

**REMINISCENCES OF THE 123D
REGIMENT, N.Y.S.V., GIVING A
COMPLETE HISTORY OF ITS THREE
YEARS SERVICE IN THE WAR**

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HENRY C. MORHOUS

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REMINISCENCES
OF THE
123^D REGIMENT, N. Y. S. V.

CHAPTER I.

CALL FOR TROOPS BY THE PRESIDENT—OLD WASHINGTON COUNTY RESPONSES—ENTHUSIASTIC WAR MEETING AT ARGYLE—PATRIOTIC RESOLUTIONS—WAR COMMITTEE—APPORTIONMENT OF COUNTY—A FULL REGIMENT RAISED—RENDEZVOUS AT SALEM—DEPARTURE OF THE REGIMENT—ARRIVAL AT WASHINGTON.

McCLELLAN'S campaign before Richmond in June and July, 1862, resulted disastrously to our army, and carried triumph to the South and to the North dismay. The patriotic but mowarlike enthusiasm of the country, which had hoped to crush the Rebellion ere this, was temporarily stifled. But the chill was only like that of the first stealthy drops of the thunder gusts upon a raging fire, which breaks out anew and with increased vigor when the tempest fans it with its fury, and now burns in spite of a deluge of rain. From the great centres of national life went forth warm currents of renovating public opinion, which reached into every hamlet and village in the North. Every true man was grasping the stirring questions of the day, and was dis-

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cussing them with his family at his own fireside, and the Rebellion was doomed. In a deeper and broader sense than ever before the country was rising to meet the emergency, and Northern patriotism, now thoroughly aroused, was sweeping everything before it. Everywhere resounded the cry "To arms!" and thousands were responding to the President's generous call for 300,000 troops July 1st, 1862.

It was under these trying circumstances that the citizens of Washington County, feeling that the hour for prompt action had come, assembled at Argyle in mass convention July 22, 1862, to make arrangements for the raising of her quota under the call.

The Convention was called to order by Hon. E. Dodd of Argyle, who nominated Hon. C. L. Allen, of Salem, as Chairman, who on taking the chair addressed the Convention in a stirring and patriotic address. On motion of Hon. Charles Hughes, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected as officers of the Convention:

PRESIDENT—HON. C. L. ALLEN, Salem.

VICE-PRESIDENTS—R. G. HALL, Argyle; THOS. SHULAND, Cambridge; CHARLES BENJAMIN, Dresden; ADAM COTTRELL, Easton; ALANSON AXTELL, Fort Ann; E. R. NASH, Fort Edward; P. H. NEHER, Granville; SIMON PRATT, Greenwich; F. FAREWELL, Hampton; J. M. NORTHUP, Hartford; D. C. J. WHITE, Hebron; PETER HILL, Jackson; CHARLES ROGERS, Kingsbury; ROBERT PATTERSON, Putnam; JOHN McDONALD, Salem; J. J. GRAY, Whitecreek; MICHAEL J. MYERS, Whitehall.

SECRETARIES—A. H. TANNER, Whitehall; D. B. COLE, Salem; ALONZO T. MASON, Greenwich.

The Convention adjourned for an hour, and on being called to order by the President, he announced that there were present several survivors of the war of 1812, and they were given a position on the platform.

Hon. E. Dodd, chairman of War Committee, offered several resolutions.

After the most unanimous and enthusiastic adoption of the resolutions by the Convention, the President introduced the Rev. Henry Gordon of Coila.

The soul-stirring and patriotic address of this gentleman aroused the patriotism of even the most sluggish. Among other things he declared that he had taken the blanket from his own head and given to a volunteer to prevent him from shivering with cold. He had a few things left, which were at the disposal of the War Committee if necessary. He had a horse, and they might tax every tooth in his head, and then if that was not sufficient, every hair in his tail. The whole address was characterized by vigorous argument and impulsive eloquence, that reminded one of the speeches of Curran and O'Connell.

After the conclusion of this speech, Hon. Joseph Potter of Whitehall was loudly called for, and came forward amid loud applause. He believed the Rebellion could and would be put down, and he should believe it until he could be convinced that Slavery made brave men, and Freedom made cowards. Every one must do something; if they could fight, fight; if they could better pay, let them pay; and if they can pray, let them pray.

Isaac W. Thompson of Granville followed, and after "Dixie," by the Ft. Edward band, Rev. Dr. Lambert was introduced, and he was followed by Hon. Charles Hughes and a Mr. Fowler.

