

THE
SIXTH UNITED STATES INFANTRY.

A HISTORICAL SKETCH

WRITTEN FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JOURNAL OF THE
MILITARY SERVICE INSTITUTION, IN COMPLIANCE WITH
INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER SIXTH
INFANTRY ISSUED PURSUANT TO A LETTER FROM THE
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY.

BY

CHARLES BRYNE,
1ST LIEUTENANT AND ADJUTANT SIXTH U.S. INFANTRY.

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The first mention of the Sixth Infantry is found in the Acts of Congress of July 16, 1798, and March 3, 1799.

The roster for August 1, 1799, gives as its senior officer, with rank of lieutenant colonel and commandant, James Read of North Carolina, who was appointed on April 24, 1799.

There were two majors, Alexander D. Moore and William Brickall, both from North Carolina, ten captains, six first lieutenants, ten second lieutenants, and a surgeon.

Of the thirty officers constituting the commissioned strength on this date, twenty seven were appointed from North Carolina and three from Tennessee, and orders from the War Department of Jan. 5, 1800, direct that this regiment be recruited in North Carolina; but on June 15 following we find it disbanded under the Act of May 14, 1800.

April 12, 1808, should be considered the birth day of the present Sixth Infantry. For under the Act of Congress of that date the Regiment was organized, and it has since then been continuously in service.

Its first colonel was Jonas Simonds, appointed from Pennsylvania on July 8, 1808, and his name with those of Joseph Constant, lieutenant colonel from New York, and Zebulan M. Pike, major from New Jersey, and the names of ten captains, ten first lieutenants, ten second lieutenants, nine ensigns, one surgeon, and one surgeon's mate, appear in the commissioned roster of the Regiment for Jan., 1809.

During the war of 1812-15 the Sixth Infantry took part in the battles of Heights of Queenstown, U.C., 13th Oct., 1812; York, U.C., 27th April, 1813; Fort George, U.C., 27th May, 1813; and the siege of Plattsburgh, N.Y., 6th to 11th Sept., 1814.

Captain George Nelson, whose name appears as the fifth ranking first lieutenant on the list of officers for 1809, was killed in the assault on Queenstown Heights, Oct. 13, 1812. First Lieutenant George W. Runk was mortally wounded at Plattsburgh, Sept. 7, 1814, and died on the following day.

No other casualties seem to have occurred among the officers during this war, and prior thereto the only recorded deaths are those of Captain John T. Gently who died Oct. 20, 1809, and 1st Lieutenant John Stewart who was killed in a duel during January 1812.

March 1, 1815, found Colonel Jonas Simonds still at the head of the Regiment; but, in the reduction of the army of that year under the Act of March 3, 1815, the Sixth was re-organized, and consolidated with the 11th, 25th, 27th, 29th, and 37th, Regiments of Infantry, and Colonel Henry Atkinson of the 37th was retained as its Colonel.

In regimental orders dated Fort Lewis, N.Y., Aug. 27 1815, Colonel Atkinson "assumes the command of the Sixth Regiment of Infantry, which the President of the United States has been pleased to confide to his care. In entering upon his duty he is not unconscious of the importance and responsibility of the charge; but he embraces it with confidence, relying as he does upon the aid which he will derive from the ability and experience of his field and staff and platoon officers, as well as upon the good character of the troops composing the regiment."

On Sept, 4th the Regiment embarked at Fort Lewis for Governor's Island, N.Y., where it arrived the following day and remained until April 16, 1816, when it left on transports for Troy enroute to Plattsburgh, N.Y., where it arrived on the 30th.

The year 1817 found the Sixth Infantry under its colonel at Plattsburgh, where it remained until the spring of 1819.

The following extract from division orders describes the nature of the service the Regiment performed during this period and shows its high standing as an organization:

"HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN DIVISION,

Brownville, 8th Oct., 1818.

"DIVISION ORDERS:

"The Major General having completed the review of the troops, and examination of the posts in the eastern section of his command, cannot conceal the gratification that has been connected with the performance of this part of his duty. In activity of labor upon public works and discipline as well as police and drill, and in readiness to obey the call and justify the expectations of the country, he is convinced that the troops he has lately inspected are not to be surpassed.

"The Sixth Regiment of Infantry was found employed on the fortifications at Rouse's Point, and although devoted exclusively to labor for the previous three months, its appearance conformed to the high reputation it has always sustained.

"The labor of the troops of this corps has been of high and important character.

"The country at large is indebted to them for their activity in fortifying one of the most important avenues, and the formation of the road from Plattsburgh to Chateaugay will be a service of long and grateful remembrance to the district where they have been stationed.

"The Commanding General is gratified to state that these important services have been rendered without the least deterioration of their excellence as soldiers.

* * * * *

BY ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL BROWN:

(Signed)

R.M. HARRISON,

Aid. de Camp."

The Regiment left Plattsburgh for Cantonement Greenbush on March 19, 1819, with the women and children and baggage of Officers and men on transport sleighs.

At Albany the following order was issued:

"ALBANY, March 29, 1819.

"DETACHMENT ORDERS:

"The Colonel being ordered to Washington City on duty connected with his command, the 6th Regiment and the detachment of the 6th at Greenbush will move by water transport so soon as the Hudson becomes navigable below this place to New Brunswick, New Jersey, under the orders of Lieut. Col. Snelling, and from thence it is to be marched by him by the nearest and best road to Pittsburgh, where the Colonel will himself join the detachment.

"Lieut. Colonel Snelling will take the necessary means to insure that land transportation be in readiness for the detachment on its arrival at New Brunswick.

(Signed)

H. ATKINSON,

Colonel 6th Infantry."

It arrived at New Brunswick April 8, and was at Carlisle Barracks from the 18th to the 22d and in camp at Tinker's Run, twenty miles from Pittsburgh, by the 30th.

Orders were issued at camp near Pittsburgh, May 8, for the embarkation of the Regiment on transport boats for St. Louis.

The boats were numbered from 1 to 10, and followed each other in that order. They were propelled by cars and sails, and there was a regular system of signals provided in orders for their government.

This fleet of boats with the Sixth Infantry on board was off Cincinnati May 15, 1819. So that more than seventy three years ago the Regiment passed down the Ohio under the shadow of the Kentucky hills where Fort Thomas is now so beautifully situated.

On June 8, it left the transports and went into camp at Belle Fontaine, Missouri.

The following is an extract from orders issued by Col. Atkinson as commander of the Ninth Military Department, Headquarters, St. Louis, Mo. June 8, 1819.

"In closing this order the Colonel commanding avails himself of this occasion to express his entire satisfaction of the conduct of the Sixth Regiment during a long and fatiguing march from Plattsburgh.

"The facility with which it has moved has exceeded the expectations of the Department of War, and of the Commanding General, and will form a bright era in the character of the corps. But though so much has been done there still remains further duty to close the march. The Council Bluffs are yet to be reached, and every officer and man must be ready to move at a short notice to accomplish the object. The regiment will be transported in steamboats to that point where permanent arrangements will be made for its accommodation.

"The Council Bluffs are situated in the finest climate and district of country in America, and may be justly esteemed the most desirable post on the Continent."

The Regiment awaited supplies and transportation at Belle Fontaine until July 4, when it embarked for Council Bluffs on the Steamboats Jefferson, Expedition, and Johnson, under the immediate command of Major Gad Humphreys, Colonel Atkinson accompanying the expedition as commander of the Ninth Military Department. It reached Camp Missouri near Council Bluffs in September. Colonel Atkinson in a private letter says:

"We were greatly retarded by the steamboats, which formed a part of our transportation, not being able to navigate the Missouri with any facility. There were three, neither of which reached any given point. One ascended only one hundred and fifty miles, another three hundred and fifty, and the third four hundred and fifty, the cargoes of all having afterwards to be carried up in keel boats.

"Those difficulties of course kept back the progress of the troops, as it would not have done to have proceeded and left our supplies unprotected, and it was besides necessary to have them to subsist on. Notwithstanding all the embarrassments, we reached Council Bluffs, a point seven hundred miles above the mouth of the river on the first of October. Here from the vicinity of several powerful tribes of Indians it became necessary to establish a post. The troops were landed and put to work to cover themselves for the winter and erect the necessary defences, all of which were completed in season, and we remained contented with the prospect of sending one of the regiments to the mouth of Yellowstone early in the Spring. The Rifle Regiment, which was stationed at a point four hundred and fifty miles up the Missouri was joined to my command.

This was known as the Yellowstone Expedition of 1819; but as Congress the following winter declared against the expediency of its further progress, the expedition terminated at Council Bluffs. Colonel Atkinson adds:

"As the troops were halted at the Bluffs our military duties consisted in looking after the conduct and movements of the Indians, and maintaining proper discipline. Much idle time of course, might have expended, but instead of indulging in it we turned our attention to farming and raising stock."

On May 13, 1820, Colonel Atkinson was promoted to the grade of brigadier general, and was succeeded by Colonel Ninan Pinkney, promoted from the 2d Infantry.

The following Session of Congress the Army was reduced, and under the Act of March 2, The Sixth was again reorganized by consolidation with the Rifle Regiment of Fort Atkinson (Council Bluffs), May 4, 1821; and General Atkinson was retained as Colonel of the Sixth Infantry with the rank of brigadier general, filling the vacancy made by the transfer of Colonel Pinkney to 3d Infantry, August 16, 1821.

The following is an extract from Orders No. 32, Headquarters West Department, Major General Gaines commanding, dated Fort Atkinson, Febt. 30, 1822.

"The Commanding General having completed the inspection of the Sixth Regiment, the position it occupies, with the public property with which it is charged, takes great pleasure in publishing to the troops of his department the assurance of his highest approbation of the conduct of of the officers and men of the regiment generally, and tendering his acknowledgments particularly to the General, the Colonel, Brevet Major Ketchum, and other officers lately in command, for the conducive evidence they have exhibited of the practicability of uniting upon a large scale the valuable operation of agriculture with the primary duties incident to a peace establishment.

"This important and heretofore doubtful point has been completely settled, and the fact fully exemplified by the Sixth Regiment, that pursuits of agriculture and military science may be accordingly combined without any destruction of the military character of the troops. As this regiment has proved itself to be equal in every movement and every branch of military duty to the best drilled battalion the Commanding General has seen in his Department.

* * * * *

"That so much labor should have been performed by the troops at this place, and that they should at the same time not only retain their military character but in fact improve as they doubtless have improved in the acquirement of military knowledge under the new system to which their attention has been directed, is as novel as it is interesting and cannot but secure to every officer and man the approbation of our country.

