

WOBURN CIVIL WAR CHRONICLES with Leon Edmund Basile

Outline of Chapter Six (*Woburn Recruits in Massachusetts, Woburn Soldiers at the Front – September 1862*):

In the Leon Basile manuscript, Chapter Six has 161 pages of text, seven pages of endnotes (120 endnotes), six illustrations, and three maps. When we refer to this manuscript, each chapter begins again with page 1, but if the manuscript is published in a book form, Volume Two would begin with Chapter Five, page 1, and the page numbers would proceed sequentially. That is, in the chapters that followed in that volume, the page numbers would be continued sequentially, not starting with page 1 again in each chapter (other than Chapter Five). Some of the things described in Chapter Six are as follows.

WOBURN NATIONAL RANGERS AT CAMP STANTON, BOXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS.

On pages 4-9 of the manuscript, citing the Sept. 5, 1862, issue of the *Woburn Weekly Budget*, it states that it included a soldier's letter (signed only as "G.G.", which were not his initials) written on Sept. 2. In it, it stated that Camp Stanton was moved twelve miles, from Lynnfield to Boxford, on Aug. 27. There, tents were pitched, and there were three Massachusetts regiments there, including the Thirty-ninth Regt. M.V.I. (including the Woburn National Rangers, Co. K), each regiment being separated. Capt. John Isaac Richardson (1818-1864) was presented a sword from the members of the company. The men finally received part of their uniforms, after one month, including underclothing, dress coats (knee length), shoes, and some also got overcoats. Another day they received their rifles. Col. Phineas Stearns Davis (1818-1864) took command of the regiment on Sept. 1. Also on Sept. 1 First Lieut. Luke R. Tidd and Second Lieut. Luther (or Luke) Flint Wyman were presented with swords. On Sept. 2 about twenty-five Woburn residents visited the camp and some of the women sewed corporal and sergeant chevrons on the appropriate dress coats. Also, Miss Henrietta M. Young (1840-1913, postwar married name Parker) presented a beautiful company flag. (Details are given in the manuscript but cannot be given here due to space requirements. The Glennon Archives, Woburn Public Library, owns this flag. The flag would be illustrated under the 1865 chronology, as the flag includes the names of the battles that the company participated in during the war.)

THE OFFICERS OF THE WOBURN MECHANIC PHALANX.

On pages 14-16 of the manuscript, citing the Sept. 6, 1862, issue of the *Middlesex Journal*, it states that on Sept. 5 the three officers of the Woburn Mechanic Phalanx (Co. G, Fifth Regt. M.V.I. – Nine Months' Term) were presented with regular officers' swords by the Phalanx Associates at the Armory Hall, which was in the attic in Lyceum Hall, Woburn Center. These three officers were Capt. William T. Grammer (1822-1908), First Lieut. Charles S. Converse (1821-1899), and Second Lieut. William A. Colgate/Colegate (1822-1898).

THE DROWNING OF PVT. COLUMBUS BUTTERS.

On page 17 of the manuscript, citing various sources, it states that Pvt. Columbus Butters, Sixth Battery Mass. Vol. Light Artillery, a resident of North Woburn, had enlisted in December 1861 at age 27. He had been wounded at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on Aug. 5, 1862. On Sept. 6, 1862, he drowned from the steamer "Whitman" while traveling from Baton Rouge to New Orleans on the Mississippi River. It is unclear if his body was ever recovered.

THE WOBURN NATIONAL RANGERS GO TO THE FRONT.

Also on page 17 of the manuscript, citing the Sept. 12 issue of the *Woburn Weekly Budget*, it states that the Thirty-ninth Regt. M.V.I. (including the Woburn National Rangers, Co. K) left Boxford on Sept. 6 and passed through Boston, on the way to Washington, D.C. While in Boston, many Woburnites were there to see the company march by. On pages 18-19, citing the Sept. 20 issue of the *Middlesex Journal*, it included a letter written by a member of the Woburn National Rangers, signed as L.F.J. which were not his correct initials. He wrote the letter in parts, on Sept. 10, 12, and 13, and stated that they were currently at Camp Chase, Arlington Heights, Virginia. In the letter he described their move from Boxford to Washington, with many stops on the way, mainly by railroad, steamer, ferry, and boat, reaching Jersey City, N.J., on Sept. 7 and Baltimore, Md., on Sept. 8. On Sept. 9 they marched to Fort Albany, Arlington, Va. On Sept. 11, "L.F.J." visited a few members of the Woburn Union Guard (Co. F, Twenty-second Regt. M.V.I.), which were part of the Army of the Potomac.

