

New Hampshire's **HALL of FLAGS**



Union Standard Bearer

Preserving a legacy. . .

THE FLAG COMMITTEE

By Nancy C. Muller
Director and State Historical Preservation Officer

In the legislative session of 1990, Representatives John Hoar, Jr., and Roland Sallada and Senator Eleanor Podles introduced a bill "to establish a committee to conduct a study and commence conservation and preservation of the flags displayed in the hall of flags in the State House." The bill passed, (Chapter 34:2, Laws of 1990), and the committee began meeting that fall under the chairmanship of Representative Janet Wall. Other members included Representatives Hoar and Sallada, Senators Roger Heath and Wayne King, and State Curator Nancy Muller.

The committee discovered that the Civil War flags were collected immediately after the war and were suspended in city hall in 1865. The following year they were photographed by William H. Kimball and Sons of Concord for a book entitled *Battle Flags of the New Hampshire Regiments and First Light Battery* and moved to "Doric Hall" (now known as the Hall of Flags) in the State House. In 1867 the Adjutant General was charged with placing the flags "in proper and suitable cases for their better preservation." Four cases were completed by 1868. In 1888 the Adjutant General was authorized to have new cases constructed and erected, although these were not completed until 1900. The Civil War flags remain in these cases, and they were described in the 1901 *Manual for the General Court*.

In 1951, \$8,300.00 was appropriated to construct the two large cases opposite the main entrance of the State House to house flags from World War I and II. While additional funds had also been set aside for "repair-

ing and chemically treating the Civil War flags," these old cases were never opened for fear the flags would "crumble if exposed to air." The cases have remained unopened since that time.

In October of 1989 the Joint Legislative Historical Committee hired two textile conservators from the Textile Conservation Center of the Museum of Textile History in North Andover, Massachusetts, to inspect the flags. While the conservators did not open the cases, they reported that of the 107 flags on display fifteen were in very poor condition. They recommended that all the flags be removed from their staffs and kept in a flat storage. They suggested that those flags in good enough condition could be flat mounted and rotated on display at regular intervals.

The Flag Committee began exploring potential storage places for the flags and began to consider funding sources for the conservation work. In their December, 1990 report to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President of the Senate, they recommended that the committee be expanded and that its investigations continue.

Legislation passed in 1991 accomplished that (Chapter 170, Laws of 1991). The new committee included two members of the House of Representatives, two from the Senate, the Secretary of State, the Adjutant General or designee, the Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs or designee, the Chairman of the Joint Legislative Historical Committee, the State Curator, the President of the New Hampshire Veteran's Association or designee, and three state residents — an expert in textiles, an expert in New Hampshire military history, and an expert in Civil War history. Under the chairmanship of Representative David Welch, the committee began meeting in September of 1991. After considerable research and thought, the committee has concluded that the technology, space, and funds are inadequate at this time to consider opening the flag cases. Further, most members of the committee feel that a great deal would be lost by removing these original war-torn flags from display. To lessen further environmental damage to the flags, the committee recommends that an ultra-violet screening film be applied to the cases and that they be better sealed.

Photographs of the Civil War flags, as they appeared in 1866, were reproduced from a copy of the Kimball's book owned by the New Hampshire Historical Society. The committee hopes that these photographs can be mounted on a railing in front of the cases so that visitors to the Hall of Flags can compare each flag as it looked after the war with its appearance today. The committee also intends to produce a brochure containing these photographs as well as historical descriptions of each flag.

THE HALL OF FLAGS

By William Marvel

Entering the New Hampshire State House by the front doors, the visitor intent on official business may not notice that the lobby is surrounded by glass cases containing scores of old flags in various stages of decay. Faded, rent, and worn, they hang limply from staffs of oak and ash with no introduction beyond brass plaques bearing strange names and distant dates. Casual passersby would be more likely to glance at the shredded banners and read some of the plaques, sounding out words like Pocotaligo, Bayou Teche, Natchitoches, and Spotsylvania.

