

WOBURN CIVIL WAR CHRONICLES with Leon Edmund Basile

INTRODUCTION

These Chronicles will consist of outlines of chapters continued after Volume One of the book titled *A Union Town During the Civil War: Woburn, Massachusetts* by Leon Edmund Basile (Woburn: Woburn Historical Society, 2012). Volume One covered through Chapter Four (*Stalemate – January through July, 1862*). Volume Two has not been published, but Leon Basile has written many complete chapters beyond Volume One in manuscript form. Here in “Woburn Civil War Chronicles” we begin with an outline of Chapter Five.

Outline of Chapter Five (*More Recruiting in Woburn, More Battles in Virginia – August 1862*):

In the manuscript, Chapter Five has seventy pages of text, six pages of endnotes (eighty-five endnotes), twelve illustrations, and one map. Some of the things described in Chapter Five are as follows.

“GRAND RALLY.”

On pages 3 and 5-6 of the manuscript it describes the “Grand Rally” of August 1, 1862, which was held at Lyceum Hall in Woburn Center. There, the Woburn military company which became known as the National Rangers (Company K, Thirty-ninth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry) was raised. On pages 6-8 of the manuscript we learn that the company proceeded to Camp Stanton in Lynnfield, to be further organized. (Note that the Woburn National Rangers were a normal infantry company, not Rangers in the sense of Rogers’ Rangers or Army Rangers.)

“WEEP O’ER THE HEROES AS THEY FALL.”

Back in Volume One, Chapter Four, we read that Capt. Samuel Ingalls Thompson of the Woburn Union Guard (Co. F, Twenty-second Regt. M.V.I.) was wounded and taken prisoner at Malvern Hill, Va., on July 1, 1862. We further read there that he was released on July 19 and transported to the U.S. General Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Now, in Chapter Five, pages 11-14 of the manuscript, it states that Captain Thompson’s wounded foot was amputated, and that resulted in his death on August 5. His wife had traveled from Woburn to be with him in Baltimore, and she was with him in his final days. After his death, his body was transported to Woburn and his funeral took place at the First Congregational Church on August 8. The Woburn newspapers of the time described the funeral in some detail, which Leon Basile gives in his manuscript. Captain Thompson was buried at Woburn Cemetery, which was later re-named Woodbrook Cemetery.

WOBURN MECHANIC PHALANX (Nine Months' Term)

On pages 14-15, 24-29, 34-35, and 38-39 of the manuscript, it states that the Federal government called for a certain number of troops to serve for a Nine Months' Term only. This call resulted in the forming of the Woburn Mechanic Phalanx (Co. G, Fifth Regt. M.V.I.) for that Nine Months' Term. During August 1862, meetings were held in Woburn Center, in order to enlist men for this company.

THE DEATH OF PVT. JAMES A. PERKINS.

Those who have read Chapters Three and Four in Volume One of *A Union Town During the Civil War: Woburn, Massachusetts* are familiar with Pvt. James A. Perkins and the other Woburn soldiers who served in the Sixth New York Independent Battery. On page 17 of the manuscript of Chapter Five it states that Pvt. James A. Perkins died at the U.S. General Hospital, Philadelphia, Penn., of phthisis pulmonalis (a form of what is now called tuberculosis) on August 8. Private Perkins was buried in Philadelphia, but in 1863 he was reinterred in Stoneham, Massachusetts, near the East Woburn line. (Note: Leon Basile visited Private Perkins's grave in Lindenwood Cemetery, Stoneham, a number of years ago, and found that Perkins's death date on the gravestone was incorrect, and appeared to instead have the date that he was reinterred.)

BATTLE OF CEDAR MOUNTAIN, VIRGINIA, August 9, 1862.

On pages 17-23 of the manuscript it states that a middle-sized battle took place (west of Fredericksburg, Va.), under the Union command of Major General Nathaniel P. Banks. A small number of Woburn soldiers belonged to the elite Second Regt. M.V.I. and participated in the battle. Due to space requirements, the outlines in the "Woburn Civil War Chronicles" will not be able to give detailed descriptions of the battles, but they are covered in the Basile manuscript. However, we will state here that two of the Woburn soldiers were wounded at Cedar Mountain: Sergt. Theophilus F. Page of Company G was wounded in his hand by a ball, and on his side and thigh by buckshot. The wounds caused by buckshot were not very serious, but the wound in his hand was more serious, and five months later he was discharged from the Army for his wound. However, later in 1863 he returned to the Army, this time as a First Lieutenant in the Twenty-eighth Regt. M.V.I., and soon after was promoted to Captain. He was wounded in the Wilderness in May 1864, and mustered out in December 1864. Sergeant Francis Wilson was wounded in his face at Cedar Mountain, but returned to duty two months later. Remaining a Sergeant, he reenlisted in the Second Regt. M.V.I., only to be killed in action near the end of the war, in North Carolina.

