

WELCOME PORTVILLE SCOUTS #631



PORTVILLE AND THE CIVIL WAR

March 24, 2014

Cub Scout Troop #631



POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1776 - 1860

- After the Revolutionary War insured America's independence from England's rule, STATES were considered a SOVEREIGNTY, meaning they were SELF-GOVERNING.
- There was a FEDERAL Government as well, but it functioned independently from the sovereign states. Governors at that time were considered SUPREME RULERS and wanted to remain that way to serve their best interests. For example, prosperity in the Southern States was due primarily to cotton plantations. To run these large land holdings, they needed inexpensive laborers, which had been slaves for many decades. The demand for slaves increased even more after the COTTON GIN was invented in 1793.
- As the United States grew in population, more and more territories applied for statehood.

STATES AND TERRITORIES



VIEWS OF NORTH VS. SOUTH

- As the Northern States became more INDUSTRIALIZED, the population of whites was increasing in the urban areas. Immigrants were coming to the North not the South. Many poor Southern whites that had been subsistence farmers also came north for employment. Slavery had been phased out of the North and new states were being accepted into the Union as FREE STATES.
- The Southern agricultural plantations in the SLAVE STATES had expanded into the southwest and wanted to continue the use of slavery as they added land holdings outside of their state. They argued that slave ownership should be maintained no matter where the slaves lived.
- By 1860, the dispute was becoming more and more adversarial between the North, that hoped slavery would eventually be phased out everywhere, and the South, that wanted to be allowed to continue owning slaves because of the profitability and did not want to lose what they considered their PROPERTY.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



1808 - 1865

- Abraham Lincoln started in politics in the 1840's. As his popularity grew, he spoke out against the expansion of slavery.
- When Lincoln was defeated by Democrat Stephen Douglas for a Senate seat in 1858, he did not stop campaigning. He secured the Republican nomination and was elected the 16th President of the United States in 1860, even without the support of any Southern State.
- The UNION referred to all states, initially, and Lincoln believed that the Union should be preserved at all cost. If this meant to allow slavery where it existed in the South, he supported it to keep the country united.
- However, the South wanted more autonomy from the Federal Government and they knew that Lincoln's leadership would eventually lead to the end of slavery, so seven Slave States left the Union when he became President and they formed the Confederate States of America.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN



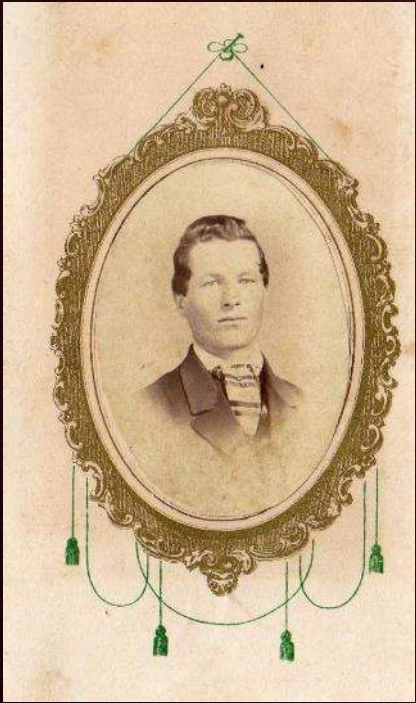
- Lincoln did not want war but he could not accept secession from the Union, which now involved 11 states. Hoping for a peaceful resolution, he asked that the Confederates allow the government to resupply federal Fort Sumter, located in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. However, the South Carolina militia blocked all attempts to ship in food and supplies for the command stationed there and demanded that they surrender the fort.
- The Union resisted and before they could surrender, the Confederacy opted to take the fort by force. On Friday, April 11, 1861, shots were fired on the fort, the barrage lasting for 34 hours. Ill-equipped to defend their hold, the Union forces exhausted their ammunition and surrendered the following day.
- Lincoln had no choice but to respond to the hostilities with force and Union armies were fortified.

KEY REGIMENTS FROM THE NORTH

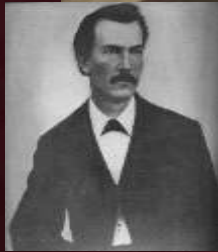
• ALLEN, WM.	CO. H	1st REG. N.Y. DRAGOONS	• BURNHAM, F. N.	CO. H	58th REG. PA. VOLUNTEERS
• AMES, ALVIN M.	CO. I	109th REG. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• CLEVELAND, WILSON	-----	1st N. Y. IND. BAT.
• BAKER, GEORGE	CO. D	136th REG. N.Y. VOLUNTEERS	• CAMP, GEO.	CO. C	1st REG. N.Y. ARTILLERY
• BARBER, B.A.	CO. I	81st REG. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• CHAPPELL, IRA F.	CO. E	1st REG. MICH. VOLUNTEERS
• BARNARD, CHAS.	CO. L	11th REG. PA. CAVALRY	• CHADWICK, JEROME	CO. H	58th REG. PA. VOLUNTEERS
• BARNES, JAS. S.	CO. G	184th REG. PA. VOLUNTEERS	• DICKINSON, F. S.	CO. E	5th REG. N. Y. CAVALRY
• BARNES, WM. W.	CO. D	94th REG. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• DICKINSON, D.	CO. E	5th REG. N. Y. CAVALRY
• BELL, FRANK	CO. I	1st REG. PA. RIFLES	• EVANS, M. O.	-----	1st N. Y. IND. BAT.
• BENNIE, MARCUS B.	CO. C	76th REG. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• FAIRCHILD, J. H.	CO. E	93rd REG. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS
• BENTON, M. L.	CO. I	1st REG. PA. RIFLES	• FISKE, WM. E.	CO. I	6th REG. N. Y. CAVALRY
• BLAKESLEE, A.	CO. B	147th REG. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• GLEASON, H. S.	CO. F	58th REG. PA. VOLUNTEERS
• BOSTWICK, C.H.	CO. I	136th REG. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• HADLEY, A.	CO. D	111th REG. N.Y. VOLUNTEERS
• BROOKS, JNO. L.	CO. F	216th REG. PA. VOLUNTEERS	• HOLDEN, WM.	CO. G	116th REG. N.Y. VOLUNTEERS
• BROWN, F. J.	CO. C	5th REG. MD. VOLUNTEERS	• HOLCOMB, LEVI	CO. G	150th REG. PA. VOLUNTEERS
• BURCH, ANSON	-----	U.S. NAVY	• KEYES, ORSON S.	CO. E	5th REG. N. Y. CAVALRY

