THE UNION BLUES

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CORPS AND ITS LIFE
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ROCHESTER, N. Y.
Union Blues Who Enlisted in the War


William E. Bristol, Captain Metropolitan Cavalry; died at Frashear City hospital, June 4, 1863.

Charles H. Burtis, Lieutenant, 140th N. Y. Volunteers.


William S. Ely, Assistant Surgeon 108th N. Y. Volunteers. Promoted to be Lieutenant Colonel in Medical Corps and placed in command of Annapolis Hospital.

Charles A. Gardiner, Assistant Paymaster, U. S. Navy.


Andrew J. Hatch, First Lieutenant Eleventh N. Y. Heavy Artillery.

Henry B. Hoyt, Lieutenant 140th N. Y. Volunteers; afterwards promoted to captaincy. Wounded and captured at Battle of the Wilderness, May 5, 1864.

Walter S. Lacey, served in United States Commissary Department.


Stalham L. Williams, Sergeant Eighteenth N. Y. Battery. Promoted to lieutenancy.

George D. Williams, Lieutenant in Third New York Cavalry, 1862. Promoted to First Lieutenant and Adjutant. Discharged December, 1863, on account of injuries received in service.

The Union Blues

A Brief History of the Corps and its Life

“Privatus illis census erat brevis, Commune magnus.”

When that momentous struggle began which for four years threatened the very life of the American nation and locked in civil war the states of the North and South, Rochester was a striping among the cities of the United States. Those with whom Time has dealt gently, permitting the privilege of retrospect, know best how the impress of the commonwealth’s crisis, laid upon those who dwelt and are dwelling by the banks of the Genesee, aided in shaping their destinies and welding their interests; for that tradition which is so potent a factor in shaping men’s feet to follow the paths of rectitude and civic honor had its source in those times and is of such a nature that those who scan it from the perspective of fifty years would not change it by one jot or tittle. In the building up of this tradition, a Rochester organization known in the beginning as the Union Cadets and, later, as the Union Blues bore its part, and it is the object of this brief record to tell of the history of the Union Blues and the men who wore their uniform. Those who expect to hear of great deeds will be disappointed, for in that time the individual gave way to the nation and men were moulded by the period more than the period by the men who lived in it; but the character of destiny carved deeply in these four years, so deeply that those who read may perhaps understand more fully why Rochester has grown to what she is under the directing hand of these men and their sons. The record, as has been said, is not lengthy and it is only by reading between the written lines that its significance can be grasped with truth and understanding.
The spirit of loyalty to the Nation was breathing itself upon the North on May 6, 1861, when thirty young men of Rochester, desiring to obtain a knowledge of military manoeuvres and the use of arms, gathered at the office of Colonel James A. Brackett in Smith's Arcade under the leadership of Thomas B. Clarkson to form a permanent organization which was not so much a reflection of the military fever that was abroad as the recognition of the necessity for a capable and well drilled military company to be depended upon in case of emergency at home. Serious in purpose and actuated by patriotic motives, the young men organized under the name of the Union Cadets and elected the following officers: President, T. B. Clarkson; vice-president, C. A. Dewey; secretary, James L. Hatch; treasurer, Levi F. Ward.

Charles B. Hill, who was chosen to be the first captain of the Union Cadets with power to select his subordinates, set about the work of pulling his company together without delay. Drills were started and on May 15, 1861, the corps was ready for its first public appearance in an exhibition drill which was given in the old Butts block, Eastman St., on the site of the present building. The first military officers of the Cadets, who appeared with Captain Hill on this occasion, were: First lieutenant, Cornelius Waydell; second lieutenant, Charles A. Brackett. It was not until June 25, 1861, however, that the Cadets made their first appearance on the street and even then a spirit of modesty led the members to choose the subdued light of early evening in which to perform their evolutions. By July 4, 1861, a greater degree of efficiency and self-confidence had been attained, and the Union Cadets, whose ranks had now swelled to the number of forty-four, appeared at the head of the Independence Day parade. Black suits, with military caps, belts and gloves, made up the uniform worn on this occasion and the company was led by a band playing martial music. The fine appearance of the Cadets excited the admiration of the citizens and was a source of pride to Captain Hill and his staff. When the parade had broken ranks, the corps marched to the residence of their commander in Plymouth avenue and there took dinner as his guests. Although the Civil War had hardly attained its full severity, loyalty to the idea which had led to their organization made the company faithful in attendance at drill and anxious to maintain commendable efficiency in military duty. So well did they progress that their next activity consisted of an excursion to Avon over the Genesee Valley railroad and an exhibition drill where drum taps were substituted for verbal commands. After the drill came a game of baseball with the Ajax club of Avon, the score of which, 31 to 15 runs, shows that even in those days Rochester bred ball players. The festivities closed with a military hop in the ball room of the United States hotel and a run home through the country by special train.

