

(This is a duplicate of the
original:)

H I S T O R Y

of the

TWENTY THIRD REGIMENT
N. G. S. N. Y.

Re-designated
the
ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH INFANTRY
A. E. F.

to which is prefixed
a history of the
BROOKLYN CITY GUARD
the parent organization.

Illustrated.

Vol. 1

By
Lieut Colonel Rutherford Ireland
formerly of the
23rd/106th Regiment.

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1937.

FOREWORD.

It is surprising to observe that a written record of the organization, activities and achievements of the Twenty-third Regiment, through the exigencies of war re-designated the One Hundred and Sixth Infantry, has up to this time never been accomplished, although there is to be found abundant evidence that such a work has from time to time been commenced.

Convinced that such a history should be written, the author, in 1933 applied himself to the task of compiling pertinent data into a chronological record of events commencing with the forming of the Brooklyn City Guard, the parent organization of the regiment and gradually unfolding a record of honorable military service to the state and to the nation over a period of seventy five years.

In presenting this history, it is with the sincere hope that veterans, active and future members of the regiment may acquire a fuller knowledge of its genealogy and that the story told in simple language may instill a spirit of emulation in upholding its glorious traditions and achievements.

R.I.
January 1st, 1937.

(Errors and omissions should be reported to the author.)

(Photograph of flag)

First National Color
of the
Twenty-third Regiment, N.G.S.N.Y., 1862.

This flag accompanied the regiment through
the Gettysburg campaign., July, 1863.

Colonel Rodney C. Ward,
Commanding Twenty-third Regiment,
NGSNY.

1868 --1879
and
1882 -- 1886

CHAPTER I

----- THE BROOKLYN CITY GUARD. IT'S ORGANIZATION, SOCIAL PROMINENCE AND MILITARY STANDING. -----

There is in the memorial collection of the One Hundred and Sixth Infantry, a printed notice dated August 23rd, 1842, addressed to the young men of Brooklyn, calling a meeting for the purpose set forth in the document; it reads as follows:-

BROOKLYN CITY GUARD
AUGUST 23rd, 1842.

The object of the undersigned in calling this meeting, is to attempt the organization of a NEW MILITARY CORPS in Brooklyn. Those who have been engaged in this matter have thought that such Corps as they propose is much to be desired in this place, PROVIDED the said Corps have due care to the motives which SHOULD govern such volunteer associations.

The character of the members is considered to be prerequisite and of course too much care cannot be taken in their election.

The officers attached to said Corps should in all respects be men who thoroughly understand their duty and are always ready to promote the interests of their company by every means in their power and more especially by strict attention to DRILL duty. And no men should hold offices in the gift of the company who are not entitled to them strictly on the score of merit. Money should not have undue influence.

The pledged faith of the company should never be neglected; if suffered to be dishonored, the bad effects are soon discovered in the secession of members, and final total disorganization. Therefore, fines and dues which might accrue should be promptly paid so that at any time, the company may know what expenses they will cover and will have the satisfaction of knowing that such expenses will be paid.

No By-Laws should be made which cannot be respected and obeyed. Order is Heaven's first law and without order and law, there cannot be a good military Corps found here or elsewhere.

There should be a strict discipline and each officer should discharge his duty without fear or favor, subjecting himself to a majority of the company for a decision upon what is right. Upon duty, the officer to be implicitly obeyed whether right or wrong.

These are some of the views which influence the undersigned to exert themselves to procure the organization of this new military company.

If said Corps is established on correct principles of economy, discipline and gentlemanly deportment, it must

and will succeed. Such a company can be made the pride of the place. Unfortunately at present we should have but little competition; but if we are successful, there would soon arise sufficient.

Never let it be said that your Corps is not, and never will be the FLAG COMPANY of Brooklyn. DISCIPLINE is all important to success, and let that be our pride. UNIFORM is a secondary consideration, and though it should have strict attention, our respect should give all preference to the former.

Signed: S.H. LOW
L.D. ATWATER
J.M. PRATT

Little did the signers of that document realize that through their humble attempt to organize a "new military Corps in Brooklyn", there was destined to emerge a regiment preordained to achieve greatness in peace and in war; it was through the zealous efforts of these gentlemen that twenty years later the Twenty third regiment came into being - - the parent organization of which was in the final analysis, the Brooklyn City Guard.

In pursuance to this call, a meeting was held in the "Lyceum" (later known as the Brooklyn Institute) located at Concord and Washington Streets. The minutes of this meeting show that on motion of Mr. Atwater, James N. Olney was appointed chairman and James W. Low Jr., Secretary; that the call for the meeting was read and placed on file; that it was resolved to commence the organization of a company to be known as the Brooklyn City Guard, and that committees were appointed to rent an armory and drill room, to enlist members and to draft a set of by-laws.

There were thirteen gentlemen present at the first meeting of the Brooklyn City Guard; to wit:-

Leonard D. Atwater
Charles D. Knapp
John M. Pratt
John C. Barnes
Richard V. W. Thorne Jr.
James W. Elwell
James N. Olney

George E. St. Felix
Joseph C. Wells
James W. Low Jr.
Horace A. Sprague
Nathaniel Strong
Seth H. Low

At the second meeting held a week later, the following officers were elected:-

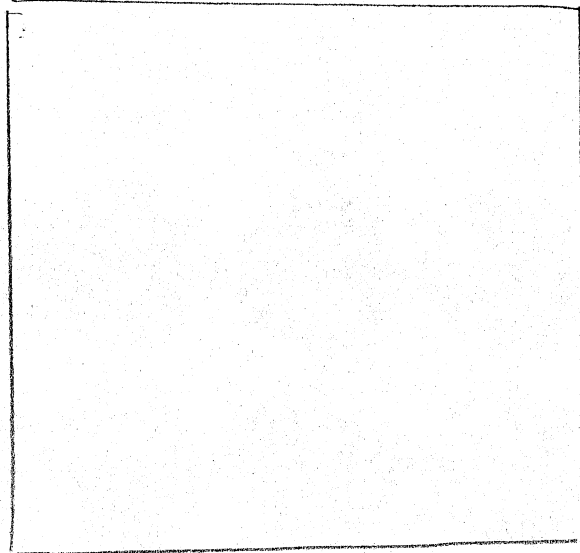
Commandant: James N. Olney
Secretary: James W. Low Jr.
Treasurer: John M. Pratt
Instructors: Horace A. Sprague and
Richard V. W. Thorne Jr.

The Corps had not yet been mustered into the state service and was therefore not recognized as part of the militia; neither were its elected officers commissioned although they continued in their several offices while the company was in process of organization. Considerable time seems to have elapsed before a charter as an independent corps was secured from the state.

The task of obtaining such a charter was entrusted to the Honorable John Lott, then a member of the Legislature; yet in spite of his vigorous efforts to secure the passage of the act, his object was defeated by the cry that the company was tainted with politics and that under the guise of a military body, was in fact a political club, and it was not until the adjournment of the Legislature in 1843 that the hope of recognition was abandoned. By now there were thirty six names on the roll; which considering that the population of Brooklyn in 1840 was but little more than thirty thousand and that competition from older military companies was very strong, was an extremely good showing for the new corps.

A Coat-of-Arms adopted by the corps under its constitution of 1842 deserves mention; and while its symbols cannot bespeak past achievements, the design clearly indicates the high ideals and aspirations of the organization; the interpretation of its significance is found in the archives of the corps; there is also shown a design of the well balanced insignia.

