FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

1861 NOVEMBER 23D 1911

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y.

Officers

JEREMIAH KECK, PRESIDENT
CHARLES E. STEVENS, VICE PRESIDENT
EDWARD M. BAILEY, CHAPLIN
CHARLES D. THURBER, TREASURER
EDWARD H. FULLER, SECRETARY

John W. Belding, age 26 years. Enlisted at Saratoga Springs August 15, 1862. Mustered in as Second Lieutenant Company I August 18, 1862, as First Lieutenant February 25, 1863. Wounded in action October 19, 1864, at Cedar Creek, Va., dying thereof eight days later.

Martin Lennon, age 22 years. Enrolled at Keeseville October 1, 1861, in Company I as First Sergeant. Mustered in as Second Lieutenant November 23, 1861, as Captain August 18, 1862. Wounded in action October 19, 1864, at Cedar Creek, Va., dying thereof November 1, 1864.

Luther M. Wheeler, age 21 years. Enrolled September 24, 1861. Mustered in as First Lieutenant Company C November 23, 1861, as Captain April 2, 1862, vice B. F. Judson resigned. Wounded in action about 11 A. M. in the charge at Mayres Heights near Fredericksburg, Va., May 3, 1863, of which he died about four hours after.

Orrin P. Rugg, age 23 years. Enrolled at Saratoga Springs September 26, 1861. Mustered in as First Sergeant Company G November 23, 1861, as Second Lieutenant April 15, 1862, as Captain October 5, 1862. Killed in action May 12, 1864, at Spotsylvania, Va.

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL REUNION

OF THE

SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

OF THE

SEVENTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT

NEW YORK STATE INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS OF 1861-65 HELD AT SARATOGA SPRINGS, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1911

BY EDWARD H. FULLER, SECRETARY

CAPT. LUTHER M. WHEELER.

In the meeting room of Luther M. Wheeler Post at G. A. R. Hall which was attractive with its decorations of the stars and stripes, the Seventy-seventh Regiment Survivors Association met this morning in their thirty-ninth annual reunion. President B. F. Judson called the meeting to order shortly after ten o'clock, and after a prayer by the chaplain. Comrade Edward M. Bailey, welcomed the survivors. Said he:

Comrades, as president of your association, I welcome you here in this snug retreat of Post Luther M. Wheeler, the use of which the members have generously tendered.

In yonder cemetery beneath the sighing pines, rests the remains of that gallant young officer who gave up his life that his country might live. This post bears his honored name.

Inscribed on the tombstone of Capt. Wheeler's grave is the following appropriate epitaph by Colonel James B. McKean, your first commander:

"Ah! many graves are filled with men,
Who lived three score years and ten.
Still were their deeds so few and small,
In fact they never lived at all.
But Wheeler sprang to take the blows
Aimed at his country by her foes;
He fought and fell for truth.
Oh! let the thought our grief assauge,
In noble deeds he lived an age,
Then nobly died in youth."

Two years ago it was my pleasure and privilege to meet with you at the reunion at the county seat, Ballston, Spa. Your brave and distinguished commander, President Winsor B. French, now numbered with the majority, was present. Comrades, by rising, you will most solemnly pay respect to the memory of that gallant officer. He is with the many brave comrades who have passed on and into heavenly rest, while I remain to welcome you.

Yours is a glorious record. On many a sanguinary battlefield you have fought that your country might live. While it was not my destiny to be with you from "start to finish"—a familiar Saratoga phrase—I have a just pride on account of my action in assisting and gathering together the Bemis Heights Battalion, that gallant fighting regiment, the 77th New York Volunteers, and being with you until it was otherwise ordered.

That regiment was a component part of the famous 6th corps, which had the proud distinction of helping to save the National capital from capture by Gen. Early and his confederate soldiers, and of being with Grant at the surrender of Lee April 9, 1865.

"You have fought the good fight," you are the conquering heroes returning here after a half-century's period to be honored by another generation, another people, largely the sons and daughters of those who saw you march away. They were taught to treasure up in memory your deeds of valor on many a battlefield and to solemnly reverence the many who gave up their lives for the preservation of the Union, today the grandest republican form of government for a people in the galaxy of nations.

Thanksgiving day now being close at hand on the calendar and being the fiftieth anniversary of the day when you marched away to battle for your country's salvation, our senator, the Hon. E. T. Brackett, who is a sportsman of fame, remarked that while "turkeys were roosting high," and it being a national bird, on occasions of this kind he thought that a few "Adirondack reserves" could be brought down for the 77th veterans' dinner.

That the senator is a good marksman, I think you will all "gobble" after dinner. For he has most generously and in a patriotic spirit prepared for you a dinner, a menu of which from top to bottom smacks of the most toothsome and palatable ingredients. In fact, the dinner, reception and exercises this afternoon in Convention Hall in honor of the Saratoga regiment's survivors, is purely a citizens' affair.

Comrades will assemble here at 11.30 today to form in line and march to the Worden hotel where dinner will be served at 12 m.

EDWARD H. FULLER, August 1, 1862

Edward H. Fuller, age 19 years. Enlisted in F Company 30th regiment N. Y. Infantry Vols. April 14, 1861, on receipt of the news in Saratoga Springs that "the rebels have fired on Fort Sumter." At the earnest request of friends, and the strong opposition of relatives who had the power to enforce did not go. Again enlisted, with Major French, August 30, 1862, and September 18, 1862, was mustered in as private C company. In the Fredericksburg, Va., battle of Dec. 13-14, 1862, and the campaign of January 20, 1863, which Jupiter Pluvious vetoed.

In the charge at Mayres Heights near Fredericksburg, Va., May 3, 1863, was left on the field as dead, from the ball in the head from a Johnny Reb's rifle. The ball was taken out by Assistant Surgeon De Long, who gave it to Fuller, who has it. It is five-eights of an inch in diameter; weighs about half an ounce avoirdupois weight.

The result of the wound destroyed the hearing in right ear, rendering him unfit for further field duty. He was subsequently detailed for clerical duty in the War Department. And was mustered out on Individual muster-out roll in Assistant Adjutant General U. S. A. Breck's office, in War Department building August 1, 1865.

It was while Fuller was a patient at Mount Pleasant Hospital D. C. that the battle of Fort Stevens was fought, at which Fuller was in the convalescent squad.

The Secretary will now call the roll of the survivors.

Secretary Fuller said: "I will call the name and post office address and each comrade, if present, will please rise and answer. The following named answered here: Nathan Brown, Erskine B. Branch, Hector E. Bentley, Edgar O. Burt, Henry H. Barker, James C. Brisbin. George H. Brown, Henry Bethman. Edward M. Bailey Chaplain, John E. Brainerd, William Brooks, Augustus Cook, Henry Clunis, John M. Clute, Charles Cutler, Charles Chapman, William G. Caw, Charles E. Chedell, Daniel H. Cole, Lawrence M. Christman, Albert H. Clements, John M. Connors, Charles Davis, James L. De Groff, Edwin B. Deuel, George W. Dingman, Burton A. DeWitt, Emory Doolittle, George H. Ellison John E. Evans, Edward H. Fuller Secretary, William W. Finch, James K.

Galusha, Henry N. Gilbert, Edwin H. Gates, Walter G. Gifford, Garrett S. Grovenstein, C. H. J. Montgomery (Henry J. Hurd), Charles H. Hodges, Charles E. Houghtaling, George W. Hurley, Benjamin H. Hudson, William H. Hare, A. Deloss Hammond, Sylvester S. Haight, Hiram W. Hays, William Ingham, Benjamin F. Judson President, Charles E. Jennings, George E. Lane, Elisha Lohnes, George W. Latta, William T. Lattimore, Jeremiah Keck Vice President, Samuel E. Kidd, Henry H. Merrill, Lyman E. Miller, Wallace Morrison, Warren E. Miller, Michael McGuire, Charles W. Mosher, Jeffrey D. Merrell, Nathan Munn, Charles H. McNaughton, James Nolan, Michael Nolan, Lester A. Pratt, Samuel K. Porter, Horace A. Post, George N. Peacock, Gardner Perry, Albert J. Reid, William A. Rose, Albert Reese, John N. Rose, John D. Riley, Seth B. Root, Carlos W. Rowe, Cornelius Rose, Frank Reed, John R. Rockwell, Charles E. Stevens, Jacob Slater, George H. Scidmore, George D. Storey, George A. Scott, Andrew J. Sprung, Oliver Sutliff, Frank Short, Charles D. Thurber Treasurer, George L. Tucker, William W. Velie, Henry Warner, William W. Worden, William Williams, George L. Wendall, Frank C. Winship, Samuel Weeks, John B. Welch.

The president then appointed Comrades Caw, Bailey and Stevens a committee to present resolutions relative to our Comrades reported as dead. And then asked for the secretary's report.

Secretary's Report.

"When the writer hereof, a boy of six years, came to Saratoga Springs in May, 1847, its population was 2,500. When the Civil war began, April 12, 1861, by Confederate batteries bombarding Fort Sumter, it was 7,496. When that cruel war ended it was 7,307. The 1910 United States census made it 12,693, an increase of seventy-three per cent.

Call for a Saratoga Regiment.

"In response to President Lincoln's call (his second) of May 3, 1861, for three hundred thousand volunteers, former County Judge James B. McKean, representative in Congress from our, at that time, the Fifteenth Congressional district (counties of Essex, Fulton and Saratoga) August 21st issued a circular letter to his constituents to

> "* * 'Organize a Bemis Heights Battalion and vie with each other in serving our country, thus showing we are inspired by the memories of the Revolutionary battlefields upon and near which we are living'."

"In answer to which men in the congressional district began raising companies. Sample call in the 'Saratogian' August 22, 1861:

"VOLUNTEERS!"

> "'Those who are willing to join the "Bemis Heights Battalion" to protect the Union and to compel rebels to acknowledge the good old "Star Spangled Banner" are requested to call or send their names to the undersigned at the Saratogian office. The pay of Volunteers has been increased, and a bounty of $100. is offered, payable at the close of the term of service. Let the sons of Saratoga rally to the service of their Country.
>
> B. F. JUDSON.'

Fair Grounds at Saratoga Springs Rendezvous.

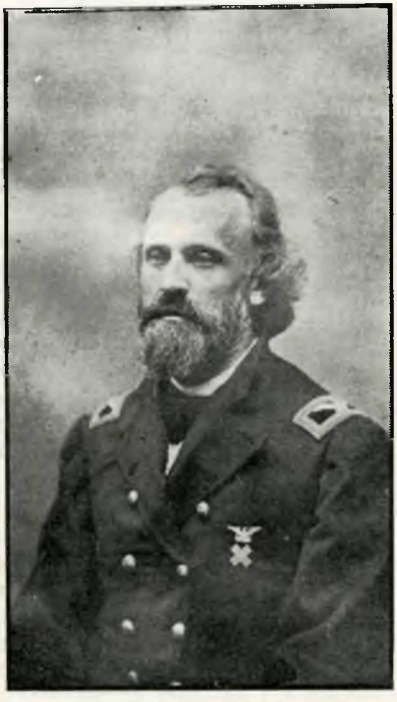
"August 27th Special Order No. 368 from Adjutant General's office, Albany, N. Y., established a branch depot at Saratoga Springs for all companies organizing for the Bemis Heights Battalion to assemble, and the Fair Grounds of the Saratoga County Agricultural society, southeast of the village, down Nelson street, became the rendezvous for such companies; and was named 'Camp Schuyler,' into which by October first marched the Charlton company, which Albert F. Beach, age 31 years, Sept. 8, began to raise; Ballston company, which Clement C. Hill, age 41 years, Sept. 13, began to raise; Westport company, which Reed W. Arnold, age 27 years, Sept. 16, began to raise; Wilton company, which John Carr, age 27 years, Sept. 24, began to raise; Saratoga Springs company, which Benj. F. Judson, age 34 years, Sept. 24, began to raise; Gansevoort company, which Calvin A. Rice, age 25, years, Sept. 26, began to raise· Greenfield company, which Lewis Wood, age 40 years, Sept. 27, began to raise; Gloversville company, which Nathan S. Babcock, age 30 years, Sept. 27, began to raise.

"And by November first into the camp had marched the Stillwater company, which Judson B. Andrews, age 27 years, Oct. 12, began to raise; Keeseville company, which Franklin Norton, age 27 years, Oct. 15, began to raise.

Muster in and Formation of Regiment.

"Saturday, November 23, 1861, the enrolled men at the rendezvous were mustered into the United States military service, when the captain of each company certified

"'On honor that this muster-in roll exhibits the true state of .... company of the Seventy-seventh Regiment, New York (Foot) Volunteers, for the period herein mentioned; that each man answered to his own proper name in person, and that the remarks set opposite each officer and soldier's name are accurate and just.'



COLONEL JAMES B. McKEAN.
(For record see Field and Staff Review).

"Westport Company A, Reed W. Arnold, Captain; Ballston Company B, Clement C. Hill, Captain; Saratoga Springs Company C, Benjamin F. Judson, Captain; Wilton Company D, John Carr, Captain; Greenfield Company E, Lewis Wood, Captain; Stillwater Company F, Judson B. Andrews, Captain; Gansevoort Company G, Calvin A. Rice, Captain; Charlton Com-

pany H, Albert F. Beach, Captain; Keeseville Company I, Franklin Norton, Captain; Gloversville Company K, Nathan S. Babcock, Captain; of whom living are Captain (promoted Major) Babcock and Judson.

"The regiment was then formed, entering the United States service as the Seventy-seventh Regiment, New York State (Foot) Volunteers, James B. McKean, Colonel.

Reason for Number.

"'Though the application to raise a Saratoga regiment was numerically forty-four, because of being in the County in which a decisive battle of the Revolution was fought (causing the defeated foe to surrender to the victorious American Army a few days thereafter) in 1777 it was decided to call the regiment Seventy-seventh, for which sufficient reasons were made to the Governor, Edwin D. Morgan, who caused an order to be issued that it be so numbered.'

Leaving Rendezvous.

"November 28th (Thanksgiving Day) five days after the muster-in, camp was broken early in the morning, soon after which the Saratoga Regiment began a march which ended when it was mustered out June 27, 1865, in the defenses of Washington, D. C., because the war was over; and the slave oligarchy's attempt to divide the Union a failure.

Seminary Scholars Present a Flag.

"Enroute to the railroad station the regiment was halted at the female seminary, now the Skidmore School of Arts, to receive a silk United States flag (baptized near Lee's Mills, Yorktown, Va., April 5, 1862), the offering of the scholars, by whom it was made, presented on their behalf by the Rev. L. F. Beecher, D.D. (proprietor and principal), at which a poem addressed to the Bemis Heights Regiment was read by its author, Mary Carleton Beecher."

of which the following is an excerpt:

"The Stars and the Stripes, wrought by fair hands and true,
The FLAG OF OUR UNION we tender to you;
Let its silken folds wave as you march to the strife,
And part with it never, except with your life.
If the battle grow fierce, and your courage should lag,
Look up to the STARS on your beautiful FLAG;
That bright constellation set in HEAVEN'S own blue,
One unbroken cluster is entrusted to you.
"We bid you, GOD SPEED! with a hearty good cheer;
Let the name that you bear call to mem'ry the year
When your forefathers gloriously fought for the right,
And let your escutchen with valor grow bright.
Farewell! for the present, but, when you return
All covered with glory, our true hearts will burn
And a shout for the brave SEVENTY-SEVENTH shall rise
And loud cheers for OUR FLAG shall ascend to the skies."

