

Camps Badges

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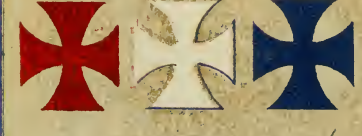
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Corps Badges,

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Explanation.



HISTORY

OF

PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS,

1861-5;

PREPARED

IN COMPLIANCE WITH ACTS OF THE LEGISLATURE,

BY

SAMUEL P. BATES,

MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Many are the examples of the great odds between numbers and courage, so that a man may truly make a judgment, that the principal point of greatness in any State is to have a race of military men. Neither is money the sinews of war (as it is trivially said) where the sinews of men's arms, in base and effeminate people, are failing. For Solon said well to Croesus, (when in ostentation he showed him his gold,) *Sir, if any other come that hath better iron than you, he will be master of all this gold.* Therefore, let any prince or State think soberly of his forces, except his militia of native of good and valiant soldiers.—LORD BACON.

VOL. I.

HARRISBURG:

B. SINGERLY, STATE PRINTER.

1869.

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SAMUEL P. BATES,

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P R E F A C E .

So long as differences arise among nations, which cannot be settled by peaceful conference, and appeals are made to the arbitrament of the sword, the only safety that remains to a government is in the courage of its soldiery. In the late sanguinary struggle, the national unity was preserved, and the perpetuity of democratic institutions secured, by the men who bore the musket, and who led in the deadly conflict. Argument and moral sentiment were at fault, diplomacy was powerless, and courage proved the only peacemaker.

In recognition of their services, and as a mark of the appreciation in which their valor is held, the Legislature of Pennsylvania authorized the preparation of a record of each of the military organizations in the field since 1861. By the act of May 4th, 1864, it was provided that there should be prepared "a military history of the organization of Pennsylvania volunteers and militia, who have been, or may be in the field." By the act of April 17th, 1867, it is more explicitly set forth, "that the military history of the Pennsylvania volunteers shall embrace an account of the organization, and services in the field, of each regiment, together with a roll giving the name, age, and residence of each officer and soldier, the date and term of enlistment, the promotions, the discharges, and casualties, and the places of burial of those who died in the service."

Though the first act bears date of May, 1864, nothing was done towards the execution of its provisions until June 1st, 1866. At that date, His Excellency, Governor CURTIN, appointed and commissioned me to commence the work. There was, at that time, no material in hand, except a partial file of muster rolls in the Adjutant General's Office, from which to compile the proposed history. Not even the post-office addresses of officers were known, who after the conclusion of the war had become widely scattered. Application was made to the War Office at Washington for access to the books and records of Pennsylvania regiments; but this, from first to last, was stubbornly refused, as were the applications from all the other States of the Union.

The only recourse, therefore, for the information necessary to prepare the required histories of regiments, was to the officers who commanded them; and as these were often changed during the war, the work of collecting it was thereby greatly multiplied. I immediately addressed myself to the task of soliciting reports, by circulars, and by an extensive correspondence, and for upwards of a year, without any aid, was employed seeking the necessary material. To one inexperienced in a work of this kind, little conception can be formed of the difficulties that were encountered. Often the ascertainment, or verification of a single fact, involved a long correspondence, and a laborious research.

On the 1st of July, 1867, I was commissioned by His Excellency, Governor GEARY, to continue and complete the work in accordance with the further provisions of the act of the April previous, and three clerks were appointed to assist me. Up to this time nothing whatever had been done in the preparation of the regimental narratives for publication; but the reports had been so far collected as to warrant its commencement. In general the material furnished was very voluminous, and its mastery involved patient toil. In addition to the reports of regimental officers, the reports of battles and campaigns made by General officers, the evidence elicited by the Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War, and numerous histories and serial records, have been consulted. In the composition of the work I have aimed to give a plain, faithful statement of facts, awarding to each organization full credit for whatever of importance it accomplished, according to the best information at my command, omitting trivial and unimportant details. No statement has been made that did not seem to rest upon authentic information, and where any serious doubt of the reliability of a fact has existed, it has been rejected.

