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History of Company "K" of
the 17th Regiment, N. Y. V.

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HISTORY OF
COMPANY "K"

OF THE

17th Regiment, N. Y. V.

Compiled by Major H. A. Dudley and Captain A. M. Whaley.



HISTORICAL RECORD OF COMPANY "K,"

Seventeenth Regiment, New York Volunteers.

THE SEVENTEENTH REGIMENT, New York Volunteers (infantry) was organized at New York city to serve two years. The companies of which it was composed were raised in the counties of New York, Westchester, Rockland, Wayne, Wyoming and Chenango. It was mustered into the service of the United States, May 20th to 24th, 1861. Mustered out June 2d, 1863, by reason of expiration of term of service. The recruits enlisted for three years were transferred to the Twelfth regiment New York Volunteers. It was authorized to inscribe on its flag the following battles: Hanover Court House, . Groveton, . Second Bull Run, . Antietam, . Sharpsburg, White House Landing, . Fredericksburg. Company "K" of this regiment was raised in Warsaw, New York, and the following sketch is designed to give a brief history of that Company:

On the Monday after Fort Sumpter, in the harbor of Charleston, had been fired upon by the militia of South Carolina, the Circuit Court for Wyoming county convened at Warsaw, N. Y. There was a large gathering of lawyers, jurors and prominent men present, and considerable excitement prevailed over the collision which then seemed inevitable.

A public meeting had been called for Tuesday evening, and a number of gentlemen had been engaged to take part in it, among these were Judge Grover, of Allegany county, Hon. John B. Skinner, of Wyoming, Judge H. L. Comstock, Linus W. Thayer, of Warsaw, and others.

When the meeting assembled, Col. C. O. Shepard, of Arcade, who was then County Clerk of Wyoming county, was called to preside, and the writer of these lines was named as secretary. The Court House was crowded, and great enthusiasm was shown when the speakers referred to sending men forward to help sustain the government. A paper was offered for signatures and amounts to be pledged to aid the families and friends of those who would volunteer; this paper was liberally signed; quite a number of able-bodied men were ready to pledge their aid and sympathy to those who would volunteer, and as the meeting progressed it seemed that Mark Twain's suggestion, "that other people might go to the front and the stay-at-home would point to a subscription paper as an evidence of his interest in putting down the incipient rebellion." No volunteers appeared quite ready to offer themselves. The speakers were eloquent in depicting the value of the government in its entirety over the whole country, and were earnest in denouncing the attack that had been made on the fort in Charleston harbor, and those who threatened the life of the government. It was evident the subscription paper was not quite up to the importance of the occasion, and another paper was introduced pledging the signers to volunteer for two years in the service of the United States. This seemed practical and to mean business, and some thirty names were procured to it before the meeting adjourned.

My recollection is that every man who signed that paper that night went into the service. No money was ever raised on the subscription paper, although the signers have gone into history as offering to help put down the rebellion.

Within two days a full company was raised, and the authorities at Albany notified that they were ready for orders to go to the front; but what seemed a long delay occurred in obtaining authority to move. Hon. Augustus Frank was authorized to swear the volunteers into the State service, and every man stood up manfully when the oath was administered making him a soldier.

It was expected that Otis S. Buxton would join the company, and it was agreed that he should be one of the officers. He finally decided not to go, and Gideon H. Jenkins was asked to take his place. Mr. Jenkins was a merchant, with a stock of goods on hand, but said if a customer could be found to buy his goods he would volunteer. His two sons had already gone to

Buffalo with several other men from Warsaw, and joined the 74th militia regiment, then filling up for three months' service. But subsequently the marching orders for this regiment were countermanded and they returned home and enlisted in Co. K. Judge James C. Ferris bought Mr. Jenkins' goods at a low figure, and the latter was elected captain of the company.

Some twelve or fifteen fine young men who were attending Prof. Monroe Weed's Academy at Wyoming, joined the company, and they were asked to select one of their number to represent them as an officer. They named Alvin M. Whaley, who was elected 2d lieutenant, or ensign, as he was then called. H. A. Dudley was elected 1st lieutenant.

Drilling, of rather an ancient order, was commenced under Col. Wales Cheeney in the Court House yard. The ladies set about making every volunteer a red shirt; and these with a soft felt black hat gave the young company something of a uniform, and they took the first lessons in the school of the soldier with earnestness.

The only trouble now seemed to be that orders did not come from Albany calling them into active service. If the rebellion was to be put down in sixty or ninety days, ten of those days had already gone, and the fear was expressed that we would be too late to take any part in the interesting business of quelling the secession movement. The company met every day only to be told that no orders had been received.

On the second Sunday after the organization had been completed, Mr. O. S. Buxton, who had not lost his interest in the company, took the first lieutenant to Batavia to see what could be done towards obtaining transportation for the company to Albany. Finding a friend in the streets, a visit to Dean Richmond, who was then a leading railroad man was made, with a view of sending the company to Albany even without orders. Mr. Richmond was a well known democrat, and the difference between the war democrats and the copperheads of that party had not then been so clearly defined as afterwards appeared. Mr. Richmond had just awoke from his Sunday afternoon nap, and it was not quite clear how he might feel about sending soldiers forward to put down the rebellion. A statement was made to him of the situation, and in his decisive and emphatic way he blurted out a few words at the imbecility at the Adjutant-Generals' office at Albany, when they wouldn't send men forward when they wanted to go. He took hold of the matter in a way that indicated that if he was managing the business things would move, and that right sharply. He directed that some one should go to Albany at once on his pass, and obtain the orders if possible, but in any event he would have a coach on the Central road at Attica on Monday night for these men, and that coach would run through to Albany without charge. He fulfilled his agreement to the letter.

