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Come and listen as Mr. Joseph Keefe recounts the actions of Waltham's own Nathaniel P. Banks.

The lecture will cover the Port Hudson campaign in Louisiana which General Banks commanded. It was the last Confederate fort on the Mississippi. With the victory Banks, and the 19th Army Corps which he commanded, opened up the Mississippi River for the Union, and cut the Confederate nation in two.

We will explore the circumstances surrounding Banks being placed in command by President Lincoln—why he was chosen. We'll also look at how he invested the fort, using the

The Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series Presents

Nathaniel P. Banks and the Port Hudson Campaign

Mr. Joseph Keefe

*Waltham Historical Society Board Member and Archivist,
National Archives and Records Administration*

siege of the fort in conjunction with the Union Navy (this was the first infantry-naval cooperation in US history) and the eventual victory by Union forces.

General Banks has been criticized by many historians for his handling of the siege. This lecture will take a different track—giving reasons for some of the Union failures that cannot be attributed to General Banks.

This was Banks' one victory during his tenure as a Union commanding general and the lecture will focus on all aspects of the campaign.



Joseph P. Keefe is an Archives Specialist with NARA's Northeast Region-Boston and has worked with NARA for over 10 years.

Mr. Keefe has a bachelor's degree in History from Framingham State College and a MA in American History from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

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

Many Hands Make Light Work!



Our recent signing of a lease for the former Bright School has opened many doors for the Historical Society. Our archives can now be moved and made more easily accessible to the public.

But with more space and responsibilities comes the need for more assistance.

The Society needs you to step forward and serve on a committee. The commitment can be small or large, according to your schedule, but there is no amount of time that is too short to help us.

Standing committees need assistance, so you will not be working alone. If you can

help coordinate the Lecture series, contribute to the newsletter, or contact the media on upcoming events we can use your help.

We're also looking for help converting the former school to a Society headquarters and will need people to sweep, clean, and paint as well as set up exhibits.

Please help us out by contacting Sheila or Wayne. They'll do the rest.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 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 September 2011...

Company H and Company K (which had been recruited from Watertown) marched together and reached Camp Cameron on June 30, 1861. The two companies would join with other troops which had been recruited from the cities and towns of Middlesex County. The companies were mustered into service on various dates between June 29 and July 12th with Company H being mustered in on July 2, 1861. Powell T. Wyman, a West Point graduate and a veteran of the Seminole War in Florida was named the regiment's Colonel.

On August 17, 1861, the regiment was ordered to Baltimore, Maryland and remained until September 1st when it was moved to Hampton, Virginia. They trained throughout the autumn and winter of 1861-1862. In May of 1862, the 16th Mass. was involved in the recapture of the Norfolk Naval Yard; where it witnessed the destruction of the C.S.S. Virginia, which along with the Union Ship Monitor were the world's first iron clad vessels. As the Confederates abandoned their positions in the Norfolk area, the C.S.S. Virginia was threatened with the loss of the only base which could moor such a ship. After a futile effort to lighten the ship enough to allow her to move up the James River, the South's formidable ironclad was destroyed by her crew, off Craney Island on May 11, 1862.

On June 1, 1862 the men of Company H along with the rest of the 16th were ordered to join the Army of the Potomac, currently engaged in the Peninsula campaign, commanded by Major General George B. McClellan. This was an attempt by McClellan to move troops up the Virginia Peninsula to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond.

The first test of the regiment in battle was on June 18, 1862, when it was ordered to make a reconnaissance to move Confederate units from a dense forest in front of their position. Fighting valiantly until ordered to retire, the 16th accom-

plished its mission but suffered the regiment's first casualties. Among the 17 men killed was Waltham's First Lieutenant Francis P. H. Rogers, for whom the Waltham veterans would honor by naming their Grand Army of the Republic Post after him.

