

# 149<sup>th</sup> New York VOLUNTEER INFANTRY Company "E"

## LOOKOUT PRESERVATION MARCH

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November 21 - 23, 2003

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### **FRIDAY - November 21st**

- **12 Noon** - Registration opens for both US and CS participants · CS participants who are stationed up on Lookout Mountain under the command of Mike Murley will proceed up to Point Park after registering. Those that will be marching up the mountain with commander Dave Culberson will be camping initially at the base of the mountain.
- **Midnight** - Confederate company under Dave Culberson begins march up the mountain to CS rifle pits replicating the movements of the 34th Mississippi Volunteer Infantry the night before the assault.

#### **SATURDAY - November 22nd**

**Please note that this is the Federal schedule of events from this point forward.** The CS company on top of Lookout Mountain will conduct living history programs all day Saturday. The CS company which, marched to the rifle pits will move to the Craven's House and perform living history programs until 11:00am at which time they will march the remainder of the way to Point Park and link up with Mike Murley's company.

- 4:00 A.M.** - Reveille in Federal camp.
- 4:30 A.M.** - Roll call among the companies and organization of companies
- 5:30 A.M.** - Issuing of rations & quartermaster stores.
- 6:00 A.M.** - Breakfast among the companies.
- 6:30 A.M.** - Officers call at regimental HQ.
- 7:00 A.M.** - Company officers and NCOs call
- 7:30 A.M.** - Company inspections of arms and equipage.
- 8:00 A.M.** - Organization of the regiment.
- 8:30 A.M.** - Commence march up the mountain.
- 10:30 A.M.** - Reach first marching objective.
- 10:30 A.M.** - Deploy the regiment and skirmishers and sweep across the mountain.
- NOON** - Reach the Cravens House and break for Noon meal.
- 1:00 P.M.** - Wreath laying ceremony at the 149th New York Monument.
- 2:00 P.M.** - Living history programs with the general public.
- 5:00 P.M.** - Programs conclude

- 5:30 P.M. -** Companies break for dinner call.  
**6:00 P.M. -** Picket duty commences. Each company will be responsible for one hour duty throughout the night.

### **SUNDAY - November 23rd**

The CS battalion will become the prisoners of the 149th New York upon their arrival to Point Park - there will be NO battle!

- 6:00 A.M. -** Reveille in Federal camp.  
**6:30 A.M. -** Company roll call.  
**7:00 A.M. -** Breakfast call.  
**7:30 A.M. -** Police the area  
**8:00 A.M. -** Regiment forms up and moves out to march the remainder of the way to Point Park.  
**9:30 A.M. -** Arrive at Point Park and take charge of Confederate prisoners.  
**9:30 A.M. -** Living history programs until 11:00am  
**9:45 A.M. -** Wet plate images available on point lookout.  
**10:30 A.M. -** Announcements on the preservation money raised and awards.  
**11:00 A.M. -** Regiment forms and wreath laying ceremony on the New York Peace Monument.  
**NOON -** Event over - Companies are dismissed in order and they will march from Point Park to the Incline Railway where they will ride down the mountain to the parking lot below where their cars are parked.



## **PRIVATE ERIC TIPTON**

A BIOGRAPHY

### **Where I Was Born:**

I was born August 17, 1830 in Springfield, Ohio.

### **Family:**

My family moved to Centreville, Ohio, south of Dayton when I was four years old in 1834. My Father Richard is a land speculator in Dayton, Ohio and my mother Pamela works at a furniture store on Main Street and Franklin Street in downtown Centreville, Ohio. They both grew up in Springfield, Ohio.

My brother Ryan was born in 1832 and is an artist/writer living in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

My Father's side of the family is mostly located in Kentucky. My cousin Private George Tipton enlisted with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kentucky Cavalry and was captured in March 1863. He re-enlisted with the 7<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry upon his release and fought with them until the end of the war. My other cousin Private Elijah Hull fights with the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment Ohio Infantry Company "C".

My Mother's side of the family lives in Springfield, Ohio. Their name is Chamberlain. My Great Grandparents (Jensen) came over from Norway and that is where I got the name Eric. My middle name – Arthur comes from my Grandfather on my Mother's side.

## **Education:**

I attended school in Centreville and advanced to the twelfth grade.

## **Marriage:**

I was married July 17, 1859 to Alexandra Avenarius – A Russian Immigrant. We were married at my parent's home in Centreville, Ohio.

## **My Wife Alexandra:**

Alexandra was born on May 3, 1838 in Moscow. She came to the United States in 1857. We met when she was visiting the Dancy family in 1858. She works as a governess teaching children Lauren, Megan and Abigail Short.

## **Career:**

After graduating from high school, I worked with my father in land speculation in Cincinnati. We moved to Syracuse with some friends in 1861 when the war broke out to get our families out of the path of the war. We went by land to Lake Erie and then by boat along the Erie Canal. I work in the "Candle Shop" candle-making factory on Wolf Street. I am paid \$1,200 per year and \$100 per month.

Candle-Making: The Renaissance of candle crafting was during the 19th. century. Candle molding machines were developed in the first half of the century. In 1811 pioneer work lead to the development of stearin. The braided wick was introduced in 1825. This year also saw the manufacture of stearic acid (a candle additive used to harden and opacify wax) begin. Paraffin development began in 1830. A continuous wicking machine was invented in 1834. Mordanting of wicks was a major breakthrough in 1834. Mordanting causes the burned end of the wick to curl outside of the flame zone where it turns to ash. Manufactured paraffin was introduced in 1850, providing an alternative to tallow. In 1854 paraffin and stearin were combined to create stronger candles, very similar to those we use today.

## **Home**

My wife and I live in a house on Green Street in the city of Syracuse (Onondaga County) Our rent is \$30 per month.

## **Mustered in:**

The 149th was organized at Syracuse, N.Y., and I mustered in September 18, 1862.

