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REPORT
-OF THE-
MONUMENT COMMITTEE
One Hundred & Twenty-third Regiment
NEW YORK INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS.





REPORT

OF THE

MONUMENT COMMITTEE

OF THE

One Hundred & Twenty-third Regiment

NEW YORK INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS.

1ST BRIG., 1ST DIV., 20TH CORPS.

Read at a meeting of the Regimental Association at Argyle, N. Y.,

Compliments of

Seth C. Cary,

PASTOR METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

GARDNER, MASS.

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1857

HISTORIC.

THE 123rd N. Y. WAS ENLISTED IN
WASHINGTON CO. IN AUG. 1862; MUSTERED INTO
THE U. S. SERVICE SEPT. 4; JOINED THE ARMY
OF THE POTOMAC AND WAS ENGAGED IN THE
BATTLES OF CHANCELLORSVILLE & GETTYSBURG;
IN SEPT. 1863 TRANSFERRED TO THE ARMY OF
THE CUMBERLAND; AND WAS ENGAGED IN THE
CAMPAIGN OF ATLANTA, THE MARCH TO THE SEA;
AND THE CAMPAIGN OF THE CAROLINAS;
MUSTERED OUT AT WASHINGTON AT
THE CLOSE OF THE WAR, JUNE 8, 1865.

ENGAGEMENTS.

CHANCELLORSVILLE,	KULP'S FARM,
GETTYSBURG,	CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER,
RESACA,	PEACH TREE CREEK,
CASSVILLE,	ATLANTA,
NEW HOPE CHURCH,	MONTEITH'S SWAMP,
LOST MOUNTAIN,	SAVANNAH,
PINE HILL,	AVERYSBORO,
KENNESAW,	BENTONVILLE,
MOCCASIN SWAMP.	

1703753

SERVICE AT GETTYSBURG.

JULY 1; MARCHED FROM LITTLETOWN; FORMED LINE
OF BATTLE ON WOLF HILL; BIVOUACED NEAR BALTIMORE PIKE

JULY 2; ADVANCED TO THIS LINE AND BUILT A
HEAVY BREASTWORK OF LOGS. AT ABOUT 6 P. M. MOVED TO
SUPPORT THE LEFT NEAR LITTLE ROUND TOP;
RETURNING IN THE NIGHT, FOUND BREASTWORKS IN POSSESSION
OF ENEMY, AS NO TROOPS WERE LEFT
TO OCCUPY THEM.

JULY 3; AT ABOUT 11 A. M. MADE A CHARGE AND
RECOVERED THESE WORKS; ABOUT 4 P. M. MOVED TO
SUPPORT LINE THEN REPELLING PICKETT'S CHARGE;

A LITTLE LATER HAD A SHARP SKIRMISH IN
FRONT OF THIS LINE; AT NIGHT REPELLED
AN ATTACK WITH HEAVY LOSS TO THE ENEMY.

JULY 4; MADE RECONNOISANCE AROUND WOLF HILL
AND THROUGH GETTYSBURG OVER THE HANOVER ROAD.

ABOUT 100 YARDS IN FRONT
OF THE LINE OF WORKS, A MARKER
INDICATES THE POSITION
OCCUPIED BY THE SKIRMISHERS
OF THIS REGIMENT ON
THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 3.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Henry Gray, Treasurer, in account with the Gettysburg Monument Association. To cash received from town of

Argyle.....	\$ 350 00
Cambridge.....	129 00
Easton.....	16 00
Fort Ann.....	57 00
Fort Edward.....	56 00
Granville.....	135 50
Greenwich.....	518 75
Hartford.....	110 25
Hebron.....	113 54
Jackson.....	40 00
Kingsbury.....	223 00
Putnam.....	15 00
Salem.....	507 00
White Creek.....	166 00
Whitehall.....	293 00
Profit on Sleeping Car to Gettysburg.....	45 00
	\$2,775 04

Paid Smith Granite Co.....	\$2500 00
Paid S. C. Cary, expenses.....	167 97
Paid Captain Baker, expenses.....	23 00
Paid People's <i>Journal</i> , printing.....	25 19
Paid Salem AXIOM, printing.....	7 85
By 1,000 lithographs of monument.....	28 00
By order (Cary) to R. Cruikshank.....	23 03
	\$2,775 04

July 1st, 1891.

HENRY GRAY, Treasurer.

In addition to the above amounts that passed through the hands of the Treasurer, the following amounts were raised by personal solicitation from various persons, and used for expenses of Committee:

Argyle.....	\$34 00
Hebron.....	20 00
Salem.....	17 50
Whitehall.....	60 00

To the 123d New York Regimental Association.

COMRADES:—The Committee appointed by you Nov. 22, 1887, for the purpose of erecting a suitable Memorial for our Regiment at Gettysburg, desire at this time to lay before you their final report.

It seems to your Committee that this is a fitting and appropriate occasion to present to the Association a detailed statement of the efforts put forth and the work accomplished in securing for you the erection of a Monument on the battlefield of Gettysburg. And now, since this has been satisfactorily completed, we can look back over the years of effort and struggle, and from this vantage-ground review the work that has been completed with such magnificent success.

THE INCEPTION OF THE MONUMENT.

