CHAPTER VII.
THE THIRD REGIMENT


The organization of the Third regiment began at the same time with that of the Second, but was not as quickly completed. The twenty companies comprising the two regiments were selected, by Adj't and Insp. General Baxter from the much larger number whose services were tendered to the State in the first week in May 1861. The companies assigned to the Third regiment were recruited in the towns of Springfield, Coventry, Newbury (Wells River) Charleston, Johnson, Hartford, St. Johnsbury, St. Albans, Guildhall, and East Montpelier and Calais. The rendezvous was fixed at St. Johnsbury, the grounds of the Caledonia County Agricultural Society being selected for the camp, which was designated as "Camp Baxter," in honor of Adj't. and Insp. General Baxter. The St. Johnsbury and Hartford companies went into camp on the 7th of June 1861. The
Charleston and Springfield companies arrived next day, and the remaining
companies on various dates during the four weeks following the last
company arriving on the 3d of July.\textsuperscript{1}

The battalion and the regiment after its completion, was under the
command of Lieut. Colonel Breed N. Hyde, during its stay in Camp Baxter.

The regiment was physically, as well as in other respects, an
unusually fine body of troops, the average height of the men being five feet
ten and a half inches,\textsuperscript{2} and the average weight 161 lbs. They were quartered
at Camp Baxter, in the main building of the Caledonia County Agricultural
Society. Several weeks elapsed before the regiment was uniformed, armed
and officered. Meantime the measles ran through the ranks, prostrating one
man in every three. Many men obtained leave of absence. Owing to these
and other causes the discipline of the camp was somewhat lax, and the six
weeks sojourn of the regiment at St. Johnsbury, was diversified by more
than the usual amount of running of the guards, raiding of sutlers’ shanties
and other riotous proceedings. One of these had a serious termination. In
resisting an attack on Pike’s refreshment saloon, in the camp, on the evening
of the 20th of July, one of the guard that had been stationed inside the
shanty, in the discharge of his duty fired into the crowd of soldiers who were
battering in the door, instantly killing one man, Sergeant John Terrill, of Co.
I., and wounding another.

The regiment was supplied with uniforms of gray cloth, which looked
well at first but soon faded under the Virginia sun. Tents and camp equipage
were distributed

\textsuperscript{1} A Vergennes company, under Captain Solon Eaton, was one of the original companies assigned to the Third; but was
subsequently assigned to the Second regiment, just before the latter left the State.
\textsuperscript{2} The tallest man in the regiment measured six feet five and a half inches in his stocking feet.
during the first week in July. A supply of Enfield rifled muskets was secured in New York, a little later.

The procuring of an officer of sufficient military training and experience to command the regiment was a matter of some difficulty. Governor Fairbanks at first hoped to place the regiment under the command of Colonel J. W. Phelps, of the First regiment, whose term of service would soon expire; but Colonel Phelps’s services as commandant of the post at Newport News, were of too much value to the government to be spared, and his promotion to a brigadier generalship soon removed him from the immediate service of the State. Governor Fairbanks then endeavored to obtain from the War Department the detail of Captain Truman Seymour, 4th U. S. Artillery, a native Vermonter who had distinguished himself in the Mexican War and was one of the defenders of Fort Sumter, to command the regiment, but the application was declined. A like application for permission for Captain A. V. Colburn, U. S. A., afterward Asst. Adj’t General of the Army of the Potomac on General McClellan’s staff, to accept the colonelcy, met a similar response—to the effect that his services could not be spared.

Weeks passed during the pendency of these and similar applications, and it was not till after the regiment had left the State, that a colonel was secured for it. Meantime the following field and staff officers had been appointed: Lieut. Colonel, Breed N. Hyde, Hyde park; Major, Walter W. Cochran, Bellows Falls; Adjutant, Asa P. Blunt, St. Johnsbury; Quartermaster, Redfield Proctor, Cavendish; Surgeon, Henry Janes, Waterbury; Asst. Surgeon, David M. Goodwin, Cabot; Chaplain, Moses P. Parmelee, Underhill.

Lieut. Colonel Hyde was of military parentage, his grandfather having fought at Bunker Hill, while his father served in the war of 1812 and was for twenty-five years an officer in the regular army. He had received a military education at West Point. Major Cochran had been active in
the reorganization of the militia and was colonel of the Second regiment of militia when the war broke out. The others, though without special military training, were well qualified by character and education for their respective positions. Mr. Parmelee was a Congregational minister, who had just left the theological seminary and was ordained about the time of his appointment as chaplain.

On the 16th of July, the regiment, numbering 882 officers and men, was mustered into the U. S; service by Lieut. Colonel Rains, U. S. A., and on the 18th, orders were received from Washington directing the regiment to report as soon as ready, to General Banks at Baltimore, Md. Its departure was hastened by the news of the Union defeat at Bull Run, in the first pitched battle of the war; and on the morning of July 24th it started for the South in a train of twenty-two cars. It was fully provided with tents, baggage wagons and camp furniture, and was accompanied by an excellent regimental band of 24 pieces. An immense throng of spectators witnessed and cheered its departure, and wherever the train stopped on the way down the Connecticut Valley, it was greeted with cheers and salutes. At Bellows Falls and Brattleboro the citizens supplied refreshments; at Holyoke, Mass., a thousand factory girls from the mills formed in line beside the track, and waved the regiment on as the train whirled by. At Springfield, Mass., it was received with a salute of artillery; Mayor Bemis and the city authorities provided a substantial collation, which was served to the troops by the firemen of the city, and a crowd of five or six thousand people cheered the regiment off. At Hartford, the association of Sons of Vermont of that city and a large concourse of citizens received the regiment. A beautiful flag of white silk, bearing the arms of Vermont and of the city of Hartford, was presented by the Sons of Vermont, and received with an appropriate response by Lieut. Colonel Hyde. At New Haven, at midnight, the regiment took the steamer
Elm City, arrived at Jersey City at six o'clock the next morning, and at three o'clock P. M. took train for Washington. At Philadelphia it had a genuine Philadelphia welcome and supper, provided by the Union Defence Committee. It did not stop at Baltimore as originally directed; but was ordered directly to Washington, where it arrived on the morning of July 26th. It was quartered in a public hall for the day and following night, and on Saturday the 27th, marched to Georgetown Heights, and went into camp at Camp Lyon—named after the gallant General Nathaniel Lyon, of Missouri—at the head of the "Chain Bridge,"\(^3\) across the Potomac, six miles above the capitol. Here it was joined about the time of its arrival by its colonel, just appointed. For this position Captain William F. Smith, U. S. A., afterwards a major general and a distinguished corps commander, had been selected. Captain Smith was a native Vermonter, a nephew of Hon. John Gregory Smith of St. Albans, subsequently the last war governor of Vermont. He graduated with credit from the U. S. Military Academy in 1845 and was appointed a lieutenant of Topographical Engineers. He had served in surveys of the northern States of the Mexican boundary, and in Texas; had been assistant professor of mathematics in the U. S. Military Academy; had in 1859 superintended the construction of a light-house and harbor improvements at Chicago, where he formed an acquaintance with Captain George B. McClellan, then vice-president of the Illinois Central Railroad, which afterwards stood him in good stead. When the war broke out he was the Engineer secretary of the Light House Board at Washington. He had been serving during June and July 1861 under General Butler, as engineer with the forces at Fortress Monroe.

