

reached Acton the evening of October 21, 1865, after an absence of four years and three days.

In the narrative of Company E, Twenty-sixth Regiment, I stated that Governor Andrew decided to retain the Sixth as a militia regiment to answer sudden calls. In response to such a call it left the State August 31, 1862, to serve for nine months under Colonel Albert S. Follansbee, of Lowell. Company E, of Acton, was officered as follows: Aaron C. Handley, captain; Aaron S. Fletcher and George W. Rand, lieutenants; Dr. Isaiah Hutchins, hospital steward for the regiment.

Captain Handley had commanded the Davis Guards some years before the war. His grandfather had served in the Revolutionary War and his father did military duty in the War of 1812.

The regiment was ordered to proceed to Suffolk, Virginia, near Fortress Monroe. It assisted in the construction of Forts Nansemond and McLellan. The regiment was detailed for guard duty in the forts, afterwards for scouting duty and destroying rebel railroads, among which were the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad and the Seaboard and Roanoke.

The regiment took part in several battles and skirmishes. Among these may be mentioned the Deserted House, Carrsville and Ludlow Lawrence's home. In these actions the Sixth had twenty-seven men killed and wounded. No casualties in Acton company, though that company lost three men by disease. The regiment was mustered out June 3, 1863.

The services of the old Sixth were required for the third and last time during the war, for a term of enlistment of one hundred days, commencing July 18, 1864.

Col. Follansbee again led the regiment, and Co. E, Davis Guards, of Acton, was under the following list of officers: Frank M. Whitcomb, who was orderly sergeant during the nine months' term of service in 1861 and 1863, was captain, with George W. Knight and Isaiah Hutchins as lieutenants. The regiment was ordered to proceed to Washington, D. C., and marched to Arlington Heights and performed fatigue duty in front of Fort Stevens for two or three weeks. This fatigue duty consisted in leveling the ground and felling trees to give greater range and efficiency to the great guns of the fort. After this time it was ordered to garrison Fort Delaware and to guard the rebel prisoners in the fort. After a useful but uneventful term of service it was mustered out, Oct. 27th, and returned home.

Of the one hundred men in Captain Whitcomb's company, twenty-nine were from Acton. No casualties or deaths occurred during this enlistment.

The official military record of the town of Acton reports as sent to the army during the War of the Rebellion 215 different men, including twenty commissioned officers. The adjutant-general's report for 1865 states that at the close of the war she had answered all calls required to fill her quota, and had a surplus of thirty

men to her credit. The number of commissioned officers was exceptionally large. No Acton-born soldier, credited to her quota, deserted, or failed to receive an honorable discharge.

The recruiting committee of the town were the selectmen: James E. Billings, J. K. W. Wetherbee and Jonas K. Putney, with an assistant committee of three: Daniel Wetherbee, Capt. A. C. Handley and Varnum B. Mead.

Four brothers enlisted from one family, and the head of that family a widow, Mrs. Abram Handley. Though one of these brothers (Frank) died early in the war, and another (George) was discharged for disability, their combined terms of service were more than ten years.

Mr. Wheeler's three sons all enlisted. In six other cases, two brothers were in the ranks together, and in one both father and son, William and William B. Reed, were in the service at the same time.

Luke Smith was credited three times to the quota of the town, whose father, Solomon Smith, marched over the same road under Captain Isaac Davis to the old North Bridge that his son, Luke, followed in part under Captain Daniel Tuttle, eighty-four years later. Mr. Smith was the oldest soldier credited to Acton's quota, having at his last enlistment (for one hundred days) in 1864, reached the age of more than fifty years.

Thomas Kinsley, Jr., was the youngest recruit, being but fifteen years and two months old at the time of his enlistment.

Of the 216 men credited to Acton, eighteen died while in service, either killed in battle or victims of disease. This does not include natives or residents of Acton, who were credited to other towns, who died in service.

MEMORIAL LIBRARY.—This memorial structure, just completed, stands upon the north side of the Main Street at the Centre, nearly opposite the Davis Monument. It has an ideal location, partially shaded by the elms and maples, which give it a classic repose even at the start.