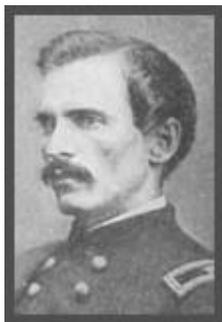
## **Why Did I Decide to Fight?**

My Father was in the military and fought in the Mexican War. He volunteered and served as a Lieutenant. I was too young at the time to volunteer. I was only sixteen and wanted to go to college.

I believe that slavery is wrong. I also am a patriot and I think we should preserve the Union. I admire the South for it's stance on the rights of states within the Union, but I feel that the

foundation of their argument is rooted in slavery and this in itself is morally wrong. My family is much divided on this issue because of my roots in Kentucky.

## 149<sup>th</sup> NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY



Colonel Henry A. Barnum

**Nickname - Fourth Onondaga**

### Recruitment Area:

Company A - Syracuse

Company B - Syracuse

Company C - Syracuse

Company D - Syracuse

**Company E - Syracuse, Pompey, Onondaga and Geddes**

Company F - Manlius, DeWitt and Fabius

Company G - Syracuse, Skaneateles, Van Buren, Lysander, Elbridge and Manlius

Company H - Syracuse, Brewerton, Cicero and Centerville

Company I - Syracuse, Otisco and Fabius

Company K - Syracuse, Baldwinsville and Tully

### Dates of Service:

Mustered in - Sept. 17-18, 1862 at Syracuse

Mustered out - June 12, 1865 near Bladensburg, MD

### History

The regiment left Syracuse on September 23, 1862, and within a short time joined General McClellan's army. It was assigned to the Third Brigade, Geary's Division, Twelfth Corps, in which command it fought at Chancellorsville, losing there 15 killed, 68 wounded, and 103 captured or missing.

At Gettysburg the regiment participated in the famous defense of Culp's Hill, made by Greene's Brigade, in which the One Hundred and Forty-ninth, fighting behind breastworks, lost 6 killed, 46 wounded, and 3 missing, but inflicted many times that loss on its assailants.

With the Twelfth Corps, it was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland, and the Onondaga boys fought as bravely in Tennessee as in Virginia or at Gettysburg. At Lookout Mountain, Tenn., they captured five flags while fighting under Hooker in that memorable affair, their casualties amounting to 10 killed and 64 wounded.

Before starting on the Atlanta campaign the Twelfth Corps was designated the Twentieth, its command being given to General Hooker. The regiment started on that campaign with 380 fighting men, of whom 136 were killed or wounded before reaching Atlanta. Lieutenant-Colonel Charles B. Randall, a gallant and skilful officer, was killed at Peach Tree Creek, in which action the regiment sustained its heaviest loss while on that campaign, its casualties there aggregating 17 killed, 25 wounded, and 10 missing.

The regiment after marching with Sherman to the Sea was actively engaged in the Siege of Savannah, and then marched through the Carolinas on the final campaign which ended in the surrender of Johnson.

They mustered out June 12, 1865.

## WHERE DID THE 149<sup>TH</sup> FIGHT?

### 1863

May 1-3, 1863: Chancellorsville, VA

Commander's Report - HDQRS. 149<sup>TH</sup> NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS,

May 4, 1863.

CAPTAIN: In compliance with orders from brigade headquarters of this date, I have the honor to make the following report:

The One hundred and forty-ninth went into action on the morning of May 3, with 24 commissioned officers and 479 enlisted men. It was placed behind the breastworks early in the morning. The Seventy-eighth New York was on our right and the One hundred and thirty-seventh on our left. About 7 a.m. the enemy got a battery in position on our right, and opened fire on our line, completely enfilading it.

We lay under a fire of shot, shell, and grape until about 9.30 a.m., when we were attacked by a heavy body of infantry on our right flank. After firing a few volleys, the regiment retired along the breastworks toward the cross-roads. We formed line several times while falling back perpendicular to the trench, and drove the enemy back each time. The enemy still kept advancing on our right and rear, and we fell back to the edge of the woods near the road. Here we lay until the batteries began to leave, when we were ordered by General Hooker to join our brigade.

Lieutenant-Colonel Cook was wounded when we first began to fall back. Captain May then took command. Colonel Cook was almost immediately taken prisoner by some of the Mississippi Volunteers, but we rallied and got him again, taking his captors prisoners. We took about 20 prisoners of the Fifteenth [?] Mississippi Volunteers We joined the brigade near the cross-roads, and marched with it to near the corps hospital. We have been with the brigade since.

We lost during the day 5 commissioned officers wounded (1 wounded and a prisoner) and 3 missing; 11 enlisted men killed, 62 wounded, and 106 missing. Total loss, 9 officers and 179 men. I will send a report of the names of the killed, wounded, and missing to-morrow.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

**KOERT S. VAN VOORHIS,**

*Lieut. Col. 137th N. Y. Vols.: Comdg. 149th N. Y. Vols.*

Capt. C. P. HORTON,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

### **May 4, 1863: Bank's Ford (Salem Church)**

**Location:** Spotsylvania County

**Campaign:** Chancellorsville Campaign (April-May 1863)

**Date(s):** May 3-4, 1863

**Principal Commanders:** Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick [US]; Gen. Robert E. Lee [CS]

**Forces Engaged:** Corps

**Estimated Casualties:** 5,000 total

**Description:** After occupying Marye's Heights on May 3, Sedgwick's VI Corps marched out on the Plank Road with the objective of reaching Hooker's force at Chancellorsville. He was delayed by Wilcox's brigade of Early's force at Salem Church. During the afternoon and night, Lee detached two of his divisions from the Chancellorsville lines and marched them to Salem Church. Several Union assaults were repulsed the next morning with heavy casualties, and the Confederates counterattacked, gaining some ground. After dark, Sedgwick withdrew across two pontoon bridges at Scott's Dam under a harassing artillery fire. Hearing that Sedgwick had been repulsed, Hooker abandoned the campaign, re-crossing on the night of May 5-6 to the north bank of the Rappahannock.

