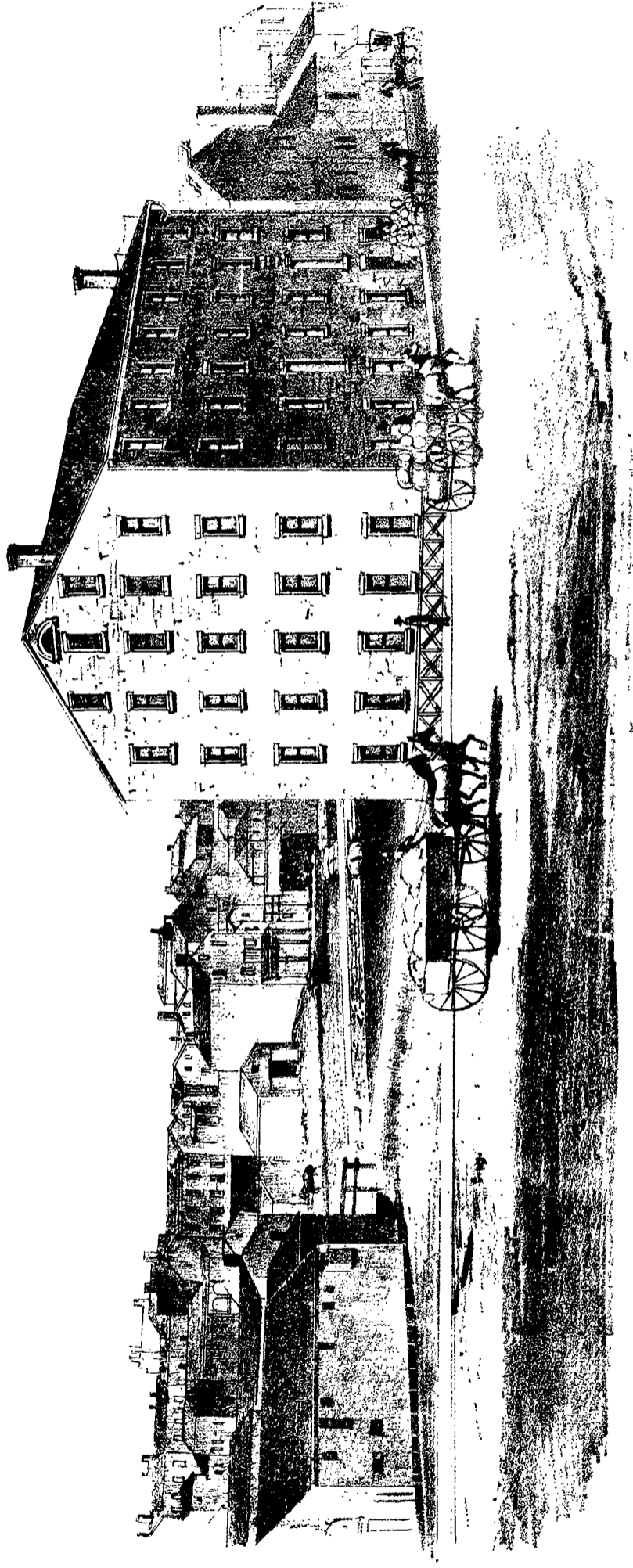
stronghold, on his capture of the place. President Lincoln was frequently seen in consultation with General McClellan, as they crossed and recrossed the bridge. About the 25th of September, a long ponton bridge was laid across the Potomac at Berlin, Maryland, six miles below Harper's Ferry, and by that causeway the old Army of the Potomac once more crossed into Virginia. The company was then directed to take charge of the bridge at Harper's Ferry, dismantle the one at Berlin, and go into quarters for the winter. Later, the order was changed, and K was directed to proceed to Washington, to take part in the campaign against Fredericksburg. The failure to take Marye's Heights was attributed to the non-arrival of the ponton bridges. This history may not be known beyond the limits of Seneca County, but it is due her soldiery that events wherein they were concerned should be fairly stated.

On November 13, 1862, Major Spaulding, commanding the battalion at Harper's Ferry and Berlin, was ordered by the chief engineer of the army to go to and make up at Washington large bridge trains to operate on the Rappahannock near Fredericksburg. This order was dated, "Headquarters Army of the Potomac, near Front Royal, November 7,"—the very day McClellan was relieved of command. Major Spaulding called Captain McDowell to witness the reception of the order, six days since the date of its issue. Proceeding by rail, the Engineers assisted at Washington to make up the desired bridge equipage. Starting from the capital, November 19, with fifty ponton boats by land, it required nearly a thousand animals to draw this immense train of bridge material. Alexandria was scarcely reached, when the rain poured down and the road became a quagmire. Horses were new to the harness, and often the heaviest hills were surmounted by attaching drag-ropes to the boats, while the men drew them to the top. This march occupied six days and nights of arduous toil in rain and mud, the men lifting the wagons from the ruts, and pushing them on as fast as possible. Major Spaulding saw horses and men giving out, and the roads utterly impassable, and bridging the Occoquan, at Occoquan City, crossed the stream, made the boats into rafts, and took them via the Potomac to Belle Plain in tow of a large tug. The boats were immediately loaded on the wagons with other material, and the train moved to a position near and opposite to Fredericksburg, on November 25. In camp a few days near the Lacey House, and then, as ordered, retired from the river and went into camp at White Oak Church. The first week of December was occupied by Burnside's chief of artillery and officers of the battalion in reconnoitering positions for crossing the river, some ten miles below the city. Roads were repaired and miles of corduroy laid through swamps approaching the river, along positions hidden from the enemy. After a few days the plan was changed, and the army were to cross opposite the city. Captain McDonald, with K and F companies, was designated to throw a bridge across opposite the city, at a point some three hundred yards below the ruins of the railroad bridge. Carefully examining the route through an opening in the bluff, and repairing the road leading to the designated point during the night, every precaution was taken to approach the river without alarming the enemy's pickets on the shore opposite.

On the morning of December 10 came the order to move near our position in the early morning, and during the night push along the river bank, reach the point, and construct the bridge as rapidly as possible. Moving silently along the river bank, the Engineers were in position at one o'clock of the 11th of December, while a dense fog prevailing, lent its protection to shroud their movements. Rapidly making a detail of bridge builders, the work was begun. The river at this point is between four and five hundred feet wide, requiring twenty-three boats to span the stream. To the left, a German regiment took their place, an infantry support, and on the right was the gallant Eighty-ninth New York, wherein were a few men from Seneca County. Pushing the work with great energy, the bridge was completed to within eighty or ninety feet of the opposite shore, when a force of the enemy, posted behind a stone wall in front and about two hundred yards distant, opened a deadly fire on the men clustered upon the bridge, killing and wounding several and driving the rest ashore. The New York Eighty-ninth poured their volleys against the wall, while a battery from the bluff in vain attempted to dislodge the rebels from their defense. As the work on the bridge ceased, the enemy's fire was suspended. Calling the men to "fall in," McDonald determined to attempt the completion of the bridge at all hazards. The places of the killed and wounded were filled by fresh details, who stepped forward on the forlorn hope with cheerfulness. To act with vigor at the supreme moment, McDonald alone walked to the end of the bridge, made an examination, and returned unmolested. Again the detail reached the terminus and resumed work. A few moments went by and a still more murderous discharge ensued, killing and wounding several; one ball pierced the leg of Sergeant Sterling Wicks, and another the arm of Captain McDonald, breaking the elbow-joint. These two attempts to lay the bridge with a force of sixty men resulted in a loss of two killed and seventeen wounded. McDonald, while having his wound dressed, decided to renew the effort, but, fainting from loss of blood, was obliged to turn over the command to Lieutenant



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McGrath, while Lieutenant Wm. Van Rensselaer succeeded to command of K. McGrath made a desperate effort to finish the bridge, but, met by the same wicked sleet of bullets, a third time gave way. Infantry were now taken over by the Engineers in boats, the enemy captured, and the bridge finished. After crossing the army and back again to the Falmouth side, the company took up their bridge and went into camp.

On January 20, 1862, Lieutenant Van Rensselaer was directed to move to Banks's Ford, above the city, and throw a bridge at that point. While on the way a storm of snow, sleet, and rain came on; the teams floundered in the mire, the men were drenched to the skin, and, in wretched plight, the "mud-march" ended. Three months in quarters, and on April 29 K was engaged in constructing bridges three miles below Fredericksburg. The work was done with but one man wounded. Sedgwick's Corps was crossed, the bridge dismantled and re-laid opposite the city. The Engineers moved, on June 5, down to Franklin's Crossing and assisted in laying a bridge under a severe fire from the enemy's rifle-pits, and resulting in the wounding of several men. Immediately after the battle of Chancellorsville, the company moved with their boats to Washington by way of Alexandria. On June 25, marched to Poolesville, Maryland, and pushed on rapidly to Frederick City, Liberty, and reached Beaver Dam Creek on the 30th. Anticipating a movement against Harrisburg, two bridge trains were made up here, one in command of Wm. W. Folwell, of "I," the other of Captain McDonald, of K, to facilitate the pursuit of the enemy in that direction. Starting on this expedition July 1, news came of the rebel retreat, and the trains were directed to move on to Washington. On July 6, the Engineers took their trains to Harper's Ferry and ferried over infantry to drive out the rebels holding the place. This done, bridges were laid across the Potomac and Shenandoah to connect Loudon, Bolivar, and Maryland Heights. Moving down to Berlin, bridges were laid at a former site, where McClellan had crossed, and here Meade's victorious army marched once more into Virginia on the 18th and 20th of July. Until the 26th, the men guarded the bridge from the Virginia side; then, dismantling, moved to Washington via canal, and ordered thence to Rappahannock Station to take charge of all the bridges on the river. During August, the Rappahannock was spanned at Beverly's Ford, Kelly's Ford, and the station. The bridge at Kelly's Ford was taken up about the middle of September, transported to Culpepper Court-House, and laid at Mountain Run. On the 20th and 21st, the boats were removed, and a permanent bridge, two hundred feet in length, constructed. The company then moved on to Sperryville Pike and reported to General French, commanding the Third Corps.

