

ANDERSON ZOUAVE

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DEDICATION DOWN UNDER: CIVIL WAR VETERAN'S GRAVE DEDICATION IN BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA.

by Dr. Stephen Gapps

On July 22nd a dedication ceremony honouring a new headstone to Civil War veteran William Waters was conducted with the assistance of Union and Confederate reenactors. William Waters was English by birth and ten days after landing in New York, in December 1863, enlisted with the Federal Navy at the age of 18. He enlisted at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on December 17, 1863, as a Landsman aboard the USS Princeton. The Princeton served along the East Coast and in the Caribbean area until June 1865. Waters was transferred to the U.S. Gunboat *Kansas*, a two masted, eight gun, wooden steamer that had a complement of 108 men and was armed with one 150-pounder rifle, two 12-pounder rifles, two 20-pounder Dahlgren rifles and two 9" Dahlgren smoothbores.



In March 1864 the *Kansas* was stationed at Wilmington, North Carolina off New Inlet, where she served during most of the remainder of the war. In May 1864 with the *Mount Vernon*, the *Howquah*, and the *Nansemond*, the *Kansas* engaged the Confederate ironclad-ram *Raleigh* in a running fight off New Inlet.

William Waters was discharged at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on September 25, 1864. He then travelled west and was engaged in gold mining for several years, before leaving for England in 1868. Waters lived in Sunderland, Durham, England until 1874, during which time he married Meggy Golders in 1870.

Meggy Golders died at Manchester, England in 1882 and soon after Waters sailed for Queensland, Australia. In Australia, Waters found employment as a builder and a contractor and married Susannah Moss on October 18, 1883 at St. Andrews Church in Brisbane, Queensland.

In Brisbane he was employed as a carpenter at Lahey Bros. & Nicklin, 'Saw Millers and Joiners' for some twelve years and was highly regarded by his employers. Waters died at his home in Fairfield, Brisbane in 1922 aged 77.

Recent research by Australian Civil War Round Table members has revealed over 200 Civil War veterans buried in this country. William Waters' grave remained unmarked for many years. Brisbane based Round Table member Jim Gray worked hard to ensure that William Waters received an appropriate headstone. Jim managed to coordinate the procurement and shipping to Australia of a military headstone from the American Veterans Administration.

Radio interviews about the dedication ceremony by Round Table mem-

ber and reenactor Jack Ford, led to contact with several descendants of Waters who were very keen to attend the ceremony. At Toowong cemetery in Brisbane on a sunny winter's day, a gathering of around 70 people, including 20 reenactors, dedicated the new headstone.

Members of the reenactment units the 62nd New York 'Anderson Zouaves' American Civil War Reenactment Society and the 44th Georgia combined to pay their respects during the ceremony by performing an honour guard. Not having conducted such a dedication before in this country, there was some last minute checking of any appropriate protocol and some brushing up on *reverse arms* and *rest on arms*. As Waters was a Union man, only the United States Federal Flag was flown and the majority of the detail wore blue. After an excellent talk and dedication by Robert Taylor, a volley was fired and taps played, and all retired to afternoon tea. The descendants and audience appeared to very much appreciate the presence of reenactors at the ceremony.

THE ANDERSON ZOUAVES AND AN HEREDITARY PATRIOTIC TRADITION.

by John Tierney

American independence, finally gained with the victory of the combined forces of the Americans under George Washington and the French under General De Rochambeau at Yorktown in 1781, had seen Britain give up its colonial claims to the United States. After a stubborn occupation, the departure of the last British troops from New York city came on November 25, 1883 and was immediately followed by the triumphal return of General George Washington to the city. As Washington marched through the city from the north, the wounded pride of the evacuating British troops manifested itself in a final act of spite and defiance. At the battery, on the southern tip of Manhattan Island, the Union Jack, the hated symbol of occupation, was nailed to the flagpole and the pole greased to prevent it from being scaled and the flag removed while the British fleet was in view of the shore. After a number of men failed to tear down the flag, a young veteran, John Van Arsdale, climbed the pole with the use of cleats, removed the flag, and replace it with the Stars and Stripes before the British fleet could sail out of sight. For many years after, Evacuation Day was commemorated annually, and the name of John Van Arsdale entered Manhattan folklore.

