# JOHN H. PATTERSON HERO OF THE CIVIL AND SPANISH-AMERICAN WARS



Josef W. Rokus September 26, 2009

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## NOTES

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#### INTRODUCTION

The citation reads, "Under the heavy fire of the advancing enemy, picked up and carried several hundred yards to a place of safety a wounded officer of his regiment who was helpless and would otherwise have been burned in the forest." It accompanies the Medal of Honor awarded to Lieutenant John Henry Patterson for saving the life of a fellow officer, Lt. Wright Staples, who was also a personal friend, at the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864.

Patterson, born in New York in 1843, joined the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment as a first lieutenant when it was organized in May 1861. Except for assignments for recruiting duty and when he was hospitalized because of illnesses, he saw action in all of the battles and skirmishes his regiment participated in during the Civil War. During the fighting at Saunders Field at the Wilderness, Virginia, Lt. Staples was seriously wounded and in danger of being burned alive on the battlefield by flash fires caused by powder sparks that were fed by dry underbrush. Unfortunately, Staples died from his wounds soon after his rescue. He was initially buried near the Wilderness Battlefield but was later re-interred in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery.

Lieutenant Patterson decided to make the U.S. Army his career after the war. He was promoted to captain in July 1866 and was subsequently stationed at numerous posts, primarily on the Western frontier. For four years, in the 1870s, he commanded Fort Seward in what is now North Dakota. He was promoted several times in the 1890s and held the rank of lieutenant colonel when his regiment was dispatched to Cuba during the Spanish-American War. On July 1, 1898, he was severely wounded at El Caney during the Battle of Santiago. Although he recovered, he was forced to retire in February 1899 due to his wounds – shortly after he had been promoted to brigadier general.

On the personal side, Patterson married Mary Elizabeth Forbes, the daughter of an U.S. Commissioner to the Indians. They had four children, three of whom reached adulthood. However, Mary died when their oldest child was only nine years old, and the three children, none of whom married, were brought up primarily by their step-grandmother. Patterson married a second time a few months after he retired. His second wife, Grace Learned, was the daughter of a New York Supreme Court judge.

John H. Patterson died in Selkirk, New York, in October 1920, and his wife, Grace, passed away in October 1924. They are both buried in the Albany Rural Cemetery, just outside of Albany, New York.

The Medal of Honor Patterson earned at the Battle of the Wilderness was not awarded until July 1897. It remained in the Patterson family until 1962, when his last surviving daughter, Helen M. Patterson, donated it, along with some of his military papers, to the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. It is now displayed at the Chancellorsville Visitor Center.

The following is intended to be a summary of John H. Patterson's long military career and service to his country, including his bravery at the Battle of the Wilderness, as well as a biographical sketch of his life. It is, in other words, "the story of the man behind the medal."

#### JOHN H. PATTERSON'S ANCESTORS AND EARLY LIFE

What little is known about John H. Patterson's ancestors and his early life is based on two sources, namely the U.S. federal censuses<sup>1</sup> and a Patterson family genealogy published by Charles Platt, Jr., in 1970.<sup>2</sup> Patterson took a keen interest in his family background because in the 1890s he wrote to many members of the family soliciting information about the Patterson family tree going back to John Patterson, John H. Patterson's grandfather. In 1894 he published the results of his research as a pamphlet titled "Memoranda of the Descendants of Christopher Stuart of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and Elizabeth Bull, His Wife, to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1894." Several years later, in 1916, he published an updated version of this pamphlet that was titled "Patterson-Stuart 1800 to 1916." Charles Platt used these two pamphlets by "General John," as he identifies him in his book to differentiate him from the other John Pattersons in the family, as one of his principal sources.

John H. Patterson's grandfather and namesake was born in 1763, and he died in 1850. His sixth son was Edward Patterson, John H.'s father. Edward was born in 1813 and was brought up in Philadelphia. He attended Rutgers University in New Jersey and became a lawyer. Immediately following his graduation from college in the summer of 1832, he married Mertena (Martina) Garita Talmage, who was born in New Jersey about 1814.

John H. Patterson was born on February 10, 1843, in New York – almost certainly in Brooklyn. In 1850, the Edward Patterson family was living in the Penn District of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. (The Penn District was incorporated into the City of Philadelphia in 1854.) The family included the following children: Martha, 15 (born about 1835 in New Jersey); Talmadge, 13 (born about 1837 in New Jersey); Edward, 11 (born about 1839 in New York); John, 7 (born about 1843 in New York); Valentine, 5 (born about 1845 in New York); and Martinne (Martena), 2 (born about 1848 in New York). Based on the dates and places of birth, the family moved from New Jersey to New York in about 1838 and then from New York to Philadelphia in about 1849. By the time of the 1850 census, John was attending school. According to his obituary, he "received his education in the schools of New York and Brooklyn."

Ten years later, when the 1860 U.S. census was taken, the family was living in Brooklyn, New York. The family members were Martena, Tallmadge, Edward, John, Valentine, and Martena. Edward, following in his father's footsteps, was a lawyer then, even though he was only 21 years old, and John, 16 at the time, was listed as a "clerk." John's father, Edward Patterson, had died at the young age of 43 in 1856, when John was only about 13 years old.

#### JOHN H. PATTERSON'S SERVICE IN THE CIVIL WAR PRIOR TO THE BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS

John H. Patterson was appointed from New York State as a first lieutenant in the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment (Regular Army) on May 14, 1861, at the age of 18.<sup>3</sup> The regiment had been authorized by President Lincoln on May 4 as one of nine new Regular Army regiments created to expand the army following the bombardment of Fort Sumter. It was organized at Fort Independence in Boston Harbor. Patterson reported for duty at the fort on June 25, 1861. (One source indicates that he joined the regiment on July 11, 1861.) He was commissioned as a first lieutenant even though he could not have had any military experience when he joined, considering his age. It is possible that the family's prominence and its social connections contributed to him receiving his commission.

In the history of the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment written by Patterson himself many years later, and which is referenced below, he noted,

Edmund Schriver of New York, formerly an officer of the 3d Artillery, accepted the lieutenant-colonelcy of the regiment and had charge of its organization, the colonel, Brig-Gen. E. D. Keyes, U. S. Volunteers, appointed to the regiment from major, 1st Artillery, being on detached service with his Volunteer command. The other field officers were Major Frederick Steele, appointed from captain of infantry; Major Delancy Floyd-Jones, appointed from captain, 4th Infantry; and Major Jonathan W. Gordon, of Indiana, an appointment from civil life.

Colonel Schriver, among the first of the regiment to arrive in Boston, found Fort Independence occupied by a regiment of Massachusetts volunteers, the 13th, I think. After a vexatious delay, the 13th got off for the front, when the officers of the Eleventh, who were quite as anxious as the colonel to get into quarters, were ordered to report for duty at our official station. Colonel Schriver selected for his regimental staff First Lieut. Guido N. Lieber to be adjutant, and First Lieut. Robert Burnett Smith to be quartermaster. Colonel Lieber is well known to the Army as our present assistant judge advocate general. "Bob" Smith resigned in 1865.

I think that several of the younger officers were reluctant to leave the attractions and delights of Boston for the not very cheerful prospect of what so isolated a locality as Fort Independence promised in exchange. Others were prepared for the most Spartan experiences. There was one condition common to all. I do not remember that, other than Colonel Schriver and Major Floyd-Jones, there was an officer in the command who knew anything of practical value of the service. Several had campaigned a little in the three months service. I do not remember that they claimed to be any more of the old soldier than the rest of us, their experiences, as I heard them related, having been quite as full of amusement as of instruction.

The following is a summary of where the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry was stationed and fought prior to the Battle of the Wilderness.<sup>4</sup> (See Appendix No. 1 for a detailed list of Patterson's

assignments and promotions based on information in his Medal of Honor file in the National Archives.)

1861

October 10: First Battalion ordered to Perryville, Md. Duty there until March 7, 1862, guarding mules and wagons collected at Perryville to make up a wagon train for the Army of the Potomac.

#### 1862

March: Ordered to Washington, D.C., and then moved to the Virginia Peninsula.

April 5 – May 4: Siege of Yorktown.

June 25 – July 1: Seven days before Richmond, including the following:

June 26: Mechanicsville.

June 27: Gaines' Mill.

June 30: Turkey Bridge.

July 1: Malvern Hill. At Harrison's Landing until August 16.

Lt. Patterson was on recruiting duty from August 1862 until March 3, 1863. He was also confined to a hospital with an illness for a while in August and September 1862. Therefore, he was not with his regiment for the following actions:

August 16 - 28: Movement to Fortress Monroe and then to Centreville, Va.

August 28 – September 2: Pope's Campaign in Northern Virginia, including the following:

August 29: Groveton.

August 30: Second Bull Run (Second Manassas).

September 6 – 22: Maryland Campaign, including the following:

September 16 – 17: Antietam.

September 19 – 20: Shepherdstown Ford. At Sharpsburg, Md., until October 29.

October 29 – November 19: Movement to Falmouth, Va.

December 12 – 15: Fredericksburg.

1863

January 20 - 24: "Mud March."

April 27 – May 6: Chancellorsville Campaign, including May 1 – 5 at Chancellorsville.

June 11 – July 24: Gettysburg Campaign, including the following:

July 1 – 3: Gettysburg. The regiment fought one of its most desperate battles in an area between the "Wheatfield" and "Devil's Den" on July 2, 1863. That day it lost 50% of its effective strength in a heroic stand to hold back Lt. Gen. Longstreet's Confederates.

July 5 – 24: Pursuit of Lee's army.

August 21 – September 14: On special duty in New York City following the draft riots in July.

October 9 – 22: Rejoined the army for the Bristoe Campaign.

November 7 - 8: Advance to the line of the Rappahannock River.

November 26 – December 2: Mine Run Campaign.

1864

May 4 – June 12: Rapidan Campaign, including the Battle of the Wilderness May 5 – 7.

#### JOHN H. PATTERSON AT THE BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS AND HIS MEDAL OF HONOR



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#### Summary of the Battle of the Wilderness

The opening battle of Ulysses S. Grant's and George Mead's Army of the Potomac sustained offensive against General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, known as the Overland Campaign, was fought in the Wilderness area of central Virginia on May 5 - 7, 1864. On the morning of May 5, the Union's  $5^{\text{th}}$  Corps attacked Richard S. Ewell's Corps on the Orange Turnpike, while during the afternoon A. P. Hill's Corps encountered George W. Getty's Division ( $6^{\text{th}}$  Corps) and Winfield S. Hancock's  $2^{\text{nd}}$  Corps on the Plank Road. Fighting was fierce but inconclusive as both sides attempted to maneuver in the dense woods. Darkness halted the fighting, and both sides rushed forward reinforcements.

At dawn on May 6, Hancock attacked along the Plank Road, driving Hill's Corps back in confusion. James Longstreet's Corps arrived just in time to prevent the collapse of the Confederate right flank. At noon, a devastating Confederate flank attack sputtered out when

Longstreet was wounded by his own men. The 9<sup>th</sup> Corps under Ambrose E. Burnside moved against the Confederate center, but it was repulsed.

The battle was a tactical draw. Grant, however, did not retreat as had the other Union generals before him. On May 7, the Federals advanced toward the crossroads of Spotsylvania Court House.

The Union forces totaled 102,000 men at the start of the battle of which 18,400 became casualties. The Confederates numbered 61,000 men, and they incurred 11,400 casualties.

#### Lieutenant Patterson at the Battle of the Wilderness

Lieutenant John H. Patterson was assigned to the  $11^{th}$  U.S. Infantry Regiment, which at the time was commanded by Captain Francis Cooley. The regiment was part of the  $1^{st}$  Brigade (Brig. Gen. Romeyn B. Ayres), which reported to the  $1^{st}$  Division (Brig. Gen. Charles Griffin) which, in turn, was one of the divisions in the  $5^{th}$  Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren.

On the morning of May 5, Union pickets observed a force of Confederates moving up the Orange Turnpike (Ewell's Corps), and they hastily constructed earthworks along the western edge of Saunders Field, a clearing intersected by the Turnpike. Grant and Meade directed Warren to attack immediately, but Warren hesitated because the Confederate formation overlapped his right flank and would enfilade him if he advanced. He beseeched Meade to postpone the attack until Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick with his 6<sup>th</sup> Corps could arrive on the battlefield. By 1:00 PM, however, Meade had become so exasperated with Warren's delay that he ordered him to proceed without Sedgwick.

Griffin's men, including Ayres' Brigade and the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment, strode across Saunders Field into intense Confederate firepower. Ayres' Brigade, on the far right of the line on the north side of the Orange Turnpike, was blistered by Southerners shooting from behind earthworks not only to their front but also on their right. Many of Ayres' men were forced to fall back across the field, seeking refuge in a gully. Lieut. Col. William H. Powell, 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment, later wrote, "The tremendous roll of firing excluded all other sounds. Here and there a man toppled over and disappeared, or springing to his feet, pressed his hands to the wounded part and ran to the rear. Men's faces were sweaty black from biting cartridges, and a sort of grim ferocity seemed to be creeping into the actions and appearance of everyone within the limited range of vision. The tops of the bushes were being cut away by the leaden missiles that tore through them, and occasional glimpses of gray, phantom-like forms crouching under the bank of cloud were obtained."<sup>5,6</sup>

At one point during the heavy fighting, Warren thrust an artillery section into Saunders Field, which began lobbing shells into friend and foe. When the Federals came tumbling back, Rebels swarmed into the abandoned cornfield and captured the guns. Warren's riflemen prevented the Southerners from hauling off the pieces – at least until the night of May 6 - 7 when, under the cover of darkness, the Confederates dragged the artillery pieces into their lines.

Around 3:00 PM, Sedgwick's lead elements reached Saunders Field. By then, much of the fighting there had sputtered to a close, although Sedgwick and Ewell engaged in an hour of confused and bloody combat before both sides disengaged and began erecting earthworks. Although some combat continued later that afternoon and evening, at the end of the day neither side could claim victory at Saunders Field.

In the midst of the fighting, brush fires erupted on the battlefield. Wounded men from both armies watched in horror as their comrades were consumed in flames. As best they could and at the risk of becoming casualties themselves, soldiers from both sides tried to carry the wounded out of the fast-spreading fires to safety, but some could not be reached, and they were burned alive. "Suddenly, to the horror of the living," wrote a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment who was lying along the Turnpike, wounded, "fire was seen creeping over the ground, fed by dead leaves which were thick. All who could move tried to get beyond the Pike, which the fire could not cross. Some were overtaken by the flames when they had crawled but a few feet, and some when they had almost reached the road. The ground, which had been strewn with dead and wounded, was in a few hours blackened, with no distinguishable figure upon it."<sup>7</sup>

Another historian has described the fires at Saunders Field as follows: "Ignited by powder sparks, fed by dry underbrush and stoked by the wind, flash fires flared up across the battle lines. The flames exploded many of the cartridge boxes strapped to the bellies of the fallen, blowing bloody holes in the helpless, screaming victims. A New York Zouave viewed the horror and recalled, 'The almost cheerful "Pop! Pop!" of cartridges gave no hint of the almost dreadful horror their noise bespoke...The bodies of the dead were blackened and burned beyond all possibility of recognition.""<sup>8</sup>

Finally, today's National Park Service historical marker at the Wilderness Battlefield Exhibit Shelter at Saunders Field states, "Brush fires added to the horror of the Wilderness fighting. Ignited by muzzle blasts and fueled by dead leaves and twigs, fires swept through the dry woods, obscuring soldiers' vision and filling their lungs with suffocating smoke. 'Two thousand men, inspired with the desperation of demons' wrote one soldier, 'were fighting in a wilderness of fire.' Hundreds of wounded men, unable to escape the devouring flames, suffered an agonizing death. Others, unwilling to endure such a fate, chose instead to take their own lives. Union artilleryman Frank Wilkerson saw a man with two broken legs lying between the lines. Next to him lay a loaded rifle. 'I know he meant to kill himself in case of fire,' wrote Wilkerson, 'knew it as surely as though I could read his thoughts.'"



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# Rescuing the Wounded from the Fires on the Wilderness Battlefield



Josef W. Rokus

Saunders Field Today

Lieutenant Patterson's Medal of Honor



National Park Service

Lt. John H. Patterson received the above Medal of Honor because he "picked up and carried several hundred yards to a place of safety a wounded officer of his regiment who was helpless and would otherwise have been burned in the forest" on May 5, 1864, at the Battle of the Wilderness. The following is a summary of the lengthy process that finally resulted in Patterson receiving his medal. It is based on documents in his Medal of Honor file in the National Archives.

Patterson's Medal of Honor award was initiated by him in an affidavit written in December 1893 while he was stationed as a major with the  $3^{rd}$  U.S. Infantry at Fort Snelling, Minn. The following are the key points in that document:

- Patterson was serving as a first lieutenant and company commander with the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry at the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864.
- Lt. Wright Staples, who was on the skirmish line, was wounded in the abdomen and fell.
- As the skirmish line was driven back, it was an "every man for himself" situation.
- Patterson picked up Staples from where he had fallen and carried him 200 or 300 yards to the rear, out of fire, where Patterson stopped a stretcher party. By then Staples had died in Patterson's arms. [NOTE: The word "fire" in the affidavit can be interpreted as "gunfire" or as "flames" fire.]
- Staples was carried to the rear of the reserve line where the battalion's commanding officer, Captain Francis M. Cooley, took possession of Staples' valuables and personal effects.
- Staples' body was then sent to the division hospital and subsequently buried across from the Orange Court House Road. [NOTE: This road was more

commonly known as the Orange Turnpike at the time and is now identified as State Route 20.]

- Patterson knows of no officer or enlisted man who saw him carry Staples' body to the stretcher, other than the men in the stretcher party, and he does not know their names or residences or if any of them are alive or dead.
- Captain Cooley, an eye witness, is no longer alive, having died several years ago in San Francisco, California.

The Adjutant General's Office reviewed the affidavit and in an internal brief confirmed the presence of Patterson, Staples and Cooley at the Battle of the Wilderness but noted that the reports by the officers involved in that battle were "very meager" and that no information could be found regarding the incident Patterson described in his affidavit. Consequently, Patterson was informed in October 1894 by General John M. Schofield, Commanding General of the Army at the time, that "the service was not of a character for which Medals [of Honor] were awarded."

Patterson was, however, not dissuaded from seeking the medal he felt he had earned. In March 1897, he wrote to the Army Adjutant General to inform him that he (Patterson) had seen in the Army Register three cases similar to his where medals had been awarded and that he knows of no officer of the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry who is still living who could corroborate the facts he had furnished previously. Finally, he requested that his case for a medal be reopened.

The Adjutant General's Office responded with a letter dated April 5, 1897, in which it gave Patterson the names and addresses then on file of three officers who were present with the regiment at the Battle of the Wilderness. Patterson responded with a letter on April 15, 1897, in which he stated that he had received a response from one of the three officers and that he would forward it and a letter from one of the other officers soon.