"The buildings constructed by the troops consist of four blocks of hewed log barracks comprehending eighty eight rooms with shingle roof, plank floor, and a brick chimney to each; with a strong magazine, and the best kind of wooden store-houses, of ample size, for the quartermaster's and subsistence departments; a saw mill, capable of sawing fifteen hundred feet of plank per day; and a grist mill that will grind one hundred and fifty bushels per day."

The land under cultivation was estimated at five hundred and six acres. General Atkinson writes on December 13, 1822:---

"The first season we made twelve thousand bushels of corn, the second fifteen thousand, and the third twenty thousand, besides more potatoes and all sorts of garden vegetables than can be destroyed. We have a stock of three hundred cattle and the troops have the milk of a hundred cows. We have a saw and grist mill, and I think in another year we shall subsist ourselves without drawing upon the interior."

The Sixth Infantry thus built the first United States fort west of the Missouri River, and started the earliest settlement in Nebraska. Fort Atkinson was afterwards known as Fort Calhoun, in honor of John C. Calhoun Secretary of War. It was situated on the original Council Bluffs, about twenty miles distant from the present city of that name and about sixteen miles from the site of Omaha. The nearest settlements were St. Louis on the south, Prairie Du Chien on the east, and the Fort of the Hudson Bay Company at Vancouver, in the north-west.

While the Sixth was at Fort Atkinson in June, 1823, it was led by its lieutenant colonel, Henry Leavenworth, to the relief of General Ashley's party, which had been attacked by and was in imminent danger from the Arikara Indians. Lieutenant Colonel Leavenworth in writing to General Atkinson, then absent from the post says:

"We shall take two six pounders and several swivels and perhaps a howitzer. My party will be about two hundred strong in rank and file. If necessary it is expected that we can raise a considerable auxiliary force among the Sioux. We shall do all we can to support the honor of your regiment, and hope with the blessings of kind Heaven to meet approbation of our superiors and of our country. We go to secure the lives and property of our citizens and chastise those who have committed outrages upon them."

The expedition resulted in the defeat of the Indians and the destruction of their villages, and the Adjutant General in acknowledging to the Department Commander the receipt of the detailed report of the operations of Colonel Leavenworth's command, says:

"These papers have been submitted to the General in Chief who directs me to express to you his high satisfaction with the success of the expedition and his approbation of the conduct of Colonel Leavenworth and his officers, to whom he desires you to convey his thanks for the zeal and activity which they have displayed upon this occasion."

The Regiment remained at Fort Atkinson until April 22, 1827, when a battalion composed of Companies A, B, D, G, and K, commanded by Captain and Brevet Major Daniel Ketchum, embarked on the transport boats Racoon, Elk, Otter, and Beaver, enroute to Jefferson Barracks, where it arrived and went into camp on May 17. The remainder of the regiment including Headquarters under Lieutenant Colonel A. R. Woolley commenced the descent of the Missouri. The flotilla consisted of the transport boats Grenadier, Montgomery, Waterwitch, and Elk, Storeboat Mink, and Barges Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. At Camp Leavenworth the transport boat Grenadier, Store-boat Mink, and Barges 4 and 5, were turned in to the Quartermaster's Department, and the command continuing the descent of the river arrived June 22, at the camp at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

The orders for the government of the Flotilla enroute from Fort Atkinson are models of their kind, and in their clear and explicit provisions for every possible contingency reflect the soldierly qualities of the commanding officer.

After the return of the Regiment from Fort Atkinson in 1827, it was established at Jefferson Barracks with part of the 3d Infantry, and the post was regarded as the Infantry School of Practice of that day. The Famous old Regimental Mess originated about this time and lasted for more than twenty years, until after the return from Mexico in 1848.

General Atkinson, the Colonel of the Sixth Infantry, was the first commandant of Jefferson Barracks.

In May 1829, Companies A, B, F, and H, under Captain and Brevet Major Bennet Riley, were detached from the Regiment at Jefferson Barracks to escort the overland traders to Santa Fe, and on their return in the fall they took post at Fort Leavenworth.

On June 19, 1830 Brevet 2d Lieutenant Charles O. May was killed in a duel at Jefferson Barracks by Brevet 2d Lieutenant James H. Wright. The former was from Vermont, and latter from South Carolina. Both came to the Regiment from West Point July 1, 1829.

The story is that there was a very beautiful young lady, Miss Louisa Bullett, exceedingly attractive, a great belle and a great coquette. Many of the young officers were madly in love with her, among others Lieutenants May and Wright. They were jealous of each other, a quarrel ensued and a challenge passed. Matters were arranged, and a meeting took place which resulted in the death of May.

Lieutenant Wright died about two months afterward.

The companies at Fort Leavenworth returned to Headquarters in December, 1831, and the Regiment was again concentrated at Jefferson Barracks, preparatory to taking the field against the Sac and Fox Indians in the Black Hawk War. By June, 1832, it had reached Dixon's Ferry and was actively engaged in the campaign conducted by its colonel as Commander of the Frontier Forces of the North West.

On Aug. 2d General Atkinson's Army of which the Sixth under Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Baker formed a large part of the Regular Brigade, came up with Black Hawk at the junction of the Bad Axe and Mississippi Rivers, and immediately attacked him. The battle lasted about three hours. The Indians fought with desperation, but were defeated and dispersed, suffering a loss of about two hundred killed and wounded.*

This action was the finishing stroke of the war, and Black Hawk, deserted by his followers, soon after surrendered to the Agent at Prairie Du Chien. General Atkinson, in orders, expressed his approbation of the brave conduct of the troops engaged, referring to the fact that the Regular troops among others were from their position in order of battle more immediately in conflict with the enemy. The orders in this case were signed, as A.D. C.

* Indian Wars of the United States.---Wm V. Moore.

and acting Assistant Adjutant General, by Albert Sidney Johnston, then a second lieutenant in the Sixth Infantry and Adjutant of the Regiment--killed while in command of the Confederate Army at Shiloh.

Regimental orders of September 7, 1832, appoint as Adjutant of the Sixth Infantry 2d Lieutenant Philip St. George Cook, who afterwards entered the dragoons and in 1861 became a brigadier general.

On October 2d the Regiment arrived at Jefferson Barracks.

From Dec. 1832 until Aug. 1834, Companies A, B, F and H, were stationed at Fort Leavenworth, the Headquarters and six companies remaining at Jefferson Barracks, where the entire regiment was concentrated in September 1834.

The Regiment left Jefferson Barracks on February 29, 1836, enroute to Louisiana. It arrived at Natchitoches, La., by detachments on the 6th and 8th of March and encamped near that place. For want of Transportation the march had to be continued by detachments, the last company arriving at Fort Jessup.

By April 17th the Regiment was concentrated at Camp Sabine, Louisiana, with the exception of Company G which joined from Fort Jessup on June 5th. By November 30th Companies C, C and E, were at Fort Worth, La., I and K at Camp Sabine, and the remainder with Headquarters at Fort Jessup.

The Sixth Infantry was now under order for Florida, destined to be the field of its greatest glory. The Headquarters with Companies A, B, F, G, H, I, and K, left Fort Jessup Dec. 19 arrived at New Orleans on Jan 16, 1837, and sent to take station at Camp Sabine, Louisiana, where they arrived the 27th,

On February 28th the Regiment, excepting the three companies at Camp Sabine, was at Fort Dade, East Florida.

By November 14, the Headquarters with Companies A, B, F, G, H, I, and K, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander R. Thompson Commanding, had arrived at Fort Taylor.

The Sixth, excepting Companies C, D, and E, under its lieutenant colonel was now part of a swparate column commanded by Colonel Zachary Taylor of the 1st Infantry.

All hopes of bringing the war to a close by negotiation through the mediation of the Cherokee delegation being at an end, and the Indians having announced their determination to fight it out to the last, Colonel Taylor on December 19th recieved orders to proceed with the least possible delay against any portion of the enemy he might hear of within striking distance, and to destroy or capture him.

After leaving an adequate force for the protection of his depot, he started with twelve days rations with the balance of his command, consisting of Captain Munroe's company of the fourth Artillery, thirty-five men; the First Infantry, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Foster, two hundred and seventy-four; the Sixth Infantry under Lieutenant Colonel Thompson, two hundred and twenty-one; pioneers, thirty; pontoneers, thirteen; and seventy Delaware Indians; making a force exclusive of officers, of eitht hundred and seventy menn.

It was known that the Indians were retreating in a body south, and would be obliged to betake themselves to the Everglades or maintain their ground by an obstinate resistance.

On Dec. 25, 1837, Colonel Taylor's army came upon the enemy strongly posted in a dense hammock, perfectly concealed, and confident of victory. Their number has been variously estimated up to seven hundred.

The only approach led through a swamp knee deep in mud and water, covered with saw grass five feet high, and perfectly swept by the enemy's fire. The engagement was brought on by Morgan's spies and the volunteers under Gentry. These troops moved gallantly forward, exposed to a heavy fire, which, accompanied by infernal yells, was poured in upon them from the trees tops and from every thicket and concealment.

Colonel Gentry fell mortally wounded; his men began to stagger, and finally seized with a panic, broke and fled in wild disorder.

After referring to the repulse of the repulse of the volunteers, and the failure fo repeated efforts to bring them again into action, Colonel Taylor, in his detailed report of the battle of Okee-cho-bee, says:

"The enemy, however were promptly checked and driven back by the 4th and 6th Infantry, which in truth might be said to be a moving battery.

"The wight of the enemy's fire was principally concentrated on five companies of the 6th Infantry, which not only stood firm, but continued to advance until their gallant commander, Lieutenant Colonel Thompson, and the Adjutant Lieutenant Center, were killed and every

officer with one exception, as well as most of the non-commissioned officers, including the Sergeant Major and four of the orderly Sergeants, killed and wounded of those companies, when that portion of the regiment retired to a short distance and were again formed, one of these companies having but four members left untouched."

He refers to the two remaining companies of the 6th Infantry under Captain Noel being engaged and continuing to drive the enemy in conjunction with other troops, and to the enemy being pursued by the 1st, 4th and 6th until near night, and until the troops were nearly exhausted, and the enemy driven in all directions. Colonel Taylor continues:

"I am not sufficient master of words to express my admiration of the gallantry and steadiness of the officers and soldiers of the Sixth Regiment of Infantry. It was their fortune to bear the brunt of the battle. The report of the killed and wounded, which accompanies this, is more conclusive evidence of their merits than anything I can say. After five companies of this regiment, against which the enemy directed the most deadly fire, were nearly cut up, there being only four men left uninjured in one of them: and every officer and orderly sergeant of those companies, with one exception, were either killed or wounded; Captain Noel, with the remaining two companies, his own company K, and Crossman's, B, commanded by Second Lieutenant Woods, which was left of the regiment, formed on the right of the Fourth Infantry, entered the hammock with that regiment and continued the fight and the pursuit until its termination.

