

Aug. 2003

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# Cattaraugus County GAR Posts

*From information compiled by Benedict Maryniak*

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The 1912 Grand Army Blue Book edition provided that the post could not be named after any living person and "... any Post may prefix the name of a deceased soldier or sailor who died in the service of our country during the rebellion or of some other deceased person prominent during the war for loyalty and efficiency..." and that no more than one Post in a Department shall adopt the same name, and that the name shall be approved by the Department Commander. Also a post could, with the approval of the Department Commander, drop its old name and assume a new one by the same vote..."

GAR Post #58, **Colonel James Power McMahon**, 164<sup>th</sup> NYV – Olean – 1872 to March 1875. Born 1836 in County Wexford, Ireland, and emigrated to the US with his brother John, he graduated from Fordham University during 1860. Mustered 11-7-1861 as Captain of Company K, 69th NYV, he served with Meagher's Irish Brigade before helping his brother to raise a regiment in Buffalo NY. Ap-

pointed Lieut Colonel of the 155th NYV & provost-marshal of the Corcoran Legion on 10-21-1862, he succeeded his brother as Colonel of the 164th NYV 3-23-1863. James McMahon was shot dead 6-3-1864 while planting the 164th NYV's colors atop the Confederate breastworks at Cold Harbor, Virginia. He was buried on battlefield but eventually placed next to John at Holy Cross Cemetery. His body was subsequently removed to Utica NY during 1905.

**#85 Brigadier General Henry Walton Wessells** USV - Portville - 1-11-1879 to 1924 Commander of the brigade that the 85th NYV was attached to in Army of the Potomac and XVIII Corps in Dept of NC; surrendered Plymouth NC to CSA Genl Hoke 4-20-64; died 1889, buried in Arlington Cemetery DC.

**#139 Corporal James W Randolph**, Company A 154th NYV - Steamburg 8-8-1904 to 1917. Enlisted 1862 at age 22 in Coldspring NY; captured at Chancellorsville 5-2-63, paroled 5-14-63; promo to cpl; WIA 5-8-64 Rocky Face Ridge GA and died 8-16-64 in Nashville hospital; buried Steamburg Cemetery in town of Coldspring.

**#222 General George Dashiell Bayard** US Volunteers - Olean -

6-23-1881 to 1940. 1st Lt in US Cavalry; Major 3rd NYV 6-20-1861; Brigadier General USV 4-28-62; died 12-14-62 of wounds recd at the Battle of Fredericksburg; buried Princeton NJ.

**#232 Adjutant Samuel C Noyes**, 154th NYV - Ellicottville - 10-13-1881 to 1894 (Regiment's monument at Gettysburg was dedicated 1890). A resident of Ellicottville when he enlisted, his family owned an estate in North Collins, Erie County NY (see Post #220 in North Collins). KIA at Chancellorsville VA, buried on the battlefield; NOTE - Post name later changed to 154th Surgeon Van Aernam.

**#232 Surgeon Henry Van Aernam**, 154th NYV - Ellicottville - 6-4-1894 to 1924. Born 1819 at Marcellus NY; became a teacher by 1834; contractor in canal-building in Virginia 1835-37; studied medicine at Geneva Medical College 1845; moved to Franklinville 1848; elected state assemblyman 1857; Van Aernam enlisted in Jamestown August 1862 at age 45; discharged for disability 1864; Radical Republican elected to terms in the US House; pension commissioner 1869-71; reelected to Congress 1878 and 1880; died 6-1-94, buried Mt Prospect Cemetery, Franklinville, NY. No

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slight was meant to Noyes in changing the namesake, as all were aware that the North Collins post in Erie County would still bear the Noyes name.

**#246 Captain Henry V Fuller**, Co F 64th NYV - Little Valley - 11-4-1881 to 1925. (Regiment's monument at Gettysburg was dedicated 1890.) Joined 64th NYV at Little Valley on 8-13-61 age 20; mustered 12-10-61 as 2nd Lt Company F, as 1st Lt on 7-22-62, as Captain on 12-30-62; killed in action at Gettysburg 7-2-1863; buried Rural Cemetery, Little Valley, NY.

