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## **CHAPTER VIII. THE FOURTH REGIMENT.**

*Call for more Troops in August, 1861—Organization of the Regiment—Its Field and Staff—Camp Holbrook—Delays in Equipment and of Departure—Journey to Washington—Arrival at Camp Advance—Joins First Brigade at Camp Griffin—Remarkable Period of Sickness—The spring Campaign of 1862—March to Flint Hill and Cloud's Mills—The Peninsula—First shot at Lee's Mill—Losses at Lee's Mill—Service at Williamsburg and in front of Richmond—Changes of Officers—Crampton's Gap and Antietam—Arrival of Recruits—Promotion of Colonel Stoughton and Changes of Officers—First Fredericksburg—Winter Quarters at Belle Plain—Marye's Heights and Banks's Ford—March to Gettysburg—Loss at Funkstown—Winter at Brandy Station—Resignation of Colonel C. B. Stoughton—Sketch of Colonel George P. Foster—Losses in the Wilderness and the Overland Campaign—Misfortune at Weldon Railroad—Action at Charlestown—Expiration of Three Years' Term—The Shenandoah Campaign—In the Lines of Petersburg—The Final Assault—End of the War and Return Home.*

The response of Vermont to the news of the disastrous battle of the first Bull Run was a proclamation by Governor Fairbanks, dated July 30th, 1861, calling for the immediate enlistment of two more three years' regiments of volunteers, in addition to the two already sent forward. In this proclamation he anticipated the coming call for troops from Washington. He said in it: "The events of the 21st instant and the retreat of the United States Army from the field near Manassas Junction, demonstrated the necessity of a greatly increased national force, and although no formal requisition has been made upon me by the secretary of war, nor any apportionment of troops as the quota for this State

communicated, yet the events referred to indicate clearly the necessity of exercising the discretionary power conferred on me by the aforesaid act for raising and organizing additional regiments. Orders will therefore be issued immediately to the adjutant and inspector general for enlisting the Fourth and Fifth regiments of volunteers for three years or during the war, to be tendered to the general government as soon as it may be practicable to arm, equip and discipline the troops for service." Commissions were at once issued to twenty recruiting officers in different parts of the State, and the work of enlistment of men began. A despatch received at this time from the secretary of war, urging the governor to send on any more troops at his disposal "in view of imminent danger," showed that the government had not been hasty in anticipating the action of the authorities at Washington. In order to hasten recruiting he thereupon commissioned twenty more recruiting officers on the 19th of August; and in a second proclamation, dated August 20th, he earnestly called upon the citizens, "especially the young men of the State, to enroll their names at the several recruiting stations for the service of this country."

Within thirty days after the governor's proclamation of July 30th, men enough to fill two full regiments had been recruited, and most of the companies composing them organized. The men of the Fourth were enlisted for the most part in towns in the southern part of the State. The colonelcy was offered to Lieut. Colonel Washburn of the First regiment, who declined it on account of the precarious condition of his health. Lieutenant Edwin H. Stoughton, U.S.A., was then appointed colonel. He was a native of Bellows Falls; a graduate of West Point, of the class of 1859; and a second lieutenant in the Sixth U. S. infantry. He resigned his commission in December, 1860, when many regular army officers resigned, the resignation to take effect on the 4th of March

1861, when the term of Abraham Lincoln as President was to begin; but he subsequently reconsidered his determination and withdrew his resignation with a view of entering the volunteer service. He was but twenty three years of age when appointed colonel of the Fourth, and was said to be the youngest colonel in the army at that time. Colonel Stoughton's commission bore date of August 1st, 1861. The other field and staff officers were appointed about two weeks later.

Major Harry N. Worthen of Bradford, lately of the First regiment was appointed lieutenant colonel. John C. Tyler of Brattleboro, a young man of 22, was appointed major; Charles B. Stoughton of Bellows Falls, a younger brother of the colonel, a youth of nineteen years, was appointed adjutant; the regimental staff were John Halsey Cushman of Bennington, quartermaster; Dr. Samuel J. Allen of Hartford, surgeon; Dr. Willard A. Child of Pittsford, asst. surgeon; and Rev. Salem M. Plympton, a Congregational clergyman of West Haven, Conn., chaplain.

The rendezvous was fixed at Brattleboro, and as fast as the companies were organized they went into camp there, the first arriving September 12th, and the last September 14th. The camp was named "Camp Holbrook," in honor of Hon. Frederick Holbrook of Brattleboro, who had just been elected Governor. The preceding regiments had been uniformed by the State, in gray; but the uniforms of the Fourth were furnished by the General Government, and were of army blue (dark blue blouses and light blue pantaloons,) with hats of black felt, similar to those worn by the U. S. regular troops. The arms were Enfield rifles. The regiment compared favorably in material and personal appearance with those that had already gone from Vermont. The standard-bearer was six feet seven and a half inches tall. Most of the field and staff officers were young, much younger than those of the other regiments, but some of them, as well as a number

of the company officers, had had some experience in the First regiment.

