

# FOUGHT FOR OREGON YEARS AGO

Brave Men of the Past Who, Enlisting Under the Banner of the Union in the '60s, Struggled to Maintain the Integrity and Domestic Peace of State.

The Oregonian is in receipt of a communication from an Albany correspondent, asking for a history of the First Regiment, Oregon Volunteer Infantry, as well as of the First Regiment of Oregon Cavalry, "embracing the number of enlisted men in each; term and place of service; losses from all causes; names of field officers, and any other information of public interest you can readily obtain." The writer of the communication signs himself "A Veteran of '61."

In these days of war and rumors of war, when our soldier lads are upholding the flag in distant lands across the sea, and when but little more than a year has elapsed since the people of this city and state welcomed the homecoming of their own brave boys, who so valorously battled with the semi-savages and climatic conditions of the Philippines, Oregonians retain but slight remembrance of the time when the political status of this grand commonwealth, as an integral part of the Union, was at stake, and Indian warfare—treacherous, cruel and barbarous—raged within and along its borders.

It was the period of the Civil War—that gigantic struggle, which convulsed the entire land, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans—and when many of those who extended warm greeting to the returning volunteers of the Spanish War were yet unborn. On the other hand, most of those who bore an active part in those far-off days, in repelling Indian attacks, preventing or punishing highway depredations, or in repressing threatened domestic insurrection, have passed to the silent majority.

More than a generation has elapsed since those stirring times, when nearly every outlying settlement or mining camp throughout the state, was in constant dread of raids by bloodthirsty and revengeful tribes of savages, and the watchfulness of the loyal masses was sorely taxed, to foil and counteract the plans of an element, more especially rampant in the southern counties, which sought to commit Oregon to the cause of the Confederacy. Bands of highwaymen, horse-thieves and other desperadoes went up and down the state, harrying, robbing and committing every sort of crime. Occasionally varying their tactics, and working independently, or in league with the Indians, they would lie in wait along the emigrants' trails, there to pounce upon some insufficiently protected train of homeseekers, or small body of adventurous travelers, who would usually be put to death to the accompaniment of all manner of horrible atrocities. These depredations were not confined within the state, but extended beyond its borders into Idaho, Northern California and Southern Washington.

## Waged Constant Warfare.

Rev. H. K. Hines, D. D., in his "Illustrated History of Oregon," says of the situation at this time (1861-65), that most of the Indians of Eastern and South-eastern Oregon waged continual warfare against the whites, miners and stockmen settled in that region, "as well as way-laid emigrant trains entering the state by the Snake River Valley." It was a predatory warfare by small bands, but greatly destructive of life and property: "Its predatory and scattering character," says Dr. Hines, "precludes any very circumstantial account of it, yet for incidents of atrocious cruelty on the part of the Indians, and of patient and wearying marches and brave endurance on the part of the troops and volunteers called to suppress it, it was really one of the most remarkable of all our Indian wars."

dered to Vancouver, where they were "clothed in United States uniforms, and armed with old-fashioned muzzle-loading rifles, pistols and sabers," and after which they proceeded to The Dalles.

On June 3, Colonel Cornelius, with companies B and E, arrived at Walla Walla, where, about two weeks later, the three southern companies joined them, thus constituting a force of about 600 men. There was nothing to do at Walla Walla, and July 28 Colonel Cornelius, who had accepted the command of the regiment with the understanding that it was to go immediately into active service in the East, resigned his commission. He was succeeded by Colonel Justin Steinberger, of Pierce County, Washington Territory, who then commanded the Washington regiment of volunteers, which he had personally raised, and four companies of which he had enlisted in California.

Soon afterward, Lieutenant-Colonel Maury, with three companies of the First Oregon Cavalry, was ordered out to guard the emigrant trail.

