

## WASHINGTON TERRITORY IN THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES.

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Being assigned the duty of searching, for a class in history at the University of Washington, the facts pertaining to the participation of Washington Territory in the war between the States, I succeeded in finding the following:

The First Washington Volunteer Infantry was raised and organized in compliance with an order given to Colonel Justus Steinberger by the War Department under date of October 18, 1861, requiring him to enlist a regiment of volunteers in the Territory of Washington and the contiguous States, to be known as the First Washington Volunteer Infantry, for service in the Civil War, Colonel Steinberger to appoint the officers by and with the consent of the governor of the Territory.

The regiment was raised partly in this territory, partly in Oregon, and partly in California. The organization contained ten companies, or nine hundred and sixty-four men, part of whom were mustered into service at Alcatraz Island, San Francisco, and part at Vancouver, Washington, and part at Fort Steilacoom, Washington. This regiment served at Pacific Coast army posts during the entire war, and was mustered out in 1866.

On May 10, 1861, an effort was made to organize a militia for Civil War duty. The proclamation calling for this organization was based on the proclamation of President Lincoln, and its purpose was to have "the militia of the Territory of Washington \* \* \* placed in readiness to meet any requisition from the President of the United States, or the governor of the Territory, to aid in 'maintaining the laws and integrity of the National Union.'" Isaac I. Stevens was captain of the Puget Sound Rifles (Company B), organized May 25th, 1861; but a complete organization seems to have failed, and Stevens went East to become a major-general of volunteers and to fall at the battle of Chantilly in 1862.

Summarizing the services of the Territory in the Civil War, we have as follows:

(1). The organization and service of the First Washington Territorial Volunteer Infantry at Coast points, holding the In-

dians in check and doing service that would otherwise have required regulars.

(2). The continued loyalty of the people, as testified by the expressions of the Legislature.

(3). The contribution to the federal arms of one of its most brilliant officers—Isaac I. Stevens.

(4). The contribution of many of its citizens to both contending armies. Among these was J. Patton Anderson, first United States Marshal of the Territory; appointed governor in 1857, but declined; Territorial delegate 1855 to 1857; delegate from Florida in the secession convention, and later Brigadier-General of the Confederate Army. Another was John M. Wilson, appointed cadet at West Point, from the Territory in 1855, a distinguished officer of the Union Army during the war, and chief of engineers of the army, from 1897, to his retirement in 1901. Another was Charles P. Eagan, appointed First Lieutenant of the First Washington Territorial Volunteer Infantry, June 21, 1862; appointed Second Lieutenant of the Ninth United States Infantry, August 30, 1866; successively rose to be Brigadier-General of the army, and served as Commissary General from May 3, 1898, to his retirement in 1900. And still another was the Confederate, Pickett, of Gettysburg, upon whom Washington has some claim, since he served for so long and with such distinction in this Territory during the San Juan dispute.

Considering the fact that the census of 1860 showed a population of 11,594 spread over what is now Washington, Idaho, and all of Montana west of the Rockies, and that this number was considerably reduced by a general exodus to the new mines in British Columbia in 1861, we see that Washington did very well.

For the above facts I am indebted to Mr. A. N. Brown, of Olympia, and to the War Department of the United States.

FRANK A. KITTREDGE.

The letters written by Mr. Brown during this research contain much information that should be preserved for the use of future historians. His letter from Olympia, under date of 22 April, 1907, contained the following:

I would suggest that you write to the Adjutant General of the State of Washington at Olympia requesting that a copy of

the biennial report of the Adjutant General for the years 1891-1892 be forwarded to you, inasmuch as that document contains all the information on the subject available at Olympia.

The First Washington Territory Volunteer Infantry was raised and organized in compliance with an order given to Colonel Justus Steinberger by the War Department under date of October 18, 1861, requiring him to enlist a regiment of volunteers in the Territory of Washington and contiguous States, to be known as the First Washington Volunteer Infantry, for service in the Civil War, Colonel Steinberger to appoint the officers by and with the advice and consent of the Governor of the Territory. Under this authority Colonel Steinberger raised a regiment which was organized partly in this territory and partly in California. Company A was organized March 21, 1862; Company C, April 7, 1862, and Company D, April 12, 1862. I am unable to give you the dates of the organization of the other companies. The organization contained ten companies, part of which were mustered into service at Alcatraz Island, San Francisco, and part at Fort Vancouver, Washington, and part at Fort Steilacoom, Washington. The report I mention gives the names of all the officers and the muster roll of Company C. This regiment served at Pacific Coast army posts during the entire war and was mustered out apparently in 1866; the exact date I am unable to give you. That data can be obtained from the War Department at Washington. In 1863 the Legislature of Washington presented to the regiment a set of colors. This subsequently was returned to the Territory, and by resolution of the Legislature in 1867 was consigned to the custody of the Secretary of State. One of the two flags is now in the possession of the Governor's office. The other flag, save for a few tattered remnants, has fallen to pieces and the remnants are in the hands of Mrs. R. G. O'Brien, wife of the former Adjutant-General of the State.

