

Founding of the Middlesex Genealogical Society

FOUNDING OF THE MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The following announcement appeared in the Darien Historical Society "Notes - 1983 Summer Issue."

"On December 10, 1982, ten members of the Senior Men's Association of Darien met at the home of the Robert E. Fatherley's to consider the matter of genealogy and founded the Middlesex Genealogical Society with membership open to all interested persons.

"The name Middlesex was chosen as a reflection of sentiment and respect for "Middlesex Parish" by which Darien was know when originally established by the state legislature in 1737 and so remained until incorporated as Darien in 1820.

"Recognizing the current interest in genealogy as one of the fastest growing avocations in this country, the Middlesex Society seeks to encourage the activity in its pursuit by providing knowledgeable speakers at four meetings each year, to include an annual meeting in March; to organize workshops; to maintain a headquarters for the collection of a library of relevant books and periodicals; and to hold consultation periods for beginners with experienced members or outside authorities, to the end that such neophytes may receive instruction in the art of ancestor research.

"In addition, the Society is cognizant of the threat of destruction by our mobile populace of much valuable genealogical material, perhaps unappreciated in one part of the country because it is indigenous to another - and seeks to explore the practicality of causing its return to the place of origin and historical relevance.

"The Darien Historical Society has graciously provided the new venture the use of its address - 45 Old King's Highway North and its meeting facilities and the Darien Library is providing shelf and meeting space as well.

R. E. Fatherley

The initiative for the founding of the Society was provided by Mr. Robert E. Fatherley who for years had been interested in genealogy. Organization and activities were under way even before the above announcement appeared and much of the success of the organization to date has been due to his continued interest and efforts.

For the record, the ten men who met with Mr. Fatherley in December, 1982 were as follows:

- Ray H. Bartlett
- George Cushman
- Leo J. Dumphey
- Fred W. Farwell
- Robert E. Fatherley
- Raymond H. Gross
- Charles F. Lemons

- Carl K. Moses
- Edward L. Warren
- Donald E. Wentworth

No time was lost in carrying out the initial plans discussed on December 10, 1982. An announcement appeared in the December 16th issue of the Darien News-Review. At an ad hoc meeting of the founders a Nominating Committee was formed to prepare a slate of Directors and other Officers to be voted on by all persons attending the first public meeting.

Plans were made for the first open meeting of the Society to be held at the Darien Historical Society on February 4, 1983 with Grant M. Radmall, Librarian of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in New Canaan, as speaker. This meeting, which was attended by a large number of interested persons, was the start of the Society which has prospered since that date.

MEETINGS

To carry out one of the main objectives of the Society the following meetings have been held for members and the general public.

February 4, 1983

Speaker: Grant M. Radmall, Librarian of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in New Canaan.

Subject: "How to Begin a Study of Your Family Tree."

March 11, 1983

Speaker: Henry B. Hoff, Fellow of American Society of Genealogists.

Subject: "Finding Your Ancestors; What is Already in Print."

May 20, 1983

Speaker: Judge Philip A. Morehouse

Subject: "Importance and Availability of Public Records as Sources of Family History."

September 14, 1983

Speaker: Mrs. L. Rosbottom of London, England, Genealogical Researcher.

Subject: "Doing Your Genealogical Homework Before Crossing the Ocean."

November 9, 1983

Thomas J. Kemp, Genealogist, Author and Librarian.

Subject: "Making a Family Record."

January 25, 1984

Meeting at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in New Canaan.

Workshop under the direction of Grant M. Radmall who explained facilities and new techniques now in place and available for use by researchers.

March 26, 1984

Hereditary Genealogical Society Symposium.

Speakers:

Judge Philip A. Morehouse

"The Mayflower Society"

Mrs. Cortland Ames

"The Colonial Dames"

Mrs. George Boyd

"The DAR"

Mr. Anthony Improta

"Piedmont Association, Inc."

September 26, 1984

Speaker: Marshall H. Montgomery, Genealogist, Historian, Writer.

Subject: "Yourself as an Ancestor"

November 14, 1984

Speaker: Sarah Noonan, Genealogist

Subject: "Use of Census Material in Family Research"

January 16, 1985

Speaker: Dorothy Armstead, Curator of Whitfield Museum, Guilford, Ct., Founder and Director of Connecticut Society of Genealogists.

Subject: "Migration Patterns and their Importance to Genealogical Research"

March 20, 1985

Speaker: Betty Doud Tolli, Genealogist

Subject: "The Anatomy of a Genealogy"

September 25, 1985

Speaker: Gary Wait, Catalogue Librarian, Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford.

