SOUTH WINDSOR AND HER VETERANS: Remarkable Stories of Surviving ...
Special to The Courant
The Hartford Courant (1887-1922); May 30, 1914; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Hartford Courant
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SOUTH WINDSOR AND HER VETERANS

Remarkable Stories of Surviving Soldiers of Civil War.

ONE WAS WHALER IN ARTIC OCEAN

Was Policeman in Hong Kong —Stories of Their Lives.

(Special to The Courant.)

South Windsor, May 29.

During the Civil War many from this town enlisted, some in the army and some in the navy. A few veterans who at the time of enlistment lived in other places have since become citizens of this town. It has been a custom here for years to celebrate Memorial Day. The children march from the schoolhouse to the cemetery, where the services are conducted. This year there will be a more extensive program than usual, arranged by Mr. Walker, president of the veterans' association. The veterans will assemble at Wolcott Chapel at 7:45 and have a business meeting, after which they will decorate the graves here and at 10:30 will decorate those in Wapping, where an address will be given by Rev. G. H. Wright, pastor of the Methodist Church. Dinner will be served by the Ladies' Aid Society. In the afternoon the veterans will go to East Hartford, where they will take part in the services.

Some of the veterans still living are named below:—

Erastus W. Burnham.

Erastus W. Burnham of Depot street was born in this town April 28, 1834. At the age of 27, December 28, 1861, he enlisted in the Twelfth Regiment, Connecticut Infantry, under Captain George N. Lewis, for three years, at the end of which time he received an honorable discharge. Mr. Burnham was under General Butler at the siege of New Orleans, but took no part in active fighting during his first enlistment. He enlisted a second time in Company A, Second Regiment, Connecticut Heavy Artillery, on the 5th of January, 1864, for a term of three years. Mr. Burnham saw much active fighting and he has many remembrances of the long campaign there. He was in the battle of Drewry's Bluff on the James River below Richmond. Mr. Burnham was in the Petersburg campaign, which lasted for many months, and he has the most vivid recollections of the battle of the Crater, in which he tended an eight-inch mortar, firing the third shot fired in the battle, which was a very fierce one. Mr. Burnham has a very interesting history of all the men in the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery. He has had a very active life, having traveled extensively, mostly as a sailor. He went as a sailor into the Arctic Ocean on a whaleboat and for nineteen months never touched old Mother Earth's soil. He served six months on the Hong Kong police force in China, at which time there was only one other Yankee policeman on the force. Mr. Burnham has one of the best farms in town.

Edwin Munsell.

Edwin Munsell was born in South Windsor July 31, 1836, and enlisted in the Twelfth Connecticut Infantry, Company A, in 1861, under Captain Lewis, for a term of three years, after which he received an honorable discharge. He was stationed at Ship Island near New Orleans. He enlisted a second time on the 2d of July in 1863 in Company A, First Connecticut Heavy Artillery, under Captain Gillette, and was in the siege of Petersburg for eleven months. He was struck with a musket ball in the shoulder and while not seriously injured he was laid up for a short time. Since the war Mr. Munsell has followed farming, but is now pretty well stiffened up with rheumatism. He and his wife live in Ellington street.

John Miner.

John Miner of Ellington street, on account of sickness, did not serve a long term, but saw some very active service. He was born in South Windsor June 24, 1839, and enlisted in Company A, Twelfth Connecticut Infantry, under General Lewis, at the age of 22. He was in the campaign at Ship Island, New Orleans, but he was seized with the fever and on January 14, 1863, he was discharged because of disability. After the war he took care of his farm in Ellington street and also ran a blacksmith shop.

Charles F. Deming.

Charles F. Deming during his active service was in the very thickest of the fighting. He was born in South Windsor May 2, 1836, and at the age of 26, August 7, 1862, enlisted in the Sixteenth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, for three years, and was in the battle of Antietam, went to Cincinnati, O., and was in the battle of Washington, when Captain Barnum and General Early joined forces. He fought with the Veteran Reserve Corps. Mr. Deming after the war did considerable work in farming. He now lives in Ellington street.

Leonidus Chandler.