"Thus," says Dr. Hines, "these Oregon volunteers entered on the most difficult, tiresome and thankless service upon which a soldier ever entered, on the wild and almost unknown plains of South-eastern Oregon. The history of the First Regiment of Oregon Volunteers, was, therefore, written in these wastes, where it is impossible to gather it up and present it to the reader, without the use of a volume."

Bancroft, in his "History of the Pacific States," says: "The history of the First Oregon Cavalry, from 1862 to 1865, is the history of Indian raids upon the mining and new farming settlements, and of scouting and fighting by the several companies. Like the volunteers of Southern Oregon, they were called upon to guard roads, escort trains, pursue robber bands to their strongholds, avenge murders and to make explorations of the country, much of which was still unknown."

Dr. Hines explains that the region operated in as large as the state of New York, and he describes the character of the warfare waged therein as "not real war, but a continual hunt for Indians and waylaying and murdering of whites by Indians, of which the most tragic scenes were in Baker, Grant and Wasco Counties."

## Enlistment Expires.

The term of enlistment of the original six companies of the First Oregon Cavalry expired with the close of the campaign of 1864, when a temporary peace was patched up with the Indians of Southern Oregon.

In January, 1863, a call was issued for six additional companies of volunteers, to fill the quota of the First Oregon Cavalry Regiment. It resulted in only one company being raised during the ensuing summer. Bancroft explains that the peculiar state of affairs which rendered such a result possible was due to general uneasiness among the people of Oregon. This he attributes to the sympathy manifested by France and England with the South; to the unsettled Northwest boundary, known as the "San Juan question"; to France setting up Maximilian in Mexico; to the absence of forts and other defenses along the coast of Washington and Oregon, and, last, but not least "to the constantly increasing element of disloyalty on the eastern and southern borders of the state, as well as within its midst, which might combine, at any time, with a foreign power or the Indians."

Oregon, Bancroft declares, had not raised its quota of troops called for by Washington. She had but seven companies in the field, while California had nearly nine regiments. "California had volunteers

ing that the existing cavalry organization should be retained in the service and keep the name of the First Oregon Cavalry, and should be filled up to 12 companies. The General Government offered to furnish the horses for the new recruits, as well as other liberal inducements, but it was of no avail. Men could not be persuaded to enlist, and while matter were pending, the war came to a close and there was no necessity for having more troops.

About the time of this call for additional cavalry, the military department of the Columbia was extended to take in the southern and southeastern portions of the state, and Boise and the Owyhee region were made subdivisions of the Oregon district, under Lieutenant-Colonel Drake. On July 14, Colonel Maury, of the First Oregon Cavalry, retired from the acting command of the district, and was succeeded by Colonel Curry, of the First Oregon Infantry.

In the Spring of 1865, the First Oregon Infantry took the field in Oregon and Idaho, the roads between The Dalles and Boise, Boise and Salt Lake, Owyhee and Chico, and Owyhee and Humboldt (in California), being unsafe, on account of Indian raids. Detachments of the First Oregon cavalry were sent to help the infantry clear the roads, and escort the mails. Camps were established at various points, and there was considerable fighting and chasing of the Indians, in which the hostiles received several deserved thrashings. In October, while Colonel Curry, who had succeeded to the command of the military district, was arranging for a winter campaign, orders were received from Washington to muster out the volunteers, and with them he retired from service.

## Drake Succeeds Curry.

Colonel Curry was succeeded in the command of the department by Lieutenant-Colonel Drake, who was in turn mustered out in December, 1865. From time to time the volunteers were disbanded, until in June, 1866, only Company B, First Oregon Cavalry, and Company I, First Oregon Infantry, still remained in the service of the United States.

All the camps in Oregon were abandoned, except Camp Watson, against the removal of the troops from which the merchants of The Dalles protested, and Camp Alford, which was removed to a slightly different location and renamed "Camp C. F. Smith." Camps Lyon and Boise, in Idaho, were allowed to remain, but Forts Lapwai and Walla Walla were abandoned. P.

