

ZOUA VE!



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1864 Photograph of 62d NY veteran Charles Sterling
(Photograph courtesy of Mr. Charles Luttmann)

EXCERPTS FROM THE DIARY OF NELSON P. DOLBECK – JUNE 1861

(Courtesy of Andrew Lausten and Rose
Lausten-Miller)

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Saturday June 1, 1861 - I am well today, as usual, but there are 3 of our company ill and in the hospital. Among them is Henry Ostier, Capt. Dockstater is appointed officer of the day. I was chosen as guard on the main road, the first guard ever mounted in the AZ Reg. The countersign was Sumpter, the present name of the camp. The duty of guards is to stand on their post

two hours and rest 4 for 24 hours.

Sunday June 2, 1861 - I was relieved from guard duty at 7am. After dinner, I got Robert Hogle's pass, and went out of camp. I found Moses Boudrye, and we had a good time together. Today, soldier received a knife and fork, one plate and cup (tin). Each soldier must wash and care for his own "kit" (dishes).

Monday June 3, 1861 - This was a rainy day. As the number of our men increased it was necessary to make additional room for them. Moses and myself were detailed to do a little carpenter work, making barracks for soldiers. I worked 1/2 a day.

Tuesday June 4, 1861 - In camp all day. I worked yesterday. I worked hard and was quite tired at night. Thus it is, we never know the comfort of rest till we have experienced labor. The letter for our company is, "H". Since I have been at work, I have the pleasure of boarding with Mr. Salters' family. I am well satisfied with my fare, and live happy and contented.

Wednesday June 5, 1861 - At work today as usual.

Thursday June 6, 1861 - Nothing unusual today. Worked hard building barracks.

Friday June 7, 1861 - Other companies are coming in and we have commenced another building, 22 ft by 100. A little rainy the fore part of the day.

Saturday June 8, 1861 - Worked all day.

Sunday June 9, 1861 - I got a pass and went to Greenville. I had a good time. In the evening I took the first salt water bath I ever had. This is an excellent place for bathing.

Monday June 10, 1861 - I worked hard today. I was told by the Adjutant that our reg't is expected and that we shall remain here 30 days. I went to Greenville this evening, this is called Camp Lafayette.

Tuesday June 11, 1861 - I worked in this forenoon. It rained in the afternoon.

Wednesday June 12, 1861 - Worked as usual today.

Thursday June 13, 1861 - The weather is now fine, and I am enjoying myself, but I feel concerned about home as I have not received any letters from there since I left Crown Point.

Friday June 14, 1861 - This was another fine day. I received orders to return to drill and duty. This evening, I went to

Greenville. This evening Moses Boudrye went with me. We went to Widow Tomlin's and had a fine visit. It seems to me like a home there, since I get my washing done and go there so often.

Saturday June 15, 1861 - Robert Hogle had a fit this evening, and I volunteered to take care of him through the night. We now drill regular. The drills are divided into three: morning, forenoon, and afternoon. The morning drill is before breakfast, after reveille, (the beating of the drum at 5am) which lasts about two hours, afterwhich we get our "grub", (breakfast). The forenoon drill is from 9am till noon and the afternoon drill is from 3pm until 5pm, making about six hours of drill per day. The advance guards came here today from Staten Island, accompanied by three other companies. Their officers are all French, and they all wear the regular Zouave dress. There is about 75 men in the company, mostly large and well drilled. They will have the right of the right wing of our reg't, the first post of honor. Capt. Ross called out our company this afternoon for the purpose of obtaining the opinion of his men in regard of turning out our 2nd Liut. and electing another. He called on me to speak upon the subject. I spoke on the necessity of having good officers and the misfortune of attending strictly to duty. I made quite a speech and was well cheered, and took my seat. The company came to the conclusion of making a 2nd Liut. of James Poole, and went back to quarters.

