

# THE ROSE GARDEN AT ARLINGTON HOUSE ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

By

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## The Garden's First Burial

*Captain Albert H. Packard, Company I,  
31st Maine Infantry; Company G, 19th Maine Infantry*

The first soldier buried alongside the Rose Garden at Arlington House, home of Robert E. Lee and his family for thirty years before the Civil War, was Captain Albert Packard of the 31st Maine Infantry. According to cemetery burial records, Captain Packard is the first officer and the first soldier from a Maine regiment buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Packard, the twenty-fourth burial at Arlington, was buried on Tuesday May 17, 1864, the fifth day of burials there.<sup>1</sup>

On August 25, 1862, Albert Packard, age thirty, departed from his wife, two children and mechanic's job to enroll in the 19th Maine.<sup>2</sup> After four weeks of training in Maine, Packard and his regiment arrived in Washington, D.C. on August 29, 1862. On October 16, 1862, while on a reconnaissance at Charlestown, Virginia [now West Virginia] the regiment came under gun fire for the first time.<sup>3</sup> By October 31, 1862, Packard was a corporal in Company G. His duties included that of color bearer.<sup>4</sup>

Following a winter of camp, drill and illness, Packard was among the 440 members of the 19th Maine who marched north and were engaged at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 1-3, 1863. Packard's regiment sustained over 45 percent casualties at Gettysburg, 68 killed or mortally wounded, 127 wounded and 4 missing.<sup>5</sup>

In February 1864, Packard returned to Maine to recruit soldiers for a new regiment, the 31st Maine. During this time he possibly visited his wife, Elizabeth, and children, five-year-old Eva and three-year-old Horace. The Packards had been married since May 29, 1855.<sup>6</sup> While on leave, Packard became commissioned as captain of Company I of the newly formed 31st Maine Infantry on April 13, 1864.<sup>7</sup> The regiment departed from Maine on April 18, 1864. For the second time in less than two years Packard was travelling south to the war zone with a regiment of raw recruits. In less than a month after leaving home the 31st Maine would be engaged in a major battle.<sup>8</sup>

On May 6, 1864, the second day of the Battle of the Wilderness, the 31st Maine, as part of Brigadier General Potter's Second Division of the Ninth

Army Corps, attacked an Alabama brigade under the command of Colonel William Perry and a Florida brigade commanded by Brigadier General Abner Perrin, one-half mile north of widow Tapp's house.<sup>9</sup> The veteran Confederate defenders were entrenched atop a ravine. According to Brigadier General Robert Potter:

After sharp fighting at pretty close range we charged the enemy and got into their rifle-pits in some places, but were unable to maintain our footing and fell back.<sup>10</sup>

At some point during the attack Captain Packard received a "gunshot wound in [the] brain," the bullet entering through the eye and forehead.<sup>11</sup>

Packard was transported to Columbia Hospital in Washington, D.C., where he died from his wound on May 16, 1864. Packard's wife, Elizabeth, remarried a Boston city administrator in 1868. At that time Packard's oldest child, Eva, was diagnosed as "insane" and placed in the South Boston Feeble Minded School. She remained institutionalized until her death in 1912.<sup>12</sup>

Packard was a man who carried the flag in battle, a man who recruited others to join the Union cause for their final push to victory, a man who commanded until receiving a mortal wound on a Virginia battlefield. Captain Albert H. Packard is worthy of being the first officer buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

<sup>1</sup>*Arlington National Cemetery Register of Burials*, Office of the Historian, Department of the Army.

<sup>2</sup>Pension of Albert H. Packard, Co. I, 31st Maine Infantry, Widow Appl. 53734, Cert. 48499, June 9, 1864, Minor Appl. 166658, Cert. 123750, October 16, 1868, National Archives.

<sup>3</sup>William F. Fox, *Regimental Losses in the American Civil War 1861-1865*, reprint: (Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1985), p. 136, (Albany, N.Y.: Brandow Printing Company, 1898).

<sup>4</sup>Military Service Record of Albert H. Packard, Co. G, 19th Maine, National Archives.

<sup>5</sup>Fox, p. 134.

<sup>6</sup>Pension of Albert H. Packard.

<sup>7</sup>Military Service Record of Albert H. Packard, Co. I, 31st Maine Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>9</sup>Edward Steere, *The Wilderness Campaign*, (Harrisburg, Pa.: The Stackpole Company, 1960), pp.396, 412-416.

<sup>10</sup>*The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington, D.C.; Government Printing Office, 1881-1902), Vol. 36, Part I Reports, p. 928.

<sup>11</sup>Pension of Albert H. Packard.

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid.*

### A Grave for a Pillow

*Lieutenant Enos S. Hall, Company D, 11th Pennsylvania Reserves.*

Enos S. Hall enrolled in Company D, 11th Pennsylvania Reserves on September 27, 1861 in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. He was promoted

to corporal on January 24, 1862. Surviving battles at Gaines Mill, Second Bull Run, South Mountain and Antietam, Hall was appointed company sergeant on November 1, 1862. Subsequent to the Union's ill-fated Fredericksburg campaign, which resulted in forty-nine deaths out of the regiment's 394 members. Hall was elevated to the rank of first sergeant.<sup>1</sup>

On March 21, 1864, twenty-four-year-old Enos Hall was granted a commission as first lieutenant. Hall's opportunity to lead was short as the regiment's three year term of enlistment was set to expire on May 30, 1864. At Spotsylvania, Virginia, on May 10, 1864, Lieutenant Hall received a mortal gun shot wound and died on May 24. Hall's body was embalmed and friends were scheduled to presumably return the corpse to Pennsylvania. When Hall was not transported by May 26 a letter was sent to Seminary Hospital requesting a funeral escort. On May 27, 1864, shortly after 2:00 P.M., the five foot seven inch Jersey Shore blacksmith was laid to rest along the east side of the Rose Garden.<sup>2</sup>

*Lieutenant Martin Kelly, Company A, 182 New York Infantry;  
Company A, 69th NY National Guard Artillery.*

On September 3, 1862, in New York City, Martin Kelly entered the 69th New York National Guard Artillery as second lieutenant of Company A.<sup>3</sup> The artillery unit, later designated as the 182 New York Infantry, was first stationed at the defenses near Newport News, Virginia and then at guard duty along the Orange and Alexandria Railroad until May 1864.<sup>4</sup> During this period of soft duty, Kelly was promoted to first lieutenant.<sup>5</sup>

The 69th Regiment New York National Guard Artillery joined the Union Army of the Potomac in the field at Spotsylvania Court House on May 17, 1864, the eve of their first battle.<sup>6</sup> It was the last battle for Martin Kelly as he received a gun shot wound in the "lower portion of [his] chest" on May 18. He developed pneumonia and died at Seminary Hospital in Georgetown on May 26. Kelly, a twenty-five-year-old native of Ireland, was buried the following day with twenty-four-year-old Enos Hall at the Rose Garden of Arlington House. They were the second and third officers buried at the Rose Garden. Both were victims of General Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia at the Battle of Spotsylvania. Both rest side by side, 115 feet from Arlington House, home of Robert E. Lee and his family for thirty years before the Civil War.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of Enos S. Hall, Co. D, 11 Pennsylvania Infantry, National Archives.  
See also Fox, p. 260.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Military Service Record of Martin Kelly, Co. A, 182 New York Infantry; Co. A, 69th New York National Guard Artillery, National Archives.

<sup>4</sup>Frederick H. Dyer, *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*, (Des Moines, Ia.: F.H.

Dyer, 1908), reprint (Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1978) p. 1470.

<sup>5</sup>Military Service Record of Martin Kelly.

<sup>6</sup>*Official Records*, Vol. 36, Part I, p. 466.

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid*, p. 152 and Military Service Record of Kelly.

## Victim of Circumstance

### *Captain John Smith, Company K, 110th Ohio Infantry*

The second captain to be buried along the Rose Garden of Arlington House was John M. Smith of Company K of the 110th Ohio Infantry. Smith was mustered into service on November 5, 1862, for three years. On April 9, 1863, Smith was promoted to first lieutenant, receiving an extra \$2 pay per month. From April 21, 1863 to November 1863, he was in Ohio "on recruiting service." On April 3, 1864, at the age of thirty-eight, Smith was mustered in as Captain. Smith led the men of company K for approximately one month.<sup>1</sup>

On the first day of the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5, 1864, at 6:00 P.M. the 110th Ohio and 6th Maryland jointly advanced over ground "thickly covered with trees." According to Union Brigadier General Truman Seymour, the two regiments soon discovered the Confederates in their front "sheltered by log breast-works and extending so far beyond [the Union line of attack] that his fire came upon the prolongation of our line with the greatest severity." Seymour reports that the 110th Ohio "suffered severely...losing 113...[and that] Captain Smith and Lieutenant McKnight of the same regiment were mortally wounded, both excellent officers."<sup>2</sup>

During the unsuccessful Union attack Captain Smith received a "gunshot wound [of the] left thigh and scalp." By May 15, he was transported to Washington, D.C. Harewood Hospital records indicate that he was admitted on May 17, 1864. He died from his wound on May 27, the day after his oldest son's seventh birthday. Survivors included two-year-old Clarence, Charles, and his wife, Elizabeth Jane of Star County, Ohio.<sup>3</sup>

On May 29, 1864, Smith's body was transported to the Rose Garden of Arlington House. U.S. Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs' design to make Arlington House uninhabitable by the burial of Union officers near the mansion was now taking shape. Pursuant to that plan Captain Smith was interred next to Captain Albert Packard--110 feet from Arlington House.

