

MEMOIRS
OF A
MARYLAND VOLUNTEER.

WAR WITH MEXICO,

IN THE YEARS 1846-7-8.

BY
JOHN R. KENLY.

PHILADELPHIA:
J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO.
1873.

Baltimore Street, I was honored and gratified by being presented with a sword and sash by Captain George P. Kane, the commanding officer, on behalf of the Eagle Artillery Company, with which I had been connected as private and officer for several years.

On reaching Washington we were met by the volunteers from Baltimore who had preceded me, and escorted to the War Department, from whence we marched to the Marine Barracks, where quarters had been assigned my recruits.

On the next day sent Lieutenants Francis B. Schaeffer and Oden Bowie back to Baltimore to bring more men, who, I had been informed, were anxious to join the company. They returned on the 7th, and on the next day, the 8th day of June, 1846, we marched to the War Department, and were mustered into the service of the United States by Lorenzo Thomas, Major and Assistant-Adjutant-General United States Army, for twelve months, my company consisting of three officers and eighty-four non-commissioned officers and privates.

The following is the roll of the company, which was known as "Baltimore's Own":

Captain, John R. Kenly.

First Lieutenant, Francis B. Schaeffer.

Second Lieutenant, Oden Bowie.

Sergeants: William E. Aisquith, William Hickman, George O. Lansdale, Thomas Tyser.

Corporals: Benjamin F. Brand, James H. Mansfield, James A. Beacham, James Tibbles.

Privates: John Andrews, John F. Alexander, John Allen, Wm. Allen, Lemuel Atkinson, George W.

Bowie, John A. Billington, Wm. A. Butler, Wm. Bannister, Samuel Beaston, John Boyd, Edward Boulanger, Jacob Baker, Edward I. Byram, Richard H. Belt, James B. Canning, George N. Collins, De Azro A. B. Cutting, Jacob Degomp, Francis M. Dobbin, Joseph H. Dick, Henry I. Elding, Charles Fischer, Louis Fuller, Henry Forbush, Francis Fisher, George Gordon, Samuel Gelston, Vincent Henxler, John H. Hipkins, James Henry, Barney Hawkins, George T. Hugo, Charles Hill, George Healey, Wm. S. Hatch, Charles Johnson, John S. Johnson, David Johnson, Leroy Knight, Thomas Leyburn, Thomas Leveuton, Francis A. Labédie, John Loughry, Samuel Lockhart, William Macready, George Macnelly, Joseph B. Millard, James H. Merton, Jacob Morris, John Magness, Charles W. Matchett, John McGunnell, Edward Myers, Henry P. Norris, Francis Louis Nettan, Franklin B. Nimocks, Josiah Pegg, Charles Pratt, James Peregoy, Seth S. Rogers, John Reese, Joseph B. Richardson, Wm. M. S. Riley, Andrew I. Ritter, Wm. Rapley, John K. Robinson, James W. Sullivan, John Smith, Thomas T. Stansbury, Wm. H. Sibley, John W. Turner, Joseph Wharry, Daniel Williams, Wm. Wilson, and Ernest Tressel.

The following were subsequently mustered into the company, viz.:

Privates: John Creamer, Armistead Henderson, Alexander Ramsay, Henry Heft, and Chas. Heidelbach.

Under the Act of Congress before referred to, the field and company officers of the volunteers accepted under the call were to be appointed and commissioned according to the laws of the State from whence they

came; and I, with my two lieutenants, were commissioned by his Excellency, Thomas G. Pratt, Governor of the State of Maryland.

The organization to which I was attached was designated "THE BATTALION OF BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON VOLUNTEERS," and which became subsequently widely and well known as "THE OLD BALTIMORE BATTALION." It was composed of six companies of infantry; four of them having been recruited in Baltimore, and two of them in the city of Washington, District of Columbia. They were officered as follows:

Company A, from Baltimore: Captain, James E. Steuart; Lieutenants, Benjamin Ferguson Owens and Samuel Wilt; add'l. Second Lieutenant, David P. Chapman.

