

Simeon V. Pool Captain, Co. B

from History of Catteraugus County, Ellis

Dr. Pool is a patriotic man, and very few have suffered more for his country than he. He entered the Union army in 1862, as First Lieutenant, in the 154th Regiment. He was promoted in 1863 to a Captaincy, and served until the close of the war not only with an honorable record, but having experienced a most eventful one. Participating in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, in the later he was taken prisoner, and endured the tortures of Libby and other southern prison-pens for 20 months. While confined in the rebel prison at Charlotte, North Carolina, he effected his escape, February 17, 1865, by running the guard, in attempting which many others had been shot. For 4 weeks he was a fugitive within the enemy's lines, skulking wearily along unfrequented paths by night, and hiding in the woods and marshes by day, wandering over to him unknown roads, crossing and re-crossing the Blue Ridge Mountains several times only to find himself as far from liberty as before, and receiving his nourishment chiefly at the hands of friendly negroes and sympathizing "crackers." After a walk of 400 miles, on the 16th of March he found himself, to his unbounded joy, in the vicinage of a Union camp, and entered the Federal lines at French Broad River, 30 miles above Knoxville. During his journey, before reaching the mountains, he came to the Catawba River in the night time, to cross which he stripped off his clothes and tied them on the back of his head, expecting to have to swim, but the water was too shallow and he waded across. Upon reaching the Union army he went immediately to Washington and reported for duty.