

ANDERSON ZOUAVE

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COMPANY "F" DINNER HELD AT CAMDEN N. S. W.

The Annual June Dinner of the 62nd N.Y.S.V.V. Company "F" Re-enactment Group was held on June 23rd, 2006 in Camden (NSW) at the home of member Mark Koens. The evening featured music, song, good company and a rather bad bean and pickled pork dinner cooked by the night's "dog robber", Private Davey Sanders. Pre-dinner drinks were served to the company and after various toasts to the Regiment and Colonel Riker an artifact of the Wheaton's Brigade from the battle of the Wilderness was passed around the gathered members. The artifact (see page 4 of this issue) was a small shaving mirror which was owned by Alexander Thompson of the Ninety-eighth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Company "A". The Ninety-eighth Pennsylvania fought alongside the 62nd in all of the campaigns of the Army of the Potomac throughout the course of the war, from Couch's Brigade on the Peninsula through to Wheaton's Brigade at Appomattox Courthouse.

A short while later Mr John Tierney of the 62nd NY Advanced Company (Company I) and editor of *Anderson Zouave* was invited by David Sanders to say a few words about the regiment. Mr Tierney then presented a history of the regiment, accounting for the period between its first enlistments in April 1861 through to August 1861 when it left its camp on Riker's Island for Washington and its camp at Tennallytown, near Washington, D. C. A part of his speech follows:

"Before I begin my presentation of the early history of the Anderson Zouaves in New York City, I would just like to point out to you all that tonight, you, the members of the Company "F" reenactment group, are preserving a great Anderson Zouave tradition. In the post war period the Anderson Zouaves Association and the Anderson and Riker GAR Posts were very fond of celebrating, excuses for which they found several times per year. A report of a perfect example of one such celebration appeared in the New York Times in February 1883 which I think it is worth quoting:

J. L. Riker Post, No. 62, held its twelfth annual dance and masquerade ball at the Concordia Assembly Rooms on Monday evening, and it was unfortunate for the post that a larger hall had not been provided, for the crush was very great. A very large number were in mask. The opening march was led by the Floor Committee, dressed in Charles II costumes, followed by the Anderson Zouaves, Garibaldi Veteran Association, and Sedgewick and Riker Posts. Among those present were delegations from nearly all the New-York and Brooklyn posts, also of the Sons of Veterans of New-York and Hoboken. Comrades Urback and Bender, proprietors of the rooms, apparently ransacked kitchen and cellar for the benefit of the guests, and that a thoroughly enjoyable affair was had is attested by the fact that the last dance was called at 7:30 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The arrangements were almost entirely in the hands of Comrade Henry S. Trass."

At this point there was a good deal of discussion and laughter with those gathered noting the coincidence between the distant past and the recent past, particularly given the past association of the most of the members had or have with the Pike & Musket Society of NSW reenactment group which used to meet at the "Concordia" Club in Stanmore. It was suggested that future annual dinners may stipulate Charles II costumes as part of the dress code. After a period of time order was restored and Mr Tierney continued:

"The Anderson Zouaves began on April 17, 1861 when John Lafayette Riker enlisted as its Colonel three days after the evacuation of Fort Sumter. One internet reference claims that Riker enlisted at Saltersville on April 19th which may indicate that Riker, even at this early stage, was planning the future campsite for the Anderson Zouaves. On the same day, and possibly at the same place, enlisted the regiment's first Lieutenant Colonel William S. Tisdale who, depending on what source you choose to believe, either resigned to join Peck's staff in late October

1861, or was given a disability discharge on October 1, 1861. In either event he was replaced by the Captain of Company "D", David John Nevin who went on to become the longest serving Colonel of the regiment.

