

The Colonie Historical Oracle

Quarterly Newsletter of the Historical Society of the Town of Colonie

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The Civil War Arrives in Colonie

Submitted by Mark Bodnar, President, Historical Society of the Town of Colonie



Civil War Soldiers & Sailors Plot, Albany Rural Cemetery, Town of Colonie

The War Moves North

One hundred and fifty years ago a battle of the American Civil War moved northward across the Mason Dixon Line. In the summer of 1863, the quaint, peaceful town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and the outlying lush, green farmlands, became witness to the ghastly sights, horrifying sounds and putrid smells of tens of thousands of desperate and dying men and animals locked in mortal combat. Many men with ties to our local community were engaged in the Battle of Gettysburg, fought on July 1, 2 and 3, 1863. This newsletter is in commemoration of their service and sacrifice. I have chosen a small sample of the Civil War soldiers interred in Albany Rural Cemetery, located within the Town of Colonie, to tell of their sacrifice and service. In order of rank, their stories are as follows:

Brig. Gen. James C. Rice

James Clay Rice was born in Worthington, Massachusetts in 1828. Educated at Yale College he moved to Natchez, Missis-

sippi and then to New York City where he practiced law. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, Rice enlisted in the 39th NY Infantry Regiment. Nicknamed the "Garibaldi Guards" after Italian freedom fighter Giuseppe Garibaldi, the 39th NY was a conglomeration of companies of varying national origins: Italian, German, Hungarian, etc. Enrolled as 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant, Rice served well with the 39th and was promoted to the rank of Captain. After quelling a formidable mutiny in the regiment, Rice applied to NY Gov. Edwin Morgan asking for a more promising assignment. Morgan acquiesced, bringing Rice to Albany to help recruit and train the 44th NY Infantry Regiment. In the agreement, Rice was promoted to Lt. Colonel and made second in command of the regiment. The 44th was a regiment of "special" men, but that did not have to do with nationalities. The idea of the 44th was to recruit one man from each ward in the State. Although this goal was not achieved, the 44th was a good representation of men from all corners of New York State. All enlisted men had to be unmarried, under 30 years old, and at least 5 feet 8 inches tall. Each man was also required to pay a "subscription fee" of \$1.

**BG James C. Rice**

Photo Courtesy NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY

In time, Rice was promoted to full Colonel and given command of the 44th. Rice and the 44th were a battle-hardened regiment, having already fought at Yorktown, Hanover Court House, Gaines Mills, Malvern Hill, Groveton, Antietam, Shepherdstown Ford, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Middleburg when they arrived on the battlefield at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. Deployed with their brigade on a precipice called Little Round Top, the regiment had just deployed in battle formation when the hill was attacked by Rebels. Soon after the attack began, the brigade commander, Col. Strong Vincent, was mortally wounded, and command of the brigade devolved upon the senior most regimental commander, Col. James C. Rice. The Confederate attack was repulsed and the Union left flank was saved.

James C. Rice is depicted in the movie *Gettysburg*, portrayed by an actor congratulating Col. Joshua L. Chamberlain (played by Jeff Daniels) for his courageous bayonet charge down Little Round Top.

Rice had performed well in all the battles he had fought in, and his service was noted in the month after the battle of Gettysburg, August 1863, when he received a promotion to Brigadier General.

On May 10, 1864 at the Battle of Spottsylvania, Virginia, Rice was wounded, his thigh shattered by a Con-

**Obelisk of Gen. James C. Rice**

federate minie ball. His leg was amputated. When the surgeon inquired of Gen. Rice on which side he would be more comfortable, Rice replied, "Turn me over and let me die with my face to the enemy." These were his last words, as Rice died soon after. He was just 36 years old.

General Rice's remains were returned to his wife in Albany and he was buried in Albany Rural Cemetery. Today, a large granite obelisk marks Rice's grave. The last words he spoke before he died are engraved into the gray granite. Rice is buried with his wife, Josephine Thorp Rice, and brother-in-law, Edwin L. Thorp, who served in the US Navy during the Civil War.