### **July 1-3, 1863: Gettysburg, PA**

**Commander's Report** - CAMP NEAR LITTLESTOWN, PA., *July 6, 1863.*

CAPTAIN:

I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my command at the battle of Gettysburg, on July 1, 2, and 3:

On the 1st instant, the regiment broke camp with the corps at Littlestown, and marched to Two Taverns, where we arrived at about 12 m., and the command rested until 3.30 p.m., when we were hastened forward in support of the First and Eleventh Corps, which had engaged the enemy at Gettysburg. We were posted in double columns with the balance of the division near what was afterward the left of our general line of battle. A strong line of skirmishers at about 6 p.m. was thrown well to the front, and remained in position until about 4 a.m. of the 2d instant, when, with the division, we were marched across the fields, and placed in line of battle along the crest of a wooded hill of slight elevation, at the right of the First Division, First Corps, and near the right of our general line of battle. A strong line of skirmishers was thrown well to the front.

My command was second from the right of our brigade. A substantial breastwork of stones, logs, rails, and earth was hastily constructed, and the regiment rested in its rear until about 6.45 p.m., when the enemy drove in our skirmishers and attacked us in large force. The enemy made repeated and desperate charges upon our position, but was as often repulsed with great slaughter to him until our ammunition gave out, when we held the position with the bayonet and such limited firing as could be made with the ammunition of the killed and wounded.

At about 8 p.m. the enemy gained a hill on the right flank of our position. Seeing the regiment on my right give way, I attempted to change the front of the three right companies to resist him. The order was understood by the line officers for the regiment to fall back, which it proceeded to do in

good order, but was brought to the right-about before getting 3 rods away, and again put in the trenches. This movement was executed under a most galling fire and when wholly exposed, as the ground a short distance to the rear of the works was elevated so as to give full range to the enemy's musketry.

At about 9.30 p.m. the enemy, repulsed in his every effort, withdrew. The regiment was relieved at about 10 p.m., but remained immediately in rear of the trenches during the night.

At about 4 a.m. of the 3d, the regiment was again put into the trenches, and had barely settled into position when the enemy again furiously attacked us. His charges were most impetuous and his fire terrific. Twice was our flag shot down, and a rebel first sergeant, in a brave attempt to capture it, fell within 2 feet of the prostrate banner, pierced with five balls. Its record of the bloody contest is eighty-one balls through its field and stripes and seven in its staff. Each time it fell, the color-sergeant, William C. Lilly, spliced the staff, and again placed it upon the works, and received a slight wound in doing so. The regiment was relieved at 6.30 o'clock, but went into the works three other times before the fight closed, which was about 1 p.m.

With a single exception among the officers, and but very few among the men, all performed their duty to my entire satisfaction, and far exceeded what might have been reasonably expected of a regiment in its second engagement. The exceptions I have noted, and the delinquents will be properly disciplined. When so many did so well, it would be invidious to' make special mention of some in the rank and line who were particularly brave and meritorious. I should disappoint my entire command, however, if I did not call especial attention to the consummate skill and unsurpassed coolness and bravery of Lieut. Col. Charles B. Randall, who was dangerously wounded in the left breast and arm while cheering the men to their work. Through illness of myself, he was in command of the regiment after the fight closed on the 2d instant, and during the whole of the fight of the 3d until wounded, which was near the close of the contest. I was present during a part of the time the regiment was engaged on the 3d, but was unable to assume command.

Appended is a list of our casualties, which are so small, in view of the long exposure and heavy fire under which the command was placed, only because of the excellent management of its officers, the substantial character of our works, and the advantage of our position.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

**H. A. BARNUM. Colonel,**  
*Comdg. 149th New York Vols.*

Capt. C. P. HORTON,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

**October 28-29, 1863: Wauhatchie, TN**

**Commander's Report** - HEADQUARTERS 149TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS,  
*Wauhatchie Valley, Tenn., November 1, 1863.*

CAPTAIN:

I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my command during the 27th, 28th, and 29th days of October last:

The regiment broke camp on the morning of the 27th and moved in the rear of the Seventy-eighth New York Volunteers, the men carrying four days' rations and 60 rounds of ammunition. Arrived at

Shellmound Station about 3 p.m., and bivouacked. I furnished for work on the pontoon bridge at that place a detail of 6 officers, 16 non-commissioned officers, and 110 men, who were on duty from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m., the 28th.

At 4 o'clock, the regiment was called out, and at 5 took up line of march, following the One hundred and thirty-seventh New York Volunteers. We arrived at a point on Wauhatchie Valley, near the junction, at about 5 p.m., and bivouacked in edge of a wood near and to the left of the railroad in two lines, the left wing being in rear of the right, my position being at the right of the One hundred and thirty-seventh New York Volunteers. At 11 p.m. the regiment was put under arms, but the men were allowed to lie down behind their arms with their belts on.

