

HONORS TO THE BRAVE

DEDICATION OF THE 97TH REGIMENT MONUMENT

A BEAUTIFUL SHAFT PERPETUATES IN GRANITE THE DEEDS OF THOSE WHO BATTLED FOR THE UNION

A Long Line of Soldiery – Regiments With Gay Colonels—Veterans With Whitened Locks – Survivors Who Have Weird Stories to Tell and a Bloom of Banners in the Air.

Col. H. R. Guss, of the 97th Regiment, was the first man awake this morning in West Chester, for the long-expected day had arrived when the monument erected to the memory of the gallant 97th was to be dedicated. The sun came at intervals and gave the anxious ones the assurance that there would at least be no rain falling during the hours set apart for the ceremonies. Soon after daylight G. A. R. men, Knights of Golden Eagle, firemen, musicians and all kinds of persons who were to parade began appearing on the streets, and by eight o'clock the sidewalks were alive with people from all over the country and some from the cities.

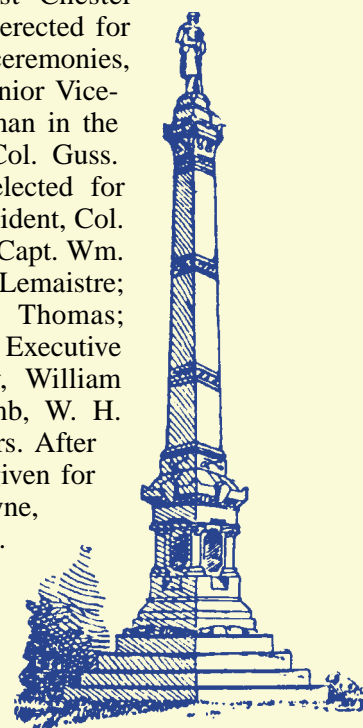
THE EARLY ARRIVALS

The first train in brought the Ringgold Band of Reading, old and experienced musicians, wearing heavy army overcoats with caps. They were met at the depot by a delegation from the West Chester Fire Company whose guests they were to be for the day. Headed by Firemen H. L. Brinton, K. H. Gould, Dr. G. G. Gardwell, Oyrus McFadgan, Wilmer Hannum and A. B. Roecker, they marched up to the engine house and thence to the Green Tree Hotel, where they rendered several selections. Next to appear in a body was the West Chester Cornet Band, and soon after the St. Agnes T.A.B. Flute and Drum Corps marched out of head-quarters and went to the depot headed by several members of the Fame. From the depot the Fame boys, headed by John O. Heed, W. T. Shepherd, Geo. Griffith, Fred Heed, Ed Brinton and others, escorted thirty-five members of the old Volunteer Fire Department of Philadelphia who were attired in beautiful long white overcoats. Up around by the West Chester engine house they marched and down Gay to Walnut, and then around to the Fame's head-quarters, where the guests were treated to a nice lunch which had been prepared for them. Firebells in all three of the engine houses rang and the old firemen from the

city of Philadelphia were given a warm reception. Col Guss was at the depot wearing a white bouquet in the button-hole of his coat and heartily welcomed all those who lighted from the train. While the Volunteers of Philadelphia were passing the Green Tree the Keystone Band of West Pikeland, drove up followed by two wagon loads of boys from the Soldiers' Orphans' School. By this time the Knights of Golden Eagle from Downingtown, Co. C of Conshohocken, and Co. P. of Phoenixville, N. G. P., Hancock Post, G.A.R., of Downingtown, two companies of the 2d Regiment and other military companies had arrived. Up on Market street at the Court House aids of the Chief Marshal were assembled on horseback, who stationed the visitors at different parts of the town preparatory to the formation of the line. While all this was going on forks and knives were sacked like so many hundred guns on several large tables at Armory Hall, where the Wayne Fencibles will feed the members of the 6th Regiment, of which the Fencibles are a part.

THE REUNION MEETING.

