

ZOUAVE!



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Canadian C.-E. Roulleau, Pontifical (Papal) Zouaves, Rome, May 1868

Source: <http://www.cmhg.gc.ca/cmh/image-435-eng.asp?flash=1>

THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME



Historian Dawn L. Roe, is the publisher of the online *Port Byron Historian's Corner* and Facebook's *Port Byron Historian*. Port Byron is an old Erie Canal village, in the town of Metz in upstate New York.

Both the *Port Byron Historian's Corner* and the *Port Byron Historian* contain material relevant to the Anderson Zouaves and New York's role in the Civil War. Below is a post from the blog on the Corner site, which contains a poignant poem by the 75th NYI's (the Auburn or Cayuga County Regiment), Sergeant Adam Michael.

The poem's refrain "the girl I left behind me," suggests that it can be sung to the tune of the well known English soldiers' song, *The Girl I Left Behind Me*. It is touching that this letter and its attendant poem have reached beyond the veil of time and speaks to us today.

I asked Dawn L. Roe if I could include her article in this month's ZOUAVE! Dawn graciously replied;

You certainly may share this wonderful poem in your upcoming article. I was blessed to have found it while working on our soldier. It just goes to show the bond that can be found between all soldiers and the words of Adam Michel are as significant today as the day he wrote it. Our ceremony to Capt. Lockwood is open to the public and maybe some of your readers will want to

come to Port Byron in July 2011 as we honor our soldier.

Dawn L. Roe writes;

Next summer we will be honoring Capt. John Lockwood who was one of our local civil war soldiers who died at the age of 20 as a POW. In doing research on our soldier, I found a poem written by another soldier who enlisted at the age of 14 from Wolcott, NY. He enlisted as a private and climbed the ranks to Full Sergeant. His record can be found under the name of Adam Michael which reports his age at enlistment as 18. Perhaps he said he was a bit older so that they would take him to serve, like so many other young men did at that time.

Adam Michel wrote a poem before he left home to serve in Company C of the NY 75th Infantry. He sent the poem to his sister Katie. He would also become a POW being sent to Libby Prison in Richmond before being transferred to Salisbury Prison in North Carolina where he died of starvation, never returning to see the girl he so candidly wrote about in his poem. According to the 1942 Cato Citizen, his burial site is not known. Adam Michel died in December 1864 just two months after our soldier.

The poem sends a universal message for those that serve their Country to engage in the defense of our freedoms, yet not knowing what fate has in store for them. All soldiers leave someone behind.

In the memory of those that have never returned, I share the words written nearly 150 years ago from such a courageous young man:

*'Tis many days since I left home
To join our glorious army,
I thought but of my Country's call
And not of what might harm me:
I vowed to join both hearth and hand,
Where duty called you'll find me,
I left my home and shed a tear
For the girl I left behind me.*

*To meet the foe was my desire
Upon the field of battle,
The Union States my battle cry,
While cannons thunders rattle.*

*But while I'm fighting for my flag
And dust and smoke do blind me,
I'll not forget to give one thought
To the girl I left behind me.*

*Oh, when rebellion is crushed out
And traitors slain or taken,
The Stars and Stripes will shine more bright
And joy each heart awaken.
The horrors of grim war will flee
Like troubled dreams remind me.
How sweet to know I'll meet once more
The girl I left behind me.*

*Surrounded now by friends and kin,
Who smile, weep and caress me,
I watched the tears of joy that flow
As each dear one doth bless me.
But there is one who moves my soul,
My tears now almost blind me;
God grant I'll be obliged no more
To leave my girl behind me.*

Source:

<http://www.portbyronhistorian.com/2010/10/girl-i-left-behind-me.html>

Also see:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Port-Byron-Historian/181374629782>

For information on the 75th NYI Regiment, see:

<http://dmna.state.ny.us/historic/reghist/civil/infantry/75thInf/75thInfMain.htm>

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CHARLES BUCK WHITCOMB

by Ron Hanley



This is a story about one of my ancestors a great-Grandfather on my maternal side. His name was Charles Buck Whitcomb and he turned out to be quite the character the more I researched his life. It was through him that I joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

Charles Buck Whitcomb presents to us an interesting individual. Born in Covington, New York in 1836 to Alanson

and Margaret Whitcomb, he is found in Coldwater, Michigan in early 1861.

