"BOUND FOR MEXICO!! . . . goods at unprecedented prices" heralded a sale and a Greensburg, Pennsylvania, merchant's response to Governor Francis R. Shunk's call for Mexican War volunteers. Whatever the grounds for war with Mexico in 1846 and amidst widespread controversy about it, over 1800 Pennsylvanians volunteered and were accepted into military service for the war's duration.

Of this number, ninety-three enrolled at Greensburg, Pennsylvania, on Christmas Eve 1846 and were designated Company E of the Second Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers — the Westmoreland Guards. A pro-war Democratic Greensburg paper, the Pennsylvania Argus, approvingly editorialized that "the company is made up principally of our stout hearted and patriotic young men, whose gallant bearing give ample assurance that the honor of the 'Star of the West' [a then popular term for Westmoreland County] could not be entrusted to nobler spirits." Guards' membership cut across occupational groups with skilled trades in general dominating its composition, although lawyers and law students were more numerous than any

Mr. Larner, a member of this Society, has contributed to the magazine interesting articles on the Harmony Society and "The Glass House Boys."

—Editor

1 Pennsylvania Argus, November 13, 1846; November 27, 1846.
2 Pennsylvania Argus, December 25, 1846.
other specific category. While ages ranged from eighteen to thirty-eight, the average age of the company's members was about twenty-four.

Pennsylvania's volunteers were granted a $21.00 advance from their $3.00 per month clothing allowance and were urged to buy “two red flannel shirts, three hickory, or checked linen shirts, one pair thick boots best quality, one extra pair of stout cassinet pantaloons, and two or three pair woolen socks.” Caution was raised against linen or cotton shirts because “as a very general thing the men have to do their own washing.” In addition, volunteers were to receive fifty cents for each twenty-five miles traveled from home to mustering point; however, no moneys were to be disbursed until the men were mustered into United States service.

At once Greensburg found itself with a problem of logistics and finance. An ad hoc committee meeting at the Westmoreland County courthouse December 23, 1846, pledged “to take such measures as may be necessary to aid our brave volunteers in reaching the seat of war at the earliest possible period.” A public subscription was launched and, although private cash donations were lean, the county commissioners voted funds for the Guards' assistance. Householders showed generosity in boarding and entertaining volunteers in their homes during the 1846 Christmas season.

Public farewell functions highlighted the Guards' last two days in Greensburg. Local ladies feted the volunteers with a courthouse banquet December 28, and on the following day Company E was addressed by the Rev. J. I. Brownson, a local temperance leader representing the Westmoreland County Bible Society. The Rev. Mr. Brownson reminded the Guards that “should you be prostrated by the strokes of disease, or by the arms of the enemy, no mother's fond attentions will solace your afflictions, nor sister's sweet voice will sooth your troubled spirits.” And with that each of the Guards received a Bible. Private Andrew Ross, a young Greensburg attorney speaking on behalf of the Guards, assured the Rev. Mr. Brownson, “we are not insensible to the solemnity of leaving our friends and our homes . . . and that we shall probably very soon be surrounded with circumstances of danger and have to become familiar with death.” That evening the Guards gathered at a “reception” hosted by Private Ross.

3 *Pittsburgh Daily Gazette and Advertiser*, November 16, 1846; December 14, 1846.
4 *Pennsylvania Argus*, December 25, 1846, January 1, 1847.
5 *Pennsylvania Argus*, January 8, 1847.
Company E departed Greensburg the morning of December 30, 1846, for their rendezvous point, Pittsburgh. The *Pennsylvania Argus* noted their absence and, in perhaps a telling way, lamented that "it is hard to estimate how much our little community loses in the breaking up of business relations and the severence of domestic ties." The Guards arrived at Pittsburgh that evening and were mustered into the service of the United States the following day, New Year's Eve 1846.6

Several members of the Westmoreland Guards kept diaries or journals recording observations and impressions of the Veracruz-Mexico City campaign, in which the Pennsylvania volunteers participated, but also of general conditions in Mexico. The journal of Private William McWilliams (1817-1902), a thirty-year-old carpenter from Murrysville, Pennsylvania, approximates this frame of reference and contributes to an increasing body of documentary evidence enhancing understanding of the Mexican War volunteer: his conception of his role, his changing outlook on war and its management and his frequently revised assumptions about both cultural and political nationality.

6 *Pennsylvania Argus*, January 1, 1847.

THE JOURNAL

Pittsburgh, January 1; 1847.

As a member of the Westmoreland Guards I was mustered into the servis of the United Stats to serve during the war with mexico unless sooner discharged the Westmoreland Guards were mustered into the servis by Lieut Field as Company E of the 2n Rieg't Pansyl vols Company officers are Jon W Johnston Capt, James armstrong 1 Lieut, & J s Coulter & Wash mury 2nd lieuts1

1 Lieutenant S. H. Fields.


Elected as Regimental officers Wm B Roberts Capt Co H as Col
John N Gery Capt of Comp B lieut Col Wm Brindle lieut of C
maj Benj f Dutton of promoted adjutent and Richard Mcmicles
Sergent Major S h montgomery appointed Quarter Master and
James Johnston gr Master Sergt both private of Co E

Pittsburgh Jan 8th 1847
Embarked on board the G. Boat North Carolina for New Orleans
Comps E & H are on this Boat all in the command of Capt Johnston
had a pleasant trip though the weather was wed till we reached the
warm climate

lawyer. Coulter, WPHM, XXIV, 121.
lawyer, granted leave May 24, 1847, probably due to injury or illness,
died on board a river packet between Cincinnati and Pittsburgh and was
interred at Long Run Church, Stewartsville, Pa. Albert, 387; Coulter,
WPHM, XXIV, 121; T. L. Montgomery (ed.), Pennsylvania Archives,
State of Pennsylvania on Account of the United States-Mexican War,
1846-1847, 389. (Hereafter PA)

2 Colonel William B. Roberts, 2nd Regt. Pa. Vols., 38, enrolled December 16,
1847, at Uniontown, Pa., and elected captain of Company H (Fayette
County Volunteers), characterized by a Pittsburgh newspaper as "affable,
mild and yet firm; . . . a perfect gentleman in every respect." Roberts
died "of Typhus Fever and bleeding at the lungs" at Mexico City, October
4, 1847. PA, 409; The Daily Morning Post [Pittsburgh], December 29,
1846; January 1, 1847; November 17, 1847; and December 11, 1847.
New Salem, Pa., graduated from Jefferson College at Canonsburg, Pa.,
Assistant Superintendent Engineer of the Allegheny Portage Railroad
at Summit, Pa., where he organized and was elected captain of Company
B (American Highlanders).
Following the War with Mexico, Geary pursued an active elective and
appointive political career. Albert, 440-441. Also, see: Henry Martin
Tinkcom, John White Geary; Soldier-State man, 1819-1873 (Philadel-
phia, 1940).

