

THREE YEARS' ENLISTMENT.

We, the undersigned, do hereby solemnly agree to serve as members of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, in the army of the United States, as volunteers, for the term of three years, unless sooner discharged, from the date of our being mustered into said service, in accordance with the terms of the proclamation of the President of the United States, dated May 23, 1861.

Dated at *Weymouth* *May 27* 1861.

1. Capt. James L. Bates	James D. Sher
2. Lieut. Charles W. Hastings	Alex. Jones
3. Lieut. James P. Pratt	Abner Bates
4. Lieut. Joseph Peckes	Amos J. Garry
5. Lieut. Martin Burdett	Abner Clark
6. P. B. Weston	Richard B. Smith
7. Henry H. Pinney	David B. Burdett
8. Daniel J. Rogers	Joseph A. Burdett
9. James H. Richardson	Samuel Helen Washington
10. Henry M. George	Edward J. White
11. Henry J. Richardson	Robert H. White
12. Wm. H. Lewis	Benjamin Peck
13. George H. Richardson	Abner J. Peck
14. Isaac C. Miller	Chas. H. Peck
15. Benjamin P. Johnson	Chas. H. Peck
16. Francis Thomas	Chas. H. Peck
17. Henry M. George	Chas. H. Peck
18. John C. Cushing	Chas. H. Peck
19. Henry Jones	Chas. H. Peck
20. Leonard J. Holt	Chas. H. Peck
21. John M. Hamilton	Chas. H. Peck
22. Isaac Thomas	Chas. H. Peck
23. Chas. H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
24. Edmund Lewis	Chas. H. Peck
25. Leonard J. Holt	Chas. H. Peck
26. George Jones	Chas. H. Peck
27. William H. Merchant	Chas. H. Peck
28. James W. White	Chas. H. Peck
29. George Jones	Chas. H. Peck
30. Francis A. Leard	Chas. H. Peck
31. William Long	Chas. H. Peck
32. Joshua L. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
33. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
34. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
35. Benjamin W. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
36. John J. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
37. Frederick A. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
38. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
39. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
40. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
41. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
42. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
43. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
44. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
45. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
46. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
47. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
48. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
49. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck
50. George H. Peck	Chas. H. Peck

MUSTER LIST .. FIRST 100 VOLUNTEERS FROM THE TOWN OF WEYMOUTH. THREE YEAR ENLISTMENTS.

In the years preceding the Civil War Weymouth was like many other similarly sized New England towns. However, with Boston a breeding spot for the great abolitionists of the day, certainly their influence was felt in Weymouth. The chief proponent of abolition in New England and one of the most famous in the country was the Editor-Publisher-Lecturer William Lloyd Garrison of the "Liberator." Although the very name of Garrison would send a Southerner's blood boiling and a \$5000 dead-or-alive reward was offered by South Carolina for the esteemed New Englander, such was not the feelings of Weymouthites towards the great abolitionist. Garrison made several speeches in Weymouth as well as did such other able speakers of the same movement as Wendell Phillips, Parker Pillsbury, Edwin Thompson, and Theodore Parker. A favorite spot for their speeches was the Universalist Church in Weymouth Landing. Many of these same names were linked to the infamous John Brown at the time of his attack on Harper's Ferry.

Another interesting sidelight of the pre-war days in Weymouth was the development of an organization known as the "Wide Awakes." This was a Republican organization uniformed in white caps and white capes. They were great torch carriers! Several units drilled as military companies with the threat of Southern secession. The young men of the town, and specially those from college, were prominent members of this society.

The group existed for a comparatively short time, however. After working for the Republican Presidential candidate of 1860, an unknown from Illinois whose ancestors had migrated westward from Hingham many years earlier - Abraham Lincoln - the group disbanded.

On January 5, 1861, another Hingham neighbor - John A. Andrew - was inaugurated Governor of the State of Massachusetts. He immediately put out an order to the militia of Massachusetts requiring each company commander in the militia regiments of the state to revise his muster lists.

Weymouth had no muster roll to revise. The town was without a militia company. The last one had been disbanded for many years before the outbreak of the war. The only soldiers in the town belonged to companies maintained in neighboring towns. The majority of the townspeople considered the prospects of foreign wars slight. Even those who considered the prospects of a Civil War were considered to be alarmists.

Thus, when the call came from Governor Andrew, a special committee of the town recommended to the selectmen that "they be instructed

WEYMOUTH IN THE CIVIL WAR (Continued)

to pay the sum of \$125 to each inhabitant of Weymouth who has enlisted or who shall enlist within ten days as a volunteer soldier in the service of the United States for the term of three years, unless sooner discharged."

