

**THE MEMORIAL  
RECORD OF  
ESSEX, VERMONT**

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The Memorial Record of Essex, Vermont by L. C. Butler

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**L. C. BUTLER**

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MEMORIAL RECORD

OF

ESSEX, VERMONT.

PREPARED BY

L. C. BUTLER, M. D.

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Published by Order of the Town.

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BURLINGTON:  
H. S. STYLES, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.  
1886.

## P R E F A C E

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At the annual town meeting held March 6, 1866, the following MEMORIAL RECORD was read,—and on motion of D. H. Macomber, Esq., the Selectmen of the town were directed to procure the printing of not less than SIX HUNDRED copies of the same, and as many more as shall be subscribed for by individuals; one copy to be distributed to each family in town.

In compliance with this vote, the following pages, gathered partly from oral communications, but mainly from official records, and woven together amid the active duties of professional life, are herewith presented to the people of the town.

## MEMORIAL RECORD.

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Repeated instances of patriotic devotion to the "Flag of our Union" have occurred in our history, since the war of the Revolution made us as States "one and inseparable." The war with the mother country in 1812—14, and with Mexico in a later day, are cases in point. In both, were exhibited the strong love of country and enthusiastic attachment to it, which has ever been a prominent characteristic of the American citizen.

But none of these so stirred the utmost depths, or so enkindled to a flame the patriotism of the masses of the people, as when those thrilling words flashed along the wires of the Telegraph, on that bright Sabbath morning, April 14, 1861, "*Sumter has fallen!*" It vibrated through every nerve and muscle. It quickened to a feverish glow the pulsations of every heart. It hushed the tumult of rancorous passions then culminating into ripened animosity. It instinctively drew men of all parties and shades of political opinions together, and each found the heart of his fellow beating in unison with his own. Throughout the whole North not a discordant note was heard or uttered. With unparalleled unanimity, the patriotism of the people rallied round the symbol of our liberty and nationality. "Not a star shall be stricken out;" "not a stripe shall be erased from the

dear old flag;" "*the Union, it must and shall be preserved,*" was the unanimous outburst of the patriotism and loyalty of a nation in peril from foes within itself; and the most natural expression of that patriotism was to rally for the nation's defence, to repel invasion and to put down rebellion. Hardly, therefore, had the first calls for volunteers been promulgated, ere the ranks were filled, and hearts that most joyfully kept "step to the music of the Union, the Constitution and the Laws,"—ruthlessly violated by those of our own household,—were marching away by thousands and tens of thousands, amid tears and fearful forebodings, shouts and rejoicings, to defend with their blood and their lives, the altars and fires of our beloved country. Old and young participated in the patriotic enthusiasm. The scarred and war-worn veteran of former days, chafed in his age and weariness again to peril his life for the flag under which he had marched to victory,—but the young, with lighter step and nimbler gait filled up the ranks before him. Fathers brought forward their sons, in many cases enlisting with them. Mothers, with much the same spirit that animated the Spartan mothers of old, who gave their sons the war shield, and with patriotic bravery ordered them to bring it back, or themselves to be brought back upon it, offered up their offspring upon the altar of an imperilled country. Each vied with the other in prompt enthusiastic response to the country's call. Never, in all our history as a nation, was enthusiasm more enthusiastic, patriotism more patriotic, or loyalty more intensely loyal. The integrity of the Union, the symbolic representation of our freedom and national-



ity, assailed by armed rebellion in our midst, were the dragon's teeth, sown by that unnatural and unsightly monster *secession*, from which sprung the armed hosts of patriotism and bravery, which have brought to us of this day, the blessings of peace and a restored Union.

In this conflict, now so happily terminated, this town has borne an honorable and praise-worthy part. It has had representatives in nearly every regiment that has been raised in the State, and in a large proportion of the hardest-fought battle fields. A few have been buried upon the field of victory they helped to win. Some have found a resting-place among their kindred at home. Some have brought back the evidences of their valor in the wounds they received upon the battle-field, and in the mutilation of their persons. Many have passed unscathed through all the perils of camp and battle and prison. Most of them have incited the gratitude of their townsmen, and we to-day place upon enduring record their bravery and their patriotism. Over the dead let us shed the tear of condolence and sympathy, and erect for them in our hearts, a monument which shall hold their names in lasting and grateful remembrance. For the wounded and those who have returned to us unscathed, let us wreath for their brow an unfading diadem of honor and affection from a grateful people.

Immediately upon the breaking out of the rebellion, the President of the United States made requisition

upon the Governor of Vermont, April 15, 1861, for its quota of seventy-five thousand State Militia, to be mustered into the service of the United States for the term of three months. In compliance with this requisition Governor ~~Hallbrook~~ ordered all the uniformed companies organized under the then existing Militia Law of the State, to fill up their companies to the full quota, and appointed Rutland as the place of rendezvous. This order was promptly obeyed, and in a very short space of time the First Vermont Regiment was ready for marching orders. In this regiment Essex had four representatives in the Howard Guards, of Burlington, viz: Malcolm G. Frost, Clark W. Bates, Heman Austin and Edgar A. Beach. To Mr. Beach belongs the honor of being the first to enter the ranks from this town, and for his promptness and patriotism in responding to the call, he received a gratuity of one hundred dollars, offered by Byron Stevens, Esq., to the first volunteer from Essex. Mr. Austin presenting himself for enlistment but a short time afterwards, received a like gratuity from Mr. Loomis of Burlington, in consideration of care for his son then just enlisting. The regiment was mustered into service May 2, 1861, and was discharged Aug. 15, 1861.

During the succeeding summer months, under the proclamation of the President for volunteers for three years, the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Regiments were rapidly organized and sent forward. Westley Hazelton having been appointed recruiting officer

with his headquarters at Essex Centre proceeded to enlist a company, which, under himself as Captain, became Company I of the Sixth Regiment. In this regiment Essex was largely represented during the war, and by some of her best and most active young men whose names we now place on record.

September 4, 1861, Albert and George Austin enlisted, the former of whom died December 11, of the same year, the latter, George, was promoted Corporal May 12, 1865, served through the war, and was mustered out June 26, 1865. Reuben Austin enlisted September 25, 1861, and died August 2, 1862. Elias E. Austin enlisted August 6, 1861, was wounded in the foot at Spottsylvania Court House May 10, 1865; promoted Corporal June 19, 1865, and was mustered out June 26, 1865. Norman A. Baker, an only son, around whom centered the fondest hopes of doting parents, enlisted October 2, 1861, and died in the Hospital January 9, 1862. Willard F. Blood enlisted Sept. 9, 1861, and was discharged March 8, 1863. Lowell S. Bradley, enlisted as Musician, August 28, 1861, was sick in Hospital at Philadelphia, and was discharged July 1, 1862. He afterwards re-enlisted in the Invalid Corps, went to Washington and died in the Government Insane Asylum. George H. Brown enlisted September 4, 1861, re-enlisted December 15, 1863, was promoted Corporal January 1, 1864, was wounded in the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5, 1864, at about four P. M. of that day. He lay on the ground between the lines of