• LARRABEE, N. B.	CO. C	76th REG. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• SIAS, DANIEL	CO. I	64th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS
• LEWIS, J. B.	CO. C	107th REG. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• SIMMONS, WM. H.	CO. F	81st REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS
• LOVE, CHARLES	-----	1st N. Y. IND. BAT.	• SKIVER, W. M.	CO. H	58th REGT. PA. VOLUNTEERS
• MAIN, JAS. S.	CO. I	81st REG. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• SKIVER, E. H.	CO. H	58th REGT. PA. VOLUNTEERS
• MAPES, DAVID C.	CO. E	93rd REG. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• SMITH, MYRON	CO. A	50th REGT. N. Y. ENGINEERS
• MAXSON, ORSON F.	CO. C	52nd REG. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• SMITH, LASON	CO. I	149th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS
• MILLS, CHAS. H.	CO. H	58th REG. PA. VOLUNTEERS	• SOUTHWORTH, D. B.	-----	50th REGT. N. Y. ENGINEERS
• NICHOLS, E. H.	CO. H	58th REGT. PA. VOLUNTEERS	• SOUTHWORTH, C.	CO. C	27th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS
• OAKLEY, GEORGE	CO. F	90th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• SWARTZ, GEO. E.	CO. L	1st REGT. N. Y. VET. CAVALRY
• OAKLEY, Z. D.	CO. A	90th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• SWARTZ, NELSON	CO. F	90th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS
• ORCUTT, H. B.	CO. A	1st REGT. N. Y. DRAGOONS	• TRAVER, WM.	CO. A	34th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS
• PAGE, DEWITT E.	CO. C	1st REGT. N. Y. DRAGOONS	• TRAVER, CHAS.	CO. A	34th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS
• PARISH, MARVIN	-----	1st N.Y. IND. BATTALION	• WAKEFIELD, M.	CO. K	100th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS
• PARKER, ASA	CO. G	114th REGT, N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• WAY, ROBT. B.	CO. C	27th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS
• PERCIVAL, J. G.	CO. A	81st REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• WHITMAN, GEO.	CO. B	111th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS
• PETTY, WM. H.	CO. A	136th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS	• WILLIAMS, G. H.	CO. D	13th REGT. N. Y. HEAVY ARTILLERY
• PHILLIPS, HENRY	-----	27th N.Y. IND. BATTALION	• WITHERELL, D. W.	CO. F	27th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS
• RICHARDSON, R. R.	CO. B	15th REGT. N. Y. CAVALRY	• WOODRUFF, W.	CO. D	107th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS
• SCOTT, TRUMAN	-----	1st N.Y. IND. BATTALION	• WOODWARD, M. G.	CO. C	67th REGT. N. Y. VOLUNTEERS

PORTVILLE MEN WHO SERVED AND SURVIVED

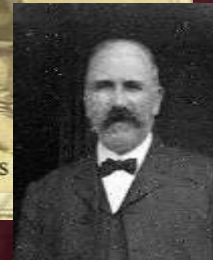


Foster Dickinson
5th NY Cavalry, Co. E
also brother Denison
who died within 5 months
of pneumonia
and brother Hebron
28th NYVI as Musician
Served 1 year

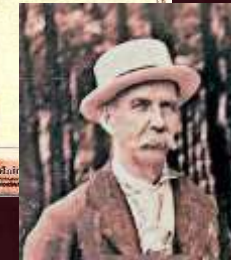
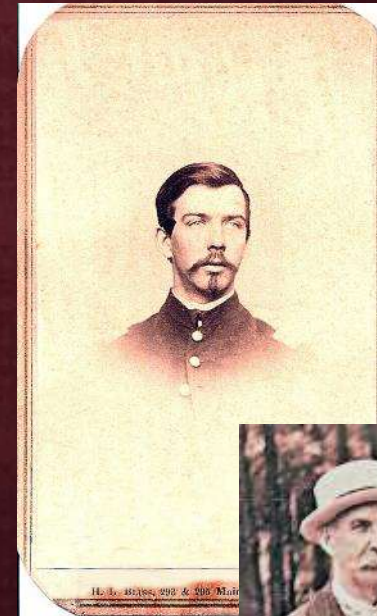


Dewitt Page
1st NY Dragoons

Enlisted at age 14



Adolphus B. Hadley
111th NYVI



William Holden
116th NYVI

Became Postmaster
In Portville



Joel A. Burdick
85th NYVI, Co. A

Served with 3 brothers
Addison Burdick,
Daniel Burdick,
and Matthew Burdick
All Survived

