

**ANNUAL VOLUME OF THE  
ONONDAGA HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION 1915.  
ONONDAGA'S PART IN THE CIVIL  
WAR**

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by Mrs. Sarah Sumner Teall

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**MRS. SARAH SUMNER TEALL**

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1875-1880  
Champlain  
Soc.

# ANNUAL VOLUME

of the

## Onondaga Historical Association

1915

### Onondaga's Part in the Civil War

by

MRS. SARAH SUMNER TEALL

These papers were collected by Mrs. Teall as a tribute  
to the courage and faithfulness of the men and  
women of Onondaga County during  
our great National crisis.

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Arranged for Publication by Dr. E. P. Tanner of Syracuse  
University and Miss Alice E. Northrup.

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### WAR SCENES IN SYRACUSE AND ONONDAGA COUNTY IN THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF 1861.

The call to arms which followed the firing upon Fort Sumter found an echo in every loyal heart. Thousands offered their services. On the 15th of April, 1861, President Lincoln called for 75,000 militia volunteers for three months' service, and it was supposed the rebellion would be put down in that time.

Within two weeks after the call 350,000 men had offered their services to the government, New York furnishing 14,000 men under the first call. Of these Onondaga County sent her full share of about forty representative young men, some papers say fifty, besides those in Skaneateles who volunteered in Auburn. Here is an account I found in an old paper. Nothing better nor more worthy could be said of any men :

"Certain members of Company D. of the 51st Regiment of N. Y. S. V., left their old company, the Greys, and formed the Syracuse Zouaves, an independent organization. They seem bound to carry out the stringent resolves which they have imposed upon themselves. They show a determination to emulate the famous Chicago cadets in their military discipline. The company has adopted a strict system of drilling. They have a drill at their quarters in the Armory at 8 o'clock every evening. At ten o'clock the lights are put out; taps sounded. These soldiers—wrapped in rough blankets—sleep perhaps on the floor in the next room. At 5 o'clock in the morning reveille sounds. Everybody is promptly in line for the morning drill, at the conclusion of which each goes to his daily business. This severe discipline is to be continued two weeks, and to be continued at intervals, until the Company reaches the first rank in military art."

"This Zouave company is composed of some of the most correct, moral and upright young gentlemen of the city. Active, industrious, resolute, they have adopted a system of conduct by which they will be governed. of most rigorous morals and strict self-discipline, and have scrupulously lived

up to it, until they present an appearance of high health and activity, approaching the perfection of manhood. This example is a valuable one to our young men, and our community should give them every encouragement which such an example merits. Captain John Butler has been the leader of this movement. Courteous, magnanimous and kind, he has attached his associates to him by the strongest bonds of friendship and respect. The citizens will honor themselves by the encouragement they give to so worthy a body of exemplary young men."

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COMPLETE ROSTER OF "BUTLER'S SYRACUSE  
ZOUAVES."

Organized July, 1860.

Capt. Jno. G. Butler	Hopkins, Wm. E.
First Lieut. Samuel E. Thompson	Ketcham, F. Douglas
Second Lieut. Edwin S. Jenney	Kingsbury, Jno. T.
Orderly Serg't. Henry C. Thompson	Larrabee, Wm. H.
Jno. P. Spanier, Bugler	Manchester, Geo. W.
Robt. Trowbridge, Judge Advocate	Middleton, Hugh
Thos. McMahon, Reporter	Morgan, Geo.
Austin, Wm. A.	Morgan, Robt.
Ballard, Leon H.	Moseley, Wm. H.
Belden, Jas. L.	Mickells, Lovell G.
Bishop, Alonzo L.	O'Neil, Jas. F.
Blackwell, Wm. H.	Paine, Robt.
Burdick, Chas. H.	Phillips, Jno. J.
Chase, Durfee C.	Shaver, Frank J.
Coatsworth, Ed. E.	Snell, J. Marvin
Duncan, Wm. A.	Stern, Moses
Gale, Henry	Stoddard, Chas. E.
Goss, Henry	Stoddard, Henry
Griffin, Rhesa, Jr.	Sweeting, J. Henry
Havens, George	Tarcott, Henry
Hamilton, Henry H.	Tracy, Wm. G.
	Weaver, F. Wellington
	Wells, J. Emmett
	Wicks, Jay M.
	Williams, Jno. T.

Mrs. A. Judd Northrup describes the departure of Butler's Zouaves from Syracuse, as follows:

"I recall the scene as I witnessed it, of the departure of Capt. Butler and his company of brave Zouaves, on a pleasant morning in the early spring of 1861.

"The first N. Y. Central station was yet standing. It covered the tracks and filled in the space between Warren and Salina streets. This structure was a dark grey, either from paint or age, with arched openings at either end.

"The train had come in from the west, and its engine stood snorting just beyond the eastern opening. Good byes had been said—the soldiers of the company were seated in the train—but on the rear platform were Captain Butler and other officers. I stood on the northwest corner of Salina street when the train began to pull out and the picture is still vivid to me, as that group of brave men were for a moment framed in the arch of the old station house.

"Captain Butler, in the strength of his young manhood, stood with bared head. His clear-cut features and yellow, curling hair shone with distinctness against the background of the car, while he held in his hand the staff of a large flag which had just been presented to him. The train started, the wind caught the folds of the flag, which fluttered above him and the other brave boys standing with him, and they were gone. It is only like a flash light picture in my memory, but as such is distinct and speaks for what it meant, for them and our country."

The Syracuse Zouaves were incorporated in the Third Regiment, New York Volunteers, as Company D of that organization.