(Columbia Guards) at Danville, Pa., and elected lieutenant of that
company. PA, 269.
Adjutant Benjamin Dutton, 2nd Regt. Pa. Vols., first lieutenant of
Company F (National Rangers) of Philadelphia. Pittsburgh Daily
Gazette and Advertiser, January 8, 1847.
Company A (Reading Artillery), enrolled at Reading, Pa., December 23,
1846, elected second lieutenant September 9, 1847, first lieutenant Septem-
ber 15, 1847, and major November 5, 1847. PA, 373.
Quartermaster Samuel H. Montgomery, 2nd Regt. Pa. Vols., private in
Company E, 36, clerk. Coulter, WPHM, XXIV, 125.

3 If newspaper comment is any index of public sentiment Pittsburgh furnished
a less than enthusiastic farewell crowd—but not for lack of patriotism.
"The interest manifested in the departure was not near so great as on
the departure of the 1st Regiment, but this is attributed in good part to the
Jan 15th
arrived at Orleans at 12 Ni. the Boat landing there half an hour Then ran down to Camp Jackson 7 miles below the City here we landed and pitched our tents on the Ground rendered ever memorable by the victory achieved by Gen Jackson over Packenham We have very poor camp ground the place is low wete & muddy & the weather very disagreeable we should have been put in Garrison as there are plenty of vacant buildings

Camp Jackson, Jan 23d
Embarked on board the Ship James N. Cooper on which there are four companies Reig A. E. F. & H— the ship is much crowded we are very poorly supplied with proveision & what we get is of an inferior quality—

Jan 28th
had a very severe storm of wind & rain which did much damage to the rafts &c

30th
After a tiresome delay we left Camp Jackson at 10 A.M. Came to the Baliege [Balize, Louisiana] at 10 P.M.

31st
Crossed the bar & entered the Gulf the day is calm slow sailing light wind in the evening we just got out of sight of the Sight-house

very cold weather and biting wind which prevailed." Pittsburgh Daily Gazette and Advertiser, January 9, 1847.

Private Richard Coulter of Company E cited at least one unpleasant detail of the river trip. "Sea biscuits are perfect jaw breakers especially after the soft raised bread of a Pittsburgh Hotel." Richard Coulter, Diary, January 8, 1847, cited in Coulter, WPHM, XXIV, 104.

4 Private William A. Campbell of the Westmoreland Guards also noted misgivings about Camp Jackson conditions in a letter published by a Pittsburgh newspaper. "By the rascality of some-body, we are put on short rations; two sea biscuits every twenty four hours, is the amount each man in our company now gets . . . . Our officers neglected to procure us any thing to lay on for two nights after we arrived, but kindly promoted us to measure out lengths on the cold, damp ground. Much of their [the officers'] time is spent in the ................houses in New Orleans, and the men left under the command of petty Sergeants . . . . A soldier's life appears to make every man as low as circumstances can make him. I trust it will produce no effect on me." William A. Campbell, "Letter from New Orleans, January 18, 1847," The Daily Morning Post [Pittsburgh], February 1, 1847.

5 Private Coulter listed the four companies as: A, E, H and I. In any case, the companies hailed from: A (Reading Artillery), Reading, Pa.; E (Westmoreland Guards), Greensburg, Pa.; F (National Rangers), Philadelphia; H (Fayette County Volunteers), Uniontown, Pa.; and I (Hibernian Greens), Pittsburgh. Coulter, WPHM, XXIV, 105.
the weather is warm the Gulf is covered with foul & porpoises are playing and showing their Backs 6

Sailing on the Gulf Feb 2nd
a strong breeze sprang up which increased to a furious gale most of the soldiers are sea-sick the storm lasted about 40 hours 7

Feb 10th
Strong wind N.E. — which veered round into a regular Norther this Storm is much more violent than the first and lasted 56 hours The ship has orders to report at Tampico but I fear we cannot get there the winds are adverse & we are not steering for the Island of Lobos where the troops are to rendezous 8

Feb 13th
Cast anchor in the harbor of Lobos & commenced to land we worked all day to clean off Ground for an encampment the Island is covered with Underbrush and Vines & is hard to clean—

6 The men on board the James N. Cooper indicate no prior knowledge about their exact destination. However, as Mexican authorities had gleaned news of preparations for a Verácrúz expedition from New Orleans newspapers as early as November 1846, the ignorance of United States volunteers and their officers is either remarkable or feigned. Coulter, in a January 31, 1847, entry in his diary, wrote that “when completely clear of land, Colonel Roberts, who is aboard our ship, opened his orders and found our destination to be the Island of Lobos, situate about sixty miles south of Tampico, . . .” Colonel William Roberts emphasized the secrecy of the orders in a note home, also written on January 31, 1847: “We are just about to set sail but where we do not know as our orders are sealed; we will know in half an hour but dare not open them until the [tow] boats leave us.” Coulter, Diary, January 31, 1847, cited in Coulter, WPHM, XXIV, 105; Letter from William B. Roberts to Hanna Brownfield Roberts, January 31, 1847, cited in Bert Anson (ed.), “Colonel William Barton Roberts in the Mexico City Campaign—1847,” Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, XXXIX, 4 (Winter, 1956), 247; Justin H. Smith, The War with Mexico (2 vols.; New York, 1919), II, 20.

7 Colonel Roberts corroborates McWilliams on the storm's effects. “I was taken down with the first storm and after vomiting two days or three almost constantly, I lay on my back for six days without eating a mouthful of food.” Not contributing to the misery on the ship as fully as Roberts, Private Coulter seems to have taken puckish delight in reporting the situation. “Last night was rather a mixture of odd scenes . . . . it was one continual sound of pukeing, spitting, groaning and laughing mixed with the tumult of the gale. For my part I have not yet been sick and can therefore appreciate this scene.” Letter from Roberts to Hanna Brownfield Roberts, February 14, 1847, in Anson, WPHM, XXXIX, 248; Coulter, Diary, February 3, 1847, in Coulter, WPHM, XXIV, 106.