On the 14th of September, before the regiment was fairly full, or any uniforms and equipments had been received, Fairbanks received directions from the War Department to send forward the Fourth and Fifth Vermont regiments at once, the Department giving assurance that any deficiencies in the outfit of the regiments would be supplied upon their arrival at Washington. The Governor accordingly ordered the regiments forward; but the officers strongly objected to leaving the State until the men were fully equipped, representing that by such a move the discipline of the regiment would be seriously impaired. In consideration of all the circumstances the Governor consented that the departure should be delayed until the men could be properly equipped, and it was a week later before the regiment started for the war. Camp life was a new experience to the men, and during the rainy week at Camp Holbrook, nearly 300 men were sick from change of diet and unwonted exposure. On the 20th, overcoats and pantaloons were distributed among the men, and on the 21st of September, the Fourth regiment, numbering 1,042 officers and men, was mustered into the service of the United States. A regimental band of 24 pieces was organized with and accompanied the regiment. The regiment left Brattleboro for Washington on the evening of the 21st, and arrived at Jersey City, by steamer from New Haven, on the morning of the 23d. The New York newspapers, as usual, praised its appearance and discipline, as well as the completeness of its equipment, in all which respects, they said, it rivaled the best troops in the field. At Philadelphia an excellent supper was served by the citizens and was appreciated by the men, who had had little or nothing but dry bread since leaving Camp Holbrook.

The regiment reached Washington Monday evening, September 23d, having had on the whole a comfortable

journey from Vermont, and the next morning went into camp on Capitol Hill, where it remained four days. "On Saturday morning, the 28th, an order came to strike tents and march to Chain Bridge, where the Second, Third and Fifth regiments were now encamped, the last of these having arrived at Camp Advance the day before, though it left Vermont a day or two later than the Fourth.

Here the men had their first experience in picket duty. For the ten days following nothing occurred of more consequence than the wounding of a man by the accidental discharge of a musket in the hands of a comrade with whom he was sparring bayonets. On the 9th of October the regiment moved with General Smith's division to Lewinsville, where the men lay on their arms all night, and suffered much from cold. Next day they received their tents and went into camp on Smoot's Hill, at Camp Griffin, the camp of the First Vermont brigade which was organized about this time.

October 19th, seven companies of the Fourth accompanied the Fifth regiment on a reconnoissance to Vienna, and on the 24th the regiment participated in a Division review.

While the weather remained fine the health of the regiment continued good; but as the period of cold nights and fall rains came on, the men began to sicken. On the 9th of November, Surgeon Allen reported 200 men sick in hospital, and within a month this number nearly doubled.

A more definite cause was assignable in the case of the Fourth, for the sickness then prevailing throughout the Vermont brigade, than in the cases of some of the other regiments. The water for the camp was supplied by a brook, which received the surface water from a slope on which a thousand cavalry horses had stood for two months previous. That malarial epidemics should have developed under such circumstances was not surprising. Moreover some of the men still lacked overcoats, and suffered from exposure. The moving of the camp, about the middle of December, to a

pine grove on higher ground, together with an ample supply of clothing received from Vermont, effected an immediate change for the better. On the 13th of December there were 360 men of the Fourth in hospital. Two weeks later, on the 27th, there were but 60. Surgeons Allen and Child were untiring in their labors, during this period of sickness, and their skill and care is attested by the fact that of some 2,000 cases of sickness in two months—many of the men suffering repeated attacks—but 26 proved fatal.

The regiment remained at Camp Griffin through the winter, taking its turn once in five days on picket.

In January, 1862, owing, as it was reported, to some misunderstanding with General Smith, Colonel Stoughton sent in his resignation; but subsequently withdrew it. On the 17th of January, Major Tyler resigned, and Adjutant Charles B. Stoughton, who had shown decided aptitude for military duties, was promoted the vacancy.

On the 10th of March, the Fourth left Camp Griffin, in the movement of the Army of the Potomac towards Manassas. It camped that night at Flint Hill, north of Fairfax Court House, where it remained until the 15th, and thence marched to Cloud's Mills, four miles northwest of Alexandria. On the 23d, it marched with the brigade to Alexandria and embarked on transports for Fortress Monroe, arriving there early on the morning of the 25th, and going into camp in a grove of pines, about half way between Hampton and Newport News. On the 27th the regiment went out with the division, on a reconnoissance in force, bivouacking near Big Bethel that night and returning next day to the camp near Newport News. A week later, on the 4th of April, the regiment marched in the grand advance of General McClellan's army up the Peninsula, and bivouacked that night at Young's Mills, near a Confederate earthwork which had been evacuated the day previous. Next day it marched through Warwick Court House, and halted with the army before the

enemy's fortified line along Warwick Creek. Picket duty was now performed in much closer proximity to the Confederate pickets than heretofore; and on the 7th of April, private Madison M. Myrick, of Co. C., a youth of 19, was shot through the leg, by the enemy's pickets, being the first man of the regiment hurt by a Confederate bullet.

