

History of Regimental Colors of the 59<sup>th</sup> Regiment, New York State Volunteers., deposited in the Bureau of Military Statistics, by Lieut Col. Horac. P. Rugg., on the day of March 1864.

These Colors are; One Regimental Flag, with City of New York Coat of Arms and Device, presented by the City Authorities about the time of the organization of the Regiment., Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 1861; One National Color, presented by Ex-Mayor Kingland (of New York) shortly before the Regimental organization was effected;

One National Flag, and two Guidons presented by the City of N. Y. Authorities in April 1863; Comprising in all five Colors.

The City Color, and National Color No 1 (presented by Ex Mayor Kingland) were carried in all the Battles and Skirmishes the Regiment was engaged in,

up to, and including Gettysburg July 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 & 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863; Shortly after this Battle —  
 these Flags being in a tattered and torn  
 condition — they were deposited in  
 Washington, ~~to~~ to be retained until the  
 Regiment should return home.

The first of these engagements was  
 a Skirmish at Malvern Hill, Va. in the  
 fore part of August 1862; The second,  
 the Battle of Chantilly, Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1862. Third;  
 South Mountain September 1862. Fourth,  
 Antietam September 17<sup>th</sup> 1862; At this  
 Battle our loss was exceedingly severe;

Out of twenty one officers, and  
 three hundred and sixty enlisted Men,  
 with which we went into the engage-  
 ment, the loss was, thirteen officers  
 and two hundred and thirty enlisted  
 Men, killed, wounded, & taken prisoners.

It was here that the brave Lieut  
 Col Stetson, in leading forward the  
 Right Wing of the Regiment was instan-  
 tly killed; Captain Charles K. Whitney,  
 E. H. Wade, Gould J. Jennings, Miller

Woody, Abraham, K. Florentine and  
 Lieut Stephen C. Roosa, Charles K. Sumner,  
 and Benjamin V. Vansteenburg, were  
 either killed, or afterward died of  
 wounds received. Captain Max A.  
 Thuman, and Lieut James Hart Purdy  
 and Bartholf Hutwagner were wounded.

Seven of the Eight Color Corporals  
 were either killed or wounded, and  
 the remaining one—Corporal Benjamin  
 C. Larned of Company "C"—rescued  
 and brought off the field, the Colors  
 of a Pennsylvania Regiment

The next engagement was a Skirmish  
 at Halltown and Charlestown Va Oct  
 1862; After which was Fredericksburg  
 December 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 1862; Our Brigade,  
 composed of the 59<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> New York,  
 the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Mass, and 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan  
 Regiments was the first to cross the  
 Rappahannock, on the afternoon of the  
 memorable 11<sup>th</sup> of December; We

had hardly made a foothold in the  
 Streets of Fredericksburg before we were  
 desperately engaged with Barksdals  
 Mississippi Brigade. This engagement,  
 being in the Streets of the Town, and  
 being continued over an hour after  
 dark, was, for a small affair, one  
 of the most sharply contested fights  
 of the War. Our loss was; Captain  
 Edward Reynolds, and, Lieut Hannibal  
 Seymour killed; Lieut James Peacock  
 and Bartholf Stutnam, wounded, to-  
 gether with about forty enlisted  
 Men killed & wounded.

At the Charge on Mayors Heights  
 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, our loss was, one en-  
 listed Man killed, and twelve wounded,  
 Here a shell from the Enemy ex-  
 ploded directly over these Colors, shat-  
 tering the top of the Staff of the Reg-  
 imental Flag, and tearing both almost  
 in shreds — ~~but~~ strange to say, nei-  
 ther of the Color Beams were hit.

The other engagements in which these  
 flags participated are; <sup>Battle of</sup> Fredericksburg  
 May 3<sup>rd</sup> + 4<sup>th</sup> 1863; Skirmish at  
 Thoroughfare Gap June 1863; Battle  
 of Gettysburg July 2<sup>nd</sup> + 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863, and  
 Skirmish near Williamsport July 1863.

At the Battle of Gettysburg, Lieut Col  
 Max. A. Thoman, and Adjutant William  
 H. Pohlman were killed, and Lieut  
 Charles Schneider was wounded.

The National Flag No 2 (presented by  
 the City of New York) was carried  
 in the Skirmish at Mine Run November  
 1863, and at the Engagement at  
 Bristow Station October 14<sup>th</sup> 1863, at  
 both of which places our loss was slight.

The names of the Color Bearers, who  
 have carried these Colors through all  
 these engagements, are, Sergeant James  
 Wiley and ~~Sergeant~~ Justin N. Foster.

The Guides were only used on Drift  
Parades and Drills.

New York

June 4<sup>th</sup> 1864.

The above is respectfully submitted.

Amos Rugg,  
Sergeant Major.