

**A MEMORIAL SKETCH OF
LIEUT. EDGAR M.
NEWCOMB, OF THE
NINETEENTH MASS. VOLS**

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A Memorial Sketch of Lieut. Edgar M. Newcomb, of the Nineteenth Mass. Vols by Dr. A. B. Weymouth

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DR. A. B. WEYMOUTH

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Edward M. Newcomb

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

"They arose, all the valiant men."—I CHRON. I, 12.

MORE than twenty years have passed away since the heroic dead of Fredericksburg entered into rest. Why record the story of their sufferings? Or, if the "oft-repeated tale" must be again recited, why distinguish between the loyal men who fell at Fredericksburg, and equally-devoted patriots who met the last enemy on other fields? To these questions the only possible answer is that this biographical record was undertaken as a labor of love, in tribute to the memory of an intimate friend. The long-deferred personal sketch in the following pages is not intended for the perusal of the public, and need not occupy the attention of readers who have no interest in the scenes narrated. The sad story of Fredericksburg is, in many respects, peculiar, and perhaps no other conflict during the rebellion rests under the shadow of so dark a cloud. Its silver lining is so narrow as to be almost imperceptible to finite vision.

The world has never seen better soldiers than those composing the Army of the Potomac. Brilliant genius, metal culture, sublime patriotism, dauntless courage, and inflexible purpose were in many instances conspicuous in the ranks, as well as among the commissioned officers. The best young men of the nation were found in the ranks of blue. The character of our noble defenders will be more correctly appreciated after a study of individual reminiscences. Very imperfectly and briefly, the life-work of a gallant young soldier will be narrated. Scattered memorial gems have been collected from various sources, with the hope that their intrinsic

beauty may secure their preservation. No effort has been made to increase their natural lustre. Rhetorical ornament has been intentionally avoided. Indispensable assistance has been rendered by relatives of our hero, and also by several of his companions-in-arms. Special acknowledgement of favors received is due to Colonel John C. Chadwick, Major H. G. O. Weymouth, Captain Stephen I. Newman, Captain William A. Hill, Captain J. G. B. Adams, John L. Robinson, formerly clerk at head-quarters, 19th Regiment, George H. Patch, Past Commander Mass. Dept., G. A. R., and Charles A. Newhall, secretary of the 19th Regiment Association. Indulgence is craved for all defects and errors.

CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL DAYS.

"With us his name shall live,
Through long succeeding years,
Embalmed, with all our hearts can give—
Our praises and our tears."

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EDGAR MARSHALL NEWCOMB, eldest son of John Jay and Mary Starbuck (Marshall) Newcomb, was born in the city of Troy, N. Y., on October 2, 1840. From the excellent geneology published by the Hon. John B. Newcomb, of Elgin, Ill., it appears that the family was in possession of ancestral seats at Saltfleetby, Lincolnshire, Eng., 700 years ago. Latin records in the parish church commence in 1558. Captain Andrew Newcomb emigrated from the west of England to this country with some of the early colonists. He was in Boston in 1663, and three years later imported horses and other animals. In 1679 he was "master of ye sloop Edmund & Martha," at the port of New York, bound for Boston. He probably sailed from Virginia, as a portion of his cargo was tobacco. His house was in Boston, near the "mill bridge." On January 31, 1682, he executed a will, making his grandchild, Newcomb Blake, executor. Until the grandchild should become of age, Samuel Marshall of Boston was appointed executor in trust. For his services in taking care of the estate, Mr. Marshall received a small legacy. Thus we notice friendly relations existing between the Newcomb and Marshall families more than two hundred years ago.

Lieut. Andrew Newcomb, son of the Captain, was at the Isles of Shoals in 1666. He removed to Martha's Vineyard in 1675, and became one of the proprietors of Edgartown. He held

the office of constable and other positions of trust; was commissioned Lieutenant on April 13, 1691, and in the same year became commander of the fortification which defended the harbor. The name given to the settlement, and the rank of the highest military officer, remind us of his descendant, whose history is recorded in the following pages.

Simon Newcomb, a son of the Lieutenant, removed to Edgartown with his father, and subsequently to Lebanon, Conn., where he died in January, 1744. He was an excellent man and owned considerable property. Thomas Newcomb, son of Simon, was born at Edgartown in 1691, and carried on an extensive mercantile business at Salisbury, Conn. He was a member of the church at Lebanon, and afterwards at Salisbury. His death occurred in 1761. Zaccheus Newcomb, son of Thomas, was born at Lebanon in 1724. After attaining his majority he removed to Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co., N. Y. He served in the Revolutionary War, and while he was in the army his wife built a fine brick house, which remains to this day. It is said that she presented General Washington and the British Commander with cheeses from her own dairy.

John Newcomb, son of the Revolutionary patriot, was born at Pleasant Valley, N. Y., on March 1, 1770. In 1791 he married Ruth, daughter of Judge Isaac Bloom. He inherited 300 acres of land in Albany County. One of his sons, Isaac B. Newcomb, married Julia Marshall and removed to Annandale, Fairfax County, Va. When the Rebellion broke out, he was arrested on account of his well-known Union sentiments, and died a prisoner of war at Libby prison, in November, 1861. Another son of John Newcomb, is Mr. John Jay Newcomb, of Boston. His native place was Pleasant Valley, N. Y. While residing at Troy, N. Y., in October, 1837, Mr. J. J. Newcomb married Mary Starbuck, daughter of Benjamin S. and Maria (Starbuck) Marshall. During the war of 1812 Mrs. Newcomb's father was captured at sea, and was one of the Dartmoor prisoners. One of her ancestors was a distinguished officer of high rank in the navy. For a short time Mr. and Mrs. Newcomb resided at Toledo, O., where their first child, Leila Antoinette, was born. This darling daughter died when 3 years of age. The birth of Edgar, the oldest son, is