Sunday June 16, 1861 - Nothing very strange today. I was on guard. I got a pass and went to Greenville and had an excellent time. After getting back to camp, I had an invitation from Mr. Rawland to visit his family and take tea.

Monday June 17, 1861 - Today our company went into a new place to drill. We asked permission of a farmer to eat strawberries. It was granted us, and we

regaled ourselves with the luxurious of fruit.

Tuesday June 18, 1861 - Captain Dockstater was married today. Everything was taken out of our quarters, and the ballroom was finely decked with garlands and bouquets. Of course only commissioned officers attended it. Liquors were quite plenty on the occasion, and before 9pm, there was about 500 drunken men in camp.

Wednesday June 19, 1861 - Today I slipped by the guards and started my course Southward. I saw a great many fine buildings and stopped in several places to inquire the way to get water. I went as far as Burgas Point, - about three miles. I lived well on my way having plenty of strawberries and cherries to eat.

Thursday June 20, 1861 - Nothing new today. Was in camp all day.

Friday June 21, 1861 - I proposed to Moses this morning to take a tramp. He consented, and after breakfast we got passed out and started Northward. We went through Greenville North and South Bergen and arrived in Hudson City about noon. This is not a large city-the other places named are villages. After dinner, we started for Newark City. This is a splendid city and we was well treated up there. We stayed in the city until dark and enjoyed ourselves finely. In the evening we took the cars for Jersey City. Took horse cars at Jersey City at 10-15 pm and went to Greenville, staid there all night in a barn and got in camp about 10 O'clock in the forenoon.

Saturday June 22, 1861 - Nothing unusual today. The weather is very fine.

Sunday June 23, 1861 - I went to Greenville today. I also paid Mr. Rawland's invited visit-took tea with him, was presented with a nice haverlock by his

daughter, Lizzie, and on the whole, had an excellent visit.

Monday June 24, 1861 - There is nothing going on today.

Tuesday June 25, 1861 - There is no drill today. This evening, Moses and myself went to South-Bergen. We had all the rum we could drink, or anything that we called for in pay for our songs. We had another such a time as only soldiers have. We got back into camp the next morning.

Wednesday June 26, 1861 - This morning I asked Henry if he would not go and take a trip for the purpose of begging in some kind of a decent way some writing paper. He said he would, and we got by the guards and went down to Centerville, which is on the road to Burges Point. We stopped in to Mr. Garrigan's store and after I had spun several pitiful yarns, he gave me some paper, envelopes, pens and holder, thread and stamps perhaps the amount of fifty cents. We thanked him kindly and went back to camp. At about midnight, we had an alarm, Col Riker had arrived and he gave the alarm. In less than 5 minutes every man was out and drawn up into line of battle; but several was not half dressed. We was paraded around a while and finally came to a halt in front of the tavern. We was all listening eagerly to the cause of the alarm when the Col told us that he wanted to see how smart we was. He made quite a speech, called for the blessing of the God upon the Anderson Zouaves, and then all retired.

Thursday June 27, 1861 - The men are looking anxious to the time when they will be mustered into the United States service. We have been promised it for several days, and some are now leaving.

Friday June 28, 1861 - Today we expect to be mustered and there are some preparations going on. It is expected by a great many that on being examined and

mustered into service they will get some pay. Accordingly, at 9am, the reg't was called out into line of battle as usual. About 20 boys was thrown out by our own Surgeon. We was then ordered to quarters. At 2pm, Col Riker came into the camp and said the inspection would take place immediately. Several companies was inspected in our quarters.

Saturday June 29, 1861 - Everything quiet today. There is nothing going on in camp.

Sunday June 30, 1861 - Today, all the rest of the companies was inspected and then the whole regiment was mustered into the services of the United States by taking the oath of allegiance. In order to be mustered, companies must be full, having 101 men rank and file. So our company was mustered along with Company "C", Capt. Hathaway, with the promise of having our own company by ourselves the first of Aug. This was what Col Riker promised us. Capt Ross went to the new company as 1st Liut, I was 2nd Cor.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Anderson-Zouaves-Research/544554128930906>

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THE ANDERSON ZOUAVES IN PEN AND PRESS (October to December 1863)

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The Gerrellers Was Thicker Than Magets on a Dead Horse [26 October 1863]

Camp Near Warrenton, Va.
Oct 26, 63.

