

# ZOUA VE!



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The Medals of Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, Charles E. Morse (62d NYSV Co. I)  
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## PVT. CORNELIUS DIXON 62d NY & 51<sup>st</sup> NY INFANTRY REGIMENTS

by Joe Basso



Cornelius Dixon was a second generation American of German decent. There is no record of his mother, but the 1850 Census shows him living in New York City along with his father, Henry (b. 1812) and his four siblings; Maria (b.1832), Jeremiah (b. 1837), Daniel (b. 1839), and Christopher (b. 1844).

Cornelius was born in 1838 and by the 1860 Federal Census, the family demographics had significantly changed so that only Christopher, Daniel and

Cornelius were living together, and that Daniel was now listed as a sailor but no other occupation was listed for the remaining brothers.

When the call to arms was sounded, Cornelius enlisted into the 62<sup>nd</sup> on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1861 and was mustered in Co. F as a Private on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. His personal description was that of being 5' 5 1/4<sup>th</sup> " tall, dark complexion, brown hair with blue eyes. Dixon went through the Peninsular Campaign, but was seriously wounded on the second day of the Battle of Fredericksburg and was discharged from service at the Convalescent Camp, Alexandria, Virginia on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1863. All appropriate records state that he had been wounded, but none of them state where or its severity. A little more than a year later, on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1864, Dixon enlisted in Co. M of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York Infantry, but was later reported missing in

action due to being in the hospital, and was later transferred to McDougal General Hospital in New York Harbor.

McDougal General Hospital was located within Fort Schuyler and had a 2,000 bed capacity. It had an advance sewer facility for its day and no deaths were reported throughout the war caused by disease. From July to August of 1865, Fort Schuyler and McDougal General Hospital were garrisoned by Companies A,B,C,F,G and I of the 62<sup>nd</sup> New York Infantry, Anderson's Zouaves, while Companies D and E were assigned to Fort Wood on Bedloe's Island. Fort Wood was dedicated to Lt. Colonel Eleaze D. Wood who was killed in the Battle of Lake Champlain in 1813, but is better known today as Liberty Island, the location of the Statue of Liberty.

Private Dixon was mustered out of service on July 24, 1865. The wound that he received at Fredericksburg may not have been clearly identified by officials, but it must have been bothersome enough, because on the same date as his discharge, he applied for and eventually received an invalid pension, which listed his occupation as a carpenter and frame maker. Both his discharge and his pension request merely list the cause of his service relate injury as a "disability."

In 1885, Dixon applied for entrance to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Kennebec County, Maine, complaining of a sunstroke he received in New York City earlier that year. The closest kin listed on the application request was his brother, Christopher, who reported their address being 7601 Sheriff Avenue, New York City. Cornelius, apparently had been living within his brother's household for a while. He was discharged from the facility on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1896 because the medical officers could find no symptoms of a disability. He was readmitted to the same facility in 1895 and would remain there until 1920.

The 1900, 1910 and 1920 Census records revealed discrepancies in the questionnaire, either that or his memory was on the decline. He fluctuated on whether he was married, single, or widowed, his ancestry varied from being of German or of Irish descent and his literacy capabilities varied as well. Throughout his stay at the "Soldier's Home," his pension increased from \$2/mo. to \$24/mo and he had also managed to save \$190 for performing labor and/or extra duties around the grounds.

In 1920, he was diagnosed as having Mitral Insufficiencies, a form of heart disease in which the mitral valve doesn't close properly and blood flows backward into the upper heart chamber decreasing the blood flow to the body and also causing the heart to work harder. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1920, Private Cornelius Dixon succumbed to this disease and was buried in the nearby National Cemetery.

**6 2**

## **EDWARD FAGAN MUSICIAN 62d NYSV**

by Joe Basso

**+**

It has been said that humans *had* to invent music, that it is as much a part of our psychological makeup as all of our passions both good and bad. It expresses our feelings better than any other medium except possibly for the written word. Having an America without ragtime, jazz, country, or rock 'n' roll, the Irish without a jig, the Germans without beer hall songs, and military conflicts without patriotic songs

would completely alter the human experience.

Armies have marched to the rhythm of the horn and drum since the dawn of civilization, and of course the War of the Great Rebellion is no exception. Massed formations of men moving as one increased the firepower and damage that could be caused to the enemy in an era of highly inaccurate muskets for at least 300 years before the firing on Fort Sumter. Training manuals for most Anglo-European armies since Napoleon stated that a proper formation had to be 18 inches from shoulder to shoulder, which was known as “keeping in touch” with the man next to you. Marching tunes made it easier for the troops to learn the cadence for various squad, company, battalion, and division maneuvers. It also raised the unit pride through regimental competition, helped pass the time when on the march, revived spirits after a battle, and instilled patriotism. The 62<sup>nd</sup>, like most other regiments at the beginning of the War formed their own band, as well as the bugle and drum corps needed for the front lines. Among these men was Private First Class Musician, Edward Fagan a.k.a. Edward Jagow.