On the 16th of April, the regiment went into its first action, in the memorable engagement at Lee's Mill. It was the first regiment of the brigade to move in the morning, and the first shot was fired by Colonel Stoughton.<sup>1</sup> He had deployed Companies B., Captain Platt, and G., Captain Foster, as skirmishers, and accompanied them in person through the woods to the edge of Warwick Creek, above the dam. As they arrived in sight of the earthwork on the other side, Colonel Stoughton took a musket from a man and discharged it at the works, within which the morning ceremony of guard-mounting was in progress. His men followed his example, and drew from the enemy a brisk response, both of small arms and artillery, till the latter was silenced by the fire of the Vermonters, and by the Union batteries. At noon Companies E and K relieved Companies B and G, and later in the day Companies D and H were sent to strengthen the skirmish line. In the afternoon, after the failure of the first assault, the remaining four companies, A, F, I and C, advanced to the end of the dam to take part in the second attempt to carry the Confederate works, but were withdrawn by General Smith's order, before crossing the creek. The loss of the regiment was two killed, David J. Dibble, and Stephen B. Niles, both of Co. I.—each shot through the head—and 10 wounded, one of whom, Franklin N. Grimes, of Co. C., died of his wounds two weeks after. Among the severely wounded was Captain H. B. Atherton, Company C, who received a bullet in the groin, which passed into the pelvic

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<sup>1</sup> Letter of Assistant Surgeon Child to the *Rutland Herald*.

cavity and occasioned his honorable discharge four months later.

In the two weeks following, the regiment was chiefly occupied in picket service and fatigue duty on the fortifications along Warwick Creek.

In the battle of Williamsburg, May 5th, an important reconnoissance of the road by which General Hancock's brigade afterward turned the enemy's left, was made by four companies of the left wing of the regiment. Of the subsequent marching to and fatigue duty in front of Richmond the regiment had its share; and in the engagements at Golding's Farm, Savage's Station, and White Oak Swamp, on the Seven Days' Retreat, the Fourth had an honorable part, elsewhere related. The regiment had one man killed May 23d,<sup>2</sup> and five sick and three wounded men of the Fourth were among the 2,500 sick and wounded Union soldiers who fell into the hands of the enemy at Savage's Station, June 29th.

Lieut. Colonel Worthen, after an absence of several weeks from the regiment, on sick leaving—his illness dating from the extraordinary fatigue of the march up the Peninsula—resigned July 17th, on account of ill health. Major Charles B. Stoughton was thereupon promoted to the lieutenant colonelcy, and Captain George P. Foster of Company G., succeeded him as major.

The regiment remained at Harrison's Landing until August 16th. The weather was hot, and the men had no shelter from sun or rain—the tents of the brigade having been left behind on the retreat. On the 16th of August it moved with the Sixth Corps down the Peninsula, reaching Fortress Monroe, by easy marches, on the 22d, and leaving next day by transports for Acquia Creek.

The regiment shared the labors and the triumphs of the First brigade in the Antietam campaign, during which it was

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<sup>2</sup> Sergeant Charles Whitwell, Co. B.

commanded by Lieut. Colonel Stoughton, Colonel Stoughton being absent. It distinguished itself especially in the storming of Crampton's Gap, September 14th, when it captured on the crest of the mountain a Confederate major, five line officers, 115 men and the colors of the Sixteenth Virginia, which are preserved among the trophies of the Civil War, in the War Department at Washington. The loss of the regiment that day was one killed and 14 wounded, two of whom died of their wounds.<sup>3</sup>

In the battle of Antietam, September 17th, the Fourth had six men wounded, three of whom died of their wounds.<sup>4</sup> Among the wounded was Second Lieutenant W. H. Martin, of Company A.

During the thirty three days' stay of the Vermont brigade at Hagerstown, Md., after Antietam, the Fourth received 109 recruits—a welcome accession, as its ranks had been much reduced by death, wounds and sickness. The morning report of September 20th, showed an aggregate of 798 officers and men. Thirty-seven men of the fourth were reported in the hospitals in Philadelphia, October 7th, and many more were in other hospitals or at home on sick leave.

On the 5th of November, Colonel E. H. Stoughton was appointed Brigadier General of Volunteers and assigned to the command of the Second Vermont brigade, and his brother, Lieut. Colonel Charles B. Stoughton, succeeded to the colonelcy. He had shown coolness and capacity in action, and was respected by his command as a brave soldier. Major George P. Foster was thereupon appointed lieutenant colonel and Captain Stephen M. Pingree, of Co. K, was promoted to the majority. About this time, Chaplain Plympton resigned, and Rev. John L. Roberts, a Methodist Episcopal clergyman of Chelsea, was appointed chaplain in his place.

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<sup>3</sup> M. F. Murray, Co. C., was killed, and D. C. Adams, and M. B. Johnson, Co. G., died of wounds.

<sup>4</sup> C. Stockdale, Co. C; V. W. Mayott, Co. G and J. P. Harris, Co. H.

The first week in November found the regiment back near the Rappahannock, with the rest of the Sixth Corps and the army; and there was little excitement till, on the 11th of December, Burnside made his disastrous attempt to force the heights of Fredericksburg. On the 13th the Fourth was sent out under command of Lieut. Colonel Foster (who is mentioned as deserving of special praise in Colonel Stoughton's report of the affair) on the skirmish line, in front of General Howe's division of the Sixth Corps, and suffered severely, losing 11 killed and 45 wounded, three of whom died of their wounds.<sup>5</sup> Four men in one company, Co. B, were killed, and 14 wounded, by a single discharge of canister, and the regimental colors were riddle with canister shot and musket balls. The color bearer was wounded, and the colors were afterwards carried by Corporal Shay, of Co. B. Among the killed was Captain George W. Quimby, of Co. D, who was acting as major. While bravely discharging his duties he was struck in the neck by a ball which cut the jugular vein. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College, was Principal of Barton Academy previous to his enlistment, and was a young man of fine abilities and estimable character. His loss was deeply felt in the regiment.