8 “Northern”s are strong, as the name suggests, northerly winds which often bring drastic temperature reductions in a relatively short space of time. These winds are particularly common in the Gulf of Mexico region from early November to late March.
Island of Lobos  Feb 14th
Landed & Pitched our Tents  this Island is about 1 mile and a half in circumference and 7 miles from the main land  the water is warm and brackish  the weather very hot

Feb 22nd
Recd our muskets and accoutrements  we are kept drilling every day

28th
Embarked for Vera-Cruz

March 1st
we have a pleasant trip  the wind is fair  weather fine

5th
Cast anchor at Point Anton Ligaras [Antón Lizardo]. The whole fleet is here

9th
Transferred to the man of war ship Patomac [Potomac]  the fleet sailed up & cast anchor at sacrificio harbor three miles from the city & castle [San Juan de Ulúa castle at Veracruz]  the country looks barren  nothing is to be seen but sand hills sparsely covered with prickley pear & shrubs—

Landing at Vera Cruz  9th
The First Division effected a landing about 200— by the means of surf boats  they planted a flag on a hill near the beach  the enemy offered no resistance  the Volunteer Division (Gen. Patterson) landed at 10:00 P.M.  We lay down in our wet Blankets on the beach  the air is quite cold  about midnight we were aroused by the firing of musketry and the cry of to arms to arms  the alarm was caused by some Mexicans approaching the out post no one was hurt.

March 10th
at 8 AM the army formed  Gen Patterson took the Advance  the Tenn vols acting as Skirmishers the two Pa regts following the day was exceedingly hot & marching very laborious

9 General Winfield Scott agreed and in a letter to the Secretary of War wrote that “the environs of the city, outside the fire of its guns and those of the castle, are broken into innumerable hills of loose sand, from twenty to two hundred and fifty feet in height, with almost impassable forests of chapparal between . . . .” Letter from General Winfield Scott to Secretary of War William L. Marcy, March 12, 1847, and published in The Daily Morning Post [Pittsburgh], April 9, 1847.

10 Major General Robert Patterson.
Investment of Vera Cruz  March 10
On being formed we started up the hill to gain the rear of the city and invest it we had not advanced far when the word passed down the line that the enemy were in view we threw off our knapsacks in quick time and ran up the hill as fast as we could but on arriving on the plane at the top no enemy was to be found So we returned and gathered up our traps [equipment] & proceeded on our way we halted about noon to rest the sun shining on the loose sand made it very hot & water was hard to get a skirmish took place between the 1st Pa Regt & some Mexicans and the bullets whistled among us very thick—

March 10th 1847
A Magazine was taken by firing a few cannon shots at it though it was full of Mexicans. Same day the 1st pa Regt & part of the Tenn Regt in the evening drove some 600 Lancers from a hight which commanded the city the enemy threw bombs at us all day but without effect— In the morning we reached the ruins of an old Abbey where we lay all night

March 11th
we lay on our arms all night with a double guard Co E was detailed as sappers & miners [engineers] & engaged all day in cutting roads through the Chaperal & was exposed to imminent danger from the Bombs & round shot which the enemy showered fast on us all day Capt Albertis & 2 or 3 privates killed & Lt Dickisand C.V. & several privates wounded by the enemy's Cannons

March 12th
last night our Regt stood guard at the rail-Road expected an attack half the camp standing & half sleeping— Here Gen Pillow exposed his consumate Generalship by posting the regt on opposite sides of the road—facing each other about 20 yds apart. If we had fired our

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11 A March 10, 1847, diary entry by another member of the Westmoreland Guards, Private Israel Uncapher, suggests collaboration. "We had not proceeded far when the word came down the line, that the enemy were in sight; our knapsacks flew off in double quick time, and we rushed up the hill at a charging pace, but on arriving on the plain no enemy were to be seen; so we went back and gathered up our trappings, and resumed our march toward the rear of the city, we made a short halt to recruit our strength and take a bite; the water being very scarce and Old Sol letting down upon us pretty heavily, I assure you we were thirsty..." Israel Uncapher, Diary, March 10, 1847, in Coulter, WPHM, XXIV, 108-109.

12 Probably Captain Alburtis, 2nd Infantry.
Probably Lieutenant Colonel Dickenson, South Carolina Volunteers.
own men would have suffered most. Gen Patterson discovered & Rectified the mistake today is windy & cloudy nothing is done but some skirmishing the enemy throw some cannon shot at us occasionally—13

March 13th
Lay at the R.Road again last night got no rest on acct of frequent alarms all which proved to be false Moved to the Magazine this morning & back to the Rail-Road at Night Prisoners are brought in daily14.

14th
Lay at the magazine till night when we moved to another position near six miles off near the City on the North West side—

March 14th, 1847
Investment of Vera Cruz
Had a very fatiguing march over the sand Hills Slept in the road—

15th
Moved again this evening half mile to the right Cold drisling rain all night constant cannonading from the city

16th
cool & wet a few shells thrown at us no harm done

17th
St. Patricks day came in cool & wet but cleared up fine— no fighting to day our men are engaged in bringing cannon ammunition &c ashore & batteries are being erected Salutes were fired in Navy on the reception of the News of Gen Taylor's Victory over Santa Anna at Buena-Vista [February 22-23, 1847] much firing last night along the line a Sailor was murdered by the rancheras [ranchero, stock rancher] Yesterday

18th
The day passed off quietly Great rejoicing in camp on acct of the arrival of a Mail from the states bringing us letters & papers from home it is the first male we have had

13 Brigadier General Gideon J. Pillow.
14 Private Uncapher elaborated on the “frequent alarms” in his March 13, 1847, entry. “Lay at the Rail Road again last night and stood guard . . . There are a great many of our boys very easily alarmed, and they fire at anything that moves; a poor Jackass, not being able to give the countersign, received eleven balls.” Uncapher, Diary, March 13, 1847, in Coulter, WPHM, XXIV, 109.
19th
another move to the right & nearer the city at sundown 17 of our Company were detailed to work at worths battery. 28 of those who were left were sent to the Seamens battery. With working at batteries & standing Guard we got but little rest. Heavy cannonading at Worths battery.  

March 20th
Nine more of the Company were sent out this morning to work. Cannonading at Worths battery. A small foraging party were surrounded by a large body of rancheros but they made their escape. 11 more sent to work at the seamans battery—

March 21
Going back to camp this morning we could Scarcely get along. A Terrible “Norther” was blowing and the Sand blew about so much we were forced to cover our faces with our handkerchiefs to keep out the Sand. Many of our vessels were blown ashore and wrecked during the Storm. We made another move half mile to the right. The cannonading still continued from the Enemy.

22
Gen/ Worth commenced bombarding the City at 2 o'clock P.M. hot firing on both sides. Our Camp is Detailed to work and stand Guard at the Seamans battery. Capt Vinton of Worths battery was killed by a Shot from the Enemy. Very few of our men are Killed; they are well Protected by Breastworks. Now the work goes on bravely. Nothing is to be heard but the continual roar of artillery & Busting of Bombs. The Bombardment continued most of Last night and did much execution in the City. It was a splendid Sight to see the fiery winged messengers of Destruction Sailing through the air in the night. Some Large Guns were brought to the Seamans battery today. Two 68 Pds cannon & two 32 Pd Howitzers towards night another Storm came on which put an end to the firing. We were relieved at 4 o'clock P.M. & went back to Camp.  

