

**HISTORY OF COMPANY E,  
OF THE SIXTH  
MINNESOTA REGIMENT  
OF VOLUNTEER INFANTRY**

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History of Company E, of the Sixth Minnesota Regiment of Volunteer Infantry by Alfred J. Hill  
& Charles J. Stees

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**ALFRED J. HILL & CHARLES J. STEES**

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**HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**COMPANY E**  
**OF THE**  
**SIXTH MINNESOTA REGIMENT**  
**OF VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.**

**BY**  
**ALFRED J. HILL.**

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**WITH AN APPENDIX BY**  
**CAPT. CHARLES J. STEES.**

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## PREFACE.

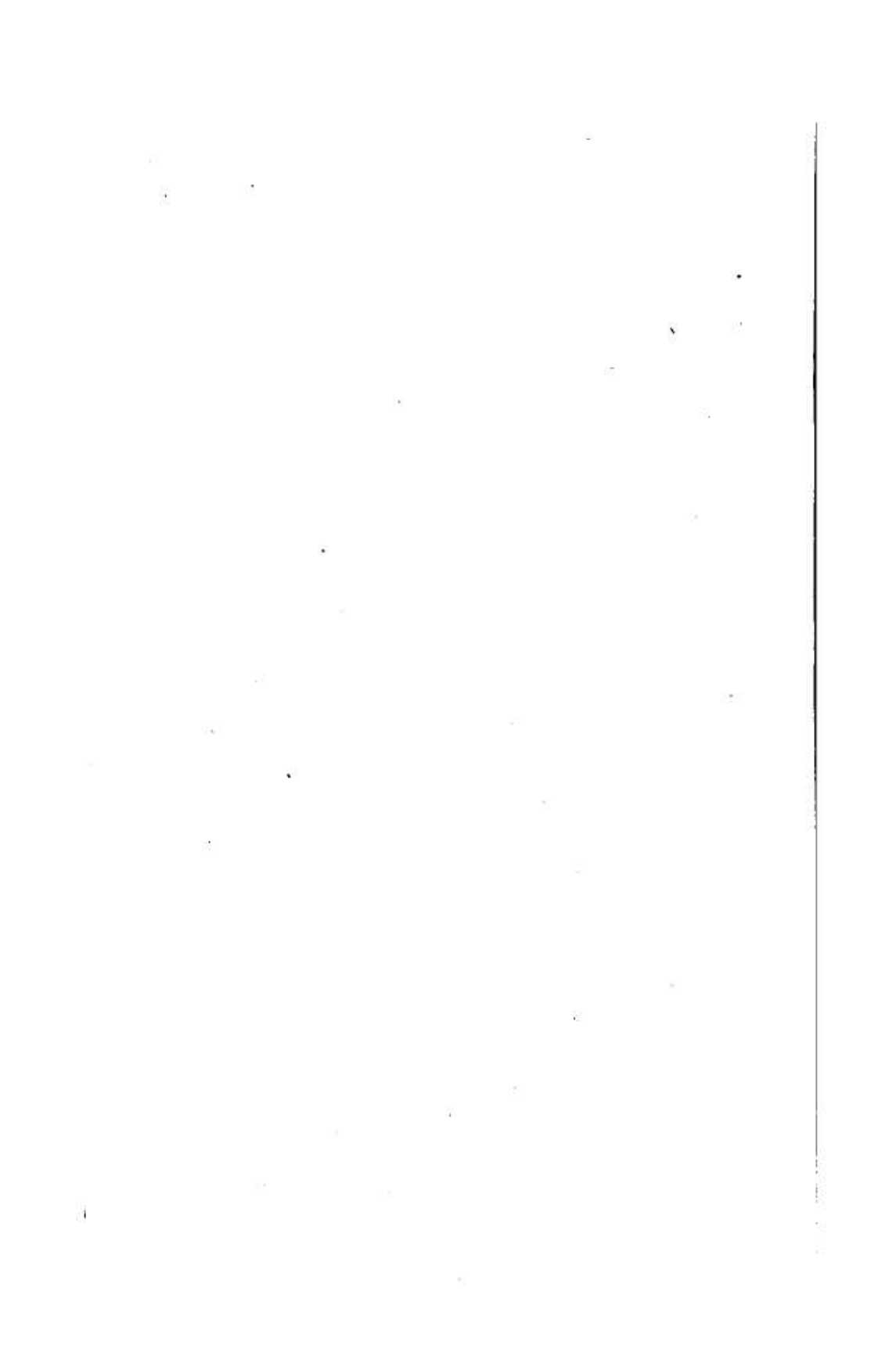
It will be remembered by those connected with the military service that, towards the end of the late Civil War, there went through the camps and barracks of the volunteer soldiers agents of publishing houses busily engaged in procuring material for "company histories," and still more anxiously soliciting subscriptions for the same. These histories were mere broadsides or charts, giving the name and rank of each man, with a few other personal facts, compiled from the muster rolls, and in addition an abstract of campaign movements, battles, and so forth; all the information being brought up to date of subscription. Of course as permanent and final records such publications would be failures, there being no "next" in which to "conclude" their stories.

