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CHAPTER X.

THE SIXTH REGIMENT.

Its Organization—Departure for Washington—Sickness and Mortality at Camp Griffin—The Spring of 1862—The Sixth at Lee's Mill—Golding's Farm and Savage's Station—Sickness at Harrison's Landing—Crampton's Gap and Antietam—Changes of Field Officers—Winter of 1862-2 Fighting at Fredericksburg—Funkstown—Service in New York—Winter at Brandy Station—Losses in the Wilderness—Death and sketch of Colonel Barney—Personal Incidents—The Shenandoah campaign—Expiration of Three Years' Term—Service in front of Petersburg—End of the War and Return Home.

On the day of which the Fifth regiment was mustered into the service, Governor Fairbanks received a communication from the war department, urging him to raise another regiment of three years' troops as soon as possible. He accordingly, at once, September 16th, 1861, appointed the following recruiting officers for the Sixth regiment: Wm. H. Harris, Danville; C. H. Davis, Wheelock; W. E. Lewis, Norwich; W. Hazelton, Essex; W. B. Reynolds, Burlington; George Parker, Jr., Vergennes; William Skinner, Royalton; D. B. Davenport, Roxbury; A. J. Mower, Calais; D. K. Andros, Bradford; A. J. Dyke, Woodstock; L. M. Grout, Elmore; John S. Campbell, Waitsfield. In twelve days 900 men had been enlisted. They were ordered to rendezvous at Montpelier; and on the second day of October the Roxbury company arrived and went into camp at the country fair ground, to which the title of "Camp Smith" was given in honor of Hon. John Gregory Smith of St. Albans. During

the four days following the rest of the men arrived, for the most part in squads, which were organized into companies after their arrival in camp, not without some friction in settling the conflicting preferences of the men for company officers. The field officers had been already selected. The Colonel was offered to and accepted by Lieut. Colonel Nathan Lord, Jr., of the Fifth. Colonel Lord was a native of New Hampshire, and was the youngest son of President Nathan Lord of Dartmouth College. He was a graduate of Dartmouth, and had been for a short time principal of the Montpelier academy. He was now thirty years old, of fine figure and good presence, and had had some military experience, having been a captain in a three months regiment, the Seventh Indiana, and having seen some service under McClellan in Western Virginia. He was recommended by his Indiana colonel as being "as kind and merciful as he was brave and heroic."

Adjutant Asa P. Blunt of the Third Vermont, who had had four months service in that regiment and shown himself a bright and competent officer, was appointed lieutenant colonel. Captain Oscar S. Tuttle of Cavendish, who had been Captain of Company E of the First regiment, and served with credit during its short term of service, was appointed major. The regimental staff were as follows: Adjutant R. B. Crandall, of Berlin; Quartermaster John W. Clark, of Montpelier; Surgeon R. C. M. Woodward, M. D., of St. Albans; Ass't. Surgeon Charles M. Chandler, M. D., of Montpelier; Chaplain, Rev. Edward P. Stone of Berlin. The latter was a Congregational minister just ordained. Surgeon Woodward was obliged by the condition of his health to resign a few days after his appointment, and was succeeded by Ass't Surgeon Chandler; and Dr. Lyman Tuttle of Vernon, was appointed assistant surgeon.

The State and Government officials had learned by this time a good deal in the business of equipping troops, and

from the ampler supplies of army clothing now available the men were uniformed as fast as they arrived. On the 15th of October the arms, Enfield rifles, procured in New York, were distributed, and on the same day the regiment was mustered into the service of the United States by Lieutenant J. W. Jones, U. S. A., mustering officer. On Saturday morning, October 19th, thirty-three days from the receipt of the request of the war department for another Vermont regiment, the Sixth Vermont, 971 strong, took its departure for the field. It was a rainy morning; but the whole population of Montpelier, and hundreds of fathers, mothers, wives and friends from the neighboring towns, turned out to see the boys off and bid them Godspeed. Not a man was left behind. The usual patriotic demonstrations greeted the regiment all along the route through Vermont and down the Connecticut Valley. At Springfield, Mass., refreshments were provided for the men by the mayor and citizens. Early Sunday morning the Sixth reached New Haven, where the steamer Elm City was waiting to take the regiment to Jersey City. There it took train, and at eleven in the evening arrived at Philadelphia, where it was received with the proverbial Philadelphia hospitality, and spent the night in a Baptist chapel. Taking train next morning the regiment had at Baltimore a lunch of bread and cheese, supplied by loyal citizens, and arrived at Washington at nine P. M. The night was spent at the "Soldier's Rest," and next day the regiment moved to the general camping ground on Capitol Hill. On October 24th, the sixth took its first march worthy of the name, to Camp Griffin, doing the twelve miles in three hours and a half. It arrived just after dark, and was received with cheers by the other regiments of the Vermont brigade as it marched past their camps to its camping ground.

The regiment was now occupied in drill and picket duty, which was the chief business of the brigade, and did its share of both in spite of the alarming amount of sickness which soon

prevailed in the ranks. Before the end of November, nearly a third of the men were unfit for duty, and they were falling sick at the rate of forty a day. At one time Company B had but 22 men fit for duty out of 85. Surgeon Chandler was one of those prostrated by fevers; and in the first two months in Virginia 27 men died from disease. The frequent deaths and prevailing sickness caused a general seriousness and much religious reflection among the men, and the prayer-meetings, held every evening, were numerously attended. Every care possible was taken of the sick. The more dangerously ill were removed to the brigade hospital near Chain Bridge. The regimental hospital tent was replaced by a substantial log house; and during January the general health of the regiment began to improve. When the brigade moved with the army toward Manassas, March 10th, the sick list had been reduced to about 100. Up to that date, the deaths numbered 47, among the saddest of which was that of Lieutenant George H. Phelps, of company D, a favorite young officer, who died of typhoid fever, January 2d, 1862.

