

WOBURN CIVIL WAR CHRONICLES with Leon Edmund Basile

Outline of Chapter Seven (Events of October 1862):

In the Leon Basile manuscript, Chapter Seven has 76 pages of text, five pages of endnotes (74 endnotes), seven illustrations, and three maps. A number of interesting things took place that month, particularly as follows.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN AND GENERAL McCLELLAN, AND THE WOBURN UNION GUARD.

On pages 1-5 of the manuscript, citing various sources, it states that Lincoln visited McClellan from Oct. 1 to 4, 1862, and traveling to various locations, mostly in Maryland, and to visit the Army of the Potomac. On Oct. 3 Lincoln and McClellan reviewed the V Army Corps at Bakersville, Md., including the Woburn Union Guard (Co. F, 22nd Regt. M.V.I.) and Woburn soldiers in the 9th and 32nd Regts. M.V.I. On Oct. 7 McClellan issued a General Order to his Army, in which he referred to Lincoln's Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, and McClellan warned his men against any heated political discussions. Also on Oct. 7 McClellan received a telegram from Gen.-in-Chief Halleck, dated Oct. 6, stating: "The President directs that you cross the Potomac and give battle to the enemy or drive him south." However McClellan did not move immediately, stating that many of his troops needed shoes and blankets, and more horses were also needed, as well as subsistence and forage.

On pages 29-30 of the manuscript it states that during this period, the Woburn Union Guard was encamped near Sharpsburg, Md. The company currently had the Capt., First Lieut., and Second Lieut., as well as the First Sergt. and two other Sergts., three Corporals, and 38 Pvts., for a total of 47 men. However, only 15 of them were Woburn residents: the Capt., the First. Sergt., 1 Corporal and 12 of the Pvts., for the company had been in service for over a year and some had been killed and many others discharged for disability. Here in Maryland, the Woburn Union Guard kept occupied with drills (drilling by squad, by company, and by part of a battalion), as well as inspections and dress parades.

On pages 43-44 of the manuscript it states that finally, between Oct. 26-Nov. 2, the Army of the Potomac moved, with the exception of the XII A.C., which was left at Harpers Ferry to guard the upper Potomac. (The V A.C., including the Woburn Union Guard, marched on Oct. 30.)

THE WOBURN MECHANIC PHALANX LEAVES CAMP LANDER AND TRAVELS TO NORTH CAROLINA.

On pages 13-14 of the manuscript, citing the Oct. 11, 1862, issue of the *Middlesex Journal*, it gave the complete Roll of the company, all 101 men, with their names, ages, civilian occupations, and ranks. (All of these details are given in the manuscript). Only three of the men had prior service. Those three had all been Privates in Co. I, Fifth Regt. M.V.I. (Three

Months' Term), First Call Men, and now were to be Non-Commissioned Officers: Sergts. Thomas Glynn and Oliver W Rogers, and Cpl. Joseph Johnson. As for the ages, twelve were ages 18-19, forty-six were in their 20s, twenty-five were in their 30s, and eighteen were ages 40-45. These Nine Months' Term men would serve in North Carolina and not in any major battles, and they all would complete their term. As for their civilian occupations, half had worked in either leather making or shoe making, while the others had diverse occupations but largely in trades.

On pages 49-52 of the manuscript, citing the Oct. 24, 1862, issue of the *Woburn Weekly Budget*, it states that on Oct. 22 the company (and regiment) left Camp Lander, Wenham, for Boston, by railroad. In Boston they went aboard a steamer which would carry them to North Carolina. Aboard was a collation for the Woburn Mechanic Phalanx, paid for by Woburn leather manufacturer J.B. Winn (full name Jonathan Bowers Winn), who had been a Captain in the Phalanx in the 1840s. The collation was prepared for by the famous Boston caterer, J.B. Smith.

There were now three Woburn companies in the Army, the Woburn Union Guard, the Woburn National Rangers, and the Woburn Mechanic Phalanx, but in three different commands and locations, although the first two companies were in the same part of the country.

WOBURN'S FIRST SERGT. PATRICK BRANAGAN, REGULAR ARMY, HERO AT CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI.

