

MEXICAN WAR VOLUNTEERS

Pres. Jas. K. Polk mad a Declaration of War on Mexico, 5-25-1846. Gov. Jas. Whitcomb, of Ind., called for three Regiments.

A mass meeting was called at the Court House Tues., 5-26. Capt. Spear S. Tipton was Chm. and Atty. Jacques M. Lasselle was Sec.. Jas. Harvey Tucker made the motion that they meet again on the 27th at 1 PM. Judge John W. Wright addressed them. Atty. Geo. W. Blakemore suggested a committee to make hand bills. Thos. W. Douglass and Jas. Harvey Tucker were appointed. Atty. Thos. G. McCulloh and Elias Quinn addressed the crowd on the 27th and called for volunteers.

VOLUNTEERED

Capt. Spear S. Tipton
 3rd Sgt. Jacques M. Lasselle
 John Stevenson
 2nd Sgt. Jas. Harvey Tucker
 Maxwell Reese
 John Patterson
 David Yopst
 1st Lt. Stanislaus Lasselle
 Jas. M. Moore
 1st Sgt. David M. Dunn
 Wm. C. Buchanan

 Wm. P. Webster
 Nathan Hines
 Jas. Kelly
 Reuben Daniels
 Alexander Spong
 B. Crawford
 John Keenan
 Ira Foreman
 John S. Ward

ORGANIZED

Capt. Spear S. Tipton
 3rd Sgt. Jacques M. Lasselle
 John Stevenson
 2nd Sgt. Jas. Harvey Tucker
 Maxwell Reese

 David Yopst
 1st Lt. Stanislaus Lasselle
 Jas. M. Moore
 1st Sgt. David M. Dunn
 Wm. C. Buchanan(died in camp
 9-10-1846.)

 Nathan Hines

 B. Crawford

 Ira Foreman

2nd Corp. Benj. P. Turner
 Sandford Thomas
 Jas. T. Bryer
 Joshua S. LaRose
 Thomas Chambers
 Samuel Tippet
 L. H. Keep
 Atty. Geo. W. Blakemore
 3rd Corp. H. Wilford Vigus
 4th Corp. Thos. W. Douglass
 Isaac A. Lindsey
 John Carter
 William Crumley
 Ira W. Berry
 Daniel S. Barber
 Joseph Dawson
 2nd Lt. Wm. L. Brown
 1st Corp. Thos. Weirick
 John S. Armitage
 James M. Vigus
 Benjamin Russell
 4th Sgt. Edwin Farquhar
 William L. Wolfe
 Archibald Daniels
 Ephraim R. Moore
 George Emerson
 John Jones
 Samuel Bailey
 Cornelius Dannyhew
 Alexander B. Foster
 Charles Hillhouse
 William Bettes
 F. J. Windrick

ORGANIZED

Dr. Wm. F. Fosdick
 James C. Moore
 William Bockover
 Washington Obenchain
 Saml. L. McFadin
 George T. Case
 Robt. L. Kelly
 Henry Bowman
 John Booser
 Dyer Barrett
 Theodore Montgomery

2nd Corp. Benj. P. Turner
 Sandford Thomas
 Jas. T. Bryer
 Joshua S. LaRose
 Samuel Tippet
 Lemuel H. Keep
 Atty. Geo. W. Blakemore
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 George Emerson
 Samuel Bailey
 Alexander B. Foster
 Charles Hillhouse
 F. J. Windrick
 Dr. Feridand O. Miller
 Sylvester Berry
 James Brisco
 Calep B. Hopkinson
 William Miller
 Peter Doyle
 Luke G. Ward
 Thomas P. McBean
 Levi B. Butler
 William McMillen
 John Martin
 James G. Cox
 Saml. B. Richardson
 W. T. Shepherd
 Elijah M. Green
 John B. Grover
 August Hunter
 V. Jackson Voss (dropped out on
 day of departure.)

James Anderson	Benjamin Purssell
David W. Johnson	Charles Smith
James Kernodle	Peter Rector
William B. Buckingham	William B. Kelly
Westley Van Schuyner	Jacob Pfoutz
H. D. Moore	Thomas S. Dunn
Jacob Loser	Isaac D. Patterson
Samuel M. Cartner	Peter Smith
Elijah McGrew	William Thompson
Thomas Qusic	Hiram Russell
Thomas Hall Bringhurst	George Coleman
Joseph Anderson	Robert T. Denbo
Joshua Dewel	Atty. Benjamin W. Peters
Joseph W. Davidson	James Monroe
Jonathan Addington	Oliver Bailey

They were to serve twelve months or until the end of the War. They were accepted by Pres. James Knox Polk in Companies, Battalions and Regiments. This was the Volunteer Act of May 13, 1846.

