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Logo from letter in Col. Riker's hand
(D. Sanders Collection)

**see News in Brief section below*

GENERAL OSCAR V. DAYTON

by Joe Basso



Brevet Brigadier-General Oscar Veniah Dayton is one of those characters that seem to be more fitting within the pages of the *Policeman's Gazette* than in a

historical account.

William Dayton, Oscar's grandfather and a Peer of England,

immigrated to the United States and settled in Westchester, New York and married Mary Brown. Oscar's father, John Harvey Dayton also an English peer, was born in England in 1770, and immigrated to the United States after the War of 1812, married Charlotte E. Tomkins on January 19, 1819 in Catskill, Greene County, New York.

Like many of their generation, John and Charlotte produced a large family; John Harvey (1819-1820), Daniel (1821-1823), James Lewis (1824-1891), Mary Elizabeth (1825-1826), Oscar Veniah (1827-1898), George Washington (1829-1829), John Harvey (1830-1849), Julia Ann (1832-1835) and George Washington (1839-1909), but only three lived to adulthood. The 1860 Federal Census lists the family's occupation as that of a farmer.

According to the Gibbney family records discovered in Ancestry.com and

confirmed by the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* of 1932, Oscar enlisted in a New York regiment to fight in the Mexican American War (also called The War of the Republics) but the regiment was never called into service. Apparently frustrated and impatient at the delay, Oscar travelled to the battlefield alone. No other records could be found to reveal any military or civil involvement while he was there.

After the Mexican War, Oscar travelled to San Francisco, California where he worked as a theatre manager alongside his brother George, who had a strong reputation in the city as a scene painter. After returning to New York, Oscar Dayton moved to Osawatomie, Kansas, where, according to family history he commanded a Free State company and ran an abolitionist newspaper called *The Kansas Times*. Osawatomie was settled by members of the Emigrant Aid Society in the 1850s and was heavily involved in the free state movement. Two battles were fought between free and slave factions in the area during 1856. However, no records could be found in the Kansas Archives of either his military or journalistic efforts. To be fair, during the Bleeding Kansas era, military companies were formed and dissolved frequently and newspapers sometimes only lasted for a brief period.

After returning to New York, Oscar Veniah Dayton married Agnes Ada Shea on September 22, 1854, in New York, New York (marriage I.D. # 2220307479). Agnes was born in Philadelphia on April 9, 1834 and died in 1900 residing in Trenton City, New Jersey. According to New York records, they had a son George Shea Dayton on October 1st, 1869 in New York and he died on May 6th, 1939 in Philadelphia.

Oscar enlisted with the 62^d New York as a Major on July 3rd, 1861, at Saltersville, New Jersey and was mustered into Company S, usually reserved as the medical unit of the 62nd. (If his pre-war records are valid, it may explain why he was given such an elevated rank upon

enlistment). Enlistment records describe him as being 5'5" tall with blue eyes, blonde hair and fair complexion. He was promoted to Lt. Colonel on the field on May 31, 1861 and was wounded in the hand during the battle of Malvern Hill. The *New York Times* stated on their casualties list that it was "a minor wound of the hand."

Colonel Dayton was discharged from the 62^d, due to wounds, on November 21, 1862, and became Colonel of the 19th Regiment of the Veterans Reserve Corps and transferred to Fort Porter, the headquarters of the 19th VRC at Buffalo, New York. In May, 1865 he became President of Court Martial, presiding over the Prisoner of War camp at Elvira, New York, aka Camp Rathburn, New York. Nicknamed "Hellmira" by its prisoners, 2,963 of 12,123 POWs assigned there died. He would be assigned to Camp Rathburn until his retirement from service in December, 1865. Earlier that year, Oscar V. Dayton was promoted to Brevet Brigadier General on March 13, 1865 for "faithful and meritorious services." (According to *Webster's 7th Collegiate Dictionary*, brevet, by definition, is promoting an officer to a higher rank that what his pay would represent).

