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Addenda to history of the
121st. Regiment Pennsylvania volunteers...

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Pennsylvania Infantry, 121st Regt

ADDENDA TO HISTORY

OF THE

121st Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers

BY THE

SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATION

"AN ACCOUNT FROM THE RANKS."

PHILADELPHIA, PA.:
PRESS OF BURK & MCFETRIDGE CO.,
306 AND 308 CHESTNUT ST.
1893.

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121ST REGT. PENNA. VOLS.

lustrious a record as any regiment from the State of Pennsylvania. Its history has been amply set forth by the survivors, and what makes their book more valuable is that it is illustrated with maps of the country many outside its ranks—of all who still bear in mind the services of our volunteer soldiers. Then, too, it has an interest for those who served in Company "A" in its two campaigns, when the great battles at Antie-

und Photographien der Denkmäler, welche den Todten des Regiments auf den Schlachtfeldern errichtet worden sind.—Demokrat, 11. Aug. 1893.

This Regimental History was published for the benefit of those who were members of the Regiment, and their immediate friends and relatives; and the low price at which it is offered (Two Dollars per copy) will not cover the expense of publication.

Copies of the History may be had on application to

W. W. STRONG,

VILLANOVA, DELAWARE CO., PA.

Notwithstanding the time consumed and the care taken to make the History of the 121st Regiment Penna. Vols. as nearly complete as possible, it is now found necessary to publish these addenda, in order that a few errors may be corrected and a number of omissions supplied.

The several pages covering the movements of the regiment from the time it entered the service until its return to Philadelphia are given to correct any inaccuracies of the line of march as traced on the map in the front of the book, and these few pages really constitute a regimental history themselves.

"General Order No. 16," announced after the battle of Fredericksburg, was entirely overlooked at the time the history was published, although several of those who were honored by being favorably mentioned in said order were also members of the Historical Committee. The fact that such an order was published was subsequently brought to the attention of the chairman, who, after consulting the Secretary of War, succeeded in securing a copy. In justice to all, the order is given in full.

The additional information in reference to Company "I" and Company "A" First Penna. Artillery will also prove interesting.

It is intended that every subscriber to the History shall receive a copy of these addenda.

Wm. W. Strong,
Villanova, Delaware Co., Pa.

July 5, 1894.

Movements of the 121st Regiment P. V.

1862.

Left Philadelphia September 5th.

Left Washington September 6th, arriving at Camp Chase September 7th.

Left Camp Chase September 29th.

Left Washington September 30th, arriving at Frederick, Md., October 1st.

Left Frederick, Md., October 8th, arriving at Sharpsburg, Md., October 10th.

Left Sharpsburg, Md., October 26th, and crossed Potomac River October 30th.

Left Lovettsville, Va., November 1st, arriving at Warrenton, Va., November 7th.

Left Warrenton, Va., November 11th, reaching Fayetteville, Va., November 16th.

Left Stafford C. H., Va., November 18th, going to camp at Accokeek Creek.

Left Accokeek Creek November 22d for Brooke Station.

Left Brooke Station December 8th for White Oak Church.

Left White Oak Church December 11th for the Rappahannock River.

Crossed Rappahannock River December 12th, 10 A. M.

Engaged the enemy in Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13th.

Recrossed Rappahannock River December 15th during the night.

Left Rappahannock River December 19th for White Oak Church.

1863.

Left White Oak Church January 20th on "Burnside's Mud March," returning to camp January 25th.

Moved camp to Belle Plain February 14th.

Left Belle Plain April 20th for Port Conway and returned April 22d.

Moved camp to near Pollock's Mills April 28th.

Left Pollock's Mills April 29th for Franklin's Old Crossing over Rappahannock River.

Moved to the right *via* United States Ford May 2d.

May 3d to 5th—Battle of Chancellorsville.

Returned *via* United States Ford May 7th to Fitzhugh Woods.

Returned to camp at Pollock's Mills May 8th.