March 25th
Heavy firing from all our batteries. Many of the enemies guns are silenced about now. The firing ceased on both sides for a parley. The weather is excessively hot. A small action took place between a foraging party and some Lancers. Col Harney went out with his

15 Major General William J. Worth.
16 Captain John R. Vinton, Third Artillery.
Dragoons & captured some prisoners & 30 horses at 9 P.M. an alarm was raised heavy firing on our left—

26th

Our batteries opened again at 3 o'clock but ceased after daylight on account of a furious Norther The Ship Ohio came in Yesterday loaded with ammunitions & Military stores valued at $1,000,000

27th
everyThing quiet to day negotiations are said to be going on.

Vera Cruz March 28th

The articles of the Capitulation of the City & Castle are agreed upon & signed the number of killed & wounded in the City is estimated by some at 2500 but it is doulceless overestimated Our whole loss during the siege is 17 killed & 20 or 30 wounded

29th

The enemy marched out & surrendered thier arms in the presence of Our Army which was drawn up in Two lines on the plane near the City They numbered 5 or 6000 It was a fine sight for us— The Victorious Stars & Stripes were then raised on the City & Castle & saluted by our military & Gen Scott went in & took his quarters in the Palace Royal Gen Worth is Govenor of the City

On March April 11th 1847—

This splendid Bridge crossed the Rio Antigua which is a rapid mountain stream This is a very strong military position the scenery is romantic & picturesque there is a beautiful Hacienda here the property of Santa Anna

17 Colonel William S. Harney, 2nd Dragoons.
18 Another Westmoreland Guard diarist, Sergeant Thomas J. Barclay, noted preparations for victory celebration. "A great many of our men are close to the walls, viewing the cemetary, buying liquor, etc." Thomas J. Barclay, Diary, March 27, 1847, in Coulter, WPHM, XXIV, 110.
19 J. H. Smith places Mexican civilian and military casualties at 180 killed or wounded and those of the United States at 19 killed and 63 wounded. Smith, II, 33-34.
20 Colonel Roberts related somewhat more detail about Santa Anna's hacienda. "It is a beautiful place. His house is well furnished. His flight had been so sudden he had not time to move anything, not even his own or his wife's clothes. His sofas, chairs, marble top tables, and so forth were of American manufacture. The farm is one of the most beautiful I have ever seen. Several thousand acres of it he can irrigate from the mountain streams, from one of which on this farm Santa Anna had a ditch dug which carried its waters clear to Cerro Gordo to water his army." Letter from Roberts to Hanna Brownfield Roberts, April 27, 1847, in Anson, WPHM, XXXIX, 258.
12th
Started Early & travelled fast the road is level & straight but very dusty country is rockey & barren the weather hot marched 17 miles and camped at Plan-Del-Rio another fortress commands this place.

13th
Gen Twiggs who was one day in advance of us came up with the enemy at the strangely fortified pass of Cerra-Gorda [Cerro Gordo] finding Santa Anna here with a force of 21,000 men fell back to this camp Orders to be ready to storm the enemy’s works tomorrow morning²¹

Plan-Del-Rio, April 14th
Orders to storm countermanded by Gen Patterson No provisions today went out foraging & killed some beef.

15th
No breakfast squad drills at sun rise Comp drill after breakfast but as breakfast did not come we did not drill Gen Scott arrived today

16th
Lay in camp a Capt & ten men Ill. Regt killed by rancheros—

17th
Orders to attack the enemy by storm tomorrow morning Gen Twiggs moved up & took a position on the Heights [La Atalaya] & had a sever engagement he sustained Three heavy charges from a superior force—but held his position 11 killed 40 wounded The enemy lost some three or four hundred men it was a hard battle—²²

Battle of Cerra-Gordo, April 18
Sunday—This day we met & routed the enemy—with great slaughter but had the hardest & most Bloody fight which had been fought since this war began—
The army was put in motion early. The Enemy’s works are 4 miles from camp At 7 o'clock our Brigade under Pillow was put in motion the part assigned to us was a Strong fort to the left of the road on the heights which was protected by 4 betteries mounting 21 Guns &

²¹ Major General David E. Twiggs.
²² According to J. H. Smith, La Atalaya statistics run more like 200 Mexican casualties and about 90 United States casualties. Smith, II, 52.
7000 men under Genl La Vegas. We were to attract there attention here while the other forts were being Stormed. The assault was made by the 1st Pa Vol & 2nd Tenn Regt. Sustained by the 1st Tenn & 2nd Pa Regts. The Tenn made a bold charge under the fire of 1500 muskets till they were within 150 Yds of the fort when a masked battery opened & Guns opened on them very unexpectedly and with Great Destruction. Our Regt being in range suffered much & the Grape & Canister hailed among our Ranks thick as the Officer [General Pillow] did not know the Grounds. The 1st Pa Regt did not get their proper position and the Ten Regt were driven on to the most inaccessible & dangerous Point.23

Battle of Cerro Gordo, April 18—
They went on bravely however till they came within 50 Yds of the works where they began to falter and fall back. Their field officers were all Shot down but Lieut Col Haskill & 60 or 80 men lay on the field. They fell back in confusion though with no Discredit to themselves. The Lines in their retreat broke through our Ranks & through us into some confusion but we formed immediately under the hottest of the fire & were ready to march on to the assault but were ordered to retire and draw a short distance & in a short time the fort surrendered. Our Regt was exposed to all the fire but only lost 25 men most of there Shot went over our head. Only one of our camp was Wounded. Pillow was wounded slightly in the Arm & Col Campbell took command at the other forts. The work of death was going on rapid. The forts were stormed & the Enemy Driven out with great slaughter. Santa Ana in the beginning of the Action & could not be caught. The retreating Enemy was pursued by Col Harney. Our loss in this great Battle is 425 Killed & wounded. The loss of the Enemy is hard to estimate but is not less than 12,000 by 6000 or 7000 pris. 2000 Killed & wounded and 3000 Deserted.24

Among the prisoners was La Vega and Many other Officers. Ampudia

23 Brigadier General Romulo de La Vega. Accounts differ considerably about the number of Mexican troops at Cerro Gordo. Smith says three batteries and 19 guns with a total of about 1800 men while Singletary estimates as many as 3500 Mexicans. Smith, II, 44; Otis A. Singletary, The Mexican War (Chicago, 1960), 79.

escaped very narrowly  Arista Killd  Brig Gen Shields was dangerously wounded by a grape Shot at the head of his Brigade while Storming the main fort  a braver or better man does not belong to the Army  Santa Anna had a force of 21,000 men & the Strongest position in Mexico defended by five forts & 42 cannon  Gen Scott had but 8000 men & his Artillery could not act with any effect  it is a Glorious but bloody victory