There were almost three hundred present at a Farewell Ball held at the Court House Thurs., June 4. Mrs. Nancy Polke Lasselle presented them with a flag on behalf of the ladies of Logansport. In her presentation, she mentioned the number of young men who had fought for their country and whose relatives were in the nearby graveyard. Mrs. E. A. Wright, Mrs. Harriet A. Fitch and Mrs. H. M. Rice called upon her for the speech which was then published in the newspaper.

The Volunteers arrived in Indianapolis June 11. They left there on the 12th for Franklin where they spent the night. Then they took the train from Columbus for Madison June 13. They paraded the streets of Madison with the Madison Volunteers. Twenty thousand people lined the streets and there were three thousand on the warf. They disembarked and walked four miles into New Albany. There were eight Companies there. Camp Whitcomb was a mile away from and below New Albany and two miles from Jeffersonville. From the camp they could see New Albany, Portland, Shippensburg and Louisville. Theodore Montgomery was ill. Col. Churchill inspected them Fri., June 19.

A Company of infantry or riflemen had a Capt., a 1st Lt., a 2nd Lt., four Sgts., four Corps., two Musicians and eighty privates or a total of ninety-three.

A Regiment had a Col., a Lt.-Col., a Major, a Quartermaster Sgt., two Principal Musicians and ten Companies. Commissioned officers were elected after the Company and Regiment was full.

Paymasters, Surgeons and Quartermasters were appointed by US authorities. They were mustered in as regular US officers. No soldier, under the rank of commissioned officer, under 18 or over 45, taken as of May 22, 1846.

The first Regiment left New Albany Sun., 7-5-1846 on the "Cincinatti" and the "Grace Darling." Six companies were on the first boat and four on the latter. Wm. Crumley and Saml. B. Richardson were sick.

The local Recruiting Office was on Mkt. St. near the Telegraph office, which was then in #3 Commercial Row or 203 E. Mkt.. Capt. Cyrus Vigus had four sons in the War. They were H. Wilford Vigus, James M. Vigus, Carter L. Vigus and Collins S. Vigus. Judge Hyacinth Lasselle had two brothers, Stanislaus and Atty. Jacques M. Lasselle, in service.

Cyrus Taber had Westley Van Schuyner arrested for a bad debt of \$50. He would have been placed in jail but Jones refused to admit him. Taber had publicly offered to give the Volunteers \$5000. Gov. Jas. Whitcomb had offered \$1000 and the Madison Branch Bank offered \$10,000.

The Volunteers arrived in New Orleans July 11. They left Port Isabel on the "Sophia Walker" with three other Companies July 15.

Lt. Spear S. Tipton had seventy more Volunteers. He took forty-four of them to Newport, Ky., Thurs., Aug. 6.

Thos. P. McBean received permission to visit friends at Corydon. He took sick and the Company left him behind. When the last of the 1st Reg. left, he missed the boat. Rumor had it that he had deserted. He took the first boat down river and rejoined at Memphis.

Wm. O. Butler was made a Major-Gen. by Pres. Polk Aug. 1846. July 17, they took to sea from off Balize. Edwin Farquhar wrote that they passed the "Gulph" in a gale. Their quarters were dark and the damp hold of the ship. One hour at sea and all were sick. Their food was pilot bread, beans and spoilt bacon. He laid on the deck, in a pelting rain, with only a blanket to cover him, and slept soundly. They arrived at their destination on July 20, but couldn't disembark until the 21st. They pitched their tents one mile below Point Isabel, just nine miles from the mouth of the Rio Grande. They were to move up river to Gen. Taylor's men.

They left Brazos Sant Iago and went to the mouth of the Rio Grande. Stayed thirty hours. It was not as wide as the Wabash at Logan. It was deep and rapid and had more sand than the Mississippi. They were twenty miles from Metamoros and two miles from Berete. They all had beards. The privates had received uniforms at New Albany but no pay. The beards were a protection from the mosquetos (the author's spelling; that is the one who sent back this article.)

They didn't have any coffee. They had been concerned over being out of coffee at the Gulf, what would it be like up river? This was the week of 9-12-1846.

Sept. 19, they reported about a third of them were ill. The Cass flag was made the Regimental flag. It was too large for a Company flag. "A small white flag, with an eagle in the middle and trimmed with red fringe, would be better. They were to be used as protectors of the Rio. Camp Burite, on the ES of the river and three quarters of a mile from it, and opposite to a Mexican town of Burite. The drinking and cooking water was taken from the river. The area to the river was low and when it rained it was disagreeable. They dug wells and got salt water at 6 ft..

Carter L. Vigus was at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, in the Volunteer Corps of Mounted Rifles.

On Aug. 31, they moved to the mouth of the Rio Grande. It was a place of driftwood, fish, oysters and crabs. Only about six were ill. Twenty-five had been. Wm. B. Buckingham and Corp. Thos. Weirick were serious. Mesquitt trees were about the size of peach trees back in Ind..

