

ZOUAWE!

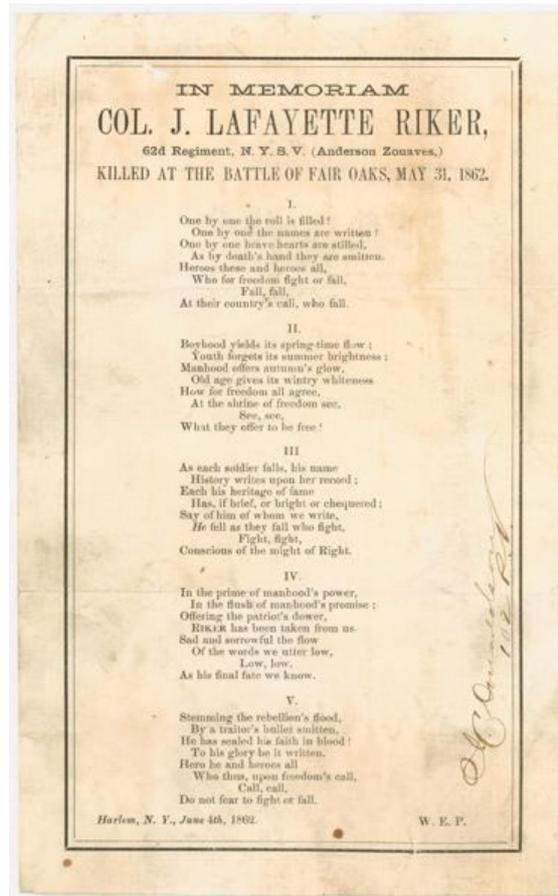


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Newspaper of the Anderson Zouaves - Living History & Research (62d NYSVV Co. F)



Colonel Riker's Funerary Flyer
(David Sanders' Collection)

PVT. FRANK MINER 62d NYSV CO. B.

By Joe Basso



On August 22, 1845, when ten year old Louise Udhe entered New York harbor on the *Johann Georg* along with her six siblings and her parents Carl and Caroline, little did she realize that her future

husband, Frank Joseph Minor, was already there.

Their families did not know each other, and came from two different worlds. Her family was Dutch and he was born in New Jersey of Dutch ancestry, but they would later meet and start their own family that would include six children, and a future member of Co. B of the 62nd New York Volunteer Infantry.

Her husband would be Frank Miner (aka Minor, Myner) born on February 2,, 1838. His parents are lost to history and there are no census records for Frank Joseph Miner until 1870. He married

Louise in 1855, and on June 1, 1861 enlisted in the 62nd. He was mustered in as a Private into Company B on June 30, 1861. His enlistment papers describe him as being either a carpenter or a laborer, 5'9" tall, blue eyes, brown hair, and having a fair complexion. He was transferred to Company D and detached to the Provost Guard in April of 1863. Records indicate that he was wounded, but no description of the wound and where it occurred could be found. He served his full term of service and re-enlisted on March 30, 1864. It was at this time that he transferred to Company D. He was mustered out of service with the rest of the regiment at Fort Schuyler, New York Harbor on August 30, 1865.

The 1870 Census shows the family living at 45th-46th and Second Avenue in New York, New York along with their children Katie (b. 1862), Amelia (b. 1864), Josephine (b. 1869), and Henry (b. 1870). Two additional children will be born between the 1870 and 1880 Censuses, Thomas (b. 1872), and Walter (b. 1879). By 1880 the family was living in Hudson, New Jersey and at 52 years of age, Frank was still employed as a common laborer. Louise applied for Military Pension benefits on April 1, 1881, declaring invalid status for Frank. There are no Census records for 1890 as most were destroyed in a fire at The Commerce Department in Washington, D.C.

The 1900 Census shows that Frank and Louise were living with their youngest son Walter and his wife Mabel, along with their grandchild, Isabella, at 210 Plank Road in Hackensack, New Jersey. Frank was employed with a railroad, and Walter was a labourer. By 1910, Frank, worked as a derrick operator and Walter worked as a rock driller. Isabella was now six and a new grandson, William, was four. By 1920, both families had moved to Pomfret, Connecticut. Frank was now 81 and retired and Walter was employed at a cotton mill. Louise and Mabel looked after the grandchildren which now included

Viola (8), Alice (5), Gladys (4) and Frank N. (1).

Private Frank Joseph Miner died on April 3, 1926 and Louise applied for widow's benefits on April 21, 1926. In all probability she did not receive any benefits as she died six days later on April 27, 1926. Walter and Mabel continued to live in Pomfret, Connecticut with Walter passing away on April 2, 1933, at the age of 54. Mabel continued on in Pomfret and eventually lived with her children until her death in 1963.

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LT. MARTIN BERGAN 62d NYSV CO. A.

By Joe Basso



It is said that war brings out the best and the worst in humanity. Bravery, self-sacrifice, comradeship, are in balance with the blood, rage, and the rationalization for what would be considered illegal or immoral actions at any other time.

General Sherman is credited for saying that "War is Hell," but military service can allow an individual to excel beyond what a peace time civilian life would offer. The difficulty may be that after peace is obtained, the vast majority of military personnel go back to their civilian world and may not be considered as successful as they were in their regiment.

This scenario was repeated a countless number of times on both sides after the War. It could describe the scenario for 1st Lieutenant Marin Bergan (aka Burgen) of the 62^d. Bergan was the child of Irish immigrants Keron and Mary Bergen who came to New York City in the late 1840's where his father's occupation was listed as a common laborer. Martin was born in 1845 and enlisted into the

62^d on June 3, 1861 as a full corporal. He was mustered in Co. A on August 31, 1861 and was promoted to full Sergeant on May 1st, 1864 and made 1st Lieutenant on July 6, 1864. From Lieutenant he was promoted, again, to Quartermaster on December 14, 1864, and then mustered out of service with the rest of the regiment at Fort Schuyler in New York harbor.

Between the 1865 and 1870 Census, Martin had married Mary Casey and had two children, Frank (1867) and John (1869), and would be living in Harlem. He was identified as being a harness maker and would continue this occupation until approximately 1882, when he became a “keeper” for the 5th District prison system, under the auspices of the Public Charities and Corrections division. The individuals at the institution tended to be poor, and were patients from the city’s hospitals and asylums, and later from their jails and penitentiaries. At first, women “inmates” were not allowed to stay overnight but would be admitted again the following day, but as the facilities were expanded female as well as male convicts would be imprisoned there. A position at this facility may have been provided to Martin in recognition of his wartime service. Patronage of the kind in New York City and its Burroughs were commonplace at this time.