Moved camp to White Oak Church May 18th.

Left White Oak Church June 12th.

Left Deep Run June 13th.

Left Bealeton June 14th.

Left Manassas Junction June 15th.

Left Centerville June 17th, stopping at Broad Run.

Left Broad Run June 25th, crossing Potomac River at Edward's Ferry, near mouth of Goose Creek, and reaching Barnesville.

June 26th.—Moved to Poolesville, crossed Monocacy Creek to Adamstown and crossed Catoctin Mountains.

June 27th.—Moved to Middletown, Md.

June 28th.—Moved to Frederick, Md.

June 29th.—Moved to Emmitsburg, Md.

June 30th.—Moved to within six miles of Gettysburg.

July 1st, A. M.—Moved to Seminary Ridge, northwest of Gettysburg.

July 1st, 2d and 3d.—Battle of Gettysburg.

July 6th.—Moved to Emmittsburg.

July 7th.—Moved to Middletown.

July 8th.—Moved to and through South Mountain Pass.

July 9th.—Moved to Boonsboro, Md.

July 12th.—Moved to Funkstown and crossed the Antietam Creek.

July 14th.—Moved to Williamsport, Md.

July 15th.—Moved to Crampton Gap, South Mountain.

July 16th.—Moved to Petersville, Md.

July 18th.—Moved to Berlin, Md.

July 20th —Moved to Middleburg, Va.

July 22d.—Left Middleburg, arriving at Warrenton, July 23d.

July 30th.—Moved off toward Rappahannock River, arriving at Rappahannock Station, August 2d.

September 16th.—Moved to Culpeper, Va.

September 24th.—Moved to Raccoon Ford.

October 10th.—Moved to Morton's Ford,

October 11th.—Moved to near Stevensburg.

October 12th.—Moved to Kelly's Ford, on Rappahannock River.

October 13th.—Moved to Bristoe Station.

October 14th.—Moved to Centerville.

October 19th.—Moved to Thoroughfare Gap.

October 20th.—Left Thoroughfare Gap and arrived near Bristoe Station, October 24th.

November 15.—Moved to Cedar Run Bridge.

December 5th.—Moved to near Bealeton.

December 6th.—Moved to Pollock's Mills.

December 24th.—Moved to Culpeper.

1864.

February 6th.—Moved to Raccoon Ford, returning to camp at Culpeper, February 7th.

May 4th.—Crossed Rapidan River at Germania Ford and moved on to Wilderness Tavern.

May 5th.—Engaged the enemy in the Wilderness.

May 6th.—Engaged the enemy in the Wilderness.

May 7th.—Moved to Spottsylvania, and engaged the enemy at intervals until 21st.

May 21st.—Moved to Guinea Station.

May 22d.—Moved to Bulls Church.

May 23d.—Moved to Jericho Ford, and engaged the enemy along the North Anna until 26th.

May 26th.—Recrossed North Anna and moved to Hanover Court-House.

May 29th.—Moved to Bethesda Church, engaging the enemy until June 6th.

June 6th.—Moved to Cold Harbor.

June 6th to 12th.—Battle of Cold Harbor.

June 12th.—Moved to James River.

June 16th.—Crossed James River and moved on to Petersburg, engaging the enemy until June 19th.

June 20th.—Moved to camp one mile from the works.

June 21st.—Moved to the front once more.

July 8th.—Moved to Jerusalem Plank Road and threw up works.

July 17th.—Moved the line closer up to the rebel works.

August 15th.—Moved to the rear one mile to camp.

August 18th.—Moved to Weldon Railroad and tore up the tracks and engaged the enemy.

August 19th.—Engaged the enemy on skirmish line.

August 20th.—Moved to Yellow House.

August 21st.—Battle of Weldon Railroad.

September 12th.—Went into camp near Yellow House.

September 25th.—Moved into the breastworks.

September 30th.—Moved to Poplar Grove Church (Peeble's Farm).