Dear Cousin Henry,

I have been a little dilitary in answering your wellcom letter which I received in due time. But it was not my fault for I have been very busey in playing my hand with the Gray Backs for the last month back. But the old saying is, it is better late than never. We left camp near Culpepper on the 4th of October and marched through a heavy rain all night to garrison a fort at the Rappahanack Station or Bridge. We got thare on Sunday morning at 7 O'Clock and I was sent in front with a picket. It was a dam dangerous place for the Gerrellers was thicker than magets on a dead horse. And on Sunday night it was the darkest night I ever did see. But everything went off all right. I was releived on Monday afternoon at 3 O'clock and I was not sorry I can tell you. Then I had to go on Officer of the Guard every other day until the following Sunday, when the whole army fell back, the rear of the army comeing in at 3 o'clock and the Rebs close on thair heels. We formed in line of battle to meet them but they only came as far as the woods where they halted. We lay in line of battle all night on Sunday night with a strong Picket line in frount until Monday about 1 O'clock, when our Calvery went in the woods after them to make them fight. They was gone but 10 minutes when we heard cannonading. Then we was shoved in, and in less than one half hour we had then skedaddeling like hell toward Brandys Station. We took 50 prisoners and followed them for four miles when we halted for 5 hours, when we commenced to fall back to the station again. We layed to the station until daylight, when we crossed the Rappahanack for Centersville which we reached ahead of the Rebs after marching 2 days and one night steady.

As the rear guard of the 2d Corps was going over Bull run Crick the Gray Backs tackled them but they got a dam site worst of it. On the 15th my Brigade had two shakes with them at Bristose Station. . . I do wish that Meade would buckel in to old Lee and whip hell clean out of him, for

I am tired of being between. . . I expect to get a first Lieutenancy now so I can get mustered in. Now, Hen, I have just come in off from a Review by General Terry, he seems to be a very nice man. He is Commanding the Division. Now I will close by asking you to give my respects to all the pretty women and you must write soon. . .

Yours, etc. Lieut. A. T. Perine 62d N. Y. S. V. Army of the Potomac, Va.

Kerr, M. (1955) *In love and friendship*.

The letters of Abraham T. Perine, ensign of the Anderson Zouaves. 62nd NYSV Co. I Homepage

I Have Been Thinking About Starting a Oyster Salloon [31 October 1863]

Camp near Warrenton, Va.
Oct 31st 63.

Well Cousin Hen,

I take this pleasant opportunity to scribble these few lines in answer to yours of the 26th. I see by your letter that you did not receive mine, or the last one I sent you. . . I was on the move for 2 weeks. I have just got through making out Four Pay Rolls, and I had to put the Clothing Actt on them and I am so tired writing I can hardly hold my Pen in my Fingers And I have got a small Shelter Tent, and the Orderly Sergt in with me, so I have not got room to turn in it. And to top off it has been raining like hell nearly all night and until 11 O'clock this morning, when it cleared off good and cold. If we only had orders to go in winter quarters I would feel a dam site better. . . Now, Hen, I will try and finish this note, for it is the 9th hitch I have had at it. I have just come in off an Inspection, and I hope that I will have the rest of the day to myself, seeing as it is Sunday. It is a beautiful day, more like the 4th of July

than like the first of November. . . I have just got relieved from the command of the Company. The wounded Officers that got wounded at the 2d Battle of Fredericksburg has just returned to the Regiment for duty and 1st Lieut. Brady has been put in command. It is a grate relief to me, for I have had a dam site of trouble in the last month back, for I have not had any help whatever.