Regretting that I am unable to give you more information on the subject, I am

Very truly yours

ASHMUN N. BROWN,  
Secretary to the Governor.

[Mr. Brown's letter of 26 April, 1907, contains the following:]

In the Washington Territorial session laws for 1862 you will find the resolution of the Legislature calling attention to the fact that the army posts on the Coast had been vacated by regulars and asking the commanding officer of the army on the Coast to make provision for sending troops to them. This, I assume, expressed the prevailing sentiment on the Coast that led to the authorization of Oregon and Washington volunteer regiments for home protection from the Indians and other possible enemies. This resolution was dated January 28, 1862.

In the laws of 1862 and 1863 you will find several memorials and resolutions that throw some light on the fears of our people. The Confederate privateer *Shenandoah* was loose about that time in the North Pacific and had our people somewhat rattled. For something about her see the accounts of her cruise in the various official publications; also see Lewis & Dryden's *Marine History of the Northwest*.

See the session laws of 1863 for the resolution of January 6, 1863, providing for the presentation of a set of colors to the regiment; and the session laws of 1867 for the resolution of January 16 (Council) and January 19, (House) 1867, regarding the return of the colors.

In the fall or winter of 1905 I let the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* have an article giving the text of several letters of Acting Governor L. Jay S. Turney, written in 1862, regarding the formation of our regiment. I have not a copy of that article, and do not remember the date. The letters set forth several interesting facts regarding the regiment, none very important historically, however. I found them in an old record book we have in this office. Being rather busy I cannot undertake to copy them for you, but I suggest you run through the files of the *Post-Intelligencer* (Sunday edition) from September, 1905, to February, 1906, and find the article. It was illustrated by pictures of sets of historic colors.

This same old record book contains several proclamations of Territorial Governors regarding the war, its beginning, its conduct and its close. I do not think these proclamations are in print anywhere. Also it contains the names of the officers of the Washington Territory militia in 1861, when, under General Orders No. 1 of the Territory, issued by the Territorial Adjutant-General May 14, 1861, in accordance with the proclamation of Henry McGill, acting Governor, May 10, 1861, an effort was made to organize that force for Civil War duty. This proclamation was based on the proclamation of President Lincoln and its purpose was to have "the militia of the Territory of Washington \* \* \* placed in readiness to meet any requisition from the President of the United States, or the Governor of this Territory, to aid in 'maintaining the laws and integrity of the National Union.'" This list shows that Isaac I. Stevens was captain of the Puget Sound Rifles (Company B), organized May 25, 1861. The attempt to make a complete organization seems to have failed and Stevens went East, to become a Major-General of volunteers and to fall at the battle of Chantilly in 1862. (See Hazard Stevens' *Life of Isaac I. Stevens*.)

A tour through the session laws of the Territory during the years of the Civil War will bring to your attention a number of memorials and resolutions testifying the loyalty of this Territory during the Rebellion.

[Then follows the summary used by Mr. Kittredge, above.]

This seems to me to make up a pretty good record.

[Mr. Brown followed with a third letter, dated 28 May, 1907, containing the following:]

I am able now to give you the names and postoffice addresses of some of the surviving members of the First Washington Territory Volunteer Infantry (1862-'66). They are as follows:

Michael J. Murray (Co. F), State Soldiers' Home, Orting, Washington.

James M. Thomas (Cos. F and E), The Dalles, Oregon.

George W. Easterbrook (Cos. F and E), 146 E. 26th Street, Portland, Oregon.

Abraham Bell (Cos. F and E), Macy, Miami County, Indiana.

Thomas Blackenship (Co. E or F), Watertown, South Dakota.

Daniel Dougherty (Co. E or F), Soldiers' Home, Los Angeles, California.

John F. Fraser (Co. E), National Soldiers' Home, Vermillion County, Illinois.

