

the road so turned, with these words 'Smallpox'—and he is to be allowed his expenses on his next year's highway rate."

Apparently these prompt measures prevented any spread of the disease, and in due time Mr. Tyler's house was returned to him, and he was voted \$40 for its use. The lot was soon divided into two farms. The southerly portion was occupied for a time by Isaac Tewksbury, and now forms a part of the John Saunders farm, while the northerly portion is known as the home of Capt. John Campbell, who settled there in 1801, although a later generation knows it still better as the home of the late John Waterman.

Next we pass the old English farm noted on our trip yesterday, and, farther down the hill in the northwest corner of lot 99, and running back into lot 100, we see the Josiah Campbell farm, occupied for many years by Joseph Palmer and his son Warren J.

This brings us to the minister's lot, 102, which the Church made the Rev. Mr. Salisbury deed to it before he could be settled. It has been much divided since the early days, but the only house now occupied is George H. Hastings'.

A few rods more and we find ourselves retracing our steps down the hill by the mill into the village, weary but well repaid by the knowledge gained of ancient landmarks in our little town.

## CHAPTER VII.

### MILITARY HISTORY—REVOLUTION, WAR OF 1812, MILITIA COMPANIES.

Waitsfield was settled too late to have a Revolutionary history of its own. Throughout the trying years of the conflict with the mother-land our valley, although in lesser degree probably than those to the east, was merely a highway for troops and scouting parties, but our first settler doubtless saw and chose his promised land during the campaigns of the French and Indian War, or during his service in the Revolution, and such a large proportion of our early settlers did military duty during those years that it seems appropriate at this point to sketch briefly the service which they rendered to the state and nation. Not less than eleven of the thirteen heads of families residing in the town in the spring of 1791 had been soldiers in the Revolution and forty-six men among our early settlers had seen some service. Of this number thirty-two made the town their home, and are now buried within its borders:

Samuel Barnard	Jonathan Palmer
Abijah Brown	Bissell Phelps
Nathaniel Brown	Samuel Pike
Doud Bushnell	Phineas Rider
Moses Chase	Salma Rider
Caleb Colton	Beriah Sherman
Thomas Green	Amasa Skinner
Joseph Hamilton	Jared Skinner
Ezekiel Hawley	Salah Smith
John Heaton	Elias Taylor
Jonas Holden	Daniel Taylor
Gaius Hitchcock	Benjamin Wait
Joseph Joslin	Ezra Wait
Jesse Mix	Jeduthan Wait
William Newcomb	William Wait
Joseph Osgood	John Wells

Benjamin and Ezra Wait, and probably John Wells, are buried in the Meadow cemetery; Jeduthan and William Wait, Jesse Mix and William Newcomb at Irasville. Jonas Holden, whose name does not appear upon the tablet which was erected to the memory of these men in 1906, is buried in the village

cemetery, and all the others without much doubt lie at rest beneath the Common.

Fourteen others whose names follow lived for many years in town, but removed before their death:

Eli Abbott	Isaac Parmenter
Samuel Bailey	Silas Royce
Nathaniel Bartlett	Eli Skinner
William Chase	Abel Spaulding
Moses Heaton	Wright Spaulding
Joseph Lyon	Nathan Sterling
Aaron Minor	Thomas Sherman

The alarm sent out from Lexington and Concord on that April morning in 1775 brought instant response from all parts of New England, and for days the roads were full of Minutemen marching toward Cambridge. Eight men whose names appear among our early settlers were among the number.

Abijah Brown was a member of Snow's Company of Minutemen from Paxton, Mass., and served thirty-two days, beginning April 19, 1775. He was enlisted in May, 1777, for three years' service in Capt. Adam Martin's Company, of Col. Timothy Bigelow's Massachusetts Regiment and served until January 1, 1779, a part of the time as corporal.

