Hartland, Maine and The Civil War

By Major Fred W. Libby

RAISING THE TROOPS

The way troops are raised to do battle for one's country has long been a point of controversy. While many nations have employed national conscription in some form for years, the United States, except in times of dire national emergency, has not. Currently we are engaged in an experiment to determine whether or not a rather large standing military force can be maintained through a volunteer system. A reluctance to resort to the draft even in time of war has long been a national characteristic of this country. The experience with Vietnam and the draft is an illustration of this point. We are still feeling the reverberations of that one.

In this portion of the article I am going to examine how one small Maine community raised its quota of troops during the Civil War. It will not be a report of individuals and their exploits. Such a project would require years of research. The questions that arise out of even limited research are many and the man doing the digging can be led in many directions. For example; Why did almost one half of one regiment take their discharges in Florida, and what happened to the one man who was promoted to become a part of the "Corp De Afrique"?

Hartland, Maine was, in 1860, a community of 1,050 people.⁽¹⁾ It was a typical mill town, centered around a river, with many farms in the outlying areas. The principal industry was the Linn Woolen Company, established in 1860, and helped immeasurably by war time orders for uniform cloth. Located in central Maine at the foot of Great Moose Lake, (in those pre-Madison Avenue days it was simply Moose Pond), Hartland has a varied topography of hills, streams, and ponds, with large stands of timber. It had been the plentiful supply of "pumpkin pine" that had attracted one of the first settlers to the area. In short, it was a town just like a hundred others in Maine, peopled by rather practical hardworking type of typical "Mainiac".⁽²⁾

The raising of troops during the Civil War was done mainly through the quota system. Actually, until passage of the Enrollment Act of 1863, the only legal basis for the calling of troops to Federal service was the power to call up the militia, contained in the constitution. The enrollment Act did provide for national conscription. To be sure, there were provisions by 1862, for enrolling men in the militia of the various states and then calling the militia into Federal service. This was used, however, primarily as a threat if enough volunteers could not be obtained in any other way. By Maine law, all able bodied men were supposed to be on the rolls of the militia, but by 1860 the militia in Maine was, at best, a paper outfit. The answer then, to avoid the draft, was to issue quotas. Quotas could be filled and as John J Pullen says in the "The Twentieth Maine" "If a man was warm, moving under his own power, and patriotic enough to sign his name on the enlistment papers, certain defects could be overlooked."

In the early days when men were afraid that the war would be over before they could get there, recruiting was no great problem. But by 1862, a dimming of enthusiasm and the large numbers of men needed, led to the introduction of some incentives. It was found that there was nothing like money for an incentive. The bounty system that developed worked pretty well, but it caused a lot of headaches.

The major problem was that the towns were in effect, bidding against each other. It was not uncommon for a man to enlist in one town and then find that another was paying a higher bounty. Quite often, if he hadn't taken the oath of enlistment he might well sign up for the better proposition. He didn't look on this as being unpatriotic; he was going, and it made sense to get the best deal he could. (4)

It wasn't long before some enterprising souls decided that there was a golden business opportunity in becoming a professional bounty man. These characters never did intend to make it to the front. They enlisted, drew the bounties, deserted at the first chance, and promptly went back to enlist under another name for another town. Hartland apparently ran afoul of some of these professionals in 1864. Of the eight from Hartland who deserted, five enlisted on 28 November 1864 and all five had deserted by February 1865. Interestingly enough, all five bore names associated with those of Irish descent. However, it may well have been that they were using assumed names. The Irish were not located very high on the social ladder in 1864, and the bounty jumpers may have felt safer using names that at least looked Irish.⁽⁵⁾

Money for bounties was not a particular problem. The total amount of bounties was not a particular problem. The total amount of bounty money raised in Maine cities, towns, and plantations in 1862 alone, was more than \$1,500,000. (6) Hartland was raising it right along with the best of them. Following, from the Adjutant General's Report for 1866, are the amounts of money raised, by Hartland, for bounties. These amounts were actually paid; more funds were appropriated in town meetings:

1862	3 year enlistments	\$1,000 (to be split)
1862	9 month enlistments	\$1,500 (\$100 each)
1863	3 year volunteers	\$4,800
1864-65	3 year volunteers	\$5,100
Total for drafte	es that later enlisted	\$2,100