On reaching Albany on Monday morning the messenger found the Adjutant-Generals' office overwhelmed with applications from all quarters. Companies and regiments were in great haste to be assigned and sent forward, and what to do with one company, three hundred

miles away, seemed a difficult problem to a department which had such an immense amount of larger business thrust upon it than it seemed able to master. However there was no help for it. Mr. Richmond had solved the transportation question, and the company was coming anyhow, and so reluctant orders were given, and telegraphed to Captain Jenkins to start at once, which he did.

The marching of this first company from Warsaw, was one of the most effecting local incidents in the early history of the war in the county. It was a fine company of men; taken from our home people, and there were not many families who were not directly interested in their movements. Other home-companies went later from Portage, and other places, but this one went out alone before the gravity of the situation was fully comprehended. Rev. Dr. Nassau and Rev. Mr. Williams distributed testaments to the "boys," and some tears were shed in public, and many more in private after the train had carried them away.

Arriving at Albany on Tuesday morning, they were quartered at the Adams house, where their first soldier fare was partaken, with a half home-sick relish. The beans, the bread, and especially the coffee were got up on a different plan from what they had been accustomed to, and for the time seemed not up to the standard anticipated.

A visit by the officers to the Adjutant-General's office revealed the fact that just what to do with this particular company had not been decided by the angust people at that department. Chester A. Arthur, who was afterwards president of the United States, was one of the assistants in this office, and was doing all he could to unravel the perplexing questions that were crowding upon the department.

It had been hoped that the company might be attached to Col. Dudley Donnelly's regiment, which had been raised in this district with headquarters at Lockport. One company of that regiment had a captain who had refused to allow his company to be sworn in unless he had a coveted place in the list of line officers; but it was now ascertained that he had consented to take his place in the regiment which was thus completed, and was then at the barracks at Albany.

Offers were made to Captain Jenkins that if he would take his company to Oswego, he would be made major of a regiment organizing at that place. The offer had no effect, for the officers and men of this company were going to the front, and not back to Oswego, or Elmira. Washington was our point of destination and we did not propose to travel in any other direction. But what to do with this company seemed a difficult problem with the war office of the state, and frequent consultations were had on the subject. The "boys" did not want to stay at the Adams house any longer, and the department seemed to want to get us off; but how, or where to send us was the question. In this dilemma application was made to Gen. Rathbone, who was an outside adviser of the Adjutant General's office, and he proposed to send the company to New York to be attached to the 17th regiment, under command of Col. Henry S. Lansing.

Orders to this effect were issued, and the company sent to New York by boat and reported to Col. Lansing, whose regiment was then in the barracks in city hall park, where the New York postoffice now stands. Here a second dose of army fare was administered, the food being furnished under contract, by which the soldier received only a thin ration of soup, bread and coffee. Here the officers were sworn into the United States service and the men subjected to a thorough medical test. Most of them passed the doctor's office with credit, a few were thrown out. While here news was received of the death of Col. Ellsworth, at Alexandria, and the war feeling was greatly intensified by that event. We here received our muskets and uniforms, and after a short stay at Hart's Island, in New York harbor, were transferred to Washington by rail. Our first night in the capital city was spent in the basement of a church, and as we had not yet received our camp

equipments, the floor and benches served for beds. In the morning after our arrival we were taken up to College hill, where we first went under canvas. While here we were reviewed by Hon. William H. Seward and other governmental notables, at dress parade, and joined in the Fourth of July street parade, when the troops were reviewed by President Lincoln, General Scott and other noted civilians and military men.

The second Sunday after arriving in Washington our regiment received orders to move down the Potomac to Alexandria. Here Co. K. was detailed to remain at the wharf in charge of the reception of military stores, while the balance of the regiment was sent up to Fort Ellsworth, on Shuter's hill, a mile or two out from Alexandria.

We were here at the time of the first Bull Run battle, and could plainly hear the guns at that engagement, and saw the disastrous route which reached us the next day. We remained in and about Alexandria until winter, and then went into camp on Hall's hill. Captain Jenkins' illness caused his absence from the company for a considerable portion of the time after we reached Alexandria, and the command of the company devolved upon the two lieutenants.

The further history of this company will be furnished by Captain A. M. Whaley, who remained with the company until the close of the term of enlistment.

While at Camp Jane, on Hall's Hill, Virginia, Solon G. Ripley and Henry C. Ferris both sickened and died. The former at the house of a Dr. Wonder, who resided near our camp, and the latter in a hospital at Georgetown. These were noble young men, and company K. felt their loss deeply. While spending the winter in this camp our regiment was brigaded with the 83d Pennsylvania, 4th New York, 16th Michigan, 12th New York, and later the 20th Maine, with Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield in command. These regiments were all good ones, and there was considerable rivalry among all the regiments of the brigade to see which would show the best drill and deportment. The time was spent in learning the school of the soldier, skirmishing, company tactics, regimental and brigade drills.

Our regiment's camp was fully patrolled and we took our regular detail for picket duty at the extreme front of our lines, near Munson's Hill and Fall's Church, where shots were frequently exchanged with the enemy. When the order was received to prepare to move for the spring campaign, a flutter of excitement was experienced, for now actual work was before us. We were to leave behind us our comfortable winter quarters; which were the Sibley tent. The "boys" had split up logs eight feet in length to make slabs, which were set up on end in the ground in a circle, and placing the tent on top and securely fastened, together with small stoves or open hearths for fire made a permanent home. Now we must carry our homes on our back.