I received a letter from Hiram Perine a couple of days ago. He is talking about starting a gin mill around Giffords Lane. I think it will pay around thare, especially if thare is mutch travelling on the Fresh Kill Road. Hen, I have been thinking about starting a Oyster Salloon if I live for the eight weeks to come, and I would like you to go in with me. Let me know in your next what you think about it. If you think you would like it, you could get your Eye on a place and we will try and secure it. There is more money made in a Salloon where we could keep oysters opened by the measure and in the shell, segars, wines, liquors, etc. than any other business a man can go into. I will be down on hard work after I come home, and if I can get along without it you can bet your life I am going to do it. When you write to Emma give her my love. I have no news to write you so I will close
By signing Myself your Cousin in love and Friendship,

Lieut. A. T. Perine Co. C. 62d Regt. N. Y. S. V. Army of the Potomac, Va.
Camp Sedgewick, near Brandy Station.

Kerr, M. (1955) *In love and friendship*.

The letters of Abraham T. Perine, ensign of the Anderson Zouaves. 62nd NYSV Co. I Homepage

This Accursed War [3 November 1863]

Camp of the 62nd Regt N.Y.S.Vols.
Near Warrenton, Va
Nov 3rd 1863

Dear Aunt Melissa,

As I am at leisure this calm still and beautiful afternoon. I will pen you a few lines thinking they may be acceptable. Some time has elapsed since I have heard from you and since I wrote last some active movements have been made here with us but probably you have seen an account of them so I will not attempt to describe them. Suffice it to say God in his loving kindness has protected me through all and I am still spared to render thanks to Him and am enjoying the best of health as well as many other blessings with which we are surrounded.

I was very much pleased to receive a kind gratifying letter from Aunt Lucy a short time since and to learn that she has been making you a visit which I have no doubt you enjoyed very much.

We are now pleasantly encamped near the flourishing little village of Warrenton which is the termination of the branch of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad and is situated near the Rappahannock River and about 50 miles distant from Washington. I think we will not remain here long for all the sick at the Hospital are being sent back today and preparations being made for a movement where to I do not know. The enemy are in force about four miles distant and it may be that we are to advance upon them. God grant that if we do we may be successful. I am sick of seeing so much blood spilled without accomplishing anything to the promotion of our cause. The weather here is beautiful now so cool so pleasant without a cloud to mar the brightness of the skies. Oh! would that this accursed war might quickly be brought to end so that I could return home again. I long to get away from the noise and confusion of Camp life and spend my hours in study and lead a different life.

Have you heard from Grand Father lately and is he coming to see you as he talked of a while ago? I will now bring this to a close hoping you will excuse all

mistakes hasty writing to and favor me with a reply as soon as convenient.

Please write me how Uncle Reuben is and how he gets along with the work.

With much love to all I remain,

Your Affectionate Nephew,
Covell

Alfred C. Woods

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

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

I Am Strongly Tempted to Reenlist [18 November 1863]

Camp of the 62nd Regt. N.Y.S.Vols.
Near Culpeper, Va. Nov 18th, /63

My Dear Aunt Melissa,

I have been waiting a long time (seemingly) for a letter from you and as I am at leisure this beautiful afternoon I have concluded to write again hoping that I may have better success in getting a reply. Since I wrote you we have again met the foe in an almost hand to hand struggle and have caused Him to ingloriously fly from a line of as strong fortifications as I ever saw [engagement at Rappahannock Station and Kelly's Ford, November, 7, 1863]. God has been truly very merciful to me as I am still spared and blessed with good health and am as happy as the circumstances under which I am situated will permit. The weather here is beautiful the sky is so clear and the air so cool and bracing that one cannot help feeling well.