Thomas Green, from Swanzey, N. H., was a private in Capt. William Scott's Company of Minutemen, in Col. Paul Dudley Sargent's New Hampshire Regiment. He marched with his company on the Lexington alarm, and on April 23, 1775, re-enlisted in the same company for further service in Stark's Regiment. At the battle of Bunker Hill he received a severe wound in the shoulder, which for a long time totally disabled him, although he apparently saw further service with his company, as he received a "bounty coat" for eight months' service at the camp before Boston on November 14, 1775. On June 11, 1785, he presented a memorial to the General Court of New Hampshire asking for relief because of his disability, and on June 16, 1785, he was voted a pension by that State.

Jonas Holden, of Sudbury, Mass., was a private in Capt. John Nixon's Company of Minutemen in Col. Abijah Pierce's Regiment. He served one month on the Lexington alarm. Mr. Holden was later identified with the Massachusetts Militia, in the capacity of captain.

Joseph Joslin, of Lancaster, Mass., was a private in Capt. Benjamin Houghton's Company of Minutemen in Col. John

Whetcomb's Regiment that marched for Cambridge on the Lexington alarm, and the rolls show that Mr. Joslin performed ten and one-half days' service.

Samuel Pike, of Brookfield, Mass., marched as a Minuteman on the Lexington alarm, and at the close of this service, on May 1, 1775, re-enlisted in Capt. Walker's Company of Col. Timothy Danielson's Regiment. He was ranked as sergeant in August, 1775, and received his "bounty coat" for eight months' service at Roxbury, Mass., on November 2, 1775.

Beriah Sherman, of Brimfield, Mass., was a sergeant in Capt. Josiah Thompson's Company of Col. Timothy Danielson's Regiment, and received his "bounty coat" at Roxbury, November 7, 1775.

John Wells, of Shelburne, Mass., marched as a corporal in Capt. Agrippa Wells' Company of Col. Asa Whitcomb's Regiment of Minutemen, and received his "bounty coat" at Prospect Hill, December 22, 1775. He was commissioned captain of the 8th Company of the 5th Hampshire County Regiment on May 3, 1776, and served with it in Lieut. Colonel Timothy Robinson's Regiment in garrison at Ticonderoga from December 23 of that year to April 1, 1777. His company also served in the Northern Department at Stillwater and Saratoga from September 22 to October 23, 1777.

Eli Skinner was a fifer in Capt. Agrippa Wells' Company, of Col. Asa Whitcomb's Regiment, and received his "bounty coat" at Prospect Hill, December 22, 1775. He also served with Capt. John Wells as fifer in his company at Ticonderoga.

Moses Heaton, of Charlemont, Mass., served as a surgeon in Capt. Oliver Avery's Company of Minutemen that marched on the Lexington alarm, and performed seventeen days' service.

Among the men that joined the army around Boston after the Lexington alarm, was Joseph Hamilton, of Brookfield, Mass., who was a private in Capt. Peter Harwood's Company of Col. Ebenezer Larnerd's Regiment. He enlisted July 15, 1775, and continued in the service until the evacuation of Boston. It is of interest to note that during the cannonading on the night of March 10, 1776, when the fortification of Dorchester Heights was completed, his musket, temporarily in the hands of a comrade (let us imagine because its owner was laboring with pick and spade) was broken by a cannon ball, which killed that comrade. In June, 1776, he enlisted for five months as private

in Capt. John Walcott's Company, and from January to November, 1777, served in Capt. Davis' Company of Col. Wiggleworth's Regiment.

Jeduthan Wait and William Wait, half-brothers of General Benjamin Wait, from Brookfield, Mass., enlisted first on April 29, 1775, in Capt. Peter Harwood's Company of Col. Ebenezer Larnerd's Regiment, and both received a "bounty coat" for eight months' service at Roxbury on December 20, 1775. From December, 1775, to March, 1777, both these men served as privates in Capt. Asa Danforth's Company of Col. Shepard's Regiment. On April 4, 1777, William Wait enlisted in Capt. Peter Harwood's Company of Col. Thomas Nixon's Regiment, where he served continuously until March 15, 1780, when he was transferred to Capt. Phineas Parker's Company of Col. Baldwin's Artificers, in which he served until discharged for wounds in 1782.