Leonidus Chandler was born in East Hartford October 14, 1838, and enlisted at Council Bluffs, Ia., in Company B, Fourth Iowa Infantry, under Captain Craig. Mr. Chandler later became first sergeant of Company B. He was in skirmishes at St. Louis, Jefferson Birch, Raleigh, Mo., and at Springfield, where there was a hard battle, and at the battle of Pea Ridge, August 7, 8, and 9, in 1862, when General Curtiss fought against the combined forces of Generals Price and Van Doane. In this battle Mr. Chandler very vividly recollects Colonel (afterward major general) G. M. Dodge having three horses shot from under him in one day. After this battle they marched to Rend, Ark., to Fort Heinman on the Mississippi River, and from there marched on with General Sherman up the Arkansas River. He was in the siege of Vicksburg and was present when they took 10,000 prisoners at the Arkansas Post. They drove General Johnson out of Jackson, Miss., and were in a battle at Blacksburg, after which they came back and laid siege to Vicksburg. He was present at the final surrender of General Pemberton to General U. S. Grant. Mr. Chandler was wounded at Chickasaw Bayou, but not badly, and was discharged because of disability in September, 1863. He lives at Station 40 in Main street and owns a good-sized farm. He has recently recovered from a light attack of pneumonia and expects to turn out with the other veterans Memorial Day.

R. H. Banning.

R. H. Banning was born in East Hartland, March 9, 1841 and enlisted in the Tenth Connecticut Volunteers as a musician, October 28, 1861. He was at the battle of Roanoke the 14th of February, 1862, at the battle of Newburn the 8th of March under General Burnside. On the 30th day of August, 1862, all bands were discharged by order of the government. Mr. Banning now lives at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Frank Bidwell in Main street.

William T. Walker.

William T. Walker was born in Ireland March 22, 1842, and came to this place on January 6, 1850, and enlisted August 8, 1862 in Company H, Fourth Delaware Infantry, under Captain Thomas Reynolds. He was in the following engagements: Baltimore Cross Roads, Bethseda Church, White Oak Road, Petersburg mine explosion, Weldon railroad, Davis House, People's Farm, Bonaty Creek, Vaughn Road, Armstrong's Mill, Quaker Road, Five Forks and Appomatox where Lee surrendered. Mr. Walker although he has had some pretty hard struggles is now well situated and has a farm of which he has just cause to be proud. Mr. Walker said that he did not think that there was another man his age who could do as much work as he can in good stiff labor.

D. W. Griffin.

D. W. Griffin was born in Granby August 24, 1836. He enlisted July 28, 1862, for three years in the Sixteenth Connecticut Infantry under Captain Babcock who was killed at the battle of Antietam. After the battle of South Mountain and Antietam which was fought on a cornfield under General Burnside he was detached to the ambulance corps which was stationed in northern Virginia almost through the whole of the campaign. Mr. Griffin had three brothers in the war. He says that many of the Northern men lost money sending it home. He himself lost $400 and one of his brothers lost a larger sum. He married Mary June Fox of East Granby. They had six children one of whom died. The remaining children are Lewis H. Griffin of Rockville, Robert H. Griffin of Southwick, Mass.; Mrs. Lottie Kelerhouse, Frank Griffin and George Griffin all of this town. Mr. Griffin lives at Station 50½ on Main street.

Dwight Farnham.

Dwight Farnham was born in East Hartford January 22, 1844. He enlisted August 22, 1862, in Company G, Twenty-fifth Regiment, Connecticut Infantry, under Captain Talcott. He went to New Orleans, then to Baton Rouge, and was with General Banks in the Port Hudson campaign. He marched 600 miles in the Red River section and around to Port Hudson. He was at Irish Bend on the 14th of April and at Port Hudson in May and came home August 26, 1863. He was married in 1869 to Martha J. Ellsworth of East Windsor by whom he had three sons, of whom Wallace B. Farnham survives and is a resident of this town. In 1894 he again married, this time Miss Sarah Tudor of this town, who died in the fall of 1913. Mr. Farnham has been engaged in the tobacco industry many years and has been very prosperous. He is a member of the D. C. Rodman Post, Evergreen Lodge, and of Washington Command.