Before the end of the summer the corps had found its feet and had decided to change its name from the Union Cadets to the Union Blues. Probably the selection of the first formal uniform had something to do with the change of name, for the dress of the company was of dark blue, consisting of dress coats and trousers, trimmed with white cord and quaintly described by the press of the day as “a neat and tasty yet showy dress.” To celebrate the new equipment, which included muskets, and the change of name fifty invitations were sent out for an exhibition drill and the Union Blues were put through their paces publicly by Captain Hill at the Butts block armory on September 16, 1861. On the following evening a street parade was held, to the music of Newman's Band, the Light Guards turning out to give a friendly salute as the boys in blue swung by.

The company organization was further strengthened at a general election on November 6, 1861, when the choice fell upon the following officers for military duty: Captain, Charles B. Hill; first lieutenant, Cornelius Waydell; second lieutenant, Andrew J. Hatch; orderly sergeant, H. B. Hoyt; second sergeant, Levi F. Ward; third sergeant, Francis B. Mitchell; fourth sergeant, John T. Chumasero; color sergeant, Henry G. Booth; first corporal, Willard Abbott; second corporal, James L. Hatch; third corporal, James Connolly; fourth corporal, C. F. Adams. The civil officers elected were: President, Charles A. Dewey; vice-president, William S. Ely; secretary, George N. Hawley; treasurer, John T. Chumasero. After the election, the company was entertained royally at the home of Mayor John C. Nash. 
These were busy days. On November 13th and 18th, respectively, a dress drill and street parade were held, headed by a drum corps of six boys, and on November 28th the company was called upon to render its first official service. Colonel Crooks' cavalry regiment, known as the Eighth New York Cavalry, having been recruited at Camp Hillhouse was prepared to depart for the seat of war. Announcement was made that this departure would take place on November 20th, but the date was changed and on Thursday, November 28th, the regiment was escorted by the Union Blues and Newman's Band to the Genesee Valley railroad station. The day was the national Thanksgiving festival and great crowds lined the streets, the procession moving through what were then known as Court, Chestnut, Gibbs, New Main, Main, Buffalo, State, Allen, North Fitzhugh, High and Spring streets, Plymouth avenue, Trup and Exchange streets. Although there was a sadness over the departing of the cavalrymen, the fine appearance of the escort called forth many admiring comments.

There was no morbid spirit in the Union Blues in these or any other days and when there was a chance for some social gaiety the members responded as readily as to the call of the bugle. On December 10, 1861, the company played the host at a ball in Cobbleigh's hall. The day after Christmas witnessed a full dress parade and the old year was sung to a close at the home of C. J. Hill, father of Captain Hill, who entertained his son's command at his home on December 30th.

Duties became more pressing with the New Year, which brought in its train greater evidence of the seriousness and bitterness of the war in which North and South were locked. The Union Blues began to be called upon frequently to speed the living, who were hurried forward to the front, and to do honor to the dead heroes whose bodies were sent home to be buried with military honors. The situation was one which tended to make young men restive under non-combative duty, but it is highly significant of their fidelity to the duty assigned them that from the day of their organization the daily press of Rochester never mentions them except with praise.