Soon after the attack on Fort Sumter Captain Smith had signified to Governor Fairbanks his willingness to take

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\(^3\) The bridge was a substantial arched structure which two years previously had replaced the old chain bridge.
command of a regiment from his native State; but it was not an easy matter to secure the necessary consent of the War Department. This, however, after repeated requests and refusals, was at last obtained by the aid of General Scott, who had before this shown a distinct interest in the Vermont troops, and who specially requested the detail of Captain Smith to command the Third Vermont. The appointment of Captain Smith as colonel was received with general satisfaction by the regiment and the people of Vermont. His commission reached him the last week in July, and he immediately joined his regiment, at Chain Bridge, and was assigned to the command of the forces stationed at that point. These consisted of the Third Vermont; the Sixth Maine; an artillery company which manned two field pieces at the end of the bridge and two 68 pounders on the bluffs above; and a cavalry company. To these were soon added the Second Vermont, the Thirty-third New York, and other troops. The camp was high and pleasant. The position was an important one, as it guarded not only the bridge, but the reservoir which supplied Washington with water. The regiment was occupied in drill and picket duty. There was a Confederate out-post at Falls Church, seven miles west, and a larger rebel force at Vienna, three miles beyond Falls Church, and frequent rumors of coming attacks kept all alert. The night of August 7th was spent in the rifle pits, in consequence of a false report of an advance of the enemy.

In the first three weeks of its service in the field, important changes took place among the field officers of the regiment. Major Cochran, who had been incapacitated for service by a severe attack of fever and ague, resigned his commission on the 6th of August, and Captain Wheelock G. Veazey, of

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5 Col. Smith's commission was dated back by the State authorities to April 27th, 1861, the day after the date of Col. Phelpe's commission, enabling him thus to rank Col. Whiting of the Second.
Co. A., was promoted to be major in his place. A week later, August 13th, Colonel Smith was appointed brigadier general of volunteers. Lieut. Colonel Hyde was thereupon promoted to the colonelcy, Major Veazey was appointed lieut. colonel, and Captain Thomas O. Seaver, of Co. F., was made major. On the 22d the regiment was reviewed; with the other troops on Georgetown Heights, by President Lincoln, accompanied by General McClellan and Secretaries Seward and Chase, and was complimented for its efficient appearance.

In the night of the 3d of September, the regiment moved with General Smith's brigade, across Chain Bridge into Virginia, and bivouacked by the side of the turnpike a mile beyond the bridge. For several weeks after, it was occupied chiefly in fatigue duty, felling trees and. throwing up fortifications for the defence of Washington, principally on the fort at first named Fort Smith; in honor of General William F. Smith, but afterwards known as Fort Marcy. While here, an incident occurred which created no small sensation in the army, was widely published in the newspapers and became a fruitful theme for poetry and romance. William Scott, a private in Co. K, of the Third Vermont, was found asleep on his post, while on picket duty; was tried by court martial for the crime, found guilty, and sentenced to be shot—the first sentence of the kind on record in the army. Scott was only twenty-two years of age, of good character, and had been on picket duty two nights in succession, having voluntarily taken the place of a sick comrade the night before. His case aroused great sympathy. A petition for his pardon was signed by hundreds, from privates of the various regiments of the brigade up to General Smith, and was taken to Washington by Chaplain Parmelee. The sentence was promulgated on the 5th of September, and was to be executed on the morning of the 8th. In the evening of the 7th, the matter came to the knowledge of President Lincoln, and he at once granted a respite of the sentence. His order for a stay of the execution was
telegraphed to Camp Advance; but hearing nothing from it and fearing it might have miscarried, Mr. Lincoln ordered his carriage, and a little before midnight, after a drive of nearly ten miles, made his appearance at the brigade headquarters, to reiterate his order in person, and make sure of the life of the young Vermonter. Next morning the arrangements for the execution went on. The brigade was drawn up in hollow square, a shooting party detailed, and Scott was brought out, as if for death. He was deadly pale, and an occasional shudder shook his exhausted frame, but he asked for no mercy. The following order was then read:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC
Washington, September 8.