On pages 21-26 of the manuscript, citing numerous sources including the *Official Records*, it described the military service of Patrick Branagan, beginning before the Civil War and up through the Battle of Corinth, Miss. (Oct. 3-4, 1862). At this point Branagan was the First Sergeant of Co. I, First U.S. Inf. Regt. (Regular Army). He was very experienced, for before the war he had served in the Regular Army in the artillery, in Mass., Fla., Kansas, Utah, Nebraska, and Minnesota, then in the infantry in Texas. Rising in rank as a Non-Commissioned Officer (N.C.O.), after the war began he served in Washington, D.C., then fought at New Madrid, Mo., and Island No. 10 on the Miss. River. Now he was a First Sergeant at Corinth, Mississippi.

Corinth, Mississippi, is located in the northeastern corner of that State, and the Battle of Shiloh (April 6-7, 1862) took place in Tennessee, about twenty miles northeast of Corinth. The Battle of Corinth was fought between the Federal Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans (1818-1898) and the Confederate Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn (1820-1863). In this battle, First Sergeant Branagan served with distinction in heavy fighting at Battery Robinett. Having served in both the artillery and infantry branches of the U.S. Army, his experience undoubtedly added to his success. In the battle report written by Capt. George A. Williams, First U.S. Inf. Regt., dated Oct. 16, 1862, he wrote: "I most respectfully attest to the good conduct of the officers... and soldiers of my battery, as well as those of Batteries Phillips and Robinett. It is scarcely proper to mention one more than the other, but I would call special attention to Lieutenants Robinett and Cullen, and to First Sergts. [Patrick] Branagan, Company I... [and several other N.C.O.s]." At Corinth, the

Federal loss was 27 officers and 328 enlisted men killed, 115 officers and 1,726 enlisted men wounded, 5 officers and 319 enlisted men captured or missing, aggregate 2,520 casualties. The Confederates lost 505 killed and 2,150 wounded. (We will mention Patrick Branagan further in our chronology, in even a more heroic event which resulted in him being commissioned a lieutenant in 1863 and awarded a brevet.)

THE WOBURN NATIONAL RANGERS IN THE VICINITY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

On pages 26-29 of the manuscript, citing a soldier's letter dated from camp near Edward's Ferry, Md., Oct. 4, and published in the Oct. 17 issue of the *Woburn Weekly Budget*, it gave the daily schedule for the company and regiment was as follows: Reveille 5:30 A.M., police (cleaning) of company streets until 6 A.M., breakfast 6 A.M., company drill 6:30-7:30 A.M., Surgeon's Call 7:30 A.M., First Call for guard mounting 8:50 A.M., guard mounting 9 A.M., Orderly's Call 9:45 A.M., Company drill 10-11 A.M., Non-Commissioned Officers drill 11 A.M. to 12 Noon, dinner 12 Noon, Officers' recitation 2-3 P.M., battalion drill 3-4 P.M., Company drill 4-5 P.M., First Call dress parade 5:20 P.M., dress parade 5:30 P.M., supper 6 P.M., Retreat at sunset, Tattoo 8:30 P.M., Taps 9 P.M. Also each day there were seven roll calls. The letter also mentioned that there were about a dozen of the men in the company sick, two of whom were so ill that they were sent to a hospital in Washington, D.C.

SENATORIAL DISTRICT CONVENTION IN WOBURN, OCT. 15, 1862.

On pages 31-32 of the manuscript, citing the Oct. 17 issue of the *Budget*, it reported on the 5th Middlesex Senatorial District Convention, which was held at the Woburn Town Hall on Oct. 15. Details are given in the manuscript, but for space requirements for this outline, we will only give the following: "On motion of Nathan Wyman of Woburn, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:-- *Resolved*, That we give our unqualified support of the present National and State administration, recognizing in Abraham Lincoln and John A. Andrew, sincere and devoted patriots, worthy of the cordial support of every true lover of his country. *Resolved*, That we tender to the Hon. Charles Sumner, our thanks for the able and patriotic manner in which he has discharged the duties of his position as a Senator of this Commonwealth, and pledge ourselves to use all honorable efforts for his re-election to that position, believing that his defeat would be equivalent to a rebel victory..."

SEN. CHARLES SUMNER RETURNS TO WOBURN TO LECTURE, OCT. 18, 1862.

