

# *JOURNEY INTO AMERICA:*

*A PEOPLE'S CULTURAL LITERACY READER OF THE UNITED STATES*

By Richard Burrill

This essay is part of Chapter Five "I Was Also There in U.S. History"

## *"My Untold Story of Fighting At Gettysburg And More"*

By Ghostwriter Richard L. Burrill

Why John H. Burrill (1842-1906) put his life on the line  
When Abraham Lincoln Became President  
and how his lessons are relevant today.



Figure 1.

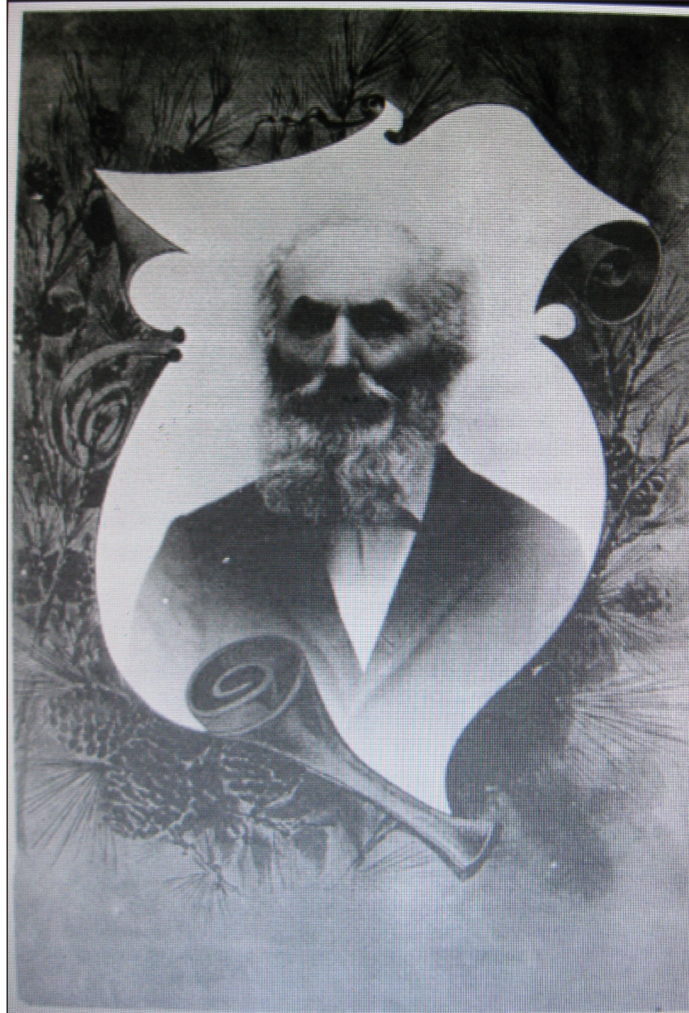


Figure 2.

John Henry Burrill

Civil War Veteran and Hawley, Minnesota, pioneer.  
Photo taken in about 1897 by S. B. Wange.  
Courtesy of Mrs. Rachel H. Burrill.

## Point of Departure

- “What a war! Everything we are or will be goes right back to that period. It decided once and for all which way we were going, and we’ve gone.”

--Shelby Foote, Civil War author  
of *The Civil War: A Narrative, Volumes I-III*

**W**hen teaching survey courses in U.S. history and anthropology for years, the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania stood out for me. Its spirit, if you believe in such things too, beguiled me. It was twenty-two years into teaching when I learned why.

### “You Are Supposed To Have This.”

In the fall of 1992, in Sacramento, I attended an informal family reunion picnic. Before the day ended, a distant cousin who I had met that day for our first time said, with confidence, “Here, I know you are supposed to have this.” She handed me a bound, 139 page manuscript. She later told me how she had “picked up on” my passion for true history. She told me, “This is the diary letters written by a relative we share, my great grandfather’s older brother, John Henry Burrill. He was a civil war veteran and fought at Gettysburg.”

This cousin’s name is Ms. Barbara Lynn Raaen (née Burrill), who resides in Seattle, Washington. She works and is married. She and her husband are raising their one son. I announce in Appendix B that I am still trying to locate the original John Burrill diary letters. Anyone, who has good suggestions, I welcome hearing from you.

I have found a number of gems in this primary source diary of my cousin, three generations removed. I better understand why that generation put their lives on the line in 1861. The five Gettysburg related letters by Burrill are provided below and unabridged.

For three days in the summer of 2013, I was able to attend the special 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Battle of Gettysburg events held at certain locations in Gettysburg National Military Park and at Soldiers’ National Cemetery. I took photographs and collected key documents that helped me bring what I understand now about the Civil War to a higher level. I also participated in one Civil War reenactments with the 72<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment, which also fought at Gettysburg in the same fight that my relative fought in on July 2, 1863 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Hampshire Regiment (see Fig. 15 map by Planz). I have made new friends and continue to learn more from them.

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What I have set down on paper here for readers is highly significant for the younger people born especially in the 1990s BECAUSE THEY ARE THE TWELFTH GENERATION SINCE PLYMOUTH ROCK. They are the hope for the future, and are the Carriers of the Wisdom.

Our country’s Civil War was horrible, but, we the living, are its heirs, just as we are the heirs of our subsequent wars. A new ember of Freedom got started in 1861. It ignited as a radiant flame with the Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863. We are today all indebted to the torch carriers of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Rodney King in 1991, now Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, on August 9, 2014, and Eric Garner’s death in New York City on July 24, 2014, make it crystal clear that the work to be done about institutional racism is systemic. It is potentially lethal to our Union, too. So let us use our courage, wit, and our hearts again and fix it!

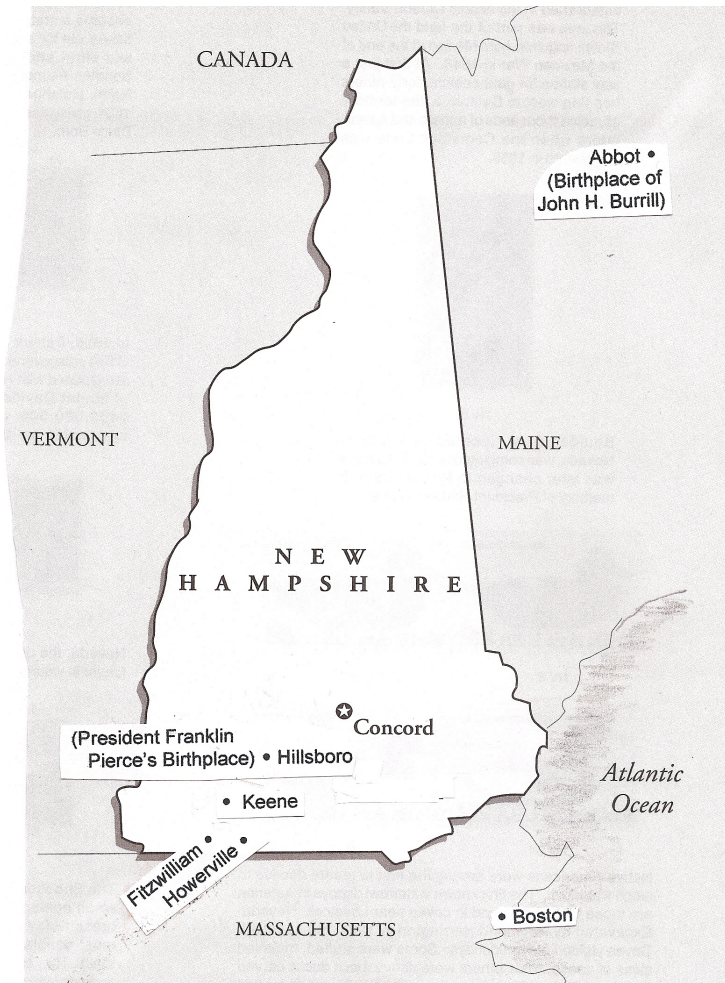


Figure 3.

In 1861, John Burrill was living and working in Howeville, part of the Fitzwilliam Township in State of New Hampshire



Figure 4

Ghost writer Private Richard L. Burrill on September 28, 2013, in Anderson, California, in reenactment uniform serving with the 72nd New York Volunteers.

"I am a third generation removed cousin of pensioner John Henry Burrill who fought at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863." --RLB



Figure 5.

Burrill became the first man that recruiter P. Henderson enlisted. Burrill enlisted with Company A of the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment on April 25, 1861, at Keene, Cheshire County, New Hampshire.

(Reenactment photo, 2013)

I am honored to have stood on the shoulders of previous scholars to have assembled this work. They include my relative John H. Burrill, Gettysburg National Park Ranger Karlton D. Smith who wrote "We Drop A Comrade's Tear," built largely upon Martin A. Haynes's *A History of the Second Regiment New Hampshire*, published in 1896 (see website address below). Along with this threesome, I tip my hat to Harry W. Pfanz who completed *Gettysburg The First Day and Gettysburg, The Second Day*, 1987. I am:

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### John Henry Burrill Introduced

John Henry Burrill was born August 2, 1842 in Abbott, Maine, the oldest son of ten siblings of Jacob and Rachel Burrill.

In 1851, John's parents relocated their young family to Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, and then to little Howeville, New Hampshire, where John and his siblings were reared and "got common school education." Relative Gertrude Sholley (née Burrill), "who copied them [presumably typed the letters] from the bound volume for her children" (p. 3), explains "I quote from what he [John H. Burrill] wrote about himself in 1905":

Howeville, N.H. was a small village in the township of Fitzwilliam and in 1861 the business there was the making of wooden ware –principally tubs and pails. About 60 men and boys were employed there. As a boy I began to work at a lathe turning out pails at thirteen years of age. At 19 I was earning a man's pay which at that time was from \$1 to \$1.50 per day according to the amount turned out"(page. 1).

At age 13, John Burrill began work in a pail factory. He kept this job for almost six years. While growing up, John met Miss Llewellyn Forristall in nearby Fitzwilliam. They lived within six miles of each other. They became sweethearts. They saw each other regularly until the outbreak of the American Civil War, which most Northerners called the War of the Rebellion, while most Southerners called it "The War of Northern Aggression."

### A Staunch Democrat By Inheritance

Two significant clues about John H. Burrill's outlook on the world, I discovered in one of his obituaries (published a couple days after his June 12, 1906 death) that Burrill, in life, (1) "was intensely interested in the affairs of his country," and (2) "He was a staunch Democrat by inheritance and his own choice"(author's underscore).

"By inheritance" I am guessing that his father Jacob Burrill may have bent and shaped his son to be and think a lot like him, to be a loyal Democrat. But also "inheritance" may have also meant by accident of birth, i.e., of being born in heavily "Democratic Party entrenched" State of New Hampshire.

More of John H. Burrill's words "in 1905" provides more depth, that:

All of the men [in the Fitzwilliam TN] were Yankees and much interested in politics. My father was a Democrat both by choice and inheritance. Of course, I was an ardent [Senator Steven A.] Douglas man. (Burrill, 1861-1865, Diary, page. 1).

New Hampshire's state capital of Concord, was not far downhill and NE of Fitzwilliams. And lo and behold, the birth place and family home of President Franklin Pierce (the 14<sup>th</sup> US President who served from 1853-1856) was Hillsborough (Hillsboro) NH, even closer (see map).

Benjamin Pierce, Franklin's father, served as the Democratic Party's Governor of New Hampshire from 1827 to 1828 and from 1829 to 1830. He was a distinguished veteran of the Revolutionary War, with promotion to Ensign because of his bravery at Saratoga. Prior to being Governor he was Brigadier General and assigned command of the New Hampshire state militia. His son Franklin served in the Mexican American War. Back home, Franklin worked his way up to becoming the leader of New Hampshire's Democratic Party.

Surprising for me, upon doing preliminary research on Franklin Pierce, was to learn that as the 1852 election approached, the Democratic Party sought a candidate who was "a pro-slavery Northerner" to attract voters on both sides of slavery, the most controversial and potentially volatile issue of the day.

Though Franklin Pierce personally opposed slavery, he felt the issue should be decided by popular vote in the individual states (popular sovereignty). Nineteen year old Union soldier John Burrill from New Hampshire, also apparently favored popular sovereignty since he said he championed Democratic Party leader Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois.

Burrill revealed in his January 1, 1863 letter to his parents (writing from Summit House Hospital in Philadelphia) much of his political posture at the time. He was convalescing from likely the measles or the mumps. Burrill wrote:

"The question of negro slavery is a hard [issue] on everyone. Everybody has a mind of their own about it. I have mine and it is that a negro is none too good to be held as a slave. But I believe in putting away any institution if by so doing it will help put down the Rebellion for I hold that nothing should stand in the way of the Union - n \_ \_ \_ \_ s, nor anything else.

