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# **OWEN RICE**

**Captain and Acting Major, U. S. V.**

**1862-63**







1862

**OWEN RICE**

Captain Co. A, 1862-63, Acting Major, 1863  
153d Regiment,  
Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry,  
1st Brigade, 1st Division, 11th Corps,  
Army of the Potomac.



1886

# OWEN RICE

CHRISTIAN, SCHOLAR AND PATRIOT

A Genealogical, Biographical and Historical Memoir

BY

ETHAN ALLEN WEAVER, C.E., M.Sc.

Member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania;  
Moravian Historical Society; Pennsylvania-German  
Society; Society of Sons of the Revolution; Society  
of American Wars; Society of the Army of the  
Potomac (Second Class); Etc., Etc.

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INSCRIBED TO

The Boys of Company A, 153d Pennsylvania Volunteers  
Living and Departed

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A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to read "G. Weaver" and is written in a cursive, calligraphic style. The letters are interconnected, with a large, bold "G" at the beginning. The signature is written over a horizontal line that has a decorative flourish at its right end.

GERMANTOWN, PA.

July 1, 1911





# OWEN RICE

CHRISTIAN, SCHOLAR AND PATRIOT

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OWEN RICE (5th), the subject of this memoir, was on his paternal side descended from ancient Welsh ancestry.

Sir Elider Dhu, of the time of Richard the First (1157-1199), was the direct ancestor of the Rice family of Killymaenftwyd, County Carmarthen, Wales. Lord Rhys (Rice) built part of the castle of Dinevor and from this castle called his men to meet the Normans. He called this castle his own, when he confounded the Normans in their council and compelled them to yield him the title of Lord of South Wales. From Dinevor, Gruffyd ap Rhys went forth to slay the three thousand Flemings and French. Later came Sir Rice ap Thomas, who joined his forces of three thousand men, comprising the flower and chivalry of South Wales, with those of the Earl of Richmond, and won the Battle of Bosworth (1485) in which Richard the Third was slain and which terminated the "War of the Roses." He was knighted on the field of battle, and the splendid estate which belonged to the princes of South Wales was bestowed upon him. Besides these honors he was made Lieutenant of Wales and the Lord of Narberth.

His great-great-grandfather, the immigrant ancestor, REV. OWEN RICE (1st) of Haverford West, Wales, came to America with the "First Sea Congregation" of Moravians and landed in Philadelphia June, 1742. He was an itinerant English preacher in Philadelphia (1742), Bethlehem, Pa. (1744), in the Swedish settlements on the Delaware River in New Jersey (1746), Bethlehem (1747), was ordained in 1748, and was the first settled Moravian pastor in New York City (1750-54). During intervals he combined the practice of medicine and surgery as assistant to the regular physician with his labor in the gospel, having acquired considerable experience and

skill in this respect. He returned to England in 1754, and was pastor at Kingswood, Leominster, Tytherton, England; Gracefield, Ireland; Plymouth and Gomersal, England, where he died in 1785, his remains being removed to Fulneck, England, in 1787. He was an eloquent, impressive and popular preacher and pastor. He was twice married; first, in London, 1739, to Elizabeth - - - -; born in London, England, January 29, 1717; died at Wiltshire, England, 1756. In this marriage were born his children Elizabeth and OWEN, 2nd. He married, second, in 1757, Esther O'Neil, who died at Fulneck, June 23, 1797, without issue.

OWEN RICE (2nd), his great-grandfather, was born in New York City, 1751, and died at Bethlehem, 1820. He was from 1784 to 1790 in charge of the inn and subsequently of the store for the congregation at Nazareth, Pa., and afterwards of the congregation store at Bethlehem; where he proved himself faithful and efficient. He married, in 1781, Elizabeth Eyerly of Nazareth, born 1760, died 1820. They had five sons, Joseph, OWEN (3rd), Jacob, John and William.

OWEN RICE (3rd), his grandfather, was born at Nazareth in 1787 and died at Bethlehem in 1856. His boyhood was spent in the old diacony store at Bethlehem, succeeding his father in the management of it. He subsequently engaged in business for himself, but met with financial reverses in the panic of 1842. He was prominent in congregational and educational affairs. In 1818 he was a deputy to the General Synod which met at Herrnhut, Germany, and in 1836 was elected the first President of the Bethlehem Public School District. He married, first, in 1811, Maria Rosina Vierling, born 1791, a teacher in the Moravian Seminary for Young Ladies at Bethlehem and a daughter of Dr. Vierling of Salem, N. C. She died in 1817 and had issue three sons, EDWARD, the only one who survived, a son, name unknown, and Owen (4th), who died two days after his mother; second, in 1819, Ann Caroline Schropp, in Bethlehem, born 1793, a teacher in the Moravian Seminary for Young Ladies. She died at Catasauqua in 1853 without issue.

DR. EDWARD RICE, his father, who was considered the most learned man of his time in the Moravian Church in the

United States, was born in Bethlehem in 1813. He was educated at Nazareth Hall, which he entered in 1825, and took the classical and theological courses in the Theological Seminary, 1827-29. Taking up the study of medicine, he completed the course at the University of Pennsylvania in 1834, with distinction, and practiced as a physician at Lititz, Pa., for a short time prior to 1837. Further theological study led to his ordination as a deacon in the Protestant Episcopal Church, but after a short service in that denomination he returned to the Moravian Church and was appointed a professor in the Theological Seminary, 1839 to 1849, and died in the latter year.