On page 52 of the manuscript, citing the Oct. 25 issue of the *Middlesex Journal*, it states that on Sat. evening, Oct. 18, Sen. Charles Sumner spoke at Lyceum Hall in Woburn. There was a full house there, and many had to be turned away. Senator Sumner spoke for over two hours, but the newspaper did not say what his subject was. Most likely he spoke about slavery and

President Lincoln's Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Senator Sumner had spoken on slavery at the First Baptist Church in Woburn in 1855. (See *A Union Town...*, Vol. 1, re: Sumner.)

MAJ. ELISHA BURBANK STILL ALIVE BUT HIS CONDITION DECLINING.

On pages 36-37 of the manuscript, citing the Oct. 18 issue of the *Middlesex Journal*, it describes a letter written on Oct. 13 by Major Burbank from Frederick, Md., almost a month after being wounded at Antietam and about six weeks before his death. In the letter he stated that he had been in command of the 12th Regt. M.V.I. since the death of Col. Fletcher Webster at the Second Battle of Bull Run (Aug. 30), until he was wounded at Antietam. He said that the wound was caused by a Minie ball which "entered at the middle toe, passing through the foot and coming out at the great toe joint, completely shattering the bones of the foot." Major Burbank was brought to the U.S. Gen. Hospital and his foot examined and dressed, then he was brought to a private home. The wound was very painful for three days, then a "doctor performed an operation and extracted twelve pieces of bone, some of them as large as the end of my finger. It is now getting along very well,-- healing up quite fast,-- but I have a large abscess on my ankle, caused by the puss burrowing in my foot. It has been opened, however, and discharges very freely, which the doctor says, is a good sign. I am compelled to lay on my back most of the time, which is very tiresome. I shall go home as soon as I am able, but it will be some time yet. I hope if any of my friends are coming this way, they will call and see me." On pages 70-71 of the manuscript, citing the Oct. 25 issue of the *Middlesex Journal*, it states that another abscess had formed further up his leg, near his knee. He was given ether and three doctors examined it. His wife traveled from Woburn to be with him.

MARTHA E. (JAMESON) MILLER ARRIVES FROM NORTH CAROLINA TO VISIT FATHER.

On pages 47-49 of the ms., citing several sources including the Oct. 24 issue of the *Budget*, it states that Martha Miller arrived in Woburn to visit her father. (See our book *A Union Town...*, 1: 363 about this family.) She had lived in Woburn until 1856, when she married a doctor and slaveowner from Kinston, N.C. The newspaper stated that she had gotten permission from Sec. of War Stanton to travel from North Carolina to Massachusetts, taking passage on a transport steamer. After the visit in Woburn, on Oct. 26 she left Boston, to return to North Carolina. According to historian Alfred S. Roe, regarding Martha Miller, "Though professing to be loyal in her sentiments, it later appeared that her trunk was filled with quinine for the aid and comfort of the enemy..." Roe did not cite his source. She apparently was not arrested as she returned home in Kinston. If she did have quinine, perhaps it was for her husband's patients.

"OUR WOMAN'S PART" IN THE WAR.

On pages 56-57 of the manuscript, citing the Oct. 25 issue of the *Middlesex Journal*, it states that the weekly editorial of the newspaper was headed "Departure of Troops," and in it, among

other things, it stated: "The history of the part which man takes in this war will be written by future historians, but who will, who can, write our woman's part? Whose glance can reach the deep recesses of her heart, and there read all that is engraved in unfading letters? Of the many anxious hours spent... of the many silent stitches taken to protect brave men and true for the wintry winds; aye, and of the many other deeds of kindness done... who can write such a history and do full justice to the noble heroines? Our only answer is – who?"

THE WOBURN NATIONAL RANGERS TO SENECA LANDING, MARYLAND.

