

1968

Memorial to the Second Maine Regiment of volunteers in the Civil War

Mount Hope Cemetery Corporation

BULL RUN
YORKTOWN
HANOVER COURT HOUSE
GAINES MILL
MALVERN HILL
MANASSAS—2nd BULL RUN
ANTIETAM
SHEPHERDSTOWN FORD
FREDERICKSBURG
CHANCELLORSVILLE



MEMORIAL

SECOND MAINE REGIMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

TO THE SECOND MAINE REGIMENT OF VOLUNTEERS



NO BATTLE FIGHTED HERE
NO MARCH EVER MADE

LOVE WAS THE MOTIVE
OF VOLUNTEER
BATTLE BEGON JULY 1861 MAY 1865

THEY WERE
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MEMORIAL

TO THE SECOND MAINE REGIMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

**Memorial to
the Second Maine Regiment of Volunteers
in the Civil War**

Gift of Luther H. Peirce



Colonel Luther Hills Peirce, whose bequest provided this memorial and an endowment sufficient to maintain it, was born in Bangor in 1837 the son of Waldo Treat and Hannah Jane Peirce. The Peirce homestead was torn down to make room for Bangor High School on Harlow Street.

He was graduated from Yale in 1858. He was on the staff of Col. Charles D. Jameson of Bangor when the Second Maine was formed and left with the regiment May 14, 1861, as quartermaster sergeant. On July 21 they marched into the line at the first Battle of Bull Run.

Col. Peirce rose quickly in the Union Army and was later Quartermaster General of General Burnside's Corps. After the war he stayed in the Army until 1868 when he went to Chicago and entered the real estate business. He died in 1915 and is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

He visited Bangor often and on one of his last visits he discussed a memorial to the Second Maine with former members of the regiment. His idea then was to erect a mammoth granite tent with the figures of Col. Jameson, Gen. Charles W. Roberts and General George C. Varney, the field officers, being grouped about. He selected the Giddings property on State Street, later the residence of Dr. E. B. Sanger as the site. Later his will specified Mt. Hope cemetery as the location of a suitable memorial.

FOREWORD

The purpose of the publication of this booklet by Mount Hope Cemetery Corporation is to make more widely available the story of the heroic Second Maine Regiment of Volunteers in the Civil War.

The memorial structures erected on the cemetery grounds will serve to perpetuate the name and record of the Regiment among those who have occasion to visit the premises.

It is hoped that this booklet combining the history of the Regiment with pictures of the memorial will reach a larger audience and thus carry out the intent of the donor Luther H. Peirce, to honor in the highest degree the comrades with whom he shared the fortunes of war.

The following account of THE SECOND MAINE REGIMENT is quoted from "Maine in the War for the Union: A History of the Part Borne by Maine Troops in the Suppression of the American Rebellion" by William E. S. Whitman and Charles H. True, Lewiston, Maine, 1865, Nelson Dingley, Jr., & Co., Publisher. The text is the complete chapter 3 of that book.

THE SECOND REGIMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

from "Maine in the War for the Union"

Although numerically the second, this was in fact the first regiment which left the State for the seat of war. It was raised within the limits of the First Division of the militia of the State, and was rendezvoused at Bangor. The field and staff officers originally composing this regiment, were as follows:

FIELD AND STAFF.

Charles D. Jameson, Bangor, Colonel; Charles W. Roberts, Bangor, Lieutenant Colonel; George Varney, Bangor, Major; John E. Reynolds, Bangor, Adjutant; Charles V. Lord, Bangor, Quartermaster; William H. Allen, Orono, Surgeon; Augustus C. Hamlin, Bangor, Assistant Surgeon; John F. Mines, Bath, Chaplain; Edward L. Appleton, Bangor, Sergeant Major; Luther H. Peirce, Bangor, Quartermaster Sergeant; Alden D. Palmer, Orono, Hospital Steward.

COMPANY OFFICERS.

Company A, (Bangor Light Infantry.)—Herman Bartlett, Captain; Rinaldo B. Wiggin, First Lieutenant; James Dean, Second Lieutenant; all of Bangor.

Company B, (Castine Light Infantry.)—Seth K. Devereux, Captain; Charles W. Tilden, First Lieutenant; David D. Wardwell, Second Lieutenant; all of Castine.

Company C, (Brewer Artillery.)—Elisha N. Jones, Captain; John K. Skinner, First Lieutenant; Eliphalet S. Morrill, Second Lieutenant; all of Brewer.

Company D, (Milo Artillery.)—John S. Sampson, Captain; Walter W. Sturtevant, First Lieutenant; Sumner R. Kittredge, Second Lieutenant; all of Milo.

Company E, (Bangor Company.)—Levi Emerson, Bangor, Captain; James W. Adams, Bangor, First Lieutenant; Lyman E. Richardson, Wayne, Second Lieutenant.

Company F, (Bangor Company.)—Daniel Chaplin, Captain; Albion P. Wilson, First Lieutenant; Warren H. Boynton, Second Lieutenant; all of Bangor.

Company G, (Ex-Tigers, Bangor.)—Daniel F. Sargent, Brewer, Captain; Edward L. Getchell, Bangor, First Lieutenant; Ralph W. Morse, Bangor, Second Lieutenant.

Company H, (Gymnasium Company.)—Frederick Meinecke, Captain; Augustus B. Farnham, First Lieutenant; Frank A. Garnsey, Second Lieutenant; all of Bangor.

Company I, (Grattan Guards.)—John Carroll, Captain; Henry Casey, First Lieutenant; Miles J. Sweeney, Second Lieutenant; all of Bangor.

Company K, (Oldtown Company.)—Fernando C. Foss, Oldtown, Captain; Albert G. Fellows, Bangor, First Lieutenant; Albert L. Cowan, Oldtown, Second Lieutenant.

Companies A, B, C, D and I were a part of Colonel Jameson's old command, and were reorganized for service in this regiment. The others were new companies raised to complete the organization.

The regiment completed its organization and left the State on the fourteenth of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-one. On the morning of its departure it was presented by the ladies of Bangor with a beautiful set of colors, made of silk, surmounted by the emblematic eagle in gold, with heavy gold tassels. Miss McRuer, being introduced by His Honor, Mayor Stetson, presented the flag in behalf of the ladies of the city in a brief and happily conceived speech, which was appropriately responded to, for the regiment, by Colonel Jameson. They then marched to the depot accompanied by an immense concourse of people from the whole city and vicinity, who had come out to see their friends depart for the defence of the country. The rain began to fall but the crowd did not disperse till a quarter before eleven o'clock, at which time the regiment left amid the firing of cannon and the shouts of the people. It proceeded, through a succession of ovations and patriotic demonstrations all along the road, to Willett's Point, Long Island, New York, where it remained till the thirtieth of the month, having in the meantime been presented with a flag and been mustered into the United States service for two years, on

the twenty-eighth, by Lieutenant Milton Coggs well of the Eighth United States Infantry. While at Willett's Point, and before the regiment was mustered in, Captain Devereux of Company B, resigned on account of his official duties as Collector of the port of Castine, and Lieutenant Tilden was afterwards promoted to the Captaincy. Private George K. Ingalls of this company was here saved from death by a Testament in his breast pocket. A comrade was carelessly handling a revolver when it was discharged and the ball passed through Ingalls' overcoat and uniform, striking the Testament with great force, but fortunately did not pass through it. Captain Devereux brought the book home and presented it to the mother of the soldier.

