

ANDERSON ZOUAVE

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THE CHASE WAS A KEEN ONE.

Private Henry Oehl of Captain Meeks Company "G" had a close call on the Peninsula in 1862 when he was wounded and almost captured by a group of rebels near White Oak Swamp. His story appears in the book *Thrilling Stories of the Great Rebellion*, compiled by Charles Samuel Greene in 1866.

Oehl was 18 years old when he was enlisted by Captain Albert V. Meeks on July 16, 1861 (another document records a date of July 18) at New York City as a Private. He mustered in to Company "G" on Riker's Island on August 15 just a few days before the regiment left New York for Washington – most of the rest of the regiment had mustered in between June 30 and July 3, 1861. He mustered out at Petersburg, VA on June 30, 1864. There is no mention in Oehl's records of him ever being wounded so the wounding in the following story must have gone unrecorded or was not as serious as it sounds. While the following event is undated it most likely happened in late June 1862 probably around the 26th or 27th, when the Anderson Zouaves were in the vicinity of White Oak Swamp during the change of base to the James River and the Seven Days Battles.

An incident of adventure characteristic of the Anderson Zouaves, and of rigorous barbarism characteristic of the blood-earnest warfare of these rebels. One day, Henry Oehl, of company G, Anderson Zouaves, with a comrade went forward to a distant farm house, to get information and enlarge his topographical knowledge of Virginia. The farmer came into the yard, and a conversation sprang up between the three.

"Suddenly," said Oehl, "twenty rebel soldiers rose like ghosts from the edge of the woods just beyond the house, and rushed towards us, calling to us to surrender. Not being much in that line of business, we raised our pieces and let fly at them." They returned the fire. A ball struck Oehl's right hand, knocked his musket out of it, and entered the abdomen at the centre, and went out at the left side. To run had now become a duty. Oehl doubled the corner of the house, and made for the nearest recesses of the White Oak Swamp, via a corn-field, and the bushy covers of a line of old rail-fence. The chase was a keen one...

Embosomed in the swamp, he watched his own hurt, and plugged the wound through his abdomen with his fingers. Soon he saw his pursuers return to the house, talk a moment with the farmer, and gesticulate forcibly to the doomed man. Some seized him, and some entered his house. The hidden Zouave was near enough to the building to catch the sounds within of the shrieking of children. Immediately these rushed out of the door, followed by a smoke, and soon by a flame. The ruffians burned the Virginian's house over his head, for the crime of talking with Northern soldiers who entered his yard.

Source: Greene, C. S., 1866, *Thrilling Stories of the Great Rebellion*, p. 164

LETTER TO THE NEW YORK SUNDAY MERCURY.

The following letter, written by a member of the Anderson Zouaves, was published in the *New York Sunday Mercury* in the column headed "Army Correspondence" on March 30, 1862. The writer who identifies himself only as "M. C., Fifth Ward," (one assumes he was a resident of New York City's Fifth Ward which adjoined the notorious Sixth and was bounded roughly by the Hudson River to the East, Reade Street to the South, Broadway to the East and Canal Street to the North) gives a slightly irreverent but detailed account of the Advance on Manassas by Keyes' division between March 10 and 16, 1862. Checking against accounts of the same movement in both De Trobriand's *Four Years with the Army of the Potomac* and Penrose Mark's history of the 93rd Pennsylvania, *Red: White: and Blue Badge*, shows that this appears to be a very accurate description of the Advance on Manassas. In so far as the chronology is concerned it is actually more accurate than Mark's version of the event which contains clear calendar errors.

A similar account by Sergeant Robert F. Beasley of the division's Advance on Manassas [see *Anderson Zouave*, August 2007] had appeared

in the *Sunday Mercury* a week prior but it did not contain the level of detail which this letter does.

Identifying the writer is a little difficult as there were two men in the regiment at the time this letter was written with the initials "M. C."

One candidate for authorship is Michael Carroll who enlisted as a private into company "C" on June 1, 1861 in New York City at the age of 40. His service in the regiment seems to have been uneventful, mustering out at Petersburg, VA. on June 29, 1864.

