

The Record of the Brothertown Soldiers In the Civil War

We are gathered here today, the first time in many years to pay our respects to the Soldier Dead of Brothertown, not only to those who lie buried here but to those who died on the battle field, in prisons and in hospitals.

Three quarters of a century ago these men heard the call of Abraham Lincoln for volunteers to put down the Rebellion and preserve the Constitution and the Union. They answered that call nobly for from the little village of Brothertown and its immediate vicinity 140 men were mustered in before the end of the war but we who live in this day and age, in our hurry have almost forgotten these men and what they did.

As we walk through the cemetery we see small markers with a man's name engraved upon it, below ^{it} the name and number of his Reg't. These markers are the Government's last tribute to its dead.

It is the story of these men and their Reg'ts ~~do~~ wish tell. Many Reg'ts will be omitted and the soldiers of other wars not mentioned, not because they did not fill

their page in history but ~~because~~ time does not allow.

On April 14, 61 Ft Sumter surrendered after 34 hrs of bombardment. They fired a salute of 50 guns to their flag before lowering it, marched out of the fort with bands playing, beaten but not whipped.

On Monday April 15, 61 Lincoln issued his famous Proclamation calling for 75000 men for 90 ^{day} service to put down the rebellion. His to furnish one. Reg't. Brothertown heard that call and on Apr 20th ^{only five days after} Melancthon Peters, a Brothertown ^{and for his brother, Charles Paul - Co. I, 1st Wis} Indian, enlisted in the service, and was enrolled in the 1st Wis. Vol. Inf. To him goes the honor of being the first to enlist from Brothertown in the Civil War.

We shall tell you the history of the men and their Reg'ts according to their number and not according to the date of enlistment

There among the lilies lies Louis Hauby of Co A, 2nd Wis Cav. His Company was organized at Ft and du Lac during Oct. and Nov. 61 under the command of W^m Woods and contained many Brothertown men. There are some of them, Loren M Johnson, A. H. Hammer, Orlando Dick, O. A. Hart, J. V. Dick and Noel Crowell

As soon as the Company was filled it moved to Camp Washburn, Milwaukee for training. Their stay at Milwaukee was not a happy one, ~~for~~ soon after their arrival many became sick, the doctors did not recognize the disease but Loren Johnson wrote that in his opinion it was the mumps, which it proved to be. They ^{had} no more than recovered from that than the measles struck them but through it all those that could drilled and when the time came for each ^{co} to receive its ^{name} boys had become so well trained that they were designated as Co. A. and J. W. Dick proudly wrote "We are Co. A. of the 1st Batt. so you see we are on the right of the first Batt and on the right of the Regt and in front on a march."

They left Camp Washburn Mch 24, 62 for St Louis. On their way down they suffered their first casualty when one of their number fell from the train and was killed.

Their stay at St Louis was short but pleasant for on May 15 they embarked on boats for Jefferson City, Mo. Here they received their first army rations. They called their hand tack Missouri shingles and Loren Johnson

said they had to start knawing on them before they got up in the morning so that would be filled up by breakfast time.

For their soldierly conduct and splendid appearance they were chosen as body guard for Brig. Genl Brown.

They fought in no large engagements as did those in the East but the dangers they ran were no less for they had guerilla war. fare and the bushwackers to contend with which was more vicious and deadly than many a pitched battle. They never knew when a volley would be poured into them so they passed through a wood and many ^{lonely} a picket was found murdered in the morning but Co A lost its most men not by bullets but by disease. John Dick who wrote in his letters how he planned on eating so many peaches and who when he exercised the horses always made it a point to stop at the home of the woman from Iowa as she always gave him a home cooked meal and usually a piece of pie, was taken ill with typhoid fever and lay in the hospital four months, while there his friend Ira Higgins died and was given a military funeral

In Oct, 62 he and a number of others of Co A were discharged as unfit for duty. Their comrades remained in the Army of the Frontier until the end of the war and were mustered out of service Nov 15, 1865

4th Wis Inf- 4th Wis Cav.

The 4th Wis Cav. has the distinction of being the only Regt in Wis to be organized as a Regt of Inf. They remained as Inf. from July 3, 61 to Sept 1, 1863 when they were designated as the 4th Wis Cav.

Co K of the 4th was organized at Chilton under the command of Harrison C. Hobart.

The first enlistments began the last week of April, 61 only 10 days after Lincoln's call for troops.