As planned by the Secretary:

The scholars' FLAG gift of 1861 (on which had been needleworked YORKTOWN, LEE'S MILLS, WARWICK RIVER, WILLIAMSBURG, MECHANICSVILLE, GOLDEN FARM, MALVERN HILL, SOUTH MOUNTAIN, ANTIETAM, WHITE OAK SWAMP, FREDERICKSBURG, CHANCELLORSVILLE, GETTYSBURG

RAPPAHANNOCK STATION, the names of a few of the flights in which the regiment participated) was then again swung, by Comrade William T. Lattimore, a former color guard of the regiment, upon which "The Star Spangled Banner" was sung by Mrs. Gertrude Long (wife of Charles B) Andrus, a soldier's daughter, accompanied by Miss M. Priscilla Rolls on piano, and Mr. Frederick W. Flammer on violin; all joining in the chorus:

"And the Star Spangled Banner
In triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free,
and the home of the brave."

Secretary Fuller lead in giving three hearty cheers for our musicians.

The following named, excepting the last two, living in Saratoga county now, were scholars at the Seminary at that time: Alice Cole, now Mrs. William J. Forten; Mary E. Fuller; Maria Huling, now Mrs. George Oberne; Anna Ray, now Mrs. Sylvester E. Strong; Louisa M. Stover, now Mrs. Heman L. Waterbury; Mary K. Williams, now Mrs. Humeston; Mary C. Young, now Mrs. Holden; Lottie Newton, now Mrs. George W. Bush; Mary M. Walker, now Mrs. Albert Beals, of Santa Ana, California; Louisa A. Barrett, now Mrs. E. H. Potter, of Bayonne, N. J.

March was then resumed for the Rensselaer and Saratoga R. R. Station, on Division street, as now, where cars were taken, and amidst the affecting scenes of good byes, from relatives and friends the train started for Albany. Thence the regiment transferred to the steamboat Knickerbocker for New York City, where it arrived the next morning. Disembarking, the regiment marched to the City Hall Park, where it breakfasted, after which, it was armed with Enfield rifles, Captain Judson assisting in giving them out, and where resident Saratogians served it a good dinner and presented it with a beautiful silk regimental State flag (now in the archives of the State capitol at Albany) and guidons. Thence marched to ferry house at foot of Cortland street, whence by boat crossed the Hudson river to Jersey City, N. J., where cars were taken for the national capital

Arrival in Washington

where arrived at the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. station at 4 o'clock the next, Sunday, morning, December 1st. After a breakfast and dinner at "Soldiers Rest," the regiment marched to Meridian Hill, D. C., where it arrived about supper time. After supper tents were put up, in which the men entered and that night the Bemis Heights, Saratoga, Seventy-Seventh regiment was under canvass for the first time. The camp was named Hillhouse (after the then State adjutant general), where until the middle of February, 1862, the officers studied the army tactics, i. e. infantry drill regulations, in which the enlisted men were drilled to learn the use of arms and duties of soldiers.

Leaving Washington for Action—Formation of Third Brigade.

Monday, February 17, 1862, the regiment left this camp, marching thence through Georgetown, D. C., to and over the Chain bridge into Virginia, where at Camp Griffin, with the 33d and 49th New York and the 7th Maine Infantry regiments they formed a brigade, the Third, Brigadier General John W. Davidson, commander, of General William F. Smith's division. After about forty

days (learning field evolutions) while searching for the enemy, some commissioned officers, seemingly beset with the idea that an engagement with the enemy might be too strenuous, resigned. Thereafter the regiment by promotions became better officered.

Sixth Corps Formed.

When May 14-18, the Sixth Corps was formed "Baldy" Smith's, our, division became its Second Division. Thereafter the 77th regiment was one of the regiments of the Third Brigade, Second Division, Sixth Corps, Army of the Potomac.

Corps Badge, Color of Division Badge

Shortly after Major General "Joe" Hooker—the successful fighter of the Fifth Corps, assumed command of the Army of the Potomac, to which assigned in January, 1863, he issued an order for each corps to adopt a badge, and each of its divisions, in which there were three, a color, as a distinguishing mark and readily recognizable: First division Red, second division White, third division Blue. The badge of the Sixth Corps was the Greek cross. The 77th regiment being in the third brigade, second division, our corps badge was white. Our badge was "77 New York —3" worn on cap or hat, which indicated that the wearer was a member of the 77th New York 3rd brigade, 2nd division, 6th corps, for which no Seventy-seventher has regretted.

Not in Fox's Class.

Though the Seventy-seventh did not lose enough men killed in action to be included in Fox's three hundred, not one regiment of which was exposed to the fire of the Johnnies more than was the 77th, our report of the Seventy-seventh's losses recalls to mind the sneering query of a commissioned officer to a private soldier, whom he saw on his knees, praying, as the fight progressed. "What! are you afraid?" Quick was the response, "No sir, I'm not afraid. I am praying that the enemies' bullets may be distributed the same as is prize money on warships—principally among the officers." And according to Fox's regimental losses it must have been so in our Third Brigade, the five regiments of which (7th Maine, 43d, 49th, 77th New York and 61st Pennsylvania) lost seventy-two officers killed in action.

Regimental and Survivors Roll.

Of the names on the roll of the regiment fifty years ago this day, today on our survivors' roll we have of them one hundred and fifty-seven. Whether that number should be increased or diminished, we know not as only sixty-four replies to the notices of this reunion mailed them have been received.

Notice of Reunion and Replies.

The report of our last and notice of this reunion was mailed to every comrade (two hundred and fifty-three, thirteen having been returned from unknown at Westport reunion last year) whose name and address we have. One hundred and eight replies received from, or of, Dudley Avery, Robert Aucock, Charles Blanchard, Dennis S. Barringer, Charles H. Benedict, Erskine B. Branch, Clarence Bruso, Hector E. Bentley, Edgar O. Burt, Frank Benoit, Henry H. Barker, Nathan S. Babcock, Edward M. Bailey, James Burns, Lorin Brown, John E. Brainerd, William Brooks, John M. Clute, Charles Chapman, William G. Caw, Daniel H.

Cole, Lawrence M. Christman, Albert H. Clements, John M. Connors, Sanford E. Campbell, William Cooney, Dr. William A. DeLong, Charles Davis, James L. DeGroff, Thomas De Laney, Burton A. DeWitt, John H. Davenport, Edward Evans, Willard Edmonds, John E. Evans, James K. Galusha, Edwin H. Gates, C. H. J. Montgomery, William C. Howe, James W. Harbinson, Edwin Ham, Charles E. Houghtaling, Alonzo Hammond, Benjamin H. Hudson, William H. Hare, Warren C. Hall, A. DeLoss Hammond, Hiram W. Hays, William Ireland, William Ingham, Julius Jerome, Benjamin F. Judson, Franklin H. Juckett, Charles E. Jennings, Jeremiah Keck, Thomas F. King, Samuel E. Kidd, James A. Lawrence, Abram Lente, Edwin A. Lockwood, Elisha Lohnes, Edwin L. Lockwood, William T. Lattimore, Henry H. Merrill, Sanford P. McKenzie, Wallace Morrison, James M. Moore, Andrew Miller, Edward P. Marshall, Lafayette Myers, Jeffrey D. Merrell, John H. Mosher, Peter Morris, Newton S. Noyes, George F. Percival, George N. Peacock, Seth W. Potter, William H. Quivey, Henry Royce, William A. Rose, Charles E. Richardson, John N. Rose, Carlos W. Rowe, Patrick Riley, George M. Ross, Dr. George T. Stevens, Oscar Shannon, James G. Scott, Charles E. Stevens, Albert Snyder, William H. Smith, Jerome Snow, Daniel C. Simonds, Frank Short, Andrew G. Sprung, Martin F. Tripp, Charles D. Thurber, Andrew G. VanWie, Lewis VanDerwerker, Alexander P. Waldron, George L. Wendall, James E. Weston, Patrick Winn, William H. Wright, Samuel B. Weeks, John B. Welch, William H. Wildey, Henry Warner.

The gist of the replies: "Will be with you if I hold together until that time." "Will be there to answer HERE to name as I did fifty years ago." "For more than a year have looked to November 23d, 1911." "If living and able to crawl only, will be with the 'boys' November 23d." "The reading of the reunion notice recalls the departure of the regiment for Washington. The parting scenes with mother, father, sister and sons have always remained vividly in my mind." "Have lived four years on borrowed time. If loan not called in will be present November 23d next." "Expect to be HERE. Hope there will not be four inches of snow as when we left camp November 28th, 1861."

CARLOS W. ROWE, age 26 years.

Enrolled October 1, 1861, at Keese-

ville. Mustered in as corporal Company I November 23, 1861; as sergeant June 1, 1862; as Second Lieutenant February 25, 1863. Captured in action May 10, 1864, at Spotsylvania; escaped, and returned to regiment by the aid of a pocket compass he carried—before the month was out. Mustered out December 13, 1864, at Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

Dear Ed:—

Ain't it too bad. Ever since you let me know the vets of the 77th were to have their semicentennial I have looked forward to meet the boys; even bought a new uniform to shine in; but at the last moment fate is against me.

I can't show my new uniform. I am like a woman with a new hat, who is terribly disappointed when the women in the audience are requested to remove their hats. Owing to changes in the Fire Department of which I am one of the Medical Officers, I can not leave without creating some confusion.

But I will tell you that on the 23d I will talk to Col. French, Captain Caw, and Brother Will, Billy Worden, Sid Cromack, Lieut. Rowland, Chaplain Fox, Capt. Horton, Frank Thomas, Geo. Ross, Jim Barnes, Geo. Gillis, Capt. Clapp, Capt. Lennon, Capt. Smith, Billy McCall, Capt. Deyoe, Pop Stevens, Lieut. Tabor, Gil Thomas, Lieut. Lyon, yourself, all of whom I have their pictures before me. I often take them one by one, and talk to them. I don't know whether they hear me or not, as they make no response, but it is a great satisfaction to know that I was with such fellows.

I am now in my 72nd year without a pain or an ache. My children and grandchildren often beg me to tell them war stories, and like a good, old soldier I tell them stories in reality; be assured that as they know no different I tell them how I saved the Battle of Gettysburgh, by getting behind a big boulder, because had I been wounded or killed the battle would have been lost. No question about that: it is irrefragable.

It is perfectly lovely to have an audience of children, and grandchildren, who listen to the tales of an old man and believe all he says.

Some years ago, Col. French asked me to relate some of the incidents of the war of which I had personal knowledge. I replied: Dear Col. I have a reputation for truth. Should I relate some of the tales that I have given out for truth, and have told so often that I half believe them myself, they would condemn me as a first class sanguinary perverter of the truth. Well nonsense aside.

I should dearly love to meet you again. While I was with you I made friendships that last as long as life itself. Little this generation knows what we went through, and my fervent wish is that succeeding generations will never have to repeat the history of the Civil War. But look at the results, Slavery abolished. In this glorious country a man is a man, be he white or black, and must be acknowledged, be he laborer, professional, or a scientist.

Oh, say Ed, I had better stop I guess. I am getting beyond my depth.

Give my love to all the kids and say that Brooklyn, N. Y., at 170 Bainbridge Street, the latch string is on the outside and I will give any seventy-seventher something besides raw pork and hardtack.

Lovingly,

WILLIAM A. DeLONG.

ASSISTANT SURGEON
WILLIAM A. DE LONG
(For record see Field and Staff Review.)

Cowan Replies.

Colonel Andrew Cowan, who we remember as captain of the First New York Independent Battery, which was mustered in to the United States service at Auburn, N. Y., the same day as was the 77th, serving near it in the Second division, in part writes: "I wonder will any one be present who recalls where the Seventy-seventh was May 8th, 1864, the day before Gen. Sedgwick was killed? My battery was some fifty yards back of you, on the higher ground, where several batteries were in position extending to our right so far as the place where Gen. Sedgwick was shot in a section of McCartney's Massachusetts battery. Your regimental United States flag was planted on top of the breastworks you lay behind. I was asked to put a shot through it, for you had carried it without its getting hit by a shell. We were firing at a Reb battery, which was in position, behind a heavy piece of woods beyond the ravine below and in your front. We could locate the battery only by the smoke, as it rose above the tree tops. Do any of you remember the place? It was from the position I have described that your regiment advanced in the Upton charge, which carried the rebel entrenchments; which later you had to yield, because the supporting troops at your left, of another command, failed you. My fraternal greetings to the Seventy-seventh Boys, with the hope of their having a grand reception, as they deserve."

(Some of the "boys" present remember. Sec.)

WILLIAM J. TABOR, age 24 years.

Enrolled at Saratoga Springs October 15, 1861. Mustered in as corporal Company H, November 23, 1861; sergeant May 1, 1862; as First Lieutenant Company K, June 18, 1863.

Wounded in action May 10, 1864, at Spottsylvania, Va.; killed in action October 19, 1864, at Cedar Creek, Va.

Unassigned to Company Members.

The following forty-nine names are recruits, assigned to, but not having reached, the regiment were, unassigned to a company:

Daniel R. Ambler, age 19 years, enrolled September 30, 1862.

Daniel V. Andrews, age 21 years, enrolled August 14, 1862.

John R. Armstrong, age 22 years, enrolled September 26, 1862.

Merrill L. Barnes, age 29 years, enrolled August 2, 1864.

Harry Barrass, age 16 years, enrolled January 1, 1865.

James Batte, age 40 years, enrolled August 30, 1862.

George Blount, age 24 years, enrolled October 11, 1862.

John D. Bristol, age 35 years, enrolled August 30, 1862.

Harvey Burns, age 16 years, enrolled January 16, 1865.

Joseph Cahco, age 21 years, enrolled September 29, 1862.

James Campbell, age 32 years, enrolled July 23, 1864.

Anthony W. Carragan, age 37 years, enrolled April 13, 1865.

William Casey, age 23 years, enrolled April 3, 1865.

Louis Clark, age 20 years, enrolled October 3, 1864.

Macy Delano, age 43 years, enrolled August 30, 1862.

Henry Dugan, age 22 years, enrolled July 25, 1864.

Joseph Dupre, age 41 years, enrolled January 6, 1865.

John Falrey, age 28 years, enrolled August 18, 1862.

George H. Fox, age 18 years, enrolled September 15, 1864.

John H. Green, age 26 years, enrolled October 4, 1862.

Warren M. Haight, age 26 years, enrolled September 17, 1862.

William Hendricks, age 32 years, enrolled July 23, 1864.

Heinrich Hart, age 40 years, enrolled July 28, 1864.

Reuben Irish, age 43 years, enrolled October 11, 1862.

Norman Jacobs, age 22 years, enrolled August 31, 1862.

Henry Kirchen, age 44 years, enrolled September15, 1864.

Patrick Laidy, age 25 years, enrolled October 9, 1862.

Patrick Martin, age 20 years, enrolled February 6, 1865.

John McClue, age 45 years, enrolled September 18, 1862.

Amos McOmber, age 43 years, enrolled September 9, 1862.

James Miller, age 20 years, enrolled July 26, 1864.

John Morris, age 32 years, enrolled August 30, 1862.

John Phelan, age 30 years, enrolled October 8, 1862.