Born in Ireland in May, 1835 Edward immigrated from the mother country in 1848 along with his mother Ellen (b.1818) and sister Adeline (b. 1846) aboard the Packet Ship *Patrick Henry* on one of its regular Liverpool to New York run. The *Patrick Henry* was considered one of the best packet ships built in the 1830’s for the Swallowtail Line, and generally held around 300 immigrants.. Its Captain at the time of Edward’s crossing was Joseph Clement Delano who would later be one of the founding directors of Wamsutta Mills, which is still in operation today, and would be a direct ancestor of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

This was a year of political revolutions in Ireland, France, Germany, and Great Britain. It was also one of the high water marks of the Great Hunger (or

“An Gorta Mor”) in Ireland. Again, immigration officials make it difficult to track the various “foreign” families that came to these shores. According to researchers, prior to the Civil War, if Celtic last names were too difficult to understand or spell and if these immigrants could not write, the officials simply gave these Irish the last name of “Fagan.”

Edward Fagan, who could not read or write English, enlisted in the 62<sup>nd</sup> as a musician on August 19, 1861 and was immediately promoted to First Class Musician. At the beginning of the War Between the States, bands were in great demand for recruitment stations as well their regular musical duties in camp. Army regulations at the time allowed each regiment to have up to 16 musicians. Musicians also acted as surgical assistants, hospital stewards, and helped in field evacuation of the wounded. Unlike their infantry counterparts, musicians were often enlisted on a one year contract after which they could either reenlist, muster out of the service, or transfer to another branch of service.

After his one year enlistment, Fagan was mustered out and married Mary Shanahan Fagan (b. 1845) in 1862, established a farm in Marion, Illinois and would have seven children, James (b. 1862), Elizabeth (b. 1863), William (b. 1868), Julia Green, who was later adopted, (b. 1870), Annie (b. 1870), Edward (b. 1874), Ellen (b. 1876) and Joseph (b. 1880). He received his naturalization papers in October 1866, and continued farming in Marion for the next fifty years. William and Joseph continued to help their father on the farm until his death on November 15, 1918 and was laid to rest in a local cemetery.

**6 2**

**DRUMMER**  
**CHARLES H. BILLSON**  
**62d NYSV**

by Joe Basso



As the final stages of the War progressed, persons who were too young to enlist in the original onset began to join up. There was little sign that the fighting would soon stop because of the heavy fighting around Petersburg and Richmond.

Sherman was advancing north from Georgia to North Carolina, Charleston had fallen to Union forces and in the Shenandoah Valley, Confederate resistance was reduced to guerilla activities. Replacements and bonus recruits were replacing the Federal losses from the Wilderness, Bloody Angle, and Cold Harbor and volunteers were still signing up. As long as Lee held the defenses at Richmond and Petersburg, the War would continue.

On February 3, 1865 at Charleston, New York (near Albany) sixteen year old Charles Billson enlisted in Company F of the 62<sup>nd</sup>. Immediately promoted to Full Drummer, he was described as 5'1" tall with dark eyes, brown hair with a fair complexion and listed his occupation as a cigar maker. Born in Albany, Charles was raised in a family which included his father Adam, whose occupation was listed as a stone mason, (b. 1824), mother Maria (b. 1821), Frank (b. 1857), Rufus (b. 1857), and Matilda (b. 1851). On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1864 his father enlisted with Company B. of the 91<sup>st</sup> New York Infantry and was later mustered out of service in Washington D.C. on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1865.

After Charles was mustered out at Fort Schuyler in 1865, he remained in the Albany, New York area, married Emma Billson, had a daughter Lillian M. and worked as a carpenter, painter and a

contractor for the next 45 years. Charles and his family mirrored what happened to tens of thousands of veterans and their families after any conflict; they lived their lives, joined fraternal organizations and clubs, attended churches, celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and mourned the deaths that occurred. Nothing outstanding or heroic, but oh so human. On January 5, 1891, Charles applied for and received an invalid pension, but no illness was recorded at the time.