After the War, General Dayton apparently became involved in several business ventures overseas. On March 6, 1872 he was issued a passport in Duval, Florida. On November 11, 1873, he departed from Cuba, bound for New York in a first class cabin aboard the *S.S. Wilmington*. His passport stated his occupation as "Civil Engineer." The passenger ship *S.S. Canima* on April 8th, 1879, showed his arrival from Bermuda to New York with an occupation listed as "Army Officer." The 1880 Federal Census shows Oscar V. Dayton no longer living in New York, but instead residing at 554 Minna Street, San Francisco, California, with his occupation listed as "Capitalist." He is identified as being married, but no name or initials of his wife was provided. A biography of the general on Wikipedia.com

shows that his occupation in the 1880 was that of a commercial agent/broker.

General Dayton travelled to England, the birthplace of his grandfather, and according to the 1881 English Census, he was living at Streatham, London. There he became engaged to and married Nicola Frances French, usually known as Frances, (b. 1845) on January 19, 1891 in Kensington, London. Nicola had been previously married to John Hamilton Venour (b. 1853) and they had a daughter, Helen Anna French Venour (b. 1880).

James had died in Capetown, Western Cape, South Africa in 1888. Nicola's father, had emigrated to Australia around 1839, where she was born on July 19, 1845 in Hamilton, Victoria, Australia. Nicola's father, Acheson Jeremy Sidney French and mother Anne Clark Wilson of Monivea, Castle Galway, Ireland returned to Great Britain after a few years. Oscar Dayton as well as Nicola's father were listed as Peers of England. Oscar and Francis had one child, Fanny Dayton. *(The author is still researching information on this individual – Ed.)*

The marriage banns* for Oscar and Nicola were announced on the *London and Surrey, England Banns and Allegations* dated January 19, 1891 that, "a marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place between General Oscar V. Dayton, New York, currently residing at Nice, and Frances N (Nicola), widow of the late J. Hamilton Venour." However, at the same time that the banns were announced in England, an announcement occurred within a newspaper in Nice, France that an Oscar Veniah Dayton married Nellie Sexton. No exact date or details were provided except that Nellie died shortly after the marriage.

On October 30, 1898, Brevet Brigadier General Oscar V. Dayton died and was buried at Sainte Marguerite Cemetery. *(The author is still researching the cause of death – Ed.)*

The Cemetery was originally established by the Anglican Church in 1867 and used primarily by British, American,

Australian, Canadian and Irish families until the start of World War I. The Probate Calendar shows that the General left his wife only £152. Frances, returned to her father's castle in Ireland where she remained until her death on January 27, 1936. No record of divorce could be found regarding his first wife Agnes Ada Shea who did not die until 1900.

**BANN: a legal requirement for Church of England weddings. Your intention to marry is announced by your minister on three Sundays in the three months before your marriage. This must be read in your parish church as well as in the church where the ceremony is to take place. The term "banns" comes from the Middle English term "bannan", which means to announce or proclaim.*

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CPL. CHARLES WESLEY

ALLEN

62^d NYSV, CO. G

by Joe Basso

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During the "Great Rebellion" the most common occupation, on either side, was that of farmer. So it was with Charles W. Allen who was born in Johnston, New York on May 8, 1842.

His father, Hiram Washburn Allen (1816-1863) came from a farming family in the Penfield, New York area and would continue in this occupation until his death. His mother, Martha St. John, also came from a farming family and together his parents would produce nine children; Hiram B., James N., Charles W., Calvin H., Peter A., Walter S., Sarah E., Roe H. and Harry H., all were members of the Episcopalian Church. According to the New York State Census of 1855, the family enjoyed living in a comfortable framed house, had \$2,000 worth of real estate and some \$800 worth of income. Walter would

enlist in the 62^d NY on June 10, 1861 in New York City and was mustered into Company G on June 30, 1861. About the same time his brother, Calvin, enlisted into Company B. of the 9th New York Heavy Artillery. In 1862, Charles W. married Emily Sweets and they would eventually have five children; Hiram B., Ivan J., Howard, Hattie (Harriet) V. and Allison E.

