

ANDERSON ZOUAVE

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APOLOGIES

The May issue of *Anderson Zouave* did not appear as the editors were unable to tend to the composing desk or the army press due to other commitments. Dave Sanders had been detailed for a strong posting of pickets in Armidale. John Tierney was on furlough as he had some important family matters to attend to.

The delay in publication has been unfortunate as May is a crucial month in the history of the Sixty-second, and it was not for want of material that the paper did not appear. The imminent publication of the first issue of *Riker's Island* has also been delayed for similar reasons.

LETTERS FROM THE REVEREND JOHN HARVEY — CHAPLAIN OF THE ANDERSON ZOUAVES

Recently, our special correspondent in New York, forwarded the following letters, along with several other documents, to the editors of *Anderson Zouave*. The letters are from the hand of the Sixty-second's Chaplain, the Rev. John Harvey. Up until these documents were received, little was known about the Sixty-second's Zouave padre. That has now changed.

Harvey was probably, like Riker, a Presbyterian who was most likely born in Scotland or to have been descended of Scottish immigrants. He served a congregation in or around the town of Utica in central upstate New York. He enlisted as chaplain on May 25, 1861 at the age of 62, making him the oldest person to enlist in the Anderson Zouaves, and received his commission on July 3, 1861. Being 62 years of age and no spring chicken probably added to Harvey's spiritual value within the regiment.

Chaplain Harvey was with the regiment at its camp on Riker's Island and at Tenallytown. It is almost certain that Harvey accompanied the body of Colonel John Lafayette Riker back to New York after he was killed at the Battle of Fair Oaks on May 31, 1862. As he attended a war meeting at Clark's Mills, Whitestown, NY on August 9, 1862, Harvey was no doubt one of the officers of the Sixty-second that, according to the New York papers, attended Riker's funeral on June 10, 1862.

Harvey probably returned to the regiment in November 1862 while it lay in winter camp at Falmouth, opposite Fredericksburg, and served his three years, being mustered out along with Col. Nevin and many others on June 29, 1864.

Chaplain Harvey, the "fighting parson" of the Sixty-second was said to be eloquent and convincing as an orator and could not "be excelled at the stump".

The first of these two letters written from the field after the Battle of Williamsburg, is the most surprising and exciting artifact of the Anderson Zouaves that this writer has ever come across. It addresses many of the questions which have plagued research into the regiment for years. Amidst the information conveyed in the letter is an explanation of why the regiment suffered comparably light casualties in battle. The letter also seems to identify the moment when Brig.-Gen. Peck's antipathy for his colourful New York regiment was reconciled. By some extrapolation the criticism levelled at the Anderson Zouaves proficiency in drill by Col. Regis De Trobriand of the 55th New York, may also be addressed. Unfortunately the letter does nothing to clear-up the ongoing uncertainty about the uniform of the regiment while on the Peninsula, however, Harvey is almost prescient in describing the Anderson Zouaves as the "Anderson Sharpshooters" as it was precisely this duty that the regiment undertook in the later half of 1864. The letter is so remarkable that it would not be surprising to find its authenticity being questioned.

The second letter is much shorter but is interesting in so far as it confirms that the entry in the diary of J. B. Martin of the 102d Pennsylvania

which refers to a regiment merely as the "A. N. Y. V." is in fact a reference to the Anderson Zouaves.

And so, without out any further ado, the editors of *Anderson Zouave* would like to present, here, published for the first time in 144 years, the letters of the Reverend John Harvey, the "fighting chaplain" of the Sixty-second New York State Volunteers.

