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Headquarters, 154th N.Y. Vols.
Hagerstown, Md.
July, 1863

(The 154th Regt was in the vicinity of Hagerstown July 12-15 after the battle)

Official Report of Lt. Col. Dan B. Allen
Cattaraugus Co. Hist. Soc., Little Valley N.Y.

I have the honor to report that the 154th Regiment, New York Volunteers, of which I had command, reached Gettysburg, Pennsylvania at about 2 o'clock P.M. of the 1st after a fatiguing march of 11 miles from near Emmitsburg. We were soon ordered by Colonel Coster, commanding our brigade, to a position about 400 yards in front of the town and to the right of the road leading to Chambersburg. We formed our line of battle with the 134th New York Volunteers on our right and the 27th Pennsylvania Volunteers on our left. These three regiments constituted our whole force. We were scarcely into position when the enemy, who were advancing in vastly superior numbers in our front, commenced the attack. The ground rose abruptly to the left of our regiment, and prevented my overlooking the movement of the enemy in that direction. The Colonel commanding the brigade and the 27th Pennsylvania Volunteers were stationed here and I did not apprehend danger unless I should be previously warned. We held the enemy in check in our front, but their line of battle being much longer than ours they soon came to our right flank and joined in a heavy fire; when without longer waiting to the retreat I ordered my command to fall back in the direction of our left. On reaching the ground where the 27th Pennsylvania Volunteers had formed, I found to my surprise that they had abandoned or been drawn from their position, and the enemy sheltered by the advantages of the ground had advanced so far as to have gained possession of the ground to the rear of our left flank by which we were expected to retreat. We were compelled to cut our way through them, and in doing so our losses were heavy. I then retired with my command to the hill back of Gettysburg where we remained the 2 succeeding days of the battle.

WH On July 1 st 1863 there was a detail of two hundred men ordered from our Brigade, fifty men from our Regiment (I being one of the number) under command of our Major L.D. Warner, to go to a little town about twenty miles away by the name of Sabilliville to drive the Rebel cavalry out of town, but before we got there they had skedadled. At this time the army lay all quiet at Emmitsburg. At about three o'clock P.M. we could hear cannon firing in the direction of Gettysburg, Pa. When the advance of this squad reached Emmitsburg it was after dark and not a tent or sign of the army could be seen. In the meantime the army had marched to Gettysburg and commenced the fight. As I was with the advance of this squad, we marched a few miles toward Emmitsburg and lodged in a stone barn the rest of the night with Lt. Casler of our Company and in the mean time our Major went to Gettysburg and found out how things were.

From an account of his service by William Harper, Private, Company F. Courtesy of Mr. Mrs. Raymond Harper, Myrtle, N.C.