

# ANDERSON ZOUAVE

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## LETTER TO THE NEW YORK SUNDAY MERCURY.

The following letter appeared in the *New York Sunday Mercury* on March 9, 1862. The letter is signed "R. F. B., Co. A." which, assuming that the roster of the Anderson Zouaves is complete and correct, could only be the initials of Sergeant Robert F. Beasley of Co. "A".



Beasley some time between September 1861 and January 1864.

Beasley is recorded as having been enlisted by Colonel John L. Riker into Company "A" on May 12, 1861 at the age of 20 years in New York, NY. In all likelihood he enlisted as a private on this day but, like many early enlistments, found himself immediately promoted to the rank of corporal.<sup>1</sup>

Beasley was mustered into the Federal service, along with the rest of his company, on June 30, 1861, by Captain Hayman of the U.S. Army, at Newark Bay House, Saltersville (now part of Bayonne), NJ. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant on Monday, August 26, 1861 three days after the regiment had arrived at its campsite on Meridian Hill, north of Washington, DC.

The main subject of Beasley's letter is the celebration of George Washington's birthday in the regimental camp. By order of President Lincoln, extracts from the *Farewell Address of George Washington*, a document which was to rank along side the *Declaration of Independence* as a "seminal statement of America's abiding principles,"<sup>2</sup> were read in the campsites of the regiments guarding the capital in 1862. John Harvey who read the extracts was the chaplain of the Anderson Zouaves, enlisting on May 25, 1861 at the age of 62. Also evident in this letter is the high regard in which Colonel Riker and Major Dayton are held by the members of the regiment.

The commemoration of Washington's birthday was notable enough to also be mentioned in the *Pennsylvania Thirteenth*,<sup>3</sup> the camp paper of the 102d Pennsylvania Regiment. The regimental newspaper of the 93rd Pennsylvania Regiment, *The Knapsack*,<sup>4</sup> noted that the day was "properly celebrated" with its Colonel, James M. McCarter, famed for his oratory, reading the address to an enthusiastic and patriotic gathering of privates and officers.

The storm which Beasley recounts in his letter was another event which received universal attention. A letter appearing in the *Sunday Mercury* by a member of the 69th New York, mentioned the severe storm, as did the Chaplain of the 102d Pennsylvania regiment, Alexander M. Stewart, in his letter of February 27.<sup>6</sup> *The Knapsack*, also mentioned the storm in its February 26 issue.<sup>7</sup>

Baker's California Regiment, which Beasley refers to, was also known as the 71st Pennsylvania and at the time this letter was written was on duty on the upper Potomac north-west of Tennallytown.

Beasley reenlisted as a veteran on February 5, 1864 and, exactly three months later, was wounded at the battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864. Beasley was removed from the battlefield and taken to Fredericksburg, VA, where he died of his wounds four days later on May 9 as his comrades struggled with the Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Spotsylvania.

[Special Correspondence of the Sunday Mercury.]

SIXTY-SECOND REGIMENT, N. Y. S. V.

CAMP TENNALLY, D. C., Feb. 25.

*How the Anderson Zouaves Celebrated the Twenty-second – A Big Blow – Taking the Tents Down – More Firemen Volunteers.*

I take this opportunity of letting you know how we kept Washington's birthday in our camp. The day being, at two o'clock the regiment was called together, and the Rev. Mr Harvey made a short prayer, and then read Washington's "Farewell Address," to which the men listened very attentively. Col. Riker then made a speech on the present war, which was very much liked by the men. After the speech was finished, the regiment was dismissed, and the boys gave three cheers for the colonel and major, and went to their quarters.

Yesterday—the 24th—the wind began to blow, and it blowed so hard, that we had to take down all of our tents to keep them from blowing away. It was a fun to see the men running in all directions to get out of the wind. But to-day it is very fine.

R. F. B., Co. A.

P. S. – I saw in your last week's paper that you would like to know the members of hose Co. No. 43 that have enlisted for the war. I will let you know who they are: Charles W. Sheffield and George W. Falkner, Anderson Zouaves ; and William Thompson and John Thomson, Baker's California Regiment. I don't know of any more.

