

THE BRAVE SEVENTY-SEVENTH.

A JOLLY REUNION HELD BY THE "BOYS" AT SCHENECTADY.

The Muster—Letters From Veterans Who Were Unable to Attend—An Interesting Bit of History by Comrade Fuller—Features of the Anniversary.

The twenty-first annual reunion of the Survivor's association of the Seventy-seventh regiment, N. Y. S. Infantry Vol., was held in Van Horne hall, Schenectady, Thursday, October 19, 1893. The morning hours were passed in cordial greetings, hearty grasping of hands, and relating of scenes, incidents and acts in which the veterans had participated.

At high 12 the chairman of the executive committee, W. G. Caw, reporting favorably, the president, W. B. French called the comrades to order. A fervent, eloquent and impressive prayer was offered by the Rev. E. A. Braman, chaplain of Horsfall Post No. 92 G. A. R.

The order of business was:

1. Prayer.
2. Welcome, by chairman of local committee, W. G. Caw.
3. Roll call of survivors.
4. Payment of dues.
5. Reading of minutes of last reunion.
6. Report of secretary.
7. Report of treasurer.
8. Report of committees.
9. Unfinished and new business—Reminiscences.
10. Selection of place for next reunion and appointment of executive committee therefor.
11. "Farewell."

Comrade Caw stated that he was glad to see so many of the "boys" present. Hoped all would have a joyous and pleasant time. That he had induced the chaplain of his post to act as his proxy in the address of welcome. The Rev. Dr. Braman said that he desired all to understand that "I am not Braman, but Caw, and as Caw will be welcome to the Seventy-seventh, whom I welcome most heartily." The address was full of that ring, felicity, magnetism and patriotic utterances which as boys of thirty years and more ago helped us to enlist, and was enthusiastically received.

On the conclusion of the "welcome," Secretary Fuller called the roll, immediately after which dinner was announced and the veterans partook of an excellent repast, prepared by the ladies, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

Business was renewed by the payment of dues, fifty cents a year, which each member and every survivor is a member of the association, may remit to the treasurer, C. D. Thurber, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

Secretary's report: Every surviving member of the Bemus Heights regiment, the Seventy-seventh New York Infantry volunteers whose present address is on the roster of survivors, could easily answer this year as reply postal card notices were sent, so that all the recipient had to do was to tear off the reply card, write on it and then mail it. But even that must have been formidable to many. And had they not exhibited any more ardent twenty-eight to thirty-two years ago, they would yet be carrying "hardtack" around for a square meal. Experience tells us that the annual notice brightens the eye of every survivor, as it recalls the weary march, the lone picket, the excitement of skirmish and battle, and the thought how this or that comrade looks and is getting along. Notwithstanding many have not replied, and no doubt the same comrades would feel aggrieved were they not remembered with the annual notice; they ought then to think that we are as glad to hear from them. So let us hope that they will turn over a new leaf and hereafter answer their notice for the annual reunion. How pleasant it would be if every member receiving the notice would reply is evidenced by the following:

HARVEY, III, Dec. 14, 1892.

Dear Comrade: Will you please send me the address of Harvey Snow and Geo. A. McKee, if you have it, of Co. I. I saw the name of Harvey Snow—he was my tentmate at Brandy Station. I thought him dead until I saw his name in a copy of THE SARATOGIAN which comrade W. W. Finch of Andover, South Dakota, kindly sent to me. I have met but three members of our regiment since we were mustered out twenty-eight years ago yesterday. Send me the address of all of Co. I.

Yours in F. C. & H.,

GEO. F. WILL.

And comrade Sidney O. Cormack, Willow Lake, Clark county, South Dakota, February ult. wrote: "I read the report of the twentieth reunion with much pleasure. I enjoyed looking over the names of those present. I did not notice the name of Billy Worden."

I inclose a letter from Fred Burdick, Williamston, Ingham county, Michigan. I know nothing about him. If you can get a favorable report and write me I will help him out. With regards to all the fellows.

Yours in F. C. & L."

Comrades Will and Cormack were glad to learn of survivors of the regiment. Yet neither Finch, Will, Cormack or Burdick have found it convenient to reply to the notices sent them Sept. 18th, ult.

I understand that Comrade Peacock met Will at the World's fair.

In my endeavors to learn the number of survivors of our regiment, the National Tribune inserted a notice requesting all survivors of the 77th New York who read this notice to send their addresses to the secretary, E. H. Fuller, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

One member sent his address, George McGovern, who wrote, "I am on the jumping off place of the United States, the northwest corner in the state of Washington, county of Whatcom."