Subject: "Preserve Your Family History"

November 20, 1985

Speaker: Harold B. Hubbell, Genealogist, Author.

Subject: "Printing Your Family History"

January 22, 1986

Speaker: Lisbeth Andrews-Zike, Reference Librarian, Whitney Library of The New Haven Colony Historical Society

Subject: Reference Riches of Explore"

March 19, 1986

Speaker: Antoinette Jones Seagraves, Executive Director of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania.

Subject: "A Genealogical Tour of the Nation's Capitol"

MUSTERED INTO SERVICE

**By Doris Watters Hollander
Mustered Into Service**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My heartfelt thanks to Jane Merchant (Mrs. William) for her assistance in copying the records from the tombstones.

It would have been impossible to compile the records in their present form without the expertise of Ruth and Grant Radmall who has computerized the compilation. My deep appreciation.

My thanks also to Everett L. Groat, Office manager, and Sigmund Yarish, Superintendent, of Spring Grove Cemetery, for their courtesy and help.

INTRODUCTION

The Spring Grove Cemetery of Darien, Connecticut, contains a wealth of historical information, and provides a fascinating glimpse into the military history of Connecticut.

At the suggestion of Robert Fatherley, Founder and President of the Middlesex Genealogical Society, the records of veterans in the cemetery are being compiled.

You will see from the following list that veterans interred there took part in many different wars. You will also note that there are some who were part of a foreign service. Inasmuch as so many of these veterans were "Connecticut Volunteers", I am including a brief synopsis of their history.

Work started with a chart and a list of the graves in the cemetery, both dated 1934. It became apparent that there were many discrepancies between the two. Consequently, it was necessary actually to go to the cemetery to check the records on the tombstones. I realized that information listed on tombstones is not always accurate. In this instance, it was the only approach. All transcriptions are listed as found in these sources.

It turned out to be a fascinating project. Spring Grove Cemetery is truly a place of peace and repose, surrounded as it is by beautiful trees which are particularly spectacular in the fall. A lovely pond, on which Canada geese cavort, lies quietly in the center. Overlooking it all was the beautiful Carrara marble statue of the "Returned Soldier" by Larkin G. Meade, who worked for awhile in Italy. It was there that the statue was commissioned by Benjamin Fitch in 1865. He ordered it for the Fitch Home for "disabled soldiers and the orphan children" in Darien. This Home is said to be the first Veteran's Home in the country.

Unfortunately for Darien, this much-loved statue, a landmark for 119 years, was taken from the cemetery for repairs. The "Returned Soldier" never returned. It was placed instead in front of the Veteran's Home in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

The Spring Grove Cemetery will be presented in succeeding parts. Part I, which follows, holds the graves of most of the Veterans of the Fitch Home, although not all veterans interred there were residents of the Home. The location of this part of the cemetery is just inside the arched gate on Hecker Avenue.

CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEERS FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD

After the surrender of Fort Sumter, President Lincoln issued a call, April 15, 1861, for 75,000 volunteers to serve for three months in the United States service. The First Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers rendezvoused in New Haven, Connecticut, and were first quartered at Yale College. Due to the eagerness of Connecticut men to volunteer, two more regiments were promptly formed.

The First and Second Regiments were sent by separate to Washington, May 10, 1861. The Third Regiment left for Washington on May 23, 1861, where they brigaded with the First and Second Regiments.

All three regiments took part in the disastrous Battle of Bull Run. When retreating, they came upon deserted standing camps, abandoned by Union troops. They halted their retreat long enough to salvage all of the arms, ammunition and camp equipment.

Of their actions, General Tyler said: "At seven o'clock on Tuesday evening, I saw the three Connecticut regiments, with two thousand bayonets under the guns of Fort Corcoran in good order, after having saved us not only a large amount of public property, but the mortification of seeing our standing camps fall into the hands of the enemy".

The First and Second Regiments were mustered out at New Haven, July 31 and August 7, 1861, respectively. The Third Regiment was mustered out, August 12, 1861, at Hartford, Connecticut.

Many men re-enlisted in response to a call President Lincoln had issued for 42,000 volunteers, May 3, 1861. Among these was William Marcus Whitney of Darien. He re-enlisted and joined the Twenty-eighth Regiment C. V. Infantry.

FIRST SQUADRON C. V. CAVALRY

Major Mallory of Bridgeport, Connecticut, who had served from the outbreak of the war in a New York regiment, known as Duryea's Zouaves, obtained authority from Governor Buckingham to recruit a squadron of cavalry in Connecticut in August of 1861.