Brevet Brig. Gen. Richard C. Bentley

Richard Charles Bentley was born in Columbia County in 1830. He enlisted in the 30th NY Infantry, a Troy regiment, in May 1861 and was mustered in as lieutenant and adjutant. In February 1862 he was discharged for promotion to Major with the 63rd NY Infantry.

**BVT BG Richard Charles Bentley**

Photo courtesy USAMHI, Mass. MOLLUS Collec-

The 63rd NY, together with the 69th NY, 88th NY, 116th Pennsylvania and 28th Massachusetts Infantry Regiments, combined to form the famous Irish Brigade under the command of Brig. Gen. Thomas Francis Meagher (and later, Col. Patrick Kelly at the Battle of Gettysburg).

Bentley began with the 63rd as a Major, and was wounded at the Battle of Antietam in September 1862. Promoted to Lt. Col. in October 1862, Bentley was again wounded during the Battle of Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. Three months later Bentley was promoted to full colonel. Bentley was again promoted to the rank of Brevet Brigadier General on March 13, 1865 "for gallant and meritorious services during the war."

After the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the president's remains were placed in a coffin and sent by train back to Springfield, Illinois. Stopping in Albany, the much lamented president's remains lay in state at the old State Capitol building in Albany. Gen. Bentley was one of six men to be hon-

ored with the first watch over President Lincoln's coffin as he lay in state while the citizens of Albany and surrounding areas came to pay their respects to the fallen President.



BVT BG Richard C. Bentley's Gravestone

Richard C. Bentley died of consumption (tuberculosis) on December 1, 1871 in Albany at the young age of 41. He is buried in section 65, lot 6 of Albany Rural Cemetery.

Col. Walter A. Van Rensselaer

Walter Alexander Van Rensselaer was born in Albany in 1836, the son of Harman Schuyler Van Rensselaer and Cornelia Schuyler (of prominent local Dutch families, indeed.) Walter graduated from Albany Medical College in 1858 and became a physician and surgeon. In April 1861, Van Rensselaer enlisted in the 20th NYS Militia, aka the "Ulster Guard", in Kingston.

On July 3, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg, Van Rensselaer was wounded. An excerpt from his diary reads as follows:

"I discovered a rebel flag behind the fence in the hands of a (rebel) officer. I demanded its surrender - he replied, "not by a damn sight" and fired at me with his revolver, wounding me in the small of the back. I lunged at him with my saber when he fired again, the ball striking my saber scabbard. Five or six of the boys came to my rescue and he (the rebel officer) surrendered followed by his whole regiment - they came over the fence like a flock of sheep - I think we captured 1500 prisoners. Soon after a shell burst directly over and near my head, knocking me senseless. I was taken to the 12th Corps Hospital and placed under Dr. Tuthill's charge, who took excellent care of me."



Col. Van Rensselaer
CDV Courtesy Seward R. Osborne,

Col. Van Rensselaer was mustered out of service in November 1864. After the Civil War he became Colonel of the 20th NYS National Guard.



Col. Walter Van Rensselaer's Gravestone

Walter Van Rensselaer died in Kingston in 1879 and was buried in lot 33, section 61 of Albany Rural Cemetery. Engraved on his gravestone is a short epitaph:

IDOL OF HIS COMMAND
CHOSEN COMRADE OF HIS PEERS
AND PET OF HIS SUPERIORS

Brevet Major Charles E. Pease

Charles Elliot Pease was born in Albany in 1838, the first son of Albany businessman Richard H. Pease, owner of the Excelsior Agricultural Works at 84 State Street in downtown Albany. Charles was educated at the Albany Academy and Union College, then entered his father's enterprise, working in the store, learning the trade and meeting many prominent local businessmen.