Each of those places meant death for someone, for the plaques enumerate the battles of the Civil War where New Hampshire troops saw action, and these standards went with those troops. Most of the fabric behind the glass, at least on the north and south sides of the lobby, has been saturated with the pungent scent of black powder and perforated with lead and iron; some still bears the bloodstains of those who carried the colors.

At the outset of that war the Stars and Stripes meant more to the average citizen, perhaps, than they do today to those who wave them the most, for the flag represented a national unity gained at great cost that was on the verge of being lost: nearly every man who stepped forward to defend that unity remembered someone who had known the nation at its birth, and had seen it through its perilous infancy. And when those men took up arms in that defense, the flag assumed a new, practical purpose, first on the parade ground and then on the battlefield.

In the age of muzzle-loading rifles, military units could deliver concentrated firepower only by standing shoulder-to-shoulder to discharge their weapons, and as those units grew larger the maneuvers necessary to keep them together became more complicated. By 1861 the basic military body was the infantry regiment, composed of ten companies of about a hundred foot soldiers apiece; cavalry and artillery regiments contained a dozen companies, and artillery companies — or batteries — numbered about a hundred and fifty. The colonel of the regiment designated a "color company," with which the color guard marched, and when the regiment shook itself out in line of battle the color company stood at the center. Guidon bearers at the right and left extremities marked the end of one regiment and the beginning of another in brigade or division formations. All deployments depended on the companies maintaining their sequence, and the colors told the well-drilled soldier exactly where he was.

The flags served the same purpose under fire, and they helped prevent accidental volleys from friendly troops—especially in the first six months of the conflict, before either side adopted a standard uniform: New Hampshire's first three regiments went to war in what came to be called Confederate grey. In the swirl of pitched battle, when blue smoke occluded

most of the field and the lines fluttered and broke from casualties and confusion, the flags offered a rallying point for survivors, and clusters of riflemen concentrated about the two principal color bearers — usually a sergeant who carried the United States flag and a corporal with the state standard.

New Hampshire's contribution to Abraham Lincoln's first call for troops was a ninety-day militia regiment. The 1st New Hampshire drew a state and national flag, but no guidons. New Hampshire's adjutant general bought the pair from A.W. Pollard of Court Street, Boston, who provided two "regimental standards" in silk, of single thickness, with lettering in gold paint. Pollard also produced a more expensive double-sided garrison flag with the regimental numeral embroidered on both faces. On its way through New York City late in May of 1861, the regiment encountered a group calling itself the Sons of New Hampshire in New York, which presented the unit with a second silk United States flag. The 1st New Hampshire served on the upper Potomac during most of its brief service, coming home early in August without having seen any action.

The 2nd New Hampshire, which had enlisted for the more usual three-year term, had already departed the state by then and had seen its first battle, at Bull Run Creek in Virginia. The 2nd regiment had also made the acquaintance of the Sons of New Hampshire in New York, who likewise bestowed a national banner on that unit which it carried in that first fight and through most of the conflict, taking it into the Peach Orchard at Gettysburg.

When the 3rd New Hampshire struck off for war it carried the extra flag the 1st Regiment had received in New York. That one was shot to tatters in service along the coast of South Carolina. The regiment received another from the wife of General Egbert Viele, its brigade commander, on Columbus Day, 1861: Mrs. Viele's name is inscribed upon the staff. That one was also returned to Concord in ribbons, while a third was badly battered in the fighting before Richmond. A fourth flag came home with the regiment, and it was on this one that the battles of the command were painted in gold, according to the custom of the day.

Correspondence from flag manufacturers indicates they could not always keep up with demand and frequently ran out of material. Some of the shortage resulted from the sheer intensity of recruiting efforts: hundreds of regiments across the country demanded a stand of colors. But private patriotism strained capacity, as well. The flagmakers' best artisans found themselves besieged with orders for custom-made flags subscribed for by the donations of enthusiastic patrons. On occasion these well-meant gestures of support caused more trouble than they were worth, as was the case with the "California" flag.