Those who enlisted from Brotherton were Chas Bloom, Stephan Welch, John Billings, W. F. Breed, Charles Dick, Lucius Dick, Orrin Gidley Fowler, Jas Hart, Chauncey Timmerman, Eleastus Welch, Melville Johnson, Asa Dick, and George Hammer.

There is was the most varied experiences of any Regt from Wis. Their first campaign was in Md and Virginia, from there they campaigned in the states of Miss., Ga, Ala, La, and Texas.

Their Col Paine was repeatedly under arrest for insubordination and disregard of orders.

In spite of all this he became a Brig. Gen and after the war served six years in Congress.

They were engaged in many battles and after the Battle of New Orleans their Regt escorted Gen Butler through the streets of New Orleans to the Custom House where he hauled down the Confederate flag and raised the Stars and Stripes.

Butler was soon to become the most hated man in the South and was referred to by them as Beast Butler. It is interesting to note how he came by the name. When Butler occupied the city he had no intention of interfering with the government of the city, the people would retain their Mayor and conduct their affairs as usual and not be ruled as a conquered people. It seems that this was not enough to suit for they tore down our flag and dragged it through the streets and ~~then~~ raised their own. Butler then placed a Battery of Artillery around the Custom House with orders to open fire on the city if the flag was again insulted. The people then took other ways of molesting the soldiers, jeering at them and calling names, the biggest offenders being women. Butler put up with it all until one day some women spit in the faces of a couple of officers. The next day he issued his famous or as some call it his infamous

order which was to be condemned in England as well as in the South, The order read something like this, "That all women of New Orleans who insulted Union Soldiers and acted in a manner unbecoming to a lady should be treated as a common woman of the street."

No more soldiers were insulted and it is a matter of record that no women were abused by the Union Troops but Butlers name has gone down in history as a beast.

We have a letter written by W. H. Breed of the 4th at Relay House, Md, May 10, 62 which proves how uncertain was the life of a soldier.

He speaks of his life in the army, how well he is feeling and swears he is going to get himself a Secesh flag before the wavers or bleed for it, further in the letter he states that he and his buddy Orrin Gridley Fowler were going on picket that night and hoped they would pick up something good to eat.

Three day later his buddy Orrin was dead and three months latter, he himself died at New Orleans.

In 64, Randolph J. Meedham of Stockbridge was Co's Capt.

5th Wis Vol. Inf.

Co. I. of the "Old Fifth Wis" or as the soldiers called it, "The Bloody Fifth" was organized at Stockbridge, May 10, 61 with Jacob H. Cook as Capt.

The following men fought in Co. I, W^m Bellings, Ben Fuller, Isaac Kindness, Lewis Johnson, Oscar Johnson, W^m Reid, W^m Chapley, John Simons, Rufe Shesuck, W^m Stanton, Lewis ^{Kindness} ~~Manchester~~, David Dick and John Shesuck.

They did routine duty ^{in Virginia} during the year of 61 but after the spring of 62 they fought in nearly all of the battles of the Army of the Potomac. They were at Williamsburg Va, where W^m Reid was killed and tough old John Simons wounded, also at Fair Oaks, Savage Station, Crompton Gap, Antietam, ^{with} Marye Heights, Banks Ford, Gettysburg and Grant at the surrender of Lee.

In every battle they fought with valor and determination but at the Battle of Gettysburg ^{they} really lived up to the name of the "Bloody Fifth."

The Battle of Gettysburg began July 1, 1863 with the Sixth Army Corps of which the Fifth was a part, thirty miles away at Manchester, that night at 7:00 P. M., they received orders to make a forced march to the aid of Meade's troops who were being badly pounded by Lee.

at
 At 2:00 P.M. July 2nd they were at Gettysburg
 lying back of the line of battle in reserve at
 Round Top. They had marched 30 miles in 19 hrs
 with full equipment. At 3:00 P.M. they were ordered
 into the lines after an hours rest to repel the
 attack of A. P. Hill. They fought until dark
 forcing the enemy back to Seminary Ridge.
 That night they bivouaced among the dead.