On the 1st of January, 1863, the regiment being then in camp at Belle Plain, the morning report showed an aggregate of 793 men, of whom 457 were present for duty. Between the 17th and 22d of January it participated in General Burnside's "Mud Campaign." The regiment passed the rest of the winter in camp, doing light guard and picket duty, and giving some attention to drill.

In the storming of Marye's Heights at the Second Fred-

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<sup>5</sup> The killed were: L. A. Davis, John H. Minott, Co. A; A. Brock, C. Cleveland, H. H. Johnson, E. M. Sprout, Co. B; N. R. Moulton, Co. D; J. Bruce, R. H. Dearborn, Co. G, and S. B. Ray, Co. I  
Those who died of wounds were: T. H. Joy, O. Pease, Co. F, and H. O. Kent, Co. G

ericksburg, May 3ed, 1863, the Fourth was in the third line of the assaulting column, and scaled the heights wit the loss of only one man wounded. In the engagement in front of Banks's Ford, next day, the Fourth fought on the extreme left of the brigade, and lost one man killed,<sup>6</sup> 22 wounded and seven missing. Among the wounded was Lieutenant Thomas Ensworth, of Co. C Colonel Stoughton, and Captain Addison Brown, who was acting as inspector general on General L. A. Grant's staff, were specially mentioned for gallantry in this action, in the report of the brigade commander.

Notable among the many individual exploits in this battle, was the capture, by Sergeant Robert J. Coffey of Company K., single handed, of a captain and lieutenant of the Twenty-first North Carolina, and five privates of the Eighth Louisiana. These, after the repulse of Hoke's and Hays's brigades by the Vermont brigade, had sought shelter in a ravine in front of the Fourth Vermont. Sergeant Coffey who was among the skirmishers, cam suddenly upon them, ordered them to surrender, and when they complied, threw their muskets into the stream and secured the swords of the officers before they discovered that he was alone, and then, aided by some men of Company A., who came to his assistance, secured and marched them all in, to their intense mortification.

The regiment marched with the Sixth Corps to Gettysburg, and was the only regiment of the old brigade actually engaged on that field—this was on the skirmish line on the extreme left, at the close of the third day. Its loss was one man severely wounded.

In the famous affair at Funkstown, July 10th, Colonel C. B. Stoughton received a severe wound from a bullet which entered his forehead just about the right eye, causing the loss of the eye, and his resignation six months later. The

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<sup>6</sup> Henry J. Bush, Co. F.

regiment here lost one man killed<sup>7</sup> and 23 wounded, one of them mortally.

The Fourth went to New York city with the brigade in August, to maintain order during the drafts. On the passage seven companies, which were on the transport Illinois, narrowly escaped shipwreck by a collision of the steamer with a schooner laden with stone.

On the 24th of September, at Culpeper Court House, Va., the regiment received an accession of nearly 200 recruits and conscripts, which increased by a third the number present for duty, and on the 1st of October the morning report showed an aggregate of 774, of which number 649 were present for duty.

On the 11th of October, commissary Sergeant H. W. Spafford was captured by guerrillas near Brandy Station and taken to Richmond, where he was a prisoner for five months, till paroled March 21st, 1864.

The Fourth spent the winter with the Sixth Corps at Brandy Station, its numbers increasing slightly by the addition of recruits, and its sick list diminishing, till on the 1st of May, at the opening of the Spring Campaign, the number present for duty was 719, out of an aggregate of 839, being the largest return of men present for duty known in the history of the regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Foster was in command of the regiment during the winter, Colonel Stoughton being on leave and on special duty in New York City. On the 2d of February, Colonel Stoughton resigned in consequence of his wound, and Lieut. Colonel Foster became colonel. On the 30th of April, Major Stephen M. Pingree was promoted to the lieutenant colonelcy, and Captain John E. Pratt of Company A was appointed major. The new commander, Colonel Foster, was a native of Walden.

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<sup>7</sup> G. W. Ball, Co. C was killed, and M. H. Bartlett, Co. C, mortally wounded.

He had had an academic education in his youth, and the subsequent training of a district school teacher in his opening manhood. He enlisted in September, 1861, at the age of 25, and was chosen captain of his company. In the field he soon won distinction as one of the coolest and most capable of the line officers, and though not the ranking captain, was appointed major, for merit, upon the promotion of Major Stoughton, in July, 1862. He had been lieutenant colonel for fifteen months, and much of the time in command of the regiment. Of stalwart proportions, and handsome face and figure, he was one of the finest looking officers in the brigade. He was a favorite with his men, distinguished himself as emphatically a fighting colonel, and won a brevet as brigadier general, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the Shenandoah campaign, and before Petersburg.<sup>8</sup>

During the winter, 210 men of the original members of the Fourth re-enlisted for the war.