"It is due to Captain Andrews and Lieutenant Walker, to say they commanded two of the five companies mentioned above, and they continued to direct them, until they were both severely wounded and carried from the field; the latter received three separate balls."

He speaks in complimentary terms of 1st Lieutenant George H. Griffin, 6th Infantry, on his personal staff and an Aide-de-Camp to Major General Gaines and a volunteer from his staff in Florida, referring to his promptness and efficiency in sustaining him, and to his good conduct and alacrity in conveying orders during the action of the 25th December.

Colonel Taylor continues:

"It is due to his rank and talents, as well as to his long and important services, that I particularly mention Lieutenant Colonel A. R. Thompson, of the Sixth Infantry, who fell in the discharge of his duty, at the head of his regiment. He was in feeble health brought on by exposure to his climate during the past summer, refusing to leave the country while his regiment continued in it. Although he received two balls from the fire of the enemy early in the action, which wounded him severely, yet he appeared to disregard them, and continued to give his orders with the same coolness that he would have done had his regiment been under review or on any parade duty. Advancing, he received a third ball, which at once deprived him of life. His last words were: 'Keep steady, men, charge the hammock--remember the regiment to which you belong.'

"Captain Van Swearingen, Lieutenant Brooke, and Lieutenant and Adjutant Center, of the same regiment, who fell on that day, had no superiors of their years in service, and in point of chivalry ranked among the first in the army or nation."

The most important chiefs participated in this affair, Alligator says there were engaged in the action three hundred and eighty warriors. Many were posted in trees, enveloped in moss so as not to be discovered. Others were behind large trees which had been notched to provide rests for their rifles. The Indians probably suffered equally with the troops, as they left ten dead on the ground besides doubtless carrying off more.

As has been said by Colonel Taylor, the most conclusive evidence of the glorious record of the gallant Sixth on that bloody Christmas of 1837, is the official list of those who fell killed and wounded in the action.

Return of the Killed and Wounded at the Battle of Okee-cho-bee:--

REGIMENTS & CORPS	COMMANDED BY	KILLED		WOUNDED	
		OFFI- CERS	MEH	OFFI- CERS	MEH
Regulars.					
1st Infantry.....	Lieut. Col. Davenport..	.....	.....	.....	4
4th Infantry.....	Lieut. Col. Foster.....	.....	3	1	18
6th Infantry.....	Lieut. Col. Thompson...	4	16	2	53
Mounted 4th Infantry...	Captain Allen.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Volunteers.					
Missouri Volunteers....	Colonel Gentry.....	1	1	3	22
Spies.....	Lieut. Colonel Morgan..	.....	2	3	4
Indians.....	Captain Parks.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL.....		5	22	9	102

Of the Sixth Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander R. Thompson was wounded in three places before he fell. The first ball passed through the abdomen to the left, the second in the right breast, and the last through the chin and neck evidently shot from a tree. He fell in a sitting posture, uttering as he died the memorable words quoted in Colonel Taylor's report.

Captain J. Van Swearingen was shot in advance of his company, in the lower part of the neck. When passing to the rear he raised both hands to his head, fell flat on his face, and expired instantly. Lieutenant and Adjutant J. P. Center was shot through the head from a tree, and expired on the spot. First Lieutenant E. J. Brooke was shot through the heart. Sergeant Major Henry Sleephack was mortally wounded, and died Dec. 27.*

*Taylor's Report, Return of Killed and Wounded, and other details as to the Battle of Okee-cho-bee.--Sprague's Origin. Progress, and Conclusion of the Florida War, and Montgomery's Life of Taylor.

The conflict was one of the fiercest and most fatal of the whole war, and so dispirited and weakened the Indians that they were never after able to collect a sufficient force to openly resist the government.

The thanks of the President of the United States were tendered Colonel Taylor and the officers, non-commissioned officers, and troops of the regular army, for the discipline and bravery displayed by them on the occasion of this battle.

On April 25, 1838, Lieutenant Colonel John Fowle, Jr., who had succeeded Lieutenant Colonel Thompson, was killed by the explosion of a steamboat, and Major John Green, 5th Infantry, then in command of the District West of the Suwannee, became Lieutenant Colonel of the Sixth.

In May Companies C, D, and E, which had remained until this time at Camp Sabine, La., joined the forces serving in East Florida, and by November the whole of the Regiment was in middle Florida under the command of Captain William Hoffman.

During this period and until the close of hostilities, the Sixth was employed by company or detachment at small posts and camps, scouting and marching; seeking the wily foe in dense hammocks and never breeding swamps; and bravely suffering the incomparable hardships incident to that most trying of our Indian Wars.

On May 2, 1839, 2d Lieutenant William Hulbert and several men were waylaid and killed by Indians near Fort F. Brooke.

Company I, under 1st Lieutenant Samuel Woods and 2d Lieutenant Lewis A. Armstead, had an engagement with the Indians at Fort Andrews on Aug. 29, 1839, in which one sergeant and one private were killed.

On July 13, 1840, two men of Company D were killed by Indians near Fort Pleasant.

On September 21 Lieutenant Colonel John Green died. He was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Gustavus Loomis promoted from the 2d Infantry.

The Sixth Infantry remained in Florida until after the restoration of peace when it was sent north on Transports via New Orleans.

By March 20, 1842, the entire regiment was again at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. It had left behind, killed in action, or dead from wounds and diseases ten officers and one hundred and twenty-nine enlisted men, including the sergeant Major, quartermaster sergeant, eight sergeants and seven corporals.

On April 16th the Regiment left Jefferson Barracks for Fort Towson, C. N., where the last company arrived May 14.

In July news was received of the death of Brevet Brigadier General Henry Atkinson, commanding Department No. 1, Western Division, which occurred at his headquarters at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., on June 14, 1842.

This distinguished officer was the colonel of the Sixth Infantry for more than twenty-six years.

General Atkinson was succeeded by Colonel William Davenport, promoted from the 1st Infantry.

January, 1843, found the Headquarters, and Companies B, I, and K, still at Fort Towson; Companies A, E, G, and H. at Fort Gibson; C at Fort Washita; and D and F at Fort Smith, Ark. On February 25 the Headquarters arrived at Fort Gibson, having left Fort Towson the 6th.

On July 7, 1843, Colonel Davenport effected a transfer of regiments with Colonel and Brevet Brigadier General Zachary Taylor. The former returned to the First, and latter, afterwards the hero of Buena Vista and Monterey, and President of the United States, became colonel of the Sixth Infantry. General Taylor was then at Fort Smith, Arkansas, in command of the 2d Military Department.

In September the Headquarters of the Regiment returned to Fort Towson, and remained there until December. On Dec. 20 the Headquarters and Companies A, E, G, and H, were at Fort Gibson, C. N.; B, C, I, and K, at Fort Towson; and D and F at Fort Smith.

On June 21, 1844, the Headquarters were established at Fort Smith.

On the regimental return for July of this year, Brevet 2d Lieutenant Winfield S. Hancock, who in after years became so eminent as a Major General, and as the Democratic candidate for President of the United States, is reported as "gained by appointment from the Military Academy."

On January 20, 1845, the Headquarters returned to Fort Towson. In November Companies I and K were sent from Fort Towson to Fort Washita, where they arrived the 26th.

The Headquarters left Fort Towson March 16, 1846, and arrived at Fort Gibson the 28; left Fort Gibson for the disturbed district, Cherokee Nation, April 30, and returned May 26th.

The declaration of war with Mexico, May 13, 1846, found the Headquarters of the Sixth Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel Loomis commanding, and Companies A, E, G, and H, at Fort Gibson; Companies B and C at Fort Towson; I and K at Fort Washita; and D and F at Fort Smith.

General Zachary Taylor, the Colonel of the Regiment, as commander of the Army of Occupation, had defeated the Mexicans at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, and received the brevet of Major General for his gallant conduct and distinguished service in these battles; when, on June 29, 1846, he ceased to be an officer of the Sixth Infantry by promotion to the grade of Major General. He was succeeded by Colonel Newman S. Clarke, promoted from the 8th Infantry.

By October 1st Companies C, D, and E, had reached the Rio Grand and joined the forces under Taylor.

The Headquarters with Companies A and F from the North, and C, D, and H, transferred from Taylor's command, joined the Army at Vera Cruz in March, 1847; and by July the entire regiment, with the exception of Company G left at Fort Gibson and Company I left at Fort Washita, were at Puebla, Mexico, with the Army under General Scott.

Companies G and I remained in the United States during the Mexican War, and should be understood as not included in the strength of the Regiment when reference is made thereto in connection with the battles and incidents of this campaign.

The Sixth Infantry left Puebla with General Worth's Division August 9, and taking part at Contreras was before the enemy's works at San Antonio on the 19, turned his three batteries and was warmly engaged in the battle of Churubusco on the 20th.

To quote from Ripley's History of the Mexican War:

"As Bravo made a precipitate retreat through difficult and marshy ground, Worth determined to neglect the fugitives in that direction and to push on by the causeway. Lincoln's guns were ordered forwarded and Garland's brigade was united with the 8th Infantry.

But the Sixth and Fifth Regiments had pursued on along the road in pursuit of the retreating enemy, the Sixth being in advance, as it had formed on the left of the Fifth when the latter had engaged the Mexican flank. Worth moved on with the greater portion of his troops, and overtook the fifth before it came under fire; but the Sixth, having passed rapidly forward beyond supporting distance, had become warmly engaged, and the battle of Churubusco had commenced.

"The Army which Santa Anna had led back from San Angel was forming along the River Churubusco, and in the cornfields to its north. Other large bodies of troops of the line and a few pieces of artillery were in march from the city, while the cavalry was moving along the road north of the tete du pont to a position in rear, to hold itself in reserve. Of the guns which Bravo had sent from San Antonio, three had arrived at the tete du pont. One thirty-two pounder broke down on the road, and was siezed by the Sixth Infantry in its advance. The whole train of amunition wagons being exceedingly heavy and unwieldy, had stalled on coming to the entrance of the fortification, blocking up the road for a considerable distance in its front, and partially obstructing the fire from the embrasures.

"But although much confusion existed, yet the Mexican troops were formidable from their overwhelming numbers and the strength of their position; and they were by no means deficient in nerve nor did they show any disinclination for the battle.

"Santa Anna, assisted by a crowd of general officers strove to form his line, and with some success; but, while things were in this state the small battalion of the Sixth Infantry came boldly forward, though irregularly and in confusion. The leading companies being gallantly led, from very rashness would, in all probability, have entered the tete du pont, had not Rincon's troops opened a terrific fire of cannon and musketry from the convent.

