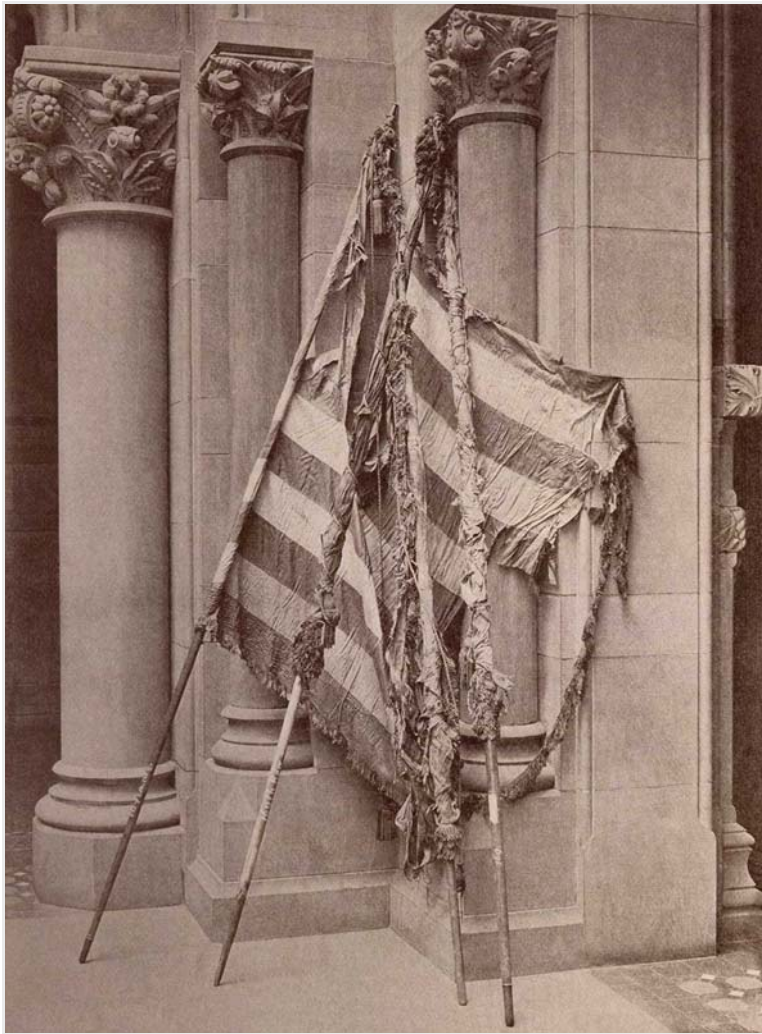

169th New York Infantry Newsletter

April 2012

FOUND! 1899 Photograph of the Battle Flags of the 169th N.Y.



"Battle flags of the 169th Reg't., N. Y. S. Vols. Said regiment is classified as one of the three hundred fighting regiments of the late rebellion. The top of one of the flag-staffs was shot away during the battle of Cold Harbor, Va., June 1, 1864."

Dear All,

An exciting discovery of an illustrated historical sketch of the 169th N.Y. was recently made by Bill Connelly of Gansevoort, N.Y. Bill, the great-great-grandson of Sergeant Patrick Conoly, Co. D, was researching the fate of the 169th's memorial stained glass window when he found a genealogy book containing the historical sketch, published by Major William M. Swartwout in 1899.

Several interesting photographs are included in the book, including a portrait of Major Swartwout, whose left arm was carried off by a huge Confederate artillery shell at Dutch Gap, Va., in 1864, and who served as adjutant of the 10th Brigade, 3^d Division of the N.Y. State National Guard after the war. Other photographs include the memorial window at St. Margaret's Church; an example of the bronze 169th N.Y. veteran's reunion badge; a flagpole flying the national flag over the soldiers' graves at Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, erected at the personal expense of the Major; and the battle flags of the 169th.

The battle flags, photographed at the state capitol in Albany, include the original national banner and regimental standard of the regiment, each having been perforated by 100 holes, alongside their replacements. Further information about the flags of the 169th may be found at the following link:

- Flags of the 169th N.Y.S.V. Infantry Regiment, by Steven Wiezbicki
<http://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/infantry/169thInf/169thInfMain.htm>



Our Banner in the Sky (1861)
Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900)
de Young Fine Arts Museums, San Francisco

I will provide an update on the search for the memorial window in the next issue. In the meantime, the search has begun for other lost treasures of the regiment, including the following:

- A fine painting of Colonel and Brevet Brigadier-General John McConihe, presented to Post McConihe No. 18, G.A.R., by the McConihe family.

The Troy Daily Times.

MAY 13, 1869.

PRESENTATION. – A delegation of the comrades from Post McConihe No. 18, G. A. R., will this evening receive the portrait of Colonel and Brevet Brig.-Gen. John McConihe, (which has been painted expressly for and is intended as a present to the Post by the family,) at the residence of Mrs. S. McConihe. The Post was named after Col. McConihe at its organization some two years since.

- "Experiences in the United States Volunteer Service in the War of 1861," by 1st Lieutenant William H. Merriam, Co. E. Was the manuscript of this work in fact published? It's a mystery!

The Troy Daily Press.

OCTOBER 1, 1863.

LIEUT. WM. H. MERRIAM'S NEW WORK. – We see by the following from the *N. Y. Herald*, of the 26th inst., that Lieut. Merriam has turned author:

Lieutenant Merriam, of the United States Volunteers, is engaged upon, and has nearly completed, a work for the press, to be entitled "Experiences in the United States Volunteer Service in the War of 1861." It will be made up chiefly of personal, biographical and anecdotal matters, for the faithful and entertaining presentation of which the author has peculiar qualifications. A feature of Lieut. Merriam's work will be sketches of military personages whom he met in Washington during the past winter, from the President, as commander-in-chief, all the way along down, including major- and brigadier-generals, colonels and officers of every grade. A majority of the "Experiences" have been of the most humorous character, and will be faithfully depicted. The work will be published in this city, and will be looked for with eager interest by the reading public, especially in the army.

Any subscribers having family members or friends that are interested in receiving this newsletter should send their e-mail addresses.

Cheers,

- Steve Wiezbicki

Steven M. Wiezbicki
2733 Amber Waves Lane
Fort Collins, CO 80528
970.689.3526
smw107@columbia.edu
smw700@hotmail.com

http://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/infantry/169thInf/169thInfCWN_Wiezbicki.htm
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/169ny2.htm>