The regiment participated in the movements of the brigade in the spring of 1862, and was first under fire April 6th, in front of the Confederate entrenchments on Warwick Creek. On that day it supported one of the batteries stationed in the edge of the woods during the first demonstration made by General Smith's division, and though covered from the sight of the enemy by a curtain of growing timber, was subjected to a random shelling from the Confederate batteries, both by day and night, without loss. After two days and nights spent under arms, the Sixth was relieved, marched three miles to the right, and encamped, cold, wet and hungry, in the woods, not far from Lee's Mill, where it remained for nine days, and until the exciting day of April 16th. During the larger part of that day, and while the men of the Third Vermont were making their desperate assault on the

enemy's rifle pits at Lee's Mill, the Sixth was held in reserve in the woods southeast of "the chimneys" of the burned Garrow house. About five o'clock in the afternoon the second attack was ordered,--the plan being that four companies of the Fourth should cross by the dam, and an equal number of the Sixth below the dam, and that the two battalions should attack the enemy's work in concert. The Sixth accordingly advanced, partly covered by the woods, nearly to the edge of the stream. The right wing, consisting of Company A, Captain Parker; Company F, Captain E. F. Reynolds; Company D, Captain Hale; Company I, Lieutenant Kinney, (Captain W. B. Reynolds being ill), and Company C, Captain Spaulding, was then ordered to cross the creek.¹ The order was promptly obeyed. The spot selected for the crossing was eight or ten rods below the dam. The companies marched by the flank to the river. This had been widened and deepened by another dam below, and the water before them was about twenty rods wide, extending nearly up to the enemy's rifle pits. As the battalion entered the water the enemy opened a severe musketry fire. Without returning a shot the men pushed on, forded the channel of the creek, the water coming up waist high; and as they came into the shallower water beyond, fronted into line and charged the works before them. A portion had hardly reached the rifle pits when the order to retire was given. The men fell back, carrying with them their wounded, some of whom received additional and fatal in the arms of their comrades. The scene is thus described by Corporal A. W. Davis: "We started to the rear to find the water almost up to where we stood, and over all the interval between us and the opposite shore. In the turbid current was a mass of men, struggling to the rear. Such a sight never again met

¹ General Brooks says Colonel Lord was ordered to throw *four* companies across the creek; but *five* were thrown across, and two more attempted the crossing.

my gaze during the war. Wounded men, on reaching the old bed of the stream sank with cries of despair, to be found later in the swamps down the stream, where their bodies had lodge. I saw two men ahead of me carrying a wounded man, when they were struck by rebel bullets and one or both sank.. I saw two others assisting a wounded man, when a bullet passed through the latter's head and he pitched forward and was gone. The muddy water literally boiled with bullets.” Some of the instances of individual heroism, of which there were so many in this memorable engagement, will be found narrated in the fuller account given in subsequent pages in connection with the history of the Vermont brigade.

The loss of the regiment at Lee's Mill was 13 killed and 67 wounded, of whom 10 died of their wounds.²

Among the killed was Captain E. F. Reynolds of Company F., who received a serious wound in the hip, in spite of which he pressed on at the head of his company, when a bullet pierced his breast, killing him instantly.³

Among the wounded were Captain David B. Davenport of Company H, who received a flesh wound in the thigh from a musket ball; First Lieutenant Edwin R. Kinney, Company I, seriously wounded in the leg; and Second

² The men killed were: W. M. Gibson, A. C. Noyes, Co. C; C. E. Colburn, Co. D;; M. Barney, Co. E; C. Axtell, R. Blakely, P. Connell, W. W. Godfrey, Co. F; M. Basconer, T. Daniels, E. E. Dodge, L. W. Wales, Co. H. Those who died of their wounds were: J. Oakes, E. C. Wright, Co. A; L. Graves, A. Grant, J. E. Wilson, J. E. Wyman, Co. C; L. Talbot, Co. D; J. Connery, Co. F; R. W. Bellows, Co. I.

³ Captain Reynolds was a member of the Rutland company of the First regiment. He re-enlisted in the Sixth, and was chosen captain of his company at its organization. He was a brave and patriotic soldier, and his loss was deeply felt in the regiment. His body was sent to Vermont, and was interred, at Rutland, April 23, 1862, with military and Masonic honors.

Lieutenant Charles F. Bailey, company D, who received a wound in the leg, from which he died a fortnight after.⁴

The official reports mention as deserving of especial credit for good conduct in the engagement, Colonel Lord, Surgeons Chandler and Tuttle, Captains E. F. Reynolds and Davenport, Lieutenants Bailey and Kinney, Sergeant Holton of Company I, who was also mentioned with special credit in a general order, for securing and bringing back the colors, Sergeant Porter Crane of Company H, Sergeant W. B. Dunshee, Company A, and Corporals A. L. Cox and P. H. Duggan.

On the 29th of April, the regiment was sent out to the left to make a reconnoissance along the bank of Warwick Creek. Company G, Lieutenant Nevins, and Company K., Captain Barney, were thrown out in front as skirmishers, and advanced till they came under fire from the enemy's pickets by which a man in Company K was wounded. Lieutenant Nevins advanced to examine the enemy's position, and while so doing received a ball in the knee, which shattered the joint. He was taken to the brigade hospital, where amputation was performed by Surgeon Chandler, and on the 3d of May he died.⁵

The Sixth marched up the Peninsula to the front of Richmond with the brigade; and on the 27th of June, acted as support to the picket line of General Smith's division at Golding's Farm in repulsing an attack of the enemy after sundown; and took the place of the Forty Third New York,

⁴ Lieutenant Bailey went from Troy, Vt., as orderly sergeant of Company D, and at the death of Lieutenant Phelps in January, 1862, and promotion of 2d Lieutenant Dwinell, was promoted to the vacancy. He was a man of strong will, and thorough integrity and courage.

