

## Military Information: Old Somerset Web Pages

### General Information

Specific military records research information can be found in the *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* published by the LDS church.

Larry D. Smith hosts the [Mother Bedford](#) website... includes information regarding Old Bedford County, specifically with details on American Revolutionary life.



### Civil War Biographies

#### Frances Marian Cunningham, 1st.W.Va. Cavalry, Co. H.

Frances was born in 12/31/1837 in Upper Turkeyfoot Twp., Somerset County. His father was Robert Cunningham b.10/31/1808 d.6/7/1889 and his mother was Jane Pinkerton.

Frances joined the 1st.W.Va. Cavalry, Co. H. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for Distinguished bravery under fire at the battle of Saylor's Creek. He served under Custer and was present at Lee's surrender at Appomattox. He and his wife are buried near Ohiopile, Fayette County. *Contributed by:* [Jack Cunningham](#).



#### Jacob Metzler, Company I, 19th Regiment, PA Vols.

Jacob Metzler was born circa 1814 in Somerset, Pennsylvania. "He moved to Lee County after serving his country through the late war and is fully entitled to the honor of one who assisted in saving the Union. He enlisted as Pvt. in Company I, 19th Regiment of Pa. Volunteers Infantry, Oct. 10, 1862 and participated in the following engagements. Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Bucton Station, Pappahonock Station, Mire Run, Wilderness, Po River, Spottsylvania, N. Anna, Tolpolony, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and all the battles of the Army of the Potomac in the summer of 1864. He was transferred to Co. B. 11th Regiment, Veteran Reserve corps, March 19, 1865 and was honorably discharged at Concord, New Hampshire, July 25, 1865. The old soldier was buried yesterday (April 24) by his late comrades in the war and now rests from his troubles in the G.A.R. at Oakwood."(Dixon, Lee Co., IL Telegraph, Jan. 2, 1888, p.1:col.2)

Jacob's first wife's name was Caroline and she died between 1857 and 1860. Known children - 6. He married Catherine Lint prior to moving to Lee Co., IL. Known children- 4. Submitted by Linda B. Meyers, [buffy@mwci.net](mailto:buffy@mwci.net).



### Military History

No military event took place in Somerset County, but five army expeditions passed through its area. The first of which was Col. George Washington's march towards Fort Duquesne at Pittsburg in 1754 which ended with his surrender at Fort Necessity. This event was followed by Gen. Edward Braddock's expedition when the British and

Provincial troops were ambushed and defeated in Braddock's Field. In 1758, Brig. General John Forbes' British and Provincial troops cut a road through the county in his expedition to Fort Duquesne which was burned on his approach. In 1763, Col. Henry Boquet led an expedition to the relief of Fort Pitt which was under attack by the Delaware and Shawnee Indian Tribes during Pontiac's Conspiracy, and defeated the Indians at Bushy Run in Westmoreland County. During the Revolutionary War various military units passed back and forth. The last march of troops through the county was in 1794 when an expedition marched westward to enforce payment of excise tax on the making of whisky by the inhabitants.



## Civil War

Somerset County, PA was not directly in the line of fire during the Civil War but many of her sons valiantly served and died at Appomattax, Gettysburg, Antietam, and the Wilderness during one of our nations greatest internal conflicts. For an overview of the war and Somerset County's involvement, see *"History of Bedford and Somerset Counties, Pennsylvania, Vol II, pp. 325-331, by William A. Welfley"*.



## Civil War Regiments

Two sources that provide general military history on Somerset County include Welfley's History of Bedford and Somerset Counties, Pennsylvania, Vols. 11; and History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-5 by Samuel P. Bates, 5 Vols., 1869-1871.

