Profiles in Leadership

Allegheny County's Lawyer-Generals in the Civil War

One of the most prominent lawyer-generals was Colonel Frederick Hill Collier (seated, second from right) of the 139th Pennsylvania Regiment. Collier Township in Allegheny County is named for him.

by David A. Murdoch
Among his many published reflections on the Civil War, historian Bruce Catton once described the process for creating a Union Army regiment of 1,000 men in a typical Northern county: a man of prominence, perhaps a lawyer, “tolerably well-known in his neighborhood and apparently gifted with some capacity for leadership,” would start by raising a company of one hundred volunteers, then repeat that feat ten times. If these “home-county colonels” who organized the forces were not veterans of the Mexican War, or if they lacked state militia training, Catton observed, they had to learn military maneuvers in their tents by candlelight before training their company-grade officers by day, just before those officers, in turn, taught the newly enlisted recruits. As Catton noted, after the Confederates had fired on Fort Sumter in April 1861, there was precious little time, in the rush to fill President Abraham Lincoln’s first call for 75,000 troops, to prepare for war; there were simply not enough professional soldiers — regular Army and West Point graduates — to lead the North into battle.¹

An alternative method for developing the officers necessary to raise an army involved political appointments to command positions. Prominent politicians received early commissions as general officers in the Union Army. Leaders of ethnic groups — most notably Germans and Irish — also rallied their constituencies to the Union cause in exchange for high command positions. Tensions ran high in the ranks, for professional soldiers held such “political generals” in disdain.

¹ William F. Fox, *Regimental Losses in the American Civil War, 1861–1865* (Morningside Bookshop, [reprint], 1985), 275.

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though they knew that war could not be waged without political support.  

Home-county colonels, however, were neither professional soldiers nor political generals. Another Civil War historian, James M. McPherson, refers to Catton's home-county colonels as "civilian generals," men "who started at lower ranks and achieved promotion largely through merit." Whatever they are called, the lawyers from Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, who were brevetted major generals and brigadier generals in the Civil War, achieved their rank through meritorious service to the Union cause or gallantry in battle. Their efforts burnished the American ideal of the citizen soldier, while adding a luster that served them well after the war in their legal careers. Those who achieved top leadership status as civilian generals also realized the personal virtues of courage, grace under fire, and sacrifice to great causes.  

Thirty-five Pennsylvania lawyers achieved the rank of general during the Civil War, including 10 who practiced in Allegheny County. They were William Blakeley, Frederick Hill Collier, Richard Coulter, Joshua Blackwood Howell, Joseph B. Kiddoo, Cyrus Orlando Loomis, Alfred Brunson McCalmont, Samuel Duncan Oliphant, Alfred L. Pearson, and Jacob Bowman Sweitzer. Three of the men — Richard Coulter, Joseph B. Kiddoo, and Alfred L. Pearson — were brevetted as major generals (two stars), while the other seven attained the honor of brigadier general (one star). It is perhaps presumptuous to refer to all 10 men as "Allegheny County's Lawyer-Generals," for William Blakeley commenced his practice in Butler County and extended it to Armstrong County; Coulter came from Greensburg; Howell practiced law in Uniontown before the war; Loomis had ties to Michigan; McCalmont practiced in Venango County; and Oliphant lived in New Jersey after the war. Yet all were also licensed to practice law in Allegheny County, and so, they are included here.  

**To Defend Pennsylvania and Rescue the Union: A Nation Reborn at Gettysburg**

All of the lawyer-generals from the Pittsburgh area entered the war to defend Pennsylvania and to save the union of states, but five of the 10 — Collier, Coulter, McCalmont, Pearson, and Sweitzer — shared the experience of the Battle of Gettysburg, and became agents in one of American history's watershed events. When Confederate soldiers from the Army of Northern Virginia converged on Gettysburg, July 1, 1863 — the detachment actually was searching for new shoes — no general officer on either side of the conflict expected a three-day battle to ensue. In the first day of battle, the Confederates pushed the North's forces south of Gettysburg to the high ground of Cemetery Hill. Union forces positioned themselves at Cemetery Ridge and at Culp's Hill, and established a hook-shaped defensive line.  

Confederate attacks on the Union left and center on Day 2, and on the Union center again during the third day (Pickett's charge) failed. Union actions on July 2 at the peach orchard, the wheatfield, Devil's Den, and Little Round Top, and in defense of Cemetery Ridge on July 3 against Pickett are said to have determined the battle. The Union victory turned the tide of war, erasing the demoralizing defeat of two months earlier in Chancellorsville, Va.  

President Lincoln declared afterward that the Battle of Gettysburg transformed and re-defined a nation "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." Although the president in the same address expressed his belief that the "world will little note, nor long remember what we say," today's irony is that almost every American schoolchild can recite lines from Lincoln's Address at Gettysburg.  

Important details about the roles of three of our lawyer-generals — Collier, Coulter, and Sweitzer — are known, while McCalmont's actions are less clear. Pearson, the fifth of the men present at Gettysburg, deserves special attention because he later won the Congressional Medal of Honor.

**Frederick Hill Collier**

Collier, 36, with the help of businessman William Semple, organized the 139th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers in August 1862. He commanded the regiment through the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. At Gettysburg, the 139th fought at Little Round Top late in the day on July 2, 1863. Colonel Collier was accidentally wounded on the third day of battle.  

John Harper, a cashier of the Bank of Pittsburgh and the father of Major Albert Harper (the adjutant for the 139th), recorded that Colonel Collier was amongst the most prominent members of the Pittsburgh bar at the time he took command of the regiment. It was a great personal and pecuniary sacrifice to him, being a married man with a large dependent family, and having at the time an extensive and lucrative practice in his profession. The command was offered to him by gentlemen under whose auspices the regiment was being formed, and he at once accepted the position from a conviction of duty.  

Col. Collier went at once to work to study his new profession, and he soon became acquainted with its principles.
Profiles in Leadership

Richard Coulter

Richard Coulter, born October 11, 1827, was in his mid-30s when he fought at Gettysburg. His father Eli was an active businessman and prominent politician, while his mother Rebecca was...
"a woman preeminent for her Christian character, amiable disposition, and many virtues." Like two other lawyer-generals from Allegheny County (Oliphant and Sweitzer), Coulter attended Jefferson College (his being the class of 1845). He studied law in Westmoreland County with his uncle, who later served as a justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Coulter had extensive wartime experience from an earlier conflict. As a private in Company E of the Second Pennsylvania Infantry during the Mexican War, Coulter participated in the siege of Vera Cruz, the battle of Cerro Gordo, the storming of Chapultepec, and the capture of Mexico City.