October 1st.—Battle of Poplar Grove Church.

October 27th.—Moved to Hatcher's Run.

October 28th.—Engaged the enemy.

October 29th.—Moved to near Peeble's Farm.

December 5th.—Moved to Weldon Railroad.

December 6th.—Moved to Jerusalem Plank Road.

December 7th.—Moved to Sussex Court-House.

December 8th.—Moved to Nottoway River, tearing up railroad.

December 9th.—Moved seventeen miles further along the railroad, tearing it up.

December 10th.—Moved towards camp, reaching there December 12th.

1865.

February 5th.—Moved to Hatcher's Run.

February 6th and 7th.—Engaged enemy at Dabney's Mills.

February 8th and 9th.—Picketed near Dabney's Mills.

February 10th.—Returned to camp.

February 11th.—Crossed Weldon Railroad and went into camp.

March 29th.—Moved toward Dinwiddie.

March 30th.—Moved to Boydton Plank Road.

March 31st.—Battle of Boydton Plank Road.

April 1st.—Engaged enemy at Five Forks.

April 2d.—Crossed South Side Railroad, reaching Richmond and Danville Railroad April 5th, and moving through Jettersville April 6th.

April 8th.—Moved toward Appomattox, halting April 9th.

April 9th.—Surrender of Confederate Army.

April 12th.—Left Appomattox, reaching Prince Edward Court-House April 13th and Farmville April 14th.

April 20th.—March resumed, reaching Millville April 21st.

May 2d.—Moved to near Petersburg.

May 3d.—Moved through Petersburg.

May 4th.—Moved to Manchester.

May 7th.—Moved to Pamunky River.

May 8th.—Moved to Mattapony River.

May 9th.—Crossed Rappahannock River, reaching camp six miles from Washington, D. C., May 12th.

May 23d.—Grand review in Washington.

June 2d.—Mustered out of United States service.

June 3d.—Left camp near Washington and arrived at Philadelphia June 4th.

June 5th.—Reviewed by General Meade and disbanded.

The regimental order quoted below will prove of great interest to the survivors of the 121st Regt. Penna. Vols., and is a valuable addition to the history of the regiment :—

War Department, Record and Pension Office,
Washington City, December 28, 1893.

W. W. Strong,
Chairman of the Historical Committee
of the 121st Regt. Penna. Vols.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir :—In reply to your communication of the 26th instant, in which you request to be furnished with a copy of the regimental order complimenting certain men of the 121st Penna. Vols. for their efforts in saving the colors at the battle of Fredericksburg, Va., December 13, 1862, I am directed by the Secretary of War to transmit herewith the desired copy.

Very respectfully,
F. C. Ainsworth,
Colonel, U. S. Army, Chief, Record and Pension Office.

Headquarters 121st Regt. Penna. Vols., First Brigade,
Camp near White Oak Church, December 30, 1862.

General Order, No. 16 :—

The Colonel commanding the regiment takes very great pleasure in acknowledging the bravery and discipline of the officers and men under his command at the battle of Fredericksburg on Saturday, December 13, 1862. It is also a peculiar gratification to him that the valor of these officers and men has been recognized by others out of the command.

The commanding officer has requested and obtained from the field officers of the regiment and from company commanders in many instances a list of those who have particularly distinguished themselves in that action. He regrets that from the vague returns of some of the company commanders he is unable to do special justice to the men of those commands. The following is a list of the distinguished :—

BY COLONEL BIDDLE.

Lieutenant Rosengarten, for gallantry in carrying off safely the national colors of the regiment after the fall of the color sergeant.

BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DAVIS.

Lieutenant Ruth, of Company "I"; Lieutenant Pippet, of Company "C," for distinguished bearing; Lieutenant Powell, of Company "C," for good conduct; Lieutenant Plumer, of Company "E," for good conduct; Sergeant Cowpland, of Company "I," and Sergeant Bastian, of Company "G," for good conduct.

BY MAJOR BIDDLE.