The town meeting, however, upped the sum to \$150 per enlistment and appropriated \$16,000.

On the 22nd of April a Public Meeting was held at Loud's Hall in East Weymouth for the purpose of raising troops. James L. Bates was appointed Captain and Charles Hastings and Francis Pratt were mustered in as Lieutenants.

The sum of \$852.78 was paid by the town for the expenses of this Weymouth Union Guard, Company "H" 12th Regiment while drilling in the town for blankets, fatigue dress, and other necessary articles. Examples of these were the \$222.69 paid to Henry Loud for fatigue jackets and the \$31.00 paid to C. W. Hayden for meat.

The Weymouth Company went to Fort Warren in Boston on May 4th escorted by the Weymouth Band. The company became Company "H" of the 12th Regiment. It left Boston in July for Washington, D.C.

The Weymouth Company "H" of the 12th Massachusetts might possibly be credited with aiding with the creation of "John Brown's Body" as a marching song. Although the refrain "John Brown's Body lies a mouldering in the grave, but his soul goes marching on" had been well-known, they took it up and invented other verses, referring not to the John Brown of Ossawatimie, but to a soldier in the regiment named John Brown. The leader of the regimental band arranged this song as a march, and it became the great marching song of the Northern armies. When the 12th Mass. sang it as they marched down Broadway, New York, on their way to the front, Bishop Mallalieu, who heard it, asked Mrs. Julia Ward Howe to write more "exalted" words to the tune.

Company "H" served in the Army of the Potomac with an excellent record during the war. Engagements included Gettysburg, Fredericksburg and Culpepper.

In August, 1862, Company "A" of the 42nd Regiment was formed in Weymouth and was mustered into the service in September, 1863. It provided creditable service to the country.

Although generous with military expenditures, the town was in a conservative mood during these war years. Part of the Selectmen's Report of March, 1862, bears out this:

JOHN SLATTERY, 18, COMPANY "H", 12th REGIMENT INFANTRY,
MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS. THE FIRST SOUTH WEYMOUTH
BOY KILLED DURING THE CIVIL WAR



WEYMOUTH IN THE CIVIL WAR (Continued)

"Owing to the very large expenditure of the town during the past year in aid of the war, we have felt that it was incumbent upon us to re-trench, as far as possible, in those expenses which were in any degree within our control; and we have, therefore, to report that no street or way has been laid out in the town since the last annual meeting. The new street which was laid out from Oak Street to Pleasant Street has been completed at a cost of \$154.11."

Town support for schools in the first year of the war (1861-1862) was \$8500; the Alewife Fund contributed \$252.00; the State School Support gave \$292.11 for a total expenditure of \$9044.11.

In 1861 Mr. Elbridge Torrey had been principal of an experimental high school in South Weymouth which was held in the Universalist Church. Torrey later became a well-known successful Boston merchant.

In 1862 the High School in Weymouth was transferred to the Town Hall with an enrollment which ranged from a high of 69 to a low of 33. This Town Hall-School arrangement continued during the war years of 1863-1864 under Mr. Torrey. The average attendance during these years remained about forty pupils, probably not increasing because of the enlistments of the boys.

Mr. Torrey received about \$800.00 for his teaching-principal service at the High School. Teaching salaries ranged from this high down to \$160 per year for lower grade teachers. The custom was to pay teachers of the same grade level similar salaries.

In August, 1862, Company "H" of the 35th Regiment was formed. This company took part in the Battle of Antietam in September, 1862, in which four men from the town were killed: David Cushing, William Pike, Charles Robbins, and William Smith. It was following this famous battle that President Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation.

In 1863 the town voted to appropriate \$125 for each volunteer.

The Draft Act of 1863 was not "popular" in Weymouth. Twenty-two of those drafted from the town passed the physical. The town contributed to each of these the sum of \$78 for procuring substitutes. Many above the age of 45 sent substitutes to the war as a patriotic duty. Over \$12,000 was raised by private contribution to defray the cost of procuring subs.

Certain factions within the town objected to the methods of screening and enlisting. As a result, a resolution was passed "that this town

WEYMOUTH IN THE CIVIL WAR (Continued)

believed and is fully satisfied that the enrollment for this town is very nearly or quite twenty per cent larger than is the enrollment of the average towns in the district, and that a number of persons have been enrolled in this town who ought not to be enrolled and who are utterly incompetent to perform military service, and the town respectfully requests that the proper authorities revise the enrollment of the town and have the enrollment made up in a manner that shall be equitable."

The differences were resolved, procedures altered, and harmony reigned.