On the thirtieth of May the regiment left for Washington and went into camp on Meridian Hill, a very pleasant situation about two miles from the White House. This hill derived its name from the fact of its being the point from which our longitude is reckoned. No indignity was offered the men while passing through the streets of Baltimore, and it is probable that had there been any, warm work would have ensued, as they marched through the city with muskets loaded and bayonets fixed, and were anxious for an opportunity to avenge the previous insults to Union soldiers upon the people of that city. The regiment was provided by the general government with smooth bore muskets of the pattern of eighteen hundred and forty.

On the night of the first of July the regiment marched from Meridian Hill to Falls Church, Virginia, where it formed the advance guard of the Union army on the Fairfax road. It was at this time in the first brigade, under Acting Brigadier E. D. Keyes, first division, under Acting Major General Daniel Tyler of the Connecticut Militia, of General McDowell's grand army. They remained in camp here until the sixteenth of the month when they took up a line of march towards the South, and were engaged in the battle of Bull Run on the twenty-first, and did themselves distinguished honor. Bull Run is the name of a sluggish creek which rises in Loudon County, near the Blue Ridge, north-east of

Centreville, and flows into the Occoquan about midway between that place and Manassas Junction. At Centreville on the way to Bull Run the regiment was presented with an elegant flag on Saturday July twentieth, the very day before the battle. It was sent from San Francisco, California, by the ladies of that city, by Mr. George B. Haycock of California, but a native of Maine, with a request to Vice President Hamlin that he should designate, for its reception, the First Maine regiment which reached Washington, or one which was composed in part of lumbermen. As the Second met both these requirements and no other fulfilled either, it was presented to Col. Jameson for the regiment, by Mr. Haycock, in an eloquent address which the Colonel responded to in an appropriate manner, promising that by the blessing of God it should never be dishonored, nor its fair folds be stained except by the blood of its defenders.

The banner was a very large one, of the heaviest description of India silk, and cost twelve hundred dollars. The stripes were red and white and the field of blue, most elegantly painted, showing on one side the American eagle and thirty-four stars, and on the other the arms of California and Maine in separate shields, the legends "Eureka" and "Dirigo" on each respectively, while the Goddess of Liberty stood between with a hand resting on either shield. The staff was made of manzanita wood, a very tough California wood. The slide, rings and battle-axe surmounting the staff were of solid California silver, very heavy. There were thirteen silver stars on the belt for the color-sergeant, and a socket of silver on which was the inscription "Union and Liberty." On the slide were the words, "Presented to the Second Maine Regiment by ladies of that State now residing in San Francisco. June 21st, 1861." When Col. Jameson, in his speech accepting the flag, alluded to the eagle painted upon it, he pointed upwards, and the Hon. Ezra B. French, Second Auditor of the Treasury, following the direction in which the Colonel pointed, observed a large American eagle hovering directly over the square, and called the attention of those around to this bird of happy

omen. Hon. Morris Davis, Member of Congress from Pennsylvania, looking at the eagle with a spy-glass, found it to be a bald-headed eagle of the largest size. The majestic visitor remained in view long enough to be seen by the soldiers and their guests, and then circling away into the upper sky, disappeared from sight.

The regiment started from Centreville, so called from having roads radiating from it in every direction, for the Bull Run battlefield at two o'clock on Sunday morning, July twenty-first, halting until the whole column passed, and the brigade then serving as a reserve pushed forward and took position on the Warrenton turn-pike. About ten o'clock the regiment was ordered to march to the front. Marching three miles at double quick under a burning sun, many fell out of the ranks on the way, exhausted. Coming up to the point where Sherman's battery was engaging a rebel one, the men threw aside their coats and packs and went on at double quick step, through the woods, over streams and ditches, when coming up to a rebel battery, they charged twice up almost to the muzzles of the cannon, and twice they were driven back when they were ordered to retreat. Capt. Jones of Company C, which was the color company, fell in the first charge, mortally wounded. He was taken prisoner and died during the month, at Richmond, Virginia. Lieut. Skinner of his company was captured while he was endeavoring to rescue him from the enemy. William J. Deane of Co. A, color sergeant, was mortally wounded at the same fire as Capt. Jones, while carrying the new and beautiful flag presented to the regiment but the day before from the ladies of San Francisco. He was placed on a stretcher and fell into the enemy's hands, but died the same day, thus mournfully verifying the prophetic promise of Col. Jameson when he accepted it. Chaplain Mines wrote that he saw him after he was wounded. He was carried off tenderly and laid on the grass close by a little brook. A shot had broken his arm and cut through his throat so that he breathed through the wound. Lieut. Col. Roberts had told him meantime the fate of the flag. He beckoned to the Chaplain who knelt and put his ear close to the sufferer's mouth.

He whispered, "It's safe!" "What," said the Chaplain, "the flag?" He nodded his head, smiled and closed his eyes. He never spoke again. The flag, stained with his blood, was seized as he fell by Corp. Americus V. Moore of Oldtown, a member of Company K, another of the color guard, who was almost instantly shot dead, and the flag was left on ground which the rebels immediately occupied. All shouted at once, "We must have that flag!" Up the hill Col. Jameson led the regiment. The rebels almost had their hands on the standard, when our men rushed to the rescue, and it was recovered without being polluted by rebel hands. It is now in this State. The flags presented in Bangor and New York were pierced with bullets and torn with shells. The regiment went up on the main road between a cornfield and the woods and drew up in line of battle in front of the woods. The Colonel ordered his men to charge on a body of rebels in an orchard, who from their uniforms were taken for Federal troops and had fired on the regiment. The Second charged up to within twenty-five yards of a battery where it stood until ordered by Col. Keyes to retreat, when it retired to the woods and lay down to rest. Gen. Tyler soon after came down and ordered them to charge again. Col. Keyes suggested to him that the Second had done its share of the fighting, and that it might be as well to order on a Connecticut regiment which had not done any, although Gen. Tyler had done his best to rally them. Lieut. Richardson was killed and Surgeon Allen and Chaplain Mines, who might have escaped but would not leave the wounded, were taken prisoners. Twenty-five men endeavoring to bring off the wounded, were all captured. When Col. Jameson and his volunteers came up to the wounded, there was one brave fellow—Martin Joss of Hampden, a member of Company F—with both legs shot off. Saluting, he smiled and said, "Colonel, I am glad to see you again, but I am gone. Good bye." These were his last words.