An additional \$3,445.20 was provided to assist the families of soldiers who served. The town meetings that raised the bounty money must have been interesting sessions. For example; in 1864 two men were denied the bounty that the other 9 month enlistees got, and in December of that year draftees were prohibited from receiving anything. This later action was rescinded in a third special town meeting and draftees also got \$300. It may well have been that some consideration was being shown for the poor since a drafted man could hire a substitute, the going price being \$300, and perhaps it was felt that all should have a fair chance at finding someone to go for them. (8)

In reflection, it would seem that the present means of filling the ranks of an all-volunteer force is not unique to this time and place in history. Today, we offer more in terms of educational benefits, units of choice, G. I. Bill, etc. We also offer money and in large amounts. The incentive method is not different, only the dates and amounts are. We deal in terms of what is meaningful today just as recruiters in those days dealt in what was meaningful to those times. The times themselves were different and our nation was younger, but by in large human nature has not changed.

SPECIFIC UNITS IN WHICH HARTLAND MEN SERVED

Many of the units in which Hartland men served saw heavy action. In the following pages is a brief summary of some of those units and their history. In the annex following is a listing of all men from Hartland who serviced during the Civil War.

While most of the Hartland men ended up in the infantry, several did opt for riding to war and they joined the cavalry. Two of these, Cpl. Willard Phelps and Pvt. George F. Douglas, both 22, and single, enlisted with H Co. of the 1st Maine Cavalry Regiment on the 5th of November 1861. They may have gotten more than they bargained for.

The 1st ME fought at Brandy Station, Fredrick, MD, and Antietam in 1862. They lost more than 700 horses in the process. In 1861, this unit was engaged in heavy action at Gettysburg, and on the 15th of July 1863 had a contest with the legendary J.E.B. Stuart.⁽⁹⁾ Three hundred troopers went with the dashing General Kilpatrick on his famous Richmond raid. This venture was supposed to free thousands of Yankee prisoners; it succeeded only in losing the largest part of the raiding party including General Kilpatrick. It cost the 1st Maine 93 men and 200 horses.⁽¹⁰⁾ It was during this period that Cpl. Phelps was reduced to Pvt. and then taken prisoner. All in all not a good month for the corporal.⁽¹¹⁾

The six men who joined K Co. of the 2nd Maine Calvary did not see quite so much action. Maybe it was just as well since two of them were over forty and five of the six were married. This regiment saw some action in Louisiana and then in August of 1864 was transferred to Florida. The picket duty and raids they participated in could not have been too arduous. Out of the regiment, 25 officers and 116 enlisted men chose to be mustered out, and remain, in Florida!⁽¹²⁾ According to the Adjutant General's Report for 1866, "this was because of a desire to settle there."

The three men drafted into the 3rd Infantry Regiment in August 1863 missed first Bull Run, Malvern Hill, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville, but were present at Mine Run, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor. Their battle at Cold Harbor was fought just one day prior to the mustering out of the regiment on 4 June 1864. Sixty-four men, including our three draftees, were transferred to the 17th Maine to finish their enlistments.⁽¹³⁾

Eight of the town's citizens joined the 9th Infantry, a three year regiment, formed on 22 September 1861. One of these, LaForest Hinton, was discharged for disability in December of 1861. He apparently recovered, sufficiently for the draft anyway, as he was on the list in 1863. However, he enlisted in the 3rd Infantry before he could be drafted. The 9th participated in Sherman's attacks on the South Carolina Coast, and at Fort Wagner lost over 300 men in an abortive attempt to seize that post. In February 1864, 416 of the original members re-enlisted and the regiment joined Grant's campaign toward Richmond. (Possibly some of them had second thoughts when they got into the wilderness.) After fighting at Cold Harbor and Petersburg, the unit was transferred to Sherman for his march north from Savannah.⁽¹⁴⁾

The boys who joined the 13th and 14th Infantry Regiments, both of which were three-year regiments activated in December 1861, spent the majority of their time in Louisiana. Part of the tour must have

been spent in community relations because both regiments acquired a fairly large number of recruits from that area. The five men from town in these two regiments didn't fare too well. One Sgt. Thomas Fish, was court-martialed in 1862 and reduced to private. Another, Jason Bryant, who was not mustered with the 13th, but apparently being anxious to serve, joined B Co. of the 14th in January of 1862. He died in Baton Rouge, LA, in August of the same year. One of the two Huff boys with the 14th, Maurice, died at New Orleans in June of 1862. The other, Eldridge, was discharged, disabled, at Augusta, Maine the same year. (16)