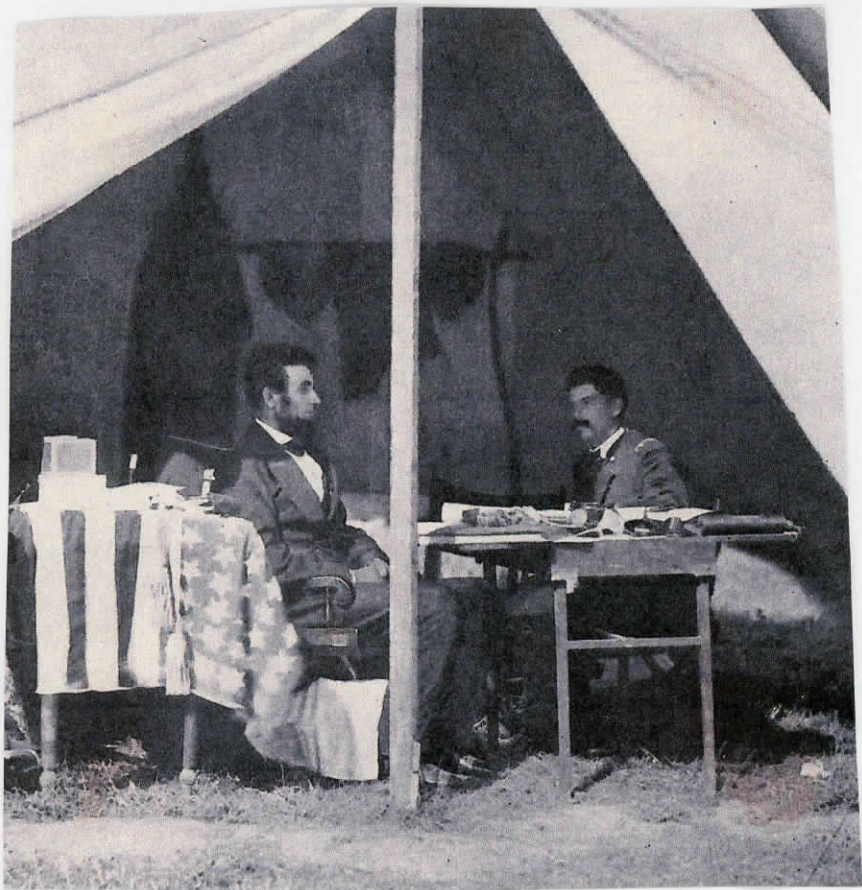
On pages 53-56 of the manuscript, citing the Oct 31 issue of the *Budget*, was a letter written by a soldier dated from camp near Seneca Landing, Md., Oct. 20. It stated that on Oct. 14 the men were ordered to march to that location, which was about a 12 mile march from Edward's Ferry, over hills and valleys. They carried rations of hard tack and pork, with their knapsacks, blankets, poncho tent, and heavy overcoats. They marched about ½ mile short of the final destination, for the night, then completed it in the morning, where they found Sibley tents already standing.

The letter described Seneca Landing, about 26 miles from Washington, D.C., and was a large depot of supplies for the Army. There the Woburn National Rangers would do picket and guard duty, as well as hours of drill each day, fatigue duty, roll calls, dress parades, etc. Each day 22 men from each company went on picket duty.

THE WOBURN MECHANIC PHALANX ON TARBORO MARCH.

On pages 58-61 of the ms., citing the Nov. 8 issue of the *Midd. Jnl.*, it describes a letter written by Sergt. Oliver W. Rogers, dated from Newbern, N.C., Oct. 29. In it he described the move from Camp Lander to North Carolina, including details aboard the steamer *Mississippi*. Reaching Newbern, there were Sibley tents with an iron stove in each, already standing. On pages 61-63 of the ms., citing the Nov. 21 issue of the *Budget*, it describes a letter written by Sergt. Horace N. Hastings, dated from Washington City, N.C., Nov. 2. He stated that the company had marched from Newbern, in what became known as the Tarboro March. Surprisingly, Sergeant Hastings and some of the other men of the company found a former Woburn resident living there, Samuel Richardson Fowle (1797-1877). Fowle had a fine home and warehouse, a former steam mill "more recently used in ginning and putting up cotton."

On pages 63-66 of the ms., citing several sources, it states that Newbern, N.C., was on now Union hands, and that part of North Carolina under the command of Federal Maj. Gen. John G. Foster. In Washington City, N.C., was Samuel R. Fowle, who had moved from Woburn around 1820. By 1860 he was wealthy and owned over 20 slaves. When the members of the Phalanx met him, he might not have told them that he had a son, Daniel Gould Fowle (1831-1891), who was currently a Lieut. Colonel in the Confederate Army. Daniel G. Fowle had also just been elected to the North Carolina legislature, and in 1889 he would be elected Governor of N.C.