On pages 19-25 of the manuscript it describes the writing of Albert P. Barrett (1844-1909), who was a Private in the Woburn National Rangers (see our *A Union Town...*, Vol. 1, page 795, for a biography of Barrett). Barrett wrote the Woburn National Rangers portion of the "Military History of Woburn," Chapters 13-19, which was published in many small installments in the *Middlesex County Journal* from Sept. 2, 1871 to July 5, 1873. Unfortunately, Barrett only covered the history of the company through late 1863, although the company served to the end of the war.

In Barrett's account, he covered the move of the company from Boxford to the Seat of War, including a stop at the famous Cooper Shop Volunteer Refreshment Saloon in Philadelphia, Penn. His account is more detailed than that of "L.F.J." mentioned above. In it, Barrett stated that on Sept. 9, 1862, the men were able to walk around Washington, D.C., and see the sights (which they would see quite a bit more in the months that followed), then marched seven miles to Camp Chase on Arlington Heights, Va., near Fort Albany, having crossed the Potomac River over the famous Long Bridge.

Barrett also stated that at camp, the Woburn Union Guard visited the National Rangers. However, the Thirty-ninth Regt. M.V.I. would not be assigned to the Army of the Potomac until

July 1863, while here in September 1862 the Twenty-second Regt. M.V.I. and the rest of the Army of the Potomac would soon march to Maryland. As for the Woburn National Rangers and their regiment, it was assigned to Maj. Gen. Silas Casey's Division, to protect Washington, D.C., and vicinity.

THE WOBURN MECHANIC PHALANX TO CAMP LANDER, WENHAM, MASSACHUSETTS.

On pages 25-27 of the manuscript, citing the Sept. 12 issue of the *Budget*, it states that on Sept. 10 the Woburn Mechanic Phalanx was ordered by railroad to Camp Lander in Wenham, Mass. This camp was named in memory of Maj. Gen. Frederick W. Lander of Salem, Mass., who had died from an illness in March 1862. The Phalanx became Company G of the Fifth Regt. M.V.I. At Camp Lander, the regiment was quartered in wooden barracks.

On pages 32-33 of the manuscript, citing the Sept. 13 issue of the *Middlesex Journal*, it states that it included a letter written by Cpl. Oliver W. Rogers of the Phalanx. He stated that at Camp Lander the schedule consisted of Reveille at 6 A.M., breakfast at 7 A.M., Guard Mounting at 9 A.M., Company drill from 10 A.M. to Noon, dinner at 1 P.M., Company drill 3-5 P.M., Retreat 6 P.M., supper 7 P.M., Tattoo 9 P.M., and Taps 9:30 P.M.

THE DEATH OF PVT. JAMES McCARRON.

On pages 31-32 of the manuscript, citing various sources, it states that Pvt. James McCarron of Co. F, Sixteenth Regt. M.V.I., died of diarrhea at the Mill Creek Hospital at Fortress Monroe, Va. He was born in Ireland in 1842 and was unmarried. He was buried at the Hampton National Cemetery, Va., Row 20, Sect. D, grave 36. (Pvt. McCarron is mentioned in our *A Union Town...*, Vol. 1, pages 439, 450, 523 n. 132.)

THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM, SEPTEMBER 17, 1862, THE BLOODIEST SINGLE-DAY BATTLE.

On pages 34-38 and 41-121 of the manuscript, citing numerous sources including battle reports in the *Official Records (O.R.)*, Basile describes the battle in some detail, particularly the portions of the battle that Woburn soldiers participated in, although most of the Woburn soldiers did not become casualties there, as their units were spared from the worst areas of the fighting. Due to space requirements for these Outlines, most of these details cannot be given here, but the units and ranks of Woburn soldiers will be listed here, and their casualties named and described.