Early in October, General Lee began to menace our lines along the Rapidan, and General Meade directed Captain McDonald to take the advance of the Third Corps and cross them at Hazel River. The order was carried out on the 11th, the bridge taken up and re-laid across Freeman's Ford, on the Upper Rappahannock, on the same night. Exhausted by marching and bridging, the men threw themselves upon the ground and sought sleep; they were quickly aroused by the report of the officer on guard that the enemy were about to shell the position. With all haste, the rear of the long bridge train was scarcely in motion before the rebels opened. Aroused to action, the train was brought safely off, and moved rapidly to and through Rappahannock Station to Kelly's Ford, expecting to cross the Second Corps, General Warren commanding at this point. The corps had crossed a bridge above, and the whole army was on the retreat. Anxious to save the bridges, the Engineers, sleepless, and eating as they marched, passed rapidly on to Centreville amidst a drenching rain, while Meade, facing about, ordered bridges to be laid across Bull Run, usually insignificant, now a formidable stream. Crossing troops and trains, the boats were taken up and the train moved to Rappahannock Station. While repairing boats, the order came to relieve the regular engineers at Kelly's Ford and take charge of the bridge there. November 19, removing the bridge, the men marched to Brandy Station, and, halting near the Rapidan, Captain McDonald was sent with escort from Buford's Cavalry to reconnoitre the fords held by rebel pickets, and select a position for a crossing the next day. This done, the bridges were laid next morning at Culpepper Ford, and a crossing rapidly effected. Meade having failed to carry the enemy's works at Mine Run, the army recrossed, and the bridges were dismantled. Here was met Captain Loring, of Waterloo, George Sherman, once of the *Reveille*, and Ed. Crane, of Seneca Falls. Moving back with the army to the south side of the Rappahannock, bridges were thrown across at the station, and the Engineers assisted in making a fortified camp for winter quarters. The company had charge of bridges at various points during the winter, and April 12, 1864, was designated as part of the Third Battalion Fiftieth Engineers, under Major Ford, and assigned to Warren's Fifth Corps. On May 1, Captain McDonald took command of the Engineers at the station, and, after the rear of the army had crossed, took up the bridge and awaited orders. May 3, orders came to remove the bridge rapidly to Germania Ford, on the Rapidan, and cross the

corps. At daylight, the Third Battalion, three hundred and fifty strong, were advancing their long train with all haste, Van Rensselaer miles ahead, with topographical map, designating the proper route. Arriving at night, a rest was taken till daybreak, when a bridge two hundred feet in length was constructed in *fifty minutes*. This prompt and rapid work brought warm commendation from General Warren.

During May 4 and 5, three corps, the Fifth, Sixth, and Ninth, crossed this bridge, and, on the evening of the later day, Meade ordered the bridge left with a small guard, and the battalion to headquarters in the Wilderness, to fight in the morning. With forty rounds and three days' rations, the men responded, and reported to General Meade, at one o'clock. Bivouacking near by, they moved in the morning into the second line of battle, as part of First Division, Fifth Corps, General Griffin. During the day the Engineers strengthened the thin line with abattis and other devices. Near sundown, the rebels making a demonstration on the right, the Engineers were double-quickened to that part of the line, and remained till one o'clock of the 7th, when one company was left, two taken back to the bridge, which was removed to Ely's Ford, and there re-laid. The labor was futile, as rebel cavalry were in our rear, holding the route intended for our ambulance train. Re-crossing the wounded, the bridge was removed, and marching, via Chancellorsville, to the "Ny" River, rested twenty-four hours. Leaving the pontoons near Salem Church, the men marched to the lines near Spottsylvania Court-House, opening communication with the Fifth Corps, then returning, removed bridges to Fredericksburg, spanned the stream, crossed reinforcements; then removing the bridge, May 21, and proceeding to the North Anna, two bridges were laid for General Hancock, and his corps crossed on the 27th. Pushing on to the Pamunkey River, a bridge was laid at Hanover town, troops crossed, and over a thousand contrabands, moving freewards. Dismantling the bridges, June 2, the movement was made to Coal Harbor, where was met Colonel Baker, of General Martindale's staff, now editor of the *Seneca Falls Courier*, Horace Rumsey, of the One Hundred and Forty-eighth, and other Seneca soldiers. Once more on that familiar stream, the Chickahominy, at the ruins of Long Bridge, in the afternoon of June 12, the position was reconnoitred and a small rebel force found on the opposite bank. At dark, the Engineers, launching boats, took across the charging party, losing one man killed; then moving over the familiar road on to Cole's Ferry, on the Lower Chickahominy, assisted in laying a bridge of sixty boats, making a structure twelve hundred feet in length. Forming the boats into rafts, they were towed down this stream, passing the point crossed by McClellan on his retreat, in 1862, and then moved up the James to Fort Powhattan and City Point. A sheltered camp was formed July 1, within which the bridges were left, under a guard, and the company, moving to the "front," prepared material for investment. At the battle of Ream's Station, the company was ordered into rifle-pits on the left of the field, and formed part of the line under General Mott.

On August 29, Captain McDonald was ordered to construct Fort Du Shane, on the Weldon Railroad. With sixty men of the company, to build magazines, traverses, and bomb-proofs, the work was rapidly advanced by heavy details of infantry. This fort was one of the largest built during the siege of Petersburg, the faces being one hundred and twenty-five yards in length, with a relief of fifteen feet. With an average daily detail of one thousand men, its construction occupied three weeks. The interior arrangements consisted of a bomb-proof of sufficient capacity to shelter five hundred men. The traverses and magazines were rendered bomb-proof by use of rails from the Weldon road. Outside were two heavy lines of abattis, with elaborate wire entanglements. Within short cannon range a similar fort, known as Fort Wadsworth, was built by Captain W. W. Folwell, of Company I. The Engineers were kept busy during the siege by labor on covered ways, bomb-proofs, and other defenses. It having been discovered that the enemy were mining to blow up *Fort Hell*, Company K was ordered to countermine, and cut off their mine. October 1, the lines having extended farther to the left, a chain of forts within short artillery range became necessary. A part of "K," under Lieutenant Van Rensselaer, constructed Fort Urnston on this line, while Captain McDonald built a redoubt near Poplar Grove Church, with the rest. About December 1, Warren made an extensive raid on the Weldon road, and, on his return, was intercepted by a stronger force. The Engineers, with their bridges, were ordered out on the night of December 10, in a storm of mingled rain and snow, to march to the Nottoway River, distant twenty-two miles, and cross the corps. The men arrived at their destination, laid their bridges, and, without delay, the corps passed over, and the company, returning to camp, began to build stockades to cover the gorges in the forts along the front, and so enable a small force to hold them, while Meade continued to extend his left. During March, 1865, Lieutenant Van Rensselaer, commanding company, built Fort Fisher, mounting eighteen guns, and won for the men great credit. In the Fort Steadman affair, K held the breastworks along their portion

of the line while the fort was being recaptured. On March 29, the whole army advancing for the final struggle, the company moved out early in the morning, under Captain Burden, and advanced to Hatcher's Run. Heavy night rains raised the streams, rendered the roads useless, and prevented the supply-trains from reaching General Sheridan, then some distance in advance. The company worked with energy, in water often waist-deep, cheering as each difficulty was surmounted. The ammunition train lay fast in the mire on the Vaughn road, while it was urgent that it be got to Dinwiddie Court-House, near Five Forks. Repairing the roads in advance of this train, the men lifted the wagons from the mire, and pushed them forward. Covering several small streams on their way, the company arrived at Gravelly Run on April 2; then, moving the bridges to a point near Petersburg, McDonald, who had been promoted major, reported to General Wright, of the Sixth Corps, that the bridge train was at his disposal. After the capture of Petersburg, the necessity for pontoons ceased, and the company moved on with the army to Burkesville, and on April 2 pushed on to Farmersville, on the Appomattox. Here was constructed the last ponton bridge ever used against the enemy by the Army of the Potomac.

While halting for the night, orders came to return to Burkesville, the Army of Northern Virginia having surrendered. Crossing the victorious and returning army at Farmersville, the company took up the bridge and, April 12, marched to Burkesville. Reconstruction now began, and within a few days K was busied assisting the "construction corps" to rebuild the long railroad bridge on the Staunton River. Moving a few miles up the river, the men assisted in crossing General Custer's division of cavalry on their return march, meeting Major Compson, M. Sisson, and other Seneca soldiers. Halting, after a march of twenty-two miles over recent battle-fields, whose relics gave fearful evidence of strife, and preparing supper, a dispatch was received by Colonel Spaulding from General Meade, saying that the Army of the Potomac would pass through Richmond next day on review, and if the Engineers could reach the city the next morning, they would be placed at the head of the column. The proposition was heard with cheers, and with shouts of "On to Richmond!" and to the tune of "John Brown," the men set out for Richmond, eighteen miles away, and completed their march of *forty-two miles without rest*. As the Fiftieth passed the old One Hundred and Forty-eighth in line, cheer after cheer went up from the ranks of each. Pursuing their way with their long bridge-trains, they reached Fredericksburg and laid bridges at the old points. Here was crossed General Sherman's army on their way to Washington. The bridges were then removed, and, marching to Fort Berry, near Long Bridge, they went into camp, June 1. At the grand review, the Fiftieth had the right of the column in that imposing pageant. Their labors ended, nothing remained but a return to duties and relatives, and accordingly we take our leave of them as, at Elmira, they are mustered out.

We are under obligations to Colonel McDonald for history of the Fiftieth Engineers.

CHAPTER XXX.

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS.