"The distance was great for musketry, being over three hundred and fifty yards; but the Mexican position was elevated, and, with the enormous cartridges furnished to Mexican soldiers, the bullets were easily sent to the road; without accurate aim, it is sure, but in heavy rolling volleys, and with deadly force.

"In the tete du point a portion of the battalion of San Patricio, composed of deserters from the American Army, was engaged in getting the three guns in the work into battery, while many Mexicans lined the parapet and poured volleys of musketry down the road.

"The Artillery soon opened raking the causeway; and, being without support or definite orders, the Sixth staggered for a time, the rear became separated from the front, and the regiment was finally ordered by its major to break, fall back, and re-form behind the houses of the village, which it had passed in its advance.

"With the exception of a party under Captain Walker, which had extended to the right, and remained in the vicinity of the enemy, the regiment obeyed the order; but its advance had a most beneficial effect upon the after events of the action.

"It had forced the Mexican Army to commence the battle in a measure unprepared, had prevented the securing the large ammunition train from San Antonio, and with these must be counted the moral effect of the rapid attack upon the Mexican main army immediately after the retreat from San Angel, and Bravo's rout from San Antonio.

"While Pillow was marching from Coyacan upon the hacienda of San Antonio in obedience to his original orders from General Scott, the fire commenced from the convent of Churubusco upon the Sixth Infantry, and soon after upon Twigg's troops.

"The march was at once hastened in the direction of the causeway, for the noise of the conflict about the convent showed at once that the main Mexican force was on the left, and that the battle was to be fought there.

"Upon coming in sight of the causeway, a party of troops were observed moving south, through the village of Churubusco. It was at first mistaken for a Mexican corps; but the colors of the Sixth In-

fantry were soon observed, and seeing that strong resistance had been encountered in that direction, Pillow inclined strongly to his left, increased the pace of the column, and moved at a double quick upon the village. ** * * *

"Along the causeway the irrigating canal was too wide and too deep to admit of an immediate passage, and the troops were delayed for a short while in filling it up. In this work parties of the Sixth joined, and in a few minutes Cadwalader's brigade was upon the causeway, effecting a junction with the main body of Worth's division. * * *

"The battle was then raging fiercely about the convent, and Worth and Pillow determined to fall on and carry the Mexican positions immediately in their front.

"The 11th under Lieutenant Colonel Graham advanced on the road in the direction of the tete du pont, until it crossed the ditch on the left and took post in the cornfields in front of the Mexican line between the two works. The 14th soon followed in support, and crossed at the same point.

"The movement was observed by the enemy, and the troops were soon subjected to a severe cross fire, under which they were ordered to lie down while the officers advanced to reconnoiter.

"While these events were taking place, a battalion of the Sixth Infantry had re-formed, and soon after was ordered to assault the tete du pont directly along the road. Captain Hoffman led it forward with gallant bravery, and officers and men followed nobly.

"But the Mexicans in the work, whose attention had been given to the troops advancing through the corn on either flank, seeing this direct assault, turned all their guns upon it, which enfilading the road, made dreadful havoc. Some of the men recoiled under the stern stroke of the artillery; but the general officers were by their side, and a few words of reproof and encouragement sent them back to their places. With a shout they again followed their officers in the advance; but the direct assault was impracticable and Worth shouted to Hoffman to incline to the right into the corn, to operate with the main body of the division in that quarter. There, next the causeway, the Fifth and Eighth had become engaged. They had advanced on the right of the road, and had been saved much of the loss which had befallen the Sixth. * * * *

"The battle had raged for more than two hours from the time it was first opened by the Sixth Infantry, when the Mexicans first gave way in front of the American right, and fled through the cornfields in their rear toward the city.

"A party of American troops of different regiments, principally of the Second Artillery and Sixth Infantry, was led on by its officers past the left of the tete du pont, crossed the River Churubusco, and presented itself in threatening position in rear of the work.

"The other troops came up, those on the right closed in, and, rushing through wet ditches, waist deep, over the parapets and into the work, the American troops carried it in a crowd."

Captains William Hoffman and W. H. Walker and 1st Lieutenant Lewis A. Armistead, of the Sixth Infantry, with the Colors of the Regiment, were among those who rushed forward in the advance and finally carried the tete du pont.

General Clarke, Colonel Sixth Infantry, was wounded in this action while in command of the brigade. After Churubusco the Sixth was concentrated at Tacubaya.

On Sept. 8 the brilliant battle of Moline del Rey was fought. To quote from Wilcox's History of the Mexican War:

"The Sixth and Eight Regiments of Infantry were ordered by General Worth over to the right, and reached the intersection of the roads at the north end of Molino del Rey as the flour mill was being taken, supported by the 4th, they formed at the junction of the two roads, and as the enemy again advanced opened an artillery and infantry fire, and repulsed and followed him in the direction of Chapultepec.

"The storming party at the Mills was divided into five companies each of one hundred men; the details from the 2d and 3d Artillery united formed one company, commanded by 1st Lieutenant M. L. Shackelford with Lieutenant C. B. Daniels, both mortally wounded. The 1st Infantry under Captain W. H. T. Walker, 6th Infantry, and Lieutenant G. O. Haller, 4th Infantry, one company, the former severely wounded. The 5th Infantry under Captain M. E. Merrill with Lieutenant J. F. Farry, 3d Artillery, one company, both killed. The 10th Infantry under Captain A. Cady, with 2d Lieutenant M. Maloney, 4th Infantry, one company, the former wounded.

"The 8th Infantry under Captain J. V. Bomford with Lieutenant J. G. S. Snelling, one company, the latter severely wounded.

"With the storming party were Captain Mason and Lieutenant Foster, Engineer Corps, both of whom were severely wounded; and including the Engineer officers, there were fourteen officers with the storming party, twelve of whom were killed or wounded."

In describing the attack, Ripley says:

"Wright promptly advanced his party in line in the direction indicated.

"Upon nearing the enemy's position, all doubts as to the resistance to be encountered were dispelled at once. The battery whose location had been changed during the night, opened heavily upon the flank of the party with round and grape, cutting down officers and men in frightful rapidity.

"The charge was ordered, and the noble soldiers, bringing down their muskets, rushed straight at the battery.

"Of the fourteen officers who went into action with the command, eleven soon fell dead or disabled and with them a large number of the rank and file. In scattered parties those unhurt kept up the fire, but the command as a body was broken and fell away from the battery.

"The Mexican infantry soldiers rushed forward and re-occupied it. They murdered every wounded man left on the ground except Captain Walker of the Sixth Infantry and one Private, both desperately wounded, and both doubtless believed to be dead."

In after years, Captain Walker as a major General in the Confederate Army, was killed near Atlanta, July 22, 1864.

The battle of Chapultepec followed on Sept. 13th. To quote from Ripley:

"Worth ordered Colonel Clarke's brigade to advance, and that corps came rapidly forward. Pillow ordered them to be posted on the slope of the hill for shelter. The 8th and 5th and a party of the Sixth went up the ascent.

"The Sixth was, however, ordered around the northern base of the rock, to cut up the fugitives from the castle; for the Mexican garrison was already shaken by the near approach and many were attempting to make good their escape.

"The Mexican artillery fire having been silenced, the troops most in advance had only been awaiting the ladders to make the last attack. When they were brought up parties from different corps, moving quickly forward over the rugged though short space between the crest of the hill and the ditch leaped in, and at once planted ladders. Lieutenant Armistead, of the storming party, led the way, and as the ladders were raised, Lieutenant Selden first mounted to scale the walls."

Chapultepec was captured, and the next day Scott's army entered the City of Mexico.

Lieutenant Armistead of the Sixth Infantry, the first to leap into the ditch, is the same who as a brigadier general in the Confederate Army commanded one of the three brigades of Pickett's division in the immortal charge at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, and led his men through that terrific storm of battle until he fell mortally wounded within the Federal lines.

Ripley Continues:

"The campaign which had been commenced by the advance from Puebla was brought to a close by the capture and occupancy of the City of Mexico. The little army of 10,500 men which had taken the field on the 7 of August, after having been diminished by sickness and the casualties of battle more than one-third of its effective members, on the 14 of September was within the enemy's capital triumphant.

"It had marched from Puebla to Mexico, had turned the capital and presented itself in the rear, and had won the city in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco."

Of the officers of the Sixth Infantry who took part in the campaign, Colonel and Brevet Brigadier General Newman S. Clarke, Major Benjamin L. E. Bonneville, Captain William Hoffman, 1st Lieutenant John D. Bacon, 1st Lieutenant Thomas Hendrickson, and 2d Lieutenant Simon B. Buckner, were wounded at Churubusco; Captain Albemarle Cady, Captain William H. T. Walker, and 2d Lieutenant Rudolph F. Ernst, were wounded at Molino del Rey; and 1st Lieutenant Lewis A. Armistead was wounded at Chapultepec.

Lieutenant Ernst died of his wounds in the City of Mexico on Sept. 22, 1847.

Lieutenant Bacon died of his wounds on Oct. 12, 1847.

Of the rank and file the Regiment lost in killed and wounded at Churubusco ninety-one, at Molino del Rey and Chapultepec seventy-two.

During the sojourn in Mexico one hundred and twenty-five deaths occurred among the enlisted men from ordinary diseases.

Among the many officers of the Sixth who received brevets for their conduct in this was 2d Lieutenant Winfield S. Hancock, brevetted 1st Lieutenant for Contreras and Churubusco.

2d Lieutenant Simon B. Buckner, afterwards a lieutenant general in the Confederate service and later Governor of Kentucky, was given the brevets of 1st Lieutenant and Captain.

After the occupation of the City of Mexico in September, the Regiment remained quartered there until January, 1848, when it was moved to Toluca. The month of June found it concentrated at Jalapa, Mexico, preparatory to leaving for the United States.

In July the Regiment embarked on the Steamer Illinois enroute to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., where it arrived the 28.

By July 31 the Sixth, with the exception of Companies G and I at Gibson and Washita, where they had remained during the war, was concentrated at Jefferson Barracks awaiting distribution.

About this time the old Regimental Mess which dated from 1827 was discontinued and its property sold. The glassware made in Pittsburgh was about the first of its kind produced in this country. The silver was manufactured in Philadelphia, and the crockery bore the regimental mark and was of the best quality.

By September the Headquarters with Companies B and F were at Fort Crawford, Wis., Companies A and K at Fort Snelling, Iowa, C at Fort Atkinson, Iowa, E at Crow Wing, I. T., G at Fort Gibson, H at Fort Scott, Mo., and I at Fort Washita.

