

HISTORICAL SKETCHES

RELATING TO

SPENCER, MASS.,

BY

HENRY M. TOWER.

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SPENCER, MASS.
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Sargent both fell. This charge was immediately followed by another charge of Parks' Brigade on the opposite flank, and by Foster's Brigade in front. But of them all the 21st Mass. was the first regiment to get into the redoubt. The enemy left without delay. [See portrait, page 21, this volume.—*Maj. W. T. Harlow.*

This Spencer boy was killed by a bullet entering his mouth and then passing onward with barely force enough to go through the brain. The bullet is said then to have dropped to the ground and was thought to have been the same one that killed Samuel D. Sargent. Henry was directly behind Sargent at the time. [See portrait, page 19, this volume.]

He was buried beside his comrade, Sargent, near the earthworks at the fort. Afterward some of the soldiers remembering that he had a ten dollar bill in one of his pockets disinterred the body, recovered the money and sent it home to his parents. Thus passed on to the spirit world the first native born Spencer soldier killed in battle during the Civil War.

134 HEFFRON, THOMAS. Was a son of Thomas Heffron, currier, and at the time of his enlistment was, with his father, employed as a currier by Isaac Prouty at his currier shop on North street. He joined Co. A, 154th New York Vols. at Randolph, N. Y., Aug. 5, 1862, and was killed in battle at Pine Knob, Ga., June 15, 1864. [See portrait page 34.]

135 HICKEY, JOHN. Private, Co. C, 4th Mass. Cav. Bootmaker, twenty-three, married, Spencer. Enlisted Feb. 8, 1864. Mustered in Feb. 18, 1864. Mustered out Nov. 14, 1865.

136 HINDLEY, SOLOMON KINGSBURY. Was born April 29, 1837, in Manchester, England. Entered the service at Springfield, Mass., as a private in Co. H, 10th Regt. Mass. Vol. Inf. Was discharged at Boston, June 21, 1864, his term of enlistment having expired. He was promoted to Corporal. His first battle was at Fredericksburg, Va. Subsequently he participated in the battles of Antietam and Gettysburg. His most intimate comrades in the service were John W. Bigelow of Spencer, George H. Howard of West Brookfield, Patrick Kelley of Spencer, Andrew Suner of Shelburne Falls, and Micaja H. Vincent of Conway, Mass. He had a partial attack of paralysis March 31, 1862, on the Peninsular and was not reported for duty until June, 1863. In the meantime he performed such duties as his condition would permit. He was company commissary for two years and was quartermaster's clerk in the winter of 1862-3. At the battle of Gettysburg he was prostrated by sun-stroke and again a few days later at Frinkstown, Md. At the time of the first draft he was detailed for duty in Massachusetts, being

chief clerk in Gen. Devens' office at Galloup's Island, B. Harbor. After this he was for a long time with the Bt Arms company of Springfield and later was private secreta G. Henry Whitcomb, envelope manufacturer, of Worcester Mass. He was an expert accountant and while with Mr. Whitcomb had charge of the financial books of Amherst College which institution Mr. Whitcomb was treasurer. His health failing, he purchased the former homestead of his father-in-law, Isaac N. Stearns, near Hillsville. Here he farmed for many years, much to his satisfaction, when a further decline in health made it advisable to sell his place which he did and removed to the old homestead of his father, John Hindley, nearby. He lived until his death, October 13, 1902, and was buried in Pine Grove cemetery. He became much interested in religion during the last few years of his life and was an earnest and devoted member of the M. E. church. (Portrait on page 84) died in the hope of a blissful immortality—

"The last end of the good man is peace
How calm his exit:
Night dews fall not more gently to the ground
Nor wenty woe n out winds expire so soft."



GEO. H. HOWARD



WALTON LIVERMORE

137 HORAN, THOMAS. Private, 25th Mass. Vols. assigned recruit. Mason, thirty-eight, Boston. Credited to Spencer. Enlisted June 15, 1864. Mustered in June 15, 1864.

138 HOWARD, GEORGE H. Private Co. H, 10th Mass. Vols. Bootmaker, twenty-six, single, Spencer. Enlisted June 21, 1861. Mustered in June 21, 1861. Mustered out July 1864. Under date of Nov. 12, 1903, Mr. Howard writes that he has lived in West Brookfield most of the time since the war.

Thanksgiving Celebrated in Camp.

Nov. 21st. Thanksgiving day. Beefsteak for our breakfast, cooked in camp; for dinner we had roast beef cooked in the kitchen of Frank P. Blair; for supper we had a roast pig, roast turkeys, cakes, pies, etc., sent us from Westfield.

Nov. 25th. Got a pass and went over to Annapolis to see father. I got there about night and found the boys well. Father and Alden Howes are doing the cooking for the company.

Nov. 26th. Went over and saw the 25th. Mass. Regt. Saw Joshua Prouty, Merrick Prouty and Ed. Townsend. They were in good health and appeared to be enjoying themselves very well. Went back to Camp Brightwood.



THOMAS HEFFRON

of Spencer, enlisted in Co. A, 15th New York Vol. at Randolph, Aug. 5, 1862. Killed in battle at Pine Knob, Georgia, June 15, 1864.

Nov. 28th. The weather is getting wet, cold and muddy.

Dec. 2d. Brigade drill for today and guard duty tonight. John Hastings has got his discharge and is going home in a day or two.

Dec. 13th. Commenced work on our barracks today. We are going to have good board houses.

Dec. 15th. Two privates in the 36th N. Y. Regt. fought a duel today. One of them was shot in the right side, the ball passing through the lung. He was also hit in the arm with a buckshot. The other man was not hurt.

Dec. 16th. The man who was hurt in the duel yesterday died today. The other man is in close confinement.

Dec. 17th. Joe Wedge cut his foot very severely today in the woods while cutting timber for our barracks.

Dec. 18th. Was vaccinated today.

Dec. 26th. John Hastings has gone home. We had a visit from "California" Adams. He is brother to the famous bear hunter of the west called "Grizzly" Adams; also a brother of Francis D. Adams of Spencer.

Dec. 27th. Our barracks fell down today when we had got them nearly done. There were a good many of the boys bruised, but no one seriously hurt.

Dec. 28th. Albert Snow of Westfield is dead and we sent his body home to-day.

Dec. 29th. Our barracks are all done.

Spencer Young Men Visit the Camp.

Jan. 9th. Joel S. Bullard, Joseph F. Ward and Rufus A. Sibley have come out to make us a visit. They have chosen a poor time as it rains most every day and is dreadfully maddy. Bony is in the hospital sick with a slow fever. The Captain's wife is visiting him. She is going to get up a dinner for us today.

Jan. 23rd. The boys from Spencer who have been visiting us start for home to-day. Mud is horrid deep.

Feb. 10th. Good news from Tenn. Com. Foote has taken Fort Henry. Gen. Stone has been sent to Fort Lafayette under arrest. It is thought that there was a little treachery at the Ball's Bluff fight last Oct. and that he was concerned in it.

Feb. 16th. Wrote to mother. Have heard that Gen. Burnside has taken Roanoke Island. Have also heard good news from Ky. and Tenn. We had new over and under coats issued to us.

Feb. 18th. Heard of the death of father. He was killed in the action of the 8th ult. at Roanoke Island. He was a member of Co. C 21st Mass. Father and George Henry were the only ones from Spencer that were killed.

Feb. 26th. I got a pass today to go outside in company with John Worthington, John Beaumont, Henry Jones, and Amasa Bullard. We went first to brigade headquarters but did not stop long as Joe Pierce, the one we wanted to see, was down in the city. We then went over to the 2d R. I. Regt.