### 39th Volunteer Infantry

The 39th Volunteer Infantry, Co. A., moved to the federal capitol with the Pennsylvania Reserves Division. The first action this company participated in was at Dranesville, VA. In June of 1862, this company moved to Mechanicsville, VA and became part of McClellan's army to fight in the battle of GAIMES MILLS and Mechanicsville. Other battles this company fought included: White Oak Swamp, Second Manassas, South Mountain, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and Bestheda Church. The company suffered particularly heavy losses at the battle of Fredericksburg. Initial enrollment was 127 volunteers and 58 mustered out on June 11, 1864.

### 52nd Volunteer Infantry

The Somerset County men who fought in the 52nd were mustered in on September 26, 1864. A detachment of this regiment were among the first men to enter Fort Sumter on Feb. 18, 1865 and the first to enter Charleston, South Carolina along with Sherman as he marched south to Atlanta. Somerset countians made up units C, E, I, H - with most in C and I.

### 54th Volunteer Infantry

The largest contingent of men from Somerset County made up the 54th Volunteer Infantry. They were recruited from Somerset and Cambria counties in 1861. Companies B, C, and G were made up entirely of Somerset county men and 50% made up Company D. The regiment was organized under Col. Jacob M. Campbell, of Allegheny Twp.

The 54th began its service after encamping near Washington until March 29, 1862. The regiment then moved to Harper's Ferry and shortly was ordered to guard the Baltimore and Ohio railroad (for nearly 8 months.) On October 4, Company B was captured at Paw Paw, West Va., and was ordered to be executed. Judge Jeremiah S. Black

interceded on their behalf and the unit was released at City Point and rejoined their regiment.

The 54th became part of the Department of West Virginia and in April of 1864 it joined Gen. Sigel in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign. The first major battle took place at New Market and the 54th suffered major losses. Later it took part in fighting at Piedmont and in the capture of Lexington. The regiment suffered a forced march from Lynchburg to the Kanawha River, a distance of 215 miles. September of 1864 found the regiment back in the Shenandoah Valley and was fighting the third battle of Winchester and Fisher's Hill. The 54th was sent to City Point where it joined the Army of the James. On Feb 7, 1865 the original term of enlistment was over and the regiment was reorganized.

See also a Tribute to the 54th, including expanded history and military detail, written by Jeff Evans.

## 55th Volunteer Infantry

Company I of the 55th Volunteer Infantry was recruited mainly from Bedford County in September of 1861. Twelve men in this company were from Shade Township. This regiment took part in Drury's Bluff and Cold Harbor, South Carolina.

## 61st Volunteer Infantry

Companies F and G were made up of mostly men from Somerset County. Most of these men joined the company in September and October of 1864. These men took part in Gen. Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley Campaign and fought at Ford Stedman and Saylor's Creek.



## The Second Regiment, Potomac Home Brigade Infantry, Maryland Volunteers

According to the "History and Roster of Maryland Volunteers, War of 1861-5", The Second Regiment, Potomac Home Brigade Infantry, Maryland Volunteers was organized in Cumberland, MD via the efforts of the Honorable Congressman Francis Thomas. The history of the Regiment is given there-in as follows:

"The Second Regiment of Infantry, Potomac Home Brigade, was organized at Cumberland, Maryland from August 27, 1861 to October 31, 1861, to serve 3 years.

On the expiration of its term of service, the original members (except veterans) were mustered out and the veterans and recruits consolidated into a battalion of three companies, viz., companies A, B and C. A new company was organized on March, 1865, to serve one year, and assigned to this battalion as Company D.

The organization was mustered out of service May 29, 1865, in accordance with orders from the War Department. Companies A, B, C, E, G, H, I and K were recruited an Allegany County, Company F at Hancock, Washington County, and Company D at Piedmont, Virginia, on the border land. Immediately after the completion of the organization the regiment was assigned to duty in Western Virginia, in that part of the Army of West Virginia under General B. F. Kelly, and for a brief time, under General F. W. Lander's command.