While the Sixth Minnesota Infantry Regiment lay at New Orleans, one of the visitations described occurred to it (this being a very successful one), and thereupon a member of Company E proposed to a comrade the getting up of something of the kind among themselves, to be of home manufacture. Time permitting, the work was then commenced, continued in the field, and kept up with current events till the order for return home of the command to which the company belonged. Serious illness of the compiler, and the scattering of the members of the company, prevented the finishing of the work at the intended time, and caused its indefinite postponement.

As a contribution, though humble, to material for some future history of the part taken by Minnesota in the war for the Union this little book has been completed and published, and the writer would be greatly pleased if its appearance should stimulate the necessary research for the putting on record in somewhat similar form of the histories of other companies of our state regiments.

ALFRED J. HILL.

St. Paul, Minn., 1869.





## PART I.

### ORIGIN AND ORGANIZATION—1862.

In the spring of 1862 a sixth regiment of infantry had been called for from Minnesota by the Governor of the State, but, from various causes, the enlistments proceeded very languidly till the disasters of the Virginian armies in the summer and the consequent proclamations of the President of the United States for volunteers gave an immense impulse to recruiting.

Under such circumstances it was that the "Sigel Guards," afterwards Company E of the Sixth Regiment, were projected and raised. In the month of June, Mathias Holl, of St. Paul, was authorized to recruit for the proposed company; and on the 23d of July, twenty men having been enlisted, he received a regular recruiting commission. Rudolph Schoenemann and Christian Exel, of the same city, also engaged in the work in connection with Lieutenant Holl, themselves enlisting in the company on the 6th and 14th of August, respectively. Many of the members, however, were not obtained particularly by these gentlemen, some having been recruited for other companies or regiments and transferred involuntarily to the Sigel Guards, others who had purposed enlisting in other companies—that never were filled—having joined it of their own accord, while a large proportion acted as their own recruiting officers, and made it their first choice. The names of those recruited for, or who intended to join, other organizations, are as follows, viz.: (1) Beckendorf, Besecke, Detert, Gropel, Mahle, Mann, Metz, J. J. Mueller, Schaefer, Simon, and Temme, were to have belonged to the company projected by Messrs. Klinkenfus, Knauff, and Krueger, of Lower Town, St. Paul. They joined in a body. (2) Bast, Blesius, Blessner, Dreis, Fandel, Greibler, Hoscheid, and Neierburg were enlisted August 15th by Messrs. Julius Gross and Lieutenant Kreitz, of St. Paul, for the Tenth Regiment, but were transferred to the Sixth. (3) George Paulson, a recruit for L. C. Dayton's company (St. Paul) for the Eighth Regiment, was transferred to the Sixth. (4) John, Kilian, Kraemer, Meyer, Praxl, and Radke came to Fort Snelling from Winona, as recruits for the Seventh Regiment, but enlisted instead in the Sigel Guards. All the recruits were enlisted and sworn in as privates except the drummer, the period of enlistment being "for three years unless sooner discharged."

