

**REPORTS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEES
APPOINTED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR
BRINGING ON FROM MEXICO THE BODIES OF
THE OFFICERS OF THE NEW YORK REGIMENT
OF VOLUNTEERS, AND TO PREPARE AND
PRESENT MEDALS TO THE NEW YORK
REGIMENT OF VOLUNTEERS**

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Reports of the Special Committees Appointed to Make Arrangements for Bringing on from Mexico the Bodies of the Officers of the New York Regiment of Volunteers, and to Prepare and Present Medals to the New York Regiment of Volunteers by Various

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VARIOUS

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W. New York (City), Commission on...

REPORTS

OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEES APPOINTED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR BRINGING ON FROM MEXICO THE

BODIES OF THE OFFICERS

OF THE

2907

NEW YORK REGIMENT OF VOLUNTEERS,

AND TO PREPARE AND PRESENT

MEDALS

TO THE

NEW YORK REGIMENT OF VOLUNTEERS.

ALSO, TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE

RECEPTION

OF THE

FIRST REGIMENT OF NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS,

ON THEIR RETURN FROM MEXICO.

NEW YORK:

McSPEDON & BAKER, PRINTERS, 25 PINE STREET.

1851.

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO MAKE SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR BRINGING ON THE

BODIES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS
FROM MEXICO;

WITH THE

FUNERAL CEREMONIES

OBSERVED ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR INTERMENT.

At a meeting of the Board of Aldermen, held on the 25th October, 1847, Alderman PURSER presented the following preamble and resolutions, viz :

Whereas, LIEUT. COL. BAXTER and LIEUT. CHANDLER have nobly fallen in the discharge of their duty, after gallantly sustaining, in many hard fought battles, the glory of the American arms and the honor of their country ; therefore,

Resolved, That while testifying our gratitude and admiration for the chivalry evinced by these sons of our favored city, we deeply condole with the bereaved relations and friends of those struck down in the hour of victory.

1 Feb 1944
Long
Strong

M Y P L

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to confer with similar Committees from military companies, with a view of making suitable arrangements for bringing on the corpse of the illustrious soldiers to the city of their birth.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, duly authenticated, be sent to the relations of the deceased.

Which were unanimously adopted,

And Aldermen PURSER, DODGE and DE FOREST, appointed such Committee on the part of this Board.

And directed to be sent to the Board of Assistants for concurrence.

On the first of November, the above resolutions were unanimously concurred in by the Board of Assistants, and Messrs. ALLEN, SCHULTZ and ROBERTSON, appointed as the Committee on the part of that Board.

The Committee, thus empowered, met from time to time, and after some delay, finally resolved upon the appointment of Mr. ALEXANDER S. FORBES, who personally solicited the agency, and who produced strong recommendations to the Committee from the Baxter Blues, who communicated freely with the chairman.

Your Committee procured, from the Department of War at Washington, all the necessary papers appertaining to a mission of this kind, and furnished with full credentials

and every power to further the object in view, the agent proceeded on his errand of humanity on the 29th day of January last, by the overland route to New Orleans, where he arrived on the 9th of February; from which city he proceeded on the 20th to Vera Cruz, where, on the 1st of March, at the castle of San Juan, he found the bodies of COLONEL BAXTER, and CAPTAINS PEARSON and VAN OLINDA. From Vera Cruz, Mr. FORBES proceeded to the city of Mexico, from which place, under date of 6th of May, he addressed the following dispatch, which the Committee regret to state, is the only one ever received by them.

SAN ANGEL, NEAR CITY OF MEXICO, }
MAY 6TH, 1848. }

DEAR SIR:

I have no doubt you think strange of not hearing from me long since, but as my mission was not fulfilled, and I could not say definitely when it would be, I considered it as well to wait until this time.

On my arrival in Vera Cruz, 26th February, I immediately commenced searching for the bodies, COLONEL BAXTER, and the other officers, by calling on CAPTAIN PATRICK, whom COLONEL BURNETT informed your Committee and myself, had charge of them, and had promised to send them to New York. Upon making known my business to Captain P., he was surprised, and said he knew nothing of them, nor had he promised or spoken to COLONEL BURNETT on the subject, but at the same time proffered his assistance to me. In a few days I traced them out and had them properly taken care of until I am ready to return.

Upon enquiry, I found that the bodies of CAPTAIN BURKE and LIEUTENANT MORRIS, had been sent or taken home by their brother officers attached to their respective regiments.

I remained in Vera Cruz to wait for the train from the city of Mexico to arrive, having understood the body of LIEUTENANT E. CHANDLER would be with it, and upon its arrival, finding such not to be the case, immediately made preparations to proceed to the city, and arrived here the 21st instant, after a long and tedious march of twenty-four days. I here found your letters in relation to the body of CAPTAIN BARCLAY, and acted according to order. I am now ready to return, and shall by the first train, which I am in hopes will leave here in five or six days, as I am anxious to get home. I feel sorry I have been detained so long, more on your account, and only hope you may have still remained in the Common Council for the purpose of carrying out your views in regard to the reception of the remains.

I have been very kindly received, and every attention offered me by officers and others attached to the army, and assign it more particularly to this reason, that the high position our gallant regiment hold in the minds of all such, serves but to make each anxious to see who can do the most to second the wishes of your Honorable Body in your patriotic efforts to respect their dead—and although proud as I am of my position as an agent of the empire city in this business, I feel more proud of them—it almost leads to envy. I believe every New Yorker would be the same were he here to see and listen to the respect paid, and

encomiums showered upon our noble representatives, by all belonging to the army; they are considered a band of Invincibles.

I shall write immediately upon my arrival in New Orleans, and can then say when will be the most likely time of my getting to New York.

With great respect,

I remain truly yours,

ALEXANDER S. FORBES.

To GEO. H. PURSER, ESQ., }
Alderman Fourth Ward. }

After the organization of the new Common Council, in May, the Committees were re-organized by the appointment of the following persons.

On the part of the Board of Aldermen :

Aldermen DE FOREST, DODGE, GRAY, SMITH, DOWNING,
and the PRESIDENT of the Board.

And on the part of the Assistants :

Messrs. SCHULTZ, FRANKLIN, BRENNAN, GETTY and PAXTON,
with the PRESIDENT of that Board.

The first information which the Committee received from their agent, was of a truly melancholy character, and which was conveyed to them by the following letter, addressed to the brother of Mr. FORBES.

NEW ORLEANS, June 22, 1848.

DEAR SIR:—It becomes my painful duty to inform you of the death of your brother, Mr. A. S. FORBES, which unfortunate event occurred at two o'clock, on the morning of the 20th instant.

I arrived in this city on the night of the 17th, and hearing that Alexander was in the city, I called on him immediately, and found him complaining of sea-sickness, as he supposed, but which I was immediately satisfied was at best bilious fever. I immediately called in Dr. Head and Dr. McCormick, of the army, who prescribed for him. Dr. M. pronouncing his disease black vomit. He rallied very much, and both physicians said he would probably recover. In the mean time I had procured a first rate nurse, and had sent for Mr. BOGERT (his friend), who attended him until he died. On the night of the 20th, a change took place for the worse, which terminated his life in a few hours.

We have the body placed in a leaden coffin, and I shall start at five o'clock to-day, for New York, via Sandusky and Buffalo, with all the bodies.

Your friend,

R. M. FLOYD,

Lieut. N. Y. V.

Thus terminated the earthly career of one whose prospects in life were bright, leaving a wife and child to mourn over the loss of a protector and father, and a large circle of friends to lament the privation of one of their dearest associates. Intrusted in life with the mission of restoring the