Patrick Reagan, age 43 years, enrolled August 30, 1862.

George W. Root, age 26 years, enrolled August 6, 1862.

William W. Slocum, age 22 years, enrolled September 27, 1862.

Alvin Smith, age 30 years, enrolled August 30, 1862.

James Smith, age 24 years, enrolled August 31, 1862.

George I. Snyder, age 29 years, enrolled August 18, 1862.

George Stowe, age 28 years, enrolled April 3, 1865.

Michael Sullivan, age 22 years, enrolled July 26, 1864.

John Tracey, age 21 years, enrolled September 27, 1862.

Perry Tripp, age 36 years, enrolled October 11, 1862.

John M. Tunnison, age 35 years, enrolled October 6, 1862.

Winant Van Antwerp, age 36 years, enrolled September 22, 1862.

John Watters, age 37 years, enrolled August 26, 1864.

Joseph Wells, age 19 years, enrolled March 21, 1865.

All of whom are unknown. And Hiram Hays, age 25 years, enrolled August 31, 1862; at U. S. Hospital, Albany, N. Y., until May 18, 1865, when discharged, is present. And Jerome Purdy, a sergeant of Company F 30th regiment Infantry New York Volunteers, sent to the 77th to make good time lost by desertion from the thirtieth. Is dead.

President Judson Writes the President.

"William H. Taft,

"President of the United States, Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, Washington, D. C.

"The 77th Regiment Veterans' Association is celebrating in this village Thursday,. November 23d, the fiftieth anniversary of the muster of the Regiment into the service to battle for the preservation of the Union It was in fifty-three battles, was in the famous Sixth Corps and marched to the defense of Washington when threatened by Early, and was with Grant at surrender of Lee. Cordial greetings.

"B. F. JUDSON,
"President of Association."

Reply.

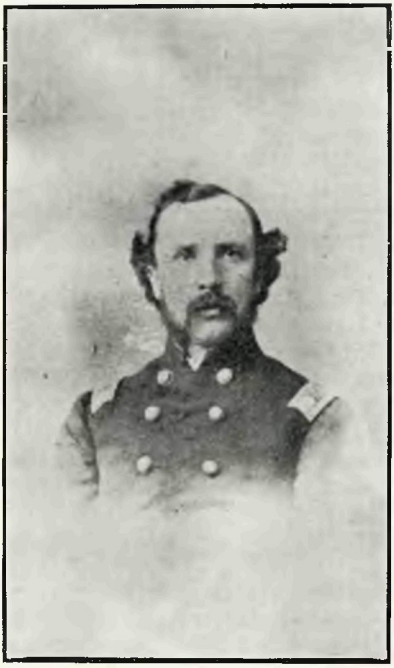
"The White House,
"Washington, D. C.

"My dear Sir:

"The President has asked me to acknowledge the receipt of your kind telegram of November 23, conveying the cordial greetings of the Seventy-seventh Regiment Veterans' Association, which is in session at Saratoga Springs, in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the mustering in of the regiment. He would be glad to have you extend to the veterans an expression of his best wishes for a most enjoyable reunion.

"Sincerely yours,
"CHARLES D. HILLES,
"Sec. to the President.

"To Mr. B. F. Judson,
"President 77th Regiment Veterans' Association,
"Saratoga Springs, N. Y."



COLONEL WINSOR B. FRENCH
Brevet Brigadier General.

Review of Field and Staff.

November 28, 1861, when the regiment bid adieu to their rendezvous, Camp Schuyler, the roster of the Field and Staff was:

James B. McKean (then representative in Congress from this, the Fifteenth Congressional district, counties of Essex, Fulton and Saratoga) Colonel; because of disability July 27, 1863, resigned; subsequently appointed Chief Justice of Utah, where he died. He was the first commander, Department of New York, G. A. R. **Joseph C. Henderson,** Lieutenant Colonel, June 27, 1862, resigned, dead. **Selden Hetzel,** Major, May 15, 1862 resigned, dead. **Winsor B. French,** Adjutant, promoted from First Lieutenant of Company D, Major June 1, 1862; Lieutenant Colonel July 18, 1862; Colonel with rank from July 27, 1863; because of expiration of term of enlistment December 13, 1864 discharged, dead.

Seymour Birch, Sergeant Major promoted from G Company in which he was enrolled September 26, 1861; returned to company ranks, February 17, 1862; discharged February 8, 1863; lives at Spokane, Washington.

Lucious E. Shurliff (mustered in as 2nd Lieutenant G Company, promoted) 1st Lieutenant and Quartermaster November 23, 1861; June 21, 1862 discharged; dead.

Edward S. Armstrong (Corporal B Company, promoted) Quartermaster Sergeant Nov. 23, 1861; mustered in as 1st Lieutenant G Company April 3, 1862; January 5, 1863 discharged; dead.

Wendall Lansing (private I Company, promoted) Commissary Sergeant Nov. 23, 1861; for disability June 16, 1862, discharged; dead.

John L. Perry, Surgeon; Jan. 30, 1862 resigned, dead.

George T. Stevens, aged 29 years. Enrolled October 8, 1861, at Saratoga Springs. Mustered in as assistant surgeon November 23, 1861. As surgeon February 16, 1863. Mustered out at Saratoga Springs December 13, 1864. Lives at 350 W. 88th street, New York City, N. Y.

John W. Fay (private D Company promoted) Hospital Steward Nov. 23, 1861; mustered in as assistant surgeon Oct. 21, 1862; Dec. 20, 1862 dismissed; dead.

David Tully, chaplain, July 7, 1862 resigned; dead.

Levi Clapper (fifer B Company promoted) principal musician, November 15, 1862 discharged; dead.

Luther Irish (drummer B Company promoted) principal musician, Nov. 14, 1862 discharged; dead.

SURGEON GEORGE T. STEVENS

CAPTAIN ISAAC D. CLAPP.

Subsequently appointed from Civil Life.

Samuel McKee, Lieutenant Colonel July 19, 1862, declined; dead.

Augustus Campbell, surgeon (vice surgeon Perry) resigned Feb. 9, 1863; dead.

Justin A. Thompson, assistant surgeon Nov. 17, 1862; became surgeon December 21, 1864; June 27, 1865 mustered out; dead.

William A. DeLong, assistant surgeon April 3, 1863 at White Oak Church camp, Va. (vice John W. Fay) mustered out December 30, 1864, now physician and surgeon Brooklyn Fire Department.

Norman Fox, Jr., chaplain (vice Tully) mustered out Dec. 13, 1864; dead.

Henry O. Gilvey, commission (declined) first lieutenant and quartermaster July 18, 1862, unknown.

ADJUTANT GILBERT F. THOMAS.

Transferred and Promoted from Company.

Nathan S. Babcock (captain K Company as) major August 31, 1862; lieutenant colonel Sept. 5, 1863; discharged Dec. 13, 1864; lives in Nebraska.

David J. Caw (first sergeant H Company, 2nd lieutenant Jan. 30, 1862, 1st lieutenant June 1, 1862, captain October 4, 1862) major Jan. 2, 1865, lieutenant colonel to date Dec. 14, 1864; wounded in action Apr. 21, 1865, at Petersburgh, Va.; discharged June 25, 1865; dead.

Isaac D. Clapp corporal C Company) sergeant major May 10, 1862; 1st lieutenant and adjutant Dec. 22, 1862; captain C Company May 4, 1863 (vice Wheeler killed in charge at Mayre's Heights, near Fredericksburgh, Va., May 3, 1863) major May 3, 1865, with rank from Dec. 13, 1864, wounded in action April 2, 1865 at Petersburgh, Va.; discharged June 27, 1865; dead.

Sidney O. Cromack (sergeant B Company as) sergeant major April 1, 1863; 1st lieutenant B Company June 18, 1863; captured in action May 6, 1864, paroled; discharged March 11, 1865; dead.

Charles H. Davis (corporal A Company, 1st sergeant Feb. 28, 1863, 2nd lieutenant C Company Nov. 19, 1864, 1st lieutenant Jan. 2, 1865) adjutant February 18, 1865; captain D Company May 3, 1865; re-enlisted Dec. 26, 1863; wounded in action in the Wilderness, Va., May 6, 1864; June 27, 1865 discharged; unknown.

Thomas S. Fowler (private D Company) quartermaster sergeant April 3, 1862; 2nd lieutenant F Company Dec. 17, 1863, wounded in action at Spotsylvania, Va. May 10, 1864; because of wound August 12, 1864 discharged; lives at Aberdeen, South Dakota, a retired minister.

William H. Fursman (1st lieutenant K Company as) adjutant to date May 4, 1863; Feb. 13, 1864 discharged; dead.

George H. Gillis (sergeant C Company as) sergeant major Feb. 17, 1862; 2nd lieutenant G Company Feb. 25, 1863; wounded in action at Winchester, Va., Sept. 19, 1864; Dec. 13, 1864 discharged; dead.

Jacob Hayward (1st lieutenant I Company as) quartermaster Jan. 22, 1863, with rank from June 21, 1862; discharged Dec. 13, 1864; dead.

Aaron B. Quivey (private C Company as) commissary sergeant June 6, 1863; for disability Feb. 8, 1863, discharged; again enlisted as private C Company Jan. 20, 1864; in action at Spotsylvania, Va., May 21, 1864, killed.

Job S. Safford (sergeant F Company; wounded in charge at Mayre's Heights, near Fredericksburgh, Va., May 3, 1863) promoted sergeant major June 17, 1863; Dec. 13, 1864 discharged; dead.

Gilbert F. Thomas (corporal C Company, promoted sergeant June 1, 1862; 1st sergeant Nov. 30, 1862; 2nd lieutenant Feb. 22, 1863) adjutant Oct. 1, 1864 (vice L. VanDemark); in action near Cedar Creek, Va., October 19, 1864, killed.

Edward H. Thorn (private C Company) commissary sergeant March 10, 1865, discharged; lives at El Paso, Tex.

Charles D. Thurber (enrolled April 23, 1861 in D Company, 30th Regiment N. Y. Infantry Vols. from which discharged for disability July 21, 1861. Again enrolled, aged 18 years, August 28 at Saratoga Springs, N. Y. and mustered in as private Oct. 8, 1862, when joined the regiment assigned to E Company. Nov. 11, 1862 promoted corporal, February 13, 1863 transferred to D Company; in action near Fredericksburgh, Va., May 3, 1863, slightly wounded and taken prisoner and paroled as, four days after, May 7, he was at Camp Parole, Md.; shortly after he rejoined the regiment). Dec. 7, 1863, promoted quartermaster sergeant (Jan. 9, 1865 mustered in as 2nd lieutenant E Company) Feb. 16, 1865 as 1st lieutenant and quartermaster (with rank from December 13, 1864, vice Quartermaster Hayward discharg-

ed) June 27, 1865 discharged; present.

The New York Legislature passed an Act for brevetting officers and men which became a law April 28th, 1865. Under this act the first commission was issued September 13th, 1865, the last January 30th, 1882. Under this act C. D. Thurber was brevetted captain.

Andrew G. Van Wie (Private C Company, promoted Corporal May 17, 1863) principal musician July 1, 1864, June 27, 1865, discharged. Is alive.

Lawrence Van Demark (private C Company, promoted 2nd Lieutenant September 8, 1862, 1st Lieutenant May 17, 1863) Adjutant, February 13, 1864, for disability discharged to date September 30, 1864, dead.

ADJUTANT WILLIAM W. WORDEN

William W. Worden, (Sergeant C Company promoted 2d Lieutenant and Adjutant Oct. 20, 1864; wounded in action in the Wilderness, Va., May 6, 1864, and at Winchester, Sept. 19, 1864, Dec. 13, 1864;- discharged. Is present.

Thomas M. White (enrolled May 7, 1861 in F Company 30th Regiment N. Y. Infantry Vols. from which discharged for disability March 10, 1862, again enrolled, age 22 years, Aug. 31, 1862, at Saratoga Springs, N. Y. and mustered in as private September 18, 1862, when he joined the regiment assigned to C Company) promoted commissary Sergeant Feb. 28, 1863, mustered in as 2d Lieut. F company February 20, 1865. Mustered out June 27, 1865, is dead.

Alexander P. Waldron (private D Company as) hospital steward September 8, 1862; re-enlisted December 25, 1863; June 27, 1865 discharged, is alive.

The Surgeons, Chaplain, Hospital Steward, Musicians, Quartermaster, Commissary and Quartermaster Sergeants are non-combatants i.e. they do not go into the fight. The first four named look after the wounded; the last three named go with the wagon train carrying regimental supplies.

Of the original field and staff only two are alive. Of the six afterwards appointed from civil life four are dead, the whereabouts of one unknown, one alive. Of the nineteen transferred and promoted from Company eleven are dead, the whereabouts of one unknown, seven alive.

So of the thirty-nine members of the Field and Staff from enrollment and formation of the regiment November 23, 1861, to its final muster out June 27, 1865, because of the successful end of the war for the Preser-

vation of the Union, twenty-seven are dead, the whereabouts of two are unknown, ten are alive, viz.: Major Babcock, Sergeant-Major Birch, Surgeons Stevens and DeLong, Quartermaster Sergeant Fowler, Commissary Sergeant Thorn, Quartermaster Thurber, Principal Musician VanWie, Hospital Steward Waldron and Adjutant Worden, of whom Thurber and Worden are present.

Total Enrollment.

There were enrolled to November 28, 1861, when the regiment started for Washington	900
Enrolled thereafter to November 19, 1864, when the one hundred and fourteen men whose term of three years about ended started for Saratoga Springs to be discharged December 13, 1864, leaving 455 men on the roll to continue the organization	553
Enrolled thereafter to final muster out of regiment June 27, 1865	58
Enrolled, but never joined the regiment	49
Total	1560
Of eighteen hundred sixty-one men there re-enlisted	187
Equivalent to enrollment from Sept. 8, 1861 to June 27, 1865 of	1747

Service Loss.

While in service two hundred and ninety-two died: one hundred and eighty-five of sickness, thirty of wounds, seventy-seven killed in action.

Out of two hundred and thirty-one New York State Volunteer Regiments (twenty-nine Cavalry, fifteen Artillery, three Engineer, one hundred and eighty-four Infantry) the loss by capture, wounded and death is reported less in one hundred and sixty-four regiments than in the Seventy-seventh wherein the casualties were (sixty-five captured, two hundred and eighty-eight wounded, two hundred and ninety-two died) six hundred and forty-five.

1862.

During the service the regiment was in the siege of Yorktown, Va., April 5, to May 4, 1862; near Lee's Mills, Va., April 5; Lees Mills, Va., April 16; before Yorktown, Va., April 26; Lees Mills, Va., April 28; Williamsburgh, Va., May 5; Mechanicsville, Va., May 24; Goldings' Farm, Va., June 5; Mechanicsville, Va., June 24; Seven Days Battle Va., June 25 to July 2; Garnett's Farm, Va., June 27; Garnett's and Golding's Farm, Va., June 28; Savage Station, Va., June 29; White Oak Swamp Bridge, Va., June 30; Malvern Hill, Va., July 1; Harrison's Landing, July 3; Crampton Pass, Md., Sept. 14; Antietam, Md., Sept. 17; Fredericksburgh, Va., Dec. 11 to 15.

1863.