He was admitted to the Westmoreland County Bar in 1849 and the Allegheny County Bar in 1856. He responded promptly to President Lincoln's call for troops and became a lieutenant colonel in the 11th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers for its first three-month enlistment, which ended July 1861. Within three months' of forming, the regiment saw action at Falling Waters "against rebel forces commanded by... Stonewall Jackson, and in the brisk skirmish" Coulter's regiment is credited with turning back the Southern commander whose leadership would become renowned by war's end.

The U.S. War Department subsequently accepted the 11th Regiment for a three-year term, with Coulter initially holding the rank of lieutenant colonel. At 36, he was brevetted brigadier general of volunteers in August 1864 and again promoted in 1865 for gallant conduct at the Battle of Five Forks. He thus became one of three major generals in the Allegheny County Bar.

The 11th Regiment was assigned to the First Army Corps. At Bull Run, "the fall of General Tower and Colonel Fletcher Webster left Colonel Coulter at the head of the brigade, who, with his accustomed heroism and daring, succeeded in checking the enemy's onset, and in bringing off his command." At Antietam in early 1863, Coulter took command of the brigade and fought a four-hour standoff until "the valor of those troops led by the gallant Coulter proved superior, and the enemy was forced back."

Coulter's regiment also fought at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. At Fredericksburg, Colonel Coulter was severely wounded. After being hospitalized for some time, Colonel Coulter recovered sufficiently to command the regiment in desperate fighting at Chancellorsville against victorious Confederate forces under General Lee.

At Gettysburg, Coulter's regiment served on the first day with the First Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, which received the initial shock in Pennsylvania's greatest three-day battle. On the third day, Colonel Coulter, "while in the act of leading his brigade to a threatened part of the line, received a severe wound in the arm; but he persisted in remaining with his command until the battle was ended."

In 1864, in General Grant's campaign as part of the Fifth Army Corps, Coulter's men fought in battles from the Wilderness to Five Forks. "On the first day in the Wilderness, he had his horse killed and on the second day another horse wounded. At Spotsylvania, while drawing up his brigade for a charge upon the enemy's works, he received a wound in the left breast from a missile of the enemy's picket." Coulter continued with his regiment until the surrender by General Lee on Palm Sunday 1865 at Appomattox Court House.

After the war, Coulter left the practice of law, lived in Greensburg, and developed business interests in coal and banking. He married Emma A. Welty in 1869, and they had six children. He became president of the National Bank of Greensburg and a leading stockholder in the Keystone Coal and Coke Co., one of the largest bituminous mining concerns in the country at the turn of the century. General Coulter died on October 14, 1908, and was buried at the St. Clair Cemetery in Greensburg (Section U, Lots 78-80).

Jacob Bowman Sweitzer

Jacob Bowman Sweitzer celebrated his 42nd birthday right after the Battle of Gettysburg. Born to Henry and Anne E. (Bowman) Sweitzer, at Brownsville, Pa., on July 4, 1821, he graduated from Jefferson College in 1843, studied law with Thomas McKeen Thompson and McKennon, and was admitted to the Allegheny County Bar in 1846. Between 1849 and 1853, Sweitzer served as the U.S. attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania under President Zachary Taylor. In 1852, he married Mary Holmes Stevenson.

On July 4, 1861, his 40th birthday, Sweitzer mustered in as a major in the 33rd Independent Regiment of Pennsylvania, commanded by lawyer-colonel Samuel Black, comprising 12 companies raised by direct authority of the secretary of war. In November 1861, the 33rd Independent Regiment was redesignated the 62nd Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. Sweitzer advanced from major to lieutenant colonel in November 1861, and to colonel in June 1862, when in the sanguinary battle of Gaines' Mill, Colonel Black, while directing a charge upon the left, was killed. Nothing daunted, Colonel Sweitzer assumed command and resolutely beat back the foe. The line was now hard-pressed upon the extreme left, and thither Colonel Sweitzer was directed to lead his regiment. The struggle was desperate and was at this time raging with terrible heat along the whole front. To the last Colonel Sweitzer breathed the storm. But the current of disaster was now setting against the fragment of the Union army engaged, which was vastly outnumbered, and he fell, wounded, into the enemy's hands.

The Confederates captured Colonel Sweitzer in June 1862 and confined him at Libby Prison until August 1862. His fate was unknown for a while.

His wife, on her way to the front, casually overhearing a soldier declare that he saw Colonel Sweitzer killed, swooned and was for some time insensible. It was with a joyous heart that she learned on the following day, from the noble philanthropist Clement B. Barclay, that her husband was still alive and only slightly wounded.

Following a prisoner exchange, Sweitzer resumed his com-
mand at Harrison's Landing and led his brigade at the Battle of Antietam and at Fredericksburg. A report of his performance at Fredericksburg "under a fire that has rarely been paralleled," shows the discipline that Sweitzer exhibited on the battlefield. "As they advanced in beautiful order, General Burnside, who was watching every movement through his field-glass, exclaimed as he beheld the magnificent spectacle: 'What troops are those?'"

Another officer, General Sturgis, who watched the advance with Burnside, provided his colleague with the answer.

'No troops ever behaved handsomer,' said Burnside, as he moved nervously.

But all was to no purpose. Though they fought with a desperation worthy of success, they were hurled back from the stone walls and entrenched guns, where a foe lurked that no daring could reach. Colonel Sweitzer was wounded and had a horse killed under him.31

Colonel Sweitzer participated in numerous actions from Second Bull Run and Antietam, through Fredericksburg (where he was severely wounded), Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, to Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and Jerusalem Road.32

At Gettysburg, the 62nd fought under General Barnes’ division in the historic Wheatfield. In the frenzied fighting, Colonel Sweitzer was as brave as a lion, regardless of his own personal safety, urging his men on to victory. When he was ordered to move on the enemy, he went up to the very front, some distance in advance of his troops, with his brigade flag flying by his side. Through some oversight or bad management Colonel Sweitzer’s brigade was left in the very front without any support, and it became flanked by the enemy. It was then thought that the whole brigade were prisoners. But Colonel Sweitzer was equal to the emergency, and by a skillful movement withdrew his command...."33