Charles Allen fought with his Regiment and re-enlisted as a veteran on January 1, 1864 at Brandy Station. He was promoted to full Corporal on May 31, 1864 and was later wounded at the Battle of Cedar Creek during the Shenandoah campaign under General Sheridan. While the nature of the wound could not be found, it was serious enough to keep him hospitalized until he was discharged from De Camp Hospital, David's Island, in New York harbor on October 3, 1865.

After his discharge from service, Charles returned to Penfield and continued farming. The 1870 Federal Census, the 1875 New York State Census and the 1880 Federal Census continued to show his occupation as farmer. By the 1900 Federal Census, Charles, Emily, their daughter Hattie, and granddaughter Mary had moved to Rochester, New York, where he was listed as head of household but no occupation was given. The 1905 New York Census revealed that the family continued to live in Rochester and that his occupation was now a mason contractor. Hattie was employed as a phone operator.

In December, 1910 Charles Wesley Allen, formerly of the 62^d New York, died and was buried in the Oakwood Cemetery, Penfield, New York. No record for the cause of death or that he received any pension for his service to his country could be found. Emily would follow him in 1927.

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CHRISTOPHER DALY 62^d NYSV., CO. A

by Joe Basso



Private Christopher Daly's parents emigrated from Ireland to New York sometime in the mid to late 1830s or 1840s. John Daly (b. 1815) was, according to various records, a common labourer and his wife, Mary (b. 1829) took care of the household.

Their children included George (b. 1839), Edward (b.1841), Christopher (b. 1844), Peter (b. 1851) and Mary Ann (b. 1852). Gaining precise information about this family was difficult due to the large number of "Dalys" found in various census and tax records which, in many cases, duplicated occupations and spousal names. He was described as being 5'8" tall with hazel eyes, light complexion and dark hair.

Military records, however, do show that Christopher Daly enlisted with the 62^d at New York City on July 24, 1861 and was mustered into Co. A on August 15, 1861. There is evidence that his brothers also served in other New York regiments; George in Co. D of the 5th New York Infantry, Edward in Co. K of the 158th New York Infantry and Peter in Co. F, 170th New York Infantry. He fought with the Regiment until July 2, 1863 where he was wounded at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. According to military records, he was wounded in three separate places; three inches to the left of the lumbar vertebra, left forearm and left hand. He was discharged from military service for disability on March 19, 1864 from the General Hospital, Patterson Park, Baltimore, Maryland.

On April 30, 1877, Christopher married Mary Murray in Manhattan, New York. There are indications that they had three children but details about the children

and their names could not be verified. The 1870 U.S. Census revealed his occupation as a "Retailer," while the 1875 New York Census showed Christopher as a common labourer.

Records between 1877 to 1899 are spotty at best, with the last concrete fact is his death as reported on his military Pension Card which showed an invalid status request filed on March 27, 1868 and a widow's pension request filed on July 14th, 1900. No clear information could be found on Mary's death.

If any reader can provide any additional information on Private Christopher Daly and/or his family, please contact the author, Joe Basso at

thebasso@eaglecom.net

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EXCERPTS FROM THE DIARY OF NELSON P. DOLBECK NOVEMBER 1861

**(Courtesy of Andrew Lausten and Rose
Lausten-Miller)**

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Friday November 1, 1861

I feel some better today. At the surgeon's call, which is at 9am, I went to the surgeon's tent, and Doctor Bidlek gave me some more medicine for the dysentery. I wrote considerable today more than I have written since I have been sick.

Saturday November 2, 1861

Soon after going to bed last night, it commenced to rain and blow most furiously. There were several tents blown down during the night, leaving the occupants to put them up during the storm to seek shelter somewhere else. Other tents were so wet and muddy that the men were

obliged to stand up the rest of the night. It stormed all day without ceasing, and many of the tents was capsized during the day. I have got cured of the dysentery and I feel some better.