The five home town boys in Companies A, G, H, and I of the 16th Infantry saw plenty of action. One of these, 18 year old Samuel Coston, was wounded at both Petersburg and Fredericksburg. Another, Plummer T. Haskell, was discharged for disability in February 1863. Activated in August of 1862, the 16th arrived in time for Fredericksburg in 13 September of 1862, and lost nearly fifty per cent (226 men), of those engaged. This was indicative perhaps of their state of training and Robert E Lee's judgment in selecting the battle site. This bloody introduction to the romance of war must have impressed the commanders as well as the men, as to the need for training, for the unit next saw action at Chancellorsville in April, 1863. The next road taken, after Chancellorsville, was the one leading to Gettysburg.

Arriving there on the 1st of July 1863, the 16th fought every day and on the 4th only 2 officers and 15 enlisted men, of the 248 present on the 1st, were left for duty. Refitted and filled out to a degree, they again took heavy losses at Spotsylvania in 1864. The 16th eventually wound up at Fort Wadsworth in front of Petersburg, and from there took part in the final pursuit of Lee to Appomattox.⁽¹⁷⁾

Only one Hartland man, Charles Prescott, belonged to the 19th Infantry, but during his time with the regiment, it saw action as part of Sedgwick's force during the Chancellorsville campaign and at Gettysburg. During the Engagement at Gettysburg over 50 per cent of the men engaged were lost. Pvt. Prescott was eventually captured and died in a rebel prison camp.⁽¹⁸⁾

Of the 13 Hartland men who eventually served with the 20th Maine, six were around from the beginning. The activities of this regiment, of "Little Round Top" fame were detailed in a book entitled, <u>The Twentieth Maine</u>, by John J. Pullen. This regiment took part in every important battle of the Army of the Potomac from Fredericksburg through Appomattox. Its place in history was assured through a series of circumstances that placed it on the extreme left flank of the Union Lines at Gettysburg. As John Pullen said, "The thing that was most frightening about it was how the weight of a momentous battle could have come to rest so disproportionately upon just a few ordinary men-farmers, fishermen, and woodsmen. Seldom if ever before had one small regiment been in such a fantastic spot."

Fourteen men of the town joined the 22nd and 25th nine month regiments which were activated 19 October and 29 September respectively. No reason is given to explain why the higher numbered unit was activated first. The 22nd saw some action in Louisiana, but the 25th served only as garrison troops around Washington. (19) Why a nine month regiment was sent to Louisiana only the War Department in its wisdom know, but the boys in it must have spent most of their enlistment at sea. Why nine month regiments were created in the first place at that particular time is a good question. One possible reason

is that they thought there were enough men on hand to do the job and only a few short term regiments would be needed to finish the job. It was during this period that recruiting efforts all over the country were slowed, only to be speeded up considerably a short time later.

Thomas Fish was with the 30th Infantry for only a short time in 1864. He left to take part in a program which was very controversial. This was the creation of regiments of colored troops to be known as "Corps De Afrique". The enlisted men were black, recruited mainly from the ranks of liberated and escaped slaves. The officers, and many of the non-commissioned officers, were white. They were selected from who had to be highly recommended for the post. One of the reasons for the controversy was the moral question that would be asked if the black regiments were slaughtered in wholesale numbers. There were other reasons also, but the fact that Union troops were needed in large numbers seems to have overridden them. In the final analysis, if a lot of troops were going to die, the feeling was that some of them might just as well be black. Actually these regiments when properly trained and equipped, and well led, did about as well as any other.

Only four men joined the Artillery, and one of these deserted in 1864 to join the 16th Virginia. Possibly a change of heart? Two of the others served with Dow's Sixth Battery of the 1st Regiment of Mounted Artillery. This unit played a prominent part at Gettysburg on the 2nd and 3rd of July. It was stationed on the right flank of the Union position, and particularly on the 2nd of July, the action was hot and heavy. For a time this battery and a few sister units were the only ones to stop a rebel attack that could have spelled trouble for the whole Union position. A monument honoring the 6th Maine is to be found today on top of Cemetery Hill in Gettysburg. (20)

In all, over 100 men from Hartland served with the Union forces. Several served with units outside of the state, some as draftees, but most as volunteers. All in all, it wasn't a bad record and one of which the town's citizens can be proud.