Captain Ridgway, for resolute and skillful conduct in command of his company; Captain Laurie and Lieutenants Raymond and Hulse, as deserving of special notice; Private Bolton, of Company "K," wounded in both legs and a prisoner, for gallant conduct.

BY CAPTAIN RIDGWAY, OF COMPANY "A."

Second Lieutenant James S. Warner, for coolness and bravery in discharge of his duty; First Sergeant Philander R. Gray, for self-possession and bravery in aiding to reform the broken lines, under the hottest fire of the enemy; Sergeant Henry H. Herpst, for coolness in discharge of his duty; Sergeant Alexander McDowell, for bravery; Corporal John M. Bingham, for bravery; Corporal Francis H. Hilliard, for bravery.

BY LIEUTENANT ROSENGARTEN, IN COMMAND OF COMPANY "D."

Lieutenant Etting, for coolness and promptness throughout the action; Acting Orderly Sergeant William W. Horner, for aiding in saving the colors as the line was retiring; Privates Auguste F. Claus and Henry D. Rauch, for good conduct; Private John Galbraith, for good conduct.

BY LIEUTENANT ROBERTSON, COMMANDING COMPANY "E."

Sergeant John W. Chittick, for good conduct; Sergeant William G. Meigs, for good conduct; Corporal William C. Ryall (wounded), for good conduct; Corporal Dempsey, for good conduct; Corporal McConnell, for good conduct; Private M. Adams, for good conduct; Private Francis P. Doherty, for good conduct; Private Thomas Foley, for good conduct; Private James Higgins, for good conduct; Private John Schaffer, Jr., for good conduct (since died); Private Washington Tarr, for good conduct; Private John W. Terrill, for good conduct (wounded); Private Daniel H. Weikel, for good conduct; Private George W. Miley, for good conduct.

BY CAPTAIN CLAPP, OF COMPANY "F."

Lieutenant J. K. Byers, Sergeant Kahl, Corporal Wise, Privates R. Swab and L. L. Say, for bravery and good conduct.

BY CAPTAIN LAURIE, OF COMPANY "B."

Sergeant G. Keen, Sergeant Wheeler, for good conduct; Sergeant Zimmel, for good conduct; Corporal Wheeler, for good conduct; Corporal Steffan, for good conduct; Corporal Rylands, for good conduct; Corporal Slyoff, for good conduct; Corporal Whaland, for good conduct; Corporal Cummings, for good conduct; Corporal Hardy, for good conduct; Private Thos. B. Cave, for soldierly conduct.

BY CAPTAIN WRIGLEY, OF COMPANY "H."

Second Lieutenant Harrison Lambdin, for gallant conduct; Private Robert Cummings, who, after being severely wounded and ordered to the rear, declined to go and continued fighting until compelled to leave the field; Private A. Clay Matthews, for distinguished conduct.

The commanding officers of Companies "I," "C," "G," "K," report the general bravery and good conduct of their respective commands as well as the captains of all other companies. The Colonel regrets, however, that he has no means of acknowledging any distinguished service in the four companies referred to other than has been done, which he would have been most happy to have done had he been supplied with the means of particularizing those worthy of distinction.

The Colonel desires to acknowledge the valuable services of the field officers who so materially aided him, as also those of the Adjutant. He refers with great satisfaction to the services of Surgeon Ramsey on the field.

The memory of the gallant dead who perished on the field will ever be held in grateful recollection by their officers and fellow-soldiers. The success which they endeavored to earn in common with their companions was denied them, but their heroic conduct will not the less leave honorable names to their families and friends.

By order of
COL. CHAPMAN BIDDLE.

THOS. M. HALL,
Adjt. 121st Penna. Vols.

L. of C.

Official copy, respectfully furnished for the information of W. W. Strong.

F. C. Ainsworth,
Colonel, U. S. Army, Chief of Office.

Record and Pension Office,
War Department, December 28, 1893.

ERRATA.

