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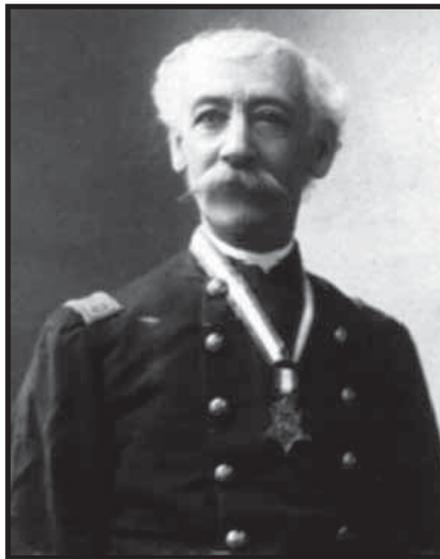
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The Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series

George Henry Maynard



13th Massachusetts Infantry

Born February 2, 1836 in
Waltham, Massachusetts

Died December 26, 1927

Buried in Mount Feake
Cemetery in Waltham, MA

Presented the Medal of Honor
for action on December 13,
1862

Recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for His Action During the Civil War

*Presented by Dr. John McCauley
The Ancient and Honorable
Artillery Company*

Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient
George Henry Maynard served as a Brevet Major in
the Union Army during the American Civil War.

His actions during battles at Antietam in September
and at Fredericksburg in December of 1862, led to his
being awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for
action as a Private in Company D of the 13th Massa-
chusetts Infantry.

The citation reads "A wounded and helpless com-
rade, having been left on the skirmish line, this soldier
voluntarily returned to the front under a severe fire
and carried the wounded man to a place of safety."

Mr. Maynard went on to achieve the rank of Captain
in the Eighty-second U.S. Volunteers seeing duty in
Marianna Florida.

Please join us to learn more about Mr. Maynard's
activities as Dr. John McCauley, curator of the Muse-
um of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company
tells his story. This interesting lecture will begin at
7:00 pm in the Community Room of the RTN Federal
Credit Union, 600 Main Street in Waltham. Plan to
arrive early in order to get a good seat. This lecture is
free and open to the public. If you have any questions
please call 617-448-6706.

Dues are Now Past Due

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL WAS
DUE OCTOBER 30, 2009
SEPTEMBER 2009 THROUGH
AUGUST 2010

Please make checks payable to:
The Waltham Historical Society
And return to Carol DiFranco at
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The Browne Brothers... In Their Own Words

By Maureen Gordon

This is the conclusion of a four-part series on Waltham's Browne Brothers and their Civil War Letters.

"Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?" The Civil War veterans of the 16th Mass Regiment sang Auld Lang Syne at the conclusion of their fifth reunion at Lily Point Grove in June, 1875. The reunions of the 16th Reg't., which were held annually in Waltham as late as 1926, were bittersweet events. The surviving veterans enjoyed seeing each other and renewing old friendships but they couldn't help but reflect on the loss of so many of their fallen comrades, including two Waltham brothers, George and Charles Browne, who were killed at Gettysburg.

Recently, while doing a Web search, I was fortunate to find four Civil War letters written by the Browne brothers. The original Browne letters are at a library at Louisiana State University (LSU).¹

The first three letters from the LSU collection were presented in the Sept. and Nov., 2009 newsletters. The fourth letter from LSU is given below. It was written by the eldest Browne brother, George, to his youngest brother, LaRoy, whom George addresses by their surname, Browne. LaRoy, who is 10 years younger than George, takes some ribbing from his older brother in this letter.

George's letter was written just six weeks before his death at the Battle of Gettysburg. At this point in time, the war is not going well for the Union Army although there is some heartening news from Vicksburg, Mississippi. The brothers recently participated in another significant defeat, the Battle of Chancellorsville, where the 16th Regiment suffered heavy casualties.



LaRoy Browne

25th May 63

Dear Browne

We are still so as to be about I like that watch² it's a good un I have had quite a number of chances to sell it could dispose of a number of that style were I in the trade, 4 of our wounded boys are to have furloughs or rather their furloughs have been made out and if they are signed by the powers, as they probably will be why then the boys will enjoy a trip to the gay old bay State Greene³ will not, I think, get one his hurt is to slight. I have not seen him for a fortnight though I hear from him every day. My boots done me very good service on the last fighting march I gave 'em away to the Hospital Steward who had his shoes stolen from him, as one good deed followes another he presented me with \$7 or seven dollars, and a good pair of boots they were to, worth 15 out here when new, Shame to have this army dwindle away as it has & is without accomplishing the least

thing Befort⁴ places the reduction to the army between May 1 & June 1 at sixty thousand, Better, 9 months & 2 years men tell the story, there are 38 regiments 2 years from NY alone, all gone home now too. Bad is'not Browne.⁵ Darn it. wees Yanks ain't doing much I reckon yous at home must feel right mad shame that wees have done no more.

I did not get half the fight out of me before recrossing the river would fought well next day as we did Sunday, we came out of the woods firing face to the foe, not a run Browne. Flank fire cause of falling back 16th regiment I mean. Nil desperandum &tc⁶ we will whip the rascals yet.

We love the (cock & bull perhaps) report, news or what ever you may call it from Vicksburg couple of million prisoners 40,000 [... illegible ...] &tc &tc hope twill prove true. Glad the western army is more successful than ours what would we do if all the armies were as ill starred as this. Give up the [... illegible ...]? All right sorry go ahead with the mowing & planting, I'm coming home next Fall to see the results⁷

They gave orders to send in furloughs Then surpressed all furloughs for third corps, to give 'em to the 11th, I suppose for their bravery. all else as "on dit",⁸ we have too many absent by leave, there are none off on furloughs from our regiment as I know.