On January 8, 1862, Colonel Mulligan, the hero of Lexington, arrived in Rochester accompanied by Mrs. Mulligan. The city spread itself at the feet of the gallant soldier and the populace lionized him. Following a civic demonstration in his honor, Colonel Mulligan was taken to the residence of Mayor Nash where the Union Blues contributed a serenade which resulted in their being invited to meet the guest of honor. From that hour the Blues contributed in no small degree to the Colonel's welcome, being present with other citizens to hear him lecture in Corinthian Hall. Before his departure Colonel Mulligan visited the Union Blues armory, where the company was drawn up in full uniform to receive him. To an address of felicitation by Captain Hill, Colonel Mulligan replied as follows:

“When I was invited to visit your drill room I had no idea of the nature of the ambuscade into which Mayor Nash was beguiling me. Now I understand it and find myself welcomed by my young friends whom I shall have cause long to remember. Young gentlemen, when I return to my brigade, whether you ever hear of it or not, I shall tell them of your kindness to me which I know is meant for them as gallant defenders of our beloved Union and they will make the welkin ring in honor of the Union Blues of Rochester. Gentlemen, my best wishes for your future prosperity I bequeath to you. Whether as ornaments to civil life or defending the honor and glory of our beloved country, I feel sure the Union Blues will do themselves credit and honor the government under which they serve.”

The Blues sent a bouquet to Mrs. Mulligan in appreciation of the Colonel's kind words and when it came time for the distinguished soldier to leave on January 10th to join his regiment at Chicago, they furnished escort for him and his lady from the Osborn House to the railway station.

It was a source of pride to the company that Captain Hill shone in the arts of peace as well as the duties of a military command and on February 7, 1862, when he delivered a humorous lecture on "The Human Race" in Corinthian hall for the benefit of the Ladies' Hospital Relief association, they provided him with escort and sat in full uniform on the stage. Of this
lecture the “Democrat and American” of January 8th asserts with candor: “Without designing to flatter Captain Hill, we assert that his lecture is much superior to Artemus Ward’s ‘Babes in the Wood.’”

On February 12, 1862, the Blues went through the evolutions of a full dress drill for the edification of the honorary members of the company and on Washington’s Birthday the company attended exercises conducted by their chaplain, Rev. George Dana Boardman, in Second Baptist church. The first anniversary was celebrated on May 7th when the full corps turned out in full uniform and marched through the principal streets. That evening they held a formal election of officers, selecting this list: Captain, Charles B. Hill; first lieutenant, Cornelius Waydell; second lieutenant, A. J. Hatch; first sergeant, H. B. Hoyt; second sergeant, L. F. Ward; third sergeant, F. B. Mitchell; fourth sergeant, J. T. Chumaser; fifth sergeant, W. B. Burke; first corporal, Willard Abbott; second corporal, George H. Clarke; third corporal, James Connolly; fourth corporal, John L. Sage. Civil officers chosen were: President, Charles A. Dewey; vice-president, Edwin O. Sage; secretary, Willard Abbott; treasurer, J. T. Chumaser; chaplain, Rev. George Dana Boardman. After the business meeting was ended the corps was entertained at the home of Mayor Nash, enjoying “a bountiful collation until a late hour.”

Somber duty soon began to make its demands upon the Union Blues. Although Captain Hill and Lieutenant Waydell went as a delegation from the corps to attend the military funeral of Captain Henry W. Trowbridge at Buffalo, the first recorded duty of this nature for the entire company was the funeral of Captain Henry B. O’Reilly, killed in the battle of Williamsburg while leading his company in Sickles’ brigade. From the Monday evening, May 17th, when the body arrived, until Tuesday afternoon at 3 o’clock when the funeral service was held at St. Paul’s church, detachments from the company served as guards of honor over the remains. Similar sad duty fell to the lot of the Blues on May 20, 1862, when the body of Lieutenant George W. Brown, of the Thirty-third Regiment, who had been killed at Williamsburg, was brought home for burial from Trinity church. On October 14, 1862, the company formed the escort at the funeral of Lieutenant William Kidd, Jr., who had been killed at the battle of Bull Run, the service being held at St. Luke’s church.

Little but routine appears on the records of the Union Blues for some months, but on Independence Day, 1862, the corps participated in the civic and military parade and dined at the home of Lieutenant Waydell. About this time the members showed their appreciation of the services of their captain and first lieutenant by presenting them with sword belts and sashes. To Chaplain Boardman, who was preparing to sail for Europe, they gave a pair of field glasses.

During the latter part of July and the early part of August, 1862, the old Thirteenth regiment, which had seen much service and became greatly depleted in number, opened a recruiting station and campaign in Rochester.

The recruiting of new companies and the enlistment of young men from the Blues and their friends made excitement run high. Those who were students at the University gave up honors and classes to serve the country at the front or to help recruit at home. Classes in swordsmanship were formed and the members proved faithful and regular at exacting drills and at their target practices. Their efficiency was proved often at the lake by the way they responded to the severest drill tests imposed by visiting officers of the regular army.