**#287 Sergeant Edson Alfred Andrews**, Co D 179th NYV - Cattaraugus 1880-1881. Resident of East Otto who joined as private at Ellicottville 3-9-1864, age 19; promoted to Sgt. no date; captured 7-30-64; died as POW 1-11-1865 Danville, VA.

**#287 Private Bela Rich**, Co A 64th NYV - Cattaraugus - 8-19-1882 to 1912 (Regiment's monument at Gettysburg was dedicated 1890). Enlisted 10-30-1861 age 43 at Gowanda; died of disease 9-22-1862 at Craney Island VA and is buried there.

**#297 1st Lieutenant David T Wiggins**, Co C 64th NYV - Randolph - 10-6-1882 to 1937 (Regiment's monument at Gettysburg was dedicated 1890). Joined 64th NYV at Randolph, age 28, on 8-17-61; mustered 9-7-61 as Sgt Company B, as First Sgt 10-3-62; mustered 9-1-63 as 2nd Lt Company C; mustered 2-4-64 as 1st Lt of Company C; killed in action 5-12-1864 at Spotsylvania; buried Randolph NY Cemetery.

**#307 Corporal Jas Randolph**, Co A 154th NYV - Steamburg - 1881. See Post #139.

**#310 Captain Wm Fancher**, Co K 64th NYV - Leon - 11-2-1882 to 1926 (Regiment's monument at Gettysburg was dedicated 1890). Joined 64th NYV at Leon, age 38, on 9-14-61; mustered 12-9-61 as Captain Company K; died of typhoid fever during leave at home in Leon on 5-24-1862; buried Treat Memorial Cemetery in Leon.

**#329 Private Norris Phillips**, Co A 188th NYV - Machias - 1-12-1883 to 191. Farmer born in Machias NY, age 19 at enlistment; blue eyes, brown hair, stood 5,11; joined the 183rd NYV at Machias on September 3, 1864, but his company was then placed with 188th NYV; wounded in action 2-6-65 at Hatcher's Run (Dabneys Mill) VA; died 2-19-1865 at Jarvis Hospital in Washington DC.

**#357 Private Lewis Stanton Rust**, Co C 105th NYV - Great Valley - 5-5-1883 to 1931. Enlisted at Great Valley 1-15-62 at age 42 (wife & three children); WIA 9-1-62 at Bull Run and died the next day, buried on field; cenotaph at Willoughby Cemetery, Great Valley NY.

**#359 Captain Henry H Darby**, Co B 64th NYV - Gowanda - 3-30-1883 to 1939 (Regiment's monument at Gettysburg was dedicated 1890).

\*Sergeant John A Darby Company A 64th NYV KIA 7-1-62 Malvern Hill; rec'd brevet commission as 2nd Lt from Gov of NY; buried Cottage Cemetery, Dayton NY.

\*Captain Albert Darby Company A 64th NW wounded 6-1-62 at Fair Oaks; discharged 7-23-63.

\*Captain Henry H Darby Company B 64th NYV - enlisted age 19 at Gowanda as pvt;

WIA Fair Oaks VA 6-1-62, captured at Gettysburg 7-3-63, wounded 4-7-65 at Farmville VA & died of wounds near Burkeville VA 4-11-65; buried Forest Hill Cemetery, Fredonia NY.

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**#380 Private Sylvester Sherwood**, Co D 85th NYV - Salamanca - 7-24-1891 to 1907. Sherwood was a farmer who enlisted at Sharon NY 11-15-61 age 19; by June 1862 on the Peninsula, he was lame due to varicose veins and had coughing spells; "sent north sick 7-3-62"; discharged 7-22-62 (effective 8-1-62) at US hospital on David's Island in NY Harbor -- diagnosed as consumption; farmed and worked as a carpenter in Wellsville then moved to Salamanca; first wife died 1876 and he wed Matilda M. Hoag in Salamanca 1-1-1878; resided in Olean for some years; two sons born in 1880s; applied for pension 1880; died 6-25-1891 of heart disease; buried Cemetery, Salamanca NY; Matilda died 1-1-1917.