MORE ON THE WOBURN NATIONAL RANGERS.

On pages 35-38 of the manuscript it states that the company was still at Camp Stanton in Lynnfield. There, one of the members wrote a long letter dated August 21 and published in the

Woburn Weekly Budget on August 22, in which he described what the recruits were doing in the camp. In that letter it included the "regular order of the day" for the company, but unfortunately it did not say what was done after the 1 P.M. dinner until the 6:15 P.M. dress parade. However, the rest of the order of the day consisted of Reveille at 5 A.M., bathing hours 5-6 A.M., squad drill 6-7 A.M., breakfast at 7 A.M., guard mounting at 8 A.M., squad and company drill from 8:30 – 10 A.M., commissioned officers' drill from 11 A.M. to Noon, battalion drills from 12:30 P.M. to 1 P.M., dinner at 1 P.M., dress parade at 6:15 P.M., supper at 7 P.M., Tattoo at 9 P.M., and Taps at 9:30 P.M. "So you see with guard mounting and police duty, which consists in cleaning up the camp, removing garbage, &c., our time is pretty well filled up." That same issue of the newspaper reported that there were three Woburn brothers in the company: Cpl. Charles F. Linscott and Pvts. George W. and Josiah P. Linscott. In addition, it reported that the three brothers also had an older brother who was an officer in the U.S. Navy, Master's Mate John Henry Linscott.

On pages 42-45 of the manuscript it states that in the August 29 issue of the *Budget*, the same soldier who had written the letter dated August 21 had now written one dated August 27. It stated that although the company was still at Camp Stanton in Lynnfield, they were to be moved soon to Boxford. Also in the August 29 issue of the *Budget* it gave a list of all of the names and ranks of the Woburn National Rangers, as well as their ages and civilian occupations. This complete list is given in the manuscript on pages 44-45, but here in the outline we will only give names and ranks of the three officers in the company: Capt. John I. Richardson, First Lieut. Luke R. Tidd, and Second Lieut. Luke (or Luther) F. Wyman.

OFFICERS OF THE WOBURN MECHANIC PHALANX (Nine Months' Term).

On pages 46-47 of the manuscript it states that in the August 29 issue of the *Budget* it reported that on August 27, at the Armory Hall in the Lyceum building, the volunteers of the Phalanx elected the following officers: Capt. William T. Grammer, First Lieut. Charles S. Converse, and Second Lieut. William A. Colegate. (Note: Although official records spell the latter name as William A. Colegate, at his family plot at Woodbrook Cemetery it is spelled Colgate, without the letter "e", and that is probably the family's true, correct spelling.)

SECOND BATTLE OF BULL RUN, VIRGINIA (August 29-30, 1862).

On pages 48-68 of the manuscript it describes in detail the Second Battle of Bull Run. Here in the outline we must only give the following details. The battle took place west of Alexandria, Va., with the Union side commanded by Maj. Gen. John Pope and the Confederate side commanded by Gen. Robert E. Lee. On the Union side it included about sixty Woburn soldiers, spread among eleven infantry regiments and two artillery batteries. Currently on the rolls Woburn had seven in the Twelfth Regt. M.V.I., thirteen in the Thirteenth Regt. M.V.I., nine each

in the First Regt. M.V.I. and Eleventh Regt. M.V.I., and twenty-one in the Sixteenth Regt. M.V.I. The rest of the Woburn soldiers in the battle only had one to three men each in the other eight units. The Woburn casualties from the battle, all on August 29, consisted of one killed in action, three wounded, and three taken prisoner. Captain James W. McDonald of Woburn, commanding Co. D, Eleventh Regt. M.V.I., was one of the officers cited by Brig. Gen. Cuvier Grove in his battle report. The Woburn Union Guard (Co. F, Twenty-second Regt. M.V.I.) was in the vicinity of the battle but were not in action.