"One thing I will tell you. If the war lasts a year longer a n \_ \_ \_ \_ can't live in the Army of the Potomac, for now they are in danger of their lives all the time. Our Division killed a lot of them when we were in Alexandria last fall."

From the above, Burrill's one commitment as a soldier was to help put down the Rebellion caused by the slave states. He had nothing good to say about Negroes nor was he an advocate for abolitionist, regardless of the fact that President Lincoln, right after the bloody Antietam event, had issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation on September 23, 1862. Burrill made no mention of Harriet Beecher Stowe's best selling, anti-slavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, nor about the actions and martyrdom of John Brown in 1859. Just the same, it was a fact that the growing impact of Stowe's *Uncle Tom Cabin* and the spirit of John Brown continue to stir people's hearts and minds. Gettysburg, about to happen, involved putting down the secessionists. But ending slavery, like it or not, was now in the balance as well.

### John Brown

John Brown became a martyr of abolition. We recall that Brown first became a name in Kansas in May of 1856. A proslavery sheriff led a mob into anti-slavery Lawrence, Kansas, looting and torching the town. In revenge John Brown announced himself as "the" self-proclaimed antislavery messiah! He led a party including his four sons to a pro-slavery settlement on Potawatomie Creek. They pulled five men from their bunks in the middle of the night and killed them by splitting their heads open with broadswords. That was only warm-ups.

In 1859, John Brown and 22 others (17 Whites and 5 Negroes) pursued their wild plan of raiding the United States arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. With confiscated Government Issue rifles and ammunition, Brown's party raided the nearby plantations. The party forcibly "freed" about thirty slaves! Now armed, it was hoped that what was now started, would snowball. Taking the "reluctant people" with them who had suddenly been freed by this stranger with Old Testament eyes was surely something from a dream. As the event played out, they retreated back to the arsenal, where one Colonel Robert E. Lee of the United States Marines, led the siege of the arsenal against them. Several of the conspirators were killed or arrested. Leader John Brown was slightly wounded. One month later, Brown ended up a corpse on the gallows. But many, many people throughout the nation sensed that John Brown's "spirit was marching on!"

John Brown's raid happened three years after the 1856 presidential election involving John Frémont's close bid as an abolitionist platform candidate, and only one year before the 1860 election involving Lincoln, who was not an abolitionist but was against slavery in the western territories. The more conservative Democratic Party position was to let popular sovereignty dictate the outcome in the western territories—either yea or nay. Yes the Kansas-Nebraska Act of popular sovereignty that Senator Steven Douglas squeaked through Congress, was signed into law on May 30, 1854 (*Congressional Record*). But the major problem—or genius of the law, depending on one's point of view—was that it did not say *when* a territory could decide about slavery.

### The Nation Comes Apart

Coming to resolution about slavery pulled hard on the dinner tablecloths of simply every American family household, as well as was divisive about holy Bible scriptural interpretations, Also, Do we read the Bible's words literally or allegorically? Church memberships were affected by heart-felt disagreements. Churches divided. Families divided. Back in 1844 the Methodists split into northern and southern wings, and the Baptists followed in 1845. The word of God could no longer hold Americans together.

Some of the issues were: How do we really know what was the mark set on Cain by the Lord? Don't you know that Ham means swarthy? Really? Hence, it follows that Africans are descendants of Cain and are the depraved race? They are? Another issue, that human babies are all born in sin. They are?

And does the Bible say there should never be mixed marriages? What about Moses in Numbers who married a Cushite woman? A Cushite from Ethiopia Moses married. In Numbers 12:1-15, so the Lord God punished Moses's sister-in-law, Miriam, with seven days of leprosy because of her criticism of Moses's mixed marriage.

As the 1860 candidates debated, many Americans were quietly making plans to move south of the Mason-Dixon line, or north, depending on their political stance. Children in the same family were divided about which older generations they would have to align with. Grandchildren were made to say their sad good-bye to certain grandparents whom they dearly loved.

And the Whigs, one of the great national parties before 1860 nearly disappeared. In its place there stood a purely sectional party -- the Republicans. Those Republicans . . . were looked upon with fear and loathing in the South (Boorstin and Kelley 1986:263).

Young men like nineteen year-old John Burrill in New Hampshire rallied around preserving the Union. That was the noble cause. Secessionists were traitors of the U.S.A, enemies pure and simple! The abolitionists? Why they were those dreamers and extremists! Fighting to free Negroes? Who would do that? To Yankees in 1860, how much more attractive and meaningful was the battle cry: "Strength through Union!" They would put their lives on the line for that!

## Robert E. Lee's Significant Decision

How dare Robert E. Lee pledge his ultimate loyalty to his "country" of Virginia when his sworn oath with graduation from West Point was to serve his country, the United States of America! How many Southerners made their decision to remain in the Commonwealth of Virginia, when Robert E. Lee made his public stand?

## Mark Twain Was Not A Draft Dodger

Commented R. Kent Rasmussen, author of *Critical Companion to Mark Twain*, 2007:

Draft dodger from what? Mark Twain lived in Missouri, which was never part of the Confederacy. After serving briefly in a state militia unit that was sworn to be loyal to the Union, he went west and did not return to the East until after the Civil War was over. Keep in mind that before the war he had already spent considerable time in several northern states. I suspect he favored the Union but went west to avoid having to choose sides. Incidentally, "Private History of a Campaign That Failed" is largely fiction; however, his book *Life On the Mississippi* has a great deal to say about the Civil War (Posted on Yahoo Answers, seven years ago by Uncle Dynamite).

Northerners like John Burrill in New Hampshire were coming to grips with their manhood and themselves. Father to son talk: Keep your honor. Don't be a coward and disgrace the family. Don't listen to those who will bully you. You need to stand alone and do what's right for yourself, your country, and for God!

Then President of the United States, James Buchanan, another Democrat, asked Congress to pass a bill that admitted Kansas as a slave state. Senator Stephen Douglas, in turn, joined forces with the Free-Soil Republican Party, to defeat this proposed bill. Douglas believed that the free and slave states could continue to live together in peace. He cared not at all whether slavery as, "Voted in or voted out."

The six-year-old Republican Party nominated Abraham Lincoln as their candidate for the 1860 presidential election. Lincoln tried to narrow the whole slavery issue into how to prevent slavery from spreading westward into the territories. In the 1860 debates, Lincoln took the stand that the states with slavery could keep their slavery.

At the 1860 Republican National Convention, Abraham Lincoln became the Presidential nominee. The Republican platform specifically pledged: (1) not to extend slavery in the new western territories, (2) called for enactment of free-homestead legislation (3) prompt establishment of a daily mail service, (4) a transcontinental railroad and (5) support of the protective tariff.

The staunch Democrat Jacob Burrill in New Hampshire, with his son still too young to vote, must have been shocked to read in the newspapers about the dire developments of their Democratic Party coming apart, and no longer being a national party. The Democratic Party's convention for choosing their party's ticket, was being held in Charleston, South Carolina. There the southern delegates demanded that the party declare its support for slavery in the territories. Steven Douglas and other Northerners rejected this proposal. Bitter arguments followed. There came the final vote. The Northerners refused to adopt the Southerners' program. Then the delegates from eight southern states left the convention (Boorstin and Kelley 1986:266-267).

The delegates remaining, adjourned the convention for one month. When they reconvened, the splintered Democratic Party nominated Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, as their party's candidate.



Meanwhile southern Democrats, who had left the convention, met at Richmond, Virginia. There, they named their own candidate, John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky, who was then Vice-President of the United States under incumbent President Buchanan. Breckinridge believed in protecting slavery and that states had the right to secede. The separation was now real. Even the “national” political parties, formed to get the majority of the electoral votes to win, were no longer national, but were regionally-based.

### The 1860 Election

In the election, Abraham Lincoln’s Republican Party received electoral votes just in the eighteen free states, which totaled 180. However, that was more than the required majority of electoral votes to win according to the U.S. Constitution. The Lincoln and Hamlin ticket’s 180 electoral votes was 59% of the 303 electoral vote total). Breckinridge carried eleven slaves states, which totaled 72 electoral votes. Douglas received many popular votes from the north but only Missouri did he received the most votes in the state, which gave him Missouri’s nine electoral votes. The Douglas ticket also received the minority of New Jersey’s split electoral votes, 3 of 7 possible. Lastly, the Constitutional-Unionist Party’s ticket of John Bell and Edward Everett (comprised of chiefly former Whigs and Know-Nothings) bagged only 39 electoral votes.

On December 20, 1860, when the electoral vote was tabulated in the U.S. Senate and thereby the above outcome was official --meaning Lincoln would take the oath of office in March of 1861, the State of South Carolina, seceded from the Union. Five other slaves states soon did the same, joining South Carolina, namely: Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi (Note: Alabama and Texas seceded later). In February, 1861, delegates of the southern slaves states met in Montgomery, Alabama. They wrote a new constitution and announced that a new nation, the Confederate States of America, was born. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi was chosen as their President, John Calhoun, their Vice President.

At this writing, I cannot speak for Americans John Burrill and his father Jacob Burrill in New Hampshire, about how wrong they judged it to be for any state to secede from the Union. But Northerners remembered when U.S. Senator Daniel Webster of Massachusetts in 1830, stepped forward in Congress as a tireless orator with deep voice and passionate heart who had held his audience spellbound. Webster rejected the idea that the union was only a league of sovereign states. Daniel Webster argued that not the states but the people had made the union. “It is, sir, the people’s Constitution, the people’s government made for the people, made by the people answerable to the people.” Only the U.S. Supreme Court, propounded Webster, had the power to declare a law void. Webster’s six hours of oratory that lasted two days of making his case was, according to some listeners, the most powerful speech ever given in the United States Congress.

The news that a rebellion was a foot by secessionists inside the United States threatened what had worked in recent U.S. history. The virtue of “Strength through Union” or Unity had worked against the Indians on the frontier (The Pequot War, The King Philip’s War, the French and Indian War), and against British tyranny in 1775 and 1812).

Rooted deeply in the ideological birth of the United States’s second compact, the U.S. Constitution, as drafted at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1787, with Benjamin Franklin’s 81 year old presence and blessing --and subsequently infused in the evolving American Yankee character in 1860-- was Benjamin Franklin’s advocacy of federal union. “Federal” or “National” union was vetted by one aspiring Iroquois story that defined irrefutably for many Northerners, the practicality of “Strength Through Union” (Bruce E. Johansen, *Forgotten Founders: The Iroquois and the Rationale for the American Revolution*, 1982).

Benjamin Franklin, in early life, had personally recorded treaty accounts, and sat in treaty councils with the Iroquois sachems (chiefs) of greater Pennsylvania and New York. Deganawidah, the Iroquois's grand sachem (chief-of-the-region) was the people's Cultural Hero and Carrier of the Wisdom for the future Seventh Generation. In the long ago, Deganawidah held up one arrow before the chiefs at Onondaga (the Iroquois capital) and easily broke it. Five arrows, however, "wrapped together with the deer sinew possess the continuity of one mind and is unbreakable" (Nielsen 2014). Hence, the evil of secessionists was exposed who dared to defy the nation's strength!

We can also look at the U.S. one dollar bill's engravings on its reverse and right side. Clutched by the American eagle's left talon are not five but thirteen arrows of strength, symbolizing what worked for the original thirteen colonies.

### Our Democracy Can't Breathe!

I contend that the Achilles heel of the United States of America was slavery and our deep-seated racism. We have ramifications from it today that our society must look at "in the face" and address it. Here is a brief review of very recent events:

- 1991 The LAPD's brutal treatment of Rodney King.
- 2013 June 7 George Zimmerman's trial jury begun for murder of African American Trevon Martin (was wearing a hoodie).

- 2014 June 26, 2014 CNN aired "The Sixties: A Long Walk To Freedom."

- 2014 July 24 –Brooklyn, New York. 43 year-old, African American Eric Garner died when being apprehended in front of store. A 3 minute long video on You Tube of Garner's arrest, on suspicion of selling untaxed single cigarets, shows a NYPD officer putting him in an apparent chokehold after he refuses to be handcuffed. He is dragged to the pavement by several officers, as he repeatedly gasps, "I cannot breathe." This tactic is banned by the NYPD but has been the subject of more than 1,000 complaints to the city's Civilian Complaint Review Board over the last five years. He was 6 feet 3 inches tall and weighed 350 pounds. He had battled asthma since childhood. Poster reads: "Staten Island Pigs

African-American Frank Harbin (Dec. 4, 2014) asks: "They say he [Eric Garner] had thirty prior arrests before getting killed. If the man was that dangerous, then the police and social workers should have taken him off the streets a long time ago. There are not enough mental care centers nor police trained to identify and work with the mentally ill."