Major-General George B. McClellan was seen frequently in our camp, and the orders came to move from him. We did not reach Manassas before orders came to return, as the rebels had withdrawn their forces from that place toward Richmond. Then came a change in the plan of campaign, in advancing by the way of the Peninsula to Richmond. The troops were ordered on to transports to proceed down the Potomac to Hampton Roads. When we reached Fortress Monroe, before disembarking at that point, we remember seeing a very peculiar craft, looking something like a large cheese-box on a circular float. We had recently heard of the naval battle between the Monitor and the rebel Merrimac, and now we were looking at the famous little Monitor. We were near enough to plainly see the dents made by the cannon balls from the rebel guns, in the iron plates of the circular turret. We could also see the masts of the two federal ships, Congress and Cumberland, sticking out of the water, which had been recently sunk by the rebel Merrimac.

After disembarking with other troops, we proceeded up the river toward Yorktown. During some of our movements, in reconnoitering or moving toward Yorktown, we passed over the battle-field of Big Bethel,

where the trees had been torn and riddled by shot and shell. When we had arrived within a few miles of Yorktown, the booming of cannon and the rattle of small arms informed us that serious work had commenced. We had been marching fast but the noise at the front made us more anxious to be at our place in line of battle. It was raining hard and the mud was deep, but every man did his best to keep in the ranks. The enemy was soon driven back and we resumed our march through the mud and rain, a great many of the boys throwing away their extra blankets, and some their knapsacks to lighten their load. The enemy tried to detain us some six miles from Yorktown, but the town and fortifications were soon invested and we settled in camp to lay siege.

At this point a flock of sheep was discovered, and a furious fusillade by gun and revolver made a racket which called out the officers to find hundreds of the boys trying to get a sheep. While some were trying to run one down a half dozen others would be firing at the same one, making it as dangerous as on the battlefield itself. Some arrests were made, but many of the boys, and officers, too, had nutton for dinner.

The work of the siege seemed to proceed slowly, yet an immense amount of work was accomplished in grading, making new roads, placing siege guns and mortars at convenient places to shell the town and fortifications.

Prof. Lowe, with his balloon, was stationed near our camp to make ascensions frequently and view the rebel works and the country about. But the rebel gunners having noticed it took great delight in trying to hit the balloon. Although it was difficult to aim their pieces at an object so high, yet in a short time they made it lively to the one who occupied the balloon, as the shells seemed to explode all around it. Not only the danger of being hit himself but the danger of his balloon being hit, and the fall that would follow, made him feel like being "pulled down" at once. Gen. Fitz John Porter, our corps commander, used to make ascensions in the balloon in front of Yorktown, and once the rope broke which came near landing him into the rebel line. But fortunately the right current seized the balloon and brought him back into the federal lines.

The time was set and the orders given to advance to the final attack on the rebel works. The siege guns and mortars were to open fire, and a general advance was to be made. But the rebels seem to have been well posted, for the night before the "grand opening" they left the "front seats." The next morning their forces were gone. Pursuit was immediately ordered but care was taken to avoid the torpedoes that had been buried in the ground and other places near the breast-works, in expectation of the federal advance.

Our regiment marched through the very strong works of Yorktown, but our orders were to take transports with some other troops, all under Gen. Franklin, and move up the York river. Thus, while the engagement was on at Williamsburg, part of the Union forces were going to West Point, Va. On the landing of the federal troops at that place they were soon attacked by the rebels but were easily repulsed, so we did not have an opportunity to take part. The federal troops concentrated at White House Landing before advancing any further toward Richmond. From there we advanced south to the Chickahominy river, some of the troops crossing that stream. But the 5th corps, under Gen. Fitz John Porter, to which we belonged, did not cross over, but passing through Cold Harbor went into camp near Gaines' Mills. Soon orders were received for a part of the Fifth corps to advance to the right to Hanover Court House, for the purpose of breaking up the railroad communication between Fredericksburg and the city of Richmond, and intercept any rebel forces which might be on the way to Richmond. It was one of the hardest marches the writer ever experienced. Starting before daylight we marched some twenty miles before noon, when we came upon the enemy about four miles from the Court House. The brigade which preceded ours was engaged at once, and we were imme-

diately formed in line of battle. The 17th regiment was ordered to flank the enemy's line, which was immediately done. Part of Co. K, was detached to the skirmish line and the balance was in line of battle. We marched through a piece of wood to a fence, which was carefully taken down, then up an incline and over a hill when a charge was made. But the enemy did not wait our coming, but fled. We succeeded in capturing a brass cannon and a dozen or more of the enemy. The rebels did some "fall running." Major Bartran being mounted captured a few, also Frank H. Johnson and some others of Co. K boys who were on the skirmish line brought in some more. I saw one rebel running and some of the boys after him, and as he mounted a fence to escape he received a shot which tumbled him off to the ground. The regiment then marched some distance through the dense woods and brush in line of battle until it reached Hanover Court House. Here we halted and lay on our arms while the other forces were destroying the railroad. This is the place and Court House made famous as being the residence of Patrick Henry.

The time having arrived for us to commence our return trip, firing was heard again near the place of our first engagement in the morning. We were hurried back, but before arriving the rebel forces had been driven away again, they suffering considerable loss. But still our forces were destined to have another brush with another fresh force of rebels, which lasted until after dark when the enemy were driven from the field, and we bivouacked on the grounds. Having accomplished the object sought, and no more rebels appearing, we marched for the main army, and went into camp again near Gaines' Mills. Here Captain Whaley was sick, and here it was that his father found him at the commencement of the second day's fight.