"The next to enlist, as Adjutant, was Joseph J. Yates on April 19th. Again there are some internet sources which say that Yates enlisted on the 17th however, the muster roll of the regiment on October 15th states the 19th. Yates did not last long in the regiment and even less time as the regiment's adjutant, eventually being discharged in late July 1862 when Quartermaster. In fact there were no less than three adjutants in the first days of the regiment including James Norris McLean, who replaced Yates in the role on May 10, 1861 but was himself discharged on September 13. John P. Scullen having enlisted as a private in early May 1861 was promoted to adjutant on October 25, 1861. A strange anomaly regarding the position of adjutant is that someone called Prescott Tracey is noted as Adjutant of the Anderson Zouaves in two newspaper articles in late May 1861, despite the fact that Mr Tracey does not appear on the roll of the Anderson Zouaves but on that of the 5th New York!

"Oscar Veniah Dayton enlisted as Major of the regiment on the April 22, 1861 and remained the Major of the regiment until he was wounded at the Battle of Malvern Hill and discharged in November of 1862. It is curious that he was not promoted to the position of Lt. Colonel upon the resignation or discharge of Tisdale, but it is noted that he approved of the appointment of Nevin in that position in October of 1861.

"Despite information to the contrary on the muster roll of October 15, I believe all these gentlemen must have enlisted at Saltersville, N. J., and not in New York City. Towards the end of April most of the Captains of the regiments companies had enlisted:

William Anderson of Company "A" on April 24,
Wilson Hubbell of Company "B" on April 29
William N. Hathaway of Company "C" on April 29,
David J. Nevin of Company "D" on April 27,
Miles L. Riggs of Company "E" on April 26,
George H. Moeser of Company "F" on April 27,
Jacob Duryee of Company "H" on May 1,
Charles G. La Fata of Company "I" on April 24,

"In addition to these, many of the regiment's First Lieutenants (many of which were, in their turn, to become captains) enlisted at this time, including the first of the recruits from the famous New York National Guard (7th Regiment), John F. Bisbee, who enlisted on April 29 as 1st Lieutenant of Company "B".

"These were, more or less, the officers who enlisted in the Anderson Zouaves prior to the recruiting tent being raised in Union Square on (or about) the 2nd May."

From this point on, Mr Tierney continued his brief history of the early months of the Anderson Zouaves, the relevant content of which is summarised below.

- May 5 Rev. Goss preaches to the soldiers in the Union Square tent. His text is psalm 46
*God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.*
- May 11th Riker, bearing dispatches from Washington, is chosen by Major Anderson at Trenton N. J. to escort him on the train to New York City.
- May 19th 800 men already recruited.
- May 20th Around this time a company of Zouaves from the Lafayette Guard join the 62d NY.
- May 25th Grand Military Demonstration (see quote)
- May 26th Rev. Dr. Chapin preaches in the Union Square tent from the Second Epistle to Timothy, Chapter II.v. 3.