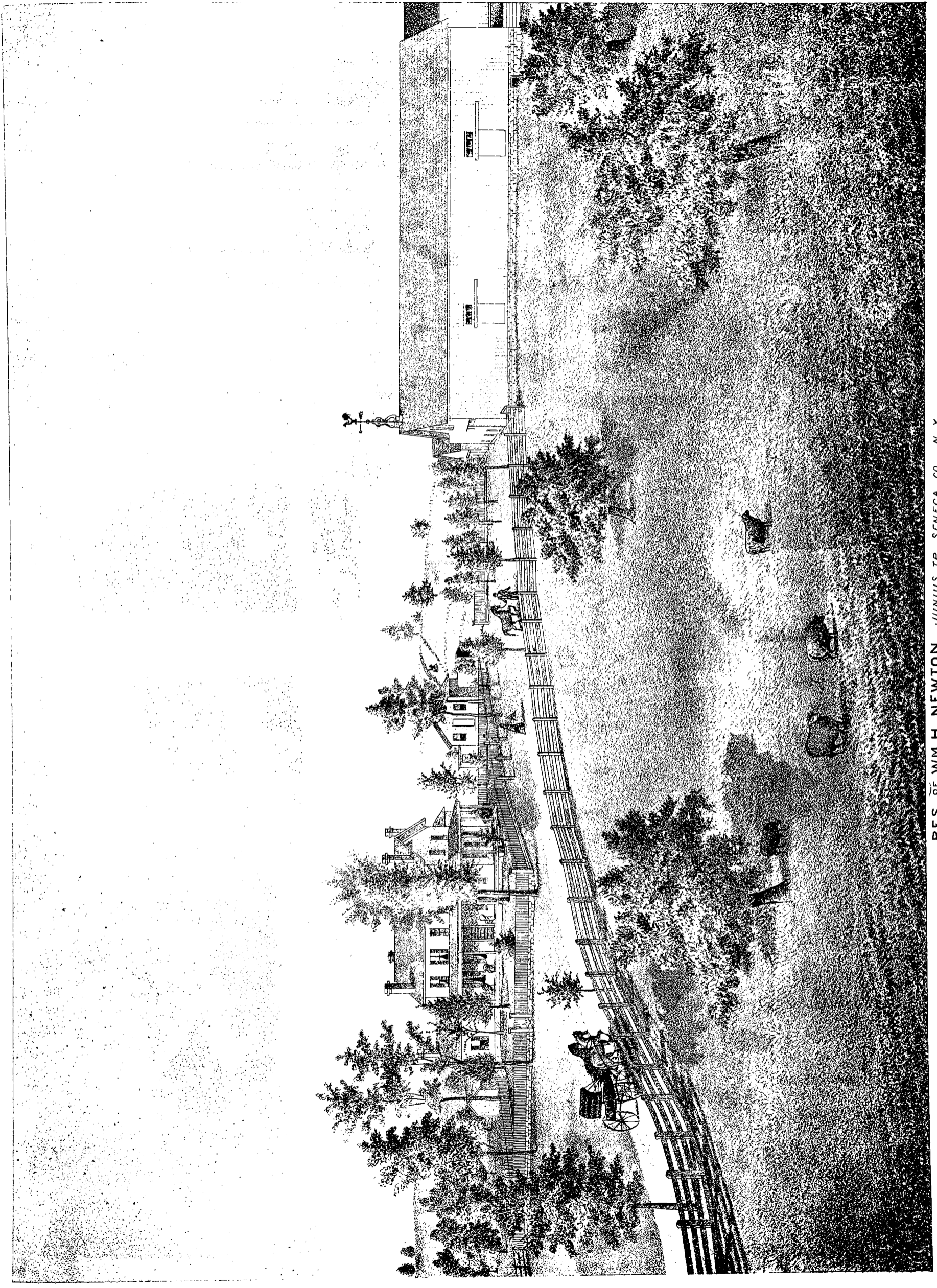
The *Seventy-Fifth Volunteers* was recruited in Seneca and Cayuga Counties, early in September, 1861. Volunteering proceeded rapidly. Henry B. Fitch led Company F, from Seneca County. Companies K and I were partly composed of men from Seneca Falls and Waterloo. The regiment went into "Camp Cayuga," in the suburbs of Auburn, October 14, eight hundred strong, and drilling began under command of Colonel John A. Dodge. Six weeks at this camp were occupied in learning the duties of the soldier. Being mustered into the United States service, receiving a handsome stand of colors, November 30, the Seventy-fifth left for Albany, where, embarking on the "Knickerbocker," they were landed at noon, December 1, at the Battery, New York City, and indulged in a march up Broadway. From Governor's Island the regiment were embarked upon the steamer Baltic, on December 5, and on the next day set sail. Opening his orders, Colonel Dodge found his destination to be Fort Pickens, Florida. The sea-voyage, with its scanty fare and close quarters, was a disappointment to the men, who had hoped to join the army of McClellan; but the journey ended, they resolved to do their duty wherever and however placed. Reaching Santa Rosa on the 13th of December, debarkation by boats began on the next day and continued during that and the one following. A camp was laid out and named "Seward." The surroundings, including Fort Pickens and Wilson's Zouaves, were made familiar, and curiously the defenses of the rebels on the opposite shore were

scanned, with their beautiful background of green foliage, although mid-winter. About two P.M. of January 17, 1862, a steam-tug ran out of the Pensacola harbor and struck boldly into the bay, while the Confederate flag was waved in defiance by a rebel on her deck. A furious artillery duel resulted between the batteries on both sides, resulting in much sound and little execution, while its occasion, the tug, escaped unharmed. A solid shot was plunged into the sand near the Seventy-fifth's headquarters, and at once the regiment was formed and moved out of range. Early next morning they returned to their quarters. Night alarms, drills, and picket duty employed the time for months. On March 4, 1862, the paymaster made his appearance, and by Charles P. Fitch, on a visit to his brothers, much of their wages was sent home. Days and weeks passed; men filled the hospitals; some died, and all longed for active service. At night, May 9, flames broke out along the rebel line, and forts, batteries, navy yard and edifice, barracks, hospital, and cottages were involved in a general conflagration, extending continuously for miles. By morning of next day Porter's flag-ship, the *Harriet Lane*, was seen coming up the channel, and bore the tidings that New Orleans had fallen, and so explained the ruin of Pensacola and its evacuation by Bragg. The Seventy-fifth struck tents, were transported to the mainland, and bivouacked in woods near Barrancas barracks. A day or two later and Company I was ordered to Fort Pickens on garrison duty, and a force, largely composed of the Seventy-fifth, advanced and occupied Pensacola, many of whose citizens had fled with the rebel army. Little was heard of any enemy, and the men, fresh from the sands of Santa Rosa, luxuriated in the pleasant shade on firm soil. A body of recruits arrived from the North and were designated as Company K, and served with I on garrison duty, but were finally relieved and joined the regiment, which, on September 3, arrived at New Orleans in response to an order transferring them to General Butler's command. With new rifles and accoutrements, quartered in barracks, and making the acquaintance of the Crescent City, a month went by. September 4, the regiment was drawn up to take leave of Captain Dwight, appointed colonel of the One Hundred and Sixtieth New York Volunteers. H. B. Fitch was temporarily made adjutant.

On September 28, a reserve brigade, commanded by General Godfrey Weitzel, was constituted of the Seventy-fifth New York, Twelfth and Thirteenth Connecticut, Eighth New Hampshire, companies of the First Louisiana Cavalry, and the Sixth Massachusetts and the First Maine Batteries. On October 1 the Seventy-fifth embarked on the steamer Laurel Hill, were conveyed above seven miles, and formed camp near the rest of the brigade. Later, having joined them at Fort Kearney, Weitzel called a brigade inspection, and handled with pleasure the clean, serviceable rifles of the Seventy-fifth. A few days later and the brigade was marched down to New Orleans and reviewed by Butler, and the press, from appearance and evolution, denominated them "Weitzel's Regulars." On the 24th of October, on transports attended by four mortar-boats, the brigade set off on the "La Fourche" expedition. Landing next day five miles below Donaldsonville, they marched to the village, just evacuated by a rebel force. Resuming the march, the enemy were found three miles below Napoleonville, on the left of the bayou, prepared to dispute farther progress.

The First Maine Battery advanced to shell the woods over the stream, and drew the rebel fire, while other regiments charged the enemy. The Seventy-fifth, deployed along the left front, were opposed by the Thirty-eighth Louisiana, which did not dare to attack. The enemy were driven with severe loss, the dead buried, and next day the advance resumed, and without opposition the object of the movement was realized and the force went into camp. On December 16, 1862, N. P. Banks succeeded Butler, and organized the Nineteenth Corps, composed of four divisions. He took from the reserve brigade the First Louisiana, Eighth New Hampshire, and Thirteenth Connecticut, and replaced them by the Eighth Vermont, One Hundred and Fourteenth and One Hundred and Sixtieth New York. The brigade was then designated as Second Brigade, First Division, General Augus commanding. The Atchafalaya, at a point known as Butte-la-Nore, was held by a strong rebel work, and the Bayou Teche, just above its confluence, was defended by an iron-clad old river steamer called the John K. Cotton and by an earthwork. To Weitzel was intrusted to make the capture of the "Cotton," preparatory to operations. Embarked on gunboats, the brigade were taken up the Atchafalaya, and, debarking at the mouth of Bayou Teche, formed in line,—the Seventy-fifth on the right by the river, the One Hundred and Sixtieth New York in the centre, and the Twelfth Connecticut on the left. The cavalry advancing, skirmished with the rebels till, reaching the Teche, they prepared to charge. An infantry volley, a round from the battery, and they fled in haste.

At daybreak Weitzel called for sixty sharpshooters to pick off men from the "Cotton," whose smoke-stacks had been visible a mile distant. Captain Fitch being detailed, took six men from each company of the Seventy-fifth, came up with the gunboats, deployed at a run, and opened a sharp fire, which killed several of her



RES. OF WM. H. NEWTON, JUNIUS TP., SENECA CO., N. Y.



MRS. COL. HALSEY SANDFORD.



COL. HALSEY SANDFORD.

DOCTOR JARED SANDFORD, late of Ovid, Seneca County, New York, was born in Southampton, Long Island, February 19, 1774. His ancestor, Ezekiel Sandford, came from England and settled there in or before 1670—born, 1630; died, 1705. His son, Ezekiel, Jr., died 1730 (Doc. History New York, page 666), leaving sons, Thomas, *Zachariah*, Jonah, John. (Thomas was grandfather of Nathan Sandford, late Chancellor and United States Senator, New York.) Zachariah had five sons, Daniel, Stephen, *Joel*, Abraham, Elias. Joel had five sons and two daughters, James, Lemuel, Hugh, Jared, Oliver, Prudence, Amertel.

The family on Long Island were descended in a direct line from Thomas de Sandford, who was one of the army of William the Conqueror on his invasion of England, and whose name is written in the famous Roll of Battle Abbey (the great chart of English gentry). On the conquest being thus completed, he obtained, as his part of the spoils, the lands of Sandford in Shropshire, and there founded the family which is to this day in possession of the same land by regular descent. Thomas Sandford, the father of Ezekiel, was a colonel of a regiment of Fire-Locks in the Royal Army in the Rebellion which terminated in Charles I.'s decapitation and establishment of Cromwell, and had made himself so obnoxious by his skill, energy, bravery, and remarkable daring, that, although he had been killed in the storming of Nantwich, 22d January, 1643, his family was persecuted, harassed, and driven from one place of concealment to another, until finally those who survived succeeded in making their escape to the Colonies, and settled at Southampton, Long Island.