Tragedy struck the Billson family on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1917 when their daughter Lillian died of acute peritonitis, an inflammation of a thin lining of the inner wall of the stomach. Her body was cremated but was not interred until August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1917. A year later, on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1918, Emma died of acute gastritis, an inflammation of the stomach lining caused by excessive alcohol usage, infection after surgery, or severe infection. She was also cremated but not interred until July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1924.

Charles continued to live at 390 Madison Avenue, Albany, New York until his death on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1930 of meningitis, a swelling of the lining of the brain and spinal cord.

He was also cremated. Lillian, Emma and Charles were then interred together at the Troy, New York cemetery.



**SGT. GEORGE JAMES**  
**DIEHL**  
**62d NYSV CO. F**

by Joe Basso



In 1853, the 988 ton, 341 passenger ship *Aurora*, under the command of Joseph J. Childs, docked in New York City arriving from Liverpool with a

passenger list of mostly German immigrants.

Among those who disembarked was fourteen year old George James Diehl from Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany along with his family; father Richard (b. 1799), mother Katherine (b. 1809), and siblings Eva (b. 1841), Margaret (b. 1837), and Phillipina (b. 1841). The National Census of 1860 has George James Diehl living on his own with his occupation being listed as a window shade painter.

As has been mentioned in previous *ZOUAVE!* articles, one of the fastest methods for recent immigrants of being accepted and gaining citizenship in this new land was to serve in its armed forces during a conflict. When President Lincoln called for volunteers to put down The War of the Rebellion. Diehl quickly enlisted in the 62<sup>nd</sup> New York Infantry on May 10, 1861 and was mustered in to Co. F on July 3, 1861.

His enlistment papers described him as being 5'6" tall with black eyes and light brown hair. He advanced through the ranks, being promoted to full corporal (date not given), and full sergeant on November 10, 1863. At the end of his original three year term of service, he re-enlisted as a veteran at Halltown, Virginia on March 1, 1864. Along with the rest of the regiment, Sergeant Diehl was mustered out of service at Fort Schuyler, New York Harbor on August 30, 1865.

Sometime during his enlistment, George was wounded and sent to Haddington General Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Located at 65<sup>th</sup> and Vine, the 200 bed military hospital was the former Vine Street Tavern. The "City of Brotherly Love" had strongly supported the war effort since the outbreak of hostilities, providing eating facilities for troops heading to the front as well as providing sleeping quarters, washing stations and laundry facilities. Philadelphia had 24 military hospitals as well as 22 smaller civilian hospitals that also treated the wounded. By the end of

the war, these facilities had treated 157,000 military personnel.

Military records did not state the type of wound he received, but the 1880 National Census stated that he was missing a thumb, probably the left. If he had lost his right thumb, it would have been difficult to cock the hammer of his musket and he may have been medically discharge and transferred out of the regiment. After his discharge at Fort Schuyler, he returned to his pre-war occupation of being a window shade painter, and married Elizabeth Diehl around 1866, according to family records. He also received his Naturalization papers on October 10, 1866 while living at 236 Fifth Street, New York City.

Elizabeth Diehl was also born in Hesse-Darmstadt in August 1843 and immigrated to New York City in 1865. Records show that their union would produce four children; George (b. 1867), Henry (b. 1869), Michael (b. 1871) and Mathias (b. 1873). The 1910 Census states that of the four children, only three would survive by the time of that Census. Records could not be found to which child died, or when.

George would continue to practice his chosen occupation but his health began to deteriorate with the coming of old age. The former Sergeant applied for and received invalid status on June 10, 1891. In 1870 George and Elizabeth were living in an apartment in Manhattan, and by 1880 had moved to 128 East third in New York. By the National Census of 1910, George and Elizabeth, at the ages of 67 and 66, were both employed as janitors and were living at 318 West 121<sup>st</sup> Street in Manhattan.

Former Sergeant George James Diehl died on March 4, 1915 and was laid to rest at the Lutheran Cemetery, Metropolitan Middle Village, New York. On August 19, 1915 Elizabeth filed for a widow's pension in New York City and moved to Brooklyn in 1930 where she

continued to live until her death on November 11, 1930.

**6 2**

**PVT. HERMAN  
EISSENKRAMER  
62d NYSV  
CO. G & CO. I**

by Joe Basso



The United States has always taken great pride in being “the land of the free and the home of the brave,” where the great melting pot turned the peoples of the world into the true meaning of *E Pluribus Unum* (Out of Many, One). Unfortunately, the true history of immigration to this country is a bit more foggy than what the history textbook claims.