The general rendezvous was at Fort Snelling, and, the "minimum" number (83) having been obtained, the company was provisionally organized there, on the 16th of August, by the enlisted

men expressing, by vote, their preference for candidates to fill the commissioned offices, and by the captain, then chosen, appointing the non-commissioned officers. Schoenemann and Holl were thus respectively elected captain and second lieutenant of the Sigel Guards, and were commissioned as such, on the 19th, by the Governor of the State, and Lieutenant Exel, already commissioned (August 11th), accepted as first lieutenant.

By the 19th of August the aggregate number of members was 94; their names, rank, etc., being shown in the following roll:

| NAME                                                  | NATIVE COUNTRY       | When Enlisted 1862 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>OFFICERS.</b>                                      |                      |                    |
| <i>Captain—</i><br>*Rudolph Schoenemann.....          | Prussia.....         | Aug. 14            |
| <i>First Lieutenant—</i><br>Christian Exel.....       | Hesse Darmstadt..... | Aug. 6             |
| <i>Second Lieutenant—</i><br>Mathias Holl.....        | Hesse Darmstadt..... | July 23            |
| <i>First Sergeant—</i><br>Justus B. Bell.....         | Ohio.....            | Aug. 4             |
| <i>Second Sergeant—</i><br>George Huhn.....           | Bavaria.....         | Aug. 7             |
| <i>Third Sergeant—</i><br>*Frederick Scheer.....      | Prussia.....         | July 23            |
| <i>Fourth Sergeant—</i><br>Ernst J. Knobelsdorff..... | Prussia.....         | July 29            |
| <i>Fifth Sergeant—</i><br>*Elias Siebert.....         | Hesse Cassel.....    | Aug. 2             |
| <i>First Corporal—</i><br>*Paul P. Huth.....          | Prussia.....         | June 13            |
| <i>Second Corporal—</i><br>John Burch.....            | Prussia.....         | Aug. 13            |
| <i>Third Corporal—</i><br>*Mathias Mueller.....       | Prussia.....         | Aug. 5             |
| <i>Fourth Corporal—</i><br>*William Rohde.....        | Hesse Cassel.....    | Aug. 2             |
| <i>Fifth Corporal—</i><br>Peter Leitner.....          | Bavaria.....         | Aug. 6             |
| <i>Sixth Corporal—</i><br>Reinhard Stiefel.....       | Prussia.....         | Aug. 7             |
| <i>Seventh Corporal—</i><br>George Sauer.....         | Bavaria.....         | Aug. 7             |
| <i>Eighth Corporal—</i><br>Richard Mueller.....       | Prussia.....         | Aug. 8             |
| <i>Musician—</i><br>*Charles Seidel.....              | Prussia.....         | July 9             |
| <i>Privates—</i><br>Bast, William.....                | Luxemburg.....       | Aug. 15            |
| Beckendorf, Peter H.....                              | Prussia.....         | Aug. 14            |
| Becker, Mathias.....                                  | Prussia.....         | Aug. 13            |
| Besecke, Ferdinand.....                               | Prussia.....         | Aug. 14            |
| Blesius, John.....                                    | Prussia.....         | Aug. 15            |
| Blessner, Charles.....                                | Luxemburg.....       | Aug. 15            |
| Boos, Michael.....                                    | Bavaria.....         | June 12            |
| Bristle, Christian.....                               | Baden.....           | Aug. 4             |
| Detert, Henry.....                                    | Prussia.....         | Aug. 14            |
| Dreis, Nicholas.....                                  | Luxemburg.....       | Aug. 15            |
| *Eberdt, Charles.....                                 | Mecklenburg.....     | Aug. 13            |

\*In military service before.