Its approach is by an easy ascent from the east, south and west, over concrete walks. It is a few rods northeast of the Town House, with which it is connected by concrete and a fine lawn, a site known for over sixty years as the Fletcher Homestead. It is the most unique and costly building ever erected in town, and is destined to be the centre of culture for many generations to come.

The style of architecture is Romanesque. The external appearance and the internal arrangements and furnishings are in harmony with this idea, and can be properly judged only from that standpoint. The architects are H. W. Hartwell and William G. Richardson, of Boston. The building is composed of red brick and brownstone.

Its extreme length is sixty-six feet six inches and its depth thirty-two feet and ten inches from south to

north. The principal entrance opens upon the south and through a large, solid freestone arch, which has rich mouldings and carved spandrels, within which are to be placed memorial tablets to the soldiers in the War of the Rebellion, of which this town furnished a large number. On entering the building, a reading-room, called the Memorial Room, sixteen by twenty-five feet, is found at the left. It has heavy beamed ceiling, a large antique brick fire-place and decorated walls. Above the fire-place is a handsome brownstone tablet, with this carved inscription:

"THIS BUILDING A GIFT TO HIS NATIVE TOWN BY WILLIAM ALLEN WILDE."

The room has rich oak tables, settees and chairs, all in the olden style. Opposite the reading-room, and at the right, is the book apartment, thirty-two feet six inches long, twenty-four feet six inches wide, twenty feet high. Along the sides of this are arranged book alcoves, two stories high, having light connecting galleries for the second tier, reached by stairs at the right and left of the desk occupied by the librarian. The desk is so located that the person in charge of it can command a view of the book-room and the reading room also, this latter opening into the central reading space by a large open archway. Located at the north of this central hall is the room devoted to the library trustees, thirteen by fifteen feet, with a northern light, richly furnished. Opening out of this is a fire-proof vault, where articles of value and the archives of the town can be stored. In the opposite corner is a toilet-room, fitted up with all modern conveniences. All the spaces and rooms are brilliantly lighted from chandeliers, and heated by two large furnaces in the cellar, which is by itself quite an institution—cemented, drained and plastered. The water arrangements are quite a specialty, embracing a tank in the attic, which can be easily filled by a force-pump connecting with a well that belonged to the estate, seventy-five feet deep, the bottom of which is a solid ledge, containing an unfailing spring of the purest and coolest water.

The corporators of the library under the charter are Luther Conant, Adelbert Mead, Moses Taylor, Hiram J. Hapgood, Delette H. Hall and Daniel James Wetherbee. These are constituted trustees for life, with power to fill vacancies in case of death or resignation of any one of their number. Three additional trustees are to be chosen by the town, one for three years, one for two years and one for one year.

In the future, after the organization, the town is to elect by ballot each year one trustee of the three, elective for three years.

Mr. Wilde's letter presenting Memorial Library Building to the town of Acton:

"MALDEN, MASS., Feb. 27, 1890.

"To the Selectmen of Acton:  
"GENTLEMEN,—For a long time past it has been my intention, if ever I was able to do so, to remember my native town by the gift of some mem-

orial to the memory of those brave and patriotic men of Acton who so freely gave time, strength and health—and many of them their lives—in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-65.

"To carry out this plan in what seemed to me the most advantageous and permanent method possible, I have purchased the estate of Rev. James Fletcher, adjacent to the Town-House, and erected thereon a Memorial Library, placing upon its shelves some four thousand volumes, more or less, and I beg the privilege of presenting this property to the town as a free gift, only stipulating that it shall forever be kept as a Memorial Library, and free to all the citizens of the patriotic old town of Acton, which I shall always love and be proud of.

"If it shall please the town to accept this gift I shall be glad to pass all necessary papers for the transfer of the property to whom and at such time as the town shall direct.

"I am, gentlemen, yours truly,

"WILLIAM A. WILDE."