On the 4th of January, 1886, your Chairman wrote a letter to the *Salem Axiom*, calling attention to the duty of erecting a Monument at Gettysburg to indicate the service rendered by our Regiment, and also to mark the positions occupied on that bloody field; referring also to the work done by the Massachusetts regiments, as well as those of other states, and pledging a small subscription for that purpose. The article aroused a slight ripple of interest among the members of the Regiment, and the people of the county, and a few responses were made to it and pledges of small amounts were given. Another article was written January 11th. If these letters served no other purpose, they helped to arouse the people, and to inform them as to what was being done by other Commonwealths, and possibly may have been the humble cause from which sprang the effort to secure our beautiful Monument.

THE NEW YORK COMMISSIONERS.

At the session of the Legislature for the year 1886, a Board of Commissioners on Gettysburg Monuments was appointed, "to designate and mark the positions occupied by New York troops." The law creating this Board was embodied in Chapter 466 of the laws of 1886. Thus it would seem that the impulse that set both their agencies in motion had its origin at about the same time.

The Board was organized with Gen. Daniel E. Sickles as President; Maj. Geo. W. Cooney, Secretary, and Gen. Charles K. Graham, Engineer.

Early in August of the same year, the Commissioners asked for information that would aid them in locating the positions of all New York organizations. On the 13th of August, Col. S. W. Russell wrote the Chairman and saying that he had forwarded his name to the Commissioners as one to whom they could refer.

September 16th, following, a meeting of members of the Regiment was held at the Fair Grounds, Sandy Hill, and a committee was appointed "to meet the State Commissioners next month and go with them to the battlefield and there definitely locate the site of the Monument." This Committee consisted of HARVEY REYNOLDS,

SETH C. CARY,

H. C. MORHOURS,

LUKE H. CARRINGTON.

September 20th, Gen. J. C. Rogers wrote your Chairman at length in reference to the matter, urging him to go and assist as far as possible.

October 5th, three of the Committee, viz.: H. C. Morhous, Luke H. Carrington, Seth C. Cary, met the Commissioners at the house of Gen. Sickles, No. 23 Fifth Avenue, New York. It was a matter of surprise to the Commissioners that your Committee objected to the location assigned to our Regiment on the maps of Col. J. B. Bachelder. Previous study and research had made it evident, that the only maps of the battlefield that made any pretensions to accuracy, were both incorrect as to our positions. For instance: Col. Bachelder's Isometrical map, placed us in the *second* line, that is *at the stone wall*, on Culp's Hill. Again: The official map of the War Department, the positions of troops on this map being also the work of Col. Bachelder, was incorrect as to our position for the *second* day. The Commissioners were yet more astonished that the accuracy of the War Department map should be called in question, and asked for a state-

ment of our movements, which the Committee readily gave them. At the same time Gen. Graham made a note of our objections, as a matter for further investigation.

A subsequent circular from the Commissioners, asked for a written statement of the recollection of survivors concerning the movements and the positions occupied by the different organizations. Comrade Morhous at once sent his book, marking the passages referring to Gettysburg. Your Chairman also sent a concise statement. The circular further asked that we sign a blank empowering Gen. Graham to mark our position for us. This the Committee declined to do, feeling that we were better qualified to mark our own position than any one else, and thinking it more prudent to keep our own work in our own hands. The wisdom of this course was afterward seen in many things.

Arrangements were made to meet the Commissioners at Gettysburg in the latter part of October, and all the Committee were notified and urged to be present. Leaving Boston on the evening of October 25th, your Chairman reached Gettysburg on the afternoon of the 26th, remaining there till the afternoon of the 28th, expecting to see the other members of the Committee on every train, but none of them came.

During these three days your Chairman was in constant communication with the Commissioners, going with them to all parts of the field, and in private conversation, and on the ground telling them the story of our movements. But as your Chairman was only one out of a Committee of four, he declined to formally mark the position for the monument, believing it to be a matter of too much importance to be left to any one person, especially since there were so many survivors of the Regiment, and who also were living within such easy reach.

LOCATING THE MONUMENT.

The statements made to the Commissioners personally, and by reports of members of your Committee, and especially that in relation to the inscription on a monument already located near to where ours was to be, had aroused much interest in the matter of a location. It also stirred up many to investigate the facts as well as the claims set up by the two regiments, to having performed very nearly the same service. This, together with a careful search after maps, material and facts, had started a correspondence with Col. J. B. Bachelder as well as many others.

The New York Commissioners, accepting the statements of your

Committee as to our movements and service, were justly incensed at the claims of the 20th Connecticut already referred to. And this called out another statement, in which they asked for all the facts in the case. This was furnished without unnecessary delay. But, instead of allaying and quieting matters, it only added more fuel to the fire that was already well started. Then, Col. Bachelder as the Superintendent of Inscriptions and Legends of the Gettysburg Battlefield Association, was appealed to for information as to what were the reasons or basis for the claims of the 20th Connecticut, and which had already been inscribed upon their monument. And, so much was he impressed with our statements, and with the frank expression and apparent candor and truth, that he required a supplemental statement from Col. Wm. B. Wooster. This was a remarkable proceeding since their monument was already in place and dedicated. But it showed the depth of the interest awakened in the matter.