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of John M. Smith, Co. K, 110 Ohio, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>*Official Records*, Vol. 36, Part I, Reports, p. 728.

<sup>3</sup>Pension of John M. Smith, Widow Appl. 67162, Cert. 38105, October 1, 1864, National Archives.

## Into The Wilderness With The 63rd Pennsylvania

*Lieutenant David A. Strachan, Company B, 63rd Pennsylvania Infantry*

English-born twenty-three-year-old David Strachan enlisted into the 63rd Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh on August 26, 1861. He was an unmarried blacksmith from the township of Wilkins in Alleghany County. The six foot six inches tall Strachan was present with his regiment throughout the war despite receiving a slight wound at the Battle of Gettysburg, on July 2, 1863. On March 10, 1864, Strachan received a commission as first lieutenant.

Strachan was among the Union troops under the command of Ulysses S. Grant, said troops crossing the Rapidan River, on May 4, 1864, in an attempt to interpose between General Robert E. Lee's troops were deployed south of Chancellorsville in an area known as the Wilderness, so called because of its dense woods and tangled underbrush. At 3:00 P.M. on May 5, 1864, the 63rd Pennsylvania, and other Union regiments under the command of Brigadier General Alexander Hays, crossed the Orange Plank Road, the 63rd Pennsylvania being on the extreme right flank of the Union line in this sector. The regiment advanced to within forty yards of concealed Mississippians of General Joseph Davis' brigade. The Mississippi riflemen surprised the Pennsylvanians with a volley, thus commencing action between the two adversaries.<sup>1</sup> During this severe engagement the 63rd Pennsylvania sustained numerous casualties, including Lieutenant David Strachan who was struck in the left arm with a mini ball. He was transported to Armory Square Hospital where his arm was amputated at the "upper third." Strachan died from his wound on June 6, 1864, and was buried two days later on the eastern side of the Rose Garden.<sup>2</sup>

*Major George W. McCulloch, 63rd Pennsylvania Infantry*

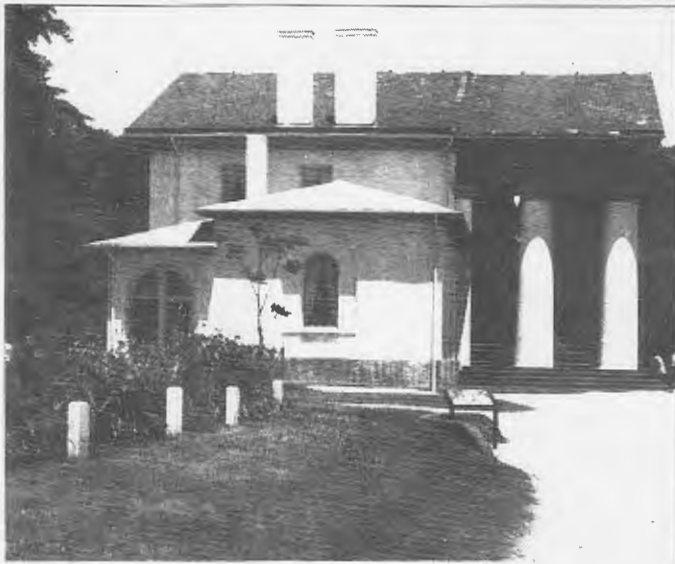
The remains of George McCulloch and the remains of the above-mentioned David Strachan are but a short distance from each other in the Rose Garden. Both were victims of the May 5-6, 1864 Battle of the Wilderness, perhaps the most obscure major battle of the Civil War--its obscurity due largely to the fact that the virtually constant large-scale fighting in May 1864, casts the Wilderness battle as little more than a prelude to the series of even more deadly encounters collectively known as the Battle of Spotsylvania. McCulloch was present at the Wilderness on May 5, when Union officers of the 63rd Pennsylvania were falling at an unusually high rate--Colonel John Danes, three regimental captains, four regimental lieutenants (including Strachan) and the regiment's brigade general, Alexander Hays, whose death is memorialized in perpetuity by a battlefield monument along the Brock Road, Route 613. Accordingly, Major George McCulloch assumed command of the regiment. The following day, May 6, the 63rd Pennsylvania



Albert Packard was the first soldier buried at the Rose Garden. His marker is incorrect as he commanded Company I and died on May 16, 1864, ten days after being wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness.

and the other sixteen regiments of Major General David Birney's Third Division charged Confederate breastworks, renewing a second day of battle in the Wilderness.<sup>3</sup> During this action Major McCulloch was mortally wounded.

McCulloch had enrolled as a sergeant in the 63rd Pennsylvania on August 1, 1861, at Clarion, Pennsylvania at the age of twenty-one. He was granted a commission as a second lieutenant on November 22, 1861, and was promoted to captain on August 4, 1862. At the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863, McCulloch suffered a wound to the "right cheek and thigh."<sup>4</sup> Virtually one year to the day, on May 4, 1864, McCulloch and the 63rd Pennsylvania eerily "encamped on the old battle-ground of Chancellorsville, the skeletons of the dead in that battle still lying unburied."<sup>5</sup> McCulloch died from his Wilderness wound on May 7, 1864, and was buried on the battlefield. His remains were removed from an isolated Wilderness grave between 1866 and 1869, and reinterred at a burial ground for the elite--the Rose Garden of Arlington House, where hundreds of tourists daily pass his grave.



The graves of Albert Packard, John Smith, Gustave von Branson and John Golding (left to right) are but 105 to 115 feet from Arlington House. Their proximity to the mansion was part of U.S. Quartermaster General Montgomery Meig's plan to make the property uninhabitable as he detested Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

<sup>1</sup>Edward Steere, *The Wilderness Campaign*, (Harrisburg, Pa.: The Stachpole Co., 1960), pp. 310-12.

<sup>2</sup>Military Service Record of David A. Strachan, Co. B, 63 Pennsylvania Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>3</sup>Fox, p. 276. The 63rd Pennsylvania casualties for the two-day Battle of the Wilderness numbered 191, of which 48 were killed or mortally wounded.

<sup>4</sup>Military Service Record of George W. McCulloch, 63 Pennsylvania, National Archives.

<sup>5</sup>Samuel P. Bates, *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers 1861-1865*, (Harrisburg, Pa.: B. Singerly, 1869) Vol. 2, p. 496.

### **Redemption At Cold Harbor**

*Lieutenant Charles Reighley, Company A, 5th New York Veteran Infantry;  
Company E, 36th New York Infantry.*

Charles Reighley, a Michigan native, joined the 36th New York Infantry as a private in June 1861. After more than a year's service he was commissioned as a lieutenant on September 29, 1862. Reighley saw action with the regiment at the Union defeats at Fredericksburg, Virginia (December 12-15, 1862) and Chancellorsville, Virginia (May 2-4, 1863). He was on duty in New York City during the draft riots of July 13-15, 1863, the regiment's term of service expiring on the last day of the riot.<sup>1</sup>

Six weeks later, on August 28, 1863, in New York City, Reighley was mustered into the 5th New York Veteran Infantry as a first lieutenant. He was soon placed under arrest for "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," on September 26. A General Court Martial made a finding that Reighley used abusive language toward the Adjutant General and then refused to give up his sword after being ordered under arrest. Reighley was sentenced "to be dismissed from the service of the United States." However, the court proceedings were lost and a new trial was ordered. Reighley was held in confinement while the regiment left New York bound for Washington. In a letter to Major General Dix, Reighley requested to go south with his regiment:

. . . I have been in service over two years and was promoted on the field and do feel proud of the position I hold. I am now mustered in as a veteran officer of the two year's service and have enlisted a great many of my old comrades. What I desire once more [is] to lead in sustaining the honor of the flag I was born under and for which I have already done my little might to uphold. I appeal to you as an officer, as [a] man of heart and a gentleman to order my release.<sup>2</sup>

Reighley was removed as lieutenant and reduced to the non-commissioned rank of sergeant.

As Union forces pursued the Confederate army after the Battle of Spotsylvania, the 5th New York Veteran Infantry was deployed on the Union right flank, near Cold Harbor. On June 2, 1864, the 5th New York and its brigade repulsed an attack made by Confederates under General Jubal Early.<sup>3</sup> Reighley's service record indicates that on the date of this attack he was promoted to lieutenant and received a gun shot wound of the left shoulder, the "ball entering [the] back of [the] left shoulder in an oblique direction towards the spine producing paralysis of lower extremities."<sup>4</sup> This was possibly a "tombstone promotion," a promotion designed to honor a mortally wounded soldier.