The Union Blues volunteered to raise a company, with Willard Abbott to captain it. Mr. Abbott was assisted in recruiting by C. E. Caldwell. Bounties were offered and by this means and by patriotic rallies the roster was easily completed. On October 16th Captain Abbott’s company left for Washington, Orderly Sergeant Henry G. Hamilton being another member of the Blues. About the same time Henry B. Hoyt became lieutenant in a new company of the 140th Regiment which left Rochester on September 18, 1862. The members of the Union Blues who were compelled to remain behind formed a guard of honor to their departing comrades on both occasions. From time to time reports were received of the gallant manner in which these companies con-
ducted themselves in action and maintained the traditions of their regiments.

The next recorded activity of the Blues shows the fraternal spirit of the corps and of the times, for on January 13, 1863, Captain Hill of the Blues lectured in Corinthian hall for the benefit of the Union Grays, his command supporting him in full uniform. The Grays manifested their appreciation of the kindness by giving Captain Hill a handsome gold headed cane on February 4th. On February 18, 1863, Company A, Colonel Barnes’ Eleventh Artillery, was organized, with Second Lieutenant A. J. Hatch of the Blues, son of Jesse W. Hatch, as first lieutenant. In the meantime Lieutenant Hoyt had won recognition on the field of battle. He was advanced on March 6th, 1863, to the captaincy of his company.

The Thirteenth regiment, having served its enlistment, arrived home in Rochester on May 4, 1863, and was met by the Union Blues and the Barnes Artillery. There were but eight companies, none of them complete, the portions under the command of Captains Downey and Abbott having been assigned to provost duty. This regiment was reorganized later, with the two-mentioned companies duly incorporated.

The time seemed ripe for a reunion, so the Union Blues celebrated their second anniversary on May 12, 1863, when it was noted that one-third of the members had enlisted for active service. The list comprised two captains, two adjutants, five lieutenants, one orderly sergeant, two sergeants, one assistant paymaster, one assistant surgeon, one official in the commissary department of the United States navy. The officers elected at this anniversary were: Captain, Charles B. Hill; first lieutenant, Cornelius Waydell; second lieutenant, L. A. Pratt; first sergeant, Charles A. Brackett; second sergeant, Francis B. Mitchell; third sergeant, Charles A. Dewey; fourth sergeant, W. B. Burke; fifth sergeant, F. W. Hawley; first corporal, Frank Blossom; second corporal, Cyrus F. Paine; third corporal, Fred B. Watts; fourth corporal, John L. Sage; chaplain, Rev. George Dana Boardman. Civil officers: President, E. O. Sage; vice-president, Alexander H. McVean; secretary, S. A. Ellis; treasurer, Cyrus F. Paine.


Despatches from the front constantly told of the price of war, and in more intimate ways the citizens of Rochester were to feel
its rigors. On May 23, 1863, the Union Blues assisted in paying the last tribute to the memory of Lieutenant Colonel McVicar, a foreign soldier of fortune, who had been killed a month before while leading his Sixth New York cavalry in a skirmish at Rappahannock. The body was brought home to be buried from his former residence in South avenue. The cruelty of death was forced home even more strongly on July 7th of this year by the news of the death of Captain W. E. Bristol, of the Metropolitan cavalry, the first man from the Blues to succumb, who died in hospital at Frashear City, June 4, 1863. The body was not brought home at the time, but the corps showed its respect by wearing mourning.

But it was not all sorrow in those days. Colonel E. G. Marshall, returning home with the Thirteenth regiment on May 30, 1863, was given a royal welcome and so were the members of the Eleventh Artillery who arrived from the front on June 18th. Captains Hoyt and McMullen of the 140th came into town on July 28th, to be welcomed with open arms. The Blues learned with pleasure that summer of the promotion of Orderly Sergeant H. G. Hamilton to a first lieutenantcy in the Thirteenth regiment and of the promotion of W. S. Ely to the rank of Assistant Surgeon of the 108th New York Volunteers. So that year passed away.

