

his imprisonment, and in order to save the Asylum from destruction he was released. Soon after, however, he was returned for insanity. It was here the reverse of Lee's surrender came to us—the assassination of Lincoln! Was there ever so much grief depicted on soldier's features? We had gained the country but lost our leader—our guide, seemingly, then our all. Had the armies then have met, there would not have been a confederate left to tell the tale. Shortly after this Johnson's army surrendered, and we were soon on our road home, via Richmond, which place had so long been the bone of contention. Through this city we passed the residence of the great confederate commander, General Robert E. Lee, and though we all felt that he was on the wrong side, we all respected his ability as a man and a general. Thence we moved on to Washington. How easy the approach! Still the confederates made every endeavor to enter there in vain. Was Washington ever inhabited by such a ragged, dirty mob, either before or since? Still we were lauded to the skies. Why? Because we were the 'boys of '61 to '65,' and saved them their nation. While here, and before leaving for Elmira, Sergeant Nathan Dikeman was killed by the cars, after passing through his regiment in every battle. How sad! So brave! Well-known by every man in the regiment, and every man liked to hear what they then called him, "Happy Nate" sing. His body was embalmed here, and sent home and arrived there just before the regiment. It was received by his poor mother and his brother, who had, before, been badly wounded and discharged for disability. They each now are resting together and awaiting our coming. From Washington we returned to Elmira, and then each company, that is, what is left of them, to their respective homes. How sad must have been the hearts of those mothers whose sons did not return! They had watched for their coming in vain. The agony was not all at the front. Each man once had a mother, but their sons did not all return. How grandly did they receive company H at their home—Havana—and how proud was I to have been their commander, a place where I had never been before. The ladies—God bless them—they looked more beautiful than the angels, they literally covered us with beautiful flowers. Why was this? Because we were company H, of the 107th New York, and never took a back seat. Now, comrades, we shall never all, on this side, meet again, but when the last bugle calls us to effect that crossing, I hope we may there find the advance guard happily encamped, the blue with the gray, singing praises to God and the star-spangled banner.

Captain Brigham was followed by Chaplain E. F. Crane in a few soul-stirring sentences that aroused another tidal wave of enthusiasm. Lieutenant Colonel G. L. Smith was called for and responded in his usual eloquent way. Then Comrade H. H. Rockwell, of the Twenty-third New York volunteers, was called for and the major responded happily, ending by inviting all present to attend the reunion of that regiment at Hornellsville, on September 24. The waning day compelled an adjournment of a most joyous reunion. The only regrets expressed by the boys were for the absent ones; especially were they disappointed at not meeting their loved and honored Colonel N. M. Crane, who was unexpectedly detained by business at Hornellsville. He sent a letter of regret and soldierly greeting, as did Major C. J. Fox, of Detroit, and Lieutenant Colonel W. F. Fox, of Albany, who are rarely absent at roll call. The secretary was authorized to select a committee of comrades to arrange for a basket picnic and reunion at Grove park, in this city, on the next reunion day, September 17, 1892, at which the comrades will be invited to bring their wives, children and friends.

ANOTHER BRAVE REGIMENT.

The 161st Regiment's History By "Horatius," a Well-Known War Correspondent.

This regiment was raised under President Lincoln's call for 600,000 men, in the early part of 1862, and recruiting began August 15, ending October 25. Six of the companies were raised in Steuben county, two in Schuyler, one in Chemung and one in Chenango. October 27, 1862, they were mustered into the United States service by Major A. T. Lee, of the regular army. Field and staff as follows:

- G. T. Harrower, colonel.
- M. D. Sill, lieutenant-colonel.
- Charles Strawn, major.
- W. B. Kinsey, adjutant.
- Marcus E. Brown, quarter-master.
- Lewis Darling, surgeon.
- J. S. Dolson, assistant surgeon.
- Charles M. Pierce, second assistant surgeon.
- Thomas J. O. Wooden, chaplain.
- Phillips L. Beach, sergeant major.
- J. C. Beeman, quarter-master sergeant.
- Rufus Alderman, commissary sergeant.
- George M. Beard, hospital steward.

Field and staff	13
Officers of the line	30
Non-commissioned officers	118
Musicians	14
Wagoners	7
Privates	690
Total mustered in	872

On November 17, following, the regiment was ordered to New York to join the expedition of General N. P. Banks, which sailed for New Orleans December 4. The regiment, however, was not landed at the Crescent City, but, with other regiments, under com-



GEN DUDLEY.