The men entered their first large scale battle on June 30th at the Battle of Glendale where it would gain the name "the Iron Sixteenth". The regiment was posted across a road by which the Confederates advanced to attack the left of the entire Union line. The enemy had moved into position without being seen by Union scouts and was moving to pounce on the unsuspecting left wing of the line when the 16th met the assault and forced the Confederates to retreat. Colonel Wyman, moving along the line and shouting orders to his men was struck and instantly killed. With Union reinforcements arriving, the Union line held, with Company H being in the center of the action. Following the battle, Union General Joseph Hooker, in a letter to Massachusetts Governor John Andrews stated "there is no doubt but at Glendale the 16th Massachusetts saved the Army."

Following the Battle of Glendale, the 16th was placed under the command of Colonel Thomas R. Tannatt, a graduate of West Point who had served on the frontier in the Dakota Territory before the war. The regiment was transferred to Alexandria, VA to help reinforce the Army of Virginia under General John Pope.

Pope's mission with his newly formed army was to protect Washington and the Shenandoah Valley and help draw Confederate forces away from McClellan on the Peninsula. There was one major flaw in the Union's complex maneuvers; they had forgotten that General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was located between all of them. Lee seized the moment to attack the individual armies before they converged. After a sharp fight at Cedar Mountain near Culpeper Court House, Confederate General Thomas Jackson swung around to attack Pope's supply depot and his headquarters at Manassas Junction on August 26th.

General Pope quickly turned to try to corner Jackson and thought he had him but Jackson marched west to Groveton and invited Pope's attack. Jackson's

soldiers were used to long marches and had no trouble holding off Pope's army near. As the fighting occurred, Confederate General James Longstreet was hurrying up the Shenandoah Valley between the Blue Ridge and the Bull Run Mountains. On August 29th Longstreet turned his army east, marching toward Thoroughfare Gap and attacked Pope's left flank. General Pope tried to take the offensive and ordered the 16th Massachusetts to attack Jackson, whose army was posted behind an abandoned railroad embankment. The attack consisted of a series of piecemeal frontal assaults which were repulsed with heavy casualties. During the fighting with Jackson's troops the regiment lost 110 men, one of whom was Hiram Banks of Waltham, brother of Gardner and Nathaniel Prentiss. Hiram had joined Company K from Watertown because Company H had filled its quota of men so quickly.

Following the Second Bull Run campaign, the regiment was sent to the defenses of Washington for rest where it would remain until April of 1863 when the Army of the Potomac began another movement against the enemy. The Chancellorsville Campaign began with the crossing of the Rappahannock River by the Union army on the morning of April 27, 1863. Major General Joseph Hooker, now in command of the Army of the Potomac, planned a double envelopment, attacking the Army of Northern Virginia from both



front and rear. On May 1, Hooker advanced from Chancellorsville toward Lee, but the Confederate General split his army in the face of superior numbers, sending Stonewall Jackson's entire corps on a flanking march that routed the Union Sixth Corps, which included the 16th Massachusetts. The regiment had been badly shattered by Stonewall Jackson's men, suffering several casualties. Company H endured heavy losses including Edward Hatch, Daniel Clasby, Henry Carr, George Green, Samuel Savage and John Healy all fatally wounded during the fighting. Writing home after the battle, Albert Goodnow, a member of Company H from Waltham, stated "our men took the worst of the fight; I have lost many a friend on this bloody day."

End of installment number two. The story continues in the next edition of the Weathervane.

Civil War Cemetery Tour A Success!

On Saturday, October 15th, The Waltham Historical Society conducted a tour of the grave sites of Civil War veterans buried at Grove Hill Cemetery.

Society member Joe Keefe walked us through the cemetery and revealed the stories of many of the 100+ Civil War veterans buried there.

Stepping off at 10:00 am Joe gave an overview of the impact of the war on Waltham and the country. Detailing the units who were comprised of soldiers from Waltham, we learned of the very different tasks represented by each of those whose grave sites we would visit. The weather was cooperative, with sunshine enough to keep us warm.



Guests expressed their appreciation for the work done by Joe, and for the passion with which he delivered the stories. Ending at the grave site of Nathaniel P. Banks, he brought the tour to a successful conclusion by putting the war and its impact on Waltham into perspective. We hope to have this type of tour more often, taking advantage of the cemetery's proximity to our new headquarters at the former Bright School.