A shield with crest;an armored head,
signifying"ALWAYS READY"
Joined hands;signifying"UNION"
Lion rampant;signifying"STRENGTH"
The motto of the arms of the
city of Brooklyn,
"EEN DRAGHT MACKT MAGHT"
The armory of the corps,
GOTHIC HALL
The letters B.C.G.,
BROOKLYN CITY GUARD



Coat-of-Arms
of the
Brooklyn City Guard.

In further perusing the constitution of the corps,we notice that both military and civil officers of the organization served for a fixed term of one year and that the company,at the expiration of that term exercised the privilege of electing successors;further than this, the company controlled its officers in certain matters. The commandant could,under the constitution be commanded by the company to order a ~~parade~~;the findings of a court-martial must be submitted to the company for approval or disapproval.

We observe also,certain laws which to us appear puritanical. Smoking while in uniform cost the offending member five dollars;to discuss religion or politics within the armory was punishable by a fine of three dollars;these are but two of a long list of rules and penalties appearing in the by-laws adopted September 16th,1842(later revised in

accordance with the Militia laws of September 5th, 1848.) Conforming to the primitive system of that hazy period, the state militia was composed wholly of independent companies comparatively few of which were uniformed; but in this respect the Brooklyn City Guard differed. Under its by-laws we find the following uniform regulations:-

"The company uniform for artillery service shall be a scarlet jacket, blue cloth cap, black broadcloth pants in winter and white linen pants in summer, and the equipment shall be an artillery sword and belt. A helmet (Prussian pattern) may, at the option of the commandant be worn on parade."

On December 9th, 1843, the corps adopted a full dress uniform consisting of a scarlet coat slashed with white facings and embellished with gold trimmings, black broadcloth pantaloons with scarlet stripes and head dress consisting of a huge bear skin busby; the whole, most striking and beautiful withal. We know of but two reproductions of this uniform; one, a lithograph of Captain Olney dated 1846; the other, a portrait in oil of Captain Everdell. This painting narrowly escaped destruction in a serious fire occurring in the Bedford Avenue armory; although badly damaged by heat and smoke, it was restored to its original condition and again adorns the tapestried walls of the regimental library.

Although the Brooklyn City Guard was organized as a company of Light Artillery, it appears to have functioned only occasionally in that arm of the service. We have established the fact that the company was armed with the United States flint-lock musket, Model 1840 and subsequently with the United States percussion musket, calibre .69, Model 1842 and that it habitually marched as infantry. For two months the company occupied a room for drills and meetings in the old Lyceum building while the armory committee exerted every effort in locating more suitable quarters. Finally a room on the corner of Fulton and Everit

Photographic reproduction
of lithograph.

Captain James N. Olney,
First Commandant
of the
Brooklyn City Guard.
1842.

(Facing page 6)

streets was ~~selected and rented~~. Arrangements were at once made to decorate the newly acquired quarters; the result of mature deliberations was the most magnificent drill room in the city. This bold statement leads us to believe that other drill rooms scattered throughout Brooklyn must have been anything but attractive compared with the quarters of the Brooklyn City Guard.

The walls were covered with marble figured paper, the windows fitted with new casings, the premises freshly painted and a stove set up. The company took possession of its new "armory" on the 29th of October 1842; but it was not until December 6th of that year that muskets were procured from the state through the assistance of General Underhill and the Honorable Henry C. Murphy, then Mayor of the city of Brooklyn, the latter furnishing the required security for the arms.

Co-incident with this issue of fire-locks, the company proceeded to acquaint itself with the intricacies of the manual of arms as set forth in the system known as "Scott's Military Tactics"; an adaptation of the Prussian system prepared in 1834 under authority of Congress and known by his name. In the meantime Captain Olney had, on October 4th, 1842, resigned as commandant, relinquishing his membership in the Corps and Seth H. Low was elected President and J.C. Wells Vice President of the civil body. The resignation of Captain ~~Olney was received with genuine regret and a resolution of thanks~~ was passed at the time of its acceptance. The perplexing question of selecting a suitable officer to fill the vacated post of commandant offered no solution, and the Corps was without a captain until July of the year following, when Captain Olney was again elected.

The opening of the year 1843 found the Brooklyn City Guard in a prosperous condition, yet without the much desired charter

from Albany. As has already been said, the matter was in the hands of Senator John A. Lott; but the company also delegated Mr. Horace A. Sprague to the capital to further its interests in this all important matter. Nothing was accomplished however and the company did not hesitate to charge Mr. Sprague with exerting his energies AGAINST rather than for the charter; in short, Sprague was openly charged with treason against the Brooklyn City Guard! The status of Sprague was unique; although a prime mover in its organization, he was at the same time a member of another company known as the Nassau Guard.

His reason (as he explained it) for taking an active part in the organization of the Brooklyn City Guard, was his dissatisfaction in the appearance and the discipline of the company of which he was already a member; it later developed that the real reason for his perfidy was actuated by jealousy growing out of the election of Captain Olney as commandant, -- an honor which he coveted but never realized. Sprague's resignation followed. Shortly thereafter, this fellow, unworthy of membership in ANY military organization, was, by what process we know not, elected captain of the Nassau Guard.

At a meeting held May 2nd, 1843, it was voted to tender a reception to the New York City Guard; from available records this must have developed into a handsome affair. Incidentally, it marked the first public ceremony of its kind participated in by the Brooklyn City Guard. There appears to have existed a strong bond of fellowship between the two organizations which shortly thereafter resulted in a determined though ineffectual effort to unite as a battalion. The 23rd of June of that year was made memorable by the return of Captain Olney to the company, and on July 11th, he was for the second time elected commandant. Under the then existing table

of organization, the company was allowed a captain, two first lieutenants, two second lieutenants, a quartermaster, paymaster, commissary and a surgeon; a first or orderly sergeant, four sergeants, four corporals and a marker.

To have filled all of these authorized ranks and grades, would have rendered the organization decidedly top-heavy; yet the Corps elected the following named officers and non-commissioned officers following that of Captain Olney: -

First Lieut. William N. Clem
Second Lieut. Richard V. W. Thorne Jr.
(x) Third Lieut. Leonard D. Atwater
(x) Fourth Lieut. Joseph C. Wells

First Sergt. John M. Pratt
Second Sergt. John R. St. Felix
Third Sergt. J. W. Low Jr.
Fourth Sergt. John C. Barnes
Fifth Sergt. James Davidson

First Corp. James W. Elwell
Second Corp. Munson Hinman
Third Corp. Seth H. Low
Fourth Corp. John R. Wells

(x)-Elected but not commissioned:

But there was a joker in these wholesale elections to which was tied the proverbial string; for in the minutes of that meeting we read: -- "Resolved that those officers whose services are not required at present, shall take their place in line." As a token of appreciation of his untiring though ineffectual efforts toward securing a state charter which would place the Brooklyn City Guard on an officially recognized military basis, Senator Lott was, on August 11th, 1843, elected an honorary member of the Corps.

The summer of that year was devoted to drill in preparation for a parade scheduled to take place on September 8th; this event seems to have been a memorable occasion in the life of the young company. It was first suggested that August 23rd, the first anniversary of the Corps, be selected for the first appearance of the Brooklyn City

Guard in public; yet for some unknown reason the birthday was not observed in that manner. The procedure adopted in this instance appears amusing. The Corps solemnly resolved a month beforehand that a parade should take place; a committee of three was accordingly appointed to make all necessary arrangements; the captain in the meantime looked helplessly on, having nothing to do in the matter but to obey his "superiors", the privates of the company in regular meeting assembled.