Private William Scott, of Company K. of the Third regiment of Vermont volunteers, having been found guilty by court martial of sleeping on his, post while a sentinel on picket guard, has been sentenced to be shot, and the sentence has been approved and ordered to be executed. The commanding officers of the brigade, the regiment and the company, of the command, together with many other privates and officers of his regiment, have earnestly appealed to the Major-General commanding, to spare the life of the offender, and the President of the United States has expressed a wish that as this is the first condemnation to death in this army for this crime, mercy may be extended to the criminal. This fact, viewed in connection with the inexperience of the condemned as a soldier, his previous good conduct and general good character, and the urgent entreaties made in his behalf, have determined the Major-General commanding to grant the pardon so earnestly prayed for. This act of clemency must not be understood as affording a precedent for any future case. The duty of a sentinel is of such a nature, that its neglect by sleeping upon or deserting his post may endanger the safety of a command, or even of the whole army, and all nations affix to the offence the penalty of death. Private William Scott of Co. K. of the Third regiment of Vermont volunteers, will be released from confinement and returned to duty.

By command of Maj.—General McClellan,

The camp rang with cheers for President Lincoln after the dismissal of the parade, and Scott returned to his company, to do good service as a soldier, and to give his life
seven months later, while gallantly charging the rebel rifle pits at Lee's Mill.

On the 11th of September, the Third had his first experience under fire, and suffered its first loss of men killed and wounded by hostile bullets. The regiment formed part of a column of 2,000 men, comprising four infantry regiments, two companies of the Second Vermont, four guns of Griffin's Battery and two companies of cavalry, which under command of Colonel Isaac Stevens of the 79th New York, made a reconnoissance to and beyond Lewinsville. Three companies of the Third were thrown out as skirmishers on the roads to Vienna and Falls Church, beyond Lewinsville, and drove in the enemy's skirmishers, at a point a mile and a half beyond Lewinsville, having one man wounded, Sergeant Farnham of Co. C., shot in the ankle. While on its return, after having occupied the village and its approaches for two or three hours, the column was attacked by a section of Rosser's battery, which had been sent out with an infantry support from Munson's Hill, under command of Colonel J.E.B. Stuart, the subsequently famous and dashing confederate cavalry General. One of the first shells fired exploded in the ranks of Company C. of the Third, killing one man, Amos Meserve, outright, mortally wounding another, William H. Colburn, and injuring four or five others more or less seriously. Griffin's guns replied, and an artillery duel of an hour's duration followed, at the end of which the enemy was no longer to be seen, and the Union column, now commanded by General Smith, who had ridden out from Camp Advance on hearing the firing, continued its march, in good order, back to camp. The Third Vermont and the two companies of the Second present, were detached from the main force, during the action, as a support to Griffin's Battery; and conducted themselves in a way to merit high praise, though much

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6 Captain Griffin says, in his report of this action: "It affords me much gratification to testify to the coolness and handsome deportment of the Vermont Third and some 80 men of the Second Vermont, who were ordered to support the battery. They were for about an hour under a very warm fire from the enemy's artillery." Lieutenant W. Borrowe, of Colonel Stevens's staff, says: "I must in conclusion speak of the splendid behavior of the Third Vermont, who stood the fire with the greatest coolness * * obeying all orders with a promptness that was extraordinary."
disgusted that they could not do some shooting, as well as standing to be shot at.

The casualties of the regiment in the entire affair were one killed, one mortally wounded, one seriously and seven slightly wounded. The loss fell chiefly on Company C. The killed and wounded were all brought from the field. The mortally wounded man, William H. Colburn, was placed by Surgeon Janes in a house on the road, and as nothing could be done for him he was left there in charge of a comrade. Next morning Lieutenant E. M. Noyes of Company C. with twenty men went back within the confederate picket line to the house where Colburn was left, found that he had died during the night, and brought his body, together with the body of a man of the Nineteenth Indiana, killed upon the field, back to Camp Advance. Colburn was a son of Prof. Zerah Colburn, who was noted as a mathematical prodigy in his early life, and was subsequently Professor of Mathematics in Norwich University. He was a brave man and good soldier.

In the absence of more important matters, this affair made no little sensation on both sides. On the confederate side it won for Stuart his promotion to a brigadiership, and formed the subject of reports by Generals Longstreet and Joseph E. Johnston, and of a congratulatory order by the latter, as General of the Confederate Army, in which it was described as the routing of a large Union force by a small Confederate battalion, without loss to the latter.

On the 18th, a battalion of three companies of the Third, under Colonel Hyde, acted as a guard of honor to the colors of the 79th New York, known as "The Highlanders,"
when they were restored to that regiment, from which they had been taken several weeks previous by General McClellan as a punishment for insubordination and disorderly conduct. On the 25th of September, the regiment formed part of a force of 5,000 men of all arms, with which General Smith made a second reconnaissance to Lewinsville. There was a slight artillery skirmish but no casualties. About this time Quartermaster Proctor, who had been a capable and excellent quartermaster, resigned, having been appointed Major of the Fifth Vermont. In his place Lieutenant Frederick Crain, of Company A., was appointed quartermaster, September 25th.

During the next two weeks the prevailing quiet was broken only by the arrivals of new regiments attached to General Smith's command, which was now taking on the proportions of a division. Among these were the Fourth and Fifth Vermont regiments. The fall rains, frequent fogs and cold nights began about this time to tell severely on the health of the men. On the 8th of October, over 200 men were on the sick list, not a quarter of whom could be accommodated in the camp hospital—the rest being sent to Georgetown, Annapolis and Baltimore. Typhus fever prevailed to some extent, and occasioned several deaths. October 9th, the regiment moved out with the other Vermont regiments to Camp Griffin, about four miles from Chain Bridge. The location was a more wholesome one, and the health of the regiment improved somewhat; but there was a good deal of suffering from want of suitable and sufficient clothing. The tents were thin and leaky, the gray uniforms in which the men left the State had become faded, worn and thin, and there was a lack of drawers and blankets, which was seriously felt in the cold and damp nights. The needs of the regiment were so pressing, in these respects, as to form the subject of petitions from the commissioned officers to the Legislature, and of communications from General Smith to the governor, calling the attention of the State
authorities to the subject. It was not easy, however, to provide supplies upon the instant; and though the suffering of the men was in part alleviated by private supplies of comforters, underclothing and warm stockings sent by their friends at home, it was nearly the middle of November before the regiment was comfortably clothed. By that time the men were in new uniforms of army blue, and provided with drawers and blankets by the government, and a week or two later were supplied with new tents of the "James patent," large, tight and of heavy duck. The general health of the men improved under these provisions for their health and comfort, till in a weekly report in January, but 84 were reported on the sick list, being but about a third of the average proportion of sick in the Vermont brigade.