Equipped with profound learning, warm piety and unselfish devotion, he was a man of exemplary character, one of the most amiable of men, free from pride and ostentation, yet dignified and commanding general respect. Called into consultation by physicians who held his medical skill in high regard, with respect to certain cases of smallpox in Catasauqua, he answered the call without hesitation, and while fearlessly and unselfishly ministering to his patients contracted the dread disease, to which he fell a victim in a few days, at the early age of 36 years. The inscription on his tombstone at Bethlehem bears witness to his erudition and personal worth: "*Litterarum lumen, terrarum tenebris abumbratum, nobis eripuit et in gloriam suam receptum saluum fecit Dominus.*"

He married, on August 7, 1833, Juliana Augusta Eberman, born August 23, 1815, a daughter of Rev. William Eberman and his wife Caroline Elizabeth (maiden name Lembke), and who before her marriage and during a part of her widowhood was a teacher in Linden Hall Seminary, Lititz. In 1872 she removed with her two daughters to Osborne, Kansas, where she died September 19, 1873, aged 58 years. There were born in this marriage three children—Caroline, who married Francis R. Gruger, OWEN (5th) and Louisa, who married A. W. Fritchey, all now deceased.

OWEN RICE of the fifth generation bearing that name was born at Lititz, October 6, 1836, a son of Dr. Edward and Juliana Augusta Eberman Rice. In 1849 he entered Nazareth Hall as a pupil with a view to preparing for the ministry. In 1852 he entered the Theological Seminary, then in charge of Rev.

Edward Rondthaler, located at Nazareth in the "Sisters' House," now known as the "Castle." In 1855, when it was determined that a college in connection with the Theological Seminary should be established, the Rev. Edmund de Schweinitz, then pastor of the Moravian Church, Philadelphia, was asked to take charge of it, but not feeling at liberty to immediately give up his work in Philadelphia, the theological class, consisting of four members, removed to Philadelphia, taking up their residence at the parsonage, where three of them completed their studies in July, 1856. These were Henry T. Bachman, afterwards a bishop in the Moravian Church; Owen Rice (5th) and Albert L. Oerter, pastor, professor and editor of Church publications, and who alone survives.

Samuel A. Huebner died in 1856 just before completing the course.

Mr. Rice graduated with honors from both institutions, whereupon he returned to Nazareth Hall as a teacher, where he remained until the close of 1863, except for the time he was in military service. In 1862, when military drill was introduced at the Hall, he was chosen commandant of the corps of cadets.

In all of these duties he displayed marked intelligence and the ability to impart knowledge. He was popular with the pupils, and though a strict disciplinarian was far from being a martinet.

In the summer of 1862, when after repeated defeats of the Union Army around Richmond and on the Peninsula, and the war clouds were lowering, a Northern invasion was threatened and a draft was imminent in order to meet the call of the President for fifty thousand men from Pennsylvania for nine months' services, a vigorous movement was begun throughout old Northampton County, Pa., to fill its quota of three hundred men by volunteer enlistments, which resulted in the recruiting of a full regiment wholly within the limits of the county. Meetings were held in towns, villages and at country crossroads, where the drum-beat brought together the old and young from the school-houses, workshops, farms, stores and offices, and the "Spirit of '76" was revived in the patriotic addresses delivered by distinguished speakers from home and abroad.

On July 28, 1862, a stirring meeting was held at Nazareth, and among resolutions adopted were the following:

RESOLVED, By the people of the County of Northampton in Convention assembled, that we declare our unalterable attachment to the glorious Constitution framed and adopted by our fathers and of the Union of the States which it established; that we look to it as the safeguard of our liberties and the chief source of our prosperity and happiness as a people; that united by its bonds this community of States have successfully resisted and bid defiance to foes without, and that now, assailed by foes within, the brethren of our household, we will, looking to the God of our fathers for our help in time of trouble, solemnly devote all we have in this world, if need be, to the preservation and perpetuation of an unchanged Constitution and an unbroken Union.

RESOLVED, That Northampton County, having at the beginning and through the continuance of this war manifested to the country and the world by the presence of her gallant sons in large numbers in the armies of the Republic that she would not be wanting in her duty, will not falter now, but will respond heartily and promptly to the call made by the President.

RESOLVED, That we have heard with feelings of admiration and pride of the gallant conduct of the sons of old Northampton upon the various battlefields in defence of the flag; and that they may be assured that throughout this fearful conflict thousands of anxious hearts at home will watch with deep solicitude the progress of the struggle and be filled with thanksgiving and joy when the strong arms and stout hearts of themselves and their comrades in arms shall win for us a final triumph.

Provision was at once made for the collection by subscription and otherwise of moneys for the payment of bounties and the support of the families of those who should enter the service, and these calls were liberally responded to.

Enlistments were at once begun; the quota of Nazareth Borough was thirty-four men, but almost immediately fifty had placed their names on the enlistment roll, which was supplemented by further additions, so that the Nazareth company finally consisted of one hundred and two men, of whom thirty-three are now living, and the regiment, which was designated as the 153rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, of nine hundred and eighty-eight.

