

**HISTORY SIXTY-FIRST
REGIMENT
PENNSYLVANIA
VOLUNTEERS, 1861-1865**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649131365

History Sixty-first regiment Pennsylvania volunteers, 1861-1865 by Various

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VARIOUS

**HISTORY SIXTY-FIRST
REGIMENT
PENNSYLVANIA
VOLUNTEERS, 1861-1865**

Pennsylvania Infantry, 61st Regt., 1861-1865

HISTORY
Sixty-first Regiment
Pennsylvania Volunteers
1861---1865

UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION



The Spirits of all ages after their sun is set, are gathered into
one firmament, to shed their unquenchable
light upon us all.



A. T. BREWER
HISTORIAN

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101 st

This book is dedicated to the patriotic and self-sacrificing people of Pennsylvania, through whose generosity it has been produced.



ILLUSTRATIONS.

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN . . .	Frontispiece
COL. OLIVER H. RIPPEY . . .	Opposite Page 17
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LIEUT.-COL. JOHN W. CROSBY . . .	Opposite Page 130
COL. ROBERT L. ORR . . .	Opposite Page 154



TO THE
AMERICAN

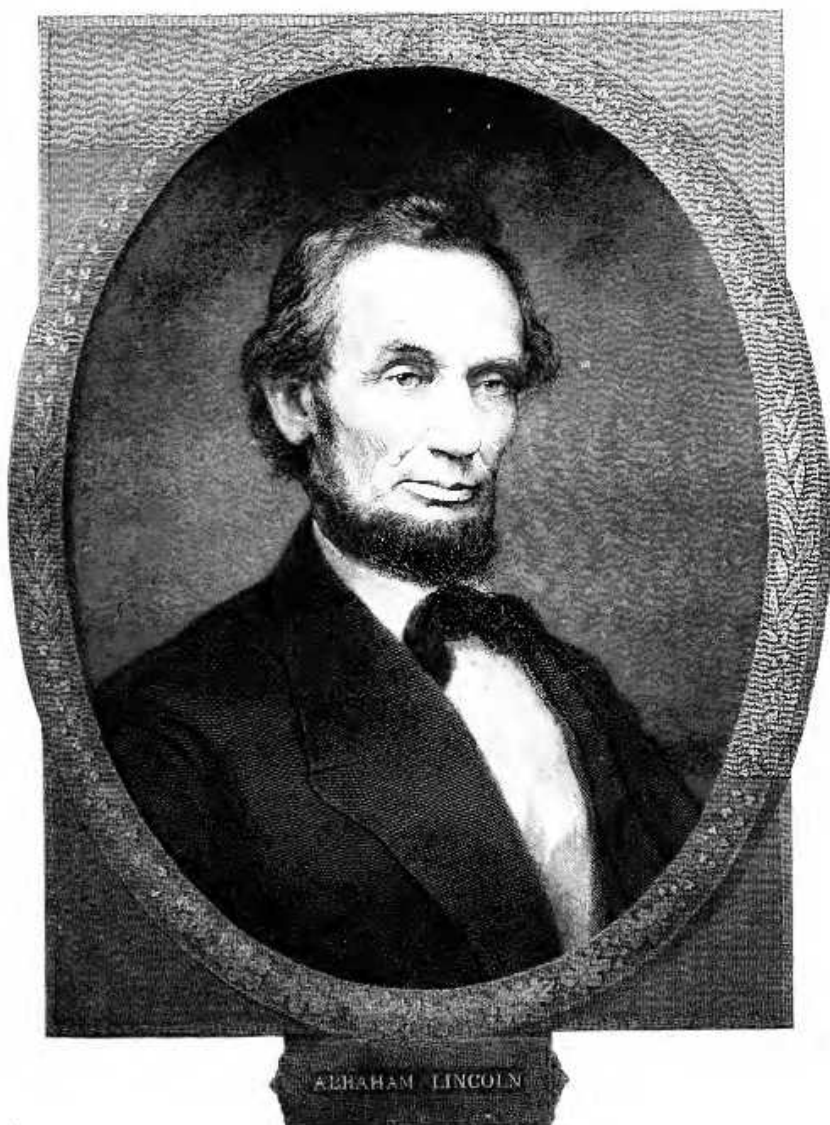
1911
ART ENGRAVING & PRINTING CO.
PITTSBURGH, PA.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

He is a SLAVE who FEARS to SPEAK
For the FALLEN and WFAK;
He is a SLAVE who FEARS TO BE,
Though in the RIGHT.
Counted with TWO or THREE.