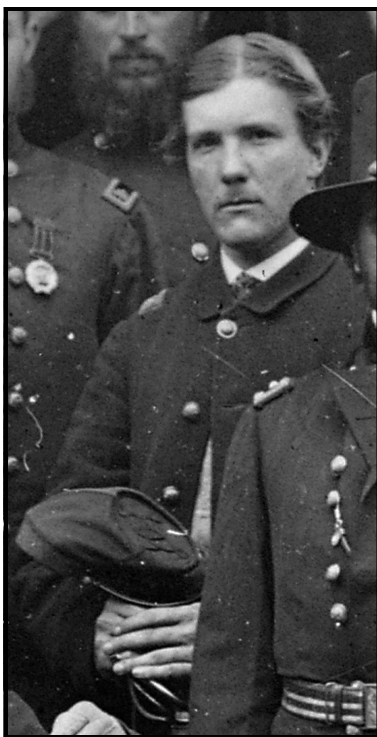
Three years later, in 1860, a significant event occurred in Albany that had a profound impact on Charles Pease's life. Col. Elmer Ellsworth, formerly of Ballston Spa, who had formed the United States Zouave Cadets in Chicago, took his Zouave cadets on a tour of the larger cities in the northeast. They came to Albany and gave a drill demonstration in Washington Park. Splendid in their red pantaloons, fez hats and gold braids, the citizens of Albany were so enamored with the flamboyance and precision of their drill that city leaders hurriedly set forth to form their own military Zouave unit. They were called the Albany Zouave Cadets, and Charles Pease joined the unit in July 1861. (Later, the Albany Zouave Cadets would comprise Company A of the 10th New York State Militia.)

When the 44th NY Infantry regiment was being organized, it was called "Ellsworth's Avengers" in honor of Col. Elmer Ellsworth who was the first Union officer killed at the Marshall House in Alexandria, Virginia in May 1861. Charles E. Pease was appointed 1st Lieutenant of Company G. He was 23 years old.

Pease served with the 44th at the battle of Centreville and the siege of Yorktown when he was recognized by Brig. Gen. James Van Alen of Kinderhook. Pease was promoted to Captain and made aid-de-camp on Van Alen's staff, where he served until

Van Alen resigned his commission. No doubt with Van Alen's high recommendation, Pease was placed on the staff of Maj. Gen. Joseph "Fightin' Joe" Hooker, commander of the Army of the Potomac, in May 1863. A month later, at the end of June, Hooker was replaced by Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, and Pease was retained on Meade's staff. Three days later the Army of the Potomac was engaged with the enemy at the Battle of Gettysburg. During the battle Pease survived a close call when his horse was shot out from under him.

Pease remained on Meade's staff for the duration of the War, while the Army was heavily engaged in such battles as Mine Run, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Yellow Tavern, North Anna River, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and Weldon Railroad. On December 6, 1864, Pease was promoted to Brevet Major by Gen. Meade.



Brevet Major Charles E. Pease

Photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration

After the fall of Richmond, the Army of the Potomac began chasing Lee's Army of Northern Virginia westward. This is what came to be known as the Appomattox Campaign. On February 6, 1865, at the Battle of Hatcher's Run, Pease once again had his horse shot out from under him. In a letter to his sweetheart in Albany, Miss Catherine Trotter, Pease wrote of Hatcher's Run:

"My horse was shot under me and I had many narrow escapes. Was fighting six hours and have been in the saddle since daylight."

By early April, Gen. Grant saw the hopelessness of the Confederate struggle and implored Gen. Lee to surrender his army in a series of communiqués with the Confederate commander.

A brief, hand-written note was soon brought across Union lines by a Rebel courier under a flag of truce and was taken to Gen. Meade's headquarters. In this letter, Gen. Lee accepted Gen. Grant's terms of surrender. Meade called for Maj. Pease to take this missive, post-haste, to Gen. Grant. Why is Pease called on to deliver this message? Because Pease had a new, healthy horse that was the fastest of all horses on Meade's staff, the horse replacing the one that was killed at Hatcher's Run.