COMMANDING THIRD BRIGADE OF FIRST DIVISION, NINETEENTH CORPS.

mand of General Gordon Granger, proceeded to Baton Rouge, La., the capital of the state, landing and capturing the place December 17. The regiment was subsequently assigned to the Third brigade, First division, Nineteenth Army corps, Colonel N. A. M. Dudley, brigade commander; Major-General C. C. Augur, division commander. The remainder of the winter was well spent in preparing the regiment for active field service, by very frequent brigade and battalion drills, and there laid the foundation for the reputation it afterward acquired, for its proficiency in the Manual of Arms, the celerity of its movements, and its steadiness under fire. Its discipline was perfect. May 12, 1863, our forces marched out of Baton Rouge, proceeding toward Port Hudson, and went into bivouac at Merrill's plantation, there awaiting the arrival of the balance of Augur's division. On May 21 it participated in its first engagement, Plains Store, and carried itself in such a manner as to win the approbation and praise of the commanding general. On May 24, our forces were again moved forward, and forming junction with the army which had passed up on the other side of the river, the siege of Port Hudson from that moment began, and this great confederate stronghold, second only to Vicksburg, was surrounded. From this date until July 8, when the stronghold surrendered, the siege was vigorously conducted.

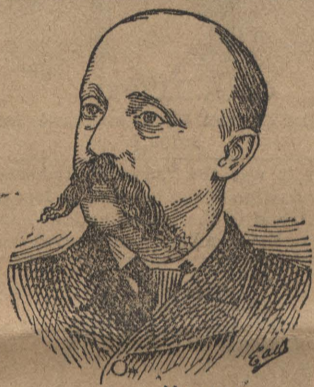
On May 26 the commanding general called for volunteers to storm this almost impregnable position—one captain, one lieutenant and thirty men from each regiment in the command—and, as showing the stuff of which the 161st was composed, so many men volunteered for this perilous task, that the colonel was obliged to make a detail of officers to select from the volunteers the requisite number to fill the call. Captain Dunars, of company C, and Captain Craig, of company H, were the captains who volunteered, and as neither would give way they decided which one should go by tossing a half-dollar, and Craig won. On the 27th the grand assault was made and repulsed with heavy loss to our forces. As showing the kind of work cut out for our boys, we only have to say that out of the little band of vol-



GEN C C AUGUR.

COMMANDING FIRST DIVISION, NINETEENTH CORPS.

unteers, numbering thirty men, it lost three killed and twelve wounded, half its number. Anson Retan and Edward Stratton, of company A, and Sergeant George C. Bingham, of company C, were the three men killed. Bingham was a fair-haired boy, and among the bravest, and will undoubtedly be remembered by many of the older types of Elmira, being a printer on one of our dailies. On July 9, next day after entering Port Hudson, the regiment embarked on the steamer and proceeded, in connection with a portion of the army to Donaldsonville, on the west bank of the river, marching six miles to the headquarters of the Bayou La Fourche. On July 13 was fought the battle of Cox plantation, which resulted in the defeat of the union



JOHN MERWIN

SECRETARY OF THE 161ST REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION.

forces. Here the regiment yielded up to blundering official mistake, and worse generalship, killed, wounded and missing, fifty-four men. On July 31 they returned to their old camp, Baton Rouge. While in camp a portion of our forces were reorganized, and on August 15 the 161st was assigned to the First brigade, First division, of what was known as the Tenth Army corps. September 2 the regiment embarked for New Orleans

and proceeded to Sabine Pass, Texas, an expedition against the confederate works at the mouth of Sabine river. Four companies were detailed as sharpshooters on the gunboats—A and B on the Arizona; E on the Granite City, and D on the Schem. Companies C, F, G and I, under command of Captain Craig, were detailed as a storming party. These companies, with others of different regiments, were on the steamer General Banks, the storming column being commanded by Captain Fitch, of the Seventy-fifth New York. Companies H and K, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Kinsey, were on the steamer N. H. Thomas. Time and space forbid going into the details of this engagement. Our navy was defeated, the Schem getting a shot through her boilers that completely disabled her, and she ran up the white flag, her decks strewn with the dead and dying. The loss of company D, killed, wounded and prisoners, was about thirty, and about wiped it from the roll. The men on the Schem were under command of Lieutenant Lindsey, now an honored resident of Bath, who went into compulsory exile, with what was left of his command at the confederate prison located at Tyler, Tex. After returning from this disastrous expedition, the regiment on September 15 was ordered to join an expedition to the Teche country. This is known as the campaign of the Teche, a country made immortal by Longfellow's "Tale of Acadie," "Evangeline, in the Land of Milk and Honey."

