

**HISTORY OF THE SALEM
LIGHT INFANTRY
FROM 1805-1890**

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History of the Salem Light Infantry from 1805-1890 by George M. Whipple

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GEORGE M. WHIPPLE

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OF THE
SALEM LIGHT INFANTRY

FROM 1805 TO 1890.

BY GEORGE M. WHIPPLE.

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1890.

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DEDICATED
TO THE
PAST AND PRESENT OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
OF THE
SALEM LIGHT INFANTRY.

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INTRODUCTORY.

It has been thought best to divide this history into three periods. First, a sketch of the company from its organization in 1805 to the year 1861. Second, a brief record of the corps during the war in defence of the Union, embracing the years 1861-65 (a record of which not only the company itself, but our city and the state as well may be proud; perhaps it is not too much to say that it is doubtful if another military company in the state can show a larger number of commissions than were issued to the members of the Salem Light Infantry, and its ranks contained many good men and true. The story of their deeds should not longer be delayed, but should be put on record in permanent form while those competent to do this are living). Third, the period from 1865 to 1890, which includes a sketch of the Salem Light Infantry Veteran Association.

At the annual meeting of the Salem Light Infantry Veteran Association in May, 1890, a committee (consisting of Dr. Henry Wheatland, Captains George D. Putnam and John P. Reynolds) was chosen to prepare for publication a history of the Salem Light Infantry during the period of the war in defence of the Union (1861-65). This when completed, and the story of the three months campaign in 1861 of the company, then known as the Salem Zouaves, which has been prepared for the press by Captain Reynolds, will, with this volume make a fairly complete record of the life of the company from its organization to the present time.

The Salem Light Infantry Company was organized in Salem, Massachusetts, May 1, 1805, under the following call which appeared in the *Salem Gazette* of June 8, 1804 :