In another account, considered definitive, Edwin B. Coddington writes that the savage clashes involving Sweitzer’s forces in the Wheatfield between 4 and 7 p.m. on July 2 was typical of the experience of other units. His men advanced to the stone fence separating the Wheatfield from the woods on the south. After taking position behind it to support troops in the timber in front of them, Sweitzer noticed regiments retiring from the woods on his right, while shots coming diagonally from his right rear began to hit uncomfortably close to his men. At first he thought they came from Union troops shooting over his brigade at the enemy beyond and misjudging the distance. He became suspicious and decided to investigate after the shots increased in frequency and his color bearer exclaimed: "Colonel I’ll be _____ if I don’t think we are faced the wrong way; the rebs are up there in the woods behind us, on the right." An aide who went to warn Barnes of the threat could not find him, but discovered enemy forces swarming in the woods and along the road to the right and rear of the Wheatfield. They were Wofford’s men who had joined the regiments of Kershaw’s and Anderson’s brigades in their rapid advance. Sweitzer’s brigade just managed to escape from the trap and get across Plum Run Valley after incurring very heavy losses in hand-to-hand fighting.34

Casualties numbered 28 killed, 107 wounded, and 40 missing.35

As commander of the Second Brigade and later the First Division of the Fifth Army Corps in the Army of the Potomac, Sweitzer was "cautious, yet brave and competent."36 He was promoted to brigadier general in March 1865, and mustered out with his regiment in July 1865.

After the war, Sweitzer served as a supervisor of Internal Revenue and later as the prothonotary of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for the Western District. He participated in civic affairs, through the Library Association, Guardians of the Poor, Dixmont Hospital, and Pennsylvania Reform School. He was a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. He died on November 9, 1888, and was buried at Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh (Section 14, Lot 10), where a modest nameplate, overrun with grass, marks his grave.37
Alfred Brunson McCalmont

By the time McCalmont reached the Battle of Gettysburg, at age 38, he had established himself as both a prominent lawyer and a competent military officer. Born at Franklin, Pa., on April 28, 1825, McCalmont was the son of Judge Alexander McCalmont and the brother of lawyer John S. McCalmont, later of the 10th Pennsylvania Reserves. He attended Allegheny College but graduated from Dickinson College in the class of 1844, standing second in a class of 20. After studying law with his father, then president judge of the 18th Judicial District in Franklin, McCalmont joined the bar associations in Venango and Allegheny counties in 1847, then served as solicitor for the City of Pittsburgh in 1855, as well as prothonotary for the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

In 1853, he married Sarah F. Evans, who bore him three children, and he became associated with T.J. Keenan in publishing the Daily Union and the Pittsburgh Legal Journal. In May 1858, he accepted an appointment in the office of Jeremiah S. Black, U.S. attorney general under President James Buchanan. From 1859 to 1861, McCalmont served as an assistant U.S. attorney general.

McCalmont originally mustered in as a lieutenant colonel in the 142nd Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers in September 1862. At Gettysburg, on July 1, 1863, the 142nd fought with Rowley's Brigade and Doubleday's division in the First Army Corps, suffering 13 killed, 128 wounded, and 70 missing. In September 1864, Lieutenant Colonel McCalmont was promoted to full colonel in the 208th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. He finished the war in General Hartranft's division of the Ninth Corps, and commanded a brigade in the assault on Petersburg, Va., on April 2, 1865. Colonel McCalmont was brevetted brigadier general in 1865 and mustered out with his regiment in June 1865.

As a lawyer in Venango County, McCalmont was "powerful and eloquent" before a jury and known for his "brilliant oratory." He was "a very social gentleman, whole-souled and generous to a fault." Shortly before he was to give a speech at an annual reunion of the Society of the Army of the Potomac, McCalmont contracted erysipelas and after an operation for a facial tumor, died in Philadelphia at the young age of 49. He was buried in Franklin Cemetery in Franklin (Section H, Lot 24).

Alfred L. Pearson

Congressional Medal of Honor

Distinguished from every other lawyer in Allegheny County who joined the Union Army, our next lawyer-general was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, for gallantry in taking the colors ahead of the battleline at Quaker Road (Lewis Farm).

Pearson's career is dramatically different in another way: he had not established a legal career before the war. Born December 28, 1836, he was the youngest of 10 children when he joined the army at age 23. He married Elizabeth H. Stewart in 1858 and graduated from Allegheny College in 1860. The Civil War interrupted both his legal studies and his early married life.

For Pearson, Gettysburg was one of many battles and not his most important. Historian Richard D. Sauers recently described Pearson's heroic act:

In 1865, the 155th engaged enemy troops at Hatcher's Run on February 6. The regiment next fought at the Quaker Road on March 31. Here, as the brigade was advancing, it received a withering fire from gray-clad soldiers sheltered behind breastworks. There was some temporary confusion in the Union ranks. Colonel Pearson saw the momentary wavering and decided to act quickly to keep the troops moving forward. He galloped to the color-guard and demanded the flag from Sergeant Marlin. The sergeant, having carried the flag for more than a year, "had become so attached to it that he would have carried it into the jaws of death rather than part with it." Marlin curtly refused Pearson's demand, telling his commander: "Tell where you wish the flag to be carried, Colonel, and I'll take it there." Pearson wrenched the flag from Marlin's grasp and shouted, "Follow me, men, or lose your colors." He rode ahead of the battleline and found some enemy soldiers concealed behind a sawdust pile. The 155th quickly sprang forward and seized the Rebel position. For his gallant act, Pearson was brevetted brigadier-general and in 1897 received a Medal of Honor.

Pearson also was brevetted a major general of volunteers for his distinguished service with the 155th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. At a regimental reunion, General Pearson recalled that during his command, which included the final surrender at Appomattox Court House, the 155th sustained the last casualty of the war: Private William Montgomery of Pittsburgh.

Pearson remembered, no doubt with some joy, that the "Zouave" uniform which he had selected for his troops elicited unbounded admiration and applause along the line of the grand review of the Army of the Potomac at Washington, D.C. in May 1865. In a 1901 letter from Atlantic City, N.J., to Colonel S.W. Hill in Pittsburgh, General Pearson bragged about his regiment's "drill and discipline, as well as its magnificent fighting quality," while observing that "the last bugle call has summoned many of our old comrades." He also described how and why he had procured the special uniforms.

