



13th Maine Infantry Regiment News

Volume 1, Issue 5

September – December 2007

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Welcome

This Newsletter is for you

We invite you to share this information with others you think might be interested and invite them to sign up for their own future copies on the 13th Maine web site.

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

The 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.

Readers are invited to submit articles, inquiries, pictures, etc. for publication in this newsletter.

New History Project *Status of the project*

I have completed the initial genealogical and historical research on 1111 (or more than 98%) of the soldiers who are confirmed as having served in the 13th Maine Infantry. In early September I visited the Norridgewock Historical Society, Freeport Historical Society, and the Evergreen and Pine Grove Cemeteries in Portland, where I found additional information on a number of soldiers and their families.

New Project Activities

As planned, I spent the month of September in Maine but ended up twice in the hospital there and did not accomplish much except the visits above.

Since returning home I have had a surgery with some complications and been in the hospital or ER six times. As a result I have had no time or energy for this project. I am now mending and plan to start up again with this newsletter.

Charles A. Bonsall, Ed.

Men of the 13th Maine Pvt. William G. Morrill

“A Hero in the Hurricane”

He enlisted as a private into Co. A at Monroe, Maine, on 10/18/1861 and mustered in at Augusta, Maine, on 11/20/1861. He is supposed to have been discharged from a hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1864.

He was described at enlistment as a 22 year old single farmer, 5’ 10½” tall, with brown hair, blue eyes and a light complexion.

Neal Dow, in his “Reminiscences” published in 1898 described the hurricane they experienced on the trip to Ship Island. Included in that account the following:

“...Meanwhile my improvised crew of sailors were at work freeing the ship of water. Among them was **Mr. William G. Merrill** (sic), of Portland, who had had an extensive experience at sea. At this writing he is mayor of Clinton, Indiana. At the time, he wrote in his diary the story of the bailing of the ship, from which he has sent me the following extracts:

“The pumps were manned, a hole was cut through her bulkhead so that a line of men was formed from the engine-room up through the cabin and to the windows of the lee side of the saloon cabin, and it was my position to stand at that window and throw the water out on the deck as it came up in buckets and pails along a line of eighty odd men. It was a laborious and perilous position for all, for the ship rolled and pitched in the heavy seas so badly that at times it was impossible to keep one’s feet and pass the buckets of water. In spite of all precautions, out would go the feet, and man, with bucket and water, would go sprawling down the lee side, and then, as the ship righted and rolled the other way, would come down through the line as if he had been shot out of a cannon, upsetting every man in his course. There were some laughable scenes that night, notwithstanding the peril, but all worked with a will, knowing full well that the safety of the ship and the lives of sixteen hundred men depended upon their work.

“The ship was headed out to sea away from the breakers. From my post at the saloon deck, I could see the long line of white caps. We were so near to them at one time that every sea that broke over us was mixed with sand from the bottom. It seemed a long time before we began to

make any headway against either the wind and seas or the water below, but at length the joyful news came up that the water was not gaining on us, and then, that in the last hour we had gained on the water. About that time I reported that I had almost lost sight of the breakers, and as the ship got into deep water once more the sea was not so rough, and we had but little water on deck. It was a long and weary night, but with the morning came a calmer wind and sea. We had conquered the water and bailed out the ship. Though tired and worn out with the work of the long night, I could not refrain from throwing up my cap and calling for cheers for the bucket crew of the 13th Maine that had saved the ship – and they were given with a will.”

Morrill was born on 7/6/1839 at Monroe, Maine, one of at least eleven children of Bradstreet Gilman Morrill and Mary Mansur.

He married Susan D. Chase on 4/23/1866 at Monroe, Maine. Susan was the daughter of Sylvester Chase and Comfort Mansur, so was probably his cousin.

He died of arterio sclerosis on 7/9/1918 at Hampden, Maine, and is buried in lot 46, of the Locust Grove Cemetery, Hampden, Maine.

He was a brother of **Charles S. Morrill** who also served in the 13th Maine Infantry.

Chaplain Henry D. Moore

“A Coward in the Hurricane”

He enlisted as a Chaplain on the regimental staff at Portland, Maine, on 1/24/1862, and mustered in at Augusta, Maine, on 1/23/1862. He resigned his commission, officially due to “poor health” (*see below*), on the gunboat USS Mount Vernon while enroute between Boston and Ship Island, Mississippi.