After these stirring addresses the following resolutions were passed:

RESOLVED, That we will raise a Regiment in Washington Co.

RESOLVED, That A. L. McDougall, Esq., be nominated as Colonel of the Regiment.

RESOLVED, That the camp or depot for the Washington County Regiment be located at the village of Salem, on the County Fair Grounds, upon condition that the buildings be erected within twenty days, the fence built and the grounds finished, all without expense to the State or County.

RESOLVED, That James C. Rogers be nominated for Major of the Regiment.

RESOLVED, That Rev. Henry Gordon be nominated as Chaplain of the Regiment.

The following gentlemen composed the War Committee:

Hon. E. Dodd, Oliver Bascom, William Coleman, Charles Hughes, John T. Masters, A. L. McDougall, J. M. Stevenson, R. Richards, Edwin Andrews, Joseph Potter.

The following committees were appointed to aid in enlisting volunteers in the several towns:

ARGYLE—Alexander Barkley, John Gillis, James Hall, C. G. Harsha, J. McCall, E. Hill, W. D. Robertson, Wm. Lendrum, Henry Shepherd, Wm. Clapp, T. McN. Congdon.

CAMBRIDGE—E. McKie, A. Ingraham, J. S. Hall, Abel S. Webb, C. Skinner.

DRESDEN—A. A. Hulet, T. Slight, O. L. Steere.

EASTON—Seneca Gifford, Henry S. Crandall, Lewis Potter, J. M. Eddy, Henry Smith, S. Batic, E. Gifford, Adam Cottrell, Dr. J. Cipperly.

FORT ANN—C. Adams, Sidney D. E. Golyer, J. M. Barnett, George Clements, S. F. Pike, W. Swift, S. B. Corning, G. L. Stevens, I. Clements.

FORT EDWARD—Geo. Bradley, Geo. Sauterlee, Daniel T. Payne, William Durkee, William Robinson.

GRANVILLE—O. F. Thompson, M. Uter, R. G. Dayton, Nathaniel Mason, B. F. Otarson.

GREENWICH—Moses White, Morgan Heath, Abram Reynolds, A. Lendrum, Robert Alexander, Alex. Cherry, J. I. Lourie, S. L. Stillman, Jr., D. C. Bodge, Perry M. Selleck, Harvey Reid.

HARTFORD—J. P. Wood, J. M. Northup, J. Sill, W. H. Brown, Milo Ingalsbe.

HAMPTON—A. Daley, A. R. Broughton, J. Green, Hiram Hotchkiss, Thomas Manchester.

HEBRON—C. G. White, J. M. Rea, S. E. Spoor, Nathaniel Reynolds, J. S. McFarland.

JACKSON—William Thompson, Benjamin C. Bishop, A. W. McLean, Thomas B. Lourie.

KINGSBURY—Gay W. Clark, A. Freeman, G. I. Stone, Jr., Walden E. Richards, A. F. Hitchcock.

PITTSAM—A. Haier, W. G. Corbett, R. Craig.

SALEM—T. H. Walker, J. M. Williams, D. Woodard, W. Law, John King.

WHITECREEK—S. E. Sweet, R. C. Nicholson, M. P. Barton, J. Van Rensselaer, H. C. Gray, Jr.

WHITEHALL—E. E. Davis, S. T. Cook, J. Doren, J. E. Billett, G. A. Hall, T. Cowan, J. P. Blakeslee.

The county was apportioned into ten company districts, as follows :

No. 1—Putnam, Dresden, Fort Ann. 2—Whitehall. 3—Hampton, Granville. 4—Hartford, Hebron. 5—Kingsbury. 6—Fort Edward, Argyle. 7—Salem. 8—Cambridge and south half of Easton. 9—Greenwich and north half of Easton. 10—Whitecreek and Jackson.

The following were designated captains by the War Committee :

Dist. No. 5—Geo. W. Warren. No. 6—S. R. Potter. No. 8—O. S. Hall. No. 9—Abram Reynolds. No. 10—Henry C. Gray, Jr.

The following gentlemen were authorized to recruit : George Robinson, Argyle ; Harlan P. Wait, Hartford.

Enthusiastic war meetings were held in other towns in the county, and the enlisting of men was pushed rapidly forward. The raising of a Regiment in this county was more than her proportion of the full quota, but the people were thoroughly aroused. To the town of Greenwich and the north half of Easton belonged the honor of taking the right of the Regiment, being the first to fill up her quota.