Aunt Melissa, I am strongly tempted to reenlist. I have been offered a position as Orderly Sergeant with a good chance to obtain a Lieutenant's Commission in a battery of Light Artillery which the Captain [James Magee] of our Company is raising. He (the Captain) is a noble man so good and brave. I should

have reenlisted before this were it not for those letters which have been sent from England. How I would like very much to see my relatives there but I think I ought to remain here. Our beloved Country needs every man that is situated as I am to defend her rights and maintain her laws. I do not expect much in the line of property from England. If I reenlist I can obtain a Furlough of thirty days at least if not longer and shall be in the State nearly all the winter with the battery to be reorganized. I shall also receive a bounty of nearly six hundred dollars and my pay as Orderly Sergeant will amount to twenty dollars a month. How I wish you would write me what you think about this. Is it not my duty to again volunteer in our Countrys Services? I am young strong and healthy with no one depending upon me for support at home. I know my duty as a Soldier and an perfectly accustomed to the privations and hardships that I will have to undergo.

Taking all this into consideration I think it my duty to do so. I will now draw this to a close hoping to hear from you soon. Give my love to Uncle Reuben and all friends. Accept with this the unceasing esteem of Your Affectionate Nephew, Covell

P.S. I will say that the term that I now have to serve (7 months) will be counted in the new enlistment for three more years. Excuse hasty writing. Goodbye

Address:
Alfred C. Wood
Co E 62nd Regt. N.Y.S.Vols. via
Washington D.C.

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

**You Would Laugh to Hear
Them Rebs Hollar
[19 November 1863]**

Camp Sedgewick, near Brandy Station.

November 19th, 1863

Dear Cousin Hen,

Your welcome letter is at hand. . . We are Laying in Camp about 5 mile from the last battle ground, the Rappahanack Station, and about 5 mile from the Enemy along the Rapadan river. They are building Winter Quarters behind thare Intrenchments, expecting I suppose to winter thare. But they was never more mistaking in thair lives. . . For we will have them out of thare Quicker than hell ever scortched a Father. They are everdently arfraid of Meade, for they (The Rebs) say themselves that he is the best General that we ever had. As for my part, I like him as well as I did McClellan. I will give you a small sketch of the last Fight.

Last Saterdag two weeks ago we left Camp near Warrenton at 5 O'clock A.M. and marched toward the Rappanack. I never thought for a moment when we started that I would hunt up a Fight. But allong toward 10 O'clock I began to smell a mise. After marching for abt. 6 mile I saw our calvery coming back from the Front like the divel. Then I knew thare was something up ahead. So we was pushed on without rest until 2 O'clock P.M. when we come in sight of the station. And I looked ahead and on a big hill I saw a Big line of Skirmishers deployed. We was drawn in line of Battle just out of the woods, and then I found out they was Rebble Skirmishers. So we . . . moved up in line of Battle without any Skirmishers in front of us. The Gray Backs thought we was a calvery force dismounted, and they, the dam fools, stood for us and they had the cheek to show fight. As soon as we got within gun shot of them they let drive. . . and run for thair Rifle Pits. We marched on up the hill without returning thair fire untill we got to the top, when the Johnnies opened on us with Shell from a Battery of 4 pieces. The first shell took one of our mens legs off above the knee, clean, but the rest of the shells went over us. In the meantime we got 2 Batterys in Posision and began to