On June 7, 1864, Reighley was admitted to Armory Square Hospital in Washington. The twenty-four-year-old former clerk died the next day and was buried on June 9 at the Rose Garden of Arlington House.<sup>5</sup> At Cold Harbor, Virginia, Lieutenant Charles Reighley sustained the honor of the flag he was born under.

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of Charles Reighley, Company E, 36 New York Infantry, National Archives, and Dyer, p. 1417.

<sup>2</sup>Military Service Record of Charles Reighley, Company A, 5 New York Veteran Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>3</sup>*Official Records*, Vol. 36, Part I, Reports, p.558.

<sup>4</sup>Military Service Record of Charles Reighley.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*, and *Register of Burials*.



## The German Rangers

*Captain Walter Von Auw, Company H, 52nd New York Infantry*

On May 12, 1864, at 4:35 A.M. the Army of the Potomac, after virtually seven days of continuous fighting, launched a massive assault on Confederate lines. The focal point in the attack was known as “the Angle” or “the Salient.” Among the numerous regiments involved in the attack was the 52 New York Infantry, known as the German Rangers since it was composed of men of German birth. Commanding the soldiers of Company H was twenty-seven-year-old Walter Von Auw of Larnessdorf, Prussia.<sup>1</sup>

Von Auw had enlisted as a private on March 13, 1863. Within a month he was promoted to sergeant. During the Battle of Gettysburg, Von Auw was “seriously wounded [with a] gunshot wound of the arm and abdomen.” Von Auw was hospitalized from July 2 to early October. Upon his discharge from a Philadelphia hospital he was commissioned as second lieutenant of Company H. On January 6, 1864, he was promoted to captain. In less than ten months, Walter Von Auw had advanced from private to captain.<sup>2</sup>

During the fighting at the Angle, in the Battle of Spotsylvania, on May 12, 1864, the German Rangers, and other regiments of Brigadier General Francis Barlow’s Division, overwhelmed the portion of the “The Bloody Angle” defended by a brigade of Virginia regiments under the command of General George Steuart. (See this footnote for an explanation of company, regiment, brigade, and division.) There were approximately 7,000 Union casualties and 6,000 Confederate casualties from the May 12th fighting.<sup>3</sup> Listed on a casualty sheet was Von Auw — a minie ball entering and passing through his knee.<sup>4</sup>

On May 25, 1864, Von Auw was admitted to Emery Hospital in Washington, D.C. His wound was described as “very unhealthy, discharging a dark matter, . . . gangrenous.” For Von Auw’s treatment, openings were made for the wound to drain. Flax seed and brewers yeast was then applied to the wound. At the time of the Civil War, infection was thought to be part of the healing process as Civil War physicians had no knowledge of disease-producing microorganisms.<sup>5</sup>

Van Auw succumbed to the infection on June 11, 1864. He was buried on June 13 at 11:00 A.M. at the Arlington House Rose Garden. Captain Von Auw’s personal effects, including his sword, were turned over to his brother, Ewan Von Auw of Brooklyn, New York. Von Auw, who was single, was also survived by his father who resided in Prussia.<sup>6</sup> Captain Von Auw’s grave marker incorrectly lists May 16 as his date of death and misspells the prefix before his surname as “Van” instead of “Von.” His marker does, however, correctly list his regiment, the 52 New York Infantry (the German Rangers).

<sup>1</sup>William D. Matter, *If It Takes All Summer, The Battle of Spotsylvania*, (Chapel Hill; N.C.: UNC Press, 1988), pp. 191-97 and *Official Records*, Vol. 36, pp. 1021 and 1023, and Fox, p. 199.

<sup>2</sup>Military Service Record of Walter Von Auw (Aun), Company H, 52 New York, National Archives. *The Regimental Descriptive Book* of the 52 New York lists Von Auw's occupation as "soldier." Several Prussian army officers, on furlough, fought with the regiment. Also, it appears from Von Auw's service record that he was recruited by the regiment's commanding officer — Colonel Paul Frank. Perhaps these facts provide some reason for Von Auw's meteoric rise in rank.

<sup>3</sup>Matter, pp. 183-197, 267. During the Civil War the composition of units within the Union Army of the Potomac was as follows:

Company—consisted of 100 to 150 men, not including recruits. Companies were lettered A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, M (omitting J). Certain companies had nicknames such as the Tunbridge Light Infantry, Union Rifles,, etc.

Regiment—consisted of ten to twelve companies. Regiments were numbered, i.e., 100th Pennsylvania Infantry, and often had nicknames, the Roundheads, German Rangers, etc.

Brigade—consisted of five to nine regiments.

Division—consisted of two to four numbered brigades.

Army Corps—consisted of four numbered divisions. Corps were also numbered.

Compiled from *Official Records*, Vol. 36, Part I, Reports, pp. 136-149.

<sup>4</sup>Military Service Record of Walter Von Auw.

<sup>5</sup>Dr. Allan Charles, lecture, Civil War Medicine Seminar, March 31, 1990, East Carolina University and Military Service Record of Walter Von Auw.

<sup>6</sup>Military Service Record of Von Auw.

## Two Gallant Officers

### *Lieutenant William S. Woodruff, Company D, 1st Michigan Infantry*

The first burial on the south side of the Arlington House Rose Garden was First Lieutenant William S. Woodruff, Company D, 1st Michigan Volunteers, buried on June 29, 1864.<sup>1</sup> At Petersburg, Virginia, on June 25, Woodruff received a gunshot wound of his right side from a Confederate sharpshooter.<sup>2</sup> Woodruff died while in transit to Armory Square Hospital on June 28. Ironically, Woodruff had commanded the brigade ambulance train from September 1863 to April 1864. Prior to being assigned to the Ambulance Corps, Woodruff had been present at the Battle of Gettysburg (1863), receiving a self-described wound to the "left cheek." He had also been wounded, captured, and paroled at the Battle of Second Bull Run or Second Manassas on August 30, 1862, the regimental losses in this battle amounting to 178 out of 240 men engaged or 74 percent casualties!<sup>3</sup>

*Captain William Shoppee, Company B, 31st Maine Infantry;  
Company C, 6 Maine Infantry.*

Buried alongside Lieutenant Woodriff is Captain William Shoppee, the second burial on the south side of the Rose Garden. Shoppee not only received his mortal wound at the same place as Woodriff — Petersburg, Virginia, but on the same day — June 25, 1864, a day of relative calm between the Union and Confederate lines. On July 1, Shoppee was admitted to Armory Square Hospital in Washington, D.C. with a gunshot wound of his left shoulder. The twenty-five-year-old Shoppee died the next day, July 2, 1864, (not July 12 as engraved on his grave marker).<sup>4</sup>

In William Shoppee's military career he advanced in rank from private to captain. He enrolled as a private in Company C, 6th Maine Infantry on July 10, 1861, in Portland, Maine. Shoppee, a six feet two inch lumberman from Machias, Maine, was promoted to corporal on October 3, 1862.<sup>5</sup> The following year, after promotion to lieutenant, he and 320 of his comrades in the 6th Maine participated in what one historian notes as "no more brilliant action in the war than the affair at Rappahannock Station, Virginia, November 7, 1863."<sup>6</sup> In a rare Civil War night attack, the 6th Maine, in three lines of battle with fixed bayonets and uncapped rifles, charged and overtook an entrenched position after hand to hand fighting with the 8th Louisiana Infantry. The successful assault, supported by three other Union regiments, resulted in the humiliating capture of approximately 1,500 Confederate soldiers from Louisiana and North Carolina.<sup>7</sup>

In March 1864, Shoppee was commissioned as captain of Company B of the newly organized 31st Maine Infantry. The regiment left Maine on April 18 and was at the front, heavily engaged, in May at the Battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. On June 3, with Shoppee commanding company B, the regiment performed well during the fight at Bethesda Church. On June 25, before Petersburg during the siege, Shoppee received a gunshot wound of the left shoulder, possibly from a sharpshooter. Shoppee was one of approximately 500 casualties the 31st Maine sustained in just three months time.<sup>8</sup> Captain Shoppee succumbed to his wound and was buried at the Rose Garden on July 4, 1864, forty-eight days after the burial of Captain Albert Packard also of the 31st Maine.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>4</sup>Military Service Record of William S. Woodriff, Company D, 1st Michigan Infantry, National Archives. Woodriff was from the town of Marshall, in Jackson County, Michigan. He enlisted, at age 23, on July 16, 1861, at Ann Arbor. While the regiment was in drill camp, Woodriff was promoted to sergeant on September 8, 1861. He received his commission as second lieutenant on December 19, 1862.

<sup>5</sup>*Official Records*, Series I, Vol. 40, Part 1, Reports, page 465:

"The enemy's sharpshooters were very troublesome, picking off every

man who exposed himself. Lieut. William S. Woodruff was mortally wounded here [before Petersburg] by a sharpshooter on the 25th.”