The other is Martin Coughlan who enlisted as a private into company "A" on May 3, 1861 in New York City at the age of 22. He was promoted to corporal on December 1, 1861 but was reduced to private at some stage for reasons unknown. He was transferred to Captain David J. Nevin's company "D" on the regiment's mustering-in day, July 3, 1861, meaning that he saw no actual front line service in company "A". Coughlan deserted on October 21, 1862 at Hancock Station, VA.

It is interesting that the writer has such a high opinion of both the Colonel and the Major but fails to mention the Lieut. Colonel who, at this time, happened to be Nevin who had been promoted from the Captaincy of company "D" in October of the previous year. This oversight could be used to support an argument that the writer might have more likely been the mature Michael Carroll of company "A" than the youthful Martin Coughlan of company "D".

Perhaps the most interesting incident related in this letter is the description of the near mutiny in the regiment when it was discovered that Col. John L. Riker would be unable to lead the regiment on its march to Prospect Hill. While the writer says the reason for Riker being unable to lead his men was explained by the Major, he does not elaborate on this for the readers of the newspaper. However, we now know that at this time Riker was under arrest and facing a court-martial on several embarrassing charges including neglect of duty, creating a false muster, attempting to sell a commission, receiving illegal rebates from a sutler and keeping a woman in his quarters. Riker was found not guilty of the charges and while he did not join the regiment at Prospect Hill he was able to lead it to the Peninsula. A 140 page transcript of the case against Riker may be found in file II 813, in the Court-martial Case File, Records of the Judge Advocate General's Office (Army) entry 15, Court-martial Case File in the National Archives Record Group 153.

[Special Correspondence of the Sunday Mercury.]

SIXTY-SECOND REGIMENT, N. Y. V.

CAMP TENNALLY, WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23.

Anxiety to March — Orders Issued — Affection of the Soldiers for their Colonel — Crossing the Chain-Bridge — A Halt — Heavy Rains — Rumors of New Movements — Back Again in the Old Camp.

After a hard week's march to the sacred soil of Virginia, thank God! we are in our old camp again. It may be sacred for some, but I would rather be in Tennallytown, as it is bad enough, God knows, as the mud answers for bootjacks. I will give you a sketch of our march, as it is no harm, after the march is over for the present. On the eve of March 9th, the boys got orders to march on the 10th. We also got orders to carry four day's rations in our haversacks. On the morning of the 10th, everything was in readiness; but, as is usually our luck, it rained; however, the boys were so anxious to go, that the rain did not mar their feelings. But there was one thing that cast a gloom over the whole regiment, and that was when we heard that our colonel (Riker) was not going with us. We were formed in line-of-battle on the parade-ground, and cheer after cheer rent the air for Riker. It was feared at one time that the regiment would not leave the ground without the colonel; but as the major (Dayton) rode along the lines, he explained to us the reason why we could

not have the colonel with us. He told us that the colonel would follow us the next day; and, as the major was going with us, it made things look somewhat brighter. Although the regiment moved off, there was still some wanting, and that something was our gallant colonel. It was evident that, if we had to fight, we would fight better with Colonel Riker at our head; but if we had to fight without him, we would leave our mark on the battle-field as well as the rest of the regiments in the army, and I hope the day is not far off when we will prove it to your readers and yourselves.

I will now return to our march. We moved off at 10 o'clock A. M., with the Fifty fifth Regiment, N. Y. S. M., in advance of the brigade. We took the Chain-Bridge road from Tennallytown, and arrived at the bridge at 1 o'clock. We crossed the bridge, and marched to Langley, where we halted about an hour, and then marched about two miles further to a place called Prospect Hill. We were ordered to halt there for the night. We here lay down to have rest. Morning came, but no orders to march. Another and another morning came, and no order; the boys began to think that we had reached our destination; but on the morning of the 15th, the assembly beat, and the whole division moved toward Chain-Bridge again. When we got about two miles from the bridge, we were ordered to halt, and night came on, and, as it is our luck, rain came with it. We got orders to do the best we could for that night, as it was about the last night that we would be out from under cover, for we were going on gunboats. This cheered the boys up a little. There was a great demand for sleep, but rain spoiled the sales, as it seemed to have it all its own way. The rain came down heavy all night steady, as if it was designed to do us harm. The fires would not burn, and it seemed that daylight would never appear. About 7 A. M., on the 16th, the sun made its appearance, and everything appeared was bright again. About 9 o'clock, we got orders to form a line of march, and orders came that we were going back to our old camp at Tennallytown, and it cast a gloom over the whole regiment. As we have had so many orders to march, and, when we were ready, they would be again countermanded, the boys give up all hopes of ever leaving Tennallytown.

