GEORGE W. SEARS

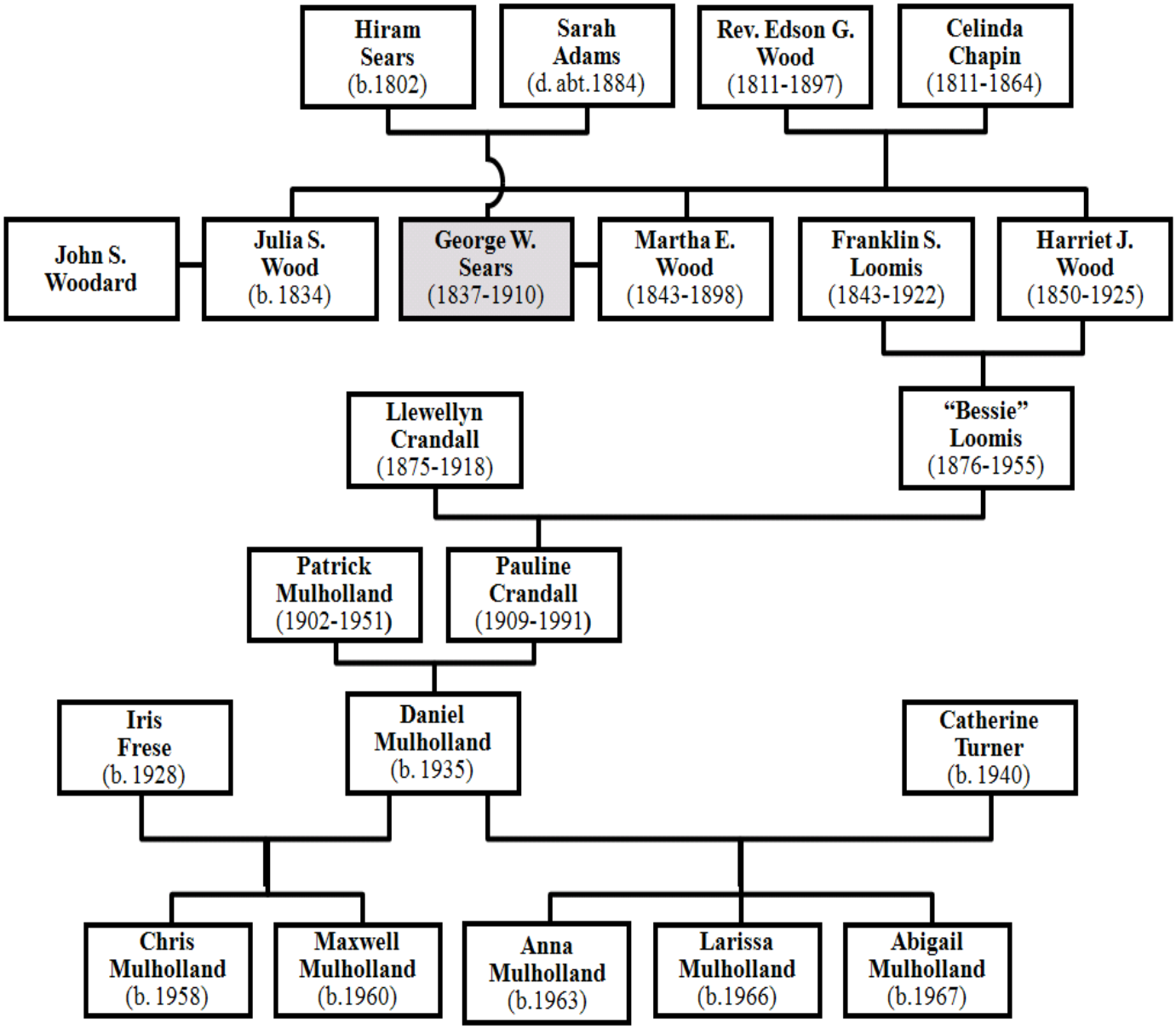
(1837-1910)

123rd New York Infantry

123rd Memorial, Greenwich NY

By Chris Mulholland

Revised 16 May 2011


Hiram Sears (b.1802)
Sarah Adams (d. abt.1884)
Rev. Edson G. Wood (1811-1897)
Celinda Chapin (1811-1864)
John S. Woodard
Julia S. Wood (b. 1834)
George W. Sears (1837-1910)
Martha E. Wood (1843-1898)
Franklin S. Loomis (1843-1922)
Harriet J. Wood (1850-1925)
Llewellyn Crandall (1875-1918)
"Bessie" Loomis (1876-1955)
Patrick Mulholland (1902-1951)
Pauline Crandall (1909-1991)
Iris Frese (b. 1928)
Daniel Mulholland (b. 1935)
Catherine Turner (b. 1940)
Chris Mulholland (b. 1958)
Maxwell Mulholland (b.1960)
Anna Mulholland (b.1963)
Larissa Mulholland (b.1966)
Abigail Mulholland (b.1967)

GEORGE W. SEARS
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George W. Sears was born to Hiram (born 1802) and Sarah (Adams) (died about 1884) Sears on 10 March 1837 in Vergennes, Addison County, Vermont. The Sears family had a long and distinguished history in America. George's great-grandfather, Richard Sears (1748-1814) was a Corporal who fought at Bunker's Hill in 1777 and was later promoted to Sergeant – the powder horn that he carried on Bunker's Hill is said to still be in the possession of one of his descendants in Michigan. Richard's father, Silas Sears (1719-1780) was also a Revolutionary War veteran – at the age of 58!