At 12 a.m. the 29th, I was directed by the general commanding brigade to move by the left flank and follow the One hundred and thirty-seventh New York Volunteers to form line of battle. In accordance with directions I moved directly forward until I came to a road which ran to the right at an angle of about 45 degrees from the direction I was pursuing, which road I was directed to follow. The attack upon our position began at 12.30 a.m., October 29, and at the moment of the attack the position of my regiment was as follows: Marching left in front, diagonally toward the enemy, with the rear rank exposed to their fire, the leading company being about 25 yards in rear of the right company of the One hundred and thirty-seventh New York Volunteers, which was just forming by "forward into line." The generals commanding division and brigade, both mounted, and attended by their staffs and orderlies, were on the line of battle directing its formation, when the enemy opened fire along his whole line from a distance of about 100 yards. In an instant the mounted men attending the generals, forming a cavalcade of some 20 horsemen, became very much scattered and broke to the rear, passing through my regiment in a dozen different places. In addition to those, two or three ambulances and wagon teams, attached to headquarters, also passed through my lines. The regiment was thus entirely broken to pieces and disorganized, with no company formations whatever, and all exposed to a terrific fire. I immediately threw the left and leading company back to the rear, and commenced reforming the line parallel with and about 50 yards in rear of the One hundred and thirty-seventh New York Volunteers, which was at that time actively engaged. As the line was nearly formed, I received direction from Lieutenant Davis, of division staff, to place the regiment by the side of the wagon road, perpendicular to the line of battle, to guard against an attack upon our right flank. I immediately changed "front forward," and took the position indicated. The enemy immediately attacked in my front, when, finding it possible to shelter the men, I moved the regiment forward some 20 yards to the railroad embankment and opened fire. After the regiment had expended 3 or 4 rounds, the enemy, consisting of a force of two regiments, withdrew from our front. I remained in that position until about 6 a.m. the 29th. Too much credit cannot be given to the officers and men of the command on this occasion. Entirely broken to pieces and disordered, the line was rapidly reformed in a new direction, and a change of front executed, the men being all the time exposed to a murderous fire from a distance of about 150 yards, with a loss of but 3 stragglers. Owing to our sheltered position along the railroad, our loss was quite small compared to that of other regiments, being 1 man killed and an officer and 11 men wounded. About 6 a.m. my regiment was moved to a position in rear of the center of the line, and held in reserve. By direction of Colonel Ireland, commanding the brigade, I sent forward one company as skirmishers, which found large numbers of the enemy's killed and wounded, and arms in front, and which captured and sent in quite a number of prisoners.

About 8.30 a.m., by direction of the general commanding division, I sent out a scouting party, consisting of the sergeant-major and 10 men, who examined the country along the banks of a creek running along the base of Lookout Mountain for a distance of about 1 1/2 miles, to a point opposite the point of the mountain, discovering the route taken by the enemy before and after the attack, and finding several of the enemy's dead in the woods opposite the position occupied by my

regiment during the action and several stand of arms, which they brought in. About 11 a.m. the regiment was detailed for picket duty, and was posted across the road leading to Kelley's Ferry, to the left and rear of our position.

While the conduct of both officers and men was so nearly unexceptionable, it would be almost impossible to discriminate between them, but I cannot forbear calling particular attention to the gallant bearing of Orderly Sergeant Truair, of Company G, who was in command of his company, none of its officers being present with it. I am greatly indebted to Capt. Robert E. Hopkins, acting field officer. His coolness and judgment was worthy of special commendations. His assistance to me was invaluable. Annexed is the list of casualties.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. B. RANDALL,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. 149th New York Volunteers.*

Capt. C. T. GREENE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

**November 23-27: Chattanooga and Rossville Campaign, TN**  
**November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1863: Lookout Mountain, TN**

HEADQUARTERS 149TH NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS,  
December 4, 1863.

CAPTAIN:

I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the One hundred and forty-ninth New York Volunteers during the movement commencing on the 24th of November last and ending December 1, 1863:

The regiment left camp, 16 officers and 222 men strong, at 6.15, a.m. on the morning of the 24th instant, marching forth in line with the brigade, the men carrying one day's rations, their blankets, and 60 rounds of ammunition.

We crossed Lookout Creek at 9.20 a.m. and formed line of battle up the side of Lookout Mountain as far as was practicable, facing northerly, this regiment occupying the extreme left of the first line. The horses were left on the other side of the creek, the nature of the ground rendering it impossible to use them. We then advanced in line, sweeping the side of the mountain.

Our skirmishers engaged those of the enemy about 1 1/2 miles from the point of crossing the creek. We very soon after came up with the main body of the enemy, who occupied a strong position behind rocks and other natural defenses. Our whole line at once engaged the enemy without halting, and drove him steadily before us for about 1 mile, when the whole line of the brigade advanced in a furious charge, the colors of each regiment leading. The enemy were unable to withstand the advance and gave way in great disorder, losing at every step great numbers in killed, wounded, and prisoners. The charge was continued for a long distance through the enemy's camp, he halting and attempting to reform the line at every available point, but unable to stay the onward movement of our victorious column. Colonel Barnum, who had been previously unfit for duty, and was still scarcely able to march with the regiment from the effects of wounds yet unhealed, feeling unwilling that the regiment should go out to battle leaving him behind, had accompanied us and

been in command of the regiment up to this time. While struggling forward greatly exhausted, a great portion of the time in front of the line inciting the men to greater action by words and example, he received a musket ball through the right fore-arm, inflicting a severe wound, which, with his previous exhaustion and fatigue, totally disabled him from proceeding farther. The regiment, however, pressed steadily forward until we came to the clearing around the mountain, when the men, becoming wrought up to the highest pitch of enthusiasm, rushed furiously forward, swept like a whirlwind around the point of the mountain far down the slope on the opposite side, and Lookout was won. Large numbers of prisoners and three battle-flags were captured by the regiment in this last charge, from mere inability to get out of our way. The prisoners were passed through the lines to the reserve following behind us. What number was taken by the regiment it is impossible to state. Suffice it to say, that it largely exceeded the number of men in the regiment. We passed to the rear in one squad some 40 or 50, including 5 commissioned officers, one of whom was said to be a colonel. While the regiment was advancing over the works and rifle-pits through the cleared space before the white house, I discovered that a portion of the regiment, consisting of the left three companies, did not continue with the rest of the line. The main portion of the regiment continued the advance under command of Captain Hopkins, acting field officer, to a point some 400 or 500 yards beyond the line, of the house on the farther slope of the mountain. At this time the distance to be occupied by our line had become very much extended, and there was a large gap at the right of the line of our regiment.