Col. Bachelder at once sent me Col. Wooster's report, asking an exhaustive reply, and then come and sit down with him and explain it. Such a report was immediately prepared and which covered about fifty (50) pages, taking up Col. Wooster's statement and answering it point by point, at sufficient length to make it clear.

About this time, however, a very wet blanket was thrown over all this, when the New York Commissioners sent to your Chairman, copies of the original reports of Col. A. L. McDougall, Lt. Col. J. C. Rogers and Col. Wm. B. Wooster.

We had made our claims with great frankness and in entire good faith. But now, after lying in their dusty pigeon-holes in the War Department for nearly a quarter of a century, these original reports arise from their sepulchres to confront us, and practically *deny every claim we had ever made!* (It is but just to Gen. Rogers to say, that he has no knowledge of making the report said to bear his name.)

Nor was this all. For, in addition to denying *all our claims*, with liberality, they *confirmed every point made by the 20th Conn.!*

Here was a dilemma. What to do was now a question. We were beaten. And friend had joined to foe to secure this defeat, from which there seemed to be no possible chance to even retire in good order. Your Chairman thought over it, slept over it, till sleep even well-nigh forsook him. He hummed over the line of the old song, "Do I wake, or am I dreaming," till out of it all, there came the clear, sharply-defined facts, trooping out of memory's treasure-house, in orderly procession, and massing and arranging themselves in solid columns of

attack! So clear were all these scenes of those memorable "Summer days" of July, 1863, *as* facts of consciousness and personal experience, that with them we could stand up and *defy* all contradiction!

Then, the New York Commissioners very properly, desired another report. This was prepared. In the meantime the report for Col. Bachelder was made and taken to him in person. But as he had forgotten to keep his engagement, and as he not long after resigned, the report was never put into his hands.

A similar fortune or fatality, whichever you may call it, befell the report made to the New York Commissioners. It was to have been presented to them at Saratoga, June 22nd, 1887, but being disappointed at the time first set, and being at supper when they did meet, the whole matter was left in the hands of Gen. Slocum for adjustment, and the report was never presented at all.

Your Chairman waited till the 10th of August following, and then addressed a note to Gen. Slocum asking the present condition of the matter. He replied at once that he had turned the matter over to Col. Bachelder!

It will be remembered that on the return of your Chairman from Gettysburg in the Autumn of 1886, he made a report of his trip and the condition of affairs there, to the comrades at Greenwich, Nov. 6th, and at Salem on the 8th. And also, that a meeting was called at Argyle for the 13th. And that in a blinding snow-storm we made our way there, and after dinner held our meeting. On motion of Lient. Reid the following resolution was adopted:—

Resolved, That a Committee of six be appointed to meet on the Gettysburg battlefield to determine and mark the positions and movements of the 123d Regiment during that engagement.

The following were appointed as such Committee, with power to substitute:—

ADJT. SETH C. CARY,
MAJ. HENRY GRAY,
LIEUT. DONALD REID,
LIEUT. ROBERT CRUIKSHANK,
SERGT. H. C. MORHOUS,
CAPT. GEO. W. BAKER.

On motion of Maj. Gray, Col. S. W. Russell was "requested to appear before the Board of Supervisors of this County, at its next or subsequent meeting thereof and ask said Board to appoint a Committee of six from the surviving members of the Washington County Regiment, who were with the Regiment at the battle of Gettysburg

to determine and mark the positions occupied by said Regiment in that battle, and that he be authorized to invite the co-operation of the surviving members of the Committee which raised the Regiment."

Col. Russell at once began a correspondence with the Board of Supervisors, the Hon. Edward Dodd, Judge Joseph Potter and Gen. Charles Hughes. All of which resulted in arousing a deep interest in the Board of Supervisors and throughout the County. And at Whitehall, Nov. 30th, the Board appointed the Committee previously named at the meeting at Argyle, and added the name of Lieut. Luke H. Carrington.

In the early Autumn of 1887, an effort was made to get together a large party, and go to Gettysburg as an excursion Oct. 10th, but the hope was not realized.

However, arrangements were at length made to go with the 14th Brooklyn Oct. 17th. In accordance with this plan the following met at Gettysburg Oct. 19, 1887: Capt. Geo. W. Baker, Lieut. Donald Reid, Lieut. Robert Cruikshank, Gen. James C. Rogers, as substitute for Lt. Carrington, and your Chairman. We went up over Baltimore Pike and into the field where we lay on the night of July 2nd, and the morning of July 3d; then across the swale, up through the woods and field, over the stone-wall, to the place where we built the works and afterward recaptured them. We readily found the place where our colors rested, and immediately behind it a small level plat suitable for a monument. While here the New York Commissioners drove up, having with them John M. Kranth, the Secretary of the Gettysburg Association. Leaving the carriages, they joined in the conversation and Gen. Graham spoke of the level plat as a suitable place for our monument. At length by general consent Maj. Cooney drove the stake and marked it, and thus quickly settled the vexed question of the location of our monument. Nothing remained to do but to establish the position of the flanks, which was soon done. Thus was settled a matter that had been the subject of thought and discussion for many months.

On the return of this Committee full reports were made through the County papers.

THE ERECTION OF THE MONUMENT.