Sunday November 3, 1861

On getting up this morning I find that the weather is all cleared off, and it is very pleasant. I am about the same today.

Monday November 4, 1861

I got two letters yesterday; one from Cliff and one from LWB. The one from my brother stated that he had sent me some medicine and tobacco, which I need very much. but I was very much disappointed in not getting it today when the boxes came to camp. I think I am getting better and am in hopes that I will soon be so I can do duty.

Tuesday November 5, 1861

I made out to buy a little tobacco today. I feel quite smart today. I went down to Mr. Hundell's, and he gave me a joint of a stove pipe to make us a fireplace in our tent. He also invited me to dinner, and so did his wife. We talked a short time of the prospect of the war and I came back to my tent. I tried to get some of the boys to help me dig the fireplace, but I could not, so I went to work and dug it myself. I made out to get J. Dean to help me place the stovepipe and Chimney to bring me a few stones. I was very tired when I got through. I ate half a pie for my dinner, and the heartiest meal I have eaten since I have been sick. We have now got a fire in our tent and it works right well. It smokes a little when it does not blaze. You can cover our fire at night, but there is very little room in our tent.

Wednesday November 6, 1861

This is another rainy day. It rains very easy and eases up by spells. I went down to the Hundell's and had an excellent visit with the young folk. And I ate a very hearty dinner.

Thursday November 7, 1861

Captain Hubbell passed me out and I went down to the old Sutler, and I bought two pies. It is impossible for him to sell inside the camp, for since the boys tipped his wagon over, he has been ordered off the ground by the Colonel. For several days after, a great many suffered for the want of tobacco. It was an unmanly trick to turn his wagon over, and it was mean of the Colonel to order him off the ground. ... Issacs who was an old Jew, was the first sutler of this regiment, but since we came from all the good on his own responsibility, and has been doin well for the boys. There is now a new sutler, J.H. Hunter, who has just come into camp two days ago with his goods, and he has commenced to issue tickets and sell goods. I am about the same today.

Friday November 8, 1861

There was another man that died in the hospital last night from Company K. I think I am on the gain. I am taking medicine regularly every day. there is a general inspection of all the men on the Potomac today, and they meet at Camp Cameron. My tent-mates are all gone to inspection except Cheeney. He is on picket guard and will be until tomorrow morning. I am all alone and I am enjoying myself quite well. I wrote two letters today; one to Julia and one to Cliff.

Saturday November 9, 1861

I went into the hospital this morning to see the corpse. I was so surprised, in all my life as I was on beholding Camaden, who once belonged to the old Company H. He was a real Dutchman from Holland. I enlisted him in New York City the time I was there recruiting. He was a very stout, healthy man, but too cold; it finally settled in his lungs and it finally took the old fellow to his grave, thus making five deaths in our regiment since we came to Washington. I shall often regret his loss, for he was a good soldier and a good man. Boxes came today, but I was very much disappointed and quite vexed for mine was not there.

Sunday November 10, 1861

I got a letter from Cliff today. He wrote that the box that should have been left in Ti. That eased my fears about it being lost. I wished it were here. This day was long and lonesome to me. I did not feel very well today, not as well as usual. Nothing else today worthy of note.

Monday November 11, 1861

Today our Company is on picket guard. Al Shamus was on garrison guard yesterday, so he is not obliged to go on picket today. But he is gone and I am left alone again to enjoy myself. I have been writing all before noon, and will probably write most of the day. Moses has come over to see me, and he said he would come again.

Tuesday November 12, 1861

Nothing of importance today. The weather is quite warm and pleasant. We are expecting our second pay every day.

Wednesday November 13, 1861

There was nothing unusual going on through the day. Quite late in the evening, a load of boxes came and, with them, there was one for me from Cliff.^[16] It was received with pleasure for it contained medicine for my cough, a pair of gloves, tobacco, and various other articles which I needed very much. there is always a feeling of gratitude when one receives a letter or a package from home. So it was with me.