The recruits from Nazareth and vicinity perfected their organization in the engine-house of the Vigilant Fire Company on North Main Street by selecting Owen Rice as their captain and Benjamin F. Shaum and John L. Miller, who was supplanted

by J. Clyde Millar, as lieutenants. Captain Rice with characteristic magnanimity waived the right to select his non-commissioned officers in favor of the men of his company, who accordingly elected them. The men composing Captain Rice's company, designated as Co. A, ranged in age from 15 to 45, as follows: one of 15 years, eleven of 18, five of 19, seven of 20, thirteen of 21, ten of 22, seven of 23, seven of 24, two of 25, three of 26, five of 27, seven of 28, two of 29, one of 30, two of 31, two of 32, two of 33, one of 34, two of 35, two of 38, one of 39, one of 41, two of 43, three of 44, one of 45, and two unknown—an average age of about 26 years. The men of Company A were above the average in physical and mental development. They were for the most part men who had enjoyed vigorous physical exercise and had reaped the benefits of the public school system and the superb advantages which the Moravian schools afforded. Captain Rice's lieutenants were brave and capable officers, Clyde Millar combining with these qualities a popularity and high order of intelligence, as is evidenced in his magnificent address at the dedication in 1889 of the regimental monument on Barlow's Knoll on the battlefield of the first day of Gettysburg.

Upon the organization of the company, daily drills were held by Captain Rice in the public square at Nazareth from September 8th to September 22nd, and it was from the outset the best drilled company in the regiment. On September 22nd, the company departed for Easton, Pa., and there joined the other companies of the regiment, departing thence on September 25th for Harrisburg, Pa., where they were mustered into service, October 7-11, 1862. Before his departure, Captain Rice was presented with a revolver by the corps of cadets of Nazareth Hall.

In the various marches and in camp life, Captain Rice gave his first thought to the comfort and welfare of his men. The battle of Chancellorsville, Va., May 1-3, 1863, was the great strategic battle of the Civil War and was the last of a long series of Confederate victories—in point of fact, it was the high tide of their success. It was the fortune, or rather the misfortune, of the 153rd Regiment to occupy as part of the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 11th Corps of the Army of the Potomac

a conspicuous position, in that it occupied the extreme right of Hooker's line of battle and where it received the full force of "Stonewall" Jackson's attack in his historic flank movement which proved so disastrous to the Union Army in the defeat it sustained and to the Confederate Army in its loss of Jackson, who was mortally wounded near the line of the 11th Corps, his wounding at the time being attributed to a member of the 153rd Regiment, but which, it is now accepted, was done by his own men through a misunderstanding. Captain Rice in this engagement performed distinguished services.

Just before beginning the march from the winter camp at Potomac Creek Bridge near Brooke Station, nine miles north of Fredericksburg, Va., to the battlefield of Chancellorsville, Major Frueauff was detailed to the staff of Gen. Nathaniel C. McLean and afterwards of Gen. Charles Devens, respectively commanding the division, as acting assistant inspector-general, and Captain Rice was appointed acting major, which position he held until after the battle, when Frueauff rejoined the regiment and in the absence of the colonel and lieutenant-colonel commanded it. After the formation of the line of battle a party of skirmishers selected from the various regiments of the brigade was placed in command of Captain Rice for the purpose of feeling the enemy, which was reported to be advancing. Early in the afternoon of May 2nd the pickets of the enemy were encountered and the advance of a large force was no longer in doubt, whereupon Captain Rice sent the following message:

On skirmish line on Culpeper Road, 2.45 P. M.

*Col. L. Von Gilsa,*

*Comd'g 1st Brig., 1st Div., 11th Army Corps.*

A large body of the enemy amassing in my front. For God's sake make dispositions to receive him.

OWEN RICE,  
Act. Major 153rd P. V.

This message was promptly delivered by Colonel von Gilsa to the corps commander, and at the same time Captain Rice received orders from von Gilsa to maintain his position to extremity, but not to sacrifice his men, and engage the advance vigorously in retreat. Scarcely had the skirmishers reached

their commands (about 5 P. M.) when the enemy opened fire upon the right of the line, pushing forward with all its might. The men of the 153rd met the onslaught like tried veterans, retreating only after firing several volleys which Confederate prisoners reported to have fearfully mowed down the ranks of the advancing 1st Virginia Brigade. The casualties of Company A in this engagement were quite considerable; Privates Daniel and Stocker were killed or burned to death in the woods, which were set afire by exploding shells; Captain Rice was desperately wounded in the left arm by a fragment of shell; Lieutenant Shaum, Sergeants Wm. M. Shultz and W. Henry Weaver, Corporals Danner, Wunderly, Gross and Nauman and Privates Etschman, Frankenfield, L. F. Gold, Herman, A. Johnson, Martin, Senseman, C. Smith and Werkheiser were captured and taken to Libby Prison. Captain Rice was taken to the field hospital, where he positively forbade the amputation of his arm, and as soon as possible was removed to Washington, D. C., and thence to his home. He was incapacitated for further military service, and to the end of his life suffered indirectly from his wound. The wounding of Captain Rice, the capture of Lieutenant Shaum, and the absence on detached duty of Lieutenant J. Clyde Millar left the command of the company with First Sergeant Wm. R. Kiefer, who rallied the scattered men of the company as soon as it was possible to do so.

On October 7, 1885, Captain Rice read a paper before the Ohio Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the U. S., entitled "Afield with the Eleventh Army Corps at Chancellorsville." In this address he defends the conduct of the 11th Corps against the charges made that it was composed of a disaffected foreign element, and shows conclusively that only a little more than one-third was German or foreign lineage, and these for the most part had become denationalized, and who "at Gettysburg with its threefold baptism of fire, and on every field from Lookout Mountain to the sea, wrote the courage of their convictions in answer to the aspersions of vaporing zealots, and overwhelmed with unflinching devotion those cavillers who demanded of them the impossible at Chancellorsville." He furthermore graphically describes the march



of the regiment from winter quarters to Kelly's Ford on the Rappahannock; its crossing there, and that of the Rapidan at Germanna Ford; the march to the battlefield of Chancellorsville, and the events which followed to the close of the campaign and the return of the regiment to its former winter quarters at Potomac Creek.

