THE NINETY-FIFTH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS (GOSLINE'S PENNSYLVANIA ZOUAVES") IN THE SIXTH CORPS. AN HISTORICAL PAPER

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The Ninety-Fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers (Gosline's Pennsylvania Zouaves") in the Sixth Corps. An Historical Paper by G. Norton Galloway

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G. NORTON GALLOWAY

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Dedication.

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MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN SEDGWICK,

KILLED BY A SHARPSHOOTER MAY 9TH, 1864, NEAR SPOTTSYLVANIA COURT-HOUSE, VA.,

AND

THE FALLEN BRAVES

OF THE

GLORIOUS OLD SIXTH CORPS.

THE AUTHOR.

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ADDRESS.

THE "Union Cockade," and red, white, and blue ribbon fever was yet at its height, when the three months' volunteers returned to their homes from a brief campaign in Maryland and Virginia. The country was still in a state of excitement, and brisk recruiting was going on at all points.

Philadelphia had been and was still doing a noble work towards her share in suppressing the rebellion, and the South was just beginning to feel the reverberation of the "Ruffin Gun" fired by the Marlbourne Virginia farmer. The popular uprising, however, had not yet reached its zenith, for a distrustful element hovered about the horizon, which needed only to burst to give true color to the immensurability of a struggle begun somewhat on the principle of "When fools take up the sword, wise people are compelled to take the shield;" for many believed (and rightly, too) that our sister States of the South had foolishly taken up arms against a supposition of wrong; and we of the North, East, and West had only to lay hold on the shield to restore order.

A number of fine regiments had already left for the seat of war, under the new call of President Lincoln for three years' volunteers, and many others were in process of organization. The Washington Blues, a military company of Philadelphia, had been in existence since the 17th of August, 1817. Its first captain being Robert Patterson, late Major-General of volunteers (since deceased). At the outbreak of the rebellion it numbered seventy-five muskets, under command of Captain John M. Gosline, of Philadelphia, a tailor by trade, who had for many years been connected with the company. From it Company A of the Eighteenth Pennsylvania Volunteers, Col. Wm. D. Lewis commanding, was principally, if not entirely,

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recruited for the three months' service. This company was officered by Captain Gosline commanding, with Gustavus Washington Town (a printer of Philadelphia) as first, and his brother, Thomas J. Town, as second lieutenant.

Upon his return from the three months' service, Captain Gosline, having been invested with the necessary authority by the War Department, on the 27th of July, 1861, proceeded in conjunction with his late lieutenants, the brothers Town, to raise a three years' regiment for the national defence. Of the regiment, afterward better known as the Ninety-Fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers, it is now proposed to speak.

Not that this once famous body of men did more than their noble brothers of other name and number under the same flag, but that the writer has a fuller knowledge of its doings (having served his country with them).

Recruiting for "Gosline's Pennsylvania Zouaves" was begun on the 21st of August, 1861. The books of the first company (A) being opened on that day, at Sixth and Chestnut Streets, over the clothing establishment of Rockhill & Wilson, by Thomas J. Town, before mentioned, and fortysix men were enrolled in a few hours' time. All the companies, excepting "B," were recruited in Philadelphia and its suburbs, the latter company having been recruited in part in Burlington County, New Jersey, by Lieuts. J. G. C. Macfarlane and Wm. H. R. Neal. This company also established a rendezvous in Philadelphia, over the clothing establishment of Rockhill & Wilson, when the company roster was finally filled under Captain Enos Baldwin, who had been a first lieutenant in Company F, Eighteenth Pennsylvania Volunteers. Companies C and D also were recruited at the same building, the former by Captain Elisha Hall, and the latter by Captain Jacob H. Beattes. Captains Beattes and Hall had also served in the Eighteenth Pennsylvania Volunteers, in the three months' service-Beattes as captain, and Hall as second lieutenant of Company F. Company E was recruited in Germantown, a wealthy suburb of Philadelphia, by Captain G. W. McCullough. Company F was raised in the neighborhood of Ridge (Road) Avenue, Vine, and Callowhill Streets, by Cap-

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tain Edward Carroll. Company G had a general rendezvous at the armory of the Philadelphia Greys, a local military organization, on Market Street above Eighth, and a recruiting station on the corner of Forty-second and Market Streets, West Philadelphia. The company was raised by Captain William Pritner, who had been identified with the "Greys," for twenty-nine years, and who had just returned from the three months' campaign, having commanded a company in the Seventeenth Pennsylvania, under Col. Frank E. Patter-Company H was recruited by Captain Francis W. son. Franklin, Chestnut Street below Eighth. Company I was recruited in the northern and western environs of Philadelphia-Manayunk and Roxborough-by Captain Timothy Clegg. Company I was largely recruited by Captain (afterwards Major) William B. Hubbs, and the rolls show the first muster of recruits to have taken place on the 23d of August, 1861. And Company K was raised by Captain Harry W. Hewes, its principal rendezvous being with Companies A, B, C, and D.