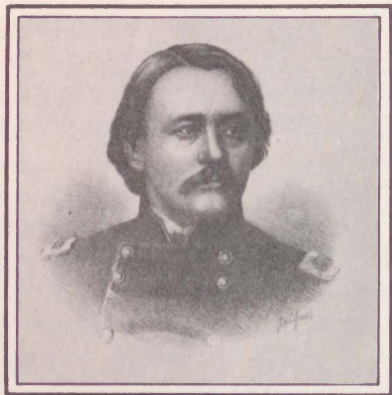
The regiment fought with great bravery the whole time they were engaged. A Connecticut Colonel who saw it says the fire

of the regiment was most deadly. It routed a South Carolina regiment in a manner that was pronounced by a regular army officer to be most admirable, and the Seventh Georgia regiment, with which it had a conflict, was, in an official rebel account, reported "annihilated."

Before the retreat, six of Col. Jameson's men were lying wounded on the field where they had made a charge. The Colonel called for volunteers to go with him and bring them off. Six men—Sergt. G. W. Brown of Company F, A. J. Knowles and Leonard Carver of Company D, A. P. Jones and Henry Wheeler of Company A, and Peter Welch of Company I—stepped forward. They went up upon the run, led by the gallant Colonel into the grape and cannister from the enemy's batteries which were sweeping across the place, and brought back the wounded men.

Col. Keyes, in his official report of the battle, says: "The gallantry with which the Second regiment of Maine volunteers charged up the hill upon the enemy's artillery and infantry, was never in my opinion surpassed."

About four o'clock P.M. a general order was given to retreat. The Second was the last regiment to leave the field, acting as rear guard to cover the retreat, during which the celebrated Black Horse Cavalry made a charge upon it, but got driven back with considerable loss. For this exploit Col. Jameson received the thanks of Col. Keyes and Gen. Tyler. The regiment marched to Centerville and bivouacked, but about twelve o'clock that night the whole army was ordered to Fairfax and the march was continued to Alexandria, a distance of twenty-five miles, and for the last three or four hours through a heavy rain, arriving there at ten o'clock next day. Starting at two o'clock in the morning and marching to the battle-field, having an eight hours' fight in the dust and smoke, under a scorching sun, and then all weary and almost worn out as they were, having been on their feet thirty-six hours, made to march some sixty miles in all without food or rest, through the dust and then the rain, no wonder many fell out by the way or died of fatigue and exhaustion afterwards. No



Col. Charles D. Jameson

wonder that for such valiant services in the contest Col. Jameson was by Gen. McDowell thanked and highly complimented for good conduct, or that the regiment there won itself glory and a bright name that made it a synonym for gallantry throughout the army, a reputation it sustained untarnished to the close of its career. Col. Jameson, who was the first volunteer and the first Colonel in the field from Maine, was for gallantry displayed in his first battle, commissioned as Brigadier General of volunteers on the third of September, eighteen hundred sixty-one, the first date at which any officer from the State was promoted to that grade.

The regiment remained two days at Alexandria and then was ordered to Arlington Heights, in the vicinity of Fort Corcoran, opposite Georgetown. The brigade being partly composed of regiments whose term of service had nearly expired, it was broken up after the battle and the Second was temporarily assigned to Gen. Sherman's command. Some two weeks afterwards Lieut. Col. Roberts was placed in command of Fort Corcoran, a substantial earthwork enclosing about an acre of ground and mounting ten large guns, which was thrown up by the Sixty-ninth New York regiment and named after their Colonel who was taken pris-

oner at the battle of Bull Run. This was at this time the only work covering the capital on the south shore of the Potomac. On the first of September, two days after going into the fort, the regiment was reviewed by the President, Secretary Seward and Gen. McClellan, who were well pleased with its appearance, the latter complimenting it highly for its proficiency in drill. Col. Jameson having been promoted to Brigadier General, Lieut. Col. Roberts succeeded him in the command of the regiment. Col. Roberts' command while stationed at this place, was some two or three miles in extent, including some four or five forts, a ferry and aqueduct bridge, and he had charge of several companies of regulars and detachments from various volunteer regiments.

The regiment was originally enlisted for three months, but afterwards re-enlisted for two years, but on the fourteenth of August, just three months after they left the State, some of the men, getting discontented perhaps from seeing three months' troops from other States returning home, but without further excuse, became insubordinate and refused to do duty, claiming that their time had expired. Sixty-six were for disobedience sentenced to Tortugas, but this was commuted to a transfer to the Second New York where they served about one year when they were returned to the regiment and served faithfully during the remainder of its term.

In the latter part of October the Second left the fort for Hall's Hill, having been assigned to Gen. Martindale's brigade of Gen. Fitz John Porter's division. About the first of November, Company I having become greatly reduced in numbers and the officers resigned, was disbanded, and Capt. Daniel White of Bangor raised a new company which was mustered into service on the sixteenth of December and took its place. On the second of December there was a night expedition under command of Lieut. Col. Varney, consisting of a detail from the Second, and the Twenty-second Massachusetts, divided into three detachments, which, about a mile apart, marched twelve miles and then lay in ambush all day to entrap a corps of cavalry. The weather was so cold

that the water in the boys' canteens was frozen while they from necessity were obliged to lie quietly. The men while at this post took great pains to make their quarters neat and comfortable, and they were models in this respect which were not surpassed. At Christmas the encampment was decorated with evergreens, arches and other ornaments, and presented a very picturesque appearance.

The regiment remained here until March tenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, when it was ordered to move upon Manassas. The enemy, however, having anticipated them, they were ordered to Alexandria, where they remained four days, and then embarked for Fortress Monroe. On their arrival, they remained nearly a week, doing picket duty on the road leading to Big Bethel, when they received orders to go to Yorktown, where, with the Twenty-second Massachusetts and Twenty-fifth New York regiments, and Martin's Third Massachusetts Battery, they immediately engaged the enemy's right, who was found to be so strongly entrenched that the engagement was discontinued. They, however, maintained their ground until the next day. During this spirited engagement, the skirmishers of the Second, under Captains Foss and Wilson, Lieut. Boynton and others, acted with the greatest firmness, being under an exceedingly hot artillery fire over four hours. This attack was made long before the arrival of the main body of the Union army. During the remainder of the siege of Yorktown the Second were occupied in the trenches, building bridges and doing picket duty. The very last trench before Yorktown was begun and completed by the Second, assisted by the Thirteenth New York regiment. After finishing this work, which must have been of great advantage to the Union army in their operations, had the enemy not have evacuated, the Second, through Major Chaplin, received the thanks of both Generals McClellan and Porter. The only casualty of the Second during the siege, was one man—private George C. Martin, of Company H,—wounded in the leg, since deceased.

In advancing to a position in front of Yorktown in the first part of April eighteen hundred and sixty-two, the regiment was

obliged to march eight miles through mud almost knee deep. The men reached a place at night where they were detailed for picket duty and they remained there thirty-eight hours in a cold rain without overcoats or blankets, before they were relieved.