Barring a parade in honor of Washington’s birthday, the first formal duty of the Union Blues in 1864 was to attend in civilian’s dress the funeral of Captain Bristol on March 12th, the body having been sent home at the request of the family. News of the death of Major Jerry A. Sullivan, at one time an officer of the Thirteenth Regiment and later of the First Veteran New York cavalry, reached Rochester. The remains were brought to Rochester from Baltimore on March 15, 1864, by his brother, Captain P. H. Sullivan of the 140th regiment. They were met at the station by the Union Blues and the Alert company and were escorted to the residence of Major Sullivan’s father in Hunter street. On March 18th, the Blues escorted the body to the City Hall where it lay in state in the rotunda, the corps standing guard for two hours while lines of citizens filed past to look for the last time on a gallant soldier before the casket was closed. Major Sullivan was only 24 years old when he met his death and there was general sorrow.

The funeral service was conducted with impressiveness by Rev. Father O’Brien at St. Patrick’s cathedral, the officiating priest speaking with tender feeling. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre cemetery. The appearance of the Union Blues on this occasion evoked the following comment from the “Union and Advertiser” of that date: “The Blues have done much service during the past three years in various ways when no other military organization was at hand. It will be remarked that the company is composed of young men who receive no public aid whatever. They sustain the organization themselves and incur no little expense in so doing. Their public spirit cannot be called in question, for their readiness to serve has been demonstrated on many occasions as it was this morning. Having had frequent occasion to notice the promptness of this company to bury deceased soldiers and to perform other similar duties when such a company was required, we feel that it is due to the corps to make a public acknowledgement of their services.”

When the veterans of “The Old Thirteenth” desired to organize a new military company in Rochester on March 30th, the Blues put their shoulder to the wheel and helped by giving the veterans the use of their armory.

The third anniversary of the company was observed May 10th, 1864, by a military exhibition at the Armory, followed by a supper at the Osborn House where a party of 100 or more sat down to superbly decorated tables and choice viands. In the absence of the president, Edwin O. Sage, who was ill at the time, Charles A. Dewey presided. Wit and humor reigned from the time Captain Hill responded to the first toast. Others who spoke at this reunion were F. A. Macomber, Hon. John C. Nash, Colonel Charles H. Clark, of the Fifty-fourth regiment; Austin H. Cole, and Rev. George Dana Boardman. The notable fact that neither at this nor any other banquet of the Blues was liquor served, does not seem ever to have detracted from the eloquence displayed. Chaplain Boardman’s speech was his farewell to the company, much
to the sorrow of his comrades. The faithful friend, Newman's band, provided the kind of music that lent itself to vocal accompaniment, and good fellowship reigned. On June 21st, with band and visitors the Blues enjoyed a field day at Avon, drilling for the benefit of their friends.

Captain Charles B. Hill's faithful service at the head of the Union Blues came to an end on August 9, 1864, press of business compelling him to step aside in favor of Cornelius Waydell. It was only when his comrades saw that the step was unavoidable that they consented to it and even then they did so with poignant and genuine regret at the loss of so efficient an officer.

Another break in the ranks was known on August 16, 1864, when news came to Rochester of the death of Lieutenant Harry Pool of the 140th regiment, who had joined Captain Otis' company as orderly sergeant and had been rapidly advanced to quartermaster and lieutenant. He was reported for distinguished bravery at Gettysburg, was wounded and taken prisoner in the Wilderness, and died of typhoid fever at Gordonsville prison hospital July 17, 1864.

More fortunate in their captivity were Henry G. Hamilton and Henry B. Hoyt, former members of the Blues, who returned home safely after being exchanged from Confederate prisons. A serenade in their honor was arranged for December 20, 1864, by the Blues, who did not forget their old Captain Hill at the same time.

The last service during the Civil War came to the Union Blues on February 25, 1865, when they turned out as escort at the funeral of Captain Charles S. Montgomery who fell leading the Fifth New York Volunteers at the battle of Hatcher's Run. But their saddest duty and privilege is recorded on April 27, 1865, when, with every military organization in Rochester and its neighborhood, they stood with arms reversed and heads bowed while the body of the martyred President Abraham Lincoln rested a few moments in the Rochester station on its long journey to the grave. A few were privileged to go to Buffalo that day to see the body as it lay in state.

