

# Alfred in the Civil War

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## THE WAR BEGINS

### Chapter I

The reaction of Alfred to Southern secession was, largely one of righteous indignation. Most of the residents had their roots in an abolitionist New England society; they had been raised on abolition and they raised their children on abolition. This anti-slavery feeling no doubt influenced their strong feelings against other Southern causes.

The famous "Underground Railroad" ran through Alfred Station and an alternate route through Alfred was used at times. In the 1850's when the call went out for free state settlers to help "bleeding Kansas" become a free state, several local men responded. Some became prominent in State government. Examples of this are: Solon Thacher and S.M. Thorp in the state senate; Dwight Hacher as state printer; and A.F. Randolph as attorney general.

In the University, the issues of slavery and states rights were kept alive as speakers from all over the country came to express their views. Whenever the Lyceums or debating societies met the subject most often chosen was one of these problems.

Anti-slavery feeling reached its peak when the "Fugitive Slave Act" of 1856 was passed. Professor Darwin E. Maxson said, "The enactment is not law and we will not obey it." Even those who had been a little sympathetic to slavery now took the side of the North.

The military structure which was to be called upon if war came existed only on paper. Before the War of 1812, a need was realized for an organized home-defense force. Soldiers who had been in the revolution or the early stages of War of 1812 made an excellent nucleus and companies were soon formed in practically every town in the state. The first Alfred company was founded in 1811 with Clark Crandall as Captain.

On the first Saturday of September, each militia company was required to hold "general training" or maneuvers. The local version included a day of soldiering and a combination banquet and ball at the Charles Stillman residence. The whole thing was quite a social affair; one young man rode over to Independence to get his sweetheart. Between then and October, each county militia brigade was required to hold its own training.

The Alfred militia's prize item was a large brass cannon. It's only combat use came in June, 1850. The Erie Railroad tracks had reached the area and there was a labor camp at Alfred Station. A man named Pardon passed through the camp. He made the inexcusable mistake of being a Protestant Irishman and getting within 50 yards of a Catholic Irishman. He was rescued by the local constable. Some of the workers who were more prominent in demanding his liquidation were arrested and taken

to Alfred for confinement. The workers were indignant and got up a mob to rescue their comrades. All the militiamen who could be found assembled on Main Street, where Russell's house presently stands, with their cannon. They drew a line across the street and warned the mob that anyone who crossed that line would die a violent death. For several minutes the antagonists stared over the cannon at each other. Finally, one of the rioters became unnerved and ran; the others took the suggestion and joined him. For years to come, the village men would tell of their bravery in the "Irish Raid." About 1855 the militia fell apart and was disbanded. The cannon was sent out to Kansas for use by free state irregulars.

When the actual news of war reached Alfred, a wave of patriotic fervor spread over the town. On Main Street, a large flag was run up a 120 foot flagpole amid shouts and cheers. Everywhere, one could hear patriotic speeches about how brave soldiers would make short work of "damned traitors." The entire senior class of Alfred University and many natives were soon to enlist.

Professor Allen went along with the troops on the first invasion of Virginia. He was interested and disgusted onlooker at the battle of Bull Run. After the battle he visited the camp of the 23<sup>rd</sup> New York. W.W. Brown, a former pupil of his, described his visit; "The coming of Professor Allen into our camp was like a ray of sunshine and harbinger of hope in a day of desolation. All others we had seen from the battlefield told only that doleful tale of disaster, and prophesied of ultimate dismemberment of the nation. 'No army that ever was or ever will be organized can drive the enemy from his entrenchments' came from the excited lips of every comer hurrying from imagined danger. Not so with Professor Allen. There was no prophecy of ultimate defeat in his words, no discouragement."

"About him gathered the volunteers from Alfred, and from him gained the inspiration that kindles that hope and determination that is at best in the face of calamity. Not only those who had been his pupils, but all others who heard his determined words and marked his lofty bearing were better fitted for the next days work in the enemy's territory." <sup>1</sup>

After Bull Run, America realized that the war would be not quick venture.

Now we shall follow the individual units from this area.

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<sup>1</sup> Allen, Abigail - Life and Sermons of Johnathon Allen

## INFANTRY

### Chapter II

Infantry service will be listed by regiment. A regiment, number from 300 to 1,000 men was usually recruited and organized locally and then mustered into the service of the United States for a given period of time.

The amount of information given on each regiment will be governed by the number of local men who served in it. The amount of information given on each man will be determined by the amount I could find.

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#### 1. 15<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

This regiment was transferred to the Corps of Engineers on October 25, 1861. For further information see the 15<sup>th</sup> New York Engineers.