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| | 'Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ' | | held by the Chaplain who invoked God's special blessing upon the regiment. |
| May 28th | 1200 men enlisted. Col. Riker complains very much of the demoralizing effect it has upon the men by keeping them in the City. | June 24th | About this date Riker Returns to Washington |
| May 31st | Riker leads 400 (of 1000) to Snedikers Hotel, Jamaica. Fifty of these were the same few members of the 55th who had enlisted in the 62d NY and were the only men at the Grand Military Demonstration with uniforms which were those they wore in the 55th. The companies which march to Jamaica include C, F and I. | June 25th | Riker has a conference with General Scott and the Anderson Zouaves are accepted by the War Department. |
| June 2nd | Around this date the remainder of regiment move to Camp Lafayette at the Newark Bay Hotel, Saltersville, N. J. The companies at Saltersville include A, G and D. | June 26th | Riker and Tisdale are reported to have spent \$7,000 in raising the regiment. The Union Defence Committee is said to have only given \$1,500 for the upkeep of the regiment. Other regiments are noted to have received up to \$40,000. |
| June 3rd | New York papers report that a company from Westerfield, Massachusetts arrives to join Riker's regiment. | June 30th | Majority of the regiment is mustered into service by Captain S. B. Hayman of the 7th Regiment. Certified as superior troops by Medical Inspector N. R. Moseley, M. D. |
| June 4th | Albert V. Meeks of the New York National Guard (7th Regiment) enlists as captain of Company "G". | July 1st | The remainder of the regiment (Companies E and F and some of K) are mustered-in and the Field & Staff commissioned. Capt. Johnston of Company "K" and Colonel Riker make speeches. Riker's patriotic address, was vociferously cheered by the men, who were drawn up in line to hear his remarks. The regiment contains 950 men. |
| June 9th | Riker is in Washington attempting to get the regiment accepted by the War Department. He goes with letters from the Defence Committee, Mrs. Anderson, M. O. Roberts and other distinguished men, even the President had written a letter to the Secretary of War, urging the acceptance of the regiment, however the Governor of New York would not consent to the regiment being accepted. This refusal may have been due to political differences between Riker and his sponsors who were likely to have been Democrats and Governor Morgan who was a Republican. | July 4th | Fourth of July celebrated at Camp Lafayette with La Fata's company firing a large brass field piece and fireworks across Newark Bay. Riker makes another speech full of patriotic fervour and eloquence which is listened to by a large group of ladies and Zouaves. |
| June 10th | Mr John M. Davis gives speech at Saltersville at request of Major Dayton. | July 10th | Dr. Crawford who had served with Anderson at Fort Sumter writes a letter to Riker saying that he shall present a stand of colours on behalf Major Anderson. |
| June 12th | Phillip Smith of Lowville N. Y. raises a company with the objective of joining it to the Anderson Zouaves. The company never joins the regiment but ends up as part of the 53rd New York Infantry. | July 13th | There are complaints in the press about the Anderson Zouaves having not being paid a cent since they enlisted and this probably explains some of the early desertions by men who had families to feed. The Union Defence Committee is loudly criticised. |
| June 14th | Archibald Johnston enlists as captain of Company "K". George T. J. Lewis and Charles R. Sterling of the New York National Guard (7th Regiment) enlist as Privates but quickly receive promotions with Lewis becoming Captain of Company "H" and Sterling becoming the 1st Lieutenant of Company "K". Later Sterling was to join the brigade staff as Aide-de-Camp to General Peck. The Jamaica detachment of 300 move to Saltersville. | July 15th | Move from Saltersville to Riker's Island onboard the steamer 'Major Anderson'. |
| June 15th | The day after Company C arrives at Newark Bay House, Saltersville, from Jamaica it comes to blows with members of Company A, which was already at the new camp, both companies presenting knives and pistols. It is only the prompt action of the officers that prevented serious injury. | July 22nd | The condition of the 800 men on Riker's Island is said to be "extremely wretched". |
| June 16th | Rev. L. C. Lockwood, Chaplain of the Young Men's Christian Association, visits the regiment at Camp Lafayette. Colonel Riker returns to Camp Lafayette from Washington. Riker on this occasion makes a strong impression on the visitors from the YMCA who praise him for his competency in his post and for his untiring and successful exertions. In response to his cordial welcome, Riker makes an able and inspiring speech, which is enthusiastically cheered by the regiment. He thanks the men for their patience and congratulates them on a better time coming, hoping they will prove themselves worthy of Anderson after whom they are named. Riker's speech is said to be very stirring every eye being filled with tears and every heart throbbing with emotion. General Wetmore, of the Union Defence Committee, was introduced after this speech and states that "the hearing of the ear had not half equalled the sight of the eyes, in regard to the stalwart men and noble Colonel and associated officers of this regiment". Rev. L. C. Lockwood, seconded Riker's remarks about a better day coming, and asserts that the Anderson Zouaves were becoming a pet regiment of New-York City. After this a prayer meeting is | Aug. 4th | Anderson Zouaves attend a service in by Rev. Charles Goss in Union Square tent at 3:30 pm. |
| | | Aug. 8th | Presentation of a stand of Federal colours on Riker's Island. The flag is a gift from Major Robert Anderson, and is presented by Dr Crawford. The chaplain, Rev. John Harvey, invokes a blessing upon the flag. |
| | | Aug. 15th | Large number of men from various companies mustered in. General Wool is escorted by Company "A" under the command of Lieut. Knight, from the railway depot to the Union Club House. Wool shakes hands with the whole of Company A. |
| | | Aug. 19th | Two letters from E. D. Morgan to Simon Cameron regarding Riker's Regiment. |
| | | Aug. 20th | Friends visit Camp Astor to take leave of regiment. Governor Morgan arrives in New York City to facilitate the movement of Regiments to Washington. |
| | | Aug. 21st | The regiment leaves Camp Astor on Riker's Island for Washington. Steam-tugs take the regiment to Elizabethport, where they take the Central Railroad of New Jersey for Baltimore and Washington. They are provided with the old smooth-bore Springfield musket with shark bayonets, and percussion locks altered from flintlocks, but are promised a more effective arm when they reach Washington. The uniform consists of a dark blue jacket, light blue full pantaloons, a red fez with blue tassel or dark blue caps." |
| | | | With this concluding Mr Tierney's presentation, he called for a toast to the regiment. Mr Tierney was thanked for his presentation and for the efforts he has made in uncovering the history of the regiment which it was noted had seemed to have been remembered for having been forgotten! After several more toasts the gathered members continued their annual celebration which lasted into the wee small hours of the following day! |