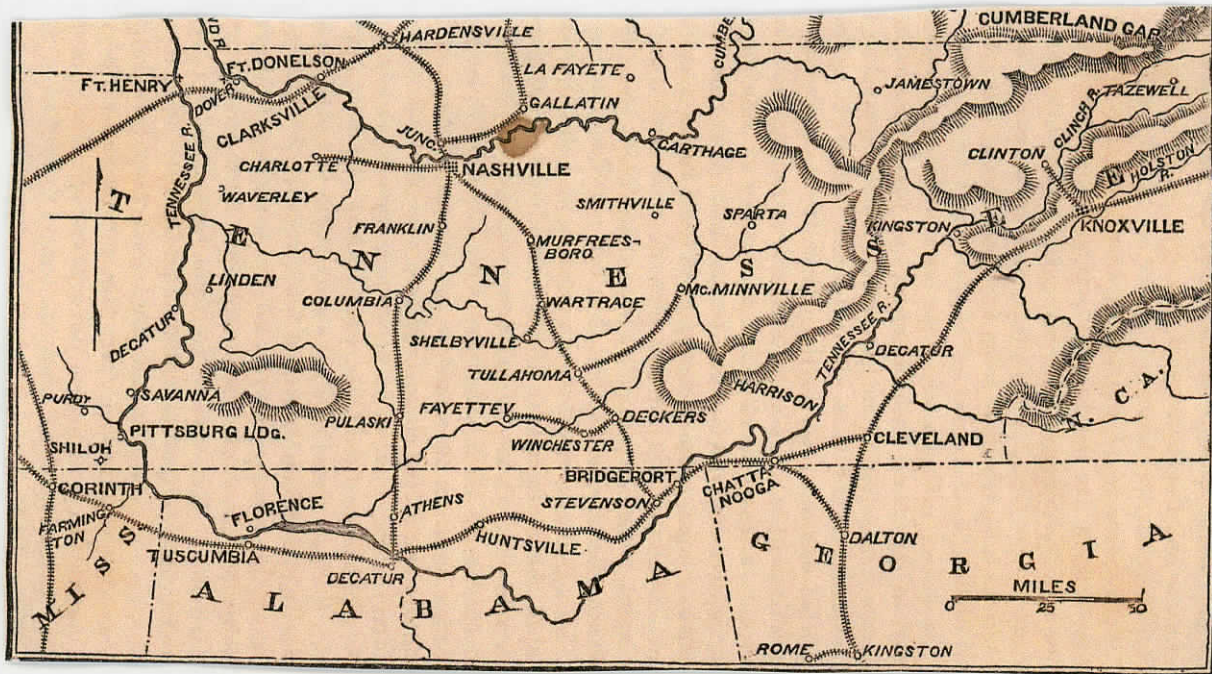
7 – 1 President Abraham Lincoln and Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, taken between Oct. 1-4, 1862, when Lincoln visited McClellan. During that time they reviewed the V Army Corps in Maryland, including the Woburn Union Guard and other Woburn soldiers in that Corps.

(A detail from a photo in Miller, *The Photographic History of the Civil War*, Vol. 1, page 67.)