Doctor Jared Sandford went to Ovid, Seneca County, New York, from Southampton, in the year 1796; taught school a few years and practiced medicine. He studied medicine with his brother James, at Huntington, Long Island; was married to Sally Radley Halsey early in 1801, and died August 18, 1817, leaving the following surviving children: Halsey, Hannah Howell, Lewis Halsey, Edward, Helen, Emily, James, Sarah. His wife was daughter of the late Hon. Silas Halsey, who emigrated to Ovid, from Southampton, Long Island, in 1792. In 1805 he (Doctor Sandford) built the house, about one mile north of Lodi Village, now occupied by Herman D. Eastman, and occupied the same until his death. He was the first Surrogate of Seneca County, appointed thereto April 2, 1804. The first will admitted to probate in said County was that of James Yerkes, on June 28, 1804. When Surrogate, he drew out a system of rules of practice and proceedings in the Surrogate Court, which has been followed in that County from that date to this, and generally received and adopted in the State. At the time no other office had a regular set of rules. He was also the first Postmaster in town of Ovid, being appointed thereto in 1801; held the same till it was located in the village of Ovid. Was appointed Associate Judge of Seneca County in 1813, and held the office during the pleasure of the "Council of Appointment." As physician and surgeon, he was eminent and successful; his practice extended to Geneva and Waterloo on the north, and to Catharine, now Watkins, and Havana on the south, embracing of most the territory between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. The country being new and roads bad, he traveled entirely on horseback.

LEWIS H. SANDFORD was admitted to the bar in 1828; in 1843 he was appointed Assistant Vice Chancellor of the First Circuit, New York, where he then resided; in 1846 he was appointed Vice Chancellor of that circuit, and in 1847, at the first election for judicial officers under the constitution of 1846, he was elected one of the Justices of the Superior Court of the City of New York, which position he held at the time of his death, July 27, 1852. His published works, Sandford's Chancery Reports, in four volumes, and Sandford's Superior Court Reports, in five volumes, are considered standard authority in the courts of the United States, and the former in the Court of Chancery of England.

EDWARD SANDFORD was admitted to the bar in 1833, and commenced practice in the city of New York, where he had for some time resided. He died at sea, September 27, 1854, lost on the steamer Arctic on his return from Europe, in the prime of life,—with a large and increasing practice, and with rank second, if not head, of the bar of the city.

JAMES S. SANDFORD was admitted to the bar in the State of Michigan in 1836. He removed to Marshall, Michigan, in May, 1836, and commenced the practice of his profession. He returned to the State of New York October, 1841, and in April, 1843, after being admitted to all the courts of this State, he settled permanently, and has since practiced, in the city of New York, residing for the present at Summit, New Jersey.

GEN. HALSEY SANDFORD (eldest of Doctor Jared Sandford's children) was born October 26, 1801, in a log house little west of the present village of Lodi, then Ovid Township, in this (Seneca) County; his education being such as the common schools of the country at that day furnished; was reared on the farm now occupied by Herman D. Eastman, in Lodi, until about nineteen years of age; then taught school a short time, and served as clerk in store, first for General D. Jackson at Trumansburg, afterwards for the late General John DeMott at Lodi (then town of Ovid). In fall of 1821 he located in that part of the town of Reading, Steuben County, now Starkey, Yates County, entering the mercantile business, conducting the same successfully, in connection with an ashery and distillery, until the fall of 1830; the latter was burned in 1828, and not rebuilt. In fall of 1830 he sold out his mercantile business to Adna Treat. Was the first Town Clerk of Starkey after organization of Yates County; also Postmaster in said town until spring of 1831, when he resigned. In the old military days he was Colonel of the Tenth Regiment of Cavalry of New York, later Brigadier-General of the Fifth Brigade, and finally Major-General of the Third Division of same Corps. In spring of 1831 he removed to Lodi, place of his nativity, entered into partnership with the late General John De Mott in mercantile and produce business, which they conducted on a large scale until fall of 1838, when he (Sandford) retired from business. Was Supervisor of the town of Lodi in 1836, 1837, and 1838. In fall of 1838 he was elected Clerk of Seneca County, and held the office one term (three years). In fall of 1848 he moved to the beautifully located village of Ovid (where he now resides), and pursued his old business of merchandise, connected with produce, doing an extensive business until spring of 1861. Since residing in Ovid Village he has held the office of Postmaster ten years, Commissioner of Excise four years, and Superintendent of Poor three years.

On May 1, 1822, he married Fanny Maria Howell, of Warwick, Orange County, New York, daughter of Roger and Elizabeth Howell, who were natives of Southampton, Long Island. She (Fanny M.) was born January 16, 1801. Were married at her father's residence, and for their wedding tour, they came in a one-horse chaise, over the hills of the "Beech Woods," to their home at now Starkey, Yates County; the trip occupied six days. They celebrated their Golden Wedding on May 1, 1872.

Their children were Howell, Sarah, Helen, Emma, Jared, Lewis, Montgomery. Howell emigrated to Emmett, Calhoun County, Michigan, in 1845,—his occupation a farmer,—and died there, September 12, 1865. Sarah resides near this village with her second husband, Josiah B. Chapman. Helen married the late Rev. H. R. Dunham; resided at Cortland, New York, where she died, January 29, 1853. Emma married Rev. A. L. Benton; they now reside at Fredonia, New York. Jared resides at Mount Vernon, New York, and is practicing law in the city of New York. Lewis died in infancy in August, 1836. Montgomery resides at Geneva, New York, and is cashier of the Geneva National Bank.

crew and drove the rest below. The boat was plated with railroad iron, and carried a nine-inch columbiad. The enemy returned the fire of musketry from her ports and attempted to escape, but was moored to the bank by a hawser, which none dared venture out to sever. A negro came upon the deck and cut it with a hatchet, and the "Cotton" withdrew slowly up-stream, engaging Weitzel's batteries, and closely followed by our boys. Suddenly she stopped and began a return: she had run aground from her pilot being shot; a second pilot was struck, another, and another, till six were killed in the pilot-house alone; finally the captain took the wheel, and, though repeatedly wounded, kept his post. A mile up-stream the boat came under protection of a redoubt known as Fort Bisland, whose canister prevented further pursuit. During the forenoon our skirmishers, under Captain Savery, advanced, firing; between the opposite forces lay a broad cane-field, crossed by wide ditches and adapted to use as rifle-pits. The Union soldiers of the Seventy-fifth would rise, charge, and take a ditch, while the rebels fell back to the next. With each repetition resistance increased, and at the "last ditch" the rebels made a firm, immovable stand. An old sugar-house stood close by the guns of Fort Bisland; this Weitzel ordered taken, and with a rush and a shout the last ditch was occupied by Savery. A party of men led by Sergeant Jaynes dashed at the sugar-house; when near it they were halted, and took to trees just as a dozen shells from the fort riddled the structure. Orders finally came to retire, yet two men held the sugar-house all night. Just before daylight the "Cotton" was seen on fire, and the expedition returned to camp.

February 6, the Seventy-fifth and one Hundred and Sixtieth were ordered to Brashear to relieve the Twenty-first Indiana and the Twenty-third Connecticut. General Banks resolved on the expulsion of Dick Taylor's army from Louisiana and the capture of vast quantities of cotton stored in the interior. The enemy held Fort Bisland with not far from ten thousand men, and built half a mile of strong fortifications. The force of Banks was about twenty thousand strong.

On the morning of February 12 the entire Seventy-fifth were on the skirmish line, and at three o'clock the line of battle was formed, with the Seventy-fifth and one Hundred and Sixtieth in the centre. By two hours, three miles had been traversed under constant resistance, and the line approached a row of cane shocks in sight of and distant half to three-quarters of a mile from the rebel lines.

These shocks were suspected by Weitzel to be placed as guides to accurate aim, and five minutes later, from works, fort, and the gunboat "Diana," there came a rain of shells, followed by grape and canister, and plowing the earth on all sides. Banks ordered the brigade to lie down in the nearest trench, and, opening with artillery, continued the contest till dark, when the brigade was withdrawn, and the rebel band struck up the "Bonnie Blue Flag." At daylight the battle was renewed and steadily continued. Cannon and rifle from trenches replied to the same from ditches, and, as occasion offered, the infantry made fresh advances. On the second line, in the forenoon, the Seventy-fifth was not engaged; at two P.M. it was ordered to advance on the rebel works from the flank, as a feint. Throwing off incumbrances, they marched by right of companies, single file, to execute the order. The advance was through a maze of vegetation, in a morass, and, each working forward as he could, the men became separated. A body of cavalry attempting to turn their flank, were repelled, and suddenly, with the crack of rifles, the rebel works were seen a few rods distant. A line was formed along a ditch parallel with the rebel position, and a regiment of Texas troops engaged for a couple of hours, neither, from the thickness of bushes, seeing the other. Lieutenant-Colonel Babcock, then seeing each rifle ready, gave aloud the apparent order, "Cease firing, and fall back;" the rebels, leaping upon their works, came in view as a Union volley tore through them with fatal effect. Other volleys followed, and the regiment retired from the wood. Threatened in the rear, Taylor evacuated during the night, carrying along his artillery, and the whole army, advancing fifteen miles, encamped at Franklin. Continuing to push forward, the army reached Opelousas April 20, and for two weeks, vehicles, vessels, and men were employed in capturing and transporting cotton to New Orleans. Banks now resolved to advance to Alexandria and pursue Taylor farther up the river. The march thither was almost a race of regiments. From that city the Weitzel Brigade were ordered to continue up the river, and advanced some twenty miles. As the men lay at rest a courier brought orders to return, and Alexandria was once more reached. Grant called on Banks to co-operate in the attack on Vicksburg, but the latter resolved to attempt the reduction of Port Hudson, a small village on the east bank of the Mississippi, and thither removed his army. The lines were formed on May 26, with orders to assault next morning. The old Reserve Brigade were promptly in line, and at six advanced into the woods in two lines, a hundred yards apart. At the farther edge, in pits, was posted a strong skirmish line, supported by batteries on a hill beyond. Unable to proceed, the first line lay down, and the Second—Weitzel's own brigade—swept past them into the storm of missiles, and captured the pits and their occupants, while, amid an interminable abattis of felled trees, with interlacing branches, were concealed

two regiments of Arkansas riflemen, and on the crest of the hill beyond, the yellow, incomplete earthworks were visible. A charge was ordered, and, with one cheer and with bowed heads, the men ran down the hill into the jungle of obstruction. A storm swept through them; a charge of canister sped through a party of officers, and Avery, of F, fell dying. Losing heavily, the base was reached, and one hundred prisoners had been taken by the Seventy-fifth alone. In parties and singly the soldiers worked their way forward, till Babcock and his followers were little less than one hundred feet from the rebel earthworks. Here progress was stayed, and steadily the line grew stronger as the men worked their way up. A request by the Seventy-fifth to charge was denied, and a golden opportunity lost. All day long the brigade held their ground, and kept the enemy under cover, and at night the Seventy-fifth was the farthest in advance, and a line of defense was thrown up. The Seventy-fifth had lost fifteen killed and eighty-six wounded, from a total of seven hundred engaged.