Upon reading this letter, by Mr. Howard B. White, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, to the citizens of Acton, in town-meeting assembled, March 3, 1890, Rev. James Fletcher presented the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by the town, to be forwarded to Mr. Wilde in response, and to be placed upon the town records:

"WHEREAS a charter of Incorporation has passed the Legislature and been signed by his Excellency Gov. J. Q. A. Brackett incorporating the Memorial Library, and Hon. William A. Wilde, a native of Acton—now a resident of Malden—has signified his readiness to deed to the town the Memorial Library Building just completed at his expense, and the land on which it stands, and all the appurtenances thereof, including books already selected, the Memorial Room and the town-vault for the archives of the town,—

"Resolved 1st, We, the inhabitants of the town of Acton, in town-meeting assembled, do accept the trust and authorize the Selectmen, in behalf of the town, to sign all papers and perform all acts necessary to complete the transfer of the property to the care of the trustees.

"Resolved 2d, In passing this vote we wish to express to Mr. Wilde—in behalf of the present inhabitants of the town; in behalf of all future generations who may be resident here, and participants in the benefits to be enjoyed; in behalf of the soldiers of the War of the Rebellion, whose memory and valor he has so tenderly cherished in the name and arrangement of the structure—our profound appreciation of his generous gift."

"We assure him of our hearty thanks for remembering the place of his birth by a memento so enduring and so befitting the past history and future needs of the town.

"We assure him of our cordial co-operation in doing what in us lies to perpetuate the intentions and possibilities of the trust.

"We tender to him, his companion and his children our best wishes for their life, health and prosperity, and our prayer that the donation, in which they each have a personal share and honor, may contribute to their mutual and lasting enjoyment."

The selectmen and the whole Board of Trustees were authorized to make all necessary arrangements for the dedication of the building.

The trustees chosen by the town at the March meeting, 1890, are the following: William D. Tuttle for three years, James Fletcher for two years, Howard B. White for one year.

Mr. William Allen Wilde, the donor, was born in Acton, Mass., July 11, 1827. He is now resident in Malden, Mass., and does business as a publisher, his office being at 25 Bromfield Street, Boston. His father, Joseph Wilde, lived in Southeast Acton, married Sarah Conant, of Stow, sister to Abraham and Simeon Conant, of Acton. He died in Acton, in the eighty-second year of his age. Their children were: Mary, now living in Moultonboro', N. H.; Silvia, deceased; Sarah, living with Mary; John, who was drowned;



HON. WM. A. WILDE.

Joseph, living in Natick, with seven children and prospering in business; William A.; and George, living in Somerville.

Benjamin<sup>4</sup>, the father of Joseph Wild<sup>5</sup>, died when fifty-six years old, of yellow fever. He married Silvia Thayer, of Boston. She died two days after her husband and was buried in Acton. Her daughter, Silvia, died of yellow fever two days after her mother and was buried in Acton.

William Wild<sup>3</sup>, the father of Benjamin<sup>4</sup>, lived in Randolph, Mass., and died when eighty-seven years old.

William<sup>2</sup>, the father of William<sup>3</sup>, lived in Braintree, Mass., and died in his eighty-seventh year.

William Wild<sup>1</sup>, the father of William<sup>2</sup>, landed from England in 1632, and lived in Randolph, Mass., which was then a part of Braintree.

William A. Wilde<sup>6</sup>, the son of Joseph Wild<sup>5</sup>, married, first, Loise A. Mace, of Pepperell, Mass., without issue. Married, second, Lydia Jane Bride, of Berlin, Mass. *Children*: Jennie, born September 7, 1854, deceased at sixteen years of age; Carrie, born October 12, 1856, deceased at seven years of age; William Eugene, born in Acton September 12, 1858, married, in 1885, Effie Jean Dresser, of Portland, Me. Married, third, Celestia Dona Hoyt, of Wentworth, N. H. *Children*: Alice Elizabeth, born June 12, 1869; Allen Hoyt, born April 29, 1874.

