

REVIVING WAR MEMORIES.

The Survivors of a Gallant Regiment Hold a Reunion at Barry Opera House, Corning.

Roll Call of the Memorable Battles of the Regiment.

[Last Monday the survivors of the gallant 161st Regiment of New York Infantry held a pleasant reunion at Barry Opera House, Corning. The following well-written report of the meeting and historical sketch of the regiment is from the pen of "Horatios," a member of the Regimental Association.—ED. TIDINGS.]

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a. m., President Evans in the chair; John Merwin, secretary.

The opening address of President Evans was replete with reminiscences of the days when comrades of the old regiment stood shoulder to shoulder through the many perils and hardships of their three years service; and was received on the part of assembled comrades with marked approbation.

At roll call ninety-five comrades answered to their names.

Gen. W. B. Kinsey, of Philadelphia, the old commander of the regiment, was called upon, and in response made a speech that was full to repletion of the memories of those stirring times of twenty two years ago, and recalling many incidents of weary march, hard fought fields, of their devotion to duty, and love for the flag under which they fought, that brought not only cheers, but also tears to the eyes of many an old veteran there.

At the conclusion of Gen. Kinsey's remarks, the daughter of Lieut. Amey, Miss Ellen, played an exquisite air from "Bellini," on the violin, with piano accompaniment by Miss Lettie Edwards, which was greatly enjoyed, and in response to an earnest and prolonged encore responded with "Flee as a Bird." The Misses Avery and Edwards are fine musicians. At the conclusion of music Miss Mattie, the little daughter of President Evans, recited the "Pride of Battery B" in a most acceptable manner, and brought hearty applause from assembled comrades. At this point an adjournment was had for dinner.

On re-assembling after dinner, Surgeon Dolson, of Bath, who was placed in charge of the General Hospital at Baton Rouge, La., gave a graphic and interesting account of the surgeon's trials in endeavoring to overcome that scourge, typhoid fever, which broke out in the regiment about the time of its leaving Elmira, and his allusion to the small-pox scare which the comrades all vividly remembered, and which turned out to be messels, brought a hearty laugh from the old veterans who can appreciate a joke, if any one can.

The business of the meeting having been disposed of, the election of officers took place. Maj. W. E. Craig, treasurer; J. S. Dolson and Comrade J. W. Merwin were put in nomination for president. Comrade Merwin promptly declined to be a candidate for any office, and Maj. W. E. Craig, of Painted Post, was elected president; Comrade D. C. Sherwood, of Corning, first vice-president, and Lieut. O. H. Smith, of Bath, second vice-president. For secretary there was but one sentiment, and that for Comrade Merwin, who, notwithstanding his expressed determination not to accept any office, was compelled to give way to the hearty and unanimous voices of his comrades, and consented to act for another year. In accepting, Comrade Merwin, in a few appropriate remarks, thanked his comrades for the kindly feeling so unanimously and generously expressed toward him. Surgeon J. S. Dolson was elected treasurer.

Mrs. Evans, the wife of the retiring president, sang that old familiar song so dear to the hearts of all old veterans, "Marching through Georgia," and the comrades joining in the chorus, made the old hall ring.

It was decided to hold the next reunion at Elmira, the date to be fixed by the president. It will probably be held early in September.

Interesting letters were received from Captain T. A. Walling, of Lansing, Mich., Captain George M. Tiltson, of Norwich, N. Y., Chaplain Jones, of Hartsville, Pa., Captain Dumars and Captain A. S. Fitch, of Elmira, and Assistant Surgeon Murray, of Towanda.

We doubt if any regiment that went from the Empire state saw more continuous or arduous service than the 161st. They have never had the full amount of credit that belongs to them, and some of their many brilliant deeds have been credited to other organizations. During their term of service they traveled nearly 13,000 miles by rail and water, and marched over 1,300. Carried their colors into 7 different confederate states, and participated in some of the hardest fought battles of the war, and returned without an act to regret or tarnish the luster of their battle torn flags.

THE FOLLOWING BATTLES

were officially announced, and ordered to be inscribed upon their colors by the war department: Baton Rouge, La., Plains Store, La., Siege of Port Hudson, La., Coxis' Plantation, La., Sabine Pass, Tex., Henderson's Hill, La., Wilson's Farm, La., Sabine Cross Roads, La., Pleasant Hill, La., Cane River Crossing, Mausura, Bayon de Glaize, La., Spanish Fort and Fort Blakley, off Mobile, Ala. The regiment at Sabine Cross Roads held the right of the nineteenth army corps, and were the first on that disastrous field, and checking the victorious and impetuous advance of Kirby Smith's army, saved the army of the Gulf. Their loss in this battle was severe, being ten per cent. of the entire loss of the nineteenth army corps. For their valorous bearing on this bloody field they received the thanks of their brigade, division and department commanders. In other battles their loss was heavy, notably at Coxes' Plantation and Sabine Pass, Texas. Space will not permit of an extended review that the deeds of this gallant old organization merits, but the historian of some future day may do them justice.

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