At Yorktown our men were spoken of as "those marvellous New England soldiers who build batteries by night and in the rain with the same energy and skill with which they repair locomotives, construct railroad bridges, run grist mills and reconstruct abandoned saw mills." Two days after the enemy's evacuation of Yorktown, the Second left for the Chickahominy, by the way of West Point. A march of several days brought them to Gaines' Station. Porter's corps at this time comprised the right wing of the army of the Potomac. On the night of May twenty-sixth the Second with the greater portion of the corps, in a severe rain storm and with three days' rations and sixty rounds of ammunition, advanced upon Hanover Court House, where they arrived the next forenoon, and immediately gave battle to the enemy. The Second was detailed, together with the Twenty-second Massachusetts regiment, to annoy the enemy's right, who only replied with one piece of artillery. Meanwhile they cut the telegraph wire running to Richmond, and also for some distance destroyed the railroad running in the same direction, about one mile from Hanover Court House, where the remainder of the division had been ordered. Moving on after the main body, the Second had not proceeded more than a mile before they were attacked by six rebel regiments, who were posted in their rear, under cover of the woods protected by a close fence. The Second had only a portion each of the Twenty-fifth and Forty-fourth New York regiments and a section of Martin's Third Massachusetts battery, to assist them in resisting the attack. For one hour and a half they held their ground, saving the section of the battery which the gunners were obliged to desert, and which decided the victory won on that day. In this encounter the Second expended sixty rounds of ammunition, and had appealed to be allowed to charge, when they fortunately received reinforcements, Gen. Porter send-

ing all of his command which had arrived at Hanover Court House to their relief. For their noble conduct on this occasion, Col. Roberts, who fought the battle in command of the brigade and who was at that time the oldest Colonel in the field from Maine, received personally for his command, the thanks of Gens. McClellan, Porter, Morell and Martindale. After remaining forty-eight hours awaiting the arrival of McDowell's forces, which failed to appear, the Second was obliged to retrace their steps, making inside of fifty hours a march of over thirty miles, and entirely putting to flight a superior force of the enemy. During this brilliant engagement their loss in killed was slight, though the number of wounded was large.

During the month which followed, the Second was variously occupied in doing picket duty, and in building roads and bridges. The last picket duty that was performed on the right bank of the Chickahominy was by them, they leaving in season to participate in the battle of Gaines' Mill.

At the battle of Gaines' Mill, or Chickahominy, June twenty-seventh, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, the Second was in Morell's division, Porter's corps, which was stationed on the opposite side of the Chickahominy from Richmond. Soon after the close of the fight of the day before, an order came from Gen. McClellan to Gen. Porter to withdraw his corps to a position two miles this side of Gaines' Mill. During the latter part of the march the disturbance from the rebel cannon and muskets grew less, although they kept within respectable distance till our men passed into the woods skirting the cornfields and fallow land extending back from the ravine through which flows the creek and pond which furnish water power to Dr. Gaines' Mill. It was about ten o'clock in the morning when the place designated for halting was reached, the force having marched or rather retreated at the rate of one mile an hour for six hours. The order to Gen. Porter was to draw up his men in line of battle in this field, plant his batteries in the most eligible positions and not yield the ground on any condition. The enemy gathered in strong force in the

woods, and were determined to break our lines. Our men, most of whom had been under arms two days, fired volley after volley into them. The statements of the prisoners and the freshness and vigor of their fighting, showed that they had been reinforced and greatly outnumbered us, so the only safe course left to Gen. Porter was to ask for reinforcements himself, which were sent and gave new impetus to the contest. Most of Martindale's brigade was rallied by Col. Roberts of the Second within thirty rods of the enemy, but not being supported, continued to fall back with the troops. In this engagement the Second fought splendidly, as in fact did all the troops engaged. The sun went down in brilliancy and splendor and his last rays looked upon the dreadful carnage still going on. It was nearly seven o'clock before the enemy succeeded in driving us back, the firing ceased and the battle for the day was over. There was a general retreat during the night, and all our men and guns were safely withdrawn to the opposite side of the river.

In this battle Lieut. Col. Varney, Adjutant Lewis P. Mudgett, Hospital Steward Daniel W. Edgerly and Capt. Levi Emerson of Company E, were taken prisoners. Col. Roberts was in the thickest of the fight and escaped unharmed. Corp. Wesley A. Brown of Company B, was also taken prisoner while endeavoring to save his brother, Lieut. George I. Brown, whose life he saved. The regiment here captured the flags of the Fifth Alabama, totally routing that command. This was the beginning of the grand retreat towards Harrison's Landing. During the seven days' retreat the Second was repeatedly under fire. They saw and heard the battles of Fair Oaks and Seven Pines, but were two miles off.

At the battle of Malvern Hill, called also Turkey Bend, July first, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, the Fifth corps occupied the centre and supported our batteries there, and were in a very conspicuous position. The engagement here was altogether an artillery fight. In an open field a mile long and three quarters of a mile wide, with woods before and behind them, they were obliged to lie upon the ground from noon till sunset, and for

The 2nd Maine...worth

Different aspects of the Luther H. Peirce Memorial to the

NOT PAINLESSLY DOTH GOD RECAST
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SECOND MAINE REGIMENT
OF VOLUNTEERS

BATTLE RECORD — JULY 1861 - MAY 1863

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IN MEMORY OF THE
SECOND MAINE REGIMENT
OF VOLUNTEERS

GIFT OF
LUTHER H. PEIRCE
A MEMBER OF THAT REGIMENT



ly of honor

Second Maine Regiment . . .



The 2nd Maine...worthy of honor

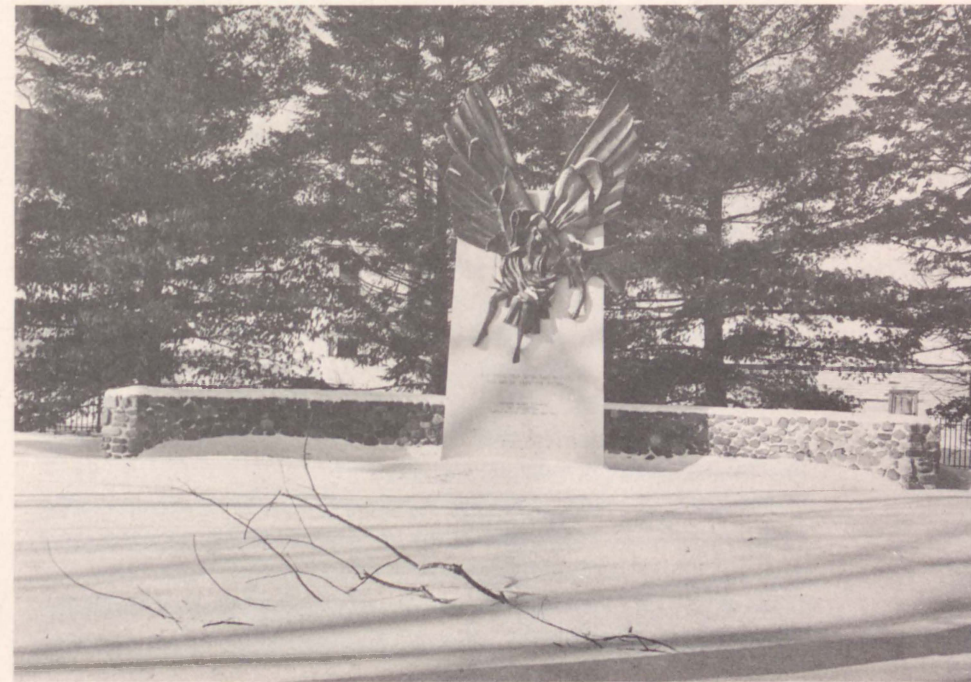
Different aspects of the Luther H. Peirce Memorial to the Second Maine Regiment . . .