Mr. Wilde was educated at Groton and Pepperell Academies. He has taught school twelve years, been superintendent of the schools of the city of Malden; five years chairman of the Water Board when large and expensive water-works were being constructed.

He represented Malden two years in the Legislature, and was chairman of the House Committee of Education. He has been trustee of the Malden Library eight years, and is now one of the Prison Commissioners of the State of Massachusetts.

OUR HONORED DEAD (Tablet List).

BY JULIAN TUTTLE.

Luke W. Bowers; he enlisted in Aug., 1862, Co. E, 33d Mass. Reg.; died of wounds May 1, 1864, at Resaca, Georgia.

Albert Conant, enlisted Dec., 1861, in Co. F, 30th Mass. Reg.; he died at sea Jan., 1864, on the voyage home.

Elbridge Conant, enlisted Aug. 18, 1862, in Co. E, 6th Mass. Reg.; died Feb., 1863, at Suffolk, Va.

Eugene L. Hall, enlisted Feb., 1864, in Co. E, 26th Mass. Reg.; killed Sept., 1864, at Winchester, Va.

Frank Handley, enlisted Sept., 1861, in Co. E, 26th Mass. Reg.; died July, 1862, at Fort St. Philip, near New Orleans, La.

Augustus W. Hosmer, enlisted Sept., 1861, in 26th Mass. Reg.; band; died Nov., 1861, at Acton, Mass.

Eli Huggins, enlisted Sept., 1861, in Co. A, 26th Mass. Reg.; died Oct., 1863, at New Orleans, La.

Samuel C. Hanscom, enlisted Dec., 1862, in Co. A, 2d Mass. Cavalry; killed July, 1864, at Aldie, Va.

James P. Hanscom, enlisted May, 1861, in Co. E, 1st Minnesota Reg.; died Nov., 1862, at Portsmouth Grove, R. I.

John A. Howard, enlisted Aug., 1862, in Co. E, 26th Mass. Reg.; died Dec., 1863, at New Orleans, La.

John S. Harris, enlisted June, 1861, in Co. F, 11th Mass. Reg.; killed May, 1863, at Chancellorsville, Va.

Francis Kinsley, enlisted Sept., 1861, in Co. E, 26th Mass. Reg.; died April, 1861, at Acton, Mass.

Thomas Kinsley, Jr., enlisted Feb., 1864, in Co. E, 26th Mass. Reg.; died Nov., 1864, at Washington, D. C.

George Warren Knight, enlisted Oct., 1862, in Co. E, 53d Mass. Reg.; died April, 1863, at New Orleans, La.

Henry W. Lazell, enlisted Sept., 1861, in Co. E, 26th Mass. Reg.; died Aug., 1863, at New Orleans, La.

James B. Lentell, enlisted Sept., 1861, in Co. E, 26th Mass. Reg.; died Nov., 1862, at New Orleans, La.

William H. Loker, enlisted in Sept., 1861, in Co. E, 26th Mass. Reg.; died April, 1863, at Acton, Mass.

Marivan Miner, enlisted Aug., 1862, in Co. I, 26th Mass. Reg.; died Feb., 1863, at New Orleans, La.

Matthew McKinney, enlisted Aug., 1863, in Co. E, 26th Mass. Reg.; died Sept., 1863, at Berwick City, La.

William B. Reed, enlisted Aug., 1862, in Co. E, 26th Mass. Reg.; died Jan., 1864, at Franklin, La.

Warren R. Wheeler, enlisted Sept., 1861, in Co. E, 26th Mass. Reg.; died July, 1862, at Fort St. Philip, near New Orleans, La.

James M. Wright, enlisted Nov., 1861, in Co. B, 32d Mass. Reg.; died Sept., 1862, at Philadelphia, Penn.

John H. P. White, enlisted Sept., 1863, in Co. E, 26th Mass. Reg.; died July, 1863, at New Orleans, La.

Samuel E. Wilson, enlisted in 1864, in Co. K, 7th California Reg.; died Feb., 1868, at Fort Yuma, Cal.