On this momentous occasion the Brooklyn City Guard escorted by the Brooklyn Light Guard, Captain Pearson commanding, made a brave appearance; returning to the armory, a collation provided by the committee awaited them. The Brooklyn "Star" of the following day gives this brief notice of the parade: -

"The Brooklyn City Guard, James N. Olney, Captain, made their first parade last evening in fatigue dress and were received by the Brooklyn Light Guard, Captain Pearson, who did them this courtesy at three hours notice."

"Such parades and testimonials serve to give animation to the city and promote military spirit and good feeling among the young men."

The refreshment of the inner man seems to have been a part of the military code of those good old days; we find that eating generally followed marching and the company apparently liked both so well that another parade was ordered by the company to take place in October; it was also ordered by the same authority that entertainment and refreshment should be provided after said parade.

During the year 1843, steps were again taken looking to a permanent organization; the company still had no legal status and its officers no commissions. It was now believed that to be admitted to the regularly constituted military forces of the state, the Corps should be connected with a larger body. Another attempt was therefore made to consolidate with the New York City Guard in the formation of an independent battalion; but once again the attempt failed utterly. With a feeling of

profound disgust, Captain Olney quit the project, tendering his resignation on December 2nd, 1843; he was succeeded by James W. Elwell, elected Captain, December 9th. There follows a list of officers and non-commissioned officers elected at the annual meeting of the Corps held December 9th, 1843: -

(x) Captain: James W. Elwell
First Lt: J. H. Clarke
Second Lt: Richard V. W. Thorne Jr.
(x) Third Lt: S. A. Smith
(x) Fourth Lt: Charles E. Knapp
Quartermaster: Joseph C. Wells

First Sergt: J. M. Pratt
Second Sergt: John R. St. Felix
Third Sergt: J. W. Low Jr.
Fourth Sergt: H. A. Washburne
Fifth Sergt: Leonard D. Atwater

First Corp: R. B. Clarke
Second Corp: John C. Barnes
Third Corp: J. B. King
Fourth Corp: C. B. Nichols
Standard Bearer: John R. Wells

(x) ~~Elected but not commissioned:~~ meeting were: -
The civil officers elected at this meeting were:-
President: Seth H. Low
Vice Pres: John C. Wells
Secretary: John C. Barnes
Treasurer: J. M. Pratt

Prudential Committee: J. W. Low Jr.
Charles E. Knapp
Board of Directors: J. H. Clarke
Richard V. W. Thorne Jr.
James N. Olney

The events of the year 1844 having to do with the change of status of the Brooklyn City Guard are quite as confusing as they are interesting. To intelligently follow the transformation of the Corps from an independent organization without official recognition, to a unit of the organized militia of the state of New York, requires careful study of the circumstances and facts in their proper order of sequence which brings us happily to the fulfillment of a long cherished hope of the Brooklyn City Guard and completes its organization.

Before attempting to digest the re-organization of the Corps, let us digress for the moment. The only notable occurrence during the uneventful winter of 1843, was a reception given by the Brooklyn City Guard at the Mansion House, -- the first of its kind which as the years passed became an annual social event of the city.

With the advent of Spring the company voted unanimously to unite with the 6th Artillery Brigade commanded by General George P. Morris; this brigade was attached to the 1st Division, N.Y.S.M. Captain Elwell had in the meantime resigned and once again the command of the company fell to Captain Olney who for the third time was elected commandant. On March 16th, 1844, the Brooklyn City Guard was regularly organized as a unit of the old 13th Regiment of Artillery, 6th Brigade, 1st Division. This regiment, organized December 7th, 1813, -- an offshoot of the 3rd Regiment of Artillery, N.Y.S.M., was commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Martin Boerum.

The first battalion comprised the artillery of Westchester county; the second battalion, the artillery of Suffolk, Queens and Kings counties. With this assignment, the officers named were commissioned in the ranks set opposite their respective names: -

Captain: James N. Olney
First Lt: James H. Clarke
Second Lt: Richard V.W. Thorne Jr.

The reader must not confuse the regiment of which we speak with that bearing the same numerical designation, organized July 5th, 1847, and later re-designated the 245th Regiment, Coast Artillery, N.Y.N.G. There follows a copy of the order creating the old 13th Regiment: -

STATE OF NEW YORK
General Orders:
Headquarters, New York.
December 7th, 1813.

Upon the recommendation and request of the

commandant of the First Brigade of Artillery, and the solicitation of most of the officers of the Third Regiment of Artillery resident within the city and county of New York, the Commander-in-Chief hereby organizes the said regiment into two regiments, one of which will be known and called the Third Regiment, will consist of the companies and corps in the city of New York belonging to said regiment, and the residue of said regiment is organized into a separate regiment to be called and known as the Thirteenth.

The last mentioned regiment will be commanded by Lieut. Colonel Martin Boerum; the first battalion will consist of the artillery corps of Westchester county and be commanded by Major Lyon and the second battalion of the artillery corps in Suffolk, Queens and Kings counties will be commanded by Major Barbarin.

The Staff officers of the present Third Regiment within the limits of the Thirteenth Regiment, are assigned to, and will act in the Thirteenth in the same grades they now fill in the Third, and those resident within the city of New York are assigned to, and will continue to act in their several grades in the Third Regiment hereby organized.

Major Joseph O. Bogart is assigned and brevetted to be Lieut. Colonel of the Third Regiment now organized, and Captains John Graff and William T. Hunter to be Majors thereof, and the senior of the two to be First Major and the junior to be Second Major.

Major General Stevens will cause this General Order to be carried into effect without delay.

By order of the Commander-in Chief,
Robert Macomb, Aide de Camp.

On March 10th, 1829, the company commanded by Lieut. William L. Smith and attached to the 13th regiment of artillery, was divided and re-organized into two companies. Further comment on this change as affecting the Brooklyn City Guard will follow in its proper place. The order of re-organization follows:-

STATE OF NEW YORK
General Orders.

Headquarters, Albany.
March 10th, 1829.

The Commander-in-Chief approves of the division of the company of artillery now under the command of Lieutenant William L. Smith and attached to the Thirteenth Regiment of artillery, and that a new company be organized from that part of the said company residing in the town of North Castle and under command of Second Lieut. William Lockwood until an election shall be held according to law.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,
N. F. Beck, Adj. Gen'l.

The historic town of North Castle located in the hills of Westchester in the vicinity of White Plains, lay within the theatre of active operations during the campaign of 1776; that it figured prominently in the action of Chatterton's Hill (commonly referred to as the battle of White Plains) is well known to students of the American revolution.

On October 29th, 1836, the 13th regiment of artillery was divided. Those companies located in the counties of Westchester and New York were re-organized into a separate battalion designated the "Jefferson Guards"; the remaining companies located in the county of Suffolk constituted the 13th regiment, retaining that numerical designation. The order authorizing this change of status follows:-

STATE OF NEW YORK
General Orders.

Headquarters, Albany.
October 29th, 1836.

The Commander-in-Chief has been pleased, on the application of Brigadier General Charles W. Sandford ~~of the 6th Brigade of Artillery, sanctioned by the~~ Major General commanding the First Division of Artillery, to make the following arrangements for the more convenient organization of a portion of said brigade.

The 13th Regiment of Artillery is hereby divided. The companies attached to said regiment located in the counties of Westchester and New York are hereby organized into a separate battalion to be denominated the Jefferson Guards.