<sup>3</sup>Military Service Record of William S. Woodruff and Fox, page 380.

<sup>4</sup>Military Service Record of William H. Shoppee (Schoppee), Company B, 31 Maine Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>5</sup>Military Service Record of William H. Shoppee, Company C, 6 Maine Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>6</sup>Fox, p. 128.

<sup>7</sup>Martin F. Graham and George F. Skoch, *Mine Run: A Campaign of Lost Opportunities*, (Lynchburg, Va.: H.E. Howard, Inc. 1987) pp. 20-26.

<sup>8</sup>Fox p. 128. See also *Official Records*, Vol. 40, Part I, p. 239.

<sup>9</sup>*Register of Burials*.

## Forlorn Frontal Attack

### *Lieutenant Edward S. Foster, Company C, 1st Maine Heavy Artillery*

The 13th officer buried at the Rose Garden was Edward S. Foster. Prior to the war, Foster, a farmer, had resided with his wife in the town of Trenton, in Hancock County, Maine. Foster enlisted in the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery on July 22, 1862. In 1863, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant on March 13, 1864.<sup>1</sup>

As the Union army maneuvered south to Petersburg, in June 1864, a massive assault on the Confederate lines was planned. The 1st Maine Heavy Artillery was designated as infantry and would be the center of the Union attack — an attack “500 yards across an open field in plain sight of the enemy, within easy range of their artillery.” On June 18, 1864, veteran regiments on the right and left of the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery were ordered forward but fell back due to heavy Confederate fire. The Maine soldiers, however, advanced. The six feet one inch Foster was among the officers leading the men from Maine. The regimental historian describes the charge as follows:

The earth was literally torn up with iron and lead. The field became a burning, seething, crashing, hissing hell, in which human courage, flesh, and bone were struggling with an impossibility, either to succeed or to return with much hope of life.<sup>2</sup>

In the doomed assault Lieutenant Edward Foster was wounded in the right hip, one of twenty-five officers of the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery hit. He was admitted to Seminary Hospital in Georgetown where he died on July

13 at the age of thirty-one.<sup>3</sup> The battle was lost but the regiment gained immortality: its loss was the greatest of any single Union regiment in any battle during the Civil War — 210 killed and mortally wounded, and about 422 wounded or missing. Of the approximately 2,047 Union regiments in the Civil War, the First Maine Heavy Artillery also sustained the greatest cumulative battle loss — 423 killed in less than ten months of action.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of Edward S. Foster, Company C, 1st Maine Heavy Artillery, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Horace H. Shaw and Charles J. House, *1st Maine Heavy Artillery, A History*, (Portland, Me.: 1903) p. 122.

<sup>3</sup>Military Service Record of Edward S. Foster.

<sup>4</sup>Fox, p. 125.



Foster was mortally wounded on June 18, 1864, at Petersburg, Virginia in the famous charge of the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery. The assault ranks as one of the Civil War's most disastrous.

## Canadian Defender At Fort Stevens

*Lieutenant John E. Bailey, Company A, 7th Maine Infantry*

Thirty-eight-year-old John Bailey was mustered into the 7th Maine as a sergeant on August 21, 1861, at Augusta, Maine. Bailey was born in New Brunswick, Canada.<sup>1</sup> He was soon heading south with his regiment to defend the federal capital, Washington, D.C. The 7th Maine fought with the Army of the Potomac in the Peninsular Campaign, at Antietam, at Gettysburg, and in the Virginia Campaign of 1864. When Confederate forces under General Jubal Early threatened Washington, D.C. in July 1864, several regiments were transported to that city from the front lines at Petersburg. Among the regiments transported was the 7th Maine whose term of service would soon expire on August 21, 1864.<sup>2</sup>

On July 12, 1864, Confederate troops probed the defenses at Fort Stevens, in the northwest quadrant of the City of Washington. Among those present was President Abraham Lincoln, a former officer in the Black Hawk War. During the half-hearted Confederate attack Bailey received a gunshot wound through both knees and was brought to Mt. Pleasant Hospital. On July 27, as his condition became worse, Bailey was transferred to Seminary Hospital in Georgetown, D.C. He was amputated at the thigh on July 29; however, he died two days later on July 31, 1864.<sup>3</sup> Bailey was buried at the Rose Garden on August 1, 1864.<sup>4</sup> He is possibly the only casualty from Fort Stevens buried at Arlington Cemetery as most of those killed or mortally wounded during that battle were buried at Battleground National Cemetery on Georgia Avenue. Bailey, a Canadian-born officer, died protecting a foreign capital and now rests for the ages at the Rose Garden of Arlington National Cemetery, America's most prominent cemetery.

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of John E. Bailey, Co. A, 7th Maine Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Fox, p. 129.

<sup>3</sup>Military Service Record of John E. Bailey.

<sup>4</sup>*Register of Burials*.

## Febris Typhoides

*Lieutenant O'Neil Coyle, Company K, 96th Pennsylvania Infantry*

Coyle, age twenty-eight, enlisted on September 23, 1861, and was commissioned as a lieutenant on October 30, 1861. He died on August 22, 1862, at Point Lookout, Maryland.<sup>1</sup> During the Civil War few officers died of disease compared to enlisted men. In the 96th Pennsylvania Infantry, eighty-six enlisted men died of disease. O'Neil Coyle was the only officer in the regiment to succumb to an illness.<sup>2</sup> His cause of death was listed as "febris

typhoides,” typhoid fever, a disease as deadly and as old as its Latin name.<sup>3</sup> Coyle’s remains were reinterred at the Rose Garden after the war.

*Captain Chauncey Wilkie, Company I, 14th New York Heavy Artillery*

Chauncey Wilkie, of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, was mustered into the 14th New York Heavy Artillery on January 1, 1864. Present from the Wilderness Campaign to the siege of Petersburg, twenty-eight-year-old Wilkie became ill with typhoid fever in July 1864.<sup>4</sup> He died on August 1, enroute to Washington, D.C. from City Point, Virginia, on a hospital ship.<sup>5</sup> He was buried on August 2, 1864, at the Rose Garden, his grave marker incorrectly listing January 7, 1864, as the date of his death.<sup>6</sup> Wilkie was one of 301 men in his regiment that died of disease, 75 more than died in battle.<sup>7</sup>Survivors included his wife, Betsy, and eight-year-old Howard C. Wilkie.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of O’Neil Coyle, Company K, 96 Pennsylvania Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Fox, p. 286.

<sup>3</sup>Military Service Record of O’Neil Coyle.

<sup>4</sup>Military Service Record of Chauncey Wilkie, Co. I, 14th New York Heavy Artillery, National Archives.

<sup>5</sup>Pension of Chauncey Wilkie, Widow Appl. 66941, Cert. 42986, September 30, 1864, National Archives.

<sup>6</sup>Military Service Record of Chauncey Wilkie.

<sup>7</sup>Dyer, p. 1386.

<sup>8</sup>Pension of Chauncey Wilkie.

## **A Salient At Spotsylvania**

*Lieutenant George P. Blanchard, Company D, 6th Maine Infantry*

George Blanchard, a native of Calais, Maine, enrolled in the 6th Maine on April 27, 1861. He was promoted to sergeant just prior to the regiment’s engagement at Chancellorsville (May 3, 1863) and he was commissioned as a first lieutenant after the night assault at Rappahannock Station (November 7, 1863). In May 1864, Blanchard was with the Army of the Potomac as they crossed the Rapidan River in the Virginia Campaign of 1864.<sup>1</sup>

On the third day of fighting in the series of encounters referred to as the Battle of Spotsylvania, May 10, 1864, Union General Emory Upton proposed a concentrated attack at a salient defended by General George Doles’s Georgians in the entrenched Confederate lines. The assault was to consist of twelve regiments, including the 6th Maine. The 6:00 P.M. Union assault captured 950 Confederates at the salient before being forced back.<sup>2</sup> During the Union advance, twenty-eight-year-old Lieutenant Blanchard received a gunshot

wound to his left shoulder joint. He was admitted to Seminary Hospital in Georgetown, D.C. on May 25, 1864. The doctors there performed a resection on Blanchard's left arm. Blanchard's company captain, Edward Williams, visited him at Seminary Hospital on July 3, 1864. Williams described Blanchard as "sick and very low." Blanchard died a month later on August 6, 1864, and was buried the next day at the southeast corner of the Rose Garden. Surviving Lieutenant Blanchard were his parents, Mary and Silas Blanchard.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of George P. Blanchard, Co. D, 6 Maine Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>William D. Matter, *If It Takes All Summer, The Battle of Spotsylvania* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press 1988) pp. 156-67.

<sup>3</sup>Pension of George P. Blanchard, Mother Appl. 104631, Cert. 65560, August 3, 1865. National Archives and *Register of Burials*.