We are at present under marching orders, with three days' rations, uncooked and packed, and three days' cooked, to be kept in haversacks. If we ever leave, it will be the best thing that ever happened. Nothing would please the boys more than to enter the field of action; and if they ever do, with Colonel Riker and Major Dayton (better known as little Put) at their head, you may rest assured that they will leave their mark.

Yours, M. C., Fifth Ward.

THE LOSSES SUFFERED BY THE ANDERSON ZOUAVES AT FAIR OAKS AND SEVEN PINES.

Following is a continuation of the list of the casualties among the ranks of the Anderson Zouaves during the Peninsula Campaign. It is the second in the series of articles the first, dealing with the casualties taken at Williamsburg, appearing in the June 2007 edition of this paper. These articles will attempt to identify all members of the Anderson Zouaves who were killed, wounded, captured or went missing during the Peninsula Campaign. This list does not include those who died, were incapacitated or discharged due to sickness.

Various sources 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 Harrison; contemporary newspaper reports; and, regimental histories. While some errors and omissions will inevitably remain, it is the opinion of the author that this series of articles will comprise the most accurate account of the losses of the Anderson Zouaves to date.

FAIR OAKS & SEVEN PINES MAY 31–JUNE 2, 1862

Killed, mortally wounded and died due to wounds

1. Colonel John L. Riker

Enlisted in the Field & Staff on April 19, 1861 at Saltersville, NJ at the age of 39 as a colonel. Died on the battlefield May 31, 1862. Buried Green-wood cemetery Brooklyn, NY.

2. Private Charles H. Dobbs – Co. G

*Enlisted in Company "G" by Capt. Meeks on June 18, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 21 as a private. Died on the battlefield, May 31, 1862. Place of burial unknown. Reported "wounded" at Battle of Fair Oaks, on page 8 of *The New York Times*, June 10, 1862.*

3. Private John McIlvaine (AKA McElvain, McElvane) – Co. G

Enlisted in Company "A" by Capt. Wm. Anderson on May 2, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 34 as a private. Wounded on battlefield, May 31, 1862. Died of wounds June 15, 1862 at Philadelphia, PA. Philadelphia National Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA, Plot 92.

4. Private James O'Conner – Co. D

*Enlisted in Company "D" by Capt. Nevin on May 22, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 34 as a private. Died on battlefield, May 31, 1862. Reported "killed" at battle of Fair Oaks, in *New York Times*, June 10, 1862, page 8.*

5. Private Edward Gallagher – Co. B

Enlisted in Company "B" by Wilson Hubbell on June 15, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 26 as a private. Recorded as wounded on May 31, 1862, and died of his wounds on July 17, 1862 at Philadelphia, PA.

Wounded

1 Captain William Ackerman – Co. A

*Born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1833. Enlisted in Company "F" by Colonel Riker on April 27, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 28 as a private. Recorded as wounded June 1, 1862. He was promoted to First Lieutenant on September 24, 1861 and transferred to company "K" on October 25, 1861. He was promoted to captain on May 22, 1862 and was transferred to, and took command of, company "A" on May 30, 1862. According to page 3 of the July 12, 1862 edition of *The New York Times* he was severely wounded at Malvern Hill, VA on July 1, 1862 and was wounded in the hand at Fredericksburg, VA, on May 4, 1863. Ackerman mustered out on June 29, 1864 at Petersburg, VA. Died in Manhattan on April 4, 1899.*

2 Sergeant Peter J. Delaney – Co. F

Enlisted in Company "F" by George H. Moeser on May 10, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 23 as a sergeant. Recorded as wounded May 31, 1862. Reduced to Private November 1, 1861 for reasons unknown. There is no other service information on John Dugan.