The 17th regiment was ordered to the rear, as far as White House Landing, for the purpose of destroying the stores so they would not fall into the hand of the rebel General Jackson and his forces who were coming on our flank and rear.

General Stoneman, who had command of our troops on this occasion, had to resort to a great many difficult maneuvers to keep Gen. Jackson at bay, who was pressing us hard. The General only had the 17th, one battery of artillery, one section of cavalry and one other infantry regiment to hold them in check. He would send one piece of the battery off a mile or so from us to draw the rebel's attention. While we would be marching as fast as we could we would hear the General giving orders to "bear hard men" and get to the White House if you don't want to be taken prisoners.

Before starting Col. Lansing informed Captain Whaley of the order, and that he would be left in the camp in the care of his father and some more of the regiment, who were to stay to see to the baggage left in camp. The next morning firing was heard on our right and soon the union forces were planting batteries and forming lines of battle right through our camp and company streets. The baggage of the regiment was gathered together and loaded on wagons and started across the river, eventually towards Harrison's Landing, on the James river. The captain was mounted on a spare horse, furnished by the Quartermaster sergeant, and accompanied by his father proceeded in the same direction. A further history of the regiment for some time, is what was reported to the writer, as he spent some time in the hospital before recovering from his sickness.

The 17th regiment accomplished what they could in carrying out their orders, and then started to join the main army at Harrison's Landing, via Fortress Monroe and James river, by transport. The regiment was ordered with other of Fitz John Porter's 5th corps forces, to join Pope's forces, near Bull Run. Captain Demorest was in command of Co. K, on the 30th of August, 1862, and was in the thickest of the fight. He was killed, as was also color bearer, Povee, privates Martin, Dunbar, and Gless; Bills, badly wounded and died in hospital a short time after. Lieutenant Christie,

who was detached to our company was also killed in this battle.

Many more of Co. K. boys were wounded in the same engagement, and the company nearly obliterated. The fragment of the company kept with the regiment and corps up through Maryland, to meet the rebel forces who intended to invade Pennsylvania, and were engaged in the battle of Antietam.

Captain Whaley was put in command of Co. I., Captain Wilson having been killed at 2d Bull Run, while Co. K. was put under command of Lieut. Morey.

From Antietam the union forces marched leisurely down through Virginia to the Rappahannock river opposite Fredericksburg. After staying in camp some days orders were received to be ready to cross the river at Fredericksburg. The pontoon bridges were laid under a great deal of difficulty and loss of life. The enemy was in entrenched works, on the hill, back of the city.

Fighting commenced in earnest on the 13th day of December, 1862. The 17th regiment getting through the city about three or four o'clock in the afternoon and formed line of battle. Captain Whaley was soon shot in the head and taken from the field, Captain Kelley receiving a like fate soon after; and Adjutant Wilson was shot in the leg. Other officers and men were killed and wounded. The union forces not being successful in forcing the rebels from their works, hostilities ceased in a great measure, and the union forces very quietly evacuated the city by returning across the pontoon bridges.

The writer was sent to Seminary Hospital, Georgetown, after a process of trepanning was resorted to by Dr. Tice, of the 17th regiment. And now again we must depend upon reports of others of the doings of Co. K.

The regiment went back to their old camp near Fallmouth, and remained until the next movement, which was called Burnside's "stick in the mud," when he attempted to get to Chancellorsville. About this time Captain Whaley returned to the regiment from the hospital. The expiration of the two years term of service of the 17th regiment was drawing near, and preparation was made for the muster-out, and the regiment was ordered to New York City for that purpose. The muster-out roll is dated June 2d, 1863. There were about thirty-five enlisted men and two officers mustered out. Six enlisted men had been transferred to other organizations. Thirty-five had been previously discharged, mostly on surgeon's certificate of disability. Eight had died from wounds or disease, ten had been killed in action, four had left the service for causes unknown.

RETURN OF THE COMPANY TO WARSAW.

The return of Co. K. to Warsaw, was chronicled as follows in the Wyoming County Mirror of June 17th, 1863:

The long-expected return of Co. K., of the 17th Regiment—the first company that went to the war from this county—took place on Wednesday last. The despatch announcing that they would arrive here at 8 a. m., was received only the afternoon before, and but little time was given for preparation or notifying the public of their arrival. But nevertheless, a large crowd of people were at the station some time before the train arrived. The committee of reception met the company at Portage and returned with them to Warsaw. On arrival of the train the greeting of the people was most enthusiastic, and the reunion of relatives and friends hearty enough. After a few moments the soldiers were formed in line, with muskets which had been provided for them, and a procession and escort formed, led by the band, which took up the line of march through the gulf, Buffalo and Main streets, to the Court House. Here a still larger crowd was in waiting for them. After stacking their arms they were addressed by I. A. Hayward, Esq. His remarks, which were extemporaneous, have been written out at our request, and were as follows:

SOLDIERS OF THE 17TH:—It is said that patience is a christian virtue. We have watched and waited for you long. The slow pro-

gress of your discharge from the service presents a strong contrast to the alacrity of your entrance into it. It took each man of you about three minutes to enlist—it has required at least three weeks to get out of the enlistment. Somebody once said—it must have been a wicked wicked man that bachelorette, matrimony, it was very easy to slip into it, but mighty hard to get out of it. However that may be, we rejoice to see once more the familiar faces of our soldiers. The evergreens we wore into garlands for you some days ago have faded, but the welcome we bring you has lost none of its freshness, and our hearts are just as warm toward you as ever.