On the 4th of May the brigade crossed the Rapidan at Germanna Ford, with about 600 muskets, and on the three days following the regiment had its share in the battles of the Wilderness, in which it suffered the greatest loss of officers of any regiment in the brigade, having 16 killed and wounded, being over two-thirds of the number present for duty. Colonel Foster was severely wounded in the thigh in the battle of the 5th, and during the remainder of the battle the regiment was commanded by Major Pratt. Captains W. D. Carpenter, Dennis W. Farr and Daniel Lillie, and Lieutenants L. A. Putnam, T. Ensworth, W. L. Wooster and W. H. Martin were killed or mortally wounded. Captains George H. Amidon and A. W. Fisher, Adjutant G. B. French and

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<sup>8</sup> General Foster returned to Vermont with his regiment at the close of the war, and afterwards, for nine years, from 1870 until his death, March 19th, 1879, held the office of U. S. Marshal of the District of Vermont. In this he won additional distinction by his bold arrest of the Fenian commander, General O'Neill, in the midst of his army, during the Fenian invasion of Canada, in 1870.

Lieutenants E. W. Carter, J. B. Brooks, L. B. Scott, W. C. Tracy, H. W. Morton and L. F. Richardson were wounded, and the casualties of the regiment reached the mournful total of 257, or over forty per cent of its effective force. Of these 34 were killed, 194 wounded, of whom 45 died of their wounds, and 29 missing, some of whom were probably killed.<sup>9</sup>

Among the officers specially mentioned for gallantry by the Brigade commander was Captain A. Brown of the Fourth who was on the General's staff and for some time the only staff officer fit for duty, the two other aids having been wounded and captured during the first day's battle. Quartermaster Henry T. Cushman is also mentioned as having rendered efficient service on the staff of the brigade commander. The regiment marched during the night of May 7th, to Chancellorsville, where the brigade was detached to guard the train of the Sixth Corps. In the morning of the 9th the Fourth under Major Pratt, was deployed on the skirmish line while the brigade fortified its position, and lost several men. Among the killed was Sergeant William Cunningham, Co. D., who was one of the most brave and zealous men in

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<sup>9</sup> The rank and file killed in the Wilderness were: Co. A—O. h. Barnes, G. Bracy, J. Leazer; Co. C—L. A. Bryant, A. Burt; Co. D—J. Streeter; Co. E—F. Eastman, L. Spencer; Co. F—M. C. Chapman, W. H. Haraden, L. W. Kendall, W. H. Roberts; Co. G—H. H. Dunton, E. W. Ormsby 2d, P. Sullivan, S. Webber; Co. H—W. S. Aiken, W. W. Heath, L. B. Paquette, D. O. Perry, A. Snow, B. B. Wilson; Co. I—J. R. Campbell, D. H. Jones, J. Streeter, J. B. Webster; Co. K—J. J. Chadwick, A. Eastman, T. Lowler, A. D. Smith.

The following died of their wounds: Co. A—S. A. Capron, H. Hales, H. N. Woodworth, H. York; Co. B—H. M. Smith; Co. C—J. W. Blanchard, L. Carpenter, T. Eagan, L. W. Griswold, J. B. H. Larrabee, J. A. Miller, E. Robinson, R. Wickware; Co. D—J. Ball, W. J. Cutting; J. Edson, T. W. Griffin, J. H. Hulburt, R. Rodger, N. P. Walker; Co. E—S. Barnard, T. S. Grover, W. H. Jones, I. A. Stevens; Co. F—G. W. Hill, J. Huntington; Co. G—H. C. Magoon, W. H. H. Marsh, W. E. Parrish; Co. H—N. Bailey, F. Cudworth, S. W. Leighton, E. Robinson, J. F. Ryder, D. F. Skinner, J. Wilmot; Co. I—G. T. Abbott,\* N. Amlaw, E. G. Carpenter, L. G. Kellogg; Co. K—H. Amidon, J. M. Montgomery, P. F. Pierce.

\* "Severely wounded" May 5—not heard of after.

the regiment. The regiment held the skirmish line until the afternoon of the next day, during which the Union line was advanced and the enemy's skirmishers driven back to his line of works, for which the Fourth received high commendation.

On the 12th, at Spottsylvania, the Fourth fought in the front line, and its losses in that week of almost constant fighting were four killed and 44 wounded, 13 of whom died of their wounds.<sup>10</sup> At Cold Harbor it was again engaged, losing one man killed on the skirmish line and seven wounded, six of whom died of their wounds.<sup>11</sup> Lieutenant A. K. Parsons of Co. A, detailed as aide-de-camp on the staff of General W. T. H. Brooks, commanding the First division of the Eighteenth Army Corps, was killed while gallantly discharging his duties during the charge of Brooks's division in the morning of the 3d.

On the 16th the regiment crossed the James with the brigade, in the movement of the division to Petersburg, where on the 23d, the regiment suffered the greatest loss of men by capture it ever experienced. It was engaged with the brigade and the Sixth Corps in a movement against the Weldon Railroad, and was thrown out in front under command of Major Pratt, with a battalion of the eleventh. The enemy broke through the line with a strong force, and surrounded and captured seven officers and 137 men of the Fourth, as well as almost the entire battalion of the Eleventh. The colors of the Fourth were saved by the activity and

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<sup>10</sup> The killed at Spottsylvania were; O. Burt, W. Cunningham, Co. D; S. H. Thompson, Co. H; C. M. Landers, Co. I. Those dying of their wounds were: J. Hofnagle, E. Knapp, Co. A; S. C. Edwards, Co. C; T. R. Boutwell, E. E. Hartson, M. McGuire, E. M. Robbins, Co. D; J. Kelly, T. W. Hall, Co. E; H. O. Marsh, G. E. Stone, Co. G; T. W. Hall, Co. I, and C. E. Prouty, Co. H.