When president Abraham Lincoln calls for 90 day volunteers for the Union, Charles enlists. This will not be the last time Abraham and Charles lives will in some way cross paths, although they never met. Charles was a member of the 1st Michigan Volunteer, Company C, and by the time the first battle of Bull Run at Manassas had progressed to the third day of a four day encounter, Charles was in the hands of the Rebel Army. Libby Prison was to then become his home for the next couple of months, between July and September of 1861.

Charles suffered many ailments during his short stay with the Rebs at Libby, including black jaundice, fever and dysentery. His life would once again cross with the Union President when one day he was leaning against a post reading, and Captain David Humphreys Todd, the keeper of Libby prison approached, and without any cause or verbal exchange, Todd severely slashed Charles below the knee with his saber. This account can be found in the book, "Lincoln and the Bluegrass", written by William H. Townsend, University of Kentucky Press. Captain Todd was Mary Todd Lincoln's half brother. Thus the connection, albeit a strange one, to the President.

From the Richmond Dispatch, March 27th 1862;

C. S. Military Prison.

The Yankee prisoners at present sojourning here, some 500 in number, were yesterday transferred from the factories on Main street, so long occupied by them, to Libby & Son's warehouses, on Cary street, below 20th, near the Dock, a locality secluded from observation, and where only half the former number of men need be retained for guard duty to ensure the safety of the prisoners, the building being all connected together.

from Libby Prison by Robert W. Waitt

Official Publication No. 12, Richmond Civil War Centennial Committee, 1961- 1965;

The most famous prison of the Civil War was located in Richmond, Virginia, on the western half of a block bounded by Cary and Dock Streets at 20th. It consisted of three tenement, loft style, buildings, each 110 x 44 feet, 4 stories high.

They were built between 1845 and 1852 by John Enders Sr., a founder of the tobacco industry of Richmond. Enders was killed instantly when he fell from a ladder through a hatch in the construction of the central building. Previously he had been a leader in developing real estate in the dock area and with his in- laws, the Ege family, owned much property there. Several of his slaves burned down all the buildings between 21st and 22nd Street when they found that his will did not set them free as they had expected.



Captain Luther Libby leased the west building on 3 year terms from the Enders family and erected the now renowned sign, L. LIBBY and SON, SHIP CHANDLERS. Libby was a native of Maine and with the outbreak of war, since most of his business was with Northern ships, he closed down the operation. He continued to maintain the lease which had started in 1854.

Following the Battle of First Manassas, Bull Run, so many prisoners were coming into Richmond that these buildings were among a number which were commandeered for prisoner and hospital use. General Winder gave Libby only 48 hours to vacate the premises. Some say because he was suspected of Union sympathy, though a son served with the Confederacy. At any rate, so rapidly was the building converted to its new use that the sign was not removed and thus the name LIBBY PRISON came into use.

The prisoners were not kept on the ground floors. The west ground floor was used as offices and guard-rooms and the middle as the kitchen. There are prisoner references to rooms called by them, "Streight's Room", "Milroy's Room", and "Chickamauga Room". The cellars contained cells for dangerous prisoners, spies and slaves under sentence of death, and a carpenter shop.

In the year 2000 I applied to the SUVCW for membership. While going through the many records I had come across for Charles Whitcomb, I made several notes and would like now to record some of these for posterity. Some may be duplication of effort, but in order to cover them all I will list as I wrote them.

