

**PORTLAND SOLDIERS AND  
SAILORS: A BRIEF SKETCH  
OF THE PART THEY TOOK IN  
THE WAR OF THE REBELLION**

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Portland Soldiers and Sailors: A Brief Sketch of the Part They Took in the War of the Rebellion  
by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT FAIR,  
PORTLAND, MAINE.

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# PORTLAND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

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A BRIEF SKETCH

—OF THE—

Part they took in the War of the Rebellion.

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## PORTLAND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

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MR. SYLVESTER B. BECKETT, who is the only one, so far as we know, that ever attempted to learn how many soldiers and sailors went into the army or navy from Portland during the rebellion, states the number to have been "about five thousand."\*

The population in 1860 was 28,342, and in 1865, 30,124, of whom 13,964 were males. It is incredible that 5,000 able-bodied men could have been enlisted from so small a population. Mr. Beckett probably counted the number of Portland men named in the Adjutant-General's report, where any man who served in two companies shows twice. This "repeating" happened to a large proportion of our soldiers; for instance, more than a half of the men of the 1st Maine re-enlisted, and are shown again elsewhere. The consolidation of the 5th, 6th and 7th regiments, and of the 1st D. C. cavalry with the 1st Maine cavalry, necessitated the enrolling of the same names twice.

Portland also was credited with many men who came here from the British Provinces. We shall not try to correct Mr. Beckett's figures, and nothing more will be attempted in this sketch than to give the prominent facts relating to the troops from Portland in the war of the rebellion, including the regiments which "rendezvoused" in our city.†

\*See Portland Directory for 1866-7, pages 200-2.

†In point of fact the camp-ground was in Cape Elizabeth, on the grounds now occupied by the Rolling Mills.

## FIRST MAINE INFANTRY.

COLONEL NATHANIEL J. JACKSON.

Mustered into U. S. service, May 3, 1861, for three months. Sent to Washington, June 1st.

When the call for troops was made, April 15, 1861, there were thirty-five "volunteer companies" or "active and uniformed" militia in the State of Maine. Governor Washburn ordered these to fill their ranks by recruiting, and nineteen of them did so. The other sixteen failed, and so lost their identity. It is noteworthy that five of these thirty-five were Portland companies, and that all five filled their ranks mostly with Portland men, many days before the state and national officers could arm and equip them. The companies were the

Portland Light Infantry,  
Portland Mechanic Blues,  
Portland Light Guards,  
Portland Rifle Corps,  
Portland Rifle Guards.

Lewiston claims that the Lewiston Light Infantry (Co. F, 1st Me.) was the first to volunteer. Gen. Beal also claims the honor for his company, the Norway Light Infantry (Co. G, 1st Me.) We give below the Rifle Guards' claim, as stated by Lieut. Wm. M. Quimby.\*

I claim to be the first man in the State of Maine to volunteer in the war of the rebellion. On Tuesday evening, January 8, 1861, after the steamer Star of the West was fired upon by the rebels investing Fort Sumter, I arose in the meeting of the Guards, called by Capt. Wm. M. Shaw, at my suggestion, and stated my views in regard to the war which I felt certain was about to be inaugurated. I urged with all my power that the company should make haste and place itself on

\*Quimby was commissioned captain in the regular army after his service in the 1st Maine. He was crippled for life at battle of Cedar Mountain, August 9, 1862, and died in 1876.

record as the first company to volunteer. The meeting was not a very full one, but the members present, with one exception, voted to volunteer. I was much vexed because I could not get a unanimous vote. There the matter rested till the day after the reception of the news of the attack on Fort Sumter. I saw Capt. Shaw, and urged him to call another meeting. He was as ready as myself, and set about it at a good deal of inconvenience, as he had to hunt up every member. At this meeting (Tuesday, April 16) the enthusiasm was tremendous. As soon as it was called to order, I arose and urged the company to volunteer its services. I was most ably seconded by Capt. Shaw, Lieuts. Estes, Merrill and Marston, and many of the non-commissioned officers. The result was that the company volunteered, by a unanimous vote, to offer its services to the State, in anticipation of a call from the general government. [Extract from letter of Capt. Quimby.]

Lieut. Quimby was appointed messenger to go to Augusta, and formally tender the services of the company. He did so and returned immediately with recruiting rolls in his hands. The other Portland companies had to wait for their blank rolls to come, and while they were waiting, "the Guards," in the language of one of the men, "was filling up as fast as the men could write their names on the roll, or one hundred and eighty men in about an hour."