Six New Hampshire-born adventurers who had gone west with the Gold Rush commissioned an ornate flag with the combined symbols of their native and adopted states painted on its union and the name of the 1st New Hampshire Infantry embroidered on its field in thick silver thread. The committee forwarded the gift by steamer from San Francisco on

August 1, 1861, but that ship had not reached the Isthmus of Panama before the 1st Regiment disbanded. Allen Tenney, Secretary of State for New Hampshire, wrote them of the situation in Late August or early September, advising them that the 2nd and 3rd regiments had also departed for the war, but that the 4th Regiment was just then filling up. The dissolution of the Pony Express that summer made transcontinental mail somewhat slower, and the Californians did not respond until September 18, reasoning that the 4th could have the flag if a substantial number of veterans from the 1st Regiment joined its ranks. Before that letter arrived in Concord the 4th New Hampshire was long gone, equipped with state-supplied flags. The fancy-but-heavy California banner remained in Concord the rest of that year, until a covetous lieutenant in the new 8th New Hampshire Infantry telegraphed to ask if his regiment might not have it. The committee in San Francisco declined, however, determining that whereas "the 2nd regiment had seen hard service and participated in the fight at Bull Run, with honor to themselves, they were deserving the flag as a memento from their California brothers." The 2nd New Hampshire therefore won the prize, but the excellent condition of that color indicates it never saw the field. In fact, it may never have left the state.

At least early in the war, a regiment's flags were presented with appropriate patriotic flair. The governor and adjutant general might be on hand, urging the new soldiers to defend the banner with their lives, and a young lady who had been nominated "daughter of the regiment" often passed the rustling silk to the stalwart sergeant who had been selected for the honor of carrying it. Such a scene transpired at Camp Jackson, two and a half miles southeast of the State House, on October 28, 1861. Colonel Edward E. Cross of Lancaster formed his 5th New Hampshire Infantry on the banks of the Merrimack River to receive the state and U.S. colors in the brisk autumn air, and a few hours later he marched the regiment into town to board cars for the war, where it would have more men killed outright on the battlefield than any other Civil War unit on either side; Cross himself died in the Wheatfield at Gettysburg.

Highly orchestrated presentations disappeared as the war progressed and administrative duties preoccupied the chief executives. By the second year of the conflict regiments more often marched into the State House yard, where the governor would step out for a brief word, hand over the poles, and turn back to his work. The truncated ceremonies did little to diminish the significance of the flags for those who would follow them, though, and carrying one of them remained the greatest honor an enlisted man might seek. The enemy always concentrated his firepower on these prominent emblems, making it perhaps the most dangerous job in the infantry, but into the final grim months of fighting there were those who leaped to save their regiment's falling colors.

The flags of the 9th New Hampshire are perhaps the best example of this extraordinary devotion. When that regiment received its colors from Governor Nathaniel Berry in front of the State House, late in August of 1862, the Stars and Stripes went to Sergeant Edgar A. Densmore, who

had earlier enlisted in the 1st New Hampshire at the first call for troops. Densmore, a resident of Nashua, carried the flag at South Mountain and Antietam, but as the regiment charged the stone wall at Fredericksburg a Confederate volley leveled the entire color guard. Densmore was killed, but a lieutenant retrieved his flag, waving it over his head to inspire the discouraged troops; beside the lieutenant stood a sixteen-year-old farm-boy from South Conway, Ned Parsons, who had picked up the state colors, and these two rallied their comrades and led them back into the fray. For their efforts the lieutenant was awarded a Medal of Honor, while Ned Parsons was promoted to corporal and appointed to carry the state flag thereafter. He did so for seventeen months, until Spotsylvania, where a serious wound caused Sergeant James Prindable to drop the national pennon, which Ned Parsons salvaged when the regiment was forced to flee the field. That won him a sergeant's stripes, and for the next eleven weeks he carried Old Glory. When Union miners tunneled under the Confederate works at Petersburg and exploded a key fort, the 9th New Hampshire was one of the first units to charge into the resulting crater, with Ned Parsons in the lead, but Confederate marksmen aimed for the flags and Parsons was shot through the abdomen. While others carried him to the rear to die, his South Conway neighbor, James Brown, picked up the fallen flag and took it through the rest of the battle. Exactly two months later Corporal Brown, who had been promoted and designated to carry the state flag, was surrounded by Confederates at Poplar Springs Church; the Southerners demanded he surrender the blue state banner, but Brown refused, tearing most of it from its pole and ripping it apart rather than let them have it. After the battle the remains of the flag were recovered near his body.