3 Sergeant Charles E. Morse – Co. I

*Born in France May 5, 1841. Enlisted in Company "I" by Capt. Lafata on June 24, 1861 at Saltersville, NJ (Report of the New York Adjutant-General quotes New York City, NY) at the age of 20 (Report of the New York Adjutant-General quotes 45) as a private. Recorded as wounded May 31, 1862. Page 8 of the June 10, 1862 edition of *The New York Times*, records him as wounded. Promoted to corporal on about August 15, 1861 and to sergeant on September 20, 1861. At the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864 Morse was in command of company "I" of the regiment, which at time consisted of only 15 men, when he was wounded in the knee while in the process of saving the colours during the battle. Morse was mustered out on June 29, 1864 at Petersburg, VA. On January 14, 1890, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for action on May 5, 1864 at the Battle of the Wilderness, VA. His citation reads: "Voluntarily rushed back into the enemy's lines, took the colors from the color sergeant, who was mortally wounded, and, although himself wounded, carried them through the fight." Morse died August 31, 1920 in Bath, NY, and was buried in Bath National Cemetery, section J, row 24, grave 4.*

4 Corporal Albert H. Brown – Co. E

*Enlisted in Company "E" by Colonel Riker on June 5, 1861 at Troy, NY (Report of the New York Adjutant-General quotes New York, NY) at the age of 18 as a private. Recorded as wounded June 1, 1862. He was promoted to corporal December 1, 1861. He Re-enlisted on January 1, 1864. He was promoted to sergeant at an unknown date, however *The New York Times* named him as a corporal on page 3 of its July 12, 1862 edition where it listed him as severely wounded at Malvern Hill, VA on July 1, 1862. Therefore*

he must have been promoted to sergeant sometime after this date. He was promoted to First Lieutenant on November 7, 1864 and was mustered out on August 30, 1865 at Fort Schuyler, NY.

5 Corporal Landlin Tirsch (AKA Fisch and Tisch) – Co. G

Enlisted in Company "G" by Capt. Meeks on June 4, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 19 as a corporal. Reported wounded May 31, 1862. There is no other information on his service but was still on the roll September 30, 1862.

6 Private John Brown – Co. B

Enlisted in Company "B" by J. F. Bisbie on May 15, 1861 at Brooklyn, NY (Report of the New York Adjutant-General quotes New York, NY) at the age of 29 as a private. Recorded as wounded June 1, 1862. Page 3 of the July 12, 1862 edition of *The New York Times* listed him as severely wounded at Malvern Hill, VA on July 1, 1862. Page 8 of the July 18, 1862 edition of *The New York Times* names J. Brown, as a wounded Union soldier being held as a prisoner of war in Richmond. He was discharged for disability on October 10, 1862 at Fort Monroe, VA.

7 Private Patrick Cain – Co. G

Enlisted in Company "G" by Capt. Meeks on May 6, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 38 (Report of the New York Adjutant-General quotes 35) as a private. Reported wounded May 31, 1862. May have spent a long period in recovery as he is recorded as re-enlisting on February 5, 1864. After this he received sabre cut to the head at Cold Harbor, VA June 3, 1864. Was hospitalised June 11, 1864, at McKim's Mansion Hospital, Baltimore, MD. Returned to the regiment August 3, 1864. Recorded as dying of wounds on October 27, 1864 at Philadelphia, PA, but it is not clear if this was due to the sabre wound suffered at Cold Harbor.

8 Private William Coughlin – Co. D

Enlisted in Company "D" by Capt. Nevin on June 16, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 20 as a private. Recorded as wounded May 31, 1862. The June 10, 1862 edition of *The New York Times*, records him as suffering shoulder wound. He deserted on October 21, 1862 at Hancock, MD.

9 Private William S. Cross – Co. B

Enlisted in Company "B" by J. F. Bisbie on May 15, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 22 as a private. Recorded as wounded June 1, 1862. He was discharged on September 27, 1864 in Virginia.