One of the requirements of the New York Commissioners was, that in order to be entitled to the sum of \$1,500 granted by the State, an organization must be effected, if one was not already in existence, a record of which must be placed on file in the office of the County

Clerk, and a copy sent to the Commissioners. It became necessary therefore to call a meeting of the survivors of the Regiment, in order to comply with this request, and also to make further arrangements for prosecuting the work before us.

In accordance with this a call was issued and the comrades assembled in G. A. R. hall, Greenwich, Nov. 22, 1887. On motion a formal organization was effected, and called "The 123d New York Regimental Association," with the following officers:

President, Gen. James C. Rogers.

Vice-President, Maj. Henry Gray.

"	"	Capt. Duncan Robertson.
"	"	Lt. Robert Cruikshank.
"	"	Sergt. Harvey Reynolds.
"	"	Lt. L. H. Carrington.
"	"	Comrade A. K. Potter.
"	"	" Romain Bennett.
"	"	" R. W. Stewart.
"	"	" Martin Burton.
"	"	" Mitchel McFarland.
"	"	Lt. Julius Swift.
"	"	Sergt. Sidney B. Weer.
"	"	Sergt. Wm. McLoughlin.
"	"	Capt. James Hill.
"	"	Sergt. Geo. Scott.
"	"	Lt. Donald Reid.
"	"	Comrade Fred Slocum.

Secretary, Sergt. H. C. Morhous.

Treasurer, Maj. Henry Gray.

MONUMENT COMMITTEE.

Adj. Seth C. Cary, Chairman.

Capt. Geo. W. Baker.

Maj. Henry Gray.

Edward L. Coy, Esq.

Hon. Edward Dodd.

Col. S. W. Russell.

Lt. Donald Reid.

Lt. Robert Cruikshank.

Willard Lawton, Esq.

Judge Joseph Potter.

The Vice-Presidents were made a Soliciting Committee to secure

funds for the erection of the Monument. The Board of Supervisors also took action and added their sanction by confirming the appointment of the above-named Committee "to superintend the erection of said Monument, to arrange for the dedication exercises thereof, and to do whatsoever, in their judgement, will forward to early completion the worthy work of placing this memorial to the celebrated Washington County regiment."

Up to this time it had been a mooted question, whether the Supervisors could not appropriate money for the erection of our Monument. But at this time it was definitely settled, though without formal action, that such a course would be illegal, and also impolitic. This threw the whole matter upon the Soliciting Committee, and they immediately began with great vigor and prudence to raise the money by subscription.

The Monument Committee held a meeting at Salem, Feby. 14. 1888, and organized by the election of Lt. Donald Reid as Secretary, and Maj. Henry Gray as Treasurer, the Chairman having been already appointed. It was also reported that \$1,700 had been subscribed, and only a portion of the towns had been heard from. It was also decided to procure designs for a Monument to cost about \$4,000, and the Chairman was authorized to secure such, and report at a future meeting. The Chairman also presented for consideration a draft of the inscriptions to be placed upon the Monument, the same having been previously submitted to the Committee in private correspondence.

In the further prosecution of the work, a meeting was held at Salem, March 20th, for the purpose of presenting designs, and also to receive reports from the Soliciting Committee. A most favorable report was made by that Committee, the subscriptions now amounting to about \$2,200. In accordance with a vote of the previous meeting, several designs were presented by Comrade Robinson of Sandy Hill, and one each by Mr. R. A. Evans of Boston, National Granite Co., Barre, Vt., and the Smith Granite Co., Westerly, R. I. None however were accepted, since no one of them seemed suitable, nor did the finances as yet warrant as large an expenditure as it was thought in justice to the Regiment and the County should be made.

Another meeting was called and met in G. A. R. hall, Argyle, May 8, 1888. The subscriptions had reached about \$2,300. Designs for the Monument were presented by the following parties: Comrade Robinson, Sandy Hill, three designs; The Mitchel Granite Works of

Chicago, two designs; Miller & Luce, 179 Tremont St., Boston, and The Smith Granite Co., Westerly, R. I., one each. These various designs were placed upon the walls, and a free, frank discussion was entered into, and the different parties given the opportunity of explaining and bringing to notice the special points of their work. After this the Committee voted by ballot, and on counting the same the Secretary reported that five of the six votes were cast for the design presented by The Smith Granite Co. The Committee further ordered the Chairman to make a contract with The Smith Granite Co., provided the Monument could be erected in season to be dedicated Sept. 4, 1888, the twenty-sixth anniversary of the muster-in of our Regiment. This meeting was made very pleasant, and also very efficient, by the presence and active co-operation of the Hon. Edward Dodd, who seemed more youthful than the youngest, fertile in expedients, quick to discover blemishes or beauties, frank in discussion, wise in advice, and largely contributed to stimulate his fellow-members of the Committee to zealous effort in our good work, who also was much pleased with the design selected.

On the return of your Chairman to Boston, he at once conferred with The Smith Granite Co., and they decided that considering the character of the work, (a seated figure of History), it would be impossible to do this properly before the first of October.

Correspondence with the members of the Committee revealed the fact that October would be a most unsuitable time for the dedication, and it was concluded that unless the Monument could be ready by Sept. 4th, the whole matter would have to be deferred till the next year. However, on these representations being made to the Company, they agreed to have the Monument ready for dedication as it had been originally arranged, and the contract was made May 26, 1888.

