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Chapter IX.
THE FIFTH REGIMENT.

Organization of the Fifth Regiment—Rendezvous at St. Albans—Field and Staff—Departure for Washington—March to Chain Bridge—Sickness at Camp Griffin—The Spring Campaign of '62—Lee's Mill—Golding's Farm—Hard Fighting and Terrible Loss at Savage's Station—Resignation of Colonel Smalley and Changes of Field Officers—The Maryland Campaign—Back to Virginia—First Fredericksburg—Marye's Height and Banks's Ford—Crossing the Rappahannock and Capturing Mississippians—Gettysburg and Funkstown—Rappahannock Station—Re-enlisting for the War—Furlough and Visit Vermont—Return to Virginia—Losses in the Wilderness and in the Lines of Spottsylvania—Death and Sketch of Major Dudley—Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Charlestown—Expiration of Three Years Term—The Shenandoah Campaign—Final Assault at Petersburg—End of the War and Return Home.

The Fifth regiment, like the Fourth, was raised in obedience to Governor Fairbanks's proclamation of July 21st, 1861. It was composed of companies recruited in the towns of Hyde Park, Manchester, Cornwall, Rutland, St. Albans, Brandon, Middlebury, Swanton, Richmond and Burlington, and towns adjoining those. So fully had the citizens responded to the Governor's appeal that in six weeks two hundred and fifty more men had enlisted than were needed to fill the two regiments. The Fifth was ordered to rendezvous at St. Albans, and by the 11th of September, the companies began to arrive there. The 14th of September saw the whole regiment in camp a mile north of the village on land belonging to Henry Seymour, Esq. The camp was

named Camp Holbrook in honor of the newly elected Governor. The regiment was mustered in on the 16th and 17th of September, by Lieutenant Geo. H. Higbee, of the 11th U. S. Infantry, with 1006 officers and men. Thirty recruits were added in the two weeks following. A regimental band of twenty pieces, under the leadership of J. Rice, of Montpelier, was mustered with the regiment.

Governor Fairbanks considered himself fortunate in securing for colonel of the Fifth, an officer of the regular army, in the person of Lieutenant Henry A. Smalley, Second U. S. Artillery. Lieutenant Smalley was a native of Burlington, the eldest son of U. S. Judge David A. Smalley, and was now in his twenty-eighth year. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1854, was brevetted as second lieutenant of the First Artillery; and on the 25th of April 1861, was appointed first lieutenant in the Second Artillery. He was detailed from his regiment at this time as aid-de-camp on the staff of General Dix, at Baltimore, and had been recommended for the command of a regiment by General Scott. His commission as colonel of the Fifth Vermont bore date of July 30th, 1861, antedating his appointment by several weeks. He was mustered in and assumed command of the regiment on the 15th of September. Captain Nathan Lord, Jr., youngest son of President Lord of Dartmouth College, who had seen some service under General McClellan in West Virginia, was appointed lieutenant colonel, but had hardly accepted the position when he was taken from it to command the Sixth regiment, then about to be organized. Lewis A. Grant, Esq., of Rockingham, who had been selected for major, was thereupon appointed lieutenant colonel, and Redfield Proctor, recently the quartermaster of the Third regiment, was appointed major. The regimental staff was as follows: Adjutant Edward M. Brown, of Montpelier; Quartermaster Aldis O. Brainerd, of St. Albans; Surgeon Wm. P. Russell, of Middlebury; As-

sistant Surgeon Henry C. Shaw, of Waitsfield; Chaplain, Rev. Volney M. Simons, a Methodist clergyman of Swanton.

Of the line officers, a number had seen service in the First regiment, six of the captains, Captains Chandler, Cook, Sheridan, Lewis, Seagar and Dudley, and several lieutenants, having, been members of that regiment.

On the 17th of September, under urgent directions from the Secretary of War to forward all available troops at once, with assurances that any deficiencies in arms and equipment would be supplied at Washington, Fairbanks ordered the regiment to move to Washington at once; but upon the earnest representation of its officers that the regiment was in no condition to take the field, he changed his order to one to move as soon as possible, leaving the precise time subject to Colonel Smalley's discretion. On the 18th and 19th of September, the regiment was armed with the guns brought home by the First regiment, as far as they would go -- the armament being completed by a supply of 250 Enfield rifles, after the arrival of the regiment at Washington. On the 20th and 21st the uniforms-blouses and pants, of army blue-were distributed,¹ and Monday morning, September 23d, the regiment started for Washington. Before leaving, a paper signed by the Colonel and most of the officers, was addressed to Governor Fairbanks, expressing appreciation of his untiring efforts to forward the departure of the command, and regret that "circumstances had been such as to imperatively forbid an earlier departure."

The regiment went by rail, over the Vermont Central Railroad, filling two trains. It arrived at New Haven, Conn., Tuesday morning; embarked at once on the Sound steamer "Elm City," reached Jersey City at noon, and thence proceeded by rail to Washington, arriving there on the evening of September 25th.

¹ Coats and overcoats were supplied later at Washington.

The weather was fine throughout the whole trip, and all the way to Baltimore the regiment met an enthusiastic reception. Refreshments were sent on board the trains at Bellows Falls, by the citizens of that village; at Jersey City the people turned out in thousands to greet the troops; and a hearty meal was furnished at Philadelphia by the citizens of that patriotic city, who allowed no regiment to leave their city hungry. On its arrival at Washington, the regiment was quartered for the night in the large building known as the "Soldier's Rest," where, however, the only inducements to rest were close quarters, bare planks, and the fatigue of the long journey. The next day the regiment marched out to Camp Casey, on Capitol Hill, then covered with the tents of the army as far as the eye could reach. On the 27th the regiment had a tedious march of seven hours in a driving rain, to Chain Bridge. The distance was only eight miles; but the guide, becoming confused in the darkness, led the regiment out of its way, and it was after ten o'clock at night when the men lay clown to rest on the wet ground without supper or shelter. The regiment went into camp the next day at Camp Advance, on the Virginia side of the river, close by the camps of the Second and Third regiments. Here it remained ten days, devoted chiefly to drill and felling of the woods near the camps. On the 9th of October, the Fifth moved out to Smoot's Hill, so called from its former secessionist owner;—and went into camp at "Camp Griffin," surrounded by the camps of the Second, Third and Fourth regiments, and with the camps of nearly the whole of General Smith's division, of some twenty thousand men, in sight from the top of the hill.