### Notes

1. The National Parks Service Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System records him as enlisting as a corporal citing the General Index Card while Historical Data Systems, Inc. records him as enlisting as a private citing the Report of the New York Adjutant-General.
2. Ellis, J. J., 2002, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*, New York, p. 122
3. *Pennsylvania Thirteenth*, vol 1, no. 14, Tennallytown, DC, p. 2.
4. *The Knapsack*, no. 3, February 26, 1862, Tennallytown, DC, p. 1.
5. "Sixty-ninth Regiment" (letter by 'Non-com'), *The New York Sunday Mercury*, March 3, 1862, New York, NY.
6. Stewart, A. M., 1865, *Camp March and Battlefield*, Philadelphia, PA, pp. 121-122
7. *The Knapsack*, no. 3, February 26, 1862, Tennallytown, DC, p. 1.

## THE LOSSES SUFFERED BY THE ANDERSON ZOUAVES AT WILLIAMSBURG.

Following is a list of the casualties from among the ranks of the Anderson Zouaves during the Peninsula Campaign. It is the first of a series of articles that will attempt to identify all members of the Anderson Zouaves who were killed, wounded, captured or went missing during the Civil War. This list will not include those who died, were incapacitated or discharged due to sickness.

The *Compendium of the War of the Rebellion* by Frederick H. Dyer records the number of men lost by the Anderson Zouaves as three officers and 85 enlisted men killed in action and mortally wounded. While the loss of life is to be regretted, the loss of 85 men in combat seems a small number of casualties in comparison to other regiments in the brigade such as the 93d Pennsylvania which lost almost twice that number. However, it is when one lists the killed and wounded in each of the battles that the Anderson Zouaves took part in, that one starts to fully comprehend just how devastating even the relatively light casualties the regiment took must have been when added to those dying and being discharged due to sickness.

Various references have been used in compiling this list including: The National Parks Service Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System; Historical Data Systems, Inc.; The War Record of George Harrisson; contemporary

newspaper reports; and, regimental histories. While some errors and omissions remain, it is the opinion of the author that the following comprises the most accurate account of the losses of the Anderson Zouaves to date.

## WILLIAMSBURG MAY 5, 1862

### Killed

#### 1. Sgt. Oscar W. Buffington

*Enlisted by Capt. Miles L. Riggs into Co. "E", June 4, 1861 at Troy, NY at the age of 26 as a private. Promoted to sergeant on September 1, 1861. Died on the battlefield May 5, 1862. Buried Yorktown National Cemetery, VA, plot 722.*

#### 2. Corp. Henry Scheper (AKA Schipner, Shepper, Shiper, Shipper)

*Enlisted into Co. "E", May 23, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 29 as a private. Transferred to Co. "H" about August 15, 1861. Promoted to corporal November 1, 1861. Died on the battlefield May 5, 1862. Buried Williamsburg, VA.*

#### 3. Pvt. Edward Kelly

*Enlisted by Capt. Jacob Duryee into Co. "H", May 4, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 19 as a private. Wounded at the battle and evacuated to Hampton VA where he died of wounds on May 23, 1862. Buried Hampton National Cemetery, VA, plot 4833*

### Wounded

#### 1. Pvt. Jacob J. Greiner

*Enlisted by 2nd Lieut. Samuel C. Thwait (Co. "G" – possibly acting as adjutant in place of James Norris McLean who was discharged on September 13, 1861) into Co. "F", August 19 or 20, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 22 as a private. Appears to have been evacuated to Yorktown, VA, from where he deserted on August 18, 1862.*

#### 2. Pvt. James W. Griffith

*Enlisted into Co. "G", June 5, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 30 as a private. Appears to have been evacuated to Philadelphia, PA, from where he was discharged due to disability July 25, 1862.*