A few days later, on April 27, 1897, he sent the two letters that he referenced in his most recent correspondence to the War Department. However, neither of the two officers could support the claims made in Patterson's original affidavit. Consequently, Patterson stated that he could not show, other than by his own affidavit, that he carried Lt. Staples (or his body) off the field. He said that he could show "what occurred at the beginning and at the end of this affair but could not show, by witness, what occurred in between." One of the two officers who responded said that he himself had been wounded prior to this incident and that he was in the field hospital when Lt. Staples' body was brought in and that he assisted at the funeral. The other officer recalled in his letter that Staples' last words were, "I do not wish to die. I am not ready."

The War Department obviously considered the evidence it had on hand sufficient to justify a medal because on July 23, 1897, Secretary of War R. A. Alger sent a letter to Patterson informing him that he had been awarded a Medal of Honor and that it would be forwarded to him via registered mail to Fort Crook, Nebraska, after it had been engraved. It was mailed to him from the Adjutant General's Office on August 3, 1897.

Patterson's three and a half-year struggle for his medal was not quite over yet, however. In late August 1897, the War Department received a letter from Captain John C. White, retired, who was a sergeant at the time of the Battle of the Wilderness, stating that he had seen a notice about Patterson having received a Medal of Honor, and White claimed that he (White) and another sergeant actually carried Lt. Staples to the rear instead of Patterson. The staff in the Adjutant General's Office considered what "further action" might be taken in view of White's letter and decided on September 7, 1897, that nothing should be done and to file White's letter "until something official turns up."

As an aside, the National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSSS) database and other records confirm that John Charles White served in the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment, that he was a sergeant at the time of the Battle of the Wilderness, and that he was promoted to a second lieutenant on June 10, 1864.

In June 1916, a board of generals convened to review all Medals of Honor awarded up to that time and rescinded a number of medals that had been awarded frivolously because the recipients had not met the conditions required at the time to earn a medal.<sup>9</sup> The board reviewed Patterson's case on January 4, 1917. In its report, dated January 17, 1917, it summarized his case and concluded that he should retain his medal.<sup>10</sup> Apparently, nothing "official" ever turned up to substantiate White's claim.

Lieutenant Staples is mentioned in a document written by John Patterson himself in the mid-1890s. On July 3, 1898, *The New York Times* carried two articles about the fighting at El Caney in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. Patterson, a lieutenant colonel at the time, was seriously wounded at that battle, as detailed below. The article included a short biography of Patterson that concluded with "In recent years he [Patterson] contributed an account of the experiences of the Eleventh [U.S. Infantry Regiment] during the [Civil] war to a work entitled *The Army of the United States*." That book, which was published in 1896 and which is accessible on-line, is probably the only history of the regiment. The history, which is included herein as Appendix No. 2, includes Patterson's following description of his unit, i.e., the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment, at the Battle of the Wilderness. It is curious that even though this was a major battle of the war and the regiment was actively engaged in it, his description is extremely short, giving virtually no details. But it does mention Lieutenant Staples.

About May 1st, 1864, the regiment moved to Brandy Station, where the division, cantoned along the railroad during the winter, was assembling to take part in the campaign of 1864. The division crossed the Rapidan at Ely's Ford and bivouacked on the night of May 4th well out on the Orange Court House road. In the engagement of the next day the regiment was on the skirmish line. Lieutenants Pleasants and Staples were killed in this action.

More significantly, at least for the purpose of this biography, is Patterson's following reference to Lieutenant Staples at the end of his history of the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

In closing my informal narrative, I desire to mention three officers of my old regiment. Two of them—Captains Russell and Barri—were great favorites, the third was my particular and intimate friend. We messed together and were attached to the same company for the 1864 campaign. I have never known a better

or more companionable fellow than Wright Staples, whose young life went out at the battle of the Wilderness on the skirmish line, doing his duty in his manly way.

The National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System database lists 443 men named Staples who fought in the Civil War on the Union side. However, there are only two entries for "Wright Staples." They indicate that this soldier served as a private in the "7<sup>th</sup> Regiment, New York State Militia (30 days unit, 1861)" and also in the "General Mounted Service (Regular Army)."

For the second entry, there is no specific regiment listed, and his ranks when he was mustered in and out of the service are not given. Furthermore, the database does not indicate that Staples ever served with the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment explicitly, although he clearly did. The information in the CWSSS database is not incorrect, but it is incomplete. Specifically, he enlisted first in the 7<sup>th</sup> New York Militia Regiment, and he then re-enlisted in the 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment (Regular Army) – which is the "General Mounted Service" shown in CWSSS. He was later transferred from that regiment to the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in June of 1862.

The following is a summary of Lt. Wright Staples' life:<sup>11</sup>

- Born in Liverpool, England, in about 1839.
- Probably immigrated to the United States in 1859. The manifest of the ship *Borussia*, which arrived in New York City on March 21, 1859, having come from Hamburg by way of Southampton, England, includes a Wright Staples. Unfortunately, the manifest does not give his age. There are no other passengers with that last name listed on the manifest, meaning that he was almost certainly single and that he came by himself.
- Enlisted as a private in the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment, New York State Militia, about mid-April 1861. This was a "30-days Regiment" that was organized in response to President Lincoln's call for troops on April 19, 1861, and was mustered into United States service on April 26, 1861. It served at various places in the Washington, D.C., and Maryland areas before returning to New York City, where it was mustered out on June 3, 1861. Patterson was still a private when the regiment disbanded.
- According to his enlistment record, re-enlisted for three years on June 11, 1862, again as a private, this time in the 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment (Regular Army).
- Discharged from the 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment on June 30, 1862, and transferred to the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment because on that date he received a commission as a second lieutenant.
- On November 4, 1863, was promoted to first lieutenant, still with the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment.
- On May 5, 1864, at the Battle of the Wilderness was wounded and was rescued from the fires that engulfed parts of the battlefield. Most records, including documents in Patterson's Medal of Honor file, indicate that Lt. Staples died and was buried on that date, but one source indicates that he died the following day, May 6, 1864.
- Was initially buried near the Wilderness Battlefield but was re-interred in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery after the war. (The Fredericksburg National Cemetery was authorized by Congress in July 1865.) Only about 15 percent of the graves in that

cemetery are marked with the names of the soldiers they contain – fortunately Lt. Staples' grave is one of them. His weathered, but still clearly legible, gravestone (Number 3789) simply reads "Lieut. Wright Staples U.S.A."

- Was posthumously promoted to brevet captain effective May 5, 1864.
- His name is inscribed on the large Battle Monument at Trophy Point at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. That monument, which was dedicated on May 31, 1897, after many years of planning, lists all of the men who served in the Regular Army who were killed in the Civil War, even though they had not attended the Military Academy. The inscription indicates that he fought with the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment and that he was killed at Wilderness, Va.



Josef W. Rokus

Lieut. Wright Staples' Gravestone Fredericksburg National Cemetery

Finally, in her 1932 article for the New York Herald Tribune, Patterson's daughter, Elizabeth, describes the scene when Patterson received the letter referred to above from

Secretary of War Alger notifying him that he had been awarded the Medal of Honor. (See Appendix No. 3.) Patterson was stationed at Fort Crook, Nebraska, at the time (obviously with his three children and the children's step-grandmother) because the letter is addressed to him there. It includes what would seem to be an unusual reaction by Patterson upon receiving the news about the award of his medal.

I remember the day my father's medal came. We were sitting around the dining table at our noon meal. It was the great day of the week, the day of the Eastern mail. My father came in to the table with a letter in his hand: a long envelope with black printing in the corner. I was looking at him as he opened it. His face went very red, then drained slowly white. He looked up; something seemed the matter with his throat – he could not speak. Then he reached over our heads and handed the letter to our grandmother. She read it, and her first look was for us. I remember her voice.

"Children," she said, "your father has been awarded the Medal of Honor by the Congress of the United States." Her manner was formal and unfamiliar. My father had recovered himself.

"You are not to speak of it," he said, with the sternness he affected when deeply moved. "You are never by any chance to refer to it. Do you understand? You know nothing about it. Nor do you," he added, turning to our grandmother.

As noted, Patterson was awarded his medal in 1897, 33 years after he rescued Lt. Staples from the battlefield at the Battle of the Wilderness in 1864. This delay was not unique, however, because only about one third of the Civil War Medals of Honor were awarded by 1870. As of late-2008, a total of 3,467 Medals of Honor had been awarded. Of these, 1,522, or 44%, resulted from actions in the Civil War. For these 1,522 medals, the records include the date each was awarded for 1,207 of them, and these were awarded as follows: 34% prior to 1870, 6% between 1870 and 1890, 57% in the 1890s, and 3% after 1900.

It is difficult to determine why so many men received the Medal of Honor roughly 30 years after the fighting ended. It might have been that, as they grew older, some felt they wanted some physical evidence of their participation in the war to pass on to their children and grandchildren. It might have been that as some of the men became aware that their comrades were being recognized with the country's most prestigious medal, even though somewhat belatedly, they felt that they also should be recognized in the same way. Finally, they may have been caught up in the late 1800s efforts of the Civil War veterans to earn their well-deserved recognition for keeping the Union intact and possibly obtain improved pension and other benefits.

#### JOHN H. PATTERSON'S SERVICE IN THE CIVIL WAR AFTER THE BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS

The following is a summary of where the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment was stationed and fought after the Battle of the Wilderness. (See Appendix No. 1 for a detailed list of Patterson's assignments and promotions based on information in his Medal of Honor file.)

#### <u>1864</u>

- May 8 21: Spotsylvania Court House.
- May 22 26: North Anna River.
- May 26 28: On line of the Pamunkey River.
- May 28 31: Totopotomoy.
- June 1 12: Cold Harbor.
- June 16 18: Before Petersburg.
- June 16 November 2: Siege of Petersburg, including the following:
- July 30: Mine explosion (Battle of the Crater).
- August 18 21: Weldon Railroad.
- September 29 October 2: Poplar Springs Church and Peeble's Farm.
- October 1: Battle of Chapel (Chappel) House (First Battle of Squirrel Level Road), south of Petersburg, Va.
- October 27 28: Boydton Plank Road and Hatcher's Run.
- November 2: Moved to Fort Hamilton, N.Y., harbor.
- November 18: Moved to Baltimore, Md.
- December 5: Moved to Annapolis, Md. Duty at Camp Parole, Annapolis, until January 26, 1865.

#### <u>1865</u>

- January 26: Moved to City Point, Va., and camp near Gen. Grant's headquarters until March 8. Provost duty at Headquarters, Army of the Potomac, until May.
- May 23: Patterson commissioned as brevet captain for gallant services at the Battle of Chapel House, Va., on October 1, 1864.<sup>12</sup>

Lt. Patterson was on recruiting duty from February 1865 until November 1865. Therefore, he was not with his regiment for the following actions:

May 3: Arrived at Richmond. Performed provost duty in Richmond until the civil government of the city was organized. At Libby Prison until its use was discontinued. At Richmond until October 1865.

During its service in the Civil War, the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment lost 8 officers and 117 enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 2 officers and 86 enlisted men by disease, for a total of 213.

#### JOHN H. PATTERSON'S MILITARY SERVICE AND LIFE BETWEEN THE CIVIL WAR AND THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

John H. Patterson decided to make the U.S. Army his career after the Civil War, even though he must certainly have known that promotions would probably be slow in coming as the size of the army was reduced drastically from what it had been during the war. Below is a summary of his major assignments between the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. A more detailed list of his duty stations, promotions and leaves is given in Appendix No. 1, based on information in his Medal of Honor file.

Apparently because of his favorable war record, he was promoted to captain, effective on July 28, 1866. The commission, however, was not signed until several months later, on April 11, 1867, by President Andrew Johnson. His next promotion, to the rank of major, would not come until about 25 years later in 1891. On September 21, 1866, apparently as the result of reorganizations of the army that took place after the Civil War, he was transferred to the 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the Regular Army.

A glimpse into John H. Patterson's army career after the Civil War and his retirement years is provided in a feature article that his daughter, Elizabeth, wrote for the December 18, 1932, edition of the *New York Herald Tribune* titled "Children of the Frontier." Although it does not give specifics for all of the posts and forts where Captain Patterson served, it does give some good insights into what life was like for the Patterson family. Her descriptions of their experiences on the frontier at several army posts in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century are based on her own recollections and on stories passed down to her, particularly from her step-grandmother, who raised Patterson's children after the death of their mother. In the article she eloquently described the privations, isolation and challenges the family faced, including hostile Indians, hot summers, frigid winters, blizzards, winds, droughts, and prairie fires.

As detailed below, Elizabeth Patterson mentions Fort Totten, San Antonio, Columbus Barracks, Camp Supply (later Fort Supply), Fort Leavenworth, Fort Assiniboine, and El Caney specifically as locations where her father served. She also gives a moving account of the arduous journey the family took to return her mother's body from Camp Supply, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), to St. Paul, Minnesota, for burial, after her untimely death in 1883. The children were nine, six, and one and a half years old at the time. Finally, she briefly describes her father's retirement after he was severely wounded and almost died in Cuba in 1898 during the Spanish-American War.<sup>13</sup> (See Appendix No. 3 for a transcription of the article.)

By the time of the 1870 U.S. census, taken as of June 1 of that year, Patterson was stationed at Fort Totten, Dakota Territory. At the time, the fort was relatively small since the census lists just seven officers at the garrison: one major, two captains, three lieutenants and one surgeon. (The census also shows that 65 enlisted men were stationed at the post.) Since on the census form Captain Patterson is listed directly below the major, who presumably was the commanding officer, Patterson might have been the second in command of the fort. The 1870 census did not collect information about marital status, but it does show that Patterson's personal estate was valued at \$300.

Fort Totten, northwest of Fargo, North Dakota, was first built to watch over the surrounding Indian reservation after a group of the Sioux tribe moved to the area after 1867. The soldiers were also stationed there to enforce the peace and guard transportation routes. After the fort was decommissioned in 1890, it was used as a Native American boarding school until 1959. Fort Totten became a North Dakota State Historic Site in 1960 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. It was named for United States Army Corps of Engineers head Joseph Gilbert Totten.<sup>14</sup>

Patterson was still stationed at Fort Totten on December 27, 1871, when he married Mary Elizabeth Forbes at the fort. She was the daughter of William H. and Agnes Faribault Forbes of St. Paul, Minnesota. Mary, who was part Native American, was born in 1847, making her 24 years old at the time of their marriage.<sup>15</sup> According to Elizabeth Patterson, "William H. Forbes, a volunteer in the Civil War and afterward United States Commissioner to the Indians, was stationed at Fort Totten, Dakota, and thither came his daughter from a convent school in the East, and there the young captain of the 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry fell in love with her and married her."



John Patterson and His Descendants by Charles Platt

Mary Elizabeth Forbes Patterson

William H. Forbes was prominent in the early days of the establishment of the Minnesota Territory. He was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1815, and after he relinquished his hardware trade, he entered the service of the American Fur Company. In 1837, he came to Mendota, seven miles north of St. Paul. He remained in the company's employ until 1853 and then engaged in the Indian trade. He held many civil offices in the Minnesota Territorial Government and was appointed commissary, with the rank of captain, by President Lincoln, during the campaigns against the Indians in 1862.

In 1865, he was brevetted major by President Johnson, and in 1871 President Grant appointed him Indian Agent at Devil's Lake, Dakota Territory, which post he held at the time of his death. He died at Fort Totten, Dakota Territory, on July 20, 1875, and he was buried in the Calvary Cemetery in St. Paul. (Fort Totten was located on Devil's Lake, 480 miles northwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul in what is now North Dakota.) (See Appendix No. 4 for a more detailed biographical sketch of William H. Forbes and his obituary in *The New York Times* of July 27, 1875.)

The Pattersons' first child was born in 1872 but died at the age of three weeks. Captain Patterson was stationed at Fort Totten until September 30, 1872, when he was re-assigned to Fort Abercrombie. On October 10, 1873, Patterson, then the commanding officer of an infantry company of 53 men, was transferred from Fort Abercrombie to Fort Seward when another infantry company was transferred from Fort Seward to Fort Ripley. Fort Seward and Fort Abercrombie were both in the Dakota Territory while Fort Ripley was in Minnesota. Upon his arrival at Fort Seward, Patterson became the commanding officer of the fort, a position he held until Fort Seward was phased out in the fall of 1877. In addition to being responsible for the fort, Patterson was also the commander of Company A.

During Patterson's assignment at Fort Seward, his wife gave birth to two children. First, Stuart Forbes Patterson was born on February 2, 1874. However, he was born at Fort Totten, maybe because Totten was a larger post with better medical facilities. Second, Elizabeth Graham Patterson was born on September 29, 1876, at Fort Seward.

Fort Seward, near present Jamestown, North Dakota, was established on June 3, 1872. It provided quarters for two companies of infantry and was named for William H. Seward, secretary of state under President Lincoln. The post provided protection to 500 workers who were building the Northern Pacific Railway and to the early settlers who located in the James River Valley. After the railroad construction stalled at Bismarck, Fort Seward stabilized the region by aiding U.S. marshals with law enforcement, keeping telegraph lines open, acting as a mail transfer point, and protecting cattle herds en route to the Missouri River. When the fort was abandoned on September 30, 1877, it was dismantled and transported to Fort Totten, 81 miles north of Jamestown, for which Fort Seward had been the railroad head.

Currently, the Fort Seward Interpretive Center and the Fort Seward Museum are located adjacent to the site of the old fort. Re-enactors from the 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (which Patterson was assigned to) have an encampment at the site every September, and the unit's web site mentions Captain Patterson as having been one of the officers who served at the fort. North

Dakota State University conducted archaeological digs at the site of Fort Seward from 1999 until 2003, and the location of one of the officers' quarters (where Patterson would have lived) was tentatively identified.<sup>16</sup>

The challenges Patterson faced in commanding a small, isolated U.S. Army fort on the Western frontier for four years are well documented in a history of Fort Seward published in 1987.<sup>17</sup> They included embezzlement by a fellow officer resulting in that officer's court martial, continuous discipline problems with his troops – usually caused by the excessive use of alcohol, sporadic mail service, conflicts between the military and civilian communities resulting in fights and shootings, the devastating grasshoppers plague of 1873, incompetent telegraph operators, and preparing for and managing the phase-out of the fort.

In the more mundane category, Patterson's tasks also included managing the Fort Seward Garden, resolving the disappearance of 13 containers of raspberry jam valued at \$5.60, procuring a bathtub "so that enlisted men would have the opportunity for bathing during the winter months," dealing with a large shipment of horseshoes the post had received although all of the work animals at the fort were mules, and fighting the military chain of command that had disallowed the purchase of a 50-cent broom because it should have been made on the post. (See Appendix No. 5 for additional details of Captain Patterson's service at Fort Seward.)

As an interesting aside, Captain John H. Patterson's name surfaced again at the site where Fort Seward once stood, 115 years after he had shut down the fort. On September 12, 1992, Art Todd, III, and Barbara Lang celebrated the restatement of their wedding vows on what had been the fort's parade grounds in an 1870s-style wedding ceremony. Both Art and Barbara belong to the group of 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment re-enactors mentioned above that portrays life as it was during the 1860s and 1870s on the Dakota plains.<sup>18</sup> The "wedding invitation" read

Captain John Henry Patterson Commander, Co. A, 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Fort Seward, Dakota Territory requests the honour of your presence at the marriage of Miss Barbara Lang and Corporal Arthur Ruric Todd III on Saturday, September twelfth one thousand eight hundred seventy-six at four o'clock in the afternoon on the parade grounds at Fort Seward, Dakota Territory When Fort Seward was abandoned, Captain Patterson and all of the troops at the post were transferred to Fort Sisseton, Dakota Territory. As indicated in the history of Fort Seward (Appendix No. 5), the buildings at Fort Seward were dismantled and reconstructed at Fort Totten.