*BIVOUAC BETWEEN FORT MAGRUDER AND }
WILLIAMSBURG, May 7th, 1862.}*

Dear Sir—I promised a supplement "This is somewhat desirable, as I could not say all I wished to state in my last. You will get the general accounts from the New York dailies; but the more minute incidents, which frequently are the most interesting, seldom obtain public notice. Of course, I must limit myself to what occurred in our brigade in general, and particularly to our own regiment. Our troops had been engaged long before our brigade was ordered forward. We, like the old Guard at Waterloo, were held in reserve. Precisely at 3:40 P. M. our regiment commenced firing, and continued hard at work till dark. Since I wrote, many interesting little items have come to my knowledge. I said in my last, that the "light infantry tactics," &c. I should have said "and Zouave." — This was the case. Had it not been that our men took this course, the storm of grape and canister they were exposed to would have almost annihilated them. As it was, their close attention and adherence to the training they had had, saved scores of lives. At times, it was amusing to see them make a telling shot at the enemy, and before a reply could be made they were flat on the ground — and in many cases in the water or mud. Charles Travis had just discharged his rifle when a shot from the enemy took off the top of the small stump behind which he was reloading. Almost immediately a shot passed between his head and that of his Captain. The Captain cried, "Charley, has this cut our connection?" "Yes," replied Belotte, "and very nearly my nose also." At this juncture a round shot whizzed by the captain, who instinctively dodged. "Captain," cried Charley, "you bow politely." "Yes sir," he replied, "politeness is an essential quality in a gentleman." Thus some were joking and fighting at the same moment. The advantage of the winter's drilling was now plainly seen and felt. The men were as steady and obeyed the word to "fire" by files, platoons, divisions, or battalions, as coolly as if on parade. Since the battle, we have conversed with some of the wounded and prisoners, of both of which we have quite a number. Some of them state that they were sure of getting the red caps, (55th Regiment) and were advancing for that purpose when the Anderson sharpshooters (a new name for us,) poured such a terrific fire into them that it almost annihilated them. Capt. Lee, of the 5th N. C. Volunteers, told me their regiment was terribly cut up, and almost every officer killed or wounded. He brought out but five of his company unhurt. He is wounded in the leg, and is now our prisoner. I will not be egotistical, but justice to our regiment demands the truth. Gen. McClellan presented his personal thanks to Gen. Peck for the excellent service rendered by his brigade, which was greatly instrumental in closing the day successfully. Gen. Peck replied, "he was proud to have such a compliment from his Commander-in-Chief for his brigade in general. It had done well, but I feel bound to mention the Anderson Zouaves (62d N. Y. Volunteers,) in particular, as worthy of praise."

This morning, when at Gen. Peck's tent on business, he referred to the subject, by saying "Chaplain—I am proud of your men; they have done well, and now I know I can rely on them." Other officers of high standing have said, in substance, the same to me. We have a great many of the enemy's wounded on our hands. This morning I visited two hospitals, in one of which three poor fellows who had

each lost a foot or leg, lay side by side. By giving them, and some thirty others, warm coffee and words of comfort, we tried to cheer them up. One thing I must say of the men of the rebel army who are wounded and now prisoners: Phrenologically they are, in general, men of superior mental qualities. How far they have cultivated them is another thing. Naturally they are smart men, and no despicable enemies. What a change, in one day! Monday, wet and dreary, two armies engaged in mortal strife, and darkness set in on the combatants with no very certain knowledge of results — though we had good grounds for hope. Tuesday morning was as clear and bright as “the sun of Austerlitz.” The enemy gone — carrying away his dead and wounded as far as possible — we quietly marched into and beyond his position, and as the day closed a bright moon and a peerless sky shed their soft light upon the landscape which was illuminated below with the light of a thousand watch fires. I strolled to a gentle rise in the space the troops occupied, and surveyed the scene. It was truly sublime. Gen. Couch had ordered out the band; they had played several airs already, but at this juncture they struck up “Hail Columbia,” next “The Star Spangled Banner,” and then “Yankee Doodle.” The boys could hold in no longer. As the band now played “fast and furious,” like “Tam O’Shanter’s piper” at auld Alloway kirk, cheers, screams, yells of delight, rang from regiment to regiment. Methinks I see you standing at my elbow “laughing with tears in your eyes.” I know it would have been so here, and possibly will be so now. The country here is far superior to most of the Peninsula through which we have passed, and I am pleased to see houses intact, and other evidences that something like common sense prevails. Since I commenced writing they tell me some 250 prisoners have been brought in. In short, it seems to me that the leaders of this rebellion must see that their cause is hopeless. Many of the men now, in the army are those lately impressed, utterly unacquainted with military tactics or discipline; and who feel it to be cruel to be forced into a conflict they are unprepared for and would rather not engage in. We are quite at a loss just now for the Northern newspapers, but we shall get them again regularly in a day or two. We have parties out searching the woods for dead and wounded, burying the former and bringing in the latter. Those now under treatment are grateful for the kindness shown them. They are treated the same as our own men, and write thus to their families and friends. I have not learned what the casualties amounted to on either side in the late conflict at this point. In our regiment the killed and wounded are about forty — a very light percentage considering; as Gen. Peck remarked, “they were in the worst position, at the worst time, and fought bravely to the end.” My young man has been to Williamsburg, and just returned. He says there are only two stores open. The only articles on sale were tobacco and flour. He saw plenty of niggers and four white women. I shall visit it myself soon, if we shall remain here a few days. More cavalry passed through here to-day. I presume they are to pursue the enemy, or to join some other division. The battery fired a salute of fifteen guns to-day. Our guns are in position, and strong pickets are thrown out to prevent surprise.