## PURE FOOD AND PRICES.

Gain in Dairy Trade Partly Due to Enforcement of Law.

Miller Freeman, publisher of Ranch and Range, of Seattle, was in Portland last Friday after having visited the State Fair at Salem. He spoke highly of this year's Fair, particularly commending the livestock exhibit, which, he said, was the finest ever made on the Pacific Coast.

In talking with an Oregonian reporter, Mr. Freeman spoke of the gratifying progress that had been made in protecting producers and consumers from adulterated foods. The pure-food laws of Oregon and Washington are similar, and in both states the official entrusted with the duty of enforcing them is active and he accomplishes creditable results.

"It so happens that in Washington most of the stir is about impure groceries," said Mr. Freeman. "In Oregon more attention is directed to dairy and fruit products. Mr. Bailey has done valuable service in ridding the market of butter substitutes, fraudulent jellies, etc., in the guise of the genuine. The law, of course, does not say what the people shall or shall not eat, but it says that whatsoever is sold the people shall be sold under its true name. If people prefer to use butterine or oleomargarine, they are at perfect liberty to do so, but they should buy it under its true name, not under the name of butter. So with jellies. If people prefer colored glucose, they should be permitted to have it, but the spurious article should not be forced upon them for the genuine. The law can do it to put the proper

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The illustrious Dr. Hines, however, does not advise of the great war then raging in the Eastern part of the country, and thought it a favorable time to even up matters with the whites in the Northwest. "It appears clear, too," he adds, "that it was the inspiration of the spirit of rebellion and secession, that was by no means wanting or idle in Oregon, that prompted them to this course. . . . Oregon, with the other states, had been called upon for troops to aid in suppressing the rebellion. If they could be detained at home and engaged in campaigns against the Indians, so much would be withdrawn from the forces available in the East for putting down the rebellion. Whether this belief was well founded or not, it is difficult to determine, but, at all events, it prevailed quite extensively among the loyal people of Oregon, and certainly these Indian hostilities had this effect."

Whether, as the reverend author of the history of Oregon speculates, the Indian troubles in the state were fomented by the secession element for political purposes, or whatever the reason or reasons, the fact remains that no Oregon troops served east of the mountains in any of the campaigns between the North and South in the Civil War. This should, however, in no degree militate against a proper acknowledgment of the value of the services of the men who did volunteer to fight for the flag, but who, through no fault of their own, were kept at home to guard the domestic peace and prevent Oregon from going out of the Union.

Such a result possible was due to general uneasiness among the people of Oregon. This he attributes to the sympathy manifested by France and England with the South; to the unsettled Northwest boundary, known as the "San Juan question"; to France setting up Maximilian in Mexico; to the absence of forts and other defenses along the coast of Washington and Oregon, and, last, but not least "to the constantly increasing element of disloyalty on the eastern and southern borders of the state, as well as within its midst, which might combine, at any time, with a foreign power or the Indians."

Oregon, Bancroft declares, had not raised its quota of troops called for by Washington. She had but seven companies in the field, while California had nearly nine regiments. "California had volunteers in every part of the Pacific States, even in the Willamette Valley. Troops were needed to serve on Oregon soil, and to protect the Oregon frontier. A post was needed at Boise to protect the immigration, and an expedition against the Snakes was required."

It is a gloomy picture, as presented by the historian, but the situation carried its own remedy. Posts were established at Boise and between Klamath and Goose Lakes, near the southern immigrant trail, and in the Spring of 1863, Major Drew, who had been promoted to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy of the First Oregon Cavalry, sent Captain Kelly, with Company C, to construct and garrison Fort Klamath. The remainder of the regiment was employed in the Walla Walla and Nez Perces country, in preserving peace between the whites and Indians, "in pursuing and arresting highwaymen, whisky-sellers and horsethieves, with whom the whole upper country was infested at this period in its history, and who could seldom be arrested, without the assistance of the cavalry, whose horses were kept worn down by long marches to recover both private and Government property."