During the raid of General (Stonewall) Jackson's Confederate Army through Berkeley Springs to Hancock, Md., in January, 1862, and the subsequent movement of this Confederate Army to Romney, West Virginia, the 2d Regiment Potomac Home Brigade Infantry took a very active part, and had several severe skirmishes with the enemy. On September 17, 1862, the 2d Regiment Potomac Home Brigade Infantry had a skirmish with the enemy near Romney, West Virginia.

The 2d Regiment Potomac Home Brigade Infantry rendered efficient service in Western Virginia, in the autumn and winter of 1863. The 2d Regiment Potomac Home Brigade Infantry formed a part of the Army of General David

Hunter, who advanced down the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia as far as Lynchburg, Va., on the James river, in June, 1864, after the arrival of reinforcements of Early's Confederate Army at Lynchburg and the retreat of the Army of Western Virginia. The 2d Regiment Potomac Home Brigade Infantry marched with that army, and when Early's Army was in turn driven back from Maryland to Virginia, the 2d Regiment Potomac Home Brigade Infantry formed a part of the Union Army in pursuit, and participated in the fight at Snicker's Gap, Va., July 18, 1864.

From thence the 2d Regiment Potomac Home Brigade Infantry marched to Western Virginia again, where the original men on re-enlisted as veterans were mustered out of service on the expiration of their terms of enlistment, in the autumn of 1864, and the battalion, composed of veterans and recruits, continued in the military service in the Department of Western Virginia until the close of the war, and were mustered out of service May 29, 1865. The 2d Regiment Potomac Home Brigade Infantry, with its Cavalry Company F, participated, either by detachments or as an organization, in the following engagements, viz.: Springfield, Va., August 23, 1861; Blue House, Va., August 26, 1861; South Branch Bridge, Md., October 23, 1861; Springfield, Va. October 26, 1861; South Branch Wire Bridge, October 26, 1861; Great Cacapon Bridge, Va., January 4, 1862; Vance's Ford, near Romney, Va., September 17, 1862; Charlestown, Va., May 15, 1863; Summit Point, Va., October 7, 1863; Charlestown, Va., October 18, 1863; Burlington, Va., November 16, 1863; Ridgeville, Va. January 4, 1864; Moorefield Junction, Va., January 8, 1864; Medley, Va., January 30, 1864; Lynchburg, Va., June 18, 1864; Salem, Va., June 21, 1864; South Branch Bridge, Va., July 4, 1864; Sir John's Run, Va., July 6, 1864; Snicker's Gap, Va. July 18, 1864; Martinsburg, Va., 1864; Back Creek Bridge, Va., 1864; Hancock, Md. 1864; Green Spring Run, Va., 1864.

The following death casualties were incurred by the 2d regiment Potomac Home Brigade Infantry, Maryland Volunteers, during the Civil War, viz.: Killed in battle, one (1) commissioned officer and nine (9) enlisted men-total, ten (10); died of disease, wounds, etc., eighty-four (84) enlisted men; or an aggregate death list of ninety-four (94)."

The following is quoted from a 1906 history of Bedford and Somerset County in regards to the Second Regiment, Maryland Potomac Home Brigade:

"While, as a matter of course, this was a Maryland organization, nevertheless Company K bore upon its muster rolls the names of a considerable number of Somerset county men. These were mostly from about Wellersburg and the adjacent township of Southampton, the Captain, Peter B. Petrie, according to the best information attainable to the writer, having been a resident of Wellersburg at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war."