Martin’s health began to deteriorate and Margaret filed for an invalid pension on May 21, 1879. Martin Bergin continued to work in the Penal System and moved to 343 East 87th Street in New York City, which was classified as a tenement in the 1880 Census. Technically, a tenement is a dwelling where two or more families reside, but given the time period and the location, this was some of the poorest housing New York had to offer. According to the New York City Housing Authority today, these tenements were dark, overcrowded, with little or no natural light and infested with rats, fleas and lice and vermin. Landlords provided virtually no workable plumbing or sanitation

facilities and it was not unusual for one floor of families in these tenements to share a single kitchen.

In 1891, a new facility was built called the 5th District Prison or the Harlem Prison, which is still in use today as a family court, housing issues and juvenile authority. This cleaner facility came too late for the former Lieutenant of the 62^d. On around August 1, 1891, Martin Bergan contracted Endemic Typhus, which is caused by poor sanitation and cold weather, and has the nick-name “jail fever.” The conditions at home and in the old facility in all probability hastened the contracting of this disease. Symptoms of Endemic Typhus are; abdominal pain, backache, diarrhea, a dull red rash, high fever from between 105 to 106 degrees, a hacking dry cough, headache, joint and muscle pain, nausea and vomiting. Martin suffered this illness for twelve days and died on August 13, 1891 and was interred at Calvary Cemetery on August 15, 1891.

Margaret resubmitted her pension request as a widow on December 19, 1891, which was granted. The 1900 Census shows her living with her son Martin on 163rd Street, New York, with another son, John and his family, residing at the same address. Margaret died on June 25, 1906.

6 2

**SGT. OSCAR WILDER
BUFFINGTON
62d NYSV CO. E.**

By Joe Basso



The beginning of the Civil War did not go well for Union forces in the east. General Irvin McDowell was pushed by northern newspapers and politicians to commit his troops for a drive towards Richmond before

they were properly trained, resulting in a humiliating defeat.

In August, 1861, General George McClellan was brought in from his victories in western Virginia to straighten out the mass confusion in the camps around Washington and prepare these forces for the next campaign. Impressed with himself and his victories, McClellan was known within army circles for his evaluation of the Crimean War, where he was a military observer for the United States, and for the cavalry saddle that he designed and would be used by the military until the 1940's.

By April, 1862, "Little Mac" had retrained and reorganized the Army of the Potomac into the most powerful army in American history. Among those regiments that were rejuvenated was the 62^d NY, among these troops were 1st Sergeant Oscar Wilder Buffington of Troy, New York. While most of the men of the 62^d hailed from New York and its Burroughs, a good number of these troops were also from Troy, New York and Saltersville, New Jersey. Oscar Buffington was born in Troy on November 4, 1834, to Artemus and Dorcus Buffington and was the youngest of eight children. He enlisted in the 62^d on August 15, 1861, and was mustered into Co. E on April 6th, as a Private. He rapidly gained promotion to 1st Sergeant by September 1, 1861.

By 1842, both parents had died and Oscar found himself living with his older siblings and relatives. Federal Census and City Directories showed that between 1850 and 1860, Oscar lived in and around Troy, working as a machinist or mechanic. He married Elizabeth Forbes, from Fitzroy, Canada, in 1861 and shortly afterwards enlisted in the 62^d. According to records, Elizabeth returned to her family in Canada to await their first child.

At this stage of the war, the target of the Union forces was not the Confederate armies, but its capital city of Richmond, Virginia. McClellan's basic plan was to transport The Army of the

Potomac to the tip of the Virginia peninsula flanked by the York and James Rivers. He would use Fortress Monroe as a base of operations and use Navy gunboats operating on the rivers to protect his flanks as he marched towards Richmond. He would have 120,000 men at his disposal, and on paper the plan looked marvelous. The problems were that Union maps of this area were terribly inaccurate, and this would also be the first time that Virginia rains, swamps and its bottomless red clay roads would interfere with troop and artillery movements.

Ever the cautious man, McClellan slowly moved to invest and bombard his first military target at Yorktown, but the Confederate forces had no intention of slugging it out, but were merely stalling until the last minute to buy more time to improve Richmond's defences and bring in re-enforcements. As southern troops withdrew towards Williamsburg, Union General Joseph Hooker met the retreating Confederate rear guard near Williamsburg. The first battle of Williamsburg, also known as the Battle of Fort Magruder was the first major engagement of the Peninsular Campaign.

On May 5, 1862, Hooker attempted to assault Fort Magruder, which was #6 in a defensive line of 14 redoubts but was beaten back with loss, until General Phil Kearney's division arrived and stiffened the Union line. A counter attack by Confederate General Longstreet nearly rolled up Hooker's left flank, but General Winfield Hancock attacked Longstreet's left, captured two unmanned redoubts, but no attempt was made to follow up this advantage and the southern forces retired from the field. Records indicate that Confederate forces numbered some 32,000 men of which 1,682 were killed, wounded or missing. Union forces number around 41,000 with 2,283 casualties. Each side lost about 5% of those involved. Among the Union dead was 1st Sergeant Oscar Buffington. He was eventually buried at

Yorktown National Cemetery in Yorktown, Virginia.

Sergeant Buffington never met his daughter, Alice, as she was born some seven months after his death. Elizabeth applied for widow's benefits on September 12, 1864 and was remarried to John Nelson in 1870. Elizabeth would have four children with John between 1874 to 1883 and died in 1884 in Colchester, Nova Scotia at the age of 45.

Alice would alternate living between the Boston and Nova Scotia from the time she turned 18 until she married John Mooney in 1883. She was 21 and he was 48 and a veteran of the 9th New Hampshire. They would have four children together and she passed in 1935 at the age of 73.

6 2

SGT. CHRISTIAN CRIMM 62d NYSV CO. F.