MAY 9, 5 A. M.

Dear Sir: “On to Richmond” has a meaning now. We march in an hour. I steal a moment to apprise you, and through you, my family, of the fact. Thank God we have a clear day, we will be warm doubtless, but we shall travel in comfort compared with our last advance. I hear our present destination is West Point, some thirty miles ahead. Yesterday we had an interesting time. A State flag (a beauty) was presented to the regiment by Gen. Peck, a gift from the city of New York. It was a great time.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Readers may be acquainted with Jayson Bell, past member of the Anderson Zouaves reenactment group. Jayson has moved to St. Louis, Missouri in the USA. He should be there for three months.

All interested persons are invited to the second annual dinner of the 62nd N.Y.S.V.V. Co. F (Historical Re-enactment and Research Group). The dinner will be held on June 23, 2006 at the billet of Pvt. Mark Koens and his good lady wife, Mrs Gabrielle Koens at 4 Broughton Street, Camden,

NSW. Pre-dinner drinks will be served at 6pm for a 7pm dinner. Accommodation is available, so bring your bedroll. Please bring your mess kit, drinks and 1860s military or civilian costume. The cost, as usual is free to members and guests. RSVP by 16th June and for more information please contact Pvt. Dave Sanders <blakstara@netscape.net>.

A package of documents has recently been received by John Tierney from the New York State Archives relating to the GAR John L. Riker Post No. 63 and GAR Robert Anderson Post No. 394. The total number of pages in the package is 81 and it the documents will become part of the collection of artifacts and documents kept by John Tierney.

An initial inspection of the documents seems to indicate that many of the late members of the Anderson Zouaves may have been members of the GAR Post No. 24, also known as the Sumner Post.

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF COLONEL RIKER POSTPONED



The inaugural meeting of the F. O. C. R. was to be held on Friday April 14, 2006 to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the raising of the stars and stripes over Fort Sumter by Major Robert Anderson in 1866. However, due to reasons beyond the control of the membership that meeting had to be cancelled.

Happily the meeting will now go ahead on May 31, the anniversary of the death of Colonel Riker at the Battle of Fair Oaks in 1862. F. O. C. R. members will meet at the Town & Country Hotel at 6:30 P. M. at the corner of Unwins Bridge Road and Campbell Road, St. Peters. The members will commemorate and discuss the life of Riker and the history of the his regiment in view of much new information which has come to light over the last year or so.

THE OTHER “JOHN L. RIKER”

Google “John L. Riker” and you might end up a little confused or even misled. Due to a frustrating historical coincidence John “Lawrence” Riker was a New York City lawyer, who features prominently in the historical record in the time prior to and during the Civil War.

John “Lawrence” was born about 1787 and served as a captain in the 1812 war. As law was one of the natural habitats of the Riker family it is not surprising to find that he was an attorney, and in 1846 he became the state attorney of New York. His office was on the corner of Nassau and Spruce streets in New York City, and he appeared often in the New York Times dealing with the legalities of property settlements. John Lawrence Riker was a prominent and highly respected citizen.

In 1860 there was a state convention of the Constitutional Union Party also known as the Union Party or the American Party. The CUP was an outgrowth of the Know Nothing movement of the 1850s. It is this convention that might cause some confusion when it comes to researching John Lafayette Riker.

On August 28, 1860 at Schenectady, NY, the American party met to elect delegates to the national convention leading up to the Federal elections held later that year. The delegates were Bell and Everett and the meeting was antagonistic with a anti-Lincoln majority being led by, amongst others, John L. Riker.

The similarity in the names of these two Rikers along with the occurrence of the name Everett, the close proximity in the dates of their deaths and the fact that they were both lawyers means that it would be easy to get the two confused when doing a Google search.

One thing that can never be confused is that only one of these Rikers, John “Lafayette” Riker, was the Colonel of the Anderson Zouaves, Sixty-second New York State Volunteers, the other was just a lawyer.