Lieut. Colonel Andrew Warner of the said 13th Regiment will take command of the said separate battalion. The remaining companies of the said 13th Regiment located in the county of Suffolk will constitute and remain the 13th Regiment of Artillery under the command of Colonel Alexander Ming Jr. The said 13th Regiment and the separate battalion, Jefferson Guards, will continue attached to the 6th Brigade of Artillery as at present.

Brigadier General Sandford will take the necessary steps to promulgate and carry into effect this order pursuant to law.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,
Thos. W. Harman, Adj. Gen'l.

On June 3rd, 1840, the companies comprising the battalion of Jefferson Guards were re-organized into a regiment of ar-

tillery designated the 38th; this regiment was attached to the 6th Artillery Brigade, 1st Division as is shown under the accompanying order:-

STATE OF NEW YORK
General Orders.

Headquarters, Albany.
June 3rd, 1840.

The companies heretofore composing the battalion of Jefferson Guards (viz:- three companies located in the county of Westchester and two in the city of New York) are hereby organized into a regiment of artillery to be denominated the 38th Regiment, and attached to the 6th Brigade of artillery.

Brigadier General George P. Morris will order an election for Field Officers for said regiment and cause proper notices thereof to be duly served.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,
Rufus King, Adj. Gen'l.

On the day following, officers of the newly organized command were ordered to assemble at Niblo's Garden, Broadway and Prince Street in New York, for the purpose of electing Field Officers as per orders:-

SIXTH BRIGADE
NEW YORK STATE ARTILLERY
Brigade Orders.

New York, June 4th, 1840.

In compliance with the above General Orders, the officers of the 38th Regiment of Artillery (formerly the Battalion of Jefferson Guards) will meet at Niblo's Garden, corner of Broadway and Prince Street, on Friday evening, the 12th inst, at half past seven o'clock for the purpose of holding an election for Field Officers of said regiment.

Lieut. Colonel Warner will assume the command of the 38th Regiment and will cause the proper notices to be served on all commissioned officers thereof, and make due returns to the Brigadier General, previous to the election.

By order of Brigadier General Morris,
Charles Yates, Bdg'e. Q.M.

With exemplary promptness, Colonel Warner the same day notifies his officers of the ordered election:-

THIRTY EIGHTH REGIMENT
NEW YORK STATE ARTILLERY
(Jefferson Guards)
Regimental Orders.

New York, 4th June, 1840.

The Commander-in-Chief has organized the companies heretofore composing the Battalion of Jefferson Guards into a regiment of artillery to be attached to the 6th Brigade of Artillery.

Pursuant to Brigade Orders, an election for Field Officers thereof will be held at the house of William Niblo in this city, on Friday the 12th inst, at 7½ o'clock P.M.

By order of Andrew Warner,
Lieut. Col. Commanding.
Orvin Brown, Adjutant.

To those familiar with the history of old New York, the mention of Niblo's Garden recalls to mind a rendezvous famous for its viands, wines and warmth of atmosphere. In fancy we visualize the dignified procedure of casting the ballot, and it is a safe guess that following the business at hand, the evening mellowed into one of those convivial gatherings peculiar to the military service; there can be no doubt that the newly elected Field Officers long remembered that night at Niblo's.

At this point we again center our attention on the Brooklyn City Guard as a regularly organized unit of the 13th Regiment of Artillery. Co-incident with this assignment, an important question presented itself which, had it not been considered might well have operated to the detriment of the company. The question under consideration was, could the Brooklyn City Guard, being a new company mustered into the service of the state SUBSEQUENT to the passage of an act granting exemption from jury and military duty after seven years of honorable service, claim the same benefits of that statute as members of such companies as were THEN attached to the brigade?

To put at rest all doubt on the subject, it was deemed

advisable to find SOME company within the brigade that had been organized prior to the passage of the exemption law, which being low in numbers, might offer the opportunity for the Brooklyn City Guard merging with it. In short, such a company must be merely a "paper" company without a captain; more plainly speaking, a "living corpse", yet regularly organized as a unit of the state militia none the less. Through the perseverance of General Morris, to whom the Corps owed much, such a company was found in the 38th Regiment of Artillery; tracing the lineage of this almost defunct unit, we find its origin in the company organized in the year 1828, and originally commanded by Lieut. William L. Smith, in the old 13th regiment as indicated in General Orders dated March 10th, 1829, which we have previously cited.

This company had, through the passage of time and the process of evolution become a unit of the 38th regiment; to more fully establish its identity, we have Captain Olney's written statement of the facts as presented. And so it came to pass that Captain Olney was, on July 11th, 1844, directed to assume command of the company "lately commanded by Lieut. Ferris Bouton"; the order follows:-

**SIXTH BRIGADE NEW YORK STATE ARTILLERY
Brigade Orders.**

New York, July 11th, 1844.

Captain Olney of this brigade is hereby assigned to the command of the company lately commanded by Lieut. Ferris Bouton of the 38th Regiment. He will forthwith report himself for duty to Colonel Warner who will deliver to him the roll, books, papers and other property of said company.

By order of Brig. Gen'l. Morris,
James Phalen, Brigade Major.
and Inspector.

Through this cleverly executed stratagem the Brooklyn City Guard was, on July 11th, 1844, transferred to the 38th Regiment, taking honorable place as a unit of the artillery forces of the state of

New York.

During the Spring of the same year, the full dress uniform adopted the previous December was procured by the company and a dress parade ordered for June 3rd; the solemnity and importance of this event may be realized from an order by Captain Olney:-

xxx"The Commandant cannot doubt that every member is impressed with the importance of this our FIRST FULL DRESS parade, and the influence it may have in ADVANCING or, if not CREDITABLE, retarding the onward progress of the Corps."

"He therefore counts with confidence upon cheerful and punctual attendance on the part of every TRUE Guard at the following preparatory drills."xxx

He then names every day of the week preceding the proposed parade; the drills on the last two evenings to be in full dress. Lacking indeed must have been that member who failed to respond to this earnest appeal; yet with all the preparations, the parade was at the last minute postponed because of an election occurring on the day set for the initial display of those gorgeous uniforms; we may well imagine the feelings of the zealous Captain and his company.

As always, the discipline of the Corps was rigidly maintained, Captain Olney exerting himself to make it a thoroughly trained military body. Not only were drills continued through the heat of summer, but certain evenings were set apart for special formations; yet not satisfied with its progress, the company was repeatedly ordered up for early morning drills! These remarkable performances were scheduled for five o'clock! For the present day soldier of the regiment who on occasions finds it irksome to attend but a single drill each week, this offers food for thought. Yet the seemingly harsh treatment bore fruit in abundance; the Brooklyn City Guard was fast attaining a high degree of proficiency in matters military.

It was during July of the year 1844, that the New Eng-

land Guard of Boston, visited New York as guests of the New York City Guard; seizing this opportunity for creating friendly rivalry, the alert Captain Olney extended a cordial invitation to both companies to be the guests of the Brooklyn City Guard; the invitation accepted great preparations were made for the occasion. The program included a trip to the Navy Yard and to Fort Hamilton where the battalion would put on an exhibition drill and by way of compliment to the visitors, Captain Duncan's battery of United States Flying Artillery promised the thrill of the afternoon.

The appointed hour of assembly was five A.M.; the Corps was to cross the river, receive its guests, breakfast at the "Pearl Street House" and proceed on its tour of sightseeing and adventure. Unfortunately through circumstances quite beyond human control, the project fell flat -- or nearly flat; for there descended a terrific storm of rain which lasted throughout the entire day; by this, the conspiring elements changed the aspect of what had promised to be a gala event in the young life of the Brooklyn City Guard and its distinguished guests. ~~With no alternative~~, the Corps received the visitors in New York and after a warming breakfast the bedraggled battalion boarded the steamer "South America" (the finest steam vessel on the Hudson at that time) and casting off, headed for the Navy Yard.