⁵ Lieutenant Nevins was a substantial and leading citizen of Moretown. He stood high as a soldier, and his death occasioned especial demonstrations of respect and sorrow, on the part of his comrades. His body was sent home to Vermont, and was interred, at Moretown, June 9th, with civil and military honors.

in front, for a while. Six men of the Sixth were wounded, in this affair, and one reported missing.⁶

In the battle at Savage's Station, on the 29th, the Sixth was deployed on the left in the advance of the brigade, and lost 15 killed; 51 wounded, of whom six died of their wounds, and three missing.⁷ The casualties were distributed with much impartiality among the companies. Among those reported missing was captain William B. Reynolds of Company I, who was ill with typhoid fever in the hospital at Savage's Station and fell into the enemy's hands, as did nine other sick men of the Sixth, who were left there, with 3,000 other sick and wounded, when the army retreated. He was taken thence to Richmond, and three weeks later was paroled and sent north.

Lieutenant George E. Wood, of Company B, Sergeant Major Boyden, and 28 other wounded men, were left on the field and were captured, together with seven men who were detailed to stay with them as nurses. Most of these were paroled and discharged as soon as they were able to travel.

Among the wounded men so captured was Corporal Alexander W. Davis, of Company D. While confined in Libby Prison, a few days later, he learned through one of the guards, a private of the 7th Louisiana, that his cousin Dr. James B. Davis, (a son of Hon. Bliss N. Davis, of Danville, Vt.,) who was residing in Louisiana when the war broke

⁶ Colonel Lord in his report of this skirmish, written two weeks after, alludes to it as occurring on the 29th of June. The date was that given above.

⁷ The rank and file killed were: D. Moulton, O. S. Pinney, Co. B; W. E. Caffrin, J. M. Green, Co. C; J. Farnum, Co. D; T. L. Bailey, G. F. Hazelton, Co. E; E. D. Buzzell, Co. G; J. M. Putnam, Co. H; G. Martin, E. McGlaughlin, G. Stark, Jr., Co. I; R. Columb, R. Magoon, M. Mason, Co. K.

Those dying of their wounds were: J. Clark, J. Scarborough, Co. A; L. O'Connell, Co. D; O. G. Kelsey, J. R. Murray, Co. G; W. Cheney, Co. K.

out, was the surgeon of the Seventh Louisiana regiment, then stationed near Richmond. He wrote to Dr. Davis, and as a result of the latter's kind offices, was not only soon exchanged but furnished with a horse to ride from Richmond to Aiken's Landing, where the prisoners were transferred to transports—being the only man in a cartel of 1800 exchanged prisoners who was so favored.⁸

A period of unusual sickness prevailed in the regiment during the six weeks stay at Harrison's Landing—due to the excessive fatigue of the campaign, the loss of their shelter tents, most of which had been left behind by the men, and consequent exposure to the hot sun and heavy mid-summer showers, and to severe fatigue duty in felling timber and building earthworks for the protection of the army in its new position on the James. At battalion drill on the last day of July less than 200 men appeared in line; and the effective force of the regiment did not exceed 250 bayonets. The health of the regiment, however, improved steadily after leaving the Peninsula; and during the succeeding campaign in Maryland, it was generally in an excellent condition.

In the storming of Crampton's Gap, on the 14th of September, the Sixth had one officer, Captain E. L. Barney, and two men wounded. At Antietam, three days later, the Sixth was for a short time under a sharp artillery fire and had 8 men wounded.

During the last half of September 77 recruits joined the regiment and on the 1st of October it had an aggregate of 838 officers and men. Discharges for disability were frequent, and reduced the aggregate during the next two months to 779. On the 8th of December, the regiment being then in

⁸ After the battle of Antietam, Dr. Davis was left in charge of the Confederate wounded within the Union lines, and there met Colonel Geo. P. Foster of the Fourth Vermont, and others of his former school mates. General Truman Seymour gave Dr. Davis a guard at that time and showed him kindnesses, which Dr. Davis was subsequently able to reciprocate, when General Seymour was a prisoner, after the battle of the Wilderness.

camp at Belle Plain, on the lower Potomac, the weather cold and tents and blankets not too plenty, the sick list numbered 218, and but 483 officers and men were reported present for duty.

In the first battle of Fredericksburg, Dec. 13th, the Sixth was not actively engaged and suffered little, having but one man killed⁹ and one wounded by artillery fire.

The closing months of 1862, saw almost an entire change of field officers. In the latter part of September, Lieut. Colonel Blunt was promoted to the colonelcy of the Twelfth regiment. Major Tuttle succeeded him in the due order of promotion, and Captain E. L. Barney of Company K, was appointed major. On the 18th of December, Colonel Lord resigned on account of prolonged ill health, and Lieut. Colonel Tuttle was appointed to the vacancy. Colonel Tuttle was an experienced and capable soldier. Originally trained under Colonel Phelps in the First regiment, in which he commanded the Cavendish company, he had been steadily with the Sixth in all its vicissitudes, had been much in command of it during the absences of Colonel Lord, and had the entire confidence of officers and men. Major Barney was thereupon advanced to the lieutenant colonelcy, and Captain Oscar A. Hale of Company D was appointed major.

Four months of comparative quiet followed the First Fredericksburg, during which the regiment was in winter quarters, with the brigade, near White Oak Church, a few miles east of Fredericksburg. Among the episodes of this period, were a share in Burnside's abortive campaign in January, in which the chief duty of the regiment was marching in the rain and helping to boost the batteries out of the mud, and the presentation to the regiment of a new State flag—a New Year's gift from the State authorities—to replace their shot-torn and tattered colors. The receiving of the

⁹ A. Miller of Company E.

colors was made the occasion of a special parade, at which Colonel Tuttle made a little speech and placed the new colors in the hands of the color bearer amid the cheers of the regiment.