Not a little impatience and anxiety prevailed at this time in the regiment over the delay in the clothing and equipment. Three companies were as yet without muskets, and all without overcoats. The weather, fortunately, was not severe; and during the last half of October, coats, overcoats and under-

clothing were received and distributed, and the deficiency in arms supplied. During the fine October weather, the men were exercised in frequent drills and, largely by the efforts of Lieut. Colonel Grant, Colonel Smalley being indisposed and absent most of the fall, the regiment was brought into an excellent condition of drill and discipline.

With November came cold nights and frequent rains which soon affected the health of the command. On the 10th of November, the morning report showed 250 men, or nearly a third of the regiment, excused from duty on account of sickness, seventy of them being in hospital with typhoid and other fevers, and measles. Several deaths occurred. The hospital tents were overcrowded with patients, and the sicker men were removed to a deserted mansion, two miles from camp. The picket duty was lessened; and untiring efforts and care were exercised by the surgeons and officers to promote the health of the men; but the illness and mortality continued to be alarming. Up to the 23d of November the deaths numbered seventeen. On the 2d of January, Dr. E. E. Phelps of Windsor, who had been sent from Vermont by Governor Holbrook to investigate the condition of the Vermont troops, reported a larger number of sick in the Fifth and Sixth regiments than in the other regiments of the brigade, from 220 to 250 in each being excused from duty, and over 60 of the Fifth being in hospital.

From that time on, however, the health of the men gradually improved, and though there were occasional relapses, in times of exceptionally bad weather, the remainder of the winter was passed in comparative health and comfort, and with no harder service than occasional picket duty.

Colonel Smalley rejoined the command in improved health, during the latter part of January. On the 22d of February, after listening, with the rest of the brigade, standing in the mud, to the reading of Washington's Farewell Address, the regiment further celebrated the birthday of the

Father of his Country by foot and sack races, scrambling for a greased pig, and a rousing game of foot ball.

On the 10th of March the Fifth left Camp Griffin with The Vermont Brigade, moving with it to Flint Hill, Cloud's Mills and Alexandria, where it spent the night of March 15th in the market house, and was quartered the next day in a church. Thence it went to Fortress Monroe by transports and marched up the Peninsula with the army. At Young's Mills, where the first hostile fortifications were struck, the Fifth charged a stockaded work, which, however, proved to have been abandoned by the enemy. Here a shot fired by a rebel cavalry picket, retiring before the advance of the regiment, took effect in the shoulder of private Peter Brady of Company G.—the first man of the Fifth hurt by a hostile bullet.

In the action at Lee's Mill, six companies of the Fifth, under Colonel Smalley, the other four being out on picket, were stationed in the rear of the batteries in the woods. During the forenoon 60 men, 10 from each company, under command of Captain Dudley, assisted by Lieutenant William P. Spaulding of Company I., were taken to act as sharpshooters, to silence the “one gun battery” which commanded the causeway across the creek. They went down under a sharp fire of shell and canister, to the edge of the river below the dam, where they took position, and by picking off the enemy's cannoneers kept the gun silent for hours. About four o'clock, having exhausted their ammunition, the detachment was relieved by an equal number selected in like manner. In the performance of this service privates James W. Russell of Company K. and William Henry of Company C. were killed—the first men of the regiment killed in action—and seven were wounded, four of them severely. In the final assault on the enemy's works the Fifth moved to the support of the Sixth; but did not become engaged, and at ten o'clock

in the evening was withdrawn to its camp. Lieutenant Colonel L. A. Grant was brigade field officer of the day, and as such had general supervision of the skirmish line of the brigade till the close of the fighting.²

When the enemy evacuated the line of Warwick Creek, the Fifth was the first regiment of General Smith's division sent across the creek to occupy the abandoned works.

The return of the regiment to the adjutant general, April 30th, 1862, showed an aggregate of 830 officers and men, of whom 729 were reported present for duty. Of the remainder, 96 were sick and five disabled by wounds.

The Fifth was at Williamsburg with the brigade May 5th. The regiment had its share of the fatigue and exposure of the march up the Peninsula. Colonel Smalley and Lieut. Colonel Grant were both disabled by illness during the last half of May, and the regiment was for several weeks ably commanded by Lieut. Colonel Veazey of the Third. Quartermaster Brainerd was compelled to resign in May on account of ill health, and was succeeded by Lieutenant Adoniram Austin of Company K. who had been for some months acting as assistant quartermaster. On the 24th of May, Rev. Charles S. Hale of Brandon, a young Episcopal clergyman, was appointed chaplain, in place of Chaplain Simons who had resigned in March, having been selected for the office by

² The staff and line officers of the regiment in March, 1862, procured and tendered to Colonel Smalley, as a token of their regard, a handsome sabre, belt and sash. He declined to receive it at that time, saying: "After any action with the enemy in which we may be engaged, should you then preserve the same high opinion of me you now entertain, I shall be proud and happy to accept any evidence of it." After the action at Lee's Mill, the tender of the testimonial was renewed by the committee of the officers having it in charge, and it was accepted by Colonel Smalley. In his reply to a highly complimentary letter of presentation, he said: "I feel that I may now accept the very handsome present which you have brought. Our regiment has been twice face to face with the enemy, and officers and men have more than justified my hopes. That I have in the open field added to your confidence is gratifying."

formal vote of the line officers. On the 30th of May the regiment was sent out from its camp near the new bridge on the Chickahominy river for four or five miles up the river to Mechanicsville, as guard to a party of engineers. They were shelled for two hours by a rebel battery, but only one man was wounded³, and that slightly. Colonel Veazey had a narrow escape, his cap being struck from his head by a piece of a shell. The regiment marched back to camp in a fearful thunder storm; and the experience was quite an exciting one.