<sup>11</sup> A. M. Ford, Co. K, was killed at Cold Harbor and C. H. Perry, W. B. Stevens, J. P. Woodbury, Co. G; D. Barton, P. Smith, and L. Stearns Co. K, died of wounds.

coolness of the color guard. The officers so captured were Major Pratt, Captains Chapin and Boutin, and Lieutenants Carr, Fisher, Needham and Pierce.

Among the killed was Captain William C. Tracy, of Co. G. His dead body was found on the field next day, stripped of arms, watch, money and boots, and surrounded by the muskets of his men, showing that he had rallied his company around him, and that they threw down their arms only when their gallant leader had fallen. Captain Tracy was a son of the late E. C. Tracy, of Windsor, long editor of the *Vermont Chronicle*, and a great grandson of Robert Sherman. He was a remarkably brave, modest, intelligent and capable officer. He entered the service as second lieutenant in Co. K, was made first lieutenant of Co. H, in November, 1862, and had been recently promoted to a captaincy for meritorious service in the Wilderness. He was acting adjutant of the regiment after the Wilderness, carrying the while, imbedded in his face, a buckshot received in that battle. His death was a severe loss to the command.

Three men of the Fourth were killed, and several wounded, three of them mortally, this day.<sup>12</sup> Among the wounded was Captain Charles G. Fisher, of Co. I. The aggregate loss of the regiment in this affair was 153 men, out of about 200 taken out to the skirmish line. One company, Co. E, escaped entire. The roll call next morning showed but 67 muskets left in line, with three commissioned officers, lieutenants, present for duty, and the regiment was consolidated into a little battalion of two companies, the men left of companies E, K and G, forming one, and those of the seven other companies, another; all under the temporary command of Captain Addison Brown, Jr.

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<sup>12</sup> C. A. Smith, Co. C, G. H. Cushman, Co. G, O. W. Payne, Co. K, were killed. Those dying of their wounds were J. Minott, Co. A, J. N. Lease, Co. D, W. J. Sly, Co. H.

It is one of the sad duties of the historian to mention the mournful fact, that of the men so captured, no less than sixty-five, being nearly one half of the number, died in Confederate prisons. The names of these martyrs, with the dates of their deaths, so far as known, are as follows. Most of them died in the prison pen of Andersonville, Ga.

### **DIED IN CONFEDERATE PRISONS.**

[Captured June 23, 1864.]

Company A.—G. Baxter, died Jan. 6, '65; C. B. Buxton, Oct. 6, '64; A. Ranney, Oct. 24, '64; W. A. Webster, Oct. 9, '64; S. F. Dunbar, (at Wilmington, N.C.) Mar. 18, '65; P. Bemis, J. Blair, C. Burnham, H. L. Veber, N. Mann, Dec. 31, '64; N. L. Webster, Dec. 23, '64.—11.

Company C.—E. S. Palmer, Aug. 23, '64; B. H. Patch, Oct. 20, '64; F. Pillsbury, Sept. 29, '64; C. F. Hatch.—4

Company D.—E. Bailey, Feb. 3, '65; C. Bunker, Oct. 11, '64; F. F. Dewey, Aug. 25, '64; P. H. Farrel, Oct. 22, '64; C. E. Lumsden, Feb. 8, '65; C. O. Blodgett, H. W. Varney, Dec. 20, '64.—7.

Company F—A. L. Bontell, Oct. 1, '64; J. Clifford, C. W. Elliott, Oct. '64; C. A. Ferguson, Oct. '64; J. A. Ingraham, Oct., '64; F. W. Rice, Oct. 31, '64; W. Ryerson, Oct. 31, '64; Royal O. Scott, Dec. 12, '64; T. B. Sexton, Sept. 11, '64; G. A. Wells, Sept. '64; J. M. Woods, Oct., '64; T. Young, Feb. 25, '65; A. F. Bailey, Jan. 22 '65, (at Salisbury, N. C.); J. F. Drury, Feb. 11, '65; W. C. Stevens.—15.

Company G.—J. E. Paul, Oct. 2, '64; H. M. Sanborn, Oct. 11, '64; W. Twaddle, Oct. 26, '64; E. G. Williams, Nov. 24, '64, at Florence, S. C.; S. W. Rollins, Jan. 14, '65; O. Nelson.—6.

Company H.—E. P. Gerry, Jan. 26, '65; A. B. Perry, Mar. 3, '65; F. A. Skinner, Aug. '64; W. A. Smith, Aug. '64; J. H. Wakefield, Oct. 21, '64; J. H. Eaton, E. H. Preston, (at Millen, Ga.); J. M. Hibbard.—8.