Missing July 21, 1861 and was a prisoner of War, confined July 23, 1861 at Libby. Sent to Charleston, SC prison, September 10, 1861, and was paroled at Richmond, VA, May 11, 1862. He was discharged, May 20, 1862 at Washington. Charles had typhoid fever, black jauntice, paralysis, all at Charleston Prison. He died at the Michigan Soldiers home Hospital on April 8, 1918 due to apoplexy, paralysis of the right side. He had a sword scar under one knee when discharged from service.

A letter dated November 3, 1913 from the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Pacific Branch, Pasadena California, states that he was discharged from there on September 26, 1913. His Certificate of Death dated, April 12, 1918, at the Headquarters, Michigan Soldiers Home, Grand Rapids, that he entered the home, October 4, 1913, died April 8, 1918 of apoplexy. His nearest kin were Adelia, wife, Soldier Home, Kent County, Michigan.

In other papers found, Charles swore on October 22, 1888, that he was a prisoner of war in Charleston, SC., had typhoid and black jaundice, reduced to a skeleton, raw skin, stroke, and paralysis on the right side. Charles lived 1862 to 1869 in Port Byron, NY, 1869 to 1874 at Spring Lake, Michigan, 1874 to 1888, Grand Rapids, Michigan. The purpose of this declaration was to get an invalid pension. His current residence was 46 North Coit Avenue, Grand Rapids.

On October 30, 1903 a General Affidavit in Los Angeles, Cal., a Melitte Carrie Whitcomb was claiming half of the pension. Charles statement said she was falsely trying to get it since he was duly divorced from her on October 10, 1901 in Texas, and he produced a copy of the divorce decree. This woman was the third name appearing besides Adelia as having been wives of Charles.

In October 2002 I met another researcher from the Auburn area, and she sent the following newspaper account.

Auburn Daily Bulletin, Friday 30th May 1862;

Sgt. Charles Whitcomb

4th Mich Regt. taken prisoner at Bull Run released 5-15 and is in Port Byron - welcomed home by many callers. He bears marks of wounds received from sword of the rebel, Todd, brother of Mrs. Lincoln.

In 2003 I located an interesting newspaper article concerning the Libby Prison.

Repository and Messenger, Thursday 8th March, 1888;

The final transaction in the deal for the removal of Libby Prison from Richmond to Chicago has been completed. The parties interested declare that it will not be converted into a chamber of horrors, but will be made an interesting place of resort, alike unobjectionable to northern and southern people.

In May of 2005 I was able through an online site to check out some Civil War papers concerning Charles B. Whitcomb and his pension. According to this information Charles' widow was listed as Adelia M. Whitcomb. The state filed was Michigan and California. It showed as a relative, and contested by Anna J. Newman. It also showed the following;

Application Number 677116 for Certificate Number 436005 in Michigan, Application Number 1119.702 for Certificate Number 890107, Michigan, and September 16, 1927,

Application Number 1594.132 for California.

In 1998 I was able to go through a box at my sister Donna's home, which contained various artifacts pertaining to the VanDenbergh family. Charles' daughter, Miss Louise Adele Whitcomb married Raymond C. VanDenbergh, and they were my Grandparents. There was an 1860 New Testament Bible, which was presented by the Ladies of Coldwater, Michigan, on Sunday February 2, 1862 at Columbia Prison to Sergeant Charles B. Whitcomb, 1st Michigan Infantry Volunteer, Company C.

Also amongst the artifacts was an 1861 Soldier's Hymn Book, published NY YMCA and belonging to Charles Buck Whitcomb who enlisted in the Union Army. The artifact came through the hands of Louise Whitcomb VanDenbergh, his daughter, and Meryl VanDenbergh, his Granddaughter who was my mother.

Charles died April 8th 1918 at Grand Rapids, Michigan, at 81 years of age. His body was interred 1918 Grand Rapids, Michigan, Fairplains Cemetery.