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#### 2. 23<sup>rd</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

This regiment was organized in Elmira and mustered into the service of the United States July 2, 1861. The first commander was Henry C. Hoffman. The 23<sup>rd</sup> left the state on July 5, 1861 and moved by train to Baltimore. At Baltimore, the men were kept in close formation to keep from being attacked the way a Massachusetts regiment had been earlier. At Washington, there was no place left for the tired men to sleep; men simply lay down in the streets.

The regiment had its first major campsite at Meridian Hill, Maryland. On July 17, President Lincoln and several other dignitaries came to present the 23<sup>rd</sup> with a stand of colors. After many "short speeches" the regiment returned to the routine of camp life.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> did not participate in the battle of Bull Run, but crossed the Potomac into Virginia the next day to Fort Runyon to protect the Union retreat. August 5<sup>th</sup>, the regiment moved from Fort Runyon to Arlington, Virginia. In September, the regiment fought its first battle. The inexperienced men made many mistakes but still managed to emerge pretty much unhurt.

On September 28, the 23<sup>rd</sup> left Arlington, supposedly to attack enemy fortification at Uptons Hill, Virginia. The fortifications turned out to be nothing but fakes to divert Union attention.

The men of the regiment, however, took advantage of the situation and built a winter camp which they named Uptons Dale. The camp was occupied until March 1862.

March 10, the regiment moved to Centerville, Virginia on a training hike and returned to Uptons Dale. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, one company of the 23<sup>rd</sup> moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia. On May 7, the remainder moved there to constitute an occupation force.

Either the men of the 23<sup>rd</sup> were very good soldiers or were easily flattered, for the Fredericksburg Christian Banner said (excerpts) “Respectful regard was paid to the sensitivity of the inhabitants of the town,” “the officers of this regiment are gentlemen of the highest respectability.” “Sergeant Major Devoe and Corporal Crocker flung the good old Stars and Stripes to the breeze.” (This is obviously a bit of turncoat spirit).

June 27 the regiment moved to Belle Plains, Virginia where it set up camp. They did not leave until July 24. On that date their brigade was detailed to a reconnaissance mission. The men marched 80 miles in three days and returned to camp.

On August 21 and 22 the regiment fought at the battle of Rappahannock Station. They advanced to their assigned position and found another regiment holding it. Colonel Hoffman ordered the men to retire and sit out the battle. They did but came under artillery fire. On August 10, the 23<sup>rd</sup> camped at Cedar mountain battlefield. For many of his men this was the first sight of war ravages and they were shocked. Said one eye witness, “I saw the worms crawling from the face of one man, the arm and shoulder of another were drying in the sun while the feet of a third protruded from the grave.”

At the battle of Second Bull Run, the regiment arrived late on the first day and fought only little. The next day they were in the first assault. William Maxson describes the charge, “The regiments had no sooner debouched from the woods than they were stunned by a volley from the ditch. They shattered ranks closed up and continued on. The advance rushed madly upon the ditch; but they were so quickly swept away that few reached it, and they were quickly killed or captured.” The men did not receive the order to leave the position they later held and were almost surrounded.

After the battle the regiment returned to Upton Hill for four days rest. In September 14, 1862 the regiment was in the battle of South Mountain. At Antietam the regiment charged into the fight and almost immediately ran out of ammunition and was forced to retire.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> would not fight again until December 11<sup>th</sup> at the battle of Fredericksburg. The regiment did not fight very much in the ill-fated assault Marye’s Heights but helped cover the retreat across the Rappahannock. They regiment then camped at Belle Plain Landing, Virginia until it was mustered out on May 22, 1863.

Local Men in the 23<sup>rd</sup><sup>2</sup>:

Albert R. Crandall – Sergeant

Charles H. Crandall – sworn in as a private in company D, May 11, 1861, age 22

Charles B. Estee – sworn in as a private in company K, May 16, 1861, age 19

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<sup>2</sup> Maxson, William, Campfires of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, appendix

J. Edmund B. Maxson – sworn in as a private in company K, May 16, 1861, age 26 - killed by accidental piston shot on February 27, 1863 at Uptons Hill

William P. Maxson – sworn in as a private in company K, May 16, 1861, age 24 - He wrote a book, Campfires of the 23<sup>rd</sup> where most of the information for this part was obtained. He later served in the 38<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry.

Mark Sheppard –sworn in as private in company K, May 16, 1861, age 25 – discharged for disability May 15, 1862.

G. Asher Williams – sworn in as a private in company K, May 16, 1861, age 25 – appointed hospital steward February, 1863.

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### 3. 27<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

In May 1863 Colonel Henry W. Slocum received permission to recruit a regiment of infantry and on July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> they newly formed 27<sup>th</sup> New York was mustered into the service of the United States. On July 10, 1861 the regiment left the state.