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Weymouth during the war consisted of Mr. James Humphrey (a familiar name to the school children of East Weymouth), and Mr. Zacharia Bicknell who served the entire war. The other member was Mr. Allen Vining who was succeeded in 1863 by Mr. Noah Vining.

A great patriotic spirit was prevalent in the town during the war. Public gatherings were frequently held; flags flown; Red, white and blue neckties worn by men; red, white, and blue horse rosettes attached to their bridles. There were even several red, white, and blue chimneys in the town. One such colored chimney remained for several years following the end of the war as a reminder of the long conflict.

The reports of the dead and wounded of relatives and friends reached every family in the town. Many of the soldiers sent home as much as \$12.00 per month out of the \$14.00 they received as pay. The State of Massachusetts paid an additional \$8 - \$12 a month dependency allowance.

The last company from Weymouth to enlist was Company "H" of the 4th Regiment of Heavy Artillery which enlisted in 1864 for a term of one year.

The town of Weymouth sent out a total of 936 men to war, including enlistments. 120 of these men did not return. Benjamin Foss was the first man from the town to die. He was killed at the First Battle of Manassas, Virginia, (Bull Run) in July, 1861. The last man was Josiah Pratt who was killed at Manning, South Carolina, in February, 1865.

What names which have lived in the history of our country share the blood of Weymouth men in the great War Between the States? Gettysburg, Frederickburg, Antietam, Andersonville Prison, Culpepper, Rappahannock, Thoroughfare Gap, Fortress Monroe, Wilderness, Petersburg, and Spotsylvania, to name a few.



JERRY QUINN OF LOVELL'S CORNER, COMPANY "H" OF 4th MASS. CAVALRY. HE PULLED DOWN THE CONFEDERATE FLAG AND RAISED THE UNITED STATES FLAG OVER RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, APRIL 3, 1865

WEYMOUTH IN THE CIVIL WAR (Continued)

One of the really outstanding personal stories of Weymouth in the Civil War is the story of Jerry Quinn Company "H" of the 4th Massachusetts Cavalry - the man who pulled down the Rebel flag and raised the U.S. flag over the Capital at Richmond, Virginia on April 3, 1865.

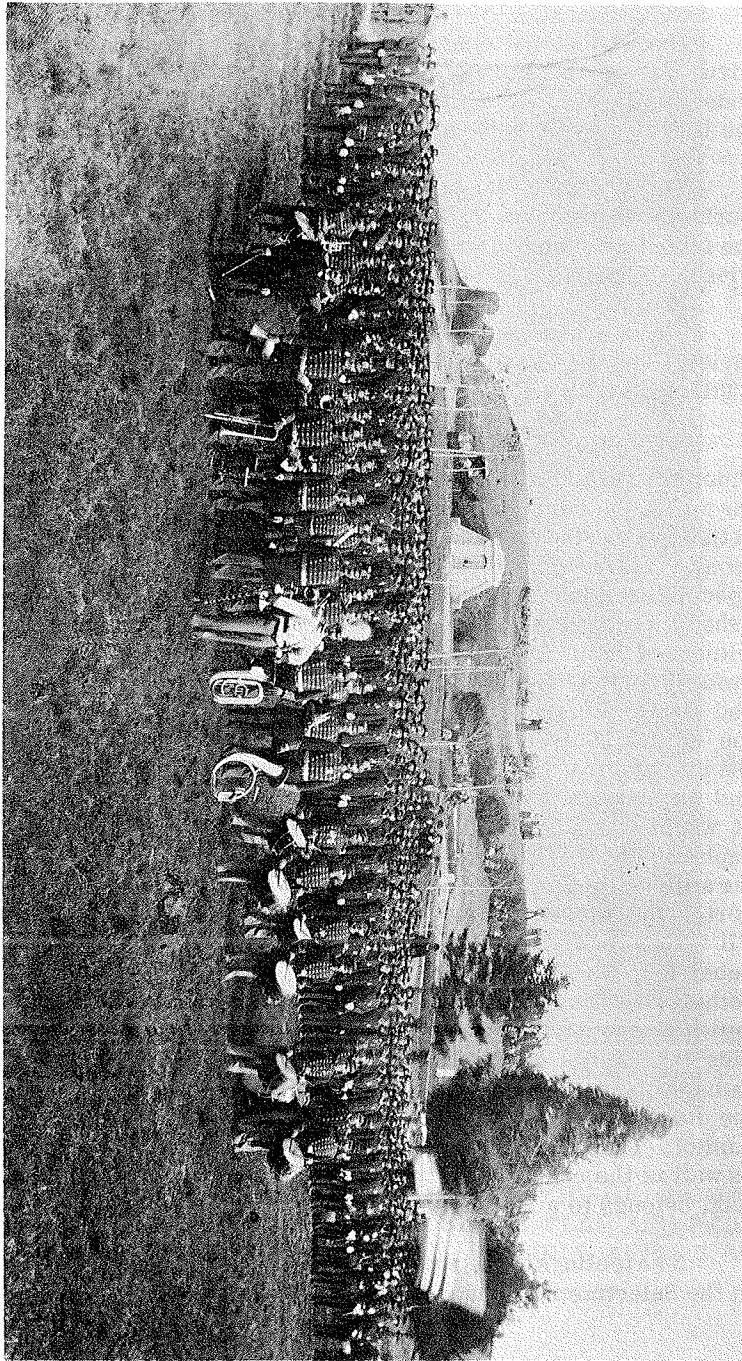
Jerry Quinn of Lovell's Corner had been taken prisoner of the Confederates on New Year's Day, 1863. He had spend imprisonment in the famed prisoner-of-war camps of Andersonville (Georgia) and Libby Prison in Virginia.