The name Sears is an ancient Anglo-Norman name meaning "son of Sear or Sayer" and is found on ancient records in various forms of which 'Sears' is the most generally accepted spelling in America today. Although it is not clear from which of the many lines of the family in England the first emigrants of the name to America were descended, it is a fact that the Sears and Sear families were among the earliest settlers in colonial America. Richard Sares or Sears arrived in Massachusetts about the year 1630 and settled first at Plymouth, before moving to Marblehead. Several of his sons later established the town of Yarmouth on Cape Cod.

Vergennes, Vermont, was first settled in 1766 by Donald MacIntosh, and established as a city in 1788. It is Vermont's only city not to have been first chartered as a town or independent village. Vergennes is the smallest city (by population) in Vermont and is named for Charles Gravier, Comte de Vergennes who was responsible for nearly 80% of all the material assistance received from

France. He also helped negotiated the 1783 Treaty of Paris, which formally brought the Revolutionary War to a close.

Vergennes was where Thomas MacDonough built and armed the fleet that defeated the British on Lake Champlain during the War of 1812. The Monkton Iron Company (which was at the time the largest iron works in the colonies) manufactured the fittings for MacDonough's fleet, as well as most of the cannon shot used by the army in the north.

When he was 10 years old, George's parents moved 60 miles south of Vergennes and across the state line to New York, settling in at Greenwich Corners in Washington County. 'Greenwich Corners' was probably 'Reid's Corner', later known as North Greenwich, which served as a stagecoach stop between Albany and Whitehall. During the 1850s and into the 60s, Greenwich was also an important station along the underground railway for runaway slaves heading to Canada. For the next 14 years, George grew up in this small, peaceful farming community along the Hudson River where he eventually took up a trade, masonry.

Then, on 13 April 1861, George's life was changed forever. Fort Sumter in South Carolina was bombarded for 34 hours before surrendering to secessionist forces. The Civil War had started. Volunteers signed up for one-year enlistments, most of them young men of 17 to 19 years of age. But, "When it became known that McClellan's campaign before Richmond, in June and July, 1862, had resulted in complete disaster, President Lincoln issued a call for 'three hundred thousand more.' The whole country was greatly moved, and all felt that a mighty effort must be put forth to save the Union. This county [Washington] was more deeply impressed than ever before. Something must be done! On the 22d of July, a great war-meeting was held at Argyle, and this was followed by others in different parts of the county. War committees were appointed; one for the county at large and one for each town." ("*History of Washington County, New York*")

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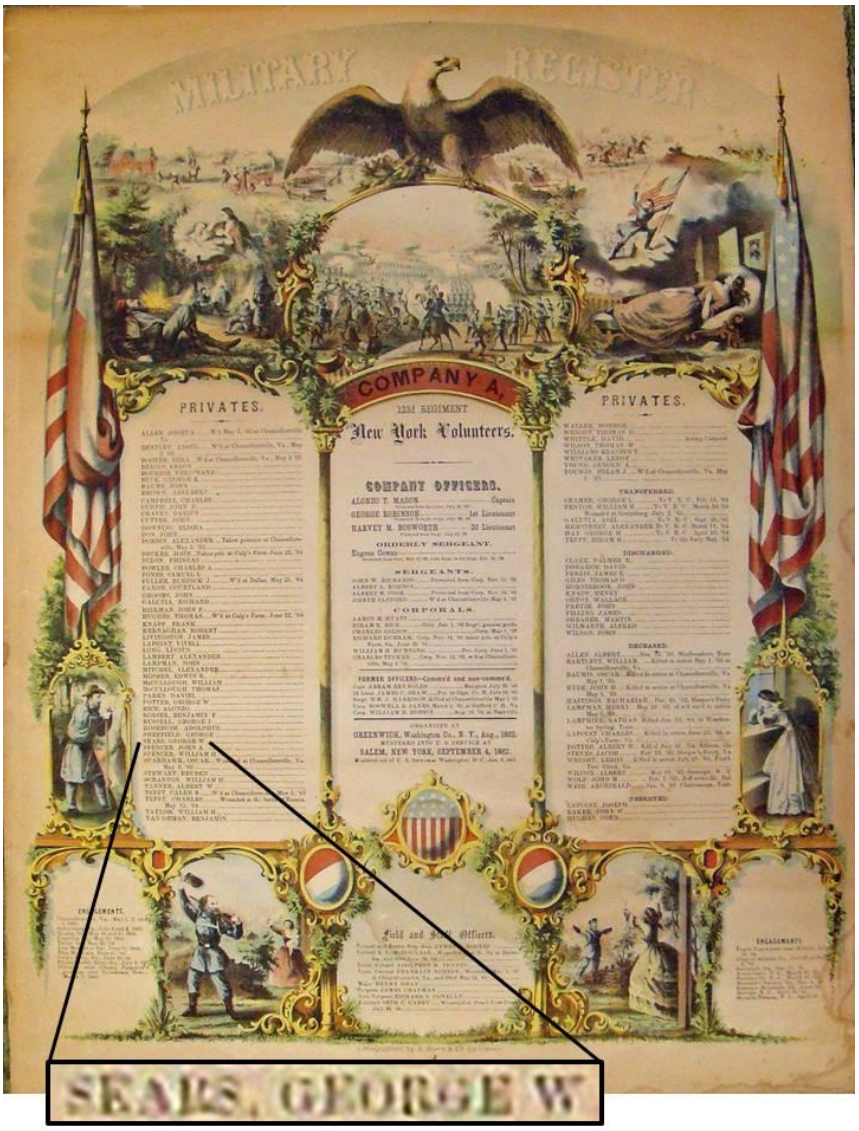

On 9 August 1862, at the age of 25, George, along with a number of his friends and neighbors, signed up for a three year enlistment as a private and received a $100 "bounty": "The war committee designated Abram Reynolds as Captain of the company to be raised from Greenwich and the north half of Easton, a recruiting office was opened in the south end of Whiteside Hill's old block, since burned. It was the first company to reach the rendezvous at Salem, and was given the right of the regiment, Co. A, with 99 men. The Company received $4950 bounty from the County, and the same from the State, each man receiving $100 in all." ("*New York in the War of the Rebellion, 3rd ed.*")

By the end of the war, 231 men from Greenwich would serve in the war. Of those, 100 eventually gave their lives in service to their nation – this is an astounding casualty rate of more than 43%!