Mayre's Height and Salem church, Va., May 3 and 4, 1863; Gettysburgh, Pa., July 1-3; Fairfield, Pa., July 5; Antietam and Marsh Run, Md., July 7; Frinkstown, Md., July 11-13; Williamsport, Md., July 14; Chantily, Va., Oct. 16; Rappahannock Station, Va., Nov. 7; mine run campaign, Va., Nov. 26-Dec. 2; Germantown Ford, Va., Dec. 1.

1864.

Wilderness, Va., May 5-7, 1864; Spotsylvania court house, Va., May 8-21; Piney Branch church, May 8; Landron farm, May 10; The Salient, May 12; North Anna, Va., May 22-26; Totopotomany, Va., May 27-29; Cold Harbor, Va., May 31-June 12, before Petersburgh, Va. June 17, July 9, Dec., Apr. 2, 1865; assault of Petersburgh, Va., June 17-19, 1864; Weldon

Railroad, Va., June 21-23; Washington, D. C., July 12-13; Charleston, W. Va., August 21; Opequon Creek, Va., Sept. 13; Opequon, Va., Sept. 19; Fisher's Hill, Va., Sept. 22; Cedar Creek, Va., Oct. 19, 1864; Petersburg

1865.

works, Va., March 25, 1865, Appomattox campaign, Va., March 28-Apr. 9; fall of Petersburgh, April 2; Sailors' Creek, April 6; Appomatox court house, April 9; the surrender of General Lee and his army of northern Virginia to General Grant and the army of the Potomac."

On concluding a vote of thanks was given the secretary for his interesting report.

Dues.

The payment of dues, to Treasurer Thurber, followed, not obligatory, only voluntary, but NECESSARY to defray expenses of printing report and notices; the which are sent to every member whose post office address the secretary has.

Death Minute.

The committee, Comrades William G. Caw, Edward M. Bailey, Charles E. Stevens, to present a minute relative to the death of comrades, submitted the following, which was adopted: As since our last reunion it is reported that Comrades Dudley, Avery, Charles Blanchard, Henry Bradt, James Burns, William C. Cath, George Davenport, James R. Hindes, James Harrington, William Ireland, William McAdoo, John McCann John H. Mosher, Calvin A. Rice, Albert Snyder, Erastus Sharp, Henry J. Van Wie, William G. Watson, Lewis Wood, George F. Will, William H. Zeinstein, have answered to the final roll call; while expressing our sorrow at the departure of our Comrades, defenders of the Union in her hour of need, we tender our compassion to their bereaved families.

Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Charles D. Thurber's report that after paying for the printing, $25.00, of report of last reunion, envelopes and postage for mailing same; two hundred and fifty post cards (one hundred and fifty return ones) on which was printed the notice of this reunion; for painting the iron fence around the monument, all of which amounted to $40.40, leaving eighty-three cents on hand, was adopted.

Pension Recommendation.

Whereas at the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic held at Rochester, N. Y., in August last, the delegates thereof unanimously recommended to Comrade Sherwood, chairman of the House of Representatives Invalid Pension Committee, that he take the best of the Sulloway Pension Bill (which passed the previous House by a big majority, and which was favorably commended to Congress by twenty-seven state Legislatures) and the best of his pension bill, and make them the one bill and press such bill's passage; we, survivors of the 77th regiment New York Infantry Volunteers of 1861-5, in session at our annual reunion this twenty-third day of November 1911—the half century anniversary of the muster-in and formation of our said regiment—heartily and fervently recommend the same to Comrade Sherwood with the most earnest request that he urge its passage with as little delay as may be practically necessary.

And we also sincerely request our Senators—Messrs. Root and Gorman—to use their best endeavors to have such Sherwood pension bill

pass the U. S. Senate at an early a day as possible, and sent to the President of the United States, who we believe will gladly sign it.

We urge prompt action because the report of the Commissioner of Pensions for the month ending October 31, 1911, shows that the Civil War veteran is departing this earth at the rate of one every fifteen minutes.

The foregoing pension reference offered by the Secretary was emphatically adopted.

Election.

The Secretary stated that at our Westport reunion, last year at the personal urgency of the comrade, he was instrumental in getting him Comrade Judson elected President for this thirty-ninth reunion, at which we would celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the muster-in and formation of our regiment. Because of his ability and success in connection with political campaigns of the past; because of his having been the first captain of the Saratoga Springs company and the senior living captain of the regiment is the reason why he proposed his name; and he was elected. It is now in order to elect a President. Where-on on motion of Comrade Stevens, the Vice President Comrade Jeremiah Keck was elected President. Then Captain Charles E. Stevens was elected Vice President. So Comrades we again have a complement of permanent officers.

Charles E. Stevens, age 23 years. Enrolled September 16, 1861, at Westport. Mustered in as second sergeant A Company, November 23, 1861. As Second Lieutenant March 8, 1862; as First Lieutenant December 26, 1862; as Captain D Company July 26, 1864. Transferred to C Company November 19, 1864. Mustered out with Company June 27, 1865 in Washington, D. C. Is present.

CAPTAIN CHARLES E. STEVENS.

Jeremiah Keck, age 19 years. Enlisted February 24, 1862, at Johnstown; April 21, 1862, mustered in as private Company C. For disability December 26, 1862, discharged at U. S. Hospital, Baltimore, Md. Is present.

Permanent Reunion Place.

Because of Saratoga Springs being the most central point, easiest to get to, the town in which the regiment was organized, and from whence it went to war, Comrad e Daniel H. Cole's motion that Saratoga Springs be the permanent place for our future reunions, was gladly adopted.

PRESIDENT JEREMIAH KECK.

By Wm. G. Caw, Lieutenant, Company D.

COMRADES OF OUR REGIMENT, THE 77th NEW YORK STATE INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS:

Fifty years ago Abram Cramer, myself and another made up our minds that the salvation of the Country depended upon us, so we took French Leave of our homes at Scotia, Schenectady County, N. Y., October 17th, 1861; walked to a station called the Branch, (now Ballston Lake); took the cars and landed in Saratoga Springs; enlisted in Company H for three years, or during the War.

Little did I think then what a stupendous job we had undertaken. After serving two years, on January 2nd, 1863, I re-enlisted because the job I had undertaken was not yet accomplished. Those whose time had expired returned to their homes, the regiment subsequently was made a Battalion of five Companies. Companies H and B were consolidated and called Company D. I was chosen Orderly Sergeant November 19, 1864, Second Lieutenant on the 28th of January, 1865, and transferred to Company B; and on discharge, June 27th, 1865, was handed a first Lieutenant's commission.

This I believe is the Thirty-ninth Reunion and the Anniversary of the day fifty years ago, viz., Nov. 23, 1861, when we were mustered into the service of the United States. It seems like yesterday to me, so good is my recollection of the events connected with the Civil War.

Statistics tell us that there were 2,841,906 men and boys sworn into the defence of the country. Many of our Pension loving friends wonder why so many of the soldiers yet live. Let's see who it was that fought the war to a standstill. 682,117 men were over 21 years of age; 1,159,789 were 21 years and under; 844,881 were 17 and under; 231,051 were 16 years and under; 104,987 were 15 years and under; 1,523 were 14 years and under; 200 were 13 years and under; 278 were 12 years and under. And after fifty years there are some people who think that we have lived the allotted time, and should shuffle off this mortal coil. According to the report of the Commissioner of Pensions for month ending October 31, 1911, 2,717 Civil War pensioners died in October —at the rate of one every fifteen minutes. At which rate at the end of sixteen years no Civil War soldier or sailor will be alive for pension railers to scoff at.

We left Saratoga Springs November 28, 1861, with cheerful hearts,

WILLIAM G. CAW.

Aged 19 years. Enrolled at Scotia October 18, 1861. Mustered in as corporal Company H November 23, 1861; as sergeant June 18, 1863. Re-enlisted January 2, 1864; wounded in action May 18, 1864 at Spotsylvania, Va.; promoted first sergeant Company D November 19, 1864; mustered in as second lieutenant Company B January 28, 1865. Mustered out with company June 27, 1865, in Washington, D. C. Is present.

ABRAM CRAMER.

Aged 18 years. Enrolled at Scotia October 17, 1861. Mustered in November 23, 1861, as private Company H. Wounded in action October 19, 1864, at Cedar Creek, Va. Discharged December 13, 1864 at Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

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young and vigorous bodies—we who returned came back broken in health and infirm in bodies; so we ask in all seriousness that we be not begrudged a few more years in the Country we saved, and under that Flag we never disgraced.

When I look back upon the numerous Battles and Skirmishes (53) we

were engaged in, and the other hardships we had to endure, I can't understand how any one of the men of the Regiment that left Saratoga fifty years ago yet lives to enjoy this half century Reunion.

Now I don't claim that our Regiment was the whole thing, but I do claim at divers times our Uncle Samuel was mighty glad that the Saratoga, the 77th Regiment, New York State Infantry Volunteers, was on hand when and where most needed.

We were brigaded in 1862 with the 33rd and 49th New York and 7th Maine Regiments and became known as the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 6th Corps. Afterwards the 20th N. Y., 43 N. Y., 61st Penn., 21st N. J. and 122nd N. Y. were added to and discharged from the Brigade at divers times and places; but we retained our position in the 3rd Brigade from the organization until the end of the War.

Oh Glorious Old 6th Corps; if there is anything to be proud of after three years in the above I thank God that I belonged to the 77th Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 6th Army Corps.

Now a few things said about the above, at Mechanicsville by Colonel McKean:—"Men of the 77th, now is the chance to cover yourselves with Glory, Charge!" And we did charge and captured Mechanicsville and a small Rebel Flag on which was inscribed "Victory or Death." Loss five.

At Antietam when the Regiment charged over the ground that had been fought over twice towards the Dunkerd Church, General Smith was led to say:—"That Regiment has gone to hell." To his Aide:—"Call them back." We came back, but with the loss of 33 men killed, wounded and captured.

At Fredericksburg, where we captured two cannon, the Colonel of the 18th Mississippi Regiment and their colors, I see Colonel French and General Neill riding up the hill to see who would reach the cannon first; and I see the flash of Colonel French's sword as he tapped the cannon first. A few minutes after the above Comrade Thurber and myself sought the motherly protection of a large stump as the enemy opened fire with the cannon they run off with, one shell killing Corporal Day, Erskine Branch losing a leg, Charles McNaughton an arm, and sadly mutilating our colors, Captain Wheeler killed, Ed. Fuller thought to be shot to death, but I can't particularize further. Our loss was eighty-three.

At Fort Stevens under the eye of President Lincoln when the advance was ordered. The order was: "When the 77th Regiment shakes its new Flag to the breeze, Charge!" And we did charge, and General Early was driven from Washington back into the Shenandoah Valley. Loss twenty. Well, there was nothing in Washington too good for the men that wore the Greek Cross at that time. —Things are different now.

At Cedar Creek in the Shenandoah Valley when the 2nd Division, 6th Corps, were the only troops between General Early and Harpers Ferry, General Sheridan, riding up to Colonel French, said: "Boys! we will sleep in our old camp tonight." And when the advance was ordered Colonel French, who then commanded the Brigade, (General Bidwell having been killed) leaving the command of the Regiment to Major David J. Caw, said to Sheridan: "I can't take the position at a walk." General Sheridan said: "Then run." And we did run; and captured the position. And that was the last

of General Early and his Army in the Shenandoah Valley. Then we went back to our home, the Army of the Potomac. Loss thirty-six.

General Sheridan, when he made his flank movements to Five Forks, wanted the 6th Corps, but we had been chosen for some important work at Fort Welch and it was deemed unwise to make a change.

April 2nd, 1865, Sunday morning, we moved out of our Works and the 6th Corps led by the 77th and 49th Regiments, New York Infantry Volunteers charged, and captured the enemy's works; and I am happy to say that I with about 50 men and the colors of the 77th were the leaders in the assault; first on the works that drove the enemy out of Richmond, which resulted a few days after in the surrender of Gen. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. After capturing the Works we did not stop to capture Petersburg and Richmond, as we were after General Lee's Army. We corralled General Ewell with part of General Lee's Army, their flags, wagon train, etc., at Sailor's Creek. Then on to Appomattox. After the surrender, the 6th Corps started for Danville and General Johnson's Army. We arrived there after a march of four days, took possession and sent a detail down to the Goldsboro River. Boats being procured some of the boys made a visit to the Rebel Encampments where General Johnson was awaiting for terms of surrender. Then back to Richmond, which we entered, (not as a Regiment, but on passes) to see the place we had been up against for nearly four years.

Now for a few references about what we did as a Regiment in connection with the 6th Corps. Captured Mechanicsville May 24th, 1862; led the charge at Mayre's Heights, near Fredericksburg, May 3rd, 1863; led the charge in the 3rd Brigade, 6th Corps, at Fort Stevens which drove General Early back into Virginia; led the charge 2nd Division, 6th Corps at Cedar Creek that drove the enemy out of the Shenandoah Valley. History tells us that this finished the fighting in that part of Virginia. May the 10th, 1864, we were one of 12 picked Regiments that made a reconnoisance at Spotsylvania where we lost 71 men in about one hour. April 2nd, 1865, after three and one-half years of hardships and valorous acts, led the charge with the 49th New York that captured Richmond, General Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. I will leave it to you citizens of Saratoga Springs whether or not you should be proud of the Saratoga Regiment, the 77th New York State Infantry Volunteers, the Bemis Heights Battalion, which so ably represented you in the Civil War.

Now for a few bouquets thrown at the 77th Regiment in connection with the 6th Corps.

By General Howe, Commander of Division at Fredericksburg:

"Noble 77th, you have covered yourselves with Glory."

At Cedar Creek, Shenandoah Valley, when the 2nd Division, 6th Corps was the only organization between the Rebel, General Early, and Harpers Ferry.

By General Early (lamenting the loss of his Army):

"Soldiers of the Army of the Shenandoah Valley, I had hoped to congratulate you upon the splendid victory won by you on the morning of October 19th when you surprised and routed two Corps of Sheridan's Army. But I have the mortification of announcing that when you discovered the 6th Corps in your front, all of

the results of the morning's victory were lost, defeat followed and the Army of the Shenandoah Valley ceased to be a factor in the Civil War."

By President Abraham Lincoln to General Sheridan:

"With great pleasure I tender to you and to your brave Army the thanks of the Nation and my own personal admiration and gratitude for the months operations in the Shenandoah Valley, and especially for the splendid victory of October 19th, 1864."

By General Meade:

"Officers and soldiers of the 6th Corps, I thank you for the numerous proofs of your valor during the recent campaign. I do not wish to make any invidious distinction between your own and the other Corps of this Army, but candor compells me to say that in my opinion the decisive movement in this campaign, which resulted in the capture of the Army of Northern Virginia, was the gallant charge of the 6th Corps on the morning of April 2nd, 1865."

The Cannonier:

"I don't know why it is so, but there was a contagion of Battle, an Epidemic of Victory in the 6th Corps that I never felt in any other: on the defence a rock; in an attack a hurricane, and the presence of that Corps on any field meant that there was to be fighting, and it was never known to be on hand for any other purpose."

By Fox in his History of the 300 Fighting Regiments:

"The history of the 6th Army Corps more than any other is replete with fascination and interest; its record is invested with more of the romance and brilliancy of War. There was the successful assault of Mayre's Heights; the brilliant dash into the Rebel Pits at Rappahannock Station; the deadly hand to hand fighting in the wilderness, the lone fight at Fort Stevens with the victories in the Shenandoah Valley and the crowning success, storming and carrying of the works of Petersburg. Over all of these scenes the Greek cross waved proudly on the Banner of the corps while its Veterans wrought deeds which linked that Badge with unfading Glory and renown."