No regiment excelled the Sixth in patriotic feeling, and when, in March, 1863, intelligence came of certain disloyal utterances on the part of a few individuals in Vermont the news aroused strong feeling in the regiment, and occasioned the unanimous adoption by the men of a series of resolutions, which were signed by every commissioned officer present with the command, and sent to Vermont. In these they denounced as traitors those who encouraged the enemy by unpatriotic utterances, expressed their entire confidence in President Lincoln and willingness to support any measures he might see fit to adopt for the suppression of the rebellion, and pledge on their own part every possible effort and sacrifice in furtherance of a vigorous prosecution of the war.

The general health of the regiment improved during the winter. The sick list, which numbered 212 on the 1st of January, had fallen to 125 on the 7th of March, and to 97 on the 27th of April, 1863.

In the latter part of March, Colonel Tuttle resigned in consequence of serious illness. He was succeeded in the colonelcy by Lieut. Colonel Barney; Major Hale was appointed lieutenant colonel, and Captain Richard B. Crandall, the first adjutant of the regiment, subsequently promoted to the captaincy of Company K, was appointed major.

On the 1st of May, 1863, the regiment left its winter quarters, with the brigade and the army, under General Hooker, for the Chancellorsville campaign. At the Second Fredericksburg in the storming of Marye's Heights, May 3d, the Sixth, under command of Colonel Barney, was the second regiment to enter the enemy's works, passing two regiments in its charge; and in the fighting on Salem Heights

and at Banks's Ford, next day, it especially distinguished itself, taking over 200 prisoners in the latter part of the afternoon, and winning the enthusiastic praise of its commanders. Colonel Lewis of the Seventh Louisiana surrendered his sword to Colonel Barney at this time. The loss of the regiment in the storming of Marye's Heights was one killed and eight wounded. On the 4th it lost four killed; 46 wounded, six of whom died of their wounds, and 15 missing. The latter were mostly wounded men, some of whom after they had been carried back a mile from the front by their comrades, were left under the charge of Surgeon Chandler and Sergeant S. W. Fletcher of Company I, in a barn near Banks's Ford, and fell into the enemy's hands after the retirement of the corps. Two of them died there, and were buried near the barn. The rest were paroled a week after and sent into the Union lines. Among the killed on the 4th was Captain Luther Ainsworth (of Waitsfield) of Company H, a reliable, unselfish, and valuable officer, who was much respected and much missed in the regiment. Among the wounded were Captain A. B. Hutchinson of Company B, hit in the arm; Lieutenant Porter Crane of Company H, in the neck; and Lieutenant F. M. Kimball of Company G, in the arm.¹⁰

Colonel Barney, Captain Ainsworth, and Lieutenant F. J. Butterfield, acting aid on Colonel Grant's staff, were mentioned for gallant service on these two arduous days, in the report of the brigade commander.

The following regiment order was read on dress parade,

¹⁰ The men killed May 3d and 4th, were: F. Doyle, Co. B; Warren Henry, Co. E; H. F. Dike,* Co. H; A. St. George, Co. I. Those who died of wounds were: G. Fisher, H. Marsh, Co. B; W. N. S. Claflin, Co. G; G. W. Monger, E. L. Reynolds, Co. I; L. Sherbut, co. I.

* Missing—supposed dead.

in the camp of the Sixth, on the north side of the river, two days after:

Headquarters Sixth Regiment Vermont Vols.,

May 6th, 1863.

It is with a feeling of pride and pleasure that the colonel commanding reviews the action of the Sixth Vermont, from the crossing of the river to the time when companies A, D and I, the very last of the corps, recrossed. The gallantry with which you charged across the plain and over the heights of Fredericksburg has been noticed by the general commanding. The coolness exhibited by you while under fire awaiting the enemy's assault; the gallant manner in which you repulsed the enemy and in turn charged him; the number of prisoners you captured—all are proof of your unexampled bravery and intrepidity. Do as well in the future, and your colonel and State may well be proud of you.

By command of E. L. Barney, Colonel commanding

S. H. Lincoln, Adjutant.

On the 5th of June, when General Howe's division was thrown across the Rappahannock, the Sixth and Fourth regiments were held back while the rest of the brigade crossed in boats, and crossed the river about dark, on a pontoon bridge. Next morning the Sixth was on the skirmish line, on the south side of the river, and for three hours was engaged in very spirited skirmishing, during which it held its ground against a superior force. The skirmishers were also engaged more or less during the afternoon. During the day the Sixth lost four men killed¹¹ and 13 wounded, among the latter being Lieutenant Raistrick of Company C.

On the 13th of June, the regiment marched for the north with the Sixth Corps, and saw its next serious fighting at Funkstown, Md., on the 10th of July. In that famous affair the Sixth was among the first to be engaged, and held its ground with a loss of three killed and 18 wounded, four of them fatally.¹² Among the wounded was Second Lieutenant Fred M. Kimball of Company G, whom Colonel Grant mentions in

¹¹ J. Hines, A. Jeffts, Co. E; D. Jesmer, Co. I; N. Potter, Co. K

¹² The killed were M. Abbott, G. M. Partridge, Co. D; W. P. Craig, Co. G; and N. Hennon, Co. F; F. Gaboree, W. A. Green and M. H. Lackie, Co. K, died of their wounds.

his report as “a gallant officer.” He had been wounded seriously at Banks's Ford, and after this second injury was obliged to resign, and received an honorable discharge in October following.

When the Vermont brigade was ordered to New York to maintain order during the draft, the Sixth left Alexandria for New York, on the 18th of August, embarking with the Third and part of the Fourth on the steamer Illinois, which narrowly escaped wreck by collision with a schooner in Chesapeake Bay. One man, Truman W. Blood of Company I, was lost overboard in this collision and drowned, and several others were slightly injured. Arriving in New York on the 21st, the regiment was stationed with the Third in Tompkins Square, and afterwards went to Kingston, N. Y., where it remained from the 6th to the 13th of September. Its duty there ended, it joined the brigade at Alexandria, September 16th. A sad event at this time was the death of Asst. Surgeon Cornelius A. Chapin, who died in New York of typhoid fever, on the 14th of September.¹³

The beginning of the third year of its service, October 16th, 1863, found but 322 of the thousand men who originally composed the regiment remaining in its ranks. Recruits received at different times, however, had kept its aggregate above 500,¹⁴ the limit of numbers below which regiments were liable to consolidation, under the rules of the War Department.