Large scale immigration to this country by non-English nationals was not always met with open arms and cheerful tidings. Descendants of immigrants looked disapprovingly upon the new waves that arrived after them, and in turn, the descendants of those who had been scorned would themselves discriminate against the new rush that followed after them. Whether it was the African, Irish, German, Scot-Irish, Chinese, Japanese, Central European, Scandinavian, Russian, Italian, or Hispanic, all have faced ridicule, persecution, prejudice, injustice, and suffered the insinuation that they were not really “true” Americans by those who came before.

Physical differences from the White, Anglo-Saxon norm made assimilation of some cultures into the American fold more difficult than with others, as does the religion. Dating before the American Revolution, the Dutch living

in the New York area were harassed and called “pig nuts”; they said it took a sledge hammer to crack one open and once you did, there was nothing of value inside. Ulster-Scots were branded as being aloof and miserly. Native peoples were “savages.” The French were gluttonous and overly promiscuous, and the Jews were the “killers of Christ.” There had been substantial Jewish communities in colonies, the oldest being in New York City, Alexandria, Virginia, and Charleston, South Carolina and were mostly from Germany and Western Europe. The greatest immigration would be from eastern Europe and western Russia in the last part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

Herman Eissenkramer was one of the western Jews from Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany who immigrated to the United States with his parents Max (1800-1864) and Marianna (1804-1877) shortly before the Civil War. Born in 1839, Herman was enlisted in the 62<sup>nd</sup> on June 2, 1861 by Captain L.S. Clarks in New York City and was mustered in to Co. G on June 30, 1861 and was transferred to Co. I on that same date. Described as having dark complexion, black eyes and hair, Eissenkramer served with the regiment until he was wounded during the Battle of the Wilderness and was mustered out of service on June 29, 1864 at Petersburg, Virginia, (when his three year enlistment expired,) but no description of the type of wound he received could be found. Private Eissenkramer was one of the 7,000 people of his faith that served in the Northern armies – six of whom would receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

While the Union moved towards the emancipation of black slaves, the attitude in the North towards its Jewish population was considerably less than accepting. New Englanders were particularly vitriolic. In the mid 1850's, the well known minister Theodore Parker called Jews “lecherous,” “that their intellect was “sadly pinched in those narrow foreheads,” and that “they did sometimes

kill a Christian baby at the Passover.” Many in the North confused Dutch and German speakers and speculators as being Yiddish. Captain Philip Trounstine of the Ohio Volunteer Cavalry resigned his commission stating “that he could no longer bear the taunts and malice of his fellow officers . . . brought on by . . . that order.”

The order the Captain was referring to was General Order #11 which stated that “The Jews as a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department, and also Department orders, are hereby expelled from the Department within 24 hours from the receipt of this order.” Lincoln would order Grant to rescind this order, but no apology from Grant was ever offered. Grant would later issue an order that “No Jews are to be permitted to travel on the road southward.” Grant’s aide, Colonel John V. DuBois, ordered “all cotton speculators, Jews, and all vagabonds with no honest means of support,” to leave the District. “The Israelites especially should be kept out . . . they are such an intolerable nuisance.” In 1858, William T. Sherman wrote that “Jews are without pity, soul, heart, or bowels of compassion,” and on August 11, 1862 wrote that “the country will swarm with dishonest Jews” if the trade in cotton was encouraged. This attitude would continue in the North well after the conflict was over, when New York newspapers in the 1870’s and 1880’s ran employment and housing advertisements which restricted applicants to being “good, clean, Christians,” and in some cases requiring proof of regular church attendance.

After his discharge, Herman married Regina Gross on August 6, 1865 and moved to 42 Attorney Street, New York and became a nationalized citizen on September 17, 1868. Regina was born in Mainz, Germany around 1848 and they would have one son ,Jacob, born on October 31, 1873. Between 1879 to 1888, the Eissenkramers lived at 690 East

9<sup>th</sup> Street, New York with his occupation listed as a manufacturer of clothing – a tailor. Tailor Eissenkramer applied for an invalid pension on July 19, 1877. He would continue to work as a tailor until 1890 when he and Regina moved in with his son Jacob, a musician. Regina would pass on November 4, 1903 and was buried at Mt. Zion Cemetery.

Herman would marry a second time in 1909 to Bertha Eissenkramer, he was 70 and she was 36. Herman would die on October 7, 1910 and was buried in Cyprus Hills Cemetery and Bertha would apply for a widows pension on November 5, 1910. Bertha would continue to live in New York City at 505 East 88<sup>th</sup> Street until 1932, when she moved to 523 East Sycamore Street in Kokomo, Indiana. She died in Detroit, Michigan in 1938 and is buried at Zion Cemetery, Queens, New York.