As a member of Company A, 123rd NY, George served in a series of famous battles including Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Kolb's Farm near Kennesaw

Mountain, the Siege of Atlanta, General Sherman's famous "March to the Sea" through Georgia, and the Campaign of the Carolinas.

When explaining his reason for enlisting, a fellow soldier in the 123rd, Rice Bull, wrote years later; "Certainly a meager thirteen dollars a month was no inducement, neither could it have been ambitious desire for promotion or honor, for a man in the ranks had small chance of either. Surely it was no worldly consideration; for those who stayed home had all the opportunities for success. I believe with most of us it was our sense of duty; that we felt that if our country was to endure as a way of life as planned by our fathers, it rested with us children to finish the work they had begun."

At Camp Salem in New York, "By September 1st [1862] recruiting was finished and all the companies had full numbers. Physical examination was then made and nearly all passed and were accepted. Then we received our uniforms and most of our equipment which included old-fashioned Enfield rifles. They were ungainly pieces having the look of old age. We carried these guns for some weeks but before going into active service they were exchanged for Springfield muskets, a much better weapon." ["*Soldiering"*; Bull]

After traveling to Washington DC and undergoing basic training, the regiment was assigned to the XII Army Corps commanded by Major General Henry Slocum. On 8 April 1863, the entire corps was reviewed by President Lincoln. "Great preparations had been made…The troops were all in new uniforms. It was a spectacle not soon forgotten by those who were there. The music, the marching, the artillery salute, the splendid horsemen, were all very grand…Each regiment gave three cheers as they passed the President. The cheering was not military but the men could not be restrained from so honoring him. He really was the ideal of the Army." ["*Soldiering"*; Bull]

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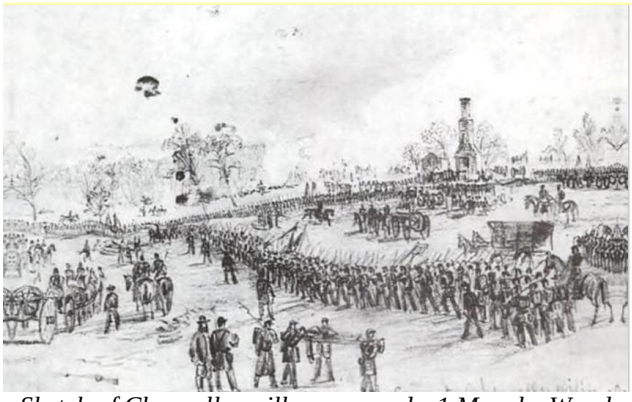
The following short account of the regiment's Civil War experience comes from "*The Union Army: A History of Military Affairs in the Loyal States, 1861-65*": "[The 123rd New York] regiment, recruited in the county of Washington, rendezvoused at Salem and was there mustered into the U. S. service on Sept. 4, 1862, for three years…The regiment left the state on Sept. 5, 1862, and was assigned to Williams' (1st) division, 12th corps, with which it served throughout its term. It fought its first battle at Chancellorsville, where the 12th corps was heavily engaged, the regiment losing 148 killed, wounded and missing, Lieut.-Col. Norton being among the mortally wounded."

At Chancellorsville, the 123rd was part of the Second Brigade of the 1st Division of the XII Army Corps.

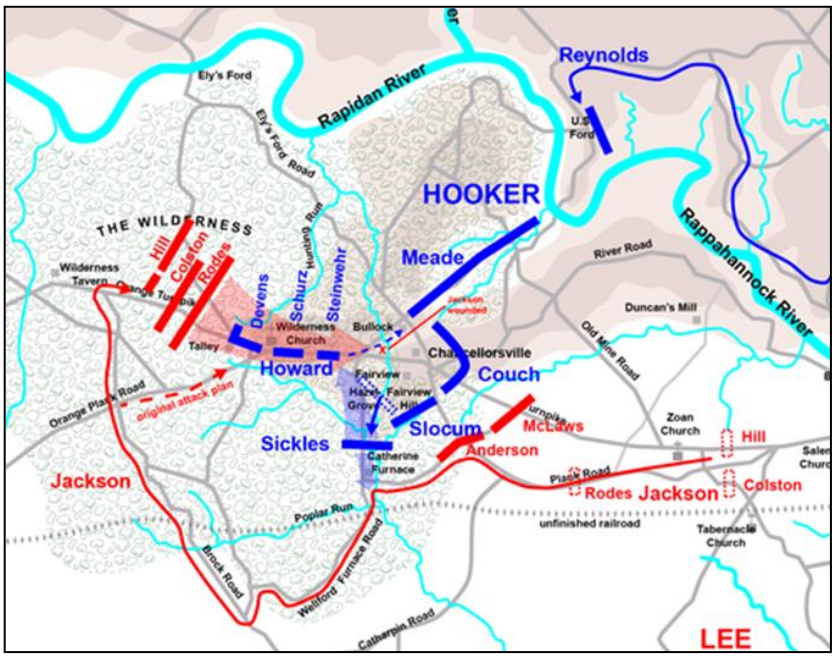
"When we reached the Chancellor House our Brigade was halted for a short time…We received our orders, then went in a southerly direction for nearly a mile. Much of the way was through cleared land and up quite a long hill which was then called Hazel Grove. This elevation was so located that it was of great importance to our line and was to become the scene of sever fighting the next day...When we reached Hazel Grove elevation Company A was detailed to go on the picket line. They passed to the front of the Regiment, deployed, and went down the hill toward the valley… Suddenly, without the usual skirmishing that would have warned us to lie down, a volley was fired from the enemy's line and bullets began to whistle and sing….Many were hit but we could not return the fire as our skirmishers were in the line between us and the enemy. Very soon they opened on our line with their