On August 15, 1824 General Lafayette, the French hero of the American Revolution, landed at Staten Island on his last visit to the United States. The day following the general visited the battery and was received by the Veteran Corps among them John Van Arsdale. Passing along the line, Lafayette took each member cordially by the hand. Coming to Van Arsdale, he looked at him as if he knew him, but was not quite sure. Being reminded of his service in the Light Infantry Corps, the General's countenance changed at once and, as his memory was flushed with the deed of a glorious past, he said with emotion, "Van Arsdale, Van Arsdale, I remember you well!" After 44 years it was a remarkable moment of remembrance.¹

That evening Van Arsdale returned to his family home. There he called upon his daughter, Elizabeth Riker, who had given birth to a son the previous day. Being deeply impressed by his meeting of a few hours earlier Van Arsdale suggested to his daughter and son-in-law that his new grandson should be named after both himself and General Lafayette. So it was that the second son of James Riker, a New York property owner, a grocer and a former member of the Common Council became John Lafayette Riker.

Patriotism and the Stars and Stripes were, clearly, an integral part of the life story of John Van Arsdale. He had served throughout the Revolutionary War and, at its absolute conclusion, was the young "sailor boy" who repaid British hubris by first raising the Stars and Stripes over the city of New York. With Van Arsdale's naming of his young grandson, whether he

liked it or not, John Lafayette had been initiated into that same patriotic tradition.

In his youth John L. Riker must have seen numerous reenactments of his grandfather's famous ascent of the battery flag pole when, on every November 25th, city youths would commemorate the British Evacuation by competing with each other in attempts to scale a greased pole and tear down a British flag. Riker's association with his famous grandfather along with his famous name must have made him fairly well known in New York and in a city where social position was often amplified by membership to the somewhat exclusive New York city militias, there must have been some expectation among Riker's peers that if not he, then another of his three brother's, would carry on the Van Arsdale military tradition.

If John Lafayette entertained a career in the regular army or in one of the city militias it could be that he was prevented from pursuing it by tragic family circumstances. Riker's mother, Elizabeth Van Arsdale passed away in October 1834 when he was just 10 years old. Of his five brothers and sisters the oldest was 18. Two years later the family's maternal patriarch John Van Arsdale died. By the time Riker married his first cousin Anna Elizabeth Elder most of his aunts, uncles and grandparents on the Riker side of the family had passed away. His wife bore him two children before she died in 1851. His father followed the year later and his young son, John L. Riker Jr. died in 1854. By the 1850's John L. Riker and his siblings appeared to be set adrift by the deaths along the Riker line and, while the connection to the extended Riker family, descended from Abraham Rycken and including such notables as Recorder Richard Riker and John Lawrence Riker, was still strong, the ties to the Van Arsdales through his mother to John Van Arsdale and beyond seemed to be just as important and provided as much cultural capital as did membership to the Riker clan.

In 1860 John L. Riker, having studied law at the University of the City of New York, passed the bar examination and was, like many other Rikers, looking forward to a career in law which at the time could be a lucrative pass time for those with the strong local and Democratic political connections that families such as the Rikers enjoyed. However, the firing on Sumter and the central part played by the Stars and Stripes in that initiating conflict of the Civil War, suddenly presented a practical application for the military tradition that had lain dormant in the Riker family.

How could Riker, the grandson of John Van Arsdale, the first person to raise the Stars and Stripes over the city of New York and named in his honour and that of General Lafayette, not immediately rally to the call of his imperilled nation. There must have been an expectation among his friends and associates that he would do something extraordinary. How could he not?

Riker did do something extraordinary.

John Lafayette must have felt the impulse keenly for he enlisted within days of the capitulation of Sumter on April 19 at Saultersville, New Jersey and within days of Anderson's return to New York aboard the *Baltic*, Riker had, by means of the social and political connections of his family and friends, gained permission to raise a regiment in the name of the first hero of the Civil War.