Play hell with them in General. While we drew their attention in Front the 6th Maine Regt. was sent in the rear to flank them on the right, Which they done in good stile. Then we thought they had fun Enough and all on thair own side to. We opened on them, and you would laugh to hear the Rebs hollar Oh and drop as our Boys began to fead them leaden pills of Unkle Sams make. They stood the press pretty well for some time, and our men got on top of them in the rear of thair rifle pits before they knew it . . . the Cannoneers saw them and stood by thair guns Untill the 6th Maine boys went to take the Pieces. Then the Johnnies pulled the Cord and blade some of them clean from the mouth of the Cannons. That got the rest of the boys mad up, and they sung out No Quarters and commenced bayonetting the rebs. The Gray Backs fell on thair knees baging for Mercy & thair lives. But it was no go. There was a grate many got killed in Cold Blood. About dusk they gave in and Surrended and we got 23 Hundred at that hall, besides the live stock they had on them and the 4 pieces of Cannon. Our Batterys kept Shelling them untill 8 O'clock, when everything became still for the night. We lay in the first line of Battle all night Expecting some fun in the morning. But the Johnny Rebs was gone. The time we was fighting them at the Station the Third Corps had tackled them about 4 mile to our left, at Kellys Ford. They whipped hell out of the Rebs and took 400 prisoners, but they was Supported with 4-32 pounders that raked the Rebbles before they made the charge. The Adjutant of the 6th Maine sot on his horse clapping his hands cheering on his men when a Piece of Shell from the rebs came and took both hands of by the rists. Now I have wrote pretty mutch all of note and you can judge what the Fight looked like as well as I can explain it to you. So I will leave you to think it over. I wanted to start the Saloon in New York when I come home. I guess I will buy some one out. It will be as cheap as it would to fit one up. I wrote to Hiram

the same time I wrote to you. But I have not heard from him since. If you see him ask him why he dont write tell him he is a hell of a fellow I think

Give my love to all and Write soon From your Cousin as before Lieut. A. T. Perine Co. C. 62d NYSV

Kerr, M. (1955) *In love and friendship.*

The letters of Abraham T. Perine, ensign of the Anderson Zouaves. 62nd NYSV Co. I Homepage

Some Hard Fighting Has Been Done

[7 December 1863]

Camp of the 62nd Regt. N.Y.S.Vols.
Dec 7th 1863

My own dearest Aunt,

I have received your two kind and gratifying letters some time since but have had no opportunity of writing before as we have been continually on the move for the past ten days. You doubtless have seen in the papers the account of our crossing the River and attacking the enemy. Some hard fighting has been done with us but it has not amounted to much more than a reconnoissance. Our Heavenly Father has kindly protected and watched over me in every movement so that I have escaped all harm and escaped it at times when it seemed impossible for me to live. My health at present is not quite as good as usual.

I think we will soon go into Winter Quarters now for it is too cold to do much more this season. I have given up the idea of reenlisting. I do want to sit down in peace and quiet once more and improve my mind. I am sick and tired of seeing so much vice and vulgarity. It will be so good to study in quiet (if my life is spared until my term of service expires) and begin life anew.

Regarding my studying for the ministry, I will say I am afraid I never shall

become competent enough to preach God's word as I ought but I would love to study it. I must now close this hoping you will excuse great haste and write me soon again. Please give my best respects to Uncle Reuben and all others who may enquire. Accept with this the true esteem of your loving Nephew,

Covell
Address:
Alfred C. Woods
Co. E 62nd Regt. N.Y.S.Vols via
Washington D.C.

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

We Have Again Crossed the Rapidan [8 December 1863]

Camp of the 62nd N.Y.S.Vols.
Near Culpepper Va

Dec 8th 1863
My own dear Grandfather,

Your ever kind and welcome letters were both duly received and I have not had an opportunity before to reply to them. It gives me great pleasure to know that you are well and enjoying yourself with the old friends in Crown Point. I wish that I too might see you once more. Since I wrote Aunt, we have again crossed the Rapidan River and met the enemy in a series of terrible contests [Mine Run Campaign]. My health at present is not very good. I got wet and took a fever cold while on the skirmish line before the enemy and the fatigues and hardships I have had to undergo have caused it to settle on my lungs. I think I will soon get over it though. It is a great wonder that I have not been sick or disabled in any way before but our Heavenly Father has watched over and protected me through all.

I never would have believed before I enlisted that any live person could have possibly stood what I have had to some of the time. We are now encamped in the same place we were before this late move. The weather is pretty cool and some of our men actually froze to death on the outposts standing picket all night without a fire and not being relieved. This was while we were on the other side of the River. Regarding my reenlisting, I will say I have given up the idea. I do want to get where I can study so bad that I cannot persuade myself to remain in the service any longer. My mind is going to ruin here and needs improving badly. It is so hard to do right here. I sometimes wish that I might get off alone somewhere and live and then I think I might be good.