Jeduthan Wait enlisted February 26, 1777, for the war, and joined his brother's company in Col. Thomas Nixon's Regiment. In 1779 he was transferred to Capt. Toogood's Company of the same regiment, and in the following year became a member of Capt. Benjamin Heywood's Company. He remained with this regiment until September 30, 1781, when he was transferred to Capt. Peter Clayes' Company of the Light Infantry, where he served until December 31, 1782. His name is found upon the roll of the Light Infantry Company of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment for service during the year 1783. Both of these men doubtless saw the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Several of the men in whom we are interested participated in the Canadian campaign of 1775 and 1776.

Aaron Minor was a member of Capt. Phineas Porter's Company of General Wooster's First Connecticut Regiment, which was raised in April and May, 1775, and was engaged in operations around Lake George and Lake Champlain, and at St. Johns and Montreal. Mr. Minor was discharged November 25, 1775.

Caleb Colton was a private in Capt. James Osgood's Company of Col. Timothy Bedel's Regiment. He enlisted January, 1776, for one year. After this service he enlisted and served in Capt. Joshua Hendie's Company of Col. David Hobart's New

Hampshire Regiment from July 23 to September 25, 1777, and doubtless saw service at the battle of Bennington.

Elias Taylor was a private in Capt. Daniel Carlisle's Company of Col. Bedel's Regiment from January 1, 1776, to December 1, 1776, and both he and Caleb Colton were taken prisoners at The Cedars, May 15, 1776. Mr. Taylor also served as corporal in Capt. Howlet's Company of Col. Ashley's Regiment of Militia that marched from Keene, N. H., to reinforce the army at Ticonderoga in May, 1777. In fact a number of our early residents took part in the campaign at this point during that year.

Capt. John Wells and Eli Skinner have already been mentioned. Jared Skinner was a private in Capt. John Wells' Company in garrison at Ticonderoga for a period of eighty-four days, ending April 1, 1777. He had also served for three months beginning August, 1776, in Capt. Hugh McClellan's Company of Col. John Moseley's Massachusetts Regiment, and participated with that regiment in the battle of White Plains. From July 22 to August 27, 1779, he was on service at New London in Capt. James Walsworth's Company of Col. Elisha Porter's Regiment.

Phineas Rider, also a private in Capt. John Wells' Company, was one of the garrison at Ticonderoga during the early months of 1777. From May 10 to July 17, 1777, he was on service in the Northern Department, in Capt. Lawrence Kemp's Company, Col. David Wells' Regiment of Hampshire County Militia, and from August 17 to October 23 served at Stillwater under Capt. John Wells. August 3, 1780, he was at Claverack, N. Y., on three months' service, and his pension application states that he was at the battle of Bennington, presumably with the Massachusetts troops.

Salma Rider served at Ticonderoga during 1777 as a private in Capt. Agrippa Wells' Company of Col. Samuel Brewer's Regiment, and from July 22 to August 27, 1779, he was on service at New London with his brother Phineas, in Capt. James Walsworth's Company of Col. Elisha Porter's Regiment.

Samuel Bailey was at Ticonderoga in Col. Jonathan Chase's Regiment from Cornish, N. H., and vicinity, from June 27 to July 11, 1777.

The evacuation of Ticonderoga was the occasion for a great outpouring of Vermont and New Hampshire troops. In Lieut.

Col. Samuel Herrick's Regiment of rangers, which performed good service at Bennington, was Joseph Lyon, who was a private in Capt. Levi Goodenough's Company, from August 1 to November 24, 1777.

This was the regiment of which General Wait was then Major, and it seems probable that Ezekiel Hawley, who had been since August 9, 1776, enlisted in the company of rangers of which Wait was captain, joined this regiment and served with his old commander. His name also appears as corporal in a list of Vermont soldiers who served with the New Hampshire troops.

Jonathan Palmer was a private in Capt. John Willoughby's Company of Col. David Hobart's New Hampshire Regiment, which marched to the relief of Ticonderoga on July 5, 1777. He was discharged July 16, but re-enlisted July 21 in Capt. Edmund Eliot's Company of the same regiment, and saw service with these troops at Bennington. He was discharged September 27, 1777.