This valuable contribution to the history of our Civil War reflects to an eminent degree the ripe scholarship, knowledge of military affairs and the descriptive powers of its author.

The serious disability of Captain Rice prevented his participating in the battle of Gettysburg, but his papers disclose the fact that he made a thorough study of that campaign, and as is also evidenced in the correspondence which he had after the war with commanding general officers who took part in it. Lieutenant Shaum, having been exchanged, returned to the regiment two days before the battle and assumed command of the company until wounded in the knee, when the command fell to Lieutenant J. Clyde Millar.

At Gettysburg, as in the battle of Chancellorsville, the 153rd Regiment occupied conspicuous positions, and the important part which it took in both campaigns is recorded in the history of our great Civil War.

At Gettysburg, on the first day, the regiment engaged the well-trained forces of General Early in the commands of Generals Gordon and Hays, and it was here General Barlow, commanding the division to which the regiment was attached, was seriously wounded, at the time thought mortally so, but survived to recent times to meet General Gordon and talk over the events of that day. In the first day's engagement occurred practically all of the casualties to the company. Retreating through the town, the company took position with the regiment behind a low stone wall at the foot of East Cemetery Hill, where on the evening of July 2nd occurred one of the most sanguinary hand-to-hand conflicts of the Civil War; here the regiment met and assisted in repulsing the famous "Louisiana Tigers," which up to this time had been a distinguished fighting organization of the Confederacy, but which after this day was never again heard of as an organization.

The casualties of the company in this engagement were: *Killed*: Privates Buss, W. Gold, J. Johnson and C. H. Miller; *Wounded*: Lieutenant Shaum and Privates Beer, Koenig, Neumeyer, E. Ritter, J. Ritter, A. Ruth, W. H. Ruth, Schwab, J. F. Smith, Straub and Transue; *Captured*: Sergeant Kiefer, Corporal V. Heller, Privates W. H. Heller, Hoch, Kist, A. Ruth, Werner and Wohlbach. The efficiency of the company at no time during its enlistment reached the full number of 102 men by reason of transfers, deaths from disease and other causes, so that the total casualties, as follows, for the year were in excess of one-half of the men actually engaged.

	CHANCELLORS- VILLE.	GETTYSBURG.	TOTAL.
Killed or died from mortal wounds	3	4	7
Wounded	4	12	16
Captured	16	8	24
Died of disease	—	—	3
Total casualties....	23	24	50

Those who died from disease were Corporal T. Edward Frey, and Privates J. Kinkinger and Schaffer.

Captain Rice was mustered out with the regiment July 24, 1863, and returned to Nazareth with the remnant of his company after ten months of severe service, during which time it was conspicuously engaged in two of the greatest campaigns of the war, both of which are considered types of military campaigns and are studied as such by military students both in this country and abroad.

The return of the remnant of Company A to the old town of Nazareth was an event of mixed joy and sorrow to that community. The reception badge worn upon this occasion reflects this feeling in the following lines which it bore in addition to the red crescent and names and dates of the two engagements in which it participated:

"We hail the heroes' safe return  
To home and friends again,  
And mourn with tears of sympathy  
The gallant patriots slain."

The writer recalls vividly the anxious moments of expectation of the return of his father, who was a sergeant in the company; the long line of vehicles which brought the veterans

from Easton; their welcome as they alighted at Main and Prospect Streets; their march through the town; the bountiful collation prepared for them on tables erected on the green in front of the new Moravian church, and finally the dispersing to their respective homes. The scenes in the homes to which there was no homecoming of loved ones, their absence having been made permanent through the fortunes of war, cannot be described.

Captain Rice at once resumed his duties at Nazareth Hall, in which he continued until the close of that year. In October, 1863, he was elected a Deputy to the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives, and was a member of that body during the sessions of 1864-65. He served on a number of important committees, notably those on Library, Railroads, Education and New Counties and County Seats.

On July 20, 1865, Captain Rice addressed a letter to the Major-General of the U. S. Army asking for information as to how to proceed in order to exchange his pension certificate for a captain's commission in the Veteran Reserve Corps, in which he stated that in the Chancellorsville campaign, he was severely wounded in the left arm, which sympathetically affected his whole frame and for the time incapacitated him for active service, and being thus disabled he had sent a substitute for three years into the service. In endorsement of this application, Colonel Glanz, who commanded the 153rd Regiment, wrote:

Capt. Owen Rice has always been a faithful and brave officer and was much respected for his gentlemanly deportment by officers and by his regiment. He was a man of fine military talents and a strict disciplinarian.

To this Governor Curtin added the following:

PENNA. EXECUTIVE MANSION,

HARRISBURG, PA., Aug. 4, 1865.

GENERAL:

I have the honor to request that favorable consideration be given the application of Owen Rice of Northampton Co. in this State, late Capt. in the 153rd Regt. P. V., who seeks an appointment as Captain in the Veteran Reserve Corps. Capt. Rice was badly wounded at Chancellorsville and is an intelligent, reliable gentleman whose appointment would secure to the Corps a valuable officer.

I am, General, very Respty.,

Yr. Obedt. Svt.,

Brig. Genl. J. B. Fry,

A. G. CURTIN,

Pro. Mar. Genl. U. S.,

Govr. Pa.

Washington, D. C.

This was concurred in by Eli Slifer, Secretary of the Commonwealth, and A. L. Russell, Adj. Genl. Penna.