Plan del-Rio  April 19th  1847

Yesterday our Ears were deafened by the roar of Artillery and musketry and din of battle but to day nothing is heard but the roll of the muffled drums & plaintive fife playing the deat march for the burial of our comrades who fell so nobly on the Battlefield  Our Regt is guard to the prisoners. they are to be released tomorrow thier arms are burnt and destroyed—Gen Twiggs & Col Harney killed many on the road to Jalapa.  Orders to march tomorrow

Tues 20th

Left camp Del-Rio  Our company rear guard  The pass of Cerra-Gordo is a narrow cavern or defile in the mountains 4 miles in length enclosed by high and almost perpendicular Bluffs on which were erected the forts & batteries which commanded the pass and all the hights around  It was at the pass of Cerra Gordo that the Mexicans defeated 40,000 Spaniards and slew 17000 of them  The Battlefield presents a woeful sight now  the dead and wounded Mexicans lie about in piles and near the head of the pass they are more numerous and the smell almost insupportable  Our road is fine but traveling is unpleasant on account of the dead bodies all along the road which we were not out of sight of & smell of all day  after a tramp of 22 miles we camped at Bridge St Barbor near Encerro [Encero] and near the residence of Santa Anna

25 General Pedro de Ampudia.
Major General Mariano Arista.
Brigadier General James Shields.
Predictably enough, McWilliams over-estimated the number of Mexican forces at Cerro Gordo. Smith places the count at about 12,000 to 18,000 and, roughly substantiating McWilliams, reports 8,500 United States troops. Smith, II, 50.

26 A Pittsburgh volunteer described Cerro Gordo in western Pennsylvania terms. “This pass is about one mile or more in length, and very narrow—the mountains on each side of which rise higher, above the bottom of the pass, than the Alum Bank heights are above the surface of our beloved Conemaugh . . . You can judge by this that no position could have been more advantageous for the enemy—. . .” Letter from W.A.C., The Daily Morning Post [Pittsburgh], May 26, 1847.
Wed 21st
Left Camp early traveled through a rough fine country in view of the snow covered peak of Orizaba & at noon came to Jalapa.

April 22nd
We were marched so fast through Jalapa we could not see much but it seems to be a fine flourishing City
After marching 14 miles we camped in a beautiful Valley 3 miles from Jalapa [Camp Patterson]

Thrus 23d
Gen Worth has taken possession of the famous Castle of Perote

May 5th
Lying in camp Patterson since we have been here it has rained nearly every day and as we have no tents & were exposed to the weather its caused much sickness—

Camp Patterson May 6th
Our Regt being selected as part of the garrison of Jalapa were marched into the City & quartered in the Cuarter Del Guardid Nacional

9th
Visited the churches which are very splendid & rich in painting & bronz Gildings & carving.

May the 12th
Attended the funeral of a Mexican officer who was wounded at Cerro-Gordo it was a splendid Pageant Gens Scott, Twiggs, and many of the U.S. officers attended Scott's band played the dead march

Friday 14th
A large train came in from Vera-Cruz

Sat 22nd
Gen Twiggs with his Division Started for Puebla—

Sun 23rd
Crowded markets cock fighting in the morning circus at 2 Bull fights at 4 Theatre & Ball at night

Jalapa May the 24th
Rows are frequent Our men are waylaid and stabbed frequently Torchlight procession at night Pleasant weather & fine times On guard every third day27

27 Colonel Roberts supplied more detail about the procession. "I have just been
Orders to evacuate this city. The 1st Pa Regt left for Perote with the Hospital stores & sick. Campbell and Miller discharged and started home.

Tues 15th
Gen Cadwallader with a large train with money & ammunition. He had 1500 men. He was attacked seven times on the road. He lost 30 men & 39 wagons. A large mail came in. Capt. S. H. Montgomery QM & H. J. Brady came up with the train.

Friday 18th
Left Jalapa at 4 o'clock. Came to camp Patterson 4 miles. Rained all night.

Sat 19th
Left camp at sunrise. Our force is about 1500 men with a train of 500 wagons. They travelled through a pleasant Valley—six miles when we commenced ascending the mountains which are quite steep for about 4 miles. The Valley is rich and well cultivated.

On March June 19th
The soil on the Mountains is very rich. The soil is from 2 to 4 feet deep and raised good corn, wheat, barley, &c. The scenery is of the most sublime varied and romantic character. Several pretty cascades are to be seen. The tops [of the mountains] are covered with pine timber. Marched 12 miles. Camped in a lovely mountain Valley at La-Olla [La Jolla] which place is deserted.

Sun 20
Up at 3 oc & ready to march. Leaving the camp the face of the coun-

witnessing a torchlight procession from the church by the Mexicans. It was a very grand affair. Some of our officers participated with them, walking in their ranks and carrying a wax candle about three feet long. The procession was, as near as I can get at it, to save one of their great men [Arista] who was very low and not expected to live." Letter from Roberts to Hanna Brownfield Roberts, May 25, 1847, in Anson, WPHM, XXXIX, 260.


29 Brigadier General George Cadwalader.
try is the reverse of what we came through Yesterday. The face of the country is a rough mountainous succession of bare Black rock among which are some pines. The pass of La-Olla [La Jolla] is by nature a very strong position and is well fortified by art.

On March 20th
Scouts were sent out to day to clear the way as an attack was expected. Passing through the gorge the road still winds up the mountains which are barren and covered with pines. About noon our advance was fired upon and a bloody fight would have taken place but just at that time the Gallant Capt Walker who was out Scouting charged on the rear and routed them instantly killing 19 on the field and wounding many more. Capt Walker had his horse shot under him & one of his men killed. Came to the Village of La-Vega [Las Vigas] at 2 Oc which was all on fire. Walker's men burnt all the houses on the road near this place. Passing La-Vega [Las Vigas] the country is level, marched 12 miles and camped. Rained all afternoon.

On March 21st
Passed through a delightful level country interspersed with plains and groves of excellent pines. Timber fields of corn wheat Barley join each other all the way. Some fields contain many thousand Acres. The wheat is nearly ripe, corn about knee high. Came to Perote at noon. The road is level. Distance 8 miles from Jalapa, 36 miles. Perote is a poor place and looks mean though it is said to contain 6000 souls.

Perote June 21st 1847
Perote Castle is one of the greatest spesimens of Architecture I have yet seen. It is built of stone and covers 40 Acres of ground. It is surrounded by a ditch 90 feet wide which can be filled 8 feet deep with water in 12 hours. The Castel mounts 72 cannons with several large morters. It is now an hospital and Depot.

Tues 22nd
Lay in Camp near the Castel. The weather here is much colder than at Jalapa.

