



13th Maine Infantry Regiment News

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Welcome

This Newsletter is for you

You have indicated an interest in the history of the 13th Maine Infantry Regiment at some time in the past. In many cases you were doing genealogical research on your ancestors who were members of this regiment. In other cases you were researching certain historical subjects that were related to the 13th Maine.

This newsletter is intended to provide you with information about how to find and use tools to help you with your research. It will also be a way for readers to share their research with others.

Your primary resource will be the “New 13th Maine Infantry Regimental History Project” and associated databases, image files, documents, time lines, biographies, etc. described below.

Instructions for unsubscribing are on page 4. I hope you find this newsletter interesting and useful.

The 13th Maine New History Project

Why is this a “New” 13th Maine Regimental History?

Because an excellent history of the 13th Maine Infantry Regiment was published in 1898. This “old” history was written by Edwin B. Lufkin, a man who served as a Private in Company E of the 13th Maine Infantry Regiment.



Pvt. Edwin Lufkin, Co. E

The value of that history is due to the excellent writing and thorough research of Mr. Lufkin and the fact that he was a participant and witness to most of the events he described with his unique perspective as an enlisted man of that period.

However, this story didn't end in 1898 and there is so much new information available today. There is a wealth of information now available about the lives of the soldiers and their families before, during and after their service in the regiment. Much more information is now available offering background to the historical facts of the activities of the regiment. Modern historians and genealogists will find this information to be of unprecedented value.

The resources of this project can be used to research individual soldiers and their families or statistical research on over 1132 soldiers.

What does this project provide?

I know of no other Civil War regiment that has had such thorough research completed on all of the soldiers and

documented to the detail of this project of the 13th Maine.

For example, over 240 of the soldiers were related to each other – from twin brothers to 5th cousins and in-laws. To date the names of the fathers of over 750 soldiers have been identified, as well as mothers, wives, children and siblings.

Researchers who want to know the average age of the soldiers, or how long they lived, or how many children they had, or where they lived, or hundreds of other facts or relationships will find this project valuable.

Whether you want to find out who your great-grandfather's brother was or you are researching immigration patterns of Civil War veterans you will find something for you in this project.

Of course, this new version of the original history in a modern style with new information about every company will be more readable and include more information about the men and events.

One of the primary resources is an extensive database. Each record of this database describes an individual soldier using more than 90 fields. These fields include data identifying his military records, vital records, census records, physical description, pensions kinship (parents, spouses, children, etc.), and occupations.

Another resource is the 2,000+ page alphabetic listing of biographical summaries of each soldier. (Of course, some contain much more information than others.)

Other resources include:

- A time line of the location of each company every day during the war;
- A folder of images of individual soldiers and groups;
- A folder of grave stone and monument images;
- A folder of individual enlistment record index card images;
- A folder of burial record index card images;
- A folder of pension application index cards;
- A folder of images of objects of interests: flags, clothing, weapons, food, hospitals, camps, etc.;
- More extensive family genealogies of many of the soldiers;
- Correspondence to/from other researchers (*when permission has been given*).
- Letters and other documents written by soldiers and family.
- Links to web sites of interest to 13th Maine researchers.
- Reference lists of sources of supporting information.

Status of the project

At this time (April 2007) the basic database is estimated to be over 95% complete (records of 1004 of 1133 soldiers are 100% complete and the rest are over 60% done).

The company timeline is complete. The folders containing the enlistment record index cards, burial record index cards, and pension application index cards are virtually complete. (A very few are not available at public archives or were mis-filed and not found.)

Of course, the biographies, image files, genealogies, etc. are "living files" that grow as new information is found or submitted and will be available.

Goal of this project

The primary goal of this project is to distribute this body of information as widely as possible to expand our historical knowledge and to honor the soldiers of this regiment. This newsletter will be free on-line and I will answer individual inquiries as thoroughly as my time and ability permits.

However, this project grows out of a project to write a new history of the 13th Maine and market it as a book. I hope to be able to receive an appropriate compensation for my efforts, expenses and services and still make all the information as accessible as possible. I would welcome advice from readers and others about how to accomplish this.

I solicit and welcome any of your suggestions concerning the content, format, and style of this newsletter.

Charles A. Bonsall, Ed.

Men of the 13th Maine

(This will be a regular feature of this newsletter. I intend to include in each issue at least one prominent, fortunate or unusual soldier and one less remarkable or unfortunate soldier.)