For their business meeting place, the thanks of the Survivors Association were given to the members of Luther M. Wheeler Post No. 92, for the use of their charming and fine Grand Army Hall.

No more business being presented President Judson said "the members, promptly at 2 o'clock, will form in line of twos, on the walk in front of this Hall, and thence, Color Sergeant Charles E. Jennings carrying the 1861 Scholars Flag gift, march to Broadway to take the position assigned us, for the parade from the Town Hall to Convention Hall, for the reception to the Survivors of the Seventy-Seventh New York." He then declared the business meeting of the Thirty-ninth Annual Reunion of the Survivors Association ended.

THOMAS M. WHITE.

(See Field and Staff)

Is dead.

John B. Darrow, age 22 years. Enlisted August 31, 1862, at Saratoga Springs; mustered in as private C Company September 18, 1862; wounded in action May 3, 1863 in charge at Mayre's Heights, near Fredericksburg, Va., and May 10, 1864, at Spotsylvania, Va. Died of his wounds eleven days later in U. S. Hospital at Fredericksburg, Va.

EDWARD H. FULLER

(For record see page 5.)

Edward H. Thorn, age 18 years. Enlisted August 31, 1862, at Saratoga Springs; mustered in as private Company C September 18, 1862; promoted Commissary Sergeant March 10, 1865. Discharged June 16, 1865, at Washington, D. C. Is living in Elpaso, Texas.

John H. Cozzens, age 18 years. Enlisted August 31, 1862, at Saratoga Springs, N. Y.; mustered in as private C Company September 18, 1862. Discharged at U. S. Hospital Albany N. Y. May 16, 1865. Is dead.

STANDING—Thomas M. White, John B. Darrow, William B. Thorn.

SITTING—Edward H. Fuller, Edward H. Thorn, John H. Cozzens, Obed M. Coleman.

William B. Thorn, age 20 years. Enlisted August 31, 1862, at Saratoga Springs; mustered in as private Company C September 18, 1862. Discharged June 16, 1865, at Washington, D. C. Is dead.

Obed M. Coleman, age 18 years. Enlisted August 30, 1862; mustered in as private Company C September 18, 1862. Promoted Quarter Master Sergeant February 1, 1865. Discharged June 16, 1865, at Washington, D. C., served in Spanish-American War of 1898 as Second Lieutenant Company L Second Regiment N. Y. State of New York. Is dead.

AT DINNER

The business meeting was recessed at 11:30 o'clock until 1:15 p. m. The members formed in line of twos on the walk in front of G. A. R. Hall; Color Guard Wiliam T. Lattimore carrying the Scholars Flag gift leading, with Company I drummer John E. Evans drumming with as much vim as he did fifty years ago, and marched via Lake avenue to Hotel Worden, for the excellent dinner, kindly and generously given the Saratoga Regiment Survivors by Senator Edgar T. Brackett. It was zealously partaken of; notwithstanding no member became to full to give thanks to the thoughtful donor.

Entering the dining room we saw that the tables were arranged in the form of a Greek Cross—our Sixth Corps badge. In the center a square table; on which in its center was a beautiful white floral Greek cross, to represent our division and corps, on which in letters was 77—NEW YORK—3. Around this table were the following named, commencing with President Judson and going around to his right: R. F. Knapp, President of the Business Men's Association; Lieutenant William W. Worden; Captain Charles E. Stevens; Lieutenant Carlos W. Rowe; Vice President Jeremiah Keck; Charles E. Houghtaling; Commander A. deR. McNair, of the Navy; Wallace W. Morrison; William Brooks; Secretary Edward H. Fuller; Village President James D. McNulty; Wheeler Post Commander Patrick McDonald; Lieutenant George W. Storey, Captain John R. Rockwell, Treasurer Charles D. Thurber, Wheeler Post Quarter-Master William H. Hull, Senior Vice Department Commander Daniel H. Cole, Lieutenant William G. Caw, Chairman Committee of Arrangements Charles F. Fish.

Menu.

The dinner was one of Host Kelly's most excellent ones as the following menu attests:

Consomme

Celery Olives Pickles

Roast Vermont Turkey

Cranberry Sauce

Mashed Potatoes, Stewed Tomatoes

Stewed Corn

Pumpkin Pie American Cheese

Assorted Cake Coffee

Following the dinner there was an informal toast list which was interesting. President Judson as toastmaster introduced each speaker in a happy manner.

In referring to Senator Brackett's absence the toastmaster said:

"Comrades, I am sorely disappointed and I'll tell you why. Senator Brackett, who most generously furnished this turkey dinner, is unavoidably absent. If you knew him as well as I do you would be sorry too.

He then read the following letter of regret from Senator Brackett:

"I just have a word that carries me to New York and will undoubtedly keep me the balance of the week. I am just as sorry as I can be to be away on Thursday, but it is one of the cases where I simply cannot help it. You will explain to the old boys just how it is and how sorry I am. It is an important case that is on for trial and in which a number of counsel are engaged, and which I cannot shirk. I hope it will be a great occasion for the veterans and for the village."

President Judson introduced the other speakers as follows:

"Comrades: I now introduce to you the president of the village, Mr. James D. McNulty. He like myself, was a printer's devil in his early days and a graduate of the Saratogian office, not of that faith now. His rise to fame and distinction is worthy of mention. Once a printer's devil, he is now the head devil of Saratoga Springs.

"Comrades: You should know Charles F. Fish, the chairman of the Citizen's Committee, who is responsible for the scenes of this day. He is the Napoleon of our town, with this exception, he never met with a Waterloo.

"Comrades: You will now be introduced to Citizen R. F. Knapp, president of the Business Men's Association, an association which regulates all matters pertaining to other people's business.

"Comrades: I take great pleasure in introducing to you Major Waterbury. At the Armory tonight we wiil all smoke the pipe of peace The entertainment is a brain storm of his. He is a printer, but not a printer's devil.

"Our Vice President Jeremiah Keck, an excellent comrade and a most reputable citizen in his Johnstown home.

"Comrade Patrick McDonald, a superior Commander, the best L. M. Wheeler Post has had for years.

Secretary Fuller then called attention to the presence of the Senior Vice Commander Department of New York G. A. R. whom he took pleasure in introducing, whom all comrades will rise and salute.

Appropriate responses were made by the speakers.

Secretary Fuller calling attention to the beautiful floral Sixth Corps Badge, the card attached to which reads:

"For the Saratoga Regiment—
The Seventh-Seventh New York
—Survivors, in grateful remembranco"

From L. M. W. Women's Relief Corps No. 65,

proposed three cheers for our Fair Friends, who we cannot do without. Could they have been present they would vividly have realized that they were fully appreciated.

Comrades, said Secretary Fuller, as our toothsome dinner is about finished, I have to say that a few days after F.'s fifth article in our local papers relative to some of the doin's of our regiment in the Civil War, a citizen of Saratoga Springs all his life, who saw the going and return of the Seventy-seventh, called on me. He remarked that he did not wish to "'but in,' but he hoped that something would be done, as ought to be,

for such, not only interesting, but historical event."

I said to him that he was not buttin' in. That F.'s articles were written and published in the hope that they would inspire some Saratogian to the opportunity of receiving the survivors of our Saratoga Regiment—The Seventy-seventh New York Infantry Volunteers. A start being made others would follow.

As the result of our friends butt-in' in this poster silently attests to the enthusiasm that will follow its carrying out this afternoon in Convention Hall.

So boys "whoop-'er-up" with three cheers for our big and warm hearted friend Charles F. Fish.

There was no lack in the cheers that followed.

Immediately after dinner the survivors reformed in line in front of the Hotel. Marched to the Post Office building, on the front steps of which they got in position, when Photographer Magovern captured them.

Thereafter returned to G. A. R. Hall and concluded business. In front of Hall at 2 p. m. we reformed in line; headed by former Color Sergeant Charles E. Jennings carrying the Scholars Flag gift,—who proudly said "I carried this flag where bullets and shells were buzzing and shrieking,"—as we marched to the position assigned in front of the Town Hall, for the parade to Convention Hall, and the exercises therein in our honor.

Our Heavenly Father with our regiment in its deadly conflicts with the foe, was with us survivors and all who participated November 23, 1911, giving us fine weather for the street parade, which was watched with interest by the thousands as the Veteran Boys-in-Blue, each one carrying the Flag over his shoulder, passed over the fine macadam road of Broadway to Convention Hall.

KNEELING—LEFT TO RIGHT: John E. Evans (drummer Co. I), Warren E. Miller, Edward H. Fuller Secretary, Wallame Morrison, Charles Davis, Samuel K. Porter.

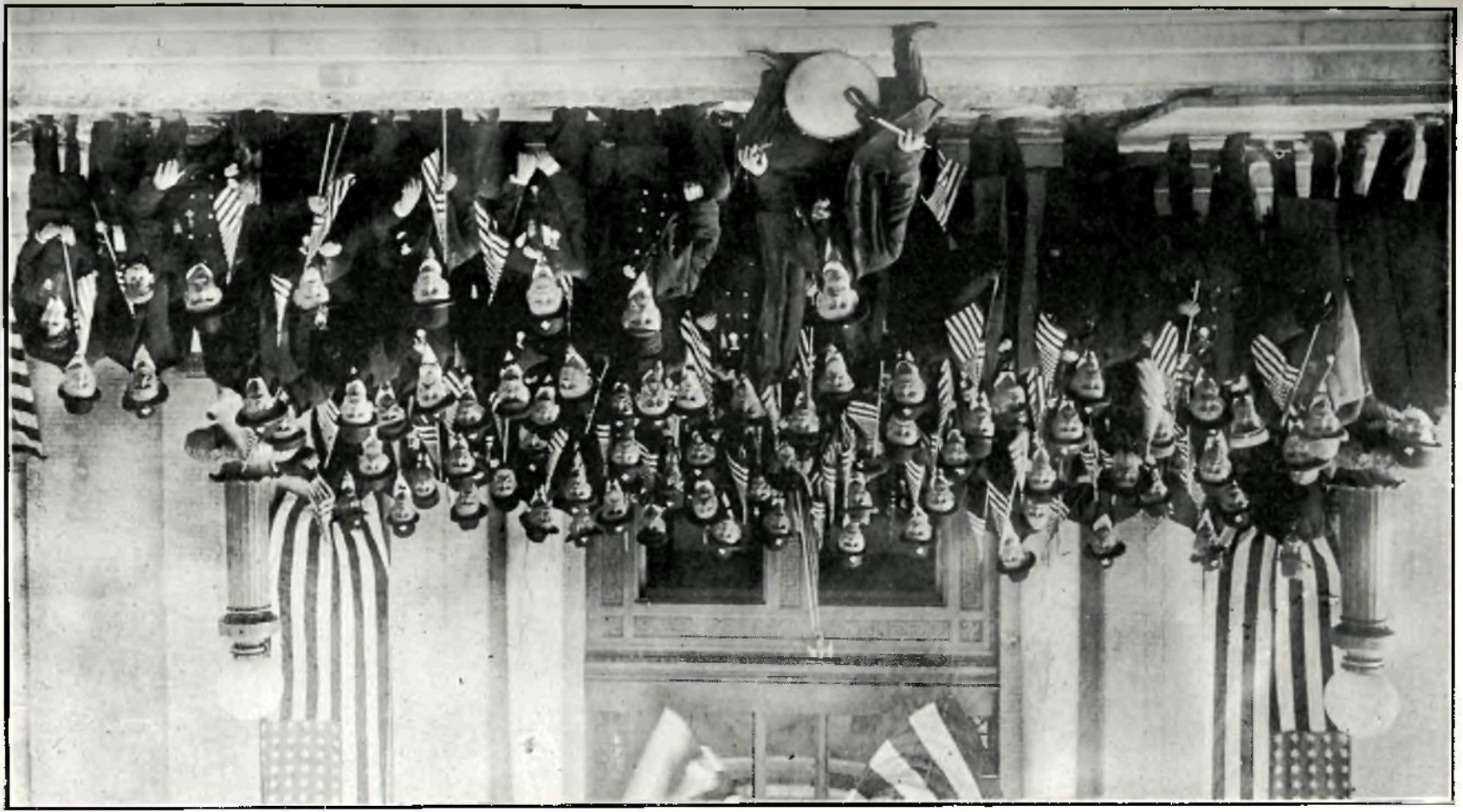
STANDING—FIRST ROW: Lieutenant George D. Storey, Albert J. Reid, Benjamin H. Hudson, ——, William W. Finch, Frank Short, Edgar O. Burt, Captain Benjamin F. Judson President; age 34 years, enrolled September 24, 1861, mustered in to U. S. service November 23, 1861, as Captain Co. C, with regiment left the camp rendezvous November 28, 1861. Regiment encamped on Meridian Hill D. C. until February 14, 1862 when it marched over into Virginia, were at Camp Griffin brigaded. April 1, 1862 his resignation of March 29, 1862 accepted. The regiments first fight with the enemy was April 5, 1862, when our flag was baptised, and Francis Jeffords, first one in regiment of C Company, was wounded. Hiram W. Hays, George N. Peacock, ames L. DeGroff, Charles E. Houghtaling, C. H. J. Montgomery, John E. Brainerd, William W. Velie, Captain Charles E. Stevens, Henry H. Merrill, William Brooks—who we can't do without; Walter G. Gifford, John M. Connors, Michael McGuire, Albert Reese.

SECOND ROW: Andrew Spring, Garrett S. Grovenstein, A. Deloss Hammond, George W. Latta, Albert H. Clements, ——, ——.

THIRD ROW: Lieutenant William G. Caw, Nathan Brown, William Williams, ——, John D. Riley, Elisha Lohnes, Lieutenant Carlos W. Rowe, Charles H. Hodges, Nathan Munn, Samuel E. Kidd, Edward M. Bailey, ——.

FOURTH ROW: George H. Scidmore, Michael Nolan, James K. Galusha, Gardner Perry, ——, Lester A. Pratt, ——, ——, George H. Brown, ——, ——, ——.

TOP ROW: Lieutenant Wilson, W. Worden Postmaster, Charles W. Mosher, Edwin B. Deuel, Color Sergeant Charles E. Jennings, Quartermaster Charles D. Thurber Treasurer, Jeremiah Keck Vice President, Color Guard William T. Lattimore, Captain John R. Rockwell, Senior Vice Department Commander N. Y. G. A. R. David H. Cole (of O. K. Company), James Nolan, George L. Wendall, ——, Augustus Cook, Henry Clunis.



ODE

To the 77th Regiment on Its Return from the War.

By Mrs. Mary C. Beecher

Of which we make the following excerpts:

Ah! well we remember theday when you left us,
With numbers so full, and with spirits so bright;
All panting to win back the rights then bereft us,
And felt, for our country, the burden was light.

We gave you the Flag, and you vowed you would keep it,
From the proud Rebels scorn, and dishonor, and shame;
That no traitor hand in the dust should e'er trail it,
But maintain, all unsullied, its glorious fame.

How faithful and true to that sacred pledge given,
Your deeds on our Country's bright records do tell;
How, in the stern conflict, by shot and shell riven,
You raised that proud banner, Heaven's breezes to swell.