Mon 28
Left Perote at daylight under Col Childs. Travelled over a level plane barren and almost destitute of vegetation & water for 18 miles and en-

30 Captain S. H. Walker, Texas Rangers.
camped at Tepellaulco [Tepeyahualco] 31

On March, July 1st/47
Thurs Went out to the Village of Soto 7 miles for grain got wet coming home were inspected and mustered into the service in the evening

Sat 3d
Left Tepellaulco [Tepeyahualco] at 3 a.m. Marched through a barren plane skirted by low ranges of black barren mountains Camped at 11 distance 11 miles N. Thomas was seriously hurt by being run over by a wagon 32

On March July 4th/47
This the glorious anniversary of our Nations liberty finds us tramping through the plaines of Mexico We are sorry we cannot do something in honor of the day but our scanty fare is more scant than usual we are deprived of Coffee Left camp at 5 tramped 10 miles over a level plain Camped at noon at Ojo-De-Agua—(Eye of water) which is a considerable stream of hot water—issuing from under a hill It is pleasant tasted and has some good mineral qualities Weather cold in the morning hot at Noon and wet in the evening 33

On March July 5th
Left camp marched 3 miles camped at good water the land is rich and well tilled

On March July 6th
Had an alarm at 2 oc a.m. The piquet [picket] fired on some corn hoers Left Camp at 5 and encamped at noon at the entrance of the Pinal Pass [El Pinal]

Wed 7th
Left camp at sunrise we were ordered to seat along the road and stand guard and look out for the enemy the road passes along the foot of a perpendicular mountain The rancheros piled up stones on the mountain side to roll down upon us but our scouts drove them off Some stones were rolled down but we got around them Passed

31 Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Childs, Artillery.
33 Sergeant Barclay longed for something stronger than coffee to bolster patriotism. "How patriotically would we imbibe a pint of old Monongahela in drinking toasts to the men of '76 . . . . Upon musty crackers and cold water we made our breakfast and upon cold water and musty crackers we made our dinner . . . ." Barclay, Diary, July 4, 1847, in Coulter, WPHM, XXIV, 114.
Acojate [Acajete] at noon  Camped at Amasoque [Amozoc] a very pretty little town  days march 18 miles  very fatiguing—

July 8th
Left Amasoque [Amozoc] early with the advance  arrived at Puebla at 2 oc  distance 12 miles  Two snow covered mountains are in sight all day Big Popocatapotl & Sierra-Navada [Sierra Nevada]— Puebla far exceeds my anticipations  it is really a fine place  The Streets running at right angles are clean & were paved  The buildings are not high but are regular and present very fine fronts— It contains a population of 70,000 souls and 60 Churches most of which are of great size and magnificence  the great Cathedral it is said cost $30,000,000.  The paseo [Alameda] is a fine publing [public?] grove and has many fine jets and fountains.

July 9th
We are very comfortably quartered in the St. Johns Church part of which is used as an Hospital and part as a monastery  The weather is mild and pleasant but we have a shower every evening  The market is large and well supplied with fruits and vegetables of all kinds.

27th
Paid a visit to the ruins of the ancient city Cholula 7 miles west from here  It is situated on a level plain near a low range of mountains  It once covered a large space of ground and is said to have contained 375,000 Souls.  It was destroyed by Cortes  There is a monument in the Plaza to the memory of 17000 men whom Cortes massacred there—

Puebla July 27th 1847— The Pyramid of Cholula is one of the greatest wonders of the world  It covers about 40 Acres of [ground] is 1500 ft high is build of sundried Brick and Stone  on its summit once stood the ancient Temple of the sun but the place is now occupied by a handsome Catholic Church  from its top the scene is grand & beautiful.  Cholula now contains some four or six thousand Souls  has several large churches one of which contains 300 nuns

30th
Samuel Gorgas died in Hospital Division  drill by Gen Quitman

Brigadier General John A. Quitman.
Aug 3d
A Battle was fought near the hot Springs our men are again Victorious as usual. A Mail came in today with letters and papers for us

Puebla August 6th/47—
Gen Pierce arrived with 2500 Troops he brings a heavy siege battery

Sat 7th
Gen Twiggs with his Division left here for the City of Mexico Two additional Companies were added to our Regt One from Bedford and one from Crawford Counties

Sunday 8th
Left Puebla for Mexico City under Gen Quitman Our Company leaves 16 men in Hospital Marched till noon Encamped at Rio Frieto [Rio Frio] distance of ten miles

Mon 9th
Left camp at 6 marched over a level sandy road to San Martin 11 miles This was once a place of some importance but is now nearly depopulated—

On March Aug 10th
Left camp at 6 came to Tesmaluco [Tesmalucan] bridge at 10 but did not halt—

Pueble, August 10th 1847
passing this place a few miles our rear was attacked by a Guirrilla party. One man killed. We are now on the mountain and crossing the great chain. The country is rough wild and heavily timbered with pine. The enemy had commenced to fortify to Pass of Rio Frio but did not finish their works. It is by nauture a very strong position. Camped at Rio Frio at 4 Rained heavy 6 or 8 hours. Days march 22 miles.

Wed 11th
Our Regt being rear guard did not leave camp till 9oo The Road lies over the mountains and through dangerous passes and defiles—

On march Aug 11th
Coming from the tip of the mountain the decent is very rapid for about

35 Brigadier General Franklin Pierce later to defeat his superior officer, Winfield Scott, in the 1852 Presidential election.
36 It is unlikely that all those left in hospital were battle casualties. Both cholera and dysentery took heavy tolls of United States troop strength at Puebla. Singletary, 82; Smith, II, 73.
12 miles When we enter the great basin of Valley of Mexico from the mountains tops and sides there are many grand and splendid Views of mountains Lakes Vallies &c after a very fatiqueing march of 23 miles we encamped at an old Hacienda near Buena Vista [Bonavista]\(^3\)

**Sun 15th**

Left camp at 6 marched toward the Penan 3 miles and finding it impractible to reach the city by that road we counter-marched and took a new Road to reach the city by another direction Camped at the old city of Chalco, days march 9 miles.\(^3\)

**Mon Aug 16th**

Left camp at 6 had a slow and toilesome march over a narrow rough road 9 miles Camped in an old grove in an old village

**On March Aug 17th**

Another slow march the road being much obstructed Marched 5 miles Encamped in an Olive grove

**On March Aug 18th 1847**

Left camp at 6 rear guard The enemy had filled the road in many places by rolling stones from the hill-side This road was thought impassable by the Mexicans & we overcame difficulties which would have discouraged any other army Some firing of Cannon is to be heard in the direction of the City Gen Worth has taken San Augustine [San Augustin, August 17, 1847] This great Valley of Mexico is mostly covered with water and marches but all that can be tilled is in a high state of Cultivation and is Very rich Corn is the principle crop Marched 6 miles Camped at 4\(^oo\). Heavy rain More firing of Cannons

**Battle of Cantraras [Contreras]**

**Aug 19th**

Left camp & came to san Augustine [San Augustin] Gen Pillow's Division left here to cut a road round by Cantreras [Contreras]

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\(^{3}\) Colonel Roberts remarked on the logistical as well as tactical advantages of the hacienda. “A canal comes to the Hacienda in which I am encamped, the walls of which are extensive enough to accomodate my whole command, soldiers, horses, wagons and all and afford shelter and comfortable quarters. The wall is about 15 feet high, the roofs flat and a parapet or wall all around two and one half feet higher than the roof. It is in fact a perfect fortress.” Letter from Roberts to Hanna Brownfield Roberts, August 14, 1847, in Anson, *WPHM*, XXXIX, 263.