Daniel A. Lovering, enlisted Aug., 1862, in Co. H, 13th Mass. Reg.; killed June, 1864, at Cold Harbor, Va.

Luke Robbins, enlisted in Boston, Mass., June, 1864, as a seaman for two years; served on board the "Ohio" and "Seminole;" was killed on the "Seminole" at Galveston, Texas, May, 1865.

Frank J. Barker, enlisted in Co. C, 118th Ill. Reg., Aug., 1862; died at Milliken's Bend, La., April, 1863, aged 19.

Eben Barker, enlisted in Co. F, 50th Ill. Reg., Aug., 1861; died at Quincy, Ill., Jan., 1862, aged 22.

Cyrus E. Barker, enlisted July, 1861, in Co. H, 13th Mass. Reg.; discharged Jan., 1863, for disability; afterwards enlisted in Co. C, 59th Mass. Reg. He was at the battle at Weldon Railroad; was taken prisoner, and after seven months was exchanged; died at Annapolis, Md., April, 1865, aged 22.

The names of Acton men who served in the War of the Rebellion, and who survived that war:

Colonel, William H. Chapman; Captains, Aaron C. Handley, Daniel Tuttle, Frank H. Whitcomb; Lieutenants, Silas P. Blodgett, Henry Brown, Aaron S. Metcher, Elias E. Haynes, Isaiah Hutchins, George Willard Knights, James Moulton, George W. Rand, William F. Wood; Privates, Frank W. Ames, George T. Ames, George E. Barker, John F. Blood, Charles H. Blood, George F. Blood, William H. Boss, Henry L. Bray, Daniel R. Briggs, Charles A. Brooks, Samuel R. Burroughs, Hiram Butten, Patrick Callahan, George Fay Campbell, Waldo Chaplin, William Chaplin, Jr., William D. Clark, Robert C. Conant, Simon T. Conant, J. Sherman Conant, John Conway, George B. Cran, John B. Cran, Waldo G. Dunn, Oscar Dwellley, Abel Farrar, Jr., Daniel H. Farrar, Winthrop H. Faulkner, James W. Fiske, John W. Fitzpatrick, Charles W. Fletcher, Aaron J. Fletcher, Ephraim B. Forbush, Channey U. Fuller, Meldon S. Giles, Henry Gilson, Nathan Goss, William B. Gray, William H. Gray, Delette H. Hall, George Handley, Charles Handley, William S. Handley, Abram Handley, Charles A. Hanscom, Marshall Hapgood, Henry Hapgood, Francis E. Harris, Forestus D. K. Hoar, J. Sherman Hoar, Walter O. Holden, Gilman S. Hosmer, Judson A. Huggins, Eri Huggins, Jr., Sylvanus Hunt, Loring M. Jackson, Mortimer Johnson, George A. Jones, Edwin A. Jones, Charles Jones, George Jones, Richard Kinsley, Jonathan W. Loker, Emory D. Lothrop, Lewis J. Masten, William Morrill, Charles Morse, Charles H. Moulton, Albert Moulton, Augustus P. Newton, George B. Parker, Henry D. Parlin, George E. Peck, George N. Pierce, George M. Pike, Michael Powers, Oscar E. Preston, John Putnam, William Reed, Levi H. Robbins, Joseph N. Robbins, Elbridge J. Robbins, Luke J. Robbins, Varnum F. Robbins, Albert Rouillard, George Rouillard, George W. Sawyer, Andrew J. Sawyer, George H. Simpson, Benjamin Skinner, Dennis Shehan, Luke Smith, George D. Smith, Silas M. Stetson, Emory A. Symonds, Edwin B. Taft, Edwin Tarbell, Daniel G. Taylor, Warren L. Teel, Daniel L. Veasey, Robert Wayne, John Wayne, James Wayne, Hiram W. Wetherbee, Addison B. Wheeler, Lincoln E. Wheeler, Everett Wheeler, William F. B. Whitney, Samuel E. Wilson, James H. Wood, Eben F. Wood, Charles H. Young.