### **Totopotomoy Casualty**

*Lieutenant Fred H. Howard, Company F, 2nd New York Heavy Artillery*

On October 27, 1861, twenty-two-year-old Fred Howard was mustered into the service as a private. Howard, an unmarried clerk, was from the small town of Gilbertsville, (thirty miles southwest of Cooperstown), in Otsego County, New York, although he was born in England.<sup>1</sup> On November 7, 1861, the 2nd New York Heavy Artillery left New York for Washington, where it was stationed at Arlington, Virginia, part of the defensive perimeter around the federal capital.<sup>2</sup> Howard was detailed as a clerk to the Judge Advocate and appointed corporal on January 1, 1863. The courts martial in which Howard served as clerk were conducted at Fort Woodbury (by today's Arlington Courthouse) and Fort Albany (by the junction of South Arlington Ridge Road and South Nash Sreet, at I-395).<sup>3</sup> Howard was detailed as a "regimental mail carrier" in November 1863, the company muster roll listing him in "Arlington, Virginia."<sup>4</sup> On January 5, 1864, Howard re-enlisted as a "veteran volunteer" at Fort Corcoran, Arlington, Virginia. After returning from a thirty-day furlough, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant on May 14, 1864, at Fort Corcoran (now the location of Arlington County Public Schools' Wilson Center, 1601 Wilson Boulevard). After more than two years of duty within the Arlington defenses, Howard and the 2nd New York Heavy Artillery joined the Army of the Potomac at Belle Plain, Virginia on May 16, 1864.<sup>5</sup> Howard would soon return to Arlington — for the ages.

Although most of the soldiers of the 2nd New York Heavy Artillery had been in the service since October 1861, they had never been in a battle. Union army combat veterans "looked down upon [these "veteran volunteers"] as nothing more than raw recruits."<sup>6</sup> On May 19, 1864, Confederate Second Corps soldiers under the command of General Richard Ewell attacked the rear of the Army of the Potomac. Among the troops in the Union rear which



received the surprise Confederate assault were those of the 2nd New York Heavy Artillery under the command of Brigadier General Robert Tyler.<sup>7</sup> The regiment, functioning as infantry, sustained 117 casualties, out of a total of 1,400 Union casualties, in what is called the Battle of Harris's Farm, the conclusion of twelve consecutive days of fighting collectively designated as the Battle of Spotsylvania. The successful counterattack of the 2nd New York Heavy Artillery, and other untested regiments, helped win the battle and the respect of Union veterans.<sup>8</sup>

As the Army of the Potomac, under General Ulysses S. Grant, maneuvered around the right flank of General Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army they became engaged in battle on May 31, 1864, at Totopotomoy River, Virginia. The 2nd New York Heavy Artillery, advancing as infantry, sustained ninety-one casualties in that battle, the most in its brigade of six regiments.<sup>9</sup> Among the casualties was twenty-five-year-old Fred Howard who received a gunshot wound in his left thigh, fracturing his femur just above the knee.<sup>10</sup> Howard's left thigh, middle third, was amputated at Seminary Hospital, Georgetown, D.C. He died on August 17, 1864. It appears that on August 18, 1864, Lieutenant Howard was embalmed and brought across the Aqueduct Bridge to Arlington, Virginia accompanied by a "military escort with Band of music," as said escort with band was so ordered.<sup>11</sup> Howard was then interred atop the rolling hills of the Arlington estate at the Rose Garden, where he remains today.

<sup>7</sup>Military Service Record of Fred H. Howard, Company F, 2nd New York Heavy Artillery, National Archives.

<sup>8</sup>Dyer, p. 1383.

<sup>9</sup>Military Service Record of Fred Howard and Arlington County Bicentennial Commission, *Historic Arlington*, (Arlington, Va.: Arlington Co. Historic Commission, 1976), pp. 16-17. See also, Benjamin F. Cooling III and Walton H. Owen II, *Mr. Lincoln's Forts* (Shippensburg, Pa.: White Mane Publishing Company, 1988), pp. 87-89, 101-102, 104-05, 107-09.

<sup>10</sup>Military Service Record of Fred H. Howard.

<sup>11</sup>*Official Records*, Vol. 36, Part I, Reports, p. 376.

<sup>12</sup>William A. Frassanito, *Grant and Lee, The Virginia Campaigns 1864-1865* (New York, N.Y.: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1983), pp. 106-08.

<sup>13</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup>*Ibid* and *Official Records*, Vol. 36, Part I Reports, p. 140.

<sup>15</sup>*Official Records*, Vol. 36, Part I Reports, p. 153.

<sup>16</sup>Military Service Record of of Fred H. Howard and *Official Records*, Vol. 36, Part I Reports, p. 371.

<sup>17</sup>Military Service Record of Fred H. Howard.

## Battle At The Crater

*Captain Allen A. Burnett, Company K, 37th Wisconsin Infantry;  
Company C, 18th Wisconsin Infantry*

Allen Burnett enrolled as a private in the 18th Wisconsin Infantry on November 26, 1861, at Springville, Wisconsin. On December 9, 1862, he was appointed sergeant. Six weeks later Burnett was commissioned as a second lieutenant on January 23, 1862. Burnett resigned his commission in July 1862, as he had been severely ill "for the last forty days." However, two years later, on July 8, 1864, Burnett was mustered in as a captain in Company K of the newly formed 37th Wisconsin Infantry. The regiment's first action would be at Petersburg, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

During the siege of Petersburg, coal miners in the 48th Pennsylvania Infantry dug a tunnel extending from their lines to the Confederate works. At dawn on July 30, 1864, the explosion of 320 kegs of gunpowder placed under a section of the Confederate line signaled a Union attack on the Confederate defenses. Among the regiments of the Union Ninth Army Corps that advanced after the explosion was the 37th Wisconsin, having been with the army in the field for only six weeks.<sup>2</sup>

The Union advance halted near the site of the explosion as hundreds of soldiers paused to gape at the gigantic hole, known as 'The Crater.' Confederate artillery was quick to respond and poured a murderous fire into the breach, a shell wounding Captain Burnett in the "left shoulder and head."<sup>3</sup> The 37th Wisconsin sustained a severe loss of 145 casualties out of 250 soldiers engaged as they attempted, with other Union regiments, to hold their position at the "left of [the] crater."<sup>4</sup> However, a fierce Confederate counter-attack led by Brigadier General William Malone's troops forced a Union withdrawal.

Burnett was transported to Armory Square Hospital in Washington, D.C., his skull fractured. He died from his head wound on August 16, 1864, and was buried two days later at the Rose Garden. An orderly sergeant from company K described Captain Burnett, posthumously, as a "man very well thought of by the men in his company." Burnett's widow, Sarah, applied for a pension forty-eight days after Burnett's death. She died at Staten Island, New York in 1918, outliving Allen Burnett by 54 years.<sup>5</sup> The Rose Garden grave marker of Captain Burnett faces east in the direction of the National Archives, two and one-half miles away, the legacy of a man who advanced from the rank of private to captain kept alive by the records held at that depository.

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of Allen A. Burnett, Co. C, 18 Wisconsin Infantry, and Co. K, 37 Wisconsin Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Michael A. Cavanaugh, *The Battle of the Crater*, (Lynchburg, Va.: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1989) pp. 8-12, 123.

<sup>3</sup>Pension of Allen A. Burnett, Widow Appl. 67188, Cert. 41296, October 3, 1864 and Minor Appl. 1703178, Cert. 130657, January 4, 1869, National Archives.

<sup>4</sup>Fox, p. 401 and *Official Records*, Vol. 40, Part 1, Reports, pp. 198, 578.

<sup>5</sup>Pension of Allen A. Burnett.



Burnett died on August 16, 1864, from a shell wound to head received at the Battle of the Crater on July 30, 1864. He was buried on August 18, 1864, in the Rose Garden — an elite burial spot for officers during the Civil War.

### **The Excelsior Brigade at Bristoe Station**

Company F of the 73rd New York Infantry mustered in three soldiers named John McGuire. One deserted, one was wounded and permanently disabled at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863, and one is buried in the most famous cemetery in the United States. The John McGuire buried at the Rose Garden of Arlington House enlisted on August 15, 1861, at the age of twenty-three. In two weeks time he was promoted to corporal. On August 27, 1862, John McGuire, while serving as a corporal in the color guard, was killed in the battle of Bristoe Station, a prelude to the Battle of Second Manassas.<sup>1</sup>

During the summer of 1864, Union front lines were below Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Manassas area, being considerably in the rear of the front lines, was now under Union control. Near Bristoe Station John McGuire's

grave was identified, probably by a wooden marker, his body exhumed and reinterred at the Rose Garden on September 11, 1864. However, on that date McGuire was incorrectly listed in the Arlington Cemetery register of burials as “Cpt. Exc. [Excelsior] Brigade.”<sup>2</sup> It appears that at some point from McGuire’s exhumation to the reinterment someone mistook a Cpl [Corporal] notation for Cpt [Captain].