The winter passed uneventfully at Camp Griffin, the men being employed in regular drill, camp guard and picket duty. On the 10th of March, 1862, orders came to break camp, and the regiment moved with the brigade and with the army. It remained in camp near Alexandria till the 23d, when it marched to Alexandria and took transports down the Potomac, arriving at Fortress Monroe on the 24th. The next day the regiment landed and went into camp with the brigade near Hampton. On the 4th of April, it moved up the Peninsula in the general advance of the army, till it was brought to a standstill in front of the Confederate lines below Yorktown. On the 16th of April, at Lee's Mill, the first assault upon the enemy's works made by General McClellan's army in the Peninsula campaign of 1862 was made by the Third regiment; and in that sanguinary and desperate action, elsewhere more fully described, the regiment had the most prominent part. A reconnoissance made by Lieutenant Noyes of the Third, of General Brooks's staff won him high commendation; and the dash through and across Warwick Creek by the four companies of the Third which assailed and carried the enemy's riflepits, has been
recognized in many histories as one of the most daring exploits of the campaign. A curious commentary on the uncertainty of history and the value of military glory is afforded by the fact that the man who was mentioned in the reports of Colonel Hyde and General Brooks as commanding the battalion, and who appears in General Webb's History of the Peninsula Campaign, and in other histories, as the leader of the charge across Warwick River, really exercised no command of the battalion, and probably did not even accompany it across the river; while the actual commander and leader or the charge, which left him mutilated for life and well nigh cost him his life, was wholly overlooked in the official reports and barely alluded to in the newspaper accounts of the fight, and now first receives the credit that is his due.

The four companies were commanded, Company D. by Captain F. C. Harrington; Company E. by First Lieutenant Robert D. Whittemore;\(^7\) Company F. by Captain Samuel E. Pingree; Company K. by Captain Leonard E. Bennett. Harrington was the ranking captain and made a report of the action, as the commanding officer of the detachment. There is, however, much ground for doubt whether he crossed Warwick River that day. His own statement is that he crossed the creek with his command; that he personally rescued the colors of the regiment, which had been abandoned in the stream by the color guard; and that he staid with his men till he received the order to retire, which he gave to the command. On the other hand there is positive evidence, that soon after receiving the order to cross Captain Harrington turned the command of the battalion over to Captain S. E. Pingree, next in rank, saying that his (Harrington's) physical condition was such that it was not prudent for him to go into the water. Various eye witnesses in the ranks of his

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\(^7\) Whittemore had been commissioned as captain, in place of Captain Blanchard, who had resigned six months previous; but his appointment had not reached him.
own and other companies declare that they did not see him across the creek, and do not believe he crossed the stream. The incident of the rescue of the colors rests only on his own testimony. Ordinarily the colors would not be sent out with a detachment of four companies; and truthful and responsible officers, who could not have failed to see the colors if they were there, say that they do not believe that the colors were taken under fire that day. The actual commander, so far as the detachment had any after it left the left bank, was Captain Samuel E. Pingree, who led the assault with the utmost gallantry, and held his men to their work till he was disabled by two serious wounds, one of which took off the thumb of his right hand, and till the order to fall back came, when he repeated the order and was helped, fainting from loss of blood, to the rear. He was taken to the camp hospital and thence via Fortress Monroe to Philadelphia, where he was placed in a hospital by Quartermaster General Davis, who was looking after the wounded Vermonters. Typhoid pneumonia supervened before his wounds were healed, and brought him to death's door. No man was ever nearer death and survived. His surgeons and friends gave him up. His death was reported in the Vermont papers, and his obituary written; but he rallied on the very edge of the grave, and lived to fight through the war; and to become the Governor of the State; and to serve the public in civil life with the modesty, efficiency and fidelity which characterized his military service.

The loss of the regiment was 26 killed and 63 wounded, nine of whom died of their wounds. Of 52 officers and men

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8 Captain Harrington was dismissed the service a few weeks later (on the 23d of July, 1862) under charges of disobedience of orders and absence without leave, during the six days of fighting on the Peninsula, in the change of base. After the end of the war, the order of dismissal was in 1870, revoked, and the record changed to one of honorable discharge, upon Captain Harrington's petition, backed by a number of field and line officers of the brigade.
of Co. F. who went into the fight, 27, or 52 per cent., were killed or wounded. Of these nine were killed outright and three mortally wounded. Co. D. had eight men killed and one mortally wounded. Five men of Co. K. were killed and three died of their wounds. Co. E. had four killed. The battalion numbered 192 officers and men, and its loss in killed and wounded was 45 per cent. In the previous skirmishing one man of Co. A. was killed, and five of Companies A., B. and H., were wounded.\(^9\)

The regiment was with the First Vermont brigade during the stay of the army before Yorktown; in the march up the Peninsula; in the battle of Williamsburg where it was sent to the right to reinforce General Hancock and joined Hancock's command in its advanced position; in the month of picket and fatigue duty in front of Richmond; and on the Seven Days' Retreat. In these trying days, the regiment was commanded by Lieut. Colonel Veazey, Colonel Hyde being absent on sick leave. The regiment was engaged at Savage's Station, June 29th, and, lost six killed and 18 wounded. Among the killed was Second Lieutenant John W. Ramsay, Co. C., and among the wounded were: Captain D. T. Corbin, Co. C., who was left on the field and captured, and Captain Nelson, Co. I., who lost three toes by a musket shot.\(^10\)

When General Smith's division was paraded at Harrison's Landing, after the "change of base," it was found that