In response to this request, Thos. M. Vincent, Asst. Adj. Genl. U. S. A. forwarded a circular of information from the War Department, dated March 17, 1865, giving the information desired. In the absence of information, it is safe to assume that his physical condition by reason of his wound disqualified him.

In 1865 Captain Rice removed to Lancaster, Pa., where he engaged with his brother-in-law, Francis R. Gruger, in the drug business. This, however, proving uncongenial to him, the trend of his mind being toward technical pursuits, he about 1869 removed to the West, first for some time engaging in the profession of civil engineer at Pittsburg, and afterwards with the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad Company in Indiana. Whilst on the surveys of this railroad he married at Rome City, Ind., May 4, 1871, a most estimable lady, Mrs. Eleanore Mendham, a widow with five children, to all of whom he became very much attached, proving himself a devoted husband and loving father, which feeling of devotion and love was reciprocated by them for him.

In 1873 he was appointed General Freight and Ticket Agent of the Cincinnati, Wabash & Michigan Railway Company, which position he occupied for fourteen years, the first five years of which he was located at Wabash, Ind., when his office was removed to Elkhart, Ind. During this time he became interested in the formation of an interstate commerce law, and presided at a meeting held in St. Louis, the first held to promulgate the establishment of such a law. In 1887 he removed to Chicago to accept a position with another railroad, but was almost immediately seized with paralysis. On January 24, 1890, his wife died, and his condition becoming more critical; his stepchildren took him to their old home at Rome City, Ind., where after a lingering illness, during which he was affectionately cared for by his stepdaughter, Miss Sallie Mendham Rice, he died April 28, 1892, in the 56th year of his age. His remains lie at rest in the cemetery at Rome City.

In his social relations, Captain Rice was a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Commandery of the State of Ohio, the Society of the Army of the

Potomac, the Grand Army of the Republic, a warrant member and the first secretary of Rome City Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, and warden of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church of Elkhart, Ind.

The rector of the parish in which Captain Rice was the senior warden paid the following tribute to his memory:

Major Rice was distinguished by traits of character which in all ages have commanded the respect and admiration of men. He was loyal to a cause, to a duty, to a creed, to a friend. He was incapable of a falsehood and hardly comprehended deceit in others. He brought to the discharge of every duty a brave and loyal spirit, a cultured and refined intellect, a pure and devout soul—his manners eminently were *suaviter in modo, fortiter in re*.

He was distinguished for his well-bred courtesy and generosity. He kept up his interest in learning and literature, through the busiest portions of his life, and a conversation with him upon almost any of the leading topics of the day was a rare treat to a serious and thoughtful man. As professor, soldier, patriot, legislator, student, business man, churchman, father, friend, he was always distinguished by fidelity, earnestness and devotion. Those who never knew him will not miss him, those who mourn him can never fill his place.

Captain Rice always maintained an affectionate regard for his old friends at Nazareth and an interest in the welfare of his boys of Company A, as is evidenced in the following letter written to Mr. Granville Henry of "Boulton":

ELKHART, IND., March 6, 1885.

VERY DEAR FRIEND:

Your most welcome favor forwarded me to-day, and subject to the incessant interruptions incident to Rail practice, I detail a few moments for reply. Recently when reviewing your photo, a sort of anticipation of a possible letter overcame me.

Of myself, as you desire, I can best summarize by saying that for seventeen years I have been employed in various departments of Western Rail practice, as Engineer, Auditor, and during the last ten, on this line, in charge of the Foreign traffic relations, my thoughts gravitating between seaboard and seaboard, my telegrams and letters covering one-quarter of the continent, and my person traversing a large part of the West. A most contentious occupation truly—one in which both physical and mental exhaustion is the constant penalty of continuance, and one which leaves me little time for study or social amenities and little for enjoyment with my family.

Residing here, I often have need to go to Chicago—not for recreation, but to patch up the *entente cordial* with one or the other of the thirteen

Trunk Lines which we cross. Like the man trying to pay court to thirteen girls at once, I am often made to feel

"Happy with either  
Were t'other dear charmer away."

The semi-abandon of the Middle West, after the rough usage of the war and politics, have not aged me very perceptibly, and of all employments I prefer "The strong, champagny-brandy-punchy feeling" of railway turmoil.

It pays moderately well, with almost indefinite free transportation, but its requirements leave little for future use.

Outside of business I cultivate only my Wardenship of St. John's Episcopal Church, and my Companionship in the Loyal Legion (the modern Cincinnati) and an occasional trip across the Lakes, thro' Colorado or some other Lotus land.

Please say to J. Meyers, to give his attorney my address and on receipt of his papers I will make proper affidavit.

Kindly write me any or all matters within call, regarding Nazareth.

Are all of my boys of Co. A. reasonably prosperous?

With very cordial regards to all at Boulton,

In haste, but faithfully,

OWEN RICE.

The high regard in which Captain Rice was held by the officers and men of the regiment and his company is shown by the following extracts and letters from several of the few who are still living:

Dr. A. Stout, assistant surgeon of the regiment, says:

He was a good captain, a good engineer, a good scholar and a mighty good fellow.

From his first lieutenant:

TARKIO, Mo., April 25, 1911.

*Mr. E. A. Weaver, Philadelphia, Penna.*

DEAR SIR:—In reply to your recent favor concerning Capt. Owen Rice I will say that my personal acquaintance with him dates from the first recruiting, which was sometime in July, 1862, when he was afterwards chosen Captain of the Company and I the First Lieutenant.

As a man and officer, he was one of the finest and was admired and looked up to by those, not only in his own Company, but by the whole Regiment and even the Brigade.