In hand-to-hand encounters like that the flags always drew disproportionate attention. In the same battle of the Crater where Sergeant Parsons was killed, Walter B. Wellons of the 6th Virginia grappled with the color sergeant of the 11th New Hampshire, ripping all but a fragment of the United States flag from the staff when he failed to wrest pole and all from the seargeant's hands. In his report of the battle General Simon Griffin, of Keene, hesitated to admit that any of his regiments had actually lost their flags. "The Thirty-first Maine and Eleventh New Hampshire fought heroically for their colors," he wrote, "tearing them to pieces and breaking the staves in the melee." The two flags remained sufficiently intact, however, that Confederate authorities honored Private Wellons and another Virginian for capturing them both.

At one time or another during that war the colors of New Hampshire regiments were planted on all of the Confederate states except Alabama and Texas. Eleven New Hampshire regiments and the 1st New Hampshire Battery spent all or part of their service fighting Robert E. Lee's army in the eastern theater; outside Charleston harbor, on July 18, 1863, the flags of the 7th New Hampshire fluttered briefly on the ramparts of Battery Wagner, alongside those of the 54th Massachusetts, and the following February they led the march to disaster at Olustee, Florida; the guidons

of the 8th New Hampshire (which was serving as cavalry at the time) drew fire at the battle of Sabine Crossroads, on the border of the Lone Star State; the banners of the 11th New Hampshire waved defiantly during the siege of Knoxville, Tennessee; at Cedar Creek, while Phil Sheridan made his famous ride to repair the damage of a surprise attack, the 14th New Hampshire resisted so stubbornly that General Henry Birge rallied his brigade on that regiment's colors.

During the Civil War New Hampshire raised seventeen complete regiments of infantry and part of another. The 2nd through the 14th regiments enlisted for three years, the first seven of them reenlisting in 1864. The 15th, 16th, and 17th regiments were part of the nine-month militia drive in the late summer and autumn of 1862, the 15th and 16th serving in Louisiana through the summer of the next year, but the 17th New Hampshire never grew beyond the first few companies; it did not leave the state as a unit, though when it was disbanded about ninety volunteers were assigned to the 2nd New Hampshire and fought with that regiment at Gettysburg. The 18th New Hampshire sprang into existence in the fall of 1864, when the state faced a substantial draft if enough volunteers did not come forth. These men enlisted for one year instead of three, and saw some minor action around Petersburg in the final fortnight of the war. All the surviving flags of these units stand in the Hall of Flags.

In 1861 the state provided its only field artillery of the war, the 1st New Hampshire Light Battery. The company fought with the Army of the Potomac until Appomattox. The battery owned three guidons, all of them swallowtail pennants: one was cut from the U.S. flag, another in dark blue stood in place of the state emblem, while a third bore the unit designation. Toward the end of the war the national pennant was replaced, and it stands with the others inside the glass cases.

The New Hampshire Battalion of cavalry, also recruited in 1861, was absorbed into the 1st New England Cavalry, most of which hailed from Rhode Island. To the disgust of the Granite Staters in its ranks, that regiment came to be called the 1st Rhode Island Cavalry, and when the original enlistments expired in 1864 the veterans in the four New Hampshire companies came home to raise their own regiment around that nucleus. The 1st New Hampshire Cavalry rode with Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley and campaigned against "the Grey Ghost," John Mosby. The state and national flags of this unit generally stood in sockets at regimental headquarters while the companies operated independently, so they survived rather well. The guidons that rode through scouts and skirmishes fared worse, and only one came home to Concord in 1865.

New Hampshire's last recruiting effort of the war was a regiment of heavy artillery. Two existing companies at Fort Constitution and Kittery Point served as the core of the 1st New Hampshire Heavy Artillery, but the state had been picked so clean of willing volunteers that the organization could finally be completed only by formally attaching the 1st Battery as a nominal twelfth company. The other eleven companies, each of which

enlisted for a single year, spent the last months of the war as garrison troops in the big forts around Washington. Since the units always had the shelter of a roof, its flags saw no weather or wear.

