

**A RECORD OF
SUNDERLAND IN THE
CIVIL WAR OF 1861-1865**

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A Record of Sunderland in the Civil War of 1861-1865 by Jesse L. Delano

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OF

SUNDERLAND IN THE CIVIL WAR

OF 1861 TO 1865.

COMPILED BY
JESSE L. DELANO.
IN 1881.

ACCORDING TO VOTE OF THE TOWN.

AMHERST, MASS.
J. E. WILLIAMS, PRINTER.
1882.

US 1347, 1918



INTRODUCTION.

In 1863 the Legislature of Massachusetts voted that each town should make a record of its soldiers, and of such facts relating to each and his service as might be interesting or useful to future generations. For various reasons our town neglected to make such a record at that time, and therefore, after long delay, in 1880 the town voted that such a record be made, so far as possible, and placed among the other records of the town for preservation. After considerable investigation and research, the vote has been complied with, and according to a vote of the town in March, 1882, abstracts of the same—together with some explanatory and historical narrative—is now presented to the public.

RECORD.

On the 12th of April 1861, the cannon of nineteen batteries rained a torrent of shot and shell on the devoted heads of sixty besieged and half-starved men in Fort Sumter, S. C., who stood true to their Country and had not forsaken their post even when their last biscuit was eaten. Those rebel guns battered down and set on fire the fort, compelled the surrender of the heroes, and while in the Providence of God they took not the life of a single man, they nevertheless accomplished their mission. The people heard them breaking down the great Temple of Liberty and Union which their Fathers had builded, and they roused themselves like a giant from his sleep, and the shots that were intended to sever this nation in twain, only tended to cement firmly together all loyal hearts and hands throughout the land. The men buckled on the armor of the patriot, and grasped the sword and musket, while the women in tears, bade them go forth to fight, stayed behind to watch, and work, and pray, and wait, for nearly five long years.

There are some among us who remember well the exciting events of those days and months after the fall of Fort Sumter, when the work of preparation—both of men and material—was being pushed to the utmost: when meetings were held all over the country—when volunteers offered themselves by the thousand—when men were drafted, and bought and hired, when money was poured out by the

million—when blood flowed like water—when anxious faces dreaded to hear the next day's news, and when, alas, too often, the worst fears of the weeping ones were realized.

Aye, *there are a few* among us now who can sit calmly down, and *recall*, as it were a dream, the glittering parade, the mustering camp, the crowded transport, the watchful picket line, the dusty and wearisome march, the assault so deadly, the smoke and din of battle, the hospital, the surgeon's knife, the letters from home, the prison pen, the dead comrade's face, and the final victory.

Yes, there are some here *now*, who remember all this and more, but the number is growing smaller year by year, and in a few years more none will be left to tell the tale.

In the years to come, when the favored sons and daughters of Sunderland are asked the questions "What part did your town bear in the suppression of the Great Rebellion, and did anybody go out from you to stay the mad hand of Treason?" "Did your town furnish any aid to those who entered the army? Did *any* lay down their lives for their Country?" it should be the pride and glory of all to be able to answer in the affirmative, and point to the Record of noble action, both of those who went to the front, and those who followed them with their gifts and prayers. That we may be able to answer such questions intelligently, and to preserve from oblivion the names of those who took their lives in their hands and went forth at the call of duty, and the liberal means furnished by the town for their comfort, and for aid to their families in their absence, is the object of the investigation which has been made, and the result of which is embodied in the Record which is now presented to you. It is a matter of regret that this Record was not attended to before. Twenty years work wondrous changes, and many things, *once* easily ascertained, are *now* obtained with difficulty, and in some cases with considerable expense,

while other matters also quite desirable cannot be found. Realizing these difficulties it was with much hesitation that the work was commenced, and though not as complete and full as desirable, still we have a Record, that for all practical purposes will probably be sufficient.

The people of Sunderland were united in their efforts to do their part in providing men and means, and numerous meetings, both of the town and of the people, were held to accomplish the purpose, and the war and its progress was the all-absorbing topic in private and in public.

The valuation of the town of Sunderland in 1860 was \$345,843; in 1865 it was \$412,827. The whole amount of money expended as a town on account of the war, exclusive of State aid to soldiers' families, was \$12,490.52, which is nearly four per cent. of the town valuation. The sums also raised and expended by the town, for aid to the families of soldiers during the years of the war, were as follows: In 1861, \$23,92; in 1862, \$624.40; in 1863, \$1486.80; in 1864, \$840.44; in 1865, \$543.56, making a total of State Aid during the five years of \$3,519.12. This was afterwards repaid by the Commonwealth. In 1880 state aid had dwindled to \$192, and only two recipients. The labor of arranging the details of all these extra expenses, and of securing the men who should enlist to the credit of the town, and of disbursing the funds to their families, fell in a great measure on the officers of the town, who were unremitting in their work, and expended much time and labor without compensation. The selectmen in 1861 were D. Dwight Whitmore, John R. Smith, and Albert Montague; in 1862, Albert Montague, Elihu Smith, and George L. Bachelder; in 1864, Albert Montague, Erastus Pomeroy, Stoughton D. Crocker; in 1865, Albert Montague, Henry J. Graves and Merrick Montague. The Town Clerk during all these years was Horace W. Taft. The Town

Treasurer of 1861 was William Hunt; in 1863, 1864 and 1865 John M. Smith.

The first town meeting at which any action was taken in reference to the subject was held the 24th of May, 1861, and it was voted: "That Charles Whitmore, James B. Prouty, Samuel Jennison, N. Austin Smith, Israel Childs and Charles Cooley be a committee to disburse such sums as shall, in their judgment, be necessary for an outfit for any persons, residents of this town, who may enlist for the support and defense of our Union and for the comfort of their families during their term of service, and that said Committee be authorized to borrow such sum or sums, not exceeding two thousand dollars, as shall be necessary to carry this vote into effect."

This vote was passed while it was yet a question as to whether the town could legally appropriate money for such purposes, but the town was guaranteed against loss by liberal subscriptions by some of our patriotic citizens. These subscription papers are still in existence, and show that a large proportion of the citizens subscribed to this fund in amounts varying from \$5 to \$200 each, and the money was actually paid over to the committee, and afterwards refunded by the town.

In the following Spring, at the annual town meeting, the state having authorized it, it was voted: "That the Selectmen be authorized to borrow money if necessary to conform to the law for paying aid to the families of soldiers in the U. S. service." On the 25th of September, 1862, it was voted: "That we as a town vote to pay all those who have or shall enlist under the last two calls of the Government for troops, \$100 each to be paid on their being mustered into service." On the 27th of Sept., 1862, it was voted, "That the sum of \$100 be paid to each man who has enlisted, as nine months volunteers." This vote was