No one had captured the scene of Monday, April 3, 1865, more vividly than Bradford Hawes in the "Military History of Weymouth" (THE HISTORY OF WEYMOUTH VOL. 1.)

"Monday, April 3, 1865, was an eventful day for the army of the Union. During the night detonations of exploding gunboats could be heard for miles, the noise and shock of lurid lights adding to the wretchedness of those within the city and the anxieties of those who beheld its burnings from afar, among these the advancing army which was not without uneasy speculations lest Richmond be found as Napoleon found Moscow - in ashes. General Shepley of the United States Army describes the scene witnessed from his position near Petersburg as a most beautiful and awful display of fireworks, the heavens being filled with bursting shells, red lights, Roman candles, and falling stars. The morning light found the Fourth Massachusetts Cavalry under Major Stevens, at the gates of the city and in Company "H" of that regiment were many Weymouth boys, and as soon as it was daylight three scouts were sent into the city, one of whom was Jerry Quinn of Lovell's Corner. Two of the scouts were captured by the rebel soldiers, but Quinn entered the city and went as far as the Franklin Hotel, but feared to go farther. He returned and reported the way clear as far as the hotel, and two companies "E" and "H" rode into the fallen city. As they reached the capitol building the rebel flag was flying above it, and Captain Ray of Company "H", together with Tommy Myers the color sargent, and Jerry Quinn started to pull it down. Myers took with him the regimental quidons, and just outside the capitol he slipped and fell on the slimy pavements. Instantly Quinn seized the flag and rushing to the top of the building pulled down the Rebel flag and raised the United States flag over the Confederate capitol. Thus, the honor of being the first Union soldier in Richmond, as well as the credit of pulling down the rebel flag and raising the Union flag, belongs to a Weymouth soldier."

The feelings of the town at the close of the war are well expressed in the Selectmen's Annual Report of March 1865-1866.

POST #58 GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC AT MT. HOPE
CEMETERY



WEYMOUTH IN THE CIVIL WAR (Continued)

We are happy in being able to congratulate the town on the fact that the favorable expectation respecting the future expenditures of life and treasury for the maintenance of the integrity of the Union have been fully justified by the fortunate result. During the year just closed, armed rebellion has been completely crushed and the vanquished rebels subjected to the rightful authority of the government with comparatively but slight additions to the vast sacrifice of wealth and blood which had already been so freely poured in defense of the National Unity.

No history of Weymouth in the Civil War period would be complete without a mention of the Grand Army of the Republic. The primary purpose of this body was relief and social. It aimed to collect and preserve historic documents, to aid disabled veterans, and their widows.

The earliest post in Weymouth was organized in North Weymouth in 1868. However, five years later it surrendered its charter and joined with Reynolds Post 58 which had been formed in 1864. The Reynolds Post at one time numbered over 300 members.

James L. Bates was selected as its first Commander. This was the same Bates who had been selected Captain of Weymouth's first 100 volunteers and had gained great fame during the war.

The social history of the G.A.R. was a wonderful period of time in the town. The Grand Army of the Republic Annual Fairs were held at the old Town House located at the Corner of Middle Street and Washington Street. Many famous performers came here. Races were held; rifle contests. Memorial Day was always observed by the Post until 1912. Usually a dress parade was held on the green in front of Old South Union Church in South Weymouth.

The Town of Weymouth can be proud of its long history from the settlement of the Wessagusset Settlement to the present day. The Town's participation and service during the War Between the States is a memorable part of this great history.

WEYMOUTH



civil war centennial commemoration

WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS
MARCH 30-31, 1963