

Veterans' Reunion at Amsterdam Today  
Surviving Members of 115<sup>th</sup> Reg. N.Y. V. Meet.

A Sketch of The Regiment

The Johnstown Daily Republican, Friday, August 25, 1899

Going Bravely to the Front Over One Thousand Strong

It Returned to Its Northern Home with Ranks Completely Shattered.

The eighteenth annual reunion of the surviving members of the late One Hundred and Fifteenth regiment N.Y.S. Volunteers, was held in Amsterdam today, and as had been expected, the meeting was one of the most enjoyable ever held. Nearly every train yesterday brought into that city members of this regiment, among them several with empty sleeves. As time rolls on and the veteran ranks of this old command become more and more reduced, the boys who come to their reunions seem to be bound together by stronger fraternal ties than formerly existed between them. In '62 when they marched away, they were in their youth, but today old age seems to have crept upon them and white heads and beards are the rule.

The reunion began at 10 o'clock, with a business meeting. At 12 o'clock this afternoon there will be regimental camp fire. Supper will be enjoyed at 6 o'clock, and the evening will probably be put in pleasantly by the veterans, most of whom will stay overnight in Amsterdam and attend the unveiling of the Col. Sammons monument tomorrow.

The Johnstown and Gloversville survivors include: Charles Lewis Clark, James H. Taylor, Peter J. Keck, Alfred Allen, James H. Austin, Franklin H. Barker, James F. Hollet, John Hilton, Stewart Putman, Ralph Sexton, James Hill, Melville W. Cole, Edgar L. Demarest, Gordis G. Honeywell, Aaron Ward, Gloversville; Fred Meyer, Charles m. Marcellus, Eli Smith, William A. Peck, Lorenzo Bradt, Henry Bellington, John W. Hagadorn, John VanDeusen, Johnstown.

The One Hundred and Fifteenth regiment was recruited in the counties of Montgomery, Saratoga, Fulton and Hamilton, and was mustered into the service on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, 1862, by Captain Edgerton, U.S.A. at Fonda. The field staff was as follows: colonel, Simeon Sammons; Lieutenant Colonel, George S. Hutcheller; Major, Patrick Henry Cowan; Adjutant, Thomas R. Horton; Quartermaster, Martin McMartin; Surgeon, Richard E. Sutton; Assistant Surgeon, Richard E. Sutton; Assistant Surgeon, William H. Ingersoll; Chaplain, Sylvester W. Clemens. Captains: Company A, Garrett Vanderveer; Company B, John P. Kniskern; Company C, William H. McKetrick; Company D, Sidney D. Lingenfelter; Company E, W. H. Shaw; Company F, Walton W. French; Company G, Edgar B. Savage; Company H, Solomon P. Smith; Company I, Ezra L. Walrath; Company K, William Smith.

With the above officers, a full complement of lieutenant and 1,040 enlisted men, the regiment broke camp at Fonda, on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1862, and went to the front, arriving at Sandy Hook, Md., on the first of September, where the regiment was furnished with arms. The regiment was captured at Harper's Ferry on the fifteenth of September, and went as parole prisoners to Chicago and back to Washington, Nov. 24, and went into camp Dec. 2d, at Alexandria, Va. On Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> they broke camp and boarded the transport, "Hero", bound for Yorktown, Va., reached there on the 28<sup>th</sup> and went into the camp of the Eleventh Maine, June 22d and marching orders were given and the steamer Matanza was boarded for Hilton Head, S.C., arriving at the latter place at 4 p.m. on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The regiment remained at Hilton Head one year, leaving there Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> 1864, at 6 a.m. and arrived at the mouth of S. John's river at 10 a.m. on the 7<sup>th</sup>. On the following day started on the Florida campaign, under General Seymour; March 9<sup>th</sup> embarked the river steamers at Jacksonville, Fla., and reached Palatka at sunrise on the 10<sup>th</sup>; April 14<sup>th</sup> left Palatka and arrived at Hilton Head on the 16<sup>th</sup> and [blot] the ocean. Northern [blot] and sailed for God's country; April 21, anchored off Fort Monroe; left the same day and arrived at Gloucester Point, Va., on York river at 2 p.m.; May 7<sup>th</sup>, engaged in the battle of chesterfield Heights, in which the loss was 69 in killed, wounded and missing; May 10<sup>th</sup> occurred the