The next morning each side prepared for the
 final struggle. All forenoon it was an artillery
 duel, neither side having the advantage.

at four o'clock the Fifth saw the three
 splendid brigades of Picketts emerge from the
 woods, marching as if on parade, a line three
 miles long of men in grey, on they came through
 the wheat fields in the valley, they start
 climbing the ridge, their destination Round
 Top and the Cemetery, great holes are blown in
 their ranks by artillery but they reform and come
 on, nothing can stop them, when they are within
 a few feet of the Union lines a volley of 18000
 muskets is poured into them. They fall as grain
 before the reaper but again they reform and then
 they are among the Union ^{troops}, bayonetting the men
 and planting their flags among the guns. Their
 victory is short lived for our troops have reformed,
 new ones have come up and they in turn
 charge but Picketts men can stand no
 more

and he is forced back, our guns are again in our hands.

The Battle has been won but at a awful cost to both sides for Meade who had entered the battle with 87000 men lost 23186, Lee had 75000 and lost 31621. after Gettysburg

The Fifth never fully recovered but at Rappanock Station on Nov 7, 63 they captured many men and cannon.)

In July 1864 their term having expired they were sent home and discharged but in Oct they were reorganized and sent back to Virginia to campaign with Phil Sheridan and were present at the surrender of Lee

In the spring of 64 they fought at Spottsylvania, North Anne, Hanover Jct, Childress and Cold Harbor where it was said that twenty minutes after the first gun had been fired 18000 men lay on the field killed and wounded

14th Wis Vol Inf

The 14th Wis was a Fine du Lac Regt and was mustered into service Jan 30, 62 at Fond du Lac.

They became a part of the Army of the Tenn. and fought with Grant at Pittsburg Landing, Shiloh, Corinth and at Vicksburg in '62 and '63.

Cato Stanton, Daniel Tousey who was wounded at Corinth, Vicksburg and Nashville, David Carr Joseph Beeman, the Leffingwell Brothers, Henry Peeler who was killed at Shiloh and Josiah Cross joined Co G of the 14th.

The Regt left Fond du Lac on March 8, 62 and joined Grant at Pittsburg ^{Landing} and with less than sixty ^{days of} training participated in the battle of that name, the most severe battle of the West up to this time.

They covered themselves with glory in this their first battle. They charged a battery, that had been raining disaster on our troops for four hours. They took the battery but could not hold it. Three times they charged and each time were obliged to give up the guns, on the fourth charge ^{and} reinforcements arrived, helped them hold it.

On the crest among the guns were found 17 horses and 60 rebel dead and for their valor they were allowed to keep one of the guns, a brass Napoleon, which was sent home as a trophy and placed on the grounds at the Capitol at Madison where it remained for many years.

They lost 93 men at Corinth ~~where~~ they were the first to meet the enemy and were severely

handed, they again lost 78 men but were prompt to pursue the enemy when they fled.

A Correspondent for a Southern newspaper states that he had never seen so much human suffering as on this retreat. The wounded were piled in open ambulances like sacks of grain, the rain and hail beating upon them, the mud and water so deep that the bottoms of the wagons were covered. Hail fell as large as small potatoes. Men died by the road side without any attention and were left unburied.

Again at Vicksburg on Jan 19th 63 they were in the front lines suffering heavy losses and when Vicksburg surrendered in the summer of 63, they were the first Reg't to enter the City.

They remained in the vicinity of Vicksburg during the remainder of the war and were mustered out in Oct, 65.

The record of ^{the} 17th is or as it was known, The Irish Reg't parallels that of the 14th ^{in 64} ~~th~~ is, except that they joined Sherman at Chattanooga and marched with him to the Sea.

Our Brother town men who served with the Irish are, Orlando Dick who had served in Co A 2nd Cav, Hubbard Dick, Jim Leadden, Lee Munclock, John Passenger, Henry Reed, Henry Tousey and Lowell Staffle.

2^{1st} Wis Vol Inf.

But Of all the regiments in this, in my opinion the gallant 2^{1st} Wis has the most colorful record.

They were mustered in at Oshkosh Sept 6, 62 1002 strong with Col Benj F. Sweet of Chilton in command. The Brotherton men who were in Co E of that Regt are, Worthington Commuck, Edgar M. Dick, William Fowler, Henry Johnson, William E. Peters, Joel Larson, George Larson, Henry Shelly, Leander Higgins, Martin Higgins, Geo Durochi, Geo Henno, Philip Gay, Frank Everett, Charles Southermont, T. T. Miner, David Luck, Henry Morrill, Elisha Schooner, Wm Welch, Daniel Thurston and Conrad Vrieands.

