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*The Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series Presents*

**Reverend Rosemarie Smurzynski**

*Retired Unitarian Universalist Minister on*

## The Reverend Phebe Ann Coffin Hanaford and the Universalist Church of Waltham

Please join us as the Reverend Rosemarie Smurzynski tells us of the life and legacy of The Reverend Phebe Ann Coffin Hanaford. Born on Nantucket Island in 1829, Hanaford was ordained to the Universalist ministry in 1868 in Hingham Massachusetts. One year later Reverend Hanaford came to the Waltham Universalist Church where she served as their minister from 1869-1870. The talk will focus on Hanaford's Waltham years and her influ-

ence on Universalism and our country as it faced issues at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th. Hanaford was 92 when she died. Rev. Smurzynski's article on Rev. Hanaford was published on-line by the Harvard Square Library in 2009.

Rev. Smurzynski graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 1980 and is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister. After having served Unitarian Universalist Churches in New England for over 30 years, Rev. Smurzynski re-

tired in January 2011. Today, she is a volunteer docent at Mount Auburn Cemetery where she staffs the Visitor's Desk and regularly gives tours on the history of the cemetery, its notable people, buildings and monuments.

Doors to this lecture open at 6:30. The lecture will begin promptly at 7:00 pm and will be held at the RTN Federal Credit Union, 600 Main Street, (rear) in Waltham. For more information please call 617-448-6706.



The locks at the former Bright School have now been changed and we are free to begin making our move. Exhibits have already been set up, with more to come, but we still need to do a major clean-up of items left behind when the school closed. Floor sweeping,

## First Bright cleaning party scheduled for Saturday January 21, 2012 at 9:00 am!

washing and cleaning walls and blackboards, and removal of staples on many of the walls will keep us busy for awhile to come. Please be on the lookout for notice of the cleaning parties we're planning. The first will be held on January 21 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. It's your chance to come in and help define our new space.

Most parties will be held on Saturday mornings, or an

occasional late-afternoon or early evening. Attend those which are convenient and spend as much time as you're able. We'll all benefit from the teamwork.

If you'd like to be individually notified of these events please call or email the Society at [waltham.historical.society@gmail.com](mailto:waltham.historical.society@gmail.com) and we'll be sure you don't miss a single opportunity.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2011-2012 ARE NOW PAST DUE!  
PLEASE CHECK THE MAILING LABEL FOR YOUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STATUS.**



## Company H of the 16th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry

By JOE KEEFE

*Continued from November 2011...*

Following their heavy casualties at the Battle of Chancellorsville, the men of Company H and their colleagues in the 16th Massachusetts had little time for rest. After his victory at Chancellorsville, General Lee received approval from the Confederate government to invade the North. Lee hoped an invasion would fuel the northern peace movement, or at least disrupt the Union war effort. As Lee's Army moved north into Maryland it was followed by the Army of the Potomac, which included the men of the 16th Massachusetts. The regiment also had a new commander, Lieutenant Colonel Waldo Merriam, a merchant from Boston and a recent graduate of West Point, replacing Colonel Tannatt who was wounded at Chancellorsville.

Crossing the Potomac River Lee's Second Corps advanced through Maryland and Pennsylvania, reaching the Susquehanna River and threatening the state capital of Harrisburg. However, the Army of the Potomac (now commanded by George Gordon Meade) was in pursuit and had reached Frederick, Maryland, before Lee realized his opponent had crossed the Potomac. Lee moved swiftly to concentrate his army around the crossroads town of Gettysburg. The men of the 16th did not reach the battlefield until midnight of July 1, both armies having already been in action for the entire day. The 16th was placed in position on the left of the Union line near the Emmitsburg Road as part of the 3rd Corps, commanded by Major General Daniel Sickles. General Sickles placed the men of his division far in advance of where General Meade had wanted and deployed in such a manner that both flanks were exposed. When it was attacked by two Confederate divisions, it was virtually demolished and had to be reinforced throughout the day from other corps before being forced back to its original position where it would finally stop the Confederate onslaught.

The 16th lost almost a third of the 300 men which had stepped on the field that morning. Company H suffered another bloody day on July 3, 1863, including Waltham natives John Forsyth, Edward Hickey, George Lawton, Jason Wright, Luman Fairbanks, D.G. Hatch and the loss of two brothers on the same day, George and Charles Browne. In his official report describing the action of July 2, Lieutenant Colonel Merriam, who had been wounded at Gettysburg himself, stated "the minie' balls flew like hail at our position, the Confederates made charge after charge finally forcing our withdrawal; I do not know how any of my men survived the fight."