The Anderson Zouaves were one of the favorite regiments of New York City and attracted much attention during their organisation, but Riker's Democratic politics and perhaps even his sudden rise to prominence, did not sit well with the Republican governor of New York State, Governor Morgan, and Riker's men languished in New York City waiting for the authorisation to leave for the seat of war. Riker, armed with letters by some of the most prominent citizens of the day, including President Lincoln himself, visited Washington three times to try to get approval for his regiment from the War Department.² In late August 1861 he succeeded and with a regimental flag gifted to them by Robert Anderson himself³ the Anderson Zouaves left for Washington on August 21, 1861.

Like many regiments which marched through the streets of New York in a blur of bunting, accompanied by cheers and the sounds of brass instruments, the Anderson Zouaves disappeared into the relative obscurity of the Civil War meat grinder. The regiment's unique name was replaced by a number, 62, and instead of being sent to the front, they were placed behind the batteries and defenses of the strategically important, but relatively unremarkable, northern approaches to Washington. Tennytown was a parochial part of the District of Columbia far away from the bars, telegraph machines, reporters and photographers of Washington, that most people assumed that it was actually in Maryland.

Nevertheless, the men of the 62d New York, never forgot their connec-

tion to Anderson and in the words of their regimental song they reserved for themselves the privilege of re-raising the Stars and Stripes over the ruins of Sumter at the conclusion of the war.

*Our flag shall yet wave over Sumter,
Raised up by the Anderson Zouaves.*⁴

At the Battle of Fair Oaks this special privilege, imagined though it may have been, must have seemed to have become somewhat unlikely, when Riker, the man with the historic and social links to the Hero of Sumter fell leading his men against a Confederate attack on Brady's battery on the right wing of the Federal line.

With the War's end the Sumter flag flew once again over the fort in Charleston Harbour. Despite the optimism of their regimental song it was not re-raised by the Anderson Zouaves but by the man who had taken it down five years previously, Robert Anderson.

In the years after the war the veterans of the Anderson Zouaves, like thousands of others gathered to remember their fallen comrades and to commemorate the important events of their four and a half years of service. However, with the approach of the centenary of Evacuation Day in 1883 a new role for the Anderson Zouaves was realised. The veterans of the regiment would align themselves, peculiarly, with the commemoration of an event which occurred before any of them had even been born.

Despite John Lafayette's participation in the Civil War the social cachet of the Riker family had its foundations in the Revolutionary War, Evacuation Day and a polemical hatred of the English. However, in the years approaching the centenary of the British evacuation much of the former interest in the commemoration had disappeared. The English may have been despised in the years immediately after the war but that was not the case in the 1880's nor had it been for many years. The Prince of Wales had visited the city in 1860 and the only significant dissenting voices had been those of Michael Corcoran, the Colonel of New York's Irish regiment – the 69th, and the Fenian organisation, the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

In the years immediately succeeding the Civil War, Evacuation Day parades in New York had seen a revival as they provided a focus for the accretion of veterans' into organisations and commemorative rituals, but as a separate memory apparatus, which included Decoration Day (Memorial Day) and the organisation of the GAR posts, began to develop the interest in Evacuation Day once again started to decline. In 1872 the New York Herald observed that Evacuation Day had been eclipsed by "the real business of actual warfare."⁵

The Riker family was on the verge of irrelevancy.

However, life was breathed back into the holiday when in 1883 John Austin Stevens, the secretary of the New-York Historical Society, organised the centenary celebration of the holiday. Stevens made the centennial one of the most spectacular events in nineteenth century New York. The celebration was attended by over one million people including President Chester A. Arthur, several Cabinet officers and eight governors. Twenty-five thousand troops marched through the streets and on the harbour were 300 warships, yachts and other vessels.⁶ James Riker was a life member of the New-York Historical Society and while there is no evidence to show that Stevens organised the centenary at his behest we can assume that Riker was a strong supporter of the event. Riker wrote a history of Evacuation Day, the publishing of which was timed to coincide with the centenary celebration. The pamphlet is practically an advertisement for the patriotism of the Riker and Van Arsdale families. Many pages are spent establishing the old New York Dutch lineage of the families and there are numerous examples of how deeply American patriotism ran in the veins of Van Arsdale and his descendants which, of course, included both James and John Lafayette Riker.

