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## My War

Continued from page 30

stayed a few days and then went to Jeffersonville, Indiana, reaching there on the 18th of May. Here he stayed in the hospital till the last of October, when he got his discharge and came home, where he stayed until the next spring with his wife and her people and then moved into his own house on his place at Markham's.

In the spring of 1868 he sold his land at Markham's and bought two and one-half acres at Dayton, built a house and barn the same summer, and the following summer, in September, a daughter, Ida Caroline, was born. Here he lived with his family till 1910 when he sold that place and moved to Orchard Park, near Buffalo, to live with his daughter and her husband, Dr. Jolls, of that place.

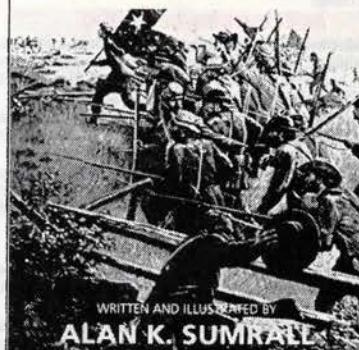
On the 17th day of April, 1912 he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding at Dayton in the M.E. Church. One hundred forty guests were present and a very happy day was spent with them and many choice presents were received to remind them of the day and the givers. Now Mr. Markham and his wife are nicely fixed with comforts and luxuries for their old age. What may still be in store for them time only can reveal.

*In the postwar years, memories of the war were never distant for Philo. His empty sleeve was a constant reminder of his service, and he and his brother Sylvanus, a veteran of the 44th New York, cherished the memory of a younger brother, Aaron, who was killed in action at Petersburg, Virginia, as a member of the 44th. Markham frequently saw his partner in the French furlough escapade, Leonard Hunt, who married Philo's sister Perthena and lived nearby. Markham died at age 94 on June 14, 1932, and is buried in the Markham Cemetery.*

*Phil Palen, a real estate agent in Gowanda, New York, is a reenactor with the 154th New York, and a frequent contributor of historical images to the U.S. Army Military History Institute. Mark Dunkelman of Providence, Rhode Island, has written and lectured extensively on the 154th New York. His 80-foot mural next to the regiment's monument at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, was covered in the September/October 1994 issue of CWTI.*

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USAMHI

**Philo and his wife, Julia. If he wrote to her during the war, the letters have been lost. Only those he sent to his sister, Phebe, survive.**

formed in the new position, the rebels retreated and the battle was over.

The next day they started for Knoxville, Tennessee to re-enforce Burnside, but when they had gotten within ten miles of Knoxville [Confederate General James] Longstreet withdrew from the siege, so this company turned and went back to Lookout Valley. Going and coming occupied three weeks without change of clothes, and the food was mostly foraged on the country passed through. They reached camp the 24th of December, making four weeks since they had left it....

*In a letter to Phebe from Lookout Valley dated January 13, 1864, Markham pondered the recent campaign to Knoxville and the prospects for the future: I grew poor some on the march and was not well all the time. The march was pretty hard for me so soon after laying in the Rear so long. I am feeling well do not get homesick a bit but very anxious to have the war end. I am full of hope and believe the rebellion will yield. Still I can stay the whole three years rather than to come home till the war is ended. That is I want to see the end of the war worse than I want to come home. We gave the Rebs a good chase here. I do not think they can stand many such and why need they stand one*

more[?] Their case is hopeless and why not give it up at once without more blood[?] Phebe if you want I should write an answer at once when I receive one send a stamp along and then I shall think you want to hear from me. Stamps are hard to get here. Every thing is very high. Paper is 50 cts a quire so it costs me quite a bit to write as much as I do but I like to receive letters and consequently have to write some. You have plenty of time and can write considerable if you take a notion and if you have no particular soldier Correspondent that you think is more worthy of your particular attention than your Brother. I should like to have the number of letters increased a little but if the soldier has your attention write as often as you can. I want to hear from you and all the rest of the folks as often as possible. When you write have the rest of the folks write so as to make a big letter. When you write tell me how you are getting along with religion. I hope you are growing in grace and trying to be wholly for God...." Despite his wishes, Philo would not be present at the war's end, thanks to the events that followed.

