

(WOODWORTH EXCERPTS)

From Wayne County, NY newspaper clippings

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NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS.

land, he felt that *the hour had come*. Clearly appreciating the magnitude of the crisis, he saw before us a long and fearful contest, and knew that many more must suffer and die. Perhaps the first in town to learn of the appointment by the authorities of a District War Committee, himself and a single friend were the only representatives of Northern Wayne at Port Byron, on the 12th of July, 1862. Ten days from that time he received authority to recruit, immediately left his fields that were white unto the harvest, and entered upon the higher and holier work to which he had deliberately devoted his energies. How faithfully he labored—how steadily, energetically and successfully—the long array of names upon his enlistment-roll fully testify. It is well known that no one in Sodus could have done more, few, or none, as much.

His after history is the history of the One Hundred and Eleventh Regiment, from its organization at Auburn down to its glorious share in the decisive victory at Gettysburgh.

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But he is gone. He died as heroes die. With an unexpired leave of absence in his hands, he said to those who would have urged him to remain in Washington, "My Regiment is on the march for the battlefield, I shall join it." He hurried to the scene of conflict, and there met his fate with lofty patriotism—with an exalted Christian hope. In a letter to his friends at home, written the day before the battle, he says: "You may be anxious to know my feelings. I have made up my mind to be prepared for any event. I trust in God, and in Him I place my hope, knowing that He doeth all things well. Good-bye!" After he was carried from the field, bleeding and dying, to those who asked what message he had for his friends at home, he said: "TELL THEM I DIE FOR MY COUNTRY."

Thus perished the Citizen-Soldier—the Patriot-Hero. No nobler death ever terminated an earthly career. Falling in the hour of victory, breathing out his life as the last rays of the setting sun faded from the field of battle, and buried with other noble martyrs on the morning of our Nation's Anniversary, his name is encircled with the most precious memories and is the richest inheritance that sorrowing friends can transmit to future generations.

THE LATE LIEUTENANT A. W. PROSEUS.*—Another name has been added to the list of martyrs to the cause of American Liberty. Another Citizen-Soldier has crowned his manhood with the glory of a patriot's death. To the long catalogue of noble men who have fallen in the defense of their country's sacred rights, must be added the name of Lieutenant A. W. Proseus, of Sodus.

In the morning of life, while all its fruits were golden, in manhood's dawning years, he left the comforts, the hallowed associations, and the sweets of a cherished and happy home, and has sacrificed his life upon his country's altar. He was killed in the battle of Gettysburgh on the morning of the 2d of July, aged twenty-eight years; and with others, schoolmates, cherished friends,—noble soldiers all,—received

* By Dr. William Woodworth, of Sodus, in Lyons *Republican* of August 7 1863.

temporary burial on the morning of the glorious Fourth. While we drop a tear over his honored death, let us pay a tribute of respect to his memory.

Probably no person in his native town had more friends or fewer enemies. Those who knew him best, esteemed him most. Educated, gentlemanly, courteous, his highest earthly ambition was to be a good citizen, an affectionate brother, a dutiful son. His letters to his most cherished friends, written since his enlistment, breathe the spirit of the Christian. To his associates he was a congenial companion, an earnest, truthful friend.

He entered the military service of the United States as a matter of conscientious duty. His patriotism was undoubted—his heroism he has proved on the battle-field with his life. At the first call of the President for seventy-five thousand volunteers, he promptly responded by enlisting in the Seventeenth Regiment New York Volunteers, in which he unexpectedly received a commission as Second Lieutenant. After seven months' service he resigned his commission and came home. When the President called for "six hundred thousand more," he again enrolled his name among those noble ones who gallantly gave all for their country. He enlisted in the One Hundred and Eleventh Regiment New York Volunteers. When the companies were organized, he was appointed Orderly-Sergeant in Company E, and served in that capacity until January, 1863, when he was promoted to a Second Lieutenancy. In April following he was again promoted, receiving his commission as First Lieutenant. From the time the regiment was attached to the Second Army Corps, until his death, he acted as Captain of the company. Harper's Ferry, Camp Douglas, Centerville, the long march to Pennsylvania, and the bloody field of Gettysburgh, fully attest his sterling qualities as a soldier. Let the wife of a superior officer in the One Hundred and Eleventh speak his praise. In a letter to a friend she says:

"His friends have the proud satisfaction of knowing that he was all he should be; and his death attests his courage as a soldier. It will always be with me so satisfactory to remember that I had the privilege of seeing and knowing him in camp. It was remarked by his superior officers that Lieutenant Proseus was never known to shirk his duties. He was a true, good soldier, and served his country with a determination of spirit, and an honesty of purpose, worthy of all praise. His men will mourn for him, I know, as they would for a brother, for they loved and respected him. They trusted him and never found him wanting, but always true to his manhood."