At 10 o'clock the survivors assembled at the Green Tree Hotel, from whence they marched to the monument, headed by the West Chester Cornet Band. On the stand erected for the observance of unveiling ceremonies, Captain William Wayne, Senior Vice-president, was made Chairman in the absence of the President, Col. Guss. The old officers were re-elected for another year as follows: President, Col. H. R. Guss; Vice-President, Capt. Wm. Wayne, I. A. Cleaver, Geo. Lemaistre; Secretary, Leonard R. Thomas; Treasurer, Oliver Channell; Executive Committee, S. W. Hawley, William Underwood, Robert Fairlamb, W. H. Ives and Herman T. Browsers. After roll call three cheers were given for Colonel Guss, Captain Wayne, Captain Savage and others. Several members of the regiment were called upon to make speeches. Colonel Guss welcomed the survivors and said he hoped they would enjoy them-



selves and appreciate the monument. It was a long time coming, but there it was at last for their inspection.

Captain Savage, of Philadelphia, said he had no living right to say much, for he had been reported dead for the past three years. "Hard-Tack Jones!" some one shouted, but Major Jones, of West Chester, failed to respond and with cheers the meeting and 4th reunion was over, not however before the following historical paper by Col. Price was handed over for reading, but time being precious it was not read, and we published it as follows:

Survivors of the Ninety-Seventh Regiment Penn. Vols. in Connection with the Dedication of the Monument October 29th, 1887.

COMRADES OF THE 97TH P.V. - Today your historian is charged with the pleasant duty of recording upon the pages of our history the announcement of the completion of the monument that has for so many years been the hope of our hearts-that our eyes might, in the process of time, be privileged to look upon its shapely, chiseled outlines that are to tell to future ages the story of heroic duty, the toll, the privations, and the brave, patient endurance unto death of our lamented comrades, whose precious memory this noble shaft has been erected to commemorate and preserve.

The services attendant upon its formal dedication to-day, in the presence of this array of military and civic organizations, and the distinguished citizens and honored guests, and this multitude of our own people, whose sympathies have gathered them together here to unite with us in solemnly dedicating this monumental shaft, will constitute the consummating ceremonies that will transfer it formally into the watchful custody and charge of the constituted borough authorities, to be by them, and their successors in office, held in perpetual care, as our precious memorial tribute of remembrance and love of our fallen comrades.

The chief matter of interest to be noted since our last reunion is what relates to the final arrangements for the completion of the beautiful and imposing granite column which we now unveil and dedicate, in token of our enduring regard for our comrades who sacrificed their lives for our country. Rescued from the perils of dissolution and anarchy through the courageous faithfulness to patriotic duty on the part of those who died and those who survive, these remain ever the mindful of the magnitude of those sacrifices. They fully realize all the issues of those perilous times, when the life of the nation hung in tremulous uncertainty over the vortex of a chaotic future of dismemberment, disintegration and destruction.

From the present era of restored nationality amid the peaceful prosperity of our country, we now look backward with reverent faith, that this endearing stone by

which we seek to mark that period of duty, sacrifice and heroic service in behalf of civilization shall so preserve the lesson of those perilous times, that those who look upon it in after time shall be reminded, that whatever of peace, of security and prosperity in the country and the home is now happily realized has had its foundations laid in the experiences which these symbols and memorial tablets are reared up to perpetuate by their instructive lessons.

The committee, entrusted with the duty of erecting the monument, so long the cherished object of our united purpose, has constantly endeavored to advance therein by such notion as was thought would be most productive toward increasing the fund in hand available for the purpose.

By a wise and careful investment of this fund, and awaiting the most auspicious time for overcoming the difficulties interposed against having the monument placed upon the site granted us by the Borough Council in 1867, the amount on hand has been increased until it has reached rather more than \$5000.

This has enabled the committee to enter into a contract for a monument that, by its appearance, as now completed, fully justifies all the delay that has preceded its construction.