#### 3. Pvt. Christian F. Schmidt

*Enlisted by 2nd Lieut. Louis Grimm into Co. "E", June 28, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 21 as a private. Also wounded on May 3, 1863 at Fredericksburg. Transferred to Co. "I" 6th Regt. Veteran Reserve Corps April 6, 1864. Discharged July 6, 1864.*

#### 4. Pvt. Henry Osteeye (AKA Oystee, Oytseyu)

*Enlisted by Capt. William N. Hathaway (Co. "C") into Co. "B", May 1, 1861 at Brooklyn, NY at the age of 25 as a private. Listed as wounded New York Times, May 29, 1862.*

According to a letter by William P. Alcott of Co. "D" there were three killed and five wounded in the battle of Williamsburg.

## MAY 29, 1862

### Taken prisoner

#### 1 Pvt. Martin Stock (AKA Stark)

*Enlisted by Capt. Albert V. Meeks into Co. "G", July 1, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 19 as a private. Captured on May 29, 1862 at a place unknown and returned March 27, 1863. He deserted on July 29, 1863 at Boonsboro, MD. Served subsequently in Co. "K" 115th NY Infantry.*

On May 23, 1862 the brigade crossed the Chickahominy at Bottom's Bridge and over the following days advanced towards Seven Pines and Richmond. On May 29, the division marched at 7am about three quarters of a mile towards Seven Pines where it began throwing up the entrenchment behind which they found themselves on May 31, and it is likely that Martin Stock was taken prisoner while posted on picket duty. Historical Data Systems (HDS) records Stock as deserting at Boonsboro, NC, on July 29, 1863, however, this is likely to be an error as the regiment was in the vicinity of Boonsboro, MD around that date (July 15 at Boonsboro, VA and July 29 at Warrenton, VA) in the pursuit of Lee after the battle of Gettysburg.

## WILLIAM P. ALCOTT LETTER.

This is one of the 29 letters written by Sergeant William Peck Alcott which are part of the special collections of the Earl Gregg Swem Library of the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg, VA.

Alcott was enlisted by Captain David John Nevin on June 2, 1861 at New York City, NY as a Private. He was mustered into Company "D" on June 30, 1861. He was discharged due to wounds on December 19,

1864 from the Carver Hospital at Washington, DC.

Alcott was wounded on or about May 4, 1863 at Fredericksburg, VA and at Cold Harbor, VA, on June 9, 1864. He was promoted to Quarter Master Sergeant on September 1, 1861 and to Sergeant on November 3, 1862. He was transferred from Company "D" to the regimental Field & Staff on September 1, 1861 with his promotion to Quarter Master Sergeant and transferred back to Company "D" with his appointment as Sergeant on November 3, 1862.

May 11th 1862

In Camp 25 miles from Williamsburg on the Road to Richmond.