In early September 1862, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee (1807-1870), commanding his Army of Northern Virginia, began his first major invasion of the North, into Maryland. Lee may have hoped that more Marylanders would enlist in the Confederate States Army, and that he could have taken control of Baltimore and perhaps the Maryland government, and perhaps even Washington, D.C., and the Federal government. As it turned out, his main benefit was to keep most Union troops out of Virginia for a time, while Virginia farmers could harvest their vital

crops. Opposing General Lee was Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan (1826-1885) and his Army of the Potomac (see our *A Union Town...*, Vol. 1, page 483, for a portrait of General McClellan). On the Union side, the main benefit was the attrition of Confederate soldiers, the return of the Army of Northern Virginia to Virginia, and President Lincoln's opportunity to issue his Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Leading up to the Battle of Antietam were two small battles, South Mountain and Crampton's Pass (both on Sept. 14), which are also covered in these pages of the manuscript. As many as six Woburn soldiers many have been at South Mountain (in four units) and only one at Crampton's Pass, but none of the Woburn men were casualties there.

The Battle of Antietam (Sept. 17) took place about seventy-five miles northwest from Washington, D.C. There were 113 Woburn soldiers who were currently on the rolls of the Army of the Potomac: in the I ARMY CORPS there was 1 major, 1 corporal, and 5 privates in the 12th Regt. M.V.I., and 5 corporals and 8 privates in the 13th Regt. M.V.I.; in the II A.C. there was 1 corporal in the 19th Regt. M.V.I., 1 private in the 20th Regt. M.V.I., and 1 corporal in the 29th Regt. M.V.I.; in Couch's Division of the IV A.C. there was 1 corporal in the 10th Regt. M.V.I.; in the V A.C. there was 1 Woburn private in the 2nd Regt. District of Columbia Vol. Inf., 1 surgeon and 10 privates in the 9th Regt. M.V.I., 1 captain, 1 first sergeant, 1 commissary sergeant, 4 sergeants, 4 corporals, and 30 privates in the 22nd Regt. M.V.I., 1 captain, 1 first sergeant, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, and 9 privates in the 32nd Regt. M.V.I., 1 private in the 3rd U.S. Inf. Regt. (Regular Army), and 1 private in Battery G, 1st U.S. Artillery Regt. (Regular Army); in the VI A.C. there was 1 Woburn private in the 2nd Regt. Vermont Vol. Inf.; in the IX A.C. there were 3 privates in the 28th Regt. M.V.I., 1 assistant surgeon in the 35th Regt. M.V.I., 1 first sergeant in the 8th Battery Mass. Vol. Light Arty. (Cook's Battery), and 1 Woburn private in the 6th Regt. New Hampshire Vol. Inf.; in the XII A.C. there was 1 Woburn corporal in the 10th Regt. Maine Vol. Inf., and 3 sergeants and 3 privates in the 2nd Regt. M.V.I.; in the CAVALRY DIVISION of the Army of the Potomac there was 1 Woburn sergeant in the 5th U.S. Cavalry Regt. (Regular Army), 1 Woburn private in the 6th U.S. Cavalry Regt. (Regular Army), and 4 privates in the 1st Regt. Mass. Vol. Cavalry.

Of all of those 113 Woburn men, the only casualties were 3 corporals in Co. G of the 13th Regt. M.V.I. wounded, and Maj. Elisha Burbank commanding the 12th Regt. M.V.I. mortally wounded. The corporals were Charles R. Dale (in leg), Thomas G. Field (slightly in ear), and Herschel A. Sanborn (in foot by a spent cannonball). All three of the corporals were eventually able to continue serving in their company. Major Burbank was wounded in his foot and did not heal, causing abscesses and debilitation, dying on Nov 29, 1862, in Maryland. His death and funeral is described in Chapter Eight of the manuscript, pages 66-69. (See our *A Union Town...*, Vol. 1, page 373 for a partial biography of Burbank, and on page 374 for a photograph of him.) At the

time he was the highest ranking officer from Woburn. After the war, the first Woburn post of the Grand Army of the Republic named it the Burbank Encampment, Post 33, in his memory.

In total, the Union's Army of the Potomac suffered at Antietam 139 officers and 1,969 enlisted men killed, 474 officers and 9,075 enlisted men wounded, 7 officers and 746 enlisted men captured or missing, for a total of 12,410 casualties. The Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, who called the battle Sharpsburg, combined their casualty numbers with the smaller battles in that vicinity and period, with 1,567 killed and 8,724 wounded. Thus Antietam was the bloodiest single-day battle of the war, but not for Woburn soldiers, by a long shot.

THE DEATH OF CPL. JOHN S. FERNALD.