By Joe Basso



The 19th Century was a hard time for transitions within the United States. Massive immigration was changing the social and political demographics of the nation. As the country was beginning its westward movement towards the Rockies, the living conditions on the frontier were extremely primitive, while urban areas were developing all of the trappings that modern civilization and culture could offer.

Fashions that originated in London and Paris were now seen in all major American cities. Prior to the Great Rebellion, the American military was fashioned after the French pattern and Napoleonic tactics, and is reflected by the 70 Zouave regiments recruited in the

North, and as well as the "Napoleonic" photographic poses (hand under breast coat button line) often used by officers. After hostilities, a shift towards the Prussian model began. During the Franco-Prussian War, the American military attaché in Paris was attacked by a mob because his uniform pattern was so much like the Prussian. Experimentation and innovation was the norm, especially in the industrial North, while the aristocratic socialites of the South tried to maintain the elite status-quo of the plantation lifestyle.

Sanitation issues were rampant and within urban centres, cholera and diphtheria were considered the consequences of civilized life. Farm communities may have been spared most of these illnesses, but when recruits from these regions were massed together in training camps, they became susceptible to chicken pox, measles, and dysentery in epidemic proportions. Infant mortality rates were astronomical. Between 1800 to 1850, 40% of all recorded deaths were children under the age of 14. Medical research of the day was non-existent. Research estimates that 20% of all white adults were addicted to some kind of over the counter pain killers which were opium and/or cocaine based.

War *is* hell, because it brought even more misery to those who were not the financial moguls providing the goods to wage war, or to those with large extended families who could provide financial support for the survivors. Families were torn apart by extreme poverty brought about by the severe mauling of husbands and family members caused by combat which radically reduced earning potential, as well as war widows desperate to support their children. These are the circumstances that Elizabeth Mary Crimm found herself shortly after the War.

Elizabeth married Christian Crimm (aka, Grimm, aka Crunin) shortly before the War after he immigrated to New York from Prussia aboard the ship *Yorkshire* on June 8, 1859. They would have a total of

four children; William, George, James and Charles. Christian was born in Prussia in 1837, and immigration records show him to be a barber, an occupation he will maintain for the rest of his life. He enlisted as a Private into Co. F of the 62nd at the age of 24 on July 3, 1861, and like so many others, served from the Peninsular campaign to the end of the conflict. He was promoted to 2nd sergeant (no date provided), reenlisted as a veteran on February 5, 1864 and was wounded in the leg at the siege of Petersburg on June 19, 1864. He remained with the regiment until it was mustered out of service.

Christian returned to his family, became a naturalized citizen on October 22, 1866, and continued to practice his trade as a barber. Christian and his family moved several times within New York City between 1865 and 1879. 2nd Sergeant Christian Crimm died (recorded causes were not found) on July 4, 1879. That same day, his wife filed for a widow's pension (certificate # 246.381), and would have received about \$8 per month when compared to similar filings.

Times were apparently extremely harsh for the Crimm family, because in 1880 Elizabeth Crimm turned her minor children over to the Union Home and School for Soldier's Children in New York City for upbringing. This was a privately funded boarding school for homeless and/or destitute children of Union soldiers, where they were given a standard education and training for employment. Charles was 12 and James was 14. William and George were 20 and 18 and were already on their own. William was a clerk and James a porter.

Elizabeth Mary Crimm married a second time in 1882, to William Humphrey, six years her junior, who was a widower with twins, Frank and Jennie. There is no evidence that Charles and James Crimm were invited to join their mother into the Humphrey household, because records showed they stayed in the Union Home until they became of age.

James Crimm died of Pneumonia and asthma on May 12, 1896. Charles Crimm worked as a retinner (a Tinker) and died in 1890. George was considered a wheeler-dealer and died in 1939. William was listed as a shipping clerk in the Federal 1920 census, but no date of death was found. Elizabeth Mary Crimm- Humphrey died in 1925 in Lawrence, Pennsylvania.

6 2

PVT. JOHN C. CHILD 62d NYSV CO. D.

By Joe Basso



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“ . . . Hold on with a bulldog grip and chew and choke as much as possible.” – portion of a letter from Abraham Lincoln to General Grant at the beginning of the Petersburg/Richmond campaign in 1864.

This excerpt showed Lincoln's approval of the strategy that General Ulysses Grant and the Army of the Potomac began with the new campaigns in 1864. All Union armies throughout the country were to simultaneously concentrate their efforts against Confederate forces, so that Southern troops could not be shifted to meet any one Union advance. The new focus was not Richmond or any other city, but to attack Confederate armies wherever they may be. The primary focus for Grant was Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia which had been maneuvered into defensive entrenchments around Petersburg, Virginia during the Wilderness Campaign. Although suffering heavy losses, Grant refused to withdraw back into the defenses around Washington, D.C., but continued to maintain his grip on Lee until the final battle at Sailor's (Sayler's) Creek and Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

The first major Union success of the Petersburg investment was the second Battle of Weldon Railroad, also known as the Battle of Globe Tavern on August 18-21, 1864. Grant's plan to destroy Lee's ability to sustain his forces required the severing all transportation and communication lines to the outside world. To that end, Grant sent 5th Corps, under General Gouverneur Warren, south to cut the Weldon Railroad line near Globe Tavern. The first attempt in June, 1864 failed, but Warren's attempt in August successfully drove Southern forces back. Confederate troops under P.G.T. Beauregard and A.P Hill counter-attacked and the battle see-sawed back and forth until the 21st, when General Mahone found a weak spot in the Union line, fell upon the Union rear and rolled it up, capturing nearly two brigades. The 5th Corps re-entrenched itself and held the line, driving back repeated Southern counterattacks, inflicting severe losses. This action cut the rail line and forced the defending forces in Petersburg to bring in supplies some 30 miles by wagon.

Casualties on both sides were heavy, with 2,877 Union troops being captured. Among those captured in these attempts to seize the Weldon line was Private John C. Child of the 62nd New York, who was wounded and captured on June 23, 1864. Increased numbers of Union POW's crowded Confederate holding facilities. This was due to the fact that Grant had ceased virtually all prisoner exchanges because he saw it as a way that the Confederacy could increase its military manpower which was now reaching critical levels. The Wilderness Campaign and the increased action around Petersburg stretched the Confederate's ability to guard and feed these men, so arrangements were made to ship them to a six month old POW camp in Georgia named Camp Sumter, or better known in history as Andersonville. Among those transferred was Private Child.