Dear Ma, your kind and allways welcome letter of the 6th was received by me last night and I having time I take this opportunity of answering it. I am rejoiced to hear that you are regaining your health and hope by the time you receive this you will be intirely restored to good health. I wrote a letter to John write after the Battle of the 5th at Williamsburg in which our Regiment bore a very active part and although we were in the thickest of the Fight we came out of it with the loss of 3 killed and 5 wounded. Dear Ma it is nothing to go into battle but after the battle it is orfull to look around and see so many dead lying in all shapes ho a few hours before was full of life and as active as I am but such is War. I passed over the Battle field on the morning of the 6th. I volunteered to go and look up the dead and wounded if thear was eny and such a site me my eyes I hope and pray I may never see again. We wiped the Enemy but we had know cowardly fose to deal with and many a man was made to bite the dust before they gave way it was night when we silenced thear fire but we had no idea we had wiped them and we made big calculations to go into it early next morning but when morning came the Enemy had retreated leaving thear dead & wounded on the field we captured a quite a number of priserners ho was unable to git a way. I saw about 350 of them they are dressed in all kind of Clothing and all of them says they calculate to be murdered before they reach thear desternation. I saw a Capt. Lee<sup>1</sup> of the 5th North Carolina Regiment he says all he has left out of 89 men is 5 and they are wounded with himself Our Regiment cutting them down like Grass. The fight took place two miles from Williamsburg the Enemy having strong fortification there which they had to abandon. Williamsburg is quite a place containing I suppose about 5 to 6 thousand people the Enemy tried hard to burn it but they was followed so close they had no chance they left the Town full of wounded and dead the Dead was berried by our men and the wounded will be taking care of. we are about 25 miles apast Williamsburg and only 35 miles from Richmond the Southern army is so broke up I hardly think they will make much of a stand. Although it is hard to tell what they calculate to do this thing I do know that those that was in the fight of the 5th is compleatly demoralized and will take a long time to make them fight again and by all accounts General McClellan will not give them time to recrute thear army as he has said he would push them to the wall and eather make them fight or serrender but inuff you nead not feal uneasy about one for so far I am well and in good spearits. You say you have heard that the Union Army is but half fed such is not the case as far as we are consurned tis true sometimes we haff to go hungry but it is seldom the case as for our Clothing they are good and if we had more we would have to through them away So dear Ma you need not worry your self about me in regards to Clothing or what kind of fare I have but yet I thank you a thousand times for offering to give me whatever I want. I wish this war was over for thear has been blud enuff shed and homes enuff left desertate Oh dear Ma iff you could only see the Country I have traveled over in poor old Virginia see the houses burned the land with no one left to till it it is all most to hard to think of but such is Scecesion and I believe Scecesion means deserlation & distruction. We are encamped on a Union mans farm he left every thing behind him and went and joynd our army I suppose the Rebels has confiscated his property but now he has got it back again and I do not believe all the Rebels in the Seceeding States can rench it from us. thear is no backwood movements know and if nothing happens to us we will be in Richmond before next week thear is a Rumer that Norfolk is in our possession

but I do not poot much reliecn in the Report as New Papers is very scarce we can tell very little what is going on. We have not got our money yet and I do not believe we will git it in some time I will then give you some mony not to keep for me but you can youse it for yourself As for the mony that John has got of mine I suppose he has spend it and that is the last of it. So I will not say eny thing about it untill I return I will say more about this in my next. Give my love to Pa Edmund Ann Louisa Henry & Clarra not forgetting to retain a share for yourself tell Anna Louisa I thank her for her letter and them papers in them. I will try and answer as soon as I can do so. I hope this will find you all well I will close

Yours

Wm Allcot

P.S. thanks for the stamps

Write soon as you git this

#### Notes

1. John Willis Lea was the captain of Company "I" of the 5th North Carolina Regiment. He resided in Caswell County NC at the time he enlisted at the age of 23. Lea enlisted on May 16, 1861 at Caswell County, NC as a Captain. He received his commission the same day. The 5th NC were engaged with Hancock on the extreme left of the Confederate line and yet it appears that Captain Lea was captured by members of the 62nd NY. A similar conversation with Lea is recorded by the Anderson Zouaves regimental chaplain, John Harvey, in his letter of May 7, 1862, and also by Alfred Covell Woods in his diary, though he does not mention Captain Lea by name. Despite his capture, Lea was paroled and went on to eventually become the Colonel of the 5th North Carolina.

## THE ENIGMA OF MAJOR GEORGE A. HARRISSON.

One of the most enduring enigmas of the Anderson Zouaves is the identity of George A. Harrisson. Several years ago William Lincoln, then a member of what is nowadays known as the 62nd New York 'Anderson Zouaves' American Civil War Reenactment Society Inc., but who is today a member of the 62nd NY Co. "F" organisation, located the war record of George A. Harrisson in the collection of the New York State Historical Association. In the document it is claimed that Harrisson had once been a member of the Anderson Zouaves and, further, that he been an officer. The majority of this document is a day by day account of the part played by the Anderson Zouaves in the Civil War with a biographical summary at the end.

Initially this seemed like an amazing find until it was noticed that there was no other mention of Harrisson in any other historical document or newspaper report. Surely, had Harrisson been an officer in the Anderson Zouaves he would have been mentioned somewhere else besides in his own account.