The Fifth was in camp near Gaines's Mill and Cold Harbor on the left bank of the Chickahominy, while the battle of Fair Oaks was fought, four miles away across the river, on the 31st of May and 1st of June.

On the 5th of June the regiment crossed the Chickahominy with the brigade, and camped in a pleasant spot on the right bank, near the river. The Fifth was in camp with the brigade at Golding's farm, when the seven days of fighting and retreat commenced. On the 27th it was one of the regiments brought up to support Hancock's brigade, during the assault on the line of the division at Golding's farm; but only two companies, I. and C., became engaged. The regiment lay on its arms all that night, two companies being thrown out into the swamp on picket. The next day it was under sharp artillery fire and lost one man killed.⁴

At Savage's Station, June 29th, the regiment rendered important and memorable service, elsewhere more fully described, and in the course of half an hour suffered the greatest loss of men killed and wounded ever endured by any Vermont regiment in a single action. The regiment was commanded by Lieut. Colonel Grant, who was the only field officer present, Colonel Smalley being absent and Major

³ Orderly Sergeant O. B. Reynolds of Co. B.

⁴ Andrew Laffie, Co. H.

Proctor seriously ill and absent on sick leave. The regiment took into the battle not over 400 muskets, and lost 45 officers and men killed and 143 wounded, of whom 27 died of their wounds. Company E lost no less than 44 men, 25 of whom were killed or mortally wounded, out of 59 in line—the most remarkable proportion of killed to wounded in this history—and Company H lost 36 killed and wounded. Among the killed were Second Lieutenants Olney A. Comstock of Company B., and Samuel Sumner, Jr. of Company D.⁵ Among the wounded were Captains C. W. Rose, Company B; B. R. Jenne, Company G; C. W. Seagar, Company H. and R. C. Benton, Company D; and Lieutenants Louis McD. Smith, Company A; Wilson D. Wright, Company B.; W. H. H. Peck, Company E; and B. M. Barber, Company K. Captain Jenne was shot in the hand and groin, and taken prisoner. Lieutenants Smith, Wright and Barber, having serious buck shot wounds in the legs, also fell into the enemy's hands. They were taken first to a blacksmith's shop near the field, which was filled with Federal wounded, and

⁵ Lieut. Comstock enlisted from Middlebury. He was an unusually athletic man. a vigorous wrestler, and a stout and brave soldier. he fell in the courageous and active discharge of his duty.

Lieut. Sumner had been a school teacher in the South for some time previous to the war, and on the outbreak of hostilities came home to enlist In the Union army. He enlisted from Troy, Vt., in August, 1861, at the age of 21, and was chosen second lieutenant at the organization of tile company. One who knew him in the army, says: "He was as brave as a man could possibly be."

The killed of the rank and file were as follows:

Company B. -E. Dorsey, L. S. Evarts.

Company C. -B. Finnegan, J. Fiske, C. Lozmen, M. Mills.

Company D. -H. A. Davis. J. T. Davis, J. Estus, 1. S. Gray, A. P. Steenburg; Company E. -O. J. Barton, W. K. Bennett, J. Bolster, N. Burnham, L Campeau, H. C. Clayton, S. A. Cummings, E. J. Fisher, G. Fleming, J. Lassard, D. F. Mattison, C. H. Rideout, T. M. Waite, A. Waters, W. Whitman, H. E. Willey-16; Company F -H. H. Wilder, T. D. Peck. Company G -P. H. Bowline, H. Lewis, A. H. Mitchell, J. Q. A. Rhodes; Company H -H. Hooker, J. J. Hult, V. D. Salls; Company I -H. C. Allen, J. Bodfish, J.W. Munroe, H.W. Rowe, S.E. Spaulding, M.B. Warner; Company K -T. Kennedy, D. Wells.- Total 45
Those who died of their wounds were: Company B. -L. W. Merrill, M. M. Reynolds; Company C.-E. Banyea, J. Catury, W. L. Micha; Company D. -B. Draper, E. H. Marcy; Company E. -A. A. Barker, W. G. Brown, E. M. Cummings, H.P. Cummings, W. H. H. Cummings, W. Cummings, F. D. Goldthwaite, H. J. Heald, J. Meerworth-9; Company G. -T. W. Taylor; Company H -J. Maguire, P. Maloney, F. Merchant, M. Mulcahy, E. H. Smith, E. P. West; Company K. -W. Church, D. Story, J. P. Ware.- Total, 27.

It was a very common statement, during the war and after, that Co. E. of the Fifth had 33 men killed and mortally wounded at Savage's Station. The nominal list, however, does not bear out the statement.

thence to McClellan's great field hospital, which had been left by him intact and was taken possession of by the enemy. When able to travel they were removed to Richmond. Lieutenant Wright was honorably discharged on account of disability from his wounds, in August 1862. Lieutenant Smith was paroled July 21st, and mustered out in December following. He returned to the service in March 1863, as captain of Company E.

Lieutenant Peck was struck in the face by a musket ball which, entering below the cheek bone, glanced down-ward, passed under his chin, beneath the skin, across his neck, and up and out at the other side of his face. Though nearly crazed by the pain, he made out to stagger along with the column, on the retreat to Harrison's Landing, whence he was removed to the U. S. Naval Hospital at Annapolis. He suffered from the effects of his wound for a year, and was then transferred to the Invalid Corps.

Lieutenant Barber was dangerously wounded in the hip was taken to Richmond, where he suffered greatly from neg-

lect on the part of the Confederate surgeons was soon paroled and taken to Fortress Monroe, where he died from his wound, July 20th, on board the transport Louisiana. He was a capable officer, though less than 21 years of age, and was sincerely mourned in the command.

Seventy-five wounded men of the Fifth were left on the field and, with three sick men left in hospital at Savage's Station, fell into the hands of the enemy. Surgeon Russell, with three nurses of the hospital staff, remained with them, and rendered them all possible care till they were released by death or were paroled a few weeks later.

The regiment—what was left of it—remained with the brigade at Harrison's Landing after the change of base of the army, from the 2d of July till the 16th of August. Its number of effective men was greatly reduced, not only by death and wounds, but by sickness consequent upon the fatigues and exposures of the retreat; and on the 13th of July the regiment had only thirteen officers and 371 men fit for duty⁶.