Page 6.—A. B. Markward should be B. V. Markward.

Page 256.—Fifth Corporal William R. McDaniel should be Fifth Corporal William T. McDanel.

Page 282.—Second Corporal Chas. A. Winkworth was promoted to Sergeant, date unknown.

Page 82.—Explosion of the mine in front of the Ninth Corps is stated to have occurred July 31st; it should be July 30th.

Since the publication of the History the following additional items of information relative to Company "I" 1st Penna. Artillery and Company "A" 1st Penna. Artillery have been ascertained:—

COMPANY "I" FIRST PENNA. ARTILLERY.

August 9, 1844, the following members of Company "I" 1st Penna. Artillery were appointed Acting Sergeants until an election of non-commissioned officers was held:—

Acting First Sergeant Chapman Biddle.
Acting Second Sergeant Thomas C. Rockhill, Jr.
Acting Third Sergeant Stewart.
Acting Fourth Sergeant Ducachet.
Acting Fifth Sergeant William E. Evans.

The following officers were elected on the dates noted:—

First Sergeant Chapman Biddle, August 26, 1844, and First Lieutenant November 10, 1846.

Second Sergeant Lewis S. Ware, August 26, 1844.

Third Sergeant Thomas C. Rockhill, Jr., August 26, 1844.

Fourth Sergeant H. W. Ducachet, Jr., August 26, 1844, and Third Sergeant March 4, 1845.

Fifth Sergeant C. I. Biddle, August 26, 1844, Third Sergeant July 8, 1845, and Second Lieutenant December 1, 1846.

First Corporal Edward Bacon, August 26, 1844.

Second Corporal A. G. M. Bowen, August 26, 1844.

Third Corporal J. B. Beers, August 26, 1844.

Fourth Corporal F. W. Hemsley, August 26, 1844, First Corporal March 4, 1845, Fourth Sergeant July 8, 1845, Second Sergeant December 11, 1846.

Henry D. Landis elected Second Corporal September 2, 1845, and First Sergeant November 10, 1846.

John T. Killé elected Third Corporal March 2, 1847, and Second Sergeant June 1, 1847.

Thomas C. Rockhill, Jr., elected Second Sergeant March 4, 1845.

Samuel Wilcox elected Second Corporal March 4, 1845, First Corporal September 2, 1845, and Third Sergeant December 11, 1846.

Richard B. Duane elected Fourth Sergeant March 4, 1845.

R. C. McMurtrie elected Third Corporal March 4, 1845, and Fifth Sergeant September 2, 1845.

Geo. W. Biddle elected Fourth Corporal September 2, 1845, and First Corporal March 3, 1846.

J. H. Wheeler elected Third Corporal March 3, 1846, and First Corporal March 2, 1847.

M. P. Henry elected Second Corporal March 3, 1846.

Henry Thouron elected Fourth Corporal March 3, 1846, and Second Corporal March 2, 1847.

W. T. Wilcox elected Fourth Corporal March 2, 1847.

H. S. Hagert elected Corporal June 1, 1847.

Henry M. White elected Corporal June 1, 1847.

Hugh Nisbet elected Corporal June 14, 1847.

Captain John Cadwalader resigned September 8, 1846, and First Lieutenant J. H. Markland was elected Captain of the company October 22, 1846.

In the list of members of Company "I" 1st Penna. Artillery T. Richards should be G. Richards, J. B. Barey should be J. B. Barry, S. B. Hopkins should be S. B. Hoppin, J. A. Swaby should be Wm. A. Swaby, J. M. Kibbin should be J. McKibbin, J. Price should be Isaac Prince, Jr.

The following extracts from the minutes of Company "I" 1st Penna. Artillery will be read with interest:—

"At a meeting held on Tuesday, May 12, 1846, at 8 P. M., it was announced that at a stated meeting of the Board of Officers of the regiment, held on the 11th inst., two resolutions were submitted for consideration, one of which was passed unanimously, and which was in the following terms, viz.:—

"'*Resolved*, That the companies composing this regiment be requested to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning.'