John C. Child immigrated aboard the passenger ship *Harvard*, arriving in New York City on August 30, 1849 with an occupation listed as "workman." The 1860 Census listed him as being in New York City, but showed no other pertinent information. Child enlisted in Co. D of the 62nd on June 30, 1861 listing his birth place as London, England. He was 5'8", blue eyes, brown hair and dark complexion. He served Co. D through all its campaigns until his leg wound made him a POW.

Neither side of the Great Rebellion considered the maintenance and care of POW's to be a high priority. The purpose of the war was to defeat the enemy, not to properly take care of the captured. The collapsing economy of the South may be used by some as an excuse for the 30% death rate at Andersonville, but Northern casualty rates in their POW holding facilities were not much better. It was not humane or Christian, but it was simply the way things were done at this time, and very few people cared.

Andersonville was a new facility that was not finished by the time the first prisoners arrived in late February, 1864

(Private Child arrived in July or August, 1864). Built to hold 10,000 inmates, it had no barracks, nor any fixed buildings except for the camp administration and hospital. The highest number of POWs it held at one time was 32,000 and the facility was enlarged twice, but did little to ease the overcrowding. POWs were usually not allowed to build shelters, but merely dug holes into the ground to try to provide some protection from the elements. The "Sweet Water Branch" creek which ran through the camp was used not only for drinking water, but for washing and latrine purposes. Medicines were non-existent and food was of the poorest quality and smallest portion. In this environment, John Child's leg wound ulcerated and varicose veins began to become severe.

When General William T. Sherman began his march to Atlanta and then Savannah, Georgia authorities worried that he would send a force to liberate these prisoners, so arrangements were made for the prisoners to be transferred to other camps, with most going to Jacksonville, Florida.

Child's leg ulcerations worsened in the transfer and heat and were now spreading to both legs. Child and the other surviving prisoners were released from Jacksonville on April 28, 1865, having been a Prisoner of War for 10 months. Some of these men remained to the service, but most returned to their civilian lives.

There was no evidence found of how Child returned to the North, nor could any clear record be found on how he passed the next nine years. However, by 1874 the U.S. Census placed him at the Home for Disable Volunteer Soldiers in Togus Maine, Kennebec County. He had severe varicose veins and ulcers on both legs, and medical theory of the day stated that a cooler climate would be beneficial for such an injury. He was discharged from the facility by a Board of Surgeons on September 28, 1877, appealed this decision and was readmitted unconditionally on

September 8, 1877, the cause being severe varicose veins and ulcerated legs.

For the next thirteen years, John Child would furlough himself in and out of the Home at six weeks, or six month intervals, but would always return well before the furlough expired. The ulcers he developed at Andersonville never completely healed and plagued him for the rest of his life. On May 6, 1889 he signed himself out of the Home with his destination listed as Bangor, Maine, and "retired" from the facility. No record was found of how or why he moved to Ansonia, Connecticut, but there he died on July 30, 1890 and rests at Pine the Grove Cemetery in New Haven.

6 2

THE ANDERSON ZOUAVES

from the manuscript of
Pocket History of the Anderson Zouaves
Volume 2: In Pen and Press
Edited by David Sanders



In celebration of the Regiment's 150th Anniversary, the ZOUAVE! is pleased to present material from the upcoming 2nd Volume of the Pocket History of the Anderson Zouaves.

The ZOUAVE! will feature copy from this manuscript to celebrate the history of the Regiment, as a lens to commemorate the 150th anniversary milestones of the Great Rebellion.

Four Hundred Rebels Taken Prisoners **[1 June 1862]**

[Special Correspondence of the Sunday Mercury.]

SIXTY-SECOND REGIMENT, N. Y. V.—(ANDERSON ZOUAVES).

Camp Seven Miles from Richmond, May 26.

Position of the Regiment at Williamsburg—Results of the Battle—Monkey Jack—A Flag of Truce—Little Mac's Answer.

As it has been some time since I wrote, I thought I would let you know something of about the battle of Williamsburg. On the 5th of this month we marched about twelve miles, not thinking about fighting, by when we got to where the artillery was shelling the rebels, we waited about ten minutes, when our brigade was sent into the fight. The Fifty-fifth being on the right of the brigade, had the advance. The Ninety-eighth Pennsylvania was in a hot place. Our regiment was sent to take the place of the Fifty-fifth, who had retired from the field. It was about half-past two o'clock when we relieved them, and we kept up firing above two hours, when we got the order to cease, the guns being all silenced in Fort Magruder and their other bastions. We drove them clear beyond their forts.

The men showed great coolness in the fight. They cheered at the orders given. There were about four hundred rebels taken prisoners, including the killed and wounded. The loss of our regiment was three killed and five wounded⁽¹⁾. It makes persons feel queer to hear grape and shell flying around their heads; but we must get use to it, for it is all for the Union, and we can't die but once. The rebels have been tearing up the railroad track. There was a skirmish with them yesterday, and they had to "skedaddle". There were some of them taken prisoners and some killed, I did not learn how many—quite conceivable.

Much n---- was caused in camp, this afternoon, by a little negro climbing trees and cutting up didoes⁽²⁾. He beats Barnum's "What Is It".

There was a flag of truce sent in today. General McClellan sent it back, and

told them that he would probably have his supper in Richmond tomorrow night. As the mail is closing I must do the same.

Yours respectfully,
R. F. B., Co. A.

Letter to the Sunday Mercury, June 1, 1862. 62nd
NYSV Co I Homepage

J Tierney notes: The above letter was written by Sergeant Robert F. Beasley of Company "A" of the Anderson Zouaves on May 26, 1862 and published in the New York Sunday Mercury on June 1, 1862. This was the third and final letter written by Beasley to the Sunday Mercury, at least under his own name, with the other two appearing in the issues of March 9 and March 23, 1862.

Despite ceasing his correspondence with the Sunday Mercury Beasley remained with the regiment until his mortal wounding at the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864. Beasley died of his wounds four days later at Fredericksburg, VA. on May 9, 1864.