Major Proctor resigned July 11th on account of continued sickness, and Captain John R. Lewis of Co. I. was appointed major in his place—a fit recognition of his gallant and efficient service.

During the last week in August, Ass't Surgeon Shaw, who had been untiring in his devotion to the sick and wounded, yielded, like many others, to the malaria of the Virginia swamps, and after an illness of two weeks died September 7th, of typhoid fever in the hospital at Alexandria. He was educated at Dartmouth College and ranked high in his profession; and his loss was severely felt in the regiment. His remains were removed to his home in Waitsfield for interment. Dr. Arthur F. Burdick of Underhill was

⁶ One field officer, 3 regimental staff, 1 Captain, 4 First Lieutenants, 4 Second Lieutenants; 16 musicians; 6 wagoners, 349 non-commissioned officers and privates. Statement by Sergeant L. Bigelow, in Burlington Times, July 19, 1862.

appointed assistant surgeon in his place, and a second assistant surgeon was appointed at the same time, in the person of Dr. Alwyn H. Chesmore of Huntington.

On the 16th of August the regiment started with the brigade on the march down the Peninsula, and participated in the movements of the Army of the Potomac in Virginia and Maryland during the next month. Some of the marching was severe, and 24 men of the Fifth were taken to Harwood Hospital at Washington, sick from exhaustion, when the regiment passed through that city on the way to Maryland.

On the 10th of September, Colonel Smalley retired from the colonelcy, his leave of absence from the regular army being revoked, and Lieut. Colonel Grant, who had commanded the regiment through much of its service, succeeded to the colonelcy. Major Lewis was thereupon promoted to the lieutenant colonelcy, and Captain Charles P. Dudley of Company E., was appointed major.

The Fifth participated in the storming of Crampton's Gap, September 14th, and stood on the field of Antietam, though without serious loss, having two men wounded by shells. After the Antietam campaign the regiment went into camp on the 26th of September, with the brigade, at Hagerstown, Md., where the troops were allowed a month of much needed rest, and where the Fifth received 90 recruits.

Surgeon Russell was honorably discharged in October, on account of ill health, and in December following, Dr. P. D. Bradford, a well known physician of Northfield, was appointed surgeon.

On the 11th of October, the Fifth was sent with the Second Vermont, by rail, to Chambersburg, Pa., to check Stuart's cavalry raid, returning to Hagerstown on the 16th. In the first half of November it marched with the brigade down to the lower Potomac, and on the 1st of December was stationed near Stafford Court House, on Acquia

Creek, a few miles from the rest of the brigade, to guard the roads above Acquia.

In the first battle of Fredericksburg, December 11th to 14th, the Fifth was under fire to a greater or less extent for four days. On the 14th it was on the skirmish line, and lost one man killed⁷ and 13 wounded. Among the injured were Colonel Grant, who received a sharp blow on the leg from a spent bullet, and Lieutenant Warren R. Dunton of Company D., who received a serious wound in the foot, which occasioned his honorable discharge three months after.

On the 1st of January, 1863, the regiment was at Falmouth, the rest of the brigade being at Belle Plain. The morning report for that day gave an aggregate of 694, with 457 present for duty, and 224 on the sick list. This aggregate was diminished by 100, by discharges and transfers to the invalid corps during the first three months of the year.

The resignation, in February, 1863, of Colonel Whiting of the Second regiment, who had been in command of the brigade since October previous, left Colonel Grant the ranking colonel and he accordingly succeeded to the command of the First brigade, which he held thereafter through the war. He had been a careful and efficient colonel, and the regiment was sorry to lose him. On his part he was proud of the regiment, and he never lost his interest in the Fifth. Upon Grant's promotion, Lieut. Colonel Lewis succeeded to the command of the regiment, and brought to the position every quality of a capable and popular commander.

In the Second Fredericksburg, the Fifth took an honorable part. At the storming of Marye's Heights on the 3d of May, it was kept back by General Howe's order to support a battery, but subsequently advanced to the top of the Heights without loss. The next day, in the battle on Salem Heights, back of Fredericksburg, the Fifth was on the ex-

⁷ James O. Gilbert, of Co. I.

treme right of the brigade, and was the first to receive Early's main attack on Howe's division of the Sixth Corps. The regiment, under Lieut. Colonel Lewis, rendered gallant and efficient service in the repulse of the enemy during the afternoon of the 4th, as well as in the sharp fighting at Banks's Ford, later in the day, which will be found elsewhere described more in detail. The loss of the regiment was three killed, 11 wounded, of whom one died, and nine taken prisoners on the skirmish line.⁸ Among the wounded was Second Lieutenant Lyman F. Loomis of Company G. Lieut. Colonel Lewis, and Lieutenant C. H. Forbes, acting assistant adjutant general on Colonel Grant's staff, are mentioned in his report as worthy of the highest praise, as is also Lieutenant A. Austin, acting quartermaster of the brigade.

On the 5th of June, the Fifth was again sent across the Rappahannock below Fredericksburg. It crossed in pontoon boats under heavy fire, attacked the enemy's pickets in the rifle pits on the opposite bank, capturing most of them, and drove the remainder across the plain to the woods, thus clearing the way, with the support of other regiments of the brigade, for the crossing of Howe's division, which went over to feel of the enemy and ascertain if Hill's Corps had left its position south of the Rappahannock. Seven men of the Fifth were wounded in the affair, and the Fifth sent in 90 prisoners—six officers and 84 men—including an entire company of the Eighteenth Mississippi which came into the lines of the Fifth after dark. On the evening of the 7th the regiment marched back with the brigade to the north side of the river, and a week later started with the corps on the hard northern march which ended at Gettysburg.

The only man of the First brigade killed at Gettysburg was a man of the Fifth regiment—Luther Hurlburt of Com-

⁸ W. H. Button, Co. A.; C. Montgomery, Co. B., and M. Keirigan, Co. I., were killed; and P. King, Co. B., died of his wounds.

pany D.—reported at the time as having deserted, but subsequently found to have been killed on the 3d of July. The regiment was not actively engaged on that field.