The Excelsior Brigade, composed of the 70, 71, 72, 73 and 74 New York infantry, had distinctive uniform buttons emblazoned with, among other things, the word “Excelsior.” These buttons probably assisted in confirming McGuire’s brigade after two years under Virginia soil. Rank could not be confirmed by insignia or chevrons as the clothing had certainly decomposed after two years. Accordingly, “Captain” McGuire was buried where all Union commissioned officers were buried during the war — the Rose Garden. Non-commissioned officers, corporals and sergeants, were buried with the privates. Today, Corporal McGuire’s grave marker notes both his non-commissioned rank and his final resting place among the most elite Civil War burials of Arlington Cemetery.

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Records of three John McGuires, Company F, 73 New York Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>*Register of Burials*.

## **The Rose Garden Exhumations**

### *Captain James McComb, Company D, 12th New Jersey Infantry*

After nearly a year’s service as a sergeant in the 10th New Jersey, James McComb was mustered in as a lieutenant in the newly-formed 12th New Jersey Infantry on September 6, 1862.<sup>1</sup> Appointed captain on March 3, 1863, McComb led Company D at the Battle of Chancellorsville, the regiment sustaining 178 casualties.<sup>2</sup> At Gettysburg, McComb and other regimental officers were commended for “meritorious conduct” for driving Confederate sharpshooters from a barn near the Union line and for their leadership in “repulsing an attacking force [the famous Pickett-Pettigrew Charge] made by the enemy” on July 3, 1863.<sup>3</sup>

Captain McComb was present commanding his company during the 1864 Virginia Campaign battles at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor. During action at Cold Harbor, on June 3, 1864, a shell fragment hit McComb in the left thigh, fracturing his femur. He was admitted to Armory Square Hospital in Washington on June 7 where the lower third of his thigh was amputated. The twenty-five-year-old McComb succumbed to the wound on July 2 and was buried on July 4, 1864, at the Rose Garden.<sup>4</sup> Captain McComb’s remains, having rested next to the grave of David Strachen for

less than three weeks, were exhumed on July 22, 1864. McComb was reinterred at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, just across the Delaware River from his former residence of Camden, New Jersey.<sup>5</sup>

*Lieutenant William H. Earl, Company B, 37th Wisconsin Infantry and  
Company F, 35th Wisconsin Infantry.*

On April 17, 1864, William Earl, a native of New York, was mustered in as a lieutenant at Madison, Wisconsin. He had previously served three months with the 35th Wisconsin Infantry. Earl's first battle was the June 17, 1864, Union charge at Petersburg, also known as [Brigadier General Orlando) Wilcox's Assault.<sup>6</sup> Before the 2:00 P.M. attack various Union assault regiments were positioned between the 37th Wisconsin on the right flank and the 2nd Michigan on the left flank. However, the 2nd Michigan was misaligned at a 45 degree angle. Subsequently, the oblique advance of the 2nd Michigan towards the Union center forced regiments to overlap each other from left to right. This forced the Wisconsinites to "half wheel to the right," exposing their flank to Confederate artillery and rifle fire. There was no counter-battery fire planned to occupy the entrenched defenders. Accordingly, many soldiers were hit in the side and back.<sup>7</sup>

Among the wounded was Lieutenant Earl who received a bullet wound to his back while leading his men.<sup>8</sup> The 37th Wisconsin suffered 138 casualties during the assault, including 58 killed or mortally wounded. A Wisconsinite from the 37th wrote, "I do not suppose that a more disheartened and . . . broken down set of men ever met together, than the scattered fragments of our regiment . . . after our ill-fated charge."<sup>9</sup> The severely wounded Earl was admitted to Finley Hospital in Washington, D.C. on June 24. Earl, age forty-four, died on July 4, 1864, and was buried on July 6. Surviving Earl was his wife, Ellen, who resided at Rutland (Bane County) Wisconsin. Earl's remains were exhumed from the Rose Garden, next to John McGuire's grave, and possibly reinterred at the cemetery of the Wisconsin church he had led as minister.<sup>10</sup>

*Lieutenant Daniel L. Dubbs, Company D,  
2nd Pennsylvania (Provisional) Heavy Artillery*

Daniel Dubbs, a twenty-three-year-old student, enlisted into the military on September 12, 1862, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A native of Montgomery, Ohio, Dubbs was five feet eleven inches with blue eyes and light hair. During the early part of the war Dubbs was stationed in the defenses of Washington, D.C., including duty at Fort Corcoran in Arlington, Virginia. On May 1, 1863, Dubbs was promoted to sergeant and served as

a duty clerk at Brigade Headquarters for the next ten months. On April 28, 1864, Dubbs was commissioned as a lieutenant and was stationed at Fort Ethan Allen, (a fort built by Vermont soldiers in 1861 located at the end of Military Road, near Chain Bridge in Arlington, Virginia).<sup>11</sup>

After nearly two years of guard duty around Washington, the 2nd Pennsylvania (Provisional) Heavy Artillery was designated as infantry and ordered to the front, at Petersburg, Virginia in June 1864. Lieutenant Dubbs and his regiment soon received their baptism of blood. On June 17, 1864, the Second Pennsylvania (Provisional) Heavy Artillery, among other regiments, "charged, with severe loss, and took a line of [Confederate] works" before the City of Petersburg. A Confederate counter-attack, however, regained the position.<sup>12</sup> During the fighting Daniel Dubbs received a "gunshot wound of both hips." On June 24, 1864, he was admitted to Finley Hospital in Washington. Dubbs died on July 7, 1864, within three weeks from receiving a wound in his first battle. He was transported across the Potomac River and buried on the heights of the east side of the Rose Garden on July 10. His effects were sent to this brother-in-law, Adam Clay, of Miamisburg, Ohio.<sup>13</sup> Four months later, on November 17, 1864, the remains of Lieutenant Daniel Dubbs were exhumed, and possibly returned to his native state of Ohio.<sup>14</sup>

#### *Lieutenant Hartman S. Felt, Company B, 7th Michigan Infantry*

Twenty-five-year-old Hartman Felt enlisted as a corporal in the 7th Michigan on August 20, 1861. Felt, an unmarried farmer from Grass Lake, Michigan (twenty-five miles west of Ann Arbor) was unscathed in battle until May 31, 1862, at Fair Oaks Station, Virginia. During the afternoon action at Fair Oaks (or Seven Pines, six miles west of the corporate limits of Richmond), Virginia, Corporal Felt was "wounded in [the] head." After nearly four months of hospitalization, he returned to his regiment and was present at the battles of Fredericksburg (1862) and Gettysburg (1863). Having spent the previous six months recruiting in Michigan, Felt was commissioned as a captain on July 3, 1864.<sup>15</sup>

On August 14, 1864, at Deep Bottom, Virginia (south of Richmond along the James River) the 7th Michigan and other Union regiments attacked Confederate works near Fussell's Mills.<sup>16</sup> During the unsuccessful assault Lieutenant Felt received a "gunshot wound in [his] left side." He died ten days later, on August 24, at Armory Square Hospital in Washington. He was buried at the Rose Garden on August 26, across the river from the federal seat of government. Among Felts' personal effects was a gold breast pin of the Masonic Order, a fraternal organization founded in England in 1717.<sup>17</sup> Lieutenant Felts' remains were exhumed from their Rose Garden

location between the graves of Fred Howard and Dr. Robert Sibald on March 4, 1865, creating a large gap that remains unoccupied to this day.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of James McComb, Co. D, 12 New Jersey, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid, and Fox, p. 251.

<sup>3</sup>*Official Records*, Vol 27, Part I Reports, pp. 470-71.

<sup>4</sup>Military Service Record of McComb.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid, and *Register of Burials*.

<sup>6</sup>Military Service Record of William H. Earl, Co. F, 35 Wisconsin, and Co. B, 37 Wisconsin, National Archives.

<sup>7</sup>Thomas J. Howe, *The Petersburg Campaign, Wasted Valor, June 15-18, 1864.*, pp. 75-79. and *Official Records*, Vol. 40, Part I Reports, p. 583.

<sup>8</sup>Military Service Record of William H. Earl.

<sup>9</sup>Howe, p. 78.

<sup>10</sup>Military Service Record of Earl, and *Register of Burials*.

<sup>11</sup>Military Service Record of Daniel L. Dubbs, Co. D, 2 Pennsylvania (Provisional) Heavy Artillery, National Archives.

<sup>12</sup>*Official Records*, Vol. 40, Part I Reports, p. 195.

<sup>13</sup>Military Service Record of Daniel L. Dubbs.

<sup>14</sup>*Register of Burials*.

<sup>15</sup>Military Service Record of Hartman S. Felt, Co. B, 7th Michigan Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>16</sup>*Official Records*, Vol. 42, Part I Reports, p. 301.

<sup>17</sup>Military Service Record of Hartman Felt.

<sup>18</sup>*Register of Burials*.