Silas Royce was one of Capt. Abel Walker's Company of the same regiment from July, 1777, to September 23, of the same year.

Eli Abbott was private in Capt. Ebenezer Goodale's Company of Col. David Wells' Massachusetts Regiment, from October 3 to October 18, 1777, and was also a corporal in Capt. Sylvanus Rice's Company of Col. Israel Chapin's Regiment at Claverack, from October 27 to November 22, 1779.

Moses Chase enlisted April 22, 1777, in Capt. William Scott's Company of Col. John Stark's New Hampshire Regiment, which was later commanded by Col. Joseph Cilley. He served continuously until April 30, 1780. His regiment saw hard fighting at Saratoga, and he was at Valley Forge and at the battle of Monmouth, and probably took part with this regiment in the expedition sent out under General Sullivan against the Indians and Tories to avenge the massacres at Wyoming and Cherry Valley.

Bissell Phelps enlisted in April, 1775, as private in Capt. Elijah Buel's Company of Connecticut troops. From November, 1776, to May, 1777, he served under Capt. Elijah Wright, in Col. Roger Enos' Regiment. In February, 1778, he enlisted for four months in Capt. Eliphalet Buckley's Company of Col. Samuel Chapman's Regiment, and from June 16, 1778, to

December 30, 1780, he was wagon-master under Deputy Quartermaster-General Hubbard.

Salah Smith was a private in Capt. James Walsworth's Company of Col. Elisha Porter's Regiment from July 22 to August 27, 1779, and was on service at New London. On June 29, 1780, he enlisted as private for six months, and was assigned to Capt. Smith's Company of Col. Michael Jackson's Massachusetts Regiment.

Jesse Mix was a Private in Capt. Humphrey's Company of Col. Swift's Second Connecticut Line Regiment. He enlisted June 13, 1782, for three years. His regiment remained in camp at West Point until disbanded, and he was then transferred into Col. Swift's final formation Connecticut Line Regiment, which continued in service until December, 1783. It would appear that he also performed an earlier service, having enlisted May, 1781, in Capts. Reid's and Sill's Company of the same regiment.

Isaac Parmenter served in Col. Ichabod Alden's Massachusetts Line Regiment from March, 1779, to December, 1779. He was taken prisoner with other members of his regiment at the Cherry Valley massacre, on November 10, 1778.

William Chase served in Col. Drury's Massachusetts Regiment, and from May, 1782, to the close of the war was a private in Jackson's Massachusetts Regiment.

Samuel Barnard was a private in Capt. James Walsworth's Company of Col. Elisha Porter's Regiment on service at New London from July 22 to August 27, 1779.

Amasa Skinner was in Capt. Joseph Cook's Company of Col. Elisha Porter's Regiment on the same service for six weeks from June, 1779. He also enlisted June 1, 1780, for six months service in Capt. Othniel Taylor's Company of Col. Marshall's Regiment of Massachusetts troops.

Doud Bushnell enlisted from Saybrook, Conn., in June, 1779, for three months under Capt. Simeon Leigh, Col. William Worthington's Regiment, in garrison at Fort Trumbull. During January and February, 1780, he served a re-enlistment in Capt. John Shipman's Company in the same regiment, and in May, 1780, enlisted for a year in Capt. Shapley's Company of Col. William Ledyard's Regiment, on garrison duty at the same fort. In June, 1781, he enlisted for three months in Lieut. Ezra Crane's Company of Col. Canfield's Regiment at West

Point, N. Y., and after the close of this enlistment was for a time on the privateer brig *Thetis*.

Nathan Sterling was on service at New London and Groton, Conn., from November 4, 1780, to January 2, 1781, in Capt. Hungerford's Company of Col. Samuel McClellan's Regiment.

Daniel Taylor enlisted in 1780 with other Shelburne, Mass., men for three months' service at Claverack in Lieut. Col. David Wells' Massachusetts Regiment, and from July 13, to October 10, 1780, was on the roll of Capt. Isaac Newton's Company of Col. Murray's Regiment.