Nov., 1846, Saml. Bailey was given a Medical Discharge. Thirteen had been discharged. Now the 1st Reg. was ordered to Monterey, which had just been captured. Matamoros was a city of 10,000 and it contained 1000 ill Volunteers.

Alpheus Myers committee suicide in Cinn. 11-19-1846. He had been studying medicine under Dr. Jas. A. Taylor. He was under Capt. Spear S. Tipton and was returning to Jefferson Barracks, after a leave.

The Cass Volunteers numbered 64. They expected the arrival of Gen. Patterson 11-22 and he was to divide them into Brigades and to march to San Luis Potosi or Tampico. They went to Tampico.

Jan., 1847, they were receiving their rations of flour, beef, pork, beans, potatoes, rice, onions, sour-crust &c.. Roasting ears, green beans and oranges at Monterey, which ripened all year.

When the wind blew from the east, the tide covered the low lands and lakes formed by the hundreds with thousands of fish in them. There was lots of mullet and red fish. The Vols., in their shirt-sleeves and some bare footed, ran to the shade to get cool and the Mexicans, with their blankets around them, went to the sun to get warm.

James C. Moore arrived back in Logansport the week of 1-23-1847. He had left the Company Dec. 17 as it moved out of Monterey. Nov. 18, they had been at the mouth of the Palo Alto River.

Dec. 27, they were still at Monterey. When Col. Drake was within sixty miles of Monterey, Gen. Taylor ordered him back to the Rio Grande. Eight companies were at Matamoros and two were at the Rio.

They celebrated Washington's Birthday in Matamoros. They fired a thirteen gun salute with a six pounder from the Company of Lt. Wm. L. Brown. Dinner was served by Capt. Stanislaus Lasselle consisting of turkey, geese, ducks, tarts and toasts. Col. J. P. Drake and Lt.-Col. H. S. Lane*was their guest. Lane made a speech.

A meeting was held at the Court House June 14, 1847, to plan a welcome home. The Volunteers were at New Orleans June 20. "They never smelled gun powder but it was not their fault." Atty. Wm. S. Palmer, Col. Andrew J. Field, Dr. Graham N. Fitch, Atty. Jas. W. Dunn, Capt. Alvan M. Higgins, Geo. Weirick and Harry Barker were the Arrangement comm.. Sam. A. Hall, Dan. B. Preston and Judge John W. Wright were to correspond and ascertain the time of arrival in Logansport.

* Lt.-Col. Henry S. Lane

April 19, 1847, a group climbed Cammanche Saddle, one of the highest peaks in Mexico. When they were within five hundred feet of the top, it poured rain. They planted the US flag and in the downpour they shouted.

Capt. Cyrus Vigus prepared the dinner for the returning Volunteers in the Court House. Col. Andrew J. Field was the Marshal and Atty. John S. Patterson was Chief Marshal. Dr. Graham N. Fitch addressed them. They planned a Ball. Planned to escort them into town. All discharged men were welcomed and the public had to purchase tickets.

Capt. Stanislaus Lasselle and twenty men arrived June 29. The Packets on Wed. and Thurs. brought about all the others. The Reception was held Mon., 7-5. The procession formed in front of Washington Hall and they marched to Spencer Square. It was here that Dr. Fitch spoke at noon. They then marched to the Court House for the dinner at 2 PM. The Ball was Thurs., 7-8, also at the Court House. It was \$2 at the door. Twenty-nine toasts were given at the dinner. It had been thirteen months since they left. Dr. Reuel Faber, Dr. Fitch, Atty. Chas. Raymond Spoore, C. R. Fields, Thornton F. Tyson, Capt. Stanislaus Lasselle, H. Wilford Vigus, Jas. M. Warren, Lt. Wm. L. Brown, Jas. Harvey Tucker and Major Saml. L. McFadin were all on the program.

Capt. Spear S. Tipton died at Puebla, Mexico, 8-28-1847 of the disease of the country. Local citizens held a meeting concerning the return of the body. He had left the Recruiting Service and was in the Mounted Rifles.

Sept., 1847, there was a call made for volunteer infantrymen. Col. Jas. H. Lane, of Lawrenceburg, was in command. It was all over in nineteen days.

Atty. John S. Patterson chaired the meeting over the return of Capt. Tipton's body. They met at the Court House. Atty. Jacques M. Lasselle was Sec.. Atty. Daniel D. Pratt offered a resolution and he and Judge John W. Wright were to solicit funds. Atty. Chas. Bonaparte Lasselle made a resolution for best means. He and Atty. Geo. W. Blakemore and Col. Thos. Hall Bringham were a committee to report Fri., 12-31-1847.