**6 2**

**SGT. WILLIAM PECK  
ALCOTT  
62d NYSV CO. D**

by Joe Basso



There are times when investigating a member of the 62d NYSV who served honorably in his country’s need, enticing bits of information are available, but not quite enough to form a complete history. These “fractured history” bits tease the curiosity and paint a praiseworthy but incomplete portrait of a life that should be remembered. One of these partial historical biographies belongs to Sergeant William Peck Alcott of Co. D.

What is known is that William Peck was born in Athens, New York in 1838 and the 1860 Census has him living in New

York City with his occupation being that of a house carpenter. Who his parents were is not clear, nor if they immigrated to this country, or if they were native born. What is clear is that he enlisted in the 62<sup>nd</sup> in New York City on June 2, 1861 and was mustered in to Co. D on June 30<sup>th</sup>. He was rapidly promoted to Quartermaster Sergeant on September 1, 1861 and then to Full Sergeant on November 3, 1861.

On the second day of the Battle of Fredericksburg, the 62<sup>nd</sup> was part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Corps advance against Marye's Heights. During the assault, the 62<sup>nd</sup> suffered 10 men killed plus seven mortally wounded, five officers and 45 enlisted were wounded. Lieutenants Morris and Stewart along with 45 men maintained skirmishing fire against the Confederates until they were captured "saving the right of the Second Division and my own brigade from capture," according to the after action report by General Frank Wheaton. The record shows that Alcott was among the wounded, but no details to the nature of the injuries could be found.

Alcott eventually returned to service and served with the regiment until Grant's assault on the Confederate line at Cold Harbor, Virginia. On June 9<sup>th</sup> 1864, under the command of General Horatio Wright who replaced General John Sedgwick after his death during the Battle of the Wilderness, 6<sup>th</sup> Corps, with the 62<sup>d</sup>, failed in their attempted to carry the Confederate works and suffered tremendous losses. Major Wilson Hubbell and five enlisted men of the 62<sup>nd</sup> were killed, three men were reported missing, and one man (William Alcott) was wounded. After the battle Sergeant Alcott was transported to Carver General Hospital in Washington, D.C. until he was dismissed from service on December 14, 1864 due to wounds received. There is again no record found of the type of wound he received at Cold Harbor. Carver Hospital was located at Meridian Hill near Columbia College General Hospital which was also located close to the former

barracks of 102<sup>nd</sup> New York Infantry. The hospital was opened in April, 1861 and closed in August of 1865. The remaining patients were transferred to Stanton General Hospital.



The Carver Hospital

After his release from service, William Alcott married Mary McElivee in Manhattan, New York in 1869. Records indicate that between 1869 to his death in 1876 he maintained his occupation of a house carpenter until his death. There is also no record for admission into a Home for Disabled Soldiers, a military grave site, or the cause of death. What is known is that Alcott applied for invalid status on December 30, 1864 and Mary filed for widow's pension on March 25, 1876. Mary died on October 15, 1932 of Acute Dilation of the Heart (enlargement of the heart with the weakening of its muscles), but her burial site is unsure.

**6 2**

**PVT. DANIEL B. AMES  
62d NYSV., CO. A**

**+**

Born on November 20, 1840 to Ernst (Arnest) Aims and Mary Elizabeth Hill Ames, Daniel was one of five children, raised in the Greater New York Area. His grandfather was



a founder of a bank and his father was a butcher.

Pre-War Census reports showed him being a clerk by trade and in 1859 he married Mary Elizabeth Hill (aged 15 years) in New York and together they would have 18 children.

William enlisted as a private on June 7, 1861 and mustered into Co. A of the 62<sup>nd</sup> on August 30. Military records describe him as being brown eyed and haired, 5'6" tall, with fair complexion. Private Aims deserted in October 1861, but no location or cause was provided within his military records. However, his two year old son, Robert, died in early 1862 and speculation presents that this may have been the cause. He was, however, returned to the rolls by Special Order #147 from the War Department under the condition that (1) he returned to duty (2) forfeit the expenses of his apprehension and (3) forfeit \$10 of his pay for six months. He apparently got his act together because he was discharged with the rest of the regiment at Ft. Schuyler in 1865.

Between 1865 and 1900, Daniel worked as a Porter at various businesses in New York City and Jersey City, New Jersey. Daniel and Mary's lives were filled with the joys and sufferings that common laborers shared in the United States at this time including the deaths of his father in 1865, and three children Margaret Bruce (1882), John Stanley (1883), and John Edwards (1884). He also suffered the loss of his wife, and their daughter Mary in the same year (1909). Their son Herbert was a successful teamster, whom Daniel would live with after the death of his wife. Son Joseph worked in a box factory, while still another son, Seymore, worked as a dry goods salesman, and Roswell would become a glazier.