Letter Notes

1. Available records only account for four wounded members of the regiment at the Battle of Williamsburg. The Historical Data Systems Database only records three wounded members of the regiment, yet both the letter above and another, by William P. Allcot, claim that the regiment had three killed and five wounded at the battle of Williamsburg. See *Anderson Zouave*, Vol. 2, No. 5, June 2007, for an up to date casualty analysis of the Battle of Williamsburg.

2. Definition "Cutting up didoes": A mischievous prank or antic; a caper.

Quietly Smoking a Cigar [8 June 1862]

A meeting of the friends of the late Col. Riker of the Anderson Zouaves, who gloriously fell whilst leading his regiment at the battle of Fair Oaks, was held last evening at the Everett House... Lieut. Bradley - who participated in the battle of Fair Oaks as aid to Col. Riker - was called upon. Lieut. Bradley gave a long and interesting account of the share

taken in the engagement by the Anderson Zouaves, with special reference to Col. Riker's conduct on that occasion. From the Lieutenant's statement, it would seem that the regiment and its Colonel behaved magnificently all through the fight; the coolness of the Colonel, in the most trying situations, being absolutely marvellous. As showing this Lieut. Bradley incidentally remarked that the Colonel was not struck whilst waving his sword, as he never drew his sword at all, but was quietly smoking a cigar most of the time. Lieut. Bradley declared he never saw a Colonel so beloved by his soldiers as was Col. Riker. The speaker was warmly applauded at the conclusion of his remarks.

New York Times, Sunday, 8 June 1862.

The Funeral of Cols. Riker and Miller

[11 June 1862]

Yesterday, Col. J. Lafayette Riker and Col. James Miller, both of whom fell at the battle of Fair Oaks, were buried. During the day, both lay in state in the Governor's Room, City Hall. At 2 o'clock the doors were closed, and none but relatives and military men were admitted. Soon after 3 o'clock, the mournful procession was formed, and passed out of the west gate at the Park in the following order:

Capt. Otto's Troop of Cavalry.

Two Companies (infantry) of the Fifty-fifth Regiment, (Guard Lafayette,) and one Company of Cavalry, (dismounted,) under command of Capt. Goulet.

Carriages containing Col. Riker's daughter and other relatives.

Pall-bearers in carriages.

Col. Riker's Hearse, Drawn by six black horses, covered with palls marked A.Z., and led by four Anderson Zouaves.

Harlem Chasseurs, Capt. Griffin, acting as Guard of Honor.

Three Officers of the Anderson Zouaves.

Col. Riker's horse, led by his orderly, and covered with a pall.

Carriages containing members of the Everett House Committee, and of the Central Committee of New-York National Union Clubs.

Pall-bearers, in carriages, and wearing white scarfs.

Col. Miller's Hearse, Drawn by six gray horses, covered with American flags.

Co. H, Twelfth Regiment, N.Y.S.M., Capt. Mc Cormick, in hollow square, acting as guard of honor.

Col. Miller's horse, (a bay,) led by his servant and covered with a pall and an American flag.

Carriages containing relatives and Committee of citizens from Easton, Penn.

Members of the Common Council in carriages.

Maj-Gen. Sandford and Staff Officers of the First Division N.Y.S.M.

Officers of Volunteer Regiments.

Chief-Engineer Decker and other Officers of the Fire Department.

Superintendent of Police, Kennedy and Inspector Carpenter, on foot.

Three Hundred Policemen, in charge of Drill-Inspector Turnbull.

On leaving the Park, the procession moved up Chatham-street, and the Bowery, to Bond-street; thence to Broadway; down Broadway to Greenwood Cemetery, where the remains were interred. At the grave a volley was fired over the departed heroes.

Poor Colonel Riker

[14 June 1862]

...Poor Col. Riker, who fell at Fair Oaks Battle leading his regiment, is to be buried here tomorrow with honors. He was a brave man, of a brave family – a descendant of the brave old Batavian race who settled old New York. HIERO saw him proudly march down Broadway at the head of his regiment : yet he was not the man to wish to shed the blood of Americans ; nor did he aim to pervert this war into a crusade to liberate Africans. He

marched and fought as a soldier, not as a partisan. He has a soldier's grave, and has left a hero's name. Like Vosburgh – like hundreds more of his low-Dutch blood and his Democratic politics – he has fallen in a war for guilt of which he was not by vote or voice responsible.

Syracuse Daily Courier and Union, Saturday, June 14, 1862, p.1.

Anderson Zouaves Newspaper Clippings. 62nd NYSV Co. I Homepage

Our Noble Colonel Was Killed [24 June 1862]

Seven Pines June [24th-1862]
Camp Near Richmond

Dearest Aunt,

A long time has elapsed since I have heard from you and as an opportunity presents itself I will improve by writing you a few lines to let you know that I still enjoying good health and can class myself among those who have passed through many dangers unharmed for which I feel very thankful.

I have occasionally heard from Mr Trimble's people and I was very much pleased to hear that you were in good health. Our Regt are at present encamped within about two hundred yards of the late Battle ground [Battle of Fair Oaks or Seven Pines, May 31. 1862]. The Accounts of this Battle you have probably seen in full long ere this so I will not attempt to describe the particulars to you. Suffice it to say that it was an awful affair. Our noble Colonel was killed after leading us until our ammunition was gone and two Bayonet charges had been made and we had rallied for a third. Our Company have been detached to the Ammunition Train for the past few days but we are now relieved and have again taken our accustomed place in our Regiment.

The weather is fine although pretty warm which makes it rather sickly on

account of numerous swamps from which bad air arises causing fever, Dysentary etc. Another Battle is expected daily. Genl McClellan is almost ready I think to make the final stroke which will cause the Annihilation of Richmond (to say the least). We have some strong fortifications thrown up here for our time has been diligently employed for the last two weeks in digging entrenchments and throwing up Rifle Pits and Earthworks and we have a permanent line of Battle established which never can be broken. A great quantity of fruit abounds such as Strawberries, Cherries, Apples, Peaches, and fine crops of growing Wheat, Corn etc. are to be seen which the rebels have left to go to waste.

Dear Aunt, Please excuse this poor writing for I am writing on my Cartridge Box and it is not a very handy desk.

Write soon, give my love to all and find me as ever yours truly,

In haste,
A.C. Woods
Co. E. 62d Regt. Anderson Zouaves
Fortress Monroe, Virginia
To follow the Regt

Letters of Alfred Covell Woods. 62nd NYSV Co I Homepage

Battle of the Seven Pines [29 June 1862]

Gen. Peck's Report
Peck's Headquarters, Intrenched Camp,
Near Seven Pines, Va.