Since you left us two years ago, we have watched your fortunes with unflinching interest. We have our soldiers' home in the field, but "Co. K." was always the pet company of our nation, for it pioneered our way into the war. Its interests were our interests—its fame was our fame. In imagination we followed you in the weary and long winter that followed your enlistment. We thought of you in the hard marches, in the tedious routine of the drill, in the lonely midnight picket, under the snittings of heat and of cold, and bearing amid snows and sleet the hardships of a soldier's life. We thought of you in the hard warfare of the Peninsular, at Bull Run, at Antietam, at Chancellorsville, and upon the slippery heights of Fredericksburg, where the converging fire of the rebellion poured upon your unflinching ranks. From the glory and the blood of that field your commanding officer brings a wound, the effects of which are to last him through life.

In all those scenes of warfare your courage has honored the homes that nurtured you. We heard of your deeds of valor on the distant fields of Virginia, and there came back to us from the stormy night at Bull Run, a story of *your heroism* that made the blood tingle in the veins and the heart swell with pride. Let me read it to you that you may know how well you have been prized:

"When the enemy made their sudden and powerful advance toward our center, on Saturday, Porter's corps was ordered up to meet the attack. They responded with the gallantry for which they are noted. But first the brigade was sent forward to meet the advance. They marched up the hill until the fierce leaden hail, as if it had been but a pleasant summer shower. On they went, and fiercer and hotter was the fire. First a battery on the right, and then another on their left, opened and poured a deadly fire into their devoted ranks. But they never flinched, faithfully did they ply their trusty muskets, and they held their positions as cool as veterans. Officers who witnessed the scene describe it as most terrific. Storm upon storm of bullets, grape-shot, screaming shell, and great pieces of railroad iron, were hurled into, through, and over them. Thus they stood, their ranks being thinned at every discharge. The enemy suffered, too, and quickly sought the cover of the woods. At length came the order to fall back. The line was still preserved, and as the command they moved off steadily, as calmly as if they were but a dress parade, the infernal fire of the enemy never ceasing for one moment. The colors were shot into shreds; both flag staffs were shot to pieces by grape-shot, and three color-bearers were shot down while bearing the flags bravely up, but they were brought off. The regiment took 320 men into action and brought out 122."

In reading this noble record one is reminded of the charge of the light brigade at Balaklava, commemorated by an English poet:—

"Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them,
Volleyed and thundered,
Stormed and stormed again,
Bravely they stood and fell,
All the land wondered."

FELLOW CITIZENS:—The men who participated in that terrific charge—a charge at which the very nation held its breath, so full of daring was it—the soldiers who shared the dangers of that glory covered field—are with us here to-day. It is what they may be proud to tell of for a life time. When they left us, two years since, this nation was just rising itself from its sleep of peace, to enter upon a war the end of which no one could see and few ventured to foretell. Our flag had just gone down at Sumter, environed in fire, and cloven with balls, and the cursed ensign of traitors had risen in its stead. Our brave Massachusetts boys, whose only crime was that they were hastening to defend the capital, had been shot down in the streets of Baltimore—battered to make a Baltimore holiday. These men, in whose hearts the revolutionary fires were yet smoldering, started to their feet, and, with the grand war-cry of the revolution upon their lips, hurried off to the field to rescue the nation from the grasp of treason. Unimpaired by bounties, untempted by gain—they went because the land was in peril.

When the Roman soldiers returned from the fields which they had illustrated by their valor, all Rome was stirred to meet them. She wore for them the choicest of her garlands, and the Roman maidens of two thousand years ago welcomed them with music and song. We too, welcome our returning boys. The garlands we weave for you to-day are the garlands of melody. The very skies, in their serenity, shower down their benedictions upon you. The colors of the flag, the red—the white—and the blue, dearer to us now than ever before—are pictured to us in the lily bloom of our northern maidens. I do not mean the badges they wear—I mean the decorations that nature has given them. In the red—the of the cheeks; in the white—of the foreheads; in the blue—of the eyes; I see a token that God himself approves our national colors, for He has linked them forever with beauty and immortality. Rome built monuments for her soldiers. But shafts of brass may rust and fall in the lapse of time. Granite may crumble and moulder under our bleak northern skies. The monument we construct for you to-day is made up of earnest, grateful, throbbing

Company "K," Seventeenth Reg't, N. Y. Volunteer Infantry.

American hearts, that love liberty and know how to honor its defenders, and these will keep your names imperishable.

But you are not all here. Almost a hundred strong you went out from us—more less than forty men, browed by Virginia sons, and hardened into men of iron by exposure and dangers, stand before us. Many were discharged for disability; others were killed in battle, and ten fell victims to the diseases of camp life and died in hospitals. One of them—Solon G. Ripley—was sent home for burial. We laid him to rest in our own city of the dead yonder, where the hills that rim our valley stand thitherly guard the repose of the loved and youthful soldier. The rest of them lie under other skies unknown but honored still. These thinned ranks speak eloquently to-day.

The blood of our slain appears to us from their Virginia graves to stand for our country in its need. It bids us be stout of heart in the cause of the republic—to faint not—falter not—doubt not—and the storms that brood over us shall yet pass away. In its prophetic power it announces that the colors for which they fell shall yet go unmoored and victorious from our own Lake Ontario to the Gulf of Mexico. They shall yet rise over Vicksburg—over Galveston—over Mobile—the spot where Charleston—was, and last, and best of all, over the cannon-scarred bastions of Fort Sumter. And to this grand result you who are before us have contributed your part. And, in closing, let me say once more, from my heart, welcome, welcome home, soldiers of the 17th.