Daniel Aims worked as a blacksmith and served in the Spanish-American War as an infantryman in Cuba. His brother Robert enlisted in the Marine Corps and served as an Admiral's aide on board the USS Kentucky during the

Spanish-American War and then later during the Philippine Insurrection was stationed with Co. A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Naval Station at Olongapo, Philippines. In 1903 he would be assigned as a Private to the Brooklyn Navy Yard and would continue to serve within the Marines until his retirement. He then worked in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Private Daniel B. Aims lived among his children until his death in 1913. The last of his children, John Beebe Aims would pass on October 6, 1964 at age 79.

**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

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In celebration of the Regiment's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the ZOUAVE! is pleased to present material from the manuscript of the *Pocket History of the Anderson Zouaves – In Pen and Print*.

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

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### **We Are At Present Pleasantly Encamped [December 2 1862]**

No "1" Camp near Stafford  
Court House, Va  
Dec 2nd, 1862

Dearest Aunt,

I owe you many apologies for not replying to your valued letter of the 13th

sooner but since its receipt I have had so much to occupy my time that I have not been able to devote much time to letter writing. I was very much gratified to hear from you again but sorry to hear that you had been so ill. I had waited long and anxiously for a few words from you and I had begun to fear you were not well or I should have heard from you sooner.

We are at present pleasantly encamped near the old and somewhat dilapidated little town of Stafford which is situated about ten miles from the Rappahannock River and Fredricksburg which is the nearest point. The weather of late has been rather cold, cloudy and wet and this I think is one of the chief reasons for the delay in our forward "On to Richmond" movement. We are all enjoying the best of health and as good spirits as the sad state of our national affairs will permit. After indulging in the fond hopes that "white robed peace" (our country's idol) would long ere this have been restored and we would have been permitted once again to live in the enjoyment of the happy privileges of Home and many kind friends. We find the cold and wet season almost upon us with appearance of a hard winter campaign.

I was greatly pleased with the letter from Aunt Lucy and husband which I found enclosed in yours. I wrote to them soon after I left Crown Point and I was very much gratified by receiving an answer a short time since. They were well as usual. I received a letter from the west a day or two ago hearing the sad tidings that Uncle Samuel's son James is wounded. He was wounded in the groin at the Battle of luka, Miss. He is now in the hospital at Quincy, Ills. The letter stated that it was thought that he would not be fit for service again on account of his wound which must be bad. He is the oldest of Uncle Samuel's children -See No 2 - (A.C. Woods)

*Letters of Alfred Covell Woods. 62<sup>nd</sup> NYSV Co I*  
Homepage

## **Such Ignorance and Imbecility** **[26 December 1862]**

Camp near Falmouth, Va  
Dec 26th 1862

Dearest Aunt,

I have a few spare moments that I will improve in writing to you and it does seem good to talk with you now and then.

I suppose long ere this you have heard of the battle of Fredricksburg and are perhaps anxious to know if I passed through with safety. Yes, with feelings of true gratitude I am happy to inform you that through the kind providence of God I did and did not suffer the slightest harm although we were most fearfully exposed. Never before perhaps in the history of war was such ignorance and imbecility exhibited by men carrying on a "life and death struggle" and with such vast resources in troops and money and materials of war. The soldier as well as he who sits in his chair and complacently plans out a campaign appreciates the importance of activity at times and few there are in the camps at present who do not feel disheartened by the late movements of Genl Burnside for he has proven himself in this instance to be incompetent to fulfill the task allotted to him.

We are at present encamped near Falmouth and Fredricksburg, they being opposite of each other on the banks of the Rappahannock. Fredricksburg is one of the oldest towns in Virginia founded in 1827. It was named after Prince Frederick, son of George Second. Its distance from Richmond is 62 miles, from Washington 56 and before the late battle it was truly a picturesque and lovely place.

We are all in usual good health. The weather is splendid. Just cool enough for comfort and it is a pity that with the fine roads and the cloudless skies our forward movement should be delayed by

those who are fortunate enough to have enough to hold in their hands the power to control our destinies. But I now close as tauto is beating and I must attend company roll call.

Please write soon and give my love to Uncle and Cousins. Accept my true esteem while I remain, my dear Aunt, in great haste, truly yours

A.C. Woods

*Letters of Alfred Covell Woods. 62<sup>nd</sup> NYSV Co I Homepage*

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## **Our "Onward" March [30 December 1862]**

Camp near Falmouth Va  
Dec 30th 1862

My Dear Aunt,

I wrote to you only a few days ago but as it is raining this afternoon and I have a few leisure moments which I will spend in directing my thoughts toward Home.