Relieved by the Eighth Vermont, the regiment rested three days, and June 1 returned to the old position. The pits were enlarged and made strong, and three companies at a time brought on duty once in three days, during which firing was constant. A cap raised on a stick was instantly struck by bullets. Banks brought up heavy cannon, and on June 9 began and continued a bombardment for a day and a half continuously. On the night of June 10 orders were issued along the front to advance skirmishers at midnight and press the rebel lines. The order was obeyed, and a dreadful din arose; the enemy from their defense opened a heavy fire of musketry, which was answered by the men in pits, the advance having laid down. At an angle in the rebel lines was a small gully; at its extremity a sap was opened and carried near the rebel bastion. A plan of attack was arranged by Weitzel, and at eleven o'clock of June 13 the Seventy-fifth were called, and at midnight were on their way to head an assault along this ravine and sap. Delays occurred; the enemy became aroused and gathered in force, and as the Seventy-fifth, some six hundred strong, appeared in sight in the light of morning a tremendous fire met them, but joined by the Ninety-first New York and Twenty-fourth Connecticut they sought shelter, and opened so rapid a return fire as to cause every rebel head to seek cover. Weitzel brought up his remaining regiments, and all day long the fight went on. The Seventy-fifth worked forward to the ditch, keeping up a quick fire, and individuals climbing the bastion would fire and perhaps receive a shot in the head in return. Ten hours passed, and the line was then ordered to fall back. The Seventy-fifth went into action five hundred and fifty strong, and lost seventy-four. There were eleven killed and sixty-three wounded. The wounded were sent to Springfield, thence to New Orleans. The Seventy-fifth were now much reduced by losses, sickness, and details; three weeks of investment followed, and on July 7 the tidings that Vicksburg was taken were received with cheers, and after a siege of forty-eight days Gardner surrendered Port Hudson and its garrison of six thousand one hundred men. In recognition of gallantry, the old brigade was placed at the head of the column of occupation, led by the Seventy-fifth, and so entered the town. Night came, and Augur's Division was embarked on transports and started down the river.

While Banks was at Port Hudson, Taylor had sent bodies of men to attack Brashear and Thibodeaux. The fall of the former place being known the enemy retired, and weeks passed by inactive, while promotions were many. Banks now proposed to attack Mobile, but was instructed to make a campaign against Texas, and resolved to move upon Sabine Pass. General Franklin, commanding the Nineteenth Corps, embarked a force of over eight thousand men, including the Seventy-fifth, and set out for the Pass. Two boats in the advance were attacked by a six-gun battery, manned by forty-five men and supported by one hundred and twenty-five infantry, and were captured, together with ninety-two men of the Seventy-fifth. Six of the regiment were killed and four wounded. As the flag was hauled down a dozen men sprang overboard; two were drowned, eight escaped. Leaving the scene of ignoble action, the fleet returned, and the Seventy-fifth bivouacked on a former ground. Banks now resolved upon a land campaign, and intrusted its command to C. C. Washburne, giving him the Thirteenth Corps, sent down by Grant, and most of the Nineteenth Corps, in all some twenty thousand men. Deliberately halting at slight obstacles, the army marched forward along the former route, the Nineteenth Corps in advance; skirmishes only occurred, and on September 14 and 15 an attack, in earnest, was made on the Thirteenth corps and quickly repelled. The next day Taylor advanced his lines, and after an hour's battle fell back. The Seventy-fifth was not engaged. They were mounted as cavalry, November 7, and assigned to a brigade composed of the Seventy-fifth New York, First Louisiana, Sixteenth Indiana, and Eighty-seventh Illinois.

On October 26 Washburne began his withdrawal, and the army went into winter quarters at New Iberia. The Seventy-fifth re-enlisted, were furloughed home, and proceeded to Canandaigua. November 20, the Seventy-fifth Battalion, non-veterans, moved upon a rebel conscript camp, ten miles out. At daybreak the men charged into the camp, and the Fourth Texas lost in prisoners one hundred

and twenty men. On July 24, the men taken prisoners on the boats at Sabine Pass were exchanged, and attached to a battalion of the Fourteenth New York Cavalry. Early in March, 1864, the Red River campaign was entered upon. The Thirteenth and Nineteenth Corps, preceded by Lee's Cavalry, in which was the Seventy-fifth New York Battalion, were to reach Alexandria, join A. J. Smith's Corps, of Grant's old command, push on to Shreveport, and, if possible, into Texas. General Steele, from Arkansas, was to assist the movement. Lee set out March 13 with three thousand men, followed by the infantry, and by April 1 the brigade of Lucas was found engaged with the rebels some twelve miles beyond Nachitoches. The enemy retired unwillingly, and by night the brigade had reached Crump's Corners, twenty miles from Nachitoches. Several days elapsed, and April 7 the cavalry of Lee was heavily engaged at Wilson's Farm, drove the enemy five miles, when another stand was made at Carroll's Mills, and they were again driven. A brigade of infantry reinforced Lee, who, on the morning of April 8, set out for Mansfield, the objective point of the army on that day. Two miles south of this place, known as Sabine Cross-Roads, masses of rebel infantry were discovered. The cavalry was dismounted, and determined fighting was done, and the Seventy-fifth were working their way forward when the order came, "Fall back." Major Bassford, holding his ground, saw no reason, and was the last to withdraw. As they reached the clearing, the lines of gray front, and with flanks twenty thousand strong, were seen closing in. Forces and batteries were swept away, together with the baggage and ambulance trains, as the rebel soldiers moved forward, driving back the advance. Five miles to the rear, Emory, with five thousand men of the Nineteenth Corps, well posted, received the attack, and stayed the rout.

On the 9th the battle of Pleasant Hill was fought; the Union troops won at terrible cost. A retreat was effected, and the non-veterans were ordered to join the veteran Seventy-fifth at Morganzia, whence they had come from their furlough at home. Several reviews followed, and, finally, the Seventy-fifth, with other regiments, re-embarked on steamships, and July 20 reached Fortress Monroe. At the lines before Richmond, duty was done at picketing and intrenching. The Seventy-fifth reached Washington in time, with other regiments of the Nineteenth and Sixth Corps, to cover the city from General Early's attack. At Winchester, Sheridan, having formed his line of battle, gave the order to go in. Babcock, riding down the line of the Seventy-fifth, said, "Boys, I only ask you to follow me!" and they did. Advancing from the woods, volley and discharge fast and furious smote the line. Gaps are made, and the lines close up, and, suddenly halting, the men begin to load and fire with rapidity and effect. An order to lie down is mistaken for one to charge, and with a rush Birge's Brigade is upon the works and driving the enemy before them, and a victory is won. Early now turned his fresh batteries on the men, and sent a column like a ridge between the brigades in front. Birge saw his right crumble, till last of all the Seventy-fifth retired. Emerging from the wood, they saw the rebels closing in; and a retreat was general.

Sheridan rapidly re-formed his lines. The Seventy-fifth assembled, other men joined them, and the whole army now moved upon the rebels, and, despite all efforts, drove them in disorder. The loss on this, the 19th of September, in the Seventy-fifth, was sixteen killed, fifty-one wounded, and fourteen prisoners. Total, eighty-one; leaving two hundred and thirty-eight fit for duty. Early was pursued, routed at Fisher's Hill, and driven nearly to Staunton. Sheridan then retired up the valley of the Shenandoah, sweeping with him everything that could help sustain an army, and, retiring to Fisher's Hill, himself went on to Winchester. Lee sent Longstreet with his veterans to aid Early to defeat Sheridan. Marching with extreme caution, three divisions under Kershaw gained the Union left flank by four o'clock A.M. of October 19. Crook was first overwhelmed, and Emory's Nineteenth Corps, fighting stoutly, was driven slowly; losing heavily. Organized resistance was impossible, and by half-past six the Eighth and Nineteenth Corps were driven from their camps with the loss of everything; hundreds of prisoners had been taken, and twenty-four of their own guns turned upon their shattered columns.

The Seventy-fifth had been sent to engage the enemy in front, and returned a brisk fire upon the rebel skirmishers, while to their rear swept retreating thousands; and not till a body of gray-coats came in view, almost behind them, was the regiment ordered to retreat. It obeyed rapidly; rushed into the enemy's lines at the turnpike, where many were captured; fell back, and finally, badly disorganized, reached shelter behind the Sixth Corps, which, advancing to meet the rebel divisions, allowed the other corps to pass and begin a formation. Early and Longstreet renewed the assault with all their force, but still the Sixth held on tenaciously, when suddenly Sheridan came galloping upon the field, and the news flashed far amid straggling groups and veterans that "Sheridan had come." With spirit, reorganization was completed while the enemy plundered the camp. At three o'clock, as the enemy gathered for a grand charge, the Union ranks rose

with a yell, and the Second Division, Nineteenth Corps, were soon seen driving the enemy from point to point by successive dashes. Birge's Brigade were restrained by the enemy behind a stone wall; it was flanked by the Seventy-fifth, and many prisoners taken. Like a torrent returning, the lines of Sheridan pushed back the enemy, and far into the night his troopers hastened their disordered flight. The Seventy-fifth lost three killed, sixteen wounded, and thirty-one missing; total, fifty. Later the regiment moved with the army back to Winchester, where the non-veterans left for home, and were mustered out at Auburn, December 7, 1864. The veterans were sent to Savannah, and for six months occupied in police duty; the time passed slowly without excitement. In July a force, composed in part of the Seventy-fifth and One Hundred and Sixtieth, was sent to the interior of Georgia to maintain order; later came directions to return to Savannah and muster out. To New York, then to Albany; and September 23, 1865, these soldiers of four years set out for home.

CHAPTER XXXI.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS.