MEN FROM HARTLAND WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNION DURING THE CIVIL WAR

ENLISTEES AND DRAFTEES

Surname	First	Rank	Age	Enlistment	Unit
Allen	Albert	Pvt	20	10 Mar 1864	B Co, 31st ME Inf
Annis	Dudly, Jr	Pvt	29	18 Aug 1863	B Co, 3rd ME Inf
Annis	Joseph	Pvt	26	24 Dec 1863	K Co, 2nd ME Cav
Annis Re-enlisted	Morrell	СрІ	28	24 Dec 1863	K Co, 2nd ME Cav
Atkins <i>Re-enlisted</i>	Leroy	Pvt	19	23 Oct 1862	G Co, 1st Regt Vol

Atkinson Promoted to 0	Lewey Cpl 1864, transf	Pvt erred to 1	18 17th ME	6 Sept 1861	D Co, 8th ME Inf
Atkinson Discharged fo	Moses or disability 28 J	Pvt uly 1862	44	6 Sept 1861	D Co, 8th ME Inf
Baker <i>Missing in Act</i>	Amos tion 10 May 186	Pvt 54	26	14 Aug 1862	G Co, 16th ME Inf
Barnes	William	Pvt	38	21 Sept 1864	G Co, 16th ME Inf
Batchelder Wounded 19	Isaac May 1865	Pvt	23	5 Jan 1864	M Co, 1st Regt Hvy A
Berry	Allen	Pvt	32	18 Aug 1863	B Co, 3rd ME Inf
Blake	Joseph	Pvt	21	23 Jan 1862	F Co, 1st Regt Vol
Boston	Jason	Pvt	33	14 Aug 1862	G Co, 16th ME Inf
Bryant <i>Died 4 Aug 18</i>	Jason P 862 at Baton Ro	Pvt <i>uge</i>	18	4 Dec 1861	B Co, 14th ME Inf
Burrill Wounded	Joseph	Pvt	28	2 Mar 1864	E & K Co, ME Inf
Burrill	Neville	Cpl	26	21 Aug 1861	E Co, 1st ME Inf
Burke	John	Pvt	21	28 Nov 1864	E Co, 20th ME Inf
Cassidy Deserted 7 Fe	Frank E b 1865	Pvt	23	28 Nov 1864	E Co, 1st ME SS
Cook	Charles A	Pvt	18	10 Oct 1862	K Co, 22nd ME Cav
Coston	Charles A	Pvt	21	10 Dec 1861	F Co, 13th ME Inf
Coston Wounded in F	Samuel Fredericksburg,	Pvt died 29 D	18 ec 1862	14 Aug 1862	A Co, 16th ME Inf
Davidson Transferred to	Henry o 20th ME	Pvt	19	28 Nov 1864	C Co, 1st ME SS
Dinsmore	Eben F	Pvt	27	29 Nov 1864	F Co, 20th ME Inf
Doble	Alden	Pvt	44	20 Aug 1862	I Co, 16th ME Inf