The 27<sup>th</sup> fought its first battle at Bull Run. Their first opponent was the 27<sup>th</sup> Virginia which fell back. They next run into heavy fire from a concealed enemy battery. At first the 27<sup>th</sup> held its ground, but the troops broke after the losses mounted up. In the panic Colonel Slocum was wounded and Lieutenant-Colonel Chambers took command. In the space of only a few minutes the 27<sup>th</sup> lost 26 killed, 44 wounded, and 60 captured.

After Bull Run the regiment was put to work building forts around Washington. On the Peninsula the 27<sup>th</sup> fought in the battles of Gaine's Mill, Goldings Farm, Glendale and Malvern Hill. At Golding's Farm the regiment lost 34 men killed.

At Antietam and Fredericksburg the regiment was not engaged heavily enough to lose any men. The 27<sup>th</sup>'s last battle was at Salem Church where it lost 19 men killed and wounded. On May 31, 1863 the regiment was mustered out at Elmira.

Local Men in the 27<sup>th</sup>.<sup>3</sup>

Charles W. Berry

Amos C. Lewis

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<sup>3</sup> Minard, John S., Allegany and Its People, p.376

4. 64<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry (64<sup>th</sup> N.Y.S.M.)

The 64<sup>th</sup> New York Militia was organized in 1853. At the time of Fort Sumter the regiment numbered 458 officers and men. In April 1861 Colonel Thomas J. Parker offered the services of the regiment but was not accepted. His second try was successful and the regiment was mustered into the service of the United States in December 1861.

On December 10 the regiment left the state. The regiment entered Virginia on January 7 and on March 7 they spilled their first rebel blood by killing one Charles Dillon, a Confederate spy. On April 5 the group took a steamer to participate in the Peninsula campaign. At Fair Oaks the regiment and the 61<sup>st</sup> New York charged a position and held it. Against repeated enemy attacks the 64<sup>th</sup> lost heavily; twelve of the twenty-two officers were killed or wounded and forty-six enlisted men died. In the retreat of McClellan the regiment fought in the battles of Gaines' Mill, Savage Station, White Oak Swamp, and Malvern Hill. The 64<sup>th</sup> was in the assault on Marye's Hill and lost 72 men killed and wounded. Lieutenant-Colonel Brooks, commanding the regiment, was shot through the body near the heart but survived for further service. Colonel Daniel C. Bingham took command of the regiment in time to lead it through the battle of Chancellorsville in the Spring of 1863.

At Gettysburg the regiment found itself far in advance of any other Union units and was forced to withdraw with heavy casualties – 53% of the men. Colonel Bingham was mortally wounded. The 64<sup>th</sup> was in the Wilderness campaign, fighting in the battles of Po River, Salient, and Landron House. In September, 1864, the terms of enlistment of many of the men ran out and those who wished to stay formed a battalion of six companies under the command of Major William Glenny. In the battle of Spottsylvania, May 12, 1865, the regiment captured two general officers, forty cannons, and a brigade of Confederate troops. The regiment was mustered out at Washington, D.C. on July 14, 1865.

Local Men in the 64<sup>th</sup>:

Cyrenus Ormsby – age 19 – mustered in Elmira on October 5, 1861

Rowland Ormsby – age 21 – enlisted September 14, 1861 – killed at Gettysburg,  
July 2, 1863

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5. 85<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

This regiment, commanded by Colonel Uriah L. Davis, was mustered into service of the United States November 7, 1861 at Elmira. It first camped at Bladensburg, Maryland. The regiment was transferred to the Peninsula on April 1, 1862. Their first week on the Peninsula, the men camped on the road from Fort Monroe to Newport News. Because of the swampy condition of the area around the



camp, the 85<sup>th</sup> suffered heavily from disease. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May the regiment was in the force pursuing the former defenders of Yorktown.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of May the regiment found itself in an exposed position in front of the main Union Lines. Early in the morning Colonel Belknap (commander at the time) got wind of something when General Johnston's side was captured by Union pickets. At 12:30 that afternoon a rebel cannon shell dropped into the camp of the 85<sup>th</sup>. When a Union battery responded the Confederates charged. The 85<sup>th</sup> was forced back of the main Union line by superior enemy forces. The regiment returned to Fortress, having lost 220 men to malaria and the Confederates. For the rest of the campaign the 85<sup>th</sup> help cover McClellan's various maneuvers.

After a rest at Suffolk, Virginia the regiment was assigned to an expedition to North Carolina and participated in the battles of Goldsborough and Kingston. The expedition was cooped up in Plymouth, North Carolina and besieged. On April 20, 1863 Plymouth surrendered and the 85<sup>th</sup> lost 478 men captured.

A small part of the regiment – Company A – was on detached duty at Roanoke Island, Virginia and escaped capture. The company was expanded into a battalion and commanded by Enrico Fardella through the rest of the war. The balance of the regiment was mustered out on June 27, 1865.