At Funkstown, Md., on the 10th of July, the regiment, under Lieut. Colonel Lewis, held the left of the skirmish line and repulsed repeated attacks of the Confederate lines with a loss of three men killed⁹ and seven wounded.

After the return to Virginia, the regiment was for three weeks in a pleasant camp near Warrenton, doing picket duty for the division, till ordered with the brigade to New York city on the 11th of August. It was sent thence, with the Sixth Vermont, to Kingston, N. Y., where a draft was in progress. Its service there was pleasant, and the episode of maintaining the authority of the government at the North, amounted to an agreeable vacation of three weeks.

The regiment was next under fire on the 7th of November, when the Fifth and Sixth Corps assaulted and carried the enemy's entrenchments at Rappahannock Station. The regiment was deployed on the skirmish line near the river, and had two or three men wounded by artillery fire; but was not actively engaged.

In General Meade's next unsuccessful attempt to force General Lee's lines south of the Rapidan, in the last week in November, the Fifth had its share of marching, severe picket service and suffering from cold and hunger. Active campaigning being for the most part brought to a close by the advent of winter, the regiment went into winter quarters with the brigade near Brandy Station

The Fifth was the first of the Vermont regiments, and one of the first if not the first of the New England regiments, to re-enlist for the war, under the provisions of the order of the war department which offered a special bounty to every three years' man re-enlisting for the war and permit-

⁹ N. S. Cross, Co. A.; J. W. Leonard, F. Murray, Co. E.

ted regiments three-fourths of whose members should so re-enlist to retain their regimental organizations and to add the title of "Veteran Volunteers" to their regimental name also granting to every such regiment a furlough of thirty days. Two hundred and fifty-five officers and men of the Fifth, having re-enlisted on the 15th of December, left Brandy Station on the morning of December 27th for Vermont, and arrived at Burlington on the 30th. Governor Smith, Adj't. General Washburn and Surgeon General Thayer, with the Third Vermont Battery, Captain Start, then in camp at Burlington, and a numerous concourse of citizens, met the veterans on their arrival and escorted them to the city hall, where Hon. George F. Edmunds, in behalf of the citizens of Burlington, and General Washburn, on the part of the State, bade them welcome back to Vermont. After a brief response from Lieut. Colonel Lewis, a dinner, provided by the citizens of Burlington, was served in the town hall, and in the afternoon and evening of the same day the veterans dispersed to their homes to spend the new year anniversary in comfort and happiness by their own firesides.

On the expiration of its furlough the regiment rendezvoused at Burlington on the 4th of February, 1864, and went into camp in comfortable quarters on the fair ground north of the city. On the 6th it was reviewed by Governor Smith, accompanied by Adj't. General Washburn and Q. M. General Davis, and received a handsome new stand of colors from the hands of the governor, who in appropriate remarks expressed the pride of the State in the record of the regiment, and the thanks of the people for its services. Lieut. Colonel Lewis responded briefly, pledging anew the loyalty of the regiment to the cause of the Union and faithful regard for the honor of Vermont.

On Monday morning, February 8th, the Fifth Vermont regiment veteran volunteers, left the snow-covered hills of Vermont to rejoin their comrades at the front. Their return

and an addition of about 40 new recruits, gave on the 29th of February an aggregate of 650, of whom 562 were reported on duty. The regiment remained in camp at Brandy Station with The Vermont Brigade through the remainder of the winter until it crossed the Rapidan on the 4th of May to take its part in the terrible campaign of the Wilderness.

The part taken by the regiment in this campaign will appear more fully in connection with the history of the brigade. In proportion to its numbers—it was the smallest regiment in the brigade—no regiment in the brigade accomplished more or suffered more. It went into the first day's fight of the Wilderness with about 500 muskets, and its losses in killed, wounded, and missing, most of the latter being either killed or desperately wounded, during the month following, aggregated 349, being two men killed or wounded out of every three in the ranks. The losses of officers in the same period were also fearful, the list of killed and wounded comprising both of the field officers, seven of the ten company commanders, four lieutenants and the sergeant major. Lieut. Colonel John R. Lewis fell early in the first day's fight, May 5th, with his left arm shattered by a musket ball, which entered just below the shoulder. In the evening of the same day he underwent the operation of exsection of the humerus in the division hospital on the field. The next day he was taken to Fredericksburg, the journey occupying three days and three nights, forty-six hours of terrible suffering being spent by him in the ambulance on the road. At Fredericksburg he was joined by his devoted wife, under whose care he steadily progressed towards convalescence. Four months later, his wound being not yet healed, he received an honorable discharge, to accept an appointment as colonel in the Veteran Reserve Corps. Though the rule of the war department forbade the muster in of a colonel for a regiment having less than 500 men, the rule was waived by the Secretary of War in the case of Lieut. Colonel Lewis,

in consideration of his gallantry, and he was mustered as colonel of the Fifth Vermont on the 5th of June, his appointment by the governor dating from the 6th of May, and he was subsequently brevetted brigadier general for “gallant service in the battle of the Wilderness.”

The loss of the regiment in the Wilderness, May 6th, was 34 killed; 179 wounded, of whom 23 died of their wounds, and 31 missing.¹⁰

Among the killed were Captain George D. Davenport of Company B., Captain Charles J. Ormsbee of Company D., and Lieutenant Watson O. Beach of Company F. Captain Alonzo R. Hurlbut of Company A. was wounded in the left ankle, suffered amputation of the leg, and died the 9th of June in Armory Square Hospital, Washington; and Lieutenant Orvis H. Sweet of Company A., who was shot through the lungs and died May 17th.

Among the wounded were: Captain F. H. Barney of

¹⁰ The rank and file killed in the Wilderness were as follows:

Company A -J. Fenix, L. Gilder, L. Gommon, J. Hamel, J. E. Puffer, E. Reynolds, J. M. Thomas, D. Traxian, N. Troyon.-9
 Company B. -F. Daniels, S. J. Hawley, P. Lander, J. St. Marie; Company C. -A. Mason.; Company D. -J. Brown, E. E. Houston, J. LaFleur, Jr., E. LeBru, S. S. Marshall, G. H. Porter-6; Company E. -J. O. Benson, D. F. Kidder. G. H. Lyon, H. Smith, C. H. Walker; Company F. -J. Gillespie, C. Grimes, R. Hudson, T. J. Lane; Company I. -G. Collins, W. H. Isham.-
 Total, 31.