John Heaton was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the 8th Company of the 5th Hampshire County Regiment August 14, 1780, and served as a member of Capt. John Wells' Company from Shelburne.

William Newcomb of Norton, Mass., was a private in Capt. John Allen's Company of Col. Carpenter's Regiment, and enlisted July 27, 1780, for service in Rhode Island.

Gaius Hitchcock, of Springfield, Mass., then a mere boy, served at various times during 1778, 1779 and 1780 as a waiter in Capt. Bryant's Massachusetts troops. From September 1 to October 1, 1780, he was enlisted under Col. John Pomeroy, and from August 12 to November 8, 1781, he was a private in Capt. Oliver Shattuck's Company of Lieut. Col. Barnabas Sears' Hampshire County Regiment.

Nathaniel Brown, of Norwich, Vt., enlisted October 27, 1780, under Capt. Joshua Hazen, Col. Peter Alcott, for a short term, and from July 1 to November 30, 1781, was a private in Capt. Abner Seeley's Company of Col. Benjamin Wait's Vermont Battalion.

Abel Spaulding served at various times during 1780 and 1781 in Col. Benjamin Wait's Battalion, under Capt. Charles Nelson, and Ezra Wait, then but a stripling, served from July 1 to November 30, 1781, in Capt. John Benjamin's Company of his father's battalion.

Joseph Osgood, of Lancaster, Mass., was a private in Capt. Zachariah Fitch's Company of Col. Samuel Brewer's Regiment, which saw service from August 23 to September 30, 1776.

Nathaniel Bartlett was a private in Capt. Joseph Tyler's Company of Vermont troops in October and November, 1780, and was in Capt. Benjamin Whitney's Company at Guilford from October, 1783, to October, 1784. He also served in Capt.

Jonathan Warren's Company on service in Windham County in 1782.

Wright Spaulding enlisted April 16, 1776, in Capt. William Satterlee's Company of Col. Samuel Elmore's Regiment, and re-enlisted December 25 of that year.

At an early day the customary militia company was organized in town. Just when this occurred cannot now be stated, but the first return made of polls exempt for militia duty appears under date of 1805 and contains the following names:

Isaac Tewksbury	Henry Dana
Gilbert Wait	Nathan Dana
Enos Wilder	Elijah Grandy
Joseph Wallis	James Heaton, jr.
John Bement	Job House
John Campbell	Percival Hawley
Joseph Joslin	Jennison Jones
Pelatah Sherman	Jesse Mix
Christopher Avery	Ashbel Minor
Erastus Allen	David Phelps
Doud Bushnell	Alexander Phelps
Benjamin Butterfield	Joshua Pike
James Bartlett	Aaron Quimby
Ebenezer Barnard	Salah Smith
Foster Dana	Simeon Stoddard

On June 7, 1808, Matthias Stone Jones as commanding officer reported that Ashbel Minor, Christopher Bartlett, Aaron Quimby, Daniel Skinner, Jesse Mix, Solomon Spaulding and Ithamar Smith were fully equipped, and consequently exempt from poll tax. The full company numbered forty-four at that time, and doubtless lack of equipment accounts for failure to return other names than those here given.

A few of the young men enlisted in the cavalry. A return under date of June 15, 1808, shows that Levi Wilder, Enos Wilder, James Heaton, jr., Thomas Wait, Joseph B. McCollum and John Holden were enrolled among the horsemen of the Fourth Regiment of the Second Brigade of the Third Division of the State Militia, the headquarters of this company being at Waterbury.