Local men in the 85<sup>th</sup>

Officers<sup>4</sup>

George I. Langworthy, age 23 – enlisted at Alfred, on August 28, 1862 and was mustered in as a private in company E – transferred to Co. A and back – no date – commissioned two days after muster, June 29, 1865.

Darwin E. Maxson, age 39 – enrolled November 11, 1861 at Elmira. He was mustered in as a chaplain January 7, 1862 and discharged for disability June 23, 1862.

Enlisted men<sup>5</sup>

Henry G. Davis – died at Andersonville; date unknown.

Orra S. Rogers – died at Andersonville; August 24, 1864.

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## 6. 86<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

This regiment was mustered into the service of the United States November 23, 1861 at Elmira. The first commander was Colonel Benajah P. Bailey. From December 1861 to August 1862 the 86<sup>th</sup> remained on guard duty in Washington.

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<sup>4</sup> Phisterer New York in the War of the Rebellion

<sup>5</sup> Minard Allegany and Its People

The regiment fought its first major battle at Second Bull Run. At Chancellorsville, the 86<sup>th</sup> was in 3 distinct engagements. First, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, they held a position near the Chancellor house. Second, they were in a force sent to intercept a Confederate wagon train. The force ran into a superior enemy concentration and was forced to retreat. Last, the 86<sup>th</sup> supported the massed Union artillery which finally repulsed the Rebels.

At Gettysburg, the regiment held its position against an enemy force that heavily outnumbered them from 2 to 5 in the afternoon of July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The 86<sup>th</sup> was held in reserve on the third day of the battle.

In December 1863, the term of enlistment for most of the men ran out. The bulk of the regiment re-enlisted and took the customary 30-day furlough.

May 3, 1864, the regiment entered Grant's Wilderness campaign. In this campaign the 86<sup>th</sup> was in the battles of North Anna, Po River, Topotomoy, Cold Harbor and Spottsylvania.

In October 1864, the 86<sup>th</sup> entered the trenches around Petersburg. Their particular assignment was to "Fort Hell." They stayed until December.

The regiment saw a minimum of action during the final campaign but was on hand for Lee's surrender. The 86<sup>th</sup> was mustered out July 2, 1865.

#### Local men

#### Officers<sup>6</sup>

Elisha P. Fenner – age 26 – mustered in as private, company D, September – promoted sergeant-major, March 20, 1863 – re-enlisted December 31, 1863 – appointed hospital steward November 14, 1864 – commissioned second lieutenant on day of muster out July 2, 1865.

William A. Rose – age 24 – enrolled August 21, 1861 to serve three years – mustered in as sergeant, company D, September 25, 1861. – re-enlisted December 30, 1863 – wounded at Petersburg, June 16, 1864 – promoted first sergeant, September 1, 1864 – promoted captain, January 2, 1865, mustered out July 2, 1865.

#### Enlisted men<sup>7</sup>

Gideon S. Allen – age 17 – enlisted October 17, 1861 – died at Georgetown D.C. May 8, 1862

James H. Cooper – age 22 – enlisted September 21, 1861

Nathan W. Burdick – age 21 – enlisted October 29, 1861

George T. Emerson – age 18 – enlisted September 23, 1861

Henry L. Gerod – musician – age 23 – enlisted October 1, 1861

James P. Holcomb – age 18 – enlisted October 11, 1861

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<sup>6</sup> New York State Muster Rolls

<sup>7</sup> Mindard, Jouhn S., Ibid.

Jesse Loder – age 18 – enlisted August 24, 1861

Horace Maxson

Oscar Monroe

Russell H. Palmiter – age 23 – enlisted September 20, 1861 – died in prison camp, Columbus, Ga. March 7, 1864

Albertus C. Rogers – enlisted September 9, 1861 – mustered in as a sergeant in company D – re-enlisted December 30, 1863 – wounded May 5, 1864 at Wilderness – transferred to U.S. Colored Troops August 3, 1864 – see 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery.<sup>8</sup>

William M. Rogers – age 21 – enlisted September 11, 1861

Benjamin J. Spencer – wounded and disappeared at Wilderness

Peter S. Spencer – age 18 – enlisted September 19, 1861

John A. Travis – age 24 – enlisted August 21, 1861 – promoted to Corporal – wounded at Chancellorsville discharged for disability 1864

Simpson Travis – age 21 – enlisted October 12, 1861

Paulding Vincent – age 21 – enlisted September 21, 1861 see also 179<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry

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#### 7. 97<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry

This regiment was organized at Boonville, New York by Colonel Charles Wheelcock as the “Conkling Rifles.”

The regiment fought at the battles of Cedar Mountain, Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Totopotomoy, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Weldon Road, and Hatcher's Run. The 97<sup>th</sup> was mustered out under John P. Spofford at Washington, D.C. July 18, 1865.