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five hours flat upon their faces, without firing a gun. This was the fiercest and most sanguinary conflict of all the famous "seven days' fights" before Richmond. The firing commenced at eight o'clock in the morning and was continued until ten at night. The Union army was entrenched in the thick woods on one side of the level open field, which was planted in corn that was not more than four or five inches high. Our batteries were placed in front of a house on an eminence commanding the entire plain. About five o'clock in the afternoon the rebel General Magruder ordered his men to charge across the field and drive us from our position, and they came on at a full run. A murderous fire opened upon them from our breastworks and they fell by hundreds, but the line closed up and they pushed on till they had advanced two thirds of the distance across the field when our fire was so withering that they wavered and fell back to the cover of the woods. The effort to carry the position was twice again renewed but with the same results at the first attempt. The enemy was beaten badly and repulsed at every point. No attempt was made to charge upon our batteries after dark, but the artillery fighting on both sides was kept up till ten o'clock. The Second successfully held a dangerous and conspicuous position during the day.

The Mansion House at Malvern Hill, which was used as a hospital by the Union troops, stands on a hill some two hundred rods from the James river and fifteen miles from Richmond. It is a quaint edifice of the last century, built of red brick, with a lawn on which is a fine grove of ancient elms, and commands a beautiful view of the meanderings of the river for miles, as well as glimpses of waterbrooks, field and forest. It was standing in Tarleton's time and is said to have been marked on the map which accompanied the early English edition of his campaigns.

On reaching Harrison's Landing after the battle of Malvern Hill, Gen. Martindale was relieved of his command by court martial and was made military governor of Washington.

At Harrison's Landing they remained several weeks when finally, on its evacuation, they were ordered to join Gen. Pope, and Col.

Roberts temporarily assumed command of the First brigade, First division, Fifth army corps which included the Second. Marching across the Chickahominy near its mouth, or where it flows into the James river, they crossed to Williamsburg, thence down the Peninsula to Yorktown and Fortress Monroe, thence to Newport News, from whence they embarked for Acquia Creek where they disembarked and marched to Falmouth.

Major General Fitz John Porter issued a congratulatory order to his troops on the fifth of July eighteen hundred and sixty-two, on the perils through which they had so honorably passed and the success they had, by their valor, added to the glory of our arms; specifying the names of the battles which they were entitled to have inscribed on their colors and informed them that he had received assurances from the government at Washington that their efforts and successes had received its attention and earned both approval and reward and that this reward would be duly apportioned and bestowed as soon as time would allow.

On the eighth of July eighteen hundred and sixty-two, Capt. Tilden of Company B, was promoted to the Lieutenant Colonelcy of the Sixteenth Maine, then forming, and Lieut. Mudgett was promoted to the Captaincy of the Company. On the fourteenth of the same month Major Chaplin was discharged to enable him to accept the Colonelcy of the Eighteenth Maine which was then being raised. Capt. Sargent of Company G was promoted to fill the vacancy and Lieut. Getchell succeeded him as Captain.

On the twentieth of July eighteen hundred and sixty-two, Col. Roberts sent two of the regimental flags of the Second to the Mayor of Bangor, by the hand of Capt. Albion P. Wilson of Company F, for safe keeping until the return of the regiment. They had become too much soiled, worn and rent for further service. July twenty-eighth the effective strength of the Second had become reduced to two hundred and fifty-one rifles for duty but these were in fine spirits and condition.

Lieutenants John K. Skinner of Company C, who was taken prisoner at Bull Run, and Sumner R. Kittredge of Company D,

who was captured at Hall's Hill, while on picket, both of whom had been prisoners for more than a year, first at Richmond and afterwards at Salisbury, North Carolina, together with one hundred and sixty other Union prisoners arrived at Fortress Monroe, August eighteenth, having been liberated and left Salisbury on the eleventh.

At the battle of Groveton or Manassas, better known as the second Bull Run, August thirtieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, the action was commenced by the rebels opening their batteries upon our left between one and two o'clock in the afternoon. Their guns were advantageously and strongly posted upon a ridge while ours had to fire from the open plain. The First brigade First division of the Fifth corps, commanded by Col. Roberts, went into the battle at four o'clock and fought with great bravery and efficiency. The Colonel here had his horse shot under him but escaped unhurt. Lieut. Cowan of Company K, was killed by a piece of shell which struck him in the side; Major Sargent was wounded in the arm and Capt. Foss of Company K in the foot. During the fight, the enemy's Sharpshooters concealed in the woods, were a great annoyance to our forces. Our men charged on them and drove them from the woods. Our whole forces fought bravely during this engagement, but the enemy's position was too strong, and for lack of necessary support our forces were obliged to retire and the enemy remained on the field over night. The Second retired in good order in regular line of battle, led by Major Sargent, who, although seriously wounded, refused to yield the command. The regiment came out of the battle with but one hundred and thirty-seven men able to carry rifles.

The following night, under orders from Gen. Morell, the Second marched to Centreville where Col. Roberts resumed command of the regiment, and they were rejoined by Lieut. Col. Varney, on the march back to Washington, the third of September.

They moved from Centreville to Chain Bridge, then to Hall's Hill and Alexandria, and afterwards encamped on Arlington Heights where they remained only three days when they received

orders to march hastily to Maryland, leaving their extra clothing, blankets and knapsacks behind. The weather was very hot, and as the men had not rested since the Pope campaign, the hard march was too much for them and many broke down on the way. They were five days in marching from Arlington Heights to Antietam, not arriving in time to participate in the battle of South Mountain.

At the battle of Antietam, September seventeenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, the Second was under fire, but in the reserve, Gen. Porter's corps occupying a position on the east side of Antietam Creek, upon the main turnpike leading to Sharpsburgh, and directly opposite the centre of the enemy's line. This corps filled the interval between the right wing and Gen. Burnside's command, and guarded the main approach from the enemy's position to our supply trains. It was necessary to watch this part of our line with the utmost vigilance lest the enemy should take advantage of the first symptom of weakness here, to make a vigorous assault for the purpose of piercing our centre and turning our rear, as well as to capture or destroy our supplies. Once having penetrated this line, the enemy could have met but feeble resistance as there were no reserves to close up the gap.