## The Young Major

*Major David F. Cole, 107th United States Colored Troops, Company D,  
12th Vermont Infantry*

David Cole, born in Grafton, New Hampshire, mustered into the 12th Vermont as a captain of Company D, the Tunbridge Light Infantry on August 22, 1862. His term of service was nine months.<sup>1</sup> The 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th Vermont Infantry regiments were each mustered in for nine months service. Most Union regiments organized in 1862, were mustered in for three-year terms, the Vermont regiments being an exception.<sup>2</sup>

Cole's chief task consisted of guard duty at forts and defenses in Northern Virginia. In July 1863, the regiment was detached as a train guard, transporting captured Confederate soldiers of the Gettysburg campaign to Baltimore, Maryland.<sup>3</sup> As the regiment was not engaged in battle (except for a midnight volley fired at a small band of Confederate cavalry on December 28, 1862, at Fairfax Court House), the 12th Vermont sustained no battle deaths. However, 67 members of the regiment died of disease during nine months of service.<sup>4</sup>

On June 14, 1864, Cole was commissioned as a major in the 107th United States Colored Troops, organized at Louisville, Kentucky.<sup>5</sup> It is likely that Cole spent a considerable amount of time recruiting and organizing this

black regiment as that was often a prerequisite to a commission, particularly a commission for the rank of major. During the Civil War only white males could be commissioned officers, i.e., lieutenant, captain, major and colonel. Accordingly, the only ranks a black male could attain were corporal and sergeant, both non-commissioned offices.

While the regiment was in transit from Baltimore to City Point, Virginia, Cole was admitted to an officers hospital at Point of Rocks, Virginia. On January 7, 1865, he died of typhoid fever, a disease which generally had its greatest effect on new recruits.<sup>6</sup> During the Civil War approximately 40 percent of the soldiers who developed typhoid fever died from its effects.<sup>7</sup>

Major Cole was buried at the Rose Garden at the age of twenty-seven.<sup>8</sup> It's uncertain who placed the private grave marker, one of only two private grave markers at the Rose Garden. Possibly it was placed by the executor of his estate, A.G. Riddle, Esquire.

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of David F. Cole, Company D, 12th Vermont, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Dyer pp. 1953-54. In June 1861, the terms of Union regiments were of various increments: one week (David Dary, "Lane's Frontier Guard from Kansas," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, Volume XI, Number 5, August 1972, p. 14), 90 days, 100 days, one year, two years. Of note is that the term of service frequently found in Confederate muster rolls is "for the war."

<sup>3</sup>Dyer p. 1653.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 1738, and Military Service Record of David F. Cole, 107th United States Colored Troops, National Archives.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Civil War Medicine Seminar, March 31, 1990, East Carolina University.

<sup>8</sup>Military Service Record of David F. Cole, 107th U.S.C.T.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

## Rose Garden Doctors

*Dr. Robert Jamieson Sibbald, Assistant Contract Surgeon and  
Dr. Richard Fawcett, Assistant Surgeon, 155th New York Infantry*

On April 30, 1861, as the Civil War was commencing, Dr. Robert Sibbald was exchanging wedding vows with Mathilda Latham at St. Philip's Church in Liverpool, England, the place of his nativity. Two children were born during their marriage: Thomas on November 11, 1862, and Annie on April 28, 1864.<sup>1</sup>

In 1862, Dr. Sibbald travelled to the United States and became connected with the medical staff of the United States Sanitary Commission, a "volunteer benevolent organization." The commission raised funds, purchased and distributed "food, clothing, medicines and supplies [and] provided scores of nurses and doctors."<sup>2</sup> Between 1862 and 1864, Sibbald worked with the



commission, visiting his family in Liverpool several times during that period. Accepting duty as a contract surgeon, he reported for duty at Harewood Hospital on August 20, 1864.<sup>3</sup>

Dr. Sibbald became ill while on duty on August 31, 1864. He died on September 4, 1864, at Harewood Hospital, of “acute dysentery,” inflammation of the intestines.<sup>4</sup> The U.S. Medical Department records conservatively attribute 57,265 deaths to dysentery and diarrhea, said deaths peaking in the warm summer months.<sup>5</sup> Sibbald was buried at the Rose Garden on September 6, 1864, his grave marker omitting a ‘b’ in his last name.<sup>6</sup>

Dr. Richard W. Fawcett is the other doctor buried among the fifty Rose Garden burials. Fawcett, age thirty, was commissioned on September 26, 1862, at New York City to serve three years as an assistant surgeon in the 155th New York Infantry. He died at a hospital near Fairfax Station, Virginia, on January 22, 1864, of diarrhea.<sup>7</sup> His remains were exhumed from the field hospital and reinterred on the south side of the Rose Garden between 1866 and 1869. The headstone misspells his names as Faucett.

Medical officers Dr. Sibbald and Dr. Fawcett both perished while attending to the needs of sick and wounded soldiers. It appears that they more than lived up to their Hippocratic Oath. Although the Civil War era represents a low point in medical history, a special tribute must be paid to the doctors of the Civil War who, despite technological lag and hospitals overwhelmed with ill and wounded soldiers, generally performed the best they could under the circumstances.

<sup>1</sup>Pension of Dr. Robert J. Sibbald, Widow Appl. 115155, November 13, 18654, and Minor Appl. 637052, Cert. 449779, July 7, 1896, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Bell Wiley, *The Life of Billy Yank, The Common Soldier of the Union*, (Baton Rouge, La.: LSU Press, 1952) p. 150.

<sup>3</sup>Pension of Dr. Robert J. Sibbald.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Wiley, pp. 136-7.

<sup>6</sup>*Register of Burials*.

<sup>7</sup>Frederick Pfisterer, *New York in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865*, (Albany, N.Y.: Lyon Company, 1909), Vol. 5, p. 3812.

## Private Bradley's Salvation

### *Private Monroe Bradley, Company G, 187th New York Infantry*

At Avon, New York, on the Genesee River, on September 10, 1864, eighteen-year-old Monroe Bradley enlisted for one year's service. Bradley, a farmer from West Bloomfield, Ontario County, New York, received an enlistment bounty payment of \$33.33 with \$66.67 to be paid later in installments.<sup>1</sup> Bradley was not with his regiment as they left New York for Petersburg, Virginia, on October 15, 1864.<sup>2</sup> In attempting to rejoin his unit

in the field Bradley was “sent to Harper’s Ferry [West Virginia] through mistake.” He finally reached the regiment on November 1, 1864, at Peebles Farm, near Petersburg, Virginia. However, seventeen days later he was ill in the hospital.<sup>3</sup>

Bradley was transported to Stanton Hospital in Washington, D.C., where he died on December 5, 1864, of diphtheria. Stanton Hospital records and Arlington Cemetery Records list Bradley as a second lieutenant. Since the Rose Garden was the selected ground for officer burials at Arlington Cemetery during the Civil War, “Lieutenant” Bradley was interred among the elite on December 6, 1864.<sup>4</sup> Bradley’s company commander, when advised of Bradley’s “commissioned” status penned the following:

Camp in the Field near  
Petersburg, Va. Dec. 13/64

Respectively returned for correction. Munroe Bradley was  
*not* a Lieut. Was a Private. Sent to Hospital from this Regt.  
in November last, and was a member of my company.

Frank Macenion  
Capt. Commanding Co “G”

187 Regt NY Vols<sup>5</sup>

Private Bradley, in his brief military career, was accidentally sent to the wrong encampment (Harper’s Ferry instead of Petersburg) and was interred at an incorrect burial site (the Rose Garden instead of sections 13 or 27). Nevertheless, he remains at the hallowed south end of the Rose Garden, the only private buried in this officer’s section during the Civil War.

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of Monroe (Munroe) Bradley, Co. G, 187 New York Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Dyer, pp. 1470-71.

<sup>3</sup>Military Service Record of Monroe Bradley.

<sup>4</sup>*Roll of Honor*, (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1869), Vol. 1, Parts 1-6, p. 115. *Roll of Honor*, which is derived from burial records, incorrectly lists Bradley as a second lieutenant.

<sup>5</sup>Military Service Record of Bradley.

## The Tennessee Captain

### *Captain Jacob F. Ziegler, Company E, 5th Tennessee Infantry*

Jacob Ziegler was mustered into service as a captain on March 29, 1862, at Barbourville, Kentucky. From 1862 to 1864, Ziegler and his regiment fought exclusively in the western theater of the Civil War, i.e., Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia. In March 1864, Ziegler requested leave to visit his wife and children at Meigs County, Tennessee, claiming that he had not been home for two and one-half years and that “everything had been taken from my family and I want to procure them subsistence.” Subsequent to

that visit Ziegler was hospitalized on June 21, 1864. By October he had returned to his regiment.<sup>1</sup>

The 5th Tennessee was briefly stationed at Washington, D.C., in mid-January 1865.<sup>2</sup> As the regiment sailed down the Potomac River destined for Fort Fisher, North Carolina, Captain Ziegler remained behind at Seminary Hospital in Georgetown. He died of bronchitis on February 6, 1865, at the age of forty-six. Captain Ziegler was buried the next day on the east side at the Rose Garden, the 9th Veteran Reserve Corps being ordered to “furnish the proper escort and music.”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of Jacob F. Ziegler, Co. E, 5th Tennessee, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Dyer, p. 1645.