NEW DOCUMENTS FOR THE JOHN LAFAYETTE RIKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

Riker family historian and regular correspondent, Edgar Allen Nutt of New York, recently sent a parcel of papers relating to the family of John Lafayette Riker's wife (and first cousin), Anna E. (Elder) Riker.

The documents were sent to Edgar by the Stamford Historical society as it was in Stamford Connecticut that Riker's in-laws were found to have lived. Edgar had contacted the society enquiring after the name of Riker's wife, however, no record of her was kept by the society. Along with the disappointing report were sent copies of the following documents:

1. *New-York Times* July 2, 1868 report of marriage of Anna E. Riker to Samuel Crump.
2. Stamford Town Records Vol 3 p. 325 marriage of Anna E. Riker to Samuel Crump June 30, 1868.
3. 1900 New York census, information on family of Samuel Crump.
4. *New-York Times* June 10, 1862 funeral of John Lafayette Riker.
5. *New-York Times* June 11, 1862 funeral of John Lafayette Riker.
6. *Stamford Advocate* May 7, 1875 death notice of G. Riker Elder aged 36.
7. *Stamford Advocate* April 11, 1885 death notice of George Elder.
8. George Elder family data.

The information contained in the Stamford mailing also included two items of interest. George Elder was buried in Green-wood cemetery. There was also a *New-York Times* obituary dated November 15, 1854, for John L. Riker age 5 who died November 13, 1854 in Stamford of "congestion of the brain". It states that he was the only son of John L. Riker and that the funeral would take place at the residence of his father at 125th Street, near 5th Avenue, (there was no mention of mother). So we have data for a son and the location of the Riker's home which was in Harlem New York City.

On the basis of George Elder's death notice & his burial in Greenwood, Edgar was able to check Greenwood cemetery for all George Elders. He found one (of a dozen or more) who was buried on April 9, 1885 in Section 57 lot 2340. In that lot he also found five other Elders: Cornelia Elder, buried January 13, 1885; Daniel R. Elder, buried May 15, 1875; Finetta S. Elder, buried December 9, 1848; Hannah E. Elder, buried May 10, 1884; and Robert R. Elder, buried December 9, 1848. Cross checking with Rikers in Greenwood Edgar found an Ann E. Riker buried, December 23, 1851 in the same section & lot. Edgar is without any doubt this is the wife of John Lafayette Riker. Proof could be obtained in an expensive copy of the cemetery's records, but Edgar doesn't believe that this is necessary.

Thus is solved an outstanding mystery in the life of John Lafayette Riker – the identity of the woman who is reported to have died of hysteria in 1851.

THE COURT-MARTIAL OF 1ST SERGEANT PATRICK SHIELDS

A recent acquisition of the John Lafayette Riker Memorial Library is a record of the court martial of 1st Sergeant Patrick Shields who served in company "B" of the Anderson Zouaves. The transcript was purchased as one of seven transcripts for various people. Patrick Shields' court-martial document turned out to have the most detail of any of the transcripts and is precisely what one would come to expect from a member of the 62d given the regiment's reputation.

Patrick Shields was accused of contravening of the 6th and the 9th articles of war, which during the Civil War were as follows:

ART. 6. Any officer or soldier who shall behave himself with contempt or disrespect toward his commanding officer, shall be punished, according to the nature of his offense, by the judgment of a court-martial.

ART. 9. Any officer or soldier who shall strike his superior officer, or draw or lift up any weapon, or offer any violence against him, being in the execution of his office, on any pretense whatsoever, or shall disobey any lawful command of his superior officer, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as shall, according to the nature of his offense, be inflicted upon him by the sentence of a court-martial.

A transcript and scans of the documents follows:

GENERAL COURT MARTIAL ORDERS, No. 5.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, January 4, 1865

I _ _ Before a General Court Martial which convened at Headquarters 2d Division, 6th Corps, November 30, 1864, pursuant to Special Orders, No. 144, dated Headquarters 2d Division, 6th Corps, October 23, 1864, and of which Lieutenant Colonel E. D. HOLT, 49th New York Volunteers, is President, was arraigned and tried –

1st Sergeant Patrick Shields, Company "B," 62d New York Volunteers.

CHARGE I. – "Violation of the 9th Article of War."