- 2014 August 9 – African- American Michael Brown, age 18, was fatally shot and killed by white police officer Daren Wilson, 28, in Ferguson, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. From Wikipedia retrieved on 11-019-2014,

- 2014, Dec. 3- Grand jury decision today about police officer Daniel Pantaleo who used take-down/ choke-hold move on combatative Eric Garner on July 24<sup>th</sup>, who threatened with his arms while saying outloud, 'I'm not going to let you take me.' --clearly seen on four different video recorders. This has resulted in thousands of people taking to the streets and calling out mostly, "I can't breathe, I can't breathe." Other chants made on December 4 were "Black life's matter" and "No justice, no peace." Eclectic and organic group of protestors are relating that "This is a systemic problem that has to be fixed now."

NY City Mayor Bill de Blasio's approximate words on TV news when interviewed on December 3<sup>rd</sup> were, "Black People Matter." We should not have to say that but it is a result of not just wrongs done a couple of weeks ago, but rather centuries ago.

- December 4, Someone’s poster sign filmed by a news camera crew reads, “Our Democracy Can’t Breathe.”

- 2014, Dec. 20 –Two NYPD officers (Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos) were shot and killed by a Black suspect from Maryland. Killer retreated onto a subway. When he realized he was being pursued, he committed suicide rather than being taken alive. Some are saying, “This one, two for Garner.”

## Why Slavery Did Not Die In The South

It was historically believed, and even planned, that the institution of slavery itself was to eventually fade away entirely. Written in Article I, Section 9 of the U.S. Constitution of 1789, for example, was the law that, starting in 1808, no more slaves were allowed to be imported into the United States. But behold in the 1850s the impact of Eli Whitney’s cotton gin machine, which had been invented in 1794-- that separated the cotton from its seeds.

As the cotton gin invention was upgraded and set into major production, it rejuvenated slavery significantly in the southern states. The faster processing of cotton meant it was profitable for southern landowners to establish previously-unthinkably large cotton plantations in the south, and maybe even bigger in the western lands if the federal government would only sell the lands for cheap! Thus bigger cotton farms meant the need for more slaves. Yet, harvesting cotton remained a very labor-intensive proposition. But there was never any problem about having enough slaves in the southern states. There was always the black market, no pun intended. Also, the white slave masters propagated new “crops of slaves” by impregnating their female slaves. Southern aristocratic wealth and the political connections and lobbying by the Cotton Kings made much of the south very dependent on the cotton industry’s continuance and growth. When the northern politicians closed off the western territories to slavery, seceding from the Union to maintain their Southern culture made more sense than ever before.

- “The slave population in the United States increased nearly five-fold in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and by 1860, the South provided about two-thirds of the world’s cotton supply. Southern wealth had become completely dependent on slave-labor” (Source: The Civil War Trust: Saving America’s Civil War Battlefields essay “Civil War History: How the Cotton Gin Contributed to the Civil War”).

- “Before Whitney’s gin entered into widespread use, the United States produced roughly 750,000 bales of cotton, in 1830. By 1850 that amount had exploded to 2.85 million bales.”

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It merits here to attempt to reconstruct what specific reasons my relative, John Henry Burrill, and his 2<sup>nd</sup> New Hampshire volunteers agreed to put their lives on the line, and to comprehend why other Americans who were with the Confederate forces chose to put their equally dear lives on the line in battle after battle.

Secondly what lessons, if any, came from this great struggle, that, we, the living, need to honor and live by today?

Many Southern felt threatened by Northerners who sought to abolish their sacred institution of slavery, as well as close off their planting of cotton with slave labor option in the more fertile fields west of the mountains.

Southerners felt further threatened by the continuation of a protective tariff that benefited the North financially. The South declared the tariff unconstitutional because it unfairly taxed one sector of the country for the benefit of another.

Another posture debated by Vice President John Calhoun on behalf of the South was that the Union was a compact of states. Each state could nullify an act of Congress that it considered unconstitutional. Calhoun reviewed the ideas of the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions of 1798. For sovereign states, President Thomas Jefferson gave his stamp of approval for such.

Debate in Congress called for opening up the lands in the west, and if the land price would not be reduced for the cheap, than the doctrine of nullification by the states would be implemented.

Many on both sides in Congress and in the American streets and country-sides nationwide made their minds up that they would put their lives on the line because this was the United States they desired for themselves and for their grandchildren. Out of genuine fear about their family's tomorrow, Southerners dug in their heels about states' sovereignty over central governmental coercion and infringements upon their God-given liberties.

Abolitionists from all parts of the nation went spiritually off to join the "Army of the soldiers of the Lord." John Brown's body was moldering in the grave! They reviled "Bleeding Kansas." They reviled the Dred Scott v. Sanford, 1857 U.S. Supreme Court decision. Many Americans decided that no Christian nation should condone immoral slavery any longer, nor permit U.S. Marshals at public expense to be directed by law to chase and subdue runaway human traffic that had to be pathetically returned back to their property owners. Honoring highly cherished principles of consciousness and spirit were at play throughout the land. Taking action in a people's democracy for a better tomorrow seemed to make sense. It was a movement that came to its head when Lincoln became U.S. President and when Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor fell to the Confederacy. It took on a new Crusade proportions!

Would not the light of righteousness rule over darkness in short order? No one in 1860 had any idea that their war over such sacred principles would last for over four of the bloodiest and cruelest years in the nation's history. No one knew then how many proud generals would use honor and glory as their justification to order so many young men to go off to their deaths. The levels of the carnage and catastrophe that would unfold were unimagined.

The Confederate States of America, which soon totaled seven states, including South Carolina, all viewed the United States of America as a foreign nation once it was understood that Abraham Lincoln won the 1860 election. The seceded states felt they could no longer allow the United States to keep its federal arsenals and forts inside their new sovereign country's borders. There was immediate chaos and quick actions being taken on both sides. In the south, the Confederates used their own state troops to at once begin seizing federal posts in their own back yards. To delay bloodshed, United States federal troops gave up all but a few strong positions.

U.S. President James Buchanan was still the nation's president, but Congress had adjourned. No dictatorial marshal law had yet been declared by President Buchanan.

South Carolina, on behalf of the new Confederacy, then demanded that the "U.S. Army abandon its military facilities in Charleston Harbor. On his own in secret, on December 26, 1860, U.S. Major Robert Anderson moved his small command from the indefensible Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island to Fort Sumter, the much stronger fortress that controlled the entrance of Charles Harbor to the Atlantic Ocean.

What to do next? President Buchanan ordered that an attempt be made to reinforce and resupply Anderson, using the unarmed merchant ship, *Star of the West*. But this failed when it

was fired upon by shore batteries on January 9, 1861. South Carolina's troops then advanced and they seized Fort Moultrie that Anderson's forces had vacated. Fort Sumter was the last federal fort untaken.

For days Fort Sumter fell under a siege, as General P. G. T. Beauregard the first general officer of the newly- formed Confederate States Army, was placed in command of Confederate forces in Charleston.

On March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as U.S. President. He had to now make one of the great decisions in American history. Lincoln received dispatches that the situation was dire for Major Anderson, whose situation was short of men, food, supplies.

Lincoln with his generals in support declared that a state of marshal law existed. Lincoln began, understandably, to make dictatorial actions in order to keep the peace. Could he somehow save the Union without using force? Could he arrange a cooling-off period, so that all citizens could weigh and reevaluate the situation on hand? U.S. President Abraham Lincoln notified the governor of South Carolina, Francis W. Pickens, that he was ordering supply ships. This resulted in an ultimatum from the Confederate Government: "Evacuate Fort Sumter immediately." Major Anderson refused to surrender.

At 4:20 A.M. on April 12, 1861, General Beauregard ordered the bombardment of Fort Sumter from his Charleston shore batteries. The federal troops returned some fire. But at 2:30 PM, the next afternoon, Major Anderson surrendered the fort without any loss of life on both sides. The first, the quickest, and the most bloodless battle of the war was over. It was not a fair sample of what was to come.

With the conclusion of this battle, there was widespread support from both North and South for more military action. Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to "suppress the rebellion." This resulted in four more states who seceded from the Union and joined the Confederacy. The Civil War had begun.

Figure 6.

Fort Sumter in Charleston  
Habor, South Carolina.



Two Years, Two Months, and Fifteen Days Later

From April 12, 1861, we fast forward in time past two horrific years (1862 and 1863), two months, and fifteen days to June 27, 1863. The American Civil War has raged without an end, and the Battle of Gettysburg will begin in earnest four days later, on July 1, 1863. Confederate general Robert E. Lee has boldly invaded the north for a second time. Lee believes his Army of Northern Virginia can deal a decisive blow to the Union forces and hopefully end the war. After Antietam on September 17, 1862, President Lincoln had issued his Emancipation Proclamation. The moral issue to end slavery "in those states still fighting against the Union" had been added to the Northerners' cause. Lincoln realized it would require a moral commitment in order to keep his Union soldiers fighting gallantly enough to save the Union, yet at such a predictable high price. The men of the Second Volunteers of New Hampshire Infantry have been marching hard, like so many other Union forces, to stop the Confederates' advance. Private John Burrill's five primary source letters about Gettysburg in 1863, plus Burrill's 1905 writings about himself, are combined (below) with what his captain Colonel Edward L. Bailey led his men through, especially on July 2.

John Henry Burrill, writing about himself in 1905:

On April 12, 1861, President Lincoln called for 75,000 men to suppress the Rebellion. New Hampshire had no military organization at that time but did have some men with military experience and these men were appointed to recruit men at different places.

P. Henderson was such a man from Chester County [today Rockingham County, N.H.]. He enlisted about a hundred men for three months before the 19<sup>th</sup> of April and took them to Concord, N.H. On his return I went with him to Keene [in Cheshire County, N.H.] and became the first man he enlisted for what afterwards became the 2<sup>nd</sup> N.H. The date of my enlistment was April 25, 1861. In the course of ten days he had fully one hundred and among them two of my school mates, Jonas Forristall and Ed Burbank as well as four from Howeville, Wm. Dunton, George Miles, George Coolidge, and Danvers Miles. Most of the towns in the county had some representatives but I think for its size, Fitzwilliam had the most.

When we really became the 2<sup>nd</sup> N.H. it was for three months. No more three months men were wanted but the call was for three years. All of our Fitzwilliam men but one responded. After enlisting for three years I was allowed to go home and say good bye to my family. . . .

We were mustered into the U.S. service as Co. A, Capt. Barker, by Col. Eastman on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1861. We were soon supplied with uniforms of blue with proper equipment of guns, knapsacks, and canteens and were drilled every day.



Figure 7.

Burrill being issued his uniform with kepi hat, leathers, knapsack, canteen, and percussion cap rifle.

(Reenactment photo, 2013)

Army (2-5 Corps) In 1861, President Lincoln called up 75,000 volunteers  
Corps (2 to 5 Divisions) Sickles's Third Corps AM report on 7-02-1863 was 11,924 soldiers  
Division (3 Brigades) = 10,000 to 18,000 soldiers  
Brigade (3 to 6 Battalions) = 3,000 to 5,000 soldiers  
Regiment (Roughly an enlarged Brigade, as above)  
Battalions (3 to 5 Companies) = 500 to 800 soldiers  
Company (3 to 4 Platoons) = 100 to 200 soldiers  
Platoons (3 to 4 Squads) = 16 to 40 men soldiers  
Squads 4 to 10 soldiers



Figure 8.

Burrill trained and ready for battle by batteries.

(Reenactment photo, 2013)

## Military Organization Personnel on July 2, 1863, Who Fought For Control of the Peach Orchard

### NORTH

Army of the Potomac		Maj. Gen. George G. Meade
Corps	Third Corps	Maj. Gen Daniel E. Sickles
Division	First	Maj. Gen. David B. Birney
Brigade	First	Brig. Gen. Charles K. Graham
Brigade	Second	Brig. Gen. J. H. Hobart Ward
Division	Second	Brig. Gen. Andrew A. Humphreys
Brigade	First	Brig. Gen. Joseph B. Carr
Brigade	Second	Col. William R. Brewster
Brigade	Third	Col. George C. Burling

Companies:  
2nd New Hampshire, Companies A, B, and C, led by  
Col. Edward I. Bailey

Companies also sent to secure the Peach Orchard included:

71st New York		Col. Henry L. Potter
72nd New York		Col. John S. Austin
68th Pennsylvania		Col. Andrew H. Tippin
7th New Jersey		Col. Louis R. Francine
3rd Maine,		Col. Moses Iakeman
141st PA,		Col. Henry J. Madill

Artillery Brigades at Peach Orchard of note

Captain A. Judson Clark's Battery B, 1st New Jersey.  
 Captain Nelson Ames' Battery G, 1st New York (?)  
 Captain James Thompson's Battery C & F, PA.