...They stayed there [in Lookout Valley] until the 4th of May, 1864. They then broke camp and started with Sherman on his march through Georgia. On the eighth day [of May] they met the enemy near Dalton, and made a charge up the mountain near Dug Gap or Rockyface Ridge as it is sometimes called.

There the Union forces were driven back with quite a loss of men. Marham's company were half killed or wounded who went into the action. He was wounded and went back to the field hospital where his right arm was amputated by Dr. Vanorman....

*The surgeon was probably Henry Van Aernam of the 154th New York. Markham's matter-of-fact account of his wounding at the Battle of Dug Gap is also a modest one. He was, in fact, one of several members of the 154th New York killed, wounded, or captured as they planted the regimental colors on the crest of Rocky Face Ridge and then rescued the flags from the perilous position. For his meritorious service, Markham was brevetted a first lieutenant by the State of New York.*

...The next day went to Ringgold [Ringgold, Georgia] by ambulance, the next to Chattanooga by rail, and on the 12th to Nashville, Tennessee to the General Hospital in that city. Here he

*Continued on page 83*

mouthful of meat in it. The men then began to get sick and die.

When Markham had been in this prison about three weeks he was taken sick, and was sent to Libby Prison, where he got better food and gained, so that after a week he was sent back to the Island. After a few days an order came for about 300 sick men to be paroled. He was selected as one of the number, and with the others was taken to Libby Prison where they were kept for one night. The next day they were taken to City Point put on the transport, *New York*, and taken to parole camp at Annapolis, [Maryland], reaching there on Friday noon, August 21st. There the men were given a bath and new clothes. Here Markham found L[eonard]. L. Hunt and a number of other men belonging to the 154th Regiment. Markham and Hunt agreed to start for home on Monday noon on what soldiers call a French furlow. They felt that they were of no use to the government till they were exchanged, and they could return as soon as wanted. So they left camp without permission, walked across the country through Maryland into Pennsylvania to Harrisburg, up the Susquehanna River to Williamsport, following the river to

the Alleghany Mountains, across [into New York] to Olean and Little Valley and Dayton. They walked this distance entirely with the exception of one half day when they rode on a canal-boat up the Susquehanna River, and from New Albion, [New York] to Dayton they rode with Chapman of Versailles [a nearby town], they reached Markham's on Saturday after noon Sep. 5th, making eleven days on the road. Having been prisoners they had no money, and were obliged to beg their food, all the time endeavoring to avoid villages and officers where or by whom they might be arrested and taken back for deserters. While Markham was at home he gained in health and flesh and was in good condition for soldiers life again. After receiving word that he was exchanged on Friday, Oct 2, on the following Sunday, the 4th of Oct. he reported in parole Camp at Annapolis as ready for duty, and was given quarters and rations.

On the 1st day of November he went to Indianapolis Ind. went from there to Nashville, Tenn. where with eight other men he was given a room in the Solehofner House. [This likely refers to the High Street home of Confederate General Felix K. Zollicoffer, which had been

seized by the Union army.] Leaving Nashville about the 15th he reached Lookout Valley the 19th, joined the Regiment, moved over the river to Chattanooga [Chattanooga, Tennessee] where on the 22nd they lay on their arms in the field back of the town. [Major] General [George H.] Thomas formed in front of Missionary Ridge. [Major] General [William T.] Sherman on the point of the ridge. Markham's division was sent to fill the gap between the two. The rebel pickets were driven back to their main line after some sharp firing & skirmishing. At night Markham's division fortified in front of the rebel line. On the 24th they lay all day behind the fortification, (could not raise their heads above them as any lifted head furnished a target for the enemy) while [Major General Joseph] Hooker was going over the mountain. About ten o'clock it grew less cloudy so that the smoke of the cannon could be seen. This was the battle fought among the clouds [*the action at Lookout Mountain was popularly known as the "Battle Above the Clouds"*].