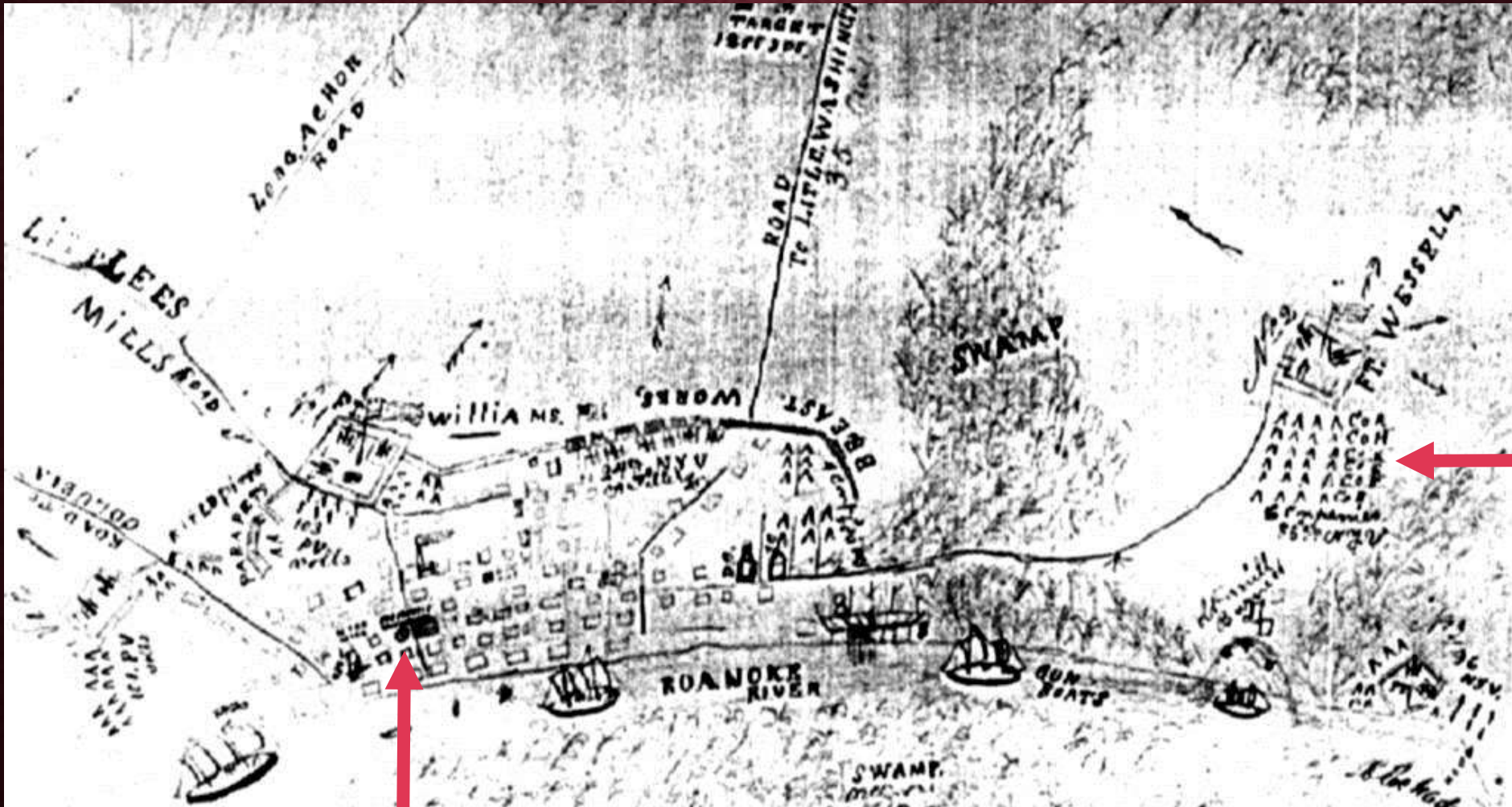
85TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

- Recruited in the southern part of the state and mustered into service at Elmira from August to December, 1861, for a three year term. The companies were recruited principally: A at Olean; B at Canandaigua; C at Friendship; D at Little Genesee; E at Granger; F at Black Creek and Friendship; G at Geneva; H at Wellsville; I at Richburg, and K at Hinsdale. The 85th consisted of 872 officers and enlisted men.
- Left for Washington on Dec. 3, 1861, serving in the defenses of Washington until the advance of the army to the Peninsula in March, 1862. Commander was COL. URIAH L. DAVIS.
- Transferred among various brigades of the Army of the Potomac, engaging in many battles from 1862 to 1864, ultimately defending the town of Plymouth until the Battle of Plymouth, when they were taken prisoner.

MAJOR BATTLES FOUGHT BY 85TH

- Battle of Fair Oaks, VA, on May 29-30, 1862, under 3rd brigade, 2nd division, 4th corps of the Army of the Potomac
 - 72 men of the 85th killed or wounded; all tents and belongings lost to the enemy
- Battle of Kinston, December 12th, 1862, under Brig. General Wessell's 2nd Brigade
 - 4 men of the 85th are killed
- Union Encampment at Plymouth, NC, Feb 1862-April 1864
 - In Feb 1862, Union forces captured Roanoke Island and ports near Albemarle and Pimlico Sounds. Plymouth, a strategic port in a rich agricultural region, was defended by a garrison with 2800 Union troops and successfully cut off river access from the Roanoke River to the important Wilmington & Weldon Railroad which served as "The Lifeline of the Confederacy". Union forces held their occupation for over 2 yrs with an extensive system of forts, redoubts, and trenches, supported by 5 Union gunboats under the command of Charles Flusser.
 - The 85th was dispatched to the garrison in April 1863 and camped there until the spring of 1864 (during which time many re-enlisted). Wessells' headquarters were also located there. In January, Company A was sent on detached duty to Roanoke Island to relieve Company I.
- Battle of Plymouth, NC, April 17-20, 1864
 - Confederate junior officer Robert F. Hoke had amassed 7,000 Confederate troops and a brand new ironclad ram called the CSS Albemarle to dislodge the Union army from Plymouth. They used a combination of naval bombardment, cavalry, heavy artillery and hand-to-hand combat.
 - After four days of battle, Wessells was obliged to surrender the town to their superior force and was taken prisoner with most of the men, including nine of the ten companies of the 85th (all but Company A). This would be the last Confederate victory of the war.
 - Most of the enlisted men were taken to Andersonville prison in Georgia. The soldiers of the 85th were known thereafter as the "Plymouth Pilgrims".
- During its service, the regiment lost by death, killed in action, 1 officer, 20 enlisted men; of wounds received in action, 15 enlisted men; of disease and other causes, 2 officers, 340 enlisted men; total, 3 officers, 375 enlisted men; aggregate, 378; of whom 245 enlisted men died in the hands of the enemy. Company A continued to fight after refilling their ranks and were mustered out on June 27, 1865.

85TH AT PLYMOUTH, NC



85th NYVI Encampment

General Wessells' headquarters

PORTVILLE AREA MEN WHO SERVED THE 85TH



Marshall Maxson

85th NYVI, Co. C

Captured but paroled
from Andersonville

His brother, Marion Maxson,
died at Florence Prison

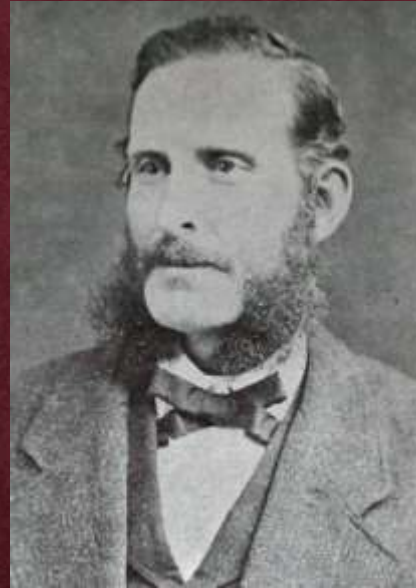
His wife's brother, Russell Coon,
Survived in 136th NYVI Co. K



Horton Murphy

85th NYVI, Co. C

Discharged for
Disability in 1862
Reenlisted 1864



Edgar Irish

85th NYVI, Co. C

Captured but paroled
from Andersonville

His brother, George Irish
85th NYVI, Co. C
Died at Andersonville



George M. Baker

Veteran of 136th NYVI

His brother, Edgar Baker
85th NYVI, Co E
died at Andersonville

Their father, Lyman Baker
served in 85th NYVI, Co E,
enlisting after Plymouth
and returned home