### SOUTH

Army of Northern Virginia		General Robert E. Lee
Corps	First	Gen. James Longstreet
Division	First	Maj. Gen. Lafayette McLaws

Brigade		Brig. Gen. J. B. Kershaw
	3rd South Carolina, 2nd South Carolina, 8th South Carolina	
Brigade		Brig. Gen. P. J. Semmes
		& Gen. William Barksdale
	21st Mississippi, 17th Mississippi, 13th Mississippi, 18th Mississippi	
Brigade		Brig. Gen. W. T. Wofford
	16th Georgia, 18th Georgia, 24th Georgia, Cobb's Georgia, and Phillips's Georgia	
Brigade		Col. B. G. Humphreys

Artillery Brigades on Seminary Ridge of note  
 Col. Henry C. Cabell of McLaws's Division  
 Artillery battalion Col. E. P. Alexander



## Major General Daniel Sickles



Figure 9.

Major General Daniel E. Sickles was commander of the Third Corps at Gettysburg. The photograph above is of him about one year after Gettysburg with his right leg missing.

July 2 - At 4 PM, Dan Sickles, launched his assault with his soldiers to take the controversial location, which came to be named the Peach Orchard. From Seminary Ridge west of the Emmitsburg Pike, Confederate Gen. James Longstreet's batteries open fired into Sickles's Third Army Corps, as they were approaching. General Sickles was struck soundly by one of the cannon balls that shattered his leg. He had to be removed on a stretcher from the battlefield.

Thomas Sim, a III Corps surgeon, amputated the leg just above the knee and, instead of having it buried with the rest of the amputated limbs, wrapped and preserved the leg "for whatever disposition. Sickles had a miniature coffin made for his amputated leg, and donated it to the Army Medical Museum where it is still today. For years afterward he delighted in taking friends there to "visit" his leg.

Sickles was born on October 20, 1819, in New York City, and led a colorful, yet highly passionate and roller-coastal life including scandals. In 1856, he won election for New York to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. For many years, he criticized General Gordon Meade's actions at Gettysburg.

## Colonel Edward L. Bailey



Figure 10.

Colonel Edward L. Bailey served as Captain at Gettysburg on July 2 for the 2nd N.H. Volunteer Regiment.

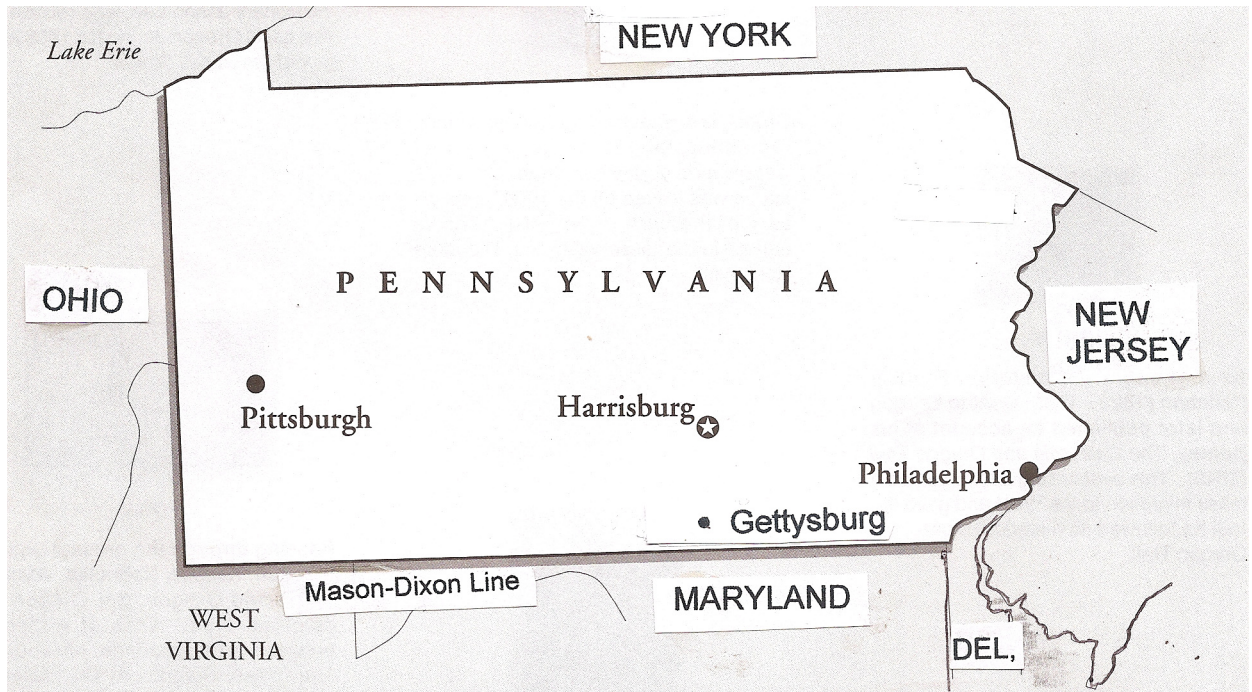
Birth: Dec. 10, 1841, Manchester, New Hampshire, which means in July 1863, he was 22 years old at Gettysburg.

He commanded with skill the regiment's companies at the Battle of Gettysburg, where his orders were to take his men to the Peach Orchard, along the Emmitsburg Pike. His soldiers put up a valiant but futile defense, suffering heavy losses before being pushed back by superior Confederate numbers and firepower. But their bravery, endeavor, and sacrifices helped to keep General Meade's Cemetery Ridge position intact, in concert with other actions. This ultimately contributed to Union victory at Gettysburg on July 3rd.

Spouse: Francis Parker Bailey (1841-1914).

Death: Mar. 12, 1930 Manchester, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire.

Burial: Both Edward and Francis are buried in the Piscataquog Cemetery, Manchester, N.H.



Mason-Dixon line –was surveyed in 1767 was done by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon to resolve between British colonies in colonial America. After Pennsylvania abolished slavery in 1781, the western part of this line and the Ohio River became a border between free and slave states.

Figure 11.

Gettysburg is just above the Mason-Dixon Line into Pennsylvania.



Figure 12.

Richard Burrill meeting Ranger Karlton Smith at the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center on June 25, 2013. Photo by Janice Newton.

Approximately six pages of Karlton Smith's essay "We Drop A Comrade's Tear" is reprinted with permission (signed 6-09-2015)

## “We Drop a Comrade’s Tear”

By Karlton D. Smith

Ranger and Interpreter at Gettysburg National Military Park

Colonel Edward Lyon Bailey and the Second New Hampshire Infantry at Gettysburg  
[Online] Available: [http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/gett/gettysburg\\_seminars/9/essay5.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/gett/gettysburg_seminars/9/essay5.pdf)

**O**n June 27, [1863] the regiment marched to a point near Middleton, Maryland passing through the village of Jefferson, and on the next day passed through Middletown and Frederick and bivouacked seven miles from Frederick. One member wrote: “We are getting into God’s country now, where there are loyal people, and where American flags and cheers for the Union are the rule, and not the exception.”

*INSERT: John H. Burrill wrote these two unabridged letters home to the Fitzwilliam Township, New Hampshire; one to his parents and one to his sweetheart “Ella” Forristall. Both letters were posted at Emmetsburg, Maryland, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863 (see pp. 97-99 in John H. Burrill Civil War Diaries, 1861-1865):*

Dear Parents –

Now I will try and let you know that we are still among the living and in good health. My last letter to you was from Gum Springs. I will give you a short account of our journey here.

We went from there crossing the Potomac at Edward’s ferry. Traveled the tow patch up the canal as far as the Monacacy River where we left it and that night we got to Point of rocks. From there to Jefferson and from there on to Frederic City, Woodsborough and Taney. From there here.

I have not rested a day since we began our fast march. Some days we have marched as much as 25 miles and he day we crossed the Potomac we went m[???]. Anyhow, I have not had time enough to get a clean shirt since leaving Washington.

Since we left Point of Rocks we have been through as fine a country as I have ever seen – so handsome and what fields of grain. The house and barns are equal to anything I have ever seen. The people are as loyal as any have met. They are willing to do for us and give us anything they have and in some places the girls sang some patriotic songs as we marched by –and they have pretty girls here too.

It is some consolation to fight for such people and to sum up the while matter, I have fallen in love with “Maryland, My Maryland” –at least this part of it. So, good bye New Hampshire, you have no more charms for me. I will turn no more pails [on the lathe].39

I heard just now we had a fight 12 miles from here. Our folks whipped them and took 500 prisoners. We lost Gen. Reynolds who commanded the Corps.

I will not write any more now as we will be on the move soon and I want to get some sleep. Our Regt. Is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. 3<sup>rd</sup> army Corps.

Write if you don’t hear from me as I don’t often get a chance to write. With my love to you and inquiring friends, I am

Your aff. Son, John H. Burrill

Dear Ella –

--2nd unabridged letter also posted July 1, 1863--

Wishing to let you know that we are still alive, I take this opportunity to write you. Have had one letter from you since we left Washington – a month ago. We have had only two mail one at Gum Springs and the other at Taneyville.

We have marched every day since we left the Springs and we have been a good many miles. I will name some of the places where we have been. We crossed the Potomac at Edward's Ferry at about 6 o'clock in the evening. Then took the canal, walking the two-path. About dark it began to rain and kept it up all night.

It was the hardest marching I ever saw – so muddy and slippery. I don't believe 500 of the Division reached the Monocacy that night. Out of our Company 5 privates and one Lieut. from Co. B two officers and 5 privates went by all the rest of the Regt, and stopped within a mile of Proccet over the river. I was one of that number.

As the regiment marched through Taneytown on June 29, Major General Daniel E. Sickles, the 3rd Corps commander (and the 2nd New Hampshire's former division commander), "was given a hearty welcome as he rode down the marching column." The next morning we went up there to get something to eat and waited till the rest came up and then went to a place near Point of Ricks. From there to Jefferson, Middleton, Frederick, Walkerville, Taney town and here.

We passed thru some very pretty villages and here is some of the finest country I ever saw, especially the villages next to the Government Mts. That Middleton is a perfect paradise of a place. And there are nice people living here. I believe they are more loyal than those of N.H. At one place pretty girls came out and sang songs as we went by. Oh, how good I did seem as it was the first time we have been welcomed in that manner since we have been out here. They seem to be very glad to have us come and use us first rate and we are welcome to almost anything we want.

We are now within 12 miles of Gettysburg where the Rebels are reported to be in force. It is reported in Camp that there was a fight there yesterday and that we took 500 prisoners. Gen Reynolds who commanded the 1st Army Corps was killed.

Gen. Sickles, our Commander, has gotten back. How we cheered him when he passed to the head of his column with his staff. I have confidence in him.

I wrote a letter home to-day and told them we were going to move. We did but not a great way.

I shall now have to draw this poor letter to a close as it is twilight and I can hardly see. I send you a relic\* of Virginia I got it near Good Hope Church. Now, write to me once in a while even if I do not write as it is not often that I get a chance. Should not now but we are nigh [near?] a post office. I shall write as I can. With my best respects to your family.

Your truly,

Jack the Soldier

P.S. This paper is so wet and the ink so poor you will have a hard time deciphering it.

---

\* This enclosure was a couple of white blossoms.



Figure 13.

John H. Burriill wrote:

“Since we left Point of Rocks we have been through as fine a country as I have ever seen – so handsome and what fields of grain. The house and barns are equal to anything I have ever seen.

“The people are as loyal as any have met. They are willing to do for us and give us anything they have and in some places the girls sang some patriotic songs as we marched by –and they have pretty girls here too.

It is some consolation to fight for such people and to sum up the while matter, I have fallen in love with “Maryland, My Maryland.”

Author’s photo taken in Sharpsburg, Maryland, on June 24, 2013.

--continued- "We Drop A Comrade's Tear" By Karlton D. Smith

On June 30, the regiment was mustered for pay and at 3 P.M. marched to the Monocacy Bridge, about halfway between Taneytown and Emmitsburg.