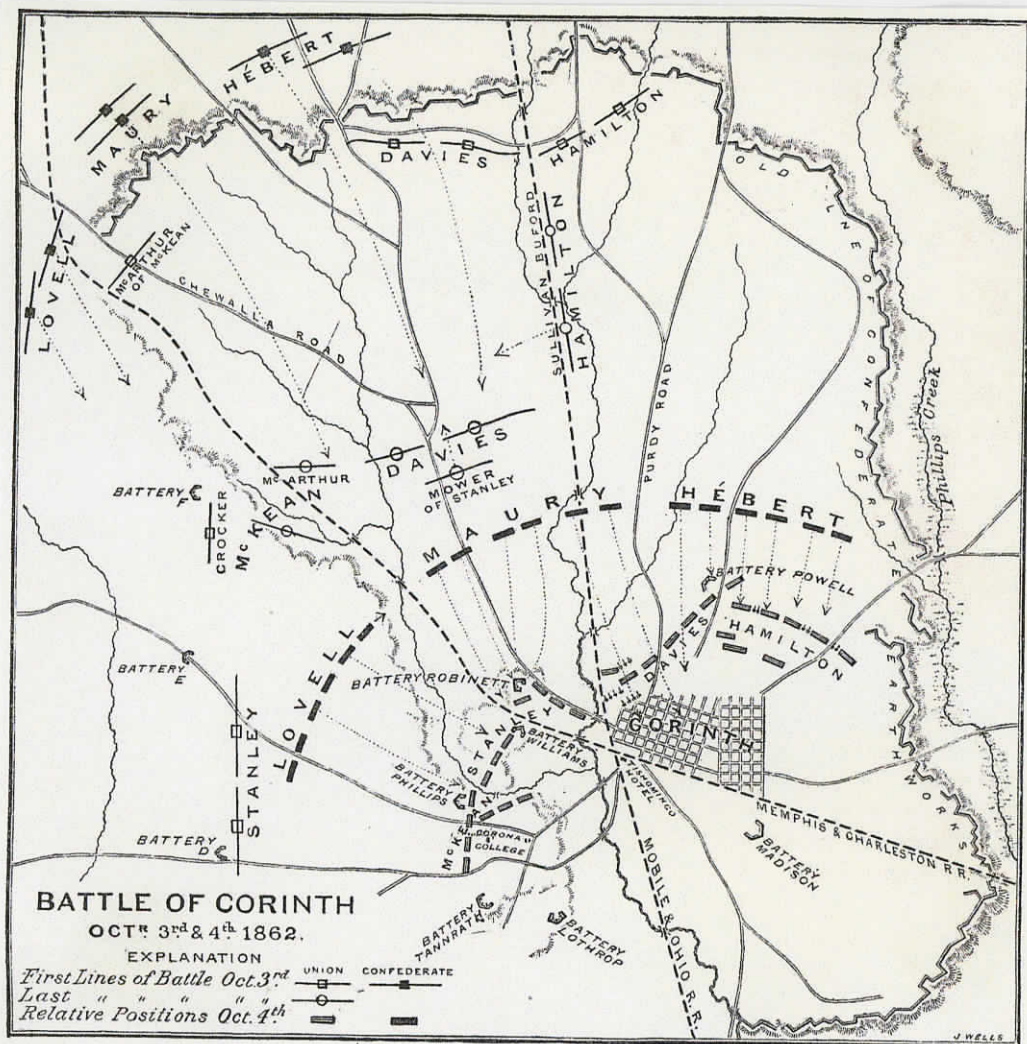


WILLIAM STARKE ROSECRANS

7 – 2 Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans (1819-1898) was born in Ohio. He was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. In the Civil War he became a Brig. Gen. in May 1861 and Maj. Gen. to date March 1862. He commanded the District of Corinth, Army of the Mississippi, at the time of the Battle of Corinth (Oct. 3-4, 1862). He later commanded the Dept. of the Cumberland and the Dept. of Missouri. (From Miller, *The Photographic History of the Civil War*, Vol. 10, p. 173.)



7-3 Map – This map shows middle and east Tennessee, and surrounding vicinities. Corinth, Mississippi, is at the bottom left of the map, where that battle took place on Oct. 3-4, 1862. Woburn's First Sergt. Patrick Branagan, U.S. Army, fought there heroically. (Map a detail from Abbott, *The History of the Civil War in America*, Vol. 1, p. 483.)