[F]eeling that the best regiment in the service (according to my views) ought to have something special, and having
learned that cloth made in England for the rebel army had been captured in trying to run the blockade I applied and had it made into the uniforms..., with trimming different from other regiments. Hence, you had a distinct uniform unlike any in the army.... The men of the 155th could be picked out from any army of the "boys in blue," and any little depredation — and there were some — could not be blamed on them, for, while they were never guilty, still, had they been uniformed as others, they might have been blamed.43

Pearson mustered in as captain of Company A in the 155th Regiment in September 1862. He participated in every battle — some 28 — fought by the 155th under the Fifth Army Corps from Antietam to the surrender at Appomattox.44 As a major at Gettysburg, Pearson led a skirmish line against the Confederate forces in the Devil's Den in the late afternoon of July 2, 1863. He and his troops passed the third day without molestation on the rocky fortress of Little Round Top, which had been secured the day before by the gallantry of the 20th Maine and Colonel Joshua B. Chamberlain.

Pearson's promotions were rapid during the war, from major in December 1862 to lieutenant colonel within a year, to colonel in July 1864, and to brigadier general in September 1864 for his battlefield conduct at Peebles Farm. In March 1865, he achieved the two star rank of a major general.

After the war, in 1868, General Pearson was elected district attorney of Allegheny County. He became major-general of the Pennsylvania State Guards in March 1870, and commanded troops during the railroad strike and riots of 1877 in Pittsburgh, Scranton, Carbondale, Ill., and Plymouth, Mass. Pearson was accused of murder during the violence, but a grand jury did not indict him.45

General Pearson died in Sewickley on January 6, 1903, and was buried at Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh (Section 2, Lot 70), where a new bronze plaque adorns his gravesite and memorializes his medal of honor award. His eulogy in the history of the 155th Regiment ends with the observation that General Pearson "was of fine presence, soldierly in bearing, manly in his nature, genial and kindly in disposition; and his rare wit and 'infinite jest' made him the soul of every reunion and every public entertainment."

His humor, as gay as the fire-fly's light, Played round every subject, and shone as it played, His wit, in the combat as gentle as bright, Ne'er carried a heart-stain away on its blade.46

Joshua Blackwood Howell
The Ultimate Sacrifice

Death comes during war not only at the hands of the enemy, but also by accident or disease. Three lawyers admitted to practice law in Allegheny County were killed by enemy fire,47 but our next lawyer-general, Joshua Howell, was killed accidentally.

Howell, perhaps the oldest Allegheny County lawyer to muster into the Union Army, died September 14, 1864, from injuries received from falling off his horse two days earlier. He was posthumously named a brigadier general.

In November 1861, when he had commenced active duty as a colonel in command of the 85th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, Howell was 55 years old. Born at the family homestead in Fancy Hill, near Woodbury, N.J., on September 11, 1806, Howell first studied law in Philadelphia but moved to Uniontown, Pa., where he commenced his law practice in 1829. He joined the Allegheny County Bar in 1846. In 1860, he was an elector in the Democratic Party for Stephen A. Douglas. Along with his pre-war political activities, Howell had served as a brigadier general of the Pennsylvania Militia.48

Ezra J. Warner, in his Generals in Blue, takes up the 85th Regiment's history after its assignment by General George B. McClelland to Keyes' IV Corps in the Peninsular campaign. Howell's regiment was directed to New Bern, then to the expedition against Goldsboro, N.C.

During the operations against Charleston in 1863, Howell commanded a brigade of Terry's division at the siege of Fort Wagner on Folly Island, and then on Morris Island. In April 1864, the command was transferred to the Army of the James and posted at Bermuda Hundred and then designated the 1st Brigade, 1st (Terry's) Division, of Gillmore's X Corps.

By this time, Warner explains, Howell was "way over age for a combat commander of that era," though he distinguished himself less than four months before his death by leading a successful assault against a line of Confederate rifle pits.49

By all accounts, General Howell was "a devoted officer... sincerely esteemed by his troops." When his regiment was shut up on one of the sea-islands around Charleston harbor soon after their arrival, and the men were unable to procure tobacco, an article which many of them had never been without, he sent away and purchased it by the keg and distributed it freely to them. His soldierly and heroic bearing was proverbial. Prisoners who were taken said that in the rebel army the conspicuous figure of that "old, daring, white-headed officer" was well known, and that their commanders had frequently ordered them to single him out with their rifles, but that they had failed to reach him. Only three times during
his over three years of service was he absent from his com-
dand... from a sickness of typhoid fever, and [on a business
trip] to Philadelphia... In battle he was cool and courageous,
ever saying, "Go, boys," but, "Follow me."

During war, General Terry had observed that Howell was "a
soldier and a gentleman; his death is a loss both to the army and
the country," while in civilian life, Howell was praised as "a
careful and able lawyer, a man of fine address, a good speaker,
and very successful in his pleadings before juries." 51

Cyrus Orlando Loomis — Artillery
Other Acts of Leadership

Lincoln’s admonitions at Gettysburg can be equally applied to
acts of personal leadership and courage among artillery, cavalry,
reserve, and African American troops. Today military scholars are
exploring the efforts of support troops and the drama of more
remote battles. Four Pittsburgh lawyer-generals, including Cyrus
Loomis, were part of such arenas.

Cyrus Orlando Loomis was born in 1818, in Moravia, N.Y. He
began practicing law in Allegheny County in 1844 and served as
solicitor of the City of Pittsburgh from 1846 to 1848. Loomis
became a colonel in Battery A of the First Regiment Michigan
Light Artillery in October 1862, and later served as chief of
Artillery of the Army of the Cumberland under Major General
Lovell H. Rousseau. He was brevetted a brigadier general of
volunteers in June 1865 for gallant and meritorious services. 52
A correspondent for the New York Herald described Loomis as the
"envy of all artillerymen":

He is not only the quickest among them, but the most
lucky of artillerymen. On Friday morning the calm was broken
by an attack being made upon his artillery in Rousseau’s
division, in which Loomis commands four batteries. They
drove in our pickets with a small force of
infantry, and planted two batteries on
either side of the Murfreesboro road, and
opened briskly on Rousseau’s camp. Loomis
immediately ordered out Captain Stone’s
1st Kentucky and his own famous 1st
Michigan Battery, and replied to them. The
cannonading for a few moments was
terrific. From my position on the right and
out of danger, I could very plainly see the
rebel guns, and beyond them as distinctly
the town of Murfreesboro, and a redoubt
about a mile this side. The whole rebel line
flew to arms at this tremendous cannonad-
ing, as did our own, and the men felt that
another terrible drama was about to be
enacted. But the infantry was restrained,
and the artillery was left to do its work.
General Rosseau, who knew the stuff of
which Loomis was composed, sent him
word to let them go away unharmed.
Loomis promised to obey, and kept his

William Blakeley — Cavalry

Life’s defining moment for William Blakeley occurred when,
as district attorney in Armstrong County, he gave a speech in
favor of the Union cause at Brady’s Bend, hoping to secure a large
number of recruits from the small community along the Allegh-
eny River north of Pittsburgh. County Judge Dudley introduced
Blakeley by saying the county could not spare its prosecutor for
the war effort, while noting that the Blakeley family already had
supplied four brothers to the Union Army.