Specification 1st – "In this : that the said Patrick Shields, 1st Sergeant of Company 'B,' 62d New York Veteran Volunteers, did violently strike and knock his superior officer, Captain Lewis [J]. Stuart. This at camp near Strasburg, Va., on or about the 30th day of October, 1864."

Specification 2d – "In this : that at the time and place aforesaid, the said Patrick: Shields, 1st Sergeant of Company 'B,' 62d New York Veteran Volunteers, did enter the quarters of captain Lewis J. Stuart, and when ordered by the said Captain Lewis J. Stuart to leave his quarters, did positively refuse to obey said order."

CHARGE II. – "Violation of the 6th Article of War."

Specification 1st – "In this : that the said Patrick Shields, 1st Sergeant Company 'B,' 62d New York Veteran Volunteers, when ordered by his superior officer, Captain Lewis J. Stuart, to leave his quarters, did use contemptuous language to the following effect : 'You can go to hell ; I will stay just as long as I God damn please.' This at camp near Strasburg, Va., on or about the 30th day of October, 1864."

To which charges and specifications the accused, 1st Sergeant Patrick Shields, Company "B," 62d New York Veteran Volunteers, pleaded "Not Guilty."

FINDING

The Court, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused, 1st Sergeant Patrick Shields, Company "B," 62d New York Veteran Volunteers, as follows :

CHARGE I.

Of the 1st *Specification*, "Guilty."
Of the 2d *Specification*, "Guilty."
Of the CHARGE, "Guilty."

CHARGE II.

Of the *Specification*, "Guilty," except the words, "you can go to hell."
Of the CHARGE, "Guilty."

SENTENCE.

And the Court does therefore sentence him, 1st Sergeant *Patrick Shields*, Company "B," 62d New York Volunteers, "To forfeit all pay and allowances now due, to be dishonorably discharged, and 'confined in a State prison three years, subject to the approval of the Secretary of War."

II _ _ The proceedings, findings, and sentence of the Court in the above case were approved by the proper commander, and the record forwarded for the action of the President of the United States. The sentence is approved, and the Penitentiary at Albany, New York, designated as the place of confinement, where the prisoner, 1st Sergeant *Patrick Shields*, Company "B," 62d New York Veteran Volunteers, after being discharged, will be sent, under suitable guard, by orders of the Army or Department Commander, for the execution of the remainder of his sentence.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR :

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL :

Assistant Adjutant General.

(see the back page for scans of the documents)

THE COURT-MARTIAL DOCUMENT OF 1ST SERGEANT PATRICK SHIELDS

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Assistant Adjutant General.

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Assistant Adjutant General.

THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

[from *Harpers Weekly*, July 5, 1862]

WE publish this week several illustrations of the Army of the Potomac from sketches by Mr. Mead of Vermont. One of them, on page 428, represents the desperate struggle which took place, during the battle of Fair Oaks, around Ricketts, now Kirby's Battery. The Herald correspondent wrote:

While Lieutenant Kirby's battery was being placed in position, the enemy came out in force and made a desperate attempt to capture it. It was the same artillery company which Captain Ricketts commanded at Bull Run when the pieces were captured.

It was formerly the now rebel General Magruder's battery. He evidently recognized the colors of the company, and the prisoners we have captured say he swore he would have that battery. He ordered an immediate and desperate charge. The rebels came within twenty yards, when they poured a destructive fire into our ranks. The fire and the effect for a few moments were terrific. The cannoneers were driven from

their pieces; horses plunged and reared, while some fell in the traces, killed or wounded; others dashed off with caissons, but the generals present at this critical moment and exciting scene dashed forward, swords in hand, the gunners sprang forward also, and, "quick as lightning," manned their pieces. The supporting regiment, which had for a moment wavered, though its colonel and other valuable officers had fallen, now rallied, and they were greeted with a tremendous shower of fire, which caused them to fall back in great disorder. It was at that latest fire from the enemy that Colonel Riker, of the Sixty-second New York, was killed. As he was advancing he said, "We have some cold steel to give them, boys," and then he fell mortally wounded in the body. The Thirty-first Pennsylvania and the Chasseurs were doing excellent service on the right, and had already performed their share in driving the enemy away from our artillery. Before our deadly fire the enemy fell back, and General Magruder did not get his battery.



A careful reading of accounts of the Battle of Fair Oaks suggest that the figure falling next to the horse on the left of Kirby's battery is Riker.