The history of each organization, through its entire career, is given by itself. This method enables one better to understand the operations of an army in its entirety than any other. Indeed, the veritable history of a battle can only be well known by seeking it in detail. It must be sought as Mr. BATCHELDER has sought the information for his great map of the Battle-field of Gettysburg, by separate organizations, and which enables him to post each regiment, and show when and where it fought. "Men present in a battle," says THUCIDIDES, "are not able to see all that passeth: each single combatant can barely relate what happened about his own person."

But while the regiment is the unit of an army, and preserves its identity in battle, it also sustains intimate relations to the brigade, the division, the corps, and the army. While, therefore, the particular narrative has been confined, in the main, to the operations of the regiment, so much of the operations of the higher organizations has been given as to illustrate its relations with them, and to preserve the thread of the general narrative.

The rolls have been so prepared as to show the main items of the record of each individual soldier. This record has been collated from the muster-in rolls, special muster-in rolls, muster-out rolls, special muster-out rolls, provost marshal rolls, veteran rolls, special and general orders of the War Department, and regimental and company books. In the collation of these papers great diligence has been exercised to secure accuracy; but the manner in which the rolls were kept by the various company officers was very unequal—the details upon many of them being full and complete, while upon others they were very meagre. These inequalities must, consequently, extend to the published records, as only partial remedies for the defects existed.

The date of death, place of burial, and number of grave, of those who fell or died while in rebel prisons, and are buried in the National Cemeteries, have also been incorporated. These facts have been carefully drawn from the burial records prepared and published by the National Government, under the direction of the Quartermaster General. This information will be found, in some particulars, to be incomplete, inasmuch as the government has been unable to obtain the records of some of the rebel prisons, and the graves of many soldiers were unmarked and unknown. A large reward has been offered by the National authorities for the burial record of the prison at Florence, South Carolina, one of the most horrible of its class, and in which many Pennsylvanians yielded up their lives; but, as yet, no trace of it has been discovered. The names of a large number of the dead, known to be Pennsylvanians, but the organization to which they belonged unknown, have been preserved, and will be published together in the concluding volume. The burial records of a few which have been ascertained since the printing has been completed, are given at the close of this volume.

Notwithstanding great care has been exercised to avoid them, it is possible that some errors may appear. If any are discovered, it is earnestly requested that information concerning them be promptly given, that they may be corrected in future issues. The records of a few men

have been changed by orders of the War Department since the printing was done. These, together with a few errors discovered, are corrected in the "Errata."

The maps which accompany this volume have been drawn under my direction by Mr. L. R. BOGGS, compiled from the most authentic sources, in general from the official war maps, and have been lithographed especially for this work. Maps to illustrate other campaigns will follow, so that together they will cover the whole ground where Pennsylvania troops fought. For the purpose of ready reference, the year in which the events treated occurred, is given at the head of the page, and the particular dates are freely interwoven in the narrative. History is but an answer to three questions, when? where? and what? Indeed, geography and chronology, which have been declared to be the two eyes of history, are so intimately interwoven with it, that they have come to be regarded as a part of its substance, and no historical work is now considered complete that is not provided with maps, and a full system of dates.

I take great pleasure in acknowledging my indebtedness to Governor GEARY, under whose direction, by provision of law, the work has been prepared, and who, amidst the cares of the chief magistracy of this great Commonwealth, has found time to patiently and critically examine the sheets as they came from the press; to Doctor JOHN H. GIBON, the Governor's private secretary, who has read the proof sheets, and who, from his practical knowledge of book-making, has given valuable advice in regard to its mechanical execution; to Mr. R. E. ASHLEY, chief clerk, who has had charge of the rolls, has read the proofs of them, and has assisted me in digesting the material for the regimental narratives; to Messrs. S. ROATH, L. R. BOGGS, F. H. COUSE, and J. V. FENN, clerks, for their care and fidelity in copying the rolls; to the Adjutant General, for access to the records of his office; to Mr. J. R. SYPHER, for his History of the Reserve Corps, which has been freely consulted; to Messrs. E. M. WOODWARD, A. F. HILL, and W. P. LLOYD, for regimental histories; and to the officers who have promptly reported the operations of their commands, and have extended to me their countenance and sympathy, without which the execution of the work would have been impossible.