Capt. A. M. Whaley replied, but we can only give the following, which does not do justice to the captain's remarks:—

MY FRIENDS:—I am in no condition to make a suitable reply in behalf of the company under my command, which you are so generously welcoming home. Going into the service without any reference to, and any expectation of, larger matters. We were ordered to discharge our duties faithfully, and from good motives. We have been in some severe engagements, and the reference which has been made to the fight at Bull Run, reminds me of one who lost his life there, while holding up the flag of his country. A corporal of our company, Boyce, then of the color guard, had the flag staff shot off in his hands. He seized the colors again and held them up by the stump of the flag staff, when he received a shot that brought him to the ground. He recovered, and still holding up the colors took his place again, until he fell again with his death wound. But he never for one moment lost hold of the flag, and died with it firmly gripped in his hand. It was to sustain this flag from dishonor that we went into the service, and to that end we have done what we could. I cannot find words to express our thanks for this generous and beautiful reception. The soldier is a man of deeds more than words, and as I see you have provided a table of good things for us, I will guarantee on the part of the company that we will do our duty there also.

THE BATTLE OF HANOVER COURT HOUSE.

The fight at Hanover Court House was described by a correspondent of the New York World, who was on the ground, as follows:

One of the most brilliant movements and achievements yet accomplished by any of our armies was consummated with the sitting of yesterday's sun. The rapidity with which it was done and the happy results following it, all combine to mark it as a living incident in the history of this army's work, which history shall fitly preserve and time never wipe out.

The outline of operations is briefly this. For some days past the enemy have been throwing forces upon our right flank, in the direction of Hanover Court House, extending their pickets to Old Church, thus menacing our right and even threatening our communications with our rear. It became necessary to disperse this force, as well as to cut the communication of the enemy by the Virginia Central and Richmond and Fredericksburg railroads. A heavy force was, therefore, thrown suddenly between Richmond and Hanover, two spirited and even severe engagements fought, the enemy totally dispersed with heavy loss, our flank cleared and the railroad disabled.

Orders at midnight were issued to each regiment for preparations to march on Tuesday morning at four o'clock, in light marching trim, the men carrying nothing but their arms, canteens, haversacks, and rubber ponchos. Morning came. Reville beat at three a. m. A drizzling rain was pouring down. Fires were smothered as soon as built, and many could get no breakfast, not even a cup of the much needed coffee, for the prospective march. Cold rations for two days were hastily crowded into haversacks; canteens filled with gushing spring water; cartridge boxes inspected, filled and twenty rounds additional given to each man. "Bayonets brightly gleaming" was all unappreciated poetry for as each brigade filed out into the deep and heavy roads, nothing but the splatter of mud and rain accompanied the tramp of the many hundred armed men. Cold, cheerless, discouraging was the weather. But nothing was ahead. Men, dismounted of all the usual baggage attending a regular move, felt that their march could not be very long, and knew that something would probably come of it. So despite all the combinations of the elements, the march was taken up at a lively step, and ere the neighboring but sleeping divisions knew of the departure the long dark column of soldiery had disappeared and were already miles away.

Col. Johnson, of the 25th, formerly Major of the 17th, drew out the fight by a rapid pursuit of the enemy. In fact he got out of supporting distance from the main body, and for a time was in great danger of being completely cut off. His regiment suffered a heavy loss, and the Colonel was himself wounded.

From the cool and determined stand of the rebels it was evident that they conceived the force in sight to be our total strength, and that it would be an easy matter to repulse or capture it. But word had gone to Gen. Butterfield, who speedily ordered the 17th N. Y. Col. Lansing, and the 83d Pennsylvania, Col. McLane, into the timber on the left of the road, to hold, and come out well on the enemy's flank. With a burst of enthusiasm in went both regiments, the 17th covering the front with a long line of skirmishers. In a trice they appeared in the wheat-field on the left, and with incredible rapidity formed line of battle, the 17th coming up on the right with the regularity and coolness of a dress parade, supported by the 12th N. Y. Col. Weeks, in column by division, while the 83d took the left of the line, supported by the 16th Michigan, Col. Sackett, in the same manner. The rebels at once perceived the vitality of this movement. They had not anticipated it. Surprised, then confused, a well directed volley caused them first to waver, and then to fly with all the speed at their command, scattering, like a covey of partridges, in every direction. Another volley picked off most of their men at the guns, when forward went the 17th with a yell, on the double-quick; the cannon were abandoned without even a spike, and the pursuit of the retreating enemy kept up for two and a half miles, to Hanover Court House, where the rebels finally brought up. Prisoners at once began to be brought in. The men of the 17th and 83d regiments hunted them, and dragged them from their hiding places with great gusto; within an hour 50 to 60 had been brought in and confined in a barn.

The guns captured were 12 pound smooth bore brass howitzers, belonging to Latham's celebrated New Orleans battery, and they were left in good order. The timber-boxes were nearly full of ammunition, though one of them had been blown up by a shell from the 17th N. Y., upon these guns was very handsomely done. The superior drill of the regiment was manifest in the solid and regular front which they preserved in moving forward. The officers behaved with coolness an unflinching valor. Major Bartram and Lieut. Col. Morris, though both confined to their tents for several days previously, were in their saddles, and with Col. McLane and Lieut. Col. Vincent, of the 83d Pennsylvania, signalized their bravery by the capture of numerous prisoners single-handed. Gen. Butterfield complimented Col. Lansing very highly on his achievements.