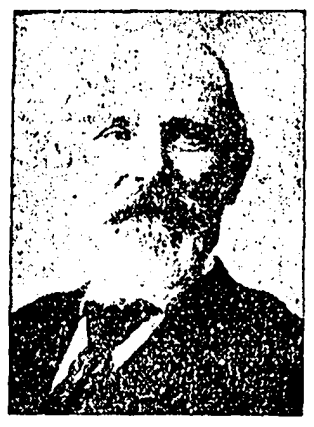
Edgar A. Farnham.

Edgar A. Farnham, brother of Dwight Farnham, was born in East Hartford June 10, 1848. He enlisted in March, 1865, and served fifty-four days as first surgeon's steward on the U. S. S. Estella under General Pomeroy, which was attached to the West Gulf squadron at New Orleans. On December 31, 1868, he was married to Mary L. Osborn of East Windsor. He has two sons and two daughters, Charles C. Farnham of Waterbury, Mrs. Adelaide Rising of South Glastonbury, Mrs. Mary L. Prentiss of New Haven and Harry F. Farnham of East Windsor Hill. Mr. Farnham is an extensive tobacco grower and now has a large plantation with his son at East Windsor Hill.

E. Payson Trumbell.

Particularly interesting is the life of E. Payson Trumbell, who was born in St. Charles, Ill., February 16, 1846, and enlisted in April, 1862, in Company K, Sixty-fifth Illinois Infantry under Captain Fuller. General Miles whom he served under, was driven by General Jackson from Winchester to Martinsburg. At Apple Pie Mountain they drove Morgan out of the mountains, but they were again chased by General Jackson and captured at Harper's Ferry, September, 1862, and were taken to the famous Libby prison, where they did not get half enough to eat and were all huddled in the prison together. Yet they were treated in a gentlemanly manner by the Confederate soldiers at the prison and the fact that they did not get provisions was owing to the disability of the government to supply prison officials. They were held here some time, until the last part of the year 1862, and were then paroled out until exchanges were made. In February 1863, by order of sergeant's certificate of disability, he was discharged. He came to South Windsor in November 1869, and in 1875 he married Harriet S. Sperry of this town. He worked at steam fitting, heating and ventilating. In the Spanish-American War he fitted out boats at League Island near Philadelphia. He now lives in East Windsor Hill and has a garden patch in which he takes great pride.

Surviving Veterans of Civil War Living in the Town of South Windsor



Erastus W. Burnham.



Edwin Munsell.



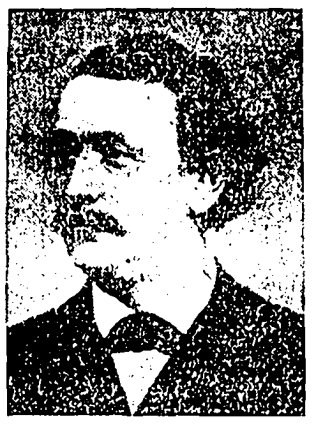
John Miner.



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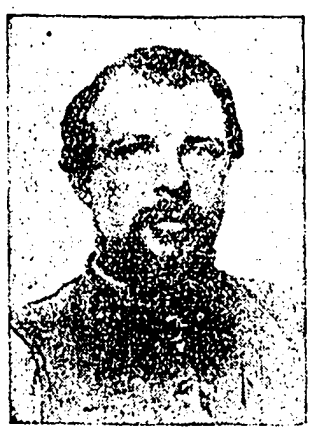
Leonidas Chandler.



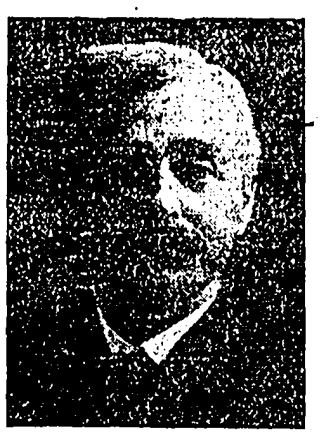
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Edgar A. Farnham.



DWIGHT FARNHAM.

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