Alas! for the brave boys who went forth to battle,
Who lie 'neath the sod in Virginia's soil;
The death booming-cannon,—war's thundering rattle,
Will wake them no more to the warrior's toil.

So now give three cheers for our heroes returning,
The brave Seventy-seventh, crowned with laurels of war;
All covered with glory, their loyal hearts burning,
Let us shout long and loud a right joyous hurrah.

William W. Finch, aged 15 years. Enlisted at Northampton November 3d, and was mustered in November 23, 1861, as private D company. Promoted Corporal February 12, 1863; Sergeant September 3, 1864. Wounded in the charge at Mayre's Heights, near Fredericksburg, Va., May 3, 1863, and in the Wilderness, Va., May 6, 1864. Mustered out December 13, 1864, at Saratoga Springs because of experation of his term of enlistment of three years. May 3, 1863, he lay on the ground wounded while both armies passed over him; was in the enemies' lines for a while, until the union force drove them back; when he crept into a ravine and under some laurel bushes where he quietly laid until the enemy passed, on either side, without seeing him. He stayed there under fire of the two armies until dark when he crawled back into the Union lines. He was in all the largest battles, in over thirty of the fifty-three, in which the regiment was. He was undoubtedly the youngest to enlist and carry a rifle in the regiment. He is now in good health, a prosperous merchant in Broadalbin, N. Y.

WILLIAM W. FINCH.

EDWIN HAM.

Aged 18 years. Enrolled at Saratoga Springs September 24, 1861; mustered in November 23, 1861, as private Company D. Captured in action June 28, 1862 at Savage Station, Va. Paroled September 28, 1862. Promoted Corporal

April 23, 1863, mustered out December 13, 1864, at Saratoga Springs. Subsequently served in the regular army, from which he was discharged after twenty-four years service. Is living in Washington, D. C.

McKean's Sunday School Boys.

At Rappahannock Station November 7, 1863, General Neil ordered the 49th New York Commander, "Colonel Bidwell, to charge the rebs and drive them into the river. And take the 61st Pennsylvania regiment to support you." Colonel Bidwell rode up to the General, took off his hat and asked "what regiment did you say sir?" Said the General, "Colonel put on your hat. I know what regiment you want. You want McKean's Sunday School boys." Said Colonel Bidwell "that is just what I want. With them we will drive the Johnnies to Richmond— if you say so!"

When the 77th Marches Back Again.

Tomorrow the people of this village will be hosts to the survivors of the Seventy-Seventh Regiment, the remnant of that gallant band that fifty years ago went to the front and participated in so many of the great conflicts of the Civil War. The splendid record of this Regiment need not be reviewed here; the story will be amply told at the reunion and the main facts of its recital are familiar to all those who know of the war's history, for the part this local organization played loomed large in the annals of even those days of great achievement and moving events.

The business that immediately confronts this town is that of receiving and entertaining the men who remain as reminders of this splendid organization, and those who will come from far and near to join in the honor which Saratoga will be so proud to pay. That the welcome will be sincere and cordial there is no doubt. That it will be tempered with the tenderest sentiments that memory of those who lie upon the field recall is certain. That it will be with pride in the Regiment's brave record blazoned on the pages of the Nation's history, all know. These sentiments will be deep in the hearts of all.

But there should be some outward show, some token of the pride of memory that has endured so fresh and green throughout the long years since the Regiment went away, never to return as it had gone. Old Glory should be abroad as evidence of what we feel—Old Glory everywhere, on every house and every shop. That was the banner under which the lads of the Seventy-Seventh fought. That should be one token of our greeting now.

Such an event as this half-century marks needs decorating, needs observance in the fullest measure possible. In that much, as in the general welcome to the Veterans and their friends, the town may join generously and generally. The Seventy-Seventh marched away but once. It cannot march back again when another half century shall have passed.
—William L. Lockwood, editor of the Saratogian in issue of Nov. 22, 1911.

Welcome Veterans.

To the veterans of the Seventy-seventh Regiment the village of Saratoga Springs extends a most hearty

and cordial welcome. It is an honor for the village to entertain the survivors of this noble band of soldiers who rendered such valuable service in preserving the nation during the dark days of '61 to '65. The boys in blue have the keys of the village while they are in town and are welcome to go where they please and do as they please.

The veterans of the Seventy-seventh have a record of which they may well be proud. They took part in more important engagements than any other regiment which served in the Civil war. The regiment was made up of the pick of the young men of Saratoga county and vicinity. They fought valiantly and were in the thickest of the fray whenever there was an occasion to go up against Johnny Reb.

The survivors of this gallant band are few, but what are left of them are honored and loved by every citizen. May the veterans of the Seventy-seventh live long and prosper.
—W. J. Burnham, editor of the Saratoga Sun, in issue of Nov. 22, 1911.

"Bring the good old bugle, boys!
We'll sing another song—
Sing it with that spirit that will
Start the world along—
Sing it as we used to sing it fifty
thousand strong,
While we were marching through
Georgia."

For the survivors of The Saratoga Regiment—the 77th NEW YORK—will convene here November 23d, 1911.

Fifty years ago tomorrow the Seventy-seventh Regiment, New York State Infantry Volunteers, was sworn into the service of the United States and in response to the call of President Lincoln marched to the front to help preserve the Union. The anniversary tomorrow will be celebrated by a reunion in the morning of the Seventy-seventh Regiment survivors in G. A. R. Hall. At noon the veterans will be served a turkey dinner at the Worden hotel, as the guests of Senator Brackett, and after the parade in the afternoon will be given a reception in Convention Hall by the citizens of Saratoga Springs to which the public is cordially invited.

The parade will march in the following order:

Police.
Troy City Band.
General James W. Lester and Staff.
Company L. N. G. S., N. Y.
(First Lieut. R. S. Hall Commanding)
77th Regiment Survivors
Color Sergeant Charles E. Jennings carrying the Scholars Flag gift to the regiment on its departure November 28, 1861.
(Capt. Benj. F. Judson, President.)
Luther M. Wheeler Post, No. 92 G. A. R
(Commander Patrick McDonald, Commanding.)
Visiting Posts Grand Army of the Republic.
Saratoga Camp United Spanish War Veterans, (Commander George Schmidt, Commanding.)
Boy Scouts.

The parade will march to the Convention Hall, where the anniversary exercises are to take place.

The parade will start promptly at 2:15 o'clock and all of the organizations are urged to be prompt in attending. The order of formation will be: General Lester and staff, and

Company L will march from the armory; at Pavillion place they will be joined by Post Wheeler and men of the visiting posts; proceeding to the Town hall, where the survivors of the Seventy-seventh regiment will join them.

At Convention Hall.

The meeting at Convention hall will be opened at 3 o'clock and the following program will be rendered:

Reveille.

Prayer—Rev. Joseph Carey, D.D.

America—Double Male Quartet (Messrs. Reid, Raymond, Hames, Jones, Smith, Sweeney, Long and Johnson).

Address by the Chairman—Judge Charles C. Lester.

Address of Welcome—Village President James D. McNulty.

Response—Capt. Benj. F. Judson of 77th Regiment.

When Johnnie Comes Marching Home—Troy City Band.

Address—Judge William Ostrander.

The Battle Cry of Freedom—Double Male Quartet.

Address—Rev. J. E. Wagner.

Star Spangled Banner—Troy City Band.

Tenting on the Old Camp Ground—Double Male Quartet.

Address—Judge Nash Rockwood.

Marching Through George—Double Male Quartet.

Baritone Sole—"Tramp, Tramp, Tramp"—Mr. Geo. Slater.

Taps.

The following named citizens and sons of veterans have been designated by the committee in charge to act as ushers at the reunion of the 77th Regiment Survivors tomorrow afternoon: Henry W. Benton, Michael E. McTygue, Michael J. Mulqueen, Harry P. Pendrick, William A. Pierson, Harry Rimington, Albert D. Ritchie, Charles E. Robbins, Beekman H. Searing, N. Remick Thompson and Elmer A. Walker. They will report at Convention hall for duty at 2.30.

Of the fifteen hundred and more young and enthusiastic men who fifty years ago, answering the call of President Lincoln, left for the front, only a handful of grey and feeble veterans marched in the parade today. They represented practically all that was left of the Seventy-seventh Reg't., which did valiant service to preserve the Union from 1861 to 1865 and paid its heavy toll in the dead left on the battlefields of that war.

The ranks of the Seventy-seventh are growing thinner; the passing of a half century has seen them dwindled to a scarce 250; and the faltering, if proud, bearing of those who marched in the parade told too plainly how the "boys-in-blue of '61-5" are one by one answering to the soft bugle notes of the final taps.

Broadway was more attractively decorated as a welcome to the Regiment than ever before so late in November. All of the public buildings, the banks, and many of the stores of merchants were festooned with the stars and stripes, Grand Army Republic and national emblems. Of the exterior decorations, that of the post office was most prominent.

Forming according to schedule the parade, which included practically every military organization in the village, proceeded down Broadway to Convention hall. Following the police

came the Troy City band, and in turn General James W. Lester and staff as follows:

Maj. Frank A. McNeeley, adj. gen.; Lt. Col. Herman Bendell, surgeon; Major George Lawyer, judge advocate; Major John P. Treanor, inspector general; Major Lansdale B. Green, commissary; Major Sanford B. Cluett, signal officer; Major Fred M. Waterbury, ordinance officer; Lieut. Griswold Green, aide; Lieut. Harry S. Underwood, aide.

Next came the members of Company L. There were thirty-six men in line in command of First Lieutenant R. S. Hall. Next came the survivors of the Seventy-seventh regiment, seventy-five in number in command of Captain B. F. Judson, president of the association. The veterans carried flags which they waved as they passed through the street. Fifty members of Post Wheeler of Saratoga Springs marched in command of Patrick McDonald, commander of the post. Post Wing of Glens Falls had forty-five men in line and Post Horsfall of Schenectady came with twenty-two veterans. Post McKittrick of Ballston Spa was also represented in the parade. Saratoga camp, No. 58, United Spanish War Veterans had twenty-four men in line in command of George Schmidt, commander. The Boy Scouts in their uniforms attracted much attention. There were twenty-six of them in charge of Adrian Mints of the Y. M. C. A. and Supt. Thomas R. Kneil. The carriages containing disabled veterans brought up the rear.

Promptly at 2:15, the appointed hour, General Lester gave the command to march and the line moved down Broadway to the inspiring music of the band. Broadway was crowded with a cheering and applauding throng. Many carried flags which they waved as the veterans passed by. There was much enthusiasm displayed as the parade proceeded down the street. It was a gala occasion for the veterans as well as the citizens. The school children were excused this afternoon, to witness the parade, and to attend the patriotic exercises in Convention Hall. The employes of the Harvey Company were given a half holiday, so that they could participate in the semi-centennial celebration to the 77th regiment veterans. Each one as he or she left the laboratory was given a Flag to wear.

The veterans and other organizations proceeded to Convention hall where the public exercises were held under the auspices of the citizens.

Judge Lester Chairman.

Chairman of the meeting at Convention Hall—Judge C. C. Lester.

Vice-Chairmen—W. B. Gage, J. L. Perry, C. E. Durkee, L. H. Cramer, R. F. Knapp, Patrick McDonald, James Fitzpatrick, W. L. Rich, F. A. White, John T. White, B. J. Goldsmith, F. N. Young, Dr. A. C. Rich, Dr. S. E. Strong, Henry Van Deusen, A. C. Coleman, Judson A. Lewis. Henry Willcox, James Mingay, Charles F. Fish, James W. Heaslip, E. R. Waterbury, S. J. Mott, Fred Menges, A. de R. McNair, John Shipman, J. P. Haskins, W. J. Case, F. M. Hewitt, J. M. Rouse, O. J. Brown, L. H. Hays, Willard Lester, William Waterbury, R. E. Morey, Henry L. Humphrey, J. M. Colcord, H. L. Waterbury, Harry Crocker, J. P. McGirr, E. D. Starbuck, James M. Andrews, A.

D. Ritchie, J. H. Walbridge, R. B. Johnston, Dr. P. W. Weed, J. K. Walbridge, W. L. Lockwood, G. H. Benedict, J. S. Fassett, W. W. Worden and R. F. Milligan.

Secretaries—W. J. Burnham and George R. Cozzens.

Judge Lester, chairman, addressed the assemblage as follows:

"Under any circumstances I should esteem it an honor to be asked to preside at a reunion of an organization with such a record of service in the great struggle for the preservation of the union. But on the present occasion my gratification is keener because of my early memories of this command and my personal association with it in quite a remarkable way. At the outbreak of the war General French, afterward the commander of this regiment, was a student at law in the office of my father and his partner, Mr. Pond, and when this regiment had been formed and went to the front he went out with it as adjutant. I was on that account particularly interested in it and many events incident to its formation and departure are deeply impressed upon my memory.

"Well I remember the day of its departure—that day of assumed cheerfulness, or frank distress—forced smiles and words of encouragement, mingling with tears and unrestrained lamentations; or a mantle of hilarity over hearts sick with apprehension and the grief of parting.

"The spirit of patriotism swelling high at the sound of martial music and the thought of valorous deeds, ebbed in the gloom and chill of that night when the stern realities of the war were upon us—that night of blood and agony of fear.

"In the late winter and early spring of 1864, this regiment was in winter quarters near Brandy Station in Virginia, midway between Washington and Richmond. Colonel French came north on a furlough and to recruit the regiment and while here he spent much of the time at my father's house. I was at this time in my 14th year. I had not been in robust health and the night before his return to the regiment he proposed to my parents to take me back with him, suggesting that a few weeks life in the open air might do me good. The suggestion was made to me at 4 o'clock the next morning and by 8 o'clock I was on my way with Col. French to the front.

"I realize now that in taking care of me the Colonel did not have a sinecure. I do not intend to inflict upon you a review of all my experiences but cannot forbear to mention an incident that happened the first night out of Saratoga. That night we spent at the Astor House. The Colonel and I were to be room-mates but as a small boy well tired out by the exciting events of the day I sought my bed at an earlier hour than the Colonel felt ready to retire. I locked the door, climbed into bed and the subsequent events interested me no more. But they were interesting to others. When the Colonel was ready to retire I was sound asleep. In those days of my boyhood ordinary measures to rouse me from sleep were futile and unavailing. The knocking on my door by my superior officer that night awakened all the occupants of the rooms upon the same hall, some of whom manifested their dissatisfaction by loud remonstrances and stopped just short of violence, but

did not disturb me. Knocks, calls, entreaties and objurgations were alike without effect. Just what accommodations my Colonel had that night in the crowded hotel where rooms were at a premium and all hotels were crowded in the city during the excitement of those stirring times, I never quite found out, but I know the subject was a sore one for me for many years thereafter and it is only of late years that I have recognized any humorous side of the event.

"The Colonel treated me generously. He did not send me home nor did he reproach me. He took me on with him to the front. Soon after our arrival at Brandy Station he was taken with a fever and had to be sent to the rear. But I remained there for two months. I lived in his tent. I ate at his mess. I rode his horse. I grew strong. I came to know the men of the regiment. Some of you may remember seeing me around under foot when the men lined up and kicked the football on sunny afternoons in front of the regimental headquarters; or riding one of the Colonel's mares with my legs dangling hardly half way down her sides. I saw the genial side of war—no scenes of blood and carnage met my gaze. I saw the Sixth Corps and Uncle John Sedgwick who so soon after met his death, and as I see you here today I feel like addressing you as comrades.