During the month of October, the subject of re-enlisting for the war was much discussed by officers and men, resulting in a formal offer to the War Department, in which

¹³ Dr. Chapin was a Williston boy, a graduate of both the classical and medical departments of the University of Vermont, an estimable young man, and of high promise in his profession. His remains were taken to Williston for interment.

¹⁴ The morning report of October 7th, showed an aggregate of 534, with 417 on duty and 110 sick.

all but three officers and 75 men joined, to re-enlist as a veteran cavalry [sic] regiment, provided the regiment should be permitted to go home on furlough and recruit its ranks to the maximum. This proposition was not accepted by the War Department, and nothing came of it. Two months later 191 men re-enlisted for the war without conditions. During this month, the regiment received a new chaplain, Rev. Alonzo Webster of Windsor, who had been chaplain of the Sixteenth during its nine months term of service, who took the place of Chaplain Stone resigned; and a new surgeon, in place of Surgeon Chandler, resigned, in the person of Dr. Edwin Phillips, of Tinmouth, who went out with the Sixth as a private, was detailed as hospital steward, subsequently was appointed assistant surgeon of the Fourth, and new returned to the Sixth as surgeon.

On the 15th of October, the regiment being then near Centreville, Lieutenant Henry Jones of Company C, while going to Fairfax with a mess team and guard, was captured by guerrillas.

On the 19th of October, the Sixth was marching with the Sixth Corps, across Bull Run and past Sudley Church, over what the boys called "Meade and Lee's through Express line between Alexandria and Culpeper," and on the afternoon of that day had a lively skirmish at Gainesville with Stuart's cavalry. Stuart, with superior numbers, was pressing back General Custer, with whom was the First Vermont cavalry, and had got him under pretty good headway, when the Confederate troops found themselves confronted by the Sixth Vermont and Seventh Maine; and a volley from the infantry brought the pursuit to an end. The Sixth was on picket that night, and next day was in the advance of the division, and drove back the Confederate cavalry to New Baltimore.

The regiment was under fire with the brigade and other troops of Howe's Division, in the engagement at Rappahan-

nock Station on the 7th of November, and again on the 27th, when the Division supported the Third Corps at the battle of Locust Grove; but it was not actively engaged and suffered no loss on either day.

The Sixth remained with the brigade at Brandy Station through the winter, and took part in the reconnoissance made by the Sixth Corps to Orange Court House during the last week in February. The winter was marked by an unusual degree of religious interest in the regiment. Prayer meetings conducted by the chaplain were held almost every evening in the chapel tent, and a small regimental church was organized, which was the only such church in the brigade. Some two hundred recruits joined the regiment during the winter months, and on the opening of the Spring campaign of 1864 against Richmond, its aggregate was about 600, of whom nearly 500 marched into the Wilderness.

In April 1864, the regiment lost its trusty and capable Quartermaster, John W. Clark, by his appointment as captain and A. Q. M. of volunteers and his removal to a more responsible position. He was succeeded as quartermaster by Lieutenant Charles J. S. Randall, who had been quartermaster-sergeant and subsequently Lieutenant of Company A.

To say that the Sixth fought with desperate bravery, and suffered fearfully in the battles of the Wilderness, is the same as saying that it was a regiment of the old First brigade. In the bloody fighting of May 5th and 6th, the Sixth had 35 men killed outright, and 169 wounded, 6 of whom died of their wounds. The casualties were distributed very evenly through the line, no company having less than three killed or mortally wounded, or less than twelve wounded. Among the officers killed was Colonel Barney. While holding his men to their work on the left of the Orange Plank road, in the first day's battle, he was struck in the temple by a partially spent musket ball which entered the head but did not kill him outright. He was taken to the rear and thence

by ambulance to Fredericksburg, where he died on the 10th.

Colonel Elisha L. Barney was a member of a Swanton family which furnished six soldiers of his name to the war for the Union. He was the son of Mr. George Barney, two of whose sons were field officers of Vermont regiments.¹⁵ He was a merchant in Swanton, when he enlisted in Oct. 1861. He was mustered into the service as captain of company K, of the Sixth; narrowly escaped with his life at the storming of Crampton's Gap, Sept. 14, 1862, when he was dangerously wounded in the same temple in which he afterwards received his mortal wound;—was promoted major in October 1862; distinguishing himself in various battles and especially at the Second Fredericksburg; and was promoted to the colonelcy; March 18th, 1863. He was a man of high Christian character, brave to a fault, a faithful and respected commander, a good disciplinarian, and a gallant leader. His death caused a deep sensation in his regiment, in the brigade, and at his home. His remains were taken to Vermont and were interred at Swanton, with extraordinary marks of respect. A concourse of some 2,000 people assembled at his funeral. The places of business were closed. On his coffin was laid, as a trophy, the sword of the colonel of the Seventh Louisiana, who surrendered to Colonel Barney at Fredericksburg in May 1863. All mourned for him, as for a brother.