Sketch of Chancellorsville crossroads, 1 May, by Waud for 'Harper's Weekly'

artillery and shells fell and exploded in the open field about us…We lost thirty men killed and wounded." ["*Soldiering"*; Bull]

The following day, the 123rd was in the middle of the worst portion of the battle. Located in the center of the Union lines, on the evening of 2 May 1863 they helped stop "Stonewall" Jacksons's flank attack which had been rolling up one Union unit after another. The commander of the 123rd, "Colonel Archibald McDougall jumped onto a log and waved his sword and shouted, 'For God sake, boys, stand your ground! Don't let it be said the boys of Washington County ran!'" ["*Chancellorsville*", Sears]



After several more days of severe fighting in the "wilderness", the 123rd was withdrawn northwards along with the rest of the Army. Although declared a Southern victory, Chancellorsville was devastating for the Confederacy since their army had gained no ground, they had lost a much higher percent of their force in deaths and injuries, they had failed to achieve their objective of the destruction of the Union army, and they lost Stonewall Jackson when he was wounded in the evening of 2 May and died of pneumonia 10 days later.

The 123rd then participated in one of the most famous

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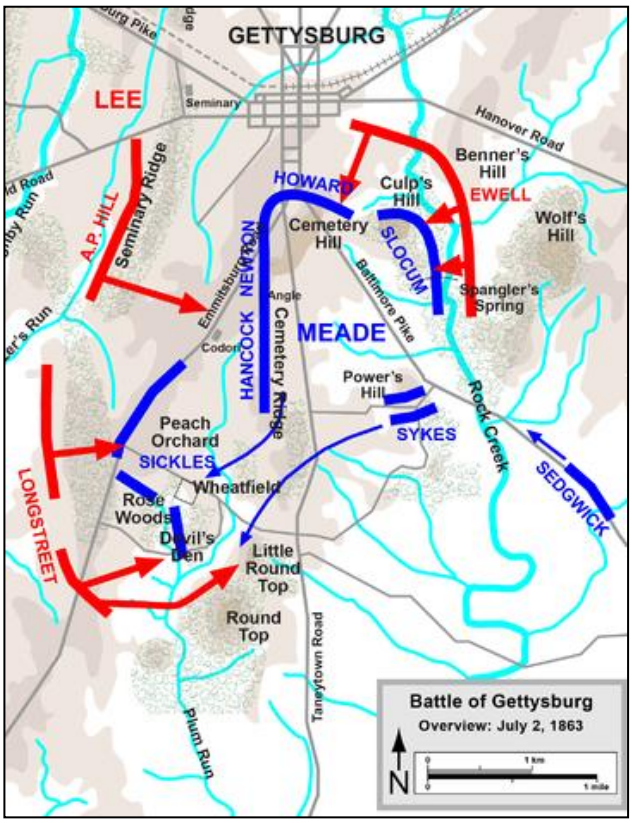
Union breastworks at Culp's Hill (Wikipedia)

battles in American History, Gettysburg. A monument to the regiment was dedicated on the battlefield in 1888 on Culp's Hill and is located at the site of the breastworks constructed by the regiment on 1 July 1863, when the New Yorkers were part of Slocum's 12th Corps, defending the northern flank of the Union army at the "point" of the famous "fish hook" defensive line. On July 2nd, the regiment was called to leave their breastworks to support the center of the line, returning to Culp's Hill later that evening to find their position occupied by Confederate skirmishers. The morning of 3 July, the regiment drove the Confederates from their breastworks with "great slaughter" and closed the gap to Spangler's Spring. That afternoon, Confederate General Pickett led his famous charge at the center of the Union line, resulting in the decimation and withdrawal of the Confederate forces under Robert E. Lee – their "high water mark."



Continuing from "*The Union Army: A History of Military Affairs in the Loyal States, 1861-65*": "[The Regiment then] joined in the pursuit of Lee into Virginia, fought without loss at Fair Play and Williamsport, Md., and at Robertson's ford, Va. On Sept. 23, 1863, it was ordered with its corps to Tennessee to reinforce

Gen. Rosecrans and performed guard and picket duty for several months along the railroad between Murfreesboro and Bridgeport. When the 12th corps was changed to the 20th in April, 1864, Williams' division was allowed to retain its distinctive badge, the red star. It started on the Atlanta campaign with Sherman's army early in May and was active during the battles of Resaca, Cassville and Dallas, where it lost 23 killed and wounded, among the mortally wounded being Col. McDougall."