Company B, from Baltimore: Captain, James Piper; Lieutenants, Lawrence, Dolan, and Marcellus K. Taylor; add'l. Second Lieutenant, Isaac H. Marrow.

Company C, from Washington: Captain, Robert Bronaugh; Lieutenants, Phineas B. Bell, William O'Brien, Thomas M. Gleason.

Company D, from Washington: Captain, John Waters; Lieutenants, Wm. I. Parham, Eugene Boyle, Edward Murphy.

Company E, from Baltimore: Captain, John R. Kenly; Lieutenants, Francis B. Schaeffer and Oden Bowie; add'l. Second Lieutenant, William E. Aisquith.

Company F,* from Baltimore: Captain, James Boyd; Lieutenants, Joseph H. Ruddach and Robert E. Hallett; add'l. Second Lieutenant, James Taneyhill.

* Chesapeake Rifles.

First Ohio Volunteers, slightly; Major Mansfield, of the Engineer Corps; Major J. S. Abercrombie, of the First Infantry; Captain J. H. Lamotte, of the First Infantry; Major H. Bainbridge, of the Third Infantry; Lieutenant R. H. Graham, of the Fourth Infantry; Lieutenant N. B. Rossell, of the Fifth Infantry; Captain R. C. Gatlin and Lieutenant I. H. Pollet, of the Seventh Infantry; and Lieutenant C. Wainwright, of the Eighth Infantry.

The following is the list of the killed or who died from their wounds, and the wounded, of the battalion of Baltimore and Washington Volunteers, in the operations about Monterey, Mexico, September 21st, 22d, and 23d, 1846:

Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. H. Watson, Commanding Battalion, killed.

Orderly Sergeant and Acting Lieutenant John Truscott, Company D, killed.

Sergeant George A. Herring, Company F, killed.

Private Wm. J. Alexander, Company A, killed.

“ Robert Caples, Company A, killed.

“ Patrick O'Brien, Company B, killed.

“ Alexander Ramsay, Company E, killed.

“ Joseph Wharry, Company E, killed.

“ William Kelly, Company F, killed.

WOUNDED.

Private Joseph Files, Company A, lost an arm.

“ William Lee, Company A, shot through the body.

“ Robert Donnelly, Company A, slightly.

Orderly Sergeant Wm. F. Powelson, Company B, slightly.

Private George Harrold, Company B, slightly.

“ Charles Yeck, Company D, slightly.

“ Andrew J. Morris, Company D, slightly.

Color Sergeant Albert Hart, lost an arm.

Color-Guard Corporal Jacob C. Hemmick, slightly.

Orderly Sergeant G. Oliver Lansdale, Company E, slightly.

Private John Allen, Company E, slightly.

Private James Henry, Company E, severely.

“ Harry I. Elting, Company E, slightly.

“ Henry Gifford, Company F, slightly.

“ Melvin S. Stone, Company F, slightly.

“ Edward Stephenson, Company F, slightly.

Total: Killed, nine; wounded, sixteen; aggregate, twenty-five.

“The battle is over: the army, both regulars and volunteers,—or more properly speaking, Americans,—have proved themselves invincible. Both officers and men, with death staring them in the face, did their duty without flinching, and with a bravery worthy of all praise.”—*From “Campaign Sketches,” by Captain W. S. Henry, Third Infantry.*

A meeting of the officers of the battalion was held in camp, on September 27th, for the purpose of expressing the regret felt by the battalion, and the loss it had met with, in the death of Lieutenant-Colonel William H. Watson, of Baltimore, its late commanding officer. Resolutions were passed, eulogizing the character of the deceased, and manifesting deep sympathy for his bereaved family; a committee was also appointed to prepare suitable resolutions for transmission to the newspapers of Baltimore City, for publication, so that the sense of the meeting might be made known to the people of Maryland.

Before I give place to the report of Captain James E. Steuart, the senior captain of the battalion, I transcribe the following congratulatory order of General Taylor:

“HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,

“CAMP NEAR MONTEREY, September 27, 1846.

“Orders No. 123.

“The commanding general has the satisfaction to congratulate the army under his command upon another signal triumph over the Mexican forces, superior to us in numbers, strongly fortified,