By the 1880 U.S. census, Captain Patterson was stationed with the army at San Antonio, Texas. He had been transferred there from Fort Sisseton on December 17, 1877. In that census, his marital status shows that he was married but that his family was not living with him at the time. The places of birth for him, his father and his mother are given as New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, respectively. The census includes several hundred military personnel living at what the enumerator identified as "Government Barracks." Although the census does not identify the name of the post, it may have been Fort Sam Houston, construction of which began in San Antonio in the middle 1870s.

After his assignment in San Antonio and a short tour of duty at Fort Brown, Texas, Captain Patterson was transferred on September 4, 1880, to Columbus Barracks, Ohio. An article in *The New York Times* dated November 12, 1880, reported that a general court martial had been ordered to convene on November 16, 1880, at Columbus Barracks "for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before it" and that Captain John H. Patterson, Twentieth Infantry, had been appointed to sit on that court martial. Shortly thereafter, on January 9, 1881, the Pattersons' last child, Helen M. Patterson, was born at Columbus Barracks.

What was originally known as the Columbus Arsenal in Columbus, Ohio, was established in 1877. It was later converted to a facility for the intake and training of recruits, and it then became known as Columbus Barracks. In 1922, the post was renamed Fort Hayes, in honor of President Rutherford B. Hayes, a native of Ohio. By 1976, the military had largely abandoned the facility, and the Columbus Public Schools District purchased part of the property for use as the Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center. Currently, two small U.S. Army Reserve units still use the facility, but the last military presence on what was once Columbus Barracks is expected to be gone by the end of 2009.

After another short duty assignment, this time to Fort Wallace, Kansas, on June 4, 1882, Patterson was transferred to Fort Supply, Indian Territory (later Oklahoma), where he commanded Company A, 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry. On March 22, 1883, his wife, Mary Elizabeth, died at the young age of 36 at Fort Supply. Four months later, on July 14, 1883, he was transferred to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. According to the historian at Fort Supply, the remnants of a cemetery from the era that Fort Supply was an active post still exist; however, the practice at the time was that the remains of officers (and probably their wives) who died while on active duty at the fort were sent to family members in their hometown for burial.<sup>19</sup> That was the case for Mary Elizabeth Patterson because she was buried in the Calvary Cemetery in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Adam Rusinak

Mary Elizabeth Forbes Patterson's Gravestone Calvary Cemetery, St. Paul, Minnesota

Although weathered and covered with moss, the inscription reads as follows:

# MARY E.

Daugh. of Wm. H. Forbes Wife of John H. Patterson, U.S.A. Died at Fort Supply Indian Territory March 22, 1883 Aged 36 Years In the *New York Herald* article referenced above, her daughter describes the day of her mother's death and the journey to take her body for burial to St. Paul as follows:

My mother died the next year at Camp Supply, a four-company post in Indian Territory, 100 miles from the railroad. She was a martyr to the life they led; to the heat and the cold and the lack of comfort, and the wind – the wind which at Supply never stopped.

"If only the wind would stop," she used to say to my grandmother, "I think I could breathe."

I remember the day she died. I sat, a child of six, on my father's lap all day, looking out of the window at the blowing parade ground. We were not allowed to play that day. My mind was torn between that white face framed in the blackness of her hair, lying asleep now, in the room where she had just smiled at us, and my wonder about one of the officers who had been lost for three days. He had gone skating on the narrow, frozen river, and when he failed to return, they had gone searching for him. The thrill at their finding him quite overlaid the event of my mother's death.

The journey with my mother's body seems etched into my brain. We took her by wagon the 100 miles across the plains from Camp Supply to Dodge City to get the train for St. Paul. It comes back to me in black and white patches; a flash of blinding light in my eyes, then darkness; voices; food pressed to our sleepy mouths; the warmth and security of my grandmother's wide, soft side. Like the roll of a ship it must have been, lulling us children to easy sleep, that swaying Army ambulance.

My grandmother sat in the middle of the broad back seat, the baby in her arms; my brother on one side of her, I on the other. We could hear the crack of the long cowboy whip as our soldier-driver pushed his four-mule team ahead on their long relays. A lookout soldier sat on the high seat beside the driver. Thudding behind us were the mules drawing the caisson with my mother's coffin strapped upon it. Behind the caisson was the wagon with our escort. My father changed his place often in his restlessness, now sitting in with us, then back with the escort, then forward again beside the driver. A dumb, homely tragedy of family life, trotting across the level prairie that its dead might lie at home.

Fort Supply was located just east of the present-day small town of Fort Supply, Oklahoma, in what was then the Cherokee Outlet. (The Cherokee Outlet, often referred to as the Cherokee Strip, was a sixty-mile wide strip of land south of the Oklahoma-Kansas border. The Treaty of New Echota, signed on May 23, 1836, gave the land to the Cherokees as a perpetual outlet to travel to and hunt in the West.) Fort Supply was originally established as "Camp Supply" on November 18, 1868, to support General Philip Sheridan's campaign against the Southern Plains Indians. Later, the camp served to protect the Cheyenne and Arapaho reservations from incursions by whites. Camp Supply was renamed Fort Supply in 1878 following its role in the Red River War of 1874 – 1875. By 1880, the Indian Wars on the Southern Plains were nearly over, and the fort was in bad repair. Although Army officers recommended its abandonment, General Sheridan, by then General of the Army, stepped in and resurrected the fort for a few more years.

Fort Supply was officially closed in September 1894 following the opening of the Cherokee Outlet to settlement. On February 26, 1895, the last remaining troops turned over the fort to the Department of the Interior. In 1908, Oklahoma's first insane asylum, now the Western State Psychiatric Center, was established at the site. In 1988, the Oklahoma legislature designated the remaining buildings as the Fort Supply Historic District. Shortly afterwards, the William S. Key Correctional Center was opened there. The 1879 commanding officer's quarters and the duplex 1882 officers' quarters are the only frame houses left on "Officers' Row." It is highly likely that the Pattersons lived in one of these buildings.<sup>20</sup>

At the time of their mother's death in 1883, all three of the surviving Patterson children were less than ten years old, surely a difficult situation for John Patterson, a career officer who was subject to frequent relocations and possible unaccompanied tours of duty. Consequently, the three children lived with their step-grandmother on and off and were largely brought up by her. After the death of Mary Elizabeth Forbes Patterson's mother, Agnes Forbes, William H. Forbes, remarried, and it was his second wife, Amanda B. Forbes, who raised Stuart, Elizabeth and Helen Patterson. Consequently, Amanda B. Forbes was the children's step-grandmother.

The following is a summary of the information about the three children:

Stuart Forbes Patterson (1874-1910) obtained his undergraduate degree from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. The school summarized his relatively short life in its *Obituary Record of Alumni* published in 1912 as follows:<sup>21</sup>

Stuart Forbes Patterson, son of Brigadier General John H. and Mary Forbes Patterson, was born February 3, 1874, at Fort Totten, N. Dak. He prepared for college at Cooperstown, N.Y., High School, entered Williams College in 1891, and graduated with the Class of 1895. After leaving college, he studied law in Albany and New York, graduating from New York Law School in 1898. He practiced law in New York in the office of Evarts, Choate & Beaman. Later, he was engaged in newspaper work in St. Paul, Minn., and in taking charge of the Minnesota Exhibit at the St. Louis World's Fair. Mr. Patterson died in Saranac Lake, N.Y., on December 5, 1910.

He had an intense love of English literature, was very fond of writing, and published several short stories. To those who knew him well, he was the soul of geniality, alive to all the leading questions of the day, national and foreign, his ideas being well defined and logical.

The New York Times of June 23, 1895, on reporting on the commencement exercises at Williams College that year, mentioned that Stuart Patterson was one of the student speakers at the ceremony. In the 1900 census, he is listed as being single and a lawyer living in Manhattan. He never married. His cause of death was tuberculosis. As an aside, between 1873 and 1945, Saranac Lake, N.Y., where he died, became a world-renowned center for the treatment of tuberculosis, using a treatment that involved exposing patients to as much fresh air as possible under conditions of complete bed rest. In the process, a specific building type, the "Cure Cottage" developed, built by local residents seeking to capitalize on the town's fame, by physicians, and often by the patients themselves. Many of these structures are still extant. In

1944, the drug streptomycin was developed, and by the mid-1950s, sanatorium treatment of tuberculosis was nearly entirely supplanted by drug treatment.<sup>22</sup> No doubt, Stuart Patterson spent time at the end of his life in one of these "Cure Cottages." He was buried in Lakewood Cemetery in Cooperstown, New York. (Mrs. Amanda Forbes, his step-grandmother, lived in Cooperstown for many years.)

Both of the daughters, Elizabeth and Helen, were living with their step-grandmother, Amanda Forbes, in Cooperstown, New York, at the time of the 1900 U.S. census. Amanda Forbes was a widow by then, and no occupation is recorded for her or for Elizabeth or Helen. A 19-year old servant was also living in the household then. Ten years later, at the time of the 1910 U.S. census, Amanda Forbes and Elizabeth and Helen Patterson still resided in Cooperstown. Both Elizabeth and Helen, age 32 and 29 respectively, were single. Neither one ever married – like their brother. Under the "Occupation" column on the census form, the enumerator entered "Own income" for all three.

When the 1920 U.S. census was taken, as of January 1, both Elizabeth and Helen were living with their father and his second wife, Grace, in Albany, New York. Amanda Forbes could not be located in that census – most likely because she had probably passed away by then. (She would have been 86 years old by 1920.) The final entry for John Patterson's daughters from the publicly available census records is for 1930. As of April 1 of that year, both Elizabeth and Helen were living in Cooperstown, New York, again in the same household. No occupation was recorded for either one.

Elizabeth G. Patterson passed away at age 67 on October 7, 1943, in Cooperstown. She had been hospitalized with pneumonia when heart-related complications caused her death. Her obituaries in the *Oneonta Daily Star* and in the Cooperstown *Freeman's Journal*, both dated October 9, 1943, described her as "one of Cooperstown's most beloved residents." The obituaries mention that she had accompanied her father, General John H. Patterson, when he was stationed at Fort Crook, Nebraska. They also indicate that she was actively involved in several Cooperstown organizations, the principal one being the Girls Scouts. The obituaries said, "Her death will be a severe loss to those organizations." Her sister, Helen, and two cousins in New York City, Dr. Henry Stuart Patterson and Arthur Cox Patterson, were listed as survivors.

Helen M. Patterson, who donated her father's Medal of Honor and several records related to his military service to the National Park Service in 1962, died unexpectedly at age 85 on September 7, 1966, in Cooperstown. She was living in Woodside Hall, an adult home, at the time. According to her obituaries in the *Oneonta Daily Star* of September 9, 1966, and the Cooperstown *Freeman's Journal* of September 14, 1966, she had been active in the Cooperstown Woman's Club as well as the local garden club and the hospital auxiliary. The obituaries also noted that she left no close surviving relatives.

Both Elizabeth and Helen, along with their step-grandmother and their brother, Stuart, are buried in Lakewood Cemetery in Cooperstown, New York.



John Patterson and His Descendants by Charles Platt

Elizabeth, Helen and Stuart Patterson With their Step-grandmother, Amanda B. Forbes

After being stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Captain Patterson was transferred again on May 20, 1885, this time to Fort Assiniboine (also spelled Assinniboine), Montana Territory. According to Elizabeth Patterson's recollections of the family's experiences on the frontier (Appendix No. 3), the children were in St. Paul, presumably with their step-grandmother, when their father had been assigned to Fort Leavenworth just previously, but he came and got them to live with him at Fort Assiniboine.

Fort Assiniboine, 200 miles northeast of Helena, Montana, and part of the U.S. Army Department of Dakota at the time, was built in 1879, in the aftermath of the Great Sioux War of 1876 – 1877 and the disastrous defeat of General Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn in June 1876. It was one of the largest army forts ever built in the U.S., with over 100 buildings. Many of the officers were accompanied by their wives and children. The fort housed ten companies of infantry and cavalry. The troops were charged with monitoring the activities of the region's many Indian groups, patrolling Montana's border with Canada, stopping bootleggers and gunrunners, and protecting the state's settlers. In its heyday, nearly 750 officers, enlisted men, and civilians called Fort Assiniboine home. In 1916, a portion of the fort was ceded to the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation while another section became Beaver Creek Park. Most of the buildings at the fort

were eventually razed, but a few surviving structures are now an agricultural extension station associated with Montana State University.<sup>23</sup>

After Fort Assiniboine, Patterson spent a little over a year at Fort Maginnis, Montana, until September 1889, after which he was transferred to Albany, New York, where he was on recruiting duty until May 1891. On May 19, 1891, Patterson was promoted to major. (His commission, which was signed by President Benjamin Harrison on January 7, 1892, is one of the documents donated by Helen Patterson, and it is now located in the archives of the National Park Service's Chancellorsville Visitor Center.) Following his recruiting assignment, he was transferred to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, until June 29, 1893, and then to Forest City (Indian) Agency, South Dakota, until September 13, 1893, where he was the Acting Indian Agent. In December 1893, Patterson applied, by affidavit, for his Medal of Honor. He was not awarded the medal until July 23, 1897. (See the above Medal of Honor section.)

Patterson was promoted again on January 21, 1895, this time to lieutenant colonel while assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry. (This commission, signed by President Grover Cleveland on January 31, 1895, was also donated to the National Park Service by Helen Patterson.) Shortly after that promotion, in February 1895, he was ordered to report to the Commanding General, Department of California.<sup>24</sup> Soon thereafter, Patterson, while still with the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry, was assigned to the Benicia Barracks in California, where he was the commanding officer until November 16, 1895.<sup>25</sup> This was followed by a transfer from the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry on November 4, 1895.

Benicia Barracks, adjacent to Benicia and north of Oakland, California, was first occupied on April 9, 1849, by two companies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Artillery Regiment. In 1851, the first ordnance supply depot in the West was established in Benicia, and a year later the installation was designated as the Benicia Arsenal. It was a staging area during the Civil War for Union troops from the West, and it remained a garrisoned post until 1898 when troops from the base were assigned to duty in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. During World War I, Benicia Arsenal provided ordnance support to Army installations in the Western States. Throughout World War II, the arsenal supplied ports with weapons, artillery, parts, supplies, and tools. During the Korean War, the number of civilians employed at Benicia reached an all-time high of 6,700 workers. Benicia Arsenal was deactivated in 1963, and the facility was closed in 1964. The arsenal has now been redeveloped as work and sales space for artists and artisans.<sup>26</sup>

Subsequent to his assignment at Benicia Barracks, Patterson was stationed at Fort Harrison, Nebraska, for a few months before being transferred to Fort Crook, Nebraska, about ten miles south of Omaha, on June 26, 1896. The letter from Secretary of War Russell A. Alger notifying Patterson that he was awarded the Medal of Honor is addressed to him at Fort Crook, and it is dated July 23, 1897. An article in the May 18, 1898, issue of *The New York Times* indicates that Patterson was still at Fort Crook then because he had been appointed to "an Army Retiring Board to meet for the examination of such officers as may be ordered before it." Very shortly thereafter, he went with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment to Cuba when that regiment was deployed as part of the Spanish-American War.

Fort Crook became operational in 1890 as a depot and a dispatch point for Indian conflicts on the Great Plains. The fort was named for Maj. Gen. George Crook, a Civil War veteran and Indian fighter. Troops from Fort Crook fought during the Spanish-American War when the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment was dispatched to Cuba in the summer of 1898. In 1918, a balloon company of the Army Air Corps was assigned to Fort Crook, and in 1921 an airfield was built at the fort as a refueling stop for mail and transcontinental flights. In 1924, the airfield was renamed Offutt Field in honor of Lt. Jarvis Offutt, a pilot from Omaha who was killed in World War I. In 1948, Offutt Field became Offutt Air Force Base and the host base for the Strategic Air Command.

Offutt Air Force Base made front-page news when President George W. Bush conducted the first strategy meeting for the response to the September 11, 2001, terrorists' attacks from an underground command center at the base while en route back from Sarasota, Florida, to Washington, D.C., that day.

The oldest surviving portions of Fort Crook are the parade grounds and surrounding red brick buildings that were constructed between 1894 and 1896. These structures are still in use today as squadron headquarters, living quarters for high-ranking generals (Generals' Row), and Nebraska's oldest operational jail.<sup>27</sup>

#### JOHN H. PATTERSON IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR AND HIS RETIREMENT

Until about 1860, American expansionists had hoped to acquire Cuba, a Spanish possession since Christopher Columbus claimed it for Spain in 1492. Americans became more displeased with Spanish rule over the island when an unsuccessful uprising took place there in the 1870s. In 1895, during a depression that made living conditions worse in Cuba, a revolution broke out again, with neither side being able to win.

As American newspapers published stories (often exaggerated) of Spanish oppression, many Americans demanded that the United States intervene. In November 1897, President McKinley pressured Spain into granting Cuba limited self-government; however, the rebels wanted nothing less than total independence. Meanwhile, pro-Spanish mobs in Havana rioted to protest against self-government. To protect Americans from the rioters, the U.S. battleship *Maine* arrived in Havana harbor on January 25, 1898. On February 15, an explosion blew up the ship and killed 250 crew members. The outraged American public immediately blamed Spain for the incident, based on a naval court of inquiry that determined that a mine had caused the explosion. (In 1976, U.S. Navy researchers concluded that heat from a fire in a coal bin had exploded a nearby supply of ammunition.)

With "Remember the *Maine*" having become a popular slogan, President McKinley sent notes to Spain in March of 1898 demanding full independence for Cuba. This was followed by Congress passing a resolution on April 19 asserting that Cuba was independent, and the United States formally declared a state of war with Spain on April 25, 1898.

The first battle of the war occurred in the Philippines on May 1, 1898, when the U.S. Asiatic Squadron destroyed the Spanish fleet of ten ships in Manila Bay. Meanwhile, the U.S. Navy began a partial blockade of Cuba while scouting for a fleet that had left Spain earlier. On May 28, American ships located the Spanish ships in the harbor of Santiago de Cuba, on the southeastern part of the island.