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\(^10\) The killed were: A. C. Armington and E. P. Howard of Co. C.; G. W. Fletcher of Co. F.; H. W. Jones of Co. I.; and A. B. Russell of Co. K.
but one drummer of the entire division had brought his drum with him through the Seven Days' Retreat. This was a St. Johnsbury lad of 14 years, named Willie Johnson, who was the drummer boy of Co. D. of the Third Vermont. While many strong men threw away their arms and everything but the clothing on their persons, Willie clung to his drum and carried it through with him, and at Harrison's Landing he had the honor of drumming for division parade. These facts were reported by General Smith to the War Department, and several months later Willie was summoned to Washington and received from Secretary Stanton the star medal of honor, for his fidelity and pluck.\textsuperscript{11}

The regiment was with the Vermont Brigade during the Summer and Fall of 1862, and took part, without serious loss, in the forcing of Crampton's Gap, September 14th; at Antietam, where it lost one man killed\textsuperscript{12} and three wounded, September 17th, and at the first Fredericksburg, December 13th, where it had two killed and eight wounded.\textsuperscript{13}

On the 27th, of September, Lieut. Colonel Veazey was appointed to the Coloneley of the Sixteenth regiment. Major Seaver was promoted to the lieutenant colonelcy in his place; and Captain Samuel E. Pingree succeeded him as Major. Lieut. Colonel Veazey was a thoroughly brave and uncommonly capable officer, and his departure was a serious loss to the regiment.

The opening of the year 1863, found the regiment in camp at Belle Plain Landing, and its morning report of January 7th, showed an aggregate of 791 men, of whom 573 were present for duty and 204 on the sick list.

On the 15th of January, Colonel Hyde resigned the

\textsuperscript{11} Young Johnson re-enlisted at the end of three years, and served through the war.
\textsuperscript{12} J. Stanton, Co. D.
\textsuperscript{13} The killed were B. Farwell and J. Whipple, Co. G. S. A. Boynton, Go. E., died of his wounds.
colonelcy, under circumstances not altogether creditable. He had been ordered before a court martial, on a charge of cowardice at Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862. He alleged in his defence, physical weakness from temporary illness; but the circumstances altogether were such, and the unfavorable result of the court martial so probable, that he was advised to resign, and did so, and his resignation was accepted. Truth compels the historian to say that he had not been a popular or successful commander; and the regiment welcomed the change which gave Lieut. Colonel Seaver the colonelcy and command. Major S. E. Pingree was promoted to the lieutenant colonelcy, and Captain Thomas Nelson of Co. I, was appointed major.

The changes in the roster of the regiment which had thus far occurred were frequent and great. In the eighteen months of its service the regiment had seen its field officers thrice changed. Adjutant Blunt had been promoted to the lieutenant colonelcy of the Sixth, and had been succeeded by Lieutenant W. F. Corey of Co. H, who resigned in July, 1862, and was succeeded as adjutant by Serg't Major Edward Mattocks. Quartermaster Proctor had been promoted and succeeded by Lieutenant Frederick Crain. Chaplain Parmelee had resigned and was succeeded in January, 1862, by Rev. Daniel A. Mack, a Methodist Episcopal Clergyman of Royalton, leaving Surgeon Janes and Ass't Surgeon Goodwin the only members of the original field and staff remaining. In the line Captains Veazey, Seaver, Pingree and Nelson had been promoted; Captains Corbin, Allen and Hammond had been honorably discharged for wounds and disabilities.

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14 Lieut. Colonel Seaver had been, during the month previous, in command of the Twenty Sixth New Jersey, a new regiment which had been brigaded for three months with the First Vermont brigade. Its colonel being ill, and its only remaining field officer having seen no previous service, Lieut. Colonel Seaver was assigned to the command of the regiment; and under his capable command it rapidly improved in drill and discipline. New Jersey and The Rebellion, p. 543.
incurred in the service; Captains West, Blanchard and House had resigned, and Captain Harrington had been cashiered, leaving not one of the original company commanders; and as many or more changes had taken place in the various lieutenancies. No other Vermont regiment—the First Vermont cavalry excepted—was subjected to such sweeping changes of officers during the first year and a half of its service.

Colonel Seaver, its new commander, was a young man of high intelligence and spirit. He had enlisted from the town of Pomfret, at the age of 27, in response to the first call for three year's troops, and was chosen captain of his company at its organization in May, 1861. He had reached the colonelcy through all the successive grades of promotion, and had shown himself cool and brave in action, and faithful to every duty. He had the confidence and respect of the regiment, and under his command it won some of its brightest laurels.

At the famous storming of Marye's Heights, at Fredericksburg, May 3d, 1863, the regiment formed part of the third storming column which, under command of Colonel Seaver, gallantly carried a portion of the crest, with the loss of one killed\(^\text{15}\) and six wounded. Next day, Colonel Seaver was detailed as division officer of the day for General Howe's division, leaving the command of the Third to Lieut. Colonel Pingree. In the engagement of that day, designated in Adj't General Washburn's list of battles as Salem Heights but perhaps better known as that of Banks's Ford, the regiment rendered gallant and very important service in the repulse of the Confederate brigades of Hoke and Hays, and in the covering of the withdrawal of Howe's division and of the Sixth Corps across the Rappahannock. Its loss was two, killed and mortally wounded,\(^\text{16}\) 24 wounded and 13 missing.