When the booming cannon announced the opening of the drama of the 2d of July, he arose from a sick couch, scarcely able to walk, and placing himself at the head of his company, gallantly led them into action. While cheering his men on to victory, and just as he said, "STAND FIRM, DON'T YIELD AN INCH," the deadly missile laid him low in death.

Thus passed away a noble youth. Thus has gone one of whom very many will feel proud to say, "he was my friend,—I knew him well." His name, untarnished, imperishable, belongs not alone to his friends; it is his country's sacred inheritance.

22d of February, 1866, (aided by J. H. Neff, a Union man, who had spent some months in prison for his refusal to swear allegiance to the Confederate government) he raised a Union flag over the Custom House, the first that had floated to the breeze after the war closed from any public building in Wilmington. About that time he was appointed Collector of the Port of Wilmington as a reward for his distinguished services.

Subsequently Colonel Foster entered the ministry of the Episcopal Church having been ordained February 24, 1870. At the present time, 1883, he is Rector of the three churches in Sodus, St. John's, Sodus Village; St. Luke's, Sodus Centre, and Christ Church, Sodus Point.

NINETIETH INFANTRY.

William G. Ferguson, of East Palmyra, writing of the Ninetieth, makes the following summary statement:

The Ninetieth New York Volunteer Infantry was mustered into the United States service November 27, 1861, at East New York. Re-enlisted as Veterans at Bayou Boeuf, La., February 20, 1864; served in States of Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana and in the Red River Campaign, and under General Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley. Was mustered out at Savannah, Ga., February 9, 1866. Major J. C. Smart was killed at Cedar Creek October 19, 1864, before going into battle. It lost many officers and men in the summer of 1862, by yellow fever at Key West. Took part as a regiment in the following engagements: Franklin, La., May 25, 1863; Port Hudson, La., June 10 to 14, 1863; Cox's Plantation, La., July 13, 1863; Donaldsonville, La., June 28, 1863; Pleasant Valley, La., April 7, 1864; Pleasant Hill, La., April 8, 1864; Cane River, La., April 27, 1864; Avoyelles Prairie, La., May 13, 1864; Mansura, La., May 14, 1864; Yellow Bayou, La., May 15, 1864; Winchester, Va., September 19, 1864; Fisher's Hill, Va., September 22, 1864; Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864.

A PROPHECY.—In the fall of 1860, during the excited presidential canvass, Judge Byram Green, took a deep interest in public matters, as he had been wont to do through all his life. His residence at the west end of Sodus village, gave him a fine view of the long torch light processions that paraded through the streets so often during the closing weeks of the campaign. "Wide Awakes" and "Little Giants," representing respectively Lincoln and Douglass vied with each other in nightly marches and brilliant illuminations. Perhaps Judge Green had reached that age of which the poet wrote when he said:

" 'Tis the sunset of life gives me mystical lore,
And coming events cast their shadows before."

One evening as he stood at the window watching the columns wheeling in front of his residence and the serried lines of torches blazing brightly, he said to Dr. W. M. Woodworth, who was with him, "EVERY TORCH WILL GROW INTO A MUSKET."