Col. Charles A. Wickoff, commanding officer of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, took the regiment from Fort Crook, Nebraska, to the entrance of Santiago Bay, Cuba, on June 20, 1898, by way of Tampa, Florida. Upon his arrival, he was transferred to lead the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, of Maj. Gen. William R. Shafter's Fifth Army Corps, and Lt. Col. Patterson took the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry ashore at Daiquiri, Cuba, 15 miles southwest of Santiago on June 22, 1898. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was the first U.S. regiment to land on Cuban soil. That same day, 15,000 American Army troops started a two-pronged attack against Santiago.<sup>28</sup>

About half of the American troops were sent to attack the strongly defended stone fort at El Caney on July 1, while the remainder made a frontal assault on the main Spanish defenses at Kettle Hill and San Juan Hill, closer to the city. By nightfall, El Caney had fallen, and the Americans had taken the ridges commanding Santiago, but they had suffered 1,600 casualties. After days of negotiations, Santiago surrendered on July 17. On July 25, American troops began an invasion of Puerto Rico which met almost no opposition, and on August 13, Manila was

occupied. With the signing of the Treaty of Paris on December 10, 1898, Spain granted Cuba its independence, and it ceded Guam, Puerto Rico and the Philippines to the United States, although the United States paid Spain \$20 million for the Philippines.

Lt. Col. John H. Patterson commanded the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment when the regiment attacked El Caney. At the fort, 500 Spanish soldiers under General Joaquín Vara de Rey were ordered to hold the northeast flank of Santiago against an American advance. Despite having no machine guns or artillery and being denied promised reinforcements, Vara de Rey and his soldiers held about 8,000 Americans at bay for nearly twelve hours, preventing them from sweeping through and overwhelming the defenders of San Juan Hill. The Americans lost more than 80 dead and 350 wounded. At the Battle of El Caney, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment suffered heavy casualties. Of the 513 members of the regiment, only 165 eventually survived with most having succumbed to tropical diseases after the battle. Precise Cuban/Spanish losses at El Caney are not known, but General Vara de Rey was among the Spanish defenders who were killed.



"Battle of El Caney" http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\_of\_El\_Caney

The Battle of El Caney, Cuba

On July 3, 1898, two days after the fighting at El Caney, *The New York Times* carried two articles about the fighting in Cuba in which Patterson is mentioned. The first, on page 1, titled "Santiago Still Resists Capture," reported

The attack upon Santiago was resumed yesterday [July 2, 1898] morning and continued throughout the day...A dispatch intimated that the fighting was of the fiercest possible description and that the losses on our side were heavy. Among the wounded is Lieut. Col. John H. Patterson of the Twenty-second Infantry...A dispatch from General Shafter announced that he had underestimated the number of killed and wounded in Friday's battle and contained an urgent request for a hospital ship, surgeons and supplies. Measures to furnish these were promptly taken, and the hospital ship Relief left port yesterday afternoon for Santiago...Advices from other sources estimate that the killed and wounded on Friday [July 1] at nearly one thousand, the proportion of killed being about 25 percent. Among the fallen are many officers. In some cases, it is said, every officer in a company was lost...Our army took 2,000 prisoners. Their loss in killed or wounded must have been double that number...When hostilities ceased, the entire fighting line was within gunshot of Santiago town, and the strongholds of El Caney and El Paso had fallen. Our soldiers fought their way over two and a half miles of strongly fortified country that was defended with unexpected obstinacy by the Spaniards.

The second article was titled "Officers Killed or Wounded, Partial List of Those Who Fell in the Attack on the Outworks." It listed the names of 29 U.S. Army officers who had been reported killed or wounded as of late in the day on July 1. For John H. Patterson, the newspaper reported, "Lieut. Col. Patterson, Twenty-second Infantry, wounded in the groin." That same article also included a three paragraph summary of Patterson's military career, including the dates of his promotions. Although the article mentioned that during the Civil War he "distinguished himself by gallant conduct on several occasions," it did not say anything about his actions at the Battle of the Wilderness or his Medal of Honor. It did, however, allude to the fact that he had contributed the experiences of the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment during the Civil War to a book titled *The Army of the United States*. (See Appendix No. 2.)

A document from the Adjutant General's Office included in his widow's pension file that summarizes his medical records indicates that he received a gunshot wound in the left buttock and that he was treated at the 5<sup>th</sup> Army Corps hospital near Santiago, Cuba, for several days before being transferred to a hospital ship. Upon returning to the United States, he was admitted to the Fort Monroe, Virginia, General Hospital on July 13, 1898, and he was subsequently placed on sick leave.

Patterson's obituary in the Albany, New York, *Times Union* included the following about his role in the Battle of the Wilderness and the fighting in Cuba: "For 'most distinguished gallantry' in the bloody Wilderness battle, on May 5, 1864, he was awarded the rarest and most coveted of all American military decorations, the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was severely wounded 24 years later while leading his regiment in the fighting at El Caney, Cuba, and it was because of the effects of this wound that he was finally retired with the rank of brigadier general."

Finally, in the September 1898 issue of a monthly New York City publication by the name of *Munsey's Magazine* in an article titled "War Time Snap Shots: Notes and Pictures of the War with Spain," John H. Patterson is mentioned briefly as follows: "Another officer who has a long record of good service in the army, and who was seriously wounded before Santiago, was Lieutenant Colonel John H. Patterson, of the Twenty-second Infantry. He is a brother of Supreme Court Justice Edward Patterson of New York." A sketch of Lieut. Col. Patterson in his dress uniform is also included in the article.<sup>29</sup>

One of the histories of the Spanish-American War erroneously included Patterson among the officers who were killed in the fighting to capture Santiago de Cuba, saying, "Among our dead were a number of gallant and distinguished officers. Lieutenant-Colonel John H. Patterson of the Twenty-second Infantry, killed, wore a medal of honor presented to him by Congress for most distinguished gallantry in action at the battle of the Wilderness in Virginia on May 5, 1864...He was a New Yorker by birth, a soldier of fine character, and popular in the service."<sup>30</sup>

As already indicated above, Patterson was granted a leave of absence after he was wounded, probably for 30 days, because a short notice in *The New York Times* on August 12, 1898, reported, "The leave of absence on account of sickness granted Lieut. Col. John H. Patterson, Twenty-second Infantry, is extended two months on account of sickness." This was followed by the following on October 7, 1898, also in *The New York Times*: "The assignment to duty, on Oct. 1, of Brig. Gen. John H. Patterson, United States Volunteers (Lieutenant Colonel, Twenty-second United States Infantry) as Chief Mustering Officer for the State of New Jersey, with station in Newark, is announced."

The following day, on October 8, 1898, *The Times* reported the following, datelined Washington, October 7: "The War Department today issued the long-awaited order for the honorable discharge from the volunteer army of the United States of three Major Generals and twenty-six Brigadier Generals of Volunteers. This heavy reduction was made necessary by the fact that the volunteer army itself has been already reduced by fully 50 percent, and there is consequently no duty remaining for these officers to discharge. The officers who were promoted from the regular army will return to their former duties. To take effect Nov. 30, 1898...Brigadier General John H. Patterson..." This order did not result in the discharge of Patterson from the U.S. Army but merely confirmed his permanent rank of lieutenant colonel.

His promotions following the Spanish–American War were as follows: To Colonel of Infantry (Regular Army) with the 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry effective September 28, 1898, (Commission signed by President McKinley on December 24, 1898); to Brigadier General of Volunteers (i.e., not Regular Army) effective September 21, 1898 (Commission signed by President McKinley on January 3, 1899); and, finally, to Brigadier General (Regular Army) with the 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry effective January 18, 1899 (Commission signed by President McKinley on February 4, 1899). *The New York Times* in its "Presidential Nominations" column reported on February 4, 1899, that President McKinley had sent Patterson's nomination, along with several others, to the Senate on February 3, 1899, for confirmation.

On December 18, 1898, while stationed in Newark, New Jersey, as the Chief Mustering Officer for the state, Patterson wrote the following letter to the Adjutant General of the United States Army requesting that he be retired:

I have the honor to request my retirement from active duty for more than thirty years of service. It would be very gratifying to me should the President, Commander in Chief, permit me by his appointment for the purpose, to retire with the rank of Brigadier General. The severe character of the wound I received in front of El Caney, Cuba, on the first day of July 1898, while commanding my regiment, the 22nd U.S. Infantry, precludes my doing very active or violent duty for some time to come, and I have concluded to do what I must do sooner or later, ask to be placed on the retired list.

In my long service in the army I have been almost constantly on duty with my regiment. In the thirty seven years and six months of my service I have been absent from my regiment less than five years. In the War of the Rebellion I was in the field with my regiment, in the Fifth Corps of the Army of the Potomac, and present at the battles of Gains Mills, Malvern Hill, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness May 5th, Spotsylvania May 8th, and May 12th, the assault upon the defenses of Petersburg June 18th and the Weldon Railroad and the battle of Chapel House October 1st, to say nothing of numerous affairs of minor importance in the campaign of 1864.

I was left sick in the 9th Corps Hospital at Fredericksburg, Va., when the 5th Corps landed there en route to join General Pope's command, and by reason of sickness was not present at the battles of Second Bull Run, Antietam and Fredericksburg. Since the close of the War of the Rebellion my service has been almost uninterruptedly to 1889 on what was then the Indian frontier. I have a Congressional Medal of Honor for service at the battle of the Wilderness and received the Brevet rank of Captain during the war for service at the battle of Chapel House where I served as A.D.C. [Aide-de-camp], 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 5th Corps.

I think my record of service as shown by the files of the War Department will be found to be without a bad mark. And I respectfully ask of the President of the United States that I be allowed to retire with the rank I had hoped to attain until a Spanish bullet of El Caney put an end to any further very active service by me as an officer of the Army.

John H. Patterson's illustrious military career came to an end when he retired on February 6, 1899, 21 days after he had been promoted to brigadier general in the Regular Army.<sup>31</sup>



Munsey's Magazine September 1898

Lt. Col. John H. Patterson At the Time of the Spanish-American War


National Park Service

Brig. Gen. John H. Patterson Wearing His Medal of Honor

#### JOHN H. PATTERSON'S SECOND MARRIAGE AND HIS FINAL YEARS

About eight months after Patterson's retirement, *The New York Times* on October 11, 1899, carried the announcement of his engagement to Grace Hallam Learned, the daughter of Justice William Law Learned. The short article mentioned that, "Brig. Gen. John H. Patterson distinguished himself in the Santiago campaign and was wounded. He is now the guest of Gov. (Theodore) Roosevelt." They were married on January 3, 1900.

That John Patterson was the guest of New York Governor Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt is interesting but not surprising. On July 1, 1898, they had fought together at the Battle of Santiago in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. Lt. Col. Patterson led the American infantry troops in the capture of the Spanish stronghold of El Caney. On the same day, Lt. Col. Roosevelt led the famous "Rough Riders" in the charge to capture nearby San Juan Hill on the outskirts of Santiago de Cuba. They had apparently become more than casual acquaintances during the war.

Roosevelt served as the 33<sup>rd</sup> governor of New York from January 1, 1899, until December 31, 1900. In 1900, he was elected vice-president under William McKinley, taking office on March 4, 1901. When President McKinley was assassinated on September 14, 1901, Roosevelt became the 26<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, serving until March 4, 1909. He died on January 6, 1919.

Patterson and Roosevelt share one other important distinction: both are recipients of the Medal of Honor. However, in Roosevelt's case it took over 100 years before it was awarded. For his actions at Santiago, Roosevelt was nominated for the Medal of Honor, but it was subsequently disapproved. At the end of the Spanish-American War, Roosevelt and other officers demanded, in a series of letters, that the soldiers in Cuba be returned home, partly because malaria was killing more American soldiers than had died in the fighting. One of Roosevelt's letters was leaked to the press, angering the secretary of war and the president. Roosevelt always believed that it was this incident that cost him the medal.

However, in September 1997, a New York congressman recommended to the U.S. Army Adjutant General that a Medal of Honor finally be awarded to Roosevelt. That recommendation was approved on January 16, 2001, and the medal is currently on display in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. Roosevelt was the first and, thus far, the only President of the United States to be awarded America's highest military honor, and the only person in history to receive both the Medal of Honor and the Nobel Peace Prize.<sup>32</sup> Roosevelt's medal citation reads, "Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt distinguished himself by acts of bravery on 1 July, 1898, near Santiago de Cuba, Republic of Cuba, while leading a daring charge up San Juan Hill. Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt, in total disregard for his personal safety, and accompanied by only four or five men, led a desperate and gallant charge up San Juan Hill, encouraging his troops to continue the assault through withering enemy fire over open countryside. Facing the enemy's heavy fire, he displayed extraordinary bravery throughout the charge, and was the first to reach the enemy trenches, where he quickly killed one of the enemy with his pistol, allowing his men to continue the assault. His leadership and valor turned the tide in the Battle for San Juan Hill."

Patterson probably became acquainted with Grace Learned in one of two ways – or possibly both. First, he and Grace might have met through his brother, Edward. Edward was born in New York in 1839 and started studying law at the age of 16 at the offices of a judge. He attended Williams, Hobart, Columbia and the University of New York and became an attorney. He was admitted to the bar in 1860 and was one of the organizers of the New York Bar Association. In 1886, he was elected to the New York State Supreme Court for a term of 14 years. In 1900, he was re-elected for another term. On that occasion, *The New York Times* carried a short biography of him in its October 11, 1900, edition. That article mentioned, "His brother, Brig. Gen. John Patterson, was seriously wounded at El Caney in July 1898." Justice Edward Patterson died in 1910.

William Law Learned, the father of John H. Patterson's second wife, Grace Learned, was born in 1821, graduated from Yale University in 1841, and was admitted to the bar in 1844. He was elected to the New York Supreme Court in 1870 and was re-elected for a second term in 1884. He retired from the bench in 1891 because he had reached the mandatory retirement age of 70, at which time he resumed his private law practice. Learned died of heart failure at his law office in Albany, New York, on September 20, 1904, at age 83.<sup>34,35</sup> Consequently, Justice Learned and Justice Patterson sat on the New York Supreme Court bench concurrently for about five years between 1886 and 1891, which could explain how John Patterson met Grace Learned.

Second, John Patterson and Grace Learned could have met in Albany because he was stationed there on recruiting duty from September 1889 until May 1891, his wife having died at Fort Supply, Indian Territory, several years earlier.

When the 1900 U.S. census was taken, John Henry and Grace H. Patterson were living at 298 State St. in Albany, New York, in the same residence as William Learned, 78, (Grace's father), and Katherine Learned, 51, (William Learned's wife), along with three servants. (Katherine was Grace's stepmother, because William Learned had remarried in 1880 following the death of his first wife.) Learned's occupation was given as "Judge," and Patterson's as "General, U.S. Army."

By the next census, in 1910, John and Grace Patterson were living in their own household, Grace's father having died six years earlier. They had moved just down the street to 244 State St. in Albany. There were no children from the second marriage, as is also confirmed by that census. Patterson's occupation was recorded by the enumerator that year as "Own income." The household included three servants.

The 1920 U.S. census is the last census in which John Patterson appears because he died after that census was taken – in October of that year. By then, he was 76 years old, and Grace was 60. In this census, "Army officer" is the entry in the occupation column of the census form. The Pattersons were still employing three servants, who lived with them at the same address as in 1910. As already mentioned, at the time of this census, John Patterson's daughters, Elizabeth and Helen, both single, were residing with him and Grace in Albany. They later moved back to Cooperstown, New York, – possibly when their father died. The 1930 census shows them living in the same household in Cooperstown in a home they owned. Both resided in Cooperstown until their deaths.

As an aside, according to information in the donated materials about John H. Patterson in the National Park Service's files, "Patterson was in the Chamberlin Hotel fire at Old Point Comfort, on Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia, around 1918." This was a major fire that received national attention at the time and that destroyed a historic building. According to *The New York Times*, it actually occurred on March 7, 1920, just a few months before Patterson died. Although it was feared at first that several of the 200 guests had perished, that turned out not to be the case even though the hotel was a total loss. The hotel was rebuilt in 1928, but by 1990 it had fallen into disrepair, and the September 11, 2001, terrorists' attacks prompted increased security on this Army-owned property. Consequently, the Chamberlin Hotel closed in the spring of 2002. Recently, a development firm, working with the Army Corps of Engineers, has turned it into a luxury senior rental community, which opened in June 2008.<sup>36</sup>

Little is known about John H. Patterson's life during his retirement years. His obituary mentions that he was "a distinguished Albanian" (resident of Albany, New York) and that he was a member of the board of trustees of the Albany Rural Cemetery (where he is buried), a governor of the Albany Hospital, a trustee of the Albany Historical and Art Society, and a member of the Fort Orange and the Albany Country Clubs as well as of the Army and Navy Club in Washington, D.C. He was evidently proud of his service in the Regular Army both during and after the Civil War because his obituary mentions, "Although he was not a West Pointer, he was a member of the Officers' Mess of West Point, an almost exclusively regular army officers' organization, when he died." A search of the news clippings from the *Albany Times Union* in the files of the Albany Public Library did not turn up any articles mentioning his name. It is known that he took an active interest in his family's history, because, as already mentioned, he published two pamphlets about the Patterson family genealogy, one in 1894 and another in 1916, based on extensive personal research.

Patterson's Medal of Honor file contains an interesting document relevant to his postretirement life. A summary of his military service was prepared by the War Department as part of a memorandum for the Army Chief of Staff. (The memorandum is undated, but it refers to Patterson's retirement date of February 6, 1899, so that it was prepared after that date.) The introduction reads, "The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs forwards to the War Department a bill (S.7327) authorizing the appointment of Brigadier General John H. Patterson, U.S.A., retired, as a major general on the retired list, and asks for the views of the Department in regards to the measure." Although there is no direct evidence to that effect, presumably Patterson initiated this request for a post-retirement promotion – more than likely to increase the amount of his pension. No evidence was found in any of his records that he was promoted to the rank of major general.

Elizabeth Patterson wrote the following about her father's wounding at El Caney, Cuba, and his last years in her 1932 article in the *New York Herald Tribune*:

My father retired at fifty-six, after thirty years' service. He was shot through the body at El Caney, in the Spanish war.

"You will die," the surgeon told him.

"I will not," he answered, and with the help of his men he walked a mile

of the three miles to Siboney before he fainted. Thanks to a clean Mauser bullet and his hard life on the plains, he did live. They made him a brigadier – but he had to retire at once. And retirement broke his heart.

He lived to sit in his den in his civilian house, his pictures about him – "The Fight for the Standard," "The Thin Red Line," "The Roll Call – Crimea, 1854-'55," "The Officers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry." His "Congressional Library of the Civil War" on his bookshelves; his sword and sash hanging on the wall. He lived to sit there by himself in the late afternoons, his cigar dying out, the clock ticking on the mantel; in winter the slur of snow across the window panes, in summer the shades lowered against the sun.

No one disturbed him. Well we knew they were no old men's dreams that absorbed him. His blue eyes were bright and staring. His mind was again where his heart was always: camping on the Rio Grande; chasing the "Bloods" – fullblooded Indians gathering for trouble; listening to evidence in some court martial; laughing at "Pecos Bill" as they called him, afterward Major General William Shafter, the only man who could drink the water of the Pecos River and live.

Such were the old regulars of the old Army, the honor of whose calling bade them put duty first, their lives and families afterward. They were a little lost in the outside world, daunted by just one enemy - old age.

Abrupt, quick-voiced, emotional, courageous, a veneer of severity, an impulsive loving heart, simple in his tastes, childlike in his reactions, my father at seventy-eight died as he would have wished. Suddenly in fifteen minutes, from apparently vigorous life to smiling death – "fallen on the field," as they all hoped to go.