After the battle they were on picket duty at Stone Bridge, and their skirmishers were among the first to enter Sharpsburgh after the enemy had left, and were in possession of the town before the Union cavalry arrived. Saturday morning, September twenty-first, the Second forded the Potomac at Shepherdstown, to reconnoitre the enemy's position, and were attacked by the enemy in large force and were obliged to retire, but got back across the river in safety. Privates Veazie and McLaughlin of company G, were slightly wounded, but were carried back and soon recovered. None were killed or missing during the movement. The regiment at this time numbered two hundred and five rifles, and had hardly pitched their tents since leaving Arlington Heights.

The regiment, attached to Porter's corps, remained encamped about six weeks at Sharpsburgh. On the twenty-second of Oc-



The Regimental battle flag, which bore the inscription: "Presented to the Second Maine Regiment by ladies of that State now residing in San Francisco. July 21st 1861."

tober they constructed a bridge across the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, capable of supporting artillery, preparatory to crossing the Potomac. They left Sharpsburgh on the first of November for Falmouth, marching by way of Harper's Ferry where, crossing the Potomac into Virginia, they proceeded to Falmouth by easy marches, though part of the time short of rations, and arrived there on the fourteenth.

The regiment was engaged in the battle of Fredericksburgh on the thirteenth of December, and behaved with its usual gallantry. Crossing the pontoon bridges on Saturday about noon, they marched through the city under a very heavy fire of artillery. Outside the town they formed in line of battle and were ordered to charge the rebel position which was very strong behind a stone wall and earthworks. Moving up over and down a hill, they came to a hollow where they were ordered to lie down and allow the enemy's fire to pass over them. In addition to the severe engagement with the enemy the regiment had to lie before the rebel breastworks twenty-six hours, exposed to the fire of their sharpshooters, being able to withdraw only under cover of the darkness at ten o'clock Monday night. It suffered heavily among the commissioned officers, ten being wounded, though but one of them—Lieut. Arthur C. Whitcomb of company F—fatally. Lieut. Col. Varney, commanding the regiment, was wounded slightly on the top of his head by a piece of shell, but was on duty the next day. The loss was about seventy out of the two hundred and fifty that went in.

Regimental colors presented to the Regiment by ladies of Bangor, May 14, 1861. These flags are now displayed in the Rotunda of the State Capitol, Augusta.



Col. Roberts tendered his resignation in the autumn of eighteen hundred and sixty-two, at a time when a commission as Brigadier General was being placed at his disposal; but on account of health impaired by unremitting and faithful service with his regiment, he felt that in justice to himself and family he ought to retire. He had never left his command after his departure from home for the seat of war. So reluctant was the government to part with his services that his resignation was not accepted till after he had renewed the expression of his unalterable purpose to decline further service, not only as Colonel but the proffered position as Brigadier General, and it was not till the tenth of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, that he received an honorable discharge, and then only by personal application to his brigade commander, as his resignation had been endorsed by Gens. Hooker and Butterfield, "Col. Roberts is a valuable officer and his services are indispensable."

On Sunday December twelfth, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, a beautiful flag was presented to the Second from the city of Bangor, by Col. J. W. Hathaway, agent for Maine soldiers at Washington. At twelve o'clock, meridian, Major Sargent gave notice that all was ready, and proceeded to the parade ground, where the regiment was formed in a hollow square, which Col. Hathaway entered and presented to the regiment, through Lieut. Col. Varney, an elegant regimental color, on which were beautifully embroidered in white silk, on the stripes of the flag, the

names of the battles which the commanding General had ordered to be inscribed on their colors.

On the thirtieth of March following, Col. Hathaway presented to the Mayor of Bangor the splendid though war-worn and battle-stained California flag, which was deposited in the archives of the city where it still remains.

On the fifth of February, Lieut. Col. Varney was promoted to the Colonelcy of the regiment, and Maj. Sargent was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel, leaving the Majorate vacant on account of the reduced condition of the regiment.

On the twenty-second of February, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, an order was issued from the Adjutant General's office, Washington, directing that the names of battles in which regiments and batteries had borne a meritorious part, should be inscribed on their colors or guidons. In accordance with this order the names of "Yorktown," "Hanover Court House," "Chickahominy" and "Malvern" were afterwards inscribed on the colors of the Second.

From this time till May, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, the Second was in camp at Falmouth and doing picket duty. Early in January it made a reconnaissance twenty-five miles up the Rappahannock, fording the river twice, and was gone two days. It had a very hard march and captured a few prisoners.

When Gen. Fitz John Porter was ordered to Washington, the Fifth corps was placed under Gen. Butterfield and afterwards under Gen. Meade. While stationed near Falmouth, on the twenty-second of April, the regiment was formed in a square, and a document from the War Department stating that its term of service would expire on the twenty-eighth proximo and that it would be discharged, was read to the men. The Second was attached to the Fifth corps then under Maj. Gen. Meade, and had participated in every action in which that organization had been engaged, and had lost heavily in battle.

At the battle of Chancellorsville on the second, third and fourth of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, the regiment was under fire the whole time, but the Fifth corps was not very much en-

gaged there. The whole corps lost about six hundred men. On Sunday morning, May third, Gen. Meade called for a regiment which could be depended on to hold a very exposed position about the centre of the line. Gen. Griffin commanding the division, pushed up the Second, which remained there from Sunday morning until Tuesday, exposed to the fire of the enemy's sharpshooters and batteries.

The regiment left camp early in the morning of Wednesday, May twentieth, and was escorted to the depot at Stoneman's Switch by the Eighteenth Massachusetts, Col. Hayes, who specially requested this privilege, and reaching Washington the same afternoon, embarked immediately on board the steamer Expounder, and on Sunday following reached Newport, Rhode Island, safely. Taking in coal at this place they left the same day for home. They experienced some uncomfortable weather on the voyage, but reached Bucksport about four o'clock on Tuesday morning, May twenty-sixth, where they were met by a delegation from the committee of arrangements and Col. Roberts, their old commander, who had in charge the old flags of the regiment, which torn and tattered, had been replaced by others. One of these was the one presented by the ladies of Bangor the morning the regiment left the city, another that presented by citizens of Maine in New York, and the third that presented by the ladies of San Francisco.

About ten o'clock the booming of cannon announced their arrival and people rushed in crowds to the steamboat wharf. The regiment disembarked, and escorted by militia and engine companies, with bands of music, marched to Broadway where an immense throng had assembled, filling the entire square. In the procession was the Adjutant General of the State with other dignitaries, and a company of discharged soldiers of the regiment under command of Captains Bartlett, Emerson and Wilson. All along the line the buildings were decorated, flags flying, and the shipping had put on its best suit. After speeches of welcome the men were marched to Norumbega Hall, where a bounteous collation had been provided. After this had been disposed of, speeches were

made by Adjutant General Hodsdon, Ex-Governor Washburn, Vice President Hamlin, Lewis Barker, Esq., Hon. F. A. Pike, Professor Harris and Col. Roberts, and original hymns were sung. The hall was splendidly decorated with flags and bunting and the names of the battles in which the regiment had participated. After the exercises were concluded the boys were dismissed to enjoy themselves as they were disposed. On the fourth and ninth of June the regiment was mustered out of service by Capt. Thomas C. J. Baily of the Seventeenth United States infantry. There were twelve hundred and twenty-eight men in all, mustered into the regiment during its term of service, of whom two hundred and seventy-five returned home and were mustered out, and one hundred and twenty who were mustered in for three years, were, when the term of the regiment expired, transferred to the Twentieth Maine.