The Grand Rapids Press, April 10th 1918;

WHITCOMB

Charles B. Whitcomb, aged 81 years, died Monday evening at the Soldiers Home Hospital. Surviving are the widow, two sons, and two daughters. Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Soldiers Home Chapel.

Around 1882 Charles Whitcomb had suffered a stroke, after which he became insane, and wandered from place to place, and while in this state of mind he obtained a divorce at Lindale, Floyd Co., Georgia, married two other women and divorced them both.

1890 Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan Census;

Page 2, S. D. Number 4, Line 22, Charles B. Whitcomb 4th Sgt. C Company 1st Mich. Infantry, Enlisted May 1, 1861, Discharged May 20, 1862, Length of Service 1 year, 19

days. He spent 11 months 20 days in Libby Prison.

On October 30, 1903 he swore to the following for the Department of Interior, and was living at 224 East 5th Street, Los Angeles;

Yes, he was married to Annie J. Weatherford in the winter of 1902, in Austin Texas, Travis Co. Yes, he was previously married to Adelia, divorced, but couldn't remember the date for divorce. Yes, he had four children by Adelia, all now of legal age, however he didn't know if they were living or not.

He sent for Adelia on October 15th 1906 to come to Los Angeles, Cal., and there they married a second time. He had married his second wife, M. C. Echols on September 16th 1899 in Rome, Floyd Co., Georgia.

My mother, Meryl VanDenbergh Hanley wrote that Charles, her grandfather worked as a hotel clerk in his later years. He also was a baggage master at the railroad.



Charles B. Whitcomb's Gravestone, Fairplains Cemetery, Grand Rapids MI. Lot 113, Block 2, Grave 2.

For information on the SUVCW, see:

<http://www.suvcw.org/>

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THOUGH LINCOLN IS ELECTED, THERE IS NO DANGER

Staunton Spectator (VA)
November 13th 1860



It is with deep pain that we announce the triumph of a Northern Sectional party. We have labored earnestly to prevent that result, and supported the only ticket which carried the flag around which all the conservative strength of the country could rally without sacrifice of principle.

The ticket we supported bore aloft a national banner around which conservatives North and South should have rallied with the view of preventing the success of sectionalism North or South. Our efforts were unsuccessful, though applied in the right direction, and sectionalism has triumphed over nationality.

Though we are mortified at the success of the Black Republicans in the Presidential election, yet we are rejoiced to know that the elections for Congressmen have resulted in giving us a very safe and decided majority against the Republicans in Congress. The success of the Republicans in the Presidential election is but a barren victory, and its fruits, like the apples of the Dead Sea, will turn to ashes upon their lips.

They will have the Executive, but no other branch of the Government, and will, consequently, be impotent for mischief--they will not have the power to do any harm, however much disposed they may be to do so. We have the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court in our favor, either one of which would of itself be a sufficient protection to our rights. As we have all three there can, by no possibility, be any danger that our rights can be violated. No law can reach the President for his signature without first having passed both Houses of

Congress, and we know that as at present composed no bill violative of our rights can pass either House.

So that we are perfectly safe. The President cannot even make an appointment without the consent of the Senate, so that we have nothing to dread in that respect. If we remain united we have nothing to fear from the Black Republicans, because, as before stated, we have both Houses of Congress and the Supreme Court in our favor.

The danger is in secession. If several of the Southern States secede, they will leave us in a minority in Congress, where we now have a safe majority. This may be the reason why some of the Southern States are in such a hurry to secede. They think that if they secede and leave us at the mercy of a Black Republican majority in Congress, that we will secede likewise. This is the way in which they expect to drag us into a like destiny with them. They will secede when we have a safe majority and there can be no danger, that we may be left in a minority where danger will threaten, in the confident belief that we will then secede and unite our fortunes with theirs.

To secede when there can be no danger would be adding cowardice to treason. To give up when we have the game in our own hands would be cowardly, foolish and criminal. South Carolina, and other States disposed to secede, should remember that comity due to neighboring States should restrain them from taking action without consulting the wishes and interests of other States, particularly such as Virginia which is more deeply interested than all the Cotton States combined.