After a hot contest of three hours the enemy was driven from all his positions, and the railroad taken by our forces. The loss on our side was quite heavy. It will not probably fall short of three hundred killed, wounded and missing. We have six hundred prisoners. Their killed and wounded is estimated at three hundred.

Roster of Field Officers of the Seventeenth Regiment.

Names.	Rank.	Remarks.
Henry S. Lansing	Colonel	Mustered out with regiment June 24, 1863.
Brevet Brig.-Gen. U. S. V.		
Thomas Ford Morris	Lt.-Col.	Discharged June 25, 1862.
Nelson B. Bartram	"	Mustered out with regiment June 2, 1863.
Charles A. Johnson	Major.	Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel 25th regiment N. Y. V. October 1, 1861.
Nelson B. Bartram	"	Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel June 20, 1862.
William T. C. Grower	"	Wounded 24 Bull Run, and mustered out with regiment June 2, 1863.
J. Brannard Taylor	Adjutant	Resigned January 24, 1862.
John H. Reynolds	"	Resigned July 14, 1862.
George S. Wilson	"	Died February 7, 1863, of wounds received in action.
Waldo Sprague	"	Mustered out with regiment June 2, 1863.
George S. Hawes	Qu'rsr.	Mustered out with regiment June 2, 1863.
Brevet Major U. S. V.		Discharged May 1861.
James C. Stuart	Surgeon	Mustered out with regiment June 2, 1863.
Azariah B. Shupman	Ass't Surgt.	Promoted to Surgeon 12th regiment N. Y. V. Sept. 15, 1861.
Highland A. Weed	"	Promoted to Surgeon 25th regiment December 11, 1861.
Lewis Tice	"	Mustered out with regiment June 2, 1863.
J. Newton Gray	"	Mustered out with regiment June 2, 1863.
Thomas G. Carver	Chaplain	Not mustered.