On 25 May, the regiment found the "battle of Pumpkin-Vine Creek, or New Hope Church…from this time till the 5th of July, when we got our first view of Atlanta, we were under fire more or less severe every day." (Carey)

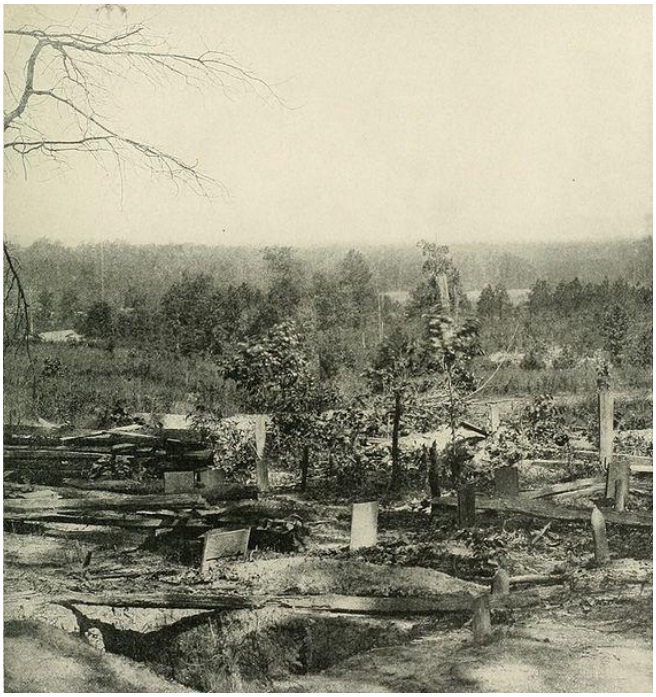
It was at Kolb's Farm (incorrectly referred to as 'Culp's' or 'Kulp's' farm in Union dispatches) near Kennesaw Mountain that the 123rd had another significant engagement with Confederate forces led by headstrong General John Hood. Hood preferred to attack, no matter the odds, in direct opposition to his commander's strategy, Lieutenant General Joseph Johnston, who preferred to delay rather than confront the Union army.

Kolb's Farm, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, depicting initial Confederate attack against 123rd NY skirmish line.

Johnston had established a strong defensive position near Kennesaw Mountain. On 22 June, Hood ordered his men to attack but, "Upon reaching the [Kolb] farm house area they came head to head with two Union regiments, the 14th Kentucky of Hascall's Brigade of Schofield's Army of the Ohio and the 123rd New York of Williams 1st Division of Hooker's XXth Corps. Heavy fighting ensued, both by musketry and Federal cannonading. [The Confederates] were repulsed from the

massive firepower of the Federals. Hood ordered them to re-form and attack again. They were again repulsed with heavy losses, but he rallied them and ordered them forward yet again, with the same result. The ground that these two brigades had moved over and fought on, was in reality a quagmire of mud from the rain it had received the two previous weeks. Footing was difficult; movement of trains and batteries, a near impossibility in their march to the farmhouse… Darkness finally ended what became known as the Battle of Kolb's Farm… Hood claimed a victory in driving back the Union troops to their reserve line and was on the verge of routing Hooker's whole corps, and was only stopped by darkness and the arrival of Federal reinforcements. The fact is, the Confederate forces only opposed and drove back two Union regiments to their main line. Confederate losses were in excess of 1000 men, with Stevenson's Division alone losing 870 men. The Federals suffered losses of only 350." (Bengston)

Lieutenant General Johnston later wrote, "Hood had his moment of glory and reclaimed his reputation as an aggressive commander, but at a cost the Confederacy could ill afford." (Bengston)



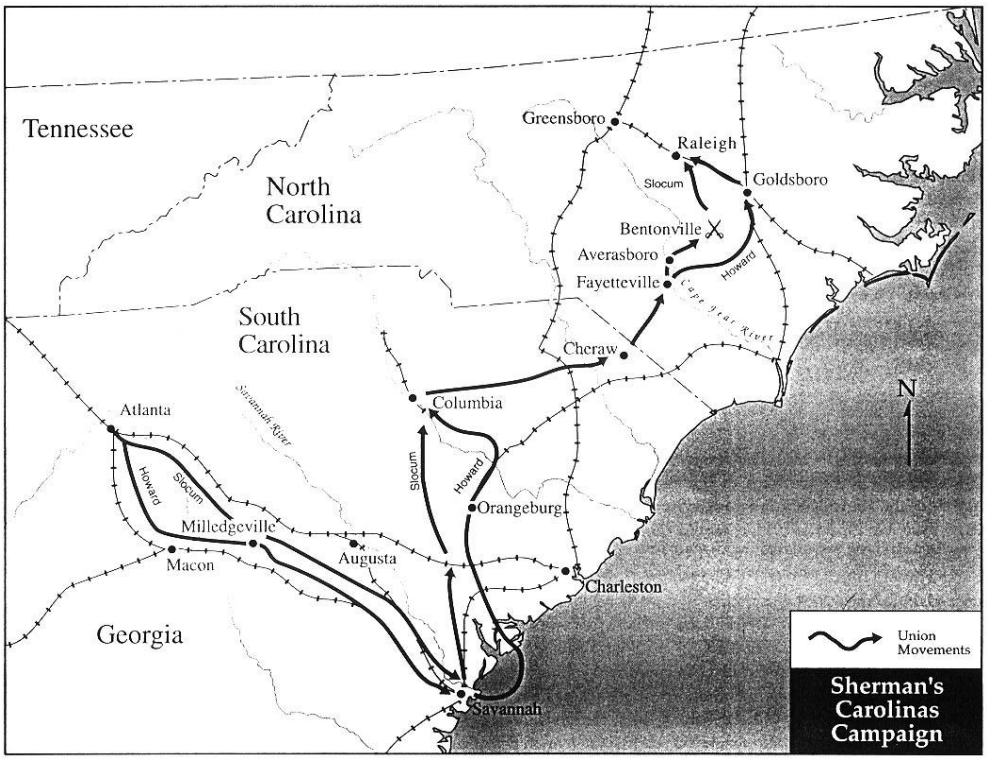
Union graves close to where the soldiers fell after the Confederates under John B. Hood attacked at Peachtree Creek

On the afternoon of 20 July, the 123rd had another serious engagement, this time at Peachtree creek. "Between four and five o'clock we were startled by rapid firing in front; our pickets came hurrying in, saying that the enemy were close upon them. Our line was almost instantly formed, but none too soon, for we were hotly

engaged before it was completed. Five or six times the enemy charged our lines with desperate valor, but every time they were disastrously repulsed. It was a hand-to-hand fight, without works or defenses of any kind. The loss of the 123d was about fifty killed and wounded...The loss in our corps (the 20th) was nineteen hundred." (Carey)

Continuing from "*The Union Army: A History of Military Affairs in the Loyal States, 1861-65*": "From July 21 to Aug. 26, [the 123rd Regiment] was engaged in the siege of Atlanta, and on Nov. 15, it moved with Sherman's army on the march to the sea, taking part in the final campaign of the Carolinas the following year."