That recalls how the survivors have scattered; the roster disclosing that Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Alabama, Missouri, Mississippi, California, Colorado, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, District of Columbia, Washington and Canada have within their borders men of the Seventy-seventh.

Death has taken many from the pension roll, so that Hoke Smith has no cause to suspend any pensioners, nor need any pensioner have any doubt of the yearly reduction of public expenses of the United States because of pensions, for the report of the present commissioner of pensions shows that by the death of pensioners for the current year, nearly nine millions of dollars will not have to be paid this year.

Fuller Austin, Ed. S. Armstrong, Henry Brisbin, Marion Bull, Morgan L. Holmes, Israel Jones, A. N. Like, Samuel McGowan, Peter Murphy, Monroe Place, Peter A. Vanatta, Sidney Vandenberg and Harvey L. Whipple, are reported having died since our last reunion.

Four hundred and forty notices were mailed, to which 238 replies were received. The following 121 members answered roll call: Robert Aucock, E. M. Bailey, George C. Berry, C. H. Bartlett, W. R. Britton, E. O. Burt, Henry Bethman, Edward Brady, W. A. Baker, Thomas Broughton, Levi A. Brooks, James C. Brisbin, John Betts, A. B. Bump, Nathan Brown, Jesse Burlingham, W. G. Caw, H. G. Craig, J. M. Connors, J. J. Clement, Chas. Chapman, Abram Cramer, A. H. Clements, W. H. Cath, Otis Conklin, John Conklin, L. M. Christman, B. A. Dewitt, G. W. Dingham, Barnett Doven, J. H. Doven, James Drummond, S. W. Deyoe, George Davenport, Wm. Eastham, Nathan Eldridge, W. B. French, E. H. Fuller, C. R. Fisher, Scott Fuller, Wm. H. Gifford, Walter Gifford, J. K. Galusha, Chas. E. Houghtaling, A. D. Hammond, W. J. Hammond, Edwin Ham, Geo. F. Houghtaling, Benj. H. Hudson, Wm. Hawley, G. W. Haggart, Wm. C. Howe, Jas. R. Hines, W. H. Hare, Ezra Harris, James Harbeson, Thos. Harris, Jas. H. Holsapple, Wm. H. Jones, Thos. Jones, C. E. Jennings, Emory Johnson, Henry Jones, S. E. Kidd, A. H. Kingsley, G. W. Latta, John Lee, Octavius Landers, W. E. Miller, C. W. Mosher, J. H. Myers, John Mosher, Lyman E. Miller, Michael Nolan, James Nolan, N. S. Noyes, B. C. Northrup, Gardner Perry, Alfred Pickett, James Palmer, E. J. Patterson, S. K. Porter, G. E. Pulling, Fred Quant, H. C. Rowland, G. B. Russell, J. R. Rockwell, H. A. Reed, Cornelius Rose, A. J. Reed, B. T. Simon, Lewis Shonts, J. S. Safford, G. D. Story, Henry A. Smith, Oliver Sutliff, A. D. Shippee, Arthur Scott, George A. Scott, J. T. Sawyer, A. J. Sprung, James N. Slingerland, G. H. Scidmore, O. H. Shannon, D. A. Thompson, Jesse B. Thorn, C. D. Thurber, B. Vandenberg, Levi Van Schaick, W. W. Velie, Frank Whitney, H. H. Weaver, A. P. Waldron, J. M. Wood, W. G. Watson, Henry Warner, D. N. Weatherwax, Wm. Williams, W. H. Yale, W. H. Young, B. R. Velie.