LaRoy I would like a photograph of Father. Please send me one.

I never wish for any more envelopes with my name on them, played out. Your most royal magnificence, Brother to the Sun Father of the moon, uncle to the stars.⁹ How is your heavenly digesting appartum your excellences monochal stomache?¹⁰ In Yankee how are ya? We are now on a good fair camp weather quite hot generally But today cold. Think we shall stay here some time, some even think till September, army so reduced cant move so they say, to

Upcoming Activities and Events of Note

Images by H.F. Warren

Now through December

The Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation, 154 Moody Street, Waltham

View enlargements of photos by Waltham photographer H.F. Warren, including what is claimed to be the last photograph taken of Abraham Lincoln before his assassination. These are images from the collection of the Waltham Historical Society. Call for hours and information 781-893-5410.

760 Main Street

The Waltham Historical Society has a new exhibit at our satellite office that is designed to coordinate with the new exhibit opened at the former Waltham Watch Factory.

We have volunteers who open the site on weekends and occasional mornings. Please check our website calendar for days and times.



Waltham Historical Commission Meeting of December 14, 2009

By Laura Bernstein

Six month demolition delays were placed on: 385 Trapelo Rd (by unanimous vote of 4 WHC members present). According to the owner, the house and addition are in poor shape, and even moving the building could be problematic. The owner of the property wants to construct a 16-unit 55+ residential facility, which would require both a zoning change and special permit from the City Council. Archie Bennett said that in effect, the building is protected from demolition until the City Council voted favorably on the zoning & permit issues.

1767 Trapelo Rd (3 of 4 WHC members voted for the dd). The builder representing the owner said the house is in such bad shape that the land is worth more than the land and house together. Contrary to earlier information, it is not possible to divide the lot & sell part of it off to accommodate another house. The historic value of this house is not as well documented as is 385 Trapelo (1767 Trapelo is not on the Natl Register). Mr. Bennett advised that it probably qualified on 2-3 of 4 criteria for being "preferably preserved".

The Waltham Historical Society
sends Our Sincere Condolences to
the family of Ms. Susan Brown

Bad to Bad¹¹ I am on guard to morrow that and fatigue is all I have to do, going to drill by and by 4 hours per diem Mill Irit

Our Chaplain has been dismissed for getting jolly drunk¹² as though that was a misdemeanor in the army where everybody gets royally happy.

*Brigadeer stars, eagles, leaves, & embollems bars
fuddeed mudded¹³*

Hail¹⁴ old star what a figure you cut

Staggering the roads as though youd been shot

Inebriate I see, tis a terrible shame

Example as you are for thousands of men

Soberly thine Always

Sober, Browne

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The Waltham Historical Society is grateful for the generous support of The Louisiana State University (LSU) in providing us permission to publish these articles.

The University has made a request that citation be provided with any reprint related to these documents. In order to facilitate any future search related to this article by University librarians, inquiries directed to the University should provide the following citation: Charles L. Brown Letters, Mss. 2423, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

Please note that their in their reference the name Brown is spelled without the trailing "e."

LaRoy is the only male family member left at home to care for the family farm in Waltham.

8 "on dit" is French for "they say" or "it is said". George underlined the words which suggests he knew the standard practice of underlining non-English terms.

9 LaRoy probably preaddressed envelopes for his brothers. My take is that George is kidding his younger brother LaRoy about his beautiful handwriting. (See the Nov., 2009 newsletter for a picture of one of LaRoy's envelopes.)

10 Perhaps more kidding by George? I think George is asking LaRoy, "How are you?" in a regal way ie., "How is your excellency's monarchical stomach?" This may have something to do with LaRoy's name being similar to "Le Roi" which is French for "the king".

11 "to Bad to Bad" is George's spelling for: "too bad" "too bad".

12 George puts a cross (+) over the word "drunk".

13 "stars, eagles, leaves, emblems, etc." are all signs of rank in the military.

14 It's possible this word could be either "Hail" or "Hark". In general, this letter was very difficult to transcribe. I very much appreciate the help I received from Germaine Bienvendu from LSU in deciphering some of George's writing, spelling and intended meaning.

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About LaRoy Browne

According to his obituary (Daily Free Press: June 6, 1912) LaRoy Browne was a prominent citizen of Waltham

He was the Superintendent of Waltham's Water Department at the time of his death. Prior to working for the city, LaRoy worked for 23 years at the Watch Factory as an assistant foreman in the plate department. He was also one of the charter members of Company F, 5th Regiment, M.V.M. and achieved the rank of Captain. He was a member of the School Board and on the Board of Directors for the Waltham Public Library. He was also very involved with the Masons.

1 The LSU citation is: Charles L. Brown Letters, Mss. 2423, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

2 George's watch was probably a Waltham watch.

3 Greene is George M. Greene, a 28-year-old former watchmaker from Waltham, who was wounded on May 3 in the Battle of Chancellorsville. George Greene is the brother of Leonard Greene who is married to the Browne brothers' older sister, Mandana. Leonard Greene is the person who travels to Gettysburg to bring home the brothers' bodies for burial at Mt. Feake Cemetery.

4 Befort may possibly be George's spelling for General Buford, a Union Cavalry officer, who played a prominent role at the beginning of the Battle of Gettysburg.

5 George probably means: "Bad is it not, Browne?"

6 "Nil desperandum" is Latin for "never despair". "&tc" meaning "etc".

7 With George and Charles away, youngest brother

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Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Greene at home

**The Waltham
Historical
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House Tour
plans are now
underway**

The 2010 Tour is seeking homes interested in being featured on our

annual house tour. Please contact Wayne McCarthy at 617-448-6706 or waltham.historical.society@gmail.com for more information.

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Historical Society for preserving
the City's rich legacy!**



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