John Henry Patterson passed away on the evening of October 5, 1920, at the Pattersons' summer home in Selkirk, New York, about ten miles south of Albany. He had dined a few hours earlier with his wife and a nephew and had apparently been in excellent health then. The *Albany Times Union* carried his lengthy, front-page obituary on October 6, 1920, that included his picture. It cited Patterson as having been "a hero of both the Civil and Spanish wars, serving with conspicuous gallantry in both conflicts." It went on to say, "For 'most distinguished gallantry' in the bloody Wilderness battle, on May 5, 1864, he finally was awarded the rarest and most coveted of all American military decorations, the Congressional Medal of Honor, which is as highly prized by American soldiers as is the Victoria Cross by the British and is even more difficult to obtain. He was severely wounded 24 years later while leading his regiment in the fighting at El Caney, Cuba, and it was because of the effects of this wound that he was finally retired with the rank of brigadier general."

The obituary also included a summary of his military assignments and promotions as well as a brief description of his family and his survivors. (All of that information has been included in various sections of this biography.) The obituary speculated that the cause of death might have been "heart trouble." That assumption is confirmed by the records of the Albany Rural Cemetery Association and by his death certificate included in his widow's pension file that indicate that he died from myocarditis, with pulmonary congestion and edema being contributing factors. Myocarditis is an inflammation of the heart muscle. It resembles a heart attack but coronary arteries are not blocked. It is most often caused by common viruses, with sudden death being an end result.<sup>37</sup> Brig. Gen. John H. Patterson was buried on October 8, 1920, following a funeral service in the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany.

According to Elizabeth Patterson's article in the *New York Herald Tribune*, "They laid him out for his eternal rest in his brigadier's uniform, so old and still so new, which he had earned but never worn. It was the habit of his order, the shroud of the service he had loved so much."

John H. Patterson's second wife, Grace Hallam Learned Patterson, filed for a widow's pension on November 15, 1920. After the usual records and affidavits related to John H. Patterson's military service, his first wife and the children from the first marriage, etc., had been collected by the Pension Office, her pension of \$30.00 per month was approved, effective on November 15, 1920. She collected that amount until she died on October 29, 1924, at her home in Albany.<sup>38</sup> Her cause of death is listed as pneumonia in the cemetery records. John and Grace Patterson are buried together in the Learned family plot (No. 13) in Section 42 of the Albany Rural Cemetery in Menands, New York, just outside of Albany.

The original cemetery plot, consisting of 4,200 sq. ft., was purchased by Judge William L. Learned in 1863 for \$660. The family added another 301 sq. ft. in 1945 for \$451. It currently contains eleven graves that include those for, besides John Henry and Grace Hallam Patterson, William L. Learned (1821-1904), his first wife Phoebe Rowland Marvin Learned (1830-1864) who was Grace's mother, and his second wife Katherine DeWitt Learned (1842-1932). At the time of his death, William Law Learned was president of the Albany Cemetery Association.<sup>39</sup>

John and Grace Patterson's modest joint gravestone is inscribed

## JOHN HENRY PATTERSON BRIDADIER GENERAL

UNITED STATES ARMY February 10, 1843 October 5, 1920

## GRACE HALLAM LEARNED HIS WIFE October 31, 1859 October 29, 1924

On the rear of the gravestone a Medal of Honor bronze plaque, furnished by the U.S. Veterans Administration, is installed. It reads

### JOHN HENRY PATTERSON MEDAL OF HONOR BRIG GEN US ARMY CIVIL WAR FEB 10 1843 OCT 5 1920



Don Morfe, findagrave.com

John and Grace Patterson's Gravestone (Front) Albany Rural Cemetery



Don Morfe, findagrave.com

John and Grace Patterson's Gravestone (Rear) Albany Rural Cemetery

#### POSTSCRIPT

#### DONATION OF JOHN H. PATTERSON'S MEDAL OF HONOR

Upon John H. Patterson's death in 1920, his Medal of Honor went to his daughters, Elizabeth and Helen Patterson, who lived in Cooperstown, New York, for many years, as already indicated. Based on correspondence in the files of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, in the 1950s Helen apparently considered leaving the medal to an appropriate organization upon her death. (Her older sister, Elizabeth, had passed away in 1943.) She seems to have settled on the National Park Service because she was a close personal friend of the mother of George C. Mackenzie, who was the superintendent of the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Site in Baltimore, Maryland, in the 1950s. Since Fort McHenry would not have been an appropriate place for the safekeeping and/or display of the medal, Mackenzie apparently suggested the Fredericksburg National Military Park as a suitable repository because the Fredericksburg Military Park includes the Wilderness Battlefield, where, of course, Patterson had earned his medal.

It appears that there were "correspondence and negotiations for several years" between Helen Patterson and officials of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park regarding the eventual donation. The New York State Historical Association in Cooperstown also played an active role in these discussions. Helen Patterson's plans to bequeath the Medal of Honor upon her death changed to donating it during her lifetime after O. F. Northington, Jr., Superintendent of the Fredericksburg Military Park, wrote a letter to Miss Patterson dated September 8, 1961. In it he pointed out that as part of the centennial of the Civil War, construction had begun in August 1961 of the Chancellorsville Museum and Visitor Center, and he made a strong argument, combined with a plea, that Chancellorsville would be an ideal place for displaying Patterson's medal and the documents she had preserved. Completion of the building was planned for May 1962. Northington pointed out that to the best of his knowledge, the display of Patterson's medal and papers "would be the only exhibit of its kind in the country."

Helen Patterson was obviously convinced because in a letter dated September 21, 1961, The New York State Historical Association, acting as an intermediary, sent a package containing Miss Patterson's donations to the Chief, Museum Branch, National Park Service, in Washington, D.C., for eventual transfer to the Chancellorsville Visitor Center upon its completion. In addition to several documents, including commissions signed by various presidents, several photographs of Patterson, the medal-award notification letter from Secretary of War Alger, and a copy of Elizabeth Patterson's 1932 *New York Herald Tribune* article, the package contained two Medals of Honor, with one possibly being a duplicate. Miss Patterson noted that there was a difference in the designs of the two medals but that she did not know why her father would have received the second medal. She also requested that the "duplicate" medal be returned to her.

Although the details about Patterson's second Medal of Honor, i.e., the so-called "Gillespie-design" referred to below, are not known, Patterson's Medal of Honor file in the National Archives includes a letter from him dated April 20, 1905, acknowledging the receipt of "the Medal of Honor, etc." It is signed J. H. Patterson, Brig. Gen. U.S. Army, Retired."

On October 23, 1961, the "duplicate" Medal of Honor was returned to Helen Patterson by the National Park Service. What became of it is unknown. The following is a summary of the circumstances leading to the issuance of duplicate medals by the War Department to all medal recipients.<sup>40</sup>

President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill into law that established the U.S. Army Medal of Honor on July 12, 1862, and the first medals were issued that year. (A Medal of Honor for the Navy had been authorized in December 1861.)



1862 Army Medal of Honor

On November 10, 1896, the Army Medal of Honor was changed for the first time when the design of the suspension ribbon was modified.



1896 Army Medal of Honor

A more significant change to the medal was made on April 23, 1904, when Congress authorized a distinctive new design for the Army Medal of Honor, the brainchild of General George Gillespie, who had received the Medal of Honor during the Civil War. The new "Gillespie Medal" retained the star shape but surrounded it with a green laurel. The new medal was suspended from a newly designed blue ribbon bearing 13 stars from a bar on which is printed the word "VALOR."



1904 Army Medal of Honor

When it authorized the new Medal of Honor design, Congress required all medal recipients to return their original medals to be replaced with the new ones. However, many recipients of the earlier design were reluctant to return their "old" medals for the new "Gillespie" medals because of the sentimental value their original award held for them. In response, on February 27, 1907, Congress authorized recipients to be issued medals with the new design without having to turn in their original medals, and it ordered that those who had previously turned in their old medals have them returned to them. The legislation specified, however, that both medals (i.e., the original and the "Gillespie" version) could not be worn at the same time.

There were several reasons why the government initially required the recipients to "trade in" their old medals for the new ones, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.<sup>41</sup>

First, the military probably simply required the return of the old-style medals as a matter of course, similar to what happens when a uniform is redesigned. You get the new version and get rid of the old one because it's no longer regulation. Since the newly designed medal was being provided to all recipients, the feeling probably was that the recipients no longer needed the originals as they were no longer "regulation."

Second, after 1904, recipients could conceivably have three Medals of Honor: the original, the 1896 version, and the 1904 version. The government may have been striving for uniformity in the new design so that the medal would be easily recognizable, as is the case for uniforms.

Third, the authorities didn't want people to be wearing both versions of the medal at the same time. This was actually a legitimate concern, as some of the recipients did start wearing both. A prominent example was Mary Walker who frequently wore both for public appearances – even after her Medal of Honor was revoked in 1917.

Fourth, the authorities were probably trying to prevent having so many medals floating around in the public. Even back then, there were a lot of "phonies" around. The more medals that were out there, the easier it was for imposters to get their hands on one. At the time, the only medal available for combat valor was the Medal of Honor, so for someone looking to play a war hero, the Medal of Honor was the only one to go with. The final result was that the National Park Service officially accepted Patterson's original Medal of Honor, along with the documents mentioned above, in a letter to Miss Patterson dated February 8, 1962, and the medal has been prominently displayed at the Chancellorsville Visitor Center since then.

### APPENDIX NO. 1

### JOHN H. PATTERSON'S ASSIGNMENTS AND PROMOTIONS (Taken from Patterson's Medal of Honor File)

Assignments, Promotions, Leaves, Etc.	Location	Date/Until
Joined the 11 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment	Fort Independence, Mass.	July 11, 1861
Commissioned as 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt., 11 <sup>th</sup> U.S.	Fort Independence, Mass.	Sept. 21, 1861 [or
Infantry Regiment		May 14,1861]
Duty with 11 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment	Fort Independence, Mass.	Until Oct. 25, 1861
On recruiting service		Until Dec. 31, 1861
Duty with 11 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment	Perryville, Md.	Until March 7,
		1862
In the Army of the Potomac		Until Aug. 1862
Sick in hospital		Until Sept. 1862
On recruiting service		Until March 3,
		1863
With 11 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment with		Until Sept. 1, 1864
the Army of the Potomac		
Brevetted captain for gallant service in		Oct. 1, 1864
the Battle of Chapel House, Va.		
Aide-de-camp at Headquarters, 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Until Nov. 1, 1864
Brigade, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Division, 5 <sup>th</sup> Corps		
Duty with 11 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment	Maryland	Until Jan. 1865
On recruiting service		Until Oct. 1865

Participated in the following Civil War battles, actions, etc.: Siege of Yorktown, Gaines' Mill, Malvern Hill, Turkey Bend, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Rappahannock Station, Mine Run, Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court House, North Anna, Peach Orchard, Bethesda Church, Siege of Petersburg, Weldon Railroad, Chapel House and Hatcher's Run.

Promoted to captain		July 28, 1866
Transferred to 20 <sup>th</sup> Infantry		Sept. 21, 1866
Commanded company	Richmond, Va.	Until Jan. 1867
At Lynchburg, Va., March – June 1866		
Duty	Baton Rouge, La.	Until April 1869
Duty	Ft. Ripley, Minn.	Until June 1869
Duty	Ft. Totten, Dakota Territory	Until Sept. 30,
		1872
On leave May 19 – July 1871		
Duty and post commanding officer	Ft. Abercrombie, Dakota	Until Oct. 10, 1873
	Territory	

Duty and post commanding officer	Ft. Seward, Dakota Territory	Until Oct. 1, 1877
Sick leave April 21 – June 10, 1874		
Duty	Ft. Sisseton, Dakota Territory	Until Dec. 17, 1877
Duty	San Antonio, Tex.	Until June 14, 1880
Duty	Ft. Brown, Tex.	Until Sept. 4, 1880
Duty	Columbus Barracks, Oh.	Until Oct. 10, 1881
Commanded company	Ft. Wallace, Kans.	Until June 4, 1882
Duty	Ft. Supply, Indian Territory	Until July 14, 1883
On leave March 26 – June 13, 1883		
Duty	Ft. Leavenworth, Kans.	Until May 20, 1885
Duty	Ft. Assinniboine, Mont.	Until June 1, 1888
On leave May 2 – Aug. 3, 1887		
Duty	Ft. Maginnis, Mont.	Until Sept. 1889
Inspecting National Guard of		
Minnesota June 11 – Aug. 13, 1888		
On recruiting service	Albany, N.Y.	Until May 1891
Promoted to major		May 19, 1891
Transferred to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry		June 7, 1891
Duty	Ft. Snelling, Minn.	Until June 29, 1893
Acting Indian Agent	Forest City Agency, S.D.	Until Sept. 13, 1893
Promoted to lieutenant colonel		Jan. 21, 1895
Duty	Ft. Snelling, Minn.	Until Feb. 28, 1895
Transferred to 1 <sup>st</sup> Infantry		March 4, 1895
Transferred to 22 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry		Nov. 4, 1895
Commanding officer	Benecia Barracks, Cal.	Until Nov. 16, 1895
Commanding officer	Ft. Harrison, Mont.	Until June 26, 1896
Awarded Medal of Honor		July 23, 1897
Commanded regiment and post	Ft. Crook, Neb.	Until April 1898
Commanding officer of his regiment	Florida and Cuba	Until July 1, 1898
Wounded in action	San Juan (El Caney), Cuba	July 1, 1898
Promoted to brigadier general, U.S.		Sept. 21, 1898
Volunteers		····· , ····
Promoted to colonel and transferred to		Sept. 28, 1898
20 <sup>th</sup> Infantry		
End of leave of absence on account of		Oct. 1, 1898
wounds. Assigned as Chief Mustering		
Officer for the State of New Jersey		
Honorably discharged from U.S.		Nov. 30, 1898
Volunteers as brigadier general		
Promoted to brigadier general, U.S.		Jan. 18, 1899
Army		
Chief Mustering Officer, State of New Jersey	Newark, N.J.	Until Feb. 6, 1899
Retired from active service at his own		Feb. 6, 1899

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#### APPENDIX NO. 2

## "HISTORY OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. INFANTRY REGIMENT"

#### INCLUDED IN

# THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF STAFF AND LINE WITH PORTRAITS OF GENERALS-IN-CHIEF

## EDITED BY THEOPHILUS FRANCIS RODENBOUGH BVT. BRIGADIER GENERAL, U.S.A. AND WILLIAM L. HASKIN MAJOR, FIRST ARTILLERY

NEW YORK MAYNARD, MERRILL, & CO. 1896

### INTRODUCTION

It is with pleasure that I avail myself of an opportunity to commend this effort of the Military Service Institution to provide an authentic and condensed account of the services of the Army, from the creation of our military establishment to the present day. Each staff-corps and regiment of the line has here its chosen historian and its modest memoir replete with biographical as well as historical data. Its form gives it a unique character of special value as a work of reference. It represents a completion of a series of historical sketches which have appeared from time to time during the last few years in the Journal of the Military Service Institution of the United States, and comprises an amount of gratuitous labor by contributors and of public spirit on the part of the publishers that merits public acknowledgment. I have no hesitation in saying that it deserves a place in every public library and is worthy of preservation by all collectors of military works.

> NELSON A. MILES, Major-General Commanding the Army.

#### HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY

#### WASHINGTON, D. C., NOV. 15, 1895.

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## THE ELEVENTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

## SECTION I BY CAPT. J. H. PATTERSON, U. S. A., TWENTIETH INFANTRY

I propose in a brief and concise way to write something of the Old Eleventh Infantry. There have been several infantry regiments of that numerical designation in our Army. What I have to tell will refer to the first, in numerical order, of the three battalion regiments added to the Army in 1861, to the time when, by Act of Congress, dated July 28, 1866, the three battalion regiments were discontinued.

I have no intention of writing a formal history. I have not the necessary data even if I had the inclination. I claim the privilege of wandering here and there over the broad field of my experience as a subaltern officer of the Old Eleventh, and noting such historical, statistical, and anecdotal items, as I may remember after all these years.

On the 14th day of May, 1861, President Lincoln issued an executive order, directing an increase of the regimental organizations of the Regular Army. Nine infantry regiments, of three battalions of eight companies each, were of the increase authorized. In G. O. No. 33, A. G. O. series of 1861, can be found the names of the officers appointed to the new regiments, the greater number from civil life. The order directing the formation of the 11th Infantry, designated Fort Independence, Boston Harbor, Mass., as regimental headquarters, where all appointees were directed to report, either in person or by letter, to the regimental commander. Fort Independence remained our headquarters during the War.

Edmund Schriver of New York, formerly an officer of the 3d Artillery, accepted the lieutenant-colonelcy of the regiment and had charge of its organization, the colonel,—Brig-Gen. E. D. Keyes, U. S. Volunteers, appointed to the regiment from major, 1st Artillery,—being on detached service with his volunteer command. The other field officers were Major Frederick Steele, appointed from captain of 2d Infantry; Major Delancy Floyd-Jones, appointed from captain, 4th Infantry; and Major Jonathan W. Gordon, of Indiana, an appointment from civil life.

Colonel Schriver—among the first of the regiment to arrive in Boston—found Fort Independence occupied by a regiment of Massachusetts volunteers, the 13th, I think. After a vexatious delay, the 13th got off for the front, when the officers of the Eleventh, who were quite as anxious as the colonel to get into quarters, were ordered to report for duty at our official station. Colonel Schriver selected for his regimental staff 1st Lieut. Guido N. Lieber to be adjutant, and 1st Lieut. Robert Burnett Smith to be quartermaster. Colonel Lieber is well known to the Army as our present assistant judge advocate general. "Bob" Smith resigned in 1865. I think that several of the younger officers were reluctant to leave the attractions and delights of Boston for the not very cheerful prospect of what so isolated a locality as Fort Independence promised in exchange. Others were prepared for the most Spartan experiences. There was one

condition common to all. I do not remember that, other than Colonel Schriver and Major Floyd-Jones, there was an officer in the command who knew anything of practical value of the service. Several had campaigned a little in the three months service. I do not remember that they claimed to be any more of the old soldier than the rest of us, their experiences, as I heard them related, having been quite as full of amusement as of instruction. The only enlisted man at the fort when we took station there was Ordnance Sergeant Parr, a veteran of great dignity and most impressive manner. I think he doubted the wisdom of commissioning so many inexperienced young men in the Army. The sergeant had served in the Mexican War and Utah Expedition. I do not remember when he first entered the service. He had grown gray in it. His reminiscences were numerous and lengthy, and, though colored somewhat with imagination, were very interesting, and found willing and attentive listeners. His manner toward the younger officers was encouraging, approaching frequently to the paternal. I know very little of his subsequent career. I have the impression that he was appointed lieutenant-colonel or major of a Massachusetts cavalry regiment, but, annoved and irritated by the absence of that formal way of doing things to which he had been for so many years accustomed, resigned his volunteer commission in disgust. Sergeant Parr represented a type of the old soldier, difficult if not impossible, to find in these degenerate days.