Clearing the yard the excursion set its course through the narrows and to the fort; arriving thither, all attempts to effect a landing were thwarted by rough water and a very great danger of foundering; this disheartening adventure added to the already deep mortification felt by Captain Olney and his Corps; yet being a resourceful man, the doughty captain suggested a sail up the Hudson, which in a measure would compensate for the disappointment in missing the drills at the fort. But by all odds, the big event of that cheerless

day was a very grand dinner given at the famous Niblo's Garden in New York. From what we gather, the sad reflections on the weather, the navy yard, the fort, the anticipated drills and all the rest of it, were swallowed up in unbounded joy and good fellowship; this crowning event most certainly did credit to the Brooklyn City Guard.

Through this happy visit there sprung a genuine friendship between the three organizations; for immediately upon its return to Boston, the New England Guard extended a return invitation to Captain Olney's company; two years later, the Brooklyn City Guard were the guests of the Boston company. This military excursion was probably the greatest social event ever participated in by the Corps.

During the afternoon of August 22nd, 1844, the company pitched tents at Fort Greene in a driving rainstorm; the camp, appropriately named after General Morris, is memorable in the activities of the Corps. On the morning following, General Morris and his brigade arrived from New York and paraded on "the field" near the fort. Following a sumptuous dinner, the festivities of the evening opened with a band concert and dancing on the greensward; many were the invited guests with a generous sprinkling of fair and beautiful admirers; the Brooklyn Star of the 24th remarks:-

x x x "We observed encamped on the summit of the embankments, Captain James N. Olney's fine company, the Brooklyn City Guard."

"We also observed as part of their equipment, a handsome knapsack of leopard skin. The appearance of this article entitles the company to the name of "THE LEOPARDS!" We therefore dub them "The Leopards" in the manner of Knighthood".

"Let them be known by that name now, henceforth and forever." x x x

This appellation bestowed on the Corps seems never to have been accepted; we find no further allusion to the incident. As for the leopard skin knapsacks, -- a striking feature of the equipment of the Brooklyn City Guardsman, Captain Olney tells of the circumstance

resulting in their adoption; we quote from a letter on the **subject:-**

x x x "In casting about to find something novel, yet appropriate and desirable (the Brooklyn City Guard were bound to have everything above the common) I came across some imitation leopard skin plush, had a knapsack made up and exhibited to the company. It was adopted by acclamation. It looked very stylish and effective worn upon our red coats." x x x

But to return to the encampment at Fort Greene. The weather now being fair, the company gave an exhibition drill by moonlight, the excellence of which elicited only the highest praise from officers of the army and of the militia; during the festivities the Brooklyn Light Guard and the New York Fusileers (units of the visiting battalion) manifested their friendly feelings toward the Corps by relieving its members of guard duty. As the night wore on, soldiers and their ladies promenaded about the hill, the band and the shining moon furnishing the inspiration; toward midnight tents were struck and the company marched to its armory to the inspiring tune of "Over Way Across The Mountains Ho".

The next event of importance in the activities of the Brooklyn City Guard was its removal from the "Armory" at ~~Fulton~~ and ~~et~~. Everit Streets -- now Columbia Heights, to "Gothic Hall" on Adams Street. This occurred in the early spring of the year 1845; the exact date is not available, although from the minutes of a meeting held March 12th of that year, a motion was made to employ an armorer; from this we judge that the company had very recently established headquarters in Gothic Hall. Captain Olney, always generous where his command was concerned, purchased Gothic Hall, converting the building from a church into an armory; -- a decided change of environment for so holy a place, yet admirably suited to the needs of the company. This structure was for many years the home of the Brooklyn City Guard.

The chief military event of that year in which the Corps

participated, occurred June 24th. Ex-President Andrew Jackson died on the 8th, yet the news of his demise was not received in Brooklyn until the 17th instant; the occasion was one of profound sorrow throughout the land. On the 24th, a great procession was held, the Corporations of New York and Brooklyn uniting; the city of Brooklyn furnished no less than five divisions, one comprising the military commanded by Major General Underhill who had recently been assigned to the 2nd Division, N.Y.S.M.

On June 27th, the Brooklyn City Guard escorted General Marcy, then Secretary of War, on an official visit to Fort Hamilton; again the "Star" commenting on the appearance of the company said:-

"They were in full dress with a large band of music. Their exercises and soldier-like bearing excited the approbation of all who witnessed them."

Through the summer months of that year the indefatigable Captain Olney continued early morning drills. In an order dated June 13th, 1845, the members of the company were informed that "morning drills will take place Monday and Thursday of each week at 5 A.M." "these drills", the order states, "are in addition to the regular Friday evening drills and absentees are subject to the usual fine. The Commandant most earnestly requests a full attendance at these drills in order that the Corps may be second to none at the coming review."

The third anniversary of the Corps, August 23rd, 1845, was celebrated at Coney Island in a quiet and inexpensive way; this in the interests of economy, it appearing that the company had rolled up a considerable debt which must be liquidated. An exhibition drill given on the evening of September 19th, at Washington and Tillery Streets, proved the topic of favorable comment; a multitude of admiring friends of the company witnessed the highly creditable performance. Of this, the "Star" remarks:-

"Captain Olney's Military Company confers great credit on themselves as officers and soldiers and is a subject of just pride and real adornment to our city."

The drill concluded with a spirited march to the Mansion House; here the Corps was entertained at dinner by its Honorary members. At the close of the year a committee appointed to prepare a correct roll of the company, reported on December 2nd: "There are on the rolls of the Brooklyn City Guard, twenty five efficient, four inefficient and four absent members, making a total of thirty three." Then followed what may well be termed the annual shakeup; viz: the annual election of officers and non-commissioned officers for the ensuing year:-

Third Lieut. Leonard D. Atwater
 Fourth Lieut. William Norton

 Fourth Sergt. James H. Cutter
 Fifth Sergt. R. B. Clark

 First Corpl. C. B. Nichols
 Second Corpl. Antonio McKiernan
 Third Corpl. James L. Watson
 Fourth Corpl. L. D. Van Alstyne

We have already observed that the Brooklyn City Guard was organized as a company of Light Artillery; we have observed also that it habitually functioned as Infantry. There are found in the archives of the command but two references indicating the character of its original formation; one appears in the minutes of a meeting held late in December of the year 1845:- "Short swords were purchased for the company to be worn on occasions when the Corps parades as as artillery." The other, commenting on a parade of the 6th Brigade held in Brooklyn during the year 1850 informs us that "the Corps made a handsome appearance in its short red coats contrasted against its highly polished brass field pieces."

In April 1846, labor troubles along the Brooklyn waterfront assumed proportions quite beyond the control of the civil authorities; the unfortunate affair known as the "Atlantic Dock Riots", proved the real worth of the militia in preserving the peace. On April 20th, Sher-

iff Jenkins of Kings county "fearing tumult and riot", issued a call for four companies of militia; the companies so ordered were the Brooklyn City Guard, Captain Olney, Union Blues, Captain Goodchild Fusileer Guard, Captain Dillon and Columbia Riflemen, Captain Morrison; the combined strength of the battalion numbered two hundred men commanded by General Underhill.