\(^{15}\) S. M. Whitman, Co. E.
\(^{16}\) J. C. Crossam, Co. C, and O. Farnsworth, Co. G
Among the wounded were Lieutenant R. P. Goodell, of Co. G. and Lieutenant R. A. Kennedy, of Co D. Colonel Seaver was specially mentioned in the reports of the brigade and division commanders, and in his report he commends Lieut. Colonel Pingree and Major Nelson for gallant and efficient service that day.\textsuperscript{17}

The Third crossed the Rappahannock with the brigade on the 5th of June; shared the hard march to Gettysburg; and in the engagement at Funkstown, Md. on the 10th of July, it lost one man killed and several wounded,\textsuperscript{18} of whom one died of his wounds. During the last two weeks of August and first two of September, the regiment was maintaining order and supporting the laws, in and near New York City. This service was not entirely confined to moral suasion. Among other duties, the Third regiment was sent to Newark, N. J., September 5th, to mount guard over a New Jersey regiment, which had been recruited from rather poor material by means of large bounties, and was now in danger of entire dissolution from the numbers who were deserting. A guard of U. S. regulars had been stationed there to maintain discipline and stop the escape of deserters; but with so little success, that General Dix relieved them and put the Third Vermont in their place. On the night of the 7th a number of the Jerseymen undertook to rush past the guard, who, after due warning, used their arms with fatal effect. Three of the "bounty jumpers" were killed and four wounded; and there was no more attempting to run guard while the Vermonters were on duty. The New Jersey roughs of course hated as well as feared the Vermonters, and their malice sometimes found ugly expression. On one occasion as a guard, Alvah T. Bell of Co, H, was leaning for a minute on

\textsuperscript{17} Lieut. Horace French, acting provost marshal, is also favorably mentioned in the report of Col. L. A. Grant, commanding the brigade

\textsuperscript{18} J. Cuthbert, Co. F, killed. A. G. Page, Co. F, died of his wounds.
his gun, with his hand over the muzzle, a Jerseyman crept up slyly and pulled the trigger, discharging the musket and shattering Bell's hand for life.

During the withdrawal of the Army of the Potomac from the front of Mine Run, on the 1st and 2d of December, 1863, the Third with the Seventy Seventh New York and a battery guarded the Germanna Ford and covered the rear, while the army marched back to its old camp, near Brandy Station. On the 3d the regiment followed the rest of the army, and went into winter quarters near Brandy Station. Here it remained for five months. In December, 204 of the men re-enlisted for the war. Successive additions of recruits brought up the aggregate of the regiment on the 1st of February to 800. The health of the regiment at this time was remarkable, the sick list averaging but 83, for four months.

About 600 effective men of the Third marched into the Wilderness under General U. S. Grant on the 4th of May, 1864, and a third of them fell in the battles of the 5th and 6th. The regiment, under Colonel Seaver, fought in the front line on the left of the Orange Plank road, and its loss on those two bloody days was 40 killed, 184 wounded, 25 of whom died of their wounds, and 15 missing. Among the killed were Adjutant Abel Morrill and Captain E. H. Bartlett, Co. B., and among the wounded were Captain Erastus Buck, who died of his wounds, Captain H. W. Floyd, and Lieutenants H. C. Miller, C. E. Osgood and R. P. Goodall. Lieutenant Horace French, acting aid on the staff of General L. A. Grant, had his horse shot under him and was taken prisoner, at the close of the battle of the 4th. Corporal Thomas J. Miller, Co. K., who served as mounted orderly received honorable mention in General L. A. Grant's report.19

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At Spottsylvania, on the 10th of May, four companies of the Third under Captain Kenesson, shared the glory of Upton's famous charge and a portion of them remained in the enemy's works until the last. On the 12th the regiment was in the thickest of the fight at the "Bloody Angle." The loss of the regiment on those two days was 19 killed and 75 wounded, of whom seven died, the loss falling heaviest on companies C. and G. Among the wounded on the 12th was Captain John F. Cook of Co. E., who received a severe wound in the breast which occasioned his honorable discharge eleven months later. On the 16th, Colonel Seaver with the Third Vermont and a Massachusetts regiment made a reconnoissance towards Spottsylvania Court-house, driving in the enemy's skirmishers to their main line of works.

On the 21st, the Sixth Corps being then a little south of Spottsylvania, the enemy broke through the skirmish line, which was covering the withdrawal of the corps, and Colonel Seaver was sent out with the Third Vermont to re-establish the line. This was promptly done and several prisoners taken.

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In the bloody battle of Cold Harbor, on the 3d of June, the Third formed for a time a portion of the front line, and suffered severely, having 13 killed, 17 mortally wounded,\(^{21}\) and 53 more or less severely wounded. Among the mortally wounded was Lieutenant Henry C. Miller, of Co. A., a brave and capable young officer, who died next day. Captain Kenesson, of Co. D. was among the wounded.

On the night of the 3d the brigade was temporarily divided, and Colonel Seaver was sent with the Third and Fifth and two battalions of the Eleventh, to relieve and support a portion of the Third division of the Sixth Corps. They were placed in the front line, relieving General Russell's brigade, and were detached from the rest of the brigade for a week of almost constant skirmishing. During the night of June 12th Colonel Seaver's command rejoined the brigade, and the Third started, with the brigade, on the march for Petersburg. The regiment had thus far since it crossed the Rapidan, had about 300 men killed and wounded, and 20 captured, and was thus reduced to about half its effective force of five weeks previous.

June 20th the regiment was under heavy artillery fire, in the lines in front of Petersburg, and lost one man killed.\(^{22}\) In the movement of the Sixth Corps against the Weldon Railroad, June 22d, the Third, with other Vermont troops, was on picket, guarding the left flank of the corps.

The next day the picket line of the Second division of the

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\(^{22}\) William Belcer, Co. F.
Sixth Corps was composed chiefly of Vermont troops, and was under the charge of Lieut. Colonel S. E. Pingree, as Division Officer of the Day. Captain Beattie of the Third, with ninety men, reached the Weldon road, accompanied by a party of pioneers who commenced the destruction of the track. Later in the day, the enemy assaulted the skirmish line, and captured four hundred men of the Fourth and Eleventh Vermont regiments. Colonel Pingree was not held responsible for this disaster; but on the contrary won high praise for his efficiency and bravery. 23

On the 29th of June, on the advance of the Sixth Corps to Reams's Station, the Third was deployed on the skirmish line and drove in the enemy's skirmishers. On the 30th of June the regiment had 340 men present for duty.

July 9th the regiment went with the brigade and the Sixth Corps to Washington, to repel Early's demonstration against the Capital. In the skirmish in front of Fort Stevens, July 12th, some twenty men of the Third, who were in a company of about seventy-five picked men, organized as sharpshooters under command of Captain A. M. Beattie, participated in the sally of General Bidwell's brigade, and in the sharp skirmish which drove the enemy out of sight. One man of the Third 24 was killed and one wounded in the action.