At this time the officers of the First Cavalry were: R. F. Maury, Colonel; C. S. Drew, Lieutenant-Colonel; S. Truax, Major, and Captain Rhinehart, Adjutant.

The Oregon Legislature, during its session in 1864, passed a bounty act, which gave to every person in the state who should enlist in the Government military service for the term of three years, or for the balance of the war, as part of the Oregon quota, \$150, in addition to the

both states the official intrusted with the duty of enforcing them is active and he accomplishes creditable results.

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"The excellent price which Oregon dairymen have been getting for their product this year is partly due to activity in enforcing the pure-food law. By ridding out the spurious articles that have hitherto served to keep the market over-supplied, the honest products are given a chance. The people are prosperous, and don't want food imitations; they are able to pay for the genuine, and that is what they buy, creating an active demand that is reflected in the better prices the producers receive. This works a hardship on nobody. If the price for the genuine article is too high to suit anybody, he may buy the imitation as he did before, but now he buys it for what it is, not for what it may be called.

"One man cannot do all the work necessary for the strict enforcement of pure-food laws. The Oregon Commissioner ought to have two good assistants to help him cover the state, as it should be covered. But Commissioner Bailey is doing good work, and it should be recognized."

## HIS STORY DIDN'T GO.

Troubles of a Steward Who Served

**Denuded Army Posts.**

As a result of the breaking out of hostilities in the East, and the consequent denuding of the Army posts and forts of the Northwest of their garrisons for service at the principal scene of war, there were left at the beginning of 1861, only about 700 men and 19 commissioned officers of the regular Army in the whole of Oregon and Washington.

In the Spring of 1861 Colonel George Wright, then commanding the military Department of the Columbia, made a requisition upon Governor Whiteaker, of this state, for a company of cavalry, to serve with the forces of the department. The attempt to raise the desired company failed, however, because of the belief that its Governor was in sympathy with the rebellion, and could not, therefore, be intrusted with the organization of the command.

The War Department, thereupon, in November, 1861, issued a Colonel's commission to Thomas R. Cornelius, a well-known Oregonian, and directed him to raise 10 companies of cavalry for service with the United States, as part of the three years' force of 500,000 men, whose enlistment had been authorized by Congress, to assist in the preservation of the Union. The original roster of the staff of this regiment, which was designated as the First Oregon Cavalry, in the muster-rolls of the Army, is appended:

Thomas R. Cornelius, Colonel.

R. F. Maury, Lieutenant-Colonel.

Benjamin F. Harding, Quartermaster.

C. S. Drew, Major.

J. S. Rinearson, Junior Major.

By the terms of enlistment the men of the proposed regiment were to receive \$31 per month each for themselves and their horses, \$100 bounty at the expiration of service, and a warrant for 100 acres of public land. Six companies were soon recruited and regularly organized, in the expectation that they would be ordered East for active service in the field.

The first company, A, was raised in Jackson County, Captain T. S. Harris commanding; the second company, B, in Marion County, by Captain E. J. Harding; company C, in Vancouver, Captain William Kelly; D, in Jackson, Captain S. Truax; E, by Captain George B. Curry, in Wasco, and F, of the southern battalion, by Captain William J. Matthews, principally in Josephine County. Captains D. P. Thompson, of Oregon City, and Rennick Coles, of Umpqua, also raised companies, or parts of companies, subsequently. Drilling camps were established in Jackson, Marion and Clackamas Counties.

In due season, about the last of May, 1862, the six original companies were or-

the Oregon quota, \$150, in addition to the other counties and the pay already provided for. To raise the necessary fund for the purpose, a tax of 1 mill on the dollar of all the taxable property in the state was levied. At the same time an act appropriating \$100,000 to pay \$5 a month extra to each of the Oregon volunteers then in the service of the United States, was passed. Governor Gibbs issued a proclamation, reciting that a requisition had been made by the United States Military Department commander for a regiment of infantry from the state, in addition to the volunteers then in the National service, and which should "aid in the enforcement of the laws, suppress insurrection and invasion and chastise hostile Indians."