Pease mounted his coal black stallion and raced to find Gen. Grant, locating the commanding general about 12 miles from Appomattox with a couple of staff officers. Upon reading Lee's letter, Grant directed Col. Orville Babcock to meet with Lee's staff and make arrangements for the surrender. Grant then instructed Pease to stay with Grant, in the event a message needed to go back to Gen. Meade.

In this capacity, young Charles Pease rode in the company of Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to Appomattox Court House and the Wilmer McLean house, where the surrender was to take place. About his experience at the surrender, Pease later made an entry in his diary: "I was present and introduced (to Confederate General Robert E. Lee)."

After the instrument of surrender was signed, Gen. Lee stood on the front porch waiting for his mount, Traveler, to be brought to him. As he waited, Gen. Grant exited the house and approaching Lee, called over Maj. Pease. Grant instructed Pease to provide Lee and his staff a military escort back to Lee's headquarters. This military courtesy was carried out by Pease. Here we have it: Charles E. Pease, a 27 year-old lad from Albany, NY, has just ridden in the company of Lt. Gen. U.S. Grant AND Lt. Gen. Robert E. Lee ON THE SAME DAY in the Civil War. (To the best of this writer's knowledge, only Col. Babcock shares this distinguished honor with Pease.)

After Lee returned to his headquarters tent, Pease was provided a note from Lee's Adjutant General, Col. Charles Marshall, allowing him to pass through Confederate lines to get back to Meade's headquarters.

With all the excitement and emotion of the final surrender behind him, just a few days later Pease penned a letter to the Adjutant General in Washington, tendering his resignation from the Army. His resignation was accepted, and Pease returned home. Seven months later, Pease was married his favorite girl, Catherine Gansevoort Trotter, known to her family and friends as "Kitty".

In the Spring of 1866 Charles Pease accepted a position as an assistant Secretary of the Universal Life Insurance Co. and he and Kitty moved to New York City. In 1871 Pease was hired by the United States Life Insurance Co. as Secretary. Then, in 1875, Pease accepted a position as President of the Greenwich Manufacturing Co. His passport, dated 1882, shows that Pease stood 5' 9" tall, had dark brown eyes, light grayish hair and a fair complexion.



BVT Maj. Charles E. Pease's Gravestone

Charles Pease died in New York City on March 25, 1886. He was just 48 years old. Cause of death was diabetes. His wife, Kitty, had her husband interred in her father's plot in Albany Rural Cemetery. He was buried next to their only child, a daughter, Estelle Cuyler Pease, who died in 1868 of chicken pox. She was 15 months old. Kitty joined her daughter and husband when she passed away in 1897.

History shows that Charles E. Pease was a bright, young man from Albany that witnessed Civil War history at high command level. He was not only in the McLean house during Lee's surrender to Grant, but he rode with both commanding generals on the same day. Charles E. Pease was a proud, yet humble man that died too young, and whose gravestone is, ironically, devoid of any military markings whatsoever.

Captain Robert B. Everett

Robert Bartlett Everett was born in New London, New Hampshire, in 1824, the second son of Otis and Mary Everett. When Robert was young, Otis and Mary purchased 65 acres of land on present day Albany Shaker Road where they established their farm and raised their seven children.

Robert enlisted in the 30th NY Infantry Regiment on Oct. 7, 1862 in Cohoes for a three year term, and was mustered in as Captain. The 30th NY, a Troy regiment, was a 2 year regiment, and when the 2 year enlistment expired the "three year men" were transferred to the 76th NY from Cortland County, NY. The men joined the 76th in late May 1863.

On the morning of July 1, 1863, the 76th NY arrived at Gettysburg and were directed to the farm lands north-west of the town. As they arrived on the field they began to receive incoming artillery fire from the Confederates. The men had just deployed in battle formation when they were attacked by an infantry assault on their front. During the attack, Capt. Robert B. Everett was killed, shot through the head. He was 39 years old.