On the first of June your Chairman went to Westerly, R. I., to inspect the clay model of the figure, and again on June 12th, this time with Capt. Geo. W. Baker, to make an inspection of the plaster cast, and at our suggestion slight changes were made, but the general effect was regarded as most admirable.

THE INSCRIPTION.

The work of your Committee seemed well under way when they had reached the point where a contract could be made for the Monument. When the design, after months of anxious, diligent, and most careful search and investigation, and the making of almost innumerable sketches, drawings and plans, with all the changing and

rearranging that was found necessary, was at length finished, and really put into form; when, after a most extended correspondence, and reaching every known survivor of the Regiment, the investigation of every plan and map of the battle within reach, and the reading of every book or article that could be procured throwing light upon the subject; after repeated consultations with all with whom we came in contact, and after a patient consideration of all the facts that had thus been gathered; and after mature deliberation and thorough sifting, together with your Chairman's personal knowledge applied to this subject, a provisional draft of what seemed to be an appropriate inscription was at length evolved, and it was presented to the Committee. By them it was accepted as perhaps the nearest approach to the complete story that at that time could be reached.

Accordingly, on May 18, 1888, this inscription together with the design of the Monument, was personally presented to the New York Commissioners. It was accepted by them without change, and your Committee very highly complimented by Gen. Graham, as having presented one of the finest designs, and having put the inscriptions into the best shape of any that had come into his hands.

Having reached this stage of success and approval, your Committee was ready to sit down and enjoy the fruits of weary months of toil, and rejoice over their victories, and quite able to appreciate their now nearly-ended struggles. We were allowed to repose in this fancied immunity for three full weeks, when the postman left at the door a well-filled envelope bearing the official stamp of the New York Commissioners, and directed in the well-known hand of Maj. Cooney. Opening the letter your Chairman read: "My Dear Mr. Cary, Here comes up the old story again. Wont you kindly give it your attention at once. You will have to make your fight with Comrade Vanderslice, who is technical. * * * * * Believe me sincerely, I am, Geo. W. Cooney, Secretary." Reading the inclosures, your Chairman said to himself:—"What more can be done, that has not already been done?" Your Chairman had had a contest with the New York Commissioners in their office in New York and at Gettysburg; had a slight set to with Maj. Holtzworth, the guide of the battlefield; had already been in conflict with Col. Bachelder and secured two concessions from him. First, that the 123d New York was in the *first* line on the 2nd of July; Second, that the 123d New York actually built the breastworks in their front; then had crossed swords with Col. Wooster of the 20th Conn.! Now who

can this new giant be, who is named Col. Vanderslice, the technical?

A perusal of the letters showed conclusively that the old fight was indeed on again, and that this time it was a death grapple. That now a man was confronting your Committee, who intended to dispute every point, every word, and every syllable of that inscription. And if we secured what we desired from him, it would only be because he was convinced that we were right and had the truth with us.

Col. Vanderslice took exceptions to, or made denials of six points in our inscription, as follows:

1. That we were mistaken in saying that it was about 9 p. m., July 2nd, when we returned from the left.
2. Denied that we made a charge at about 11 a. m., July 3d.
3. Denied that we retook the works at that time.
4. Denied the fact of a skirmish on the afternoon of July 3d.
5. Denied the fact of a night attack July 3d.
6. Denied the fact that our skirmishers advanced further than any other Union troops on the afternoon of July 3d.

But more. Col. Vanderslice based all these denials on the official reports of Col. McDougall, commanding the Brigade; Lt. Col. Rogers, in command of the Regiment, and Col. Wooster of the 20th Conn., both as to what they *did* say, and what they *omitted* to say.

This was the situation June 12th. Our design was accepted by the New York Commissioners. The contract was already let. The money was nearly raised. The day was set for the dedication, and that only two and a half months away. Then, when your Committee was pressed on all sides for the text of the inscriptions which was to be cast in tablets of bronze, this contest about the wording and subject matter of the inscriptions themselves, was re-opened again. And to all appearances your Committee stood on the threshold of what bid fair to be a long and bitter fight in reference to the statements to be placed upon our Monument, as to what the 123d New York really did at Gettysburg. But then, there were two good points about this affair after all, for your Committee knew that the facts were with us; and that this was the last fight. In fact we had reached the last ditch!

In the meantime the correspondence was continued. Point after point of the minor differences was disposed of, and in every case without disparagement to our claims. A statement was forwarded over the signature of five commissioned officers, and touching the

remaining items in dispute. This made a strong showing and was of great value. But after all, these were only counter-irritants to the official reports which had remained unchallenged for a quarter of a century. The statements of your Committee were facts of history that had never before been brought to light. They put a new phase on some military operations on Culp's Hill. They ran counter to some official reports. Therefore it was no wonder that they were immediately challenged, and that Col. Vanderslice, the guardian of the reputation of all our forces on that field, protested against our claims as he did.

So the struggle went on, and even members of your Committee did not see how this tide could be stemmed, but feared that we were doomed to be worsted in this fight. Your Chairman resolved that if it lay in the power of mortal, even this victory should be ours. Personally, he had come to the conclusion that he would never yield the point of allowing our inscription to state less than from the beginning had been claimed, if we had to wait until the crack of doom.