When the regiments came home — frequently with only one-quarter or even one-tenth of the men who had departed with them—they usually arrived at Concord for a brass-band reception and dinner with the governor at the Eagle or one of the capital's other hotels. Afterward, the last ceremony of most veterans' military service consisted of turning the flags back over to the state. By June of 1865 eighty-five flags, guidons, and markers had been deposited at the State House, and Governor Frederick Smyth allowed them to be taken to Concord City Hall for display. During the year they hung there a local photographic firm, Kimball & Sons, recorded the condition of individual flags and photographed them by unit display.

The flags came back to the State House in 1866. For another year they stood in pedestals around the walls of the lobby, open to the air, but in the summer of 1867 veterans in the legislature prodded that body to provide better accommodations. A joint resolution signed by Governor Walter Harriman and House Speaker Simon Griffin — both Civil War generals — called for suitable cases to protect the flags, and the adjutant general's report for 1868 shows they had been housed in four long glass cases. Significantly, that report indicated "Many of the flags are in a sad condition of decay, and will scarcely bear the most delicate handling."

Late in 1888 an executive councilor who had fought with the 3rd New Hampshire lobbied for new and larger cases for the flags, that they might be grouped by unit for easier viewing. It is not clear whether these improvements survived their cost analysis, but a decade later the 1st New Hampshire Infantry returned from its non-combat mobilization during the Spanish-American War and deposited its colors in the lobby, reviving interest in the Hall of Flags. By then the flags had lost their practical purpose on the battlefield, for firearms development had rendered close formations and parade-ground maneuvers obsolete, and the colorful banners quickly became a liability for troops who wished to remain hidden from their enemies. Because no flags had been a part of their combat experience, even the new veterans did not feel the old personal attachment to particular ones, and it required significant patriotic momentum to reduce their symbolic meaning to a cash appropriation. The Spanish War provided that momentum. The legislature appropriated \$3,000. for new cases, and in the autumn of 1900 workmen constructed long oak cabinets along the north and south walls of the lobby. Adjutant General Augustus Ayling cautioned them to use "the greatest care" in moving the flags, "as they are so rotten as to almost fall to pieces."

For another half-century the flags remained untouched in their cases. National Guardsmen in a reorganized 1st New Hampshire Infantry served on the Mexican border in 1916 and saw action with the Yankee Division in France in 1918, and those men turned over their flags for display in the hall. During World War II two National Guard units from the Granite

State served overseas—the 197th Field Artillery in the South Pacific and the 172nd Field Artillery in Europe, landing in France a week after D-Day. Their flags, too, went into the hall.

In the midst of the Korean War the legislature raised the then-phenomenal sum of \$20,000 “for the purpose of repairing and chemically treating the flags of the Civil War and improving their present containing cabinets.” The same resolution provided \$8,000. for treating the newer flags and for the construction of cabinets for them, as well.

Since that effort forty year ago, the cases containing the flags have never been opened. Flags representing New Hampshire’s contribution to the Korean War and Vietnam found places in remaining nooks of the hall while the old battle standards hung quietly, budging only at a blow to their cases or in the stronger winds of winter. During a renovation late in 1964, workers who misunderstood that the displays were hermetically sealed dared not disturb them “due to fears that the flags would crumble if exposed to the air.” One broken pane was replaced, but for another generation they earned no official notice.

In 1989 the legislature appointed a joint committee under Representative Janet Wall to study the restoration and preservation of the flags. The committee conducted an initial conservation report and recommended the inclusion of representatives from the governor, the adjutant general, the Department of Cultural Affairs, and three citizens with expertise in history and textiles. The expanded committee organized on September 17, 1991, and met periodically through the winter, spring and summer under Chairman David Welch. After considering several options for preserving and protecting the Civil War flags, the committee requested and received an appropriation for reproducing the 1866 Kimball & Sons photographs of the flags, most of which seem not to have deteriorated since their return from the war. Working with Secretary of State William Gardner and the New Hampshire Historical Society, which held the original bound volume of photographs, the committee had three copies made, one set of which is intended for mounting on railings in front of the flag cases, both for protection and historical interpretation. The committee continues to meet periodically to discuss further conservation methods.