The cavalry branch of the Union army was very weak at this time. Consequently, it was deemed necessary to recruit six squadrons from six different states. An agreement was made between the Government and the states that each state should have the same credit for enlistments and control of appointments as that in the regiments of volunteers. Unfortunately, that agreement was ignored by the War Department, and no muster rolls or reports were sent to the Adjutant General of Connecticut during their terms of service. As a result, the records that are now in the possession of the State are very meager.

Immediately after the First Squadron was taken into the U.S. service they were consolidated with the Second New York (Harris Light Cavalry) and were ordered to Washington to train to join the Army of the Potomac. While enroute, the engineer of the train, an ardent rebel, made a desperate attempt to cause a disaster by running the train so fast that the rear car would be thrown from the tracks. To counter this maneuver, two Connecticut men attempted to check the speed by manning the brakes of the rear car, but unable to keep their footing on the platform, they were hurled from the car and instantly killed.

The Squadron took part in many engagements from the beginning to the end of the conflict, from Falmouth, Virginia, April 17, 1862, to Reams Station, Virginia, June 30, 1864.

They were mustered out of service, June 23, 1865.

FIRST REGIMENT C. V. CAVALRY

This command began active service as a battalion of four companies fighting bushwhackers in the mountains of West Virginia in March 1862 and ended their service as a regiment of twelve companies when they escorted General Grant to Appomattox Court House, Virginia, where he received General Lee's surrender, April 9, 1865.

Their regimental service was in Sheridan's cavalry, in the division commanded first by Wilson and later by Custer. After an engagement at Spottsylvania Court House, Virginia, where they performed brilliantly, they were presented with Spencer's and Sharp's carbines in place of the much inferior Smith's. General Wilson stated they "had earned the right to carrying them".

On its muster-out, the regiment was allowed to return to Connecticut mounted, a privilege granted to no other regiment in the service. It was discharged at New Haven, August 18, 1865.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD C. V. LIGHT BATTERY

The First Light Battery was comprised of men responding to the call for volunteers to form a Light Battery, September 1861. Young recruits from various parts of the State responded with such alacrity that the Battery was filled in a few days. They went into service at Meridan (Hanover Village) in September, and proceeded by ship to Beaufort, South Carolina. The Battery took part in twenty engagements, beginning with Pocotaglia, South Carolina, May 28, 1862, and ending in Richmond, Virginia, October 1864 to April 1865. They were mustered out of service at New Haven, June 11, 1865.

General Terry once said: "I will not say it is the best battery in the service, but it is the best I've ever seen".

The Second Light Battery was organized in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and mustered into service, September 10, 1862, "for three years or during the war". They marched to New York, and from there proceeded South by train to Fairfax Court House, Virginia. Here, their first encounter with the enemy was repelling a night attack by Stuart's cavalry. In January 1863, they went to Wolf un Shoals, and there guarded the defenses of Washington. It was a pleasant duty which lasted until June when they became part of the Army of the Potomac, and proceeded into Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The Battery played a vital role at Gettysburg. They were in position for fifty-six hours, and a portion of that time in the fiercest of the fight. Later they saw action in Louisiana, going from there to Alabama, where they took part in the battle of Near Blakely, April 5-9, 1865. The last day of that battle was the same day that General Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. It is remarkable that in their three years of service, not a member was killed on active duty. A note of interest is that when they entered the service they were given the James rifle, but this was exchanged later for the three-inch ordnance gun.

They mustered out at New Haven August 9, 1865.

The Third Light Battery was organized during the summer and early fall of 1864. It consisted of many men who had served terms in other commands. Their service was short.

They went to City Point, Virginia, where they were assigned to duty near the line of defenses which was nearly complete. They protected the vast Army stores, the hospitals and the headquarters of Lieutenant General Grant. Captain Thomas S. Gilbert described their service there: "By day and night, resting on our arms, we stood by our guns, watching and waiting. The roar of battle was in our ears, its mortal wreckage drifted past us, and our veins beat in unison

with the tempest. This was all. Lee surrendered; the war was finished".

The Battery was disbanded at New Haven, July 3, 1865.

FIRST REGIMENT C. V. HEAVY ARTILLERY

The first Connecticut Artillery, originally the Fourth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, was reorganized after the call of May 3, 1861, which required that enlistments be for three years. It mustered into service May 22-23, 1861, and is believed to have been the first three-year regiment from any state ready for service.

Their first engagement was the Siege of Yorktown, Virginia, April 30 to May 4, 1862. At a later battle at Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862, the men not only suffered from enemy fire, but from rear fire from their own gunboats which killed four men of Company F.