With good wishes for and affectionate remembrances to all, regrets for inability to be present were received from J. B. Andrews, Wm. Armstrong, J. F. Austin, Geo. Bowers, D. S. Barringer, Clarence Bruso, A. M. Burrows, M. Bendix, N. S. Babcock, H. H. Barker, Chas. Blanchard, Benj. B. Bennett, Wm. Brooks, J. P. Bennett, G. H. Brown, Andrew Brower, Henry Bradt, O. G. Bentley, B. A. Briggs, Chas. Bardwell, S. J. Clark, D. H. Cole, S. W. Crosby, J. M. Clute, C. W. Compton, Geo. V. Crow, Chas. Cutter, S. E. Campbell, J. H. Cozzens, O. M. Coleman, S. E. Davis, E. B. Deuel, E. Doolittle, W. Douglass, C. E. Deuel, W. A. DeLong, J. W. Derby, Charles Davis, David Davenport, William Doven, Michael Dowling, J. L. DeGroff, G. H. Ellison, John E. Evans, Edward Evans, Norman Fox, John Foster, C. H. Fodow, H. G. Gurney, O. S. Griffin, Nicholas Geltzleighter, M. Goodwin, E. H. Gates, James Harrington, M. B. Hall, C. H. Hedges, B. N. Harrington, G. W. Hurley, J. P. Hudson, William Ingham, A. H. Jewel, William E. Johnston, Joseph June, W. H. Johnson, S. B. King, W. T. Ewing, W. T. Lattimore, G. E. Lane, O. F. Lockwood, James A. Lawrence, Ira McNeal, Allen McLean, W. McAdoo, C. H. McNaughton, A. Miller, Alexander Morrison, Wallace Morrison, John Moore, John Mitchell, Nathan Munn, S. Miller, G. S. Orr, F. N. Owen, A. H. Ott, H. A. Perkins, F. N. Perkins, Horatio G. Peck, Horace A. Post, James A. Paddelford, Charles Palmater, Seth W. Potter, Cornelius Quinn, W. H. Quivey, W. A. Rose, Frank Reed, H. H. Richards, J. N. Rose, C. W. Rowe, C. F. Rich, R. Robinson, G. R. Reno, S. Seigel, J. Stebbins, H. S. Stiles, C. E. Stevens, R. H. Skinner, Harvey Snow, W. H. Smith, M. F. Sweet, David Stringham, S. B. Shepard, George Scott, F. D. Strancher, Albert Snyder, David A. Stanton, C. F. A. Schmidt, Frank Thomas, Oscar Tefft, J. G. Thompson, G. L. Tucker, Jas. Taylor, Taylor Vanderwerker, A. J. VanWie, L. J. Vanderwerker, H. I. VanWie, G. W. Welch, W. H. Wright, F. C. Winship, J. B. Welsh, G. L. Wandell, W. H. Zinstine, Lewis Wood.

Dr. J. B. Andrews, Buffalo, writes: "The date of the reunion recalls to my mind the conflict of that day twenty nine years ago. No one can forget the incidents of that memorable occasion. I should be delighted to meet with the comrades, but pressure of public duties prevents a favorable reply. Please present my kindest regards to all who remember me as captain of Co. F."

Charles Blanchard, Salida, Colorado, writes: "I would be glad to meet with you. I often think of my old comrades and hope to meet them at some reunion."

Wm. Brooks, Holyoke, Mass., writes: "Am exceedingly sorry in being obliged to miss a single reunion and hope it will be the last for myself or any of the 'old boys' in the next twenty-five years."

S. E. Campbell, Garland, Pa., writes: "I will not be able to attend our reunion this year; hope all who do will have a good time, as in a few years more there will be none left to meet even once a year."

S. W. Crosby, Flint, Mich., writes: "I wish I could be with you. Hope you will have a good time and stand by each other as of yore."

C. H. Fadow, Avon, writes: "Am quite comfortable for one 66 years old. Am located on a little seven-acre fruit farm. And the best of all is God is with me."

Michael Dowling, Bradford, writes: "Nothing would give me more pleasure than to meet with my old comrades, but a stroke of paralysis prevents my going around much."

Dr. W. A. DeLong, Brooklyn, writes: "It certainly would be a grand treat to meet and shake the hands of the boys again, but engagements are of such a nature that a favorable reply cannot now be given."

John Y. Foster, Glencoe, Ontario, writes: "Am very thankful for the report of the last reunion. It would be a great pleasure to be with you. I was only a boy when I went to the front with you; and from long residence here would be like a stranger, but as a member of the old 77th would be among comrades to whom I send good wishes and regards."

M. Goodwin, Independence, Iowa, writes: "I am sorry I cannot be with you. I was at the National Encampment G. A. R., and met N. M. Bliss and Peacock; they are the only ones that I have met since 1865. If there is any of the boys that recollect me I would like to hear from them."

W. T. King, Saratoga, California, writes: "Providence willing, I hope to attend the reunion in 1894. I often think of the four years with the Army of the Potomac, and will never forget the 'swamp.'"

W. E. Johnson, Gloversville, writes: "My health will not permit me to be with you on the anniversary of Cedar Creek. Hope you will have a good time and many more happy meetings."