A footnote in the Riker's history reads:

GEN. LAFAYETTE, upon his last visit to this country, arrived at Staten Island, on Sunday, August 15, 1824. Capt. Van Arsdale had a grandson born on the same day. The next morning on landing at the Battery, the General was received by the Veteran Corps, and passing along the line, took each member cordially by the hand. Coming to Capt. Van Arsdale, he looked him intently in the face, as if he knew him, yet was not quite sure. But the instant the Captain alluded to his service in the Light Infantry Corps, the General's countenance lightened up, and there was a full recognition. "Van Arsdale," said he with emotion, as if the glorious past was flushing his memory, "Van Arsdale, I remember you well!" Going home, pleased beyond measure, that the General should recollect him, after a lapse of forty-four years, Capt. Van Arsdale went to see his little grandson, and being desired to give him a name, called him John Lafayette. This was the late Col. J. Lafayette Riker, of the 62d New York Volunteers, who in defense

*of the flag for which his grandsire sacrificed so much, nobly laid down his life at the battle of Fair Oaks, May 31, 1862.*⁷

James Riker is clearly attempting to show a continuing patriotic tradition from his grandfather through to his brother (and by extrapolation to the rest of his family) which is focused upon the flag of the United States. Whether it was purposeful or merely fortuitous it is impossible not to include in this continuity the Sumter Flag and the obvious symbolic parallels which were brought to mind by its re-raising in April 1866.

Also mentioned in Riker's history was David Van Arsdale, Riker's uncle and the son of John Van Arsdale, who was to raise the flag on the battery on the day of the centenary celebrations. Unfortunately David died two weeks before the event, on November 14, 1883. In the absence of David Van Arsdale the privilege of raising the flag fell to his grandson Christopher R. Forbes who at the time was 31. As David was Van Arsdale's only son it is clear why he was originally chosen to reenact the raising of the flag on the battery, but with David's death the right to raise the flag could just have easily have been claimed by James Riker who was in fact more closely related to Van Arsdale than Forbes. Given the footnote mentioned above it is interesting to speculate on whether John Lafayette Riker, had he survived the Civil War, may have been chosen to raise the flag in Forbes' stead, for while John L. Riker was unable to attend the flag raising the officers of his regiment did.

*As the sunrise gun pealed forth at Fort William Old Glory was run up to the truck of the city flagstaff at Battery Park, on the site where stood the staff to which the British nailed their flag before sailing down the harbor. This British flag was torn down and replaced by the American colors by Van Arsdale, the sailor-boy, and today the flag was run up by one of his lineal descendants, Christopher R. Forbes, who was assisted by officers of the Anderson Zouaves. The flag was saluted by the guns at Fort William.*⁸

Prior to their participation in the 1883 flag raising the only connection the Anderson Zouaves had had with the family of John Van Arsdale was the fact that for about a year they were commanded by his grandson. It is clear that the men of the Anderson Zouaves had been fond of their first colonel and it appears that James Riker used this affection to recruit the veteran's association to act as a guard of honour for the flag raising.

Over the course of the next 13 years the Anderson Zouaves regularly appeared at the battery to assist Christopher R. Forbes to raise the Stars and Stripes. It started with Evacuation Day, the event that was so important to the identity of Van Arsdale and his descendants, but over the years that followed Forbes and the Anderson Zouaves could be found at the battery at sunrise on Lincoln's Birthday (February 12), Washington's Birthday (February 22), Sumter Day (April 15), Flag Day (June 14) and Independence Day (July 4). The Anderson Zouaves may not have been veterans of the Revolutionary War or even the War of 1812, but they were veterans of a patriotic war, they were New Yorkers and, importantly, they seemed to be loyal to the Riker family. It is interesting to note that while many officers of the Anderson Zouaves regularly attended the flag raisings at the battery, it appears that David J. Nevin or Theodore B. Hamilton, the colonels that succeeded Riker, did not. The Anderson Zouaves gathered, not to commemorate their own history, but that of an hereditary patriotic New York family – perhaps it would be in bad taste to have Nevin and Hamilton there while the ghost of Riker was in attendance. On the other hand it was quite normal for both James Riker and Charles Bodle Riker to attend the ceremony.