Local Man

Alfred A. West

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#### 8. 104<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry “Wadsworth Guards”

This regiment was formed by the consolidation of the “Morgan Guards”, they “Wadsworth Guards” and the Genesee Regiment.” The 104<sup>th</sup> was in the battles of Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Spottsylvania, Petersburg, and Welson Road – where most of the regiment was captured. The regiment was mustered out July 17, 1865.

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<sup>8</sup> Phisterer, Ibid.

Local Man

Sylvester Allen<sup>9</sup>

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9. 107<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

This regiment was mustered in August 13, 1862 and fought at the battles of Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. In April 1864, it was transferred to the western theater and fought in the battles of Resaca, Dallas, Atlanta, March to the Sea and Averasboro. The 107<sup>th</sup> was mustered out June 5, 1865 at Washington.

Local Man

Isaac F. Mull<sup>10</sup>

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10. 109<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

This regiment was mustered into the service of the United States August 27, 1862 under Colonel Benjamin F. Tracy. The 109<sup>th</sup> served on garrison duty from September 1862 to March 1864. On the latter date the regiment was transferred to the 9<sup>th</sup> Corps. The regiment saw service in the battles of Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Weldon Road. The regiment was mustered out June 4, 1865 at Delany House, D.C.

Local Men

Collins C. Burdick

George B. Langdon

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11. 130<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

See 1<sup>st</sup> New York Dragons

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12. 136<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

This regiment was mustered into the service of the United States on September 25 and 26, 1862 at Portage, New York. Their first battle was at Chancellorsville where they arrived too late to play much of a part in the battle.

The 136<sup>th</sup> arrived at Gettysburg battlefield on the first day of fighting and fought throughout the battle. Their losses amounted to 109 killed, wounded and captured. In October 1864 the regiment was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland where they served in the battles of Missionary Ridge,

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<sup>9</sup> Minard, Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Minard, Ibid.

Resaca, Dallas, Pine Mountain, Averasboro, Bentonville. The 136<sup>th</sup> was mustered June 13, 1865 at Washington, D.C.

Local Man

Thomas Omaley<sup>11</sup>

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13. 141<sup>st</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

The 141<sup>st</sup> was mustered into the service of the United States on September 11, 1862. They fought limitedly in the Virginia but was transferred to the Western theater in October 1863. Under the command of Sherman, the regiment was in the battles of Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, March to the Sea, and Averasboro. The regiment was mustered out on July 8, 1865 at Washington, D.C. under Andrew McNett.

Local Men<sup>12</sup>

William Gardiner

Eli H. Turner

L.D. Cartwright – enlisted in company G, September 29, 1864, died Feb. 17, 1865

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14. 147<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

This regiment was organized at Oswego and mustered into the U.S. service on September 22 and 23, 1862. They first saw action at Gettysburg losing 296 men. Other battles were Mine Run, Wilderness, Petersburg, Hatcher's Run, Second Hatcher's Run, White Oak Ridge, and Five Forks. The 147<sup>th</sup> was mustered out on June 7, 1865 at Washington, D.C. under Colonel Francis C. Miller.

Local Man

Samuel Whitford – enlisted July 15, 1863 in company K – wounded May 7, 1864 at Wilderness – discharged for disability May 19, 1865.

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15. 160<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

The 160<sup>th</sup> was organized at Auburn, New York. On November 21, 1862 it was mustered into the service of the United States at New York City under Colonel Charles C. Dwight. It first served in the Mississippi Gulf area, fighting at the battles of Pattersonville, Port Hudson, and Sabine Roads. In June 1864, the 160<sup>th</sup> was transferred to the Army of the Shenandoah fighting in the battles of Oquepon and Cedar Creek.

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<sup>11</sup> New York State Muster Rolls

<sup>12</sup> Minard, Ibid.

In June 1865, the regiment was transferred again, this time to Georgia. They served there until November 1865 when they were mustered out at Savannah.

#### Local Men

##### Officers<sup>13</sup>

James T. Burdick – age 18 – enlisted August 21, 1862 at Alfred to serve three years - mustered in as a corporal, Company G, November 21, 1862. He was promoted to sergeant September 1, 1863 and promoted to Lieutenant on June 30, 1865 and mustered out in November 1, 1865.

Benjamin F. Maxson – age 18 – enlisted September 4, 1862 at Albany. He was mustered in as a First Sergeant in Company G, November 21, 1862 at Albany. He was promoted to Lieutenant August 26, 1863 and killed in action September 19, 1864 at Winchester, Virginia.

##### Enlisted Men<sup>14</sup>

Nathan A. Allen – enlisted September 4, 1862 – died at New Orleans, February 4, 1865.