The Woburn casualties were as follows: killed – Pvt. William B. Cormick, Co. D, Eleventh Regt. M.V.I., and his body was not identified; wounded – Cpl. Michael Mathews (Mathers in some records), Co. G, Thirteenth Regt. M.V.I., slightly wounded on his head; Pvt. Joseph H. Peirce (Joseph W. Pierce in some sources), Co. E, First Regt. M.V.I., type of wound not stated; Pvt. John J. Powers, Co. B, Fortieth Regt. N.Y.V.I., slightly wounded on left leg. The three Woburn soldiers who were taken prisoner were all in the Sixteenth Regt. M.V.I.: Cpl. Clifford B. Fowle and Pvt. Charles H. Smith of Co. E, and Pvt. Benjamin F. Tuck of Co. F. All three of them were paroled between Aug. 30 and Sept. 3, 1862, so were spared from long periods in a prison camp, but they were not exchanged until December 1862, which meant that they could not return to duty until that time.

In total, the Union lost about 1,700 men killed, 8,400 men wounded, and 1,200 men captured or missing at Second Bull Run. The Confederates lost over 1,000 men killed and over 6,000 men wounded.

SOURCES:

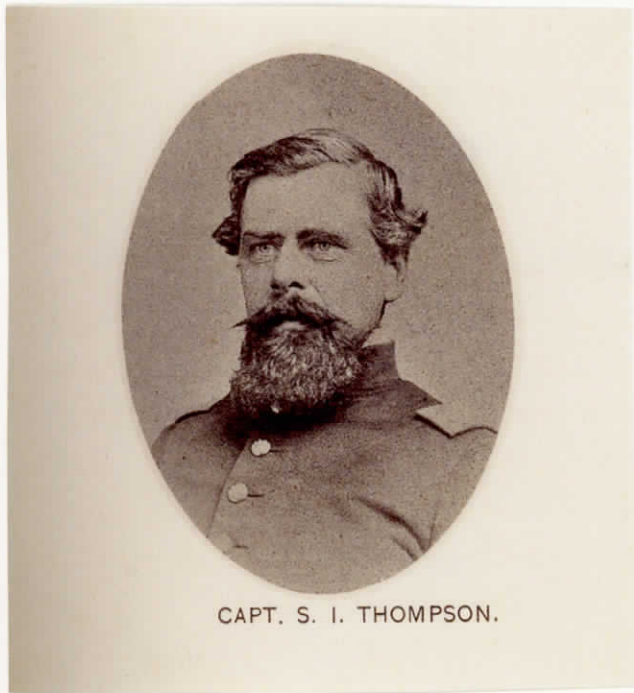
As mentioned above, Chapter Five has 85 endnotes in the manuscript, in which all of the sources (citations) are given there. Some of those sources included wartime issues of the *Woburn Weekly Budget* and *Middlesex Journal*, and post-war issues of the *Middlesex County Journal* and *Woburn Journal*. Other sources included sets of books such as *Battles and Leaders* edited by Johnson and Buel, *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War* (cited as *Mass. Soldiers*), and the *Official Records* (cited as *O.R.*). Other books included *The Army Under Pope* by Ropes, *Brook Farm to Cedar Mountain* by Gordon, and *The Potomac and the Rapidan* by Quint.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

The illustrations for Chapter Five included portraits of six Woburn Army officers (copies of wartime photographs from various libraries), a portrait of the U.S. Secretary of War, portraits of four Union Generals, a portrait of Elida (Rumsey) Fowle, and a map showing the portion of Virginia in which the battles of Cedar Mountain and Second Bull Run took place.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The large majority of acknowledgements are listed in Volume One of *A Union Town During the Civil War: Woburn, Massachusetts*, (see Vol. 1, pages vii-ix). Some of those individuals and institutions were involved only in Volume One, while others listed there were for later volumes (which have not been published), or were for the entire planned set of books. However, a small number of individuals, who were not involved in the book project until after Volume One was published, got involved with the book project in various ways, so are now acknowledged here: Brian K. Ouellette (President, Woburn Historical Society), Sheila (Tracey) McElhiney, J.D. (Vice President, Woburn Historical Society), Jeremy Dolan and Marsha Fairchild for computer technology assistance, and Debra J. Richardson for research material and photograph of U.S. Naval officer Henry Wyman.



CAPT. S. I. THOMPSON.