APPEAL TO BRING COLONEL RIKER "HOME"



Dr Stephen Gapps of '62nd New York Anderson Zouaves Inc.' has launched an appeal on the Australian American Civil War List and among Australian, American Civil War, reenactors to purchase a CDV of Colonel Riker which has recently appeared for auction on Ebay. Dr Gapps is asking interested parties to donate \$10, or as much as they can afford to a fund to be used by him to purchase the image. At the time of publication it had not yet become clear to some where the image would be deposited should Dr Gapps make a successful bid for the historic artifact.

The email as it was circulated appears below, and anyone wishing to assist Dr Gapps should contact him urgently as the auction for the image will end on Monday 7th August at 10:20am.

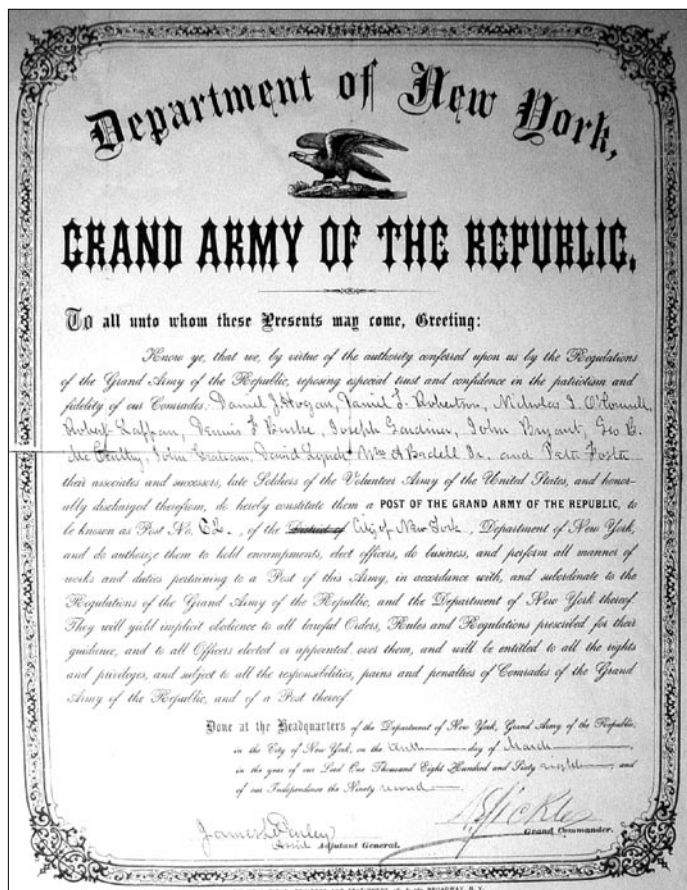
We in the 62nd have started an emergency fighting fund to 'bring Colonel Riker back home'. We have \$30US in the fighting fund so far and are asking for \$10(US) donations. Any assistance welcome! Please contact my good self.