At this point we were received with more stubborn resistance than at any previous time, but the fragment of the regiment held its ground firmly and drove the enemy beyond the end of their rifle-pits down the slope. At this time it was impossible to distinguish clearly the movements of the enemy or of our own troops on account of the fog and rocks, but they appeared to be forming for the purpose of moving around and turning our left. Captain Hopkins applied to some officers of the reserve who had just come up to move to his assistance, but instead of doing so they immediately fell back to a line of rifle-pits, some 150 yards in our rear, when Captain Hopkins, finding himself unsupported, connecting with no one on his right or left, and apparently in advance of the general line, also fell back to the same point. After remaining a short time in that position, and finding that no advance was made by the enemy, he again advanced, moving more to the left, to the crest overlooking the slope of the mountain toward Chattanooga, and occupied a stone wall facing in that direction.

In the meantime, while these latter movements were being made, I went in search of the missing companies of the regiment, and found that they had been stopped by order of General Whitaker, commanding the reserve, and formed on the right of a line of two battalions of his command, and all busy throwing up a breastwork of rails and such other materials as were at hand.

I immediately sought an explanation from General Whitaker, and was informed by him that the enemy were striving to turn our left flank, and that that point would be the battle-ground. I then again went forward some 300 or 400 yards to the line occupied by my regiment, and seeing no indications of any flank movement, I returned and moved these companies forward, together with a number of men of the One hundred and second New York Volunteers, under command of Captain Stegman, who, having become separated from his command in retiring from the line of skirmishers, had reported to me and joined the balance of my command. We held that position with no considerable opposition from the enemy until we were relieved by a regiment of the First Brigade, Second Division, of the Twelfth Army Corps, about 3 p.m., when we retired and joined the brigade at the position indicated.

The conduct of both officers and men cannot be spoken of in terms of too high commendation. They vied with each other in being foremost in the charge upon the enemy. Numerous instances

occurred of men and officers almost completely exhausted by the rapid pace of the charge over almost insurmountable obstacles, nobly struggling not to be left behind; officers and men seriously wounded refused to leave the field till our work was done. Our losses sustained and the trophies won sufficiently attest the arduous nature of our duties and the success with which they were performed.

Our loss in the assault upon Lookout Mountain was 7 men killed and 7 officers and 45 men wounded, a list of which has been heretofore forwarded, and to which I beg leave to refer as forming part of this report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. B. RANDALL,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. THOMAS H. ELLIOTT,  
Assistant Adjutant-General.

### **The Diary of Oliver Ormsby - Company "E"**

Ringold, Georgia  
November 28, 1863

Dear Parents;

I take this opportunity to write to you and let you know that I am alive and well after being through two battles. Last Tuesday our division took Lookout Mountain and yesterday we fought a battle once again at this place. I suppose you have heard the particulars of both battles before you get this letter. Last Tuesday morning our division was ordered out with a days rations. We expected to go on reconnaissance and come back the same day. We marched back about two miles and took a road that lead us across the Wahatchee Creek and took a path up Lookout Mountain. We knew then, that is, began to think that it was something more than a reconnaissance.

We marched up the mountain and formed a line of battle with the right of our line going nearly to the top of the mountain with the left nearly at the foot. Our brigade and the second brigade of our division formed the first line. Back of us was a division in support of us. After moving about a mile we came upon some Rebel Skirmishers. We drove them back until we came to their line of battle which was formed behind a lot of rocks and trees. As soon as we came into sight of them we were ordered to charge, so we gave a big yell and went in. As soon as we got to them they ran except the ones that we took prisoner. From there we drove them about two miles, both sides running, loading and firing on the run. The mountain is covered with large rocks which gave the Rebs a good chance to fire on us, but the rocks didn't do them any good for ever rock we came to we found Rebs behind it. We chased them clear around the point of Lookout Mountain where we drove them out of their breastworks and captured two pieces of cannon. As we were nearly out of ammo we were relieved by the reserve and so ended my part of this fight.

Our two brigades didn't number over 2500 men and we captured more than that number of prisoners. Our regiment took three battle flags. I suppose you will hear of the names of the people killed and wounded before this letter reaches you. We lost 7 killed and 40 wounded. Our company lost one killed and 7 wounded. James Hines was killed while charging the Rebel Breastworks. He was shot through the breast and must have died instantly. We didn't know he was killed until after the fight when we found that he was among the missing. We didn't have a chance to look for him

until the next morning when we found him. We buried him with the rest of the men killed in our regiment. We buried him close to Lookout Mountain. Some one had picked his pockets during the night. All they had left as his housewife which I will send to Mrs. Dighton as soon as I can. His knapsack is in the camp that we left. If there is anything in it that I can send home I will do so.

William Smith was wounded in the leg but we hadn't seen him since the fight.

The next day after the fight we left the Mt. at noon and marched across the Chattanooga Valley to Mission Ridge. Here our division was ordered to support a portion of the 24th corps who were to charge the Heights. Our troops were formed in two lines at the foot of the Mountain. They first charged the Rebs and drove them out of their breastworks at the foot of the mountain. From there they charged up the mountain and carried it at the point of the bayonet, taking a lot of prisoners and nearly all of their cannons.

Oliver

### **From R.L. Murray's Book Letters From the Front**

Onondaga County Troops in the Civil War 2002

[Benedum Books http://www.nyincivilwar.com](http://www.nyincivilwar.com)

The advance was led by the troops of General Geary's division of the 12<sup>th</sup> corps. The men commenced ascending the mountain over a mile from the front, and, regardless of the rebel picket fire, a line was formed leading from the base of an almost perpendicular ledge of rocks, on the left, to our own picket line, about three-fourths of the distance down the mountain. Three lines were formed, the 2nd division leading the advance and the 149<sup>th</sup> occupying the left of the first line. When the order to advance was given, our men started forward with a cheer over the rugged sides almost ignoring the sharp fire of the rebel infantry, who attempted to stop their progress.

With an enthusiasm which knew no bounds, they rushed over hills and through gorges, climbing towering rocks, dashing through brushwood and fallen timber, and scarcely stopping to even take prisoners. They swept over the side of the mountain and around its frowning front with the rapidity and force of the whirlwind, completely overcoming and conquering every obstacle, both natural and artificial, which attempted to impede their progress.