Col. Alfred Eliab Buck

Alfred Eliab Buck enlisted at Lewiston, Maine, as a captain into Co. C on 10/18/1861 and mustered in at Augusta, Maine, on 12/4/1861. He was discharged on 8/16/1863 to accept a commission as the Lt. Col. of the 20th Louisiana Corps d'Afrique (91st US Colored Infantry). In 10/1864 he was transferred to be Lt. Col. of the 51st US Colored Infantry. He mustered out at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in June, 1866. Upon the end of his service he was breveted a full Colonel of Volunteers for gallant conduct.

He was described at enlistment as a 29 year old single teacher, 5' 11 1/2" tall, with dark hair, blue eyes, and light complexion.

He was born 2/7/1832 at Foxcroft, Maine, one of at least five children of Benjamin Thomas Buck and Almira Todd. He was a brother to Private Charles Miller Buck also of the 13th Maine Infantry.

He was married to Ellen Baker (1832-1928), the daughter of Judge H. W. Baker of Hallowell.

He was a graduate of Foxcroft Academy and the Colby College Class of 1859.

Before his military service he taught at schools in Hallowell and Lewiston.

He had an illustrious career after his military service:

- He was a delegate to the constitutional convention of Alabama in 1867.
- He was a clerk of the circuit court of Mobile County in 1867 and 1868.
- He was a Presidential Elector from Alabama, 1868.
- He was elected a Representative-R from Alabama to the Forty-first Congress (1869-1871).
- He was appointed president of the Mobile city council in 1873.
- He was the Clerk of US Circuit and District Courts in Atlanta, Georgia, 1874-1889.
- He was the U. S. Marshal for Northern District of Georgia.
- He was appointed the United States Ambassador to Japan in May, 1897.

In 1898 Colby College bestowed an honorary LL.D. upon him.

He died of a heart attack in Tokyo on 12/4/1902, while serving as the US Ambassador.

He is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

Pvt. Thomas Joyce

Pvt. Joyce enlisted in Co. K at Bingham on 12/11/1861 and mustered in at Augusta, Maine, on 12/28/1861. He re-

enlisted on 2/1/1864 and was killed in action on 4/9/1864 at the Battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. Andrew Gordon wrote: *"The man on my right during the commencement of the fight was shot dead through the heart. His name was Thomas Joyce; he belonged to my town, Biddeford."*

He was born in Ireland about 1828 and was described at enlistment as a 33 year old married farmer, 5' 10" tall, with dark hair, hazel eyes and a sandy complexion.

He married Lucy Lowell on 5/6/1848 at Bingham and they had six children: Elizabeth, Mary, Julia, Michael, Sarah and Clara. She never re-married and raised her children by herself. She died between 1920-1930.

Bob Tuscan, writes:

*"My great-great grandfather **Thomas Joyce** was killed at the Battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, April 9, 1864. He was a private and served in Co K. He had immigrated from Ireland and lived in Bingham, Maine, where he was married and had four children and his wife was expecting the fifth child. He was unable to find to work so he enlisted for the \$300 enlistment bonus and he never saw the fifth child.*

He had five children and no money and was having a hard time finding work. He received \$300 for enlisting in the Army. No one wanted him to go, but he did. He gave the money to his wife and left..."

Coming up...

In future issues you will learn about 13th Maine Infantry veterans who lived very long, successful lives and others who suffered uncomfortable, short lives. Some were heroes and others rascals, some stayed in Maine and others moved far away. Some remained bachelors all their lives and others had very large families.

You will learn about life in the “Temperance” regiment and find answers to your questions about details of the lives of individual soldiers.

You will learn statistical and representative information about veterans and their families as an important element of society in the period 1800-1940.



13th Maine Infantry Color Guard – Sgt. John M. Goodale (l.)

(Courtesy of Osborne Ellis, China Maine)

EXCITING UPDATE!

Just hours after preparing this newsletter I received a package of seven documents written by Pvt. Andrew B. Gordon, Co. K courtesy of Nancy Morrill of Washington Crossing, PA.

Gordon's writings are full of first person stories and dialog. He mentions at least 35 soldiers of the 13th Maine in these anecdotes. *(See Thomas Joyce above.)*

He also gives us more information about activities at Fort Macomb and Savannah because he was in a different company than Lufkin and was among the re-enlisted men who were reassigned to the 30th Maine Infantry.

We will be reading many of his anecdotes in future newsletter issues.

Editorial Notices

- This newsletter will be archived on-line in pdf and Word doc format at:
<http://www.maine13th.com>
- Best efforts will be made to credit all references, photos, etc. but some from early in this research have been lost.
- It is assumed information submitted by readers includes permission to reprint in part or whole unless expressly prohibited.
- You are on this list because of previous inquiries through the 13th Maine Infantry Regiment web site. If you do not want to receive it please send an email with “Unsubscribe” in the title. The web site will be updated to handle this task automatically in the future.

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