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23 Gen. L. A. Grant, in his report of this action, says: "Although Lieut. Colonel S. E. Pingree, 3d Vermont, was not under my command that day, but was acting as Officer of the day in charge of the whole picket or skirmish line, I bear willing testimony to his coolness and bravery, and almost superhuman efforts. He had a difficult and extended line, and his attention was called to different points almost at the same time. He performed his duties in a manner entitling him to great praise."

The army correspondent of the N. Y. World, describing the first assaults of the enemy on the skirmish line, said: "The enemy, though attacking in two strong lines, were effectually thwarted by our skirmishers for the skillful maneuvering of which too much praise cannot be bestowed on Colonel Pingree, of the Third Vermont, who commanded them. Special mention will be made of Colonel Pingree and of Captain Beattie, for the efficiency and bravery displayed by them on this occasion."

24 Russell L. Stevens, Co. D.
On the 16th of July, the brigade being then near Leesburg, the three years' term of the original members of the regiment expired. They had become reduced, chiefly by death and discharge, from 881 to 335. Of these 179, having re-enlisted for the war, remained in the field. Over 50 were in hospital suffering from wounds or severe sickness. The remainder, 104 in number, under command of Colonel Seaver, left on the 17th, passed through New York on the 20th, and arrived at Burlington in the evening of the 21st. They were received and escorted by a procession of firemen and citizens to the town hall, where they were welcomed home in an address by Hon. L. B. Englesby, which was fittingly responded to by Lieut. Colonel Pingree, Colonel Seaver not being present. A supper was tendered to the veterans by the citizens of Burlington at the American Hotel that evening, at which speeches were made by Adj't General P. T. Washburn, Colonel Seaver, Professor C. W. Thompson of the University and others, after which the regiment marched to its quarters in barracks on the Fair ground. The men were paid off by the U. S. Paymaster and State Treasurer, and mustered out of the service by Captain Murray, U. S. A., on the 27th. The officers so mustered out were Colonel T. O. Seaver, who went out as captain of Co. F.; Lieut. Colonel S. E. Pingree, who went out as first lieutenant of Co. F.; Major Thomas Nelson, who was the first captain of Co. I.; Surgeon D. M. Goodwin, who was the first assistant surgeon of the regiment; Chaplain D. A. Mack; Captains D. A. Kenesson, A. M. Beattie, W. A. Pierce, Leo Hyde, and Sidney H. Brigham; First Lieutenants F. E. Rew, Will. H. Bowker, E. A. Chandler, W. M. Currier, H. H. Phillips and James Fletcher; and Second Lieutenants C. E. Osgood, C. F. Bailey, R. P. Goodall Jr., D. B. Veazey, and Alvin Jones. Most of these company officers went out as privates.

25 The number who re-enlisted originally was 204. Of these some 20 had been killed, and several had deserted, subsequent to re-enlistment.
The departure of the officers and men whose three years' "term had expired, took from the regiment all its field officers and over half of its company commanders; but more veterans and recruits remained in the field than had been mustered out. On the 25th of July they were consolidated into a battalion of six companies—the members of Companies D., F., G. and H. being distributed among the other companies—under command of Captain Horace W. Floyd, who was soon after commissioned as major. The morning report of July 31, showed an aggregate of 483, with 218 present for duty, and 242 on the sick list, the larger part of whom were wounded men.

In the notable engagement at Charlestown, August 21, 1864, the Third had three men killed and 15 wounded.26

In the opening battle of General Sheridan's Shenandoah campaign, known as that of the Opequon, or Winchester, September 19th, 1864, the Third, under Major Floyd, who was also in command of the Fourth, was sharply engaged and lost 30 men, two being killed, 26 wounded, of whom three died of their wounds, and two missing.27 It took part again, two days later, in the battle of Fisher's Hill. It lost one man, T. J. Miller of Company K., who was the brigade color bearer, killed on the 21st.

At Cedar Creek. October 19th, about 200 men of the Third went into the battle, and the loss of the regiment was three killed, 38 wounded, three of whom died of wounds, and one missing.28 Captain W. H. Hubbard and Lieutenant

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26 The killed were A. Goodell, J. J. Rich and D. E. Smith of Co. I. A. E. Fales, of Co. K., died of his wounds.
27 The killed were W. E. Crowell, Co. E., and C. H. Sanborn, Co. F. J. Deady, and E. B. Cram, Co. E., and J. S. Kelley, Co. C., died of their wounds.
28 The killed were: James Greig, Co. C., E. G. Thompson, Co. F., H. C. Voody, Co. K. M. E. Parker, Co. A., J. E. Page, Co. C., and A. Pierce, Co. E., died of their wounds.
A. H. Lyon, were among the wounded. Major Floyd was mentioned in General Grant's report for "truly conspicuous and gallant conduct." He had been appointed lieutenant colonel on the 18th, but did not receive his commission till after the battle of Cedar Creek. He was brevetted colonel for gallantry and good conduct in the battles of the Shenandoah Valley. Upon Major Floyd's promotion to the lieutenant colonelcy, Captain John F. Cook was appointed major, October 18th, 1864.

Returning to Petersburg with the Sixth Corps after the close of the Shenandoah campaign, the regiment went into winter quarters with the Vermont brigade on the "Squirrel Level Road," on the southwest of Petersburg. The men were occupied during the winter and early spring in severe picket service along the lines, and in hard fatigue duty on the forts which were constructed by the Sixth Corps. On the 25th of March 1865, the regiment, with the brigade, assaulted the enemy's entrenched picket line, taking many prisoners, and held the captured works, having three men wounded. On the morning of the 27th, it aided in the repulse of the enemy's assault on the captured line, and had one man wounded.