Endless artillery battles took place at the Siege of Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia. At one point, to check the enemy firing from the left bank of the Appomattox, a thirteen-inch seacoast mortar was mounted on a platform car and used on a curve of the railroad track -- a novelty widely known as the "Petersburg Express". The battle was probably the first in which spherical case-shot was used in mortars. Putting thirty twelve-pound canister shot under the bursting charge of a ten-inch shell proved very effective.

Their last engagement was at Fort Fisher, North Carolina. They mustered out of service, September 25, 1865, and were finally discharged October 1, 1865, at Hartford.

SECOND REGIMENT C. V. HEAVY ARTILLERY

The Litchfield County Regiment, designated the Nineteenth Infantry, was projected in mass convention at Litchfield in response to Governor Buckingham's appeal which followed President Lincoln's call, July 1, 1862, for 300,000 volunteers for three years.

They mustered into service, August 11, 1862, and were assigned to patrol duty in Alexandria, Virginia, where they were issued "A" tents and Enfield rifles. This service proved to be most disagreeable. Disease ran rampant among officers and men. After continuous requests by Colonel Elisha Kellog, they were relieved of this duty, and sent to Fort Worth, near Fairfax Seminary, where their health steadily improved. On November 30, 1863, by order of the Army, the organization was changed to Artillery, and subsequently became part of the Army of the Potomac. They participated in thirteen engagements in Virginia, beginning with Spottsylvania, May 22-24, 1864, and ending with Little Sailors Creek, April 6, 1865.

The final mustering-out occurred August 18, 1865, at Fort Ethan Allen. They received their final discharge at New Haven, September 5, 1865.

REGIMENTS OF CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

The Fifth Regiment commenced mustering at Hartford, May 1861. They were organized into the First Regiment Colt's Revolving Rifles under Samuel Colt, inventor of the revolving pistol and rifle. They were quartered on the grounds of the Colt Patent Fire Arms Company. Colonel Colt wanted them to become "regulars", but since the men were not agreeable to this, they reorganized as the Fifth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

Their thirty engagements with the enemy were all "stand-up fights". Although they built miles of breastworks, they never fought behind them.

They mustered out at Alexandria, Virginia, July 19, 1865.

The Sixth Regiment mustered into service, September 12, 1861. They served in the District of Columbia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, taking part in twenty-six engagements.

Before the second attack on Charleston and Fort Sumter, they spent three weeks constructing fortifications consisting of ten batteries containing forty-eight heavy seige-guns. All this was done within four hundred yards of the enemy's works on Morris Island without the enemy's knowledge.

Of their action at the siege of Fort Wagner, Paul H. Haynes, a Southern writer said: "...Friend and foe alike, now as then, must salute them as the bravest of the brave".

They were mustered out at New Haven, August 21, 1865.

The Seventh Regiment mustered into service, September 17, 1861. A large percentage of the men had been recently discharged "Three Months" volunteers.

Once again, a Connecticut regiment did a monumental job of building masked batteries without discovery by the enemy. This time, the batteries were built at the mouth of the Savannah River in Georgia.

At the bombardment of Port Royal and the capture of Forts Walker and Beauregard, the Seventh was the first regiment ashore and into the rebel fortifications, with their colors being the first to float over the soil of South Carolina since her secession.

They took part in nineteen engagements and many smaller skirmishes in which their losses were great. During their service Enfield rifles were exchanged for Spencer repeating carbines.

They mustered out in Goldsboro, North Carolina, July 20, 1865, and were finally paid and discharged at New Haven, August 11, 1865.

The Eighth Regiment was organized at Hartford, September 1861. After a period of training, it sailed south with the Burnside Expedition. Later, it was transferred to the First Division of the Eighteenth Army Corps.

In four years and two months of heavy fighting, they sustained heavy losses. A look at its tattered flag in the Capital in Hartford will attest to this.

Mustering out took place at Hartford, December 12, 1865.

The Ninth Regiment was made up primarily of men of Irish extraction. They were organized in September and October 1861, but due to lack of proper clothing and equipment they did not leave for active duty until November. They sailed on the "Constitution" from Boston and proceeded to New Orleans as part of General Butler's Expedition. There the men were "...still wretchedly clad, and it was mid-winter. Nearly half of them were without shoes and as many more without shirts; several had no coats or blankets. Some drilled in primitive attire of blouse and cotton drawers. The tents were hardly capacious enough to cover them. There was no straw to sleep on...". With the buoyancy of the Irish character, the men were hopeful; and during these severe months sent home to their families not less than twenty thousand dollars collectively, almost their entire pay. They took part in seven major engagements in Louisiana and three in Virginia.