In Sept, the North fearing an invasion from the rebel army under Braxton Bragg rushed all available troops to the front and two weeks after mustering in the 2^{1st} found themselves at Covington Ky but without arms and very little drill. No camp equipment were furnished them until they were in the presence of the enemy.

Gen Buell when he met Bragg at Perryville had 58000 men of whom 22000 were raw, untrained men, Bragg had about the same number but his were all seasoned troops, the pick of the South.

The 2^{1st} was held in support of the front lines at Perryville as this was their first battle but as the front lines began to weaken they were ordered forward to check the enemy

He wonder what the thoughts were of sixteen year old Henry Merrill when he saw the men in grey with fixed bayonets for the first time and also those of William Fowler, the old territorial assemblyman, he who had ^{left} his family and incomplete sawmill that he might do his share for his country. He wonder if he had a premonition that in a few short minutes he would make the Supreme Sacrifice.

They fought that day and the next and were badly beaten, losing 179 men but their losses did not lower their morale for a month and half later they gave a fine account of themselves at Stone River, the most hotly contested battle of ^{the} West.

(1863) They fought continuously from Murfreesboro to Chattanooga the next spring and in Sept at Chickamauga they fought all day, retired at night but advanced the next morning ^{and} again they fought all day and when the order came for the army to fall back to Chattanooga, they failed to receive it and were surrounded by the rebels, nearly 100 men and officers were captured.

At the Battle of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain in Nov they were held in support

They camped that winter on the top of Lookout Mountain and we have letters describing their pleasant camp and the good times they were having.

They filled their ranks with recruits and drilled all winter, sometimes nine hours a day. Fenn and Gay write of the large number of birds and flowers, the good water they have to drink and the wonderful caves. The letters read more like those of a tourist than those of men who had faced death many times but Sherman was preparing them for the March to Sea.

On May 7, 64 they began that famous march but we will let Elsie Schooner tell us of the first fifteen days of that march
Georgia, May 27, 1864

I will try and tell you a little about our marching for some time past, perhaps it will be interesting to you. We left Lookout Mt. the 2nd day of May for the first halting at night at Ringgold and on the 5th of May was on picket there, we left Ringgold the 7th and was in sight of Buzzards Roost, the Rebels Den on the 8th, I being on the skirmish line and heavy firing between us and the Rebs, On the 9th we marched for the Rebel Breastworks at 4 P. M., ten men wounded and killed within four rods of me by Rebels shells. Not a great deal of fighting on the 10th. We being on the battlefield on the 11th.

We marched all day on the 12th, at night
 going through Snake Gap on the right of our
 Column. On the 13th in line of battle, that night
 myself and some others going back seven miles
 after rations for our men, getting back to my
 Regiment the next morning after traveling
 all night. On the afternoon of the 14th having
 51 killed and wounded in our Reg't. The same
 night about midnight the Rebels charged
 on our breastworks and then fell back. On the
 16th we marched into Resaca after them,
 myself walking over about 500 dead Rebels on
 that field of slaughter. On the 17th we marched
 all day and half the night, going through
 Calhoun, we had a smart skirmish wounding
 many and killing some. On the 18th we marched
 through 500 acres of wheat and corn almost
 ripe, taking our dinner by a Rebel tanyard
 and then marching half the night, going
 through Adairsville. On the 19th marching
 all day and half of the night, at noon the
 same day Wilder's Brigade passed us, we
 going through Kingston. On the 20th
 marching all day, burning Rebel Salt Works
 and taking prisoners. On the 21st resting
 our men and killing cattle, hogs, and chickens

and anything else we can lay our hands on to eat and now we have orders to take five days rations, leaving tomorrow morning knowing not where we go. We turned over everything, our knapsacks yesterday, carrying nothing but our guns and rations, having orders to take anything we want on the way, killing cattle and hogs, plundering and burning all that we can. "Fish Schooner"

Philip Gay wrote on Sept 16 after the fall of Atlanta, that the Regt had seen very hard times and were very much reduced in numbers scarcely 100 men in the Regt fit for duty but he had never seen them more cheerful or contented.

The famous 255th ^{militia} march from Atlanta to Savannah and the Sea was started on Nov 11, 64. They cut a swath through Georgia forty miles wide, the only food they had was what could be found in the country through which they passed. Orlando Dick writes that the teamsters were compelled to guard their horses when they fed them their corn or the soldiers would steal it from them.