**#380 Private Henry Oliver Wait**, Co K 26th NYV - Salamanca - 1907 to 1924 (NOTE - The name of post was changed to "H O Wait" during November 1907 but original charter date of 7-24-1891 remained). Henry Oliver Wait was born in Owego NY on September 19, 1840. He was one of six children, 2 boys and 4 girls, born to Christian Wait (a Quaker) and Rachael Briggs. Christian Wait was a wealthy lumberman on the Susquehanna River who marketed long shingles and staves in Harrisburg and Philadelphia, PA. Henry was educated in district schools in Owego and was given a large tract of land by his father and he became a farmer at the time of the outbreak of the rebellion. He joined the 26th New York Infantry at Camden on April 28, 1861, age 21; mustered as a corporal in Captain Charles Mortimer Wheeler's Company K on May 14, 1861. Wait was reportedly returned to ranks on August 1, 1861. At the battle of Antietam he was severely wounded and was promoted to captain for gallantry. He recovered at Queen Street Hospital in Alexandria VA for several months and was mustered out at Utica, NY on May 28, 1863. He re-enlisted and received a major's commission. At the battle of Lookout Mountain, VA on November 24, 1863 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel. Pension file - Born 1840; enrolled 5-14-1861 as a private in company K of 26th NYV; absent with typhoid 9-26-61 to 12-12-61; nurse in Alexandria hospital 12-31-61 to 4-10-63; discharged at Utica 5-28-1863; wed Arabella Kirkpatrick 1874 at Attica; sworn statement on 11-23-96 that he only served in the 26th NYV; resident of Salamanca Village in 1896; died 2-27-1904 in the Hornell sanitarium, buried in Cuba NY. After the war Henry took a job with the Erie and Atlantic Railroad and was transferred to Salamanca NY where he was employed in the ticket department. An active Republican elected supervisor in the Town of Salamanca from 1873 to 1875, he wed Belle Kirkpatrick of Cuba NY during 1874. Belle was the only child of David Kirkpatrick and she was a talented musician. Henry was elected treasurer of Cattaraugus County in 1878 and held that position for many years. He was elected Vice President of the First National Bank of Salamanca at its organization during 1880 and in 1881 was elected President Henry, age 63, died in 1904 and is buried in the Cuba Cemetery.

**#386 Private Clinton D Nash**, Co K 9th NY Cavalry - South Dayton 7-13-1883 to 1926 (Regiment's monument at Gettysburg was dedicated 1888). Enlisted 9-11-62 age 20; died 4-29-62 of disease at Camp Scott, Yorktown VA; buried Cottage Cemetery, Dayton NY.

**#390 1st Lieutenant Frank A Howell**, 27th USCT - Delevan - 7-19-1883 to 1918. A farmer born 1840 who joined the 4th Vermont as private in Company I during March 1862; absent sick in a Philadelphia hospital July thru October 1863; reenlisted March 1864; "detailed to Qrtrmaster Dept May thru August 1864"; discharged 9-8-64 to be Lt in 27th USCT but not cited by Phisterer; commsd in 27th USCT 5-6-1865 and in 50th USCT in 1866; wed Marcella Jackman 1867; suffering severe epileptic seizures from 1869 which left him wandering and unable to recognize family; needed constant attention; seizures grew so violent he dislocated a shoulder and injured his eyes; by 1884, was experiencing 15 seizures weekly, sometimes 8 in 24 hours; died 9-17-1888, buried in Yorkshire NY Cemetery; Marcella remarried 1907.

**#459 Captain Benjamin Giles Casler**, Co A 154th NYV - Salamanca - 1884 (never organized). Joined at Jamestown August 1862 as 1st Lt Co A, age 26; to captain March 1863; captured at Gettysburg, paroled;

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discharged 3-14-1865; brevet colonel NYV; buried Randolph NY cemetery.