<sup>3</sup>Military Service Record of Jacob F. Ziegler.

## The Traveler

### *Lieutenant John Golding, Company C, 16th New York Calvary*

On July 7, 1865, John Golding’s body was brought from Lincoln Barracks and buried in Block C, grave 27, the Rose Garden grave closest to Arlington House. He had died on July 5, at the age of twenty-nine, in the house of a Washington woman who had furnished him “bad whiskey.” Golding, a native of Liverpool, England, had no relatives in the United States at the time of his death. England was his residence prior to enlistment. He was not married. *The Company Descriptive Book* describes Golding as:

Height 5 feet 9 inches.

Complexion dark

Eyes dark; hair black

Where born: Liverpool, England

Occupation: traveler

The Beatles, also from Liverpool, would sing a century later — “He’s a real ‘Nowhere Man.’” The song appears somewhat fitting for John Golding.

Golding joined the 16th New York Cavalry on April 7, 1863, at Buffalo, New York, presumably for adventure. He was promoted to sergeant in Company B in July 1864. On December 27, 1864 he received a commission as second lieutenant of Company C and began commanding that company. Company rolls report Golding as sick in March and May 1865. On June 17, 1865, he offered his resignation “on account of important private business,” not mentioning his illness. His resignation was granted on June 26, 1865. Nine days later he died of “exhaustion following cerebral congestion.” His grave marker, 105 feet from the Arlington House mansion, spells his name as “Goulding” but some service records spell his name the way he signed his letter of resignation, “Golding.”<sup>1</sup>

## Men of Granite

### *Lieutenant George W. George, Company I, 5th New Hampshire*

On October 22, 1861, at Concord, New Hampshire, George was mustered in as a first sergeant. The regimental descriptive roster lists his occupation — clerk, his birthplace — Amherst, his age — twenty-nine, his height — five feet eleven inches, his eyes — blue, his complexion and hair — light. Shortly after experiencing his first major battles, Fair Oaks (May 31-June 1) and the Seven Day's Battle before Richmond (June 25 to July 1), George was commissioned as a second lieutenant on August 1, 1862.<sup>1</sup>

During the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, George, by his own account, “received a minie ball wound in the left leg which completely shattered both bones of the leg above the ankle joint.”<sup>2</sup> George was hit as the 5th New Hampshire was advancing on the extreme right of the Confederate position known as Bloody Lane, the men from the Granite State sustaining 111 casualties.<sup>3</sup> George's leg was amputated on September 21, 1862.<sup>4</sup> After five months of hospitalization, he resigned from the service on March 7, 1863.<sup>5</sup> He immediately filed, and was granted, an invalid pension from the federal government. On April 10, 1865, George began work as a clerk in the Quartermaster's Department of Washington, D.C. He worked in that



George received a wound at Antietam on September 17, 1862, that resulted in the amputation of his left leg. He was one of the last officers buried in the Rose Garden.

department until June 6, 1866, at which time his suspended pension was reinstated.<sup>6</sup>

For the next nine years George lived with his wife Esther on I Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. George suffered constantly from his wartime wound which required a frequent change of dressings. He passed up an opportunity for the government to provide him with an artificial leg, opting instead for financial compensation.<sup>7</sup> He died at the age of forty-three on December 2, 1875, and was buried immediately thereafter, making him one of the last soldiers buried at the Rose Garden.<sup>8</sup> Surviving George was his wife, Esther, and the legacy of the 5th New Hampshire — a steadfast regiment which suffered the greatest battle loss of any Union infantry or cavalry regiment in the Civil War, 295 killed or mortally wounded and 756 wounded.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of George W. George, Co. I, 5th New Hampshire, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Pension of George W. George, Invalid Appl. 17018, Cert. 21057, April 6, 1863, and Widow Appl. 232098, Cert. 181506, June 27, 1877, National Archives.

<sup>3</sup>Stephen W. Sears, *Landscape Turned Red, The Battle of Antietam*, (New York, N.Y.: Warner Books Inc., 1985), p. 278.

<sup>4</sup>Pension of George W. George.

<sup>5</sup>Military Service Record of George W. George.

<sup>6</sup>Pension of George W. George.

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup>*Register of Burials.*

<sup>9</sup>Fox, p. 139.

## Mental Anguish

### *Lieutenant James W. Berry, Company H, 106th Illinois*

James Berry enlisted as a corporal at Lincoln, Illinois on August 11, 1862, at the age of twenty-one, leaving his job as a printer. He was immediately detailed as a provost clerk, transcribing the testimony of courts martial.<sup>1</sup> On November 7, 1863, he was promoted to first lieutenant. However, at Benton, Arkansas, between December 22-25, 1863, while at headquarters, an officer observed that Berry “fell over or down in what it seems was a fit.” The same officer described young Berry as “faithful and efficient and capable in the discharge of his duties” until the “fit.”<sup>2</sup> In July 1863, Berry was diagnosed as epileptic. He was discharged from the service on October 14, 1864.<sup>3</sup>

For most of the next eleven years Berry was institutionalized at various facilities such as the Soldier’s Home in Dayton, Ohio, and the Hospital for the Insane in Washington, D.C. An examining surgeon, in 1873, describes Berry as “violent and excited, pupils of unusual size” and “very troublesome.” He died at the D.C. Insane Asylum on January 14, 1876, not June 15th as

stated on his grave marker. The cause of Berry's death was listed as "epilepsy."<sup>4</sup>

In Berry's pension application an affiant states that Berry "lost [his] mental health whilst in the service of his country." To the contrary, Berry's wartime medical record indicates that he was epileptic during the war; not mentally ill. It appears from Berry's mental history (documented in his pension record) that he developed a mental illness subsequent to his diagnosis as a epileptic.<sup>5</sup> However, a clear understanding of mental illness was not part of the medical community's prevailing knowledge in the mid-nineteenth century. Accordingly, the distinction between an epileptic disorder and a mental disorder was blurred. Berry was the second to last officer buried in the Rose Garden, his medical diagnosis fittingly representative of the old, and fading, scientific order.

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of James W. Berry, Co. H, 106 Illinois Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Pension of James W. Berry, Invalid Appl. 99979, Cert. 91020, January 15, 1866, Mother Appl. 225000, Cert. 173662, March 4, 1876, National Archives.

<sup>3</sup>Military Service Record of James W. Berry.

<sup>4</sup>Pension of James W. Berry.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

## A Cavalryman Falls

### *Captain James H. Fleming, Company M, 16th New York Cavalry*

Captain Fleming, age twenty-eight, was killed in action on August 8, 1864, at Fairfax Station, Virginia. His body was reinterred at the Rose Garden after the war, between 1866 and 1869. Fleming enlisted in the 9th New York or Hawkin's Zouaves in April 1861, in New York City.<sup>1</sup> As a lieutenant, he participated in General Ambrose Burnside's North Carolina expedition (February 5-8, 1862) and the regiment's near successful flank attack at Antietam (September 17, 1862) which was blunted by Confederate troops arriving from Harper's Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia) under the command of General A.P. Hill. The regiment's term expired on May 20, 1863, so Fleming joined the cavalry on July 2, 1863, as a second lieutenant. He was promoted to captain in October 1863.<sup>2</sup> An 1880 pension application by Fleming's sister states that he:

. . . was shot from his horse and killed while engaged in battle at Fairfax Station August 8, 1864 by one of [Colonel John S.] Mosby's Guerrillas.<sup>3</sup>

In an age when there was not much to laugh about, a standing joke among infantrymen whenever a cavalryman rode by was "Whoever heard of a dead cavalryman?" After 1864, Captain Fleming's family wasn't laughing.

- <sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of James H. Fleming, Co. M, 16th New York Cavalry, and Pension of James H. Fleming, Sister Appl. 281839, National Archives.
- <sup>2</sup>Ibid., and Military Service Record of James F. Fleming, Co. C, 9th New York Infantry, National Archives, and Dyer, pp. 1408-09. The 9th New York sustained 235 casualties at Antietam. *Official Records*, Vol. 19, Part I, Reports, p. 197.
- <sup>3</sup>Military Service Record of James H. Fleming. Mosby's Partisan Rangers were the only Confederate cavalry unit authorized by General Robert E. Lee to operate independently from his command.

*To Be Continued*

An Arlington native, George W. Dodge is an Arlington Special Justice and lawyer. He is a member of the research committee of the Society and a frequent contributor to the magazine.



**WHY DO WE CALL IT?**

### **Roach's Run**

The name of the Roach's Run Bird Sanctuary, alongside the George Washington Memorial Parkway, is one of the few evidences left on the map of the extensive activities of James Roach who about 1841 completed his home "Prospect Hill" at the north end of Ridge Road. He acquired a considerable amount of land in this area and operated two mills, one near Four Mile Run and a second on what was then called "Mill Branch," which flowed into the Potomac at the southern tip of Alexander's Island.

This stream became known as Roach's, and this name persisted even after James Roach's death during the Civil War and the subsequent distribution of his holdings among his heirs.