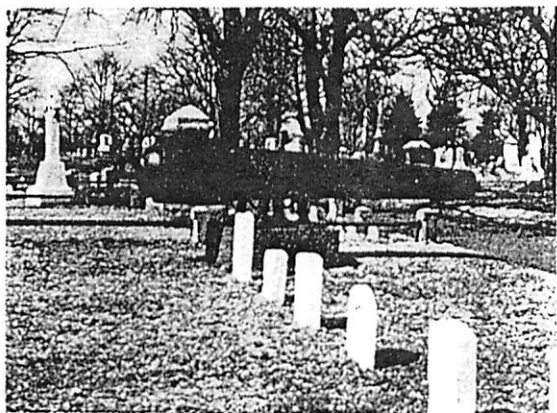


SECOND YEAR
of the
Civil War
In Old Lyons Farms



SILENT SENTINEL . . . One of the two cannon guards the plot in Evergreen Cemetery set aside in August, 1862, by the Evergreen Cemetery Association for veterans of this vicinity who perished defending the Union . . . "let not the interesting story of their heroism be forgotten."

The Union forces at the start of the second year of the Civil War held only one post south of Washington, D. C. at New Bern, N. C., captured March 14, 1862, while the Confederate forces continued to threaten Washington.

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Sgt. J. Madison Drake of Elizabeth on May 2, 1862 observed in "The Jersey Journal" that the Ninth Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers on guard duty in the New Bern area was having difficulty obtaining replacements for casualties. He said it had been decided to disband two of the 12 companies in the regiment and to divide the remaining men among the other 10 companies. This action was taken on November 10, 1862 when the Secretary of War directed the consolidation and 171 members of Companies A and L, all German speaking and mostly from Newark, were reassigned.

Sgt. Drake found the eight months of picket duty rather "pleasant. We have a lively time of it . . . plenty to eat such as hoe cake, eggs, potatoes and milk. The boys are in fine spirits. We ramble along the shores of Bogue Sound picking blackberries, gathering oysters and clams and shooting ducks or goose. A lieutenant and three others even attempted to shoot a large alligator."

The farmers were friendly and sold the soldiers produce. Their wives and daughters came to the camp to witness regimental reviews and a member of Company E married a "Miss Bell" who lived near the camp.

Sgt. Drake concluded that "it was not as comfortable existence as might be hoped. Mosquitoes, gnats, wood ticks and moccasin snakes were plentiful."

Lt. Jonathan Townley Jr. of Salem was promoted to captain. He led religious services at the camp and was known as a strict disciplinarian, although an unknown correspondent wrote, "He always has the welfare of his men in view."

The popular Capt. William B. S. Boudinot of Company K of Elizabeth was reported lost on a trip of exploration in a small boat on Bogue Sound. He subsequently returned to camp several days later reporting he had been fired upon by mistake by Union forces and had abandoned his

boat to swim to safety on an island. Later he had to hike several miles to return to his camp.

THE PENINSULA CAMPAIGN

General George B. McClellan, "Little Mac," commander of the Army of the Potomac with which most of the New Jersey regiments served at sometime during the war decided to advance on Richmond, Va., the Confederate capitol from the James River and across the peninsula instead of fighting south from Washington. The siege of Yorktown, Va. began April 5, and continued until May 4. The next day McClellan's forces took Williamsburg. These were followed on May 31, and June 1, by the Battles of Seven Pines and Fair Oaks. General "Fighting Joe" Hooker is reported to have ordered the Jersey men back several times during these battles, but they would not leave the field. The unknown correspondent wrote, "Our volunteers will never disgrace the horses' heads and plows of our State insignia." Many of the conversations of the men began with the phrase, "When I get to Richmond . . .," he reported.

The Union forces continued to push forward to Mechanicsville on Beaver Dam Creek, where they were repulsed June 26, by the rebel forces under the command of General Robert E. Lee. This battle and the retreat which followed through swamps and woods are called the "Seven Days Battle" or "Campaign."

Col. I. M. Tucker of Newark, who led his men into the woods June 27, observed to his men, "It is rather hot in there and some of us will never come out, but the Jersey boys will do their duty." He died leading his troops. A corporal carrying the American flag buried it rather than have it captured.

Major David Hatfield of Elizabeth, one of the first volunteers to enlist a year earlier, suffered a scalp wound June 27, at Gaines' Mills. He was sent home and died August 5. Lt. John B. Lutz of Company K, Third Regiment was listed as one

of the many Union soldiers wounded and taken prisoner.

The Union forces continued the retreat across White Oak Swamp to Savage Station, the terminus of the York and Richmond Railroad where the army's ammunition was stored, then to Malvern Hill and finally to Harrison's Landing on the Berkeley Plantation. A commentator remarked of the "Seven Days' Campaign," "so many fell. It should have shown grander results."

— **Appeal for Volunteers** —

The Union forces issued a call for 300,000 more men to defend Washington. The following advertisement appeared in the "Newark Daily Advertiser,"

Rally! Rally! Rally!

Co. D, 13th Regiment

The subscriber, having received authority to raise Co. D of the 13th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers, is now enlisting good men between the ages of 18 and 45 years at 305 Broad St. and No. 1 Ferry St. It is desired that this company be composed as near as can be of men of character who will make the society in camp as pleasant as that of our home circles. Let good men who love their country rally to support our glorious flag which traitors are seeking to trample in the dust.