Alphonso Childs

85th NYVI, Co I

Captured at Plymouth
Died at Andersonville

CRANDALL BROTHERS AND THEIR FATE



Floyd M. Crandall
85th NYVI, Co. C

Mustered Sept 21, 1861
Enlisted at age 16
Captured at Plymouth, NC
Taken to Andersonville
Died at Florence before turning 20



Sergeant Marcus M. Crandall
85th NYVI, Co. C

Mustered Sept 21, 1861
Enlisted at age 19
Killed at the Battle of Fair Oaks (near Richmond)
on May 31st 1862



J. Marshall Crandall
85th NYVI, Co. C

Mustered 1862
Enlisted at age 29
Captured at Plymouth, NC
Died at Andersonville
leaving a wife and child

THE SHADY SIDE OF WAR.

The following notice and extract from a private letter was handed us by the sister of the deceased, to whom it was written, and we publish it as a fitting tribute to youthful heroism, and as showing those of us who are quietly pursuing our peaceful avocations at home, that there are dark clouds arising whose blackness shall yet overshadow very many of us :

Killed at the battle of Seven Pines, May 31st 1862, Sergeant Marcus M. Crandall, son of A. B. and Fanny Crandall, all of Geneva, N. Y., aged 20 years and 6 months. He died like a faithful soldier, even in his dying moments forgetting himself in the interest he had for a brother in danger, and the duties of his office, as the following letter will show.

IN CAMP, 7 miles from Richmond.

Dear Sister,—It was with much pleasure I received your last letter ; but many a tear have I shed since that date. On Saturday, at 2 P. M., the enemy attacked us five miles from Richmond. They rushed on us with great force, and succeeded, after turning our right, in driving the 85th from the pits on the left, with the loss to Company C of three men, and one, alas ! was *our dear brother, Mark*. But be comforted, dear sister, he died in a good cause, and he fought manfully for his country—brave as ever man fought ; and your unworthy brother kissed his dying brow.

Whilst we were mowing the enemy in front of the rifle pits, of which there were two regiments opposed to ours, Robert Ballard was wounded. Mark went to carry him off, when, as he came back, it was thought that our right was falling back, and he was sent to see ; but before he got back to the pit, a ball pierced his noble breast. As he fell, he saw me jump from the pit, midst the rain of balls, and he waved me back, and said : "Don't come, don't come." These were his last words. We have the consolation that he is in trustworthy hands.

The enemy was driven back to-day, so that the orderly and myself went up to the battle-field and gave him the best burial we could under the circumstances. We selected a spot under an oak tree, and buried the three of our company, which were Orson Lackey, Mark, and Reuben Wickson. I saved all the things he had in his pockets, a nice watch, pocket-book, which I have lost since, to my great sorrow, his pipe, handkerchief, and such little articles, which will please you all, if God spares me to come home. We lost everything but what we had on our backs ; but the field shows that all these things are avenged. If they are not, give us another chance. I feel pretty well at present, and hope to show secesh there is a *Union* after all. * * * Attention 85th, comes to my ear, and I must close. Good-bye.

From your brother,
FLOYD CRANDALL.

FLOYD CRANDALL.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wellman, to whom many thanks are due from those whose hearts are deeply afflicted by this bereavement, gives the following account of this affecting scene :

When the 85th were ordered to retreat, he (Floyd) sprang from the ranks, took his brother's body upon his shoulder, and attempted a retreat ; but finding himself falling behind and liable to be taken prisoner, he was obliged to lay down his precious burden. Then it was he took from his pockets those dear mementos spoken of in his letter. But this is but one of the many, many incidents which this wicked rebellion is daily bringing before us, throwing fearful shadows over many a home circle. But we know all things are ordered by a just God, and we trust the sunbeams of peace shall soon shine on a nation, when acts of justice shall be evidence that the chastening hand had not been laid on it in vain.

Floyd Crandall Letter

to his sister - June 1862

PORTVILLE IN 85TH NEW YORK

• ADAMY, FRANCIS C.	CO. K	• CRANDALL, FLOYD M.	CO. C	• JOHNSON, W. S.	CO. A
• ARMSTRONG, A. J.	CO. C	• CRANDALL, J. M.	CO. C	• JOHNSON, T. B.	CO. D
• BAKER, LYMAN	CO. E	• CRANDALL, M. M. (KIA)	CO. C	• JONES, HARRIS W.	CO. A
• BAKER, EDGAR	CO. E	• CRANDALL, HIRIAM L.	CO. A	• KING, R. V.	CO. A
• BARNES, S. M.	CO. A	• DEMING, LYMAN	CO. D	• LACKEY, ISAAC M.	CO. A
• BEDFORD, E. M.	CO. D	• DEMING, LUTHER	CO. A	• LACKEY, WALTER H.	CO. C
• BURDICK, JOEL A.	CO. A	• DOTY, ABRAM	CO. A	• LANGDON, ALBERT M.	CO. D
• BURDICK, D. C.	CO. A	• DURFEE, GEORGE J.	CO. E	• LANGWORTHY, JOHN	CO. A
• BURDICK, M. K.	CO. A	• FAIRBANKS, E. L.	CO. A	• LAWRENCE, A. J.	CO. C
• BURDICK, A. O.	CO. A	• GRIERSON, JOHN	CO. D	• LINDSAY, J. C.	CO. F
• BOTH, GARRETT	CO. A	• GRIFFIN, HENRY	CO. A	• LINK, MARTIN	CO. A
• BOTH, JACOB	CO. A	• HALBERT, ALBERT	CO. D	• MAIN, DEWEY S.	CO. A
• BULLOCK, E.	CO. E	• HALL, HENRY C.	CO. A	• MAIN, WM O. (OSCAR)	CO. A
• CAMP, BENJ.	CO. A	• HAMILTON, A. D.	CO. A	• MAXSON, M. L.	CO. C
• CARR, LYMAN E.	CO. C	• HAMILTON, O.W.	CO. A	• MILLER, ALBERT A.	CO. A

PORTVILLE IN 85TH NEW YORK (CONT'D)

• LOOP, DANIEL		• SCOTT, WARREN	CO. A
• MUNGER, H. W.	CO. I	• SMITH, ALBERT M.	CO. A
• MURPHY, HORTON	CO. C	• SMITH, STEPHEN	CO. K
• PARISH, HORACE	CO. A	• SOUTHWORTH, A. H.	CO. D
• PARISH, MELVIN	CO. A	• SPEES, ANDREW	CO. A
• POPPEL, JASON	CO. A	• VAN VALKENBURG, F. H	CO. A
• ROBERTS, LYMAN A.	CO. D	• <i>WALES, JARED</i>	<i>CO. D</i>
• SAWTELL, HENRY P.	CO. C	• <i>WALES, CHARLES</i>	<i>CO. D</i>
• SAWYER, JOHN	CO. D	• <i>WICKER, E. A.</i>	<i>CO. A</i>
• <i>SCOTT, JASON L.</i>	<i>CO. K</i>		
• <i>SCOTT, M. V. B.</i>	<i>CO. E</i>		

Names in italics are men killed in the Civil War.