Colonel [Edward L.] Bailey and the regiment marched to Emmitsburg on July 1. The division halted one mile out of Emmitsburg on the "Waynesborough" pike. Colonel Burling was ordered "to remain at this place ... to guard the Hagerstown road." Burling "immediately made such disposition of my command as I deemed advisable to accomplish this object."<sup>40</sup>

At 1:30 A.M. on July 2, colonels Burling and Bailey received orders to march to Gettysburg via the Emmitsburg road. Burling reported that as the brigade was "covering so much ground, and the night being so very dark, it was nearly 4 A.M." before the brigade was able to march.

Author-historian Martin Haynes of *A History of the Second Regiment of the Second Regiment new Hampshire Volunteers*, 1896, recalled that it was "a weird night march. Dark clouds were scudding across the sky, which let loose an occasional quick, sharp shower upon the hurrying troops. The consciousness of impending battle had by some subtle influence taken possession of the minds of the men." The column was allowed to halt every hour for about ten minutes. Bailey permitted his regiment, which had left Emmitsburg without breakfast, "to cook a hasty cup of coffee" at the sunrise halt.<sup>41</sup>

By 7:30 A.M., the brigade was approaching the Sherfy Peach Orchard. Burling's brigade rejoined the 2nd Division at about 9 A.M. and was massed in column of regiments near the George Weikert farm until about noon, when the men were placed in reserve for the 1st and 2nd brigades of the division. Burling "was massed 200 yards in rear of the second line, opposite its center." This placed Burling in the fields along Plum Run, southwest of the present-day Pennsylvania Memorial.<sup>42</sup>

Colonel Burling was ordered to report to Major General David B. Birney, commanding the 1st Division of the 3rd Corps and "to mass the brigade in a piece of woods (Trostle's Woods) in the rear of his division." Haynes described this position as "west of Little Round Top and not far from the Wheatfield." There was a stone wall along the west edge of the woods and some low ground that provided partial cover for the brigade.<sup>43</sup>

Burling was ordered to leave the cover of the woods and advance at the quick time and then the double-quick time. As soon as the brigade left the cover of the woods it was "greeted with [a] storm of shells" and from "a distance of not more than 1,000 yards." The flagstaff of the 2nd New Hampshire was shot out of the color bearer's hands, the staff was broken into three pieces, and several of the color guard were wounded.

After staying in the open for about thirty minutes, Burling "upon the solicitation of several regimental commanders, whom I considered equally competent with myself," probably including Bailey, ordered the brigade to fall back 100 yards to the safety of "a small rise in the ground." It was believed that the object of the move, "to draw out the enemy," had been achieved.<sup>44</sup>

A staff officer from General Sickles ordered the brigade to return to the open field. Before Burling could do this, he received new orders from Birney "to change direction to the left, and take a position behind a piece of woods, my front now being at right angles with my former front." This new position brought the brigade into Rose's Woods, on the west edge of the Wheatfield, facing south.<sup>45</sup>

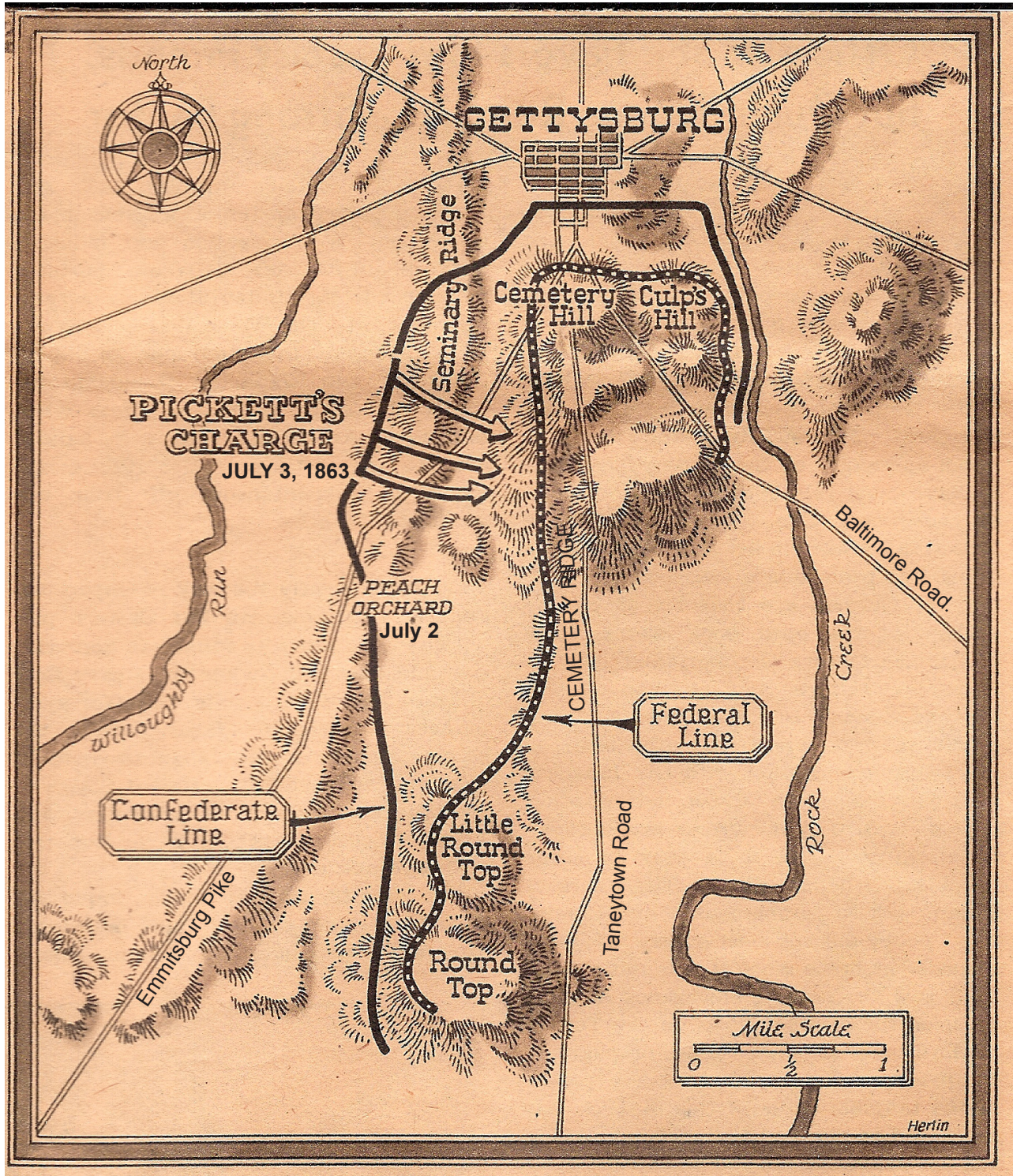


Figure 14.

This salvaged 1936 map shows poet Stephen Vincent Benét's "clumsy fish-hook" metaphor for the Gettysburg Battle field described in Benét's *John Brown's Body* work, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1929. The "fish-hook" IS the wavy dark-braded ribbon that begins at the bottom, sans its button, at the west flank of "Round Top." The fish-hook's shank is the Baltimore Road below Culp's Hill.

Additions to the this vintaged map are: Emmitsburg Pike, Taneytown Road, and the Baltimore Road.

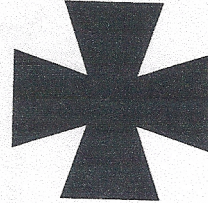
“John Brown’s Body” By Stephen Vincent Benét,  
1928

Setting the Scene at greater Gettysburg, PA

Draw a clumsy fish-hook on a piece of paper,  
to the left of the shank, by the bend of the curving  
hook,  
Draw a Maltese cross with the top block cut away.  
The cross is the town. nine roads star out of it  
East, West, South, North.  
And now, still more to the left  
Off the lopped-off cross, on the other side of the town,  
Draw a long, slightly-wavy line of ridges and hills  
Roughly parallel to the fish-hook shank.  
(The hook of the fish-hook is turned away from the cross  
And the wavy line.)

There your ground and your ridges lie  
The fish-hook is Cemetery Ridge and the North  
Waiting to be assaulted-the wavy line  
Seminary Ridge whence the Southern assault will come.  
The valley between is more than a mile in breadth.  
It is some three miles from the lowest jut of the cross  
To the button at the far end of the fish-hook shank,  
Big Round Top, with Little Round Top not far away,  
Both ridges are strong and rocky, well made for war.  
But the Northern one is the stronger, shorter one.  
Lee’s army must spread out like an uncoiled snake  
Lying along a fence-rail, while Meade’s can coil  
Or halfway coil, like a snake clinging to a stone.  
Meade has the more men and the easier shifts to make,  
Lee the old prestige of triumph and his tried skill.  
His task is-to coil his snake round the other snake  
Halfway clung to the stone, and shatter it so,  
Or to break some point in the shank of the fish-hook line  
And so cut the snake in two.

Meade’s task is to hold.



Maltesh cross

“July 2, 1863”

The firing began that morning at nine o’clock,  
But it was three before the attacks were launched.  
There were two attacks, one a drive on the Union left  
To take the round tops, the other one on the right.  
Lee had planned them to strike together and, striking so,  
cut the Union snake in three pieces.

It did not happen.

On the left, Dutch Longstreet, slow, pugnacious and stubborn,  
Hard to beat and just as hard to convince,  
Had his own ideas of the battle and does not move  
For hours after the hour that Lee had planned,  
Though when he does, he moves with pugnacious strength.  
Facing him in the valley before the Round Tops,  
Sickles thrusts out blue troops in a weak right angle,  
Some distance from the Ridge, by the Emmitsburg pike.  
There is a peach orchard there, a field of ripe wheat  
And other peaceable things soon not to be peaceful.  
They say the bluecoats, marching through the ripe wheat,  
Made a blue-and-yellow picture that men remember  
Even now in their age, in their crack-voiced age.  
They say the noise was incessant as the sound  
Of all wolves howling, when the attack came on.  
They say, when the guns all spoke, that the solid ground  
Of the rocky ridges trembled like a sick child.

*We have made the sick earth tremble with other shakings  
In our time, in our time, in our time, but it has not taught us  
To leave the grain in the field.*

---



-continued- "We Drop A Comrade's Tear"

Burling next received orders to send his two largest regiments, the 7th New Jersey and the 2nd New Hampshire, to the Peach Orchard front and report to Brigadier General Charles K. Graham, commanding the 1st Brigade of Birney's Division.<sup>46</sup>

Colonel Bailey moved his regiment, with 24 officers and 330 men, in a column of fours at the double-quick. He avoided a swampy run and marched behind the right of Captain A. Judson Clark's Battery B [D?] 1st New Jersey, and probably the 15th New York battery on Clark's right. He may also have moved behind the 141st Pennsylvania, which was in support of Clark. Bailey had been ordered to support Captain Nelson Ames' Battery G, 1st New York, which was stationed in the Peach Orchard, and "one section of a battery unknown." This could have been a section of [ Page 107].

At some point in his march, Bailey formed the regiment "by company into line." Each company formed into a two-rank battle line, but the companies remained in column. The right half of the regiment "moved forward into line," forming a two-rank battle line which then moved forward to the Emmitsburg road. The left wing remained in column, behind the left of the right wing, until ordered to form on the left along the Wheatfield road, at right angles to the right wing. Company B, originally on the left, was moved to the right "that its Sharps rifles might be made most available in case of an infantry attack from that direction."<sup>48</sup>

[Page 108] The right wing immediately came under fire from Colonel Henry C. Cabell's artillery battalion posted along Warfield Ridge. Martin Haynes reported that the "air was fairly alive with bursting shell and whistling canister; the leaves fell in showers from the peach trees, and the dirt was thrown up in little jets where the missiles were continually striking."<sup>49</sup>

Bailey ordered a change of front forward upon the color-company, realigning the entire regiment, with the exception of Company B (which continued to face west along the Emmitsburg road) along the Wheatfield road, with his right resting in the garden of the Wentz house. The 68th Pennsylvania was to Bailey's left. In this position the regiment occupied a frontage of about ninety yards. The Wentz farm buildings and the slight slope provided some protection from the fire of Lieutenant Colonel E. P. Alexander's artillery battalion posted along Seminary Ridge.