Grave stone of Capt. Robert B. Everett

An article from the Cohoes newspaper, *The Cataract*, announced the arrival of the body of Capt. Everett from the battlefield at Gettysburg. "The remains of Capt. Robert B. Everett, killed at Gettysburg, July 1st, arrived in this city Wednesday evening, and were taken to Watervliet, his former place of residence. The funeral will take place this afternoon, at 3 o'clock, from the Methodist Church, Newtonville. Captain Everett was instantly killed by being shot thro' the head, while leading on his company, in the first day's fight under Gen. Meade, at Gettysburg."

In March of 1864, Everett's mother Mary applied to the government for a pension, as she was wholly dependent on her son for her survival. Her husband, Otis, had died in 1860, and now, at 70 years of age, Mrs. Everett was considered "infirm and feeble" and was obliged to rely on the care and assistance of others, and necessarily required the constant attention of one person full time. This application was applied for through Albany County Judge Jacob H. Clute. In October 1864 her application was rejected.

According to a large map of Colonie dated 1851 in the Colonie Town Historian's office, the Everett Farm was located on the west side of Shaker Road, north of Crumite Road. No doubt it was close to present day Stewart's Shop at the corner of Albany Shaker Road and Everett Road, the road being named for the Everett family farm. However, Everett Road does not appear on the 1851 map.

Unfortunately, no extant photo of Capt. Robert B. Everett exists today.

Lt. William H. Pohlman

William Henry Pohlman was born January 10, 1842 on the island of Borneo. His parents, William J. and Theodosia Scudder Pohlman, were missionaries. When young “Willie” was four years old, his mother died in childbirth, and Willie and his older sister Mary were sent to Albany to be raised by an aunt, Elizabeth Pohlman McClure, who resided at 196 State Street in Albany, site of the present day Legislative Building across from the State Capitol.

Willie’s Aunt Elizabeth was the first Sunday school teacher at the 1st Lutheran Church of Albany, where her brother, Rev. Henry N. Pohlman, D.D., was the pastor. Born to Christian missionary parents and raised in this Christian environment, Willie was also afforded a fine education, being a graduate of the Albany Classical Institute, from which he graduated in 1859.

Willie went on to attend the Seminary School of Rutgers College in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He was following his father’s footsteps—his father graduated in 1836. In April 1861, the first guns were fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. The next month William Pohlman left Rutgers and enlisted as a private in the 1st New Jersey Infantry Regiment to serve three years.

Nine months after joining the 1st New Jersey Infantry, Pohlman was placed on detached service with the newly formed Signal Corps. Communicating “at a distance of miles, by means of flags during the day, and torches at night” was considered cutting edge technology of the day. In one missive home Pohlman wrote that he saw the *USS Monitor* just two weeks after the historic naval battle with the *CSS Virginia* (formerly, the *USS Merrimack*). While a member of the Signal Corps, Pohlman was present at the battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg.

Promoted to lieutenant with the 59th NY Infantry in January 1863, Pohlman returned to Albany for a brief visit with his family. While here, he had his photo taken at the studio of J.H. Abbott, 480 Broadway in Albany (see image, next column).

Pohlman rejoined his regiment and was engaged in the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863. After the battle, Pohlman wrote home:

“There is no honorable way for us to obtain peace, so let us fight. I don’t care how much I am engaged in conflict. This last battle makes the 13th one of the war in which I have been engaged, and somehow or other I begin to think I have a charmed life. In all of these squabbles I have never received so much as a scratch, and the closest shave was at Yorktown, where a piece of shrapnel shell cut a lock of my hair off, as nicely as though done with a pair of scissors.”

In a post script to that letter, Pohlman writes:

“Have just heard through a deserter that Gen. Stonewall Jackson is dead. Poor fellow, he was a brave man, and I almost regret his death, although a traitor.”