On the 25th Thomas and Sherman advanced and cut out Markham's company, sending them around to Sherman's left. Just as they had their line

# KEITH ROCCO

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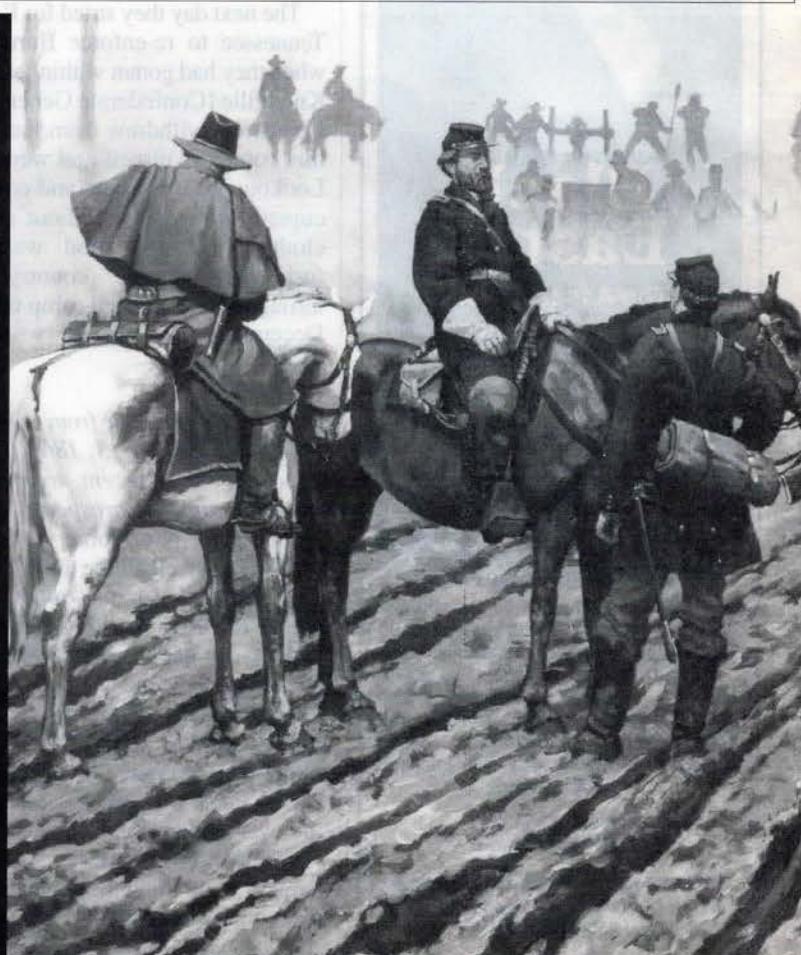
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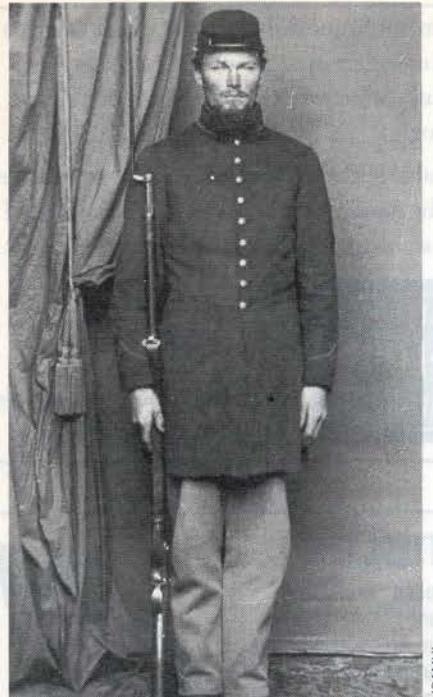
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USAMHI