December 31 found the Headquarters at St. Louis, Mo., Company D at Jefferson Barracks, Companies A, E, and K, at Fort Snelling, B and F at Fort Crawford, C at Fort Atkinson, G and I at Fort Leavenworth, and H at Fort Scott.

On May 16, 1849, General Clarke, the Colonel of the Regiment, was placed in command of the 6th Military Department with headquarters at St. Louis.

On Oct. 1, 1849, 1st Lieutenant Winfield S. Hancock, who had been Quartermaster since 1847, was appointed Adjutant of the Regiment.

The Headquarters in October were at Fort Snelling, but returned to St. Louis by Dec. 31 and on May 1, 1851, moved to Jefferson Barracks.

The Companies scattered over the frontier in garrison and in the field and changing from post to post, were stationed during the period from 1851 to 58, from time to time, at Jefferson Barracks, Forts Gains, Scott, Snelling, Kearney, Laramie, Atkinson, Dodge, Leavenworth, Riley, Ridgley, and Pierre.

On Aug. 29, 1854, Brevet 2d Lieutenant John L. Grattan, 6th Infantry, and thirty men of Company G were killed by Indians near Fort Laramie. The affair is known as the "Grattan Massacre."

A party of Mormons enroute to Salt Lake City having officially reported to the commanding officer of Fort Laramie that the Sioux had stolen one of their cows, and refused to give it up; Lieutenant Grattan was sent with thirty men of Company G and a mountain howitzer, to demand restoration of the stolen property.

This was the last seen of Grattan and his men alive, and the facts of the massacre as related have been gathered from statements of the Indians.

Having reached his destination Lieutenant Grattan made his demand of the Indians and then despite their warning trained his howitzer upon them and prepared to fire.

The Indians, watching the pulling of the lanyard, avoided the shot by falling to the ground as the piece was discharged, and rushing upon the troops overpowered them and killed every man.

On July 20, 1855, the Headquarters were moved from Jefferson Barracks to St. Louis.

On Sept. 3 a battalion of the Regiment composed of companies A, E, H, I, and K, under the command of Major Albemarle Cady, 6th Infantry, took part in the affair with the Sioux on the Blue Water known as the battle of Ash Hollow.

Writing to the Adjutant General from his camp on Blue Water Creek N. T., under date of September, 1855, General Harney says:

"I have the honor to report for the information of the General in Chief that, on my arrival at Ash Hollow on the evening of the 2d instant, I ascertained that a large portion of the Brule band of the Sioux nation under Little Thunder was encamped on Blue Water Creek (Mee-nah-to-wah-pah) about six miles northwest of Ash Hollow, and four from the left bank of the North Platte. * * *

"I ordered Lieutenant Colonel P. St. George Cook, 2d Dragoons, with Companies E and K of the same regiment, Light Company G, 4th Artillery, and Company M, 10th Infantry, all mounted, to move at 3 o'clock, A. M., on the 3rd inst. and secure a position which would cut off the retreat of the Indians to the San Buttes, the reported stronghold of the Brules.

"At half past four o'clock, A. M., I left my camp with Companies A, E, H, I, and K, 6th Infantry, under the immediate command of Major Cady, of that regiment, and proceeded toward the principal village of the Brules with a view to attacking it openly, in concert with a surprise contemplated through the cavalry. But, before reaching it, the lodges were struck, and their occupants commenced a rapid retreat up the valley of the Blue Water, precisely in the direction from whence I expected the mounted troops. They halted short of these, however, and a parley ensued between their chief and myself.

"Not being able, of course, however willing he might have been, to deliver up all the butchers of our people, Little Thunder returned to his band to warn them of my decision, and to prepare them for the contest that must follow.

"Immediately after his disappearance from my view I ordered the Infantry to advance, the leading company (Captain Todd's) as skirmishers, supported by Company H, 6th Infantry (under Lieutenant McCleary), the remaining companies of the 6th being held in hand for ulterior movements.

"The skirmishers, under Captain Todd, opened their fire, crowned the bluffs, on the right bank of the stream (where the Indians had taken up their last position) in a very spirited and gallant manner, driving the savages therefrom into the snare laid for them by the cavalry, which last troops burst upon them so suddenly and so unexpectedly as to cause them to cross, instead of ascending the valley of the Blue Water, and seek an escape by the only avenue now open to them through the bluffs of the left bank of the stream. But, although they availed themselves of this outlet for escape from complete capture, they did not do so without serious molestation, for the infantry not only took them in flank, with their long range rifles, but the cavalry made a most spirited charge upon their opposite or left flank and rear, pursuing them for five or six miles, killed a large number of them, and completely dispersed the whole party.

"This brilliant charge of the cavalry was supported, as far as practicable, by the whole body of the infantry, who were eager from the first for a fray with the butchers of their comrades of Lieutenant Grattan's party.

"The results of the affair were eighty-six killed, five wounded, about seventy women and children captured, fifty mules and ponies taken, besides an indefinite number killed and disabled. The amount of provisions and camp equipage must have comprised nearly all the enemy possessed, for teams have been constantly engaged in bringing into camp everything of value to the troops, and much has been destroyed on the ground.

"The casualties of the command amount to four killed, four severely wounded, and one missing, supposed to be killed or captured by the enemy.

"With regard to the officers and troops of my command I have never seen a finer military spirit displayed generally; and if there has been any material difference in the services they have rendered, it must be measured chiefly by the opportunity they had for distinction.

"Lieutenant Colonel Cook and Major Cady, commanders of the mounted and foot forces, respectively, carried out my instructions to them with signal alacrity, zeal, and intelligence.

"The company commanders whose position, either in the engagement or in the pursuit, brought them in closest contact with the enemy, were Captain Todd of the 6th Infantry, Captain Steele and Lieutenant Robertson of the 2d Bragoons, and Captain Heath, 10th Infantry. * *

"Brevet Major Woods, Captain Wharton, and Lieutenant Patterson, of the 6th Infantry, with their companies, rendered effective service as reserves and supports, taking an active share in the combat when circumstances would permit.

"There are also in the possession of officers and others in camp the scalps of two white females, and remnants of clothing, etc., carried off by the Indians in the Grattan Massacre; all of which, in my judgement, sufficiently characterizes the people I have had to deal with." * * * *

Thus Grattan and his men were avenged by their comrades of the Sixth.

General Clarke was relieved from the command of the Department of the West July 1, 1856, and the Headquarters of the Regiment moved to Jefferson Barracks. They were at Fort Leavenworth Oct, 11, and on the 14 were at Lecompton, K. T.

By Nov. 25, the Headquarters were again at Fort Leavenworth.

On March 19, 1857, General Clarke, the colonel of the Regiment, was placed in command of the Department of the Pacific.

On June 30, the Headquarters were moved to Fort Riley, but were again at Fort Leavenworth by July 25.

During July and August, 1857, Companies C, D, and G, Captain William S. Ketchum commanding, took an active part in the expedition against the Cheyennes commanded by Colonel Sumner, 1st Cavalry, experiencing unusual hardships.

On July 6 with six companies of cavalry and four mountain howitzers, with pack mules for transportation, they crossed the Platte River, and proceeded in the direction of the Republican and South Fork. On the 29 the cavalry in advance met a body of some four hundred Indians, and an engagement occurred in which the mounted troops had one killed and seven wounded.

After the affair Company C, Captain Rensselaer W. Foote and 2d Lieutenant John McCleary, remained with the wounded, sick and disabled and threw up a breast work called Fort Floyd.

Companies D and G, Captain William S. Ketchum 1st Lieutenant William P. Carlin, and 2d Lieutenant Orlando H. Moore, marched with the command in pursuit of the Indians.

The duty required of the companies of the Regiment on this campaign, in keeping up and co-operating with the cavalry, was especially trying in its forced marches and deprivations.

Companies C and D in returning suffered particularly. The former left Fort Floyd on August 8, after having been constantly harassed by the Indians, and finally reached Fort Kearney about the 21, much wearied and broken down, having been out of rations some eighteen days.

From Aug. 2 to the 19 Company D had nothing but fresh beef for food, the rations with this exception having been exhausted.

The men suffered much, and many were bare-footed, and otherwise destitute of clothing.

In January, 1858, the Headquarters, with Companies A, E, D, G, H, and K, were at Camp Bateman near Fort Leavenworth, Companies B and C were at Fort Laramie, F at Fort Riley, and I at Fort Kearney.

The Sixth was now preparing for its grand march across the continent from Fort Leavenworth to the Pacific Ocean.

On March 18, Companies E and H left camp Bateman as part of the escort to the supply train for the Army in Utah. The escort being under the command of Major William Hoffman, 6th Infantry. The Headquarters and Companies A, D, H, and K, changed from Camp Bateman to Camp Thompson near Fort Leavenworth on April 29. Companies B and C left Fort Laramie, N. T., for Utah, April 24, and arrived at La Bonita Creek on the 29 and 30, where they joined forces with E and H marching from Camp on Platte River.

The Headquarters and Companies A, D, G, and K, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel George Andrews, left Camp Thompson enroute to Utah May 7, and reached Camp No. 21, Platte River, on the 31, having marched during that period 302 miles. Companies B, C, E, and H, marched from La Bonita Creek May 10, arriving at Camp on Sweetwater River, fifteen miles east of South Pass, on the 31. Company F left Fort Riley May 8, joined Headquarters at Fort Kearney the 25, and reached Camp No. 21 on the 31. Company I left Fort Kearney on the 28 with the Headquarters of the Regiment

4. The Headquarters with Companies A, D, F, G, I, and K, arrived at Camp No. 45 on Flint's Creek June 30, having marched 409 miles during the month. Companies B and C arrived at Camp Fifteen miles south of Salt Lake City June 29, and E and H arrived at Fort Bridger on the 8. The Headquarters with companies A, D, F, G, I, and K, arrived at Camp No. 62, on Black's Fork of Green River, July 31, having marched during the month 217 miles. Companies B and C arrived at Camp Floyd, thirty-five miles south of Salt Lake City on July 7.

The Headquarters with companies A, D, F, G, I, and K, arrived at Fort Bridger August 6, where they were joined on the 15 by B and C from Fort Floyd. Companies E and H were relieved from garrison duty at Fort Bridger on the 16 and encamped in the vicinity of the post.

The Regiment left Camp near Fort Bridger Aug. 21, arriving at Camp No. 10, Bear River, enroute to Benicia, California, on the 31. It reached Camp No. 34 on the Humboldt River, Sept. 30, having marched during the month 433 miles.