All of Company A from Portville survived the war, except two: Oscar Main was at Plymouth and died at Andersonville and Edmund Wicker died of wounds suffered at Hartford, NC; The others of the 85th who survived the war were discharged from disability before Plymouth and others enlisted after Plymouth to serve out the rest of the war. Very few from Portville who went to prison survived, just Marshall Maxson and Edgar Irish (from Obi). Maxson survived by baking hoe-cakes out of their rations and Irish was hired to work in the office of the prison commander, Capt. Wirz, who ended up being the only Confederate to be hanged for his crimes during the war.

154TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

- Recruited in Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties after President Lincoln called for 300,000 more men in 1862 to serve 3-years.
- Consisted of 948 officers and enlisted men in eight companies from Cattaraugus and two companies from Chautauqua - mostly farmers.
- Mustered in at Camp Brown in Jamestown, September 24-26, 1862, and sent by train to Washington, DC.
- Assigned to the 1st Brigade, 2nd Division of the 11th Army of the Potomac.
- Leaders were Lt. Col. Henry Loomis and COL. PATRICK HENRY JONES. Jones was an attorney from Ellicottville and well-respected by his men.
- Called the “Hardtack Regiment” for the hardtack that they ate

MAJOR BATTLES FOUGHT BY 154TH

- Battle of Chancellorsville, VA, on May 2, 1863 – Chancellorsville Campaign April 30 – May 6
 - 40% casualty rate of 560 men: 240 were killed, wounded or captured
 - Col. Patrick Henry Jones was captured and taken prisoner
 - Maj. Gen. Hooker's Army of the Potomac was defeated by Gen. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia despite having more than twice the men: 133,000 Union men with 17,197 casualties against 60,000 Conf. men & 13,303 casualties
- Battle of Gettysburg, PA, on July 1-3, 1863
 - Gettysburg was led by Maj. Gen. Meade and considered the turning point of the war in the Union's favor
 - Maj. Warner and 50 men took a reconnaissance toward Sabillasville, MD, missing the action
 - Col. Charles Coster led the 154th in the battle at the brickyard, outnumbered 2 to 1
 - 77% casualty rate of 265 men on July 1, 1863: 205 were lost, most captured (2 soldiers also became casualties July 2-3). That evening only three officers and fifteen enlisted men rallied on Cemetery Hill. The return of some forty stragglers and Major Warner's detached fifty added up to roughly 100.
 - One fatality on July 1 was an unidentified soldier, later found to be Amos Humiston from Portville
 - Worst losses of entire war: Union casualties were 23,055 (3,155 killed, 14,531 wounded, 5,369 captured or missing) and Confederate were 23,231 (4,708 killed, 12,693 wounded, 5,830 captured or missing)
- Battle of Dug Gap, Rocky Face Ridge, GA, on May 8, 1864



154TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

COL. LEWIS D. WARNER, COMMANDER

- BARNES, A. R. CO. C
- CHAMPLIN, M. V. CO. C
- CRAWFORD, CALVIN CO. C
- EVANS, EVANDER CO. C
- FALES, ZADOCK K. CO. I
- FALES, N. D. CO. I
- GLINES, TIMOTHY CO. C
- GODFREY, WM. R. CO. C
- HUMISTON, AMOS CO. C
- KEYES, A. FRANK CO. C
- KEYES, WM. P. CO. C
- LAMB, HARRIS CO. C
- LANG, JOHN CO. I
- LOVELACE, ELI CO. C



Died at Chancellorville



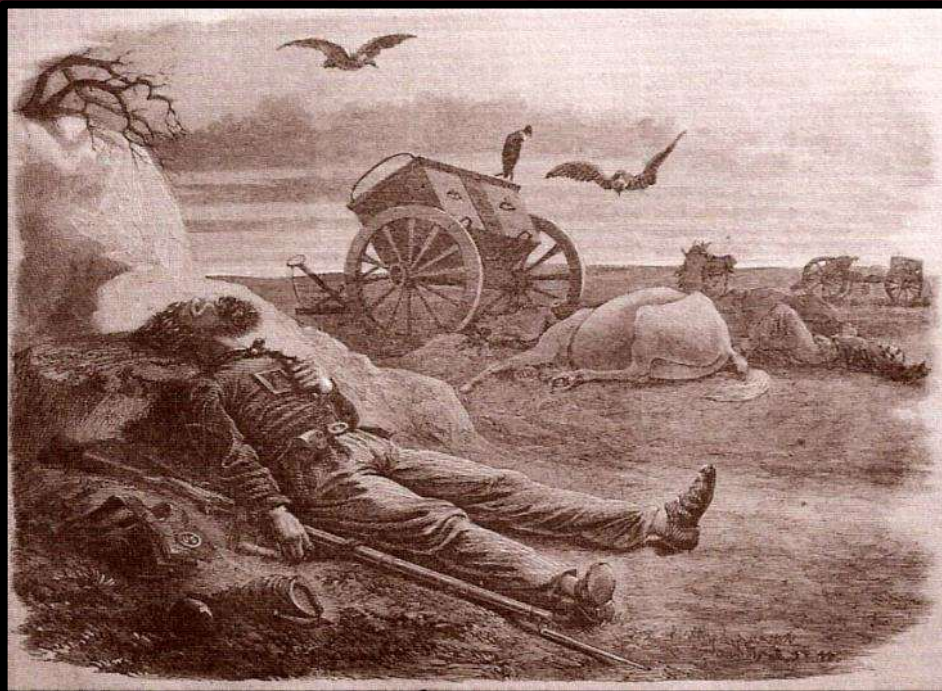
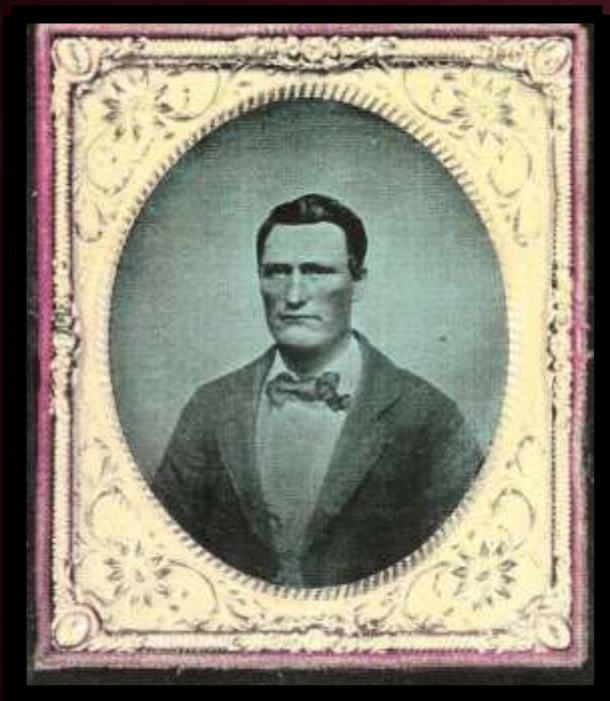
Died at Gettysburg