A camp for instruction, known as "Camp Gibson," was established in Jones's Woods, near Hestonville, West Philadelphia, and the organization was designated by the proper authority as "Gosline's Pennsylvania Zouaves," Forty-fifth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

As fast as recruits were enrolled and mustered in, they were sent to Camp Gibson and fitted out. While here permission was given the men to visit their homes, and remain for twenty-four hours at a time, at the expiration of which they were required to return to camp and report for duty. The companies were soon filled up, the majority of the volunteers being young men of high social standing, many holding positions of trust in the leading mercantile houses of Philadelphia.

Clothing, arms, and accoutrements were issued almost daily, and drilling commenced. Camp guard was mounted regularly, and a thorough system of discipline exacted from the men. The arms issued at this camp were the old Harper's Ferry altered muskets, which were subsequently exchanged

for the Austrian rifle with four-square bayonet. During the winter of 1862, at Camp Franklin, Virginia, the utter uselessness of these latter arms was fully demonstrated by its frequent use in target practice, by the several companies of the command, and subsequently after the regiment arrived before Richmond. In June of the same year this arm was exchanged for the Springfield Rifle, which was retained until the close of the war.

The regimental uniform was of the zouave pattern, and differed but little from other zouave organizations-Birney's and Baxter's-then forming in the city. It was manufactured by the firm of Rockhill & Wilson, Philadelphia, and consisted of the best material, heavy marine cloth. The jacket, which was of the sacque pattern, was open, and rounded at the waist, and trimmed with broad and narrow scarlet braid. Down each side was a row of brass buttons, adding greatly to its beauty and finish. The pants were of full length, not so wide as the regular "Zouave Petticoat," but just wide enough to harmonize with the pleated waist, in broad folds. The over shirt was of Navy flannel, with silverplated buttons, corresponding with those on the jacket, but several sizes smaller. The cap was the McClellan style, braided with narrow scarlet braid. A pair of leather leggings nearly reaching the knees finished the uniform, which, upon the whole, was very neat and attractive. The officers' uniform was of the regulation pattern excepting the caps, which were trimmed with heavy bullion in "Pretzel work."

The following was the original roster of commissioned officers: Colonel, John M. Gosline; Lieutenant-Colonel, Gustavus W. Town; Major, Wm. B. Hubbs; Adjutant, Eugene D. Dunton; Quartermaster, John Haverland; Surgeon, Edward B. P. Kelly; Assistant-Surgeon, C. C. McGlaughlin. Company A: Captain Thomas J. Town (promoted Major, commissioned Colonel, not mustered); First Lieutenant, Edward Freeman (promoted Captain of Company I); Second Lieutenant, C. S. Danenhower. Company B: Captain, Enos Baldwin; First Lieutenant, J. G. C. Macfarlane (promoted First Lieutenant, Captain, and Lieutenant-Colonel, not mus-

tered); Second Lieutenant, Wm. H. R. Neal (promoted Captain). Company C: Captain, Elisha Hall (promoted Lieutenant-Colonel); First Lieutenant, Hamilton Donohue; Second Lieutenant, T. D. G. Chapman (promoted First Lieutenant and Captain). Company D: Captain, Jacob H. Beattes; First Lieutenant, Francis J. Randall (promoted Captain, commissioned Major, not mustered); Second Lieutenant, Patrick Egan (promoted Captain of Company K). Company E: Captain, G. W. McCullough; First Lieutenant, William H. Miller; Second Lieutenant, Hugh Oscar Roberts (promoted First Lieutenant, Captain, and commissioned Major, not mustered). Company F: Captain Edward Carroll (promoted) Lieutenant-Colonel); First Lieutenant, David Hailer; Second Lieutenant, Charles Shugrue. Company G: Captain, William Pritner; First Lieutenant, George Weest (promoted Captain); Second Lieutenant, Jacob Conrad. Company H: Captain, F. W. Franklin; First Lieutenant, J. B. W. Aydelotte (promoted Captain); Second Lieutenant, Huston Smith, Jr. Company I: Captain Timothy Clegg; First Lieutenant, John B. Maxwell; Second Lieutenant, John Laughlin. Company K: Captain Harry W. Hewes; First Lieutenant, Theodore H. McCalla (promoted Captain of Company E, and Major); Second Lieutenant, Michael A. Burke (promoted First Lieutenant and Captain). William John Campbell was Commissary Sergeant; Mardon Wilson, Jr., was Quartermaster Sergeant ; Robert H. Porter, Sergeant Major ; Thomas Noble, Hospital Steward; James M. Mann and Frederick Myers were Principal Musicians.

Attached to the regiment was a fine brass band, which had long been in existence, and ranked among the first local bands in Philadelphia. Its leader, Joseph Whittington, was an accomplished performer upon the cornet, and a musician of some celebrity. It was composed as follows:---

Leader, Joseph Whittington; David Algie, William H. Bovard, Henry Beaver, Willis Davis, William Donald, Thos. Fitzpatrick, William H. Heffron, John R. Hause, William Hinkle, Henry Klag, Adolph Miller, Martin W. Mann, George Murgetroid, Alexander McCrea, Abraham Ogden,