At the conclusion of the march through the Carolinas, Rice Bull wrote an account that, "We had finished a sixty-six day march that covered five hundred miles, fought two quite severe battles, and accomplished what we had set out to do…But the miles traveled and battles fought counted for little in the balance sheet of energy expended; it was the rains and the floods, and the swamps and the rivers, and the roads that counted big. None but those who took part in this campaign through the Carolinas and who endured the hardships of the march can measure the effort made."



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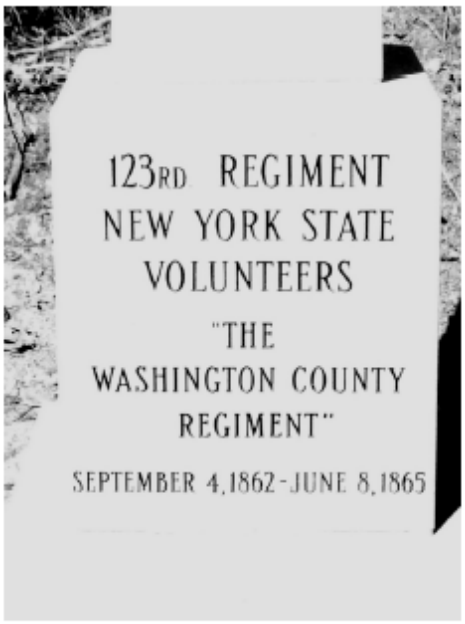
In his memoirs, General Sherman stated that the "Campaign of the Carolinas" was far more difficult and significant then his travels through Georgia.

One of the final battles they engaged in was outside Four Oaks, North Carolina, and later called Bentonville. "The Battle of Bentonville… was fought over an area of about 6,000 acres of woods and fields. The action, which claimed the lives of 543 men and wounded more than 2,800, was the largest battle fought in North Carolina. It was also the last major battle of the Civil War during which the South was able to launch a tactical offensive." (Tefft)

In January 2011, a memorial obelisk to the 123rd was erected on private property near the battle site. This is the only memorial to



The base of of the obelisk.


The obelisk at the edge of Larry Laboda's field.

a Union regiment in North Carolina outside federal cemeteries.

On 10 April 1865, the 123rd was leading the corps, "When four miles out from Goldsboro the enemy appeared in front, and the 123d was thrown forward as skirmishers. At eleven A.M. we reached Moccasin swamp, a mile wide, with two

deep streams running through it. The rebels had taken the planks from the bridges, and were strongly posted on the opposite bank. But the men sprang forward under a heavy fire, some wading through water from two to four feet deep, while others crossed on the stringers of the bridges, and the foe was soon driven in disorder from his works." (Carey) This would be the last combat action seen by the 123rd and their one fatality, William Tooley, was reportedly the last in all of Sherman's Army.

A day and a half later, Bull remembered that, "The morning of the 12th of April 1865 proved to be a time that would never be forgotten by us…Colonel Rogers rode to the center [of the regiment], remained sitting on his horse and then taking a paper in his hand read loudly so all could hear a short order from General Sherman. It announced that on April 9th General Lee had surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to General Grant at Appomattox Court House.

"It would be impossible for me to describe the scene that followed. The men went wild, ranks were broken, and shouting and crying, the men in their joy hugged and kissed each other. Never have I witnessed such happiness. The news seemed too good to be true. We felt that the great hour that for three years we had looked for, fought for and prayed for, had come. We could see the end for a

certainty, as we knew that after the surrender of General Lee there could be no effective opposition by General Johnston. The shouting did not cease until we had to stop from sheer exhaustion. Then we reformed and took up the march. A happier one was never made by the 123rd New York Infantry than the one on April 12th as we hastened on toward Raleigh…

"When we were halfway there [returning to Raleigh from Hillsboro on 28 April 1865], we were halted so another announcement could be made. This told us of the assassination of President Lincoln. The sorrow of our men was as great as had been their joy when we heard of the surrender of General Lee. President Lincoln was the idol of the men in the service, everyone reverenced him and they could not have felt great grief had they heard of the death of some near relative. The remainder of the march to Raleigh was made in almost complete silence. When remarks were made they were curses against the murderers of the President.

"It was days before the Army recovered from the sorrow it felt at the death of Lincoln but time rolled on and then came the word that we were soon to begin our Homeward March…Now home was in sight, a march of only three hundred miles through a peaceful land would be just a pleasure trip."

Along the way, the regiment stopped at the site of their first combat, Chancellorsville, and George and the other the veterans of that battle were allowed several hours for reflection and remembrances of fallen comrades.

Again from "*The Union Army: A History of Military Affairs in the Loyal States, 1861-65*": "After Gen. Johnston's surrender it marched to Washington with the army, participated in the grand review, and was finally mustered out, under command of Col. Rogers, June 8, 1865, when the members of the regiment not entitled to be mustered out were transferred to the 145th N. Y. The 123d lost during its term of service 6 officers and 68 enlisted men, killed and fatally wounded; 95 enlisted men died of disease and other causes; total deaths, 169."