The 59th NY arrived at Gettysburg on the morning of July 2nd, the second day of the three day battle. Part of Gen. Winfield Scott’s II Corps, they were deployed on Cemetery Ridge, south of the town of Gettysburg, and just south of what



Lt. William H. Pohlman

Courtesy NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY

would become an historic “Copse of Trees”. In the afternoon of that day, the 59th took part in repulsing an attack on their front by a brigade of Rebels from Georgia under the command of Confederate Gen. Ambrose Wright. It was Pohlman’s 14th engagement of the war.

The next day, July 3, 1863, was a hot, humid summer day. At mid-afternoon, the Rebels launched a tremendous cannonade at the center of the Union line, directed exactly where the 59th NY was positioned. As the Union cannon responded, it was said that the sound of the combined cannonade could be heard as far away as the Pennsylvania capital of Harrisburg, 35 miles to the north.

During the cannonade, Pohlman was wounded in the left shoulder by shrapnel from a bursting shell, rendering his arm powerless. His men urged him to leave the field, but Pohlman said, “Not while I have my sword arm left.” A short time later the Confederates stepped off on an infantry assault. Roughly 12,000 Rebels began a march across an open field to attack the center of the Union line in what became known to history as “Pickett’s Charge.”

During the assault, Pohlman was wounded again. A Confederate minie ball shattered his sword hilt, entered his wrist, and passed up his arm. One of Pohlman’s men took his ramrod and slid it into the wound, then wrapped a handkerchief around it to stem the bleeding. Pohlman, now incapacitated in both arms, watched as the Rebels overran certain parts of the Union line and savage, hand-to-hand fighting ensued. Ultimately, the Confederate assault was repulsed. However, with so many wounded on the battlefield, Pohlman had to walk under his own power three miles to the 2nd Corps Field Hospital, fainting once along the way from loss of blood. As the surgeon removed the dirt and bone chips from Pohlman’s

shoulder, not a single moan escaped his lips. The surgeon asked, "Doesn't that hurt, Lieutenant?," to which Pohlman replied, "Of course it does, a little."

On July 11 Pohlman was moved to a home in the town of Gettysburg, known as the Swope Mansion. It was owned by George Swope, director of the Gettysburg National Bank, considered to be the wealthiest man in town. The improved conditions in which Pohlman was now placed, and his naturally good constitution, were thought to be sufficient to carry him through the ordeal. However, on July 20 secondary hemorrhage set in and Pohlman sank rapidly. He fell into a coma and was unconscious. At one time he sat bolt upright in bed and shouted the command, "Cease Firing!"

These were his last words. At 11:30 a.m. on July 21, 1863, William H. Pohlman died of his wounds. Pohlman's body was embalmed and returned to Albany, where a funeral service was held from his Aunt Elizabeth's home on Monday, July 27th.

Pohlman's gravestone is unique, indeed. Carved from two hunks of marble, the base consists of two layers of rocks which depict breastworks erected for battle.

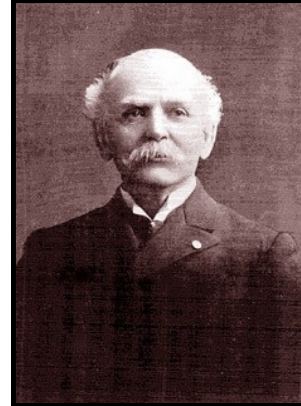


Lt. William Pohlman's Head Stone

Engraved on these rocks are several of the battles in which Pohlman was engaged: White Oak Swamp, Gaines Mills, Malvern Hill, Chantilly, Antietam and Fredericksburg. Creeping up the rocks at the base of the stones are vines of ivy, which symbolize immortality and fidelity. Atop the rocks is a dead stump of an oak tree. German folklore emphasizes the oak tree's powers against evil, and represents temporal human strength and the male family head. When depicted with trunk and branches severed, as with Pohlman's stone, it symbolizes the end of a family line. Shown surrounding the oak stump are the soldier's accoutrements: a kepi, a flag and a flagstaff on the front, and an officer's sword with scabbard and a cannon barrel, which is laying horizontally across the back of the monument. Engraved on the cannon barrel are Pohlman's last words: "Cease firing." Lt. William Pohlman just might be the only Civil War soldier to have been born on the island of Borneo.