10 Private John Dugan, – Co. B

Enlisted in Company "B" by Wilson Hubbell on June 15, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 20 as a private. The *Report of the New York Adjutant-General* does not record Dugan as being wounded at the Battle of Fair Oaks but says that he deserted on May 31, 1862. However page 8 of the June 10, 1862 edition of *The New York Times*, records him as suffering a head wound on the same date. There is no other service information on John Dugan.

11 Private Barney Ebner – Co. F

Enlisted in Company "H" by Louis Grimm on June 30, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 19 as a private. He was transferred from Co. "H" to Co. "F" on August 31, 1861. Recorded as wounded June 2, 1862. According to page 2 of the June 24, 1862 edition of *The New York Times*, Barney Epner (sic) arrived in New York aboard the hospital ship Daniel Webster on Monday June 23, 1862. He reenlisted on March 1, 1864 and was mustered out on August 30, 1865 at Fort Schuyler, NY.

12 Private Joseph L. Ellis – Co. B

Enlisted in Company "B" by Wilson Hubbell on May 1, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 21 as a private. The *Report of the New York Adjutant-General* does not record Ellis as being wounded at the Battle of Fair Oaks. However page 8 of the June 10, 1862 edition of *The New York Times*, records him as suffering wound in the foot. Ellis re-enlisted on January 1, 1864 and mustered out on August 30, 1865 at Fort Schuyler, NY Harbor. He was promoted to corporal on December 30, 1864 and to sergeant on January 3, 1865.

13 Private John H. Gilmore (AKA John M. Gilmore) – Co. B

Enlisted in Company "B" by Wilson Hubbell on May 31, 1861 at Brooklyn, NY at the age of 20 as a private. Recorded as wounded

May 31, 1862. Page 8 of the June 10, 1862 edition of *The New York Times*, records him as suffering wound to the hand. He was promoted to corporal on December 30, 1862. Was made a prisoner of war on May 4, 1863 at Fredericksburg, VA. He was promoted to sergeant on June 30, 1863 and was paroled on about September 15, 1863. He was wounded on May 5, 1864 and died of his wounds on May 11, 1864 at the Wilderness, VA.

14 Private William Jones – Co. G

The *Report of the New York Adjutant-General* records William Jones as enlisting in Company "E" on June 21 1861 in New York, NY at the age of 19 as a private. A record of the commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers, etc. records him as being enlisted in Company "G" by Capt. Meeks at New York, NY on June 21 at the age as 18 as a private. As Jones originally enlisted in Company "E" then it is probable that both these accounts are flawed to a greater or lesser extent. Like many other members of company "E", Jones may have enlisted in Troy NY. He was recorded as wounded June 1, 1862. He transferred from Co. "E" to Co. "G" on about August 15, 1861. He was Mustered Out on 6/30/1864 at Petersburg, VA.

15 Private Charles Kattler (AKA Kottler) – Co. F

Enlisted in Company "F" by George H. Moeser on June 25, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 19 as a private. Recorded as wounded June 1, 1862. He was discharged for disability on March 28, 1863 at Philadelphia, PA.

16 Private Martin P. Kennedy – Co. B

Enlisted in Company "B" by Wilson Hubbell on May 15, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 18 (Report of the New York Adjutant-General quotes 19) as a private. Recorded as wounded May 31, 1862. Page 8 of the June 10, 1862 edition of *The New York Times*, records him as wounded. Discharged on June 29, 1864 at Petersburg, VA.

17 Private Maurice Meaher (AKA Morris Meaher) – Co. B

Enlisted in Company "B" by Wilson Hubbell on June 15, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 23 as a private. Recorded as wounded June 1, 1862. He transferred from Co. "B" to Co. "A" on February 4, 1864. He Re-enlisted on February 5, 1864. He transferred back to Co. "B" on May 1, 1864 and deserted at Frederick, MD on August 1, 1864.

18 Private William Osborn (AKA Osbourn) – Co. G

Enlisted in Company "G" by Capt. Meeks on June 6, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 21 as a private. Reported wounded May 31, 1862. *The New York Times* recorded Osborn as having suffered a head wound on page 8 of its June 6, 1862 issue. Osborn was promoted to corporal about September 15, 1861 and then to sergeant about March 15, 1862. He is also recorded as having being reduced to the rank of private at some stage but no date is recorded and also of having been promoted to sergeant, but again without a date. Osborn was also wounded at The Wilderness on May 5, 1864, and, according to the Report of the Adjutant-General, died of his wounds over 100 miles away at Charleston, WV, on May 11, 1864. However, the line "Sergt W Osbourn, 62d N Y Vols" appears on the front page of the May 18, 1864 edition of *The New York Times*, under the headings "Additional Casualties. Killed. Buried At Fredericksburgh".