Those who died of wounds were:

Company A. -A. M. Alexander, R. Robinson.
 Company B. -R. L. Barnes, H. Bowers, R. L. Downer, A. Sorrell, H. Sayles.
 Company C. -M. Raymond. Jr.
 Company E. -H. G. Taft
 Company G. -H. Moren.
 Company H. -E. Keenan.
 Company I. -G. P. Bixby, R. Cornish, W. W. Douglass, J. R. Martin, J. F. Preston.
 Company K. -B. Haskins, B. B. Hatch, E. W. Hill, J. Lyons, A. Plant—Total 21.

Company C.; Captain William B. Robinson of Company H., who was honorably discharged the August following for his wounds; Lieutenant Miner E. Fish of Company D.; Lieutenant W. G. Davenport of Company H.; and Lieutenant L. G. Brownson of Company K.

Honorable mention is made in General L. A. Grant's report of Sergeant Isaac M. Burton, Company E., for seizing and safely carrying the colors of the regiment, after they had been shot from the hands of the color bearer.

In the battles at Spotsylvania, May 10th to 21st, the Fifth lost 15 killed; 50 wounded, of whom 12 died of their wounds; and 20 missing—a total of 85.¹¹

A portion of these casualties occurred in Upton's magnificent charge on the enemy's salient, on the 10th of May; and most serious among them was the fatal wounding of the only remaining field officer of the regiment, the gallant Major Dudley, who had succeeded to the command of the Fifth upon the fall of Lieut. Colonel Lewis. Though he was ill with a fever when the regiment was ordered forward as one of the twelve picked regiments. selected for Upton's assault, he promptly placed himself at its head, and while

¹¹ The killed at Spotsylvania were:

Company C. -M. M. Lafayette, L. Martin.

Company D. -A. Schoolcraft.

Company E. -F. De Rosiers, L. Morse.

Company F. -R. W. Champlin, C. M. Crane, J. Duquette, C. P. Goodrich, J. Hale, C. A. Walker, R. Wright.

Company I. -B. F. Isham.

Company K. -E. Chamberlin, R. M. Rogers.-Total, 15.

Those who died of their wounds were:

Company A. -H. C. Bailey, H. H. Clement.

Company B. -E. W. Sager.

Company C. -J. H. Sturtevant.

Company D. -H. A. Hagar, J. Houston, Jr.

Company E. -N. C. Bostwick.

Company F. -S. Jenney.

Company G. -R. J. Fletcher, J. Hunter.

Company K. -A. J. Lessor.-Total, 11.

cheering on his men, received a musket ball through his uplifted right arm. No bone was broken, and the wound was no more severe than thousands from which men speedily recovered. But with his nervous temperament and with vital powers depressed by disease, it proved a mortal injury. He never rallied from the shock, and died in the arms of his young wife, who arrived at Fredericksburg, whither he was carried, but a few hours before his death. He was one of the bravest of Vermont's brave; had notably distinguished himself on several occasions and especially at Banks's Ford, and at the crossing of the Rappahannock, June 5th, 1863; and few deaths in the whole course of the war occasioned deeper sorrow among the Vermont troops.¹²

After Major Dudley fell, the regiment was commanded by Captain E. A. Hamilton of Company F., who had distinguished himself at Spottsylvania, and received mention for good conduct in the brigade commander's report. Quartermaster Eells is also mentioned as one of those who rendered special service on the staff of the general, after the brigade staff officers had been wounded or captured.

The Fifth regiment was in the front line at Cold Harbor on the 3d of June, and suffered severely, losing eight killed

¹² Charles P. Dudley was born in Manchester, Vt., January 24, 1836. He spent his early manhood in his trade as a marble cutter, and in teaching in Vermont and in Kentucky, where his outspoken expression of his opinions on the great issues which divided the sections before the war, placed his life repeatedly in danger. He was studying law in the office of an uncle, in Johnstown, N. Y., when the war broke out. The first train leaving that town after President's Lincoln's first call for troops took him to Vermont, to join his brother Vermonters in sustaining the flag. He at once enlisted at Rutland, in Co. K. of the First regiment. A commission in the regular army was tendered to him about this time; but he declined it, preferring to serve with the troops of his native State, though as a private in the ranks. On the expiration of the three months term of the First regiment he re-enlisted in the Manchester company of the Fifth, of which he was elected captain. He was promoted to be major, October 6th, 1862, and was appointed lieutenant colonel, May 6th, 1864; but his commission had not reached him at the time of his death.

and 22 wounded, three of whom died of their wounds.¹³ Among the killed was Captain Merrill T. Samson of Company 1, a meritorious young officer.

From the 4th to the 10th of June, the regiment was frequently under fire, and lost three men wounded. On the 13th, the Fifth moved with the brigade to the James, and crossed it on the 16th.

At Petersburg in the operations of June 17th, the Fifth was deployed on the skirmish line. The next day, with the rest of the brigade, it was placed in the front line under a heavy artillery fire, by which, however, it lost but one man.¹⁴ The morning report of the regiment, June 30th, gave an aggregate of 587, with only 280 on duty, 303 being on the list of sick and wounded. The regiment moved to the north with the Sixth Corps in July; and in the engagement at Fort Stevens, in front of Washington, July 12th, one man of the Fifth, who had been detailed as a sharp shooter, was wounded.

At Charlestown, August 21st, the regiment was again engaged, and lost two men killed and four wounded, one of whom died of his wounds.¹⁵

On the 15th of September, 1864, the original members of the regiment who had not re-enlisted and whose time had expired, 107 in number, were mustered out of the service and returned to Vermont. This number included Adjutant C H. Forbes, who had been on General Grant's staff as A. A. G. of the brigade for over a year and a half; Surgeon A. H. Chesmore, Chaplain Hale, Captains F. H. Barney, L. McD.