Lowell

ALPHONSE CARPIS



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

PREFACE.

The Sixty-first Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers began its brilliant career in August, 1861, and ended it June 28, 1865. The men, coming from four different sections of the state, widely separated, had little opportunity to perpetuate their acquaintance, and, having no regimental association they gradually merged into the communities whence they came. Now, after the lapse of nearly half a century, stimulated by a generous law of the state, the survivors are presenting this history.

Fortunately, the regiment, in all its experience, served with troops in the region where the most tremendous operations were conducted of which ample official records exist; besides, innumerable accounts have been published, many written by the men conspicuous in the services described. From these reliable sources of information, supplemented by recollection, by diaries kept during the war, and by various newspaper accounts and other publications, it has been comparatively easy to write a history of the regiment as an organization composing a part of certain brigades, divisions, corps and armies. Such a history is of vast importance to the people of the state and of priceless value to the survivors of the regiment, and would richly deserve publication in a convenient and accessible form if it went no further.

But the regiment, from the first to last, had 1987 men, whose heroic deeds gave it the fame of which the state is so justly proud. The individual record, the roster as it is called, of these men is of great interest and importance to them and their descendants. And if the general, regimental and line officers had kept books and records, had made reports and statements as required by military regulations, there would be no difficulty in giving a complete account of the services of each man. But the officers generally high and low, upon whom the responsibility rested, paid little attention to what they called red tape, and the Government itself shared the indifference, ignoring statutes as well as regulations. In fact, the struggle was so great and the number so vast that only current, obvious and absolute essentials received official attention.

The Sixty-first suffered in common with other organizations, leaving the service at the end of the war with an imperfect record. Under these conditions, the Government itself not having made a correct record, it is not reasonable to expect the survivors to do so after the lapse of over forty years, especially when, for historic purposes, the nation is compelled to deny access to its own meager records as improved and supplemented since the war closed. Working under the difficulties incident to such a situation, the rosters have been prepared and are presented herewith, practically complete as to field and staff and companies A and D, but defective in greater or less degree as to the other companies.

In preparing the narrative in this volume the historian has reread all the good works on the subject with which he is familiar, such as the memoirs of Generals Grant and Sheridan. The books of Generals McClellan, Doubleday, Humphreys, Webb, Keifer and Horace Porter. The excellent histories by Dr. George T. Stevens, George E. Pond, F. W. Palfrey, John C. Ropes, the Count of Paris, and others on the Union side; on the Confederate, the works of Generals Longstreet, Johnston and Gordon. Besides, much aid has been derived from the material prepared and left by Col. Robert L. Orr. The valuable diary of James M. Walker of Company A has been constantly used and found reliable in every particular. Major Parsons, Capt. Glenn, Secretary Blair, and other members of the regiment, have furnished valuable assistance. Bates' History of Pennsylvania Volunteers has been freely used for the roster data and has been drawn upon for facts appearing nowhere else. Many references are made to these works and frequent quotations therefrom have been made by permission of the publishers. But

above all, the historian has found the most valuable help in the "Rebellion Records," a stupendous work published by the United States, containing official orders, reports and correspondence of the Confederate as well as the vast Union Army.

The pictures of Colonels Rippey, Spear and Orr, and of Lieutenant-Colonel Crosby are all taken from small war-time photographs, faded and dimmed by the flight of time. But the record of these brave officers as shown in the rosters is still vivid, and will remain unclouded so long as the deeds of heroic patriots are cherished among men.

This history, with many imperfections of which the author is conscious and doubtless many more of which he is not aware, is now submitted in the hope that it will furnish in permanent shape a reliable record for the State of Pennsylvania of the regimental organization and service; and bring to the members of the Sixty-first regiment, and their families, a welcome chronicle of valiant service in a great cause through a period of depression and triumph, of defeat and victory, to a fame as durable as the mountains of the Keystone State.

THE SIXTY-FIRST PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

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†Died August 27, 1908—Succeeded by Geo. A. Cassidy.

*Died August 19, 1910.

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