Ten companies were called for to constitute the proposed regiment of infantry, which was to be known as the First Infantry, Oregon Volunteers. Each company was to consist of 82 privates, maximum, or 64 privates as the minimum number, and to have a complete complement of officers. A full regimental staff was also provided for. Lieutenants' commissions were issued to men in the several counties of the state, as recruiting officers, conditioned upon the recipients raising companies within a prescribed time, when they were to be promoted to the rank of Captain. Those who received the commissions were:

A. J. Borland, Grant County; E. Palmer, Yamhill; Charles Lafollet, Polk; J. M. Gale, Clatsop; W. J. Shipley, Benton; W. S. Powell, Multnomah; C. P. Crandall, Marion; F. O. McCown, Clackamas, and T. Humphreys, of Jackson County.

Six companies were formed within the limit of time that had been set, and two more before April 1, 1865. Polk County raised \$1200 extra bounty, and completed its enlistment first; Josephine County raised \$2500, and Clackamas County also provided a bounty for its soldiers. Lieutenants in the regiment, as finally organized, were:

**Roster of Officers.**

W. J. Shipley (above mentioned), Cyrus H. Walker, Thomas H. Reynolds, Samuel F. Kerns, John B. Dimick, Darius B. Randall, William M. Rand, William Grant, Harrison B. Oatman, Byron Barlow, William R. Dunbar, John W. Cullen, Charles B. Roland, Charles H. Hill, James A. Balch, Peter B. Gates, Daniel W. Applegate, Charles N. Chapman, Joseph M. Gale (above mentioned), Albert Applegate and Richard Fox (vice Balch). Colonel B. Curry was in command of the regiment.

In January, 1865, General McDowell, then in command of the Department of the Pacific, requisitioned for a second regiment of cavalry from Oregon, specify-

The caterer of a prominent club who was caught by Game Warden Quimby with a pheasant in his possession, and who, in consequence, was fined, decided to have nothing more to do with game out of season. As his patrons longed for "something nice," he bought a lot of turkey pullets, weighing about three pounds each, to tickle their epicurean palates. These birds come high—higher even than game out of season—but they are a delicacy which throws even a pheasant in the shade.

Soon after the young turkeys were received, a bon vivant came in and asked for "something nice." He was told that there would be no more game served until the open season had arrived but that he could be supplied with a broiled Spring turkey.

"Oh, that is all right; young turkey is good. Ha! ha! ha! Young turkey is a good name for a bird; very good. Give me a young turkey, by all means."

"But, I wish you distinctly to understand that it is a young turkey, and not a pheasant, you are to have."

"Oh! that's all right; I understand perfectly well what you mean. I'll not inform on you."

The young turkey was served and proved delicious. While it was being eaten two other patrons of the place came in and looked suspiciously and longingly at the bird.

"Sh-h-h!" hissed the man with the bird, "this is a young turkey. The steward has just been fined for having game in his possession, and we shall have to eat young turkeys from now to the end of the close season."

The newcomers laughed, said it was a good idea, and jollied the steward about the young turkeys, and asked to be served with one immediately. He told the men that there was no joke about this matter, and that the birds were really young turkeys, but they ha-ha-ed and poked him in the ribs and said "young turkey" was a great idea, and assured him that they understood all about it, and he need not be afraid of them giving h'm away to the Game Keeper, and all that sort of thing. The coop of turkey poult soon disappeared, and the steward ordered no more. He said if he could not make his patrons and friends believe that they had eaten young turkeys, he would never be able to convince the Game Keeper that the birds were not pheasants, and he had no desire to be fined again, and probably get the full penalty, and now when his patrons ask for "something nice" he gives them the grand ha! ha!