The Rifle Guards enlisted double the number required, and an additional company was necessarily formed, composed largely of residents of Saccarappa, where Lieut. Quimby was wont to spend much of his time courting a young lady.

We remark in passing that this company had gained considerable notoriety, and had probably made itself unpopular with the majority of our citizens, by suppressing the "Neal Dow" or "John Robbins" riot, June 2, 1855. But when the call was made for troops to go to war, there came a reaction in its favor. "Bloody Guards" was no longer spoken in derision.



It will be noticed that Portland furnished six companies of the ten sent in answer to the first call for troops—75,000 three months volunteers.

As before stated, the men were ready long before the State or U. S. could arm and clothe them. After remaining "in quarters" in the halls and large rooms of the city, they were sent May 8, to camp upon a field in East Deering, between the Marine Hospital and Grand Trunk Railway, south of the county road. Here a malignant type of measles broke out, prostrating a hundred men and delaying the departure of the regiment. The remainder of the time was spent on Meridian Hill, Washington, doing guard duty and learning how to grumble and swear.

The Portland officers in this regiment were :

Lieut.-Colonel, Albion Witham,  
Major, George G. Bailey,  
Quarter-master, William S. Dodge,  
Chaplain, George Knox,  
Surgeon, Wentworth R. Richardson.

CO. A (PORTLAND LIGHT INFANTRY).

Captain, George W. Tukey.  
1st Lieutenant, George H. Chadwell.  
2d Lieutenant, Charles L. McAllister.

CO. B (MECHANIC BLUES).

Captain, Charles Walker.  
1st Lieutenant, Charles J. Pennell.  
2d Lieutenant, James M. Black.

CO. C (LIGHT GUARDS).

Captain, Menzies R. Fessenden.  
1st Lieutenant, William P. Jordan.  
2d Lieutenant, Benjamin M. Redlon.

## CO. D (RIFLE CORPS).

Captain, Charles H. Meserve.

1st Lieutenant, William A. Pearce.

2d Lieutenant, George H. Bailey.

## CO. E (RIFLE GUARDS).

Captain, William M. Shaw.

1st Lieutenant, Albert H. Estes.

2d Lieutenant, John M. Marston.

## CO. I (2d CO. OF RIFLE GUARDS).

Captain, William M. Quimby.

1st Lieutenant, Nehemiah T. Furbish.

The Second Maine regiment, rendezvoused in Bangor. According to the Adjutant-General's report, there were twenty-three Portland men among its "original members." Horatio Staples, the well-known dry goods dealer, was 1st Lieut. of Co. G, but hailed from Bangor then.

The Third (Gen. Howard's), was a Kennebec regiment, and rendezvoused at Augusta. Not a single Portland name appears on its list of original members, and no Portland officer at any time of its long service. They don't send to Portland for help down on the Kennebec.

The Fourth (Gen. Berry's), was organized at Rockland. There were only three Portlanders among the original members. Dr. Hunkins, who lived here after the war, was surgeon, hailing then from Windham. Solomon J. Stearns, of Portland, "joined as Lieutenant" of Co. F, January 1, 1862.

## FIFTH MAINE INFANTRY.

COL. MARK H. DUNNELL, OF PORTLAND.

Mustered in June 23 and 24, 1861, for three years. Sent to Washington, June 28.

There were three Portland companies here:

Co. F, Capt. George P. Sherwood.

Co. G, Capt. Henry G. Thomas.

Co. H, Capt. Edward A. Scammon.

Sherwood was wounded and invalided at Bull Run. Thomas eventually became Brigadier-General and is now in the regular army. Scammon was promoted to Colonel, lost his health and died.

Three Portland men were successively appointed Adjutants:

Charles Whitman,

George W. Graffam,

George W. Bicknell.

Whitman resigned shortly after appointment and re-entered the navy in which he had previously served. Graffam entered the regular army, died 1882. Bicknell was for many years pastor of the India St. Universalist Church.

The other Portland officers were Maj. Henry R. Millett, hailing from Palmyra, and now living at Gorham, but well known from a long residence here after the war.

Capt. Thomas J. Sawyer.

“ Alburn P. Harris.

“ George E. Brown.

“ Nathan Walker.

“ Daniel C. Clark.

1st Lieut. William E. Stevens.

“ Charles O. Waterhouse.

“ George W. Martin.