Following Gettysburg, the 16th would participate in the Mine Run campaign. It was an unsuccessful attempt by the Union Army of the Potomac to defeat the Confederates, who had retreated back across the Potomac River to the consternation of President Lincoln. The campaign was marked by false starts and low casualties. The only major development for Company H was that its leader, Gardner Banks was forced to resign due to ill health in early September, 1863. With the departure of Gardner Banks, command of Company H was now given to Captain Cassander Flagg.



The Third Corps of the Army of the Potomac was ordered to disband in the Spring of 1864 and the 16th Massachusetts became part of the Second Corps under General Winfield Scott Hancock. This order was much resented by many of the troops from the First and Third Corps and as a result of the discontent, soldiers of First and Third Corps were permitted to wear their old corps insignia as cap badges in their new regiments.

With its new home in the Second Corps the 16th Massachusetts fought in a series of bloody battles which came to be known as the Wilderness campaign. The regiment fought in the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor and the Battle of North Anna River. By July of 1864, the regiment was so reduced in numbers by the heavy casualties that the remaining members were transferred to the 11th Massachusetts and

the unit was sent home. The remaining men of the 16th arrived in Boston on July 22 and were mustered out of service on July 27, 1864.

The men of Company H returned to Waltham on July 27 after marching back home from Boston. Of the original 100 men who had left Waltham in 1861, only 50 returned home with the regiment. The citizens of the town welcomed home the small remnant of the original one hundred men in grand style. Houses all across the town were decorated in patriotic bunting and ribbons. Large banners were stretched across Main Street with "Welcome Home Company H" and "Honor to the Brave". The Watch Factory, The Cotton Factory and the Foundry all mounted the stars and stripes. The front of Rumford Hall was decorated with pictures, flags and bunting with a picture of the Battle of New Orleans which had in its center a full length portrait of George Washington. Across the front of the building was stretched a banner which stated "Welcome Veterans of the Sixteenth."

At eight o'clock the church bells of Waltham began to ring out and the procession of the veterans was lead down Main Street by their escort, the Waltham fire department. The foot weary and sun burnt veterans (and the rest of the procession) marched down Main Street to Newton Street to River Street to Moody Street back to Main Street then to Bacon Street to School Street down Lexington Street then down Lyman Street to Grove Street where the parade ended. Arriving at Pleasant Grove for a dinner in their honor, the veterans were welcomed by a military band performing patriotic compositions. The soldiers could not believe the array of foods and delicacies set out on large tables in their honor. On a platform at the front of the tables were seated military, civil and religious dignitaries there to honor the returning veterans of Company H. Also there were the veterans of Company H who had been wounded in battle and had returned to Waltham.

Hugs, back slaps and animated conversation abounded between the soldiers at the site of the wounded veterans, their friends and brothers in arms. Many of the veterans had not seen each other for months or perhaps years. Those who had suffered and bled together on so many bloody fields and who had left so many

friends on the sacred soil of Virginia took time to be together once more.

Waltham lawyer F.M. Stone gave the opening address before the assembled crowd. Stone spoke of the great interest and concern the townspeople of Waltham had in the Companies service. He spoke of how they had been following "their soldiers" since the day they had mustered in. Stone then asked the veterans to remain active in the community stating "I have no doubt that upon returning to peaceful pursuits, the experience through which you have just come must be necessarily exerted on this community."

Captain Flagg spoke for the Company and thanked the town for the fine reception it had given his men. "The sight of these brave men, the survivors of many a bloody battle-field speaks to the heart far more eloquently than any words which I can say about their heroism and love of country." Captain Porter Tripp of the 11th Massachusetts who was the honored guest and the last speaker gave a heartfelt and emotional speech in which he honored the men of Company H for their service: "The diminished ranks of this glorious regiment remind us of the three years fidelity to duty and the unflinching exposure to danger which these brave men faced." Captain Tripp, who was also a veteran of the War, ended his speech by speaking directly to the veterans of Company H, letting them know that their service and the sacrifices which they had made were appreciated by all. He spoke from one veteran to another, as only those who had witnessed the horror and experienced the deprivations of war could understand.