On moving to the "Seven Pines" on the 29th of May, I was ordered to occupy and guard the left flank of the encampment with my command, this being regarded as the weaker point of the line. The greater part of the day was occupied in making extensive reconnaissances in the direction of "White Oak Swamp" and the Charles City Road. A strong picket line was established

from a mile to a mile and a half in advance. Enemy's pickets were found in many places.

On the 30th, in consequence of an attack upon Gen. Casey's pickets, my brigade and two batteries were thrown out by direction of Gen. Couch upon the left of Gen. Casey's division, where they remained several hours awaiting the enemy's movement.

On the 31st, a little after 11 A. M., heavy picket firing was heard in front. The falling of several shells into the vicinity of my headquarters satisfied me that the enemy was advancing upon Casey's division.

In accordance with directions from General Couch, my brigade was at once placed on the principal road connecting the Richmond Stage road with the Charles City road, for the purpose of holding the left flank. A portion of Major West's artillery was placed at my disposal and held in reserve. Being in position, with my right resting near the artillery of the division, I sent out numerous parties in every direction to gain information. At the opening of the engagement, I was instructed by Gen. Couch to send the 93d Pennsylvania Volunteers, Col. McCarter, to take position on the left of Casey's Division. The regiment moved into line quickly, and held its ground as long as possible, falling back with the general line on its right, but in excellent order.

About 1 P. M. Gen. Keyes, commanding 4th Corps, detached the 55th New-York Volunteers, under Lieut. Col. Thomas, from my command, and led them into position himself. — This regiment was placed in support of one of the advanced batteries, and acquitted itself in a creditable manner. It will be a matter of deep regret to Col. De Trobriand that he was prevented by illness from participating in this engagement.

Later in the day General Keyes dispatched the 62d N. Y. Volunteers, Col. Riker, to the support of General Couch on the extreme right.

About 3 P. M. the 93d Pennsylvania Volunteers rejoined me with colors flying, and was placed on the left of my line.

At this critical juncture, Gen. Keyes sent an order for my two remaining regiments to move on the main road in support of the front, which he countermanded immediately on learning the advance of the enemy on the left, and the importance of the position held by me with so small a force, unsupported by artillery.

About 3½ P. M. Capt. Morris, Assistant Adjutant General, had an interview with General Heintzelman, who inquired if I could press forward on the extreme left of the line. On being informed that several roads connecting the Charles City road and the main road to Richmond led into the road held by me he appreciated the importance of the position, and directed me to hold it at all hazards.

About 4½ P. M. Generals Heintzelman and Keyes informed me that the enemy was assailing our right flank in great force, and urged me to push forward the regiments at a double-quick for its support. I moved off at the head of the 102d Pennsylvania Volunteers, Colonel Rowley, followed by the Ninety-third Pennsylvania Volunteers, Col. McCarter, across the open fields, under the concentrated fire of numerous batteries and of heavy musketry from the right. These regiments came into line handsomely, pressed forward on the enemy, and contributed their best energies to sustain their comrades so gallantly contesting inch by inch the advancing foe. For about the space of half an hour our lines swayed forward and back repeatedly, and at last, unable to withstand the pressure from successive re-enforcements of the enemy, were compelled to fall back to the woods across the main road.— Having remained near the main road with my Aid-de-Camp, Lieutenant Stirling, until the troops had passed out of view, I pushed on in the direction of the road leading to the

sawmill.— Coming up with numerous detachments of various regiments and a portion of the 102d Pennsylvania Volunteers, with the assistance of Lieutenants Titus and Sterling (sic. Stirling), of my staff, I rallied these men and was conducting them back toward the Richmond road, when I met Gen. Kearny, who advised me to withdraw these troops by way of the sawmill to the intrenched camp at this place. I stated I did not feel at liberty to do so unless by his order, which he gave. I arrived at this camp about 6 1/2 P. M., in company with Gen. Kearny. — Finding nearly all the forces here I took position in the rifle-pit with Gen. Berry's Brigade. During the night my troops were supplied with a proper allowance of ammunition, provision were brought from the Chickahominy, the lines were strongly picketed, and every preparation made to meet the enemy.

At daylight, on the 1st of June, I was placed in command of the intrenchments. The force at hand was not far from 10,000 men, with a large supply of artillery. Small detachments and stragglers were collected and sent to their respective regiments. All available means were employed to promote the comfort and efficiency of the troops. Heavy working parties, relieved at intervals of two hours, were employed until the morning of the 2nd extending and strengthening the whole line of works. A six-gun battery was thrown up on the left of the line, covering the approaches from the Charles City road. Before morning the guns were in position. Another important work was constructed on the front, sweeping the depression running obliquely toward the timber nearest the system of works. A large force was busily engaged in slashing the timber in front, and on the extreme left. Lieutenant Titus was sent with a party to obstruct all roads and fords across White Oak Swamp. I directed two squadrons to reconnoiter carefully at intervals of every two hours. Several regiments took part in a thorough reconnaissance made by General Palmer.

For these results I was mainly indebted to the cordial co-operation of Generals Wessells, Naglee, Palmer, Berry, and Devens, and Colonels Neill, Innes, Hayden, and Major West, Chief of Artillery.

It gives me great pleasure to say that Major-General McClellan and Generals Heintzelman and Keyes rode twice along the entire lines in the afternoon, to the great gratification of the troops, who received them with unbounded enthusiasm.

It is a matter of much regret that the 98th Pennsylvania Volunteers was not present at the battle, being despatched on special duty with General Stoneman. It was unfortunate that the exigencies of the occasion required the breaking up of my brigade organization, and, in consequence I was only able to go into the last charge on the right with about a thousand men. This small body, in conjunction with the brave troops, hotly engaged, staggered the elite of the enemy, and checked his powerful efforts for gaining the main road.— My effective force was reduced by detachments to 2,000 men, of whom 41 were killed, 242 wounded, and 61 missing—making a total of 344, or about one-sixth of the command engaged.

Col. J. Lafayette Riker, 62d New-York Volunteers, fell while repelling a charge upon one of the batteries. His bearing on this occasion, like that at the battle of Williamsburg, was marked by great coolness and unflinching determination.