19 Private John H. Snyder (AKA George H. Sneider) – Co. I

Enlisted in Company "I" by Capt. Lafata on August 21, 1861 at Saltersville, NJ (Report of the New York Adjutant-General quotes Washington, DC) at the age of 21 as a private. Recorded as wounded May 31, 1862. He re-enlisted on March 1, 1864. Was wounded September 21, 1864 at Fisher's Hill, VA and died of wounds on September 28, 1864 at Strasburg, VA.

20 Private James Murphy – Co. B

Enlisted in Company "B" by Wilson Hubbell on June 15, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 19 as a private. Recorded as wounded June 1, 1862. He deserted at Maryland on September 8, 1863.

21 Private Michael Murphy – Co. B

Enlisted in Company "B" on June 15, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 29 as a private. Recorded as wounded June 1, 1862. He was

discharged for disability on January 16, 1863 at Philadelphia, PA.

22 Private Augustus Schaffer – Co. F

Born in Germany. Enlisted in Company “K” by George H. Moeser on April 29, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 23 as a private. Transferred from Co. “K” to Co. “F” on July 3, 1861. Recorded as wounded June 1, 1862. He was discharged for disability on October 22, 1862 at Philadelphia, PA.

23 Private Alexander C. Young – Co. C

Enlisted in Company “C” on April 29, 1861 at New York, NY at the age of 23 as a private. Promoted to Corporal on about August 15, 1861 and was reduced to Private on September 15, 1861. Recorded as wounded June 1, 1862. According to page 3 of the July 12, 1862 edition of *The New York Times* he was severely wounded at Malvern Hill, VA on July 1, 1862. He deserted on 9/20/1862 at David’s Island, NY Harbor

Summary

Killed, mortal wounds, etc.: F&S - 1; Co. B - 1; Co. D - 1; Co. G - 2.
Wounded: Co. A - 1; Co. B - 9; Co. C - 1; Co. D - 1; Co. E - 1;
Co. F - 4; Co. G - 4; Co. I - 2. Total casualties – 28

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Regarding the Alfred Covell Woods collection.

I am a retired Historic Site Manager for the NY State Division of Historic Preservation. I lived in Crown Point NY from 1976 to 1986 & now live only a few miles away. My great grandfather Joseph saw Civil War service as a Private in Independent Battery I, Pennsylvania Light Artillery (Nevin’s Battery) and I have long had an interest in Civil War history; and developed a keen interest in the history of Crown Point as well. I am also the person that purchased the two small Alfred Covell Woods pocket diaries & carte de visite photo from Charles Hansel on eBay.

I only found out about the Woods items on Ebay half-way thru the sale of the letters and, like you, was appalled that the collection – of great interest to me particularly since Woods was a “local lad” – was being broken up. I am now mortified to learn that they were for sale prior to this at the Horse Soldier as a collection. Had I known, I would certainly have purchased the collection in its entirety immediately for donation to a suitable museum or archive.

I have been researching A. C. Woods and his extended family since I obtained the diaries and have material for a fairly extended biography. His parents are recorded as having married in Dallas County, Alabama(?) on September 29, 1845(?). He was named after the Reverend Alanson Covell, minister of the First Baptist Church of Albany, NY of which congregation his grandfather (and possibly father) had been members before they moved to Crown Point in the 1830’s. Both his father Alva & mother Emma died when he was quite young & he grew up living alternatively between his grandparents Abel & Nancy Woods’ farm and his great Aunt & Uncle Reuben & Melissa Smith’s farm in Crown Point. These farm houses still stand, as does that of the Trimble family mentioned in the letters. I have managed to track down and identify a good number of his relatives and the individuals mentioned in the letters.