*Regards etc./ Lt Gapps / Secretary-public officer
<stephen.gapps@optusnet.com.au>
62d New York 'Anderson's Zouaves' INC.
American Civil War Re-enactment Society.*

GAR DOCUMENTS ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA

Eighty-one pages of documents relating to the post war Anderson Zouaves Veterans Association, the Anderson-Williams GAR Post No. 394 and the Sumner GAR Post No. 24. have arrived in Australia and will be added to the documents, journals and books held by John Tierney. Upon first appearances the majority of the documents seem to be administrative and will probably contribute little to our knowledge of the Anderson Zouaves. However, there are some documents which stand out immediately as being of some interest.

The papers include a copy of the foundation document of the John Lafayette Riker Post No. 62 of the GAR dated March 10, 1868. Given that the first GAR post was created in 1866 it makes this post one of the



A photostatic copy of the foundation document of J. L. Riker GAR Post #62

very first. There is also a document from the Sumner post which makes it clear that the commander of that post is an ex-member of the 62nd New York. There is also a request from the official New York historian for information from Posts 394 and 62 regarding the history of the regiment the members of these posts served in.

NEW BOOKS ARRIVE

New books for the John Lafayette Riker Memorial Library have arrived. "Ours" *Annals of 10th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, in the Rebellion*, by the historian of the regiment, Captain Joseph Kieth Newell, is a diary-like narrative of the regiment's history followed by biographical sketches of the members of the regiment. The 10th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment was in the same division as the 62nd New York and was in the same Brigade as the 2nd Rhode Island.

While the 62nd itself does not have a history of its own, the library now has five effective histories of the 14 regiments which served in Couch's division during the Peninsula Campaign and through to the Battle of Antietam.

Of these histories three of the regiments which served in the same brigade as the 62nd are accounted for. The 55th Lafayette Guard is served by De Trobriand's book *Four years in the Army of the Potomac*. The history of the 93rd Pennsylvania is accounted for in *Red: white: and blue badge*, by Penrose Mark. John H. Niebaum covers the 102nd PVI with the *History of the Pittsburgh Washington Infantry* and Chaplain Stewart of the same regiment wrote *Camp March and Battlefield*. The 10th Massachusetts and the 2nd Rhode Island both served in Deven's Brigade of Couch's division. The history of the 2nd Rhode Island is covered by Elisha Hunt Rhodes in his book *All for the Union*. When read together these books give an excellent account from which a general history of the 62nd can be extrapolated.

Military Collector and Historian, Journal of The Company of Military Historians Washington D. C., Volume 35, No. 1 Spring 1983, has also recently been acquired. Pages 32 and 33 contain an illustration and a description of the uniform of the Anderson Zouaves by Roger Sturke. All these books are available in the library. Contact <john@strangeplanet.com.au>.

FRAGMENT PART OF FAMOUS SUMTER FLAG.

Christopher Morton, Curator of the N.Y.S. Battle Flag Preservation Project, is to inspect the contents of the John Lafayette Riker Papers which form part of the James Riker collection of papers held by the New York Public Library. In particular he is to investigate the possibility that fragments of an unidentified flag or pennant in box 22 or 23 of that collection may in fact be part of the famous Sumter flag. The possibility that the fragments listed by the library as being among the "photographs and ephemera" in the collection, was brought to light when the following newspaper report from *The Washington Post*, was uncovered recently by an Australian researcher.

The Original Fort Sumter Flag.

NEW YORK, April 14. - In commemoration of the raising of the flag at Fort Sumter the veterans of the Anderson Zouaves Association this morning floated from the pole at the battery a piece of the original Fort Sumter flag, presented to them Mrs. Maj. Anderson. Grouped about the staff were Maj. Lawrence, Capt. Morse, Capt. Mosher, and several other prominent members of the zouaves.

With this information in hand Mr Morton's emailed the NYPL library enquiring after the fragments. The response received was as follows:

Dear Mr. Morton:

Thank you for your query regarding "fragments of an unidentified flag" from the James Riker Papers in box 23. The fragments are predominately red stripes with some blue and white pieces. The stitching along the edge of the fabric was made by a sewing machine. No other information can be determined.