THE *One Hundred and Twenty-sixth New York Volunteers* was raised in 1862, in Ontario, Seneca, and Yates Counties; recruiting was rapid, and a rendezvous was made at Camp Swift, Geneva, August 4, 1862. On August 20 the regiment was organized, and two days later mustered into the United States service. Company C was from Ovid, Lodi, and Romulus, and was the third to arrive at Geneva with full ranks. Organization took place August 9, with W. Scott, Captain, T. R. Lounsbury, First, and A. M. Porter, Second Lieutenant. Company F was raised partly in Seneca, partly in Ontario, and organized August 15, with Isaac Sherrier, Captain, Ira Munson, First, and F. E. Munson, Second Lieutenant. Company G was from the Senatorial district at large. Part in Seneca County was recruited by John F. Aikins, Captain. His lieutenants were F. Stewart and S. H. Platt; and Company I was organized August 18, from Seneca County men; B. F. Lee, Captain, G. Skaats, First, and G. L. Yost, Second Lieutenant. The One Hundred and Twenty-sixth, under orders from General Wool, arrived at Harper's Ferry, and found there the One Hundred and Eleventh, which had been organized at Auburn, from Cayuga and Wayne, and a number of men in Company B from Seneca. As this regiment was in the same brigade with the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth, their history is mainly identical, and if the latter have prominence, it is from the larger number of Seneca soldiers whose actions are recorded, and not from any slight to the organization. Lee, advancing north, made Harper's Ferry his objective point; his plan of operations fell into McClellan's hands, but failed to prevent such a concentration of troops and batteries at the threatened point as necessitated its surrender. The incompetency of Colonel Miles, in permitting the enemy to occupy Maryland Heights, made futile any attempt to retain possession of Harper's Ferry, and resulted in the temporary loss from the service of over ten thousand good soldiers and an important military position. It remains to outline the action of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth, so soon to feel the rigors of warfare.

On September 12 the Maryland Heights were held by the Thirty-second Ohio, two companies of the Thirty-ninth New York, and a few Maryland troops, under Colonel Ford, who, on the evening previous, learning of heavy forces under McLaws and Barksdale moving upon his position, called for reinforcements. The One Hundred and Twenty-sixth was ordered to his aid, with a day's rations and eighty rounds, and reached the Heights on the afternoon of the 12th. A and F were left to guard approach by the Sandy Hook road; D, I, and C were halted about half-way up the slope, while the left wing, under Colonel Sherrill, deploying on the ridge, at once became engaged with the enemy, who had gained the ridge by way of Solomon's Gap. Skirmishing became so sharp that C and I were moved up to take part. Night closed the engagement. Next morning the enemy in strong force opened fire, flanked our position, and the men, as ordered, slowly fell back behind an abattis, and to breastworks, where, joined by D, they took position for a stand. After a pause the enemy moved up near the abattis, and a constant fire was kept up for some time. The rebel fire slackened, and the enemy were observed moving to the left. Captain Phillips was ordered by Colonel Sherrill, with D and C, to deploy to the left and rear to meet this flanking force, and, finding them slowly working their way up, opened on them and kept them at bay. Scott was struck in the leg, and two men mortally and five seriously wounded. The fire in front now redoubled; Sherrill, standing on the logs to direct and encourage his men, was struck in the face and borne to the rear, while

the men, confident of their ability and position, fought on. An order came to withdraw, and other regiments retiring, the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth obeyed reluctantly, and fell steadily back to the rear of the Lookout. The men down on the left receiving no directions, and hearing the enemy giving orders at the breastworks, Lieutenants Richardson and Redfield went up, found the line in rebel possession, and by detour reached the rear of the Lookout. The withdrawal was not at once followed up by the enemy, who feared to advance upon the new position, both by reason of a causeless evacuation of our strong works, and an advance of Franklin toward South Mountain. The One Hundred and Twenty-sixth, without officers, chose Captain Phillips to command, and stood ready for action, when at three P.M. a peremptory order came to return to Bolivar Heights. McGrath's Battery was tumbled down the heights, and, through incapacity of officers, the prize of eleven thousand men, stores, and position, were lost to us.

All reliable accounts corroborate the statement that the regiment behaved well, and with management could have held their position and averted disaster; but bravery was futile where commanders were imbecile. The corps of Franklin was five miles away, and a few hours would have brought relief; but Jackson, rapidly planting batteries and assembling his forces, gave little time for deliberation. The cavalry, forbidden by Miles to do so, dashed out upon the Sharpsburg road, captured a body of rebels and a wagon train, and escaped. Franklin delaying to advance, Jackson, completing his arrangements, opened his batteries on September 15, and Miles ordered a surrender in the face of violent remonstrances from line officers of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth.

Sadly the paroled regiments set out for Annapolis, one hundred miles distant. On the 17th they heard the guns at Antietam, and thought what might have been with a brave and capable general at Harper's Ferry. Ordered to Camp Douglas, Chicago, Illinois, the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth and One Hundred and Eleventh therein took up their abode, with varied experience, for a period of two months. Taunted with cowardice, when burning with indignation at a compelled retreat, and ordered to drill, and so violate parole, as they understood it, the men resented such imputation and refused to do duty, while many unjustly branded as deserters returned home till such time as their exchange should set them free. Both the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth and One Hundred and Eleventh suffered much from sickness, and many died. As an instance, one hundred and eighty of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth were on the sick-list October 19.

On November 19 tidings of exchange were received, and four days later came orders for a start next day, the 24th, for Washington, there to be armed and resume duty. Gladly Camp Douglas was left behind them, but in it remained one hundred of their sick comrades. Assigned to Casey's Division, Twenty-second Corps, they went into camp at Arlington Heights, drew tents, and December 2 received arms and went on picket duty, which service was continued with the One Hundred and Eleventh and other troops of the brigade in and about Centreville until the 24th of June, when the brigade was ordered as the Third Brigade Third Division Second Army Corps, under Hancock, to join the corps. The sick were removed, surplus baggage sent off, and on the 26th they marched to Gum Springs and camped with the division. Thence marching was hard and constant, and on June 30 a distance of thirty-three miles was made, and next day reaching Taneytown, the cannonading at Gettysburg told of a battle begun. Not as at Antietam now, but free and full of ardor, the brigade marched nearer the great battle-field, and tired, but determined, took their place in line to the left of the cemetery at Gettysburg. Lee's delay to prepare for action permitted our army to arrive by forced marches and occupy a formidable position. The Third Brigade were placed in support of two batteries in front of Meade's headquarters near the northern extremity of Cemetery Ridge, and looked excitedly upon Hood's contest with Vincent's division of Sykes's Corps for the possession of Little Round Top. Sickles had advanced to higher ground some distance beyond the rest of the line, and was heavily assailed. The cry for help was promptly met, and portions of the Second Army Corps sent in, but the enemy broke the line, and again came the call for help. Then the Third Brigade heard and quickly obeyed the orders, "Fix bayonets; shoulder arms; left face; forward, march!" A mile southward toward Round Top was rapidly made; then halting, facing westward, the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth formed on the left, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth in the centre, One Hundred and Eleventh on the right, and Thirty-ninth in reserve. From a tree- and brush-grown ravine poured the routed Excelsior Brigade, closely followed by Barksdale's Brigade, McLaw's Division of Longstreet's Corps. The Third Brigade charged down the slope, receiving and giving a withering fire, and pressed through the low woods to the opening beyond, where the rebels desperately attempted to hold their ground. The line wavered, and a voice was heard with curses urging on the enemy. It was Barksdale, and recalled the venomous sting of "Harper's Ferry cowards." "Harper's Ferry" was the battle-cry as the furious brigade swept madly forward.

Barksdale fell, riddled with balls, and his men were cut down by scores, while many threw themselves on their faces and threw up their hands. A rebel battery opened at short range, and cut through the line; but the fire of excitement kept them on. Nor did they halt till ordered; and then, in a beautiful alignment, retired through that death-strewn field, bearing with them several pieces of our artillery recaptured, and a brass cannon, the prize of Captain Scott, of C, aided by part of A. Colonel Willard, in command of the brigade, was killed by a shell. Colonel Sherrill took his place. This charge restored our lines, and permitted the Third Army Corps to fall back from its undesirable position to its proper place on the ridge. The contest was a subject of remark by writers of both sides, and the carnage was described as fearful, involving heavy losses of officers and men. The brigade held its ground till nightfall, and then resumed its place on Cemetery Hill somewhat to the right of the previous position.

Early in the morning of July 3, Captain Scott, with Shimer, Wheeler, and Herendeen and their companies, were detailed to skirmish with the enemy in front. Three of these four captains were killed, Lieutenant Brown of C was wounded, and many of the men killed or wounded. An ominous quiet pervaded the field. Near one P.M. two cannon-shots were heard, and from one hundred and thirty pieces of artillery came over a deluge of iron, and uprose a din unearthly. Wellnigh an hundred guns sent back their deadly charge. The batteries lost many, and volunteers from the brigade were called to work the guns, and a number of its men were killed. Ninety minutes, each like hours, passed on, and gradually our fire became weaker, and then ceased. From Seminary Hill, a mile and a half in front, swept out Pickett's veteran Virginians, behind them Pettigrew's Carolinians, a force of eighteen thousand men. Never had our men looked upon so fair, yet so foul a sight. Their beautiful order won admiration, and their steadiness betokened a terrible struggle where they struck our expectant line. Our artillery now, double-shotted, sent their missiles through these lines, and as the gaps were made, were closed up, and the tide moved unflinchingly forward. A mile in length, in three lines, the foe came within close range of the Second and Third Divisions of the Second Army Corps, and a murderous combat ensued at close quarters. At barely one hundred feet distance, the Union infantry opened a fire so murderous that the lines were broken, over thirty stand of colors taken, thousands of prisoners captured, the ground strewed thick with dying and dead, and the battle won to the Union. The One Hundred and Twenty-sixth captured five stand of colors. Colonel Sherrill was mortally wounded, and Colonel McDougal, of the One Hundred and Eleventh, next in command, wounded. That night Lee began to retreat. On July 4 his sharpshooters were constantly at work. A stone barn, with narrow windows, made a secure protection, and General Hays ordered the barn to be taken. Colonel Bull, commanding the Third Brigade, called on the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth, and John B. Geddis, Lieutenant of D, responding, asked his men to follow, and with them went most of the regiment. Crossing a rail fence five men were shot, yet the rest pushed on along a fence extending towards the barn. The fire from barn and rifle-pits now grew so deadly that gladly the attempt was abandoned, and the band brought in their wounded, being followed by Geddis, bringing up the rear.

On the evening following, Captain Munson was in charge of the picket line. Following Lee through rain and mud, the brigade passed through Crampton's Gap on the 11th of July, and worked hard all night upon breastworks of rails and dirt. A mail, the first for weeks, was received, but not all were there to receive their letters. Many lay dead upon the battle-field, and very many suffering from wounds.