Orders were issued October 12, 1864, for the Regiment to be consolidated into a Battalion, and all officers and men re-enlisted as veterans remained until muster out, August 3, 1865, at New Haven.

The Tenth Regiment was mustered into service September 30, 1861, at Hartford. Their tour of duty, consisting of constant nameless fights, skirmishes and twenty-seven major engagements,

took place in the Carolinas and Virginia.

Heavy casualties were sustained throughout their service. A record for Charles H. Clock of Darien is shown on the following pages. Many other Darien men were in this regiment, among them Charles S. Whitney, son of Charles and Roseannah (Mather) Whitney, one of four brothers to enlist in the service.

An interesting encounter with the enemy took place at James Island. The rebels had unwittingly formed their line of battle in such a position that the Tenth outflanked them two to one. With both sides in position, they faced each other with not more than two hundred and fifty yards between them. The Tenth called for the order to attack, but it was withheld by the Union command. Both sides stood facing each other for a few minutes. Then the Rebels faced right, marched past the Tenth's front, and departed. Complete annihilation was thus averted.

The Regiment's last engagement was a Appomattox Court House where they remained until General Lee's surrender and the last rebel was paroled. They then proceeded to Hartford where they mustered out of service, September 5, 1865.

The Eleventh Regiment was mustered into service at Hartford, October 24, 1861, and soon thereafter became part of Burnside's Expedition. At the Battle of Antietam, referred to as the "valley of death", they lost one hundred and one men, including every field officer.

They took part in ten major engagements in North Carolina, Maryland and Virginia. When they were assigned to the First Brigade, Third Division, Twenty-Fourth Corps, they took part in the advance into Richmond and were sent into the city to aid in putting out the fires which were fast sweeping that city to destruction.

They were mustered out of service at Hartford, December 21, 1865.

The Twelfth Regiment was known as the "Charter Oak Regiment". It was organized as part of the "New England Division" which was raised for special service.

They took part in nine major engagements in Louisiana and Virginia.

After the capture of Forts Jackson and St. Philip by Admiral Farragut in Louisiana, two companies of the regiment were ordered to land and occupy the forts. Almost immediately, word was received of the capture of New Orleans. The two companies rejoined the regiment and proceeded to that city. They arrived April 30, 1862, the first regiment to stand before New Orleans. They landed the nextday and went into camp in Lafayette Square.

On June 1, 1865, they went by transport to Savannah, Georgia, where they were mustered out, August 12, 1865. From there they were sent to Hartford, where they were discharged and paid, August 22, 1865.

The Thirteenth Regiment began formation in the Fall of 1861, and left New Haven November 25, 1861. Their tour of duty was in Louisiana and Virginia. They took part in eleven major engagements beginning with the battle of Georgia Landing, Louisiana, October 27, 1862, and ending with the battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia, October 19, 1864.

They were noted for their fine discipline, and consequently were selected for provost duty at the end of the war. The Regiment was not mustered out of service until April 25, 1866. This took place at Fort Pulaski, just south of Savannah, Georgia. They were paid and disbanded at Hart Island, New York, May 5-7, 1866.

The Fourteenth Regiment was recruited by the State at large, and mustered into service,

August 23, 1862, at Hartford.

Known for their fighting ability, they were dubbed "The Fighting Fourteenth". They took part in twenty-four major engagements which took them from Antietam, Maryland to HighBridge, Farmville, Virginia, and to the surrender of Lee's Army at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. They sustained heavy losses throughout the campaign.

On April 23, 1865, the Regiment took part in the "Grand Review" in Washington. Seven days later, recruits were transferred to the Second Connecticut Heavy Artillery, and the original members were mustered out of service near Alexandria. Leaving there, they returned to Hartford to a tumultuous welcome.

The Sixteenth Regiment was mustered into service, August 24, 1862. They proceeded to Washington, and joined the Army of the Potomac.

They took part in five major engagements in which they sustained heavy losses.

At Plymouth, North Carolina, they were overwhelmed by the enemy. Knowing their capture was imminent, they took the flags from the staffs and tore them into small strips. These remnants were given to the officers and men to conceal their persons. Despite privations suffered by many in southern prisons, many of these precious scraps were saved. In 1879, these remnants were gathered from the survivors, and made up into a new flag; a silk banner emblazoned with a shield surmounted by a crown. This restored banner was placed with the flags of the State at the Capital at Hartford, September 17, 1879.

The Seventeenth Regiment was almost wholly made up of men from Fairfield County who were mustered into service, August 28, 1862. Every town in the county sent volunteers.