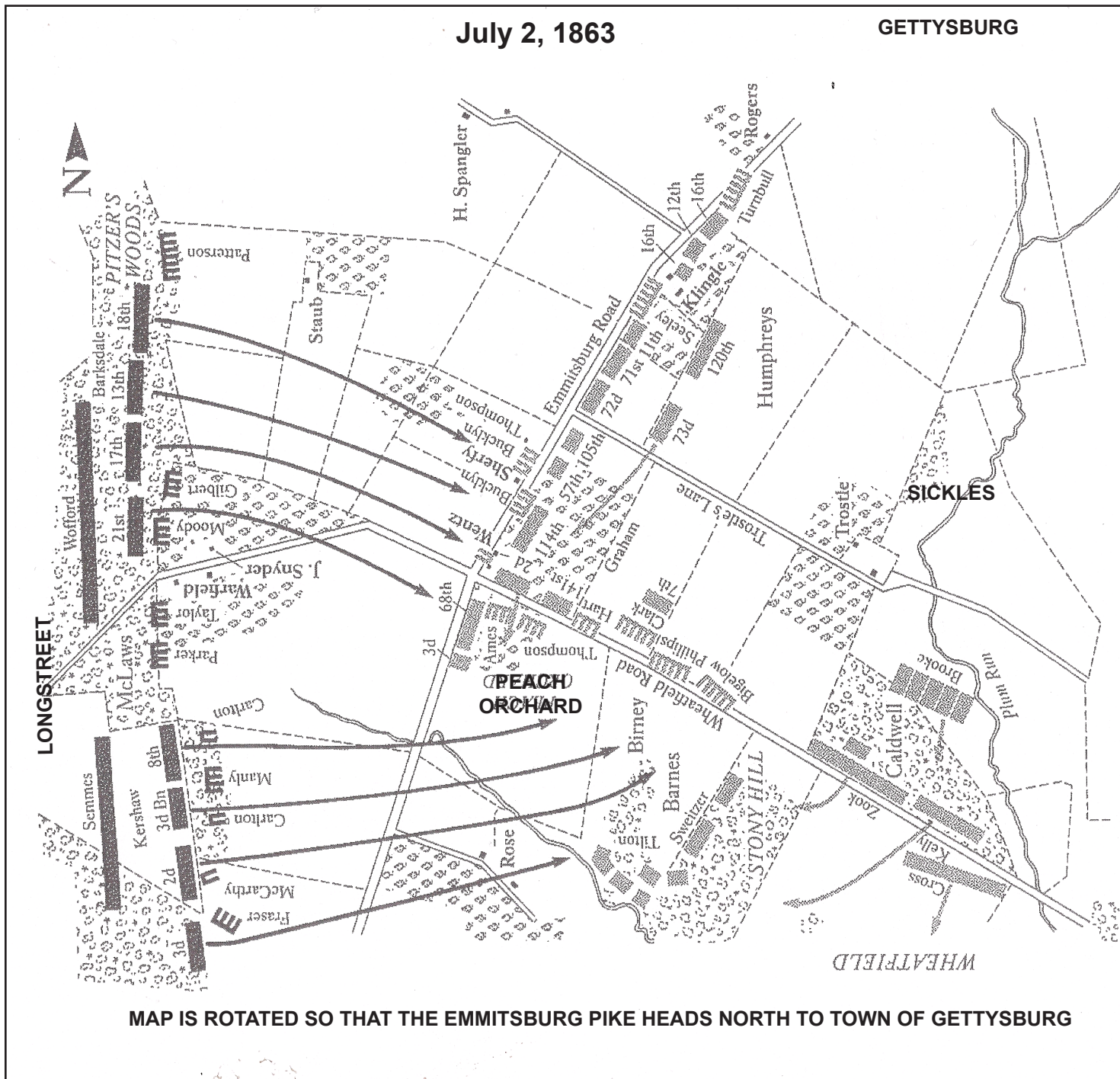
Alexander and Cabell fired at federal batteries posted along the Wheatfield road, including the 2nd New Hampshire. One enemy battery tried to advance from Seminary Ridge to a distance of about 500 yards from the Peach Orchard.

Ames turned his right section to face west in order to return this fire and Company B "gave the rebel battery a wicked reception."<sup>50</sup>

During this time, "a shell struck and burst on the cartridge box of Corporal Thomas Bignall, of Company C. The cartridges were driven into his body and fired, and for nearly half a minute the devilish 'musket shells' issued at Washington were exploding in his quivering form. But death was mercifully quick." A fragment of shell also burst the cartridge box of Sergeant James M. House, Company I, and the "rapidity with which he tore off the infernal machine hanging by his side was astonishing ..." It was probably during this time that Lieutenant Colonel Carr received an ugly contusion of the groin. He was standing with his sword in hand when the sword was hit with a canister round, which broke the blade into three pieces and forced the guard against his groin. Somewhat philosophically, Carr reportedly stated: "Well, better be a sword out than a leg, anyhow."<sup>51</sup>

July 2, 1863

GETTYSBURG



MAP IS ROTATED SO THAT THE EMMITSBURG PIKE HEADS NORTH TO TOWN OF GETTYSBURG

Figure 15. Map "The Peach Orchard"

Reprinted from page 314 of Ch. 13 "McLaws Strikes the Peace Orchard" in Harry W. Pfanz's respected work, *Gettysburg The Second Day*, 1987.

No one in the regiment recorded Colonel Bailey's actions during this period. However, officers were expected to set the example for their men. Bailey was, probably, walking along his battle line trying to steady his men and shouting words of encouragement while trying to keep track of units in his immediate vicinity and keeping an eye on any possible enemy movements.

Corporal John A. Barker, Company C, was leaning against a peach tree when a shell exploded about a dozen feet to his left. A fragment struck him on the top of his head and knocked him insensible. Four of his comrades tried to carry him to the rear. One of them, Charles Moore, was killed. The rest dropped Barker when ordered back into line by Colonel Bailey. Barker was eventually taken to the 3rd Corps hospital but was not seen by a surgeon until the next afternoon.<sup>52</sup>

At about 5:30 P.M., Kershaw and Semmes's brigades advanced from the cover of the woods along Warfield Ridge to threaten the Peach Orchard from the south. At the same time, the 3rd Maine Infantry, on the skirmish line, withdrew to the right of the 2nd New Hampshire, and the 68th Pennsylvania formed on the 2nd's left.

Two sections of Captain James Thompson's Batteries C & F, Pennsylvania Artillery, moved to the left of Ames. At the same time Ames began to fire at Kershaw.<sup>53</sup>

Colonel Bailey, taking in the view from a post near the Emmitsburg road, "noted the rapid advance of a column of massed battalions." He determined this to be a genuine column of attack, which was apparently heading for Ames' battery. He ran to General Graham, who was "some distance" to the rear of the 2nd, to give him warning of this new attack. Bailey also suggested that the 2nd New Hampshire should advance to meet this new threat. Graham responded: "Yes, for God's sake, go forward."<sup>54</sup>

Bailey had no time to rally Company B. At the order, "Forward guide center!" the nine companies along the Wheatfield road advanced through the Peach Orchard, passing through Ames' battery and part of Thompson's battery. Haynes remembered that the 2nd charged "with a roar of defiance" and "went tearing down the slope." Bailey reported that he advanced "at a run and with such impetuosity as to cause the enemy to retire to a ravine 250 yards in our front." Bailey wrote that the regiment went beyond the orchard "coming out where the fence that runs perpendicular to the Emmitsburg road joined the one parallel to it making the orchard enclosure."

The right wing was partially across the Emmitsburg road. Haynes wrote that there was some difficulty in halting the regiment because "its blood was up, and many of the men seemed to think that now was the time to go into Richmond."<sup>55</sup>

Once in position, Bailey fired left oblique at the 3rd South Carolina battalion and the 8th South Carolina, of Kershaw's brigade, both near the Rose Farm. He also fired, at a range of 350 yards, at a column moving by the right flank, which may have been the 2nd South Carolina.

Bailey then shifted to the left and rear of some fence rails (probably along present-day Birney Avenue). He was joined on his left by the 3rd Maine, "which came tearing down the slope." The 141st Pennsylvania and the 3rd Michigan joined the left of the 3rd Maine, presenting a formidable battle line to Kershaw. Bailey was joined on his right and rear by the 68th Pennsylvania, which took position along the Emmitsburg road, facing west.

Despite the numbers assembled, Bailey was concerned about their ability to hold their present position and ordered Lieutenant Albert M. Perkins, regimental adjutant, to take a detail to help remove Ames' guns "as I did not believe we could hold the position unaided ..."

Ames, who had fired almost all of his ammunition, and believing he was about to be replaced with another battery, was preparing to withdraw.<sup>56</sup>

Bailey described his position:

My right rested on the road where the angle occurs. I had been some minutes here, firing upon the two rebel regiments which were moving along the little run whose course travels nearly parallel to the fence towards Round Top, when the 3rd Maine Regt. formed on my left, and took up the fire, and about the same time, came the 68th Pa. Regt. forming parallel to the Emmitsburg road perpendicular to my front.<sup>57</sup>

Bailey recalled that "it was fully twenty or twenty-five minutes before the enemy made the next assault." At about 6:30 P.M. Brigadier General William Barksdale's Mississippi brigade began its advance from Seminary Ridge against the Peach Orchard. The Confederate batteries reopened to support this fresh assault and "showered upon us a perfect hail of metal ..." Haynes thought that every rebel gun "was let lose [sic], until the peach orchard seemed to be almost moving in the windage of hurtling metal."<sup>58</sup>

Barksdale's right regiment, the 21st Mississippi, began to bear down on the 68th Pennsylvania. Bailey shifted his regiment, or least part of it, to the Emmitsburg road to fire right oblique at the advancing Mississippians. The 68th Pennsylvania waited until the Mississippians "reached a certain point, when a destructive fire was opened, the enemy halting and dropping behind a fence." The 17th Mississippi joined the 21st on its left, and the advance resumed toward the Peach Orchard. The Confederate artillery was beginning to have a "most fatal effect" upon the 68th Pennsylvania as it was more exposed than Bailey. <sup>59</sup>

Meanwhile, Company B, still at the Wentz house, was subjected to fire from Confederate batteries along Seminary Ridge. Private Wyman W. Holden remembered one Confederate battery advancing to a "broad, open field" opposite the Wentz house. Holden "adjusted the sights to eighty rods and paid my compliments to the cannoneers grouped about the muzzle of the left gun." Captain Joseph A. Hubbard, commanding Company B, was shot in the forehead, regained his feet but wandered aimlessly. Hubbard lived for about two more hours. He displayed a Masonic emblem on his uniform so the body could be recovered, identified, and buried by fellow Confederate Masons.<sup>60</sup>

The advance of the 21st Mississippi threatened the right of the 68th Pennsylvania, and it was forced "to fall back to the position in the rear of the batteries." At about the same time, the 3rd Maine fell back 200 yards to the rear, and the 3rd Michigan also withdrew. The 141st Pennsylvania held on for a few minutes but withdrew "from that position and took a position in rear of the 68<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania."

Bailey doggedly held on, "keeping up a constant fire upon the enemy's right battalion, which had the effect to make it move slowly, so that the battalion to its left continued pivoting upon it, until their front became more nearly parallel to the Emmitsburg road, thus getting behind my right flank ..." <sup>61</sup>

Outflanked and with his supports gone, Bailey had no choice but to retire. He "made two changes of front to rear on my left company, a difficult maneuver to execute under fire." The first change of front brought the regiment about halfway through the Peach Orchard where "it halted and maintained a sharp fire until again overtopped." Bailey reported that he halted "on the brow to give a volley to the enemy, than [sic] distant but 20 yards."<sup>62</sup>

Bailey again changed front to the rear and reformed under the east slope of the ridge nearly parallel to the Emmitsburg road and about 140 yards from his original position along the Wheatfield road. This would have placed the regiment in present-day Excelsior Field. Bailey's command formed the apex of an *echelon* [diagonal] formation. The 3rd Maine was about twenty paces behind his left flank. The 68th Pennsylvania, to Bailey's right and rear, was ordered, "at once to engage the enemy coming down on our right flank, which was promptly done ..." Bailey remembered this regiment "charging on my right flank to get up to the crest of the hill, but it did not succeed." Barksdale's brigade continue to advance to the brow of the hill, "when their left swept toward the 63rd [68th] [P. 112] Pennsylvania in such overwhelming numbers as to cause it to give way ..." thus exposing the 2nd right flank.<sup>63</sup>

Bailey, in this position, gave the captains an order to rectify the alignment. Barksdale's men, "not following very closely, and being a little dissatisfied with the direction of the line, I established a general line and ordered, 'On the center, dress!'" Captain Henry N. Metcalf, Company F, "who, dressing his company coolly as if upon parade," asked Bailey, "with a twinkle in his eye, 'How does that line suit you, Colonel?'" Bailey responded "Excellent! Excellent! for it was well deserved." Metcalf returned to his company, spoke to Corporal William H. Piper, "A good line that, Henry," and was hit in the head and killed.<sup>64</sup>

The 2nd New Hampshire again opened fire on the 21st Mississippi, which was still advancing from the west. Bailey may have also seen the approach of Brigadier General W. T. Wofford's brigade, which was moving toward the Peach Orchard behind the 21st Mississippi. Sensing he could not hold its position he ordered a retreat. The regiment retired "quite rapidly, yet coolly, and without excitement."