After several meetings for the purpose your committee has carefully examined and considered the numerous and varied designs that were submitted to their inspection, and after full and free discussion of the merits and demerits of most of those before them have united in adopting the design submitted by the Ryegate Granite Works, of South Ryegate, Vermont, as the one best suited to meet their views of what the monument should be.

They therefore entered into a written contract which stipulates for the erection and completion of the monument in conformity with the design exhibited and with the specifications that set forth its details and dimensions, etc., etc. Finished in every particular and set upon the place designated in Marshall Square, West Chester, for the sum of five thousand dollars.

Since our last annual meeting four more of our number have been summoned to answer the "last roll call" above.

Private William B. Kirkpatrick, Co. C, 97th P.V., was killed while at work assisting at the building of an iron bridge at Landenberg, Chester County, on January 14th, 1887, by the fall of a derrick by which a heavy iron truss girder was being unloaded from a train, or when being hoisted into place. It fell upon his back and shoulders, crushing him to death instantly. He was a member of Lieutenant Josiah White Post, No. 45, G.A.R. of Phoenixville, Chester County, PA, where he

resided. He was buried at that place on January 17th, 1887. By his sudden and unlooked for death he leaves a widow and several young children unprovided for to mourn their irreparable loss.

Private Marry C. Rennard, Company A, died at his home in Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, on June 8th, 1887.

Private William C. Hemphill, of Company H and the band, died of consumption in Philadelphia on _____, 1887. He was buried at Oakland Cemetery, at West Chester, on

Another sudden death of a comrade occurred on Friday morning, on the 8th, 1887, at Lancaster, PA. Private William Mercer, Company A, 97th Regiment. This death was attributed to an overdose of morphine, taken to induce sleep, from which he never aroused. He had been engaged in business at Lancaster, PA, with a partner in the manufacture of the Lancaster water wheel. His age was 47 years.

Thus one by one our comrades fall out of the ranks by the way. Our members must inevitably decrease until, as time rolls on, there will be none left to meet together as now, in fraternal reunions. But so long as even two or three shall annually come hither to clasp hands at the shrine sacred to the memory of our fallen comrades their greeting one of another will grow more earnest, more deep and more heartfelt, for with them will be concentrated the realization that they are the last representatives of our brave and gallant band.

Isaiah Price, Historian, October 29th 1887.

The First, Second and Third Regiments arrive.

Just about the time the reunion terminated a train steamed into the Gay street depot, bringing the First Regiment, many of the Second and a number of the Third from Philadelphia. Col. Dechert, of the Second, was among the number with his staff. First Regiment Infantry Band and the Third Regiment Drum Corps and also the Weccacoe Band accompanied them. As soon as they alighted from the train, Col. Guss and Col Price escorted them into the center of the town, where they remained until the line formed.

Streets Impassable

Meanwhile all the bands and drum corps in town were playing and the streets were almost impassable. From all parts of the county and many from adjacent counties, towns and cities, hundreds of people came and by 11 o'clock the town wore an appearance such as was never before witnessed here.

The Line

At 11:30 the word "Forward march"! was given, when the line moved in the following order:

West Chester police force, 8 men.

Chief Marshal – Colonel Isaiah Price.