Lieut. John E. Rogers, 93d Pennsylvania Volunteers, was a promising officer, and fell gallantly breasting the storm.

The following named officers were wounded, and deserve mention for their honorable conduct, viz: Capt. John W. Patterson, Capt. Thos. McLaughlie, Adjutant Joseph Browne, Lieut. William B. Keeney, of the 102d Pennsylvania Volunteers; Adjutant Leon Cuvillier, Capt. J. S. Pfanmuller, Lieuts. T. Arnold, L. Israels, and Kranne, of 55th New York

Volunteers ; Capt. A. C. Maitland, Capt. Eli Daugharty, and Capt. J. M. Mark of the 93d Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Lieut. M. McCarter, 93d Pennsylvania Volunteers, was probably taken prisoner, and is doubtless safe.

The accompanying paper presents the names of killed, wounded, and missing. It is a long list of meritorious and brave men. They fought well, and their country will never be unmindful of their faithful and patriotic services.

Cols. Rowley and McCarter (both badly wounded) and Lieut. Cols. Thourot and Nevins maneuvered their commands with skill, exhibiting most commendable alacrity, cheering and leading their men on to the combat. Rowley would not quit his regiment and McCarter had two horses wounded. Major Dayton, 62d New York Volunteers, Major Jehl and Capt. Tissot, 36th New York Volunteers, Lieut.-Col. Kinkhead, Major Poland, Capts. Fullwood and McLaughlin, Lieuts. Patchell, Reed, and Dain of the 102d Pennsylvania Volunteers, Capt. Arthur and Adj. Lewis of the 93d Pennsylvania Volunteers, were distinguished for their energy, coolness, and bravery under very trying circumstances. The gallant Capt. McFarland, 102d Pennsylvania Volunteer was twice taken by the enemy and retaken by our troops. He came in with the wounded Colonel and six men of the 6th South Carolina Regiment as prisoners.

The officers of the medical Department are entitled to the gratitude of all for their self-sacrificing and untiring devotion to the wounded.

Major West, of the Pennsylvania Artillery, I take especial satisfaction in commending for valuable services.

Privates W. C. Wall, jr., and John Aiken, jr., are mentioned favorably by their regimental commander.

Brigade Surg. S. R. Haven, Lieuts. Silas Titus, and Daniel Lodor, jr., Aides; Quartermaster T. S. Schultze, Commissary M. J. Green, and Samuel Wilkeson, of The N. Y. Tribune, who volunteered his

services, were constantly employed in the transmission and execution of orders involving great personal risk.

Capt. Wm. H. Morris, Asst. Adj.-Gen. and Lieut. Charles R. Sterling, Aid, deserve particular mention for gallant conduct, with the 102d and 93d Pennsylvania regiments, in the rapid and bold advance on the right. The horses of both officers were wounded.

My horse fell with me after the third of fourth round, and no other being at hand Lieut. Sterling dismounted and tendered me his own, which I was soon obliged to accept.

Considering the disadvantages of the position, the smallness of the force at hand, the suddenness of the attack on several vital points, with overwhelming numbers, and the fact that portions of the field were not taken by the enemy and that the whole was soon recovered, this battle must be regarded as one of the most severe and brilliant victories of the war.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN J. PECK

Syracuse Daily Courier and Union, Saturday, June 29, 1862.

Anderson Zouaves Newspaper Clippings. 62nd NYSV Co. I Homepage

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SHERMAN'S DESCRIPTION OF U.S. ARMY STRUCTURE

(From the Memoirs of
William Tecumseh Sherman)

By Joe Basso



From the time of Mr. Lincoln's inauguration, viz. March 4, 1861, The Regular Army, by law,

consisted of two regiments of dragoons, two regiments of cavalry, one regiment of mounted rifles, four regiments of artillery, and ten regiments of infantry, admitting of an aggregate strength of thirteen thousand and twenty-four officers and men . . . but at no time during the war did the Regular Army attain a strength of twenty-five thousand men.

The Corps is the true unit for grand campaigns and battle, should have the full and perfect staff, and every thing requisite for separate action, ready at all times to be detached and sent off for any nature of service.

The Division is the unit for administration, and is the legitimate command for a Major General. The brigade is the next subdivision, and is commanded by a Brigadier General.

The Regiment is the family. The colonel, as the father, should have a personal acquaintance with every officer and man, and should instill a feeling of pride and affection for himself, so that his officers and men would naturally look to him for personal advise and instruction. In war, the regiment should never be subdivided, but should always be maintained entire. In peace this is impossible.

The company is the true unit of discipline and the captain is the company. A good captain makes a good company, and he should have the powers to reward as well as punish. The fact that soldiers would naturally like to have a good fellow for their captain is the best reason why he should be appointed by the Colonel, or by some superior authority, instead of being elected by the men.

In the United States the people are the "sovereign," all power originally proceeds from them, and therefore the election of officers by the men is the common rule. This is wrong, because an

army is not a popular organization, but an animated machine, an instrument in the hands of the Executive, for enforcing the law, and maintaining the honor and dignity of the nation; and the President, as the constitutional commander-in-chief of the army and navy, should exercise the power of appointment (subject to the confirmation of the Senate) of the officers of "volunteers" as well as "regulars."

. . . Each soldier should, if not actually 'sick or wounded,' carry his musket and equipments containing from forty to sixty rounds of ammunition, his shelter-tent, a blanket or overcoat, and an extra pair of pants, socks and drawers, in the form of a scarf, worn from the left shoulder to the right in lieu of a knapsack, (Note: the armies of the west preferred this manner of conveyance of personal supplies, while the armies of the east usually used the knapsack/backpack. This was usually was a bone of ridicule when the Corps from both locations met in support of each other, such as when the western 15th Corps was joined by the eastern 11th Corps), and in his haversack he should carry some bread, cooked meat, salt and coffee. I do not believe a soldier should be loaded down too much, but, including his clothing, arms and equipment, he can carry about fifty pounds without impairing his health or activities...

Our war was fought with muzzle-loading rifle. . . The only change that breech-loading arms will probably make in the art and practice of war will be to increase the amount of ammunition to be expended, and necessarily to be carried along; to still 'thin-out' the lines of attack, and to reduce battles to short, quick decisive conflicts. It does not in the least affect the grand strategy, or the necessity for perfect organization, drill and discipline. . .

