



13th Maine Infantry Regiment News

Volume 1, Issue 2

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Welcome

This Newsletter is for you

After cleaning up our email list with the first newsletter mailing, we now assume that all readers have indicated an interest in the history of the 13th Maine Infantry and wish to receive this newsletter.

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 in Issue 1.

A description of this project is now in the new 13th Maine web site at :

www.maine13th.com

or in the first issue of this newsletter which can be downloaded from the web site.

The New 13th Maine Web site

Why is this a "New" 13th Maine Web Site?

The previous web site hosted on AOL had limited space and bandwidth available. The new site provides much more space than we would probably ever use, plus it now has a unique domain name.

The new site includes many more pictures, will have past newsletter issues available for downloading, and has the Lufkin history available for downloading in both *.pdf and *.doc formats - it even has marquees and music which shows what a novice can do with a web page maker program!

Please check it out and tell your friends about it. Please let me know if you have any problems using it.

New History Project *Status of the project*

As mentioned in the last (first) issue, I recently received 155 typewritten pages of documents written by Pvt. Andrew B. Gordon, Co. K, 13th Maine. His writing is less formal than Lufkin's and describes many episodes, some humorous, about life and events in the regiment. He fills out new details about the shooting of Capt. March and Col. Hesseltine's heroism in Texas. Since he was one of the men who re-enlisted and served in the 30th Maine in Georgia we learn more about life in that regiment during that period.

Because this new information is so extensive and previously unpublished it will take a lot more work to integrate it into the new history. I'll be working on it over the coming months.

Because of the work on the new web site (and a fishing trip) little progress has been made on the database and biographical summaries of each soldier in the past few weeks, but that has resumed and should be finished within a month or two.

Charles A. Bonsall, Ed.

Men of the 13th Maine

(This is a regular feature of this newsletter. It will usually include in each issue at least one prominent, fortunate or unusual soldier and one less remarkable or more fortunate soldier.)

Asst. Adjutant General Frederic Gordon Speed

Frederic Speed enlisted at Gorham, Maine, in April 1861 as the Sergeant Major of the 5th Maine Infantry. He resigned in November for promotion into the 13th Maine. He enlisted as a 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant on the 13th Maine regimental staff and mustered in at Augusta on 11/23/1861. He was promoted to Captain and Assistant Adjutant General, U.S. Vols. on 8/22/1862. He mustered out on 9/1/1866. His military career was marred by his involvement in the Sultana disaster.

Lufkin notes two characteristics of Mr. Speed, his size and voice:

“When the weather permitted, dress-parade took place on the parade ground. In this ceremony the most prominent part belonged to Adjutant Speed, who was a bantam in size but had the voice of a lion. He had seen some previous service and knew his duty thoroughly; but it was an endless source of wonder to the men how so large a voice could proceed from the throat of so small a man.”

Speed was born 9/22/1841 at Ithaca, New York, one of seven children of John James Speed (7/12/1803 Mecklenburg County, VA – 6/1867 Brooklyn, NY) and Anne Sophia Morrell (1807 – 7/5/1881).

He married Esther Adele Hillyer on 5/10/1871 at Vicksburg and they had at least five children. He had a long career as an attorney in Vicksburg and died there on 3/10/1911.

The Sultana Incident

In April 1865 the war was over and thousands of soldiers, many of them freed POW's, were rushing to return home. Steamers were being pressed into service along the Mississippi to provide transportation. Ship owners were competing for the business to carry enlisted men at \$5 each and \$10 per officer. Officers were hard pressed in the chaos to keep adequate records of the passengers and contracts. It must have been very hectic in Vicksburg and other cities along the river.

As a result, one of these ships, the Sultana, a new three year old ship designed to carry 376 passengers and crew, was overloaded with an estimated 1,800 - 2,300 people plus 60 horses and mules and 100 hogs. In addition, it was later revealed that it had arrived with problems in its newly designed boilers.

About 90 miles from Memphis the boilers exploded killing about 1/3rd of those on board.

Speed was one of the officers in charge of recording the passengers and was blamed for the overloading. But there was plenty of blame to go around... The ship's owner/operator was certainly greedy to carry more men and the passengers themselves crowded on board and then cooked food by the

boilers creating a shortage of water for the boilers.

However, the only person who faced trial was Speed. He was charged with, “Neglect of duty to the prejudice of good order and military discipline” (War of the Rebellion 217). He was found guilty and sentenced to be removed from the military. But when his file was forward to the judge advocate general of the United States Army, he was cleared of all charges.

Pvt. Amos Peabody Bean

Amos Bean was a 44-year old farmer from Mason in Oxford County. With his wife, Roxanna Willard Paine, they had four boys and one girl varying in age from eight to nineteen in 1862. We don't know his motivation for enlisting at his age. That he was concerned about his family's welfare is clear in his letters home shared with us by Jennifer Bartlau.

His letters constantly assure his children how much he misses them and urging them to care for their animals and plantings, continue school and support their mother. Of course, as a soldier he writes about their military activities, the sights around the forts, the weather and a veiled complaint about not receiving recent mail from his wife.

He is optimistic about returning home to his family and farm...

...but he died on 2/2/1864 at the U.S. General Hospital at New Orleans, leaving a widow and fatherless children.

The Searcher...

(This column will solicit help finding information about a particular soldier.)

In this issue we are asking readers if they have any information about **Pvt. John Truman Tuttle**. He was born 3/18/1845 one of at least seven children of John Tuttle and Ann M. Gower. He enlisted into Co. B on 11/28/1861 at Canaan and was discharged for disability on 6/16/1864. That day the regiment was in Morganza, Louisiana. He married Mary Ellen Hook on 1/11/1868 at Skowhegan and they had two daughters born in California, Mabel Clare (b. 1874) and Alma H. (b. 1881). On the 1880 census he is in Ten-Mile, Mendocino County, and listed as a paralyzed music teacher. We don't know if it was service connected or not.

In 1910 he is a widower and retired real estate agent living in Imperial, California, with his daughter, Mabel, wife of William A. Edgar. They have an adopted son, Robert Dozier, born in 1907 in Arizona, (who may be the man living in Alhambra, CA, in 1930 with two daughters, Barbara J. and Patricia A.) and an adopted daughter, Carol H. married to Oral S. Davis with a son, Richard, born about 1928.

It would seem that a paralyzed veteran who went west to the lumber camps and thrived would have a fascinating story to tell.

Does anybody know his story?



Asst. Adj. Gen. Francis G. Speed

**9/22/1841 Ithaca, NY-
3/10/1911 Vicksburg, MS**



The overloaded Sultana



Pvt. Amos Peabody Bean
Co. H. 13th Maine Infantry

6/23/1817 Shelburn, NH - 2/2/1864 New Orleans, LA

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.
- If you do not want to receive this newsletter 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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