Douglass Mustered to in	Alexander valid Corp 1863	Pvt	33	28 Aug 1862	F Co, 20th ME Inf
Douglass	George F	Pvt	22	5 Nov 1861	H Co, 1st ME Cav
Douglass Died 28 Dec 18	John W 262	Pvt	18	29 Aug 1862	F Co, 20th ME Inf
Dunn	John	Pvt	22	28 Nov 1864	E Co, 20th ME Inf
Elliot Trans to Invalid	Israel M d Corp	Music	42	29 Aug 1862	E Co, 20th ME Inf
Fairbrother	George W	Pvt	19	22 Sept 1861	D Co, 9th ME Inf
Fish Discharged for	Thomas J disability 1862,	Sgt re-enlist	27 ed 1863	20 Nov 1861	A Co, 13th ME Inf
Fish Promoted in "C	Thomas J Corp De Afrique"	Pvt	27	20 Nov 1863	A Co, 30th ME Inf
Flanagan Deserted 5 Dec	Patrick :: 1864	Pvt	23	28 Nov 1864	E Co, 1st ME SS
Gallagher Deserted 21 De	Michael ec 1864	Pvt	23	28 Nov 1864	E Co, 1st ME SS
Haskell Promoted to So	Plummer T gt, discharged fo	Pvt r disabil	23 ity 6 Feb	14 Aug 1862 1863	A Co, 16th ME Inf
Henderson <i>Re-enlisted</i>	George	Pvt	41	4 Jan 1864	F Co, 1st Regt Vol Vet
Hinton Wounded 1 Jul	Fredrick <i>y 1864 – Dischar</i>	Pvt ged	20	22 Sept 1861	D Co, 9th ME Inf
Hinton Discharged for	LaForest Disability 1862,	Pvt re-enlist	21 ed 1863	22 Sept 1861	D Co, 9th ME Inf
Hoisington Re-enlisted as	Henry C <i>Cpl 3 Feb 1865</i> w	Pvt vith G Co	28 , Sep Inf	10 Oct 1862	K Co, 22nd ME Cav
Huff	Cyrus	Pvt	18	14 Oct 1864	4th Bat, 1st Mtd Arty
Huff	Eldridge	Pvt	26	8 Jan 1862	B Co, 14th ME Inf
Huff Died New Orle	Maurice ans 13 June 1862	Pvt	21	8 Jan 1862	B Co, 14th ME Inf

Hughes Transferred to	James 20th ME	Pvt	21	10 Nov 1864	G Co, 16th ME Inf		
Jordan Conscript origi	True W nally listed unde	Pvt r Pittsfie	18 eld	26 Sept 1864			
Jordan	William	Pvt	23	29 Sept 1862	I Co, 25th ME Inf		
Luce Franklin Pvt 23 6 Sept 1861 D Co, 8th ME Inf Re-enlisted 24 Dec 1863 K Co, 2nd ME Cav							
Mathews	Amos B	Lt	25	10 Oct 1862	K Co, 22nd ME Cav		
Morrell Discharged for	Levi J disability 29 Jul	Cpl y 1862	20	6 Sept 1861	D Co, 8th ME Inf		
Nelson	Joseph G	Pvt	39	23 Sept 1862	6th Bat, 1st Mtd Arty		
O'Neil Transferred fro	James om 1st M SS	Pvt	21	28 Nov 1864	E Co, 20th ME Inf		
Osborn	Peter B	Pvt	18	10 Oct 1862	K Co, 22nd ME Cav		
Pashor	Albert	Pvt	21		Sick in Bangor, Not Mustered		
Pashor Died New Orle	Albert ans 1864	Pvt	23	24 Dec 1863	K Co, 2nd ME Cav		
Phelan	Joseph	Pvt	41	24 Dec 1863	K Co, 2nd ME Cav		
Phelps Died Prison Ca	Willard H mp	Pvt	22	5 Nov 1861	H Co, 1st ME Cav		
Plumer	Alonzo	Cpl	21	8 Mar 1862	4th Bat, 1st Mtd Arty		
Prescott Died Confedere	Charles ate Prison 7 Jan	Pvt 1865	18	25 Aug 1862	H Co, 19th ME Inf		
Prescott Wounded 11 &	Jason M & 19 July 1863, re	Pvt e-enliste	23 d 1864, l	22 Sept 1861 Killed In Action 27 Oct 18	D Co, 9th ME Inf 864		
Ricker	Silas	Pvt	34	21 Sept 1864	H Co, 20th ME Inf (Draftee)		
Riley Deserted 19 De	Patrick ec 1864	Pvt	23	28 Nov 1864	E Co, 1st ME SS		
Ryan Deserted 11 Ja	John n 1865	Pvt	22	28 Nov 1864	E Co, 1st ME SS		