Recently, a biography of Harrisson has been found in a book published in Indiana in 1899 by the Lewis Publishing Company called *A Biographical History of Tippecanoe, White, Jasper, Newton, Benton, Warren and Pulaski Counties*.

While this biography doesn't prove that Harrisson was a member of the Anderson Zouaves it at least proves his existence and the fact that his story was considered believable enough by authorities in Indiana to be printed. Having said this it is still extraordinary that there is no other mention of Harrisson (in respect of his membership of the Anderson Zouaves) in any other report or document, particularly in view of the claim in his biography, that he received the "highest commendation from his superior officers".

If his claimed membership of the Anderson Zouaves was a "tall tale" then it was a bold one. Harrisson's residence in Indiana was not that far from New York or the battlegrounds upon which the great conflict was played out and veterans of the Anderson Zouaves were spread across the length and breadth of the United States. It would be astonishing if Harrisson's story was an invention, that it was not uncovered by a member of his old regiment or another member of the G. A. R. association that he belong to.

As undesirable a conclusion as it might be, it is possible that the war record of George A. Harrisson is a fabrication created in an attempt to gain a war pension or some other benefit or advantage. No doubt Harrisson had access to personal memoirs, if not his own then maybe those of someone who actually was a member, but until more solid evidence is uncovered, Harrisson's membership of the Anderson Zouaves must continue to be tempered by a degree of doubt.

## MAJOR GEORGE A. HARRISSON

Few lives are more replete with incident and thrilling experiences than has been that of this gentleman, who for the past two years has been the efficient superintendent of the police force of Lafayette. He has traveled in all parts of the world and has fought under the banners of many governments, not neglecting his own loved country, in whose defense he gallantly shouldered arms and spent four years of arduous campaigning during the civil war. A complete history of his life would fill a volume of respectable size, and would prove very interesting to the general reader.

The Harrissons are of Scotch English descent, and were early settlers of New Hampshire, being the recipients of some of the original grants of land there. The Meaders, the maternal ancestors of the Major, were probably of Dutch descent and were pioneers of Nantucket and vicinity. The parents of our subject were Issacher and Phoebe (Meador) Harrisson, natives of New Hampshire and New York, respectively. They were married in Troy, New York, and resided there for many years, the father engaged in running a drug store. After the death of his wife he retired to a farm and there passed his last days.

The only surviving member of his father's household, George A. Harrisson was born in Troy, New York, May 12 1843. He possessed an adventurous spirit and a desire to see the great world and so, when but twelve years old, he shipped aboard a merchant vessel as a cabin boy. The ship soon afterward commenced conveying flour and supplies to the English army, then occupied in the Crimean war, and thus the lad witnessed the bombardment of Sebastopol. During the Sepoy rebellion in India he was still in the merchant-marine service, and went ashore to enlist with the English forces. Under command of the noted General Havelock he went to the relief of the besieged garrison at Lucknow, and was a witness of the thrilling scenes of that memorable campaign. In 1861 he arrived in New Orleans, and had to secrete himself in order to avoid impressment into the Confederate service, and finally escaped as a stow-away on a ship bound for Havana. Applying there for a passport to New York, the American consul refused his request, but, notwithstanding this rebuff, he managed to get on board a vessel going to the metropolis. Landing May 11, 1861, he lost no time in getting into the army, for the next day he enlisted in Anderson's Zouaves, afterwards the Sixty-second New York Regiment. He rose from the ranks, being made first lieutenant in 1863, captain in 1864, and was brevetted major on the field of battle. From first to last in the Army of the Potomac, he served through the Peninsular campaign and was a participant in all of the hard-fought battles before Richmond, winning the highest commendation from his superior officers. In the battles of Malvern Hill, Shenandoah and Petersburg he was wounded, and was once taken prisoner, but escaped forty-eight hours later. At the close of the war he was stationed at Fort Wood, on Bedloe's island, New York harbor as quartermaster and adjutant, until September, 1865, when he was mustered out of the service. His military record is an unusually brilliant one, and he seemed to lead a charmed life, for he was always in the thickest of the fight.