\(^{38}\) Nineteen miles would seem more accurate.
here he encountered Gen Valencia with a large force and a hard battle ensued. The enemy were entrenched in great numbers behind good forts & breastworks and poured a hot fire on our men from 24 pcs Cannon while they were taking a position. Twigg's Division went to support Pillow's and the N.Y. & S.C. Regts were called out & went also. Our Regt was called for and would have been taken but at that decisive moment it is said no field Officers were to be found. We were all anxious to get a share of the glory but could not get a chance we had to remain here to guard the train.

Aug 20th

Although the firing was incessant yesterday afternoon but little execution was done. Our men got in positions during the night and at sunrise they Stormed and took the enemy's works in an action of 17 minutes. The enemy were driven out with great slaughter all their arms ammunition &c were taken and 94 Officers and 723 privates were taken prisoners. Gen Salas among them. 24 pieces of Cannon were Captured 4 of which was taken from Gen Taylor at Buena Vista. Many Mexicans were killed on their retreat. Our Regt was called out and Started with joy to the scene of action but were too late to engage in it.

Battle of Churubusco

Aug 20 Fryday

The Battle of Churubusco is doubtless the Bloodiest & most sanguinary battle ever fought in Mexico considering the disparity of numbers & the Strong defences of the Enemy it is certainly one of the most remarkable. Our men flushed with Victory followed the enemy from Contreras & drove them into there forts at Churubusco. Here the main body of the Mexican Army lay. There force was 30,000 or 35,000 with Santa Ana at there head they lay behind there defence which they considered impregnable. Genl Worths division now Joined Pillows & Twiggs and the battle raged for Three Long—long hours. Many charges were made before we carried there works. The enemys work was finally carried at the point of the Bayonet but with a great loss on both Sides. our loss in the two battles is 1156 men killed wounded & missing the enemys Loss is much Greater

39 General Gabriel Valencia.
40 General J. M. Salas.

McWilliams' Contreras statistics are approximately correct with the exception that only two of the captured cannon were used by Taylor's men at Buena Vista. Smith, II, 118.
because they had more men. Santa Anna with his army was driven to the city gates. All the arms ammunition & Large amount of Public property fell into our hands with a great number of cannon. Some of there very fine large pieces. It is supposed that the fighting is now all over. We had been lying in Sight of these battle but could not take part in them. We were Kept at San Augustine [San Augustin] to guard the train & the hospital. 6000 or 8000 Lanciers were Lying near waiting for a good chance for an attack on us.41

San Augustine [San Augustin]
Aug 21 Sat
This day 326 years ago Ferdinand Cortes conquered the army of the montezumas & entered the City of Mexico. We have conquered Santa Ana's army but cant get into the City yet. Another batch of Prisoners & 18 officers were brot in to day. Forty Diserters were taken at Churubusco. A large force of the Enemy had occupied a Hacienda near Worths Quarters but they vamoused [cleared out] to Churubusco before the fight commenced.42

Sun 22
Lying in camp at San Augstin in a church yard wet & muddy. We got as much fruit as we can use. Such as apples peaches figs oc oc nuts [coconuts?]

Mon 23 San Augustin
Rumours of Peace, it is Said a Treaty has been agreed upon

25 Wed
An armistice has been agreed upon to give the commissioners time to settle the difficulties by a treaty of peace. this armistice may be broken by a notice of 48 hours on either side. It is hoped that peace will now be made.43

27th
A party of our waggoners went into the City to get some provisions but they were set on by a mob in Violation of the armistice and many of them badly wounded

41 Again, McWilliams' figures are reasonably accurate; however, only 978 United States casualties were listed. Smith, II, 118.
42 The deserters noted here were probably men of the San Patricio Brigade of Irish-Americans.
43 It has been suggested that Scott, duped by a Santa Anna peace overture in June 1847, continued unarmed in a battle of wits by agreeing to this armistice which granted Santa Anna time to strengthen Mexico City defenses. Singletary, 92, 154-158.
Sept 7th

Rec'd six months pay  Order to march tomorrow  The armistice is broken and another fight is expected

Battle of Molino-Del-Ray [Molino del Rey]
Wed Sept 8th

Another severe and bloody battle was fought to day  Gen Pillow's Division was attacked by the enemy at Molino-del-Rey— Our men charged upon the enemy  drove them inside their works which they then Stormed and Carried at the point of the bayonet  Many fell on both Sides but the loss of the enemy was five times greater than our own and we lost 780 Men Killed wounded & missing  It was here that the intrepid Lieut R. H. L. Johnston fell  He had made the first breach in the gate and had just entered when he was struck by a musket ball & was severely wounded  but Regardless of that he rushed on & was struck by a cannon ball which put an end to his brilliant career & valuable life—

Battle of Molino-Del-Rey—Sept 8th

Lieut Johnston was formerly a private in Our Company and was much respected by all his Comrades & his Death though glorious was sincerely lamented and Cast a gloom over the Company  His Sarge followed him and the enemy surrendered to him and three of his men We marched to San Augustine [San Augustin] to Coyocan [Coyoacan] and quartered there

Fri'd 10th

Sixteen men were hung here this morning for desertions & 16 others were whipped & branded  Fifteen men being required from our Regt—20 Volunteered their services and many more would have went had they been required  3 went from our Company  Hagan Carney was the one accepted  Our best wishes go with him  we have every Confidence in his courage & coolness—

Saturday September 11th 1847

A few big guns were fired at our reconnoitering parties  at 4 o'clock we were ordered to march & started at sundown & marched all night

as we were lying down to rest half an hour Edward Hansberry had both his feet run over by a Cannon waggon & was badly wounded