"The regiment was mostly employed in guarding the Baltimore & Ohio railroad from New Creek (now Keyser, West Virginia) to points east of Cumberland, Maryland. At times the entire regiment was at Cumberland, but most of the time the companies were detached along the line of the railroad. The regiment, however, also saw some service of a more active nature in 1864, and took part in several engagements in the Shenandoah Valley. At Cumberland, a couple of gondola cars had been in some way roofed over or covered with iron rails, the sides were pierced by port-holes, and they carried small brass guns, probably three or four-pounders. These armored cars, or iron-clads, as they may be called, were run back and forth over the road to such points as were threatened by the Rebels, who were quite persistent in their efforts to burn the bridges and otherwise interrupt the free use of the railroad, the keeping open of which was a matter of vital importance. In one of the frequent encounters that took place east of Cumberland, the enemy also had one or two light pieces of artillery, a well directed shell from which, entering a port-hole of one of these iron-clad cars, exploded and put it out of business. These iron-clad cars were manned and operated by Capt. Petrie's Company K through almost the entire war. Aside from this particular service, we have very little information about the company.

For such names of its members as are here given the present writer is indebted to Samuel M. Petrie, a son of the captain, and John H. Lepley, Esq., of Southampton township."

Information transcribed and contributed by Lannie Dietle for use on this website.



## The Fifty Fourth Pennsylvania

Patriotism is a strain that runs deep among those of Western Pennsylvania stock. To walk through a cemetery in one of our small towns is to walk through an encapsulation of the ideals of duty, honor and country. Our Nation's trials are chronicled in places like Berlin and Myersdale; told with small bronze markers and flags atop the graves of fallen heroes. They serve as reminders that from the frozen muddy fields of Valley Forge to the decks of the U.S.S. EISENHOWER, Western Pennsylvania has been standing vigilant in defense of our country for over Two Hundred and Twenty Years.

There was a time when the very essence of our national identity was called into question. At stake was the great National Experiment- the ideas of a republic, of freedom, of nationhood. Questions that had been debated for decades in places ranging from the Halls of Congress to the Hite House Tavern in Stoyestown soon boiled over into the spilling of blood.

Sentimentality for an allegedly more simple way of life has obscured one of the basic truths of the Civil War in some people's minds. All romantic inclinations on our parts aside, the blunt reality is that one hundred and thirty five years ago, young men were asked to lay down their lives to determine how future generations, we, might live.

In April, 1861 news of the bombardment of Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina energized the divided nation. In Cambria and Somerset Counties, Church bells rang and meetings were held to send the Sons of the Alleghenies off to war. In the innocence and exuberance of the early days of the war, volunteers were called up for a period of only ninety days. It was believed, among those in the north, that the war would end with one battle in which the national forces would of course triumph. Those in the south were equally as sure of the triumph of thier own men.

The Battle of Bull Run erased any such illusions. In the wake of the rebel victory there President Lincoln issued a call for volunteers willing to serve for a period of three years. Late summer and fall of 1861 again saw the men of Somerset and Cambria answering the need of their country. They ceased to be farmers, millers, clerks and tavern keepers and became citizen soldiers. Enlisting with their family members, friends and neighbors, the men of Somerset and cambria marched out to face an uncertain future.

The immediate destination for the most new soldiers from Somerset County was the train station at Johnstown. Many companies rode in wagons to the edge of town, from where they paraded to the Pennsylvania Railroad, cheered by crowds watching their departure. The trains were bound for Harrisburg and Camp Curtin, the training camp for Pennsylvania troops.

At Camp Curtin, the companies that had been recruited under the authority of Colonel Jacob Campbell rendezvoused. Campbell was a forty year old native of Somerset who had led a varied, adventurous life. His occupations ranged from Steamboat captain to gold prospector in California. Like many other ambitious Keystone Staters of the time period, he was attracted eventually to the iron industry. In 1853 he assisted with the construction of the enormous iron works at Johnstown and would remain there until the call for troops in 1861 when he joined the ninety day volunteers.

After the Battle of Bull Run, Campbell had been granted the authority to raise a regiment by the Governor of Pennsylvania. His full efforts were put into recruiting the unit. When completed, the regiment would include four companies raised in Cambria County and three raised completely in Somerset with Cambria and Somerset men making up elements of other companies. Some troops from Lehigh, Dauphin, Northampton and Indiana counties also joined the regiment.