The presence of the veterans of the Anderson Zouaves clearly lent some sort of contemporary martial credibility to a ceremony which by the late 1880s and 1890s was increasingly seen as antique and irrelevant, but the benefit may not have been all one sided. It is tempting to see in the participation of the Anderson Zouaves in the raising of the flag as a vicarious participation in the flag raising which they had not participated in – the re-raising of the flag at Fort Sumter in 1866.

The veterans of the Anderson Zouaves met at other times of the year to commemorate certain anniversaries and to remember dead comrades but it does seem that their role at the battery was specifically in support of a tradition that was something apart from the Civil War memorialisation rituals which had developed in the years since the war.

By the mid to late 1890's the battery flag raisings had become so regular that they only rated a couple of lines in the New York papers. Despite the growing insignificance of the occasion 1895 saw a dispute, which had been simmering for years, explode publicly onto the pages of the New York Times. Col. Asa Bird Gardiner, a New York lawyer infamous for defending murderers and crooks, an associate of Tammany and a member of the pow-

erful hereditary organisation the Society of the Cincinnati, wanted to gain control over the rights to raise the flag at the battery on Evacuation Day.

The Riker/Van Arsdale family had taken on New York's other hereditary patriotic societies the year after the centennial of evacuation when they started an organisation called the Society of 1812 of New York City. The first meeting of the society was held at Military Hall, No 192 The Bowery on March 11, 1884. In attendance were only four men J. Gould Warner, C. B. Riker, James Riker, and Christopher R. Forbes. Three of these were directly related so that from the outset it seemed more like a family group rather than a legitimate organisation of descendants of the War of 1812.

By the time the dispute with Asa Bird Gardiner erupted in the papers James Riker was dead. His role was taken over by his younger brother Charles B. Riker. At a Park Board meeting on November 14, 1895, Gardiner and Riker called each other liars as each disputed the right of the other to the flag raising rights. A week later the dispute had moved to the Aldermanic Committee on Lands, Places and Park Department. Gardiner attacked the tradition of Evacuation Day by claiming that there was no British ensign for Van Arsdale to haul down. The dispute was reported in the *New York Times* as a farce. Clearly, there was little appreciation that the Riker family was fighting for its survival as a social elite.

At the above mentioned meeting Charles Bodle Riker the youngest and only surviving sibling of John Lafayette appealed to the Committee of Aldermen:

*"The story of that first raising of the flag has been handed down in our family from father to son. Many a time my grandfather told how he climbed the pole with the American flag already affixed to the halyards. I am surprised that, at this late day, anybody should come forward and claim that John Van Arsdale did not tear down the British flag. For 112 years my family has had the honor of performing the patriotic duty. First, John Van Arsdale; then his son, David, until 1832; then his grandson, Christopher R. Forbes. Now come these people claiming to represent a society that has been defunct for fifty years, and ask you to give them the privilege of doing the flag raising."*⁹

The Riker's had used tradition over the years to claim a privilege which could justifiably be claimed by a number of patriotic institutions. In the absence of any living veterans of the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812 they had substituted the veterans of the Anderson Zouaves to try to give the appearance of legitimacy.

It is difficult not to see in the participation of the Anderson Zouaves, The Anderson Williams G. A. R. Post no 394, Christopher R. Forbes, James Riker and Charles B. Charles in the various flag raisings at the battery as little more than a Riker family cult. This probably contributed in some way to the growing irrelevancy of the event which in 1900 was finally handed over to Gardiner and the organisation which he supported.