**Leonard L. Hunt, a friend of Markham's who would eventually become his brother-in-law, joined him on "French furrow"; like many freed prisoners of war, they decided to await official exchange at home, rather than in camp.**

ground. Our Reg day before yesterday moved near a mile from the old camp into a piece of woods. It was thought to be very unhealthy on the same ground where we wintered and I think the change is a good one...." *The monotony of winter camp would soon yield to the excitement of active campaigning.*

...They went back to the old camp at Stafford Court House, about June 1st started on the march for Gettysburg [Pennsylvania], crossed the Potomac into Maryland about June 24th and were at Emmetsburg [Emmitsburg, Maryland], about ten miles from Gettysburg, June 30. Marching orders were received the morning of July 1st. The Company reached Semetery [Cemetery] Ridge at Gettysburg about 3 o'clock, and formed a line on the Ridge above the town. Markham's brigade was ordered down the opposite side of the town to check the rebels and hold them so that the defeated comrads could get through the town. His Regiment was soon surrounded and most of the men with himself were taken prisoners. Several were killed and some were wounded. The prisoners were marched back to the rear of the rebel

army, where they could see only the smoke and hear the fireing of the second and third days' battle.

The fourth day the prisoners were started with [Confederate General Robert E.] Lee's army, crossed the river at Williams Ford [Williamsport, Maryland] through the Shanandoah Valley to Stanton [Staunton, Virginia]. This took them several days without rations until the forth day of the march. Then they were given a half pint of raw flour. They mixed this with water into a lump of dough, stuck it on a stick, and held it to the fire to bake. Sometimes this flour was used for a gruel by boiling it in cups. This flour was a daily ration for a week with one exception, when the prisoners were given a small piece of bread, each of them, which had been baked by the citizens of Martinsburg. At Stanton the prisoners, including Markham, were put on the cars and taken to Richmond where they went into prison on Bell[e] Island. They had some old tents which provided a little shelter. They lay on the sand, which was full of what were called "gray backs" [lice]. They dug holes in this sand to get water. The rations then was bean soup with sometimes about a

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got set in the mud and had to retreat or fall back to camp. I had a pretty good chance to see the most of it as we were in the advance and were the first to come back. There were plenty of wagons of all kinds that were in the mud and could not be stirred until Corderoy roads were made to drive on. If we had been one or two days earlier and got across the river and the mud stopped us we should have been annihilated.... At this present time there is a great deal to contend with. There is a great many priviledges we are deprived of and we must bear it all patiently...." *Philo's narrative resumes at Stafford Court House, where his unit was in winter quarters.*

...stayed until April 24th, when the Brigade went up the [Rappahannock] River to Kelley's Ford, the Eleventh and Twelfth Corps followed in a few days. Markham was detailed as Sergeant to take charge of a squad that was to guard a baggage train that was going back to Stafford to get supplies. When he got back to Kelley's Ford the Eleventh Corps had crossed the River (the 154th laying the pontoon bridge the night before.) The Twelfth Corps was crossing and would not let us cross. Soon he was sent back to a little church to wait further orders.

On May 3rd he received orders to go to United States Ford where the Battle of Chancellorsville [Virginia] commenced the morning before. The firing could be heard all day before he reached the ford. On arriving at the ford, his company were told that the whole were coming back defeated and that he was not to cross. The 154 Regiment lost heavily in prisoners, killed, and wounded. Markham and the squad of men he was with escaped the battle by being on detailed duty....

*In a May 30 letter to Phebe, Philo described his limited role in the Battle of Chancellorsville. "...I suppose you have learned long before this of the battle and the part our Reg[iment] took in it and that I was not in the fight. I was in the rear with the teams. All I see of the fight was early Monday morning I was aroused by the Rebs throwing shells into our train. They had labored hard all night to make a road to run a battery where they could shell us. They created considerable of a muss for a few moments when their batery was taken by our men which put a stop to their fun. After the fight we were all taken back to our old camp. Some have moved just far enough to get on a new piece of*