Bailey was "confident my regiment was the last to leave this position." Haynes later wrote that these "evolutions of the regiment could only have been performed by troops of superlative discipline and nerve."<sup>65</sup>

The regiment about-faced, and staying in line of battle, Bailey directed the retreat toward Cemetery Ridge. By staying in line the regiment was able to face about and discharge "their pieces into the ranks of the yelling enemy." Despite the excitement of the moment, Bailey did not forget his wounded, and ordered all that could be carried to be taken off. As the regiment neared Lieutenant Colonel Freeman McGilvery's artillery line, forming on the lower end of Cemetery Ridge, it broke into a column of fours to pass the artillery and provide an unobstructed field of fire for the guns.

As the regiment passed the artillery it received "round upon round of cheers from the battery-men ..."

Bailey took position to the left of the artillery line at about 7:30 P.M. He later rejoined Burling's brigade, in bivouac near Little Round Top, "fearfully diminished in numbers, yet firm and fearless still."<sup>66</sup>

Bailey reported that his regiment "entered the fight with a firm determination to do or die, and the long list of fallen comrades ... will show how well it kept that resolution." Of the 24 officers and 330 enlisted men in the fight, Bailey reported 22 officers killed or wounded. His total losses amounted to 20 killed, 137 wounded, and 36 missing and/or captured.

*INSERT: John H. Burrill wrote these two unabridged letters home; one to his parents and one to "Ella" Forristall. Both letters were posted at Gettysburg, PA on July 6, 1863 (see Burrill 1861-1865, pp. 100-102):*

Dear Parents –

Have had a great battle and whipped them. I am well. In our Company three men killed, John Stone, John Tooten, and W. H. Spring. Quite a lot wounded. Among them, Badgar Fiske. The other boys from Fitzwilliam are well as far as I know. The Regt. has lost 187 out of 338 men. Our 1st Lieut. has lost an arm.

This paper is so wet I will not write more. Expect a letter soon, for as soon as we can settle old Lee. We whipped him severely here. My love to you all,

John H. Burrill

[To Miss Forristall]

Gettysburg, Pa. July 6, '63

Dear Ell-

This is the third letter I have written since receiving any from you but such is the peculiarity of them. My last was from Emmetsbury before our fight here. I just wrote a line home this morning. It then rained and we were expecting to move and did, but came back soon from where we started. We have packed up once more since but did not go.

You will want me to tell you of the battle. It was awful. Language will not convey the idea of it.

We were not under fire until 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon. We then got under a fierce artillery fire but with no damage. We then moved to another position near a peach orchard. Then under heavy fire that made the earth tremble and the air shook and was so full of smoke you could not see.

We were supporting a battery. We were soon ordered to move forward which we did. We drove them, but what is that? They have turned and are on our right flank. We have to fall back. They pour an awful fire into us. Men dropped fast. They could not stand it. We were forced to yield our ground. Other troops soon came, the 6<sup>th</sup> Corps, our Regt. Went into the fight with 338 men. All we can now muster is not far from 175. Our company had 3 killed and 15 wounded –some of the latter are slight. A loss of 17 officers out of 30. The loss of our Corps is 4600, or about one-half.

I went over the battlefield before the men were buried and they lay awful thick, I can assure you. I have been over other fields but never one like this. In one place I counted 16 in a spot no larger than your kitchen. It was a hard sight. They have turned black and swollen to twice their natural size. Yesterday was the day I went over it.

I saw one man who did not look like the rest. He was not black nor swollen but alive. I went up to him and saw that the top of his head was blown off. I gave him a little water –got some help – put him on a blanket and carried him to an old barn where he could get attention. He was but as hard a looking man as I ever saw and I have seen many. Have seen men torn in pieces in almost every shape and mind nothing about it, but not so with the one.

The Fitzwilliam [N.H.] boys are all well but J. B. Fiske and he is wounded and I don't know where he is. Will write some more next time. Write soon and oblige.

Yours truly  
Johnny

-continued- "We Drop A Comrade's Tear"

Both Colonel Bailey and Lieutenant Colonel Carr had been slightly wounded. Major Sayles "received a terrible gunshot wound in the thigh, and was left on the field." Other comrades near Sayles said "there was never a more complete and comprehensive gospel of damnation laid down than that he recited to the rebel who, while he lay crippled and helpless, pulled the boot from his wounded leg." Lieutenant Albert M. Perkins, adjutant, lost an arm.<sup>67</sup>

One of the most poignant losses was that of Private Charles F. Howard, of Company I. Howard had been mortally wounded on July 2 and was taken to McLaws' division hospital, where he died on July 18. Chaplain William Burton Owen, of the 17th Mississippi, ministered to Howard and wrote a letter to his mother, Amanda Howard, telling of her son's last days. Howard's sister Ellen had started for Gettysburg to help her brother. She reportedly met a stranger on the train who asked "if, should she find her brother dead, she had money enough to bring the body home. She had not, and he opened his purse and handed her forty dollars."<sup>68</sup>

At the end of his official report Colonel Bailey paid tribute to his fallen comrades. He wrote:

For our fallen braves, who have so gloriously perished fighting for their country, we drop a comrade's tear, while we extend our heartfelt sympathy to those dear ones far away who find the ties of kindred and friends thus rudely severed, and for those who must suffer untold agony and pain through long weeks of convalescence our earnest sympathy, yet leaving them to the watchful care of Him who will not prove unmindful of their necessities.<sup>69</sup>

Martin Haynes later wrote that the "evolutions of the regiment could only have been performed by troops of superlative discipline and nerve." He also wrote that even though Colonel Bailey was among the youngest officers (he was 22\* years old at the time of the battle), "he was one of the bravest and most skillful. His handling of the regiment in its awful test at Gettysburg, was a model of technical skill and a triumph of personal valor."

[July 3, 1863] The regiment, back with its brigade, was under arms early on July 3. Burling's brigade remained near Little Round Top until noon. It was then moved, at the double-quick, to the right and went into position to the left of the 2nd Corps, but saw no action. That night it went into bivouac in a heavy growth of timber at the base of Little Round Top until the afternoon of July 6.<sup>70</sup> In bivouac on the night of July 2, plans were made for the rescue of the wounded left on the field. At daylight it was learned that orders from the division commander had been issued "prohibiting the sending out of regimental parties after the wounded." On the night of July 3, "bidding defiance to orders," Lieutenant Colonel Carr went out with a party of volunteers to the Trostle farm. There they found a number of the 2nd's wounded, including Major Sayles, whom they brought in from the field.<sup>71</sup>

On the morning of July 5, Colonel Bailey, accompanied by his orderly, Private George C. Coburn, Company G, who had been wounded on July 2, rode out to the Peach Orchard and found an additional twenty-one wounded at the Wentz house. Bailey dispatched Coburn for the ambulances. Bailey believed that "I was among the first to enter the peach orchard after the battle ... and we found the regimental line plainly marked by our dead: here, Captain Metcalf, to the left, Captain Roberts, and from right to left each company's station, as gallant and glorious an offering of discipline and devotion as ever was laid upon the altar of our country."<sup>72</sup>

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\* Col. Edward Bailey's birth date, Dec. 10, 1841.

*INSERT: John H. Burrill's last, unabridged letter about Gettysburg was to his parent on July 13, 1863 (see Burrill 1861-1865, pp. 103-104):*

Camp of the 2<sup>nd</sup> N. H. near Funktown

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1863

Dear Parents –

I have written you one letter since the battle, but did not write much excepting I was alive and uninjured.

By this time you have seen better accounts of the battle than I could write. I only want to say that I have been in hard fighting but never in anything like that and the only reason I can give for it is that every time two armies meet, one is bound not to give up to the other.

We were in the fight for two days –the second and third – the second being the day our Company suffered the most. We lost 18 men out of the 32 we took into the fight. Three killed, J. P. Stone, W. H. Spring, and John Totten. Badger Fiske is wounded and a prisoner, but not wounded serious.

Out of curiosity after the Rebs left, I went over the field before the men were buried, and such a sight I never wish to see again. The men had turned black, their eyes swollen out of their heads and they were twice their natural size. The stench of the field was awful. Dead men were thick you may well believe. I had rather go into a fight than see the effects of it afterwards for a man in the heat of battle thinks nor cares for nothing but to make the enemy run.<sup>73</sup>

We made the Johnnies run once and ought to have seen the boys work, take off their caps and swing them in the air. But pretty quick they got on our right flank and we had to fall back or be taken prisoners. At that time men dropped by hundreds. We were broken up and could not rally. Some of the officers tried to stop the men but couldn't. The 6<sup>th</sup> Corps came to our relief.

I forget the day we left there. We have marched day and night some of the time to get here by way of Frederick. We are somewhere near Williamsport and the Rebs are there. We expected to fight at this place yesterday, or today certainly. It has not yet commenced and it is nearly noon and raining hard.

Our Army is in position now. Has been nearly all day getting there. I feel confident that when the battle does come off, it will ruin Lee's army for we gave him a blow at Gettysburg and we have more men now than we had then. In this Corps we have 20,000. After the other battle we had nearly 5,000. Our loss was half the Corps.

You must excuse this poor letter. The paper I took out of a Rebel knapsack with some envelopes. I have the knapsack and am going to keep it. The paper is wet and dirty but it is all I have.

My health is very good. I have kept up and have not been sick since we commenced the march. I have had only one letter from you since we left Washington. If you do not hear from me it is because I don't get time or opportunity. You write to me once a week whether you hear from me or not. When I get killed, some of the boys will write to you and you can stop writing. Love to you all, I remain

Your aff. son,  
John H. Burrill





Figure 16.

Union and Confederate dead on the Battlefield at Gettysburg

July 1863

## Battle Casualties

United States: 23,000    Confederate States: 28,000

“Out of curiosity after the Rebs left, I went over the field before the men were buried, and such a sight I never wish to see again. The men had turned black, their eyes swollen out of their heads and they were twice their natural size. The stench of the field was awful. Dead men were thick you may well believe. I had rather go into a fight than see the effects of it afterwards for a man in the heat of battle thinks nor cares for nothing but to make the enemy run.”

--John H. Burrill letter home, posted July 13, 1863  
from Camp Funktown, Maryland

-continued- "We Drop A Comrade's Tear"

On the morning of July 5, Burling's brigade was briefly placed on picket duty. The 2nd was apparently part of this picket, which explains Bailey's presence at the Peach Orchard.

On July 6, the brigade started to march, but, "after a very short march, returned to our starting point."

Between 2 and 3 A.M. July 7, the brigade marched through Emmitsburg and in the early afternoon continued the march to Mechanicstown, which was reached at sunset. By July 12, the brigade had moved to within one mile of Williamsport, Maryland, in anticipation of attacking the Confederates, but the attack did not take place.<sup>74</sup> [Stop]

## Comprehensive Battle Casualties At Gettysburg:

United States: 23,000    Confederate States: 28,000

### Battle Casualties Sustained by 2nd New Hampshire Regiment:

According John H. Burrill, who wrote three pertinent letters home about his 2nd N.H. Regiment, Company A, at Gettysburg, explained how "We were in the fight two days --the 2nd and 3rd - the second being the day our Company suffered the most." (p. 103).

- About fighting at Gettysburg, according to Burrill we read: "The Regt. has lost 187 out of 338 men" (p. 100).  $187/338 = 55.3\%$  [and] ". . . our Regt. went into the fight with 338 men. All we can now muster is not far from 175" (p. 101) about  $175/338 =$  about 51.8%

Burrill's numbers (above) are very close to the same numbers as listed by other subsequent sources (see Isenberg 2014 below). Reporting from the field on July 6 and July 13, Burrill's numbers differ by 4.8%.

- Burrill wrote on July 6 that: "Our company had 3 killed and 15 wounded --some of the latter are slight. A loss of 17 officers out of 30" (p. 101); while he wrote on July 13, "We lost 18 of 32 that we took into the fight" (p. 103) (The latter translates 56.2% of his company were lost).