I would define true courage to be a perfect sensibility of the measure of danger, and a mental willingness to incur it, rather than the insensibility to danger of which I have heard far more than I have

seen. The most courageous men are generally unconscious of processing the quality; therefore when one professes it too openly, by words or bearing, there is reason to mistrust it. I would further illustrate my meaning by describing a man of true courage to be one who possesses all his faculties and senses perfectly when serious danger is actually present.

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UNION HOME AND SCHOOL FOR SOLDIERS' CHILDREN

By Joe Basso



From the very beginning of the Great Rebellion, it was recognized that the financial strain of the family bread-winner enlisting and going off to war was going to be too much for the fiscal survival of many families.

Children would find themselves homeless and starving while their mothers were unable to find suitable employment. The very idea that families would suffer because their men gave their lives supporting the Union and defending its flag was beyond acceptance and was considered a potential national dishonor. In many states throughout the Union, women "Rallied 'round the Flag" and decided it would be their duty to try to do something to correct this potential disgrace.

In New York City, shortly after the fall of Fort Sumter, "benevolent ladies" of that city called upon the wife of Colonel Anderson, who had been forced to surrender that post, to seek support to establish The Union Home and School for the Maintenance and Instruction of the Children of Our Volunteer Soldiers and Sailors, soon to be shortened to Union Home and School for Soldier's

Children. Of course, it was Colonel Anderson who gave permission for the 62nd New York State Volunteer Infantry to be called "Anderson's Zouaves."

Organization of a Charter for the facility began and was soon presented to the public and to City and State officials. The 2nd Article of this Charter stated that "the object of the Society is to be to furnish board and tuition for all motherless children of the officers and soldiers who have volunteered in the service of our country and in defence of the Union and flag, from our city." Children were accepted whose father was killed in the War, or who later died of their wounds or from disease. Parents did have to sign over their rights, but could return for their child at any time when their household had become more stable. Older boys and girls worked in the laundry and kitchen, assisted by two adult women, to take care of the infants and to wash and mend the clothes of the establishment. Ages of these children ranged from infancy to 14 years, and were kept until they were of age, or were adopted "into families of good standing."

Boys' activities included military drill, and labour (vocational training today) suited for their age. Girls were educated in sewing and domestic work. Both genders were schooled in the elementary branches of a common public education. This followed the standard practice of the day regarding public academic and vocational education. It was not uncommon for public schools from 6th grade through twelfth to have a type of unofficial ROTC training available for their male students. One room within the Home was entitled the "Arsenal" and held the boys' uniforms and miniature sabres and wooden rifles. They would be drilled by a faculty member in the parade formations used by the military at that time and marched during the Fourth of July, Founders Day and other holiday parades. They were also part of the entertainment provided during School Fairs, Parent's Day and school picnics.

Vocational classes, now called electives, were offered in print shop, carpentry, blacksmithing, metal work, masonry, and other useful trades.

Girls and young ladies were often indentured out to private homes of good repute to be trained as a house domestic. The families properly trained the young ladies in the various duties and chores required for a domestic, and in return provided room, board, and proper clothing. At the end of the training period, usually seven years, the family would hire their trainee at an agreed upon stipend, or paid the trainee a "release fee", usually \$10 to \$20 dollars and provided a letter of recommendation.

Religious services were non-denominational with clergy being provided on a rotational schedule. Prayer meeting were held in the morning and evening, while Sunday services and schooling were also available.

A female superintended was in overall charge of the staff which included a matron and several teachers. The matron was responsible for the conduct of the House, keeping daily accounts of all incoming donations and grants, and maintaining discipline. Committeewomen were to oversee the day to day administrative functions, while finances were under the auspices of a male committee.

Very little of the financing for this establishment came from public funds, but rather from private donations and school fairs which were held annually. Private soldiers monthly pay was \$13/month, but thousands of soldiers from nearly every Northern State made arrangements with the paymaster to have some amount, ranging from five cents to a dollar, to be set aside as a donation to support this endeavor. The New York Times wrote in 1863, "Your truly brave man is as charitable as he is courageous." For example, the 36th New York State Volunteer Infantry, "Washington's Volunteers" (3rd Division,

6th Corps), collected \$6,588 for this charity.

Between its founding in May 1861 and October 22, 1864, 500 children had been assisted by the charity, and by January 1870, 3,052 children had been sheltered and educated. But thousands of other destitute families had been turned away due to the lack of space and funds. Soldier donations continued to come in until the end of the War, when the end of the conflict brought the end of the monthly paymaster's donations. Private charities, small city and state contributions, and the School Fairs allowed the continuation of the Home. In 1867, \$98,998.40 were raised in a single three day event. Other fairs were not as profitable, but this one event allowed the Home to be moved to a more spacious accommodations on a large tract of ground at 151st street and Washington Heights in 1868.

Mrs. (now) General Anderson continued to be the honorary President of the Society until after Appomattox, when Mrs. U.S. Grant continued as honorary President. Other states, such as Indiana, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Iowa, picked up on the New York example and established Soldier and Sailor's Children's Homes of their own. By the early 1880's, there were no longer a need for any Civil War created orphanages, and most were either converted to poor houses, state-run orphanages, or Soldier-Sailors homes for elderly veterans.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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Col. Riker CDV

Mr. Mike Minett sent the following link to a CDV of Colonel Riker for sale at "The Horse Soldier."

<http://www.horsesoldier.com/products/identified-items/photography/6458>

This identified Civil War CDV image is that of John Lafayette Riker of the 62nd New York Volunteer Infantry, KIA at Fair Oaks, VA on May 31, 1862...

In this image, Riker presents a chest view and gazes to his right away from the camera with a confident expression on his face. Image is on the light side but clear. He wears his regulation, double-breasted frock coat that features the shoulder straps of a full colonel.

CDV has no backmark but has modern handwritten notes in pencil that read " Col. John L. Riker / 62ndNY Inf. / KIA Fair Oaks, VA / May 31, 1862 / ID'd by Roger Hunt / USAMHI". The CDV is in very good condition with no trimming and no gold borders. A nice image of an identified New York infantry officer who died in action early in the American Civil War.

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