I am feeling slightly indisposed just now on account of a large bile which is so bad that I have had to procure an Surgeon's certificate of disability, this alone excusing me from duty with the exception of this. We are in usual good health.

The weather which heretofore has been so mild ,so clear, and beautiful and the skies which have been so cloudless are now darkened and there is every appearance of our being visited by a long wet and perhaps cold season which will be very unpleasant and unfavorable for us and the plans and movements which doubtless our leaders have in contemplation.

Tomorrow is the last day of this year and as my mind wanders back over the past the scenes of many happy moments are fresh in my memory. God grant that with the coming New Year our cause may flourish in its justness and wisdom may be given to our leaders that they may devise ways to overcome every

obstacle to our "Onward" march and complete victory.

There is some talk of our moving from here soon. The report is that a portion of the Army is to embark for the Peninsula again to begin operations there while the remainder is to remain around the defences of Washington to prevent the enemy making a movement in our rear. I think that as our Regiment is small, the latter will be the place of our destination. We were once large but many a hard fought battle deprives us of that name now and I think that our organization cannot exist another year.

I must now close sending much love to all and many wishes for your happiness in the coming New Year. I remain, my Dear Aunt, in great haste, Truly yours

A. C. Woods

*Letters of Alfred Covell Woods. 62<sup>nd</sup> NYSV Co I Homepage*

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## **I Was Taken To the Hospital [February 13 1863]**

Camp near Falmouth, Va  
Feb 13th 1863

Ever Loved Aunt,

Today's mail brought me a kind and valued letter from you and I feel very thankful and grateful to know that you are in good health. I had looked anxiously for a letter from you before but seemingly of no avail and the last letter I received from Sarah Trimble, I understood from her that you were not well. I am not as well myself as I have been previous to my being injured. A number of days ago I believe it was 22 (January 22, 1863) days ago today that it stormed and I retired to bed at night feeling well and hearty and went to sleep in a very few minutes but I had not slept long before the wind blew a large pine tree

(which had been partly chopped during the day by some one) down and it struck my head, breast and arms and tore open my back and knocked me entirely out of senses. I was taken to the Hospital by my comrades and the Doctor tells me that I threw up six quarts of blood and lay without speaking a word for 12 days or coming to my senses. The Doctor also tells me that my being possessed of a strong constitution alone accounts for my life being saved.

I cannot but feel that I have much to be thankful for and I feel great affection and gratitude to that kind over ruling and divine providence of God who has ever kept me as in the hollow of his hand and preserved me from danger. Often, very often, my fellow soldiers have been shot by my side and torn in pieces and killed while I have been preserved. I have often thought that few could fight for their country with a more heart felt devotion than myself because the hand of our Almighty has ever upheld me in all my endeavors to do right through dangers of many kinds. Few have been blessed with better health and had such kindness bestowed upon them as myself.

I am now in pretty good health and the Doctor says I will be well soon.

The weather has been beautiful and clear here for a long time past. we have had but little snow or cold days here this winter.

It rains here a little tonight but I think it will clear off soon. I was very glad to hear in your letter that Uncle Reuben is well this winter. If you succeed in hiring Cousin Samuel Woods for next Summer I think you will be very much pleased with him for he is a good worker and likes to work on a farm but I should think that his mother would want him at home now for his Father would want to come home but he is sick and has been ever since he enlisted.

I had a letter from Uncle Riendeau but he did not mention that one of their children was dead. he said Aunt Lucy was sick with the Small Pox but thought she

would be well soon. Please excuse this letter. Give my love to all who are kind enough to enquire.

Please accept my good wishes and true esteem while I remain as ever your true and loving Nephew,

Alfred C. Woods

P.S. Please write me as soon as convenient I will address this letter to Uncle Reuben

A. C. W.

*Letters of Alfred Covell Woods. 62<sup>nd</sup> NYSV Co I Homepage*

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## **Spring is Upon us Here [March 1863]**

Headquarters 62nd Regt N.Y.S.Vols.  
Camp near Falmouth Va  
March 1863

Much esteemed Aunt,

Again I am seated for the purpose of performing the pleasant duty of writing to one who seems like a fond kind parent and to whom my thoughts are often directed.