The Brooklyn City Guard, the first company reporting, had, prior to leaving its armory, filled its cartridge boxes with ammunition. Upon being appraised of this fact, General Underhill evinced great surprise as it was generally believed that the militia of the city were without this all important requisite. To the credit of Captain Olney, be it said that he had caused to be constructed in his armory a "reservoir" for the storage of ammunition; be it said also that his was the ONLY company so supplied! Arriving at its objective, the company established headquarters on board the steamer "Atlantic"; assigned the duty of clearing the streets in the vicinity of the entrance to the docks, the Brooklyn City Guard accomplished the task in an efficient and soldierlike manner.

During this tour of active duty no attacks were made on the troops although the discharge of fire arms gave rise to false reports that Captain Olney's company had been fired on; with this, the officer of the guard apprehensive of serious trouble, caused the "long roll" to be beat upon the drums of the guard! Hearing the alarm, the troops formed up; -- all of them, save the Brooklyn City Guard, with empty muskets, yet making a bold front behind a wavering line of bristling bayonets!

With the restoration of peace and tranquility, the troops were relieved; in taking leave of the militia Sheriff Jenkins addressed them: said he,

"Our citizen soldiery have proved themselves worthy of the name they bear, and I deem it but an act of justice to them to say that their conduct upon the occasion of the late disturbance in the Sixth ward is a guarantee that our city can-

not, while they continue their present organization, be the scene of riot and tumult."

This well deserved compliment was followed by a vote of the Supervisors of Kings county to pay those who responded to the call at the rate of two dollars per diem for commissioned officers, one dollar and a quarter for non-commissioned officers and one dollar for privates; so ended the first call for active duty in aid of the civil authorities. Another outstanding event of that year, although of quite another sort, was the trip to Boston as guests of the New England Guard; leaving its armory on the afternoon of August 14th, the Brooklyn City Guard set sail; arriving at its destination, the Bostonians received the visitors with full military honors, and, with great pomp and ceremony the battalion marched to the Commons where camp was pitched.

We quote from the diary of one who participated in the festivities:- "The heat was frightful; three of our men fainted on reaching the Commons. As soon as relieved of our bear skins and muskets, we rushed in a body to the bath, regardless of the surgeon's advice to cool off." Following a week of wholesome pleasure, the Corps returned to Brooklyn.

The year 1847 held much of importance in the life of the Corps. The Mexican war was in progress; during this year the Brooklyn City Guard very often performed the solemn duty of escorting the remains of our soldiers brought north to their final resting place. Probably the most prominent officer whose obsequies were conducted in Brooklyn, was the late Captain Pearson, at one time commandant of the Brooklyn Light Guard; following his untimely death the designation of this company was changed to the Pearson Light Guard. Captain Pearson died of wounds received in the battle of Chapultepec. Another important military event of the year was a reception tendered President Polk who visited Brooklyn on June 26th; in this, all the military of the city par-

ticipated.

August 23rd, 1847 marked the fifth anniversary of the Corps. Accompanied by a large gathering of friends, the command proceeded to Fort Hamilton, marching from that point to Bath (now Bath Beach) where an exhibition drill was given; at four o'clock dinner was served in a pleasant grove. We are told it was one of the prettiest scenes ever witnessed in those parts. The green branches overhead, the broad sparkling bay, a hundred rosy cheeked romping children, happy and merry, completes a picture of an old fashioned picnic; the ball room of the hotel adjoining the grove presented a brilliant scene as red coated guardsmen and their fair ladies danced to the soft music of the band.

And this brings us to another stage in the evolution of the old militia; it is the beginning of the period when the time honored individuality of the independent company was in a measure to be lost. On May 13th, 1847, the Legislature passed a bill for the reorganization of the state militia, whereby existing brigades and regiments were to be consolidated with the intent of encouraging the formation of uniformed companies and placing the citizen soldiery on a more distinctly military basis. Under the provisions of the bill, eight companies of Light Infantry, Riflemen, Grenadiers or Infantry with two additional flank companies -- one of Cavalry and one of Light Artillery, were to form a regiment; this combination of three arms of the service comprising an infantry regimental formation must have given rise to singular tactical complications!

The bill provided that the organized militia of New York and Richmond counties were to constitute the First Division to be composed of the first twelve regiments. The next regiment in numerical order, and the first of the Second Division comprising the militia

of Kings county, was the 13th Regiment, which then had its birth; the date of its organization being July 5th, 1847. Thus the Brooklyn City Guard, officially referred to as Captain Olney's company of the 38th, was cut adrift from its old military associations with that regiment. The attachment between the company and General Morris who commanded the brigade of which the 38th was a part, was singularly close; in taking leave of the company, the General addressed himself to Captain Olney in terms of genuine sorrow. Colonel Warner, commanding the 38th, also expressed his profound regrets in parting with the Brooklyn City Guard which under the new law could no longer serve under its colors. Captain Olney now drew up a petition asking that his company be designated a "Flank Company" in the newly organized 13th regiment.

Presenting himself before the Commander-in-Chief at Albany, he humbly petitioned His Excellency the Governor; the application was approved. General Orders No. 1, 13th Regiment, N.Y.S.M., bearing date of May 25th, 1848 recites that "By order of the Commander-in-Chief dated May 18th, 1848, the company heretofore known as the Brooklyn City Guard, commanded by Captain James N. Olney, is duly assigned as a Flank Company of Light Artillery of the 13th Regiment, 5th Brigade, 2nd Division, N.Y.S.M." With this change of status it will be observed that the company became a unit of the 13th; yet the prestige of its name was still very great.

The original composition of the newly organized regiment follows:-

Colonel: Abel Smith
Lt. Col: Edwin Beers
Major: J. J. Dillon
Surgeon: Samuel C. Hanford
Ass't Surgeon: Robert J. Davis
Engineer: Samuel Smith
Quartermaster: John M. Small
Paymaster: Joseph Volkornor

Flank Company, Light Artillery
Brooklyn City Guard
Captain James N. Olney.

Company "A": Pearson Light Guard, 1st Lt. N. Pike Comd'g.
do "B": Washington Horse Guard, Capt. J. McLeer.
do "C": Brooklyn Guard, Capt. C. Morrison.
do "D": Williamsburgh Light Artillery, Capt. Lewis.
do "E": Williamsburgh Light Artillery, Capt. Hanford.
do "F": Oregon Guards, Capt. John W. Caddin.
do "G": Washington Guards, Capt. John H. Gans.
do "H": Jefferson Guard, Lieut. Henry Willis Comd'g.

The inquiring reader naturally asks by what reasoning companies "D" and "E" claim the identical designation? To this query we make answer that "D" was the Williamsburgh Light Artillery, while "E" was the "East Williamsburgh Light Artillery." The dress and accoutrements of the 13th regiment were, at the time of its organization as diverse as were the designations of its several units. The Brooklyn City Guard wore scarlet: the Brooklyn Guard, white: another company appeared in blue; still another retained the blue and buff of the Continentals; and so it went; -- a heterogeneous conglomeration of colors and styles to which the respective companies clung with genuine military pride.

Immediately upon the order of assignment, Captain Olney extended an invitation to the Boston City Guard to visit Brooklyn. The guests of the Brooklyn City Guard, Flank Company, 13th Regiment, arrived on the morning of July 11th, remaining two days; both commands pitched tents on the Pierrepont estate (at the foot of the street known by that name) remaining under canvas until the departure of the visiting command; a feature of this happy event, was a grand banquet given by Captain Olney at the Mansion House in honor of the Bostonians.