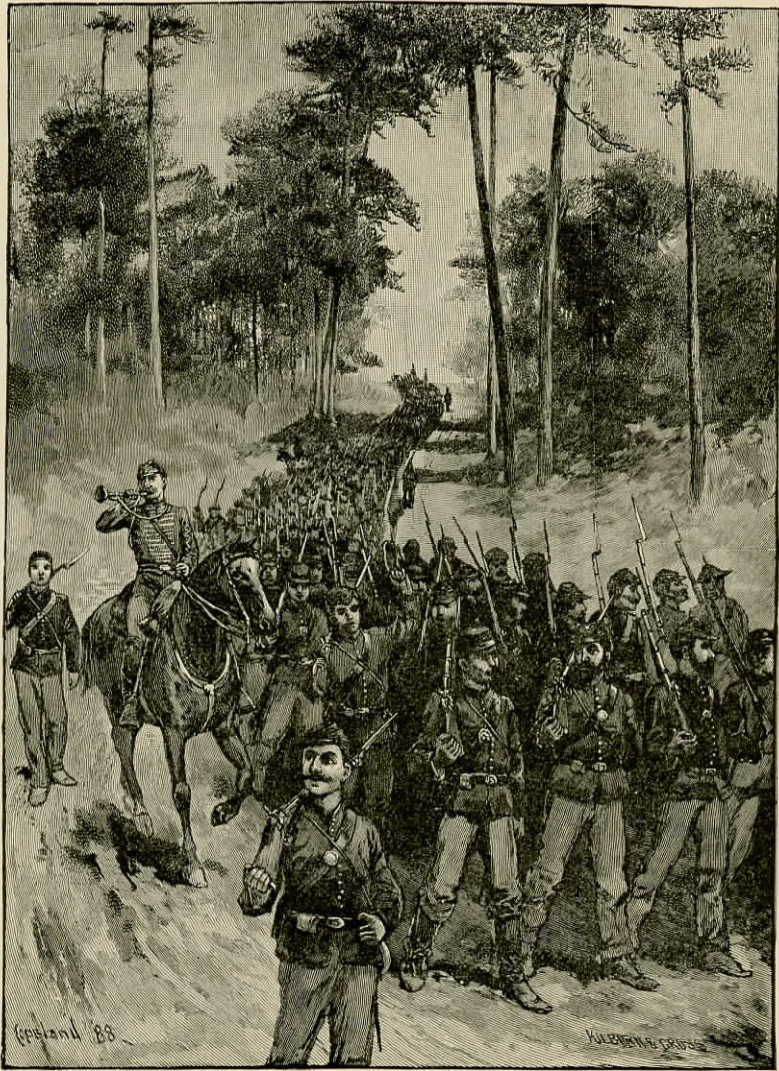
7-4 Map - "Battle of Corinth" in Northeast Mississippi (Oct. 3-4, 1862). Note Battery Robinett (just below center), where Woburn's First Sergt. Patrick Branagan, U.S. Army, fought heroically. (Map from Johnson and Buel, eds., *Battles and Leaders*, Vol. 2, p. 744.)



7 – 5 Senator Charles Sumner (1811-1874) spoke at Lyceum Hall, Woburn, Oct. 18, 1862. He graduated at Harvard College in 1830 and at Cambridge Law School in 1834. A leading abolitionist, he was a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts from 1851 until his death in 1874. He had previously spoken on slavery at the First Baptist Church in Woburn in 1855, and in 1856 he was severely beaten on his head in the Senate, by a U.S. Representative from South Carolina. (Photograph published by E. & H.T. Anthony, New York, from a negative of Brady's National Portrait Gallery, author's collection.)



7 – 6 On Oct. 25, 1862, the *Middlesex Journal* wrote of “our woman’s part” in the war, such as worrying about their soldiers and sewing or knitting for them. Here are two unidentified women photographed in Woburn during the Civil War era. The one on the left was photographed by [F.S.] Knowlton’s Photograph Gallery on Main St. (“Next door South of the Central House.”) The one on the right was photographed by Samuel Webster Wyman in Woburn. (Author’s collection.)