Thursday November 14, 1861

Today I mended my socks and clothes and was quite busy all day. I think I am getting better every day.

Friday November 15, 1861

It clouded up and is raining last night and it rained almost all day. Moses came over to my tent. He wanted my gloves and some tobacco. I sold him the gloves for 75 cents.

Saturday November 16, 1861

This was the coldest day we have had yet. In fact, it was uncomfortable. I got letter

from Charles Elnick today and answered it. Nothing else of any importance.

Sunday November 17, 1861

This is another very cold day. I got a letter today from Louis.

Monday November 18, 1861

The weather continues to be cold. I hear today that our regiment was to be sent to Point Royal, South Carolina. I hope this will be true, as I want to see the country; and there may be some chance for action. Times are getting quite dull with us here as with so many.

Tuesday November 19, 1861

This was a very cold day. I went down to get my likeness taken today, but there was such a crowd, and it was so cold that it was impossible to have it taken. I was almost frozen when I got back to my tent.

Wednesday November 20, 1861

This is the coldest day we have had yet. I went again today to the dequeriers artist shop, and succeeded in getting four pictures. I had to leave them until I get my money. Our company was called out this evening to sign our names to the payroll. We should probably get our pay tomorrow.

Thursday November 21, 1861

Our company got their second pay today, and I sent \$20 to Cliff. It is quite warm today as the weather has moderated.

Friday November 22, 1861

This was a very fine day. Business begins to be a..... appearance, as there is more going on in camp. Great was my astonishment this morning on finding that several of my tentmates had deserted. Shammus, ... Blanchard had deserted last night, owing me over dollars and Harrison, eight. Sometime in the night, they packed up andin all..... and cads.

Saturday November 23, 1861

I got two letters today; one from Chauncey Elwick, the other from SPE. There is nothing of importance going on in camp, but drunkenness. And that is the prevailing order of the day. I hardly ever go out of my tent or even look out without seeing drunken men staggering about. I am getting along quite well, on the gain every day.

Sunday November 24, 1861

The company is on picket guard today. Many of our men are deserting from the regiment. Three or four have gone from our company, and others are talking of leaving.

Monday November 25, 1861

There was a little snow on the ground by spots this morning. The ground was frozen, but after the general warmth of the sun had embraced the snowy mantle, it was of short duration. I visited Mr. Hundell today, and had a good time. The companies of our regiment was paid today. It is reported in camp that new uniforms will be given out this week. I got a letter from Louis today.

Tuesday November 26, 1861

Nothing unusual today from camp life, but Captain Hubble made one proposition, which I accepted. It was to stay in his tent and do his cooking. I think it will be much easier for me than drilling.

I am to have a tent by myself and commence in two or three days. There have been drunken men in my tent every day in the evenings to see me about something or to write letters and so forth, which greatly amazed me. We have got new tents in camp, they are round and will lodge about twenty men.

Wednesday November 27, 1861

Notwithstanding hard feelings, I have been very lonesome since Shaunness and Blanchard have gone. This was an unusual long day to me, perhaps because it was raining, but more on account of being alone. Henry and Harrison have gone to Washington on passes, and I am alone not

to enjoy myself in silent meditation as I have done, but to ponder on better days gone by.

Thursday November 28, 1861

The weather has moderated and is very pleasant. At 12 noon, Captain Hubbel called me out of my tent and gave me a pass for 24 hours. After dinner I started for Washington. It is five miles to the capital, and as I went on foot, it was night when I arrived there. It was quite dark when I found a suitable place to get supper. After supper, three of our company boys came in and I went with them. We traveled around having a good time. At 7 P.M., we went to the Fellow's Hall to a nigger minstrel theater.