S. P. B.

CAPITOL, HARRISBURG, *October 13, 1868.*



Map of the
THEATRE OF WAR
1861-1865.

Scale of Miles

- Rail Roads ————
- State Capitals ○
- State Boundaries ————

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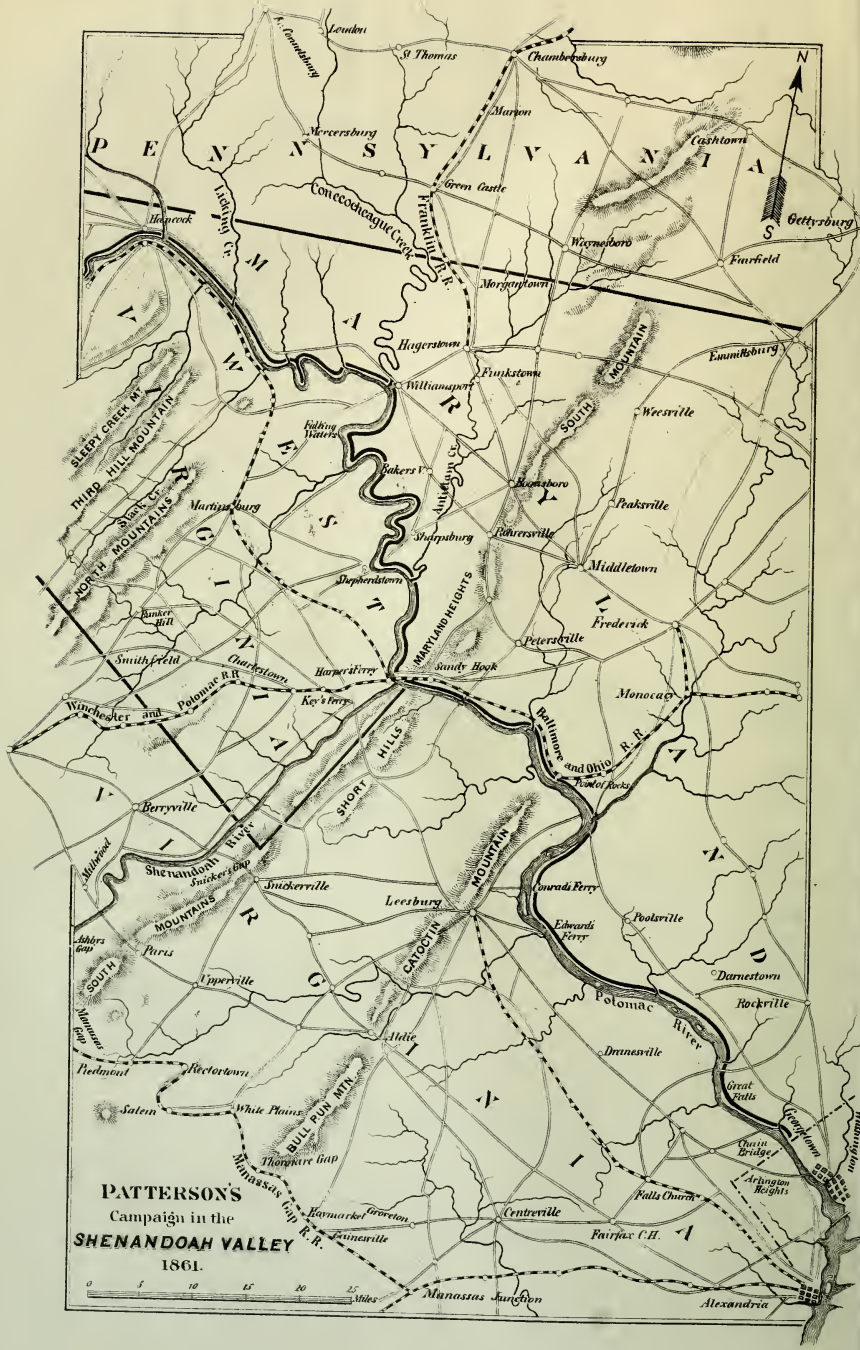
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PATTERSON'S
 Campaign in the
SHENANDOAH VALLEY
 1861.



