

**HISTORY OF THE THIRD  
REGIMENT, EXCELSIOR BRIGADE,  
72D NEW YORK VOLUNTEER  
INFANTRY, 1861-1865**

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History of the Third Regiment, Excelsior Brigade, 72d New York Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1865  
by Henri Le Fevre Brown

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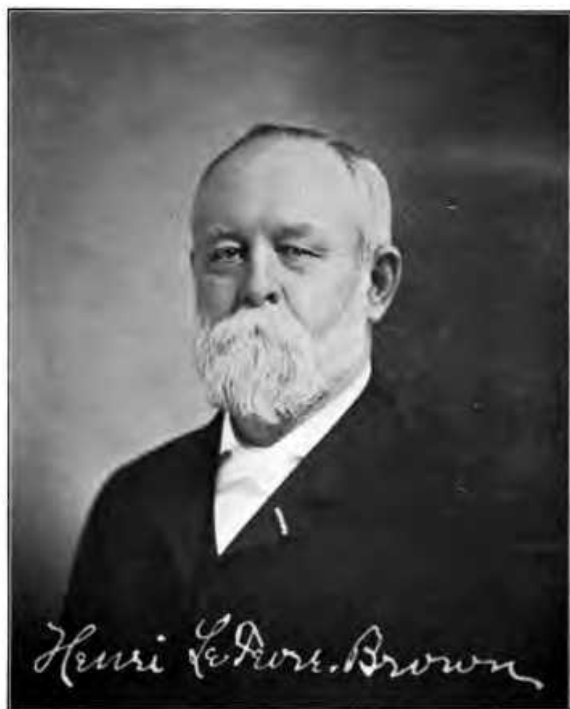
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**HENRI LE FEVRE BROWN**

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**HISTORY OF THE  
THIRD REGIMENT**

**EXCELSIOR BRIGADE**

**72d New York Volunteer  
Infantry**

**1861-1865**



**COMPILED BY  
HENRI LE FEVRE BROWN  
SERGEANT COMPANY B.  
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## INTRODUCTION.

In preparing this history the official war records have been carefully searched for all material that could in any way contribute to a full understanding of the events narrated. Wherever possible battles and movements have been described in the language of official reports. In some cases, as in that of Williamsburg, the same engagement is described in several such papers, written by the commanders of the regiment, the brigade and the division, with often a brief recognition of the service of the regiment from still higher sources. Orders, reports and extracts bearing on this history are given word for word as written, and in many cases, without other explanations of the events referred to. Promotions and changes of command are announced in general orders. In this way the experience of the regiment will be more readily followed than if the narrative were cumbered with unimportant details.

There can be no question that many officers and men not mentioned in this history by name, were equally worthy, and perhaps more worthy of notice than those whose names and deeds are here given. In view of the impossibility of doing exact justice to all, the rule has been followed to make honorable mention only of those already named in official records.

All regimental papers have been examined in detail. The personal diary of the compiler has been compared with that of the chaplain for all movements since January 1, 1863, and differences have been reconciled to the satisfaction of both. One record has frequently supplied what the other



lacked. In cases of doubt on any point, other members of the regiment and of other regiments, and any persons likely to throw light on the subject have been freely consulted in an honest endeavor to learn and to tell the exact facts.

It is to be regretted that no official reports were made of the services of the regiment during the Wilderness campaign, or the many engagements in which the regiment afterwards participated. These reports were not called for until the Army of the Potomac had settled down in front of Petersburg, in August, 1864. In the meantime the term of service of the early three year regiments having expired, these regiments, except a very few that re-enlisted, were mustered out and no official reports were made of the service of these regiments during that campaign.

In some minor matters this history may differ from statements previously printed in other books. In every known case of this kind the account given has been the result of careful investigation.

The compiler would particularly ask his comrades when they discover errors or omissions to report the facts to him without delay. All such communications will be faithfully noted and used, if there should be an opportunity in the future; and at last there may be obtained in this way a true record of the Third Excelsior.

Jamestown, New York, October 1st, 1902.



## CONTENTS.

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### CHAPTER I.

Organization. May, June, 1861.

### CHAPTER II.

Washington, D. C. July-October, 1861.

### CHAPTER III.

Lower Maryland. October, 1861-April, 1862.

### CHAPTER IV.

Yorktown and Williamsburg. April, May, 1862.

### CHAPTER V.

Fair Oaks or Seven Pines. June, 1862.

### CHAPTER VI.

Oak Grove, Peach Orchard, Glendale, White Oak Swamp, First and Second Malvern Hill. June, July, August, 1862.

### CHAPTER VII.

Bristoe Station, Groveton, Second Bull Run. August, 1862.

### CHAPTER VIII.

Alexandria, March to Fredericksburg. September, October, November, 1862.

### CHAPTER IX.

Fredericksburg, Winter Quarters. December, 1862-April, 1863.

### CHAPTER X.

Chancellorsville. May, 1863.

## CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER XI.

Colonel William O. Stevens.

## CHAPTER XII.

Gettysburg, Wapping Heights. June, July, 1863.

## CHAPTER XIII.

Culpepper, Union Mills, Mine Run, Brandy Station. September, 1863-April, 1864.

## CHAPTER XIV.

The Wilderness Campaign. May, 1864.

## CHAPTER XV.

Petersburg, Muster Out. June, 1864.

## CHAPTER XVI.

Medal of Honor.

## CHAPTER XVII.

List of battles and skirmishes in which the regiment participated during its term of service.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

Roster of commissioned officers, with date of muster, etc.