5 – 1 Capt. Samuel Ingalls Thompson (1820-1862) commanded the Woburn Union Guard (Co. F, 22nd Regt. Mass. Vol. Inf.). Wounded at Malvern Hill, Va., on July 1, 1862, he died at a U.S. Army Hospital in Baltimore, Md., on Aug. 5. His funeral and burial took place in Woburn, Mass., on Aug. 8, 1862. (Portrait from Parker, *Henry Wilson's Regiment*, facing p. 80, courtesy of the Boston Public Library.)



Edwin M. Stanton

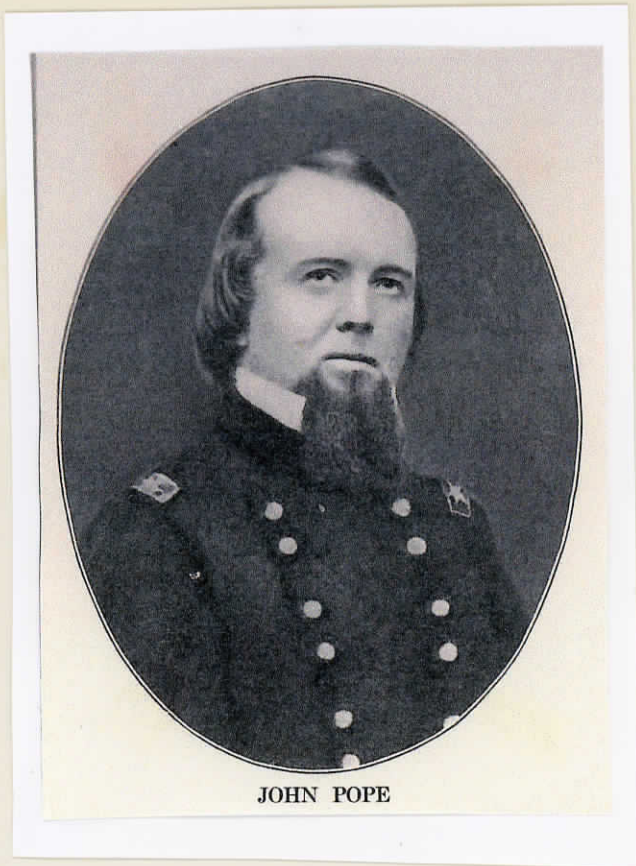
5 – 2 Edwin M. Stanton (1814-1869) of Ohio, had been the Attorney General under Pres. James Buchanan in 1860-61. He became Secretary of War under President Lincoln in January 1862, and held that post until 1868. (Portrait from Gorham, *Life and Public Services of Edwin M. Stanton*, Vol. 2, frontispiece.)



5 – 3 Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck (1815-1872) was born in New York State. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and veteran of the Mexican War, he later became an attorney. In the Civil War he was made a Major General in Aug. 1861, and was General-in-Chief of the Union Armies from July 1862 to March 1864. Then, he was Chief of Staff of the Army from March 1864 to the end of the war. (Photograph published by E. & H.T. Anthony, New York, author's collection.)



5 – 4 Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks (1816-1894) had been Governor of Massachusetts from 1858-61. He was made a Major General, U.S. Volunteers, in May 1861. On Aug. 9, 1862, he commanded the Union forces at the Battle of Cedar Mountain, Va. Later he commanded the Department of the Gulf. (Photograph published by E. & H.T. Anthony, New York, from a negative of Brady's National Portrait Gallery, author's collection.)



JOHN POPE

5 – 5 Maj. Gen. John Pope (1822-1892) of Kentucky, in uniform as Brigadier General. He was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and a veteran of the Mexican War. He was made a Brig. Gen. in May 1861 and a Maj. Gen. in March 1862. From late June to early Sept. 1862 he commanded the Union's Army of Virginia, then he served in the Northwest. (From Miller, *The Photographic History of the Civil War*, Vol. 10, p. 173.)



5 – 6 Map – “The Seat of Military Operations in August and September, 1862.” This map shows the Battle of Cedar Mountain (Aug. 9) in the lower left, and the Second Battle of Bull Run (Aug. 29-30) in the center. (From Ellis, *The History of Our Country...*, Vol 4, p. 987.)



5 – 7 Capt. Cyrus Tay (1826-1911) of Woburn, became First Lieut. of Co. B, 32nd Regt. M.V.I., in Nov. 1861, and Captain of that Company on Aug. 14, 1862. He would be wounded at Gettysburg, Pa., in 1863, and discharged as Capt. of Co. K, 32nd Regt. M.V.I., in Nov. 1864. (Courtesy of the Mass. MOLLUS Collection, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Vol. 93, p. 4781, Carlisle, Penn.)