On page 131 of the manuscript, citing the Sept. 20, 1862, issue of the *Middlesex Journal*, it states that Cpl. John S. Fernald, Co. E, Twenty-fourth Regt. M.V.I., died of disease at his regimental hospital in Newbern, N.C., on Sept. 11. He was a resident of South Boston, age 18, when he enlisted as a private in November 1861. He was promoted to corporal ten days before his death. Although credited to Boston according to State records, the W.P.A. "List of Soldiers" states that he should have been credited to Woburn, and the fact that the Woburn newspaper reported his death indicates that that is the case.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST IN THIS CHAPTER.

Due to space requirements for this Outline, we can only mention, without details, the following:

On pages 121-25 of the manuscript (citing Barrett's account) and pages 155-60 (citing Lieutenant Wyman's letter published in the *Budget*) are details on the WOBURN NATIONAL RANGERS, regarding a march for picket duty, daily drills and roll calls, and sick members, two of whom were to be discharged for disability the following month.

On pages 126-29 and 158-60 of the manuscript (citing two issues of the *Budget*) are details on the WOBURN MECHANIC PHALANX. About half of the men, having entered National Service, were able to leave Camp Lander for 48 hours and return to Woburn. At a later date, with the men back at Camp Lander, the Phalanx Associates visited them, bringing desserts, meats, fruits, etc. The following day Woburn women visited them, bringing food and having a dance.

On pages 138-42 of the manuscript (citing various issues of the *Budget*) it states that Cpl. John L. Parker (Co. F, 22nd Regt. M.V.I.) was discharged from the Army on Sept. 18, 1862. Corporal Parker had been in an Army hospital in West Philadelphia and he wrote an interesting account about it, giving details about the hospital. (See our *A Union Town...*, Vol. 1, p. 540, for portrait.)

On pages 151-55 of the manuscript (citing an issue of the *Middlesex Journal*) is a long and interesting letter written by Woburnite John R. Dennett, from his plantation in Port Royal, S.C. There he gave a glimpse of the life of former slaves, which most Woburnites had never seen.



6 – 1 Capt. William T. Grammer (1822-1908) commanded the Woburn Mechanic Phalanx (Co. G, 5th Regt. Mass. Vol. Inf. – Nine Months' Term). He was later the Major in the same regiment but in its 100 Days' Term. He was one of the best-known Woburn men of his time, being involved in many different roles. He is buried at Woodbrook Cemetery, Woburn. See our book *A Union Town...*, Vol. 1, p. 151 note, on his life. (Photograph by Moulton's Gallery, Salem, Mass., cropped here, author's collection.)



6 – 2 First Lieut. Charles S. Converse (1821-1899), Woburn Mechanic Phalanx (Co. G, 5th Regt. Mass. Vol. Inf. – Nine Months' Term). He was later the Captain, commanding that company but in its 100 Days' Term. He is buried at Woodbrook Cemetery, Woburn. (Credit: Glennon Archives, Woburn Public Library, Woburn, Mass. This copy cropped for size.)