Hazen Squier, Lewiston, Idaho.

Isaac N. Smith, 746 Savier Street, Portland, Oregon.

In addition to these, Brigadier-General C. P. Eagan, United States Army, retired, is still living. His address can be obtained from the War Department.

These names and addresses I obtained from a special examiner of the Bureau of Pensions, who came to me with an inquiry as to whether or not a bounty ever was paid to members of this regiment to enlist. He had me stumped.

[In pursuing his search Mr. Brown wrote to Doctor Easterbrook and procured the following letter, under date of 31 May, 1907:]

In answer to yours of 28th inst. concerning the First Washington Territory Volunteer Infantry, also about its Colonel, Justus Steinberger, I have the honor to submit the following, obtained from Reference Room of Public Library of this City.

Daily Oregonian, October 14th, 1870. Helena, Montana. Yesterday in this City, Major Steinberger, Paymaster U. S. Army, was thrown from his horse. He died at 2 o'clock this morning from injuries received. His remains were taken to Fort Shaw for burial.

Daily Oregonian, October 15th, 1870.

Major Justus Steinberger killed by being thrown from his horse. Major Steinberger was an Agent for Pacific Mail Co. when that company ran its steamers to Portland, Oregon. Afterward employed Agent for Adams Co.'s Express at this place when that company wound up in a failure. He then entered the service, passed to the grade of Colonel, and after filling many places of honor, was finally appointed to the position of Paymaster with the rank of Major. He was universally respected and kindly remembered by his many friends here.

This is all that can be found of Colonel Justus Steinberger, nothing known of family nor of any portrait extant.

For few facts as to the Regiment, see War of Rebellion Records, Series I, Vol. L, giving some items, also two official letters of the Col. on pages 114-174, same series and vol.

I will here relate what little I know. I joined Company F, Captain Wm. V. Spencer, First Lieutenant Peter Fox, Second Lieutenant James Halloran, July 10, 1862, at Fort Vancouver, Washington. I was at the time a resident of the Territory since 1859. Our Company never came under notice of the Colonel to our knowledge. We were kept at Fort Vancouver until late in December, 1862, when we were sent to the Dalles, Oregon, and garrisoned Fort Dalles up to March, 1865, when we were returned to Fort Vancouver on the consolidation of the Regiment and were merged into Company E, Captain William Knox. During our stay at Fort Dalles, Oregon, Captain William V. Spencer was detailed on service in the Adjutant General's office either at Fort Walla Walla or Vancouver and the command fell to First Lieutenant Peter Fox, who was at the same time Post Commander, A. A. Q. M. and A. A. C. S. Lieutenant Fox was cashiered and dismissed the service, I think in the spring of '64. Second Lieutenant Halloran then commanded the Company until we were turned over to Company E. Lieutenant Halloran then passed to a lieutenantancy in the Regular Army and, Captain Knox being relieved on account of disability, we were commanded until final discharge July 8, 1865, by First Lieutenant James Shippy, First Oregon Infantry.

We never came in contact with the Regiment as a whole or in part other than as I have stated. Any other service I can render I am yours at command.

Respectfully

GEORGE W. EASTERBROOK

Late Musician Companies F and E, First Washington Territory Volunteer Infantry.

[Evidently there was an attempt made to organize another regiment. William Pickering, who was Governor of Washington Territory from 1862 to 1864, received a significant letter in 1864. The original is among the manuscript collections of the University of Washington and is as follows:]

Fort Vancouver, W. T., Oct. 21, 1864.

Governor:

We received here last night notice of an order by Maj. Gen. McDowell for raising a regiment of infantry in Oregon and Washington Territory. We have no details of the plan by which this is to be done. I presume an effort will be made to raise the regiment by enlisting volunteers. When that fails a draft will be ordered.

I hope you will be careful should any troops be raised in Washington to secure the appointment of officers for them from

your territory. Do not fail in this matter. We want no secesh officers.

The news from the East is generally good on which I congratulate you.

Mrs. F. sends you her respects.

I am, as ever, yours

SIMEON FRANCIS.

[When the above material is utilized for the preparation of an interesting chapter of State history there is still another item that should not be overlooked. Arthur A. Denny manifested an interest in this matter, and not long before his death he made the statement that the ladies of Washington Territory were very patriotic during that war. They co-operated with the Sanitary Commission, the records showing that, in proportion to population, they led every State and Territory in the Union, in sending supplies for the comfort of the soldiers.]