The Fifty Fourth Pennsylvania, as the regiment was eventually designated, was at Camp Curtin for about six months. This was an extremely long time period for a unit to remain there. Recruiting was a long, slow process for the unit for a variety of reasons. Other factors adversely affected the unit as well. Disease took a harsh toll on the regiment, especially on the men from Somerset County. Boys from isolated farms suddenly found themselves awash in a sea of humanity and exposed to epidemics for the first time. Some would perish as a results of diseases caught at Camp Curtin never having faced the human enemy. On February 27, 1862, the unit was finally ordered to Washington D.C. In Washington, the regiment joined the armies massed around the capitol. As at Camp Curtin, drill

took up the majority of the days of the men of the Fifty-fourth Pennsylvania Regiment. Rumors flew throughout the ranks as to where this training would be used. Some said they would face the enemy in North Carolina while others were certain that the regiment would be part of the grand thrust led by General McClellan himself against the Confederate Capitol at Richmond.

In the end, none of this speculation was correct. After a month, the 54th was again on the move. Rather than heading south with the majority of the other troops gathered around the capitol, the regiment was sent west about a hundred miles to guard the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The Baltimore and Ohio was a vital link to Washington D.C. It was a direct route for tons of supplies and thousands of men arriving from Ohio and points west. Its telegraph lines provided communication links between theaters of the war. To protect the line was to protect as well the back door to Washington and provided a supply base for thrusts up (actually south) into the Confederate Shenandoah Valley.

Much of the road ran through the border counties of Virginia, now West Virginia. It was under constant attack and threat of occupation from Confederate Cavalry, guerrillas and been occupied by Stonewall Jackson for many months before he abandoned the line. The Union army quickly moved to take control and rebuilt it.

In that part of Virginia, it was truly a war of neighbor against neighbor and brother against brother. From the rugged hills and mountains, armed groups of men would emerge from hidden paths and destroy the vital railroad as well as the property of neighbors with Union sympathies. Retaliation back and forth was swift and burned out farmsteads marred the landscape. It was an area where it was difficult at times to tell friend from foe.

The Fifty-fourth was assigned to guard the road from west of Martinsburg to near Cumberland; a distance of almost sixty miles. The unit served not only to protect the road, but also as a police force trying to bring law to the area. The individual companies (about a hundred men) were scattered at strategic places along the line, such as bridges and trestles, to protect the line against marauding groups of Confederates.

It was tedious and at times hazardous duty. For the most part, the enemy was rarely seen. The men were shot at from behind trees and rocks by shadowy figures that would disappear back into the woods. Patrols were sent out and hundreds of prisoners were captured as well as horses and thousands of weapons. Letters back to Cambria and Somerset County reflected the frustration of this type of war, with most of the men wishing they could face the enemy in a stand up fight.

Other enemies faced by the Fifty-fourth did not wear gray. During the regiment's time on the road, ice storms and floods also endangered the railroad and the lives of the men. Disease too remained a constant threat. Illness and accidents sent many men back to Western Pennsylvania; both dead and shattered shell of their former selves.

Threats came too from the war at large. In May of 1862 the regiment quickly consolidated from its many isolated posts as Stonewall Jackson's Valley Army, against which the unit was helpless, entered the area. The threat passed in early June, but by September, the 54th again faced a much larger force under Jackson. As part of the Maryland Campaign, the famous Rebel General was moving on Harpers Ferry.

The commander of the forces at Harpers Ferry and along the railroad advised, but did not order, Colonel Campbell to evacuate the rail line and seek shelter in Harpers Ferry. Luckily for the men of the Fifty-fourth, Campbell refused. Harpers Ferry was soon invested and the garrison forced to surrender.

The Fifty-fourth was the only Union force remaining south of the Potomac River. Without artillery or cavalry, the unit was once again again consolidated in one place. Campbell used select men of the regiment to attack a portion of Jackson's force at Hedgesville and capture a caisson and several stands of arms, killing two Confederates and capturing nineteen. Many would later credit the actions of the fifty-fourth with preventing further destruction along the part of the B&O the unit was assigned to protect.