- McINTOSH, CHAS. A. CO. C
- MASON, PHILLIP CO. I
- PECKHAM, JNO. A. CO. C
- PELTON, A. N. CO. C
- REYNOLDS, BENJ. CO. C
- REYNOLDS, JOHN CO. C
- SCUTT, ADDISON L. CO. C
- SHAFER, ADDISON CO. C
- STONE, ADDISON CO. I
- SYKES, SEYMOUR C. CO. C
- TEFFT, W. S. CO. C
- WHEELER, SAMUEL J. CO. C
- WITHEREL, WM. E. CO. I
- WRIGHT, DANIEL M. CO. C



Musician, Survived

THE AMOS HUMISTON STORY



The Unknown Soldier of Gettysburg



ADVERTISEMENT

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER! WHO IS HE?

(ON THE FIELD OF GETTYSBURG,)

After the battles of July 1st, 2d & 3d, 1863, the dead body of a Union soldier was found, holding in his hands an ambrotype picture of three children, a girl and two boys, aged, apparently, about nine, seven and five years. In the picture, the youngest child, a boy, is seated in a chair between his elder brother and his sister, while the dresses are made of the same material. The soldier was buried on the field where he fell, and his grave marked, but his name could not be ascertained. It is hoped, however, that he may yet be identified by means of the ambrotype of the children found in his hands when he was discovered. The picture is now in the possession of Dr. Bourns, 1104 Spring Garden street, Philadelphia, who can be called upon or addressed in reference to it.

PHYLINDA AND HER CHILDREN



FRANK, FREDERICK & ALICE.

The Picture That Moved a Nation

After the battle at Gettysburg, a burial detail came upon a dead Union soldier whose only identification was an ambrotype of three young children found clasped in his hand.

Word of these "children of the battlefield" spread; efforts to identify the father blossomed into a Union-wide campaign. Thousands of copies of the picture (*right*) were circulated. A \$50 prize was offered for the best poem about the incident, and the winning verse was set to music. Its refrain was a prayer: "O Father, guard the soldier's wife / And for his orphans care."

In November 1863 a woman whose soldier husband was listed as missing recognized the picture as one she had sent him before the battle. He was Sergeant Amos Humiston of Company C, 154th New York Infantry.

The story was not quite over. Proceeds from sales of the photographs and sheet music were used to establish the Soldiers' Orphans' Home in Gettysburg in 1866. Humiston's widow became its first matron, and his children were educated there.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTVILLE

SERGEANT HUMMISTON'S CHILDREN.

Dr. J. F. Bourns is desirous of paying an early visit to Portville, N. Y., near which place the surviving family of Sergeant Hummiston resides. He will convey to the family the relic found on the father's person at Gettysburg, and which proved the means, through the American Presbyterian, of identifying both the soldier himself and his family. The good doctor is desirous of carrying something substantial to the family; but although some seven hundred of the beautiful photograph copies of the children's portraits have been disposed of, the proceeds are small and accumulate slowly. Those therefore who desire to aid the doctor in making up the sum of say \$500 at once, for this end, are invited to contribute; they can leave names and amounts at this office.

The children are attendants upon the Sabbath-school of the Presbyterian Church, (N. S.) Portville, and are in humble circumstances. The postmaster of the village is the correspondent of Dr. Bourns. We hope to hear from Rev. J. G. Ogden, Pastor of the church in the village in a few days.