¹³ The men killed at Cold Harbor, were: M. H. Keefe, Co. A.; J. C. Hunt and J. H. Varney, Co. C.; L. B. Graham and C. E. Stearns, Co. F.; M. Courtney, Co. H.; and P. Tomlinson, Co. K.

Those who died of wounds were: M. W. Larned, H. Safford of Company A.; and L. Crady of Company B..

¹⁴ G. H. St. Louis, Co. K.

¹⁵ J. Lewis, Co. I, and W. Jackman, Co. K. were killed. P. Ladam, Co. A. died of his wounds.

Smith, E. A. Hamilton, B. R. Jenne, L. D. Tice and C. H. Williamson; and Lieutenants C. H. Benton, E. P. Russell, O. L. Spencer, W. G. Davenport, E. S. Leach, L. F. Loomis, W. H. Cheney, and J. A. Bixby. There were left no field officers; of the staff only Quartermaster Eells and Asst. Surgeon Colburn, and of line officers only five lieutenants. It amounted in effect to the breaking up of the regiment; and though its name remained, and it did a good deal more of good fighting, it existed thenceforward as a battalion, entitled at most to a lieutenant colonel. In the lack of officers of its own, the battalion was commanded for a time by Captain Addison Brown of the Fourth. Captain Brown was soon after appointed lieutenant colonel of the Fifth, his commission dating September 18th. The vacancies in the line were partially filled by promotions and transfers from other regiments; and early in October Lieutenant Eugene O. Cole of Bennington, who had served three years in the Second and had been mustered out, was appointed major. The total losses during the year previous to October 1st, 1864, other than by expiration of term of service, were 264; of which number 89 had died, 30 deserted, 21 had been discharged, and 22 transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps. The morning report for October 31st, showed 288 officers and men present for duty out of an aggregate of 516. The Fifth served with the brigade in Sheridan's Shenandoah campaign, and at Winchester, September 19th, lost six killed¹⁶ and 22 wounded. In the battle of Cedar Creek, October 19th, the Fifth, under command of Major Enoch Johnson of the Second Vermont, Lieut. Colonel Brown being disabled by illness, took an active part, and lost two killed, 17 wounded, one of whom died, and three missing.¹⁷ Captain

¹⁶ L. Bovatt, W. P. Valentine, Co. C.; J. Belair, Co. E.; J. J. Davis, C. Lucas, J. Naylor, Co. G. were killed at Winchester.

¹⁷ J. M. Farnam, Co. E. and G. E. Davis, Co. I. were killed. M. Smith, Co. H., was wounded and died November 11th.

Thomas Kavaney of Company A. was among the severely wounded. Lieutenant George H. Sessions, A. D. C. to the brigade commander, is mentioned in his report for “truly conspicuous and gallant conduct.”

The regiment went into winter quarters with the brigade on the 13th of December, in the lines on the south of Petersburg. In January and February 50 recruits swelled the aggregate to 574, with 403 present for duty and 148 sick on the 16th of February. The sick list diminished steadily during the winter, in spite of the severe picket and fatigue duty to which the men were subjected. Lieut. Colonel Brown resigned in December on account of continued ill health¹⁸.

In February, Captain Ronald A. Kennedy of the Third Vermont was appointed lieutenant colonel of the Fifth, and commanded the regiment during the remainder of its service. In the charge on the picket line of the enemy in front of Fort Fisher, March 25th the regiment entered the works with the brigade and took a number of prisoners. During the final attempt of the enemy to retake the line, about sunset, 150 men of the Fifth, under Major Cole, were sent to the left to support a battery and dislodge a body of the enemy in and about a house from which their sharp-shooters enfiladed and annoyed the line of the Sixth Corps. This was successfully accomplished. The Fifth lost one man killed and seven wounded, two of whom died of their wounds¹⁹. In repulsing an attack of the enemy on the picket line, March 27th, seven men of the Fifth were wounded and four reported missing. In the final attack, when the Sixth Corps broke through the enemy's lines in front of Petersburg,

¹⁸ After leaving the service, Colonel Brown went to Illinois to visit friends, and died a few weeks after at Harrisburg, Pa., while on his way to his home in Vermont, at the age of 28 years. Though young in years, he was old in experience, and had proved himself a brave and trusty soldier.

¹⁹ Bernheim, Co. B., was killed. W. Oliver, Co. C., and J. Bailey, Co. G., died of wounds.

on the 2d of April, the Fifth, under command of Lieut. Colonel Kennedy, had the honor of leading the storming column, and its colors were the first planted by the Sixth Corps on the enemy's works. It is believed that Captain Charles G. Gould of Company H., was the first man of the Sixth Corps to mount the hostile works. Among the many feats of bravery performed by men of the Fifth that day, may be mentioned that of Sergeant Lester G. Hack of Company F., who seized a Confederate battle flag, knocked down the color bearer, though surrounded by a squad of his comrades, and secured the flag, which is now among the war trophies preserved at the war department at Washington.

The casualties in the regiment on that glorious day were five killed, 34 wounded, two of whom died of their wounds, and seven missing²⁰; total, 47—a larger number than in any other regiment of the brigade except the Eleventh, which was twice as large as the Fifth. The seven men reported missing were taken as prisoners, but were all recaptured. Among the killed was Second Lieutenant J. Smith of Company A., and among the wounded were Captain Charles G. Gould, who received a severe bayonet. wound in the face and was struck by clubbed muskets as he sprang over the rebel intrenchments, and Captain Edson M. Raymond of Company D. Captain Gould was afterwards brevetted major for gallant service on that occasion, and Captain Raymond was honorably discharged, on the 2d of June following, on account of his wounds.

This was the last severe fighting done by the battalion. After the surrender of Lee, it marched with the brigade to the vicinity of Washington to await the final muster out.