The Second, during its two years term, saw an amount of service which would put to the blush many of the veteran troops of the old world. It was engaged in eleven bloody and hard-fought battles besides numerous skirmishes in which it invariably distinguished itself, and it never received a word of censure in any particular from the higher officers who from time to time were appointed over it. This was due in a great degree to the superiority of its officers. During all its trials, tedious marches and desperate battles, it never fainted, never faltered, never murmured, but scrupulously performed its duty, steadily and steadfastly upheld the old flag, and was ready to sacrifice life, if need be, to sustain the institutions of our government. It has a record second to no regiment which has ever been in the service, and the officers and men who were members of it, as well as the whole State, look back with satisfaction and pride upon its untarnished fame, while future generations will rise to bless the living and revere the memory of its noble dead.

After Col. Jameson's promotion to Brigadier General, he was assigned to the command of the First brigade of the Third (Ham-

ilton's, afterwards Kearney's,) division of the Third (Heintzelman's) corps. This brigade was composed of the Eighty-Seventh New York, the Fifty-Seventh, Sixty-Third and One Hundred and Fifth Pennsylvania regiments. With these he fought at Yorktown, Williamsburgh, Fair Oaks and in other battles. He was always brave even to rashness, and willing to lead where any dared to follow. Having a lively interest in the comfort of his men and always sharing their lot, he won their love and admiration, and they, glorying in their leader, followed him with a discipline of the heart.

He was the first to enter the enemy's works at Yorktown after their evacuation; and at Fair Oaks, riding out into the open field to rally his men, he was met by a volley from the enemy and his horse fell pierced with three bullets. In falling, the General's leg was caught under the animal, when some men of the Sixty-Third Pennsylvania came up and lifted the horse off and helped their leader away.

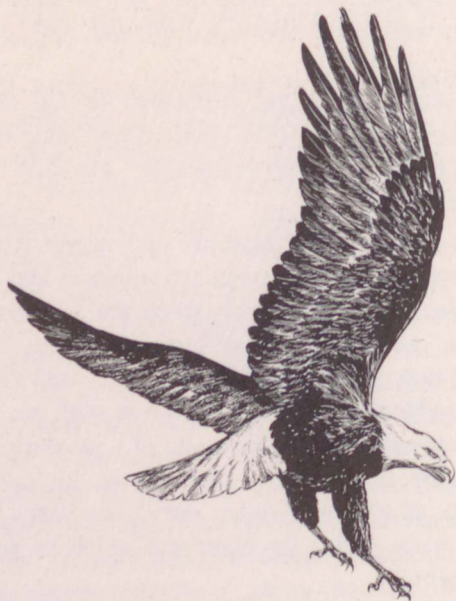
By hard and protracted labor and exposure, he fell sick of camp fever, and in September, eighteen hundred and sixty-two he was obliged to return home to recruit his health. He died on the sixth of November following.

Gen. Kearney who had a strong personal attachment for him, in a letter to Gov. Washburn in May, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, said that Gen. Jameson had "amply filled the full meed of anticipated distinction," and that on the fifth of that month, "forming the rear of the column on the march from camp, used vigor in bringing up his men under every difficulty and was with me under severe fire, when he arrived and gave guaranty of a resolution that promised success in case, daylight remaining to us, he had been launched to the attack of Fort Mifflin and those works which the enemy evacuated to us during the night and which he was the first to enter at daylight."

A leading journal closes a notice of our General in these words:—

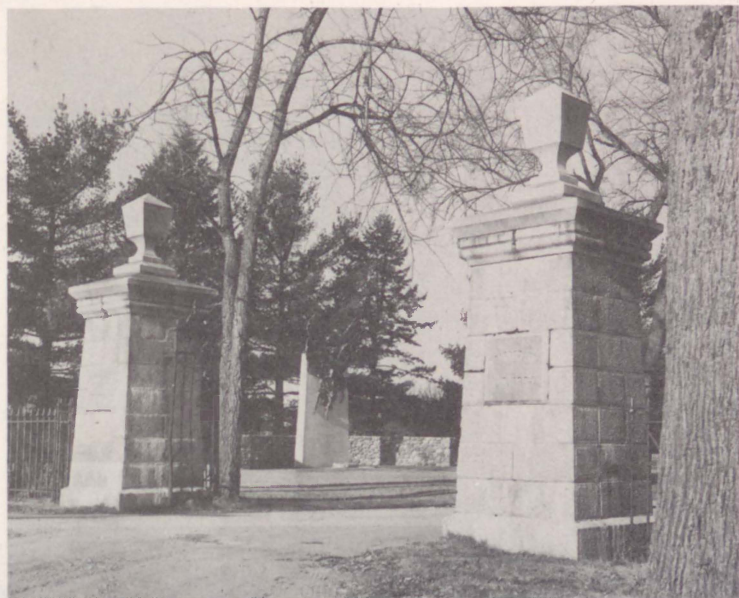
“Intrepid, enterprising, but withal judicious and full of resources, Gen. Jameson had before him the prospect of a most brilliant military career. He was one of the fighting Generals.

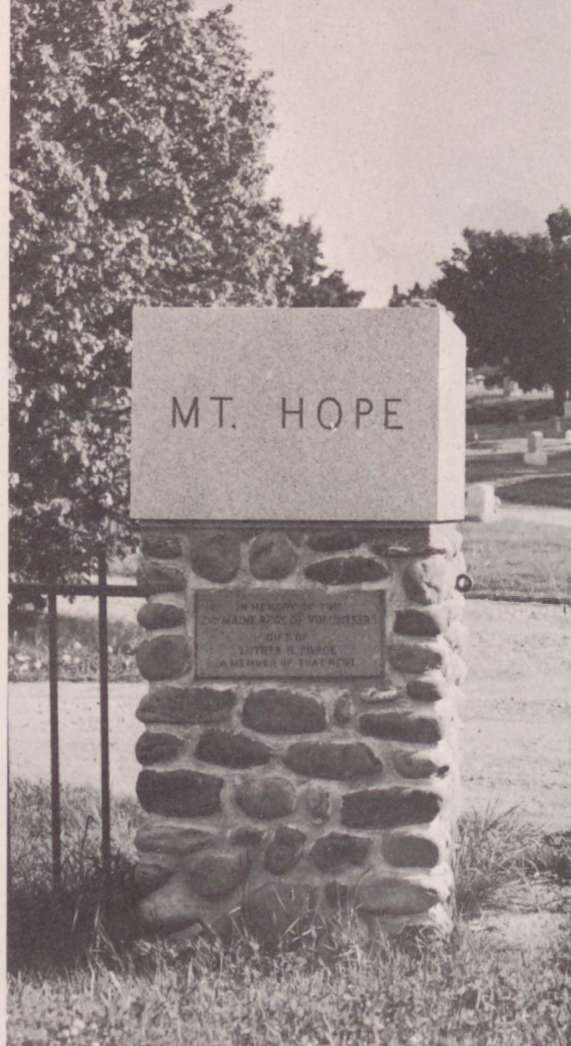
“As he, with others of the salvoed chiefs of fearless men who lately have left us—when we could have better spared others of another mould than theirs—as he, and Kearney and Stevens shall reach the shores of that dark river, made mournful by Cerberus’ ceaseless howl, the waiting hosts of the bravest dead of all the past will recognize their beaming blades, nor will they seek to dispute them place amid their front and foremost ranks.”