Professional work began at once with Colonel Schriver's first order directing recitations in tactics and the Army regulations. There was not an enlisted man present in the regiment at this time. The officers were drilled in the school of the squad with and without arms. Captain Chipman was our drill master. Major Floyd-Jones joined soon after we went down to the fort and partially relieved Colonel Schriver of what must often have been the irksome task of hearing our every week-day recitations. I remember that the War Department issued to each officer the Ordnance Manual, Wayne's Sword Exercise, the Army Regulations, and Scott's Tactics. Scott was soon changed for Hardie, the latter for U. S. Infantry Tactics, a change of title only, Hardie having gone over to the Confederacy. I want to remark in this place that we always found Colonel Schriver a patient, interested and considerate instructor. All who had the good fortune to commence their military service with the aid of his advice and direction will remember the colonel with feelings of affectionate regard as a commanding officer who, to a perfect and entire familiarity with the duties and technicalities of his office and profession, added the graces and accomplishments of a courteous gentleman.

Sergeants Bentzoni, Hagan, Kennington and Fitzmorris were transferred from the Recruiting Depot at Governor's Island, and appointed 1st sergeants of companies as they were organized. They were commissioned in the regiment after a time, Captain Fitzmorris, killed at the battle of Gaines' Mill, carrying the regimental color.

By October, six companies had been organized and assigned to the First Battalion. About the tenth of that month the battalion (with regimental headquarters, temporarily) was ordered to Perryville, Maryland, opposite Havre de Grace, where, joined by the 14th Infantry from Fort Trumbull, Conn., we remained during the winter, guarding mules and wagons collected at Perryville to make up a wagon train for the Army of the Potomac. Picket guards at the ferry landings and guards on the boats added to the duties the men were called upon to perform. The battalion was encamped on the bank of the river near the ferry and in tents until late in January, when it had a welcome change to rude but very comfortable temporary barracks. Colonel Shriver commanded the post, with Lieutenant Lieber as post adjutant. Captain, now Colonel, Sawtelle, of the Quartermaster's Department, was depot quartermaster. Major Delancy Floyd-Jones commanded the battalion, with 1st Lieut. Charles A. Hartwell as battalion adjutant. I wish I could remember the name of the post surgeon, a very attentive and competent physician. I passed many pleasant hours in his quarters. It is somewhat strange that while I remember so much of what occurred at Perryville, by no association of events or individuals can I recall the doctor's name.

The company officers present in our first camp were Captains Russell, Chipman, Lowe, Ames, Lawrence and Elder; Lieuts. J. S. Fletcher, Bates, Pleasants, Head, Ingham, Higbee, Patterson, Gray, Evans and Brownell. Sergeants William Fletcher, of the 8th Infantry, and Bentzoni and Huntington, of the 11th, were appointed to and joined the regiment before the end of the year. I think I have mentioned all who were there for duty with the battalion at that time, and, with the exception of Elder and Bentzoni, they embarked with the battalion for the Peninsula.

In March 1862, the 11th Infantry and the 14th were ordered to Washington, where they joined Sykes' Division of Regulars. Colonel Schriver left the regiment at this time to join General McDowell as his chief of staff. The battalion marched with the division in the reconnaissance to Manassas, returned with it to Alexandria, and went into camp near the Theological Seminary. It embarked for the Peninsula, sharing the transport with the 4th Infantry, and, in the operations before Yorktown, its camp was in the division camp called Winfield Scott, near General McClellan's headquarters.

I intend to refer as little as possible to the division and brigade to which my regiment was attached during the War, and will therefore, before proceeding farther, give them as briefly as possible for the whole period.

Sykes' division was an independent command reporting directly to General McClellan's headquarters, until the organization of the 5th Corps, when it joined that corps as its Second Division.

In the Peninsular campaign the division was made up of two Regular and one volunteer brigade. The 3d, 4th, 12th and 14th regiments of infantry were in the First Brigade; the 2d, 6th, 7th, 10th, 11th and 17th regiments of infantry in the Second; the 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery, the 5th and 10th New York Volunteers in the Third Brigade. A company of the 1st Infantry served with Sykes' Division in the Peninsula campaign. I have forgotten to which regiment it was attached. Lieut.-Col. R. C. Buchanan, 4th Infantry, commanded the First, Lieut.-Col. William Chapman, the Second, and Col. G. K. Warren, 5th New York Volunteers, the Third Brigade. This division formation—referring to regiments—(the company of the 1st Infantry was detached from the division, I think, at Harrison's Landing) continued until the fall of 1862, when the 1st Connecticut Artillery and 10th New York Volunteers were detached from, and the 140th and the 146th New York Volunteers attached to the Third Brigade.

The 5th New York, a two years' regiment, was mustered out in May, 1863, by expiration of its term of service. It was reorganized by Col. Cleveland Winslow, a very gallant officer, and

returned to the field and to the Third Brigade, where it maintained the high reputation its first organization had made, as one of the most distinguished volunteer regiments in the Army of the Potomac. In the reorganization of the Army of the Potomac, preparatory to the campaign of 1864, the three brigades of Sykes' old division were consolidated into one, and assigned to the First—Griffin's—Division of the 5th Corps. The service of the Regular infantry as a separate command in the Army of the Potomac came to an end with this consolidation. The assignment to Griffin's Division continued until after the battle of the Wilderness, when the brigade was returned to the Second Division as its Second Brigade, and General Ayres to his former Second Division command.

Gen. George Sykes (major, 14th Infantry) organized the division at Washington, D. C., in March 1862, and continued to command it until, at Frederick, Maryland, in June, 1863, he succeeded General Meade in command of the 5th Corps. Gen. R. B. Ayres (captain, 5th Artillery) who came to the First Brigade just before the battle of Chancellorsville, succeeded General Sykes in command of the division and, excepting the short time his division served as a brigade in Griffin's division, continued to command it to the end of the War. This recital, though somewhat lengthy and a departure from the line of my narrative, will, I hope, be interesting. It may serve a useful purpose.

Upon the evacuation of Yorktown, the regiment marched via Williamsburg, Cumberland, the White House, and Tunstall's Station, to near the Chickahominy, and went into camp on the Mechanicsville road near Gaines' Mill. Camp Lovell it was called. It took part in the movement to Hanover Court House, and did its share of picket and fatigue duty on the Chickahominy. The only thing that disturbed the even tenor of our camp life after the Hanover Court House affair was Stuart's raid. We were hurried out of camp about sundown, marched off rapidly for a few miles, and then marched back. I do not know if we were expected to catch Stuart's raiders, and can explain the movement only as Artemus Ward did a similarly futile effort. It may have been "Strategy, my boy."

At the battle of Gaines' Mill the battalion was posted to support Martin's Mass. Battery. Lieutenant Hartwell, battalion adjutant, was severely wounded in this action. At the battle of Malvern Hill, the 11th Infantry and 5th N. Y. Vols. were detached under Col. G. K. Warren, and posted in the bottom land on the extreme left of our army. The regiment followed the army to Harrison's Landing and remained in camp there until about August 14th, when it marched with the division via Charles City Court House and Williamsburg to Newport News, en route to join Pope's army north of the Rappahannock. It landed from transport at Acquia Creek, remained for a few days at Fredericksburg, and appeared in due time upon the battle-field of the Second Bull Run, where it was engaged. The regiment was present at the battle of Antietam, crossed the river in the reconnaissance to Sharpsburg, and was engaged on the skirmish line. It accompanied the division back to the Rappahannock, and went into camp near Falmouth, Va. It crossed the river and was engaged at the battle of Fredericksburg. Captain Lawrence was severely wounded in this action. It shared the fatigues and discomforts of the "Mud March" and wintered in the division camp near Potomac Creek. At the battle of Chancellorsville (May 1st), the regiment was again on the skirmish line, at first supporting the 17th Infantry and then deployed on its right in the advance of Sykes' Division in the direction of Fredericksburg. The skirmish line went forward for a mile or more without encountering very much opposition, or observing any indication that it would encounter any, when, for some reason thought to be good, I suppose, by whoever ordered it, the skirmish line was withdrawn, and the division returned to the camp it left in the morning.

On the evening of the disaster to a portion of the Eleventh Corps, the regiment, about sunset, was ordered out upon the road leading to the river to aid in restoring order and to assist in stopping the stream of stragglers making for the bridge. I shall not attempt a description of how a large body of men appeared when under the influence of the unaccountable demoralization. The scene was one of confusion and excitement truly thrilling, and though order was soon restored, suggested the thought of what a chaotic condition of things would have been likely to follow, had the panic extended beyond the limits to which it was fortunately confined.

In the battle of the next morning, the regiment was in line to the right of the troops engaged. It formed part of the rear-guard when the army crossed to the north bank of the river and, waiting to see the pontoon bridge taken up, then returned to its winter camp near Falmouth. The regiment accompanied the division to Gettysburg. The division, early in the afternoon of July 1st, went into camp near York, Pa., to prepare muster and pay rolls. About sunset it was hurriedly put en route for Gettysburg, had a very exhausting night march and, passing in the early morning to the rear of the battle-field of the day before, halted on the pike in rear of the Round Top for rest and breakfast. Later in the day the division was put in position covering the Round Top, the Regular brigades posted out well to the front. The enemy soon appeared in great force, threatening the destruction of the Regular infantry by an enfilade. The gallantry of Col. Hannibal Day, 6th Infantry, commanding the 1st,—and Col. Sidney Burbank, 2d Infantry, commanding the 2d Brigade,-their coolness and skill in withdrawing their commands from the terrible fire to which they were exposed without support, made the veteran officers named conspicuous figures on that part of the field. The following extracts, which I cannot resist quoting, from Colonel Fox's "Regimental Losses in the Civil War," will be interesting as showing what the Regular infantry did and suffered in this great battle:

"At Gettysburg the two Regular brigades, under Colonels Day and Burbank, again displayed that marked efficiency which, at Gaines' Mill and on other fields, had made them famous, their thinned ranks being again depleted under the terrible fire which they encountered."

And again: "At Gettysburg the two Regular brigades included ten regiments, but they contained only fifty-seven small companies. Out of 1985 present, they lost 829 in killed, wounded and missing, and in Burbank's Brigade, out of 80 officers present, 40 were killed or wounded."

The loss of the 11th Infantry in officers was the largest it,—or any other Regular regiment, so far as I can learn,—suffered in any one battle of the War. Captain Barri and Lieutenants Kenaston, Elder, Rochford and Barber were killed; and Captain Goodhue and Lieutenant Harbach wounded. The regiment marched with the division back to the Rappahannock.

In the fall of 1863 the Regular infantry, with other commands from the Army of the Potomac, were sent to New York City to preserve order during the next draft. The 11th Infantry

encamped on the East River, across the street and to the north of Jones' Wood garden. When the purpose for which the troops were sent to New York had been accomplished, they were ordered back to the front.

A great deal of marching and counter-marching is all that I remember as occurring to the time of the assault and capture by the 6th Corps of the rebel redoubts covering the railroad bridge crossing the Rappahannock. On that occasion the 11th Infantry was on the skirmish line to the left of the attack. The regiment took part in the movement to Mine Run, returned to the vicinity of Bealton Station, and went into what we thought would be our winter quarters. Remaining in that locality for a short time, it moved to near Nokesville. We had completed the hutting of the command when, about Christmas, the regiment was ordered to Alexandria, Va., for duty as train guards to Brandy Station. The end of the year left the regiment in camp near the cemetery at Alexandria, performing the duty last mentioned.

About May 1st, 1864, the regiment moved to Brandy Station, where the division, cantoned along the railroad during the winter, was assembling to take part in the campaign of 1864. The division crossed the Rapidan at Ely's Ford and bivouacked on the night of May 4th well out on the Orange Court House road. In the engagement of the next day the regiment was on the skirmish line. Lieutenants Pleasants and Staples were killed in this action. The regiment was again under fire May 8th and 12th. Lieutenant Pratt was killed in the action of May 8th. The regiment crossed the North Anna River near Jericho Ford and was engaged on that day, June 2d, at Bethesda Church. Under cover of a heavy growth of timber the enemy succeeded in turning the right of the 5th Corps, capturing Lieutenants Hunington and Nealy, and a number of the enlisted men of Company F, 1st Battalion, our right-flank company. The enemy came upon us from our right and rear. I did not stop to inquire what the rebels thought about it, but we were very much surprised indeed.

The regiment, still tramping with the division, crossed the Chickahominy at Long Bridge, moved after some delay to the James River, and crossed at Wilcox's Landing, was retained on the south bank, and made the most exhausting night march it ever experienced. It arrived in front of the works covering Petersburg on the morning of June 17th and was in support of the disastrous assault of the 9th Corps. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, the division moved to the left, to near the Weldon Railroad cut, and took part in an effective and bloody attack upon the rebel defenses on that front. The 11th Infantry suffered severely from the fire of a battery located in a redoubt fronting the line of the advance. Lieut.-Col. E. S. Otis, 140th New York Volunteers, commanded our brigade in this action. After remaining for several weeks in the trenches, the regiment moved to the more comfortable locality of a camp to the rear in the timber, where a man could hold up his head without the certainty of a sharp-shooter making a target of it. I can imagine no more utterly wearing, forlorn, and dispiriting situation than that of hiding, day after day, behind a breast-high parapet, waiting for your turn to come to be knocked on the head. Looking across to the rebel works they appeared deserted, until some movement or demonstration in our line called them to arms, when their parapet would glisten with bayonets, suggestive of the quills upon the fretful porcupine. The regiment was engaged at the battle of the Weldon R. R. and the battle of the Chapel House. Lieut.-Col. Otis, our brigade commander, was very severely wounded in the last-named action. The regiment took part in the movement to Hatcher's Run, returned to a camp near the Yellow Tavern, and on the 1st day of November, 1864, the Regular infantry serving

with the Army of the Potomac, were ordered out of the field. The casualties incident to field service, with the difficulty experienced in obtaining recruits for the Regular Army,—state and county bounties attracting recruits to the volunteer service—had reduced the several regiments to an aggregate enlisted of little more than the maximum allowed a company—several of the older regiments fell below it.

This separation was final. I do not think that I exaggerate when I remark that, in its service with the Army of the Potomac, the Regular infantry bore its part honorably and well; that the high standard for efficiency expected of it was always maintained when put to the crucial test of battle. Too few in numbers to claim recognition as a great element of strength to that army the record it made from Yorktown to the Chapel House is an assurance of what a notable influence it would have exercised, had its enlisted strength been sufficient to permit its organization as an army corps. The regiment went from the field to Hunt Barracks, in rear of Fort Hamilton, N. Y. Harbor, remained there until November 18th, when, with the 8th Infantry, it embarked for Baltimore, Md. Remained at Baltimore until December 5th, when it was sent to Annapolis, Md., for duty at Camp Parole. Remained at Camp Parole until January 26, 1865, when it embarked for City Point, Va. Arriving at City Point, it went into camp near General Grant's headquarters, where it remained until March 8th, when it moved to Park [Parke] Station, and from that time to the end did duty as part of the provost guard at headquarters Army of the Potomac.

After the surrender, the 11th Infantry with other Regular troops was sent to Richmond, Va., where it arrived May 3d. It did provost duty in Richmond until the civil government of the city was organized and at Libby Prison until its use was discontinued.

During the summer and fall of 1865 the twenty-four companies of the regiment were organized.

In the summer of 1866, the regiment suffered a great mortality from cholera. I think the order reorganizing the Army was received in September, and soon afterward the 29th Infantry (3d Battalion) was ordered to Lynchburg, Va. In January, 1866, the 20th Infantry (2d Battalion) was ordered to New Orleans, La., leaving the first Battalion heir to the colors and records of the 11th Infantry of—what we were proud to have been— Sykes' Division of the 5th Army Corps.

The field officers of the old Eleventh were Colonels E. D. Keyes and W. S. Ketchum; Lieut.-Colonels Edmund Schriver, John T. Sprague and R. S. Granger; Majors Frederick Steele, Delancy Floyd-Jones, Jonathan W. Gordon, Daniel Huston, Jr., T. H. Neill, and Lyman Bissell. I do not remember all who were regimental and battalion staff officers. Those I do remember are Lieuts. G. N. Lieber, G. E. Head and F. A. Field, regimental adjutants; R. B. Smith and Oscar Hagan, regimental quartermasters. Lieuts. C. A. Hartwell and J. C. Bates were adjutants of the 1st Battalion in the field.

At the time of the reorganization Lieut. W. H. Clapp was adjutant of the 1st Battalion, and Lieut. Wm. Fletcher quartermaster. Lieut. A. A. Harbach was adjutant of the 2d Battalion; Lieut. John A. Coe, quartermaster. I have forgotten who was adjutant of the 3d Battalion; Lieut. Henry Wagner was quartermaster. Lieut. Charles Bentzoni had been quartermaster of the 3d Battalion. Lieut. Irvin B. Wright was at one time a battalion staff officer. Lieut. J. P. Pratt was

adjutant of the 2d Battalion when killed in front of Spottsylvania Court House. Major Delancy Floyd-Jones commanded the battalion at Gaines' Mill, Malvern Hill, 2d Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg; Major Gordon at Mine Run; Captain Francis M. Cooley at the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court House, North Anna River, and the assault of June 18th; Captain W. G. Edgerton at the Weldon R. R. and Chapel House; Captain A. E. Littimer at the time of the surrender.

In closing my informal narrative I desire to mention three officers of my old regiment. Two of them—Captains Russell and Barri—were great favorites, the third was my particular and intimate friend. We messed together and were attached to the same company for the 1864 campaign. I have never known a better or more companionable fellow than Wright Staples, whose young life went out at the battle of the Wilderness on the skirmish line, doing his duty in his manly way.

Captain Thomas O. Barri, who died in the division field hospital at Gettysburg, was a loss to the regiment that affected both rank and file deeply. Of a happy temperament—bright, witty and clever—he possessed social qualities joined to a correct, courageous and honorable conduct, that made him loved as a comrade and respected as an officer and gentleman. A cultivated musician, he sang delightfully. His camp fire was always the chief attraction of our bivouac. Among the first to fall, he could not be removed from the field until the enemy had been driven back. He died soon after being brought in.

I think all who served near Captain Charles S. Russell, will agree with me that he was an exceptionably able commander of troops in action. I never knew him, in the many times his capacity was put to the test, to fail in the soldierly qualities which made him so distinguished. In every action of the regiment from Gaines' Mill to Gettysburg, he was the acting field officer and always made his presence felt. He was appointed, at the request of Governor Morton of Indiana, colonel of the 8th U. S. Colored Troops, and in the Campaign of 1864, he commanded a brigade in the 9th and 25th Corps. His brigade was selected to accompany General Sheridan's Army to Texas. The death of Captain, Brevet Colonel, Russell at Cincinnati, Ohio, in November, 1866, removed from the Army one of its most distinguished officers of his grade. He was of tried courage and admitted capability for high command.

I have reached the limit of space allowed me and conclude my labor of love with the regret that I have not been able to do more ample justice to so deserving a subject.

## SECTION II BY LIEUTENANT R. J. C. IRVINE, U. S. A., ELEVENTH INFANTRY

In 1869, the present Eleventh Infantry was formed by the consolidation of the 24th and 29th Regiments of Infantry. The 24th Infantry was consolidated into five companies, and the 29th also into five companies, and by General Orders No. 80, dated 5th Military District, April 25, 1869, the consolidation of the two regiments into the Eleventh Infantry was completed.