"Occasions like the present for you possess interest of a personal character and offer opportunities for renewal of past association with each other and the revival of memories of past events of common experience. It is well to consider for a moment the reason for the sacrifice you and your companions in arms made and what you accomplished by it. We are too apt to confuse the question at issue with the results that flowed from the war. It is too common to think of it as a struggle for the emancipation of the slaves. But this was a mere incident of the war. The question was the right of states to withdraw from the Union and the North fought to establish its indissolubility. This seems to us at first glance to have been a question, the decision of which was not worth the blood and treasure it cost. But upon more deliberate consideration its cost seems justified. Imagine what our situation might be if the south had prevailed and the southern confederacy had been an accomplished fact. It is easy to believe that the Union having once been broken into, other disruptions would have followed. The Pacific coast with its peculiar interests, in some aspects adverse to those of the east, would have withdrawn and formed a confederacy of its own. Other subdivisions would have followed. State lines, which now we pass so easily that we scarcely recognize them, would have become the frontiers of confederacies and principalities, to be guarded with jealousy and to be the fruitful cause of wars.

"The great navy, of which 100 vessels lately assembled in the harbor of New York and which would cause any nation to hesitate before attacking us, would have had no existence. Each petty confederacy or State might have had a second-hand war vessel, hardly capable of policing its limited coast line, to apprehend smugglers, or protect shipping in the harbors against the strikes of longshore men. All of them would be at the mercy of covetous powers, in a

condition more pitiable than that of the South American and Central American States, without any sturdy elder brother to assert and enforce a Monroe doctrine for their protection.

"If I should proceed further to elaborate this subject and attempt to enumerate even a fraction of the secondary and incidental advantages that Americans today enjoy from the preservation of the Union, I would monopolize this meeting and even then time would fail for the accomplishment of the undertaking.

"So I will desist and with your permission will, instead, introduce to you Mr. James D. McNulty, the president of this village, who, on behalf of his fellow citizens desires to extend to you a word of welcome."

Village President McNulty said:

"Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen:—On behalf of the village of Saratoga Springs, I extend to you a cordial welcome to these patriotic exercises. We are assembled to pay tribute and to honor the 77th Regiment, one of the bravest regiments that ever faced a foe. Nor did any body of soldiers ever have a loftier purpose. I am indeed glad to see so many of the young people of the village here, as I know these exercises will prove a lesson in patriotism that will have a lasting and beneficial effect. I intended to speak to you today of the causes that led to the great conflict, of local conditions, the mustering into the United States service of this glorious regiment, how on Thanksgiving Day, '61, they left for the front, stopping at Temple Grove Seminary to receive a flag made by the young ladies of that seat of learning, which was afterward borne aloft in fifty-three battles; of the breaking of the home ties for the benefit of the country of these then young men. I have been requested to read a letter sent to your secretary from Surgeon George T. Stevens, of the 77th, author and accomplished gentleman, which I am sure will prove of interest.

And now, members, of the 77th, I salute you and express to you the deep appreciation which Saratogians have for your noble sacrifice, in camp, on marches, in the trenches, on the battlefield, where many of your former comrades met their death."

President McNulty then read the following letter from George T. Stevens of New York, a surgeon of the Seventy-seventh regiment:

350 West 88th Street,
New York City.
Nov. 23, 1911.

Comrades of the Seventy-seventh:

It had been my hope and my expectation that I might be with you today to participate with you in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our mustering into the service of the United States as soldiers in the defence of our Union

Circumstances have conspired, greatly to my regret, to prevent this and to defeat my purpose of seeing my old comrades face to face, and I am compelled to content myself with this written message of my hearty sympathy with your efforts to properly commemorate the event so important to us and I may, without too much presumption, say, not without importance to our country The mustering of such a regiment as the Seventy-seventh proved itself to be was not without great significance as

a response to the call of our great war president, and the event is well worthy of celebration.

The occasion revives old memories which have slept for many a year. Today a crowd of them come back and I seem to be living over again the days of November 1861, and the months succeeding.

I seem again to see the nearly one thousand young and stalwart fellows, with Colonel McKean, handsome, dignified, earnest and patriotic, in command, with Adjutant French, then crowned with a rich growth of wavy auburn hair, a young man overflowing with life and good humor, bright, quick of intellect, moved by generous impulses combined with elements of firmness and of well defined purpose, repeating the commands of his superior. His fine manly bearing and his true soldierly qualities made him, later, our gallant and worthy leader.

These and many others seem to stand here before me today, in all the ardor of youth and all the strength of manly vigor.

Then, how well do I recall our leave taking from Saratoga, as we were crowded into the long train which was to take us to Albany.

I wonder, Comrades, how many of you were in that train load? Do you remember the shouting and cheering and the waving of hats and handkerchiefs as we pulled out from the station, and do you also recall how the boys responded with cheer upon cheer until it almost seemed as though the noise might derail the old cars that made up the train?

At Albany we embarked on the old dismantled steamboat Knickerbocker. General Sherman is said to have remarked that "war is hell." If he had spent the night on that ancient steamboat trying to keep warm or to rest on its deck, bare except for the thick layer of filth, he would have added something stronger to emphasize his characterization.

Never in the history of the old Seventy-seventh were so many symptoms of revolt as during that terrible night while we steamed down the Hudson from Albany to New York.

As though our initiation as soldiers was a design to impress us with the disagreeable nature of war, it poured a cold rain all the day that we spent in New York, where we got our arms and the beautiful regimental banner that went with us from that day till the close of the war, and then, chilled and wet when evening came, we took the ferry to Amboy and from there, in the horribly filthy cars of the Camden and Amboy Road, we pursued our way, arriving in Philadelphia, glorious Philadelphia, at four o'clock in the morning.

Is there one here who shared in that friendly and generous welcome in Philadelphia who has ever forgotten or who will ever forget the hospitable kindness of that reception?

They took our hands, they gave us kind and inspiring words and then treated us to a warm and excellent breakfast, put our sick boys into nice, clean and comfortable beds and sent us on our way with a hearty God-speed. Long live noble, generous Philadelphia.

It was Sunday morning when we arrived at Washington. In company with Quartermaster Shurtleff, I rode to Meridian Hill and selected a site for our camp. It was a raw, cold day and night came before many of the tents were erected, but by Monday night we were encamped on fresher ground, but two hundred and fifty

of the men were on the sick list with only a single medical officer to care for them and no nurses or attendants.

We were now a part of the great army gathered for the defense of Washington and for carrying the war into the territory occupied by the enemy.

Thus, we had passed our muster and we were in the army, but our initiation as soldiers was not complete. We had, after this, the training of weeks at Meridian Hill, where we began to learn the elements of the life of soldiers, then came the moving over the Chain Bridge and the pitching of tents on ground covered six inches deep with snow, using in our change of camp, one hundred and thirty-six mule teams for our transportation. We never knew how rich we were then till we began to experience difficulty in getting even our four regimental wagons when we started on our long marches. It was here that we became a part of the Third Brigade of Smith's Division, the Division which later became the second of the grand Sixth Corps, and here we made the acquaintance of the noble regiments, the Forty-ninth and Thirty-third New York, and the Seventh Maine, and of our gallant comrades of the Vermont brigade.

Are there any here today who took part in the famous "reconnoisance" heralded in the New York papers and executed by the Seventy-seventh from this camp?

The regiment was formed at ten o'clock on a night when there was darkness which might be felt. Orders were passed along the line in whispers and at length a man with a lantern reported who was to be our guide.

The darkness was intense, the mud was soft and deep and the roads were obliterated. A lot of the men lost their shoes in the mire and a good many others lost themselves, but some of us, after plodding and wading in the rear of the man with the lantern, reached our destination at daylight. There was no enemy to dispute our progress and we might have gone perhaps to Richmond had the roads been better, but in that case we would not have thought our experience worth celebrating today, so we turned back toward our camp which a lot of the fellows, made of good stuff, reached in bare feet or in their shoeless stockings.

We took back no trophies of war. Our friends, the Johnnie Rebs, had carried off every pig, every chicken and even every bee hive, if such had ever existed, and the whole country was a barren desolation.

But, spite of episodes of this sort, we were not yet fairly trained as soldiers until we reached the Peninsula. Here it was that the weaklings were sifted from the real fighters.

Do you remember how, when we were resting on the banks of the James River before any wicked shell had ever shrieked its malignant and hair-raising cry at us, the rebel gunboat Teaser ran down the river and threw a few hundred-pound shells in the direction of our camp? It was an impertinent performance and it caused a good deal of surprise, and indignation in the bosoms of a goodly number of our friends who had been, up to that moment, the bravest of the brave. Can you not see the doughty captain who ran shouting "Get into your tents, boys! Get into your tents!" and, setting the example, plunged his nose into the soil under

the little fly of his tent d'abris. Well, the little fly was a sufficient protection for the time being, but he and a good many others resented this insult to the extent that they became very ill that afternoon and the poor doctor—I was the poor doctor—was beseiged by the most persistent and importunate applications for certificates of discharge by reason of physical disability. Some of these applicants became really unfitted for service and many from that day went out from us because they were not of us.

But it was not long after that when we were fully initiated as soldiers, for those who were left were there as fighting men and from those days they did fight and they fought well. Never were better fighting men than those who survived the sifting process and remained to help in the making of the Third Brigade, Second Division, Sixth Corps.

And now, Comrades, we do not forget our loyal and brave fellows who fell on the field of battle during our long campaign, nor those who succumbed to the deadly typhoid or the fevers of the swamps, nor must we fail to say a kindly and loving word of those who, by the bullets of the enemy or the ravages of diseases, were sent disabled from the field and from the camps and we sympathize with those who were driven from the field by the worst enemy of the soldier, disease.

Today, to all who helped to bring luster and renown to our own Seventy-seventh and to the Grand Old Sixth Corps, we send greetings, with the hope that the survivors of the Seventy-seventh may yet meet many times to clasp one another by the hand, to renew old friendships, to revive old memories, and to fight our battles over again.

Sincerely your old friend and comrade and your old surgeon,

GEORGE T. STEVENS,

Captain Judson's Reply.

"Mr. President: As President of the Survivors Association, and in behalf of that association, I sincerely and truly return most heartfelt thanks for your appreciative expression.

"In the flight of time, a half century has passed. Fifty years ago today, the members of the 77th Regiment were mustered in to the United States service to go forth to battle for the preservation of the Union. On the following Thanksgiving Day, they marched away to the National Capital, there to become an important factor in that great army organized to save from disruption, a nation governed by the people and for the people.

"I am reminded as I glance around how few now present were in Saratoga Springs in 1861, that period of universal gloom and unrest.

"Another generation and another people were the principal participants.

"The great leaders in that conflict for the restoration or destruction of the best government on the face of the globe, are numbered with the great majority and the conflicting armies after meeting on many a sanguinary battle field have largely answered the roll call which time exacts as its toll.

"The stars and stripes, that proud emblem of universal freedom and religious liberty, that emblem of the grandest form of government on the face of the earth, now triumphantly waves over a united country, a united

people, the United States of America."

The band rendered "When Johnnie Comes Marching Home" and then Surrogate Ostrander was introduced.

Surrogate Ostrander's Talk.

The surrogate first read a clipping from The Saratogian of fifty years ago in which it was prophesied that "The hearts of the people will follow the 77th Regiment to the war, confident that if it shall be its fortune to meet the foe, her sons will emulate the deeds performed on Bemis Heights in 1777, and add lustre to the fame of her Revolutionary annals." He then gave an extended history of the Seventy-seventh in which he recounted many of the battles in which the regiment participated. He praised the veterans for the part they took in the war. He expressed his pleasure at being present which he considered an honor. The Seventy-seventh might well be termed a Saratoga regiment for seven companies went out from this county, two from Essex and one from Fulton. The speaker then enumerated the many battles which went to show how true the prophecy was. He said it could not help but be true for the soldiers were recruited from patriotic soil which was the fighting ground of the nation.

After "The Battle Cry of Freedom" by the double male quartet, the Rev. Dr. James E. Wagner, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church, was introduced.

Dr. Wagner stated that he would not attempt to tell the veterans what noble deeds they had performed, nor how heroic they had been to answer their country's call to duty, but that rather he "would bring to them the greetings of a solid, loyal, enthusiastic American South.'" He became immediately in touch with his audience.

"My father was a Confederate soldier." He was with Forrest in Memphis, and you fellows, or your comrades, sent him out of that city in a hurry. He was with Forrest at Atlanta, and you sent him back from there in a hurry. He was in many battles, and on many occasions he made you fellows hurry, but in the end he was whipped, just as the whole Confederate army was whipped because of sheer force of numbers and equipment.

"In all of the schools today the pupils were required to give some fact concerningthe war. My young son, when his turn came, gave this rather startling bit of information, 'My grandfather was in the war, on the other side—but he knows better now.' I'm going to write that to his grandfather, and I wouldn't be a bit surprised if a recommendation to not 'spare the rod' might come back in the next mail.

Suffering in the South.

"And now, gentlemen, I will not take your time by referring to your sufferings. I know you suffered greatly, and that your families and friends at home endured great hardships. But, let me assure you of one fact. However much you and your dear ones at home suffered, the Southern soldiers and their beloved ones suffered more. Why I know well from hearing them tell about it that my people were forced to dig up the dirt in the smoke-house, and boil it up to get salt, and that

for drink with our meals—coffee and tea had long been strangers—they parched grain and made a beverage from that, and then after drinking it would go and longingly smell of the coffee mill. And you soldiers, I know there were many times when you were short of rations, but you never had to depend on mule steaks and soup from mule hoofs for your only sustenance.

"You were fighting brave and honest men, men who believed in what they were fighting for, just as honestly and just as sincerely as you did. If they weren't brave, and valorous and real fighters, why, tell me please, did it take the great north, with all its resources, four years to lick 'em?

"But I do not believe in war. Thank God, you fellows got that matter over with. If you hadn't settled it, and fought it out when you did, it would have been left for your sons. Many of the northern people think that slavery was the principal cause of the great conflict. It was but a minor one. We of the South believed in state rights, while you believed—as it turned out—more strenuously in Federal control. Then the 'nigger in the wood-pile of slavery crept in, and the matter had to be settled by force of arms, and only at the expense of thousands of lives and millions of dollars.

All Forgotten Today.

"And had the settling of this matter been left to your sons, it would have been bloodier than it was—not, by any means because I mean to hint that your sons would fight more valiantly than did you, but because nowadays we have weapons of war-fare so much more deadly. But, thank God, it is over. The South got a taste of Union, and now they love it as much as you in the North. Should there ever be another war you'll find the youth of Texas fighting under the stars and stripes with all the bravery and valor that their fathers demonstrated when they fought under the stars and bars."

Dr. Wagner closed by briefly expressing his hope for universal peace, "so that the vast sums now spent in armament could be used in advancing the cause of humanity."

"May you all have many years to live yet, not to do more work for us, but to let us love you," was his conclusion.

As Dr. Wagner concluded there happened one of those spontaneous outbursts, which occasionally an enthusiastic audience wrought up by the earnest and masterly address of the speaker gives.