*Different views of the Luther H. Peirce
Memorial to the Second Maine Regiment
of Volunteers located near the Main Gate.*





*Second Maine Regiment
Memorial Gate and
Fence, Mt. Hope Avenue,
gift of Luther H. Peirce.*





The sculpture was designed by O. V. Shaffer and was fabricated in his studio at Beloit, Wis., and brought to Bangor and erected by him, on the setting which he also designed.

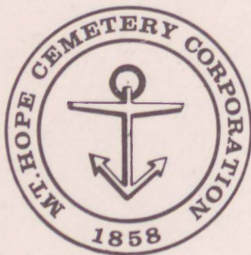
The preliminary design of the memorial and fence was begun in 1961 and construction was completed in 1963.

Mr. Shaffer is a graduate of Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin, and holds the MA degree from Michigan State University. From 1955 to 1961 he was director of the Wright Art Center in Beloit. Since that time he has been self employed as an artist, maintaining his studio in Beloit.

Other examples of his art are a bronze sculpture for the entrance of the Madison, Wisconsin, Public Library; a bronze sculpture for the courtyard of the Rockford, Illinois, Presbyterian Church; three pair of hammered copper doors for the First Mission Church of Rockford, Illinois; a bronze sculpture for the patio of the Beloit College Library; and small pieces for individual collectors.

"I tried in this sculpture not to design just another heroic war memorial but at the same time wanted to show that heroism existed but not without pain. The face and the figure show pain and yet the wings express glory. I hope I have succeeded."

The inscription "Not Painlessly Doth God Recast and Mould Anew The Nation" is from one of John Greenleaf Whittier's anti-slavery poems entitled "Ein Feste Burg Ist Unser Gott" (Luther's Hymn).



The memorial to the Second Maine Regiment of Volunteers was commissioned and this commemorative booklet was prepared by the Executive Committee of Mt. Hope Cemetery Corporation:

*Charles F. Bragg, 2nd,
Chairman*

Donald J. Eames

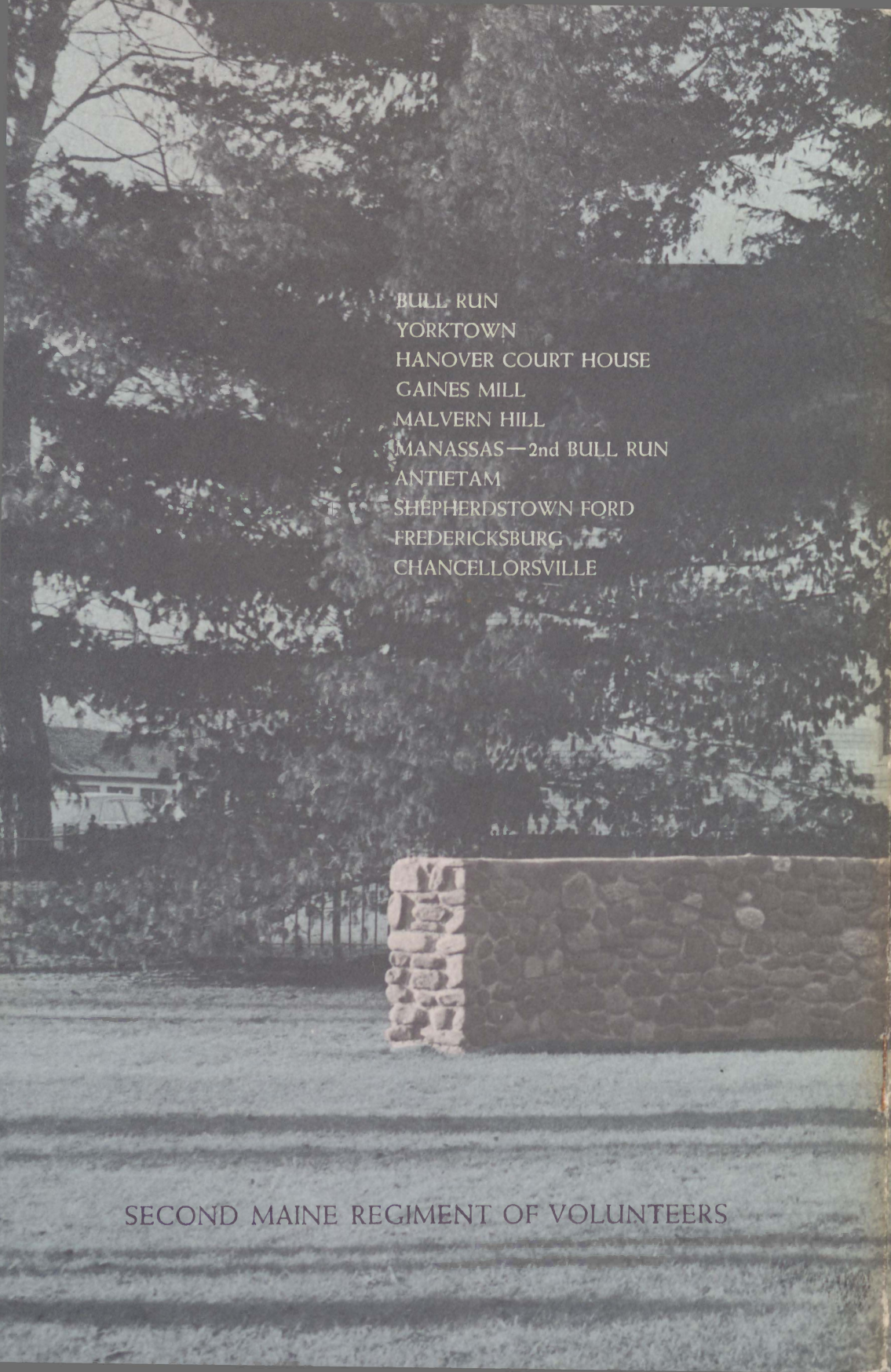
Franklin W. Eaton

Charles V. Lord

Donald S. Higgins

The installation of the memorial was planned and directed by F. S. Howatt, Superintendent of Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Printed in Bangor, Maine, 1968



BULL RUN
YORKTOWN
HANOVER COURT HOUSE
GAINES MILL
MALVERN HILL
MANASSAS—2nd BULL RUN
ANTIETAM
SHEPHERDSTOWN FORD
FREDERICKSBURG
CHANCELLORSVILLE

SECOND MAINE REGIMENT OF VOLUNTEERS