LINCOLN'S INITIATIVES

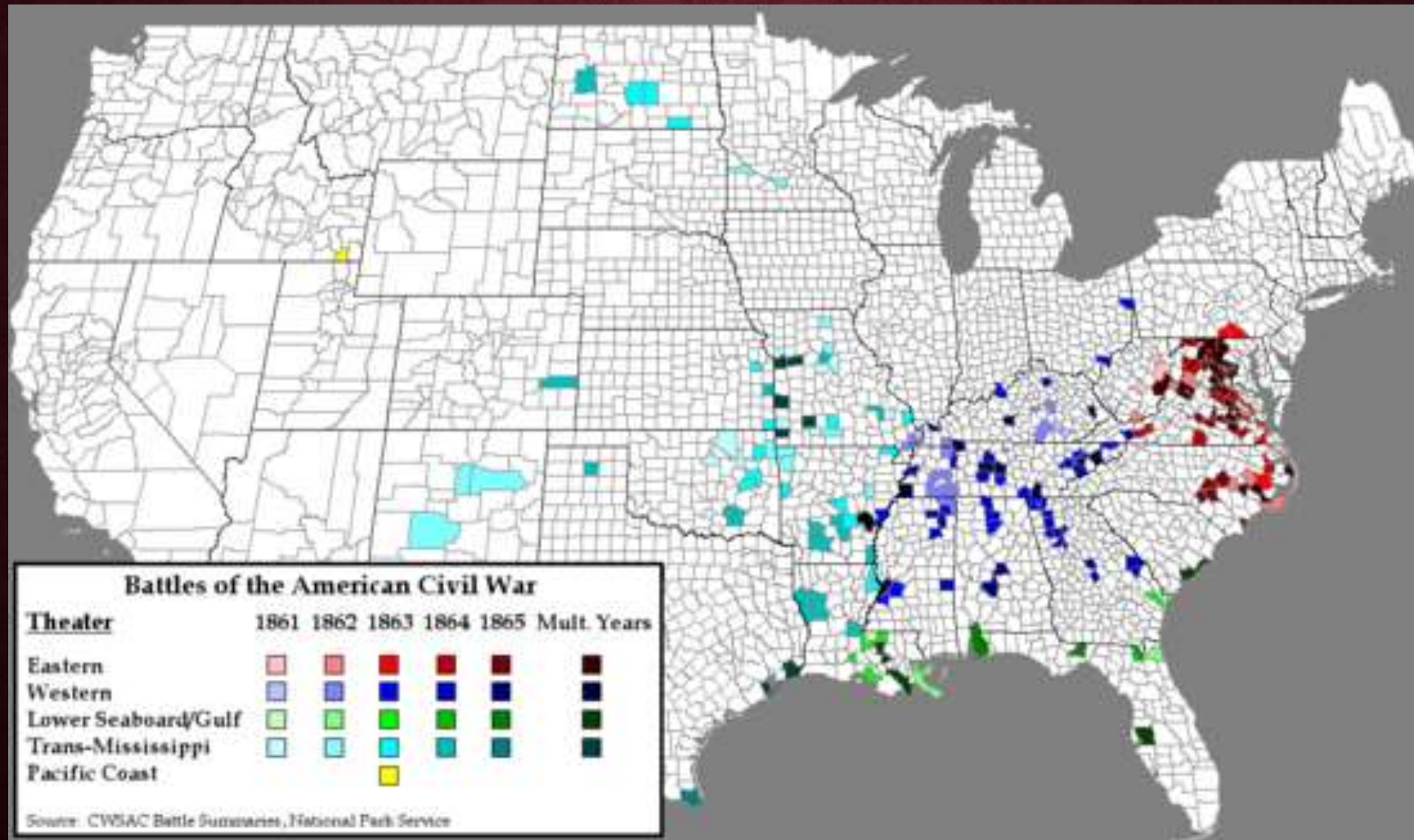
- EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

- Executed on January 1, 1863, as a presidential proclamation, based on the president's constitutional authority as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces (not a law passed by Congress).
- Mandated the freedom of slaves in the ten states that were still in rebellion, affecting 3.1 million of the 4 million slaves in the U.S. at that time.
- The Proclamation did not compensate the slave owners, did not itself outlaw slavery, and did not make the ex-slaves (called freedmen) citizens. It made the ending slavery an explicit war goal, in addition to the goal of reuniting the Union.
- As the Union army took control of Confederate regions, the Proclamation provided the legal framework for freeing more than 3 million more slaves in those regions.
- Slaves that were from areas not emancipated, but close enough to Union forces, escaped behind the lines for protection and lived in "CONTRABAND" camps. Protected and educated by the Union army, many were recruited into the U. S. Colored Troops. Roanoke Island was one of the largest colonies of 3500 Freedmen, working toward self-sufficiency.

- GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

- Delivered on November 19, 1863 by President Lincoln at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery beginning with "**Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.**"
- Spoken in under 2 minutes, Lincoln redefined the Civil War as a struggle not just for the Union, but also for the principle of human equality.

BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR



LINCOLN ASSASSINATION

- The plot against the President began as a kidnapping for a huge ransom. It was first planned for January 18, 1865, at the Ford Theater. The leader of the conspirators, John Wilkes Booth, was an actor who had performed there. Booth was born in Maryland and initially supported the Union, but as the war went on, he became a sympathizer of the South. He also preferred the audiences in the South who appreciated his flashy performances more. The kidnapping plan fell apart when Lincoln's plans changed and he did not attend.
- Lincoln was inaugurated for his second term as President on March 4, 1865. The conspirators were in attendance at the event but did not threaten him then. Booth was still plotting and the second kidnap attempt was planned for March 20th. Again Lincoln's plans changed and he did not attend the event.
- Lincoln's Dream
 - Lincoln had received over 80 death threats and dreamed of his own death only a week prior to the assassination.
 - The war was almost over, and he feared that he would not live much past the end.
- Lee's Surrender after the fall of Richmond to Union Forces
 - General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865. The war had lasted four long years, almost to the day.
- The following Friday, Booth learned Lincoln would be at the theater that night and this time he planned to kill him. His co-conspirators were to kill the Secretary of State, William Seward, and the Vice-President, Andrew Johnson. They both failed but Booth shot Lincoln and he died the following morning, April 15, 1865.

HEADQUARTERS
H.W.Wessels Post,
NO. 85, DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK,
Grand Army of the Republic.

PORTVILLE, N. Y., MAY 19, 1880.

The following Programme for Decoration Services to be held Monday May 31, 1880, has been adopted.

I. The Post will assemble at 8 o'clock A.M. sharp, and move by teams to East Portville, at 8½ o'clock, headed by the Portville Cornet Band, a connection will be formed here with delegations from Pennsylvania, Decoration Services by Post, and address by Rev. O.M. Leggett.

II. Line will be reformed and proceed to West Genesee Cemetery, the same ceremonies will be observed, address by Rev. Mr. Burdick, the line will then reform and return to Portville.

III. Refreshments will be served at Post Headquarters.

IV. Line will form at 2 P.M. Right resting at Post Headquarters, and will move as formed in the following order to Cemetery Hill.

1. Portville Cornet Band.
2. Speakers.
3. Post 85 G.A.R.
4. Portville Schools under direction of Prof. C.W. Wason.
5. Annie Creek Cornet Band.
6. Citizens.

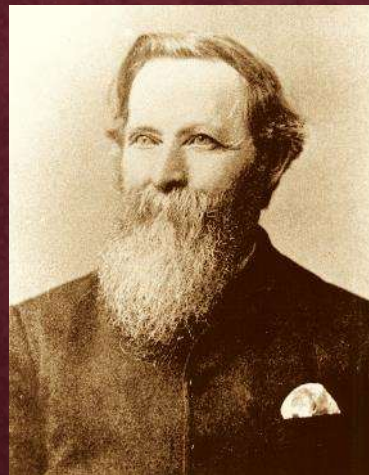
Address by Rev. J.E. Tinker, and others, at the close of the Ceremony the line will reform and return to Headquarters and be dismissed.