battle of Wies Bottom church. Heavy fighting took place and the rebels contested the ground inch by inch. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May occurred the battle of Drury's Bluff. In this the boys of the One Hundred and Fifteenth fought with spirit and inflicted severe loss upon the rebel ranks. At the close of the day the boys' faces were black with the smoke of powder and their gun locks blue with heat. On May 29<sup>th</sup> the regiment embarked on the steamer, DeMolay, of Boston for Fortress Monroe; May 29<sup>th</sup> sailed up York river to West Point, thence up the Pamunky to White House Landing, where a landing was made, the regiment forming a junction with the left wing of the army of the Potomac. June 1, the regiment took part in the battle of cold harbor; June 13<sup>th</sup> evacuated cold harbor and June 16<sup>th</sup> landed at Point of rocks, on the Appomatox; June 17<sup>th</sup> took position in the works at Bermuda hundred; June 22, President Lincoln passed through the camp on a tour of inspection; June 24, in front of Petersburg; July 30, 1864, charge on Cemetery hill. How well all who were engaged remember the scenes enacted on that eventful and bloody day; the swaths of the dead; crushed and mangled limbs; the deadly pallor on a thousand noble cheeks; the bravery, daring and inspiring devotion of the soldiery and the awful roar and tempest of battle on the green hillside at Petersburg. Soon. "forward One Hundred and Fifteenth", rang along the lines. The regiment and then the whole brigade swept forward with a deafening yell. The rebels were on the same line with the One Hundred and Fifteenth, on its right and left, and they engaged it on either flank with infantry at the same time sweeping its lines with a cross fire of grape. The Northerners lead and fire with desperation. The pour down upon the rebels in the hollow. A discharge of grape tears through the men and five tumbled over wounded. Almon Stone is shot through the neck, but goes on bravely through the fire. Benjamin Thackrah is wounded in the thigh, but escapes capture by crawling through the woods. A member of company C. is shot through the mouth and a stream of blood spurts out.

August 11<sup>th</sup> the regiment marched at 11 p.m., reached James landing on the James River on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and lay on its arms until daybreak, and on the same day engaged in the battle of Deep bottom. The regiment entered the battle with 175 muskets, and after three days' fighting was over, but 80 men were left uninjured. On the 18<sup>th</sup> the rebels in heavy force charged down on a picket line, and captured the most of Company A. After the battle of Deep Bottom the regiment performed good service at Bermuda Hundred and in front of Petersburg, until the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, when they crossed the James River and gallantly aided in carrying the enemy's line of works near New Market. The one Hundred and fifteenth suffered a loss of 32 men, being about one half of the whole number engaged. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of October a forward movement was made in the direction of Richmond, which brought on a heavy battle. A very unfortunate affair occurred. The Ninth Maine regiment contained a larger number of recruits who had never been in battle, and being excited for some reason, fired a volley into the Fifteenth regiment, killing and wounding a large number of men.

On October 26, the regiment engaged in the battle of Fair Oaks, the loss being heavy, and November 24, returned to Bermuda Hundred; February 10<sup>th</sup> 1865, received heavy marching orders from Fort Fisher; 22d, Wilmington evacuated; marched into the city at 11 a.m.; went to Raleigh, N.C., and left there June 29 for home. Reached New York harbor June 25, at sunset and June 26 at 11 a.m., went ashore; had just 280 of the 1,040 men left; left New York for Albany on steamer, Thomas Way, and arrived at Albany at 5 a.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> and was finally mustered out July 3d, 1865.

During its active career the regiment sustained no greater loss than at the battle at Olustee, on February 20, 1864. The regiment entered the nettle 692 men strong, and came away, leaving 296 of its members either dead or wounded upon the field. Its experience at battle of Fort Fisher was also terrible and its loss of men by the explosion of a magazine was large. Hundred of brave boys were buried under sand so deep that their bodies were never recovered.