5 – 8 Capt. John P. Crane (1829-1920) took command of the Woburn Union Guard (Co. F, 22nd Regt. M.V.I.) in Aug. 1862, previously being the First Lieutenant of the company. Captured at Gaines' Mill, Va., on June 27, 1862, he was released on Aug. 13, 1862. He resigned and was discharged on May 18, 1863. A bronze bust of him in uniform can be seen at his grave in Woodbrook Cemetery, Woburn. (Courtesy of the Mass. MOLLUS Collection, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Vol. 96, p. 4937, Carlisle, Penn.)



5 – 9 Capt. John Isaac Richardson (1818-1864) commanded the Woburn National Rangers (Co. K, 39th Regt. M.V.I.) until discharged for disability on March 29, 1864. He died in Woburn on Oct. 1, 1864.

(Photograph credit: Glennon Archives, Woburn Public Library, Woburn, Mass.)



5 – 10 First Lieutenant Luke R. Tidd (1822-1893) of the Woburn National Rangers (Co. K, 39th Regt. M.V.I.). He was taken prisoner at Weldon Railroad, Va., Aug. 19, 1864, and not exchanged until Feb. 23, 1865. (Photograph credit: Glennon Archives, Woburn Public Library, Woburn, Mass.)

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Tidd
5-10

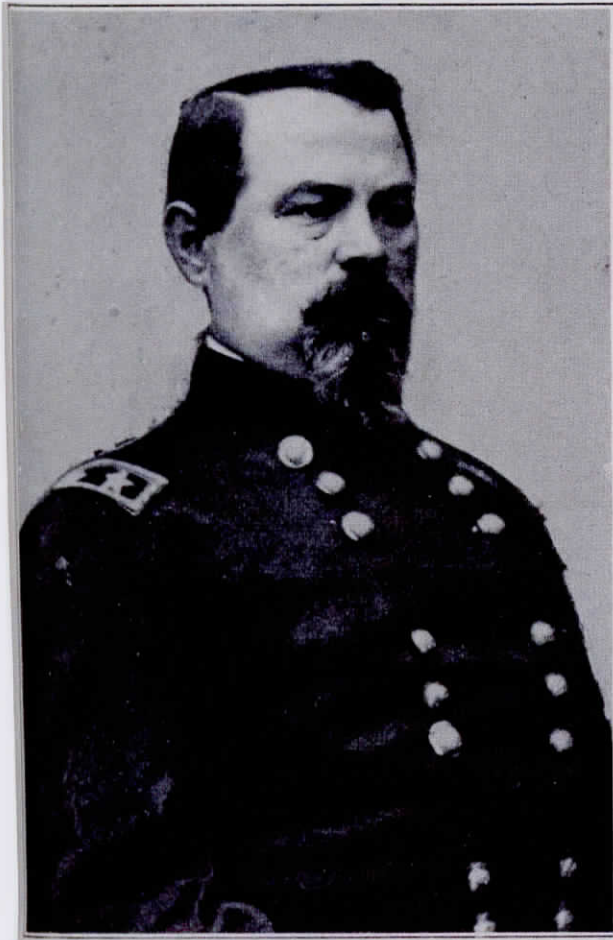


5 – 11 Second Lieutenant Luther (or Luke) F. Wyman (1833-1892) was a First Call Man (see *A Union Town*, 1: 852). He was in the Woburn National Rangers (Co. K, 39th Regt. M.V.I.) until promoted to First Lieut. and transferred to Co. H of the same regiment. (Photograph courtesy of the Mass. MOLLUS Collection, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Vol. 117, p. 6040, Carlisle, Penn.)



MRS. FOWLE.

5 – 12 Elida B. (Rumsey) Fowle (1842-1919) was the wife of John A. Fowle. Together, they did much to help wounded and unwounded soldiers. (From Holland, *Our Army Nurses*, p. 66.) Note: the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., has a photograph of the couple together, and another of Elida alone.



5 – 13 Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell (1818-1885), born in Ohio, was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and a veteran of the Mexican War. As a Brigadier General he commanded the Union forces at the First Battle of Bull Run (July 1861). Promoted Maj. Gen. in March 1862, he commanded the III Corps of the Army of Virginia at the Second Battle of Bull Run (Aug. 29-30, 1862). He later commanded the Dept. of the Pacific. (From Miller, *The Photographic History of the Civil War*, Vol. 10, p. 179.)

McDowell 2-13