Their sick and wounded they carried with them.

Forty one days after they had left Atlanta they occupied Savannah and Sherman sent the

following telegram to Lincoln;

I beg to present to you a Christmas gift, the City of Savannah with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition also about 25000 Bales of cotton

Wm F. Sherman, Genl Commanding

They followed the fleeing Rebels through South Carolina and North Carolina living off the country as they went and at Raleigh, N. C. on Apr 14, 65 they forced Gen J. E. Johnson to surrender. Two months later they were mustered out having seen two years and nine months service.

36th Wis Vol. Inf.

The 36th Reg't thought it served only one year and nine months, saw more actual service than many regiments that were in for the full four years.

They were mustered into service March 28, 64 at Camp Randall and was composed mostly of men who had seen service in other regiments and drafted men.

The men of Brochertown were Arthur Adams, Benj Dick, John W. Dick, Orvil Amos Hart, Sam Jacques, Eisel Bulman, Franklin Loutemont, Lewis Manderscheid, John Moran, Frank Pease, and Chauncey Walker.

They left Madison May 10 for the eastern front. The quote from the letter of John W. Dick written in the rifle pits at Hanover Junction on May 24th only two weeks after leaving Madison, "We are all well only some tired, having been continually marching and making fortifications for the last ten days. We have pretty near all of the Army of the Potomac here and Lee is in front with all the forces he can muster. As I write there is so much firing that the air is almost suffocating with powder smoke. We are expecting every minute to be called upon to take a hand in the fight. We are laying where it is so hot we can hardly breathe but still the boys are in good spirits."

The battle he speaks of was that of North Anna and they were in the thick of it on May 26th, charging the rebel lines and losing 13 men.

Just a week later they fought at Cold Harbor where the Union ~~forces~~ losses were 13,153 men. On July 5th John Sicks wrote "Benj Sicks and Arthur Adams are still missing and we have heard nothing from since June 1st". On the roster of their company we find these lines.

Arthur Adams, Co. D. Captured, Cold Harbor, Died
 Sep 2, 64 Andersonville Prison. Benjamin Sicks, Co. B.
 Captured Cold Harbor, Died Andersonville Prison
 Aug 25, 64. They had died only a week apart.

At Petersburg they lost heavily but I will read you part of John Sicks letter of July 5th
 "Our Regt has lost quite heavily in wounded, killed and missing but as yet I cannot give you the accurate list but my company now number 24 muskets and the Regt 276. We have lost our Col., Lieut Col, Major and Adjutant and I think they have given us quite an "initiation" and we begin to think ourselves almost "Veterans" and we can show a flag as full of bullet holes as most of our cousin Regts.

A month and a half later he again writes "Our Corps 'Hancocks old 2nd' went on a raid the 27th of July and done some hard marching which came near using me up, On the raid

we captured six pieces of artillery and some prisoners. Since we came here (Aug 14) we have drove the enemy about a mile and captured three large mortars and a good many prisoners, among them the 64th Georgia and several stances of colors and some Battle Flags and fighting still continues at intervals all along the line and now and then a perfect roar of musketry accompanied with the chorus of cannons and now the gunboats come in heavy on the bass tossing in their 200 pounders and cutting down trees in some places three feet through.

We are just 12 miles from Richmond but the road is so dangerous we have to go slow and peddle".

Again in Oct. at South Side Railroad they captured a Rebel Flag and many prisoners. at Beams Station they were surrounded and of 11 officers and 170 men only 3 officers and 45 men escaped, here they lost their colors but later Major General Gibbons personally presented them with a new set and wrote a letter to the Gov. of this praising the Regt.

They went into winter quarters that year near Yellow House after putting up winter quarters three different times.

In April 1865 they were with Grant at the surrender of Lee at Appomattox having in the year and one half of service covered

themselves with glory.

This is the story of the men of Brother Town.
In all the years of war no word of complaint
was heard from them, nothing was said of
their own suffering and privations,
never a letter that betokened fear, They
had a job to do and they did it for,

They gave us our country, and glory sublime
shall be their reward through all annals of time.
Sleep on, ye brave cohorts, in silence today,
Where ever the breezes of freedom shall stray,
Your sorrows are over, your victories won,
To glisten forever in history's sun.
But the wreaths of your fame are forever secure
as long as the stars in your sky shall endure.

Given at the Brother Town Cemetery

May 29, 1938, O.E. Heller