Upon trying to establish contact with the Union army that had turned back the Confederate Invasion across the river in Maryland at the Battle of Antietam ; the Fifty-fourth was greeted with disbelief. Many of those on the



northern side of the river believed them to be Confederates in Union Uniforms at first. It seemed impossible that such a small group of men could have survived against the Rebel Hordes. Once the truth was realized; fame of the exploits of the Fifty-fourth spread and were reported in detail by newspapers in both New York and Baltimore.

The Fifty-fourth soon returned to isolated posts guarding the line. On October 4, 1862, Companies B and K were attacked by a large force of Confederate Cavalry under the command of General Imboden. The rebels quickly overwhelmed Company K at Little Cacapon in a dawn attack. Soon afterwards, Company B, from Stoyestown, Buckstown and Hooversville was captured at Paw Paw.

The men of these two companies found themselves on their way to Libby Prison and pawns in a game beyond their control. The Confederate Government threatened to execute the captured companies in retaliation for the execution of captured guerillas in Missouri. Only the intercession of Judge Jeremiah Black of Somerset saved the men. After three months in Libby, the two companies were exchanged and returned to duty with the rest of the regiment.

They returned to find that the regiment had been consolidated at North Mountain, near Hedgesville. The days of guarding the isolated points along the road were over. Other duties awaited.

In January, 1863 the regiment was sent on a fruitless pursuit of a rebel column in sub-freezing weather and repeatedly crossed the South Branch of the Potomac in water that was often times up to their necks. Many men fell ill from this expedition. Some men feeling themselves to be more sensible than others, decided by their own leave that the short trip across the Potomac and to Somerset County made much sense. Most of these men returned with better health and weather to face not so severe punishment. It is interesting to note that many family bibles record births in the families of these veterans approximately nine months after these sojourns home.

1863 saw continued duty near Romney; in what was to become in June the new state of West Virginia. the Fifty-fourth continued to scout the countryside and capture prisoners. On the sixth of July, the unit, along with others under the command of General Kelly marched into Maryland in pursuit of the Robert E. Lee's forces retreating from Gettysburg. The unit saw only a few shells thrown its way before returning to duty in West Virginia.

In the early part of 1864 the regiment was stationed at Cumberland, Maryland with rotating companies stationed at an outpost in nearby Pattersons Creek, West Virginia. Company F was captured there in February. This time there was no exchange of prisoners. The company was sent to the infamous Anendersonville Prison Camp where many of their number are buried today.

During the winter of 1864, many of the Fifty- Fourth's men reenlisted for the duration and were rewarded with a pass home. For many of the men returning to Somerset and Cambria Counties, it would be the last time they would see friends and loved ones. the Campaigns that were soon to follow would be hard on the Fifty-fourth Pennsylvania.

Written by Jeff Evans (pa54th@mail.cvn.net) for use on this website. Jeff is a park ranger at Gettysburg National Battlefield and is writing a book on this regiment.



## One Hundred and Seventy First Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers

In regards to the One Hundred and Seventy First Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, the book "History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-5" by Samuel P. Bates (Harrisburg, PA: B. Singerly, State Printer, 1870) states: "This regiment was mainly from the counties of Bradford, Juniata, Lycoming, Somerset, and Tioga, and was organized at Camp Curtin, about the middle of November, 1862, with the following field officers: Everard Bierer, of Fayette county, Colonel; Theophilus Humphrey, of Bradford county, Lieutenant Colonel; Robert C. Cox, of Tioga county, Major. Colonel Bierer had served as Captain in the Eleventh Reserve Regiment, and had been appointed

commandant of Camp Curtin, with the rank of Colonel, on the 28th of October. On the 27th of November, the regiment left camp and proceeded by rail to Washington, thence by water to Norfolk, and thence by rail to Suffolk, Virginia. It was here assigned to Spinola's Brigade, of Ferry's Division, General Dix being in command of the Department. A school for instruction of officers was at once established, and the command subjected to thorough drill.