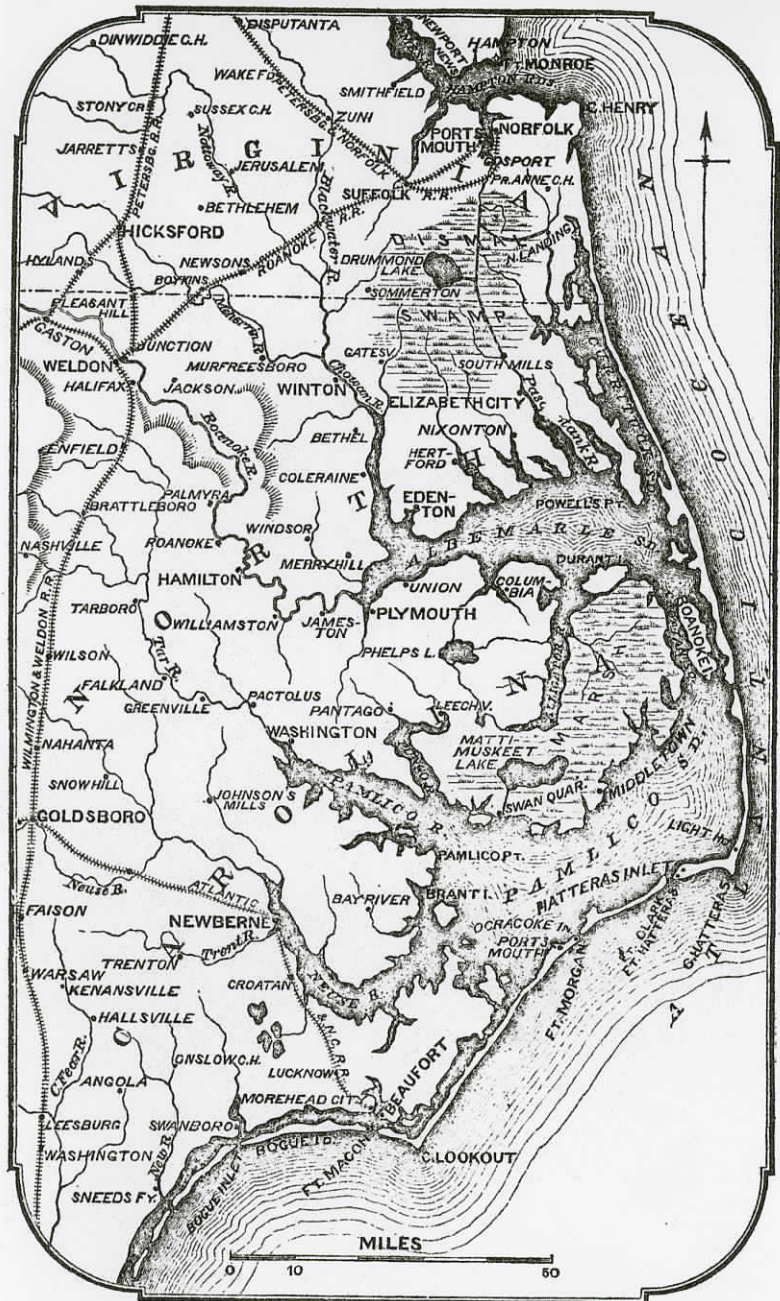


ON THE MARCH

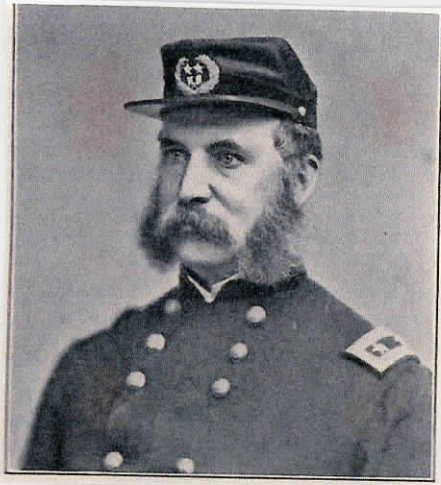
7 – 7 “ON THE MARCH.” This shows Union Infantry soldiers marching, which they did often all around the South during the war. The Woburn companies did such marching in October 1862, mainly in Maryland and North Carolina. (Illustration from Ellis, *The History of Our Country...*, Vol. 4, p. 989.)



7 – 8 A Union infantry soldier on picket duty, as were the Woburn National Rangers at Seneca Landing, Md., Oct. 1862. (A detail from illus. in *The Illustrated London News* (Vol. 39, No. 1120), Dec. 7, 1861, p. 567, caption reading “The Civil War in America. Federal Picket on the Potomac...”) (Author’s collection.)



7 – 9 Map – The North Carolina seacoast where the Woburn Mechanic Phalanx served in 1862-63. Note Newbern(e) on lower left. On lower right see Hatteras Inlet, Forts Clark(e) and Hatteras, and light house. (From Abbott, *The History of the Civil War in America*, Vol. 1, p. 201.)



7 – 10 Maj. Gen. John G. Foster (1823-1874) was born in New Hampshire. He was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and a veteran of the Mexican War. In the Civil War he was made a Brig. Gen. of Vols. in Oct. 1861 and Maj. Gen. in July 1862. He commanded the Dept. of North Carolina when the Woburn Mechanic Phalanx served there in 1862-63. He later commanded the Dept. of the Ohio. (From Miller, *The Photographic History of the Civil War*, Vol. 10, p. 191.)