Spring is upon us here and to one like myself who has been confined and their means of exercise limited this lovely weather and the golden orb of brightness as it shines clear and beautiful seems truly delightful. My health now is much better although I'm not very strong yet. I have tried to duty once for several days but finding I was not able I had to go to the Doctor again and my name is now sent in on the daily sick report but I am living in hopes that I shall soon be better than I now am and able again to report for duty and to do it with ease as before this accident occurred. I suppose we shall soon move from here and again we may meet the enemy and God grant that this war may be speedily ended and our country and its

inhabitants once more restored to peacefulness and the priveleges we enjoyed. My dear Aunt, please write me as soon as convenient. Give my love to Uncle R and Cousins and all enquiring friends. I feel that I am writing a short poor letter but hope you will excuse me for this time. Accept my true respect and esteem while I remain as ever your loving Nephew,

A. C. Woods

Co. E 62nd Regt N.Y.S.Vols. Washington D.C.

P.S. I received a good long letter from Grandfather also one from Aunt Lucy a short time since they are all well now. Adieu.

A. C. W.

*Letters of Alfred Covell Woods. 62<sup>nd</sup> NYSV Co I Homepage*

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## **Spring Has Now Fairly Opened [March 31 1863]**

Camp near Falmouth, Va.  
March 31st 1863

Dearest Aunt,

Many thanks for your welcome letter of the 20th which I received in due time and which was to me a source of true delight. Although it grieved me much to hear that you are still troubled with that pain in your head, how much you must suffer!

Spring is now fairly opened upon us here and to one like myself who has been confined and their means of exercise limited it seems truly delightful. The sun shines bright and clear and to us who have been visited with many storms this golden orb of brightness seems a blessing to all and were it not for this desolating war this

would be to me the happiest season of my life for as I look back over the past and remember how I have been blessed and preserved from danger by our Heavenly Father I feel that I would be an ungrateful wretch indeed did I not feel grateful and thankful to Him for His kindness in watching and guarding me so tenderly that my life has been ever spared and my person protected from many a missile of destruction and death. What could give one more happiness than the thoughts of such a kind and watchful Guardian.

My health is now a great deal better and I am now once more doing duty and it seems pleasant after so long a cessation. My breast is still pretty lame and hurts me some to wear my belts but I hope soon to recover from this for I think there is no bone broken.

I was very glad to hear that Uncle Reuben, Mr Burdid and other friends are enjoying that best of God's blessings good health without which I have learned by bitter experience we are miserable. Truly few can more fully appreciate good health than myself.

I suppose that by the time this reaches you we shall have left here. We should march today but it rained some last night so it is now muddy but I think as today has been a beautiful day it will soon dry up and we shall then march and soon perhaps to meet the enemy once more in a close and hot engagement. May it be to us victorious and may our once prosperous country be speedily restored to the peacefulness and prosperity we once enjoyed.

I was greatly pleased although surprised to receive the letter from my Grandfather in London which I found enclosed with yours. I had thought of him often and supposed him to be dead for the last letter my dear Father received from him and his wife and daughter was in 1849 in the month of March. I have several of his letters in my trunk in Iowa and I assure you, dear Aunt, I shall write to them if I do not receive a letter in due time.

As it is getting late in the evening and the taps have beaten (a signal for blowing out lights) I must draw this epistle of pencil scratchings to a close.

How I wish I could be with you this Summer but as I cannot. If you can get cousin Samuel, he I think will do the best of anyone I know of but I should think his Mother would want him in Aurora (Iowa) for there is no one there now for her to look to for support. I often wish I could go to school for if I had a little better education I would feel that I could carry on any business as convenient.

Please write soon. Give my love to all who are kind enough to enquire. Excuse this poor writing and mistakes. Accept the good wishes and true esteem of your loving Nephew,

A. C. Woods

P.S. Address as usual. God grant that you may be soon restored to good health. Good Night and sweet repose. From your Nephew,

Covell

I am sorry to have to send this letter without a stamp for it is impossible for me to obtain one

Please tell Uncle Reuben that it will be impossible for me to get my discharge as long as I am able to help myself and I do not want it if I am able to do my duty properly.

Adieu

A.C.W.

*Letters of Alfred Covell Woods. 62<sup>nd</sup> NYSV Co I Homepage*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Re: Contact Information for Ron Hanley**

**From: John C. Hanley**

Mr. Sanders

I read with great interest the article by Robert (Ron) Hanley Sr. about his Great Grandfather John Charles Hanley. I would like to contact Mr. Hanley and, I am inquiring if you would have an e-mail address or any other contact information for Robert Hanley.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,  
John C. Hanley

See:

<http://andersonzouaves.tripod.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/1210zo.pdf>

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<http://andersonzouaves.tripod.com/zouave/>