Lt. Harrison Clark

Harrison Clark was born in 1842 in the town of Chatham. A wagon maker by trade, in 1862 Clark enlisted in the 125th NY Infantry Regiment which was formed in Troy. Mustered in as a corporal, his Descriptive Record shows that Clark had brown eyes, black hair a light complexion and stood 5 feet 10 inches tall.



Lt. Harrison Clark

Courtesy NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY

Harrison Clark was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism at the Battle of Gettysburg. On July 2, 1863, as Clark and the 125th attacked the advancing Confederate forces, the color bearer fell wounded. Clark dropped his weapon, picked up the flag, and led the regiment toward the Confederate line. The Confederate advance was stopped. Clark was promoted to Color Sergeant on the field the following day. Ten months later, in May 1864 at the Battle of the Wilderness, Clark carried the flag to within 10 feet of the enemy's line, where he was wounded, his left thigh shattered by a minie ball. Clark was promoted to lieutenant, but his left leg was amputated and he was mustered out of the army, no longer fit for duty.



Lt. Harrison Clark's Head Stone

Harrison Clark died in Albany in 1913 at the age of 71. He's buried in lot 153, section 112 of Albany Rural Cemetery. Engraved at either side of the face of his gray granite headstone are the Grand Army of the Republic medal and the Medal of Honor.

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Historical Society of the Town of Colonie, New York, Inc. in the classification I have checked or renew my membership as noted.

My annual dues payment in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Classification	Annual Dues	Classification	Annual Dues	Classification	Annual Dues
<input type="checkbox"/> Students and Senior Citizens . . .	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$250.00 & Up
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	12.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Business	50.00		

Please accept my additional donation of \$ _____ as a gift to the Historical Society. *The Historical Society is a not-for-profit corporation.*

Name _____

Address _____

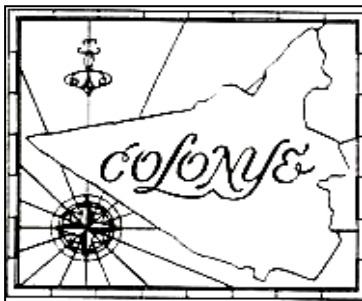
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Please mail to Membership Chairperson c/o Historical Society, Memorial Town Hall, Newtonville, N. Y. 12128-0508

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**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE TOWN OF COLONIE**



Historical Society Founded 1971

MEMORIAL TOWN HALL,
NEWTONVILLE, NY 12128-0508
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Kevin Franklin, Town Historian
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Support the Society's efforts to stimulate an appreciation of the historical heritage of your community. Join Now!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg I felt it appropriate to honor the service of the men that were engaged in that historic, horrific battle, and to pass along to our membership some vignettes of them. I trust you will find a good portion of the information in the newsletter new to you, as well as interesting. Our Town is so rich in history that I believe these short biographies will serve to enhance the knowledge of our readers of some of the local history of the Civil War period. As you can imagine, there is much, much more.

In keeping the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Civil War as the focus, our Annual Dinner on May 15th featured speaker Michael Barrett, who enlightened the attendees with his informative and entertaining Power Point presentation, "Troy in the Civil War". If you missed it, we hope you can join us at future meetings and events.

Here's one to mark on your calendar: the Historical Society of the Town of Colonie has partnered with the Watervliet Historical Society in hosting this year's **Civil War Heritage Days at Schuyler Flatts**, a wonderful encampment of period re-enactors and exhibitors. The encampment will be held on **Saturday & Sunday, August 17 & 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Our Historical Society will staff a booth at the event, so if you attend please be sure to stop by and say Hi.

Mark Bodnar, President