He and I were never thrown together much because he was nearly always on Staff or detached duty and I had charge of the Company.

I have always thought that the battle of Chancellorsville would have resulted differently if attention had been paid to some of the advice offered by him concerning the battle.

While he was on outpost duty he saw the enemy approaching and reported the fact, but no attention was paid to his reports.

In the battle of Chancellorsville he was wounded, and I was taken prisoner and sent to Libby prison, where I remained until paroled and exchanged two days before the battle of Gettysburg.

In that battle I was severely wounded and never saw Capt. Rice again until he called on me after the mustering out at Harrisburg.

The above is the best of my remembrance of Capt. Rice.

It has been a long time ago and very difficult to recall.

Trusting it may be of service to you, I am,

Yours truly,

B. F. SHAWM.

Sergeant William M. Shultz:

In regard to Captain Rice I always found him to be a perfect gentleman in all that constitutes the name, an apt scholar, a strict disciplinarian, thoroughly posted in military tactics and a brave soldier. He abhorred everything that was vile in speech or action.

From a private of Company A:

My early recollections of Capt. Rice are of the kindest nature. I knew him very well as a young man, and think he was not only a brainy and highly intellectual man, but also a good citizen and brave soldier. The only thing I had against him was his being a Democrat, and well remember how hard he tried to explain to me the iniquity of a tariff system. But he was a loyal Democrat, which is more than can be said of many others of that period. As a soldier he was brave, quick, lenient to his men, and therefore popular and well liked, never loud or overbearing.

He was certainly a more than ordinarily gifted man.

Robert H. Wilson, the fifteen-year-old drummer-boy of Company A, over whom Captain Rice exercised a parental care, writes as follows:

200 EAST 16TH STREET,

LOS ANGELES, CAL., JUNE 11, 1911.

*Mr. E. A. Weaver, Germantown, Pa.*

DEAR SIR:—Yours of the 2d inst. received yesterday A. M., having been delayed in delivery, on account of no street number. You ask for my personal recollections of the late Captain Owen Rice, to add to the biographical sketch. I shall be happy to contribute a word of praise in behalf of my most estimable, brave, and courageous Captain and friend—yes friend; he watched over me during those stormy days of the rebellion as a father would over his son, and we lived together in the little tent house furnished by Uncle Sam. I always bunked with him when we were in camp. As young as I was—a mere stripling—I often thought that a star or two would be more fitting than the four bars he wore. He was a man above reproach, always tender and thoughtful for others and loved by all with whom he came in contact.

After he was wounded at Chancellorsville and lay in the hospital, he used to send for me to read to him. I would read until I thought he was asleep, then I would take a sneak. Well, I haven't gotten over being sorry yet for being so disrespectful to this worthy man. When he would awaken, he immediately sent for me to come back, and read some more. Oh, well, I was only a boy, and didn't know any better.

I remember well your good father, Sergeant Weaver, and he was in my estimation another fine man and brave soldier.

I shall endeavor to communicate with my comrades, Ricksecker and Millar, in the near future. It is a thin blue line now, all that is left of that vast Army of the Potomac.

I am enjoying perfect health, and am just as young as I used to be; do a full day's work, every day in the week. Next Thursday, June 15th, I will celebrate my 65th birthday, and feel as tho I were only forty.

I shall be greatly pleased with a copy of the reprint of which you spoke.

Trusting my feeble efforts to contribute to the sketch will be worthy a place in same, and may not reach you too late, I remain,

Yours truly,

R. H. WILSON.

An estimate of Captain Rice's personal qualities as pupil and teacher can best be made from the following letters from several who were thus associated with him at Nazareth Hall and in the Theological Seminary.

One of Captain Rice's instructors at Nazareth Hall in writing of him says:

He was very studious—a young man of more than usual ability, and, as his father before him, very thorough in everything he undertook, despising everything superficial; a painstaking, hard-working student—probably the most efficient in his class at Nazareth Hall. As an instructor in Nazareth Hall he displayed these same traits—thoroughness—not afraid of hard work—doing his utmost to “go to the bottom” and not merely skim along the surface; and this he endeavored to impress upon his pupils. He was a good linguist and an excellent mathematician; in short, a very able man. He was generally reserved, caring little for society, but prizing men of intelligence as his friends. For some time he had been drill master of the Nazareth Hall Cadets, and succeeded in advancing this part of the educational work of the School. When the country needed men at the beginning of the Civil War, he was one of the first to offer his services, and succeeded in raising a company of volunteers from this town (Nazareth) and neighborhood; very few of these men remain—but all held him in high esteem, greatly superior as he was to many others who became officers in the army. His men appeared to honor and love him.

One of his associate teachers writes:



My relations with him were limited to one year, 1856-57, when we were teachers together in Nazareth Hall. He was a man of brilliant intellectual attainments, well read in and enthusiastic for classical and the best modern literature, and, possessed of a delicate artistic taste, his works of both pencil and brush were excellent and much admired; to which I would add a ready knack at caricature.

It is from personal experience that I tell you of Capt. Rice's love of good literature, for I have a pleasant remembrance of our sitting together in the beautiful woods adjacent to the school, or at night in a vacant school room, taking turns at reading aloud our favorite authors. I must say, also, that I found in Owen Rice always a kind friend and a good companion.