RECORD
OF
PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS,
FOR
THREE MONTHS' SERVICE,

Under the Call of the President of April 15, 1861, for Seventy-five Thousand Men.

Proclamation of the President of the United States, issued April 15, 1861.

WHEREAS, The laws of the United States have been for some time past, and now are opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed, in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals by law; now, therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution and the laws, have thought fit to call forth, and hereby do call forth, the militia of the several States of the Union, to the aggregate number of 75,000, in order to suppress said combinations, and to cause the laws to be duly executed.

The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the State authorities through the War Department. I appeal to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate, and aid this effort to maintain the honor, the integrity, and existence of our national Union, and the perpetuity of popular government, and to redress wrongs already long enough endured. I deem it proper to say that the first service assigned to the forces hereby called forth, will probably be to re-possess the forts, places, and property which have been seized from the Union; and in every event the utmost care will be observed, consistently with the objects aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction of, or interference with property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens of any part of the country; and I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid, to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes, within twenty days from this date.

Deeming that the present condition of public affairs presents an extraordinary occasion, I do, hereby, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, convene both Houses of Congress. The Senators and Representatives are, therefore, summoned to assemble at their respective chambers at twelve o'clock, noon, on Thursday, the fourth day of July next, then and there to consider and determine such measures as, in their wisdom, the public safety and interest may seem to demand.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the city of Washington, this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-fifth.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

FIRST FIVE COMPANIES.

THE people of Pennsylvania, reluctant to believe that the political leaders of the South intended to inaugurate civil war, were gradually led, by the formal secession of several of the Southern States, to think that such an event was possible. The subsequent vigorous and imposing preparations made by the military forces of South Carolina, under the leadership of General Beauregard, to besiege and capture a starving garrison of sixty effective men, under Major Anderson, at Fort Sumter, had finally prepared the public mind for an attack, which promised so safe and successful a result to the besiegers.

On the morning of the 12th of April, 1861, the Executive of Pennsylvania received a telegram in these words: "The war is commenced. The batteries began firing at four o'clock this morning. Major Anderson replied, and a brisk cannonading commenced. This is reliable and has just come to the Associated Press. The vessels were not in sight."* This startling intelligence, flashed along the lines of telegraph, across the Alleghenies, was soon heard in the remote corners of the Commonwealth. Threatnings and defiance, from Southern leaders, had long since ceased to intimidate; but when they fired upon the Flag, its import could not be mistaken. It meant war, and the appeal to arms was at once accepted by the masses of the North, however much they deprecated the alternative.

Three days later, on the 15th of April, the President of the United States issued his proclamation calling out the militia of the several States to the number of seventy-five thousand men. On the afternoon of the same day, the Secretary of War telegraphed to the Executive, that a call had been made on Pennsylvania for sixteen regiments. Two regiments were wanted within three days. A sudden dash upon the Capital was already strongly threatened. The city was entirely unprotected, and at the mercy of the assailants.