How could we recede from the statements that we had made, and that we knew were true? That would have been cowardly, as well as pusillanimous! It would have put upon us all a taint, from which we never could have freed ourselves. And it would have involved our dead comrades as well as us who survive.

Thus matters stood July 31st, thirty-five days before the dedication! Col. Vanderslice was insistent, and your Committee was persistent. Something more must be done. Your Chairman at once wrote to Maj. Gray and Capt. Baker to meet him in Philadelphia, August 7th, and have a personal interview with Col. Vanderslice, at his office No. 16 North Seventh St. But both replied, regretting inability to be present, but they desired the tablets made as we had arranged the inscription, and then fight it out afterward if need be. Then, too, The Smith Granite Co. were persistently calling for the inscriptions in order to complete their work in season to comply with the contract.

Your Chairman, seeing that another effort must be made, and that there were no reserves to call upon, since all these had been already in action, concluded that he was the forlorn hope, and prepared himself accordingly. Gripsack in hand, he took the 11 p. m. train in Boston, August 7th, and reached Philadelphia at 10:30 the next morning, and made his way to the office of Col. Vanderslice. He found him a pleasant-faced, medium sized man, somewhat stout,

wearing a dark mustache, and a Pennsylvanian. He had come in from his country home 28 miles out, to meet the Committee. The opening of the negotiations was a little slow and a bit formal, but like any two soldiers, we soon got down to business. We had not proceeded far before he began to tell me some things about the difficulties of his work as the Superintendent of Legends of the Battlefield Association, and related instances of mistakes in location that had already been made, and to all these things he had a most willing listener. Then the conversation turned to our own immediate work. He then referred to a letter received from Gen. Rogers, and the fact that the General had no recollection of making the report that is said to bear his name was referred to.

The next point was concerning the report of Col. McDougall. This was a more difficult task, since your Chairman must be true to the dead as well as just to the living, so the matter was put in this form: Col. McDougall was a man who dearly loved his Regiment, but was like some fathers who are diffident about speaking in praise of their own children, but can always see the good qualities in those of other people. And doubtless, having received the verbal report of the 20th Conn. first, that they had driven the enemy out of the works, he made his report as he did, never having had a report from Capt. A. H. Tanner who was in command of the Regiment in the charge, and so far as known, never having asked any of his own officers as to the facts in the case, or informing them as to the nature of his report.

Then the report of Gen. Rogers, the article in the National Tribune by Gen. Howard, the combined statement of our five commissioned officers, together with the explanations of your Chairman, so completely convinced Col. Vanderslice, that he set aside these reports and nothing more was heard of them.

One point only remained, that concerning the report of Col. Wooster of the 20th Conn. Here your Chairman gave the Colonel a word-picture of the scenes of our charge, and took him over every foot of the ground from the time we formed our line, till we had recaptured our works, and the Division, with that of Gen. Geary on our left, had swept forward and occupied the works that we had left on the afternoon of the previous day. In this picture there was shown our formation on the ridge, just back of the little stream, with bayonets fixed; the speech of Col. McDougall; the advance; the passing the 20th Conn.; the rush over the stone-wall; the firing; the dash into

the breastworks; the escaping enemy; the preparation of the works for defence; and the sweeping forward of the Corps to occupy what they had fought seven hours to secure!

Then, the Colonel looked your Chairman in the face and said: "Well, what about the 20th?" Your Chairman gave him substantially this reply: It is not for me or my Regiment to write their history, but will ask you a question or two. What do you think of a regiment claiming to have captured a line of works, when not a man of them was found in or near said works? What do you think of a regiment in need of a few cartridges, going back to the reserve ammunition train, a half mile in the rear of the line, and have to be recalled by the commanding officer of the brigade, when a squad of men could have brought all the ammunition necessary? What do you think of a regiment that after claiming to have occupied the works for which we had been fighting all the forenoon, would desire to be *relieved*, when, as they claim, they were already in the works, and *not call on all the line to advance and occupy what they themselves had won?* The Colonel made no reply to these queries, and we went on with the work. In the conversation your Chairman had discovered that the 28th Penn. on our left, had advanced to Rock Creek, and the 13th N. J. on the right claimed to have crossed it, therefore he withdrew that portion of our inscription which claimed that our skirmishers had advanced farther than any other Union troops on that part of the line. The Colonel said it might be modified, but it seemed best to withdraw it altogether. Then a verbal change or two more, and our work was completed, to the entire satisfaction apparently of us both. Then we fell to chatting and for ten minutes had just such a breezy time as two old soldiers who had pleasantly completed a difficult negotiation, but had come to thoroughly respect each other, might be expected to have.

Your Chairman must not lose this opportunity to give you, my old comrades, his impressions of Col. John M. Vanderslice. In this paper he has been called "technical," not however in reproach, or in a slighting manner, but only because it is true, and Maj. Cooney had first applied it. Col. Vanderslice is the first and the only man who has gone to the bottom of this matter of our claims in the inscription on our Monument. And he is one of the best friends we have ever had. He is the only man who has ever sifted the evidence so as to be able to come to a discriminating and carefully digested conclusion. Your Chairman regards him as a personal friend, and as a

gentleman, who in the order of Providence gave us results that a less painstaking man could not have rendered, and a man whom it was a pleasure to meet.

