

**HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE
NOTTOWAY GRAYS,
AFTERWARDS COMPANY G,
EIGHTEENTH VIRGINIA REGIMENT,
ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

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Historical sketch of the Nottoway grays, afterwards Company G, Eighteenth Virginia regiment, Army of northern Virginia by Richard Irby

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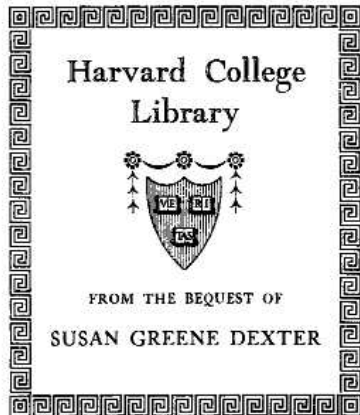
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RICHARD IRBY

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HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

NOTTOWAY GRAYS,

AFTERWARDS COMPANY G,

EIGHTEENTH VIRGINIA REGIMENT,

ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA;

Prepared at the request of the surviving members of the Company at their first
re-union at Bellefont Church, July 21, 1877.

BY
RICHARD IRBY,

Captain of the Company,

1862-63.

RICHMOND: J. W. FERGUSON & SON,
1878.

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May 11, 1927

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report of 1927

FIRST MEETING OF COMPANY G,

JULY 21, 1877.

At a meeting of the surviving members of Company G, 18th Virginia Regiment, held at Bellefont Baptist Church (the site of their first drill ground), on the 21st of July, 1877, the following proceedings were held:

At the request of the Committee of Arrangements, Captain P. F. Rowlett acted as Chief Marshal, assisted by Sergeant G. B. Seay, Corporals A. F. Morgan and J. W. Tunstill.

Orderly Sergeant R. B. Seay formed the company into line, numbering thirty-one, Captain Irby took command, and, preceded by the Chief Marshal, marched the men into the church, which was filled by families and friends of the members present, and families of the deceased.

Captain Irby was made Chairman, and Dr. Hurt, Secretary.

Dr. T. W. Sydnor opened the proceedings by reading selections from the Scripture, and by prayer.

Letters were read from Colonel R. E. Withers, U. S. Senator, of Virginia, Colonel G. C. Cabell, M. C., of Virginia and Adjutant R. Ferguson, who had been invited to attend.

By request of the Committee of Arrangements, Captain Irby then gave a sketch of the organization of the company, its entry into service, its war-record while he was commander of the company, with sketches of men and incidents most notable in its history.

Capt. P. F. Rowlett, Dr. J. M. Hurt and Dr. Sydnor, (father of Color Sergeant E. G. Sydnor, killed at Sharpsburg, gave interesting sketches of the Company and its men.

On motion of Dr. Hurt, seconded by Dr. Sydnor, a committee was appointed to open correspondence with the other military companies engaged in the Confederate service, looking to the collection and preservation of the Rolls of the several companies of Nottoway, and the erection of a suitable monument to the memory of the deceased soldiers of said commands.

Dr. J. M. HURT,
A. F. MORGAN,
J. W. TUNSTILL. } Committee.

It was resolved that Capt. Irby be requested to complete the historical sketch of the company by procuring the data for 1863, 1864 and 1865.

The Rolls of the company were then read, revised and corrected.

The company then adjourned to meet again at the call of the Chairman.

A sumptuous dinner was duly attended and enjoyed by the veterans and their families and friends.

Rev. J. C. Reed, with assistants, regaled the assemblage with delightful music during the exercises.

RICHARD IRBY, *Chairman*.

J. M. HURT, *Secretary*.

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING.

On the 20th July, 1878, a called meeting of the survivors of Company G, 18th Virginia Regiment, was held at Bellefont Baptist Church, Captain Richard Irby in the Chair, and Dr. J. M. Hurt, Secretary.

Dr. T. W. Sydnor opened the meeting with appropriate devotional services.

The special object of the meeting was explained by the Chairman to be the revision and correction of the Rolls of Company G, which the meeting then proceeded to do.

Captain Richard Irby then read the Historical Sketch of the company, prepared, as requested by the company at its last meeting.

On motion, it was resolved that the thanks of the company be returned to Captain Irby for the sketch he has prepared.

It was also resolved that a committee be appointed to take steps to hold a meeting sometime in August next for the purpose of raising funds to publish the Historical Sketch of the Company.