**#461 Colonel Walter Clark Hull**, 2nd NY Cavalry - Waverly - 3-10-1884 to 1929. Born in the village of Angelica, Allegany County NY. His father William B. Hull was son of Judge Hull and his mother a daughter of Stanley Nichols Clark. When Walter was two, his father died in St Louis MO while on a trip. In 1859 at age 15, Walter came to Waverly to attend Waverly Institute. He graduated in 1861 but at age 19 enlisted that December as a private in Ellicottville Co I 37th NYV (commanded by his uncle Wm T Clarke) instead of enrolling in college. Some accounts say he was a student at Lima College in Livingstone County NY. He nearly died of fever on the Peninsula and was promoted to sgt. He was mustered as 2nd Lt Company K on 9-13-1862. Lt Hull was discharged 5-29-63 to become captain USV and Aide-de-Camp to Genl Stoneman. He also served on Genl Wilson's staff. He was discharged in 1863 and then enlisted as captain Co L 2nd NY Cavalry during September. Wounded in action 5-28-1864 at Hanover Court House VA; transf to Co A August 1864; mustered as Major to date 9-1-64; mustered to date 11-1-64 as Lt Colonel; mustered to date 11-1-64 as Colonel, age 21. One of the war's youngest colonels. He was killed 11-12-1864 while leading a charge against Rosser's Cavalry at Cartwell's Springs, near Cedar Creek, Virginia. "The enemy made a stand at Mt Zion Church near Cedar Creek and the bullets flew thick for a moment ... Col Hull reeled and fell to the ground on the left side of his horse. In a moment, he rose to his feet, remarking 'They hit me,' and mounted his horse only to fall off on the other side dead." His body was initially buried in Ellicottville NY but is now at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo NY.

**#508 Captain Alanson Crosby**, Co D 154th NYV - Franklinville - 3-20-1891 to 1926 (Regiment's monument at Gettysburg was dedicated 1890). Born 4-2-1836 Franklinville NY; educated at common schools and a Kentucky University; read law at Poughkeepsie Law School; admitted to bar 1859; joined 154th NYV at Jamestown, age 26, on 8-8-1862; mustered 9-26-62 as 2nd Lt Company A; mustered 4-4-63 as 1st Lt Company D; apptd Adjutant 7-1-63; captured at Gettysburg but escaped and rejoined unit July 15; mustered 6-9-64 as Captain Company D; severely wounded in side 6-16-64 at Lost Mountain GA; died of wounds 7-9-64 in Nashville Hospital; buried Prospect Cemetery, Franklinville NY.

**#526 Corporal George W Baker**, Co A 154th NYV - Limestone - 1884 to 1885. Joined August 1862 in town of Carrollton, age 23; promoted to corporal Aprfl 1863; captured 5-2-1863 at Chancellorsville VA, paroled 5-14-1863 at City Point VA; discharged with regiment 6-11-1865; buried limestone Cemetery, Carrollton NY.

**#550 1st Lieutenant Nathan Crosby**, Co B 9th NY Cavalry - Salamanca 1885 (Charter document dated 3-26-1885 at NYS Library in Albany). A farmer born at Saratoga NY, married. Joined September 23, 1861, at Little Valley, age 44; elected first lieutenant and mustered at Westfield NY October 3, 1861; absent on recruiting service in Buffalo June 25 to November 1862; resigned due to disability 12-13-1862, discharged as of 1-13-1863.

**#584 2nd Lieutenant Ira S Thurber**, Co I 64th NYV - Allegany - 3-17-1886 to 1916 (Regiment's monument at Gettysburg was dedicated 1890). Joined 64th NYV at Allegany, age 30, on 8-28-61; mustered 9-10-61 as Sgt Company I; promoted to First Sgt 2-25-63; mustered as 2nd Lt 6-17-63; killed in action 7-2-1863 at Gettysburg; buried in Protestant cemetery at Allegany NY.

**#616 Fair Oaks - Ischua** - 7-6-1887 to 1916. First battle casualties of 85th NYV.

**#637 Private Barzilla Merrill**, Co K 154th NYV - Dayton - 10-8-1888 to 1915 (Regiment's monument at

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Gettysburg was dedicated 1890). Enlisted 1862 age 44 at Dayton; KIA Chancellorsville; buried Cottage Cemetery, Dayton NY.

#651 **First Sergeant Henry F Whipple**, Co H 154th NYV - Onoville - 10-15-1891 to 1914 (Regiment's monument at Gettysburg was dedicated 1890). Enlisted 1862 age 42; captured 7-2-63 at Gettysburg, held at Belle Isle & Andersonville; died at Andersonville 7-9-64, grave #3084 (?moved to Wildwood Cemetery, Salamanca NY?)

#655 **Corporal Wm T Wickham**, Co I 37th NYV - Otto - 3-31-1892 to 1928 enlisted May 1861 at Ellcottville age 21; promo to cpl 10-6-62; KIA C'ville and buried on that field.