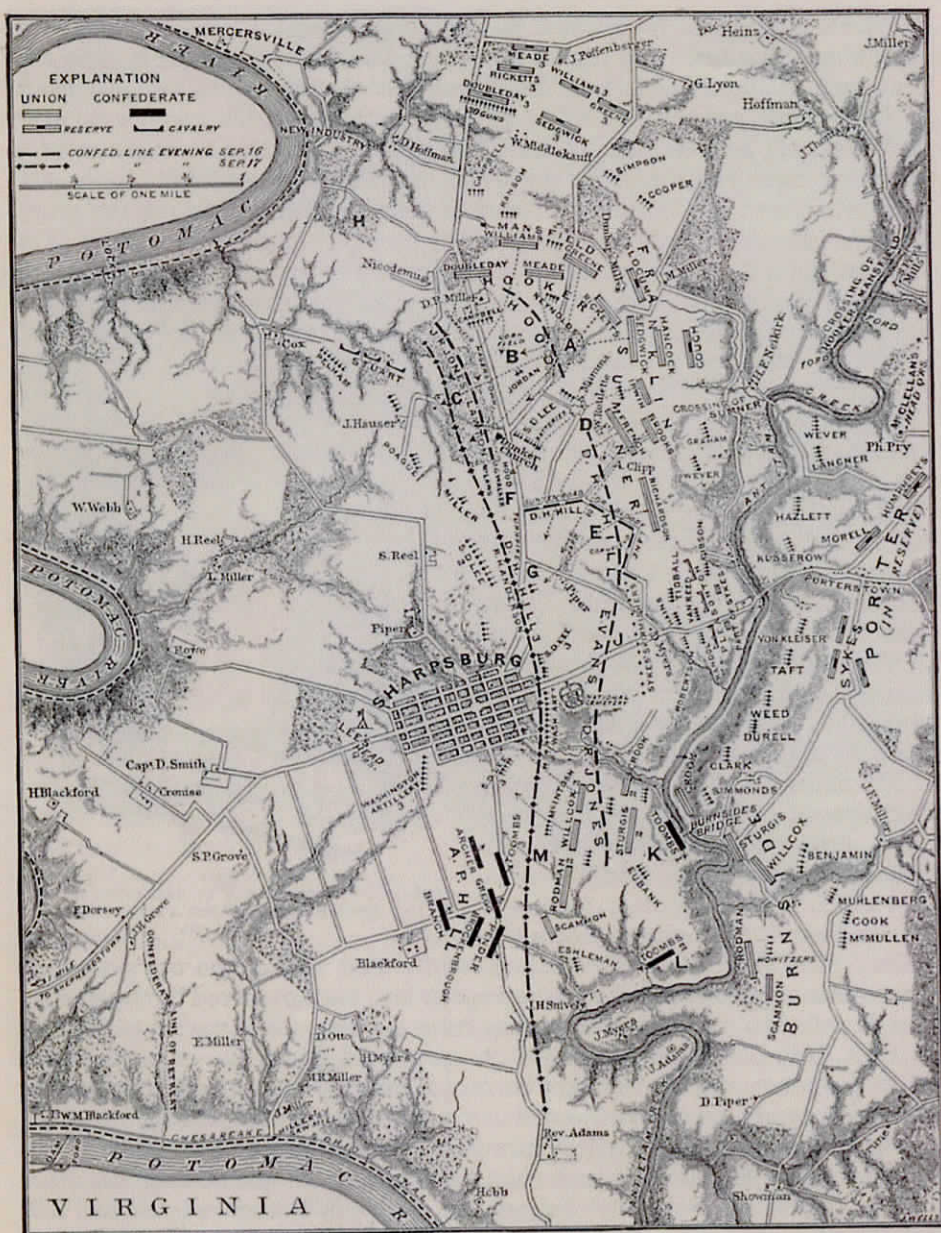
6 – 3 Second Lieut. Willam A. Colgate (Colegate in records) (1822-1898), Woburn Mechanic Phalanx (Co. G, 5th Regt. Mass. Vol. Inf. – Nine Months' Term). He is buried at Woodbrook Cemetery, Woburn. (Credit: Glennon Archives, Woburn Public Library, Woburn, Mass. This copy cropped for size.)



6 – 4 Albert P. Barrett (1844-1909) in civilian clothing in the 1860s, possibly shortly after the war. He served as Private, Woburn National Rangers (Co. K, 39th Regt. Mass. Vol. Inf.). See our book *A Union Town...*, Vol. 1, p. 795, on his life. He wrote a partial history of the Woburn National Rangers published in *Midd. Co. Jnl.* in installments (1871-73), and compiled a roster of the Woburn Civil War soldiers and sailors published in *Wob. Jnl.* in installments (March – Oct., 1880). He is buried at Woodbrook Cemetery, Woburn. This photograph copy appears to be light or faded. (Credit: Glennon Archives, Woburn Public Library, Woburn, Mass.)