- Burrill also said, "The loss of our Corps is 4600, or about one-half"(p. 101). "Corps" here would be referring to the Third Army Corps commanded by Major Generals Sickles and Birney. Burrill's report from the field again was close. At Gettysburg, the Third Corps had 578 killed, 3,026 wounded, and 606 missing; total, 4,210 out of less than 10,000 who were actually engaged (Fox 1993).

With respect, Britt Isenberg (2014) wrote:

Regardless of the conclusions we might draw from the actions around the Peach Orchard, for Colonel Edward Bailey and the 2nd New Hampshire, their valiant defense came at a monumental cost. The regiment came to the field with 354 officers and men [or 16 more than Burrill's number]. Of that number they lost 22 men killed outright, 137 wounded (22 mortally) and 36 captured or missing. Their total losses were 193 men, or fifty-five percent of their engaged force. Bailey's skillful employment and tactical intelligence prevented the regimental losses from being even greater. Much credit is due to his line officers and the men over whom he commanded. Only a well disciplined bunch could have performed the maneuvers they did. Their bravery and endeavor helped to keep Meade's Cemetery Ridge position intact, in concert with other actions, ultimately the reason for Union victory at Gettysburg.

## Company "Padres's Battles (List of Fifteen Engagements)

Daughter Gertrude (Burrill) Sholley wrote (p. 139) that "Once while visiting in Hawley with my small children, I asked my father to give me a list of the engagements he had been in during his four years enlistment. I found the list recently and here it is:

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Engagement</u>	<u>Locale &amp; Context</u>
1861, July 16-21	First Bull Run	Manassas Junction, VA. Led by McDowell
1862, April 5 - May 5	Siege of Yorktown	Pennisula Campaign led by McClellan
1862 May 5	Williamsburg	York Co., VA McClelland vs. Longstreet
1862, May 6 - June 6	Fair Oaks (2 or 3)	Near Richmond, along Chickahominy River
1862 June 29	Savage Station	Henrico Co., VA. McClellan's retreat
1862 June 30	Charles City Cross Roads	Henrico Co., VA. Huger's advance stopped
1862 July 1	Malvern Hill (2 fights)	Henrico Co., VA. Union victory from hill
1862 Oct. 14	Bristow Station	Prince William Co., VA. Warren vs. Hill
1862, Aug. 29-30	Second Bull Run	Manassas Junction, VA. Pope vs. Lee
1862, Sept. 1	Chantilly	Fairfax Co., VA. Ox Hill Kearny vs. Jackson
1863, July 2-4	Gettysburg	Gettysburg, PA. Sickles vs. Longstreet
1861, July 23	Wapping Heights	Wapping Heights, VA. Lee's Army's retreat
1864, June 9 -March 25	Petersburg	Petersburg, VA. Grant vs. Lee
1864 May 6	Bermuda Hundred	Outside Richmond, Butler vs. Beauregard
1864, May 31 - June 12	Cold Harbor	Near Mechanicsville, VA. Grant vs. Lee

### Notes

John Henry Burrill's handle among his men became "Jack the Soldier." He wrote most of his letters to his mother, and a lesser number to girl friend, Llewellyn Forristall, who after the war he married.

John H. Burrill was reported to have taken part in thirty Civil War battles, and somehow survived them all. That Burrill "fought in 44 battles, including Gettysburg, PA, as part of the 2nd New Hampshire" is reported by Jennifer's Genealogy [Online]: Available: [http://jennifersgenealogy.org/?page\\_id=8](http://jennifersgenealogy.org/?page_id=8)

Burrill was hospitalized, apparently with measles or mumps, which is why he was not present at the brutal Union loss at Fredericksburg, VA, December 11-15, 1862, involving Gen. Burnside vs. Gen. Lee.



Figure 17. Author's photo at Gettysburg looks northeasterl, of monument honoring the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment. Photo was taken while standing near the corner of Birney Avenue (foreground) and the Emmitsburg Pike (behind and out of view). Birney Avenue was named in honor of General David Birney, who was commander of the the Second Division of the Third Corps led by Major General Daniel E. Sickles.



Figures 18, 19 and 20.

The 2nd New Hampshire Regiment's monument at Gettysburg on the west side of the Emmitsburg Pike. The monument marks the center of their west-to-east salient that was valiantly held and lost two times against Confederate forces on July 2, 1863.

## Mustered Out

John H. Burrill mustered out June 24, 1865.

He re-enlisted Feb. 1865. Mustered out Dec. 18, 1865 at City Point, Virginia. Discharged and paid off at Concord, New York on Dec. 25, 1865.

## The "Finish" of My Record

John H. Burrill: "As I have said before, I am glad I am able to write this yet, in a sense my four years of Army life has proved to me an injury. I learned there are some things that have been a hindrance all my life. But may you, my children, as you read this and remember me, do as I have tried to do – give my best to the demand of my county. May God preserve it and may our native land be blessed" (p. 138).

## My Life After the War

After the war on February 22, 1866, I married Miss Llewellyn Forristall, and, in 1869, we moved to Iowa. We came to Minnesota in 1871, and I took up a homestead about one mile north of Hawley, Minnesota.

Carpentry work was my continued handiwork, not unlike what my father Jacob Burrill had done with me in New Hampshire. In 1874, after eight years of marriage, my partner, Llewellyn, died, in Hawley, leaving myself and the children.

In 1878, I married widowed Jane Colburn. Her children through her first marriage were Paul Colburn and Margaret Colburn, who have taken my name, Burrill.

I was a member of the Union Church of Hawley; served as justice of the peace for several years; and deputy oil inspector for Clay County under Governor Johnson. I was a member of the Masonic Lodge, a member, and commander of the L. H. Tenney Post No. 103, G.A.R.

\* \* \* \* \*

From "John Burrill Fought in 30 Civil War Battles" (no date nor writer's name), we read:

He was a man of deep convictions which sometimes made him appear formidable and aloof, but always there was sympathy for the needy and the suffering.

John Henry Burrill, Hawley pioneer, died June 12, 1906, in Moorhead, Minnesota, of a heart attack, where he was serving as a petit juror for that term of court at the county seat. He is buried in Hawley Cemetery. His wife, Jane Colburn Burrill, out-lived him until January 7, 1931. She is also buried in the Hawley Cemetery.

THIS IS  
THE LATEST  
PORTRAIT  
OF UNGLE  
JOHN HENRY  
BURRILL



PUBLISHED  
IN  
FARM YOUNG  
FOLKS  
FEBRUARY, '06  
—  
Aberdeen, S. D.

Figure 21.

Courtesy of Barbara Lynn Raen.

## Appendix A.

### History of John H. Burrill's War Correspondence Documents

In February 1937, Daughter Gertrude (Burrill) Sholley wrote about her father John H. Burrill that:

“ He wrote more fully to the girl he afterwards married, my mother Llewelly Forristall, but she destroyed almost all of them. There are two included herein. Of course, not nearly all his letters written home were preserved, but his mother did well to keep as many as she did” (p. 3)

Daughter Gertrude Burrill added, “I had the original of the letter he wrote my mother after the battle of Gettysburg, but gave it to Sidney? a few years ago” (p. 3).

John H. Burrill's war correspondence was brought to Hawley, Minnesota by his mother, Mrs. Rachel Burrill, in the fall of 1880.(p. 3).

“He [Paul Colburn Burrill] has the originals and Margaret owns the bound copy, which daughter Gertrude Burrill copied them separately from the bound volume for her children (p. 3).

Paul C. Burrill helped copy the letters from the originals and then had them bound, apparently accomplished on May 10, 1908 (p. 4).

## Appendix B

### Captains Names of 2<sup>nd</sup> N.H. Regiment

John Burrill's first Company A captain when mustered into the U. S. Service by Col. Eastman on May 28th, 1861 was (1) Captain Barker (p. 2).

(2) Captain Gilman Marston led Burrill beginning in July 1861 at First Battle of Bull Run where Capt. Marston's arm was shattered. Marston returned as Captain in time for the Peninsula Campaign to Nov. 29, 1862. Then on November 29, 1862, Capt. Marston was relieved from duty with the Army of the Potomac and assigned to the defenses of Washington.

(3) Col. Edward L. Bailey led John Burrill at Gettysburg for July 2 and 3, 1863. Bailey served the 2nd New Hampshire from 1862 to 1865.

## NOTES

### “We Drop a Comrade’s Tear”

By Karlton D. Smith

39 Haynes, 165; OR, 27(1):530, 570.

40 Haynes, 165; OR, 27(1):530-531, 570. Humphrey’s division was located on the west side of Emmitsburg along Maryland Route 140.

41 Haynes, 167; OR, 27(1):570.

42 Haynes, 167-168; OR, 27(1):532, 570. 43

Haynes, 168; OR, 27(1):532, 570; Harry W. Pfanz, *Gettysburg: The Second Day* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1987), 138.

44 Waite, 152; Haynes, 169; History, 138; OR, 27(1):570.

45 Haynes, 169; OR, 27(1):570.

46 Waite, 152; Haynes, 169-170; OR, 27(1):570.

47 OR, 27(1):573; Haynes, 170; History, 138; Waite, 152.

48 Haynes, 170; History, 138-139. For a more detailed explanation of Bailey’s movement see: Silas Casey, *Infantry Tactics* (1862; reprint, Dayton, OH: Morningside, 1985), 2:36, 37.

49 History, 139; Pfanz, 305.

50???

51 Haynes, 172, 183-184.

52 Haynes, 172-173.

53 Pfanz, 311, 313 (see also p. 516, footnote 31); OR, 27(1):498, 574. Bailey stated that the 63rd Pennsylvania was on his left, but it was probably the 68th Pennsylvania; Haynes, 175.

54 OR, 27(1):574; Haynes, 175-176.

55 OR, 27(1):523, 574; David L. Ladd and Audrey J. Ladd, eds. *The Bachelder Papers: Gettysburg in Their Own Words* (Dayton, OH: Morningside, 1994), 2:846; Haynes, 176-177; Pfanz, 317-318. The right flank marker for the 2nd New Hampshire is located on the west side of the Emmitsburg road.

56 OR, 27(1):499, 504-505, 507, 524, 574; Haynes, 177-178; Haynes, “Roster,” 87; Ladd, 846; Pfanz, 318.

57 Ladd, 846.

58 OR, 27(1):574; Ladd, 846; Haynes, 178-179; Pfanz, 318.

59 Pfanz, 326; OR, 27(1): 499, 574; Ladd, 846. Bailey never stated he moved to the Emmitsburg road, but the only way he could have fired right oblique at the 21st Mississippi was if he had done so.

60 Pfanz, 326; Haynes, 182, 186.



61 OR, 27(1):499, 505, 508, 574; Ladd, 846-847; Haynes, 179; Pfanz, 328-329.

62 OR, 27(1):574; Ladd, 847; Haynes, 179. Bailey's movement meant he was changing front perpendicularly to his rear. See Casey, 191-195.

63 OR, 27(1):499, 574; Ladd, 847; Haynes, 179.

64 Haynes, 180.

65 OR, 27(1):574; Ladd, 847; Haynes, 179, 181.

66 OR, 27(1):574; Ladd, 847; Haynes, 181-182; History, 141.

67 OR, 27(1):574; Ladd, 847; Haynes, 183-183; John W. Busey and David G. Martin, *Regimental Strengths and Losses at Gettysburg* (Hightstown, NJ: Longstreet House, 1986), 247; Burrill, letter dated July 13, 1863. Lieutenant Perkins died from the effects of his wound on September 6, 1865. See Haynes, 184.

68 Gregory A. Coco, *Killed in Action (Gettysburg)*: Thomas Publications, 1992), 77; National Archives, Pension File of Charles Howard. The site of Wofford's Brigade hospital was on the John Cunningham farm, located west of Marsh Creek and south of the Fairfield road. See Gregory A. Coco. *A Vast Sea of Misery*. (Gettysburg, PA: Thomas Publications, 1988), 151.

69 OR, 27(1):574-575.

70 OR, 27(1):571; Haynes, 188.

71 Haynes, 184. In his History, 144-145, Haynes states that the party went out on the 5th.

72 Haynes, 180, 184-185.

73 Burrill, letter dated July 13, 1863.

74 Haynes, 190-191; OR, 27(1):571-572.

#### Supplemental Notes By Richard Burrill

Burrill's July 13th letter, posted at Camp Funktown --This is where the Battle of Funktown occurred July 10th, near the Potomac River, involving 479 casualties. To protect Lee's Army of Virginia's retreat from Gettysburg, General J.E.B. Stuart engaged the Union forces in pursuit led by Gen. John Buford.

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