Bidding good-bye to the Colonel your Chairman was soon in New York, and had only time to send a couple of telegrams, one to Maj. Gray and the other to Capt. Baker, announcing the battle over and the victory won, and then take the boat for home.

The contractors were at once informed as to the amended inscriptions, and all attention turned to the few remaining items that made up the balance of your Committees, work.

THE DEDICATION.

When all these struggles had one by one been passed, and each had been crowned a victory, then was time to take breath and apply ourselves to the two items that yet remained to be accomplished, the securing pledges for a small balance to complete our financial exhibit, and the dedication of our Monument.

An excursion was arranged and, thanks to all who had it in charge, it was carried out to a successful conclusion. Leaving Albany in the afternoon of Sept. 3d, 1888, Gettysburg was reached at 10 o'clock the next morning. Carriages at once took us to the house of Capt. Long, and after an early dinner, started for a drive over the scenes of the first day's battle. This took us from Barlow's Knoll to Reynolds Grove, then to the Springs Hotel, through the town to the National Cemetery, thence to East Cemetery Hill. Here Capt. Long, the Battlefield Guide, gave our company a fine description of this part of the field, and the tide of battle that swirled about this knoll. Then taking our carriages we passed Stevens Knoll, and along the line of our entrenchments on Culp's Hill to our Monument. Many of us will never forget the thrill of delight, astonishment and pleasure that welled up in our hearts as we stood on that familiar ground, and beheld for the first time that stately, chaste and beautiful memorial. Its unique design, its unity of effect, its contrast of color with the background of boulders and the leafy forest, its quiet self-assertion of dignity, as well as the rugged strength of the pedestal, combined to make an impression lasting as its granite and bronze.

The dedicatory services were simple, and consisted of a brief statement by your Chairman of the service of our Regiment during the battle; prayer by Chaplain Gordon; an address by Col. S. W. Russell, and remarks by the Chaplain, the transfer of the Monument to the

Battlefield Association, and a graceful response by Col. Buchler, Vice-President of the Association, and the Benediction.

The bronze tablets bearing the more extended inscriptions had not been set in the base, because of a lack of time resulting from our long struggle over the text, but were put in place a few days subsequently.

The monument itself was declared by all to be far beyond expectation, and more than satisfactory. It was looked upon as being as fine as the best on the field; and of course this was gratifying to your Committee.

After visiting Spangler's Spring, crossing the swale to examine the monuments of the 3d Brigade, the party returned to town. The evening was made enjoyable by the illustrated lecture of our Guide at the Opera House.

The next morning a drive over the Battlefield included in the second and third days fight, was taken under the direction of Capt. Long. Starting out on the Emmitsburg road, past the Peach Orchard, Wheatfield, Devil's Den, the Valley of Death, Round Top, Little Round Top, and along the line of battle to the Death Angle, then to Meade's Headquarters, Ziegler's Grove, and home over the Tancytown road.

In the afternoon the party drove out again, spending the time near Culp's Hill and the scenes about our Monument.

But who can fittingly portray the thoughts and the emotions that filled our hearts as we gathered there again, with more than a quarter of a century between us and the scenes of those July days of conflict and heroic struggle! With other years yet added, in the Campaign of Atlanta, the March to the Sea, and the Campaign of the Carolinas! Then the peaceful years of civil life! The effort to secure a fitting memorial for our Regiment and our dead Comrades! And then to stand before that beautiful, and artistic, and appropriate Monument, completed and dedicated by fitting service, and the presence of long separated Comrades, brothers in arms, brothers in suffering, brothers in sympathy, and brothers in the love of country and liberty! It was almost the fitting conclusion to a well-rounded out life! It was indeed the privilege of a lifetime!

How we forgot all the effort to secure the Memorial! How gladly your Chairman lost sight of the struggle of the years! The days of work, of scheming, planning, the effort to right the unintentional wrongs committed against our Comrades, to bring the simple truth

into view, as to what the 123d New York did; to clear up the fogs that had obscured our record; to reverse what had been considered as history, and to write history as it occurred, and events as they happened! What were the 10,000 miles of travel by day and by night, required to secure it all! We now stood before the result of all this gladly-rendered service and rejoiced in its completion!

CONCLUSION.

And now in concluding this report, already far too long, allow your Committee to express their thanks, and their appreciation of the services of all who have aided in this noble enterprise, whether by money or by cheerful, hopeful words of encouragement. We thank you all.

And now Comrades, having performed the duty committed to us, and with all financial obligations met, your Committee ask to be discharged.

For the Committee,

Oct. 14, 1890.

SETH C. CARY, Chairman.



LETTER OF CHAIRMAN

—OF—

Monument Committee

—TO THE —

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

—OF—

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Washington County, New York:

GENTLEMEN.—It will be remembered that at your session held at Greenwich, Nov. 1887, you appointed a Committee to erect a Monument for the 123d New York Infantry, at Gettysburg, Pa. The names of that Committee were:

ADJT. SETH C. CARY, Malden, Mass.

CAPT. GEO. W. BAKER, Salem.

MAJ. HENRY GRAY, Greenwich.

EDWARD L. COY, ESQUIRE, West Hebron.

HON. EDWARD DODD, Argyle.

COL. S. W. RUSSELL, Salem.