I must now close this and write a little to Aunt Melissa. Do write me, Dear Grandfather, whenever you can make it convenient. Excuse hasty writing and all blunders. Accept with this the true esteem of your loving,

Grandson

Covell A. Woods

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

This Most Accursed Rebellion [29 December 1863]

In Camp
Dec 29th 1863
(Near Culpepper, VA)

My dear Aunt Melissa,

As it is a rainy wet morning so that I cannot be out I will spend a few minutes in writing for I am very anxious to hear from you again and perhaps you too will be pleased to learn of my whereabouts once more.

I believe I wrote you where we were encamped in my last. We are still in the same place (Near Culpepper, VA) and are now permanently stationed here for the winter with orders to make ourselves as comfortable as possible and we have been pretty busy for the past week building log houses and banking them up with dirt on the sides to keep out the cold wind. Winter is now fully upon us although we have had no snow to speak of as yet.

I suppose Grandfather is with Aunt Lucy by this time and I hope he will enjoy the visit all that he anticipates for it has been a long time since he has seen her before. How delighted I would be to see them if only for a little while again but this cannot be at present so I must be content and remain here were all are needed so much. I am still in a great perplexity about reenlistment for greater inducements are being offered making me almost sure of a Lieutenants Commission and as I think it my duty to go again I can hardly resist the temptation and the only thing which has kept me back at all is my desire to cultivate my mind If I only had the Books and could study here why then it would be different.

Have you heard from my relatives in England again? The last that I received from them was in August and I have written twice since but have received no answer. I cannot imagine why they do not write. You probably have seen an account of Genl Grant's victories in Tennessee. This is encouraging and a new light seems breaking through the before dark and clouded horizon which instills new courage and vigor within every true patriot. A campaign will be begun in the spring which (with God to aid us) will soon crush down this most accursed Rebellion. I will leave you now hoping you will write me when convenient. Please give my love to Uncle Reuben and others who may be kind enough to enquire. May the choicest and purist of Gods blessings be ever showered upon you Dear Aunt is the sincere prayer of your humble Nephew

Covell

*Letters of Alfred Covell Woods. 62nd NYSV Co I
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NEWS IN BRIEF

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US based AZ researcher and regular contributor to this journal, Charles Luttmann has provided ZOUAVE! with a new photograph of 62d NY veteran Charles Decker.



Charles Luttmann writes;

Hello Dave, I found this photo at therelicseeker.blogspot.com

There is also a short write-up about Charles Decker. The scan or digital photo is of poor quality, but thought I'd send this info as photos are rare.

Charles

6 2

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: Nelson P Dolbeck's Diary

From: Greg Furness

Hullo, Dave

To say that I was astonished to learn that Nelson Dolbeck (another "Local Boy" for me) kept a diary that has survived would be something of an understatement. Wonderful news!

The company raised in Crown Point by Leland Doolittle became, of course, Company H of the 34th NY Infantry. A copy of the regimental history is available here:

<http://archive.org/details/tosacrificetosuf00chap>

This clears up some confusion regarding the military career of Alfred Covell Woods.

Several references in documents in the Essex County Clerk's Office in Elizabethtown, NY indicate that Woods originally enlisted in the 34th on 1 May 1861. Thus, of the 9 men that left Co. H of the 34th on 24 May 1861 and joined the 62nd (including Dolbeck, Boudrye/Beaudry, Ostier/Ostegee & Hogle) Covell Woods was evidently one. Their number likely also included Sidney Carter who also enlisted 1 May.

Robert Hogle is a bit of a mystery, as I can find no record for him in either the 34th or the 62nd. He enlisted in Essex County in the 23rd NY Light Arty. in November '61 and was discharged for disability in December '61. Subsequently served in Co H, NY 3rd Infantry Dec. '62 - Aug '65.