Aikds – Surg.. J.B. Everhart, M.D.,97th P.V.;Capt. Wm Wayne, Co. K, 97th, P.V.;Capt. G.A. LeMaistre, Co. H, 97th, P.V.; 1st Lieut. Abel Griffith, Co. A, 97th, P.V.; Sergeant, Isaac A. Cleaver, Co. O, 97th, P.V.; Corporal R. Bruce Wallace, Co. B, 97th, P.V.; Corporal, Hillery Fox, Co.G, 97th,P.V.; Corporal, James Groff, Co. I, 97th P.V.; Private, Walter Pyle, Co.D, 97th,P.V.; Major A.O. Reinohl, 76th, P.V.; Captj. Bent Brooks, Co.B, 203d, P.V.; Col. Alfred Rupert, 1st PA Reserves, Major Emmor B. Cope, 1st Pa. Reserves; Col. Joseph W. Hawley, 124th P.V.; Capt. C.W. Roberts, 124th P.V. and K.G.E.; Major Barton D. Evans, Staff N.G.P.; Captain George R. Guss, Chester County Battery; Corporal Thomas T. Smith, 124th P.V.: Commander John A. Weidersheim; Geo. G. Meade Post, No.1 G.A.R., Dept Pa, Post Commander, R.N. Thomas, Gen. George A. McCall Post, No. 31, G.A.R.; B.S. Eldridge, First West Chester Fire Co., No.1; Dr. J.B. Raynor, Good Will Fire Co., No.2; Davis O. Taylor, Fame Fire Co., No.3; Thomas W. Marshall, Esq.; Hon. James B. Everhart, ex-Member of Congress; Col. Frank Magee, 76th P.V.; R. Jones Monaghan, Esq.; Standard Bearer. Lient. Thomas Cosgriff, Company F, 97th P.V. First Division, Colonel Robert P. Dechert. Sixth Regiment Drum Corps, twenty-one pieces, regular army uniform. Sixth Regiment, Colonel J.W. Schall commanding, 400 men, regular army uniform. Veteran Corps of the First Regiment, 28 men, Colonel W.W. Allen commanding, black hats with plumes, frock coats with black capes over blue linings. First Regiment Band, 31 pieces, S.H. Kendall, leader, blue overcoats, blue capes with red lining. First Regiment, N.G.P., Colonel Bowman commanding, 400 men, ten companies. 8th regiment Drum Corps, Wm. Taggart Drum Major, 14 men; red frock coats, helmets and brass buttons. 3rd Regiment, Capt. John C. Thompson, commanding 101 men; frock coats, red trimmings and blue pants and helmet hats. 2nd Regiment, 82 men, Capt. J.E. Valentine commanding; regular army uniforms. Griffin Battery, of Phoenixville, Captain John Denihorn commanding; 64 men, 6 cannons. 2nd Division Marshal, Captain Frank Guss and aid, Hillery Fox. West Chester Cornet Band, Ed. C. Morrison leader; 156 pieces, black suits, gold stripes. 97th survivors, Captain Lewis commanding; 76 men. Chester Springs Soldiers; Orphans; Band; William Gibbons, leader; 10 pieces. Post 45, G.A.R., Phoenixville; 30 men; John W. Gilbert, commander. Chester Springs Soldiers' Orphans; School, J.W. Snyder commanding; 104 boys. Kennett Square Cornet Band, John Walker, leader; 18 pieces. General Meade Post, No. 1, of Philadelphia; 30 men; General Wayne Vodges commanding. McCall Post 31, West Chester; Joseph Dicks commanding; 56 men. McCall Post cannon drawn by two horses and accompanied by a guard of honor. M.B. Fahey Fife and Drum Corps, of Chester, Pa.; 16 pieces. Post 25, of Chester, J.M.