The first parade of the 13th regiment (of which we shall make further remark) occurred in June, 1848. Following this parade, the Flank Company which we still affectionately refer to as the Brooklyn City Guard, gave an exhibition drill in its armory, Gothic Hall: a feature of the drill being the "silent manual" in which the company ex-

celled, compels our attention as being unique.

Being at the "Order".

At the first tap of the drum,	execute	Support Arms
2nd	do	Carry Arms
3rd	do	Present Arms
4th	do	Shoulder Arms
5th	do	Arms Port
6th	do	Shoulder Arms
7th	do	Order Arms
8th	do	Shoulder Arms
9th	do	Trail Arms
10th	do	Shoulder Arms
and so it went to the 20th tap;		
20th	execute	Load in 12 times
21st	do	Aim
22nd	do	Fire
23rd	do	Shoulder Arms
24th	do	Recover Arms

The drill was over; a medal for proficiency in this test of exacting execution and unfailing memory went to M.H.Voorhees.

We have mentioned the first parade of the 13th regiment. In fancy we picture the new regiment, proud of its existance, swinging past with solid ranks, the glittering flank company of Light artillery in the van, each company clothed in its distinctive uniform and each with notions of its own importance. In reality the performance was nothing less than disgraceful. Small groups, more or less disciplined represented companies; the Pearson Light Guard, the largest company in column, mustered but twenty three muskets, while the Brooklyn City Guard which had contended so strongly and against strong opposition for the honor of the coveted designation of "flank company", mustered but nine muskets! The "Eagle" in reporting the event says:-

"A new era in the military history of Brooklyn commenced yesterday; being nothing less than the parade at the City Hall of a full regiment of uniformed troops."

This misleading statement leads us to wonder just what the correspondent meant to imply; or it may have been that HE was in that state instead of the regiment.

Although consolidated in a regimental organization, the various companies of the 13th were still as independent of each other as they were of the regiment; but the right step had been taken and the time was not far distant when the state of New York was to have a really efficient militia. Another important step in the plan of regimental consolidation, was the conversion of the old city building at Cranberry and Henry Streets into an armory; the cornerstone of the structure was laid by the great Lafayette in 1825. The basement was given over to a free library for mechanics and the upper floors provided meeting rooms for the trustees and other executive bodies.

In 1836 the city acquired the property for the purposes of a City Hall; but with the completion of the present Borough Hall and at the earnest solicitation of leading citizens, the old building was re-modeled into drill rooms and assumed the dignified name of City Armory". And so it came to pass that "Apprentices' Library" became the official home of our local militia; the press of that says:-

"The valuable consecration of the building by the city to the military has already infused a new vigor and enthusiasm in our military; for they can now boast of superior facilities in respect to Headquarters to any other city in the state." Headquarters to any other city in

During September 1848, the city was visited by a great conflagration laying waste upwards of two hundred dwellings and three churches between Henry and Washington Streets and spreading to the area between Sands and Concord Streets. A battalion of local militia comprising three companies, the Brooklyn City Guard, Union Blues and Columbia Rifles, were immediately ordered under arms; these units rendered valuable service following the disaster in the suppression of looting. The closing military event of the year finds the Brooklyn City Guard participating in a parade in New York; on this occasion the Corps appeared wearing helmets (Prussian style) in lieu of the time

honored and distinctive bear skins. The helmets, a gift of Captain Olney to the company were however, not long retained.

It was in the year 1850 that the Brooklyn City Guard (still the flank company of artillery of the 13th regiment) received a battery of four six pounder brass guns with caissons and in company with other local artillery companies, escorted the remains of President Taylor. Shortly thereafter, the entire 6th Brigade paraded in Brooklyn; the "Advertiser" terms the spectacle "the grandest and most imposing military parade that has ever taken place on Long Island."

In the same year the Corps adopted a new full dress uniform closely resembling the original with certain modifications; it consisted of a scarlet blue breasted swallow tail coat ornamented with gold trimmings; there was added white cross belts and epaulets. Black broadcloth pantaloons with scarlet stripes completed the bill of dress; the heavy bear skin was retained. This strikingly handsome uniform was worn for the first time on the eighth anniversary of the company. The day was spent at Ravenswood; in the evening the Corps was reviewed by General Duryea and his staff, the Mayor and Common Council; a great concourse of citizens attracted to the City Hall, witnessed the ceremony. Following this, distinguished guests were entertained at the armory, Gothic Hall; during the festivities medals for marksmanship and perfect attendance were bestowed on the proud recipients of these coveted decorations.

The year 1851 opened with a grateful recognition by the Brooklyn City Guard of the services of its esteemed commandant, in the form of a presentation of a silver service to Captain Olney; each piece bore the inscription, "To Captain James N. Olney from the Brooklyn City Guard, April 1851. The arms and Crest of the Corps completing the inscription. The customary encampment at Glen Cove L.I., which appears to have been an annual affair, found the company under canvas from July

2nd to 5th of that year. August 23rd, marking the ninth anniversary of the Corps, was a day long to be remembered. It was made the occasion of the formal opening of the City Guard Club, the first of its kind in the city of Brooklyn. Captain Olney, the originator and active organizer of the project, had, as previously mentioned, purchased Gothic hall for armory purposes; determined to advance the social prestige of the Corps to even a higher level, he acquired a building adjoining the armory, and this he converted into a club.

To this organization, other than members of the Corps were admitted; it was a joint stock undertaking, the cost of shares being ten dollars each. Luxurious in its appointments, the club offered refined seclusion in handsomely furnished parlors; popular editions filled the shelves of a library and to members actively inclined, billiard rooms and bowling alleys were available. Rather exclusive perhaps, the City Guard Club attracted the highest type of young men. Captain Sands Commandant of the Navy Yard, Generals Duryea and Sandford and their staffs, Officers of the United States Army, Officers of the French frigate "MOGADON" then visiting the harbor, and a group of distinguished citizens participated in the festivities of the evening.

Amid this splendor, at a period when through the energy and influence of its commandant, the Corps had reached the zenith of its glory, Captain Olney tendered his resignation. Business interests calling him to California demanded this action; there was no alternative. With the acceptance of his resignation in September 1851, a complimentary resolution was passed, electing the retiring Captain a life member of the Brooklyn City Guard. The command of the company now fell to Richard V.W. Thorne Jr., elected Captain, February 28th, 1852.

It is regrettable that limited materials makes it impossible to give more than a brief sketch of Captain Olney's subsequent military career. In 1856 he associated himself with the notorious

The New City Armory,
Henry and Pineapple Streets,
Erected 1858.

Home of the Brooklyn City Guard
following its re-designation as Co. "G",
Thirteenth Regiment,
N.Y.S.M.,
February 8th, 1858.

"Vigilantees" of San Francisco, rendering conspicuous service in the cause of constituted authority which had been violated and overthrown by mob violence. During the war of the rebellion, he organized a regiment, -- the first raised on the Pacific coast, of which he was Lieutenant Colonel; this regiment, although not ordered to the seat of war, rendered good service in the northwest. Relieved of duty which to him was irksome, Colonel Olney returned to California, where he organized another regiment; this he offered to the federal government for active service at the front. The offer was refused and the regiment ordered to Indian service on the frontiers of the west.

At the close of the war, we find Colonel Olney at the head of his regiment. He was subsequently Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of California and three times President of the Society of California Volunteers. Colonel Olney died at Oakland, California, May 13th, 1880. His last words to his old command, the Brooklyn City Guard, written a month prior to his death, expressed the sentiment he felt for the Corps; --"That each and every member of the Brooklyn City Guard, veteran and active, shall ever hold it a sacred duty to cherish and preserve its military and social reputation unblemished while life remains."