Flag raising rights denied

Christopher R. Forbes, who for many years has had the privilege of raising and lowering the flag at the Battery on Evacuation Day and the Fourth of July, and claims that he inherited the right from his great-grandfather, John Van Arsdale, who tore down the British' colors on the spot and hoisted the American flag instead, feels very sore over the way in which he has been treated by the Park Department. He said last evening:

"...To-day I received [a] letter from Mr. Clausen informing, me that instead of my participating with the Park Department employes in hoisting the flag, that ceremony would be performed by the Veteran Corps of Artillery, Military Society of the War of 1812.

"I saw the hand of Asa Bird Gardiner behind all this. He tried to do me out of I my privileges before, and he has succeeded now. The Veteran Corps was really wiped out in 1872 and in 1892 Mr. Gardiner was instrumental in organizing the present one. He wanted me and C. B. Riker to join, but we refused.

In former years the Anderson Post, the Anderson Zouaves, the Anderson Girls, and the Camp Sons of Veterans used to go with me and assist me in the ceremony of raising the flag and now even the tramp permission of participating with employes has been revoked.

*I am going to consult with Mr. Riker about this matter and I shall probably be somewhere near the flag raising Wednesday morning. I think they will hear from me before then."*¹⁰

By the late nineteenth century a new modernist thinking had developed in regards to history. The approach was more skeptical and the attempts by Old New York elites to use patriotism and history as a means of establishing their social credentials seemed old fashioned. Social status had new benchmarks based around consumption, career, sporting achievement and education. Also the Riker and Van Arsdale elites were trying to maintain their status using an event (Evacuation Day) which really only enjoyed local importance and relevance. The economic elites of New York in the twentieth century had an increasingly national and international perspec-

tive. In comparison the Riker family and its attempts to bolster its economic and social fortunes must have seemed very parochial.

This is perhaps one of the reasons why the Anderson Zouaves have not come through to the present day with a great deal of fame or notoriety. While most Civil War regiments used the new forms of memorialisation which grew out of the G. A. R. movement, the Anderson Zouaves attached themselves to an elitist movement which had little to do with the history of the regiment itself. The letters of members of the regiment clearly show that the men of the Anderson Zouaves were extremely fond of John Lafayette Riker, but in gathering in support of the Riker family whose agenda was to promote itself and its social claims, they did not do themselves a service and had John Lafayette Riker survived the war it is likely that the achievements of his regiment, rather than his family, would have received considerably more attention.

Notes

1. Riker, J., 1883, *Evacuation Day, 1873, Its Many Stirring Events: With recollections of Capt. John Van Arsdale of the Veteran Corps of Artillery, by whose efforts on that day the enemy were circumvented and the American flag successfully raised on the battery*, New York, p. 49.
2. *New York Times*, June 11, 1861 p. 1.
3. *New York Times*, August 8, 1861 p. 8.
4. Moore, F. (ed), 1864, "Song of the Anderson Zouaves," *Songs of the soldiers*, p. 64.
5. *New York Herald*, November 26, 1872.
6. Clifton Hood, C., 2004, "An Unusable Past: Urban Elites, New York City's Evacuation Day, and the Transformations of Memory Culture," *Journal of Social History*, Geneva, NY, p. 899.
7. Riker, J., 1883, *Evacuation Day, 1873*, New York, p. 49.
8. "Evacuation Day," *Illustrated Buffalo Express*, November 1883, p. 10.
9. *New York Times*, November 22, 1895, p. 9.
10. *New York Times*, July 3, 1900, p. 9.

THE DISCOVERY AND DESTRUCTION OF THE ALFRED COVELL WOODS COLLECTION.

In September 2006, a collection of Civil War documents described as "fantastic and extensive" was listed on the website of the Horse Soldier (American military antiques). The collection comprised 31 letters, two diaries and a CDV of Alfred Covell Woods who served with the Anderson Zouaves and was killed on the second day of the battle of the Wilderness on May 6, 1864. In addition there were two other letters written by Woods' relatives in London. The collection had originally consisted of 34 letters written by Woods but three of these had been sold from the collection prior to the rest of the documents being acquired by the Horse Soldier.

Woods lived at Crown Point on Lake Champlain, which forms the eastern border of the Adirondacks in up-state New York, and on May 1, 1861 he enlisted in William N. Hathaway's company which eventually joined the Anderson Zouaves as Company "C".