Stephen B. Clarke

Adelbert Potter

Alvin A. Williams

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#### 16. 161<sup>st</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

This regiment was mustered in at Elmira on October 27, 1862. It served in the Gulf area, fighting in the battles of Port Hudson Cox Plantation, Sabine Pass, Sabine Cross Roads, Pleasant Hills, and Fort Blakely. The 161<sup>st</sup> was mustered out September 20, 1865.

#### Local Man

----- Williams<sup>15</sup>

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#### 17. 179<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

This regiment was mustered into service of the United States at Elmira from April 15 to September 15, 1864. The reason for this was that recruiting was slow and as each company was filled up it was sent to the front. The first commander was William Gregg. Their only fighting came in the final campaigns around Petersburg, being in the battles of Weldon Road, Poplar Spring Church, and Fort

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<sup>13</sup> Phisterer, Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Minard, Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Minard, Ibid.

Steadman. The total casualties of the 179<sup>th</sup> were 333 killed, wounded, and missing. The regiment was mustered out June 8, 1865 at Alexandria, Virginia.

Local Men

Frank M. Beyea – also listed as Beya<sup>16</sup>

Samuel Champlain

Ellory Cornelius

William Huffman

Jarvis S. Kenyon

Daniel B. Lee – died at Price Factory, Virginia, November 3, 1864.

Orson Ormsby – killed at Petersburg, June 24, 1864.

Paulding Vincent – previous service in the 86<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Volunteer Infantry – enlisted March 1864. – died at Washington D.C., August 4, 1864.

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18. 186<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

This regiment was mustered into the service of the United States from September 5 to 29, 1864 under Colonel Bradley Winslow. The 186<sup>th</sup> fought in only one battle; at Petersburg they lost 180 men in the final assault. The regiment was mustered out June 2, 1865 at Alexandria.

Local Men

James W. Hoard

Anthony V. Shaw<sup>17</sup>

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19. 188<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry

This regiment was mustered into the service of the United States from October 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 1864. The 188<sup>th</sup> fought in the battles of Hatcher's Run and White Oak Ridge. The regiment was mustered out July 1, 1865 at Washington, D.C.

Local Man

Marshall E. Thompson<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Minard, Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Minard, Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Minard, Ibid.

## CAVALRY, ARTILLERY AND ENGINEERS

### Chapter III

#### 1. 1<sup>st</sup> New York Dragoons – (19<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry) (130<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry)

This regiment was organized by W.S. Fullerton at Portage as the 130<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry. The regiment was mustered into the service of the United States on September 2, 1862.

On September 15 they arrived at Suffolk, Virginia their home for many months. Their first camp at Suffolk was next to the “Dismal Swamp” immortalized by the poetry of Thomas Moore. Because of the swampy conditions of the grounds, the regiment suffered heavily from malaria. Surgeon Benjamin T. Kneeland finally obtained permission to move the camp to a more healthy location.

Colonel Fullerton did not leave Portage with the regiment so General McLellan appointed Alfred Gibbs as the commander of the 130<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Gibbs was an excellent officer and the 130<sup>th</sup> soon had some of the best training in the army.

General Corcoran, commanding the Suffolk garrison, took his men on a series of hikes through Virginia’s Blackwater country to toughen them up and give them some combat experience. It was on one of these hikes that the 130<sup>th</sup> fought its first battle. The command sighted a rebel brigade and set up a battery of artillery to bombard them. The infantry was aligned behind the guns. When Colonel Gibbs suggested that the infantry be put on the flanks of the artillery, the egotistical Corcoran arrested him. As the fight progressed, the infantry took a terrible beating. Some of them broke and ran. General Corcoran got carried away in his attempt to rally them and disappeared from the field. The artillery officers left the field when they received no orders from Corcoran. Colonel Gibbs, still under arrest, snatched up the standard of the 130<sup>th</sup> and led a charge that carried the field.

On April 11 of the next year the forces at Suffolk found themselves besieged by Confederate General James Longstreet. The siege accomplished little or nothing and Longstreet withdrew. In May 1863 the regiment participated in the second Peninsular campaign.

July 28, 1863 the 130<sup>th</sup> was officially converted into a regiment of cavalry by special orders 335 of the War Department and ordered to camp at Manassas Junction to train in cavalry techniques. Two months later the newly formed 19<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry was in its first action on horseback. It was at this battle that a misunderstanding prevented the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Cavalry from coming to the aid of the 19<sup>th</sup>. From this time on there was a far-from-friendly rivalry between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Just about this time the official designation of the regiment was change to the 1<sup>st</sup> New York Dragoons. December 27<sup>th</sup> the regiment went into winter camp at Mitchell’s Station, Virginia.



On January 10 the regiment dug eleven Confederate officers and men out of the various closets, attics, beds and cook sheds of a Sperryville, Virginia mansion. On February 28 the Dragoons were on the Charlottesville raid, returning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.