Smiley	George S	Lt	34	18 Mar 1864	Coast Guards Bn			
Soule Discharged for	Abram L Disability 20 Ma	Pvt ay 1865	40	24 Dec 1863	K Co, 2nd ME Cav			
Southard	Sidney R	Pvt	28	21 Sept 1864	H Co, 20th ME Inf (Draftee)			
Sprague	Charles	Pvt	35	18 July 1863	H Co, 17th ME Inf			
Stafford	Charles	Wag	21	6 Sept 1861	D Co, 8th ME Inf			
Stafford	Leonard J	Pvt	20	22 Sept 1861	D Co, 8th ME Inf			
Starbird	Aaron	Pvt	39	21 Sept 1864	H Co, 20th ME Inf (Draftee)			
Starbird Promoted to C	Almond D pl 1864, transfer	Pvt red to 1	20 7th ME	18 Aug 1863	B Co, 3rd ME Inf			
Stedman	Arnold	Sgt	23	10 Oct 1862	K Co, 22nd ME Inf			
Stedman	Isaac	Pvt	33	10 Oct 1862	K Co, 22nd ME Inf			
Stedman	Orin	Pvt	41	20 Sept 1864	H Co, 20th ME Inf (Draftee)			
Stevens Re-enlisted 3 F	James Teb 1865 with C (Pvt Co, Sep II	19 nf	10 Oct 1862	K Co, 22nd ME Inf			
Thomas	John	Pvt	26	28 Nov 1864	E Co, 1st ME SS			
Waldron	Cyrus	Pvt	36	10 Oct 1862	K Co, 22nd ME Inf			
Waldron Re-enlisted 18	Eben 62 and 1863	Music	19	22 Sept 1861	D Co, 9th ME Inf			
Watson Wounded 19 N	Moody M May 1864	Sgt	20	22 Sept 1861	D Co, 9th ME Inf			
Watson Re-enlisted 18	Solomon J 64, promoted to	Pvt Sgt; <mark>Kille</mark>	26 ed in Act	22 Sept 1861 ion 28 Sept 1864	D Co, 9th ME Inf			
Webber	Allen	Pvt	22	10 Oct 1862	K Co, 22nd ME Inf			
	Re-enlisted 3rd Bat, Mtd Arty 21 Sept 1864							
Webber	Joseph	Pvt	44	10 Oct 1862	K Co, 22nd ME Inf			
Whitney	Eben	Pvt	20	10 Oct 1862	K Co, 22nd ME Inf			
Wilson Deserted to 16	Edwin <i>ith VA</i>	Pvt	18	14 Jan 1862	4th Bat, 1st Mtd Arty			

Wilson	Henry	Pvt	18	5 Sept 1864	C Co, 16th ME Inf
Woodbury	Ai	Pvt	38	21 Sept 1864	H Co, 20th ME Inf (Draftee)
Woodbury Trans to Invali	David L d Corp	Pvt	33	7 Sept 1862	6th Bat, 1st Mtd Arty
Woodbury	Isaiah	Pvt	21	11 Oct 1862	K Co, 22nd ME Inf
Young	Joseph	Pvt	20	21 Sept 1864	5th Bat, Mtd Arty

Men enlisted with several separate infantry companies formed to be assigned to regiments as needed

Annis Charles Pvt

Elliot David Pvt

Hoyt Eli Pvt

Stevens David S Pvt

MEN FROM HARTLAND SERVING IN UNITS OF OTHER STATES

Groves Henry H U.S. Army [Regulars]

Moor Charles K 1st Massachusetts Calvary

Worthing Charles 14th Massachusetts Infantry

Worthing John 14th Massachusetts Infantry

DRAFTEES WHO SERVED [NO RECORD OF ASSIGNMENT]

Withee John

MEN WHO PAID \$300 COMMUNTATION

Barnes Abraham

Elliot John H

Hilton Alfred C

DRAFTEES WHO FURNISHED SUBSTITUTES

Name of Draftee	Name of Substitute	Date of Enlistment	Period
Blackwell, Melville C	Senate, James	4 Oct 1864	1yr
Burgess, Lorenzo S	Hayes, Augustus	12 Oct 1864	1yr
Moor, James W	Malden, Michael	11 Oct 1864	1yr
Rowell, Charles II	Hughes, James	10 Nov 1864	1yr
Towle, John S	Bigelow, Charles S	6 Aug 1863	3yrs
Webb, Nathan M	Lawrence Charles W	30 July 1863	3yrs
Williams, Albert G	Hayes, James	14 Oct 1864	1yr

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- (4) "Ibid." pg 9
- (5) Report of the Adjutant General State of Maine, 1864-1865
- (6) "Op. cit." p. 11
- (7) Report of the Adjutant General of The State of Maine, 1866
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