Here is a newspaper article on the departure of the Third from New York City:

"After many vexatious delays, they managed to get off in the steamer James Alger. A big crowd collected in State Street, as men filed out of the Battery and marched up Broadway, they were received with *loud cheers and great demonstrations of approval*. (It is astonishing how ready we all are to urge other people to do their duty. Mr. Beecher used to say, there was nothing he so much enjoyed as sitting in the shade and telling the other men how to mow hay.) After marching up Broadway the regiment wheeled at The Park, and marched through Park Row, down Broadway



again, and embarked at Pier No. 4 North River. This regiment had a fine band." As usual on the departure of troops, much delay was found in mustering the men together, transporting the baggage, etc. (The people here in town used to complain of what they called the slow movements of troops. Mrs. Kirby Smith used to say, "Could you ever get a picnic party all ready at the same time.")

The newspaper goes on to say, "For marching and soldier-like appearance few regiments equal the 3rd N. Y. Volunteers; while in a physical point of view, Colonel Townsend has every reason to feel proud of the stalwart fellows by whom he is surrounded."

Captain James D. Phillips of the steamer Alger said, "Having had much experience in the transportation of troops, I have never yet met with a better behaved or better disciplined body of men, while on shipboard, than the 3rd N. Y. Volunteers. Although it numbered nine hundred men, who were very much crowded, besides having very disagreeable weather during the passage, not a complaint was heard; on the contrary the men seemed determined to look on the bright side. When a body of men, of their station and character, are placed in a position where nothing but hardships can be expected, and they are firm and steady, it speaks more for them than *volumes of praise* or days of camp life could ever do."

This regiment was landed on "the Sacred Soil" of Virginia at an oyster dock about four miles from Fortress Monroe, near what is now known as The Hampton Indian School. The men had been on short rations: a sandwich made of half-cooked pork between two pieces of hard tack was their last frugal meal. They were marched along a sandy beach, wet from the returning tide, each succeeding footstep sinking deeper into puddles of water. But a cheerfulness spread through the ranks, when Captain Butler's company struck up, in *decision*, the slogan of the South, which the sandy path had brought to mind:

"Way down South, in the land of cotton,  
Cinnamon seed and sandy bottom,  
Look away, look away, look away;  
Dixie's land."

The regiment was marched into a wide corn field. Only a few tents had been pitched when darkness came as a pall.

bringing one of Virginia's blackest thunder storms. The rain fell in torrents. The men, rolled in blankets, had lain down between the old corn hillocks to get some much needed rest, but soon found themselves almost afloat in their hard beds.

They remained in their camp, drilling and doing picket duty, until the 10th of June, 1861, was fought the first battle of the war at Big Bethel. When volunteers were called for as skirmishers, Captain Butler and Captain Jenney offered the services of their companies, the first skirmish line thrown out in the war of the Rebellion. Halej, of Company D, Zouaves, was the first *man wounded*, losing an arm. After the battle the regiment returned to its old camp, remaining there till just before the first battle of Bull Run, when it was ordered to join the main army.

The news of the disaster at Bull Run caused a change of orders. The 3rd N. Y. Volunteers were ordered to Baltimore and garrisoned Fort McHenry. Companies were often detailed to watch for small boats, blockade runners, which were certainly carrying supplies to the Southern army, quinine being one of the most needed articles.

I cannot follow more particularly the history of Company D and the 3rd Regiment. It was that of all other companies. The ranks were thinned by sickness and death, new men took the places of old ones. But a number served through their two years; several were promoted; quite a number re-enlisted for the war, taking their honorable part in the last grand review of the whole army in Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington. A grander sight this world has never seen, perhaps never can again.

Here is the Roll of Honor which should ever be kept in grateful remembrance in this community:

Captain John G. Butler, still living in Syracuse.

First Lieutenant Charles H. Burdick.

Ensign Jay M. Wicks, killed at Chapin's farm.

First Sergeant A. L. Bishop.

Second Sergeant F. Wellington Weaver, lives in Syracuse, and was promoted to a Captaincy.

Third Sergeant H. Middleton.

Fourth Sergeant J. M. Snell.

First Corporal R. Griffin, Engineer, City of Syracuse.

Second Corporal W. A. Austin.

Third Corporal George Manchester.

Fourth Corporal William G. Tracy.

## PRIVATES.

J. Allen	W. Hale, English soldier, lost his arm at Big Bethel.
E. H. Alvord	J. Griffin
E. H. Behan	William Goodrich, joined N. Y. Artillery
M. Breen	L. Holmes
J. Erame	J. Hisley
Seely Brown	William Harnley
T. K. Brown	J. Hobert
W. Bowers	H. Jerome
W. Chidister	W. H. H. Jones
C. Cornell	E. D. Ketcham
A. Cook	E. D. Kinne
J. Campbell	O. Keats
T. Cronley	H. Kelsey
H. Cullin, a brave soldier	L. G. Mickles
H. Denning	William Moriley
Frank Shaver	P. Mirtues, a good soldier.
T. J. Sheldon	E. Morgan, a good soldier.
N. Shirer	J. Mitchell
J. H. Smith, re-enlisted	T. McKay
J. Spalding, deputy marshal	T. Nye
H. Soules	N. Larance
H. Turny	J. J. Phillips, in Postoffice of Solvay.
F. Vickerman	C. A. Phillips
T. J. Williams	R. B. Philips
W. H. Wright	O. H. Parker
W. Wright	T. Pickham
D. Woodworth	C. Robinson
Emmet Wells	Samuel Stapley
O. Wariner	J. H. Fesenmeyer
G. C. Haven	A. Fesenmeyer
J. J. Heron	
C. Harding	
George Bowen	
Geo. Fordham, Captain, etc.	

The Fesenmeyers with two others came from Geddes. Meanwhile the citizens of Syracuse had been taking their full share in the patriotic activities and duties which the war brought. Let us note a few of the stirring incidents which marked the time.

On Sunday, April 21st, most of the preachers in the