Then, going to his old home in Troy, he was placed on the police force, "but resigned in the following year, in order to join General Spears and assist in raising a company for the Fenian invasion of Canada. He served about six weeks in that noted campaign, as captain of his company, sharing the hardships of the expedition. Having thoroughly imbibed the war spirit, he next went to South America, where there is always opportunity for soldiers to enlist, and accepted a position as lieutenant-colonel in the Brazilian army, under the Duke de Caxis, against the allied forces of Uruguay and the Argentine Republic. For various reasons he soon went over to the opposite side and was placed in command of a European battalion as a major. After fighting in several battles he turned his back on the whole cause and enlisted under the stars and stripes once more, as a seaman in our navy. This meant four years of hard service, his ship, the Pawnee, being one of the South Atlantic squadron, and though he traveled to many a port and had numerous adventures of all kinds, the yearning for home and a quiet life grew upon him year by year, and he decided that he would settle down

to a peaceful vocation, when the opportunity presented itself. At Portsmouth, New Hampshire, navy yards, he was discharged in September, 1869, as quartermaster.

For a few months Major Harrison worked at railroading in Michigan, and in April 1870, came to Lafayette. Here he was concerned in the construction of what is now the Lake Erie & Western Railroad for some time, and then took contracts for several public works in this vicinity notably the beautiful road from Lafayette to Battle Ground. During the next decade he was the manager of the Kankakee Crystal Ice Company's plant at Waldron, and was connected with the Riverside Stone Company and the Diamond Flint Company, also taking contracts for stone work.

Always a great worker in the Republican party, the Major is held in high esteem by his political associates. He filled out the unexpired term of JW Conine as township trustee, was enrolling clerk at the legislative sessions of the state in 1897, and was the secretary of the Republican central committee in the campaign of 1896. In April, 1897, he was appointed superintendent of police in Lafayette and was reappointed in 1898. We quote from a local paper, and that, too of the opposite party: "In selecting Major Harrison as superintendent of the police force of Lafayette the board of police commissioners made no mistake. No man has had as many opportunities to betray trust and get wealth and still be poor as has Major Harrison, but all the various capacities that he has filled in life he has done his duty solely because it was his duty, and not through any thought of gain or personal aggrandizement. He has the confidence and respect of every officer in the city, and never in the history of Lafayette have the police affairs been more ably managed than they are today." In 1864 the Major joined the Masonic order, at Troy, New York, and was made a Master Mason in Rio Janeiro, Brazil. He now belongs to Lafayette Lodge, No 123, F. & AM, and to Lafayette Chapter, No. 3, RAM Moreover, he is a member of the John A. Logan Post, No. 3, GAR, and of Encampment No. 122, Union Veteran Legion.

**Source:** *A Biographical History of Tippecanoe, White, Jasper, Newton, Benton, Warren and Pulaski Counties*, Lewis Publishing Company, Indiana 1899. pp. 161-163.

## ETHNOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF COMPANY "F", 62ND NYSV (FROM CWSS DATA).

*by David Sanders*

In response to the "Anderson Zouave" May 2007 article on the ethnic origins of the 62nd NYSV, I decided to have a look at the data on the regiment's Company F, which I abstracted from the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors (CWSS) data base.

The CWSS is drawn from U.S. Army Civil War era "General Index" cards. This information is notorious for its misspellings and duplications of soldier information. But it does serve as a valuable source of information on the enlistments in the Federal and Confederate forces especially when backed up by research. Having said this...

At best, this survey can only be an approximate guide to the ethnicity of the Company. I have used "educated guesswork" to assign ethnicity based on the surname. Of course, this is fraught with problems as surname alone does not account for the "mixing pot" of North America, even in the 1860s. It is really necessary to research fully each soldier to discover their origins, of course this is not always going to be possible!