Some discussion on the Aussie ACW list saw at least one member suggest that a US institution, such as the New York Public Library, be encouraged to buy the collection complete, however, no other action was taken and the collection remained listed on the Horse Soldier's website site through to the new year.

In April Charles Hansel purchased the Woods collection and quickly listed it for sale piecemeal on Ebay. Clearly the collection would be broken up but one of the advantages of the sale was that transcripts of the letters were posted along with the sale of each letter and, with some organisation, it might be possible for interested members of the several 62nd companies here in Australia to purchase some of the letters.

In the end Jayson Bell, Dave Sanders and John Tierney contributed funds towards the purchase of as many of the letters as possible. The result was that the "group" was able to purchase five of the letters authored by Woods himself and the two letters from his English relatives. In addition John Tierney was able to track down one of the three letters which was separated from the collection originally and purchased this. This means that eight letters from the collection are now in Australian hands, however, an undertaking was made by those involved in the purchase of the documents to donate them to the New York State Library in Albany in the hope that one day the collection may one day be largely reconstituted.

Of the letters which we in Australia were unable to purchase, 14 were bought by Nate Sanders, a US West Coast, memorabilia merchant who has since tried to auction them at twice the price that they were bought

for. This auction failed to attract any interest and not a single one was sold. It is likely that these letters will show up on an Ebay at a future time or on another memorabilia site.

The two diaries which completed the collection were clearly strongly coveted with both being purchased by a bidder known as jayf133 for a total price of US\$3825.03.

So the collection is now spread over 11 individuals or institutions, however, discussions with Charles Hansel who sold the collection on Ebay has resulted in transcripts of the two diaries being sent to both the New York State Library and to the editors of Anderson Zouave. Hopefully the diaries will be published in some form at a later date but in the meantime the transcripts of the 33 letter and partial transcripts of the diaries can be found on the Anderson Zouaves website by Googling "Letters of Alfred Covell Woods" and "Diary Alfred Covell Woods"

LETTER TO THE NEW YORK SUNDAY MERCURY.

Despite being signed C. F. B., the content of this letter makes it clear that it was written by Sergeant Robert F. Beasley who wrote another letter to the paper on February 25, 1862. Beasley was mortally wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864 and died four days later at Fredericksburg, VA. General McCalls Pennsylvania Reserves mentioned in the letter had occupied Tennallytown prior to the arrival of Pecks Brigade in October 1861.

The letter, despite being dated at Prospect Hill, was clearly completed at Tennallytown.

[Special Correspondence of the Sunday Mercury.]

SIXTY-SECOND REGIMENT, N. Y. V.

PROSPECT HILL, VA., March 16th.

On the March—Clear Weather and Cedar Huts—Rain—Off Again in Another Direction—Camp Misery and its Pleasures—How to Become a Zouave.

On the 10th, at 10 o'clock, the regiment marched from Camp Tennally to reinforce General McCall, at Manassas. Before we got there we got orders to halt. The weather cleared, and the boys made cedar huts, and we stayed there until Friday, and then we marched back to Camp Misery; and we halted again, and we got orders to prepare for the night. The hills were soon illuminated with camp-fires, and it began to get cloudy. On Saturday, at 1 o'clock. P. M., it began to rain in torrents: and there we were, without anything to keep us dry, for we had to leave our tents at Camp Tennally when we marched. To-day (the 16th) at ten o'clock we were formed into line of battle, and we marched back to Camp Tennally, where we got orders to be in readiness to march to-morrow, the 17th. It is said we will go to re-inforce the Burnside expedition. I hope we will have better weather than we had in Camp Misery. We had to stand up all night.

If you want to be a Zouave you must not eat for three weeks, and must not drink for two weeks, and must not sleep for one week, and then you will be a Zouave.

Yours, C. F. B.

P. S.—There are two more members of Hose 43 that I did not mention before: Norman Provost, Sixth Connecticut Regiment, and William V. Malloy, Ninth Regiment, N. Y. S. M.

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