"Murmuring pines, and whispering hemlocks bearded with moss," the vandal feet of the army trod the paths and byways trod by Evangeline in her search for Gabriel. Not much fighting was done, but considerable skirmishing and marching, after which the regiment went into camp near Bayou Teche, and remained until January 7, 1864, when it again broke camp and marched to Franklin, which place was occupied by them on the 9th. Here they again went into camp, and enjoyed themselves as only veteran campaigners know how, for eight weeks. March 15 the entire army broke camp, and began by easy marches, what has gone down in history as the most disastrous and profitless campaign of the war, the illstarred "Red River Campaign." The diary of one who participated in this campaign is now before us. We cannot give all the daily details of their march in this campaign, suffice it to say skirmishing was of daily occurrence. Alexandria and Natchitoches were left in the rear, our cavalry, 5,000 strong, and two divisions of the Thirteenth corps being far in advance of the union forces, all told numbered not far from 20,000, strung out so as to be of no assistance to each other. The 161st held the post of honor in the first division of the Nineteenth corps. The right of the line, April 8, at Pleasant Hill, could be plainly heard constant firing of our troops in advance, but our march was slow. About 2 o'clock p. m. the regiment went into camp at the roadside, and details had started for water, when a courier from the front dashed by, hatless, his horse covered with dust and foam, and blood dripping from his nostrils, told the story all too well; the bugle rang out sharp and clear, the same bugle that sounded the call on Lake street the 18th, and before General Emory's aid could reach the regiment, Kinsey had it in the road in line. Then began one of the hardest and quickest nine-mile marches infantry ever undertook. Knapsacks and blankets were left in the field, the boys started at quickstep, after a while, when they got their second wind, into the double-quick, finally, about 5 o'clock, the mass of the fleeing cavalry and Thirteenth corps were met, and what a cheer went from their throats as they saw relief coming. "The Nineteenth corps! The Nineteenth corps!" they shouted. General Emory at once rode to Colonel Kinsey's side and ordered him to throw two or three companies into line to stop the retreat, but water might as well be made to run up hill; it could not be done. Seeing the impossibility of stopping

the retreat, the regiment forced its way through the demoralized and disorganized mass. As they did so a confederate brigade swung into line on the opposite side of the field. General Emory, still along side of Colonel Kinsey, ordered him to throw the regiment into line and check this advance till he could form his division. One small regiment against a victorious foe estimated at five times its own numbers. The order was given. It swung into line like clockwork. Not a man faltered; not a shot fired, but they moved forward like grim death; the confederates gave them a volley that took Kinsey's horse from under him and laid many of the brave boys low. When they got where they wanted to they gave the Johnnies a volley that surprised them wonderfully, and before they could recover from it, they got another, and that stopped them for a few moments. The division was formed and Emory was ready for them. The sacrifice offered up by the 161st for the salvation of the army was ninety-eight men. They took in a little over 400. Many of these were recruits; who came to us while the regiment was on the march, and to them their first, and some of them their last fight. Lieutenant R. R. Soper, of this city, joined us with a detachment of recruits only a short time before this fight. Then began the never-to-be-forgotten retreat. Next morning, April 9, found the regiment back at Pleasant Hill. During the fight at Pleasant Hill, the regiment again distinguished itself, and demonstrated the beauty of its drill and discipline by clearing a road at the point of the bayonet, under orders of General Emory. Our casualties at Pleasant Hill were only four. After this battle, General Dwight, brigade commander, visited the regiment, and addressed it as follows:

Officers and men of the One Hundred and Sixty-First New York volunteers:

"I appear before you to thank you for your gallant conduct in the battles through which you have just passed, in that of Pleasant Grove (Sabine X Roads). You were ordered, upon your arrival, to advance and hold the enemy in check until the division could form in line of battle. Under a hot and destructive fire you accomplished your mission. By your valiant bearing you saved the 'Army of the Gulf' from destruction, and it affords me the highest pleasure to convey to you the thanks of the commanding general. Again at Pleasant Hill in your movements by 'Column by Company' under fire you marched with as much order and precision as if you had been upon review. To your lieutenant colonel much praise is due for the skillful manner in which he handled the regiment. Officers and men of the 161st New York I thank you." Just tribute to as brave a body of men as ever wore the blue. On reaching Alexandria the army halted, at this place Admiral Porter's fleet was stranded above the flats. Colonel Bailey, of the twenty-third Wisconsin, an old western lumberman, conceived the idea to relieve the fleet by building a main dam and a series of wings on the falls and above, creating back water sufficient to float the fleet over the falls. Work was carried on continuously day and night, and Lieutenant Colonel Kinsey was detailed as Colonel Bailey's assistance. When nearly completed the large barge sunk in the center and the edge of the fall broke away letting out the water. Days and nights of hard labor came to naught in five minutes, and Colonel Bailey was well nigh heart broken and discouraged, but Lieutenant Colonel Kinsey told him if he would let him send for his boys the dam would be built. They were sent for, and again for days and nights the men worked felling the forests, and working up to their necks in the water, and assisting in pulling some of the boats into deep water. Finally, after many days all was in readiness, the fleet was in