The recruits, 86 in number, whose term of service would expire previous to October 1st, were mustered out of the

²⁰ The killed of the rank and file were: H. C. Pike, Co. C.; J. Baker, L. Young, Co. F.; E. Brownlee, C. A. Ford, Co. H.; J. Jabott, Co. C., and G. J. Howard, Co. G., died of their wounds.

service June 19th, and returned to Vermont as part of a detachment of 661 men of The Vermont Brigade, all of whom were mustered out at that time. The only officer of the Fifth returning with them was Captain Gould. The remainder of the regiment, 333 in number²¹, 124 were veterans, were mustered out on the 29th of June, and started at once for Vermont under command of Colonel Kennedy. They arrived in Burlington at five o'clock in the morning of July 4th. Owing to some accident the citizens had not been notified of their coming and were not awaiting them at the station. Notice of their arrival was however soon given, and the welcome accorded them was none the less cordial for being a little tardy. They marched to the city hall, where they were welcomed home by Rev. Elbridge Mix. A bountiful breakfast was served in the hall by the ladies, after which the veterans marched to their quarters at the U. S. Marine Hospital, where they were paid off, and dispersed to their homes to learn war no more.

The officers of the regiment at the time of its return were as follows: Lieut. Colonel Ronald A. Kennedy, who, went out in September, 1861, as a private in the Third regiment, was wound at Fredericksburg in May, 1863, was appointed captain in January following and transferred to the Fifth as Lieut. Colonel in February, 1865; was appointed colonel by the governor in June, 1865, but was mustered out, in accordance with the rule of War Department, as lieutenant colonel. Major Eugene A. Cole, who went out as a private in and Second regiment, and served three years, was mustered out with the rank of first lieutenant, returned to the service as major of the Fifth, December 26, 1864, and was brevetted lieutenant colonel for gallantry in the last assault at Petersburg. He was commissioned as lieutenant

²¹ This number does not include quite all who were members of the regiment at that time. A few were absent on furlough or sick in hospitals, and 18 men remained on special duty a week longer.

colonel by the governor; but was mustered out as major. Surgeon C. H. Allen, who went out as assistant surgeon of the Eighth in October, 1862, and was transferred to the Fifth in October, 1864. Asst. Surgeon Daniel. C. Colburn, who had been with the regiment since August, 1863. Quartermaster Isaac L. Eells, who went out as a private in 1861, received a second lieutenant's commission in April, 1864, and was appointed quartermaster in May. Adjutant Charles F. Leonard, who was appointed in October, 1864; and Chaplain John D. Cargill, who enlisted as private, was made sergeant in June, 1863, was wounded at Fredericksburg, June 5th, 1863, re-enlisted in December of that year, and received his appointment as chaplain in September, 1864.

Captain Thomas Kavaney of Company A was promoted major by the governor, June 9, 1865, but was mustered out as captain. The line officers mustered out as such, June 29, 1865, were fourteen in number, as follows : Captains Thomas Kavaney, Hiram Cook, William H. Wright, George H. Sessions, Daniel E. Barrett, Samuel F. Kilborn and Myron S. Dudley, and First Lieutenants Frederick C. Davis, Charles V. Cool, Wallace E. Baldwin, Edward C. Warner, Joseph M. Foster, James Grace and Jackson Sargent. All of these enlisted as privates.

It is a noticeable circumstance that the Fifth during the larger part of its service, was commanded by officers below the rank of colonel. Its first colonel was absent from his command during the larger part of the year he was connected with it; its second colonel had held the rank but five months when he was taken to command the brigade, and thenceforward the regiment was commanded by lieutenant colonels, majors and captains.

The following men of the Fifth are known to have died in Andersonville prison:

DIED IN CONFEDERATE PRISONS.

Company A- H. Laraway, died August 3, 1864.

Company B- H. Crow, died August 6, 1864.

Company C- O. Seward, died August 2, 1864.

Company D- D. Crocker, died July 22, 1864.

Company F- A. B. Wilson, died February 21, 1865.

Company G- C. S. Monroe,²²

The battles in which the Fifth took an honorable part, were as follows:

BATTLES OF THE FIFTH VERMONT.

Lee's Mill,	April 16, 1862
Williamsburg,	May 5, 1862
Golding's Farm,	June 26, 1862
Savage's Station,	June 29, 1862
White Oak Swamp,	June 30, 1862
Crampton's Gap,	Sept. 14, 1862
Antietam,	Sept. 17, 1862
Fredericksburg,	Dec. 13, 1862
Marye's Heights,	May 31, 1863
Salem Heights,	May 4, 1863
Fredericksburg,	Jun 5, 1863
Gettysburg,	July 3, 1863
Funkstown,	July 10, 1863
Rappahannock Station,	Nov. 7, 1863
Wilderness,	May 5 to 10, 1864
Spottsylvania,	May 10 to 18, 1864
Cold Harbor,	June 1 to 12, 1864
Petersburg,	June 18, 1864
Charlestown,	Aug. 21, 1864
Opequon,	Sept. 13, 1864
Winchester,	Sept. 19, 1864
Fisher's Hill,	Sept. 21 and 22, 1864
Cedar Creek,	Oct. 19, 1864
Petersburg,	March 25 and 27, 1865
Petersburg,	April 2, 1865

²² Captured May 10, 1863, supposed dead.

The final statement of the Regiment, given below, shows a larger percentage of killed and mortally wounded in action than that of any other Vermont regiment:

FINAL STATEMENT.

Original members-com. officers 38, enlisted men 948, total	986
Gain; recruits 588; transferred from other regiments 43, total	631
Aggregate	1,617
Losses	
Killed in action-com. officer 5, enlisted men 128, total	133
Died of wounds-com. officers 4, enlisted men 68, total	72
Died of disease-com. officers 1, enlisted men 113, total	114
Died, (unwounded,) in Confederate prisons	11
Died from accidents, enlisted men 4, executed 1	5
Total of deaths	335
Honorable discharged-com. officers, resigned 24, for wounds and disabilities 12; enlisted men discharged for wounds, 99, for disabilities, 298, total	434
Dishonorably discharged-com. officers 4, enlisted men 9, total	13
Total by discharge	447
Promoted to U.S. Army and to other regiments, officers 8, men 2, total	10
Transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, U. S. Navy and Army, etc., officers 2, enlisted men 90, Total	92
Deserted 109, unaccounted for 6, total	115
Mustered out-com. officers 53, enlisted men 565, total	618
Aggregate	1,617
Total wounded	473
Total re-enlisted	256