He is the officer on the far right in the picture of the original staff of the 13th Maine shown in the heading of this issue.

He “resigned” on 3/1/1862, while on the US gunboat “Mount Vernon” off the coast of North Carolina after the harrowing events on the Steamer Mississippi of the hurricane and then the grounding. Lufkin describes his resignation in this manner:

“All who had been transferred to the Mount Vernon were returned to the Mississippi, except one staff officer of the 13th; who, although like a guide-post pointing the way to heaven, had, apparently, no personal desire to go there by water! He, therefore, remained on the uninjured vessel and sent in his resignation, which was promptly accepted by Gen. Butler.”

However, Butler's version of this event is a little more detailed and described by author Dick Nolan in Benjamin Franklin Butler: The Damnedest Yankee as follows:

"At Butler's insistence and over her protests, Sarah (*Mrs. Butler*) was also taken aboard Glissen's ship." (*The "USS Mount Vernon" that was taking people off the stricken "Mississippi" during the storm on the way to Ship Island.*)

"The chaplain of a Maine regiment came rushing up to him, eagerly volunteering to accompany Mrs. Butler to safety.

'Oh, no, Chaplain,' said Butler.

'General, I prefer to go.'

'The Devil you do!' growled Ben, and turned to his more important duties."

"With his ship safe, Ben rowed over to the *Mount Vernon*, thinking to bring Sarah back with him. 'As I approached the quarterdeck,' Ben reported later, 'whom should I see on her deck but my chaplain of the long flowing curls and Bryonic collar.'"

"All but ignoring Captain Glisson, the furious Butler sprang toward the chaplain, demanding to know how he had got aboard the navy ship."

"I came over last night,' said the chaplain."

"What? In the last boat with Mrs. Butler?' roared Ben. 'After I ordered you not to?'"

"Ben ordered the red-faced chaplain to go below at once and write out his resignation. 'I'll accept it,' Ben grated, 'but don't let me ever hear of your trying to get in the Army again.'"

"Turning to the bemused navy officer, who had been observing all this, Butler added, 'Now, Captain Glissen, you can keep this fellow or throw him overboard, just as you choose. I haven't any use for him, although he may be the Jonah that went overboard and saved the ship.'"

Even the least suspicious sailor might well have been tempted to agree with Butler's assessment. It was undeniable that no sooner had the nervous chaplain left the *Mississippi* than the stranded vessel broke free, all efforts up to that time having been unavailing."

He was born in Pennsylvania in 1822.

He died of cancer on 10/5/1887 at Portland, Maine, and is buried in lot 159, section F, of the Evergreen Cemetery, Portland, Maine.

The Searcher...

(*This column solicits help finding information about a particular soldier or soldiers.*)

In this issue we are asking readers if they have information about Pvt.

Samuel A. Andrews from Anson, Maine.

He served in Co. D, 13th Maine. He was discharged for disability on 2/22/1863 at New Orleans, Louisiana.

He was described at enlistment as a 22 year old single shoe maker.

He was born about 1840 at Pleasant Ridge Plantation, Maine. Although there are a few families named Andrews in this small community in 1860 I could find no man with this name. Another record lists his birthplace as Pheasant Hill, Alabama... Because of conflicting records and the use of aliases this record is not too reliable.

Possible...

1860 Census, Anson, Maine
Pg. 508, Family 96, 6/8/1860
Hiram Andrews 31

Hannah " 53

**Samuel Andrews 20,
Clerk**

Matilda " 18

Hannah " 13 (Idiot)

He is not the same soldier appearing on a burial index card as: Pvt. **Samuel W. Andrews**, Co. I, 30th Maine Inf., but no enlistment or discharge dates are recorded. He was born 7/1840 in Jefferson, Maine, the son of Abram Andrews. He died of heart disease 1/5/1901 in Gardner, Maine, and is buried in Sect. 1, #673 of Oak Grove Cemetery, Gardner, Maine.

Pension Applications

5/18/1866 **Samuel A. Andrews** filed an invalid pension application, no state residence listed.

(App: 108396, no Cert. #)
Co. B 13th Me. Inf.

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.
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