- Sylvester D. Taylor. March 28, '64, 9th H. A., Co. B; regiment discharged July 6, '65.
- Riley L. Thatcher. Drafted and mustered in March 16, '65, 96th Inf.; died Aug., '65; buried in Ontario Cemetery.
- Edwin L. Travis. Dec. 16, '63, 9th H. A., Co. B; transferred to 2d Art. June 27, '65; discharged Sept. 29, '65.
- Jacob Vail. 9th H. A.; regiment discharged July 6, '65.
- Melvin Van Lone. Oct. 18, '61, 8th Cav. Co. I; discharged to re-enlist Dec. 1, '63; discharged June 27, '65.
- Samuel Vandy. May 19, '63, 9th H. A. Co. B; wounded at Cold Harbor and Winchester; transferred to 2nd Art. June 27, '65; discharged Sept. 12, '65.
- Abial Vandy. Dec. 3, '63, 9th H. A. Co. B; transferred to 2nd Art. June 27, '65; discharged Sept. 29, '65.
- Alois Vetty. Aug. '62, 108th Inf. [*Palmyra Courier.*]
- Orlando Woodard. Dec. 10, '63, 9th H. A. Co. B; transferred to 2nd Artillery June 27, '65; discharged Sept. 29, '65.
- Edwin Warren. Dec. 18, '63, 9th H. A. Co. B; transferred to 2nd Art. June 27, '65; discharged Sept. 29, '65.
- Alonzo Wall. Aug. 8, '62, 9th H. A. Co. B; discharged with regiment July 6, '65.
- Seymour W. Wooster. Aug. 10, '62, 9th H. A. Co. B; died Sept. 21, '64, of wounds received at Winchester, and buried there.
- William E. Wooster. Aug. 13, '62, 9th H. A. Co. B; killed June 3, '64, at Cold Harbor, and buried there.
- Walter T. Woodhams. Sept. 16, '61, 8th Cav. Co. B; promoted Corporal and Sergeant; killed in battle Aug. 25, '64, in Virginia, and buried in Ontario. Had just re-enlisted at the time of his death.
- Owen Woodhams. Drafted March 15, '65, 96th Inf.; discharged Feb. 6, '66.
- Jerome Warren. Aug. 12, '62, 9th H. A. Co. B; discharged from hospital at Rochester.
- Charles H. Warren. Oct. 5, '61, 8th Cav. Co. E; re-enlisted Dec. 1, '63, 9th H. A. Co. B; appointed mail agent; transferred to 2d H. A. June 27, '65; discharged from Howard Hospital, Washington, July 5, '65.
- A. F. Wilson. Aug. 4, '62, 108th Inf. Co. K; lost one eye in the service; discharged '64.
- Henry Woodhams. Dec. 17, '63, 9th H. A. Co. B; transferred to 2d Art. June 27, '65; discharged Sept. 29, '65.
- Philo Wilcox. Sept. 10, '64, 1st Battery; discharged June 21, '65.
- John W. Watson. Aug. 4, '62, 9th H. A. Co. B; discharged July 6, '65, with regiment.
- Levi Williams. Drafted and mustered in March 16, '65, 96th Inf. Co. A; discharged with regiment Feb. 16, '66.
- Charles Williams. Sept. 15, '61, 8th Cav. Co. G; promoted; discharged June 27, '65.
- Enos D. Willett. Drafted and mustered in March 16, '65, 96th Inf.; promoted Corporal; discharged with regiment Feb. 6, '66.
- James T. Wiley. Sept. 8, '64, 111th Inf.; discharged '65.
- Charles Wiley. Sept. 14, '62, 75th Inf.; wounded in left arm; regiment discharged Nov. 25, '64, expiration of service.
- Homer Weaver. Dec. 23, '63, 2d M. R.; regiment discharged Aug. 10, '65.
- Edgar W. Woodworth. Corp.; Aug. 12, '62, 9th H. A. Co. B; discharged Feb. 5, '64, for disability.
- Lewis D. Wolven. Jan. 4, '64, 14th Art. Co. B; discharged Sept. 26, '65.
- Nicholas Worth. 9th H. A.; regiment discharged July 6, '65.
- Charles D. Whitcomb. Aug. 9, '62, 9th H. A. Co. B; discharged for disability Jan. 15, '64.
- John Wilson. Aug. 8, '62, 9th H. A. Co. B; discharged July 6, '65, with regiment.
- Jacob Webber. Aug. 4, '62, 9th H. A. Co. K; regiment discharged July 6, '65.
- John Wall. Oct. 5, '61, 8th Cav. Co. I; promoted Sergeant; discharged Sept. '64, at expiration of service.