No military achievement of this or any other war, exceeded, for dash and daring, personal bravery, contempt of extraordinary obstacles and complete and perfect success, this charge of the 2nd division around the point of Lookout Mountain. The rebel forces were literally swept from the mountain side, driven from fastnesses and entrenchment's they had considered impregnable, captured in their strongholds, and every vestige of their power swept before us like leaves before the autumn gale.

## **CASUALTY TOTALS:**

### **Battle Related**

#### **Killed**

Officers	5
Enlisted	77

#### **Wounded - Died**

Officers	0
Enlisted	48

#### **Wounded - Recovered**

Officers	21
Enlisted	259

**Missing**

Officers	2
Enlisted	101

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>513</b>
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**Died of Disease & Other Causes**

Officers	0
Enlisted	72

**As POWs**

Officers	0
Enlisted	7

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>
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TOTAL CASUALTIES - 592

## LOSSES BY BATTLE

**Battle**

**Killed or Mortally Wounded**

Chancellorsville, VA	38
Gettysburg, PA	12
Wauhatchie, TN	3
Lookout Mountain, TN	12

## NEW YORK INFORMATION

**Governor of New York** - Edwin D Morgan - 1859-1863

**1860 Census Data:** New York Population – 3,880,735

**Money**

- What cost \$100 in 1850 would cost \$2045.01 in 2001.
- Also, if you were to buy exactly the same products in 2001 and 1850, they would cost you \$100 and \$4.89 respectively.
- Prices today are **20.45 times the amount back then.**

## SYRACUSE, NEW YORK INFORMATION

SYRACUSE - was incorporated as a village in the town of Salina, April 13, 1825, and as a city, Dec 14, 1847. A portion was annexed to De Witt in 1858. It lies in a basin extending south of the head of Onondaga Lake, and upon the ridges immediately east. A low portion, partly marshy, containing more than a square mile, lies upon the lake and is bordered by an abrupt declivity 10 to 30 ft. high. From the summit of this declivity the surface spreads out into an almost perfect flat, on which is built the greater part of the more thickly settled portions of the city. A ridge 100 to 200 ft. high

extends through the eastern part. Upon the highlands that surround the city are some of the most beautiful sites for country residences to be found in the State. The city is located in the midst of a rich agricultural region, and near the center of the State. The several canals and railroads that terminate at or pass through this city give to it important commercial advantages. Its local trade is very large. It is largely engaged in manufactures, the principal of which are salt, machinery, beer and barrels. A large trade is carried on with the surrounding country to supply the salt works with wood and barrels, and with Penn. to furnish them with coal. The city is supplied with water by the Syracuse Water Company, from springs and brooks which have their sources in the hills southwest of the city.

## **CLINTON SQUARE**

The Erie Canal helped create Clinton Square. As it sliced through what is now downtown Syracuse, the canal divided the city and parceled off the piece of land that became the square.

For decades, the square's central location made it Syracuse's social and commercial hub -- a busy spot where boats loaded with wares for the growing city docked and people gathered. Erie Boulevard, that major east-west thoroughfare of fast-food restaurants, strip malls and retail chains, was once the Erie Canal.

The square is named for Gov. DeWitt Clinton, who initiated the construction of the Erie Canal, "Clinton's ditch" in the early 1800s. Digging began on the Onondaga County stretch of the canal in 1817, and the canal was completed in 1825. The waterway helped establish Syracuse as a city in the nearly 100 years it was used as a link between Albany and Buffalo.

The canal and the city's salt trade gave Syracuse its fame in colonial times and brought boatloads of immigrants here. Canal folklore tells of a steersman who transported a group of Italians to Syracuse in the canal's early days. They were starved for fresh meat, so they jumped to shore whenever they spotted a woodchuck. One mistook a skunk for a black-and-white woodchuck and was sprayed. He proclaimed it the best woodchuck he'd ever eaten, though none of his mules would reboard the boat because of the pungent odor of skunk.

A visit from a New York City newspaper editor in 1820 prompted an unfavorable description of the city. "It would make an owl weep to fly over it!" he said. He described the "miserable" tavern where he lodged for a night, "filled with a group of about as rough-looking specimens of humanity as I had ever seen." He saw a grouping of houses on marshy ground, "surrounded by trees and entangled thickets... a very uninviting scene."

When the editor returned 20 years later, he said the change in the city was enchanting -- "massive buildings in all directions... extended and well-built streets, thronged with people full of life and activity... the canal basins crowded with boats (loading and unloading) at the lofty stone warehouses upon the wharves."

A prominent Clinton Square feature today is the Jerry Rescue monument. It marks the freeing of a young slave, who was recaptured in Syracuse in 1851 after escaping slavery in the South. The Clinton Square building from which he was rescued became known as the "Jerry Rescue Building" and retained that name even after it burned down and a new building was constructed in its place.

In the late 1800s, several buildings on Clinton Square burned; one, the Wieting Building, on the square's south side reportedly caught fire in 1856, 1881 and 1896.

## **HANOVER SQUARE**

Hanover Square has an important commercial and civic history. For most of the 1800s, this open space was used as a "hack stand" where cartmen and teamsters hired out their wagons to merchants. In those days, pedestrians, especially ladies, complained that they could not safely cross the Square due to standing carts, mud, and moving vehicles.

In the early 1800s, a village well and public drinking fountain were located here. L.H. Redfield, a noted local newspaper publisher, paid for the fountain as his personal memorial to "temperance." He felt that a good source of drinking water might quell the natural inclinations for beer or other intoxicating liquors.

As with Clinton Square, this public space was a center of social and political life. During the Civil War, military recruiting booths covered Hanover Square. Men who signed up on this spot marched through here after the war to be discharged. A huge platform, from which Sunday sermons and patriotic speeches were heard, remained at the center of the Square throughout the war. It was burned by jubilant Syracusans on word of Lee's surrender. Here, too, thousands attended memorial services after President Lincoln's assassination.