V. All honorably discharged Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, are invited to fall in and form on left of Post. The people generally are cordially invited to participate in the Commemorative Services, and Merchants are respectfully requested to close their places of business from 3 to 4 o'clock P.M.

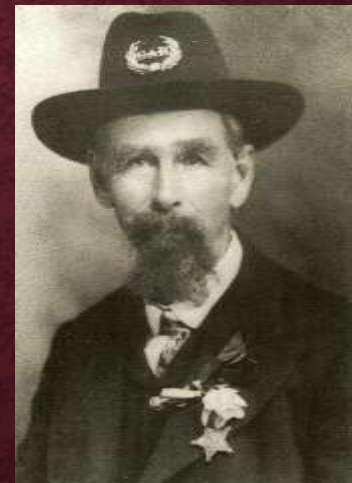
ARTHUR LINK,
Commander.

E.E. OLUTE,
Adjutant.

H W WESSELL POST NO. 85 GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC



Colonel Warner
154th NYVI



John Reynolds
154th NYVI



Addison Burdick
85th NYVI



Ezra Bedford
85th NYVI



Wallace Skiver
58th PA

G. A. R.

ANNUAL DECORATION DAY CEREMONY 1879 TO TODAY

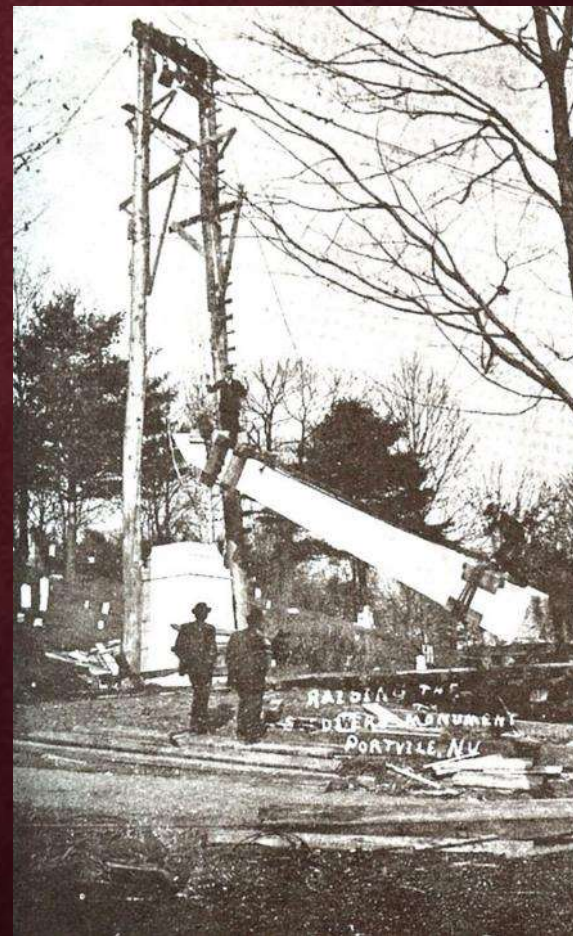
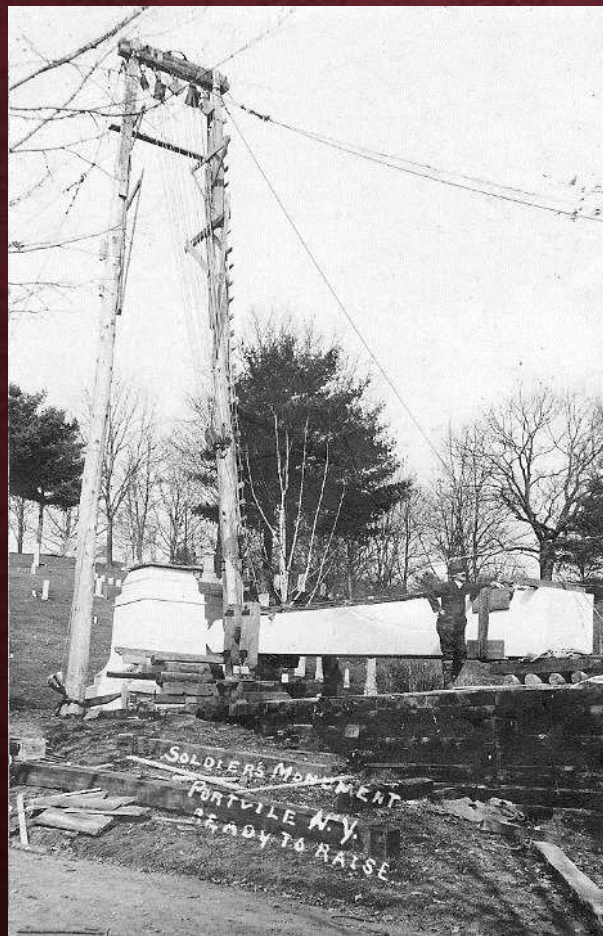


VETERAN SILAS G. BURDICK ENVISIONS OBELISK



Silas Burdick
85th NYVI, Co. C
Little Genesee

Captured at Plymouth
Survived Andersonville
Brother-in-Law of Edgar
and George Irish



DEDICATION OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT IN 1909



GAR AND WORLD WAR I VETERANS AT CHESTNUT HILL



SUGGESTED READING

- PHPS History Books
- On the 85th: ***Charlie Mosher's Civil War: From Fair Oaks to Andersonville With the Plymouth Pilgrims [Hardcover]*** (by Wayne Mahood, Longstreet House, 1994)
- On the 154th: www.Hardtackregiment.com website and books by Mark Dunkelman
 - ***The Hardtack Regiment: An Illustrated History of the 154th Regiment, New York State Infantry Volunteers*** with Michael J. Winey. (East Brunswick, N.J.: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1981)
 - ***Gettysburg's Unknown Soldier: The Life, Death, and Celebrity of Amos Humiston*** (Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 1999)
 - ***Brothers One and All: Esprit de Corps in a Civil War Regiment*** (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2004)
 - ***War's Relentless Hand: Twelve Tales of Civil War Soldiers*** (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2006)
 - ***Marching with Sherman: Through Georgia and the Carolinas with the 154th New York*** (Louisiana State University Press, 2012)
 - ***The Perils of Prominence: Patrick Henry Jones in Nineteenth Century America*** (in progress)
- ***Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant*** (available in paperback)
- ***Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln***, by Doris Kearns Goodwin (Simon and Schuster, 2005)

**PORTVILLE HISTORICAL
AND
PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

www.portvillehistory.org

Cindy Keeley