A year later Capt. Jones reported 18 men of his company as fully equipped, and in 1810 the list had grown to 22, while five others were enlisted in the cavalry company at Waterbury. Not until 1814 were any of these men called upon to do duty other than in the sham battles of June training day, but in

September of that year the call went out for volunteers to repel the invasion of the British army and the powerful fleet that was destroyed in the memorable conflict of Sunday, September 11. The little company from Waitsfield, which included some men then resident upon the east side of the mountain, marched forthwith to join the American forces at Plattsburgh, but like many other troops reached Burlington too late to be transported across the lake in time to participate in the fighting. Just how long the company was absent on this service we do not know. The following certificate entered upon the records of the Adjutant-General of the State of Vermont gives the names of those who marched on that occasion:

"The undersigned certify that we went as volunteers to repel the British in the invasion of Plattsburgh in September 1814, under the command of Capt. Matthias S. Jones, of Waitsfield. We also certify that a roll of our company was made at Burlington, that said roll is not to be found, and that after having carefully considered the subject we have made out the following roll, as being a list of the names of persons belonging to our company, according to our best recollection:

Matthias S. Jones, Capt.	John Averill
Nath'l Richardson, Lieut.	Elijah Smith
Jesse Averill, Corp.	Amasa Russ
James Latham	

*Roll of Volunteers.*

Matthias S. Jones	Joseph Marble
William Wheeler	Rodney Smith
Silas Wheeler (Fayston)	George Richardson
Amasa Russ	Perrin Hascall
Jonathan Siever	Christopher Bartlett
Stebbins Hitchcock	Eben Corss
Phineas Rider	Chester Marshall
Horatio Rider	Philetus Robinson
Salah Smith	Levi Shipman
James Latham (Northfield 1850)	Jude M. Brown
John Averill (Northfield 1850)	Aaron Hill
Elijah Smith, of Waitsfield	John Starkweather (deceased)
Joseph Mills	Joseph Williams (deceased)
Elijah Smith (Northfield 1850)	John Richardson (deceased)
Jushua Luce	Nathaniel Richardson (Northfield 1850)
James Joslin	Jesse Averill (Northfield 1850)
Isaac Smalley, Ens.	

Waitsfield, March 12, 1850.  
Sworn to before me,

Hiram Jones,  
Justice of the Peace."

In addition to the names given above, that of Rufus Barnard appears upon the records of the War Department as having been a volunteer who presented himself at Burlington, but as the other names of this company are not found there it is probable that he enlisted in a different force.

Orson Skinner and Francis Wilder were at that time members of the cavalry company of which mention has been already made, and the story of their service may be gleaned from the certificate of their captain, Chester Marshall,—for although the name of Francis Wilder only appears in this certificate it is certain that Orson Skinner was also a member of the company.

"I, Chester Marshall, of Waterbury, in the County of Washington and State of Vermont, aged 79 years, declare that in the year 1814 & for some years before & after I commanded a Company of Cavalry belonging to the 4th Regt. 2d Brigade & 3d division of the Militia of this State—That when Col. John Pike, who commanded 2d Regt. called that out I was not ordered out, but that on the Saturday before the battle at Plattsburgh a part of my company who resided at Waitsfield rallied as volunteers, among whom was Francis Wilder, then a Private in said Company, and who resided at said Waitsfield—On Sabbath Morn, the 11th Sept. 1814, I put myself at the head of those so rallied & marched immediately to Burlington, when I was ordered to try & get to Plattsburgh by the way of Cumberland Head—which order I obeyed—but was not able to reach the American forces at Plattsburgh till Tuesday morning Sept. 13. I and my men went fully equipped—lacking nothing but ammunition for any service. We remained at Plattsburgh a day or two and returned the last of the same week.

Chester Marshall.

Subscribed and Sworn to Sept. 27, 1850.

Before me,

Paul Dillingham,  
Justice of the Peace."

John English, sr., who had been for some years a resident of Waitsfield, enlisted in the regular troops as private in Col. John W. Weeks' Company, Eleventh Regiment. His name appears upon returns under date of May 31, 1813, but he soon after died in service, as may be gathered from the records of the settlement of his estate, and it appears certain that Ira Richardson, Wells Hitchcock, Roswell Richardson and Ebenezer Cutler saw service, although it cannot now be given in detail, and the last two were not residents of Waitsfield at the date of their service.