Colonel Alvan C. Gillem was the first colonel of the reorganized Eleventh Infantry, but in December, 1870, he was transferred to the 1st Cavalry.

He was succeeded by Colonel William H. Wood, who assumed command of the regiment in February 1871, and he remained its colonel until he was retired at his own request in June 1882.

The retirement of Colonel Wood promoted Lieut.-Colonel Richard I. Dodge, of the 23d Infantry, to the Eleventh, and he has remained its colonel to the present time.

The history of the present 11th Infantry is necessarily brief. From its formation in 1869 up to 1876 it was stationed in the Department of Texas, and the companies took part at different times in the scouts and expeditions against hostile Indians, and it performed escort and other field duties. In August and September 1876, the regiment was sent from the Department of Texas to the Department of Dakota for field service in connection with the Indian War in that Territory and in Montana. The larger part of the regiment (seven companies) was sent to the Cheyenne River Agency, Dakota, where these troops were hutted for shelter during the winter, and three companies were stationed at Standing Rock Agency, Dakota. In 1877 the regiment was transferred from the Department of Texas to the Department of Texas to the Department of Texas.

In April and May 1877, three companies (C, F and G) were moved from Cheyenne Agency, and three companies (A, B and H) from Standing Rock Agency to the Little Big Horn, Montana, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel G. P. Buell, 11th Infantry, where they constructed the post of Fort Custer.

During the years 1877 and 1878 the different companies of the regiment were employed as occasion demanded on expeditions and scouts against hostile Indians.

On January 2d, 1881, Company F, 11th Infantry, was engaged in an attack upon hostile Indians, under Sitting Bull, near Poplar Creek Agency, as part of the command of Major G. Ilges, 5th Infantry.

The infantry battalion, composed of Company F, 11th Infantry, and detachments of Companies A, B and E, 7th Infantry, and one three-inch gun, all under command of Captain O. B. Read, 11th Infantry, left the agency at 11:30 A. M., marched three miles, crossed the Missouri River, took and held a point of timber commanding the lower village of the Indians until joined by Major Ilges with the main command (5 companies 5th Infantry, 1 company 7th Cavalry and an artillery detachment). The attack commenced at once, and after an engagement of about one hour, during which Company F was engaged in firing upon and turning back Indians attempting to escape from the artillery fire, resulted in the capturing of three Indian villages and their destruction. 324 prisoners were taken, with about 300 ponies and a large number of arms. No casualties among the troops. Loss of enemy in killed and wounded not known.

In July, 1887, the regiment left the Department of Dakota for service in the Division of the Atlantic, where it is now stationed in the Lake Regions, with headquarters at Madison Barracks, N. Y.

#### APPENDIX NO. 3

New York Herald Tribune December 18, 1932

# **Children of the Frontier**

## A Daughter of the Old Army Recalls the Vivid Life Seen by Herself and Other Youngsters at the Western Posts

#### By Elizabeth Patterson

Three children, a boy of nine, a girl of six and a baby of a year and a half, when their mother died. A grandmother out from the East to take care of them. Their father an officer in the United States Army, the old Regular Army, whose days from the close of the Civil War to the time of the Spanish War were spent on the Western plains. We were all born in frontier posts – how strange that word is now, when our frontier is the sky!

Until I was ten my life was passed close to my father, absorbing the atmosphere which he made and which had made him; tingling like a stout little wire to the vigor, the freshness, the optimism, the gallantry, the acceptance of privation which radiated from those rugged men.

I remember the day my father's medal came. We were sitting around the dining table at our noon meal. It was the great day of the week, the day of the Eastern mail. My father came in to the table with a letter in his hand: a long envelope with black printing in the corner. I was looking at him as he opened it. His face went very red, then drained slowly white. He looked up; something seemed the matter with his throat – he could not speak. Then he reached over our heads and handed the letter to our grandmother. She read it and her first look was for us. I remember her voice.

"Children," she said, "your father has been awarded the Medal of Honor by the Congress of the United States." Her manner was formal and unfamiliar. My father had recovered himself.

"You are not to speak of it," he said, with the sternness he affected when deeply moved. "You are never by any chance to refer to it. Do you understand? You know nothing about it. Nor do you," he added, turning to our grandmother.

My father was married at Fort Totten. My mother's father was Major William H. Forbes, a volunteer in the Civil War and afterward United States Commissioner to the Indians. He was stationed at Fort Totten, Dakota, and thither came his daughter from a convent school in the East, and there the young captain of the 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry fell in love with her and married her. And there, nine months later, in a howling blizzard of January, their first baby was born. At the age of three weeks it died.

My first recollection of life is hanging our Christmas stockings at the open front door instead of before the fireplace, and being quite satisfied with the explanation that Santa Claus found it so hot in San Antonio that he preferred not to have to squeeze down the sooty chimney. I distinctly heard his sleigh and reindeers on our roof that Christmas Eve as he drove in from the North Pole. As soon as I decided that he had had time to fill the stockings I crept out of bed and down the dim front stairs. Ahead of me I saw the bulgy stockings swinging in the open door.

"Halt!" thundered a voice below me. "Who goes there?" Paralyzed with fright I stood rooted to the spot.

"Merry Christmas!" laughed my father's voice, and my mother caught me in her arms.

The next highlight I remember is Columbus Barracks, where the long expected baby came. And with the baby – in fact, bringing it, we were told – came my grandmother out from the East again. She was going to live with us, and we were glad because we could make a noise with her. With my mother, people had begun to say to us, "Quietly, children, don't push so. Your mother is not feeling well today."

My mother died the next year at Camp Supply, a four-company post in Indian Territory, 100 miles from the railroad. She was a martyr to the life they led; to the heat and the cold and the lack of comfort, and the wind – the wind which at Supply never stopped.

"If only the wind would stop," she used to say to my grandmother, "I think I could breathe."

I remember the day she died. I sat, a child of six, on my father's lap all day, looking out of the window at the blowing parade ground. We were not allowed to play that day. My mind was torn between that white face framed in the blackness of her hair, lying asleep now, in the room where she had just smiled at us, and my wonder about one of the officers who had been lost for three days. He had gone skating on the narrow, frozen river, and when he failed to return they had gone searching for him. The thrill at their finding him quite overlaid the event of my mother's death.

The journey with my mother's body seems etched into my brain. We took her by wagon the 100 miles across the plains from Camp Supply to Dodge City to get the train for St. Paul. It comes back to me in black and white patches; a flash of blinding light in my eyes, then darkness; voices; food pressed to our sleepy mouths; the warmth and security of my grandmother's wide, soft side. Like the roll of a ship it must have been, lulling us children to easy sleep, that swaying Army ambulance.

My grandmother sat in the middle of the broad back seat, the baby in her arms; my brother on one side of her, I on the other. We could hear the crack of the long cowboy whip as our soldier-driver pushed his four-mule team ahead on their long relays. A lookout soldier sat on the high seat beside the driver. Thudding behind us were the mules drawing the caisson with my mother's coffin strapped upon it. Behind the caisson was the wagon with our escort. My father changed his place often in his restlessness, now sitting in with us, then back with the escort, then forward again beside the driver. A dumb, homely tragedy of family life, trotting across the level prairie that its dead might lie at home.

It was spring again; we were in St. Paul after a year at Leavenworth and my father had come to take us out to Fort Assiniboine, Montana. We went by train as far as Fort Benton, where the teams met us to drive us to Fort Shaw and on to our post. We spent the first night at a ranch house, a lonely place with outbuildings and tents put up to shelter the soldier escort. There was excitement at the ranch house that night. My grandmother stood with her arms about us beside the ranch man's silent wife in the doorway of the house. We had been snatched from our sleep, this time lying all together in a deep, warm bed.

"What is it, Granny, what is it?" I remember crying, shaking with cold.

"Hush," she kept repeating to me. "Take my hand. We are all right. Keep very quiet. It's nothing."

Nothing! – and there in front of us were the men, my father leading them, running and shouting and pounding with coats and blankets, and in front of the men and all around us was a

wall of fire that leaped and sprang – sprang to the skies, to my frightened eyes – that swept ahead of itself with frenzied fingers catching at the parched, gray grass.

How well I recall my father's remark to grandmother as our ambulance finally reached Fort Assiniboine, across the circle of earth a quarter of a mile in width, always kept freshly ploughed around these posts as protection against prairie fire. Having dropped our escort, we were clattering along the newly made white road before the line of officers' quarters. We stopped about the middle of the line at a double house of red brick, ugly and neat, with a wooden porch and a white railing. A soldier was walking across the parade ground. Some children stood on the sidewalk, staring at the newcomers. Across at the line of barracks soldiers were lounging on their balconies. The small cottonwood trees, planted at regular intervals, were blowing double in the wind.

"It's always like this." said my father. "There's nothing to do. You'll have to make the best of it."

We went into the new, ugly house. We remembered the furniture sitting stiffly around the rooms. It was ours from Leavenworth and Supply. My father told us the rooms: his bedroom back of the parlor, the dining room at the end of the hall, then the kitchen, where a Chinaman grinned at us. Then the sandy backyard, all fenced in, with clacking hens hurrying out from their line of coops.

My grandfather, one-time United States Agent to the Indians, died before I was born. His name was great among the Sioux, whose language he spoke, as he did both English and French. He, with my grandmother, was in the thick of the Sioux massacre of 1872. Powerless though he was to prevent that outbreak, he was the friend of the chiefs who plotted it, and they trusted him and spared him. When he died at Fort Totten in 1875, word came to the house of mourning that the chiefs desired to see him.

In the middle of the night they came. There was not a sound as they filed in through the front door and back into the bedroom where the body lay. They wore their war regalia. Silently they came, waiting in line as each one paused beside their friend, took his right hand in his and gazed long into the dead face. Without a word, still as the night, they filed out again. There was Won-a-taugh, the hereditary chief of the Sioux, who sold his birthright to that title, shrewd politician of a man. Tia-a-wash-tay – Little Fish, as he was called. There was Rain-in the-Face, popular and brave, to be wounded afterward in the Custer fight. There was Low Dog. There was Sitting Bull, medicine man of the tribe. And there was Chief Gall, the magnificent leader of the Sioux.

My grandmother told us all these things; she used to relive her whole life for us to keep us quiet as we froze with the cold out in Assiniboine, or cried with the heat. She told us about the time when she was taking our mother back from a visit to her at Fort Totten, back to her husband at Fort Seward, eighty miles away. They were in my grandfather's carriage, drawn by big blue roans. With them was my grandfather's clerk, James McLaughlin, afterward, in charge of Indian affairs at Washington. Their escort wagon was on ahead with the tents. They drove forty miles the first day, and coming to water at the head of a ravine they stopped to camp for the night.

My young mother, standing at the tent pole looking out, from time to time saw a dark form glide into view and disappear up the ravine. She went to Mr. McLaughlin and asked him what it was. Without answering he gave the order to strike camp and carry on. To my grandmother he said one word: "Indians." They drove hard all night, the soldiers of the escort sitting with their muskets across their knees, their eyes alert for shadows under the fitful moon.

And those winters in Dakota! My father once drove my mother from Fort Lincoln to

Standing Rock. The snow was very heavy. They were in a long sleigh with a little stove in it and had four horses. The bottom of the sleigh dragged so in the snow that my father had to get out and hold it upright as he floundered beside it. One by one the exhausted horses gave up and lay down. My father could do nothing with them.

A post trader was behind them, trying to plow his way through in a cutter. He caught up to them. He made my father take my mother in the cutter and told him to try and get to Cannon Ball, on the Cannon Ball Creek, a halfway house to Lincoln. The trader stayed behind in the stranded sleigh. But it was little better. There was no road, no trail. My father could only go by the telegraph poles, and soon he lost the poles. Night came on. There was no moon.

He had decided he must turn the cutter over and make what shelter he could for them, when they were hailed from far behind. It was a hospital steward also trying to reach the agency. This steward had come up to the trader in the sleigh, had unhitched one of the prostrated horses, lashed it to its feet and ridden ahead to overtake the cutter. Then he went on first, breaking a trail with the horse until they finally reached the ranch house at Cannon Ball.

Then there was the story of what happened at a never-to-be-forgotten weekly hop. It was after midnight. The affair was beginning to break up; there was a shortage of officers, because a detail was out after a band of hostile Indians. My grandmother was presiding at the punch bowl. Suddenly the door opened and the Commanding Officer walked in. There was a little flutter and then silence. He seldom graced such an occasion and then only very early in the evening. He made straight for my grandmother.

"Mrs. Forbes," he said to her, pretending to drink some punch, "I want this thing kept up till sunrise."

"But Colonel," she answered, "they are leaving now. It's all over."

He stooped close to her. "Three of these women are widows," he whispered. "A runner has come in. There has been a fight. The bodies are coming down the river now. The boat will be here by six. Keep them here as long as you can."

He went over and said something to the band. Then he went deliberately up to the youngest, prettiest girl in the room, a bride just out from the East, and asked her to dance. My grandmother said she felt a stab go right through her heart. He danced with two others. It was so pitiful, what he did, and so obvious. Then he bowed to my grandmother and left. Everyone was alert again. "What has the old man got under his hat now?" they said and laughed. The band struck up a lively quick-step and the dancing began again. My grandmother was the last to leave. And then she did not go home. She went straight to the quarters where the young bride lived. The girl was already asleep. In all her party clothes my grandmother started a fire and made some coffee. Then she went out on the veranda to wait, a bulwark between the sleeping girl upstairs and what was coming down the river.

All the children at Assiniboine rode. Indian ponies were brought in from the reservations and examined for government use. Those condemned by the Army were given over to us. My brother had a wild coffee-colored pony called Calamity, which had a nasty habit of tossing its head. He had knocked a trooper's brains out, and my brother was cautioned to be on the lookout. He remembered and was very spry, and kept his forehead out of the way. I used to be hoisted into a big cavalry saddle on a pony called The Strawberry Roan, and when the children all got galloping I usually fell off.

A great day was my eighth birthday, when a croquet set arrived from the East and the colonel allowed us to have it on the edge of the parade ground in front of our house. My grandmother was a great favorite with the colonel, who was cross and very strict. She could

always have anything she asked him for: the ambulance when the ladies wanted to go on a picnic; or the hop room to have a Christmas tree for the soldiers` wives and children.

That was the summer of the terrible drought. The river dried up. There was no rain at all; the heat was so terrific that my grandmother had cots put up for us on the veranda. Day after day my father would scan the horizon as the sun was setting, a blood-red ball in the cloudless sky.

"It will rain tonight," he would say. And he knew it would not. The great fear was for the horses and cattle. Barrels and hogsheads of water for them were hauled in with much labor. Each day, as hope died for the overdue rains, would come the report that tomorrow the colonel would order all the livestock driven to the Sweet Grass Hills, seventy-five miles away, green and luxuriant always.

Day after day we would go down to the empty river bed; gray and parched and old it looked, like bones in the blinding sunlight. Hour after hour half the garrison stood there, watching for the river to come back. All the children were there, my grandmother with our baby in a little red express wagon. Once my brother had a sunstroke. He began to stammer quickly. "I can't talk," he said – and he fell and couldn't get up. They carried him back to our house, and he lay all day in a darkened room with bandages around his head, which, I now know, were wet with alcohol because it was forbidden to use the water.

And then one day it came. My father was adjutant. He was out at guard mount, picking the orderlies for the day: The cleanest man was always for the colonel, the next for the officer of the day, the third for the battalion commander. My grandmother flew upstairs to get us.

"The water is coming!" she cried. To this day I can hear her voice. How she heard it I never knew; the news must have spread through the post from an Indian runner, just in from the country. Anyway, there had been great storms in the hills where our river rose, and the water had started. It was coming, gathering force as it came, rushing along, plunging through, filling the river beds that fed the great Missouri. The whole post was running to the stark, yawning gulch, shouting the word. The children were screaming. My father came running from the parade ground, his sword and sword belt clanking in his hand.

There we stood, a ring of people in the prairie wilderness, waiting for salvation. Some of the women were crying; I couldn't understand why I was laughing and shrieking with hysterical excitement as someone called, "Hear it?" – and we could hear it. A muffled roar, growing more and more distinct – louder and louder – deafening. We all stood back as a great line of foaming brown smote our straining eyes. Down over the naked stones it rushed, swept on past us, spreading, swirling, filling every cranny of the thirsty rocks. More of it, a second wave, smoothing out in white suds at our feet. On it spread, roaring. Quiet again – lap, lap, as the fresh water kissed the banks and rippled back again.

"Where is that boy's hat?" cried my father angrily, to hide his emotion. My grandmother hurried us back to the house. The colonel was just behind us. I remember as we turned, my grandmother shook hands with him, and his cross face went all queer as he saluted her.

My father retired at fifty-six, after thirty years' service. He was shot through the body at El Caney, in the Spanish war.

"You will die," the surgeon told him.

"I will not," he answered, and with the help of his men be walked a mile of the three miles to Siboney before he fainted. Thanks to a clean Mauser bullet and his hard life on the plains, he did live. They made him a brigadier – but he had to retire at once. And retirement broke his heart.

He lived to sit in his den in his civilian house, his pictures about him – "The Fight for the

Standard," "The Thin Red Line," "The Roll Call – Crimea, 1854-'55," "The Officers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry." His "Congressional Library of the Civil War" on his bookshelves; his sword and sash hanging on the wall. He lived to sit there by himself in the late afternoons, his cigar dying out, the clock ticking on the mantel; in winter the slur of snow across the window panes, in summer the shades lowered against the sun.

No one disturbed him. Well we knew they were no old men's dreams that absorbed him. His blue eyes were bright and staring. His mind was again where his heart was always: camping on the Rio Grande; chasing the "Bloods" – full-blooded Indians gathering for trouble; listening to evidence in some court martial; laughing at "Pecos Bill" as they called him, afterward Major General William Shafter, the only man who could drink the water of the Pecos River and live.

Such were the old regulars of the old Army the honor of whose calling bade them put duty first, their lives and families afterward. They were a little lost in the outside world, daunted by just one enemy – old age.

"This getting old is hell," wrote General William Mann to my father in the bitterness of his disappointment when the War Department stopped him on the eve of his departure for France with his beloved Rainbow Division during the World War.

Abrupt, quick-voiced, emotional, courageous, a veneer of severity, an impulsive loving heart, simple in his tastes, childlike in his reactions, my father at seventy-eight died as he would have wished. Suddenly in fifteen minutes, from apparently vigorous life to smiling death – "fallen on the field," as they all hoped to go.

They laid him out for his eternal rest in his brigadier's uniform, so old and still so new, which he had earned but never worn. It was the habit of his order, the shroud of the service he had loved so much.

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Transcribed by Josef W. Rokus July 19, 2009

#### APPENDIX NO. 4

#### WILLIAM H. FORBES Father of Mary Elizabeth Forbes, First Wife of John H. Patterson

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**<sup>42,43</sup>

William Henry Forbes was born in Montreal, Canada, on November 13, 1815. He came to Mendota, Minn., in the summer of 1837, and for ten years he was a clerk for the American Fur Company. In 1847, Forbes moved to St. Paul and was in charge of the business of the company there under the name of "The St. Paul Outfit." He was one of the proprietors of the original surveyed plat, now known as "St. Paul Proper." Upon the organization of the Minnesota Territory, he was elected to the legislature from St. Paul as a member of the Territorial Council, to which he was reelected four times. In 1852, he was elected president of the council.