Arrangements were made on the 13th for an encounter, but all was quiet, and next day the army heard that the enemy had escaped. On the 25th the brigade had reached White Plains, where some of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth were captured while out picking blackberries, and taken to the Southern prisons, where they perished in suffering. The army now lay a month at rest. On August 22, 1863, on dress parade, two hundred men were in line, while B came out with but five men. Longstreet was sent to Bragg, and turned the tide against Rosecrans at Chickamauga. Meade took advantage of his absence to advance and occupy Culpepper. The Third Brigade marched around Cedar Mountain to Robertson's River, and went on duty there for several days. The Eleventh and Twelfth Army Corps, under Hooker, were now sent to Chattanooga, and other troops to quell the riot in New York City.

On October 8, Lee began a flank movement. Two days later, the Second Army Corps formed in line two miles west of Culpepper. And now trains of stores and of the sick were hurried towards Washington. Marching on parallel roads, our army kept ahead of the enemy till, before sunrise of the 14th, the Third Brigade, leading the corps and crossing the ford of Cedar Run, were attacked in front by a battery and by dismounted cavalry under Colonel Ruffen, and in their rear by a fire of musketry and artillery from unseen foes. Our men deployed as skirmishers gave way before the cavalry, which being noted by General Hays,

he galloped to the rear and ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Bull to deploy his men on the right of the road and clear the woods. The regiment advanced double-quick under fire over a field towards a wooden knoll just as a body of cavalry swept down their right. This part of the line unhorsed a few by their fire, and shot their leader. Pushing forward and gaining the woods and the road beyond, they found the artillery removed. From that point the regiment continued to guard the column as flankers all the way to Catlett's Station.

On picket for an hour, and then their place taken by the One Hundred and Eleventh. Meade was concentrating on Centreville, there to make a stand while the enemy aimed to intercept his forces. It was four P.M. when the Second Army Corps reached Bristow. The rear of the Fifth Army Corps, under General Sykes, had just forded Broad Run at the railroad crossing. The enemy had come in position to attack the rear of Sykes, and now opened heavily on the command of Warren. Sykes refusing aid, kept on towards Centreville; and Warren was left alone. The enemy first struck the One Hundred and Eleventh, and sharp skirmishing ensued. Hays, galloping past the brigade, called out, "By the left flank, double quick!" and each regiment as it heard the order dashed forward to gain possession of the railroad cut. With cheers the bank was gained, and from its cover a heavy fire was thrown into the enemy. Arnold's Rhode Island Battery, from a rise of ground in the rear, centered its fire upon a mass of the enemy and tore it in pieces. Upon this the Second Brigade swept down the rebel flank, and drove them in disorder, capturing hundreds and killing and wounding many. The rebel battery was abandoned on the hill, and one company from each of the three regiments was sent to bring off the guns. Five cannon, two flags, and four hundred and fifty prisoners was our gain in this engagement. At night the Second Army Corps moved on and joined the other corps. Lee, having destroyed the railroad to the Rappahannock, retired to the farther bank and occupied Culpepper and its vicinity.

November 26, Meade advanced his five corps to the Rapidan. Warren crossed and marched southward, and, reaching a point called Locust Ridge, the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth and One Hundred and Twenty-fifth were placed upon the skirmish line, and held it through the night. The army now came up, and the enemy withdrew behind his works at Mine Run. Each side awaited an attack from the other, and so the day went by; again the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth passed the night in the advance, as pickets. Warren was sent to turn the rebel flank, and it was dark when he reached position. All night long the enemy were busy, and by morning, batteries, masses of infantry, abattis, and breastworks were prepared for our assault. Warren withheld the order to attack, and Meade indorsed his action. A third night the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth was on picket, and in the morning the men were ordered back to their old camp, and gladly occupied it on December 2, after an exhausting and fruitless effort. Winter quarters were now built near Stevensburg, and a long rest ensued. A reconnoissance was made on February 6, 1864, at Morton's Ford, on the Rapidan, wherein the One Hundred and Eleventh and One Hundred and Twenty-sixth received, with the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth and Thirty-ninth, the post of honor, as the advance of the corps. At the crossing, a squad of some thirty rebels was captured; the brigade went over, deployed, advanced, and moved close upon the rebel batteries, where at dark it withstood a heavy charge, and, aided by the opportune arrival of another brigade, checked the enemy, and won encomium from commanders.

On February 23 a grand review was held, and on the 28th the corps were reduced to three, Fifth, Second, and Sixth. Warren had the first, Hancock the Second, and Sedgwick the Sixth. The Third Brigade was increased by three regiments, and changed from Third to First Division of the Second Army Corps. The One Hundred and Twenty-sixth was now three hundred strong, when on April 5, 1864, Captain Richard A. Basset and Lieutenant F. E. Munson, with five sergeants, eight corporals, and eighty-seven men, were detailed as provost guard at headquarters. May, 1864, found Grant a major-general, commanding all our armies. Sherman was to move on Atlanta, Meade to follow Lee.

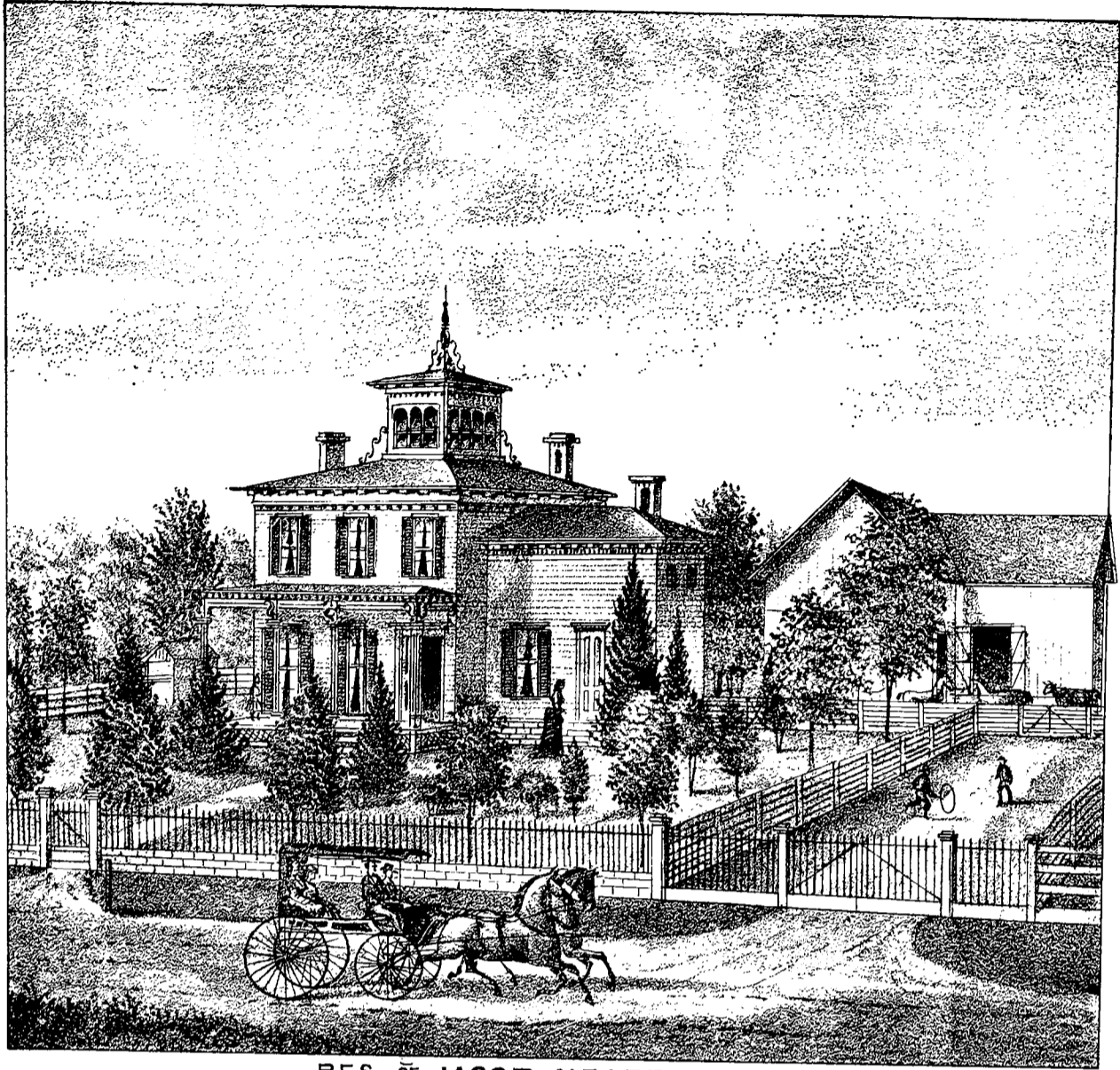
On May 5 the Second Army Corps crossed Ely's Ford, and, unopposed, reached and bivouacked at Chancellorsville. In the battles following, the One Hundred and Eleventh and One Hundred and Twenty-sixth were decimated, but fought with their usual bravery. During a fog on the morning of May 12 the Second Army Corps, under Hancock, charged the rebel works, and captured four thousand prisoners and two officers,—E. Johnson and G. H. Stewart. Adjutant Lincoln, of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth, was one of the first inside the rebel works, wheeled a shotted gun and fired it on its recent owners. The enemy fought with desperation and utter disregard of life to recover the lost ground during the entire day, losing heavily, as did our side. The One Hundred and Twenty-sixth had now in the ranks but eight officers and seventy-two men. Passing over the events of those weeks of hot and memorable days, we find Warren's advance attacked by a division of Ewell's Corps on May 30 at Tolopotomoy Creek.

Barlow's Division drove the rebel skirmishers, took their rifle-pits, and held them all night. Many of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth were killed or wounded in this attack. Few were the numbers they could boast, but what there were of them were undaunted.