From the last surviving graduate of his class in the Theological Seminary:

He was a bright and ready scholar, engaging easily in the various tasks of the curriculum of those days, and standing high in his recitations, especially in mathematics. Geometry and algebra, trigonometry and surveying he mastered without difficulty, standing at the head of his class, often successfully demonstrating some difficult problem, while his classmates looked on with admiration at the facility with which he did the work. Thus he was well qualified for the task—which at the request of the town officials of Nazareth he undertook later, while he was a teacher at the Hall—of grading the streets of Nazareth, which until then had remained in their pristine condition. The writer can still see him starting out or returning across the campus—in those days called the square—in front of the Hall, with his leveling instrument on his shoulder.

The writer does not remember that Owen had any special musical talent, or performed on any instrument, but he had decided artistic ability, as evidenced by some little sketches and ornamental lettering done while he was a boy at the Hall and still in the writer's possession, and still more by the proficiency which he acquired in painting with water-colors and in oil.

Although conscientious in the performance of his scholastic duties, he was a boy of an active and cheerful disposition, and popular among his schoolmates, with whom he never, to the writer's recollection, had any of those physical encounters that sometimes mar the peace of academic scenes. In both the classical and theological departments of the Theological Seminary he continued to approve himself a studious and interested scholar, successfully winning and holding the affection and esteem of classmates and professors, attending faithfully to his duties and at the same time availing himself of all proper opportunities for mental and physical recreation. The only serious illness the writer remembers him to have suffered from was an attack of inflammatory rheumatism which detained him awhile at Nazareth when the theological class was moved to Philadelphia, but did not prevent him from replying in a joocular vein to a letter the writer had sent him.

As a teacher, too, at Nazareth Hall from 1856 to 1862 he was successful in winning the respect and attachment of the boys in his charge, and in interesting them in their studies. Without resorting to any drastic methods for the enforcement of the necessary discipline, he seemed to have no difficulty in maintaining it. To memorize or copy a few columns of the dictionary was enough to subdue those who required treatment. There seemed to be a mutual understanding between teacher and scholars that the only thing to do was to do the right thing, and thus avoid all unnecessary friction. In 1861 or '62 when the scholars at the Hall were organized in a uniformed company, and military drill introduced—although the military system was not as fully developed as it now is—Mr. Rice was the teacher who was specially interested and active in this new departure, and in introducing the cadets to the mysteries and manoeuvres of the parade-ground.

It was therefore not strange that when the bombardment of Fort Sumter sent a thrill through all hearts, Mr. Rice should be fired with the patriotic impulse to raise a company of volunteers who should hasten to join the ranks of the Union army. In the town-square at Nazareth he made an impassioned appeal to the citizens to enlist for the preservation of the Union, and succeeded in raising a company which was incorporated with the 153rd Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers.

My personal recollections of Captain Rice are those of a boy of eight to twelve years of age, when I frequently saw him whilst visiting my grandparents on the "Hall Square," in whose household he was well and favorably known. I often saw him engaged in reading and study, or in drilling his corps of Nazareth Hall cadets.

Captain Rice spent the Sunday preceding the departure of Company A for the front in my home, which visit I distinctly remember. His regard for my father is evidenced in the cordial inscription on his photograph which he gave him, and also in a letter which I quote as follows:

ELKHART, IND., July 10, 1885.

*E. A. Weaver, Esq., Phila.*

DEAR SIR:—Your 7th inst. has reached me amidst manifold duties. A very true respect for your father will command compliance with your wishes at greater convenience.

As Acting Major of the 153rd Pa. it fell to me to "lead in" the attack, on the right, at Chancellorsville. When Daehrodt retired wounded and Glanz had been captured, the command devolved on me. Hence I have been designated by our Commandery of the Loyal Legion to prepare a historical paper on Chancellorsville. The unique part filled by the 153rd—fighting Jackson, single handed—will not be forgotten.

Very truly

OWEN RICE,

Late Acting Major 153rd P. V.

On July 4, 1886, whilst a remnant of the regiment was dedicating its tablet at the foot of East Cemetery Hill, Gettysburg, Sergeants Shultz and Weaver, who together had enlisted and were prisoners in "Libby," visited the battlefield of Chancellorsville, in company with myself, and stood on the very spot where the regiment was lined in battle twenty-three years before, and upon this occasion these comrades and admirers of Captain Rice wrote him postal cards which were mailed to him from the historic Spottsylvania Court House, in the yard of which they had spent their first night as prisoners after their capture on the morning of May 3, 1863.

Captain Rice and Sergeant Weaver were mustered out of life's service within a year of each other, 1892-93, and "passed over the river to rest in the shade of the trees."

"The muffled drum's sad roll has beat  
The soldier's last tattoo;  
No more on life's parade shall meet  
That brave and fallen few.  
On Fame's eternal camping ground,  
Their silent tents are spread,  
And glory guards, with solemn round,  
The bivouac of the dead.