While the 3rd New Hampshire lay in its trenches outside Richmond late in 1864, Captain Henry Dow decided the unit’s battle flag had seen all the service it could bear. As acting commander of the depleted regiment he shipped the tattered standard back to the adjutant general in Concord. With it he sent a request:

“I most sincerely desire that this flag may be preserved by the State authorities,” he wrote, “where in future years its defenders may have the pleasure of looking upon it, remembering their service in defence of our glorious Nation’s honor.” Henry Dow and his comrades are all gone now, but New Hampshire still strives to honor his wishes.



First Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

1st N.H. Infantry: Served from May 7 to August 9, 1861, campaigning without seeing action on the upper Potomac River, in Maryland and what is now West Virginia.



Second Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

2nd N.H. Infantry: Fought in most of the battles of the Army of the Potomac, from First Bull Run to the capture of Richmond. Not mustered out until December 19, 1865, it served longer than any other unit from this state.



Third Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

3rd N.H. Infantry: Operated on the coast of South Carolina, principally against Charleston, until moving to the Virginia theater early in 1864. Took part in the siege of Richmond and Petersburg, and in the amphibious assault on Fort Fisher, North Carolina, in 1865.



Fourth Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

4th N.H. Infantry: Followed the fortunes of the 3rd Infantry in South Carolina, Virginia, and North Carolina. The regiment's worst day was May 16, 1864, at Drewry's Bluff, below Richmond. One company that entered that fight with 42 men came out with only 14.



Fifth Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

5th N.H. Infantry: The state's best-known unit. Served with the Army of the Potomac from the autumn of 1861 until Appomattox except for a brief stint as prison guards at Point Lookout, Maryland. Lost more men killed in battle — 282 — than any other regiment on either side.



Sixth Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

6th N.H. Infantry: Part of Burnside's invasion of North Carolina in 1861, the 6th also fought at Second Bull Run and in the Maryland campaign of 1862; it did garrison duty in Kentucky, served in the Jackson, Mississippi, campaign after the fall of Vicksburg, and returned to Virginia for the final year of the war.



Seventh Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

7th N.H. Infantry: After seventeen months of fever-plagued duty on the coasts of Florida and South Carolina, this regiment took part in the bloody assault on Battery Wagner, losing more men than the black troops of the 54th Massachusetts who won their reputation there: the 7th Infantry buried 11 officers and 66 enlisted men after that disaster. The regiment suffered similarly in the Union debacle at Olustee, Florida, in February of 1864. Like the 3rd and 4th regiments, the 7th spent the rest of 1864 operating against Richmond and Petersburg, and the first half of 1865 in North Carolina.



Eighth Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

8th N.H. Infantry: The 8th New Hampshire saw most of its four years of service in Louisiana, where 331 of its members died — only 99 of them in battle, and most of those in the Port Hudson campaign, on May 27 and June 14, 1863. From December of 1863 until May of 1864 the regiment served on horseback, and was almost permanently transformed into the 2nd New Hampshire Cavalry, but after the illfated Red River Campaign the regiment reverted to infantry again.



Ninth Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

9th N.H. Infantry: The first regiment raised in the state in 1862, the 9th went into action at South Mountain, Maryland, only twenty days after leaving Concord. The regiment also fought at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and in all of U. S. Grant's battles in Virginia in 1864. On three occasions that year — at Spotsylvania on May 12, the Crater, on July 30, and Poplar Springs Church on September 30 — the 9th New Hampshire lost half of the men it took into action. At Poplar Springs Church the color bearer was killed while attempting to shred the regiment's state flag rather than surrender it.



Tenth Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

10th N.H. Infantry: The 10th New Hampshire reached the Army of the Potomac late in 1862 and fought at Fredericksburg, but through most of 1863 and early 1864 the regiment was assigned to routine garrison duty in southeastern Virginia. Its greatest day came at Cold Harbor on June 3, 1864, where the 10th served as skirmishers and carried a portion of the enemy's trenchline.