The Regiment arrived at Camp No. 59 on Pea Vine Hill, California, Oct. 30, marching during the month 303 miles. It left this camp November 1 and arrived at camp near Benicia Barracks, California, on the 15, marching 145 miles.

The total distance marched by the Sixth Infantry from Fort Bridger to Benicia Barracks was 1017 miles.

The Regiment during this march was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel George Andrews, with Major William Hoffman, second in command.

From Benicia Barracks the Sixth was distributed among different posts and stations in the Department of the Pacific.

By January, 1859, the Headquarters and Companies E and H were at the Presidio, A at Benicia Barracks, B at Fort Humboldt, C and I at Benicia Depot, D at Fort Weller, Cal., E and K at Camp Banning near San Bernardino, Cal., and G at New San Diego, Cal. Companies C and I left Benicia Depot on the steamer Uncle Sam, arriving in San Francisco harbor Feb. 9. Company G left New San Diego and embarked on the Steamer Uncle Sam, Feb. 19. Companies E and K left Camp Banning near San Bernardino enroute to the Colorado River, Feb. 14, arriving at Camp No. 15 (Cook's Wells) on the 23.

These companies were destined for the Mohave Country, and the Movement was known as the Colorado or Mohave Expedition, and was commanded by Major William Hoffman, 6th Infantry.

By July the Headquarters and Company H were at Benicia Barracks, A, at Red Bluffs, Cal., B at Fort Humboldt, C and K enroute to Fort Yuma, Cal., D at Fort Weller, E at Camp Prentiss, F and I at Fort Mohave, N. M., and G at New San Diego, Cal.

On Aug. 5 Captain Lewis A. Armistead with a command consisting of twenty-five men of his own company, and twenty-five men of company I under 1st Lieutenant Eliza W. Marshall, attacked and defeated the Mohave Indians in an engagement near a lagoon twelve miles below Fort Mohave.

Over two hundred Indians are supposed to have taken part in the affair and twenty-three were found dead on the field.

The only casualties among the troops were three privates of Company I slightly wounded.

On Dec. 2 1st Lieutenant Darius D. Clarke died at Fort Yuma.

The companies of the Regiment during this period were constantly employed changing from post to post, scouting, marching, and operating by company and detachments against the Indians.

In January, 1860, the Headquarters and Companies A and H were at Benicia Barracks, B at Fort Humboldt, C, E, and F, at Fort Yuma, D at Fort Bragg, and G, I, and K, at New San Diego.

Company A, Captain Franklin F. Flint commanding, left Benicia Barracks May 14 and arrived at Truckee River, U. T., three hundred miles distant, on the 31, and on June 2 had an engagement with the Indians in which one private was severely wounded.

On June 5, 1st Lieutenant Winfield J. Hancock vacated his commission in the Regiment. He had been on detached service as Captain and Assistant Quartermaster since November, 1855.

1st Lieutenant Silas P. Higgins died at Fort Yuma on July 18.

On Oct. 17, 1860, the Colonel of the Regiment, Brevet Brigadier General Newman J. Clarke, died at San Francisco while in command of the Department of California. He was succeeded by Colonel Washington Seawell, promoted from the 8th Infantry.

Colonel Seawell joined the Regiment at Benicia Barracks on March 8, 1861.

On April 2, a detachment of thirty enlisted men of Company B, 6th Infantry, under the command of 1st Lieutenant Joseph B. Collins, 4th Infantry, left Fort Humboldt, on a scout in the Bald Hills, Cal. They were engaged with the "Hostiles" on the 14 and 15 near Mad River about fifty miles from the post.

The Indians lost on the first day between fifteen and twenty killed, and on the second day five killed and three wounded. The only casualty among the troops was one man wounded.

The great War of the Rebellion was now in progress, and the summons had crossed the continent for the Sixth to hurry eastward.

Several of its best and bravest officers, honest in a mistaken construction of the Constitution and true to their convictions as to duty under it, had tendered their resignations and given themselves to the Fatal Cause. But the rank and file with unhesitating fealty stood by the old flag, and remained, to a man, on the side of the North.

The Headquarters with Companies E, G, and K, left Benicia Barracks, Cal., Oct. 21, 1861; arrived the same day at San Francisco and embarked on the Steamship Orizaba, enroute to New York.

Companies A and H from Fort Churchill, Nevada, and B from Fort Seward Cal., arrived at San Francisco Nov. 20, and embarked on the Steamship Uncle Sam for Panama on the 21. Companies C, F, and I, from Fort Yuma arrived at New San Diego Nov. 18, and by the 23 were aboard the Uncle Sam with A and H.

The Headquarters and Companies E, G, and K, arrived at New York Nov. 15, and left on the 16 for Washington City, D. C., arriving there the 17.

Companies A, B, C, F, H, and I, left the Uncle Sam Dec. 7, crossed the Isthmus of Panama the same day and embarked on the Cahmpion, arriving at New York the 17 and reaching Washington on the 19.

Company D from Fort Bragg left Mendocino City Nov. 30, arrived at Alcatraz Island, San Francisco Harbor, Dec. 11, and embarked on the Steamer Golden Gate for Panama, where it arrived on the 25, crossed the Isthmus to Aspinwall and embarked on the Steamer Northern Light for New York the same day. Company D reached New York Jan. 4, 1862, and joined the Regiment at Washington on the 6.

By January 31 the entire regiment was concentrated at Washington City under the command of Colonel Washington Seawell.

Colonel Seawell retired from active service on Feb. 20, 1862. He was succeeded by Colonel Electus Backus, promoted from the 3d Infantry.

The Regiment left Washington City on March 10, 1862, for service in the field, as part of Syke's Brigade of Regulars, and arrived in the vicinity of Fairfax Court House, Va., on the 11, where it remained in camp until the 15, when it proceeded to Alexandria, Va., and on the 26 with Major Henry W. Wessles in command embarked on the Steamer Hero for Fortress Monroe, where it arrived the 28 and disembarked and reached camp near Hampton, Va., the same day.

The Regiment left Camp near Hampton, Va., April 4, for Yorktown arriving in its vicinity on the 5. It moved to Camp Winfield Scott on the 12, and from that date participated in the siege and operations which preceded the evacuation of Yorktown by the enemy on May 4.

Captain Thomas Hendrickson commanded the Regiment from April 24 to May 6 when he was relieved by Major Wessels, who having been appointed Brigadier General of Volunteers turned over the command again to Captain Hendrickson on the 20.

The Regiment left Camp Winfield Scott on the 9, and advancing via Williamsburg, Cumberland Landing, White House, and Old Harbor, arrived at Camp Lovell near Gaines' Mill, Va., on the 26.

It was sent on the 28 to support the troops engaged at Hanover Court House, returning to Camp Lovell the 29.

Colonel Electus Backus died at Detroit, Michigan, on June 7, 1862, and was succeeded by Colonel Hannibal Day, promoted from the 2d Infantry.

The Regiment was mainly employed on picket duty along the Chickahominy until June 26, when it was sent to re-enforce a portion of Mc Call's Division of Fitz John Porter's Corps which was engaged with the enemy at Mechanicsville. It arrived close to the scene of conflict late in the evening, but took no part in the action, and the next morning was ordered to fall back towards Gaines' Mill and await the attack of the enemy, who was advancing in force. The battle commenced about noon on the 27.

During the earlier stages the 5th New York and a South Carolina regiment had to no purpose repeatedly attacked each other. Colonel Warren about 3 o'clock in the afternoon asked the Division Commander for the Sixth Infantry, and formed it in front of and perpendicular to the line of the 5th New York and 7th Infantry, facing the open space over which the former and the South Carolina Regiment had been charging and countercharging. The arrangement was that the 5th New York should repeat its charge, and on being countercharged the Sixth was to take the Confederate Regiment in flank. The Sixth Infantry had hardly taken position when those in command saw the uselessness of such work, which according to Warren's graphic words was "only covering the ground with dead men," and the Regiment received orders to simply hold its position in the woods, which it did until about sun set when the Federal Lines, flanked at both extremities, gave way.

As the Regiment's position was in advance of the first line and in the woods that status of affairs was not at once apparent, but a few moments under heavy canister fire sufficed to clear up matters, and, crossing a small bridge, the Sixth in disarray passed to the rear between two of the enemy's skirmish lines, and re-formed on the ridge occupied by Generals French and Maegher.

Later in the evening the Regiment moved into the valley of the Chickahominy, and early on the morning of the 28 crossed that stream. The bridge was destroyed after the passage of the Sixth Infantry, the last troops to leave the field.

In this action Captain Rensselaer W. Foote who entered the Regiment as a 2d Lieutenant Nov. 1, 1838, was killed, and 1st Lieutenants Henry A. F. Worth and Daniel D. Lynn were wounded. Captain Thomas Hendrickson, commanding the Regiment, had his horse killed under him. Of the enlisted men five were killed and sixty-one wounded. Among the latter was 1st Sergeant Thomas Britton, who having entered the Regiment as an unknown recruit Dec. 22, 1848, was destined to reflect honor upon it as a commissioned officer, through his promotion later on to the grade of 2d Lieutenant. An advancement thrust upon him by the officers of the Regiment, who had been impressed with his sterling worth and conspicuous courage on the field of battle.

Retreating with the army towards the James River the Sixth arrived at Malvern Hill on the 30, and in the battle on July 2 formed the extreme left of the line; but being part of the reserve the Regiment was not engaged. It remained on the field until a late hour of the night, captured three prisoners, and early next morning fell back to Harrison's Landing.

During the day 2d Lieutenant Jeremiah P. Schindel, while separated from the Regiment with a few men, exhibited personal bravery and coolness under fire to a marked degree.

Captain Hendrickson having been promoted, Captain Levi C. Bootes assumed command of the Regiment on July 12.

The Sixth Infantry left Harrison's landing Aug. 14 for Newport News where it arrived on the 19. and Aug. 21 embarked on the Steamer Montreal for Aquia Creek, arriving there the 22 and proceeding the same day to near Fredericksburgh, where it remained in camp until the 24 when it took up the line of march to join General Pope's command.

The Regiment arrived at Manassas via Warrenton Junction on the 29, and participated in the battle of Bull Run on the 30. It occupied a position about the center of the line, near the Warrenton Turnpike, from early in the forenoon until near 5 o'clock, P.M., and falling back with the Army bivouacked that night at Centerville.

Six enlisted men of the Regiment were killed in this battle; and 2d Lieutenants Charles M. Payne, Abram W. Bickley, and Jeremiah P. Schindel, and twenty-five enlisted men, were wounded.

The Regiment left Centerville Sept. 2, and passing through Fairfax crossed the Potomac by the Chain Bridge, and camped at Rockville, Md., on the 7, where it remained until the 11, when it took the march through Frederick City and Middleton, arriving at Antietam Creek on the 15.