Mr. Blakeley began his speech, and just as he reached the
climax, a big Irish puddler jumped up and said, "Why the devil
don’t yer go yerself?" Perhaps impulsively,
or in the heat of the moment, Blakeley
responded, "You put your name on the
list, and I will follow." The puddler
responded, "Be jabbers, I’m yer mon."
The Irishman came forward, signed the
muster-roll, and was sworn in. William
Blakeley immediately followed him amid
the cheers of the audience. 53

Just beginning a promising legal
career, Blakely interrupted his professional
life and joined four brothers at the front,
beginning what rapidly emerged as an
outstanding military career. 54

Blakeley, 29, who had married Esther
Brown of Butler County in 1856, was
mustered in as a lieutenant colonel in
November 1862. He reported for duty at
Camp Orr in Kittanning, where he
received authority from the War Depart-
ment to recruit a company of cavalry. He
converted his law office into a recruiting
station and enlisted over 100 men in less than a week. He then mobilized another four companies and reported to the commanding officer at Camp Howe in Pittsburgh, joining the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry (159th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers). Colonel James M. Schoonmaker became its first commander with Blakeley serving as lieutenant colonel.57

The 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry participated in battles from Antietam through numerous engagements with General Philip Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley. After Antietam, Blakeley’s regiment performed picket and scouting duty at Harper’s Ferry during the winter of 1862-63. In the spring of 1863, the 14th Cavalry was placed under General Averell’s brigade, which later became the 2nd Cavalry Division, and was sent to the Shenandoah Valley and western Virginia, where it served until the end of the war.

Colonel Blakeley commanded a brigade at White Post, where he was thrown from his horse during a charge, almost trampled to death, and suffered severe damage to his jaw. At a battle near Hedgesville, which followed Gettysburg, Blakeley was wounded in the foot.

One of Blakeley’s most thrilling experiences was General Averell’s 1864 raid into Salem, W. Va.:

The Confederate General Hood had General Burnside shut in at Knoxville, Tenn., with between forty and fifty thousand men; and, as it was impossible for the government to send them supplies, they were starving. The Confederate supplies were stored at Salem on the Roanoke River, not far from Lynchburg. Averell left New Creek, W. Va., in the latter part of November, 1864 with about two thousand picked men. Allowed four hours out of the twenty-four for rest, eating, and sleeping, they reached Salem, and succeeded in capturing a large quantity of stores, and burned goods and rebel army stores estimated to be worth eight or ten millions of dollars. General Hood was obliged to go South, as he could get nothing to supply his army; and General Burnside was relieved from the siege. The War Department did not expect that General Averell would ever return, but it was thought better to lose two thousand men than forty thousand. In the retreat the united commands of Fitz Hugh Lee, Imboden, Early, Jackson, and Rosser, were sent in pursuit of Averell; but he was successful in getting back inside the Union lines. His men were starved and frozen, and the entire command was in a deplorable condition. The men were all allowed two new suits of clothing and a furlough of thirty days, something that has never been done before or since in the army. They forded rivers in the dead of winter, and any number of men lay down and died from cold and exposure.58

Charged with protecting the wagon train, Blakeley’s regiment was in the rear of General Averell’s forces, on the opposite side of the river during the retreat. Confederate General Jackson pursued, cornered Blakeley’s force before it could cross a river bridge, and demanded Blakeley’s immediate and unconditional surrender. The Armstrong County commander instead burned the bridge over the river and ordered his troops to charge. They drove Jackson back 3 miles, captured three pieces of artillery and many prisoners, and escaped via a different route. Blakeley was brevetted brigadier general of volunteers for such gallant and meritorious conduct during the war.59

After the war, Blakeley spent two years in private law practice at Franklin in Venango County. At 35, with a distinguished military career behind him, he moved in 1868 to Pittsburgh, where he was admitted to the Allegheny County Bar. He practiced his profession in both criminal and civil cases until a fatal illness compelled his retirement. At 66, on November 2, 1899, Blakeley died; his burial was in the North Cemetery at Butler.60

Samuel Duncan Oliphant — Reserve Troops

Samuel Duncan Oliphant was born August 1, 1824, at Franklin Forge, in Fayette County, the son of Fidelio Hughes Oliphant and Jane Creigh (Duncan) Oliphant. Oliphant matriculated at Jefferson College (class of 1844), and at Harvard Law School (class of 1846). He entered the office of his uncle, E. P. Oliphant, and Joshua Blackwood Howell (reported on earlier in this article) in Uniontown. Oliphant began his law practice in Fayette County in 1847 and married Mary Coulter Campbell. He joined the Allegheny County Bar in 1850.61

At 34, Oliphant began his military career as a captain in the 37th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers (8th Reserves). He became a lieutenant colonel in June 1861, and was presented with a sword at a ceremony in the Monongahela House in Pittsburgh. At Gaines Mills, in June 1862, the Confederates overran Colonel Oliphant’s regiment; a round ball hit him in the right knee. Hobbed, Oliphant led his troops the following month at Malvern Hill, where his horse was shot from under him. At Harrison’s Landing, a day or so later, his right arm fell to his side and his right leg gave way. He was sent home on an extended leave and, in December 1862, considered disabled, he was honorably discharged from the 37th Regiment.62

Oliphant, however, refused to give up the fight and accepted a commission as a major in the Veteran Reserve Corps in June 1863. He advanced rapidly to lieutenant colonel in September.
1863, and to full colonel in December. He was moving convalescent troops from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., in July 1864, when Confederate General Jubal Early made his raid on the nation’s capital. Colonel Oliphant was present at the Battle of Nashville in December 1864, when Major General George H. Thomas defeated the Rebel army under General Hood. In 1865, President Lincoln appointed Oliphant brigadier general of volunteers “for meritorious service;” he was mustered out in June of that year.63