GEORGE H. BEARDSLEY, Recruiting Officer

Capt. William R. Meeker of Elizabeth was one of many officers sent home from the front to recruit men for the new regiments that were being formed. There was much excitement too when Lt. Lutz appeared at a recruitment meeting at Liberty Hall early in August and limped to the front of the room to urge the men to enlist. He had been released from a Confederate prison camp.

The demand for men grew with the second defeat at Bull Run August 30, and General Lee's first northern invasion into Maryland. Companies were sent to Washington as soon as their ranks were filled.

Capt. Ambrose M. Matthews, a Newark hat merchant, was directed to raise a new regiment on August 5, and faced the enemy as commander of Company E, Thirteenth Regiment, September 17. One member of the Thirteenth Regiment recalled that they were taken to Camp Frelinghuysen in Roseville Ave., Newark, after they enlisted. They bathed each morning in the Morris Canal, did picket duty and participated in drills during the day.

When the new regiment received its orders August 28, the members participated in a stampede to their homes to say "good-bye." They returned to camp the next day and on August 31, they marched to the New Jersey Railroad Station where they board the train for the first stage of their trip to Washington. "They had difficulty keeping in step," the member wrote.

When they arrived at Fort Richardson on Arlington Heights September 2, they learned of the death of Brig. General Philip Kearny of Newark when he dashed forward to fill a break in the Union line at Chantilly the previous day. The recruits were sent along the route of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad the following day and heard the first sound of battle near Frederick, Md. They participated in their first battle September 14, at South Mountain and their second at Antietam three days later. "Many of the men did not know how to load or fire a rifle," the member recalled.

The Battle on Antietam Creek in Sharpsburg, Md. is termed the "bloodiest of the war." General Lee withdrew his troops across the Potomac River and General McClelland again failed to follow him. The battle ended General Lee's first invasion of the North; postponed the recognition of the Confederacy by England and gave President Abraham Lincoln an opportunity to issue his first Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862.

Dissatisfaction with General McClelland's action caused him to be replaced November 7, 1862

by General Ambrose E. Burnside, who commanded the Union forces at the Battle of Kinston, Va. on December 14, and at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Va., December 15.

During the Battle of Kinston, Lt. Townley captured a secession flag bearing a blue field and a lone star and the dates May 20, 1775 and May 20, 1861, and Surgeon Fidelio Buckingham Gillette of Belleville found a house he had selected for a hospital between the two opposing armies and narrowly escaped with his life.

— Battle of Fredericksburg —

A correspondent, called "The Observer," wrote in "The Jersey Journal" January 6, 1863, that the Eleventh Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers left camp near Falmouth, Va., on December 12, in the second march on Richmond. "We remained in sight of the Battle of Fredericksburg for six hours on the first day watching the batteries of the two armies fire at each other. We continued to observe the battle as line after line of Union forces marched up to the rebel regiments, fought and fell back," he wrote.

"On Sunday morning we were ordered across the Rappahannock River into battle for the first time. We kept up an incessant fire for two hours. Each man fired from 60 to 120 rounds before we were pulled out and other men sent in. At one point during the battle, Companies A and D and the rebels agreed to cease fire and during the recess talked and exchanged coffee, tobacco, jack knives and regimental bottons," he concluded.

Rev. Josuah Brown, later a teacher at the Old Lyons Farms School during the summer of 1867 while on vacation from Rutgers University where he was studying to become a minister, described the Battle of Fredericksburg as a "mud march."

After the Battle of Fredericksburg, the Union forces retired to Falmouth and remained in winter quarters for four months until the beginning of the third year of the war.

Meanwhile at home the volunteer women's group, the Union Aid Society, organized in June, 1861, had opened quarters over Tucker and Ogden's store at 160 Broad Street, Elizabeth, and women wishing sewing assignments to make clothing for the men in service could obtain work from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M. every Thursday.

The ladies at Salem in the vicinity of Hillside High School also gathered articles to be sent to the 1,500 patients at the Marcus L. Ward Hospital at Newark. The Pierson Brothers Store in Broad Street, Elizabeth served as a depository for articles people wished sent to the hospital. The New Jersey Express Company carried them free of charge.

The army camps were reported full of diseases such as measles, yellow fever and typhoid fever. Long trains passed through Elizabeth to Newark with patients for the hospital there. Diseases were plentiful at home too. Mr. Brown, the future Lyons Farms teacher, reported two of his sisters died of typhoid fever at his Newark home.

Two children of Union soldiers here lost their lives in tragic accidents. Joseph William Bennett drowned while trying to skate on the ice of the Salem mill pond and the five year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Chandler of Lyons Farms died of burns when her dress caught fire while her mother was gone from the house for a short time.

Death, disease and desertion plagued the Union forces and while the United States Army waited in its winter quarters for spring, a provost guard patrolled the streets of Newark and vicinity in search of deserters. "Anyone wearing military dress is liable for questioning," Ben Bolt, a correspondent of the time wrote.

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One of the hardships facing the servicemen who fought during the Civil War and their families was the failure to receive their pay regularly. Some of the regiments were not paid for periods as long as six months.

When the pay periods finally arrived, Col. Jonathan Cook was sent to the troops as a representative of the State of New Jersey to collect portions of the pay to be given to the families of the men. It was reported some of the men gave him \$10 a month of the \$13 they received. In February, 1863, he returned to the state with more than \$166,000 for the families.