Stoever commanding; 61 men. Post 34, Avondale; J.H. Greenfield, commander; 26 men. Liberty Cornet Band; W.H. Thomas, leader; 22 pieces. General Geo. F. Smith Post; Capt. Levi Hood commander; 34 men. Thompson Post, No. 132, Oxford; Richard F. Cowan commanding 20 men. Post Bradbury Drum Corps, of Media; 8 pieces. Post Bradbury, of Media; Thos. J. Dolphin, commander; 34 men. Post 480, Clifton Heights; Joseph H. Condlenton, commander; 16 men. General Hancock Post, of Downingtown; D.M. Cox, commander; 28 men. Star Band, of Coatesville, 26 pieces, George Russell, leader. Brandywine Post, 54, Coatesville, Stephen M. Hall commander, 50 men with cannon. John A. Ross Post, Atglen, Geo. Nowjay commanding, 18 men. 3rd Division, H.I. Brinton Marshall, E.M. Gatchel and J.N. Guss aids. Ringgold Band of Reading, 124 pieces. West Chester Fire Company, 65 men; white gloves, black suits, drawing truck upon which was a white tent and campfire accoutrements. On the tent was Camp Everhart, 97th P.V. Keystone Band of Chester Springs, 22 pieces. Golod Will Fire Company, J.B. Gray Marshal, J.A. Reagen Chief Engineer; 60 men in line, all with brand new equipment; engineers with long black overcoats drawing hose carriage and aged members riding in carriages. Good Will Steamer, drawn by four black horses. St. Agnes; T.B. Drum Corps, 16 pieces, A. Canizares leader. Banner of Volunteer Firemen's Association of Philadelphia. Thirty-five members of the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Philadelphia, Wm. M. Kidd commanding; long white overcoats, with regular fireman's hat. Six representatives of Spring City Firemen, red hats, blue shirts, etc. "Fame" (the dog) and two boys guiding his four paws. Fame Fire Company; Theo P. Apple, Marshal, 50 men drawing hose carriage. Eight horses hauling Fame's engine, 4 blacks and 4 whites. Goshen Castle, K.G.E., 44 men, Captain, Lewis Farra. Windsor Castle, K.G.E., Thorndale; Captain Jarvis Ellis, 25 men carrying swords. Coatesville Castle, K.G.E., 35 men, Wm. Minster, Captain. Fourth Division. Col. Hastings, Marshal; Geo. B. Mercer, aid. West Chester Pioneer Corps, No. 1; Capt. Thos. Shaner, 28 men.

Pioneer Corps. Captain Lewis Cosgrove: 94 boys, blue shirts with crosses on caps.

Carriages containing members of the Borough Council and also the following gentlemen: Governor Curtin, Judge Futhey, Col Guss and R. K. Monaghan.

Congressman Darlington, Jos Ad: Thomson, Senator A. D. Harian, L. Carey Carver.

Col. Gallagher and Wm. L. James, W. J. Faires, Philadelphia: R. W. Smith (Morton Chronicle), and T. W. Pierce, West Chester.

Rev. J. S. Evans, Rev. J. O. Caldwell and Captain Edwin Otley.

Judge Waddell, Major E. B. Moore, W. W. Polk, Col. H. H. Gilkyson and Rev. J. J. Creig.

Wm. Perrine (Evening Bulletin), S. Sanford, Haverford.

S. L. McIlvane, Reading and M. H. Matlack, West Chester. Percy Simpson and Mr. DuBarry, Haverford.

The Monument which is to-day unveiled is 50 feet high from the bottom of the first base stone to the top of the soldier's head. It is of Rygate granite, from South Ryegate, Vermont and was made by the Ryegate Granite Works, of which R. F. Carter is President, A. F. Mulliken Secretary and Treasurer, and P. McGinn General Traveling Agent, who is here and at this beautiful monument in position. A brief description follows:

Four Bases, two Plinths, four polished columns, and four face polished Die. The dies South face is inscribed the organization of the 97th, West face, Reason monument was erected, North face, battles 97th fought and East face, officers at the Regiments organization.

Surmounting the die is a frieze extending over the capitals and cut in such a manner as to relieve the die from the capitals. On this frieze is a plinth with shields embossed upon the four faces: South, 24th Army Corps badge; west, 8th Army Corps badge; north, 10th Army Corps badge and east, the figures "97" being the number of the regiment. Above this plinth is another stone, embellished as follows. South side, an anchor, west side, crossed musket; north side crossed cannon; east side, crossed sabers.

Next is a moulding, on which rests the shaft, which is in three pieces, 6ft., 7ft., and 7 ft. On this rests a composite capital with a pedestal ornamented with carvings. Upon this pedestal stands the statue of a soldier at parade rest, a handsome piece of workmanship, 8 feet high and weighs two tons. The entire weight of the monument is 104 tons.