The play was rather coarse, but quite interesting. Everything went off right here, but our mode of getting out of the house was as comical as well as the theatrical performances. As there is guards stationed at all public places after 8 p.m., it is a work of ingenuity of soldiers to escape going into the central guard house after that hour. In our case, a ladder was placed in the second story back door on a barrel below; and as it was very dark, it was with cautious steps that we descended. We soon reached terra firma and made our way for the suburbs of the city not far from the station and marketplace. We traveled on our own nerve awhile from grocery to grocery and drank quite freely until about midnight when we finally went down to the market place, got on a stand which was covered with boards, and on a hard board with no blankets, we fell asleep.

Friday November 29, 1861

It was very early this morning when we turned out ourselves. We went to a coffee house and had some warm coffee, and then went to a grocery for our bitters, indispensable in a soldier's life. I took the stage for Georgetown and got my canteen filled with bourbon, and started for camp. I got back to camp and found two letters; one from Cliff stating he received the last money I sent him, \$20, and the other from

Elnick. I spent the evening with Henry, had a game of ?, then retired quite tired and sleepy.

Saturday November 30, 1861

Captain Hubble requested me to commence cooking today, so my first work was to get supper. I got coffee and pancakes, which was pronounced good, to my satisfaction.

Civil War Diary of Nelson Peter Dolbeck – courtesy of Andrew Lausten

Also see:

http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php?title=Diary_of_Nelson_Peter_Dolbeck

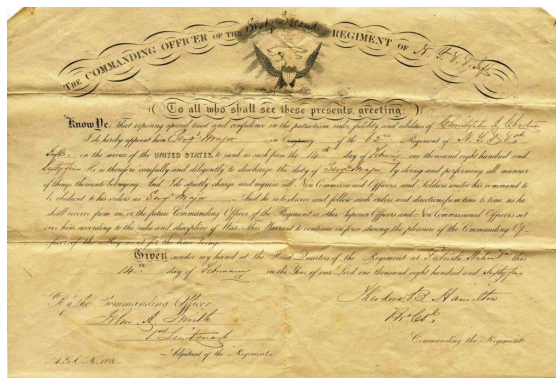
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NEWS IN BRIEF

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Certificate of Promotion to Sgt. Major Christopher A. Charters

(Courtesy of Joe Basso)



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Letter in Riker's Hand – July 17th 1861

(D.Sanders Collection)

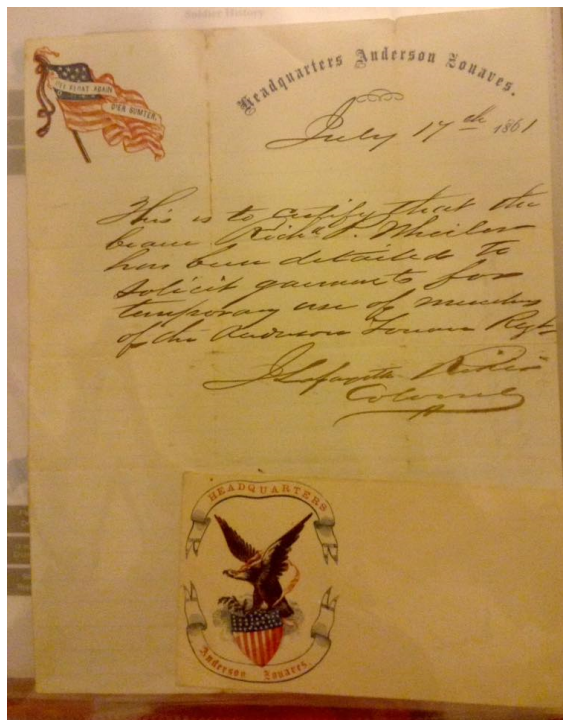
Here is the letter I recently purchased from a dealer (Museum Quality Americana) in the United States. It is a letter in Col. Riker's own hand. Dated July 17th 1861, it reads;

"This is to certify that the bearer Richa(rd) P. Wheeler has been detailed to solicit garments for temporary use of recruiting of the Anderson Zouave Regt.