When President Lincoln's call was read from the pulpit by Reverend Jonathon H. Barnes in the Congregational Church in Darien, Alfred Morehouse, barely 21, came to the front and was the first to enlist. His letter and a letter from the Adjutant General's office are shown on the following pages.

The start of their service was rather slow and dismal, but it wasn't long before they were taking part in torturous marches and disastrous encounters at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, Virginia. They went on to Gettysburg where they were hard pressed and suffered heavy losses. Later they were sent to relieve the Tenth Connecticut at St. Augustine, Florida, where their headquarters remained until the end of the war. One company usually garrisoned the old Fort San Marco, the rest were scattered in raids and at different posts. At the out of the way posts of Waleka and Saunders the men were overpowered by the enemy, and sent to Andersonville Prison in Georgia, May 19, 1864. Some of the men from Darien who endured this imprisonment were James H. Bates, Albert O. Seeley, John W. Bell, Edward S. Hoyt, Frank Scofield, and Henry P. Whitney.

They were mustered out of service at Hilton Head, South Carolina, July 19, 1865.

The Eighteenth Regiment was formed, August 4, 1862 at Norwich, Connecticut, and was made up of men from New London and Windham Counties.

Their first battle was a disastrous three day encounter at Winchester, Virginia, June 13-15, 1863, where they were greatly outnumbered by Confederate troops. Led by Colonel William G. Ely, they fought with such courage that General Walker of Stonewall Jackson's brigade praised the valor and discipline of the Eighteenth, and returned Colonel Ely's sword to him on the battlefield.

The Regiment went on to take part in twenty engagements, the last being at Berryville, Virginia, September 5, 1864.

They mustered out at Harper's Ferry, and immediately left for Hartford, where they were greeted by Governor Buckingham and large delegations from New London and Windham Counties, June 25, 1865.

The Twentieth Regiment formed in response to President Lincoln's call for 300,000 three year volunteers, June 1862. All were from New Haven County, with the exception of three companies from Hartford County. They mustered into service, September 8, 1862.

The Twentieth received orders to proceed to Washington and then to Harper's Ferry, where they became part of the Army of the Potomac. They participated in many skirmishes and eleven major engagements. After the battles of Chancellorsville, Virginia; Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; and Tracy City, Tennessee, the regiment became part of the Twentieth Corps. They started on their march to Atlanta, and proceeded through Snake Creek Gap, Tennessee, where the enemy was rapidly concentrating.

They set to work making a double track through the Gap to facilitate the passage of Union troops and arms. Here their Yankee ingenuity came to the fore when they captured four new brass guns by the rather novel method of digging through the mountain for them.

The last of their engagements was at Raleigh, North Carolina, April 13, 1865. They went on to Washington and were mustered out of service, June 13, 1865.

The Twenty-First Regiment was recruited largely in Eastern Connecticut, and was mustered into service, September 5, 1862.

They joined the Army of the Potomac, and endured the long march to Falmouth, Virginia, one hundred and seventy-five miles in twelve days. They were without tents all winter, exposed to terrible storms, lying down at night on frozen ground or in the plastic mud of Virginia, with only thin, scanty blankets for cover. As you can imagine, the toll from disease and death was high. The camp was given the appropriate name of Camp Death.

For awhile they became part of the Army of the James, then were again assigned to the Army of the Potomac.

The Twenty-First was one of several regiments sent on a secret expedition to Fredericksburg, Virginia, March 4, 1865, to break up an extensive illicit traffic in tobacco being smuggled across the river in exchange for supplies. The result was the capture of thirty rebel soldiers and the destruction of twenty-eight carloads of tobacco, valued by the rebels at \$1,300,000.

The last of their eight major engagements was the Evacuation of Richmond, Virginia, April 3, 1865. Their service ended in June, 1865.

The Twenty-Second Regiment was recruited from Hartford County, with the exception of one company. It was the first to respond to President Lincoln's call, August 4, 1862, for 300,000 militia to service for nine months.

The term of service was attractive to many holding positions which they could not leave for longer periods.

The regiment was sent to Falls Church, Virginia, to become part of the Army of the Potomac. They camped at Miner's Hill under the shelter of tents and set to work felling trees to build log cabins. The cabins were occupied for a little over two months. During their short tour of duty, they built fortifications in Arlington, Virginia, participated in the defense of Suffolk, Virginia during Longstreet's siege, and took part in the advance on Richmond.

They returned to Hartford and were mustered-out, July 7, 1863.

The Twenty-Third Regiment was composed of men from Fairfield and New Haven Counties, Companies A, B and E belonged to the active State militia.