Death again visited the Blues in this year when Charles A. Brackett, son of Ex-Mayor James Brackett and one of the found-ers of the Union Blues, died at his home on May 1, 1865. He was a lieutenant of the corps at the time of his death and was also adjutant of the Fifty-fourth New York National Guard. Brackett was universally beloved and his death was deeply mourned, as records of the Blues attest in affectionate resolutions. He was buried from St. Luke's church, his comrades attending in full dress uniform.

But the quickstep was heard in these times more often than the dirge, for the boys were marching home, with sadly decimated ranks, it is true, but with victory to cheer them. The Union Blues were kept busy providing escorts for the returning heroes, two of the most notable homecomings on record being those of the 108th Regiment, N. Y. V., on June 1, 1865, and the 104th Regiment six days later on June 7th.

For the first years of their existence the Union Blues had much sad duty to perform, but when the Civil War was ended and the North had begun to settle down again to comparative calm, the young men who had served with so much credit in times of stress felt privileged to enjoy the delights of peace and good comradeship. The headquarters of the Blues saw many a pleasant function; but the one which stands forth in the memory of those who remain was the visit of the members of Company A, Tenth Regiment, National Guard of New York State, otherwise known as the Albany Zouave Cadets, to the Union Blues on October 10 and 11, 1865. Rochester overflowed with hospitality and good cheer and although banquets and homecomings had become somewhat a matter of course at that time, the festivities of the two days remain vividly in the minds of those who participated in them. A brief account of this visit is worthy a place in any history of the Union Blues.

The Albany Zouaves and a few invited guests arrived by train from their home city at five o'clock in the morning on October 10th, accompanied by the Fort Columbus band of the United States army. They were met at the station and escorted to the Osborn House for refreshment and a few hours rest after the tedious journey of two hundred and twenty miles. At 10 o'clock in the morning the visitors were drawn up in formal lines and
were received with similar formality by their hosts. At 11 o'clock under escort of the Blues and Newman's band the Zouaves boarded special cars for Lake Ontario for their annual rifle competition, a contest in which the finest marksman received a gold medal, while a leather disk was allotted to him whose shots went widest of the bullseye. Luncheon was provided by the Union Blues. Following is a list of the visitors and their guests:


Captain L. U. Lennox.


The day was spent upon the lake shore at the target shoot, forty-four Zouaves trying their skill in three shots each at a target set up at a distance of 100 yards; and it is interesting to note that the only man to hit the mark three times was the commandant, Captain Lennox, and that the total number of hits registered was thirty-one on the target and three others on the staff. Like a true leader, the captain refused to take his honors and medal, passing the latter on to Private E. Hart, whose score was the second best of the day.

Then came a short visit to Beck's vineyard, followed by a collation at Stutson's, a popular hostelry of the times, and a short excursion on the lake with Captain Estes of the steamer Ontario. It happened that on the same date the civic authorities of the Canadian towns of Lindsay, Peterborough, Port Hope, Coburg, Brighton and Colborne came by invitation to be the guests of the mayor and aldermen of Rochester. The two parties of excursionists met at the lake and afterwards the Canadians were treated to a sight of the two American military companies in evolution and to a visit with them to the vineyard. Late in the afternoon the young soldiers returned to Rochester and at 9:30 o'clock in the evening, while the Canadian visitors were being banqueted elsewhere, the two companies met as hosts and guests at a sumptuous dinner at the Osborn House, where "Mr. George Thrall, the proprietor, who knows how to do things handsomely and to whom, with his gentlemanly assistants, Messrs. O. S. Gage and H. O. Brown, all are indebted for many attentions, surpassed himself" in the language of the day, which further comments "the room was beautifully decorated with flags. At one end the motto 'Ducit Amor Patriae' was displayed, and conspicuously on the other side were the words 'Welcome Albany Zouave Cadets.' We are glad to say that there was no liquor of any kind at this banquet. Certainly, it was not needed as an inspiration."

Major Lee opened the festivities by presenting the gold medal for shooting to Private Hart and the leather trophy to Sergeant Burhans. President Charles A. Dewey of the Blues then made a speech of welcome to which Charles E. Smith responded, Captain Lennox being too modest to be moved to public utterance. Mr. Smith in turn gave the toast of "The Blues" to which Former Captain Charles B. Hill responded, making appropriate acknowledgment, lifting his glass at the conclusion of his speech to the Governor of the State of New York, whose compliments were extended by Brigadier General Marvin. Following with speech or song came Major General Robinson, Major Lee, George Dawson, Colonel McQuade, of Utica, General Fairchild and others.
The memory of the dead of both organizations was toasted reverently at the suggestion of Mr. Macomber, and the dinner concluded with the singing of "America."