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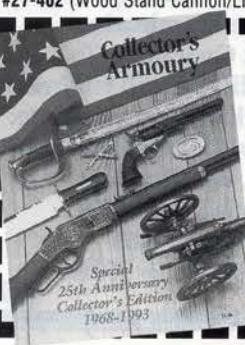
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## Philo Markham's Long Walk

*A Union soldier recounts his odyssey from New York State to the seat of war and a Confederate prison, home on "French leave," and back to war again.*

Edited by Mark Dunkelman and Phil Palen

**F**amily legend records the moment Philo Andrus Markham committed himself to join the Union army. According to his descendants, Philo was driving a team of horses to transact some business in Gowanda, New York, on a summer day in 1862, when he spotted two friends at work in a hay field. "Why don't you enlist?" he yelled to Giles N. Johnson and Emory K. Vosburgh. "We will enlist when you do!" replied the two. "Agreed!" shouted all three. Johnson and Vosburgh threw down their tools, Markham sent a man with his team to take care of his business, and a few hours later the three were standing before a recruiting officer in their home town of Dayton, New York, enrolling for three years in the service of the United States.

Markham eventually recorded his memories of his Civil War service in the Sketch of the Life & Army Service of P.A. Markham, published around 1912. The Sketch is reproduced here exactly as it was first printed, preserving the original spelling, punctuation, and style. Philo used the third-person voice to relate his adventures, except for one lapse into first person. The Sketch is augmented here by excerpts from three wartime letters Philo sent his younger sister, Phebe. The letters have been edited for punctuation and capitalization, but the words are Markham's.

The contributors extend thanks to Mrs. Lorraine Marvin of the Gowanda Area Historical Society for bringing the Markham materials to their notice, and to Elizabeth Markham Bixby and Charles Markham of Gowanda and Ed Markham of Kent, Washington, for sharing photographs and reminiscences of their great-uncle Philo.

Philo Andrus Markham was born in 1837 in the Town of Windsor, Broome County, New York. His father, William R. Markham, born in the same place, died in Villanova, Chautauqua County, New York, in 1896. His Mother, Susan A. Hoag, born also in Windsor, Broome County, died at Dayton, Cattaraugus Co. in 1894. His parents with their family of four children moved to Dayton, Catt. Co. in 1844. He spent about nine months of the winter and summer of 1855 at Great Bend, Susquehanna Co. Pa. with an uncle. In 1861 bought 125 acres of land at Markham's, N.Y. [a village named after a pioneer settler and probable relation], built a small house, and on the 17th day of April, 1862 was married to Julia A. Blackney, and went to house-keeping on May 1st of the same year.

In July, 1862, he enlisted, and went to Jamestown, [New York,] and stayed two months. Then the Regiment was organized, the 154th New York State Volunteers, he was Corporal in Co. B., and was sent to Washington. The first camp was on Arlington Heights, [Virginia,] where the Regiment was put into the Eleventh Corps, at this time stationed in Fairfax Court House, under Seigel's [Major General Franz Sigel's] command, went from there to Thoroughfare Gap, where they did picket duty for some time. About the 8th of December they started for Fredericksburg, reaching there the next day after the battle, and went into camp at Stafford Court House. Company B. was sent to Falmouth to guard a Battery. On January 18th, 1863 this Company with the Regiment went up the Rappahannock River and was with Burnside's "Stick in the Mud," stayed a few days in camp there, then went back to Stafford C. H....



**Corporal Philo A. Markham, in a picture probably taken shortly after his 1862 enlistment. That enlistment came only months after he married and "went to house-keeping" on a farm in New York State.**

On January 26, 1863, four days after returning from Union Major General Ambrose E. Burnside's infamous "Mud March," Markham addressed a letter to his sister Phebe in which he described his recent experiences: "...We have no winter quarters and weather is so cold the most of the time to write with comfort. My health has been making good so far. I have one or two down spells but they did not last long. I guess I eat too many hardtacks. The boys from our Town are all well and healthy and have been with the exceptions of Enery. We have not heard from him in sum time. I suppose the papers have told you of the advance of Burnsides Army and how it