The Sixth was on Picket duty during the battle of the 17.

On the 19 the Regiment proceeded to Nolan's Ford on the Potomac near Sharpsburgh, crossed into Virginia and had a skirmish with the enemy on the 20, and finding him in force re-crossed in obedience to orders and encamped at Sharpsburgh, Md.

The Regiment formed part of a reconnoitering expedition under General Humphreys which crossed the Potomac on the 16 and proceeding via Shepherdstown found the enemy in force and drove him beyond Leetown, returning to its camp near Sharpsburgh on the night of the 17 with two enlisted men wounded.

The Regiment left Sharpsburgh on the 30, crossed the Potomac via Harper's Ferry and arrived at Snicker's Gap Nov. 2. On the 3 it formed part of the Reconnoitering Expedition to the Shenandoah River, under General Sykes. In this reconnaissance two enlisted men were wounded.

The Regiment left Snicker's Gap on the 5th and passing through White Plains and Warrenton went into camp on the Potomac Creek near Falmouth on the 23d, where it remained until Dec. 11 when it bivouaced on a ridge on the north bank of the Rappahannock overlooking the valley and City of Fredericksburgh.

Crossing with Hooker's Division on the 13th the Regiment was moved forward to within a few hundred yards of the famous Stone Wall for the purpose of attacking on the morning of the 14th. The plan being changed the Sixth held its position in the line on the same ground during the whole of the 14th, Sunday, under a most galling fire without having a chance to make an appreciable return. Between 11 and 12 o'clock, P.M., the line was withdrawn into the town, and occupied the main street during the 15th exposed to some artillery fire. About 9 o'clock, P.M., the Division of which the Sixth formed a part was moved nearer the outskirts of the town where it remained till next morning, when in a fog and rain the Regiment re-crossed the Rappahannock following the First Brigade of the Division.

While the Sixth Infantry occupied the first line in front of the Stone Wall during the 14th, 2d Lieutenant James McKim, commanding Company K, was wounded, the ball passing through the fleshy part of his back close to the spinal column; he rose, and immediately became a target for the enemy, but zigzagging-running first right and then left-he escaped, went to the hospital and had his wound dressed, and then, pursuing the same course, returned to his company.

The ground in front of Company E was so flat that in the course of the day, 1st Sergeant Thetard--afterwards mortally wounded at Gettysburgh--was struck, and Corporal Kelly and five other men were picked off in succession.

Having re-crossed the river the Regiment during the day and night re-occupied with its Division the bivouac on the ridge north of and overlooking the city, and on the 17th returned to Camp near Potomac Creek.

At Fredericksburgh five enlisted men were killed, and 2d Lieutenant James McKim and twenty enlisted men were wounded.

The Regiment left Camp near Potomac Creek April 27, 1863, and proceeded to Harwood Church on the Fredericksburgh-Warrenton Road, crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford on the 29th, and after dark on the same day waded the Rapidan at Ely's Ford and bivouaced on its right bank. On

the 30th the Sixth marched with its Division to Chancellorsville, and after a short halt moved out on the Fredericksburgh road for about three quarters of a mile and bivouaced for the night.

In the forenoon of May 1, the Division to which the Regiment belonged moved further down the Fredericksburgh road, and the Second Brigade which included the Sixth was formed on the edge of the Wilderness with the 2d and 6th Infantry on the right of the road. The line, only part of the time covered by skirmishers, rapidly advanced, brushing away the Confederate force in front, which precipitately retreated, but re-formed, while the Federals halted, and opened a fire from which the 2d and 6th Infantry particularly suffered. Being finally outflanked the line was withdrawn, and on reaching the ground where it had formed in the morning the Sixth skirmishers soon coming up the Regiment re-joined the Brigade, which had reached the ground of the previous night's bivouac.

The casualties to the Regiment in this action were confined to the enlisted men, one being killed and twenty-three wounded.

On the 3d, while on picket in the vicinity of Chancellorsville, the Regiment captured four of the enemy, and while engaged in a skirmish two enlisted men were wounded.

On the morning of the 6th the Regiment retreated with the army towards the Rappahannock, re-crossed at the U. S. Ford, and arrived after a hard march of sixteen miles at the old camp on Potomac Creek June 4 for Benson's Mills where it remained until the 13th, when it took up the march for Aldie, Va., arriving at that point on the 22d. It left Aldie on the 27th, crossed the Potomac at Edwards' Ferry on the same day, and marching with little intermission until the 30th, arrived at Unionville, Md.

At Frederick the Sixth Infantry was transferred from the Second to the First Regular Brigade of Syke's Division, under its colonel, Hannibal Day, as Brigade Commander.

Moving into Pennsylvania, the Regiment by dawn on July 2 was in position on the extreme right of the Union line, not far from the Baltimore and Gettysburgh Turnpike.

About the middle of the forenoon it was placed as reserve near the center of the line, and during the afternoon was moved in haste to the left and down the rugged slopes with the Regular Brigades. The Second penetrated the woods and wheat field in front while the First, to which the Sixth Infantry belonged, held the open ground immediately in its rear. The left being in the air and the troops on the right having given way the Division was ordered to fall back.

The Regular Infantry, which included the Sixth, was then formed in the woods back of Little Round Top and remained there during the 3d exposed to the fire of artillery, and to that of sharpshooters who were hidden among the rocks in and around the "Devil's Den."

On the morning of the 4th the First Regular Brigade was ordered towards the Emmettsburgh Turnpike, to "feel" the enemy. It advanced with the 3d, 4th and 6th Infantry in line, the Sixth on the right, to the edge of Durfee's each Orchard which was entered by the skirmishers.

The Brigade then moved back to Little Round Top, but was immediately faced about with orders to picket the "Devil's Den" and outer edge of the woods in front of the line. The Confederate outposts were in close proximity, and the picket firing which soon began was continued until dark.

On the morning of the 5th part of the picket line, including Company I, 6th Infantry, was advanced beyond the Emmettsburgh road.

In the afternoon the Brigade returned to its position in the woods in front of Round Top, and by 5 o'clock was with the Division in pursuit of the enemy, bivouacing that night about four miles from Emmettsburgh, Maryland.

The casualties to the Regiment at Gettysburgh were 1st Sergeant I. Thetard, Company E, and seven privates killed; 2d Lieutenant Thomas Britton, eight non-commissioned officers and thirty privates wounded. Lieutenant Britton's wound was received under circumstances which especially distinguished him for bravery.

The Regiment was lying down exposed to a telling fire from Confederate sharpshooters, when, to steady the growing uneasiness of his men, he deliberately rose in the line of file closers, stretched and yawned as though waking from a nap, and coolly walked back and forth the length of the company.

Leaving the Gettysburg battle ground on July 5 the Regiment arrived at Berlin, Md., on the 16th, crossed the Potomac on the 17th, reached Manassas Gap on the 23d, and arrived at Warrenton, Va., on the 27th.

On August 1, 1863, Colonel Hannibal Day retired from active service. He was succeeded by Colonel Edward A. King, promoted from the 19th Infantry.

The Regiment left Warrenton on August 3 and marched via Fayetteville to Beverly's Ford where it remained until the 14th, when it proceeded to Alexandria, and on the 16th, under the command of Captain Montgomery Bryant, embarked for New York City.

Captain Levy C. Bootes commanded the Regiment from July 11, 1862, to Aug. 15, 1863, when he was relieved by Captain Bryant.

The Sixth arrived at New York on the 21st and camped in Washington Park. It had been sent there on account of the Draft Riots, and remained doing provost duty until the 11th when it was transferred to Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H.

On Sept. 20, 1863, the Colonel of the Regiment, Edward A. King, was killed in the battle of Chickamauga, Ga., while in command of the 2d Brigade of Reynold's Division of George H. Thomas' Corps. He was succeeded by Colonel James Durell Greene, promoted from the 17th Infantry.

While at Fort Hamilton the Regiment was consolidated into two companies, H and I, and drilled as heavy artillery, to form part of the defences of New York City.

In February, 1864, Company D was recruited from the depot and by transfers from H and I.

In April the Headquarters and Company D were sent to Willet's Point and Companies H and I to New York City.

In July the Headquarters and Company D moved to Fort Wood, N. Y.

By February, 1865, companies B, G, and K, had been recruited at the depot, and were stationed at Fort Wood with the Headquarters and Company D.

On May 17, 1865 the Regiment embarked on the steamer S ar of the South for Savannah, Ga., where it arrived on the 21st and was assigned to duty as part of the forces of the District of Savannah.

The Headquarters with Skeleton Companies A, C, E, and F, and Companies B, G, H, and I, arrived at Hilton Head, S.C., from Savannah on the 30th, where they were joined by companies D and K which had been garrisoning Fort Pulaski since the 4th.

The Regiment with the exception of Companies B and I, on detached service at Lawtonville, S. C., since September, arrived at Charleston, S. C., from Hilton Head on Dec. 9, 1865, and took quarters in the "Citadel."

During February Skeleton Companies A, C, E, and F, were recruited from the depot, completing the original organization of the Regiment.

While the Headquarters remained at Charleston the companies were moved from place to place in South Carolina, being stationed from time to time at Charleston, Georgetown, Aiken, Beaufort, Darlington, Orangeburg, Lawtonville, Columbia, Strawberry Station, and other points.

On June 11, 1867, the Headquarters and Company D left Charleston for Fort Gibson, C. N., where they arrived and were joined by Company C from Columbia on the 20th.

On June 25, 1867, Colonel James Durell Greene resigned from the Army. He was succeeded by Colonel Delancy Floyd Jones, promoted from the 19th Infantry.

During June Companies E and F arrived at Camp Jones near Fort Smith, Ark. On July 1 they started under the command of Captain Joseph B. Rife for Fort Arbuckle, C. N., where they arrived on the 20th. While enroute three men of Company E and thirteen of Company F died of cholera.

The Headquarters left Fort Gibson May 17, 1868, for Fort Arbuckle, where they arrived on June 3.

In the reduction of the Army under the act of Congress approved March 3, 1869, the Sixth was re-organized by consolidation with the 42d Regiment of Infantry.

On March 15, 1869, Colonel Delancy Floyd Jones was transferred to the unassigned list, and Brevet Major General William B. Hazen became Colonel of the Regiment by transfer from the 38th Infantry.

Companies A, B, G, H, I, and K, which had continued on duty in the South, arrived at Fort Gibson March 17, where they were joined in May by Headquarters from Fort Arbuckle.

The Headquarters remained at Fort Gibson until October, 1871, when they moved to Fort Hays, Kansas.