Jas. A. Lawrence, Tecumseh, Neb.: "I would enjoy clasping hands with the old boys once more. Will think of you on that day, the anniversary of one of our hard fighting days. You may be sure that I shall cherish the medal, Gettysburg Veteran, you mailed me, and when I am gone to that reunion on the other shore to clasp hands with those who have gone before, the medal will be a keepsake to my children, and perhaps children's children. Regards to all old comrades." Comrade Lawrence is the only survivor of the three one leg Jims—James Allen, James Barnes, James Lawrence, each of whom lost the right leg at the battle of Petersburg, June 22, 1864, by the same shell. They all survived the war.

Horatio G. Peck, Stillwater, writes: "It is not likely that I will be able to again meet with the boys in this world, but hope to meet them in the grand muster in the 'next.'"

W. H. Quivey, Jackson, Mich., writes: "The reunion is the anniversary of one of the most important engagements that we took an active part in during the war, and where we lost some of our best men. And where Lt. Thomas, C. Co., acting adjutant fell while carrying the colors. I hope you may all have a good time."

George S. Orr, Poulton, Vt., writes: "Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to meet my old companions in arms on the anniversary of one of their greatest triumphs, the memorable battle of Cedar Creek. Though absent, I shall have you in remembrance; while I imagine the cordial greeting of comrades, the hearty grasping of hands and the recounting of the privations endured and the battles fought that 'old glory' might wave over a united people."

Horace L. Stiles, Washington, D. C., writes: "No one of the comrades would be gladder to meet with you than I, but the outlook is not favorable to such a pleasure."

C. E. Stevens, Westport, writes: "I shall remember the day and wish that I could be with you as I was twenty-nine years ago. Hope that all will pass the day more pleasantly than they did then and that they will be able to eat without being disturbed by a calling 'Johnnie.'"

R. H. Skinner, Dover, Del., writes: "It would be a special pleasure to meet the boys of the 77th but I am a prisoner of war, confined to my house by my old Antietam wound and its results."

D. B. Smith, Perry, Iowa, writes: "I would be glad to meet you but all the way I have in getting around is in a wheel chair."

Dr. J. G. Thompson, Angola, writes: "It would be a great pleasure to meet one and all of the boys; regretting that circumstances prevent, kind greetings to all."

A. J. Van Wie, Port Henry, writes: "I long to be with the fast-thinning ranks of the old regiment on the anniversary of Cedar Creek battle, where I made such good time (to the rear)."

W. H. Wright, Colton, Cal., writes: "I heartily wish I could be with you on the 19th and again touch elbows in line with the old Seventy-seventh."

W. H. Zinstine, Edinburgh, writes: "I would like to come, but am too bad off to enjoy it even were I present. I will hoist 'Old Glory' on that day."

Treasurer Thurber reported that after paying bills there is five dollars on hand. That the monument repairs had been completed. The statue was taken down and sent to the manufacturers in New York city, who, after putting on a new base and rebronzing, returned it. The shaft had been raised twenty-two inches; the statue replaced and that the monument now looks as good as when first erected. There is about one hundred and twenty-five dollars unpaid for the expenses incurred in the repairs.

Your committee to draft resolutions appropriate to the memory of members who have died since our last reunion respectfully submit the following:

Resolved, That in the death of the said comrades this association has lost the companionship of brave men and faithful soldiers. That the whole country owes them a debt of gratitude which never was nor can be paid. That the sincere sympathy of this association be extended to the families, and that the fact of their death may bring to us a realizing sense that we must soon follow them; and that its influence should be demonstrated in our daily life and intercourse with each other.

D. A. THOMPSON,
LEVI VAN SCHAICK,
W. J. HAMMOND,
JOB S. SAFFORD,
N. S. NOYES,

Committee.

Comrade French stated that No. 9 was unfinished and new business, and reminiscences. That now is a good time to relate personal incidents, no matter how short.

W. L. Hoyt, C. D. Thurber, E. H. Fuller and others accepted the president's invitation.

Comrade Fuller said that in March last he read an article in the National Tribune by a member of the Seventh Massachu-

setts, to which he took exception; and wrote and sent the Tribune the following, which appeared in the issue of May 11. The minds of many of you may hereby be recalled to that charge led by our gallant Colonel French.