They were assigned to take the river steamer "Che Kiang" to New Orleans, but the boat proved to be too small, and part of the regiment remained behind. They finally embarked on the ship "Planter", December 30, 1862, and were ship-wrecked on "Stranger's Key" in the Bahamas. Nassau officials assisted them in getting to New Orleans.

Their tour of duty took place entirely in Louisiana; la Fourche Crossing, Brashear City and Bayou Boeuf being their major engagements.

They returned to New Haven and mustered out of service, September 1, 1863.

The Twenty-Fourth Regiment was recruited in Middlesex, Hartford, New Haven and Fairfield Counties, and mustered into service in Middletown, Connecticut, November 18, 1862.

They were assigned to General Bank's Expedition, and after a perilous trip on a small side-wheel river boat, wholly unsuitable for a winter voyage at sea, finally arrived in New Orleans.

In Louisiana, they took part in the battle of Irish Bend. At the siege of Port Hudson they threw up an earthwork from which a zig-zag approach was dug close up to the enemy's ditch, and a mine forty-two feet long was tunneled under the enemy's works. This was held by the regiment until the surrender, a period of twenty-five days.

They returned to Middletown, Connecticut, and were dismissed after a great celebration. The regiment was mustered out, October 2, 1865, and discharged September 30, 1863.

The Twenty-Fifth Regiment was recruited in Hartford and Tolland Counties in the fall of 1862.

During their nine months tour of duty in Louisiana, they took part in four major engagements, starting at Irish Bend and ending at Bayou Boeuf.

Their service was described by Adjutant-General Morse as follows: "This is one of the best of our nine months regiments, and bore a conspicuous part in the advance upon, and campaign preceding the fall of Port Hudson. By the bravery always displayed on the field of battle, and the patient endurance manifested on many long and arduous marches, it has won itself a high and lasting reputation."

The regiment was mustered out at Hartford, August 26, 1863.

The Twenty-Sixth Regiment was comprised of men from New London and Windham Counties. They were also "Nine Months" men, and were mustered in at Camp Russell, Norwich, Connecticut, September 25, 1862.

They joined other Connecticut Regiments in Louisiana and took part in the siege of Port Hudson, May 27, 1863, and June 13, 14, 1863.

After this battle the brigade commander said in his report: "The nine-months troops have demonstrated by their gallant conduct that they can be relied upon in any emergency".

They returned to Norwich, and were mustered out of service, August 19, 1863.

The Twenty-Seventh Regiment was another regiment made up of "Nine Months" men. They mustered into service, October 22, 1862. Their number was made up of men from the city of New Haven and from the towns of Madison, Milford, Wallingford, Branford, Clinton, Guilford and

a small number from neighboring towns.

They went directly to Arlington Heights to become part of the Army of the Potomac. Ironically, their camp was in a peach orchard owned by General Robert E. Lee. From this camp they went to Falmouth to become part of the Right Division of the Army which was known for the severity of its campaigns.

One of the officers, Colonel Zook, on reviewing them, noted that they were equipped with inferior Austrian rifles and commented: "Boys, if you cannot discharge them, you can use the bayonet."

At the battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, the regiment, minus companies D and F, participated in the heavy fighting. They were captured, May 3, 1863, and led on a torturous march to Richmond. The officers were taken to Libby prison; non-commissioned officers and privates were quartered across the street in a tobacco factory. The latter were paroled, May 14, 1863, and sent to convalescent Camp at Annapolis, Maryland. The officers were held longer and were paroled, May 25, 1863.

After this, the companies of the Twenty-Seventh were re-formed. They were now made up of the exchanged soldiers and newly enlisted men, and they went on to distinguish themselves at the battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Their tour of duty being at an end, they returned to New Haven to be greeted with great enthusiasm. They mustered out, July 27, 1863.

The Twenty-Eighth Regiment was the last Connecticut Regiment organized under the call for nine months volunteers. It was composed of only eight companies, five from Fairfield County and three from Litchfield County.

After a rough trip by steamer, the "Che Kiang," they arrived at Carrollton, Louisiana, where they remained but a short time -- proceeding from there to Pensacola, Florida, for a long and pleasant stay. The companies were quartered in houses abandoned by their Confederate owners. Here they did some guard duty and some drilling, which was just about enough to stay healthy; a lovely sojourn, lasting from December 22, 1862 to March 20, 1863. They left Pensacola and went to Louisiana and soon took part in the Siege of Port Hudson, May 27 - July 9, 1863. Here they were under continual fire. On the final assault, the regiment furnished one hundred of the two hundred and fifty men for the storming party, and its losses were severe.