## **ARMORY SQUARE**

[Armory Square](#) was part of the historic Walton tract, and site of Walton's millpond that fed a mill (1805) located on Genesee St. In 1849 the millpond and its surrounding swamp were filled in with soil from Prospect Hill, helping to eliminate frequent epidemics of malaria. The area was graded, existing streets extended, and the oval-shaped Jefferson Park, site of the first Armory (1859) and parade ground, was established.

The 1820's brought the construction of the Erie Canal, and with the 1830's came the railroads. These developments sparked business and building activities. Two railroad companies chose this location for their terminals, resulting in a concentration of hotels, boarding houses, shops, warehouses, and factories. The removal of the railroads from the streets of downtown Syracuse in the 1930's brought a decline to the area. In the 1970's a group of enterprising owners and artists became interested in Armory Square, which has since experienced a renaissance. In 1984, Armory Square was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Architecturally the district's structures exhibit the technological innovations and construction methods found in the commercial and architectural styles of the middle and late 1800's and early 1900's.

## **THE ARCHITECTURE OF INDUSTRY**

The story of Syracuse is intimately intertwined with the development of industry and commerce. While Syracuse has often been identified as "The City That Salt Built," it was never totally reliant on the salt industry for its economic survival. The Canal, and later the railroads, established the city as an important transportation hub and this, in turn, attracted a diverse number of manufacturing and commercial concerns. This diversity enabled the city to adjust to the gradual decline of the salt industry during the second half of the nineteenth century. Remnants of the salt industry can still be found at the Geddes Salt Pump site.

## **MANUFACTURING**

Manufacturing changed the physical face of Syracuse. Early industrial pursuits were mainly located near the center of the city but gradually spread to other areas.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, a multitude of factory buildings were constructed in the western half of the city near the Erie Canal, particularly along South Geddes and West Fayette Streets. East of downtown on East Water Street were foundries and machine shops. Candle factories were located along Salina and Wolf Streets in the northern part of the city, while guns were manufactured on South Clinton Street.

Factories were everywhere, but particularly concentrated in the west and northwest portions of Syracuse.

Industrial buildings generally were one-to-six story brick grid factory designs with segmental-arched windows and corbelling (decorative brickwork) under the roofline. Today, this industrial tradition is embodied in such representative buildings as the Franklin Square complex, Burns Supply on West Genesee Street, the Book Warehouse on Bear Street, Nettletons's Shoe Factory at State & Willow Streets, and the old Mack Miller candle factory at the corner of Wolf & North Salina Streets.

Of great historical interest is the former Lipe Machine Shop on South Geddes Street, where a variety of mechanical devices were developed, and where H.H. Franklin first met Charles Wilkinson, grandson of the man who gave Syracuse its name. This collaboration led to formation of the Franklin Motor Car Company.

## **COMMERCE**

Commercial development greatly accelerated during the second half of the nineteenth century. As industry shifted away from downtown, commercial establishments remained around the old village core. South Salina Street evolved into a dry goods retail center, while the North Salina Street corridor featured smaller retail business activity. Hanover Square became the diversified commercial core of downtown with banks, office buildings, newspaper offices, and retail establishments. City government operated from its site south of the Erie Canal between Water and Washington Streets on Market Street, while office and institutional buildings developed to the south along Montgomery Street to Columbus Circle. As the urban core expanded, the various sections were tied together by the street railway system. First opened in 1860 to provide service up to the First Ward (Old Salina village), it later extended to all sections of the city.

The earliest buildings were simple wood frame designs that are no longer extant today. These were replaced by brick, stone, and later, steel frame structures. The oldest remaining brick designs are the Franklin Buildings in Hanover Square on East Genesee Street (1834), the Phoenix and Dana Buildings on East Water Street (1834), and the Weighlock Building on East Water Street (1837). Armory Square has a variety of brick commercial architecture grouped around the State Armory on West Jefferson Street. A significant grouping of Italianate buildings, some with pressed metal and cast iron elements, appears adjacent to Armory Square on West Fayette Street.

Many high-style buildings appeared after 1850, which reflected prevailing architectural styles and added prestige and grandeur to the downtown skyline. Their presence can be attributed to the unusually high number of prominent architects working in the area during that period. The most important early architect was Horatio Nelson White, who began his career in the 1850's. White's achievements include the Gridley Building (1867, Second Empire Style), and the Armory (1847, Neo-Gothic Style). Archimedes Russell apprenticed in White's office and went on to design the fourth Onondaga County Courthouse (1906, with Melvin King, Beaux Arts Style) and the Third National Bank Building (1886, Queen Anne Style).

Joseph L. Silsbee, also a well-known architect who practiced locally between 1873-1884, designed the Syracuse Savings Bank Building (1875, Gothic Revival Style) and the White Memorial Building (1876, High Victorian Gothic). James Randall designed the Onondaga Public Library Building (1902-05, Beaux Arts). Charles Colton designed City Hall (1889), Richardsonian Romanesque). Other local architects included Melvin King (Hills Building, 1928, Art Deco), Gordon Wright (First Baptist Church, 1912, Gothic Revival), and Dwight James Baum (Columbus Circle fountain, 1934).

The tradition of high-style architecture in the downtown area continued through the first half of this century. Notable examples are the Art Deco Style Niagara Mohawk Building (1932) and State Tower Office Building (1927). One other building of note in the downtown area is the Lankmark Theatre, formerly Loew's State 1928, Neoclassical Style). Once the grandest of the many movie theaters downtown, it is now the lone survivor

Commercial buildings were not limited to the downtown area. A significant historic commercial row extends up North Salina Street, and there are smaller commercial districts in the various sections of the city, and at many intersections.

### **A SENSE OF COMMUNITY**

A COMMUNITY IS defined by the people who settle there, by the types of institutions and organizations that are developed to serve them, and by the residential neighborhoods in which they dwell. In Syracuse, the arrival of skilled craftsmen, professionals in education, architecture, medicine and other fields, religious ministries, and a large and diverse number of ethnic groups has greatly contributed to the area's community and cultural development.