The mention of "Capt. Dockstader" of Co. G (perhaps C?) on 28 May is interesting, as I can find no record of the service of any Dockstader before 1864.

Is there any way I might persuade you to send me a copy of the entire typescript of the diary? I would LOVE to be able to compare it side-by-side with the Woods diaries. Would gladly pay any copying and mailing costs.

All thanks and best wishes,

Greg Furness
Mineville, NY 12956

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Re: Michael Regan

From: Paul Bicknell

Hi,

I was wondering if you could provide more details regarding the regiment and its activities. I have recently received some documents from my mother – who passed away in the spring – pertaining to her grandfather – a member of the 62nd - who contracted typhoid before or during the Battle of Seven Oaks – and was transported back to New York and then disappeared from the hospital in 1862 – but applied for a pension and received it in 1890.

He was later murdered in New York - on the dock's - some members of my family felt he was part of law enforcement, others thought we has involved in criminal activities.

His name was Michael Regan an Irish immigrant. Due to his death my grandfather was forced to start working at 15 and moved up the ranks at Bethlehem Steel and finished his career as mine manager of an Iron Ore operations in Eastern Ontario, Canada owned by Bethlehem Steel.

I have several documents relating to Company Muster Roll and his campaign to secure a pension.

Any info available would be appreciated.

Paul Bicknell
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

6 2

Re: Moses Strauss

From: Robert Fordan

Dear Mr Sanders,

I wish to point out some errors in your group's April 2013 ZOUAVE! #61 publication concerning the information on Moses Strauss.

In the piece, writer Joe Basso disseminated facts which lead me to the conclusion he confused two different Civil War veterans named Moses Strauss. My great-great grandfather, Moses Strauss, did serve as a principal musician. However, he did not live or die in Troy, NY in the late 1880s or early 1890s. After the war he lived in Monmouth County, New Jersey, and as the Red Bank Register (available free online) points out, he died in July of 1916. He WAS married to a "Mary," (but not maiden name "Hissing"), and did have a daughter named "Caroline," (my great-grandmother), but also had two other children --a son-- Simon, or "Samuel," and a daughter -- Sadie. My great-great grandfather was buried at Mount Carmel, which is located far away from Troy, in upstate New York.

Other web sites, such as Ancestry.com, will confirm the information I have given you.

I would appreciate it if you would have Mr. Basso check out this new information, in order to clarify the record regarding the two individuals named Moses Strauss.

Sincerely,
Robert Fordan
fordanr@hotmail.com

6 2

Re: Moses Strauss

From: Joe Basso (reply to Robert Fordan)

Greetings! I received your e-mail through Dave Sanders and wish to express my appreciation for your correcting my errors and letting me know about it. I taught American History in the classroom for 39 years and the Civil War is one of my great loves. I truly hate making mistakes in my writing, especially about family ancestors, so I went back and checked my notes and found some errors I should have caught, but missed completely.

The 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910 Federal Census showed two Moses Strauss, one born in 1845 the other in 1846. Family No. 1 lived in Rensselaer, N. Y. and family No. 2 lived in Essex, New Jersey in 1870. This family shows his wife Mary and daughter Caroline which from my reading your note, was your ancestor. The 1880 Census shows your Moses as a butcher, while the New York Moses lists an occupation of a cigar manufacturer. Does this match your information? I'm glad you enclosed the site for the *Red Bank Register* not only because it corrected Moses' death date, but also because of the large ad for a theatre showing *Birth of a Nation* which I had shown as part of my U.S. Government and U.S. History classes for over 20 years.

I apparently flip-flopped between these two families and botched the entire article. Again, I apologize for these errors and I appreciate your gracious corrections. Many Thanks,

Joe Basso

6 2

Re: South Carolina Militia Sword

From: John Sikorski

I have a South Carolina sword with JL Riker inscribed on the handle. I am trying

to figure out how it was presented etc.

John Sikorski

6 2

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