The regiment mustered out at New Haven, August 28, 1863.

The Twenty-Ninth Regiment was made of black volunteers. It was mustered into service in January 1864. They took transport for Annapolis, Maryland, arriving March 22, 1864. There the company was furnished with muskets of the best Springfield pattern.

They took part in five major engagements, Petersburg, Virginia, August 12 to September 24, to Kell House, Virginia, October 24-28, 1864.

With the Eighth and Fort-Fifth?????? Regiments, United States Colored Infantry, the Twenty-Ninth made up the Second Brigade, Third Division, Tenth Corps.

They distinguished themselves, engaged with the Eighteenth under General Butler, in the taking of Fort Harrison and a part of its connecting line of earthworks, about seven miles outside of Richmond.

After a heroic and gallant service they arrived back in Hartford, November 25, 1865, and were paid and discharged, November, 1865.

Connecticut can indeed be proud of all her men who served so valiantly.

There were moments of bravery, moments of cowardice, moments of chivalry and moments of brutality, and overall the terror and tumult of war.

1. History of the regiments abstracted from

Records of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion.

Compiled by Authority of the General Assembly. The Case, Lockwood * Brainard, Co., Hartford, Conn. 1889

* Linford A. Haas, Cpl., is interred in the North West Quarter, Row D, No. 165. He is listed as Albert in the Burial Records, (1) and as Linford A. Haas in the Cemetery Records. (2)

There is a second stone marked Linford A. Haas, Korean War. U. S. Army, Cpl., 1915-1958, in the North East Quarter, Row I, No. X. There is no burial record. This is the grave site where Linford A. Haas would have been interred had it not been for the fact that another grave site was available at that time due to the disinterment of Valentio DeMio.

Valentio DeMio died May 21, 1940. (3) He was interred in the North West Quarter, Row D, No. 165. He was disinterred, April 31, 1959, and re-interred at St. John's. (4)

In the South West Quarter, Row I, No. X, it appears that a flat marker inscribed William Boswell, Sgt. U. S. Army, World War I, October 24, 1895 - Dec 12, 1963, is not over a grave. It probably should have been placed directly across the roadway in the same row in the South East Quarter. This would then move along the next stones reading Thomas F. Mullins, died February 15, 1964, John C. Pinkston, died January 26, 1964, Ira Medley, died March 3, 1964, and thus account for the missing tombstone between Ira Medley and David Harding, died, April 8, 1964. Cemetery records show that David Harding's interment was the next interment after that of Ira Medley. These records also show that John Pinkston was buried before Thomas F. Mullins so these stones probably should be reversed.

Perhaps some confusion was caused by the fact that Ira Medley was interred March 11, 1964, 2:15 P.M., disinterred March 23, 1964, and re-interred March 23, 1964, 10:00 A.M. (5)

- Burial Records, Town Hall, Darien, Connecticut. (Permit No. 1620)
- Interment Records, Spring Grove Cemetery, Darien, Connecticut.
- Burial Records, Town Hall, Darien, Connecticut. (Permit No. 175)
- Ibid.
- Interment Records, Spring Grove Cemetery, Darien, Connecticut

For further information on a veteran write:

Military Records Division
The National Archives and Records Service,
Washington, D.C. 20408

BOOK REVIEWS

SACO VALLEY SETTLEMENTS & FAMILIES

by Gideon T. Ridlon, Sr. (New (1984) limited printing of 1895 Edition) by New England History Press - P. O. Box 72, Somersworth, N. H. 03878

An interest book for historians and genealogists, this 1400 page book is important for its family histories which take up 800 pages.

The author traces 126 families in detail through at least six generations. Over 15,000 names are cited. Spouses and all children as well as birth, death and marriage dates are included. Family branches are traced to new locations such as New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, the Mid-West and South. A 25 page index with over 3,000 entries provides references to these names.

In addition, the book includes town histories, stories about lives of early settlers, Fireside Tales, early churches and pastors and stories on special subjects such as "The Western Reserve Emigration," "Patchwork and Quilting Frames," "Stage Lines and Drivers," and many others.

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
45 Old King's Highway North
Darien, Connecticut 06820

The Middlesex Genealogical Society cordially invites all who are interested in Genealogy to become a member. The Society was established to help those who wish to pursue the investigation of their family heritage and to provide guidance in research to that end. At least four meetings are held each year with a program and speaker. In addition, a Genealogy Section has been established at the Darien Library and research assistance is provided at the Library on Saturday mornings (10-12). A Quarterly Newsletter is mailed to each member.

Annual Memberships are \$10 for Individuals and \$15 for Couples or Families.