At a subsequent meeting of the War Committee the following additional appointments were made : Quartermaster, John King, Salem ; Surgeon, Dr. Clark, Sandy Hill ; Assistant Surgeon, Dr. Kennedy, North Whitecreek ; Assistant Quartermaster, Charles Warner, Whitecreek. Col. McDougall appointed George H. Wallace Adjutant of the Regiment.

The Regiment rendezvoused at the Fair Grounds in Salem, the camp being designated as "Camp Washington," and was mustered into the United States service Sept. 4th, 1862.

In obedience to orders from the Adjutant General, the 123d Regiment broke camp September 5th, 1862, and took their departure for Washington. The embarkation of the troops on board the cars and the departure from the depot was delayed until about 10 o'clock in the evening, at which time the Regiment left amid the shouts and cheers of the immense throng of people, who had assembled to testify their respect for and interest in this noble offering of the patriotic sons of old Washington County.

Just before leaving camp the colors were presented to the Regiment, Co C of Whitehall being color company. The day before the departure of the Regiment, Hon. J. I. Lourie, on behalf of the citizens of Greenwich, in a neat and appropriate speech, presented to Capt. Abram Reynolds and Lieuts. James C. Shaw and Alonzo T. Mason each an elegant sword. Similar presentations were made to other officers of the Regiment.

The following is a list of the officers that went out with the Regiment:

FIELD AND STAFF OFFICERS.

Colonel, A. L. McDougall, Salem; Lieut.-Colonel, Frank Norton, (in the field); Major, James C. Rogers, (in the field); Adjutant, George H. Wallace; Quartermaster, John King, Salem; Surgeon, John Moneypenny; First Assistant Surgeon, L. W. Kennedy, Cambridge; Second Assistant Surgeon, Richard S. Connolly, Easton; Chaplain, Henry Gordon, Cambridge; Sergeant Major, Walter L. Martin, Fort Ann; Quartermaster Sergeant, Charles D. Warner; Commissary Sergeant, Clark Rice; Hospital Stewart, Leonard Corning, Fort Ann; Clerk, A. A. Buell, Whitehall.

COMPANY OFFICERS.

A—Captain, Abram Reynolds, Battenville; First Lieutenant, Alonzo T. Mason, Greenwich; Second Lieutenant, James C. Shaw, East Greenwich.

B—Captain, George W. Warren, Sandy Hill; First Lieutenant, James Warren, Sandy Hill; Second Lieutenant, Samuel C. Burton, Sandy Hill.

C—Captain, Adolphus H. Tamzer, Whitehall; First Lieutenant, Walter G. Warner, Whitehall; Second Lieutenant, John C. Corbett, Whitehall.

D—Captain, John Barron, Fort Ann; First Lieutenant, Alex. Anderson, Putnam; Second Lieutenant, Edward P. Quinn, Fort Ann.

E—Captain, W. W. Weer, Hartford; First Lieutenant, Geo. R. Hall, Hebron; Second Lieutenant, Seth C. Carey, Belcher.

F—Captain, Duncan Robertson, Argyle; First Lieutenant, Donald Reid, Lake; Second Lieutenant, George Robinson, Argyle.

G—Captain, H. C. Gray, Jr., North Whitecreek; First Lieutenant, James Hill, Coila; Second Lieutenant, Charles Archer, North Whitecreek.

H—Captain, John S. Cary, Salem; First Lieutenant, Benjamin Elliott, Salem; Second Lieutenant, Josiah H. Culver, Salem.

I—Captain, Orrin S. Hall, Centre Cambridge; First Lieutenant, Marcus Beadle, South Easton; Second Lieutenant, Albert Shiland, Centre Cambridge.

K—Captain, Henry O. Wiley, North Granville; First Lieutenant, Hiram O. Warren, Hampton; Second Lieutenant, Geo. W. Baker, Middle Granville.

The Regiment reached New York about 3 o'clock, on the morning of the 6th of September, Sunday, and marched through Broadway to City Hall Park, where they remained until 5 o'clock next day afternoon, when they took the steamer Transport for Amboy, and there took the cars for Camden. They were ferried over the Delaware river at this point to Philadelphia, where they found breakfast awaiting them at the Cooper Shop Volunteer Refreshment Saloon. This eating house was established on Otsego street, below Washington Avenue, in May, 1861, and in one year furnished meals free to 87,513 soldiers on their way to the front. The building was large enough to admit of a whole regiment eating at once. After a hearty breakfast the regiment marched up Washington street to the Park and after resting awhile, started for the Baltimore and Ohio depot.