Philip Sheridan took command of the Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac on April sixth. One of his most generous acts was to issue repeating rifles to the Dragoons. This multiplied their firepower by seven.

Fighting in the actions of the Cavalry Corps the regiment ended up in the Appomattox campaign at Five Forks and the Appomattox Court House. The regiment was mustered out June 30, 1865 at Cloud Mills, Virginia. For the total record, the Dragoons were in action 65 times, captured 1, 533 prisoners, 19 cannons, 61 wagons, 4 battle flags and 400 horses. In the Shenandoah campaign the regiment won two medals of honor. At Todd's Tavern the Dragoons suffered the highest losses of any cavalry regiment for on battle while chopping up a rebel brigade.

#### Local men

John J. Adams – age 30 – enlisted August 12, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – appointed Sergeant June 17, 1865 – mustered out June 30, 1865.

Charles H. Barber – age 21 – enlisted August 11, 1862 at Almond – mustered as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – discharged May 25, 1865.

Thompson Burdick – age 30 – enlisted August 11, 1862 at Almond – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – killed at Trevilian Station, June 12, 1864.

Samuel D. Butler – age 23 – enlisted August 12, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – died of a disease at Suffolk, Virginia, January 24, 1863.

James R. Crandall – age 29 – enlisted August 11, 1862 at Alfred, New York – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – appointed sergeant June 17, 1865.

Henry M. Davis – age 23 – enlisted August 12, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, August 16, 1862 – mustered out June 30, 1865.

Orlo D. Emerson – age 18 – enlisted August 4, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private September 3, 1862 – captured May 7, 1864.

Joseph N. Forbes – age 29 – enlisted August 1, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – captured and paroled.

Harrison W. Green – age 26 – enlisted August 12, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a corporal in Company H, August 15, 1862 – appointed sergeant – captured at Sheppardstown, August 24, 1862 – mustered out June 30, 1865.

John Hemphill – age 30 – enlisted August 14, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, August 15, 1862 – mustered out June 30, 1865.

William M. Hunt – age 39 – enlisted August 14, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, August 21, 1862 – discharged February 18, 1865.

Isaac M. Langworthy – age 18 – enlisted August 11, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, August 16, 1862 – captured - mustered out with company June 30, 1865.

Benjamin F. T. Place – age 19 – enlisted August 11, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – died of wounds August 13, 1864.

William O. Place – age 22 – enlisted August 14, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – mustered out June 30, 1865.

Reuben S. Potter – age 25 – enlisted August 4, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – promoted to sergeant – died of wounds.

Andrew J. Satterlee – age 26 – enlisted August 21, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – transferred to Company H, 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Cavalry.

Nelson Proper – age 18 – enlisted August 14, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H – died of disease at Suffolk, Virginia, December 9, 1862.

Ira Sayles – age 44 – enlisted August 11, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – promoted to Lieutenant August 20, 1862 – promoted to captain February 22, 1863 – resigned Feb. 25, 1863.

Richard G. Smith – enlisted August 11, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – mustered out June 30, 1865.

William G. Thomas – age 18 – enlisted August 12, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – died of disease at Light House Point, Virginia July 12, 1864.

Samuel Westcott – age 23 – enlisted August 12, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, Sept. 3, 1862 – mustered out June 30, 1865.

Phillip F. Whiting – age 29 – enlisted August 12, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – captured May 7, 1864 at Todd's Tavern.

Leroy Witter – age 25 - enlisted August 14, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – mustered out June 30, 1865.

Alonzo B. Woodward – age 30 - enlisted August 11, 1862 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company H, September 3, 1862 – wounded in action January 30, 1863 – discharged for disability November 27, 1864.

George M. Woodworth – age 28 – enlisted December 31, 1863 at Hartsville – mustered in as a private in Company F – killed in action September 26, 1864 at Port Republic, Virginia.

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2. 5<sup>th</sup> New York Heavy Artillery

The 5<sup>th</sup> was formed in March 1862 by the consolidation of several smaller units. In the regiment's first battle at Harpers Ferry it was forced to surrender. A re-organized version of the regiment fought at Piedmont, Snickers Ferry, and Fisher's Hill before being captured at Cedar Creek. From June 24 to July 19 the various parts of the 5<sup>th</sup> were mustered out.

Local Men<sup>1</sup>

Officers

Leander E. Livermore – age 28 – enlisted January 4, 1864 at Alfred – mustered in as a private in Company A on January 5, 1864 – transferred to company I on May 5, 1864 – promoted to sergeant – promoted to Lieutenant on March 12, 1865. – mustered out July 19, 1865.