Company I.—S. H. Nelson, Dec. 13, '64; E. W. Paige, Oct. 17, '64; N. T. Pike, Nov. 30, '64; W. A. Thompson, Oct. 20, '64; N. J. Howard, Oct. 23, '64, (Millen); J. C. Hogan—6.

Company K.—W. P. Fisk, Oct. 14, '64; C. V. Flint, Oct. 23, '64; A. B. Stile, Oct. 12, '64.—3.

J. Smith, Co. A, and R. J. Round, Co. H., were captured that day, and not heard from after. They probably died in the enemy's hands. Zelotes Drown and S. B. Rogers, Co. D, and G. H. Esterbrooks, Co. I, who died in March, '65, are believed to have died from the results of their imprisonment, if not actually in prison.

On the 30th of June, the morning report showed 282 men present for duty, out of an aggregate of 716. The listed of sick and wounded numbered 275. The Fourth, what was

left of it, went with the Sixth Corps to Washington, in July, to head off Early's raid, shared the hard marching in Maryland and the Shenandoah Valley which followed; and on the 21st of August, at Charlestown, formed part of the skirmish line which drove the enemy's skirmishers for a mile, and held its ground all day, in front of a hostile line of battle with artillery. Its loss this day was one officer killed, Lieutenant Luther B. Scott, of Co. E,—a brave young soldier who went out from Cabot as a private—and 10 men wounded, one fatally.<sup>13</sup>

The Fourth had an honorable part in Sheridan's campaign in the Shenandoah Valley, and lost at Winchester, September 19th, Lieutenant Ransom W. Towle<sup>14</sup> of Company E mortally wounded, and two men killed<sup>15</sup> and 14 wounded.

Next day, September 20th, 1864, the three year's term of the original members of the regiment expired. Of these 210 had re-enlisted. The surviving remainder, numbering 10 officers—viz: Lieut. Colonel S. M. Pingree, Adjutant G. B. French, Quartermaster H. T. Cushman, Surgeon S. J. Allen, Ass't Surgeon A. B. Bixby, Captain A. W. Fisher, First Lieutenants A. K. Nichols and W. W. Morton; Second Lieutenants F. Hastings and W. R. Russell—and 136 men, started for Vermont, September 21st. they arrived at Brattleboro, September 29th, when they were received by the citizens with an address of welcome by Hon. S. M. Waite, and next day were honorably mustered out of the service, and dispersed to their homes.

The regiment after the departure of those whose time

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<sup>13</sup> Joseph Marson, Co. H.

<sup>14</sup> Lieutenant Towle enlisted as a private, from Rochester, Vt., at the age of 25, was promoted sergeant September 21, 1861; was wounded at Savage's Station, June 29th, 1862, and was promoted second lieutenant Co. A May 17, 1864. he was a brave and meritorious officer.

<sup>15</sup> Zacheus Blood and C. A. Blanchard, Co. C. The latter is recorded as killed near Winchester, September 13, 1864.

had expired, still had an aggregate of 550 men, of which number, however, only about 200 were present for duty—144 being still in the hands of the enemy, and 200 sick. The regiment fought at Fisher's Hill, September 21st and 22d, and at Cedar Creek, October 19th, where it lost six men killed and 20 wounded, two of whom died of their wounds. Among the wounded was Captain George H. Amidon of Company E, detailed on General Grant's staff, and Captain Aikens of company A, who received a wound which occasioned his honorable discharge five months later.<sup>16</sup> At Cedar Creek, Colonel Foster being in command of the picket line, the regiment was placed with the Third under command of Major Floyd of the Third.

The vote of the men of the Fourth in the field, for President, in the national election of November, 1864, was noticeable as giving a democratic majority. It stood, for McClellan 74; for Lincoln 64.

The regiment remained with the Sixth Corps in the Shenandoah Valley for six weeks after the close of Sheridan's victorious campaign, until the 9th of December, when it returned, with the brigade, to the lines of the Army of the Potomac before Petersburg, and went into camp and winter quarters near the "Squirrel Level Road" on the south of the city. The men had severe picket service through the winter, besides doing a good deal of fatigue duty on the fortifications.

On the 25th of February 1865, the ten existing companies of the regiment were consolidated under the orders of the War Department into eight, the men of companies I and K being distributed among the other companies. The Second and Third Vermont companies of Sharp-shooters, num-

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<sup>16</sup> The rank and file killed at Cedar Creek were C. Camp, Co. A; J. Gill, Co. C; N. B. Hudson, Co. D; L. Edwards, Co. G; T. J. Burnham, Co. I; K. Badger, Co. K.

bering 166 men, were at the same time transferred to the Fourth regiment, increasing its aggregate to 757, of which number, however, but 365 were present for duty, the sick list comprising 250 men. In March, 40 of the men captured in the affair on the Weldon Railroad in June 1864, having been exchanged, rejoined the command.

The Fourth had an honorable share in the important and successful assault on the entrenched picket line in front of Fort Fisher, March 25th, and in the repulse of the enemy's attempt to retake a portion of the line on the 27th. In this last skirmish, Lieutenant Charles H. Carlton and five men were wounded. Two men of the Fourth were wounded on the 25th.