### **GOVERNMENT**

Following incorporation in 1848, the City of Syracuse faced the task of providing police and fire protection, schools, and other municipal services. In 1861, the seat of government was established on Montgomery Street with the construction of a Second Empire Style City Hall.

The present Richardsonian Romanesque Style City Hall replaced that structure in 1889. Government buildings generally reflected popular trends. Columbus Circle boasts the Fourth Onondaga County Courthouse (Beaux Arts Style, 1906) and the Onondaga County Library (Beaux Arts Style, 1905). The Federal Building and Post Office (now Clinton Exchange, 1928, Neoclassical Style) is located at the western end of Clinton Square, and a number of fire houses, some reflecting late nineteenth century Victorian styles and early twentieth century Neoclassical design, are located throughout the city. A New York State building still in use is the Armory Building at 236 West Jefferson Street. Originally constructed in 1874 to replace an earlier structure destroyed by fire, the Armory was modernized in 1907. The building has been used historically to house, train, and equip soldiers, and also for entertainment and celebratory activities.

### **EDUCATION**

A Board of Education was appointed in 1848, and, by the time of its first report in 1849, ten public schools were in operation. The city established a high school in 1854, early by national standards. Following 1854, the schools generally expanded with the population, sometimes holding class in rented commercial space to accommodate the overflow of students.

### **RELIGION**

Syracuse is a city of many churches, the spires of which can be seen across the city landscape.

The Protestant religions were the first to establish permanent ministries in the area. The first church was erected in 1822 on the northwest corner of Washington Park. In 1824, the Baptists erected their church, a frame building located at West Genesee and Franklin Streets. The Presbyterians, Methodists, Unitarians, Lutherans, Congregationalists, and Episcopalians soon followed with churches of their own to contribute to the skyline. Many of these later churches, built during the 1830's and 40's, were ambitious classical designs with tall steeples. By 1850, Syracuse boasted over a hundred churches of all architectural types.

The Catholic tradition was originally introduced by Pere LeMoyne in 1654, when he established the mission on the east shore on Onondaga Lake, but it was the influx of immigrants during the nineteenth century which greatly influenced the growth of the Catholic Church in the area. The Germans established the Church of the Assumption in 1843, and it remains today, a prominent structure on North Salina Street. The Irish, French, Italians, Poles and other Europeans each contributed to the growth of the Catholic population, and many imposing and prominently sited churches, schools, and convents were built throughout the city.

The Judaic tradition also took hold in Syracuse at an early period. The first Jewish settlers arrived before 1838 and, in 1841 formed the Temple Society of Concord. The group first adapted a house at Madison and South State Streets to serve as their synagogue; in 1860, a new synagogue was completed at Harrison and South State. The Congregation New Beth Israel built their synagogue on Grape Street (now Townsend) in 1856, and others soon followed. In 1889, the Hebrew Free School was organized to supplement public education. The neighborhood to the east of downtown between Erie Boulevard and East Genesee Street up to the University section was dotted with Temples and Jewish community service structures.

Religious groups also had an impact on many social services and movements. During the pre-Civil War era, a number of local churches were involved in the Underground Railroad. The Reverend Jermain Loguen, an escaped slave and minister of the A.M.E. Zion Church, and Reverend Samuel May of the Church of the Messiah, were prominent abolitionists. Park Church, the First Gospel Church, First Congregational, and Plymouth Congregational were now meeting places for those interested in the cause to free the slaves. Frederick Douglass, a leader of the movement, lectured here often, and in 1851, local citizens aided in the escape of a former slave to Canada in what was to be known as the "Jerry Rescue."

The development of neighborhoods followed the general pattern of growth of the city. Syracuse Village developed generally along the Erie Canal, which formed an east-west axis through the village. Warehouses and businesses were located along or near the canal, while residences were interspersed with commercial establishments. As the village grew, residential growth expanded outward from this core. Neighborhoods developed east of North Salina Street up into the already established Village of Salina; to the east and west along the Erie Canal; and southward along South Salina Street.

The advent of the horse drawn trolleys in 1861 and the electric railway system in the 1880's, facilitated this outward growth of neighborhoods, particularly since the railway companies expanded through undeveloped sections and paved existing roadways as an incentive for obtaining rights-of-way. The influx of immigrants during the 1880's coincided with railroad development and quickened the pace of residential growth. Diverse ethnic groups settled in concentrated sections of the city, giving neighborhoods distinct ethnic characteristics.

Early residential concentrations appear primarily in the Northside and Valley areas. The oldest dwellings date from c. 1810. Several Federal style houses can be found on South Salina Street and East Seneca Turnpike, while examples of the Greek Revival style remain at Fayette Park, Park Street and East Genesee Street. The Italianate Style (1840-1885) was widely constructed

throughout the city, and significant numbers still exist in the Northside, Near Northeast, Eastside, Brighton, and Southwest neighborhoods. The Gothic Revival Style, popular during the same period as Italianate, was not as widely developed, but several residential examples remain in the Valley area. Second Empire Style residences (1860-1890) can be found in the Near Northeast, particularly around the Hawley-Green Street area. One example of the Romantic Octagon Style (1850-1870) can be found on Bear Street.

Victorian architecture is very common throughout the city, particularly the Queen Anne Style. Two high-style examples are located on North McBride Street, and many other variations can be found in older neighborhoods like Brighton, Strathmore, Southwest, Near Westside, Northside, Thornden, and the Valley.

## **CONCLUSION**

The City of Syracuse contains an impressive collection of buildings representative of its dynamic growth from two small crossroad villages into an important urban area. Many of these structures still stand as originally designed, and are in use today. Others have undergone rehabilitation and are being used for new purposes. From high-style designs to small dwellings, this wide variety of extant buildings constitutes an important connection between the people who first used these buildings, and those who walk through their doors today.

## **ERIE CANAL MAP**