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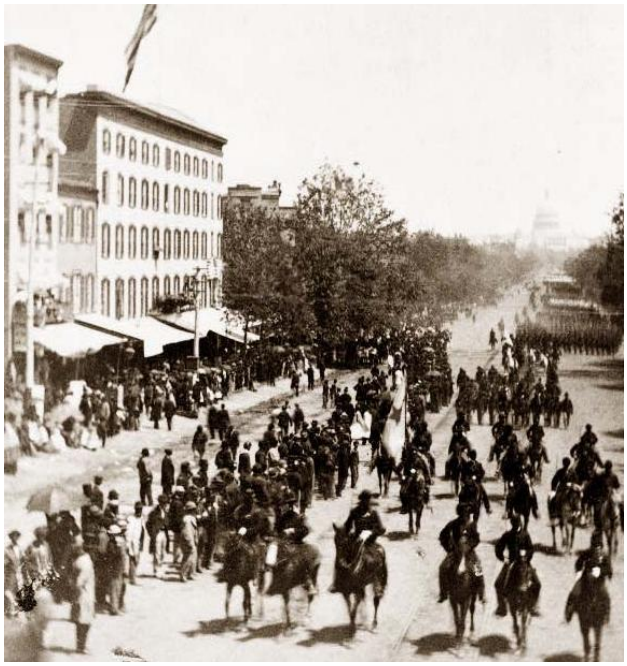
On 19 April 1865 George arrived in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington DC: "…after our long march from Raleigh we were very weary, but we were so well satisfied with what we had done and there were such bright prospects ahead of us that we gave little heed to any feeling of fatigue. We knew then that to us an end of future marches had come; that our weary shoulders would no longer be burdened by our heavy knapsacks, our guns would be racked, and we would be freed from the routine of military life. Hardly any of us were soldiers from choice. We did not like the discipline required by the duties called for by military action. For three long years we had been in the Army from a sense of obligation to our country; now the war was over we longed to return to civil life. Certainly we had reason to rejoice that our lives had been spared and we had been able to endure the hardships and privations of the service to the end."
["*Soldiering"*; Bull]

On 24 May 1865, George marched in front of the president again, only this time it was President Andrew Johnson. George participated in the Grand Review, marching through Washington DC as a member of Sherman's Armies of Tennessee and Georgia. Since the 123rd was the leading regiment of the Corps, and George was a member of Company A, he was likely in the very first ranks of the Grand March.


Looking up Pennsylvania Ave. from the Treasury Buildings, during the passage of the "Red Star" Division

General Sherman later wrote, "It was, in my judgement, the most magnificent army in existence, - sixty-five thousand men in splendid physique,

who had just completed a march of nearly two thousand miles in a hostile country."

Bull's memory was slightly different; "How much shorter our regimental line was than it had been on September 29th 1862 when we crossed [the Long Bridge in Washington DC] on our way to Harpers Ferry to join and become a part of the old 12th Corps. At that time there were a thousand men in line, now only a scant four hundred. The dead from disease and those killed in action, the wounded and incapacitated told the story of the missing six hundred. It was only the remnant left that crossed the bridge to take part in the Review…I know that we leading the 20th Corps were given great applause by the hundreds of thousands of spectators who lined the streets of Washington for miles…It was a proud day for all of us, and the Review was a fitting ending of our long service."

Two weeks later, on 8 June 1865, George was discharged from duty and returned to New York.

George was one of the lucky ones to have made it through alive, however, "Looking back now I realize, far more than I did then, how unprepared we were to meet the life conditions that forced us, not alone from wounds or broken health but from the greater reason that our long absence during the years of life when we would have fitted ourselves by education and experience for a successful effort were years gone. Many faced the future with the handicap of physical weakness, ignorance and lost opportunities." ["*Soldiering"*; Bull]

After returning home from three straight years of action, George left in the fall of 1865 and traveled west to Illinois, finally settling in at Elgin in McHenry County. He opened a boot and shoe store there although he continued to also ply his trade as a stonemason.

Shortly after his arrival he met Martha Wood, daughter of Reverend Edson G. Wood, a circuit-riding Methodist minister. She was born in 1843 and her mother

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was Celinda Chapin, whose grandfather, Gad Chapin (1726-1813), was a veteran of both the French & Indian and Revolutionary Wars and was one of the founders of Otsego, New York. The Chapin family traces their name back to the very founding of America, including a direct lineage to Deacon Samuel Chapin (1598-1675), the founder of Springfield, Massachusetts whose spirit and personality were captured in the famous sculpture "The Puritan" by internationally acclaimed master-sculptor, Augustus St. Gauden.

"The Puritan"

On 17 September 1867, George and Martha were married in McHenry County. They were issued license number 3531 and their union was listed on page 89 of Volume A of the county records.

During the years after their marriage, George and Martha proceeded to have eight children: Colinda "Linnie" Pearl (born about 1868-1922), George W. (Junior) (b. abt. 1870), Sarah "Birdie" (b. abt. 1872), Cora (b. abt. 1875), Elizabeth "Libbie" (b. abt 1877), Jerome (1880-1883), Harriet "Hattie" Francis (1882-1945), and Lydia (abt. 1884-1889).

The 1870 census for Illinois listed George's occupation as stonemason but by 1871, according to the Business Directory for Elgin, he was also the owner of a boot and shoe business at 43 East Chicago Street.

After he had been in the shoe business for about twelve years, George sold his store to George Linkfield. His next venture was in the grocery business. He ran a grocery store for a number of years and later went into partnership with James B. Mink under the firm name of Sears & Mink.

The 1880 census listed George's occupation as grocery store worker and that he lived on Chicago Street in Elgin, Kane County, Illinois. In 1882, his daughter,

Harriet, was born, and his occupation on her birth certificate was listed as "speculator."