Sunday 12th

 Came to Tacabaya [Tacubaya] at day light here our Regt was divided Our Co with 3 Others were ordered to guard & support Lieut Hagner's Battery (No 2) we lay concealed in the Polque bushes At sunrise the firing commended by Twiggs making a feint attack on the Garito-Antonio-Abad [San Antonio Gate] the enemy fired constantly on our men while they were erecting batteries from the Castle of Chapultapec [Chapultepec] which we were in full view of & in point blank range of their shots—

Bombardment of Chapultapec [Chapultepec]

Sun Sept 12th

At 7 Oc Capt Drums and Lieut Hagner's batteries opened on the castle and much execution dismounting the guns & doing great inmury to the Castle Our Rifles engaged the enemy in the forest at the foot of the hill and a smart skirmishing was kept up all day and the enemy were driven into their works at night though the firing was incessant all day not many on our side were killed Ten of our company were Sent to work at Hagner's battery where we worked faithfully till we got a breastwork thrown up and got his pieces in battery on good platform Then he did good execution The round shot from the Castle came among us very thick some time through the day

Storming of Chapultapec 13th

Monday at 6 Oc we marched down to Tucabaya [Tacubaya] where we joined the Regt and the Division drawn up on battle order behind Drum's Battery being about a mile from the Castle as soon as we emerged from behind the battery the enemy opened a most

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46 Private Edward Hansberry, Co. E, 2nd Regt. Pa. Vols., 26, weaver, discharged March 5, 1848, at Mexico City as a consequence of these injuries. Coulter, WPHM, XXIV, 123; PA, 323.

47 Lieutenant P. V. Hagner, Ordnance. Polque plants, usually rather substantial in size, were farmed commercially. The leaves were used for cordage and centers of its reddish-yellow flowers were fermented, the derived product also named polque. The road from Perote to Mexico City was lined with polque plantations. E. J. Forstall, "Memoranda" published in The Daily Morning Post [Pittsburgh], April 26, 1847.

48 Captain Simon H. Drum, 4th Artillery, 40, born in Greensburg, Pa., graduated with distinction from United States Military Academy July 1829, participated in Black Hawk and Florida campaigns as well as campaigns in northern Mexico, killed near Mexico City's Belen Gate, September 13, 1847. Albert, 386.
destructive fire upon us from thier cannon & kept up a galling & incessant fire of grape canister Round Shot & Small arms till we reached the Castle & drove them out. We marched down the road half a mile & then filed left into a field of corn where many of our men fell in crossing the field which lay between us & the Castle we lost a great many more. There were 30 or 40 ditches to cross waist deep in water I ran through high clones [canes] which was very fatiqueing.

Storming of Chapultepec Mon.

Gen Pillow Division made the attack from the west side through the forest Gen Quitman from the south. In crossing the field A. J. Bates was severely wounded in both thighs C. F. Sargent in wrist & thigh Lieut Armstrong sprained himself in crossing a ditch & being in ill health & very weak was not able to reach the Castle as soon as we did Lieut John W. Geary fell & did not reach the Castle till some time after the Flags were changed. He said than that he was not wounded but was sprained & afterwards reported himself wounded in the groin. It has been strongly hinted that he was afraid to come into close action certain it is he gained no honor by staying back. Monday they offered stone resistance but finding we were determined to conquer they bamessed [variant of "vamouse"] the best way they could but held the Castle till we entered it & pulled down thier colours. When we reached the lower wall we were secure & took our wind till the Regt was formed—when we went round the wall & came to the foot of the hill here there was some confusion on acct of conflicting orders Maj Brindle being in command ordered us around to the right up the main causway an aid ordered us to the left & Gen Cadwalader ordered us right up the hill here the gallant Lieut Coulter took the responsibility of disobeying the Majors orders & led us right up the hill that being the shortest way to glory.

Storming of Chapultapec

By this bold movement of the intrepid Coulter we were the first company in the Castle & Lewis Allshouse was the first man of the Division in the Castle. When we reached the Castle most of the Mexicans had bamessed but those who could not get away were taken

prisoners among which was the gallant Gen Bravo. The enemy kept up a retreating fire but a great many of them were killed as they run. The Penn. Flag was among the first displayed from the Castle—it was thrown out by the brave Capt. Montgomery (QM) who was in the thickest of the fight. Gen. Cadwalader made a short speech to the men exhorting them to join their companies & Regts—he was loudly cheered and quickly obeyed.

Chapultepec Sept 13th
Shorty after the flags went up Gen Scott rode into the Castle & the cheering made the welkin ring [Middle English: to cheer loudly]. Strange but pleasing to relate we had but two men wounded seriously though 12 were struck by balls. We did not remain at the Castle more than half an hour till we were ordered to follow the retreating foe and take possession of the City. We followed them down the [Belen] Causeway to a battery—they had in the road drove them from that when they retreated to another strong battery at the gate or Garita-De-Belen here they made a stone resistance till we got some of the pieces which they abandoned at the first battery turned upon them when they were driven into the Citadel near the Garita [gate]

Garita-De-Belen Sept 13
As we marched down the Causeway the enemy annoyed us very much and killed many of our men by firing round shot, grape, Canister, and bombs. The battle at the gate was the most furious and bloody and the enemy made greater resistance than in any battle heretofore fought we came to the gate at 12m. and the firing was incessant and most destructive till dark at 20 minutes past 12 part of the 2nd Pa Regt & part of the rifle Regt [Voltigeur Regiment] entered the City gate led by Gens Quitman & Smith and were the first American troops in the City. I am happy to say Company E was among that lucky few though there was a perfect hailstorm of shot of all kinds we held our position but having no Cannon of our own to turn against them we were in a very critical position. The rifles and some of our mesketry maintained the unequal contest till the enemy made ready to charge on us with Cavalry and Infantry when Capt. Drum coming down with his company to a cannon of the enemys drew it up loading it with thier own amunition returned the fire with

spirit & did much execution but one cannon agains about 40 was not much after firing all the round shot he had (15 or 20) rounds & finding the enemy trying to dismantle his piece he run it down the road and fired grape at them Capt Drum leveled his piece every time himself & Stuck to it till the last displaying the utmost courage and coolness\footnote{Brigadier General Persifer E. Smith. General Worth’s troops entered Mexico City by way of the San Cosme Gate about 6:00 p.m., September 13, 1847.}

Garita-De-Belen Sept 13th

Our riflemen picked off a great many from their Breastworks killing almost every man they shot at. The infantry killed many with muskets. Our loss is very heavy but a much greater number of Umbries [Spanish: hombre—man] fell. The enemy fought with the Courage of desperation & despair while our men fought with that cool determination and steady calmness so characteristic of our nation & though great odds were against us & our situation very critical no one thought of any thing but certain Victory. In the evening some large pieces of Cannon were brought down & most of the men spent the night in erecting batteries & diging trenches. We spent a bad night it was very cold we had no blankets & were wet from crossing the diches.

(To be continued)