Roster of Company "K," Seventeenth Reg't, N. Y. Vol. Infantry.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Rank.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Jenkins, Gideon H.	Capt.	44	Served seven months; health impaired; honorably discharged.
Dudley, Harwood A.	Lieut.	36	Resigned December, 1861; honorably discharged.
Whaley, Alvin M.	Ensign.	23	Promoted Captain; served full term of two years; wounded at Fredericksburg.
Jenkens, Charles V.	1st Sergt.	21	Discharged November 1861; disability.
Beardsley, Edwin H.	2d Sergt.	21	Promoted 1st Lieutenant; discharged 1863.
Jenkins, Adalbert H.	3d Sergt.	19	Discharged June, 1863.
Morcy, Joseph W.	4th Sergt.	20	Promoted 1st Lieut.; served full term; wounded at 2d Bull Run.
Anstin, Frank S.	Corp.	27	Discharged 1863.
Watkins, Charles T.	"	23	Promoted to Sergeant; served two years.
Post, Lucien H.	"	21	Promoted to 2d Lieut.; served two years; wounded at 2d Bull Run.
Nicholson, Oscar.	"	21	Promoted to Hospital Steward; served two years.
Knapp, Thomas E.	Musician.	18	Served seven months.
Pay, William	"	18	Served two years; re-enlisted and was wounded at Cold Harbor.
Michael Kearny	"	18	Sick and sent to hospital; time of service not known.
Agar, Charles H.	Private.	21	Discharged July 1861; sickness.
Armstrong, George.	"	23	Served two years and died from disease.
Armonr, George A.	"	24	"
Avers, Oscar C.	"	22	Discharged from sickness.
Baker, George.	"	33	Served about eight months; discharged for disability.
Beardsley, Alton T.	"	21	Served two years.
Beardsley, William R.	"	25	Died at Savage Station, during the seven days battle.
Bills, Charles.	"	19	Wounded at 2d Bull Run; died in hospital from effect of wound.
Bovee, William P.	"	21	Killed at 2d Bull; he was the color bearer and received the second wound before he would release the colors.
Cronkrite, Henry.	"	24	Went to hospital from Hall's Hill and was discharged.
Curtis Houser G.	"	19	Served two years; re-enlisted, promoted 2d Lieut., wounded at Cold Harbor.
Darrow, Jacob.	"	21	Killed 2d Bull Run.
Dunbar, Mansville.	"	25	Served full term.
Dunnell, Origen.	"	27	Served full term.
E. Bean, Eugene.	"	21	Discharged at Hall's Hill.
Elwell, John.	"	21	Served two years.
Ferris, Henry C.	"	18	Died of disease December 1861, at Georgetown, Va.
Gilbert, Giles.	"	21	Served two years; wounded and taken prisoner at 2d Bull Run.
Gill, Sumner.	"	22	Sent to hospital; discharged January 1862.
Graves, Frank.	"	25	Served two years; last of time as teamster.
Hastings, Lafayette E.	"	24	Served two years.
Hitchcock, Willard L.	"	19	Went to hospital at Hall's Hill; discharged August 1861.
Harty, Edward.	"	18	Discharged at Camp Jane, Alexandria.
Houghton, William.	"	19	Detached for Signal Corps; served two years.
Houghton, Samuel.	"	22	Discharged from hospital January 1863.
Hodge, William.	"	35	Served one year; wounded while on guard at Camp Butterfield, by the accidental discharge of his own gun, and discharged from hospital.
Johnson, Jason M.	"	18	Sick of typhoid fever, at Fort Ellsworth, from which he died.
Johnson, Frank H.	"	22	Served two years; last part was detached to ambulance corps.
Jones David A.	"	20	Died of disease June 1861.
Knapp, Lucien F.	"	19	Served two years; re-enlisted August 1864, and served one year and nine months.
Lamphair, Frank.	"	38	Served six months; afterwards detached as teamster; discharged January '62.
Lewis, Charles.	"	19	Taken sick and sent to hospital; discharged October 1862.
Lonsberry, Ira.	"	35	Served full term; since died.
Luther, Ellis Junior.	"	28	Served one year.
Martin, George G.	"	20	Killed at 2d Bull Run, August 30th, 1862.
Mattocks, Jessie J.	"	21	Served six months; discharged for disability.
Metzger, Michael.	"	24	Served two years, last part as teamster.
Mosher, Adelbert.	"	18	Sent to hospital from Fort Ellsworth, (lost his voice) afterwards discharged.
Parker, William.	"	25	Discharged June 23d, 1863; detached as teamster last part.
Partridge, Charles A.	"	20	Discharged March, 1862.
Pette, Abner.	"	18	Served two years; taken prisoner 2d Bull Run; re-enlisted 8th Heavy Artillery.
Poland, William.	"	18	Served two years; part of time in hospital.
Renwick, George.	"	22	Discharged February 1863.
Ripley, Solon G.	"	22	Died while in service, (at Dr. Wonder's house) Hall's Hill, Va.
Sattyr, Augustus.	"	20	Served two years; re-enlisted in Pa. Regt., discharged July 16th, 1863.
Schneider, Henry.	"	19	Served two years; wounded at 2d Bull Run and taken prisoner.
Sheffield, Devello.	"	19	Served two years; part of time in hospital sick.
Steamer, Henry.	"	18	Served two years; wounded at 2d Bull Run and taken prisoner.
Starks, Daniel.	"	24	Discharged in New York.
Smith, Nicholas.	"	18	Served two years; taken prisoner 2d Bull Run.
Smith, James H.	"	21	Served two years; re-enlisted in 1st Veteran Cavalry.
Smith, Orlando S.	"	32	Served two years; part of time in hospital.
Snyder, William H.	"	18	Died in hospital at Alexandria December, 1862.
Tillotson, Walter C.	"	18	Sick and discharged July 1861.
Truer, America M.	"	39	Served six months; re-enlisted December 20th, 1863; served one year and lost an arm at the battle of Cold Harbor July 3d, 1861.
Tyler, James.	"	25	Served full term; promoted to Sergeant.
Thorp, Arthur.	"	19	Served two years.
Walker, William H.	"	23	Served two years; promoted to Sergt. Major; sick in hospital last part.
Watrons, Alfred.	"	44	Served two years; re-enlisted and died while in service.
Warren, Otto.	"	35	Served two years; part of time as teamster.
Warren, Morris.	"	28	Discharged May 1862.
Wilkins, Romanzo L.	"	18	Discharged for disability August 1861.
Wood, Edwin K.	"	21	Served two years; wounded at Hanover Court House.
Young, William R.	"	22	Served thirteen months; health impaired and discharged.
Little, Wm. H.	"	24	Transferred to Company C.
Raymond, (Angler).	"	24	"
Kent, Horatio, Jr.	"	18	Taken sick and sent to hospital.
Cole, Percy.	"	44	Time of service unknown.
Cornell, W. H.	"	33	Left the company at Alexandria.
Foot, Charles.	"	30	Discharged July 1861.
Keeney, Kendrick J. L.	"	24	Served fifteen months, hospital clerk.
Mack, John.	"	20	Served full term.
Glass, Joseph.	"	19	Killed at 2d Bull Run.
Hulbard, H. W.	"	19	Served full term.
Hamphers, Henry P.	"	34	Discharged May 10, 1862.
Stearns, Wm.	"	"	Discharged February 1863; re-enlisted and wounded at Cold Harbor.
Steinmer, John.	"	"	Served full term.
Renwick, John.	"	"	Term of service unknown; taken sick on the Chickahominy and sent back.
Terrill, Timothy.	"	"	Was a recruit, and remained after two years service; time unknown.

COMPANY "K."

There's a cap in the closet,
Old, tattered, and blue,
Of very slight value,
It may be, to you ;
But a crown, jewel-studded,
Could not buy it to-day,
With its letters of honor,
Brave "Co. K."

The head that it sheltered
Needs shelter no more !
Dead heroes make holy
The trifles they wore ;
So like chaplet of honor
Of laurel and bay,
Seems the cap of the soldier,
Marked "Co. K."

Bright eyes have looked calmly
Its visor beneath,
O'er the work of the Reaper,
Grim Harvester Death !
Let the muster-roll, meagre,
So mournfully say,
How foremost in danger
Went "Co. K."

Whose footsteps unbroken
Came up to the town,
Where rampart and bastion
Locked throat'ningly down ?
Who, closing up breaches,
Still kept on their way,
Till guma, downward pointed,
Faced "Co. K."

Who faltered, or shivered ?
Who slumped battle-stroke ?
Whose fire was uncertain ?
Whose battle-line broke ?
Go, ask it of History,
Years from to-day,
And the record shall tell you,
Nor "Co. K."

Though my darling is sleeping
To-day with the dead,
And daisies and clover
Bloom over his head,
I smile through my tears
As I lay it away—
That battle-worn cap,
Lettered "Co. K."

—*See Bedford Mercury.*

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