As no man has a right to destroy even his own property when by so doing he will endanger that of his neighbor, so no State has the right to secede when that act will involve other States in the common ruin. Virginia has interests independent of the Cotton States, and she should take care of them in spite of the action of those States.

Source:

<http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/news/ss1860/va.au.ss.1860.11.13.xml>



CAPTAIN JOHN LOCKWOOD



As mentioned in this issue's lead story, the *Port Byron Historian* is organising a memorial ceremony for Port Hudson veteran, Captain John

Lockwood. This ceremony will take place at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Port Hudson (NY) on July 30th 2011.

John Lockwood enlisted at Port Byron into the 111th NY Infantry on with the rank of Sergeant. He quickly rose through the ranks to become a Captain. The Port Byron Area Hall of Fame and Veterans Archive records the following about Captain Lockwood's service;

Lockwood, John W. WIA, Gettysburg, PA 3 Jul 1863; WIA, Wilderness 6 May 1864, POW Reams Station, VA 25 Aug 1864, WIA and died of wounds in escape attempt on way to Confederate Prison Camp in Salisbury, NC.

Dawn L. Roe, the Port Byron Historian states that Captain Lockwood's death resulted from an escape attempt from the train that was taking him to the Salisbury POW camp.

On his maternal side, Captain Lockwood is a descendant of Philip King, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, so John Lockwood's family has a long tradition of service to the United States.

John Lockwood is honoured in the naming of the GAR Post 175 in Port Byron as the John Lockwood Post.

Sources

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/civilwar/>

http://localhistory.morrisville.edu/sites/gar_post/list_gar.html#cayuga

<http://www.portbyronhistorian.com/p/lockwood-ceremony-july-2011.html>

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4th ANNUAL SCHOOL OF THE SOLDIER



The Company's 4th Annual School of the Soldier will take place over the Victorian Labour Day long-weekend, Friday 11th March - 14th March 2011.

Please find the event information, invitation and registration link at:

<http://andersonzouaves.tripod.com/lhrg/id11.html>

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CANADIAN PONTIFICAL ZOUAVES IN EASTVIEW



The Zouaves were established in 1868 as a paramilitary organization for the protection of the Papal States during the wars fought over the unification of Italy.

The Canadian Pontifical Zouave Regiment continued its activities after the Italian Unification Wars well into the twentieth century, acting as security escorts Pontifical Zouaves in Eastview Photo: Guy Cousineau / Muséoparc Vanier Museopark

during religious celebrations and also as community regimental bands.

The 39th Company of Canadian Pontifical Zouaves was established in Eastview's Saint-Charles parish in 1955. A national convention of Canadian Zouaves was held in Eastview in July 1958. However, most of the activities of the Zouaves disappeared from Eastview around 1975.

Source:

http://museoparc.ca/vanier_sur_outaouais/zouaves_en.html

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LETTERS to the EDITOR



Company Invite to the Captain John Lockwood Ceremony

Dawn L. Roe writes;

Both heritage as well as veteran groups are invited to be a part of the military march from the Lockwood family burial ground to the GAR Monument for the flag raising. If your men want to come be with us, we would love to have you.

Senator Mike Nozzolio is bringing a flag that has flown over the Capital that will be raised as part of our service, so just have to pray for good weather that day. The march is not a long one but is significant to what we are doing here at Port Byron.

I am releasing more info as the event gets closer but some details will be reserved for the ceremony itself. I am still working with the VA on a new marker for Lockwood, and hope to have that resolved soon.

Then I can focus on the ceremony end of things. Some units will only have a few men but collectively we should have a lot of soldiers and veteran groups with us.

Hope you can come...

Dawn

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Visit our website at: <http://corpsutler.tripod.com>

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The Dog Robbers – Company F Band

<http://www.myspace.com/thedogrobbers>

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