"The consideration of the other resolution was postponed until Friday evening next at 8 o'clock, in order to receive the reports of the Captains of the several companies. This resolution was in these terms:—

"'*Resolved*, That the Colonel be requested to tender the services of the regiment to the President of the United States whenever or wherever they may be needed.'

"Whereupon it was unanimously

"'*Resolved*, That we cordially respond to the recommendation of the Board of Officers and hold ourselves in readiness to follow any requisition that may be made upon us for duty—the nature and occasion of which we leave to be determined by the proper military authority.'"

"At a special meeting of the company, held at the office of Chapman Biddle, Esq, on the evening of Monday, May 12, 1848, J. H. Markland, Esq., was called to the chair, and H. D. Landis appointed Secretary. It was

"'*Resolved*, That the company be and is hereby finally dissolved, and that the Secretary be requested to notify Brigade Inspector Firth of the same.'

"On motion adjourned."

COMPANY "A," 1ST REGT. PENNA. ARTILLERY.

A meeting, called by Chapman Biddle, was held in his office, April 19, 1861, at which a company of artillery was organized, and afterwards designated as Company "A," 1st Regt. Penna. Artillery.

On May 29, 1861, at an election, held at the armory of the company, the following officers were duly elected:—

Captain, Chapman Biddle; Lieutenant, Henry D. Landis; Lieutenant, Alexander Biddle; Lieutenant, Samuel Wilcox; and commissions, bearing that date, were issued to each of the above officers by Governor Curtin.

On July 16, 1861, the company, by order of Captain Biddle, went into camp at Chadd's Ford, Delaware county, for purposes of instruction,

where they remained some ten days, all the above-named officers being present.

In August, 1862, on the organization of the 121st Regt. of Penna. Vols., Captain Chapman Biddle and Lieutenant Alexander Biddle resigned their respective positions as officers of Company "A," when an election was held at the armory to fill the vacancies occasioned by said resignations, and the following officers were elected :—

Captain, Henry D. Landis; First Lieutenant, Samuel C. Perkins; Second Lieutenant, Samuel Wilcox.

In September, 1862, the Governor issued a call for volunteers to aid in preventing the then threatened invasion of Pennsylvania by the rebels. This call was almost unanimously responded to by the members of Company "A," who proceeded to Harrisburg on the 14th of that month, where they were mustered into service, under the following officers, viz. :—

Captain, Henry D. Landis; First Lieutenant, Samuel C. Perkins; Second Lieutenant, Samuel Wilcox; when new commissions, bearing that date, were issued to each of the above officers.

The company proceeded, on the 17th of September, by rail to Chambersburg, Pa., when they went into camp some three miles outside of the town, and, in company with some three or four thousand other volunteers, went through a severe course of drill and discipline for two weeks, when they were ordered back to Philadelphia.

In June, 1863, a second call was issued by the Governor for volunteers to assist in the defence of Pennsylvania against rebel invasion, which was responded to by a large number of members of the old company, the balance being made up by new men.

On June 29, 1863 (Sunday), the news published in the morning papers that the rebels were marching on Gettysburg, where doubtless a great battle would be fought, and, if successful, they would proceed to Philadelphia, caused the greatest excitement in the city.

After a hurried consultation with some of the old members of Company "A," who were not able to go out with it on this campaign, it was concluded that a company should be at once raised, and placed under the command of the United States general officer then stationed at Philadelphia.

By that night fifty men had signed the roll, and, in response to notice given in the papers on Monday, forty more joined the company.

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The armory was kept open day and night for a week, and drills were going on several times each day during that period.

On July 28th, the company of Minute Men paraded as an escort to Company "A," who on that day returned home.

The officers of this company were, viz.:—

Captain, Samuel Wilcox; First Lieutenant, Charles Vezin; Second Lieutenant, Clement B. Penrose.

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