LIEUT. ROBERT CRUIKSHANK, Salem.

LIEUT. DONALD REID, Argyle.

WILHAM LAWTON, ESQUIRE, Cambridge.

JUDGE JOSEPH POTTER. Whitehall.

The said Committee now desire to lay before your Honorable body their final report.

Your Committee was organized by the election of Adj. Seth C. Carv, Chairman; Lieut. Donald Reid, Secretary, and Maj. Henry Gray, Treasurer.

After mature deliberation and securing the opinion of those well qualified, it was determined to erect a Monument to cost not less than four thousand dollars (\$4,000). Of this amount the State generously gave us one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500), thus leaving with your Committee the work of raising the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) by subscription. And to this was to be added sufficient to meet all the actual expenses of the Committee.

Arrangements were at once made for a thorough canvass of the County for subscription, the result of which will be reported by our Treasurer.

The next work was to secure an appropriate design with proper inscriptions, let the contract to honest and reliable parties, and when completed to dedicate the same.

In the prosecution of this, your Committee has met twice at Greenwich, twice at Salem, twice at Argyle, and once each at Sandy Hill and Saratoga, and at each meeting the Chairman has been present. In addition to this, the Chairman has, in his official capacity, twice visited New York city, to confer with the New York Commissioners on Gettysburg Monuments; has been to Westerly, R. I. twice, the first time to inspect the clay model for the figure of the Monument, and the second time with Capt. Geo. W. Baker to inspect the plaster cast of the same; further, he has visited Philadelphia to confer with Col. J. M. Vanderslice, Secretary of the Committee on Legends and Inscriptions of the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association, in reference to the inscriptions to be placed upon our Monument; three times he has visited the battlefield at Gettysburg; and has been in Boston many times on business connected with the Monument.

Besides this, the work of the Chairman has been somewhat onerous in writing letters, circulars and reports for the press of the County, to stir up the old-time enthusiasm, and to make our scheme a success financially, as well as an expression of devotion to our Comrades and to liberty. Also a very wide correspondence with the members of the Regiment, scattered far and near, as to their recollections of our service at Gettysburg, in order to form a basis on which to prepare

an appropriate inscription, and one that would represent to the ages to come the services performed by "the Washington County Regiment" at Gettysburg. To this must be added a very extended correspondence with the New York Commissioners, through their Secretary, Maj. Geo. W. Cooney; with the Gettysburg Battlefield Association, through Cols. John B. Bachelder and J. M. Vanderslice, the Superintendent and Secretary of their Committee on Legends and Inscriptions, together with Hon. John M. Krauth, Secretary of the Association. And in all, the cordial support of the members of the Committee has been constant and steadfast.

But further. All this, extended as it is, is only a small portion of the work accomplished by your Committee. When this work was begun, there was not in existence a map or a series of maps, a report or a series of reports, which gave the facts, or a connected statement of fact, from which an impartial historian could by any possibility, have made a clear and luminous sketch of our service at Gettysburg. And it was amid such mist and darkness that your Committee began its labors, and began to see the magnitude of the work on their hands, and to make up their minds to a long struggle and possible defeat, in this matter of a truthful inscription to be placed upon our Monument. And yet it was their purpose never to yield what they knew to be true, and to fight this matter till the last resource was exhausted. And this condition of affairs existed up to the 7th of August, 1888, four weeks before the time set for the dedication!

Nor was this all. There was a further complication arising out of the claims of another regiment, the record of which is on their monument only a few feet from our own.

It has been a long, and at times a painful work, to unravel this tangled skein of unintentional mistakes, blunders and carelessness, and bring out of it all, clear and sharply defined, the homely yet beautiful truth, and embody it in simple and perspicuous language, and at length put it in enduring bronze where all the world can read the story. It has been largely a labor of love, for only love would have been willing to have plodded through these mazes, or had patience to have borne all the affronts, the insinuations, and the embarrassments that your Committee has had to meet.

After a very wide search in which your Committee spent months, they were fortunate in securing a most appropriate design, and also in placing it in the hands of a thoroughly reliable company, whose work has everywhere received the very highest commendation, both

for excellence and artistic quality. The material is unequalled and the work above caviling criticism, and the whole is eminently satisfactory to your Committee. So fully are we agreed in this, that we not only desire, but invite the closest inspection and most rigid criticism, and would express the hope that you all and the good people of Washington County, will make a pilgrimage to Gettysburg, our National Mecca, and see the result of your Committee's work.

The dedication of the Monument was attended with simple yet appropriate services on Sept. 4, 1888, the Twenty-Sixth anniversary of the muster-in of the Regiment into the United States service. A little company of the survivors of the Regiment, with a number of the honored citizens of this County, gathered about the beautiful and elegant Memorial, on the spot made sacred by the devotion and blood of our Comrades, and by noble words and deep emotions, paid fitting tribute to the love and loyalty that made it a necessity, as well as to the continued interest and material assistance by which the citizens of the good County of Washington had made this an assured success.

In conclusion, allow us to thank this Honorable Board and its constituents, for the interest, the assistance, the moral and material aid, and all the other acts of kindness by which you and they have laid your Committee under obligations.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

For the Committee,

Oct. 14, 1890.

SETH C. CARY, Chairman.





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