The condition of the fragments are fragile; in its present state, the material would have to be untangled by a conservator. Are you interested in examining the flag?

*Valerie Wingfield
Manuscripts Specialist*

Mr Morton will report back on his findings to *Anderson Zouave* in the next few days.

'SHAVING MIRROR' OF CORPORAL ALEXANDER THOMPSON, COMPANY "A", 98TH PVI

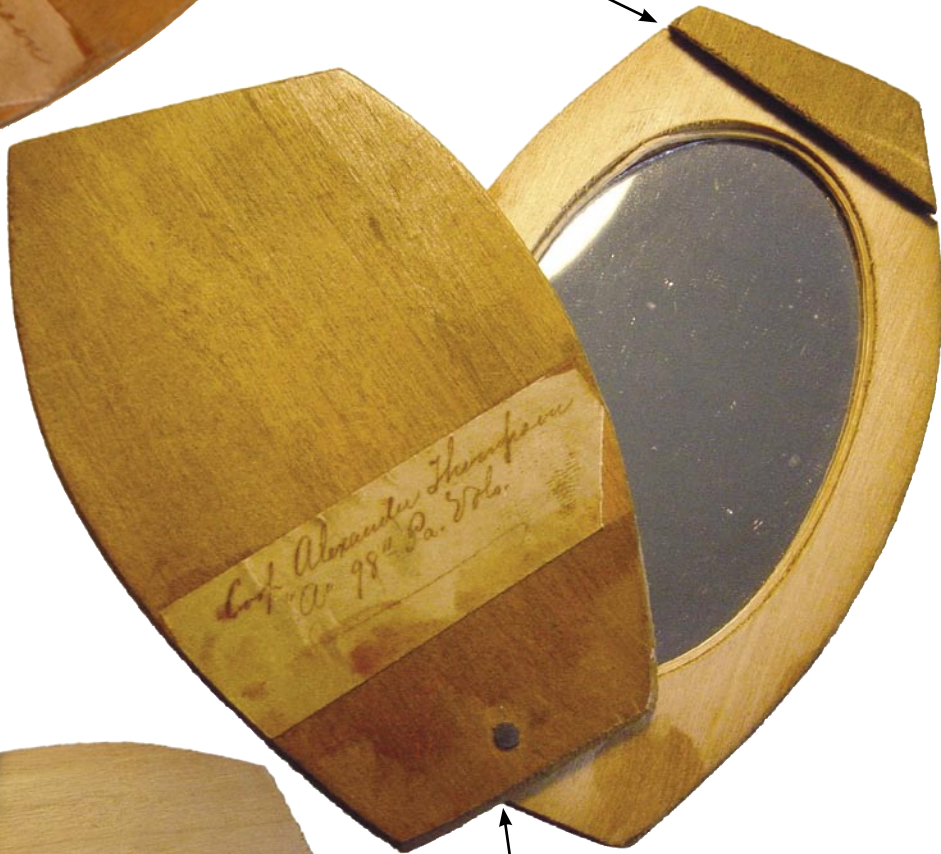
The images below are of an artifact which belong to Corporal Alexander Thompson of the Ninety-eighth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Wheaton's Brigade (1st brigade, 2nd Division, VI Corps), Army of the Potomac. The brigade to which the 98th belonged to at the time this was purchased is inscribed in pencil on the inside of the top cover (pic. 3). As

Wheaton's brigade became the 1st brigade of the 2nd division in about March of 1864 it means that this artifact may have been carried by Corp. Thomson from the battle of the Wilderness through to Saylers Creek and the surrender at Appomatox Court House. The tape on the front is unlikely to be original.



The mirror measures 143 x 86 x 13mm with an arc radius of about 130mm.

A thin metal strengthening piece is inserted



Metal rivet

Pencil inscription on back of initial AT



Pencil inscription on back of top lid reads
alex Thompson
Co A 98 P V V [Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteers]
1 Brig 2 Div 6 Corps

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