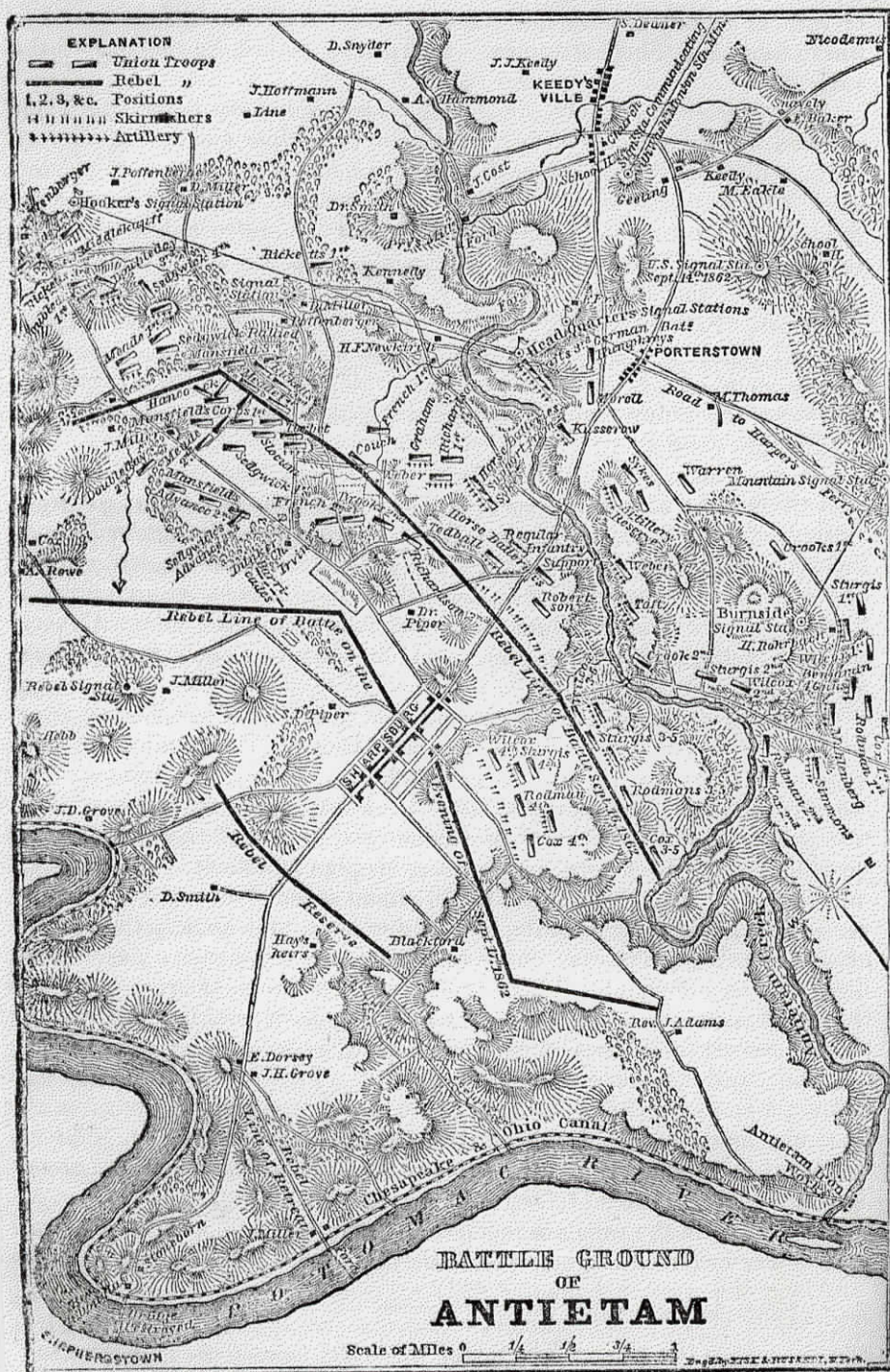


6 – 5 Maj. Gen. Silas Casey (1801-1882) of Rhode Island, in uniform as Brig. Gen. He was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and a veteran of Indian Wars and the Mexican War. He was made a Brig. Gen. in Aug. 1861 and a Maj. Gen. in May 1862, and was wounded in the Peninsular Campaign. He then took command to protect the defenses of Washington, D.C. The Woburn National Rangers were under his command for many months, until he was reassigned. (Photograph published by E. & H.T. Anthony, New York, from a negative of Brady's National Portrait Gallery, author's collection.)



THE FIELD OF ANTIETAM.

6-7 Map - "The Field of Antietam," showing the battlefield of Sept. 17, 1862. Note Sharpsburg, Md., at center, about 75 miles Northwest of Washington, D.C. (From Johnson and Buel, eds., *Battles and Leaders*, Vol. 2, p. 636.)



6 – 8 Map – “Battle Ground of Antietam.” Note Sharpsburg at center.
 (From Abbott, *The History of the Civil War in America*, Vol. 2, p. 146.)



6 - 9 A detail from illustration "McClellan at Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862" by artist H.A. Ogden. (From Ellis, *The History of Our Country...*, Vol. 4, between pp. 1040-41.)