After the war, Oliphant became a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. He and his family moved in 1867 to Princeton, N.J., where a procession among 10 sons attended Princeton for 24 consecutive years. His first wife, Mary, died in 1875; his marriage in 1877 was to an (unrelated) Oliphant — Beulah Ann, who helped him raise the boys born to his first wife. General Oliphant became the clerk of the court for the district of New Jersey and died October 23, 1904, at Trenton, N.J., where he was buried at Riverview Cemetery (Section U, Lots 67-68).64

Joseph B. Kiddoo — “Colored” Troops

Joseph B. Kiddoo joined the Union cause in 1861 as a First Sergeant with Company F of the 63rd Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. Having fought with General McClellan in the Peninsula campaign, Kiddoo obtained a commission in 1862 as a lieutenant colonel in the 137th Regiment, a nine month regiment assigned to the Sixth Corps, Army of the Potomac. Colonel Kiddoo’s regiment participated in the battles of South Mountain and Antietam. Kiddoo became a full colonel and assumed command of the regiment in March 1863, shortly before General Joseph Hooker lost the battle of Chancellorsville to General Lee. Kiddoo mustered out with the regiment in June 1863, nine months after it was formed.65

In October 1863, Kiddoo obtained a new assignment as a major with the Sixth United States Colored Regiment, with whom he served until January 1864. During this period, the regiment joined the Army of the James, was sent to Yorktown, Va., and performed severe fatigue duty upon the fortifications during the winter.66

Kiddoo helped organize the 22nd United States Colored Troops in January 1864 at Camp William Penn in Philadelphia. As part of the 18th Corps, Army of the James, the 22nd Regiment participated in actions against Petersburg. It played a prominent part in an attack on June 15, 1864, when two forts and seven cannons were captured and 138 officers and men were lost during the fight. Colonel Kiddoo led the regiment in the Battle of New Market Heights in September 1864 and in an engagement on the Darbytown Road in Fair Oaks, Va., on October 27, 1864, he was wounded in the hip as the regiment charged enemy entrenchments across an open field.67

In October 1864, seven company grade officers of the 22nd Regiment requested an investigation of the actions and conduct of Colonel Kiddoo during his command of the regiment on the day of the Darbytown Road skirmish. They requested
Kiddoo’s military file reveals that the charges were forwarded through command channels, but little came of it, for he subsequently was promoted to brevet major general in the U.S. Army. The 22nd Regiment played prominent roles in the closing days of the war. During the fall of Richmond to Union forces on April 3, 1865,

this regiment was among the first of General Weitzel’s troops to enter the city, and rendered important service in extinguishing the flames which were then raging. On account of its excellent discipline and good soldierly qualities, it was selected by General Weitzel to proceed to Washington, after the assassination of the President, to participate in the obscurities of his funeral.

The above account concludes by noting that after attending at Lincoln’s funeral, the regiment was dispatched to eastern Maryland, along the lower Potomac River, to help capture remaining bands of Rebel marauders.70

Kiddoo’s appointment to brevet brigadier general in June 1865 took him on special duty to Harrisburg. His advancement shortly thereafter to major general in the Army’s volunteer force was for gallant and meritorious service during the war. In 1866, he was detailed for duty in the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.71

Shortly after his discharge from the Army in 1867, he was admitted to the Bar of Allegheny County.72

Conclusion

In addition to these 10 men who served their country, commonwealth, and profession well, 105 other Allegheny County lawyers are known to have seen active service in the Union Army during the Civil War.73

During an 1873 visit to Pittsburgh, President Ulysses Grant and Lieutenant General William Tecumseh Sherman, commanding general of the U.S. Army, honored veterans in a reunion banquet at City Hall for 550 soldiers of the Fourth Army of the Cumberland. The trip also allowed the visiting dignitaries to enjoy the sights, sounds, smells, and taste of the city.74 Among the venues, on September 17, was the new downtown Duquesne Club. There, according to the Pittsburgh Gazette, officers of a famous local militia, the Duquesne Grays, showed “General Grant and staff... to the Pittsburgh Club Room, where they were entertained in handsome style. Lieutenant General [Philip Henry] Sheridan was also one of the company. The President found no occasion to complain of the hospitality offered.”75

Peace and some measure of prosperity had returned to the region and the city by the time of the president’s visit, but the crisis years of the war had redefined qualities of leadership — as we have seen by considering the careers of Allegheny County’s lawyer generals. In the courage of Blakeley, the organizational skill of Coulter, the fairness of Collier, the gentlemanliness of Howell, the precision of Loomis, the eloquence of McCalmont, the prolific strengths of Oliphant, the soft wit against adversity exhibited by Pearson, and the gallantry of Schweitzer and Kiddoo (even with the latter’s apparent flaws), we see admirable self-sacrifice in their careers.

Lincoln’s words at Gettysburg redefined the nation, but another great lawyer and thrice-wounded veteran of the Civil War, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., captured best the experience of his generation during a Memorial Day address in 1884. “[I]n our youth our hearts were touched with fire,” said the associate justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. “It was given to us to learn at the outset that life is a profound and passionate thing.”76

