

TWO OLD REGIMENTS OF CIVIL WAR DAYS

Reminiscences of 154th
and 112th

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GIVEN BY LEE GOULD

He had two uncles in the
regiments — Tells of
camp grounds

Lee Gould of Napoli recently wrote an interesting historical sketch for one of the Chautauqua County newspapers, after noticing a reference to the fact that in the War of the States the 112th and 154th New York Volunteer Regiments camped on the old fair grounds in Jamestown.

For some time Mr. Gould has been gathering information concerning these regiments and he is particularly interested because his uncle Alfred B. Price enlisted in the 154th August 2, 1862, at Randolph, and his uncle Anson David Price, enlisted August 8, 1862 in Randolph. Alfred Price, who was one of the first soldiers of the Northern army to reach Gettysburg, previous to the battle, climbed a tree in the cemetery from which point he witnessed the Southern army on the opposite side of the field and gave the first information regarding the whereabouts of the forerunners of Lee's army. Anson Price was later taken prisoner at Gettysburg and died in the Confederate prison camp at Andersonville, Ga., May 14, 1864.

Mr. Gould wrote this:

"I do not know how to write a newspaper article. As a writer I am just a novice. However, I would like to have the enclosed historical fact about the stirring days of the Civil War brought to light lest we forget about the part played in that great struggle by the people of Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties at that time.

"I was much interested in a recent article in a local paper about the 112th and 154th Regiments, New York Volunteer Infantry, which were at Camp James M. Brown on the old Fair Grounds in Jamestown in 1862.

"Much has been said about the excellent character and the high morale of those young men of the 112th Regiment at the time of their entrance into the war between the states. The recruits came from all parts of Chautauqua County and their promising young lieutenant colonel, Elial F. Carpenter, came from Dexterville, a tiny hamlet at that time, near Jamestown.

"The regiment had an enrollment of 1,480 men and served in 37 engagements. On June 13, 1865, the regiment was mustered out at Raleigh, North Carolina.

"The old 154th Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, was recruited in Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties. The ranks were filled by men from Ellicottville, Otto, East Otto, Dayton, Cold-spring, Randolph and other places. Their captain, Patrick H. Jones, came from Fish Hill, a remote countryside near Ellicottville.

"Two of my uncles were mustered into this regiment on Sept. 24, 1862, six days before it left James M. Brown camp for the front. Eventually this regiment became a part of the 11th Corps of the Army of the Potomac. It served at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. It was roughly handled the first day of Gettysburg by Hills' and Ewells' corps of the Confederate Army on account of being greatly outnumbered.

"On Sept. 24, 1863, the corps was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland with headquarters at Nashville, Tenn., at that time commanded by 'Fighting Joe' Hooker. It gave excellent service in the Chattanooga and Rossville campaigns, Nov. 23-27, 1863. On April 4, 1864, the regiment was merged to fill the depleted ranks of the 20th Corps, serving in the battles of Kenesaw Mountain, Resaca and New Hope Church in the Atlanta-to-the-sea campaign, while this regiment was a part of Sherman's Army in this campaign. It was under the command of Major General Henry W. Slocum and his subordinate, Major General John W. Geary.

"The regiment was mustered out at Bladensburg, Md., June 11, 1865.

"The writer has known and talked to a number of the survivors.

"In conclusion I wish to state that James M. Brown was one of Chautauqua County's heroes in the Civil War. He gave his life at the Battle of Fair Oaks in the Peninsular campaign in Virginia in the Spring of 1862."

Courtesy of Dennis Conklin,
Healdsburg, Calif.