Initiative underway to repair historic headstones

The Waltham Historical Society and the Waltham Historical Commission have partnered to preserve endangered gravesites at Grove Hill Cemetery. With

a grant from the Waltham Community Preservation Committee, 28 significant gravesites

will be repaired and restored. Work will commence shortly.

We extend our appreciation to Mayor McCarthy, Cemetery Director Mr. David Russo, The Community Preservation Committee, and Mr. Jack Cox.



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

Marie E. Daly, Waltham Historical Society

In May 1944, a young United States Marine wrote a letter home to his cousin in Waltham in which he described his wartime experiences. He recounted the rigorous training he received at Parris Island and in Samoa. He fought with Company E of the 2d Battalion, 22d Marines in the Marshall Islands, and had gone to Guadalcanal to prepare for the U.S. invasion of Guam when he wrote the letter. He died two months later when the 22d Marines stormed the beaches of Guam.

The writer, John Robert Moore

John "Jack" Moore had been born in 1925 in Kentucky, and was adopted by his parents from the Kentucky Childrens Home Society on May 25, 1925. His parents were Donald John Moore, a native of Wapakoneta, Ohio and Helen Frances Kimmens, a native of Worcester, Massachusetts. In April 1930, five year-old Jack Moore was living with his parents at 10 Canna Drive, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. His father was a department manager in a leather company. But later that year, the family moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where his father worked in sales. Although his father was transferred to Memphis,

Tennessee in 1932, his mother stayed in Kansas City, and in 1934, she returned with her son to the Worcester area. The couple was divorced, based upon her desertion, in 1936. In 1945, Helen K. Moore was listed as a registered nurse, working at the Veterans Hospital in Rutland Heights, Massachusetts. She married Herbert Horton Guild in Berlin, Massachusetts on October 2, 1947. The couple resided on Randall Road in Berlin. Helen F. (Kimmens) (Moore) Guild, a resident of Randall Road, Berlin, died in the St. Jude Rest Home in Hudson, Massachusetts on March 2, 1956. She was buried in the Rural Cemetery in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The recipient, Claire Ellen Kimmens

Dated May 11, 1944, the letter is addressed to Jack Moore's cousin, Claire E. Kimmens of 20 Auburn Street, Waltham, Massachusetts. Claire Ellen Kimmens was born on January 26, 1924 in Marlborough, Massachusetts, and was the daughter of Amos Percy Kimmens and Elizabeth Augusta Smith. Prior to 1943, the Kimmens family lived in Holden, Massachusetts, and Claire graduated from Holden High School in 1941. Sometime between 1941 and 1943, the Kimmens family moved to Waltham, where Claire lived with her father, Amos P. Kimmens, and sister, Doris Kimmens. The family is listed at 20 Auburn Street, Waltham

in the 1943 and 1945 Waltham city directories. Amos Kimmens' occupation was listed as "instr," which may have signified instructor. Doris worked at the Waltham Watch Company. At the time the letter was written, Claire was attending Framingham State College, where she was training to be a teacher. She graduated from Framingham Teachers College in 1945, and taught school in Craftsbury and Johnson, Vermont, and by 1948 was teaching in Belmont, New Hampshire. Claire married Ronald W. McLaughlin in Wayland, Massachusetts in 1949, and eventually moved to Clinton, Ohio. She was an elementary school teacher. She died on July 9, 1989 in Akron, Ohio.

Bolio from Waltham

In the letter, Jack Moore mentions that there is a "fellow from Waltham named Bolio here." This was probably Richard E. Bolio, who was a corporal in the U.S. Marines during WWII. He had been born on October 20, 1920, and died on November 25, 2004. He was buried at Calvary Cemetery in Waltham. He had lived at 130 Taylor Street, Waltham.

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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A Special Thank You!

A special thank you is extended to Mr. Lou Nocera and Ms. Julie Rizzello for donations they've recently made to the Waltham Historical Society.

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