His talk was straight-from-the shoulder, and gave many of his hearers the first idea they had of the war from a Southerner's point of view. He was so earnest and eloquent that at the conclusion Secretary Fuller, sitting in the front row, rose and called for three cheers for the speaker. They were given with a will, and even the "tiger" was tacked on, when like a distant roll of thunder which when first heard sounds light but which increases in volume and tone until it bursts in a deafening roar, so the enthusiasm spread to the floor of the hall, and the band played "Dixie." When the demonstration had quieted down—and it took several minutes—Dr. Wagner again stepped to the front of the rostrum; said he

"I want to heartily thank you all,

for what you have just done I shall take it as for my father and not for me."

This called for another outburst of applause.

In his address Dr. Wagner began by stating that even if he were not a veteran of the War between the states, he had been fighting for the same things the veterans did.

"You fellows had an opportunity to go out to war, but circumstances over which I had no control prevented me, as I was not born until seven years after the war ended. Nevertheless I have fought ever since I have been old enough to endeavor to make right conquer."

Dr. Wagner was born south of the old imaginary Mason and Dixon line, and his father fought throughout the war of '61-65 with the Confederate Army. He brought to the northern veterans a message from the south, not, as he said, "from the south that you fellows knew fifty years ago, but from a reconstructed, reunited south of today."

"Tenting on the Old Camp Ground" by the double male quartet was followed by Judge Nash Rockwood's address, which was most inspiring. He said: "Thank God the war has ended and we may stand here today on ground made historic by Burgoyne, Grant and Ellsworth. I say God bless you boys for what you have done. I never watch you but that a tear comes to my eye. I think not of today, but I go back fifty years and remember what you did and what it all means. It brings a tear and it honors any American who can appreciate what the boys did.

"Fifty years ago the heart of Lincoln was breaking for fear that the government of the people, for the people and by the people would perish. The South made the attack and Lincoln asked for 75,000 volunteers. I have heard my father tell of it for he was there with you. I have heard Colonel French tell the story of Cedar creek. I glory in what you did. You fought for free government because you wanted to preserve the nation. You established liberty and that leaven of civil liberty has gone on and we see that leaven going on, working its way until the whole world will be more civilized. You held the states together and now we have a great and growing country. The school, the flag and the Bible have gone on conquering the whole country. I believe in you and honor you and I consider it an honor to stand before you today."

The exercises concluded with "Marching Through Georgia," by the double male quartet; baritone solo, "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp" by George Slater. Taps were sounded and the meeting came to a close.

Attend Supper and Smoker Last Evening Given by Publicity Commission

Saratoga's entertainment of the survivors of the Seventy-seventh Regiment culminated last evening with a supper and smoker in the armory of Company L on Lake avenue where the veterans were guests of the publicity commission and Company L. After an appetizing supper, the veterans assembled in the drill shed where they told stories of their past experiences, many of them exceedingly interesting.

The Troy city band rendered several selections in its most accomplished style, choosing most of the

old war time pieces, and rendered music during the evening.

The exhibition drill by Company L was watched with interest by the veterans. The drill was not up to the usual standard, however, inasmuch as the company was but recently put under the new tactics. A solo, "In the Garden of My Heart," was sung ably by J. Edward Roohan, who was accompanied on the piano by his sister, Miss Anna Roohan. The singing of Professor Hallam, director of the conservatory of music of Skidmore School of Arts, was the musical feature of the evening. The director sang two selections, both of a patriotic nature, in a talented manner which pleased the veterans very greatly.

The Seventy-Seventh Home Again.

Today the Seventy-seventh marched home again—all that war's rack and ruin and stress of a half century years, have left.

It is a thin blue line now, and the heads are silvered with the lapse of time; but today, as then, fifty years ago, it is the line of patriotism and self-sacrifice crowned with a realization of what the great effort meant and what the days upon the field have brought to this land—free and undivided for all time—because of them.

Such anniversaries are rife of tender memories—thoughts of those who did not return—recollections of those who came and have marched on since—and reminders of what these men who marched home today suffered and endured.

And with the memories comes too, some little realization of what these men have done, the splendid example they have graven on the page for future generations to read and from which to draw inspiration.

There may be no more such stress and strife—there never can be between Americans—but in the daily battle that all must wage these men will live as enduring reminders of courage, self-sacrifice, constancy and loyalty such as the world ever needs.

The Seventy-seventh has marched home again, and it is welcome—William L. Lockwood, Editor, in Saratogian, November 23, 1911.

The following appeared in the local papers of Monday, December 4, 1911:

Many Thanks.

To the Editor:

As president of the 77th Veteran Association and in behalf of the members, I most heartily return thanks to all who participated in making the 50th anniversary of the mustering in of that regiment a glorious success.

First: To Him who reigns supreme, the creator of the universe, for the auspicious day, the freedom from all mishaps calculated to mar the festivities of the time.

Second: To Senator Edgar T. Brackett, for his generosity in furnishing a sumptuous turkey dinner for the remaining veterans of the 77th. They appreciated his kindly action and acknowledge it as a token of his high regard for the old soldiers

Third: To Charles F. Fish, chairman of the Citizens' Committee, who with untiring energy and remarkable executive ability made the event a most successful one, an aniversary period unequaled in the history of Saratoga Springs. To him the old

Vets extend the right hand of fellowship.

Fourth: To his associates on the finance committee, who were sorely perplexed by the spirit of patriotism exhibited by the people, who fairly "stumbled" over each other in their efforts to be first in furnishing the "sinews of war" which really exceeded all bounds descriptive. It was an occasion when there was more means than obligation.

Fifth: To the decorating committee, who floated Old Glory to the breeze on all outer walls and painted the town red, white and blue.

Sixth: To the veterans of G. A. R. Post Wheeler, that patriotic band of heroes who feasted the visiting veterans to their "full" and had sufficient left for the poor who we always have with us.

Seventh: To Major Waterbury, that genial officer and prince of good fellows, who conceived and carried through to success the armory entertainment, feasted three hundred to their "souls' content." It has been remarked that when a man is hungry there is no difficulty in locating his soul.

Eighth: To James D. McNulty, president of the village and his associates, the honorable board of trustees, just credit is due for the patriotism exhibited by them in decorating the public buildings and preparing the Convention Hall for the reception of its 5,000 guests, that they might listen spell-bound to the oratorical pyrotechnics.

Saratoga's history is replete with stirring events. Great political demonstrations have assembled the people here and filled the hotels and halls.

In 1877 the celebration of Gates' victory and Burgoyne defeat occurred and the first decisive battle for freedom against a foreign foe was celebrated at the battle ground, Bemis Heights, and the event almost depopulated the town of Saratoga Springs. A troop of one hundred horsemen in Continental uniform led the entire population of the village to that noted battlefield. It was remarked at the time that there was not a sufficient number left in town to form a corporals guard.

The great College Regatta thronged our hotels and streets with strangers. At that period the only means of transportation was by vehicle or foot's weary way. A sidewalk was constructed the entire distance from Saratoga to the lake and pedestrians crowded the highway to visit the Regatta.

Of recent date is the floral fete display; Broadway was lined with people, hosts of strangers from abroad to witness one of the most imposing displays ever presented. A feast for the eye unsurpassed. Another season it should be repeated.

An event of interest which occurred many years ago was the removal of the High Rock from its original position and retubing the spring that the mineral water might flow again naturally as formarly when visited by George Washington and Lafayette and at a period when friendly Indians conveyed Sir William Johnson on a litter from the Mohawk Valley to partake of the health restoring water. A procession of enthusiastic citizens marched through the streets proceded by bands of music.

In excavating, preparatory to the new tubing, the workman unearthed a fallen tree some 20 feet below the

surface. As it was beneath the High Rock in its original position, geologists claim that the rock had been in process of formation for over 3,000 years produced from the component parts of the mineral which the water contained. That monarch tree must have been entombed for many a century.

Now, Thursday, November 23, 1911, was the banner day. It was more than a simple display. It was a day full of sentiment, unusual in the history of pageants. The thousands of people who witnessed it were not the mere observers of an ordinary procession. It was a people with a deep feeling welling up from their very souls. A people to honor and pay their respects and heart-felt regards to warworn veterans of the Civil War, who after fifty years of absence, after years of battling for the salvation of their country, and the preservation of the Union, have returned to their place of departure from the theater of grim war, to be welcomed by the sons and daughters of those who saw them march away.

Saratoga Springs, Nov. 23, 1911.

B. F. JUDSON.

Reduced Railroad Rates

The Delaware and Hudson Railroad arranged a reduced rate on its lines from Whitehall, Glens Falls, Albany and other points as well as on the Adirondack branch and used posters to advertise the anniversary.

Committees.

The committees in charge of the event were as follows:

Committee of Arrangements—Chas. F. Fish, T. R. Kneil, Major Fred M. Waterbury, Capt. J. K. Walbridge, Dr. E. H. King, J. N. Crocker, James Mingay.

Finance—N. R. Thompson, John H. Morris, G. F. Shevlin, E. B. Ashton, James Mingay.

Camp Fire and Smoker— Major Fred M. Waterbury, L. J. Follett, C. E. Van Pelt.

Band—Allison E. Curtis.

Vocal Music—F. D. Jones.

Speakers and Program—Charles F. Fish, J. D. McNulty, T. R. Kneil.

Decorations—W. H. Bennett, J. N. Crocker, Dr. E. H. King.

Convention Hall—R. F. Knapp.

Advertising and Printing—Charles Marshall.

Ushers—Fred Reagan.

The ushers were selected from the Sons of Veterans.

In the evening there was a camp fire and smoker to which all organizations participating in the parade were invited.

Company L gave an exhibition drill.

There also was music by the Troy City Band.

The galleries were reserved for ladies.

In the rooms of Comrade Brooks in the Worden Hotel, near low twelve of November 23d, 1911, the following was jubilantly evolved by the comrades present.

Thanks From Veterans

To the Committee of arrangements, to the generous response of contributors to the fund, to the radiant display of Old Glory—

"For she was there—OLD GLORY—no tyrant dealt scars,
No blur on her brightness, no stain on her stars;
For the blood of our heroes hath crimsoned her bars,
She's THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY FOREVER!"

which inspired us as we entered the conflict with the foe, who kept us busy four long years, before entering our outstretched arms, to the sincere and cordial hospitality, to the grand welcome of Saratogians to the Boys-in-Blue of '61-65, the Veterans of the Seventy-seventh regiment bow. And in acknowledging the great success of their reception to us survivors, on the occasion of our celebrating November 23, 1911, the fiftieth anniversary of muster-in and formation of our Saratoga Regiment, the Seventy-seventh New York give heartfelt thanks.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH SURVIVORS.

The following is a copy of a letter received December 9, 1911, from one of the boys:

My dear Comrade Fuller:

I arrived home O. K.

Have not got over thinking what a good time we had, what a grand welcome the people of Saratoga Springs gave us, and the cordial greetings our dear Comrade William Brooks gave us at Hotel Worden.

In that charge of our regiment May 24, 1862, I was the one who captured the Rebel Battery Flag on which was painted VICTORY OR DEATH. I showed it to Captain Norton (of my Company I) who showed it Colonel McKean; who showed it to (our brigade Commander) General Davidson. And I never saw it after. * * As to that Spottsylvania charge of May 10, 1864 (composed of twelve picked regiments,) of which our regiment was one, in command of General Upton, Frank Stillwell of my company was shot on the enemy's breastworks, both legs broken;. notwithstanding he crawled twenty feet away as "I did not want to die in their works," said Frank. I then crawled on my hands and knees,

amid the heavy firing; and lying on my stomach pulled poor Frank on my back and brought him into our lines. Laid him on his back, and put my blouse under his head. I said to my comrades as I lay me down to sleep, "Wake me up before they take Frank away." When I awoke Frank was gone. Also my blouse, pipe and tobacco. But as everything is fair in LOVE AND WAR I went over to the "Bloody Angle" wnere off the dead got another one.

Lt. Col. Fox gives a list of fighting regiments, in which our regiment is not included. Though it would seem as if a regiment in fifty-three engagements as was ours must have been a fighting one. At Antietam it was so far in advance of any other organization as to cause our division Commander General Smith to cry out "there's a regiment lost." But we wer'n't.

Hope to see you next reunion.

Yours,

JOHN E. EVANS.

JOHN E. EVANS.

JOHN E. EVANS

Age 13 years, enlisted in 1861, in the 52nd regiment, N. Y. Inf. Vols.—a regiment raised in N. Y. City, where mustered in to the United States service between August 3d and November 5, 1861. His mother invoked the law and took him out of the regiment. She asked him why he wished to enlist,? Said he, "Grandmother and you have often told me that Grandfather and Grand-uncle served eight years in the war of the Revolution. That an Uncle had served in the Mexican war; so I thought I would represent the family in this war"—and added, "If you will not let me go I will go to another state and enlist; and will not let you know where I am." So his Mother sadly gave her consent, for John to go with an Uncle in the 87th regiment—the 13th Brooklyn—N. Y. Inf. Vols., with which he went to Washington, D. C., where January 1, 1862, he enlisted in Company I 77th regiment—"for which I have no regret, as they were a splendid lot of fellows."

Later in 1862 he was detailed as a drummer. He was honorably discharged January 2, 1865, after three years strenuous service, aged 17 years.

In the Civil War he had one Uncle, nine cousins, three brothers-in-law.

SPOTTSYLVANIA

N. B. That as we have named Saratoga Springs as the meeting place for our future reunions, we have selected Wednesday, September 17, 1912—the fiftieth anniversary of the battle at Antietam Creek—to be held in G. A. R. Hall. Business meeting of which will open at 10 o'clock A. M. May you all answer present. Kindly acknowledge to the Secretary the receipt of this report.

QUARTERMASTER C. B. THURBER
Record, see Field and Staff review.

Saratoga Springs, N. Y.
November 23, 1911.

Comrade:—

I have been your Secretary since 1888, since the reunion at Mechanicville; when a committee on permanent organization named Winsor B. French President; Henry C. Rowland Vice President; Charles D. Thurber Treasurer, Edward H. Fuller Secretary. Their selection was unanimously confirmed by the Comrades. The first break came in 1907. with Comrade Rowland's departure. The next break came with the going of Comrade French. Comrade Keck was elected at Gloversville reunion in 1908 to succeed Comrade Rowland. Last year at Westport Comrade Judson, at his request, was elected President for the 1911 reunion.

Every year for the past one and twenty years your Secretary has had notices of reunion printed; also report of reunion printed and both mailed you in due time. The expense of which has generally been borne by those present at reunion contributing, under payment of dues

For last year's report—which we thought would be interesting—we wrote to some Comrades for special contributions, who, with two exceptions, quickly and we believe cheerfully responded; who your Secretary, whose work has always been gratis. cordially thanks.

The printing of last year's' report cost $25.00; to which must be added postage and envelopes, which bankrupted our treasury.

The report of this, fiftieth anniversary, reunion will be more than usually interesting. To get it printed,—to include what we hope to,—will vividly bring before you the time when sojering was our business—will require over $100.00.

So it up to you Comrades primarily, whether this and coming reports and notices be printed and sent you.

It is hoped that every Comrade who receives this, which will accompany this year's report, the receipt of which they will please acknowledge, will remit at least one dollar to

Charles D. Thurber, Treasurer,
Saratoga Springs, N. Y.,

who will be pleased to acknowledge the remittance.

Cordially and fraternally yours,
EDWARD H. FULLER,
Secretary.