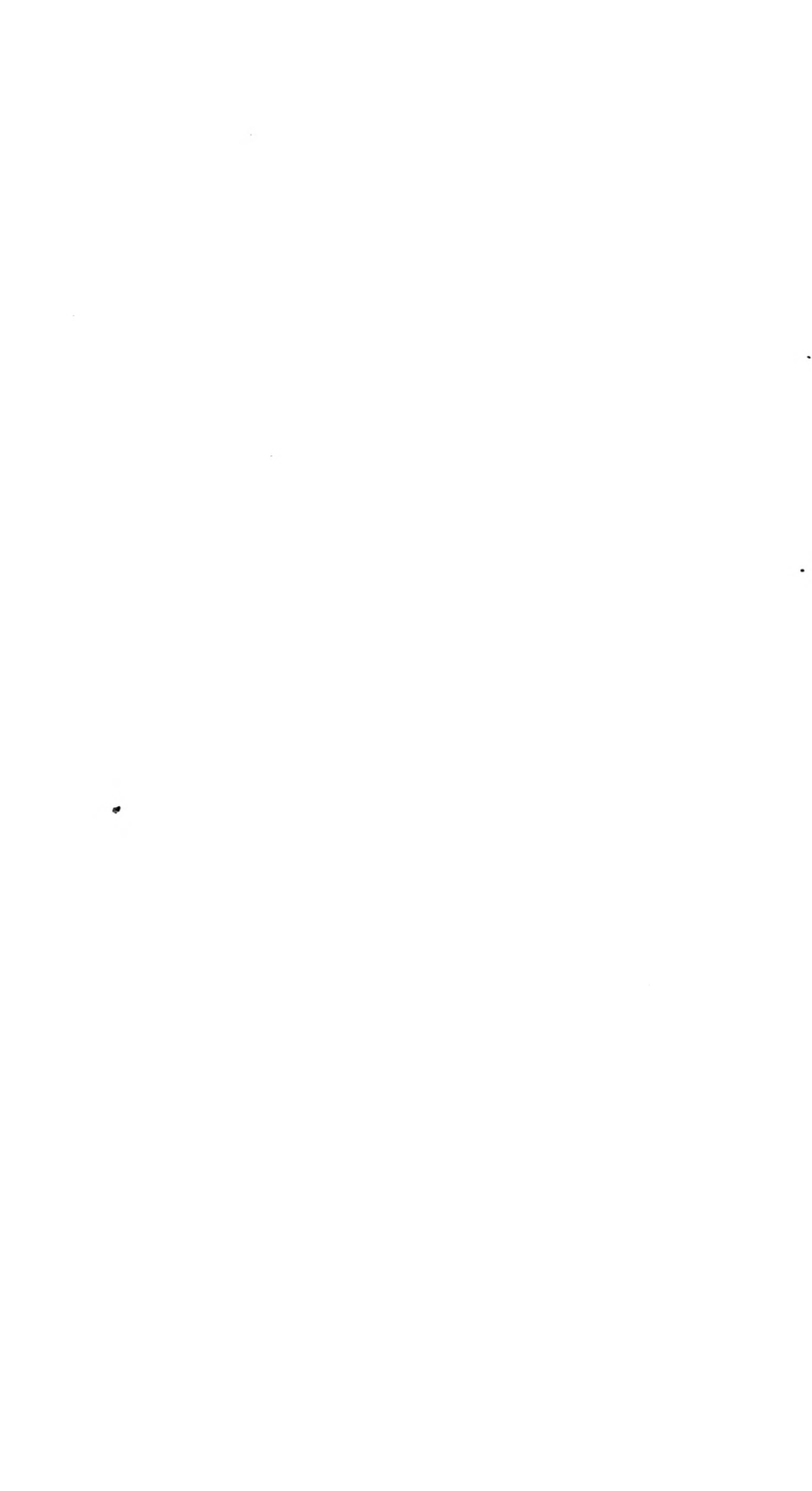
"Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead,  
Dear as the blood ye gave;  
No impious footsteps here shall tread  
The herbage of your grave;  
Nor shall your glory be forgot  
While fame her record keeps.  
Or honor points the hallowed spot  
Where valor proudly sleeps."

Whilst Captain Owen Rice Camp, Sons of Veterans, preserves in its name the memory of this gallant soldier, it would be eminently fitting for the friends of Captain Rice, fellow-citizens of Nazareth, the survivors of his company and the descendants of those of his comrades who have passed over the "Great Divide" to erect in the coming year, the semi-centennial of his departure for the war, at Nazareth Hall (his Alma Mater which he so dearly loved), in its chapel where he so often worshiped, a mural tablet in brass or marble to commemorate his distinguished services and testify to his Christian character, scholarly attainments and patriotic devotion.

The following lines were written by Captain Owen Rice, and are contained in a manuscript note-book now in possession of a stepdaughter:

Inscribed to the 153d Penna. Vols.:

Ho, comrade of the war-spent field, defender of the right,  
 What cheer is thine, since laid we down the panoply of night,  
 Which bore the flag on honored fields—the flag our fathers bore—  
 And bade us hold 'gainst Treason's wrath puissant as of yore?  
 Pledge once again the merry cup to days of Auld Lang Syne,  
 The comradeship of camp and watch, and scars of strife divine!  
 Ah, how the bugles wake to-night the memories of the time  
 When "fall in" woke the startled land to ecstacy sublime!  
 Ah, how the bells of Memory's chimes ring out this holy night,  
 What griefs were ours, what manly tears, what surfeit of delight!  
 The bivouac's cheer, the vigil stern, the sentry's wild alarm,  
 The forest's glare, when opened up their throats our men at arms,  
 The swelling flush of Victory's tide, the thrill of battle won,  
 The silence of the sad retreat, the sobbing minute-gun,  
 Along Potomac's bristling shores, 'midst Rappahannock's shades,  
 By Shenandoah's sunny fields and Pennsylvania's glades:  
 Pledge high to those who stemmed the tide, bore down the traitor's spite,  
 In silence pledge the bravest hearts, who sleep in death to-night,  
 The sleep which you and I, old friend, sought with them 'neath the skies  
 Which blessed us thro' the fight, but bade their conquering spirits rise  
 To wear the wreath of glory, win the Father's proud acclaim,  
 And peoples voice in sadness their thanks—a deathless name,  
 Ah, well we mind the Autumn days, grown bent in age and sere,  
 In '62 when through the land rang out, "The foe is near!"



JUL 26 1911

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