In the final triumphant assault of April 2d on the defences of Petersburg, which resulted in the fall of Richmond, the Fourth was commanded by Captain Geo. H. Amidon, no field officer being present.<sup>17</sup> The regiment was actively engaged and lost one man killed and two officers, Lieutenants W. H. Humphrey and W. T. Tilson, and nine men wounded, one of whom died of his wounds.<sup>18</sup> Fuller details of this and the other battles in which the regiment took part, will be found in the history of the First brigade, in subsequent chapters of this history.

The regiment was at Sailor's Creek, with the Sixth Corps; guarded army supplies at Farmville, after the surrender of Lee's army; marched with the brigade to Danville, and thence May 24th, to the camp on Munson's Hill, near Washington, where it remained till mustered out of service. It participated in the review of the First Vermont brigade and other Vermont regiments by Governor Smith and Adj't

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<sup>17</sup> Col. Foster was in Vermont on an 18 days' leave of absence. Lieut. Colonel Pratt was a paroled prisoner, on leave of absence. The regiment had no major, at this time.

<sup>18</sup> H. G. Fillebrown, Co. C, was killed, and D. Mahoney, Co. A, died of his wounds.

General Washburn, at Bailey's Cross Roads, June 7th, and in the review of the Sixth Corps by the President of the United States, at Washington, June 8th.

The morning report of the 6th of June, 1865, showed an aggregate of 693 men, with a sick list of 230, and 47 men still reported as "prisoners," being men of whom the last know was that they were in Confederate prisons. The recruits of the Fourth, 154 in number, whose terms of service were to expire previous to October 1, 1865, were mustered out of the U. S. service, June 19, 1865. The remainder were mustered out July 13, 1865; and all who were able to travel departed at once for Vermont, under command of General Foster. They arrived, 300 in number, at New York, July 14th, and at Burlington, July 16th, where they had a cordial reception with an address of welcome by Rev. A. L. Cooper of the Pine Street M. E. Church, and a collation provided by the ladies of Burlington, in the town hall. Flowers and waving handkerchiefs and songs of glad greeting expressed the cordial welcome accorded to the veterans, and General Foster, as he entered the hall with the shot-torn headquarters flag of the old Vermont brigade, had a special greeting of enthusiastic cheers from the assembly. From the town hall the regiment marched to its quarters at the Marine Hospital, where the men were paid off during the week following.

The field and staff officers returning with the regiment were Colonel and Bvt. Brig. General George P. Foster, Lieut. Colonel John E. Pratt, Major Charles W. Boutin, Adjutant James Gallagher, Quartermaster H. W. Spafford, Surgeon E. M. Curtis, and Chaplain John L. Roberts. Of these, all but the chaplain and quartermaster went out with the regiment in 1861—the colonel and lieutenant colonel as captains of Companies G and A, and Major Boutin as first lieutenant of Company B. Surgeon Curtis went out as hospital steward, was appointed assistant surgeon of the Sixth regiment in

January, 1863, and returned to the Fourth as surgeon in October, 1864. Quartermaster Spafford enlisted as a private, was appointed commissary sergeant in October, 1864, and was promoted to quartermaster on the 4th of November following. The line officers returning were Captains L. W. Fisher, A. K. Nichols, Howard C. Chapin, W. W. Pierce, George H. Amidon, Charles G. Fisher, S. F. Norton and W. W. Smith; and Lieutenants R. W. Chamberlain, George P. Spaulding, C. C. Chapin, Charles A. Dam, Charles H. Newton, Joseph B. Needham and Curtis Abbott. All of these, except Captain Nichols who was appointed early in 1865, enlisted as privates in the summer and fall of 1861. Captains Norton and Smith and Lieutenant Abbott, after having served for over three years in the Second U.S. Sharpshooters, were transferred without change of rank to the Fourth regiment, in February 1865.

The names of 65 men of the Fourth have been heretofore printed, who died in confederate prison pens. To them are to be added the following:

#### DIED IN CONFEDERATE PRISONS.

W. A. Comar, L. H. Bowles, C. A., died Aug. 26, '64; Reuben Ladd, Co. C, died Dec. 8, '63; W. C. Stevens and O. A. Wilson, Co. F, J. Boyce, Co. I

The battles in which the Fourth regiment took part were as follows:

### **THE BATTLES OF THE FOURTH 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 Fourth Vermont is as follows:

Original members—officers, 38; enlisted men, 1010; total	1048
Gain-recruits, 602; transferred from other regiments, 203; total	805
Aggregate	1,853
Losses	
Killed in action—officers, 8; enlisted men, 66; total	74
Died of wounds—officers, 4; enlisted men, 83; total	87
Died of disease—enlisted men	195
Died (unwounded) in Confederate prisons, enlisted men	71
Died from accidents, enlisted men	2
Total of deaths	429
Promoted to other regiments—officers, 6; enlisted men, 8; total	14
Transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, Navy, Regular Army, etc.	93
Honorably discharged—com. officers resigned 35, for wounds and disability 7; enlisted men, for wounds 69; for disability 373, total,	471
Dishonorably discharged—officers, 1; enlisted men, 5; total	6
Total discharged,	477
Deserted 118; unaccounted for 5,	123
Mustered out,—com. officers, 39; enlisted men, 678, total	717
Aggregate	1853
Total wounded	414
Total re-enlisted	210