The War of 1812 raised considerable feeling within the limits of the town, although, as a whole, its citizens sympathized with the position taken throughout the war by the New England States. There was, however, a party thoroughly in sympathy with the war which made up in activity what it lacked in numbers, and meetings were frequently called to consider various fiery resolutions. Such an one was held in April, 1812, to consider the resolutions and preambles which had been introduced at a meeting of the citizens of Jefferson County held at Montpelier, on March 19 of that year, in pursuance of the following notice:

"The friends of our hard-earned independence and the friends of our highly favored and dearly beloved country are once more respectively informed that their meeting is to be holden at the State House in Montpelier on Thursday, the 19th inst., at 12 o'clock precisely. The welfare of our country demands that its friends should be known, and that its enemies should be so distinctly marked!! that every school boy as he passes by shall point with his finger and exclaim, There goes a Tory!"

The passion of the time is so well exemplified by the preamble of the resolutions that were then brought up to be considered that we may be pardoned for here presenting it:

"National forbearance is no less a virtue than national heroism and fortitude. To wage war for trivial, or perhaps, imaginary injuries, is the prerogative of kings and despots, who consider their subjects as property, and over whose lives they claim an uncontrolled dominion; that in a land of freedom, where the people are the sovereign, where all are equally protected in their rights, war is never engaged in but to redress deep and aggravated injuries, and prevent daring encroachments upon its liberty and independence, and then, as the last, the only resort—

"Friends to peace, we highly approved the precautionary measures of our government against the novel and unprecedented orders and decrees of Great Britain and France. We had hoped that reflection would convince them of the absurdity, impolicy and injustice of their proceedings. But our hopes were vain. For although France has repealed her decrees, yet the conduct of G. Britain in perservering in her orders, in her numerous violations of our flag, in impressing our seamen, upwards of 6000 of whom bereft of country, friends and relations groan beneath the scourge of the worst tyranny, fills up the catalogue of her iniquities.

"To these wanton aggressions the American government have hitherto opposed reason and dispassionate argument. The

voice of reason is not heard. Other weapons, weapons of a more energetic nature, must now be resorted to.

"When the laws and usages of nations become a dead letter; when our seamen, natural born subjects, are impressed into the service of a foreign monarch; when our merchant vessels, in the pursuit of lawful commerce, are plundered on the high seas; when we are threatened with a civil war and a dissolution of the union; when smuggling on the very eve of a foreign war has become a trade, and smugglers are openly assisted at noonday; when one portion of our citizens unreservedly espouses the cause of a foreign government, in direct opposition to our own:

"In short, when national difficulties and disasters of any kind threaten our beloved country, we are naturally led to ask, is the spirit of our revolutionary heroes and martyrs extinct? Was the blood of Warren and Montgomery spilt in vain? Have we forgotten that we are fathers?

Are we so debased, so degenerated, as to leave our children in slavery; the subjects of a king, a despot, hated by every freeman worthy to be the son of his father? What would have been the condition of this Canaan land had not the dawn of the revolution found real Washingtons, Hancocks and Adamses? Have we not among us men who possess the same spirit? Must it be that a republic such as the world never before witnessed returns to its former colonial state of servitude? Are we doomed soon to reflect on what we might have been? Shall we ere long say, we *were once* a republic? We were once a happy people? Forbid it, heaven! No. There are Washingtons and Hancocks of the present day who possess the same bravery, the same fortitude, the same patriotism, the same patience in distress, which characterise those immortal worthies! We love our country; we love our liberty; we love our children; we will protect the one, and we swear to defend the other or die in the glorious cause."

These fiery sentiments were not pleasing to the Waitsfield voters, however, and the voice of the town was unqualifiedly against the war by a vote of 56 to 24. Political tension was great for several years thereafter. The number of voters who came out at the election of 1812 was greater by 50 per cent than had ever voted at any election in the town previous to that time. Indeed, at the congressional elections of that year the record says that the "Peace Ticket received 92 votes and the War Ticket 25."