"The cost that you have given in treasure and blood is immense...let not your children blush when they hear the name of the Massachusetts 16th but fill their breast with pride... It is you who have honored our country and it is you who have honored our state and it is you who have earned the name for your regiment of the iron sixteenth." The men of Company H 16th Massachusetts had finally come home.

*The Story of Company H of the 16th Massachusetts Volunteers was contributed by Mr. Joseph Keefe, Board Member of the Waltham Historical Society and Archives Specialist at the National Archives and Records Administration in Waltham.*

## WWII Letter from the Past: Pfc. John R. Moore to Claire Kimmens

*Marie E. Daly, Waltham Historical Society*

*Continuation of the story of the WWII letter of Pfc. John R. Moore to Claire Kimmens.*

### The 22d Marines

The history of the 22d Marines during WWII confirms the statements Jack Moore made in his letter. According to Harold P. Hamman, past President and Trustee of the 22d Marines Association, the regiment was organized for independent duty and activated at Linda Vista, California in 1942. In July 1942, the 22d Marines headed to Western Samoa, where they occupied the island and trained for 18 months. The men of the regiment were trained to work as fireteams, who could engage in fireteam rushes, which was a methodical way of advancing upon an enemy. The regiment was moved to Maui, Hawaii, where the men landed on Thanksgiving Day, 1943.<sup>13</sup> In his letter, Jack mentioned that he spent Christmas in Hawaii with a pineapple magnate named Fleming. This was probably David Thomas Fleming, a leading citizen of Maui and manager of Baldwin Packers, a pineapple ranch.<sup>14</sup>

The 22d Marines' first action came in February 1944, when, commanded by Colonel John T. Walker, they were sent to Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands. They landed first on Engebi Island, located on the north side of the atoll, where they encountered only light resistance and took the island in six hours. Next came Eniwetok Island, where they encountered heavy automatic fire from the Japanese. The U.S. prevailed after two days, with 37 Americans and 800

Japanese killed. The island of Parry was subsequently bombarded by the U.S. Navy, and the American forces took this island with light resistance. 258 Marines were killed in action or died, and 568 were wounded.<sup>15</sup>

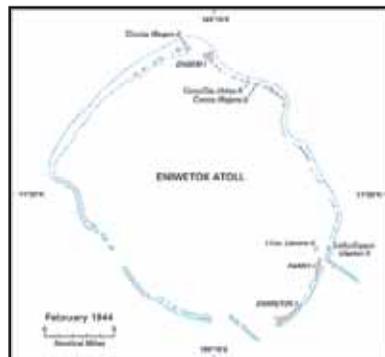
For their actions at Eniwetok Atoll, the 22d Marines received the following Navy Unit Commendation from the Secretary of the Navy:

"For outstanding heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces during the assault and capture of Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands, from February 17 to 22, 1944. As a unit of a Task Force, assembled only two days prior to departure for Eniwetok Atoll, the Twenty-second Marines, Reinforced, landed in whole or in part on Engebi, Eniwetok and Parry Islands, in rapid succession and launched aggressive attacks in the face of heavy machine-gun and mortar fire from well camouflaged enemy dugouts and foxholes. With simultaneous landings and reconnaissance missions on numerous other small islands, they overcame all resistance within six days, destroying a known 2,665 of the Japanese and capturing 66 prisoners. By their courage and determination, despite the difficulties and hardships involved in repeated reembarkations and landing from day to day, these gallant officers and men made available to our forces in the Pacific Area an advanced base with large anchorage facilities and an established airfield, thereby contributing materially to the successful conduct of the war. Their sustained endurance, fortitude and fighting spirit throughout this operation reflect the highest credit on the Twenty-second Marines, Reinforced, and on the United States Naval Service. All personnel attached to and serving with any of the above units during the period February 17 to 22, 1944, are authorized to wear the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon."<sup>16</sup>



22d Marines await the order to attack an enemy coconut-log strongpoint on Eniwetok. (Department of Defense Photo (USMC) 72434)<sup>17</sup>

*The letter and this story was contributed by Marie Daly. As it is too long to fit into a single edition, it will continue in the next edition of the Weathervane.*



The Board of Directors of the Waltham Historical Society wishes to express our appreciation for the support of the individuals and organizations listed on this page. They were early contributors to this year's cemetery tour as Friends or Business Friends. We encourage you to thank them for their generosity by patronizing the businesses identified, and by expressing thanks to the individuals. Without this type of support the Society would be unable to continue our work in the community.

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