Men<sup>2</sup>

Towner P. Andrews

Martin A. Davis

Mortimer Fowler – died while at home

Thomas Hull – died Baltimore October 28, 1864

----- Langworthy

George S. Sisson

Joseph M. Sisson

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3. 13<sup>th</sup> New York Heavy Artillery

This regiment under Colonel William A. Howard was mustered in from December 1863 to July 1864. The 13<sup>th</sup> fought in only three battles; they were at Petersburg, Fort Fisher, and Day's Point losing only 15 men. The regiment was mustered out in detachments.

Local Men<sup>19</sup>

John Morgan

Alvin Williams

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<sup>19</sup> Minard, Ibid.

4. 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored heavy Artillery

This regiment was organized at Camp Nelson, Kentucky, June 23, 1865 and mustered out November 18, 1865 without seeing action.

Local Man

Officers (White)<sup>20</sup>

Albertus C. Rogers – previous service in the 86<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry – mustered in as First Lieutenant, November 1, 1864 – discharged October 28, 1865.

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5. 15<sup>th</sup> New York Engineers

This regiment was first mustered in as the 15<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry. In October 1862 the regiment was transferred to the Engineer Corps. Teamed up with the 50<sup>th</sup> Engineers, the regiment served throughout the campaigns of the Army of the Potomac. The 15<sup>th</sup> was mustered out July 2, 1865.

Local Man

Seth Curtis<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Beers, F.W., History of Allegany County, c1879, New York

<sup>21</sup> Phisterer, Ibid.

## OUT OF STATE UNITS

### Chapter IV

The following men from Alfred served in units recruited out of State:<sup>22</sup>

John Barber – 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island

William H. Russell – 4<sup>th</sup> West Virginia

Silas Benjamin – 12<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin

William A. Saunders – 3<sup>rd</sup> Ohio

Daniel B. Maxson – 4<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin

Asa Burdick – 13<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin

William P. Maxson – 30<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin

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## THE NAVY

### Chapter V

The following men from Alfred served in the United States Navy:<sup>23</sup>

John F. Langworthy

Daniel Lewis

Elverton Potter

Adelbert Potter

Milton S. Babcock

Edwin S. Palmiter

Orville M. Rogers

William A. Rogers – enlisted 1857 – commissioned officer – resigned 1865

Thomas J. Place

William Riley Potter

Lucius C. Greene

Henry W. Shaw

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<sup>22</sup> Minard, Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> New York State muster Rolls

## THE HOME FRONT

### Chapter VI

When Alfred realized that the war would be no quick thing it did its best to help the war effort. As more and more went to the front University attendance fell sharply.

The citizens collected a wagonload of supplies requested by the soldiers including the unlikely items of fifty gallons of wine and one gallon of dried blackberries. The supplies were taken to the front by Mrs. Phoebe Evans. President Allen also tried to go but was restrained by his wife.

The only incident of rebel sympathy occurred shortly after the war began. A young man wore the copperhead badge of Confederate sympathy up and down the campus. He and his badge were parted quickly.

As the casualty lists grew longer, Allen expressed the feelings of many Alfredians, "We lament their fall, yet, mingled with our sorrow is a solemn joy that we can act and offer life through such noble representatives, for human brotherhood, and law, and government."<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Allen, Abigail, Ibid.

## AFTER THE WAR

### Chapter VII

When the excitement, the parades, the victory speeches were over, the Civil war veteran never entirely returned to civilian life for it was the express purpose of a great organization to remind him of what he had done. In 1866, an Illinois doctor named Benjamin Stephens founded the Grand Army of the Republic.

The G.A.R. spread rapidly and an Alfred post was started in 1876 but disbanded two years later. A later attempt, in 1883, proved successful as the B. Frank Maxson Post 428 was founded with T. B. Titsworth as commander. In 1891 a county G.A.R. association was formed. J. W. Marsh of Alfred was commander from 1892 to 1895.

The G.A.R. had a women's auxiliary called the Women's Relief Corps. Alfred's post, number 161, was founded with Mina Crawford as president. There was also a Sons of Veterans organized in 1813, with Reuben A. Armstrong as commander.

The individual regiments also formed their own associations. These groups often published regimental histories to preserve the memory of the exploits. Each association held a reunion or two. The dragoons were best at this, their 1897 reunion at Buffalo drew 400 veterans.

The following is a partial list of the occupations of war veterans living in Alfred:

Silas Benjamin – farmer

E. S. Bliss – merchant

Asa Burdick – carpenter

Silas Burdick – merchant

Henry Davis – Blacksmith

C. L. Eaton – wagon maker, blacksmith

Elisha P. Fenner – cheese baron, owned 4 cheese factories making a total 220,000 pounds of cheese a year

Harrison w. Green – farmer and cheese maker

B. F. Langworthy

J. F. Langworthy – milk dealer

William O. Place – carpenter

Elisha Potter – carpenter

William A. Rogers – University Professor of Astronomy

W. A. Rose – merchant

Mark Sheppard – Doctor and member of University board of trustees.

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