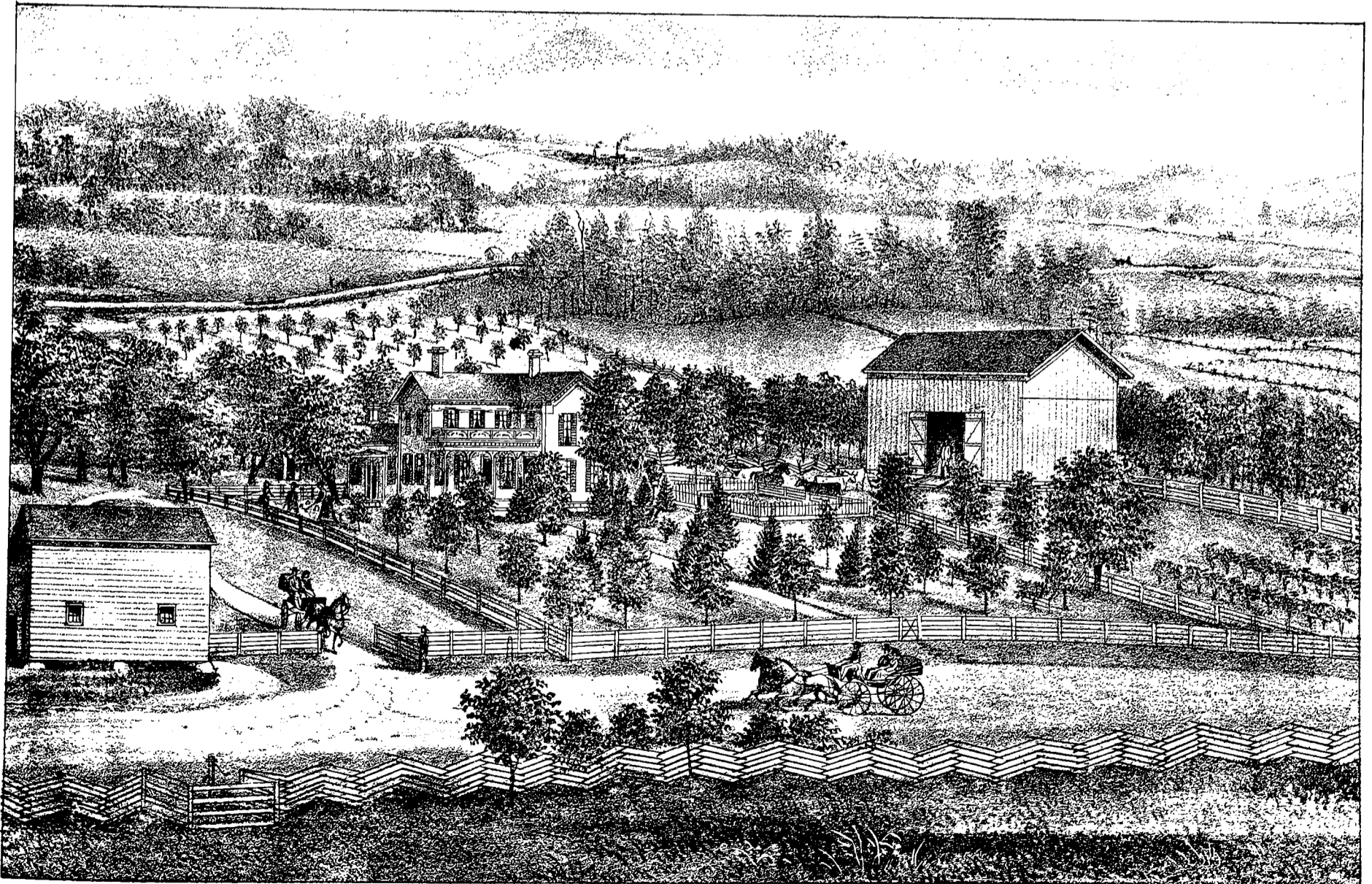
At Coal Harbor the regiment were in reserve, and the advance was repelled so speedily that the supports could not second it. Each for himself, in rifle-pits, the men exchanged shots with the enemy, took their part in repelling Lee's charges, and on September 26 Captain Geddes reported eight officers and sixty enlisted men on duty supporting the front near Deep Bottom. The strength of the regiment from the rolls was twenty officers and four hundred and eighteen men; no recruits had been received, and none were expected. The provost guard had heavy duty guarding prisoners, checking straggling, and police-duty at headquarters. On June 22, while the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth suffered severe loss, and Captain Morris Brown was of the slain, the "guard" behind the breastworks under fire met no loss.

Winter passed and spring came, and still the brave old Army of the Potomac held on, while Lee grew weaker and weaker in men. Sherman's veterans were marching through the Carolinas, and it was seen that the end was near. Few of the old One Hundred and Twenty-sixth and One Hundred and Eleventh were left, but to them and the Second Army Corps should fall the honor of the capture of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee charged and took Fort Steadman on March 25, to mark an attempted withdrawal to join Johnson. The work was soon recovered under the eye of President Lincoln, then at City Point. The Third Brigade advanced their line during the afternoon, losing two killed from A and several wounded, and were complimented for gallantry by General Madill in an order read on parade. On the 27th, Captain J. B. Geddis, senior officer present, took command of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth. All surplus baggage was removed to City Point, and on March 29 the march was begun. On the skirmish line for two days, and then came the battle of Five Forks, wherein the Third Brigade did well their part. Here Pierson, of I, was killed, and Captain Geddis, Lieutenants Hopper and Parks, and many men wounded. They rested among the pines at night, and next day the Third Brigade, part of Sheridan's cavalry, and two divisions of the Fifth Army Corps were sent to dislodge a rebel division from Sutherland's Depot on the Southside Railroad, where they were strongly intrenched. Led by Madill, the brigade charged again and again, but in vain. With artillery, and in good works, the rebels held their own bravely. Madill was wounded, and McDougal took command. A ball broke his arm; but keeping his saddle, he led a final successful attack, and, carrying the works, captured cannon and infantry, and cut the Southside Railroad. In a charge, the brigade flag was lost. The bearer, shot from his horse, held to it till torn by numbers from his grasp, refused to be a prisoner, and in a charge meanwhile was retaken by his comrades. This soldier was Herman Fox, Company E, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth. The brigade lay north of the railroad, and at night the Union artillery opened with deafening roar all along the lines; then the whole army charged forward, and the lines were won. Close upon the rebel retreat followed Union pursuit. On May 3 the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth was detailed as wagon-guard, marching with the train, and corduroyed the road with rails. The capture of four hundred wagons with supplies gave our men a good meal. On the 6th a battle was fought, and six thousand or more prisoners taken. Close upon the enemy came the Second Army Corps, compelling them to leave behind sixteen heavy cannon, and halt to intrench. In an attack that followed, the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth, fighting behind trees, sustained no loss, and on their retreat came close after, the regiment being on duty as flankers. Lee surrendered.

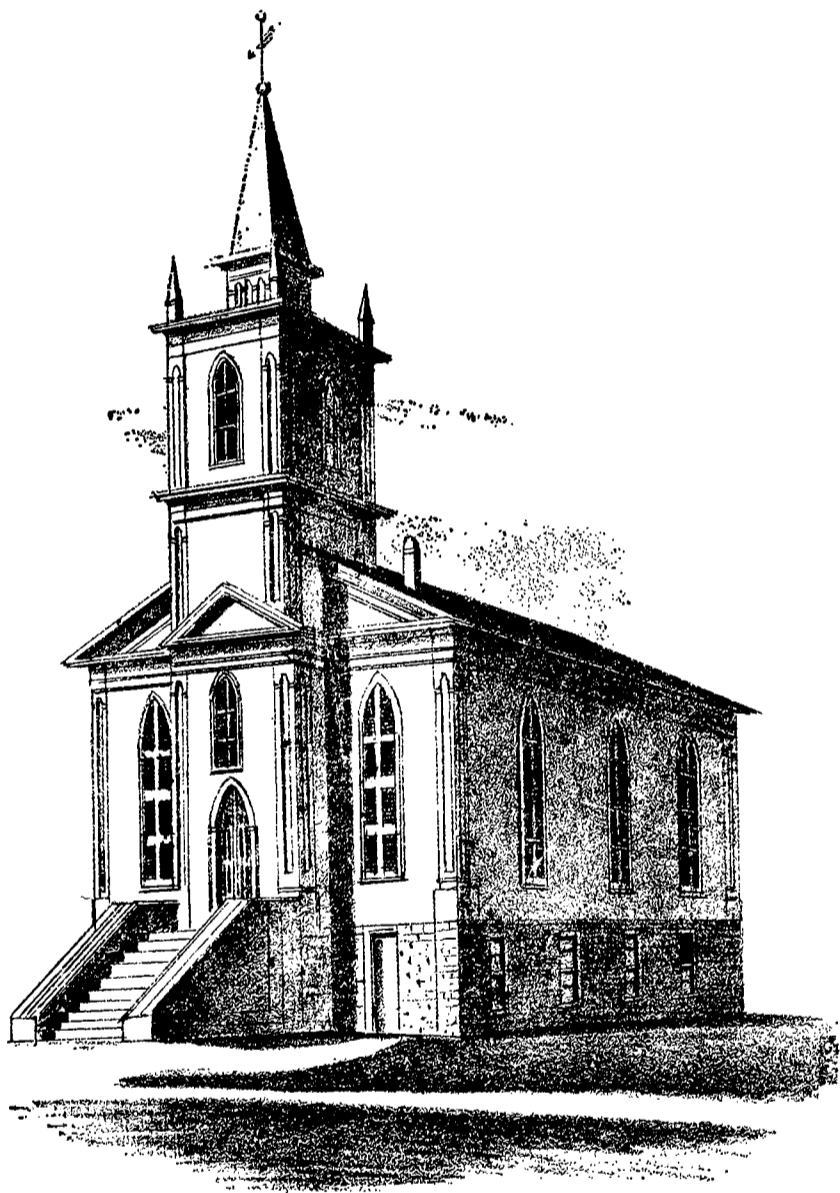
The brigade camped at Rice's Station till May 2, then marched north, and on May 23 took part in the grand review. The One Hundred and Twenty-sixth was represented by eighty men. The order for muster out came June 2, and fourteen days later two hundred and twenty-one men of the original one thousand were discharged. What had become of the remainder? Harper's Ferry saw one officer and fifteen men killed; four officers and thirty-five men wounded. Total, fifty-five. Entering battle July 2 at Gettysburg with thirty officers and four hundred and seventy-seven men, the killed were six officers and fifty-five men; wounded, seven officers and one hundred and sixty-one men. Total, two hundred and twenty-nine. Auburn Ford lost five killed, seventeen wounded. Bristow Station, six killed, thirteen wounded. Morton's Ford, February 6, 1864, lost three killed, nineteen wounded. From May to June 6, the loss was eight officers and one hundred and twenty-one men. Before Petersburg, from June 15 to 22, the losses were severe. During service sixteen commissioned officers were killed in battle or died of wounds,—a greater loss compared to number than any other in the State. The One Hundred and Eleventh was mustered out of service June 5, 1865. Together these regiments fought, and the experience of both was alike. Their record is honorable to themselves and to their State.



RES. OF JACOB NEARPASS, TYRE, N. Y.



RES. OF JAMES CARRIS, TYRE TP., SENECA CO., N. Y.



Trinity (Episcopal) Church
Seneca-Falls N.Y.