Captain Riley A. Bird (of Bristol) of Company A, a soldier of rare merit, especially distinguished himself on the first day, and died before its close. He was first wounded in the head, and advised to go to the rear, but with the blood streaming down his face he sternly and even angrily refused, saying that it was “the business of no live man to go to the rear at such a time.” soon a second musket ball struck him in the thigh. He retired a few steps, sat down, took off his

¹⁵ A younger son, Valentine G. Barney—named after Capt. Valentine Goodrich, who commanded a Swanton company in the war of 1812 and fell at Lundy's Lane—was Lieut. Colonel of the Ninth Vermont.

sash, bound it round his leg, and then resumed his place in the line. A third bullet pierced his heart, and he fell dead with the word which he was cheering on his men cut short upon his lips. Captain George C. Randall, (of Woodstock) of Company F; First Lieutenant George C. Babcock, (of Poultney) of Company F, and First Lieutenant John G. Macomber, (of Westford) of Company C, all brave and meritorious officers, were also among the killed. Adjutant Sumner H. Lincoln, Captain Carlos W. Dwinell, Company C, and Lieutenant E. A. Holton, Company I, were among the wounded, the latter received a wound in the leg, which occasioned his honorable discharge three months after.¹⁶

¹⁶ The rank and file killed in the Wilderness were:

Company A.—W. Greenwood, D. Hill, M. E. Rider.

Company B.—M. C. Martin, A. Whitcomb.

Company C.—J. Burnham, S. Davis.

Company D.—W. A. Cook, S. Forsyth, Lewis La Bounty,* W. L. Livingston, H. Tilden, H. C. Welsh.

Company E.—W. Graves, J. W. Page, H. C. Wright.

Company F.—J. Conner.

Company G.—G. C. Boyce.

Company H.—A. C. Little, L. M. Spaulding, H. H. Whitney.

Company I.—D. M. Holton, J. B. Nichols, t. Russell, E. D. Sands, O. A. Scribner, H. C. Vantyne.

Company K.—H. Hutchins, P. Morgan.

Those who died of their wounds were:

Company A.—M. Mancy, W. W. Wheeler.

Company B.—M. C. Stratton. †

Company C.—W. E. Anderson, M. Cummings, H. Durphy, J. H. Eaton.

Company D.—L. C. Allen, J. LaMarsh, E. J. Williams.

Company E.—H. Greeley, N. F. Scott.

Company F.—P. N. Bates

Company G.—W. Cleveland, C. P. Divoll, B. Ricker.

Company H.—G. C. Bliss, L. W. Blodgett, G. P. Whitney.

Company I.—J. J. LaMarsh, W. Shackett, H. O. Snow, N. Woodworth.

Company K.—R. Maine, B. Sherbut.

William Cox, Co. F, and I. Ramo, Co. K, were not seen after the battle of the Wilderness and were probably killed.

* Missing—supposed dead.

† Wounded and prisoner—not heard of after.

After the mortal wounding of Colonel Barney, the command of the regiment devolved on Lieut. Colonel Hale. The Sixth shared the forced march of the brigade to Spottsylvania, on the 8th of May; and was one of the regiments honored by being selected to help form the column which, under Colonel Upton, carried the enemy's salient on the 10th. Among the wounded in that famous charge was Captain A. H. Keith (of Sheldon) of Company K, who received a musket ball through the shoulder, inflicting an injury from which he never fully recovered and which occasioned his honorable discharge in September following.

On the 15th of May, the thinned ranks of the regiment were strengthened by the addition of two companies of drafted men, 149 in number, who had been on detached duty for over a year at Brattleboro. They were a welcome addition, and raised the effective force of the regiment to 450 men.

The losses of the regiment in the almost continuous fighting from the 8th to the 21st of May, were four killed; 29 wounded, five of whom died of their wounds, and three missing. Most of these casualties occurred on the 10th. In the next two weeks the regiment lost four men killed and 18 wounded, of whom three died of wounds.¹⁷ On the 7th of June when the brigade was holding a portion of the entrenched line of the Sixth Corps at Cold Harbor, the regiment suffered the loss of another field officer, Major Richard B. Crandall, who received a mortal wound in the abdomen and died the same day. Major Crandall went out as adjutant of the regiment, was subsequently captain of company K, and was appointed major in March, 1863. He was a gallant young officer, and was deeply mourned by the command. His body

¹⁷ The men killed at Spottsylvania were: C. G. McAllister, Co. A; T. O. Barber, G. S. Pratt, Co. C; S. P. Perkins, Co. D; H. T. Mosely, C. C. Cleveland, Co. I. Those who died of their wounds were: S. Stebbins, Co. A; C. A. Knapp, Co. B; M. H. Barker, N. Smith, J. A. Scobie, Co. C; D. C. Babcock, Co. D; J. E. Averill, J. Campbell, Co. K

was sent to his home in Berlin, for interment. Two men killed and four wounded were added to the list of casualties between the 4th and 10th of June.¹⁸

The regiment crossed the James on the 16th of June with the brigade. In the assault on the defences of Petersburg, June 18th, the Sixth was held in reserve. The next day it was under fire in the front line, and had a man mortally wounded. On the 20th it was again under sharp fire and lost another man mortally wounded.¹⁹ In the disastrous affair at the Weldon Railroad, June 32, the regiment was more fortunate than some others of the brigade, and lost only one man, wounded.

An incident of the siege of Petersburg is worthy of relation here, though not strictly part of the service of the Sixth. During the spring of 1864, Dan Mason, the tall orderly sergeant of Company D, and Sergeant Alexander W. Davis of the same company, of the Sixth, were promoted to positions in colored regiments, Mason being appointed Captain in the 19th and Davis in the 39th U. S. C. T., of the Fourth division of the Ninth Army Corps. On the 30th of July, 1864, these regiments took part in the assault on the enemy's works near the "crater" made by the explosion of the Petersburg mine. In the rout of the division which followed, Lieutenant Davis came back to the Union lines, with the mass of the brigade of which his regiment was a part, while Captain Mason took shelter with others in a bomb-proof within the enemy's lines. When they were driven out by the enemy, Captain Mason made a home run for the Federal lines, passed untouched through a shower of bullets, and sprang over the sandbags of the Union lines, to fall in-

¹⁸ The men killed at Cold Harbor were: B. M. Ware, Co. E; E. M. Farr, Co. F; G. F. Wilson, Co. G

¹⁹ These were: William Lane, Co. I; and W. Gardner, Co. F.