I purchased the items to keep even a small part of the collection together, with the intention of donating them to either the New York Historical Society or the New York State Library.

I am overjoyed to learn that the people in your “down under” Battalion are of a similar mind and have arranged to donate the letters that you purchased to the New York State Library. This being the case then the State Library is obviously where I should donate the photo and diaries in order to keep the collection in one place.

My intention is to go thru the diaries this winter and correct the numerous mis-transcriptions & mistakes and prepare a corrected transcript as the transcriptions that arrived with the diaries from Mr Hansel are riddled with mistakes. Once I’ve accomplished that, the diaries, photo & the results of my research will all go to the New York State Library or another similar institution. I would be happy to send a copy of the transcription to Anderson Zouave as well.

Our combined efforts should see at least some of the collection re-assembled in the one place.

The records of Woods’ date of death differ but seems to have actually been 5 May, the first day of the Battle of the Wilderness. His entry in the 1865 New York State Census, Section VI, “Deaths of Officers & Enlisted Men” states: “Place of Death: At the Rapidan. Cause of Death: Killed in battle. Place of burial: Unknown. Notes: He was supposed to be buried on the field.”

There were three other Crown Point lads in the 62nd who doubtless knew Alfred C. Woods – Crown Point was, and remains, a fairly small place – and appear to have enlisted at the same time he did: Jackson W. Smith, Sidney H. (“Harry”) Carter (son of the town Wheelwright), and Curtis Welles (a Boatman by trade). Smith died 1 March 1862 of Smallpox at Kalorama Hospital (an “Eruptive Fever” facility), Washington DC & is buried in the Soldiers Home National Cemetery; Carter died 15 March 1862 at the Kalorama Hospital in Washington. Welles, after his term expired, re-enlisted in the 2nd NY Veteran Cavalry & died August 29, 1865 after being admitted to hospital in Mobile, Alabama in March 1865. Welles and Carter are both buried in Crown Point.

Corporal Charles H. Warren, mentioned by Woods, was captured at Savage Station 30 June 1862 & died in Libby Prison, Richmond VA in August 1862.

Any information on your arrangements with the New York State Library would be appreciated so our efforts in that regard can be coordinated.

All best,

Greg Furness

Regarding An hereditary, patriotic, tradition.

Thank you very much for the August issue of *Anderson Zouave* and John Tierney’s article (*The Anderson Zouaves and an hereditary patriotic tradition*). Indeed, very interesting. As I see it the article really answers three questions... Why the colonel was named John Lafayette; whether or not his troops held him in him esteem; and why the 62nd did not leave a continuing organization..

The story of John Van Arsdale and the flag at the battery was new to me... having grown up across the Hudson in New Jersey I never heard of the episode and of the subsequent Evacuation Day commemoration.

I do think, however, that John Tierney’s conclusion regarding “the Riker family whose agenda was to promote itself and its social claims” is rather an exaggeration. It is true to a degree that the old NY families were replaced by entrepreneur families of various sorts (such as the Astors), but the Rikers were never NY upper crust, with few exceptions they were farmers and lived in Queens County, not Manhattan. If they were prominent it was in terms of politics not society. Riker’s father was a small-time druggist, and his historian brother, James, apparently sought his lawyer cousin John C. Riker to be his patron. If James had been looking for status he would no doubt have mentioned the Van Arsdale story in connection with his own family genealogy in his *The Annals of Newtown*, but he did not. John Tierney may be right but I think not. But again the whole article is valuable and I intend to quote the Van Arsdale story in a report to the journal of the Ryker-Riker Historical Society?

Summer is almost over here. Gardens are finishing up, deer and bears are eating apples dropped from the trees, logs are being cut and split for cold weather burning, and so on.

Edgar Alan Nutt.

(Edgar Alan Nutt is a regular correspondent, contributor, 11th generation descendant of Abraham Rijcken Van Lent, genealogist and the author of *The Rikers: Their Island, Homes, Cemetery and Early Genealogy in Queens County, NY*)

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Editor: John James Tierney

Sub editor: David Kurt Sanders

Contributors: John James Tierney, Secretary, Advance Guard,
Company “I” 62nd New York State Volunteers,
Anderson Zouaves (Australia)

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