Notes

3 Ibid.
4 General officers normally commanded brigades consisting of four or five regiments of about 4,000 men. Regiments were most frequently formed with about 1,000 men in 10 companies and were commanded by full colonels, the rank immediately below general officer. A brigadier general holds one star and commands a brigade. A major general holds two stars and usually commands a division, consisting of at least three infantry brigades and an artillery brigade. Ulysses S. Grant held the highest rank in the Union Army, i.e. lieutenant general, with three stars. During the Civil War, many colonels were promoted to brigadier general with a brevet rank,” which meant an honorary appointment to a rank above his regular rank. A brevetted brigadier general, for example, was rewarded for meritorious service above his regular rank of colonel, but he did not necessarily carry any increase in authority by virtue of the brevet appointment.
5 The U.S. Congress confirmed at least 1,400 brevet brigadier generals in the Union Army, in addition to the 583 who achieved that full rank. See, Roger D. Hunt & Jack R. Brown, Brevet Brigadier Generals in Blue (Old Soldier Books, Inc., 1990), and Ezra J. Warner, Generals in Blue: Lives of the Union Commanders (La. State Univ. Press, 1964 [reprinted 1991]). Of the 583,126 were lawyers or jurists, and 66 from Pennsylvania achieved the full rank of general officer. Six of the 66 from Pennsylvania who achieved full rank were in Pittsburgh: John Murray Corse (6th Iowa); Benjamin Henry Grierson (6th Illinois Cavalry); Francis Jay Herron (1st Iowa); James Scott Negley (Pa. Volunteers); Elliott Warren Rice (33rd Iowa, a lawyer in Iowa before and in Washington, D.C., after the war); and Thomas Algeo Rowley (commanded the 102nd Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers; served as clerk of courts of Allegheny County before the war and as U.S. marshall, 1866-1870, after the war). General Alexander Hays, a graduate of West Point (1844) who was killed during the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864, was born in Franklin, Pa.; he was living in Pittsburgh at the outbreak of the war.
6 Abraham Lincoln, Address at Gettysburg, Nov. 19, 1863.
7 Ibid.
8 John Harper, Harper Family, Papers, 1796-1882 (bulk 1855-1866) Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Archives MSS # 8 Three boxes (Box 1-3); 1.25 linear feet.
10 Three other Allegheny County lawyers served with Collier in the 139th Regiment: Samuel Harper (1837-1889), first Lieutenant, Company G, and quartermaster; James McGregor (1829-1894), major, commanded the regiment during the siege of Petersburg in 1865; and Samuel Schoyer (1840-1890), captain, Company G, wounded at Cold Harbor. See William T. Schoyer, The Road to Cold Harbor: Field Diary of Captain Samuel C. Schoyer (Closson Press, 1986). One of the author’s great-uncles, Nathan Divvens, served as a private in Company I of the 139th Regiment (under the command of then Colonel Collier until Gettysburg); Divvens was wounded on May 12, 1864, at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House. See Samuel P. Bates, History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-1865, vol 4 (Harrisburg: D. Singerly, State Printer, 1869), 378-406 (139th R.P.V.); and John W. Jordan, LL.D., and James Hadden, Eds., Genealogical and Personal History of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, vol. 3 (Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1912), 885 (Divvens).
11 Oliver Hazzard Rippey, colonel of the 61st Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, was born on Aug. 19, 1825, at Pittsburgh, and was killed at the Battle of Fair Oaks, May 31, 1862, after leading his men against the repeated onsets of the foe. For him, the question was, “What will most advance the interests of the cause for which I fight?”
And, when that was settled, neither hardship nor the fear of death could deter him. *History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania* (L.H. Evarts & Co., 1876). The second lawyer killed was Samuel W. Black, a full colonel in the 62nd Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was killed in action at the Battle of Gaines Mills, Va., on June 27, 1862.

The third lawyer admitted to the Allegheny County Bar and killed by enemy fire in the Civil War was Major William W. Wise, a former state legislator who was mustered in from Brookville, Jefferson County, Pa., as a captain in Company K with the 8th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers; he was killed at the Battle of Stones River, Tenn., on Dec. 31, 1862. See The Twentieth Century Bench and Bar of Pennsylvania, vol. 2 (H.C. Cooper, Jr., Bro. & Co., 1903), 875 (herein "Twentieth Century Bench and Bar") (Rippey) and 2: 885 (Wise).

12 Judge Collier served on the bench with Jacob Frederick Slagle (1830-1900), a former solicitor of the City of Pittsburgh before the Civil War who had been a captain in Company D of the 149th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers and a major in the Judge Advocate Corps between Aug. 162 and July 1665. Joel Fishman, Ph.D. Judges of Allegheny County, Fifth Judicial District, Pennsylvania (1788-1988) (Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Bicentennial Committee, 1989), 144-47. Two privates in the Union Army also became judges in Allegheny County: Charles Francis McKenna (1845-1922 [15th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers]) and James Watson Over (1843-1919 [160th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers] [15th Cavalry]). Fishman, 97 and 119-20. See In Memoriam: Frederick Hill Collier (Allegheny County Bar Association, May 1907), quoted remarks by D.T. Watson (mentioned in the next footnote).


14 Another one of the speakers was a prominent Allegheny County attorney, David Thompson Watson (a.k.a. D.T. Watson), who had served as an orderly sergeant with the 56th Pennsylvania emergency regiment and as a 2nd lieutenant with Battery D of Knap’s Battalion of Independent Artillery and who attended Harvard after the war. Colonel Levi Bird Duff, a former district attorney of Allegheny County and commander of the 105th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers during the Civil War, served on the Committee of Resolutions for Judge Collier’s memorial, as did Albert Buhl Hay, an Allegheny County lawyer who had served as a sergeant in Company H of the 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. See In Memoriam: Frederick Hill Collier and Fishman, 27-28. One of the author’s great-uncles, Corporal Joseph F. Millen of Company G, also fought with the 10th Regiment; Corporal Millen was wounded and captured at Charles City Crossroads, Va., on June 30, 1862, and died at Richmond on July 16, 1862. For a biographical sketch of Colonel Duff, see Kate M. Scott, History of the One Hundred and Fifth Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers (New-World Publishing Company, 1877 [reprint by Butternut and Blue and the Jefferson County Historical Society, 1993]), 162-67; Corporal Millen is noted at 106.

15 Twentieth Century Bench and Bar, 2:871; The Biographical Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania of the Nineteenth Century, 643; Hunt & Brown, 123.


17 Of the 117 lawyers from Allegheny County known to have served in the military in the Union cause, at least 21 attended or graduated from Washington & Jefferson College or its predecessors, Jefferson College and Washington College, in Canonsburg and Washington, Pa. As to all who attended or graduated, see Biographical and Historical Catalogue of Washington and Jefferson College: Containing a General Catalogue of the Graduates and Non-Graduates of Jefferson College of Washington College and of Washington and Jefferson Colleges, 1802-1902 (George H. Buchanan and Co., 1902).


20 Ibid., 675. 

21 Ibid.

22 Ibid.


25 Ibid.

26 Captain Fenwick W. Hedley, ed., Old and New Westmoreland, vol. 3 (American Historical Society, Inc., 1918), 40-45; Hunt & Brown, 129; Biographical and Historical Catalogue of Washington and Jefferson College, 1802-1902, 131. See also Richard Coulter, "Sallie" written for the Republican and Democrat, Dec. 18, 1867, the story of a pug-nosed, black-muzzled canine who served as the mascot of the Old Eleventh until the Battle of Hatcher’s Run, Feb. 11, 1865, where she was killed. Edward H. Hahn, registrar and archivist of the Westmoreland County Historical Society, told the author this story.