I am also aware that many English names occur amongst the Irish and Scottish populations and further, it is sometimes difficult to discern between Dutch and German surnames, particularly when they are misspelled or butchered by Army clerks! I have therefore used the categories "British/Irish" and "German/Dutch" as a catch-all for this survey. My purpose is just an attempt to get a bit of a sense of the ethnicity of the Company, more research is definitely needed.

My results (with the qualifications above) were as follows:

German/Dutch	53% (most probably 51% German)
British/Irish	33% (most probably 30% British)
Undefined	12%
French	2%

The argument put forward in John Tierney's article "Ethnic make-up of the Anderson Zouaves" (*Anderson Zouave*, vol. 2, no. 4, May 2007) which claims a large Irish constituency for the regiment, does not seem to bear out for Company "F".

## CLARIFICATION - OTTO MAX ARNDT ARTICLE.

*by David Sanders*

In my article "Could it be...? Some speculation about Otto Max Arndt" (*Anderson Zouave*, vol. 2, no. 3, March 2007) I point out that Otto Max Arndt of the 62nd New York and Otto Arndt of the U.S. 7th Cavalry were most probably born in the same year. While Otto Arndt is recorded as having been born in 1844, Otto Max Arndt is merely said, in the roster documents, to have been 20 year old when he enlisted in the 62nd - his actual date or year of birth is not recorded. This being so there is a possibility that both were *not* born in the same year. If Otto Max Arndt was born between January 1 and February 22, 1844, he would have of course been 21 years old when he enlisted in the 62nd NY on February 22, 1865, however, there is a less than one in six chance that this is the case.

## ALFRED COVELL WOODS COLLECTION.

In late April and early May 2007, a collection of 31 letters and two diaries written by Alfred Covell Woods of companies "C" and "E" of the Anderson Zouaves were sold on Ebay. What was probably the most significant collection of personal remembrances by a member of the regiment was originally offered for sale, along with a CDV of Woods, by the Horse Soldier <www.horsesoldier.com> 777 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg, PA, for US\$4,000 back in September of last year. As the collection was being sold on consignment there was no chance of it being broken up.

In April of this year the collection was sold at a show to Charles F. Hanselmann of the Blackjack Trading Company, 101 Meadowfield Road, Yorktown, VA, who broke it up to sell it on Ebay. A lot of interest was shown in the collection with the 1861 and 1862 diaries alone realising more than the US\$4,000 that the collection was originally sold for.

The New York State Library placed a bid of US\$1,000 on the 1861 diary but was outbid by the eventual winner Ebay user *jayfl33* who purchased the diary for US\$1,275. In fact this user, who appears not to have a particular interest in the Civil War, also purchased the 1862 diary for US\$2,550 and the CDV of Woods for US\$275.04, but showed absolutely no interest in the rest of the collection.

The 31 letters were purchased by 11 different Ebay users. Fourteen of the letters, some of which went for bargain prices, were purchased by *carla5474* the Ebay user identity for Nate Sanders (no relation to Dave Sanders - unfortunately) who is a high profile west coast memorabilia dealer. It is probable that his company, Nate's Autographs Inc., 11901 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 555, Los Angeles, CA, will sell the letters at a later date. Most of the other bidders were able to successfully purchase only one or two of the remaining letters. One bidder *buffsmitty* is Karen Buffett-Smith who is interested in the history of the Raine family from Crown Point, Essex County, NY, particularly Captain James Raine, the earliest lighthouse keeper at Crown Point Lighthouse on Lake Champlain, the letter she purchased makes mention of a Thomas Raine.

It is unfortunate that the collection has been broken up, however, the sale has meant that transcripts of the letters have been obtained and have been posted on the Company "I" website. Furthermore, a syndicate of Jayson Bell, David Sanders and John Tierney was successful in purchasing six of the letters sold on Ebay which, when added to the one letter already in an Australian collection, means that the second largest collection of the letters of Alfred Covell Woods is in Australian hands.

To see transcripts and some scans of the letters google "Letters of Alfred Covell Woods"

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