Captain RICHARD IRBY,	} <i>Committee.</i>
Dr. J. M. HURT,	
A. F. MORGAN,	
R. L. HURT,	
J. W. TUNSTILL,	

The meeting then adjourned.

RICHARD IRBY, *Chairman*.

J. M. HURT, *Secretary*.

THIRD MEETING OF Co. G, AUGUST 24, 1878.

According to the arrangements of the committee appointed at the last meeting of Company G, 18th Virginia Regiment, the survivors met in the grove near Nottoway Foundry, August 24, 1878. About thirty members were present. Capt. Richard Irby acted as Chairman, Capt. P. F. Rowlett as Chief Marshal, and Dr. J. M. Hurt as Secretary.

The meeting was opened by appropriate devotional exercises conducted by Rev. J. C. Reed.

The Chairman then introduced to the large audience present Col. R. E. Withers, U. S. Senator from Virginia, the first Colonel of the 18th Regiment, Army of Northern Virginia. After a few remarks recalling the special scenes and occasions in which the company had been associated with their old Colonel, the company was called on for three cheers for Col. Withers, which they gave with a hearty will.

Col. Withers then addressed the company and the audience in an eloquent and feeling manner. Many were moved to tears while he referred to the scenes and struggles of the war. He eloquently exhorted the veterans to be in peace as virtuous, brave and patient as they had been in war.

Captain Richard Irby then read the Sketch prepared by Lieutenant R. Ferguson, of the history of the company from January, 1863, to the close of the battle of Gettysburg, and the concluding portion of the Historical Sketch of the Company prepared by himself since the last meeting.

At the suggestion of Dr. Sydnor, a number of persons present subscribed for copies of the Historical Sketch.

Dr. J. M. Hurt, in behalf of Company G then presented Capt. Irby a gold medal*, accompanying the presentation with appropriate and feeling remarks, to which the Captain responded, expressing his high appreciation of the company's unexpected token of its regard.

The audience was then invited to partake of a regular old Virginia dinner, provided by the friends of the company, and dispensed by the ladies of the county.

After dinner Judge Farrar, of Amelia county, delivered a lecture embodying many incidents of the war, in his well known style.

Before bidding the survivors a final good-bye, Col. Withers ad-

*The face of the medal bears this inscription: Presented by the Nottoway Grays (Company G, 18th Virginia Regiment), to Captain Richard Irby, in testimony of their love and gratitude to him as their Captain and Historian.

The obverse face has engraven on it a furled Confederate war flag, pierced by a pen.

dressed to them a few parting words, full of eloquence and feeling, which will long live in their memories.

The occasion was enlivened by music from the Cornet band of Burkeville, which generously volunteered its services for the day. The members of it being Northern settlers, thus gave a token of fraternal regard, which was duly appreciated by Company G and its friends.

The Chairman made acknowledgement of the thanks of the company to Col. Withers for his address; Judge Farrar for his lecture; the Burkeville Cornet band for its music; the friends of the Company for their liberal dinner; and the ladies for their zeal in enlarging the publishing fund by the sale of ice cream, &c. The amount raised during the day was sufficient to publish the Sketch.

J. M. HURT, *Secretary.*

RICHARD IBBY, *Chairman.*

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

This Sketch, written almost wholly from memory and from data based on the recollection of surviving comrades, will necessarily be very imperfect. But few records were left, and these were simply the first Roll of the company and records of a meeting held to offer the company's services to the State.

Brief and imperfect as the Sketch may be, it will, however, it is hoped, revive in the hearts of its surviving members memories which, though sad, ought not to be allowed to die. A number of these members still live, useful in peace as they were brave in war. They owe it themselves to let their children and children's children know what part their fathers took in the memorable war of the Sections, which only needed *success* to make it rank in the annals of time, with the greatest that ever nerved the heart of patriots or tried the souls of men. Nay, more, they owe it to the memory of those who died by their sides in that struggle, to let future generations know how bravely they suffered and fought. They are as worthy of the marble shaft or storied urn, as any martyrs for liberty's sake that ever lived. Grant that they were mistaken—that their cause was not right—nevertheless they believed it right, and so believing, they dared to die for it. Partisan historians may brand us and them with the stigma of *treason*. Let our posterity read our own records, revealing the true spirit of our action, and know and rejoice that their fathers *were* patriots and worthy of the name of patriots.

COMPANY G (first called Nottoway Rifle Guard and afterwards *Nottoway Grays*) was organized on the 12th of January, 1861. The original Roll, signed in person by the members, is given below. It was composed of men who had, with possibly one exception, no military education, and who, but for the exi-