On 17 March 1889, George and Martha's first child, Linnie Pearl, marred Joseph A. Roberts in Macoupin County, Illinois.

George eventually sold out his grocery business and opened a crockery store which he then sold to W. A. Skinner. The 1892 Business Directory for Elgin lists George's occupation as having a crockery store.

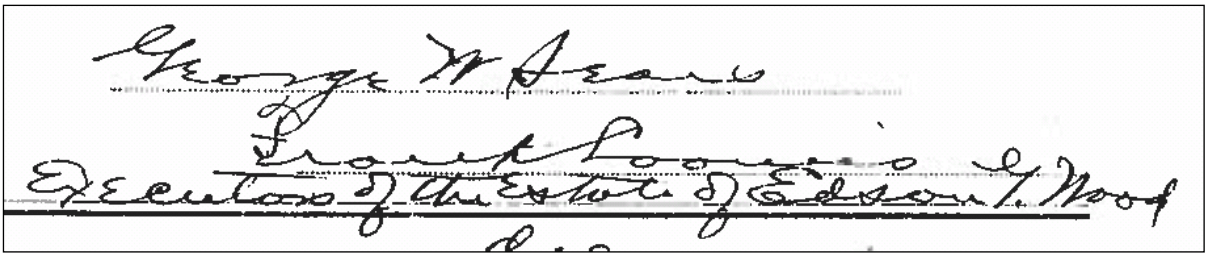
After leaving the mercantile field, George bought and sold bankrupt stocks which finally resulted in his going into the real estate business, his agency being one of the largest in Elgin before his retirement in 1894.

In September 1893 he mustered into the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) "Veteran Post No. 49" in Elgin. The GAR was a fraternal organization composed of Union Army "veterans of the late unpleasantness". These veterans maintained connections with each other for camaraderie and political power. It was founded on April 6, 1866 with the principles of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty," in Decatur, Illinois.

The GAR initially grew and prospered as a de facto political arm of the Republican Party during the heated political contests of the Reconstruction. One of its lasting achievements was the establishment of May 30th as Memorial Day to commemorate the dead of the Civil War. The GAR was organized into "Departments" at the state level and "Posts" at the community level, and military-

style uniforms were worn by its members. There were posts in every state and several overseas. This pattern of establishing departments and local posts was later used by other veteran organizations such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). The GAR Museum is located in Springfield and is still owned and maintained by the Women's Relief Corps (WRC). In 1881 the GAR formed the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America (SV) to carry on its traditions and memory. In 1925 the SV name was changed to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and it is legally recognized as the heir to, and representative of, the GAR.

In 1897, George's father-in-law, Reverend Edson G. Wood, passed away and George was appointed as one of the executors of the estate. The other executor



was his wife's sister's husband, Franklin S. Loomis (1843-1922), a fellow Civil War veteran who had been wounded at the battle of Shiloh while serving with the 15th Illinois Regiment. The estate was finally settled in 1902.

The 1900 census listed George's occupation as real estate agent and his address as 164 North Gifford Street, Elgin, Kane County, Illinois.

He was "urged on many occasions to become a candidate for public office [although] he gave his consent but once, being elected assessor, which office he held for two years in the early 1900's."

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(1837-1910)

On 19 December 1910, George died at his home. In his obituary of 1910, he was said to have been a canvasser - assessor.

His obituary was carried on page 1 of the "The Elgin Daily News" on December 20, 1910: "George W. Sears, Pioneer Business Man, Is Dead; Civil War Veteran and Early Merchant, Succumbs, aged 73 years. Opened Store in 1865 on Fountain Square – Retired in 1894".

Sear's home at 164 N Gifford Street, Elgin, Illinois

"George W. Sears, a pioneer business man of Elgin died at 7 o'clock last evening at the family residence, 380 Hickory place, aged 73 years.

"After he had been in the shoe business for about twelve years, Mr. Sears sold his store to George Linkfield. His next venture was in the grocery business. He ran a grocery store for a number of years and later went into partnership with James V. Mink under the firm name of Sears & Mink. He sold out his grocery business and opened a crockery store which he sold to W.A. Skinner, who still conducts it.

"For a time after deserting the mercantile field in Elgin he bought and sold bankrupt stocks, which finally resulted in his going into the real estate business, his agency being one of the largest in Elgin before he retired in 1894.

"Although urged on many occasions to become a candidate for public office he gave his consent but once, being elected assessor, which office he held for two years in the early nineties.

GEORGE W. SEARS
(1837-1910)

"George W. Sears was born March 10, 1837, at Vergennes, Vt. When he was but 10 years old his parents moved to Greenwich Corners, N.Y. He spent his boyhood at that place. When the civil war broke out he enlisted with a New York regiment, serving three years.

"At the close of the war he came west to Elgin. On September 18, 1867, he was married to Martha E. Wood of Marengo, who survives him.

"Besides his widow he is survived by a son George W. Sears, Jr., of Chicago and five daughters. Mrs Linnie P. Roberts, Mrs. Burd [sic] Heslin of Evanston, Mrs. Cora Vermilya of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Mrs. Hattie Covert of Rockford and Mrs. Libbie Covert, who resides at home. Two sisters, Mrs. George Knott of Park street and Mrs. John Davenport of Dundee avenue are other survivors.

"The funeral will be private and will be held at the late residence, 380 Hickory place, at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, Rev. W.P. Ferries and Rev. Henry Lenz of Evanston officiating. Interment at Bluff City cemetery."

George Sears, Civil War veteran, was buried in Bluff City Cemetery in Elgin. Interestingly, the cemetery is located in a portion of Elgin that lies within Cook rather than Kane County.

Bluff City Cemetery, Elgin, Cook County, Illinois

GEORGE W. SEARS
(1837-1910)

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