January 1872, found the Headquarters and Companies A, G, and I, at Fort Hays, Companies B, C, H, and K, at Camp Supply, D at Fort Larned, and E and F, at Fort Dodge.

Since leaving the South the Companies of the Regiment had been employed marching from place to place, and performing the duties incident to service on the frontier in those days, and had taken part in the settlement of the "Neutral Lands" trouble in Kansas. General Hazen, the Colonel of the Regiment, command the District of the lower Arkansas, which included the disturbed section, from August to December 1869.

Company I was at Chicago from Oct. 13 to 24, 1871, sent there for service during the great fire.

On May 10, 1872, the Headquarters and Companies A, D, E, F, G, and I, left Fort Hays enroute to Fort Buford, Dakota. They arrived at Sioux City, Iowa, the 12th, and on the 15th Companies A, D, E, F, and I, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Huston commanding, embarked on the Steamer Sioux City. The Headquarters and Company G embarked on the Steamer Miner on the 25th.

On arrival at Yankton the Miner met with an accident and sank in the Missouri River. She was raised and sent back to Sioux City for repairs, the Headquarters and Company G awaiting her return.

Companies A, D, E, F, and I, arrived at Fort Buford on June 2.

Companies B, C, H, and K, from Fort Supply, left Sioux City on the Steamer Silver Lake May 30, and reached Fort A. Lincoln on June 14, where B and C disembarked and took station under Lieutenant Colonel Huston who had arrived that day from Fort Buford.

Companies H and K proceeded to Fort Stevenson arriving at that post June 16.

The Headquarters and Company G arrived at Fort Buford on the Steamer Miner June 21.

Companies B and C were present during the skirmishing between the "Hostiles" and the garrison of Fort A. Lincoln on the 2d and 18th of October, 1872.

The limited space allowed this sketch will not admit following the Companies of the Regiment in detail through their arduous and varied service in the Department of Dakota.

The Sixth furnished troops to escort the Engineers of the Northern Pacific Railway from time to time, for duty in connection with the Yellowstone Expedition of 1873, as escort for the Commission Surveying the Northern Boundary in 1874, and for the exploration of the Yellowstone River in 1875; and took an active part in the Sioux Campaign of 1876. In the last case a battalion of the Regiment consisting of Companies B, C, D, and I, under Major Orlando H. Moore, formed a part of General Terry's column operating against the "Hostiles", during May, June, July, August, and September.

The Regiment was constantly furnishing companies and detachments to guard supplies, wagon trains, and steamboats on the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers.

It performed a full share of the trying duty that fell to the lot of our troops upon the upper Missouri before the advent of the "Iron Horse"; and the accounts of midwinter tours of detached service where officers and men were called upon to leave their warm quarters, and to strike boldly out on the bleak prairies far from human habitations, with the thermometer from ten to fifty below zero and the ground covered with drifting snow, and with nothing but tents for protection, might readily be extended to fill the restricted space of this sketch.

On August 21, 1876, Company G, 1st Lieutenant Nelson Bronson commanding, left Fort Buford as guard for the Steamers Josephine and Yellowstone.

While running about fifty yards from the bank at a point on the Yellowstone some forty miles below Glendive Creek, the boat carrying Lieutenant Bronson and his men was suddenly fired upon by Indians concealed in the timber and dense undergrowth. Private Dennis Shields was shot through the left breast and instantly killed. The fire was promptly returned, but on account of the retreat of the Indians and the nature of the country nothing more could be done, and the Steamer continued on her way.

In June 1880 the Sixth Infantry was relieved from duty in the Department of Dakota and ordered to proceed to White River, Col.

By the 17th the Regiment was concentrated at Bismark, D. T., and on the 19th started on two special trains via the Northern Pacific Railway for Rawlins, Wyoming, where it arrived the 24th and went into camp.

It took up the march for White River Agency on the 27th.

At the muster of June 30 in camp on Snake River, Wyo., the Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, Major, and all the companies were present.

Major Orlando H. Moore and Companies D and I were left at Snake River, while the remainder of the Regiment continued the march, arriving at Camp on White River July 7.

On September 26 Companies D, F, G, and H, Lieutenant Colonel Huston in command, left the camp on White River; D and H enroute to Fort Garland, Col., where they arrived Oct. 6; F and G enroute to Fort Lyon, Col., where they arrived Oct. 7.

On Dec. 15, 1880, General William B. Hazen, the Colonel of the Regiment, was appointed Chief Signal Officer of the Army with the rank of brigadier general. He was succeeded by Brevet Major General Alexander McD. McCook, promoted from the 10th Infantry.

On May 13, 1881, Companies F and G left Fort Lyon for Fort Garland where they joined D and H, and under Captain Hamilton S. Hawkins formed the Infantry Battalion with General McKenzie's Expedition in South Western Colorado. The Battalion marched to the junction of the Grand and Gunnison Rivers via Cantonment Uncompahgre, and returning to Gunnison City, Col., was sent by rail via Cheyenne, Wyo., to Park City, Utah, enroute to the junction of the Greene and Duchesne Rivers in Eastern Utah, where it arrived Sept. 17 and commenced building a post called Fort Thornburgh.

The entire regiment had in the mean time been ordered to the Department of the Platte.

Company B arrived at Fort Hall, Idaho, Aug. 21; A reached Fort Cameron on the 24th; and I took station at Fort Douglas on the 31st.

The Headquarters with Companies C, E, and K, arrived at Fort Douglas on Sept. 12; and C joined A at Fort Cameron on the 16th.

On April 27, 1882, Companies D, F, G, and H, changed station to the new site of Fort Thornburgh abandoning the cantonment at the mouth of the Duchesne.

In May Company E changed to Fort Washakie, Wyo., arriving there on the 18th.

On Oct. 25 Companies D, F, G, and H, from Fort Thornburgh joined the Headquarters at Fort Douglas.

On May 2, 1883, Company B arrived at Fort Douglas from Fort Hall. Companies A and C abandoning Fort Cameron joined the remainder of the Regiment at Fort Douglas on the 14th.

Companies C, I, and K, Major Edward G. Bush commanding, left June 2 for Fort Thornburgh, arriving there on the 23d. They returned to Fort Douglas on Oct. 8.

On the 12th Company E arrived from Fort Washakie and the entire regiment was concentrated at Fort Douglas, Utah.

On Aug. 25, 1885, the Regiment marched to Weber Canon, Utah, and with the garrison of Fort Bridger formed a camp of instruction known as Camp Murray, under the command of General McCook. Company F was detached from this camp on Sept. 8, and sent to Evanston, Wyo., to assist in preserving peace at the Coal Mines. The remainder of the Regiment returned to Fort Douglas on the 21st. On Oct. 19 Company F returned to Fort Douglas from Evanston.

Company K was detached from Fort Douglas and stationed in Salt Lake City on the 7th, on account of the disturbed condition of affairs among the Mormons.

In May, 1886, General McCook was made Commandant of the U.S. Infantry and Cavalry School, and the Headquarters were sent to Fort Leavenworth, Kans., where they arrived on the 15th.

On June 6, 1886, Captain Daniel U. Muddock, who entered the Regiment as a 2d Lieutenant Feb. 23, 1866, was drowned in the Grand River near Moab, Utah, while directing the crossing of his Company, D, enroute to Montezuma Creek.

Companies H and I left Fort Douglas on July 1 and joined the Headquarters at Fort Leavenworth on the 4th.

Companies A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and K, remained under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Nathan W. Osborne, 6th Infantry.

Company D, returned to Fort Douglas from Southeast Utah Oct. 17. Companies B and G were engaged in making a road between Price Station on the Denver and Rio Grande Railway and Fort Duchesne, Utah, during September and October.

Company E relieved Company K in Salt Lake City Dec. 17.

During September and October, 1887, Companies A and K were employed repairing the Duchesne road through Soldier's Canon.

On Nov. 5 Companies F and K left Fort Douglas for the site of the new post near Chicago, Ill., and under the command of Major and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel William J. Lyster established a camp on the military reservation in the Highlands where Fort Sheridan is now situated.

In December Company E returned to Fort Douglas from Salt Lake City.

On June 1, 1888, Companies A, B, C, D, E, and G, under Lieutenant Colonel Osborne, left Fort Douglas, changing station, for Fort Lewis, Col., where they arrived on the 4th.

Company I changed from Fort Leavenworth to Newport Barracks, Ky., on April 26, 1889.

Company G arrived at Fort Leavenworth from Fort Lewis on May 1.

Company H changed from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Gibson, I. T., Oct. 1.

On the 26th Companies C and D arrived at Fort Riley, Kansas, from Fort Lewis.

On July 11, 1890, the Colonel of the Regiment, Brevet Major General Alexander McD. McCook, was appointed Brigadier General. He was succeeded by Colonel Melville A. Cochran, promoted from the 5th Infantry.

On July 21 orders were issued from the War Department skeletonizing Companies I and K by transferring the enlisted men to other companies of the Regiment.

On Aug. 19 the Headquarters and Company G left Fort Leavenworth for the new post near Newport, Kentucky, now known as Fort Thomas, where they arrived on the 20th and joined Company F from Fort Sheridan.

Colonel Cochran assumed command of the Regiment at Fort Thomas on the 22d.

Company E arrived at Newport Barracks on the 23d and A reached Fort Wood, N. Y. H., on the 25th. Companies D and C arrived at Forts Porter and Ontario, N. Y., respectively, on Sept. 6. Company B joined D at Fort Porter on the 7th and Company H arrived at Plattsburgh Barracks on the 26th, completing the transfer of the Regiment to the Department of the East.

On May 5, 1892, Companies B and D from Fort Porter and C from Fort Ontario arrived at Fort Thomas.

Company H joined Headquarters at Fort Thomas on the 19th.

Nov. 1, 1892, the date of this sketch, finds the Sixth Infantry in its eighty-fifth year, under the command of Colonel Melville A. Cochran, with Headquarters, Skeleton Companies I and K, and Companies B, C, D, F, G, and H, at Fort Thomas, Ky.; Company A at Fort Wood, N. Y. H.; and Company E at Newport Barracks, Kentucky.

The writer is under obligations to Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Hall, 6th Infantry, for much information as to the original organization of the regiment; to Captain Jeremiah P. Schindel, 6th Infantry, for a great deal concerning the late war; to 1st Lieutenant Benjamin W. Atkinson, 6th Infantry, for the use of his private scrapbooks containing autograph letters of his grandfather, General Henry Atkinson, and interesting memoranda; and to Sergeant Major Charles H. Deversaux, 6th Infantry, for his excellent painstaking work in collecting and extracting valuable matter from the regimental records, of which in his present position he has been immediate custodian for more than eighteen years.