The President's call, accompanied by an appeal from the Executive, was telegraphed to every part of the Commonwealth, urging men to come forward, in companies and squads, with all possible dispatch, to the defence of the imperilled Capital. Aside from the city of Philadelphia, there were few militia companies fully armed and equipped; and of these, few contained even the minimum number of (32) men. As the intelligence, of the appeal for men, spread through the towns and villages of the interior, the officers of the few organized companies, hastily called their men together, and tendered their services to the Governor.

* Telegram, addressed to Gov. Curtin, from Philadelphia, by J. Morris Harding. *Telegrams received MS., Vol. 1, p. 1.*

Among the first thus promptly to respond, were the Ringgold Light Artillery, Captain M'Knight, of Reading; the Logan Guards, Captain Selheimer, of Lewistown; the Washington Artillery, Captain Wren, and the National Light Infantry, Captain McDonald, of Pottsville; and the Allen Rifles, Captain Yeager, of Allentown.

Early in January, 1861, the late Major General William H. Keim, with characteristic sagacity, had advised Captain M'Knight that the services of his company* would probably soon be needed, and had counselled him to hold them in readiness for immediate service. Hence, from that time forward, frequent and almost daily drills were practiced. The dispatch, announcing the attack on Fort Sumter, found the company at drill at some distance from the city. The effect was electrical. All were impatient to move to the defence of the Flag.

The company was held in readiness, and, on the 16th of April, marching orders were received from Governor Curtin. On the afternoon of the same day, it moved by the Reading railroad to Harrisburg, where it arrived at eight o'clock in the evening. The company numbered one hundred and two men, fully armed and equipped as light artillery. On reporting at the Executive office, the Governor being absent in Washington, orders were sought from the Secretary of War, who telegraphed to push the company forward by the earliest train. This order, for prudential reasons, was almost immediately countermanded by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. †

The Logan Guards, ‡ of Lewistown, could muster but twenty-six members; but, on receipt of a telegram from Governor Curtin, dated April 16, accepting their services, and urging them to lose no time in moving, the drum-call was soon heard along the streets, and in less than an hour, one hundred and six

*THE RINGGOLD LIGHT ARTILLERY of Reading, a volunteer company, was organized and equipped in 1850, under James M'Knight, Captain. It was armed with four six-pounder brass field pieces and caissons, with full equipments of artilleryists, including sabres, and mustered over two hundred men. It was composed of good material, was well drilled, and was the pride of the city of Reading. It had participated in several volunteer encampments; one at Easton of a week's duration, where it was entertained by ex-Governor Reeder, and other leading citizens.

† HARRISBURG, April 16, 1861.

Captain James M'Knight:

DEAR SIR:—You will please delay your march to Washington until ordered by the Governor.
Respectfully yours,

ELI SLIFER.

‡THE LOGAN GUARDS, a volunteer company, was organized by Major Daniel Eisenbise, inspector of the 2d brigade, 14th division, Pennsylvania militia. In the month of July, 1858, John B. Selheimer was elected Captain, and commissioned on the 7th of August. The company met for parade and drill about once a month, and participated in volunteer encampments at Lewistown in the fall of 1859, and at Huntingdon in 1860, both under command of Major General Wm. H. Keim. It participated in the ceremonies incident to the inauguration of Governor Curtin in January, 1861, and in the reception of Mr. Lincoln, President elect, on the 22d of February following.

At the close of the three months' service it was re-organized under Captain J. A. Mathews, and re-entered the service in the 46th regiment, Colonel Knipe, for three years, remaining as veterans to the close of the war, and participating in the campaigns of Banks, M'Clellan, Pope, Burnside, Hooker, and Sherman. The losses of the company, from all causes, during the war, were one hundred and eleven men; but so well did recruits come forward from the home neighborhood, as they were wanted, that at the close of the war, sixty-eight men and officers were mustered out as veteran volunteers, the rolls showing an aggregate membership of two hundred and forty-seven. The survivors of the organization participated in the flag reception, at Philadelphia, on the 4th of July, 1866, and were assigned to the right of the procession, by Major General Hancock, commanding officer of the day.