#666 **Private Amos A. Hall**, Co. E 9th NY Cavalry, East Randolph, 2-15-1893 to 1919. Enlisted 8-26-62 age 25; disability discharge at NY City 8-23-64, for injured knee; died 1888, buried East Randolph Cemetery in Randolph. ❖

### **Interesting portions from the will of Deacon Nathan Currier, Jr.**

**(Submitted by member Coradean Simon  
from a book which included full typed transcription)**

I, Nathan Currier of Amesbury, in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, husbandman, having a slight indisposition to health, but of a sound and disposing mind and memory...  
Firstly, I give and bequeath to Polly Currier my beloved wife, her heirs, and assigns, one-sixth part of the produce of my farm...it being well managed...so long as she remains my widow; I also give and bequeath unto my wife the easterly front room, the bed room and a privilege in the back room to bake and wash, and a privilege in the cellar as much as necessary for her during her widowhood and in case that my daughter Mary marries I appoint that my wife have the use of the west front chamber instead of the bedroom...I also appoint my wife to have wood hauled, cut and suitably provided at her door at all times sufficient for one fire during her widowhood, to be done by my sons Ames and John Currier...And I further order and appoint that if my daughter Mary should remain unmarried after her mother's decease she shall have a privilege in the front westerly chamber in my house and a convenient privilege in the cellar, the use of the oven in the back room, and of passing and repassing out and in of the front door and so to the road; I further order that Mary have the use of the west front chamber after my decease while unmarried... In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this eleventh day of January, Anno Domini, 1819. Nathan Currier.

Miscellaneous Records & the Civil War  
By Sharon Fellows

The stacks of ledgers and libers housed at the Cattaraugus County Clerk's Office include a section entitled Miscellaneous Records. I was driven to glean interesting tidbits from these hand written entries by Llewelyn "Hook" France. We were talking about common relatives and he said, "Well, Jonathan Fellows' military papers were at the clerk's office in Little Valley. Didn't you find them?" I answered, "No, but I'll go there and look." And three years later while playing hooky from work, I did go look.

The two oldest indexes of these records are dated 1800-1882 and 1882 -1911. Each entry noted the month and year of the filing and a name with a corresponding liber (in this instance book 5) and page number. John, Ephraim and Alonzo Fellows were each dated August, 1866.

"To all whom it may concern, know ye that Alonzo Fellows, a Sergeant of Captain G. Fred Potter's Company (K) 6th Regiment of New York Hy Artillery Volunteers..." The page title was Alonzo Fellows Discharge with a scribble in the margin of Paid in full Aug. 31 1868, J. M. Phelps, P. Master U.S.A. The entry listed dates of service, place of discharge, where born, current age, occupation, current residence and the color of his hair, eyes, complexion plus his height. As I flipped the pages looking for the other Fellows men the same entry had been made for Porter Witherby, William Galbraith, Samuel Cullen, Theodore Kinglsey, William Wilson, William C. Bockover, Nathaniel Brown, John Truburg, Frederick Buffington, Charles Ingols, Gilbert Rogers, Cadley Horth, Christian Ehman, John Nichols and almost a hundred other Civil War veterans.

I asked several clerks what was the purpose, why at this time were these entries made? No one knew. Next I inquired at the county museum. Lorna Spencer, a long-time curator of the records, said she didn't know but thanks for the tip. She had been trying to compile in-depth military records and didn't realize Liber 5 Miscellaneous Records harbored some answers to her search.

The Cattaraugus County Museum does have the multi-volume "New York in the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865", third edition. It lists the information needed to request information from the National Archives such as name, regiment and dates of service. Another publication by the Twin Tier Civil War Round Table entitled "Civil War Veterans Cemetery Locator-Vol. Cattaraugus County, New York" includes full name, date of birth, company regiment, rank, where stationed and where buried.

Why bother looking in these libers? It is a rich source of local information with the veteran listing his birth place, residence and physical characteristics. You can get this information from service records at the National Archives maybe with widow pension information or a refusal to secure a pension, but it will be more expensive. The County Clerk's Office charges one dollar per page to photocopy.

Besides, you may come across something else of interest. I never found Jonathan Fellows' service record but I did find my great grandfather John J. Inman filing a claim for a gold and silver mine at a place called Pete Frank Hollow facing West Salamanca, New York along the W.N.Y. & P. Railroad line. That's another story. ❖

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