## SIXTH MINNESOTA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

9

| NAME                        | NATIVE COUNTRY       | When Enlisted 1862 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Private</i> —            |                      |                    |
| Ehelm, Joseph.....          | Austria.....         | Aug. 14            |
| Fandel, Henry.....          | Luxemburg.....       | Aug. 15            |
| *Fertein, Joseph.....       | Bavaria.....         | June 2             |
| Fischer, Louis.....         | Switzerland.....     | Aug. 16            |
| Gabeen, Samuel.....         | Canada.....          | Aug. 14            |
| *Gantner, Jacob.....        | Switzerland.....     | June 10            |
| Goldner, Joseph.....        | Prussia.....         | July 23            |
| Griebler, Joseph.....       | Prussia.....         | Aug. 15            |
| *Gropel, Henry.....         | Prussia.....         | Aug. 14            |
| Hahn, F. Carl.....          | Wurtemberg.....      | July 23            |
| Harrfeldt, August.....      | Holstein.....        | July 28            |
| Hauck, Jacob.....           | Baden.....           | Aug. 14            |
| *Helmann, Herman.....       | Prussia.....         | Aug. 9             |
| Henricks, Frederick.....    | Prussia.....         | July 28            |
| Henricks, Henry.....        | Prussia.....         | Aug. 5             |
| Hill, Alfred J.....         | England.....         | Aug. 14            |
| Hill, William A.....        | Virginia.....        | July 22            |
| Hoscheld, Nicholas.....     | Luxemburg.....       | Aug. 15            |
| Jakobi, Conrad.....         | Hesse Darmstadt..... | July 18            |
| John, Jacob.....            | Bremen.....          | Aug. 18            |
| *Juergens, Louis.....       | Waldeck.....         | Aug. 16            |
| *Kellermann, August.....    | Prussia.....         | Aug. 14            |
| Kernen, Jacob.....          | Switzerland.....     | Aug. 14            |
| Kilian, Philip.....         | Hesse Darmstadt..... | Aug. 18            |
| *Klinghammer, Louis.....    | Prussia.....         | July 9             |
| *Kobeltz, Frederick.....    | Bremen.....          | July 28            |
| *Koenig, Louis.....         | Baden.....           | Aug. 12            |
| *Kraemer, Frederick.....    | Wurtemberg.....      | Aug. 18            |
| *Krueger, Henry.....        | Schleswig.....       | Aug. 15            |
| Mahle, William.....         | Wurtemberg.....      | Aug. 14            |
| Mann, Jacob.....            | Wurtemberg.....      | Aug. 14            |
| *Martin, Frederick.....     | Prussia.....         | Aug. 16            |
| Metz, Charles.....          | Hanover.....         | Aug. 14            |
| Maurer, John J.....         | Prussia.....         | Aug. 13            |
| Meyer, John H.....          | Ohio.....            | Aug. 18            |
| Mueckenhausen, Joseph.....  | Prussia.....         | Aug. 14            |
| Mueckenhausen, Mathias..... | Prussia.....         | Aug. 14            |
| Mueller, John Jacob.....    | Wurtemberg.....      | Aug. 14            |
| Munson, John.....           | Sweden.....          | June 28            |
| Neierburg, Michael.....     | Luxemburg.....       | Aug. 15            |
| Parks, Thomas M.....        | Pennsylvania.....    | June 13            |
| *†Paulson, George.....      | Prussia.....         | July 28            |
| Paulson, Paul.....          | Norway.....          | June 10            |
| Peterson, Ole.....          | Norway.....          | July 28            |
| Porth, William.....         | Prussia.....         | Aug. 7             |
| Praxl, Anthony A.....       | Austria.....         | Aug. 18            |
| Radke, Rudolph.....         | Prussia.....         | Aug. 18            |
| Rehse, August.....          | Prussia.....         | Aug. 4             |
| *Reimers, Joachim.....      | Holstein.....        | Aug. 13            |
| *Reuter, Henry.....         | Hanover.....         | July 23            |
| Rossion, Jean.....          | Belgium.....         | July 31            |
| Schafer, Henry.....         | Canada.....          | Aug. 14            |
| Schauer, August.....        | Prussia.....         | Aug. 4             |
| Scheibel, Augustin.....     | France.....          | Aug. 15            |
| Schene, William.....        | Hanover.....         | Aug. 12            |
| Schermann, George.....      | Austria.....         | Aug. 11            |

†This young man's real name was Paul Bierstach, the other having been assumed to enable him to get sworn in without his parents' consent.

\*In military service before.