On March 18, 1853, Forbes was appointed postmaster of St. Paul. During the same year, he became active in the Indian and fur trade of the Northwest, and for several years did a very large business, which ended in 1862 with the Indian outbreak of that year.

Forbes held prominent positions in the military service of the United States during the campaign against the Sioux Indians and in the Civil War. He was the provost marshal at the military trial of the 300 Sioux Indians who were condemned to death. He was also a Commissary of Subsistence in the volunteer service, appointed by President Lincoln with the rank of captain on November 9, 1862. In 1864, he was Chief Commissary in the District of Northern Missouri, and he was subsequently engaged as Chief Quartermaster in General Fremont's Department. For his "faithful and efficient service," he was brevetted a major of volunteers on July 25, 1865. Forbes was honorably mustered out on July 31, 1865. At one time he was the auditor of Ramsey County in Minnesota, and he held other civil offices.

William H. Forbes died on July 20, 1875, and he was buried in the Calvary Cemetery of St. Paul.

**OBITUARY**<sup>44</sup>

#### MAJOR WILLIAM H. FORBES

Major William H. Forbes, Indian Agent at Devil's Lake, died at Fort Totten, Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 20th. Major Forbes was of Scottish descent, born in Montreal, in 1815. Relinquishing the hardware trade in which he had engaged, he entered the service of the American Fur Company, and in 1837 arrived, with a party of about fifty, at Mendota, seven miles above St. Paul. He remained in the company's employ till 1853, and then engaged in the Indian trade. He held many civil offices in the Minnesota Territorial Government, and was appointed Commissary, with the rank of Captain, by President Lincoln, during the campaigns against the Indians in 1862. In 1865 he was brevetted Major by Andrew Johnson and in 1871 President Grant appointed him Indian Agent at Devil's Lake, Dakota Territory, which post he filled at the time of his death.

## APPENDIX NO. 5

## CAPTAIN PATTERSON AT FORT SEWARD, DAKOTA TERRITORY

The following excerpts from "Fort Seward, Territory of Dakota" provide some glimpses of Captain John H. Patterson as the commanding officer of Fort Seward from October 1873 until September 1877 and his experiences at that fort.<sup>45</sup>

## <u>1873</u>

- Captain Patterson arrived at Fort Seward with Company A, consisting of 53 infantry men, from Fort Abercrombie on October 13. He assumed command of the post.
- After an inspection of subsistence stores and records, Patterson discovered that Captain Thomas B. Hunt had apparently personally benefitted through various illegal transactions involving grain and lime. Patterson requested that Hunt be relieved of duty, and Hunt was ordered to stand trial before a General Court Martial on December 15, in St. Paul Minnesota. Captain Hunt was found guilty, fined \$1,000, and dismissed from the service on February 26, 1874. Inexplicably, he was reinstated, literally by an Act of Congress, on March 21, 1879.
- On October 21, he gave the order that the men of the post harvest the Post Garden.
- He wrote to his next higher headquarters, Department of Dakota in St. Paul, that the mail service was unsatisfactory, probably because a postmaster en-route was routing the mail in such a way to increase his own salary.
- Patterson reported that two privates had been involved in a drinking quarrel in Jamestown, resulting in one man being shot. The victim's recovery was doubtful because the post surgeon could not remove the bullet. Discipline had become a major problem at Fort Seward, primarily due to the widespread availability and abuse of alcohol.

## <u>1874</u>

- Part of the new post hospital was completed, but Patterson recommended that the project be suspended because the size of the garrison could not justify a large hospital.
- Patterson's monthly pay, including all allowances, was \$118.50.
- Patterson's request to add a bedroom and bathroom to his quarters for "gentlemen visiting the fort" was approved.
- On October 20, he reported that a fire was set at the stockyards at the fort, destroying 16 tons of hay. He indicated that "more than likely the local citizens did it in order to sell surplus hay to the Fort at a high price."
- The grasshopper plague of 1874, which affected large parts of the Midwest, resulted in the pests eating the wooden sashes of windows and the wood handles of pitchforks and rakes. "The grasshoppers piled up in great windrows around each building."
- In a five-page letter, Patterson reported the disappearance of 13 containers of raspberry jam, valued at \$5.60. A later investigation revealed that "the jam was stolen by persons unknown, probably to sell it to civilians in nearby Jamestown."
- Among the civilians who lived at the fort were Mrs. Amada Forbes, mother of Patterson's wife; Jennie Forbes, another daughter of Amanda Forbes; and Mrs. Annie Littson, also a daughter of Amanda Forbes.

- The officers' quarters consisted of three double houses. One was occupied by Captain Patterson, whose wife was a daughter of the late Major Forbes, formerly Indian Agent at Fort Totten. The west half of their residence was the home of Mrs. Forbes, the major's widow, i.e., Mrs. Patterson's stepmother.
- There was constant conflict between the soldiers stationed at Fort Seward and the civilians living in Jamestown. Therefore, Patterson issued an order that "enlisted men of this Command will not cross to the east side of the James River except under orders or with special permission." The order, in effect, kept the soldiers out of Jamestown for the time being.

## <u>1875</u>

- The weather in that area of North Dakota was described as follows: The temperature ranges from 100° in the shade in the summer to minus 50° in the winter. It is not uncommon to have snowfalls in May and October and destructive frosts sometimes in early August. "It's either winter or summer."
- Patterson submitted a request for a bathtub "so that the Enlisted Men of the Post would have the opportunity for bathing during the winter months."
- While going through supply vouchers at headquarters in St. Paul, Brig. Gen. Terry disallowed Captain Patterson's expenditure of  $50\phi$  for the purchase of a broom. The general insisted that the broom should have been made on the post.
- As a sidelight, there was an on-going conflict between Patterson and the Assistant Post Surgeon, Dr. E. W. DuBose. Patterson recommended that the doctor be relieved due to "persistent insubordination and contemptuous conduct on almost every occasion when I have had to communicate with him within the last year." "His only purpose here is to make trouble," Patterson wrote.

As part of that feud, DuBose filed "charges and specifications" against Patterson seeking his court-martial. The doctor alleged that Patterson had 1) Disobeyed orders by removing the twelve-pound ball and chain of a prisoner who had been sentenced to wear them for three years, 2) Conducted himself prejudicial to good order and military discipline by misappropriating some lumber intended to expand the post hospital for expanding his living quarters, 3) Been drunk on duty on April 28, 1875, 4) Been drunk in the presence of enlisted men and had caused a nuisance in a saloon in Jamestown, and 5) Conducted himself unbecoming of an officer and gentleman by surreptitiously intercepting some telegrams. Documents in his Medal of Honor file indicate that the charges were dropped – just like Patterson's request to have DuBose relieved of duty.

## <u>1876</u>

- Patterson ordered a reduction of excess equipment and supplies, including a Gatling Gun, 12 carbines, 48 Colt Pistols, 148 belts, 15 horse blankets, and 4,150 pistol cartridges.
- Patterson and his next higher headquarters in St. Paul started to make plans for the abandonment of Fort Seward within a year.
- The only library, as such, available for the troops' use, was the private library of Captain Patterson, who would loan his books not only to the soldiers but also to the civilians of Jamestown.

## <u>1877</u>

• Patterson continued his efforts throughout the year to dispose of unneeded equipment and supplies in anticipation of closing Fort Seward.

- In May, an Inspector General's inspection reported that "Everything pertaining to the Post of Fort Seward is in most perfect order. Captain Patterson deserves much credit for the care he takes of public property and for the manner in which he performs all duties in the interest of the government."
- As anticipated, on September 27 Patterson received orders to dismantle the Fort Seward buildings, which were to be reconstructed at Fort Totten, to ship subsistence supplies and commissary property to Fort Lincoln, to send all records to St. Paul, to haul down the U.S. flag at noon on September 30, and to start marching the remaining troops at 7:00 AM on October 1, to Fort Sisseton, Dakota Territory. All that remained of Fort Seward was the land itself.



Fort Seward, Territory of Dakota by Bill A. Brown

Fort Seward in 1877



Fort Seward, Territory of Dakota by Bill A. Brown

Fort Seward Officers' Quarters

#### **NOTES**

<sup>1</sup> All U.S. census information was retrieved from www.ancestry.com.

<sup>2</sup> Platt, Charles. 1970. John Patterson and his descendants. Glenside, PA: W. L. Auch.

<sup>3</sup> The commission appointing Patterson as a first lieutenant in the Eleventh Regiment of Infantry, effective May 14, 1861, was signed by President Lincoln on August 15, 1861. It is in the possession of the National Park Service at the Chancellorsville Visitor Center and was part of the materials, including his Medal of Honor, that was donated by his daughter, Helen Patterson.

<sup>4</sup> The summary of the history of the 11<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment during the time of the Civil War is primarily based on the following sources:

- a. Summary of service of the regiment on the National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System database at http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/regiments.cfm.
- b. "The History of the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment" at http://www.16thinfantryregiment.org/History/HistoricalEras18611898/tabid/81/Default.aspx. (The 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was founded as the result of the reorganization of the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment when the 11<sup>th</sup> was consolidated with the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment to form the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.)
- c. The history of the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment written by John H. Patterson and included in the following work: Rodenbough, Theophilus F., and William Lawrence Haskin, editors. 1896. *The Army of the United States; historical sketches of staff and line with portraits of generals-in-chief*. New York: Maynard, Merrill, & Co. p. 545. Also available at http://www.history.army.mil/books/R&H/R&H-FM.htm. See Appendix No. 2.

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<sup>5</sup> Steere, Edward. 1994. *The Wilderness campaign: the meeting of Grant and Lee*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books. p. 159.

<sup>6</sup> Powell, William H. 1896. *The Fifth Army Corps (Army of the Potomac) A record of operations during the Civil War in the United States of America, 1861-1865.* London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. p. 610. Reprinted in 1984 by Morningside Bookshop, Dayton, OH. Also available at Google Books.

<sup>7</sup> Schaff, Morris. 1910. *The battle of the Wilderness*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. p. 166. Also available at Google Books.

<sup>8</sup> Trudeau, Noah Andre. 1989. *Bloody roads south: the wilderness to Cold Harbor, May-June 1864*. Boston: Little, Brown. p. 61.

<sup>9</sup> Among the medals that were rescinded were those awarded to the men who served as an honor guard at President Abraham Lincoln's funeral and to the men of an Ohio regiment who had re-enlisted at a time when the Union army was hard up to fill its ranks.

<sup>10</sup> "Minutes of Meetings of Medal of Honor Board Convened Pursuant to General Orders No. 136, Paragraph 14, War Department June 16, 1916." The report is dated January 17, 1917. At http://books.google.com/books?id=NK0qAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA7-PA1&dq=%22general+staff+corps+and+medals+of+honor%22.

<sup>11</sup> The following sources were used for information about the Battle of the Wilderness and the incident involving Lt. Wright Staples:

- a. Rodenbough, Theophilus F., and William Lawrence Haskin, editors. 1896. *The Army of the United States; historical sketches of staff and line with portraits of generals-in-chief.* New York: Maynard, Merrill, & Co.
  p. 545. Also available at http://www.history.army.mil/books/R&H/R&H-FM.htm.
- b. "U.S. Army Register of Enlistments 1798-1914" database at www.ancestry.com.
- c. "New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957" database at www.ancestry.com.
- d. "U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles" database at www.ancestry .com.
- e. "U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865" database at www.ancestry.com.

- f. "American Civil War Soldiers" database at www.ancestry.com.
- g. The National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System database at http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss/.
- h. Powell, William H. 1896. *The Fifth Army Corps (Army of the Potomac) A record of operations during the Civil War in the United States of America, 1861-1865.* London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Reprinted in 1984 by Morningside Bookshop, Dayton, OH. Also available at Google Books.
- i. United States, Oliver Diefendorf, and Thomas M. O'Brien. 1864. *General orders of the War Department embracing the years 1861, 1862 & 1863: adapted specially for the use of the army and navy of the United States.* New York: Derby & Miller.
- j. Battle Monument Association, West Point, C. W. Larned, and Edward F. Miner. 1898. *History of the Battle Monument at West Point, together with a list of the names of those inscribed upon and commemorated by it, and of the original subscribers thereto.*
- k. Burial records at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery, Fredericksburg, VA.
- 1. Rhea, Gordon C. 1994. *The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-6, 1864*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press.
- m. Rhea, Gordon C., and George F. Skoch. 1995. *The battles of Wilderness & Spotsylvania*. Civil War series. [Conshohocken, PA]: Eastern National Park and Monument Association.
- n. Mertz, Gregory A. "No Turning Back! The First day of the Wilderness." *Blue & Gray Magazine*. April 1995.
- o. O'Reilly, Frank A. 2003. "Battle of the Wilderness" set of six maps depicting the locations of Union and Confederate units during the Battle of the Wilderness. Available at the National Park Service's Chancellorsville Visitor Center.
- p. Steere, Edward. 1994. *The Wilderness campaign: the meeting of Grant and Lee*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books.
- q. Trudeau, Noah Andre. 1989. *Bloody roads south: the wilderness to Cold Harbor, May-June 1864*. Boston: Little, Brown.
- r. Gallagher, Gary W. 1997. *The Wilderness campaign*. Military campaigns of the Civil War series. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

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<sup>12</sup> The commission, signed by President Andrew Johnson, is located in the archives of the National Park Service's Chancellorsville Visitor Center.

<sup>13</sup> "Children of the Frontier: A Daughter of the Old Army Recalls the Vivid Life Seen by Herself and Other Youngsters at the Western Frontier Posts" by John H. Patterson's daughter, Elizabeth Patterson, in the *New York Herald Tribune* of December 18, 1932.

<sup>14</sup> "Fort Totten State Historic Site" at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\_Totten\_State\_Historic\_Site.

<sup>15</sup> The following were the principal sources for the personal information about John H. Patterson and his family:

- a. Platt, Charles. 1970. John Patterson and his descendants. Glenside, PA: W. L. Auch, Printer.
- b. Obituary for John H. Patterson published in the Albany Times Union on October 6, 1920.
- c. Who was who in America: a companion volume to Who's who in America. Vol. 1, 1897-1942, Biographies of the non-living with dates of death appended. 1943. Chicago: A. N. Marquis Co.
- d. "Children of the Frontier: A Daughter of the Old Army Recalls the Vivid Life Seen by Herself and Other Youngsters at the Western Frontier Posts" by John H. Patterson's daughter, Elizabeth Patterson, in the *New York Herald Tribune* of December 18, 1932.

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<sup>16</sup> Information about Fort Seward was found at the following web sites:

- a. http://www.geocities.com/hodag\_/FtSewardMuseum.html.
- b. http://www.wegoplaces.com/Attraction\_82417.aspx.
- c. http://jamestown.localtoolbox.com/jamestown/read/publisher\_15/2001-09-27.02.
- d. http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndsu/heiraas/seward/.

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<sup>17</sup> Brown, Bill A. 1987. *Fort Seward, Territory of Dakota, Jamestown.* Jamestown, ND: Fort Seward Interpretive Center. Provided to the author courtesy of Barbara Lang, 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Re-enactors.
<sup>18</sup> The wedding invitation and information about the renewal of the wedding vows were provided by Barbara Lang,

20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Re-enactors Group, in a private communication to the author dated July 14, 2009.

<sup>19</sup> Private email to the author of July 15, 2009, from Robert Rea, Military Sites Director, Oklahoma Historical Society, based on records at Fort Supply, Oklahoma.

<sup>20</sup> "Fort Supply" at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\_Supply and "Fort Supply" at http://www.okhistory.org/outreach/military/fortsupply.html.

<sup>21</sup> Lowe, John Adams. 1912. Obituary record of the Society of Alumni, Williams College 1911-1912. Williamstown, MA: Williams College. p. 99.

<sup>22</sup> "Cure Cottages of Saranac Lake" at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cure\_Cottages\_of\_Saranac\_Lake.

<sup>23</sup> "Fort Assinniboine" at http://www.havremt.com/attractions/fort\_assinniboine.htm and at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\_Assinniboine.

<sup>24</sup> The New York Times, February 21, 1895.

<sup>25</sup> The New York Times, May 8, 1895.

<sup>26</sup> "Benicia Arsenal" at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benicia\_Arsenal.

<sup>27</sup> "Offutt Air Force Base" at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offutt\_Air\_Force\_Base.

<sup>28</sup> "Col. Charles A. Wikoff" at http://1-22infantry.org/commanders/wikoffpers.htm and "The 22nd Infantry Regiment in the Spanish-American War" at http://1-22infantry.org/history/1898.htm.

<sup>29</sup> "War Time Snap Shots." *Munsey's Magazine*, September 1898. New York: Frank A. Munsey Co. p. 803. Also available at Google Books.

<sup>30</sup> Watterson, Henry. 1898. *History of the Spanish-American war; embracing a complete review of our relations with Spain*. New York: The Werner Company. Also available at Google Books.

<sup>31</sup> The New York Times, February 9, 1899.

<sup>32</sup> "Theodore Roosevelt" at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore\_Roosevelt and "Rough Riders" at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rough\_Riders.

<sup>33</sup> "Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients" at http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/2178/roosevelt-theodore.php.

<sup>34</sup> Yale University. 1905. *Obituary record of graduates of Yale University*. New Haven: Yale University. p. 416.

<sup>35</sup> Cemetery records of the Albany Rural Cemetery, Albany Cemetery Association, Cemetery Avenue, Albany, NY, furnished to the author in a private communication dated July23, 2009.

<sup>36</sup> "Historic Chamberlin Hotel Converts to Luxury Senior Apartments" at http://info.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek08/0711/0711d\_hampton.cfm.

<sup>37</sup> "Myocarditis" at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myocarditis.

<sup>38</sup> Grace H. L. Patterson's widow's pension file in the National Archives includes a collection of documents that provide some information about her as well as a copy of John H. Patterson's death certificate.

<sup>39</sup> Cemetery records of the Albany Rural Cemetery, Albany Cemetery Association, Cemetery Avenue, Albany, New York, furnished to the author in a private communication dated July23, 2009.

<sup>40</sup> "History of the Congressional Medal of Honor" at http://www.cmohs.org/medal-history.php.

<sup>41</sup> Information received on May 15, 2009, from Laura Jowdy, Archivist, Congressional Medal of Honor Society, Mt. Pleasant, SC.

<sup>42</sup> Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, Vol. IX, April 1901. St. Paul, MN: The Minnesota Historical Society. p. 147.

<sup>43</sup> Heitman, Francis B. 1965. *Historical register and dictionary of the United States Army, from its organization, September 29, 1789, to March 2, 1903.* Urbana: University of Illinois Press. (Originally published by the U.S. Government Printing Office in 1903.)

<sup>44</sup> The New York Times July 27, 1875.

<sup>45</sup> Brown, Bill A. 1987. *Fort Seward, Territory of Dakota, Jamestown.* Jamestown, ND: Fort Seward Interpretive Center. Provided to the author courtesy of Barbara Lang, 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Re-enactors.