were cut, it trembled a moment on the edge of the rock and then with a mighty rush swung out and the fleet passed out on the rushing tide, every boat was saved. It has gone down in history as one of the greatest pieces of engineering ever devised, and history accords to Colonel Bailey and the twenty-third Wisconsin the sole credit of the work. Kinsey and the 161st none. After leaving Alexandria, the regiment went into camp at Morganza Bend, where it remained until June 18, when it was selected to form a part of the engineer brigade, and went to Vicksburg on June 20. August 13 the engineer brigade was abandoned and the regiment was again attached to the Nineteenth army corps department of the gulf. From August 11, 1865, it was constantly on the move most of the time after that "Will o' the Wisp" Forrest, changing from place to place, Vicksburg, Memphis, Columbus and Paducah, Ky. January 11, landed it at Kenner'sville, twelve miles above New Orleans, where it remained until February 11, when it proceeded to New Orleans and embarked for Mobile bay. The regiment took an active part in the operations against Mobile, and participated in the capture of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely, off Mobile bay. On the surrender of Mobile, April 12, the regiment was accorded the honor of being the first to enter the city. It remained in camp till May 20, when its ranks having become so depleted it was relieved from further active field work and ordered to Opelachicola to establish a military post. While here much sickness prevailed. January 26 it was ordered to Dry Fortugas to relieve the 110th New York, whose term of service had expired. It remained in this desolate place—"barren isle in the sea"—till September 25, when it started homeward bound, reaching New York, October 6, and Elmira, October 12. From the time the regiment left Elmira until its return, it traveled nearly 13,000 miles, marched over 1,300, carried its shattered battle flags into seven different states of the confederacy, actively participating in twenty-three engagements, carrying themselves in such a manner as to win the marked approbation and confidence of its commanding general. This was never more conspicuously illustrated than when General Emory, during the retreat on the Red river campaign, the war being hard pressed, transferred the regiment from the right to the left, saying as he did so, "they have been hard worked and have suffered heavily, and I hate to do it, but I must have troops there I can depend upon." We have before us a letter from a distinguished general officer, in speaking of the Red river campaign, and the great dam at Alexandria, says, "I shall always remember the 161st. They have never had their just dues accorded them, and some of their brilliant work has been credited to other regiments. It was their fortune, or ill-fortune, as you choose, to get very close to the enemy in an engagement, perhaps the commanding general didn't like them and wanted them killed off. We also have before us a letter from their old division commander, General Emory, written about a year before his death, in which he says: "I well remember the 161st, and the grand work they did at Sabine X Roads, Pleasant Hill and Cane River. I can never forget them. The losses of the regiment in its various engagements foot up 205 killed, wounded and missing. Of the twenty-three engagements the regiment participated in, the following were ordered inscribed upon ten flags by the war department: Baton Rouge, La.; Plains Store, La.; siege of Port Hudson, La.; Cox Plantation, La.; Sabine Pass, Tex.; Henderson Hill, La.; Wilson's farm, La.; Sabine X Road, La.; Pleasant Hill, La.; Cane River Crossing, La.; Cloutersville, La.; Mausura, La.; Bayou-de-Glaize, La.; Spanish Fort, Ala.; Fort Blakely, Ala.; Mobile, Ala. If the old vets, at their reunions, get to talking over the days of '62 to '65, and get excited and feel inclined to brag just a little bit, don't accuse them of egotism—they have a right to. The 161st was emphatically a fighting regiment, and good fighters, too—of all the men who went out from the Empire state, none better. Although they have not been sung in song and story as much as some of the other regiments, the fact remains that the 161st stands very close to the front—its tattered flags hang on the outer wall.

HORATIUS.

The very latest styles in hats you can see at Anson Brothers, Corning, N. Y.