For a good many years after the close of the War of 1812 there was considerable interest throughout the town in things military and the company organized in 1805, or earlier, maintained an unbroken existence down to about 1840. It was

uniformed in scarlet, and bore the common and somewhat significant name of "Floodwoods." This company drew some recruits from Warren and Fayston, and for many years formed the Third Company in the Fourth Regiment, Second Brigade, Third Division Vermont Militia, of which regiment Orson Skinner of Waitsfield was colonel for some years around 1830. The records are by no means complete, but it would appear that the number of Waitsfield men enrolled in this company varied from 37 in 1812 to 94 in 1819, and that it had a membership of about 65 in the late "thirties." The roll of commanding officers was, so far as can be ascertained, as follows:

Capt. Matthias Stone Jones, 1808-10  
 Capt. Aaron Phelps, 1811-13  
 Capt. John Campbell, 1814-16  
 Capt. Andrew B. Minor, 1817-18  
 Capt. Elias Taylor, jr., 1819-20  
 Capt. Ira Richardson, 1821-4  
 Capt. Rufus Barnard, 1825-6  
 Capt. Robert Orton Stoddard, 1827-8  
 Capt. Roswell Horr, 1830  
 Capt. Jennison Joslin, 1833  
 Capt. Harry Jones, 1835-6

Reference has been already made to cavalry enlistments. Until 1815 the Waitsfield recruits formed a part of the Waterbury Company, but in that year a local company was organized by Capt. Levi Wilder, and until 1830, and perhaps for a few years longer, it took the field with full equipment on "June Training Day."

The number enrolled in this organization was never large, varying from 11 to 27. The list of captains was in part as follows:  
 Capt. Levi Wilder, 1815-20      Capt. Jesse Carpenter, 1825-6  
 Capt. John Campbell, 1821-4      Capt. Francis Wilder, 1827  
 Capt. Richard Wait, 1830

Contemporary with the later years of the "Floodwoods," and continuing its existence for some years after the former had ceased to train, was a rifle company, which was uniformed in blue, and during the "forties" formed the Eighth Company of the Eighth Regiment Vermont Militia. The first regular return which can be found is dated 1839, when 59 men were enrolled. The following year there were 92 (some from Fayston), but after that the number dwindled and the last return in 1850 contains but 15 names. The following were commanders:  
 Capt. Philo Harrington, 1839      Capt. Elisha Foster, 1841  
 Capt. Silas Royce, 1840      Capt. Ziba W. Boyce, 1844  
 Capt. Curtis H. Marshall, 1848-50

## CHAPTER VIII.

MILITARY HISTORY—CIVIL WAR; AINSWORTH POST,  
 NO. 36, G. A. R.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Waitsfield had no military organization. The old militia companies had disbanded soon after 1850, and "June Training" was no more. But the lack of outward show had not lessened the spirit of loyalty and devotion to country, and there was no dearth of men to answer the call in '61. This little town of about one thousand souls sent to southern battlefields fully one-tenth of her total population if we may count all her sons that enlisted in the service.

The town is credited upon the rolls of the national government with ninety-five enlistments which were made by eighty-seven different individuals. The names of her citizens are found upon the rosters of the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Thirteenth and Seventeenth Vermont Regiments of Infantry, the First Vermont Cavalry, the Second and Third Vermont Batteries, the Second United States Sharp Shooters and the Signal Corps.

Companies G and H of the Sixth Regiment, Company I of the Ninth and Company B of the Thirteenth were recruited in the vicinity, and naturally our men enlisted in them in larger numbers than in any other organizations. Fifteen Waitsfield men served in Company H and seven in Company G of the Sixth Regiment. The names of ten are found upon the roster of Company I of the Ninth and twenty-four marched in Company B of the Thirteenth, while not less than eight young men from Waitsfield enlisted in the Second Regiment United States Sharp Shooters, two-sevenths of the entire number furnished by Washington County and nearly four times the normal quota of the town, in a state that furnished more men to this branch of service than any other in the Union in proportion to its population.

The history of our soldiers is the history of Stannard's gallant troops, of Sheridan's dashing cavalry command and of the old Vermont Brigade that fought in the vanguard for four