O. H. P. Grover(34) died at the residence of Geo. H. Harrison, at New Albany, 1-1-1848. He had been under both Capt. Spear Tipton and Capt. Stanislaus Lasselle.

July, 1848, Senator Benton's Law gave the Volunteers three months extra pay. If they were deceased, then to the wife or next of kin.

Dr. Wm. F. Fosdick died at Reynosa, Mexico. When the Volunteers reached New Albany, he had been made an Asst. Surgeon in the 1st Regiment. When his enlistment was up, he stayed at Fort Brown.

Volunteer Capt. Allen May was State Agent for Indiana. He had been a Lt.-Col. in Col. H. S. Lane's 5th Regiment, 1-1850.

An Old Soldiers' meeting was held Sat., 3-16-1850. Col. Jordan Vigus was Chm. and Col. Thos. Hall - Bringhurst was Sec.. Sixty-five signed a memorial to Congress.

There was a public sale of lands Nov. 11, 1850. It was the land of the Volunteers on which they had settled and failed or omitted to secure by their warrants. The land of Thos. P. McBean, Jas. M. Morse, Andrew H. Gerhart, Saml. A. Gerhart, Isham Routt, Benj. A. James, Robt. T. Denbo, Wm. B. Kelly and Col. Thos. H. Bringhurst was sold. Dan. Sigler was Register and R. Hewett was the Receiver.

Atty. John P. Dodds had a copy of the Law passed by Congress 3-3-1855 giving additional bounty land to those who had been engaged in military service of the US. He would prepare the forms of application. Atty. Chas. B. Lasselle did also.

A number of soldiers, recruited in the spring of 1855 by Capt. Brackett deserted. Five of them were from Cass County and were wanted at Jefferson Barracks. An officer was at Cullen House to take them back. They were all requested to call. There was even a number of more recent recruits who had also gone AWOL.

June 8, 1858, was the anniversary of the Volunteers' departure for the Mexican War. They celebrated at the Barnett House. Col. Newton G. Scott and Carter L. Vigus, of the Mounted Rifles, were invited to participate. A resolution was passed that they should be included ever after. After supper, on the motion of Dr. Ferdinand O. Miller, Col. David M. Dunn was made Chm. and Col. Bringhurst was Sec.. The roll call was made by Major Saml. L. McFadin. They had been mustered in at New Albany 6-19-1846 by Capt. Churchill, USA, and mustered out by the same officer at New Orleans 6-1847. There had been ninety-two of them. Twentysix were deceased and only twenty-five of the original group resided in Cass County. They had all been single men but forty-five were married in 1858.

Peter Doyle, Col. Newton G. Scott and Col. Thos. H. Bringhurst were to arrange the next meeting.

Benj. Purssell(34) died 1-13-1859 at Shelbyville, Ill.. He had come to Logan from Clark County, Ohio, with his parents in 1834. He was a Volunteer and his comrades marched in the funeral procession under Col. Newton G. Scott. The funeral notice was placed in the newspaper by Mrs. Harriet Matilda Parker, wife of Smith A. Parker. I believe this is Parkes instead.

The Volunteers and the Mounted Rifles met at Tipton Engine Co.'s Hall Mon., 5-31-1859. Held their 12th annual celebration Wed., June 2. Major Saml. L. McFadin was cook assisted by Col. Jordan Vigus, Capt. Cyrus Vigus, Bernard M. Sweeney and Jas. L. Baldwin.

John Carter, one of the Volunteers, had stayed with the Ordinance Dept. under Gen. Taylor. He had been sent to Calif. and then to Pensacola. As part of the regular service, he took part in the campaign against Billy Bowlegs. After another three years, he was sent to Texas and then to a fort on the Mississippi River. From there he went to Fort Yuma in Calif.. He was at Fort Bigger in Utah before Col. Johnson arrived. On his way from Salt Lake City, he was accidentally shot by Lt. Beal. He had to have his right arm amputated by a knife and saw. He travelled seven hundred miles in this condition to Fort Leavenworth.

Carter arrived in Fort Wayne the week of June 11, 1859 to visit a relative. He was waiting for aid from the government. He was an Irishman and needed a job. The week of July 9, 1859, he was at John Herbert's Butcher Shop with fresh vegetables from Thos. S. Dunn's gardens. Dec. of 1859 he was admitted to the Soldiers' Home near Washington, D. C.. He wrote letters back to some of his former comrades.

The Old Soldiers' Association met at Tipton Engine Co.'s Hall Wed., 5-23-1860, to arrange their annual celebration. They decided upon a Pic Nic June 8. They were to assemble at Tipton Hall at 8 AM that day.

The Volunteers were to receive what the government took away from them when mustered out at New Orleans. The government paid the State \$700 for transporting the troops. It was taken from the men. Gov. Jos. A. Wright said it would take an appropriation to repay them.