J. Lafayette Riker
Colonel."

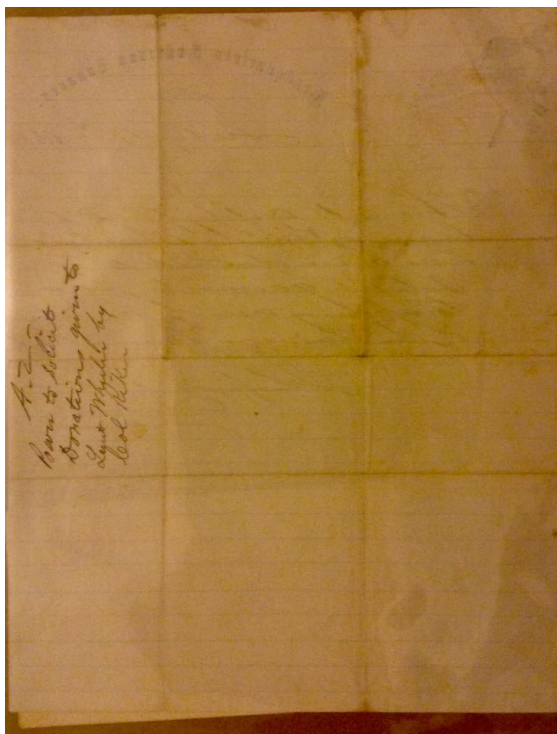
The letter head scroll across the flag reads;

"I'll float again o'er Sumter."



The reverse reads;

"A.Z.
Power to solicit Donations given to Lieu
Wheeler by Col Riker"



The American Civil War Research Database lists Richard P. Wheeler as 33 on enlistment on May 1st 1861 in NY City as a private in Co. B. He was promoted to 1st Sgt on 20th August 1861. He was discharged for disability on 7th October 1862 at NY City. Interestingly the letter describes him as Lieutenant for the purposes of soliciting donations for the Regiment.

Dee Sanders

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kim, a descendant of 62^d NY veteran, Ludwig "Louis" Diedrich, contacted our page seeking information about Louis and on the regiment. I present our Research website bio on Louis.

DIEDRICH., Ludwig. Co. F & H. Private
Ludwig DIEDRICH was born on 11th April 1808 in Gierswald, Hanover, Germany and died in May 1864 in Spotsylvania, Virginia. Another name for Ludwig DIEDRICH was

Louis and he is entered on the General Index Cards as Louis DIETRICH. He enlisted at New York on the 30th June 1861 as a Private in Company F (as per a letter from Department of Defence, Veteran's Administration). Ludwig died in a field hospital in Spotsylvania, Virginia from wounds received in the Battle of the Wilderness. Ludwig married Charlotte ILSSEN on 6th April 1854 in Valprechausen Parish, Germany. Charlotte ILSSEN was born on 8th April 1823 in Albertshausen, Hanover, Germany. Ludwig also served in Company H. Ludwig served as a Private throughout his service. He was survived by three children: Henry DIEDRICH. born on 16 Apr 1859 in New York City, who died on 21 Jun 1933 and was buried in Brooklyn New York. Theodore DIEDRICH was born on 24 Apr 1861. Another name for Theodore was John. Ludwig "Louis" DIEDRICH was born on 15 Dec 1863. Another name for Ludwig was Louis. His occupation in 1920 was as a carpenter in the housing industry in Brooklyn, New York.

<http://andersonzouaves.tripod.com/index.html>

DIETRICH, LEWIS. – Age, 37 years. Enlisted, June 9, 1861, at New York city, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. F, July 3, 1861; wounded in action, May 12, 1864, at Spotsylvania, Va., and died of his wounds, May, 1864, at Hospital.

<http://andersonzouaves.zz.mu/index.php...>

Further to our post on Ludwig "Louis" Diedrich (62d NY Co. F & H) is a picture of the village church (Dorfkapelle) in his birthplace of Gierswald, Hanover, Germany.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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