Eleventh Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

11th N.H. Infantry: From Fredericksburg the 11th Regiment served alongside the 9th, sharing the misery of the Mississippi campaign and the bloody fighting in Virginia in 1864. The 11th preceded the 9th to Knoxville, however, and helped defend that city in the siege of late 1863. At the battle of the Crater most of this regiment's U.S. flag was torn from its staff by a Confederate soldier.



Twelfth Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

12th N.H. Infantry: The 12th New Hampshire's real introduction to the war came at Chancellorsville, where half the men in the regiment were killed, wounded, or captured. Two months later the survivors were roughly handled in the Peach Orchard at Gettysburg, and after a winter's relative ease as prison guards the veterans were reattached to Grant's army and participated in the deadly assault at Cold Harbor, where the depleted regiment lost another 63 men killed in a single assault that lasted but a few minutes.



Thirteenth Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

13th N.H. Infantry: This unit charged the stone wall at Fredericksburg only four days after it reached the Army of the Potomac. For more than a year afterward it served in the Virginia Tidewater region, skirmishing occasionally, returning to the main army in the spring of 1864. For the final year of the war the regiment aided in the siege of Richmond, and some of its officers claim to have led the first Union troops into that city when it fell.



Fourteenth Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

14th N.H. Infantry: This was the last three-year regiment raised in New Hampshire. From the fall of 1862 until early 1864 the 14th performed bloodless garrison duty in and around Washington, and it sailed to Louisiana and back on a foiled mission during the first half of that year. Not until the battle of Winchester did the regiment see action, losing heavily there on September 19, 1864. Exactly one month later the regiment fought its only battle, at Cedar Creek.



Fifteenth Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry

15 N.H. Infantry: The first of three regiments begun under a call for nine-month militia, the 15th New Hampshire spent its entire term in Louisiana, taking part in the successful (but, as it turned out, unnecessary) siege of Port Hudson. The regiment came back to Concord in August of 1863, leaving behind 30 comrades who had been killed in the siege and 115 who had succumbed to disease.



Sixteenth Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

16th N.H. Infantry: Likewise raised in the fall of 1862 for nine months' service, the 16th New Hampshire also sailed to Louisiana for its entire term. Though the regiment never saw a single skirmish, a full thirty percent of its men died of disease, either while in uniform or shortly after coming home.

17th N.H. Infantry: The 17th Regiment never completed its organization, and of its recruits only a few dozen volunteers left the state to serve out their last months of service with the 2nd New Hampshire. No flags were ever issued.



Eighteenth Regiment N. H. Vol. Infantry.

18th N.H. Infantry: Raised for one year of service in the fall of 1864, six companies of the 18th New Hampshire spent the last months of the war on engineer duty behind the lines at Petersburg, Virginia. Three more companies joined the regiment by spring — one of them three days after Lee's surrender — and the regiment saw a little action in the final week of the Petersburg siege.



1st N.H. Cavalry: Raised from a nucleus of four Granite State companies in the 1st Rhode Island Cavalry, the first battalions of the 1st New Hampshire started for the front in the spring of 1864. Until August the unit operated in cooperation with the Army of the Potomac, but that month the final companies joined the regiment and it followed Phil Sheridan into the Shenandoah Valley. It remained in northern Virginia and Maryland through the rest of the war, losing a number of men to John Mosby and other guerrilla forces.



First Regiment N. H. Vol. Hy Artillery.

1st N.H. Heavy Artillery: Recruited in the autumn of 1864 for one year, the 1st Heavy Artillery ultimately tallied 1857 men on its rolls — the last and largest regiment New Hampshire sent to the war. The regiment garrisoned forts and did picket duty on the perimeter of Washington during the final winter of the conflict, and although it never saw a shot fired in anger it lost nearly three dozen men to disease during its short and relatively agreeable service.



1st N.H. Battery: The New Hampshire Light Battery was overrun in its first fight, at Second Bull Run, losing its commander and one gun to the Confederates. The battery took a severe beating at Fredericksburg, and helped repel Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. The Rochester battery of the New Hampshire National Guard claims descent from this unit, the veterans of which started their own militia company a couple of years after the war ended.