The last fighting done by the Third was in the final assault of the Sixth Corps on the Confederate lines on the south of Petersburg, April 2d, which resulted in the fall of that stronghold and of Richmond. In the storming of the enemy's works, and in the subsequent fighting of the brigade, the Third had an honorable share, and Lieut. Colonel Floyd and a portion of his command distinguished themselves in the capture of a Confederate battery, in the last stand made by the enemy in front of Petersburg. The loss of the regiment was four killed and 19 wounded, two of whom died.\footnote{The killed were: H. J. Stephens, Co. A.; S. C. Ingleston, Co. E.; J. H. Hastings, Co. I., and W. Harvey, Jr., Co. K. N. Gould, Co. A., and G. Peach, Co. C., died of their wounds.} Among
the latter was Lieutenant Gardner C. Hawkins, who was acting as adjutant of the Fourth Vermont.

The regiment accompanied the brigade and the Sixth Corps in the final hard marching of the campaign, and of the war, and went into its last camp in the field, at Munson's Hill, June 1st, with about 300 men. The morning report of June 7th showed an aggregate of 466, of whom 320 were on duty, 128 sick and 18 reported absent with or without leave.

On the 4th of June, in recognition of their meritorious services, Lieut. Colonel Floyd was promoted to the colonelcy. Major William H. Hubbard, to the lieut. colonelcy, and Captain A. H. Newt of Company B. was appointed major. These promotions, however, were not recognized by the War Department; and under its rules these officers were subsequently mustered out as of the ranks previously held by them.

On the 7th and 8th of June, the regiment participated in the review of the Vermont troops by Governor Smith, at Bailey's Cross Roads, near Alexandria, and in the review of the Sixth Corps by President Johnson, at Washington.

On the 19th, the men, numbering about 100, whose terms of service were to expire before the 1st of October, were mustered out; and on the 11th of July, the remainder, numbering 22 officers and about 300 men, were mustered out, at Bailey's Cross Roads, and started at once for home. The officers so mustered out were Colonel Floyd, Lieut. Colonel W. H. Hubbard, Major A. H. Newt, Adjutant A. H. Hall, Quartermaster G. F. Brown, Surgeon J. J. Meigs, Chaplain D. A. Mack, Captains George W. Bonett, B. R. Fuller, L. B. Fairbanks, J. S. Thompson, T. F. Leonard and Horace French; First Lieutenants J. S. Tupper, O. B. Robinson, A. A. Wakefield, A. W. Lyon, and O. H. Thompson; and Second Lieutenants W. W. Woods, E. E. Cushman, C. B. Guyer and

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30 He had been appointed Major on the discharge of Major Cook, who received an honorable discharge, April 8th, for disability resulting from his wounds.
A. J. Locke. They reached New York on the 13th, and arrived at Burlington in the afternoon of the 14th. They were received with a salute of cannon, were escorted to the city hall by a mounted escort of citizens; were welcomed in an address by Rev. George B. Safford, and entertained at a dinner in the city hall, served by the ladies of Burlington, after which the veterans marched to their quarters at the Marine Hospital, where they were paid off, a day or two later, and dispersed to their homes.

The names of 200 officers and men of the Third who were killed or died of wounds received in action, have been already given in this regimental record. To these may properly be added the names of the martyrs who died of disease or starvation in the enemy's hands. These were as follows:

**DIED IN CONFEDERATE PRISONS.**

Company B—Aiken Giloe, captured May, '64, died at Andersonville, Ga., June 8, '84; Goodwin W. Stevens, wounded and captured May 6, '64, died in prison; Oel Wardner, died at Andersonville, November 5, '64.

Company C—Frederick B. Avery, died at Andersonville, March 13, '65.

Company I—William Coville, captured June 2, '64, died at Andersonville, August 12, '64; Silas Forrest, captured June 2, '64, died at Andersonville, August 29, '64; William B. McCollister, captured June 2, '64; died at Andersonville, October 20, '64; William O'Brien, captured June 2, '64, died at Andersonville, April 23, '65; Frank Papineau, captured June 2, '64, died at Andersonville, August 14, '64.
The battles in which the Third had honorable part, as officially recorded, were as follows:

**BATTLES OF THE THIRD REGIMENT.**

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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lewinsville</td>
<td>Sept. 11, 1861</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee's Mill</td>
<td>April 16, 1862</td>
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<td>Williamsburg</td>
<td>May 5, 1862</td>
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<td>Golding's Farm</td>
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<td>Savage's Station</td>
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<td>First Fredericksburg,</td>
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<td>Marye's Heights</td>
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<td>Salem Heights</td>
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<td>Fredericksburg</td>
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<td>Gettysburg</td>
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<td>Funkstown</td>
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<td>Opequon</td>
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<td>Cedar Creek</td>
<td>Oct. 19, 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petersburg</td>
<td>March 25 and 27, 1865</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petersburg</td>
<td>Apr. 2, 1865</td>
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The final statement of the Third Vermont is as follows:

**FINAL STATEMENT.**

Original members-com. officers 38, enlisted men 843, total 881
Gain: recruits 919; transferred from other regiments 9, total 928
Aggregate 1,809

**LOSSES.**
Killed in action-com. officers 3, enlisted men 127, total 130
Died of wounds-com. officers 2, enlisted men 68, total 70
Died of disease-com. officers 1, enlisted men 143, total 144
Died, not of wounds, in Confederate prisons-enlisted men 9
Died from accidents-enlisted men 4
Total of deaths 357
Promoted to other regiments or to U. S. Army, officers 6, men 5, total 11
Transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps and other organizations-com.
officers 3, enlisted men 106, total 109
Honorably discharged, Com. officers, resigned 24; for disabilities 10,
total, 34
Enlisted men honorably discharged, for disabilities 368, for wounds,
38.
Dishonorably discharged-Com. officers 2, enlisted men 12, total. 14
Paroled prisoners discharged-enlisted men 3
Total by discharge 457
Deserted 285, dropped from roll 1, unaccounted for 8, total 294
Mustered out-com officers 45, enlisted men 536, total 581
Aggregate 1,809
Total wounded 426
Reenlisted 204