The winter of 1862-'3 the Sixth Corps was encamped near White Oak Church, Va. The Third Brigade of the second division of the corps, after a not unpleasant winter and early spring, and after they had set out trees in the company streets that would shade them, so that we could the better enjoy them in the approaching summer weather, broke camp Tuesday, April 28, 1863, with eight days' rations, to resume daily marches until we should again meet the army of Gen. R. E. Lee.

Sunday morning, May 3, after our usual early breakfast, we resumed our tramp, and were soon on the Fredericksburg turnpike. It was a beautiful morning; not a cloud visible; the sun shining resplendently; the quietness broken only by the singing of the birds, when most unexpectedly the whizz of balls fell on our ears. Soon after the order "halt" was given. Some of the curious boys climbed up the bank (about five feet high) on the left side of the road, and were surprised to see bluecoats running their best in the lead of some gray ones.

We were ordered up on the plateau and one volunteer called for from each company of my regiment—the 77th N. Y., of the Third Brigade, Second Division, Sixth Corps—to go out to the skirmish line. They went, and the gray coats in turn became the pursued. Soon after we saw troops away up on our right which we subsequently learned was the Light Division of our corps, charging the works on the hills. That they were successful the appearance of their flags afterwards on the top of the works fully showed. Our cheers of rejoicing were quickly abated by the order of the left wing of the 77th N. Y. to go out as skirmishers; while the right wing and the rest of the brigade (comprising the 33d N. Y., 7th Me., 21st N. J., 49th N. Y., 20th N. Y.) and the division (the Second) on double-quick, alternating left and right-oblique, rifles at right shoulder, with bayonets fixed, started for Marye's Heights.

In your issue of March 9 Comrade James Holehouse, Co. B, 7th Mass., says: "I gave the names of the regiments, viz. 61st Pa., 43d N. Y., as the attacking column on the right, supported by the 67th N. Y. and 82d Pa., the 7th Mass., and 36th N. Y., the attacking column on the left, supported by the 5th Wis., 6th Me., 31st N. Y. and 23d Pa. These two columns and the regiments named are the organizations which assaulted the Heights that day."

Comrade Holehouse fails to mention the day and date. So, it may be as he states. Nevertheless, ever since the charge at Marye's Heights, Sunday morning, May 3, 1863, I have felt that the Third brigade, second division, Sixth corps, and particularly the 77th N. Y., was in it that Sunday morning. The 77th being the first in the works, captured the brass field pieces, small-arms, the colors of the 18th Miss., with its lieutenant-colonel, and other prisoners. Lieutenant-Colonel French, commander of the 77th N. Y., to show that his regiment had captured the cannons, put his foot on one, and while so standing Gen. Howe, commander of the second division, rode into the works, and, seeing the 77th in possession, said: "Noble 77th, you have covered yourselves with glory."

Since that day I have entertained the feeling that the Second Division, Sixth Corps, and especially the 77th N. Y., was really in the charge on Marye's Heights that beautiful May morning, which is silently confirmed by a ball which I now hold in my hand, presented to me in my head that Sunday morning by a Johnny with his rifle's aid, and which ball was given to me by Asst-Surg. DeLong, of the 77th N. Y., who took it out. So, personally, I am daily reminded that other regiments than those named by Comrade Holehouse were in and did charge, and successfully, the works on Marye's Heights, Va., Sunday morning, May 3, 1863.

THE SARATOGIAN, a paper published here, reports in its issue of May 14, 1863, by name and company, the numbers of the 77th N. Y., killed and wounded at the charge of Marye's Heights, which report shows that eight were killed and seventy wounded—E. H. Fuller, Co. C, 77th N. Y. Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

Comrade Thurber states that while in Washington, D. C., last, he called at the war department and learned that the flag of the 18th Miss., had "disappeared," as it could not be found in the rooms set apart as a receptacle for captured flags. He also stated that when in Washington last fall he called on General Getty, whose home is outside of the city, with whom he had a pleasant visit.

The oldest veteran present was eighty-four years of age and the youngest about forty-seven.

Ballston was selected in which to hold the next reunion and Comrades N. Eldridge, G. S. Story, A. J. Reid, B. S. Simon and J. M. Wood were appointed the executive committee to select the date and make arrangements therefore.

Gettysburg veteran medals were then distributed to those entitled thereto. After passing a motion of approval to Post 90 and members in Schenectady for the excellent and sumptuous dinner, and hearty thanks to the Relief Corps for their kind service and attention, the twenty-first reunion of the Seventy-seventh survivors ended with cordial grasping of hands, fervent good-byes and hearty expressions of "hope to meet you again next year."