27 Biographical and Historical Catalogue of Washington and Jefferson College, 1802-1902, 125.

28 Colonel Samuel W. Black, a Pittsburgh lawyer, was killed at the Battle of Gaines Mills on June 26, 1862. See footnote 11.

29 Bates, Martial Deeds of Pennsylvania, 914; Bates, History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-1864, 2: 453. Of Colonel Black it was said, "Few Pennsylvania soldiers, at the time of his death, had made a brighter record, and no one could look forward with greater hope of advancement. He died deeply lamented by a whole State, and mourned by a wide circle of personal friends." *History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania*, 210. Of Colonel Switzer’s assumption of command it is said, “...Without heeding the loss of the leader, the men pressed forward under command of Lieutenant Colonel Switzer, until they had driven the rebels back and attained a position considerably in advance of the main line of battle.” Bates, 2:453-54.

30 Ibid., 914-15.

31 The Biographical Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania of the Nineteenth Century, 646-7. Captain Matthew M. Felker, of Company B of the 62nd Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, testified in an affidavit of Aug. 12, 1880: "Of the 13th day of December 1862, Said 62nd Regiment was in the 2 Brigade of the First Division of the Fifth Corps. And said Second Brigade was then commanded by J.B. Switzer, then Col. of the said 62d Pa Vol. I saw him lead the Brigade up the hill back of Fredericksburg. He and his staff were on horseback. And I know the fact that the adjutant of Brigade Lieut. James Cunningham was then and there killed...and that Col. J.B. Switzer was wounded in that engagement in the line of his duty in command of said Brigade." On April 26, 1879, General Switzer, 57 of Pittsburg, appeared before the provost-marshal of Allegheny County, veteran lawyer Benjamin Franklin Kennedy (private, 190th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, also taken prisoner during the war and confined at Libby Prison), to make his declaration for an original invalid pension. Witnesses to the application were veteran lawyers from Allegheny County, Robert Pollock (Captain, 14th PA Cavalry—159th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers under General William Blakeley) and Joseph C. Young (Second Lieutenant, Young’s Independent Battery G of Pennsylvania Volunteers), National Archives, Pension Files, Jacob B. Switzer, (SC 176,360).


34 William F. Fox, Regimental Losses in the American Civil War, 1861-1865 (Morningside Bookshop, [reprint], 1985), 275.


36 Hunt & Brown, 600, write that Switzer’s brother, Nelson B. Switzer, was also a brevet brigadier general in the Union Army; see also Biographical Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania of the Nineteenth Century (Philadelphia, 1874), 646-47; and Stewart Sifakis, Who Was Who in the Union, vol. I (Facts on File, 1998), 402.


38 Fox, 299. McCalmont subsequently gave a deposition in connection with the court-martial of General Thomas Algeo Rowley for drunkenness on the first day of battle at Gettysburg. Rowley, a lifelong Pittsburgh resident, served as U.S. Marshall from 1866 to 1870. Rowley died May 14, 1892, and was buried at Allegheny Cemetery (see footnote 5).

39 Historical information about the 142nd Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers may be found in Horatio N. Warren, The Declaration of Independence and War History, Bull Run to Appomattox: War Songs, Recitations, Poems, Familiar Songs, Decoration Day Poems and Speeches and War Drama (Courier Co., 1894), and in Two Reunions of the One Hundred and Forty-Second Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers (Courier Co., 1890).

Profiles of Advance Fayette Walnut: See footnote 11 above.

Black and Major William W. Wise. See footnote 11 above.

Sidney, History of Fayette County, Pennsylvania. 144.


J. B. Robertson, adjutant general, Michigan in the War (W.S. George & Co., State Printers and Binders, 1882), 514-15.

Society of the Army of the Cumberland 6th Reunion (Cincinnati, 1873); Twentieth Century Bench and Bar, 2:832; Hunt & Brown, 363.


Ibid., 249-11.

Biographical Review, 249-11.

Ibid.

Twentieth Century Bench and Bar, 2:908-9; Biographical Review, 24:9-11.


Smith, 120-55.

Ibid., 155-77.

Ibid., 177-98; Hunt & Brown, 455; National Archives, Pension Files, Samuel Duncan Oliphant (SC 114-739; Biographical and Historical Catalogue of Washington and Jefferson College, 128). See also Storey, Stories of Uniontown and Fayette County, 58-9.

Bates, 4:335-37.


Sauers, Advance the Colors!, 1:50; Bates, 5:991-92.


National Archives, Military Records, Joseph B. Kiddoo.


National Archives, Military Records, Joseph B. Kiddoo, 22nd U.S. Colored Infantry.

Pittsburgh lawyer, George Harvey Christy, served as Adjutant of the 22nd Regiment of U.S. Colored Troops. The Christy house at the corner of Frederick Avenue and Walnut Street in Sewickley, Pa., was his home after the war.

Twentieth Century Bench and Bar, vol. 2. Lawyer Frederick Luty (1849-1895) enrolled at age 15 in the U.S. Navy, and lawyer Adolph H. Bocking served as captain of a Mississippi Naval Squad, thus making 117 Allegheny County lawyers known to have served in the cause. In addition, Pittsburgh lawyer, Edwin M. Stanton, served as Secretary of War in President Lincoln's cabinet, and Pittsburgh lawyer John P. Penney served as a state senator during the Civil War. See, John P. Frank, Lincoln as a Lawyer (Chicago: University of Illinois, 1961; reprinted Americana House, 1991), 177, for the story of Stanton's first impression and negative treatment of Lincoln in the McCormick reaper patent case. See Twentieth Century Bench and Bar, 2:868, for the story of Senator Penney, who presided as speaker of the Senate of Pennsylvania at a crucial time during the war. Senator Harry White, who served in the military, was captured by the Confederates and the governor was critically ill, which required Senator Penney to preside over the Senate, thereby helping to assure Pennsylvania's support of the war.


Ibid. Among the guests at dinner was a veteran lawyer, Captain Henry W. Patterson, an owner of the Pittsburgh Steel Casting Co. who graduated from Jefferson College in 1854 and served in the 27th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers and the 4th Regiment of United States Infantry. Among the 15 founding members of the Duquesne Club who were lawyers, two were Civil War veterans, James Harvey White (first lieutenant and adjutant, 165th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers) and Thomas Williams, Jr. (major, 9th United States Artillery, Company B). Ibid., at 1 and 10.


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Profiles in Leadership