The next morning was given up to sight seeing and in the afternoon the Zouaves, under their officers, and the Blues, under Captain Cornelius Waydell, First Lieutenant L. A. Pratt and Second Lieutenant L. A. Ward, paraded through the streets between crowds of citizens who waved applause from the walks. Newman's band and the Fort Columbus regulars provided fine music when the procession stopped in front of the Court House for an exhibition drill by the Zouaves, whose precise and accurate movements and execution of the manual of arms drew forth loud plaudits. Then back to the armory moved the parade, the soldiers broke ranks and were at ease again. Until 9 o'clock in the evening the companies fraternized, the Zouaves re-embarking at that hour for the journey home, leaving pleasant recollections of their good fellowship and bearing grateful memories of Rochester's hospitality.

Their welcome in Rochester struck a deep chord in the hearts of the Albany men and soon they had prepared a handsome souvenir book containing every possible obtainable account of the visit which had been written in the Rochester and Albany press. This book was bound handsomely and copies were sent to the Blues in memory of the event. Nor were the Zouaves content with this, for on June 7, 1866, the Blues found themselves in Albany with the roles of host and guest reversed. There were concerts, shoots, sail on the river, the freedom of the city at the hands of Mayor Thatcher, and a grand dinner at the Delevan House, where the wit and wisdom which had sparkled in Rochester was again produced to everyone's great enjoyment. Next day was passed in seeing Albany, the evening witnessing a grand promenade concert at Tweedle Hall before the visitors departed for home. The list of the Blues as given in contemporary accounts of this visit is valuable historically. It follows:


Corporal Baker won the prize for the best string of three shots and L. A. Pratt put in his shot closest to the bulleteye.

In the year which followed social pleasures were frequent and among some of the pleasant things which the historian may discover in his searching among the press notices of that day are a presentation to Captain Waydell of a handsome meerschaum pipe by the Blues, the annual shoot at Charlotte where Private Frank Kelly won the medal, a trip to Canandaigua during which Private Kelly further added lustre to a famous name by winning a prize drill, and the sending to Albany of a handsome tablet to commemorate the visit in June.

The records of the Union Blues now begin to become less distinct and no positive data regarding their elections and formal transactions are available after 1867 when the annual election of officers resulted in the choice of: Captain, Cornelius Waydell; first lieutenant, Levi F. Ward; second lieutenant, J. F. Pool; first sergeant, David Hoyt; second sergeant, Frederick Watts; third sergeant, J. T. Chumasero; fourth sergeant, Albert C. Wakeman; fifth sergeant, Henry S. Dean; first corporal, C. A. Phillips; second corporal, J. F. Hawley; third corporal, George H. Clark; fourth corporal, George L. Baker. Civil Officers: President, J. H. Kelly; vice-president, Austin H. Cole; secretary, H. L. Robinson; treasurer, David Hoyt; chaplain, Rev. J. B. Shaw.
After 1867 the active life of the Union Blues as a military company seems to have ceased, although the annual target shoots and reunions under the command of Captain Waydell were continued until 1869. In June of that year, Captain Waydell left Rochester to engage in business with his brothers in New York. He went bearing the good wishes and ardent affection of the men who had served under him as captain and lieutenant and with the respect of the citizens of Rochester for the part he and the Blues had borne in the years of strife and sorrow.

About this time the company appropriated what remained in its treasury to the Rochester City Hospital for the purpose of furnishing a room in that worthy institution to be known as the "Blues' Room," and an annual assessment was levied upon the members of the company until 1893 for the keeping of this room in order and supplying it with such conveniences and comforts as were deemed necessary. This room was to be at the service of any member or former member of the Union Blues in case of need at any future time, but it was never used by the company. After 1893 the Blues' Room was given over to the hospital management for general purposes.

Annual reunions were held, usually with a target shoot, until the early nineties and it was not until the new century had been turned that death, illness or removal had so depleted the ranks that it was decided in 1907 to discontinue them. It thus happens that, although not a few of the members are still active and prominent men, the old corps, as an organization, is now nothing more than a name and a memory.