Upon the resignation of Captain Thorne, Lieutenant Brooks was commissioned Captain of the company September 16th, 1852. About this time the tightening of the reins of discipline was commencing to be felt by the companies of the 13th regiment. Indeed the whole brigade resembled a disjointed mass badly in need of a whipping; nor was the Brooklyn City Guard an exception. With the departure of Captain Olney, the company had slipped in the matter of discipline and attendance at drills. To emphasize the general laxity of the militia during this period, it is recorded ~~that on the occasion of an~~

ordered field day participated in by the 5th and 6th brigades, the combined strength of both numbered less than one thousand ranks! This was at east New York during the fall of 1852. During the same year, the artillery and cavalry companies of the regiment, with the exception of the Flank Companies, were by act of Legislature, detached and reassigned to appropriate commands. Thus the evolutionary process which had received special impetus under the re-organization act of 1847 went on with rapid strides.

In 1853 a movement was begun for securing a new armory; the old City Armory had outlived its usefulness and was totally inadequate to the needs of the militia of the rapidly growing city. A committee of the Common Council appointed for the purpose, reported in favor of the measure; yet it was not until five years later in 1858, that the cornerstone of the new armory located at Cranberry and Henry Streets was laid with imposing ceremonies, the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher delivering an oration and the militia passing in review.

Captain Brooks resigned in 1854; he was succeeded by William Everdell Jr., who a few years later, was destined to command the 23rd Regiment as its first Colonel. Under his administration as Captain of the Brooklyn City Guard, Richard Butt was First Lieutenant and William T. Peek Second Lieutenant. In that year John B. Woodward and Edward L. Molineux were received into membership; both of these gentlemen attained prominence in the military service of the state and the nation. This brings us to a period in the life of the Brooklyn City Guard when the brilliancy of its star grew less. Gothic Hall, the pride and joy of the command, had passed into other hands. Unable to meet an exorbitant rental, there was but one alternative; the company removed its headquarters to a modest room over "Whitehouse's shoe store" on lower Fulton Street.

In the month of May 1854, there arose a false prophet

whose lamentations against the sins of the world,-- and of Brooklyn in particular, attracted large gatherings of the ignorant and the superstitious; this fanatic, self termed "the elect of God", the "Angel Gabriel", exhorted his listeners to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Unmistakable signs of hysteria marked these meetings. On Sunday, June 4th, the "Angel Gabriel" held forth on the corner of Smith and Atlantic Streets; thousands had assembled to hear his advertised sermon, Among the vast congregation, were intermingled several hundred of a sect called "Know Nothings"; this element not only broke up the meeting, but proceeded to destroy property. In short, the police were overwhelmed and a riot precipitated, the like of which was never before witnessed in Brooklyn.

The military was called out; desperate street fighting ensued in which hundreds were wounded and one killed by musket fire. Ferry property at the foot of Atlantic Street was demolished and great damage resulted throughout the neighborhood. On this occasion the Brooklyn City Guard remained under arms for several days; the lamentable affair is officially listed as the "Angel Gabriel Riots."

On August 20th, 1855, the entire 2nd Division comprising four brigades went into camp at Kingston, Ulster county N.Y., for a period of three days. This tour seems to have called forth much criticism from the troops in general and from the Brooklyn City Guard in particular; maneuvering over rough open country and bivoucing on corn stubble was not to the liking of these green troops from the metropolis. Returning to Brooklyn on the 23rd,-- the thirteenth anniversary of the company, Captain Everdell and his officers resigned from the service. At a meeting held October 5th of that year, the following named officers were elected to the posts lately vacated:-

Captain: D.M.Talmage
First Lieut: W.I.Steele
First Lieut: W.J.Bicknell
Second Lieut: James B.Titus
Second Lieut: William DeVigne

Captain Talmage was duly commissioned October 24th, 1855. During December of that year, he was charged with a duty brimming with possibilities; the Sheriff of Kings county, believing in the old yet true adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure", called for a company of militia to insure the orderly hanging of a condemned murderer. Accordingly, the following order was issued:-

HEADQUARTERS
THIRTEENTH REGIMENT,
ARTILLERY.

Special Orders:
No. 151

Brooklyn,
December 14th, 1855.

The Flank Artillery Company of this regiment, commanded by Captain Talmage, is hereby ordered to parade at their armory, in this city, in full uniform as Infantry, with overcoats, on Friday, the 21st, at 8 o'clock A.M., to be in readiness to proceed to the County Jail at 9 o'clock A.M., for special duty, where Gorman is to be executed.

Captain Talmage will have his command in readiness and report to the Colonel $\frac{1}{4}$ before 9 o'clock A.M., and will cause each man to be provided with 24 rounds of ball cartridge before leaving the armory.

By order of
Abel Smith, Colonel.

A. Smith Jr.,
Serg't Major.

At the appointed hour the trap was sprung, the body of Gorman dangled at the other end of the rope, and in the absence of any demonstration, the Brooklyn City Guard was dismissed. It was about this time that John B. Woodward, later Major General, commanding the 2nd Division, N.G.S.N.Y., received his first military promotion as Corporal. An attempt sponsored by S.H. Low, to organize a veteran corps to be known as the "Old Guard", met with little success; the proposition was abandoned. Early in 1856 trouble began to brew between Captain Talmage and his regimental commander; during a parade held in the spring, Colonel Smith ordered Captain Talmage to form his company in regimental line instead of in its accustomed place as flank company. Resenting this fancied affront, the Captain abandoned the formation and deserting the

colors of his regiment, marched his company into its armory and there dismissed it. For this serious breach of discipline, he and Lieutenant Steele were promptly arrested and brought before a court. Captain Talmage found guilty of the charges and specifications, was allowed to resign his commission. Lieutenant Steele was exonerated and remained an officer of the company.

Former Captain Richard V.W.Thorne Jr. was, on December 10th, 1856, re-commissioned in his original rank; under his leadership the company prospered, regaining that prestige which after the resignation of Captain Olney, had fallen greatly. Two years later, in 1858 the propriety of adopting a distinctive regimental uniform impressed itself with growing force. Each company urged the adoption of ITS particular uniform by the regiment as a whole; the debate developed into an open rupture resulting in partial disruption of the 13th Regiment. The vexatious question was however, finally solved in the adoption of cadet grey; thus the regiment assumed the title of "National Greys".

Co-incident with this change of uniform, the Brooklyn City Guard appeared in its distinctive scarlet for the last time on August 23rd, 1858; -- the sixteenth anniversary of its existance. We quote from the "Brooklyn Eagle" of that date:-

"The Brooklyn City Guard, Captain Thorne, proceeded to Flushing this morning on their customary annual parade. They were equipped in their handsome and soldier-like dress of red coats, white pantaloons and bear skins, which uniform they donned for the last time, changing it for the regimental regulation dress; so we shall lose one of the chief ornaments of the Thirteenth Regiment."

"The Guard mustered some thirty five men excellently drilled and well officered and among them we notice some of our most prominent citizens. They have our best wishes for their success in the drill room and in their social gatherings."

The 13th Regiment appeared in its newly adopted grey bill of dress on March 17th, 1859; the occasion being the St. Patrick's day parade in Brooklyn. Relinquishing its quarters on Fulton Street,

the Brooklyn City Guard which on February 8th, 1958, had been re-designated Company "G" removed to the new armory on Henry Street. Thereafter, the story of the Corps as a military body, becomes a part of the history of the regiment to which it was attached.

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