sensible from an apoplectic attack brought on by excitement and over exertion. As it happened he fell at the feet of his old tent-mate, Lieutenant Davis, who was able to render him assistance which restored him to consciousness and probably saved his life.²⁰

In July the Sixth went with the Sixth Corps to Washington to repel Earl's raid. In the sharp engagement at Charlestown, on the 21st of August, the regiment, under Lieut. Colonel Hale, held the centre of the skirmish line, and suffered more severely than any other regiment of the brigade, losing eight killed; 31 wounded, two of whom died of wounds, and one missing. Both its field officers, Lieut. Colonel Hale and Major Dwinell, were severely wounded; and the latter died of his wounds, three days after, in a hospital at Baltimore.²¹

After the loss of its field officers the command of the regiment fell for six weeks upon Captain M. Warner Davis of company D. The regiment entered on the Shenandoah campaign, under General Sheridan, with an effective force of 385 officers and men, out of an aggregate of 658. In the battle of the Opequon, September 19th, the Sixth was on the

²⁰ Captain Mason lived to see Petersburg taken, and died at Brownsville, Texas, where he was on duty with his regiment, in December, 1865. His remains were taken to his former home in Glover, for interment, and a post of the Grand Army of the Republic, in that town, bears his name.

²¹ Major Carlos W. Dwinell was a native of Calais, Vt. He enlisted at the age of 23, from the town of Glover, was elected second lieutenant of Co. D at its organization in October, 1861, was subsequently adjutant of the regiment, and reached the rank of major by successive promotions. He was a quiet, painstaking and valuable officer, and a favorite in the regiment and the brigade.

The men killed at Charlestown were S. Spooner, Co. A; A. Whitcomb, Co. B; H. S. Foster, A. Thomas, Co. C; L. B. Cook, Co. D; W. H. Ingleston,* Co. E; E. R. Richardson, Co. H; L. Poquet, Co. I.

Those who died of their wounds were S. P. Dean, Co. C, and A. M. Gray, Co. D.

* Reported missing in action and supposed dead.

skirmish line in the forenoon, and becoming accidentally separated from the brigade and the second division, fought during the latter half of the day with the third division, General Ricketts's, of the Sixth Corps, and gained especial credit. Its loss was five killed outright and 46 wounded, of whom six died of their wounds.²² Among the wounded were Adjutant Sumner H. Lincoln, who was hit in the head early in the day; and Captain C. E. Joslyn of company A, severely wounded in the head, creating a disability which occasioned his honorable discharge several months after.

The Sixth took an honorable part in the battle of Fisher's Hill, without loss. The three years' term of the original members of the Sixth expired October 16th, and on that day, as many as had not re-enlisted, being 14 officers and 120 men, left the regiment, then in camp at Cedar Creek, and returned to Vermont. They arrived at Brattleboro in the evening of the 20th, and were mustered out October 28th. Among the officers so retiring were Lieut. Colonel Hale, still suffering from his recent wound; Chaplain Webster; Captains M. W. Davis, B. D. Fabyan, Thomas R. Clark, Porter Crane, Jr., and Frank D. Butterfield, and Lieutenants W. W. Carey, C. C. Backus, George H. Hatch, Matthew Hurry, George Neddo, E. H. Nye, and Thomas Murphy.

The battalion of about 320 effective men remaining in the field was consolidated into six companies,--Company B being consolidated with Company H, Company D with I, Company E with K, and Company F with A. The battalion was under the command of Capt. E. R. Kinney, until, on the 21st of October, Adjutant Sumner H. Lincoln was promoted to the command with the rank of major,--a fit recognition of his gallantry and fitness for command.

²² The killed September 19th were: A. A. Spaulding, Co. D; C. Blake, C. P. Upham, Co. D; S. Leazer, Co. E; D. Colt, Co. H.

Those who died of their wounds were: L. A. Tyler, Co. B; S. P. White, J. Vondal, Co. C; E. S. Gray, Co. D; John Fitzsimmons, Co. F; T. S. Barney, Co. I.

At Cedar Creek, Oct 19th, the regiment was commanded by Captain Kinney until he was wounded, when he was succeeded in the command by Captain William J. Sperry of Company C. the regiment lost four men killed, 32 wounded, six of whom died of their wounds, and eight missing.²³

The Sixth left the Shenandoah Valley with the Sixth Corps on the 9th of December, and on the 13th of that month went into winter quarters between the camps of the Third and Fifth regiments on the south of Petersburg. The picket and fatigue duty were severe; but the health of the regiment improved during the winter.

The morning report of the 1st of January, 1865, showed an aggregate of 555 with 347 on duty and 195 on the sick list. Major Lincoln was promoted to be lieutenant colonel in January, and Captain Sperry was appointed major.

In the assault on the enemy's entrenched picket line in front of Fort Fisher, on the 25th of March, the Sixth had the left of the front line, and was under artillery fire for hours, with, however, the loss of but one man wounded.

In the final assault on the defences of Petersburg, the regiment was commanded by Major Sperry, Colonel Lincoln being laid with intermittent fever. The Sixth entered the enemy's works among the foremost, was in the front line during the subsequent movement, and men of the Sixth assisted in the capture of a battery near the Turnbull house, elsewhere narrated. The regiment lost two men killed and 19 wounded, of whom one died of his wounds.²⁴

The regiment shared in the pursuit of Lee's army after

²³ The killed at Cedar Creek were: C. Parmenter, Co. C; W. H. Chapman, Co. E; J. P. Horr, J. Kelley, Company F. Those who died of their wounds were: A. L. Cox, Co. A; C. H. Hardy, Co. C; E. Morse, Co. H; W. D. Mather, Co. I; J. Betney, W. O'Hara, Co. K

²⁴ S. P. Peck, Co. I; and M. Green, Co. K, were killed, and N. H. Atwood, Co. C, died of his wounds.

the fall of Richmond, rested with the brigade at Danville, visited the fallen capital, and early in June went into camp near Munson's Hill, about three miles from its first camp in Virginia in 1861.