On the 28th of December, it broke camp at Suffolk, and marched to Ballard's Landing, on the Chowan River, and thence proceeded by transport to Newbern, North Carolina, arriving on the 1st of January, 1863. Spinola's Brigade, at this time, consisted of the One Hundred and Fifty-eighth, One Hundred and Sixty-eighth, One Hundred and Seventy-first, and One Hundred and Seventy-fifth Pennsylvania regiments, and was known as the Keystone Brigade. It formed part of the Third Division, General Prince, Eighteenth Corps, General Foster. It here went into winter-quarters, and was engaged in fatigue and garrison duty. Early in March, General Prince's Division, with the Third New York Cavalry, made a reconnaissance into Jones and Onslow counties, encountering a few roving parties of the enemy, and taking some prisoners, and returning to camp on the 10th. About the middle of march, the enemy, under General D.H. Hill, appeared in front of Newbern, but was easily repulsed. He then moved off to Washington, on the Tar River, which he closely invested. Its defense was directed by General Foster in person, who had proceeded thither for that purpose; but being vastly out-numbered, the little garrison could with difficulty hold its works. General Prince at once headed a force for the relief of the place, which proceeded by transports, accompanied by gunboats. At Rodman's and Hill's points, some distance below Washington, the enemy had erected strong works, and mounted guns which commanded the navigation of the Pamlico River. On approaching these works, preparations were made to run through, but it was considered unsafe to do so, and the purpose was abandoned. Two regiments were then ordered to land, and carry the Hill's Point Battery by storm, the One Hundred and Seventy-first being one. But before the blow was delivered, they were withdrawn. Prince then returned with his force to Newbern, and Spinola was sent out with a force to make his way across the country, and break the enemy's lines in rear. On the 9th of April he arrived at Blout's Creek, where he found the bridge destroyed, the water dammed so as to flood an impassable swamp, and the enemy in position with artillery to dispute the passage. The troops were moved up on the right of the road, and the artillery at once opened on both sides. For some time the infantry was exposed to a heavy fire, but fortunately the enemy's shots were aimed too high, and passed harmless overhead. Deeming it imprudent to attempt to carry the position by direct attack, Spinola withdrew. In the meantime, a gun-boat had succeeded in passing the batteries on the Pamlico River, and on this, Foster, on the 14th, ran down and returned to Newbern. He now concentrated his forces, and heading them in person, marched towards Washington; but on approaching, found that the enemy had raised the siege, and was in full retreat. On the 23d, Spinola's Brigade was sent up the Pamlico River, to Washington, where it was posted for the defense of the place. On the 29th of May, General Spinola was relieved of the command of the brigade, and was succeeded by Colonel Bierer. Towards the close of June, the brigade was ordered to Fortress Monroe, and upon its arrival there, was sent, with the exception of the One Hundred and Seventy-fifth, to White House, on the Pamunky River, to join in a demonstration towards Richmond, ordered by General Dix, for a diversion in favor of the army at Gettysburg. Remaining in that vicinity until the 7th of July, it returned and proceeded to Harper's Ferry, arriving on the 9th. The rebel army was now in full retreat, and Meade following closely in retreat. On the 11th, the regiment marched to Boonesboro, and thence to a position in a pass of the South Mountain, where it remained until after the enemy had escaped into Virginia, and the hope, fondly cherished, of crushing him in another decisive battle, had perished. It then proceeded to Frederick, and on the 3d of August, was ordered to Harrisburg, where, from the 6th to the 8th, it was mustered out of service."

Information transcribed and contributed by Lannie Dietle for use on this website.

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Somerset County portion of the [PAGenWeb](#)