On the 19th of June the recruits, whose terms of service would expire before October 1st, 1865, were mustered out of the service. Their number included one commissioned officer, Adjutant English, and 140 enlisted men. The remainder of the Sixth, numbering 398 officers and men, were mustered out on the 26th of June. Those of them who were able to travel, 297 in number, left camp next day for Vermont. Of the officers of the regiment at the close of its service, Lieut. Colonel Sumner H. Lincoln went out with the regiment as private in 1861, was appointed adjutant in February 1863, was wounded in the Wilderness and again at Winchester, was appointed major in October 1864, and lieutenant colonel in January 1865. He was commissioned as colonel by the governor June 4th, 1865, but was mustered out as lieutenant colonel. Major William J. Sperry enlisted as a private in September, 1861, and was promoted successively through all the grades to the majority. He was brevetted lieutenant colonel for gallantry in the assault on Petersburg, April 2d, and received a commission as lieutenant colonel from the governor, but was mustered out as major. Quartermaster Charles J. S. Randall went out with the regiment as private in 1861, was appointed quartermaster sergeant, and subsequently first lieutenant of Company A. Surgeon Edwin Phillips also went out at the beginning as a private; he was appointed assistant surgeon of the Fourth regiment in August 1862, and became surgeon of the Sixth in October 1863. Chaplain Harvey Webster had served in that capacity since November 1864. Captain Edwin R. Kinney of Company G, was commissioned major in June, but was mustered out as captain. Seventeen other line officers returned with the regiment, viz: Captains George E.

Wood, George W. Burleson, Henry N. Bushnell, Lyman S. Williams and Sanford G. Gray; Lieutenants Patrick H. Murphy, (commissioned as captain but mustered out as first lieutenant), Edwin A. Barney, Harry B. Pettingill, Frank A. Trask, Eri L. Ditty, George W. Flanders, William Raycroft, Herman L. Small, Horace W. Brownell, Winslow S. Moore, Edgar E. Herrick, and Silas O. Dwinnell. Sergeant Henry Martin of Company G, was appointed adjutant in June, and Sergeant Peter Begor of Company A, second lieutenant; but both were mustered out as sergeants.

The regiment arrived at Burlington at midnight of the 29th of June, 1865, and like all the returning regiments was received by a numerous concourse of citizens. Marching to the city hall the veterans were welcomed home by William G. Shaw, Esq., in fitting terms. The ladies of Burlington served a supper for them in the hall in the small hours of the morning, and sang songs of welcome, and gave them three cheers and a "tiger," all to the immense entertainment and pleasure of the soldiers. The latter were furloughed for a week, to await the arrival of the U.S. paymaster. Reassembling at Burlington on the 8th of July, they were paid off by Major Wadleigh, U. S. A., and then finally dispersed to their homes.

Among the men of the Sixth who returned not from the war, the names of the following are recorded as having given up their lives in Confederate prisons:

DIED IN CONFEDERATE PRISONS.

- M. W. Bentley, Co. A, died at Andersonville, August 7, 1864.
- C. Chamberlin, Co. A, died at Andersonville, July 29, 1864.
- K. Wilson, Co. A., died at Andersonville, July 31, 1864.
- G. W. Whitehill, Co. B, captured 5 June, 1864, died at Andersonville.
- H. L. Jones, Co. C, died at Andersonville, July 14, 1864.
- I. T. Maxham, Co. C, died at Andersonville, September 11, 1864.
- P. A. Whitney, Co. C, captured July 1, 1862, supposed to have died in Richmond
- J. M. Green, Co. D, died in Richmond, 1862.
- G. L. Marble, Co. G, captured October 19, 1864, died at Richmond, December 1864.

M. C. Chase, Co. H, captured in the Wilderness, died at Andersonville, July 3, 1864.

M. Lester, Co. I, died at Salisbury, N. C., December 11, 18864.

The battles in which the Sixth Vermont volunteers took honorable part, as officially recorded, were as follows:

THE BATTLES OF THE SIXTH 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 3, 1863
Salem Heights,	May 4, 1863
Fredericksburg,	June 5, 1863
Gettysburg,	July 3, 1863
Funkstown,	July 10, 1863
Rappahannock Station,	Nov. 7, 1863
Wilderness,	May 5th to 10th, 1864
Spottsylvania,	May 10th to 18th, 1864
Cold Harbor,	June 1st to 12th, 1864
Petersburg,	June 18, 1864
Charlestown,	Aug. 21, 1864
Opequon,	Sept. 13, 1864
Winchester,	Sept. 19, 1864
Fisher's Hill,	Sept. 21st, 1864
Cedar Creek,	Oct. 19, 1864
Petersburg,	March 25, 1864
Petersburg,	April 2, 1865

FINAL STATEMENT.

The final statement of the Sixth Vermont is as follows:

Original members—officers, 36; enlisted men, 930; total	966
Gain-recruits, 703; transferred from other regiments, 7; total	714
Aggregate	1680
Losses	
Killed in action—com. officers, 8; enlisted men, 95; total	103
Died of wounds—com. officers, 4; enlisted men, 80; total	84
Died of disease—com. officers 2; enlisted men 180, total,	182
Died (unwounded) in Confederate prisons 22; from accident 2,	24
Total of deaths	385
Honorably discharged—com. officers, resigned 22, for wounds and disability 10; enlisted men, for wounds 66; for disability 339, total	434
Dishonorably discharged—com. officers, 1; enlisted men, 7; total	8
Total discharged,	445
Promoted to U. S. A. and other regiments—officers 5; enlisted men 13, total,	18
Transferred to Veteran Reserve corps, Navy, Regular Army, etc.,	126
Deserted 83; unaccounted for 4,	87
Mustered out—com. officers, 40; enlisted men, 571; total	611
Aggregate	1680
Total wounded	397
Total re-enlisted	197