

# ARMORY DEDICATION IN HONESDALE

## HISTORY OF THE COMPANY—ITS OFFICERS, PAST AND PRESENT, IN COMMAND.

The new armory is a real fortress, and not only appears so to the eye, but could become a veritable refuge in case of defense. It is unique in its construction, and is sure to receive admiration from military authorities, the country over. Originally the plans called for a structure, similar to that at Pine Grove; but, after much deliberation by the Armory Board, it was decided to accept the new type of building. The Armory is situated on historic ground, near Irving Cliff, and from its mount one can obtain a clear view of the country for miles around. The Armory is a masterpiece of architecture, and in its imposing position, is a show spot of Wayne county. McCormick and French were the architects.

The Honesdale company is well deserving of its handsome Armory. Years ago the company had a building of its own, managed by trustees, but so heavily mortgaged, that without State assistance, it could not be maintained. It was finally sold, and is now the home of a skating rink. In the meanwhile the company, recognized as one of the very best in the National Guard, has been poorly quartered over store buildings, while the State property has been housed in a stable. Within a recent period, the State and United States inspectors condemned this method of storing Government property, scented with the atmosphere of an animal retreat. The company officers in fact, were so discouraged with the conditions that the future of the unit rested in grave doubt for some time. Captain Carroll J. Kelley was equal to the emergency, however, and to his untiring zeal, coupled with the responsive interest of the members of the Armory Board, and the patriotism of residents, is due the dawn of better things in the military history of Honesdale.

Captain Kelley is indebted in great measure to the patriotic impulses of the citizens of Honesdale. Through the earnest endeavors of E. B. Hardenbergh, Homer Greene, John D. Weston, Myron E. Simons, Judge A. T. Searle, who constituted a local Armory Board, and who visited Gettysburg and presented the cause to the attention of Governor Edwin S. Stewart and Adjutant General Stewart and the members of the State Armory Board, the acquisition of the new building is in great part a reality.

The Thirteenth Regiment is a direct outgrowth of the Scranton City Guards. This battalion, of four companies, was organized in 1877, for the protection of that city.

It was decided to formally reorganize the Citizens' Corps into a company of the National Guard. The Scranton City Guards was the outcome. The number of enlistments, however, warranted four companies, and consequently a battalion was recruited. The formal election of officers of the companies took place on August 13, 1877. Henry M. Boies was chosen as Major of the battalion on the following evening.

The times were still far from quiet, however. "The continuance of the lawless spirit in the region was manifested in attempts to intimidate and injure the engineers, who were running the pumps at the mines, and the Guardsmen placed for their protection," writes Dr. Logan. "On the 27th of August there was created a positive excitement and indignation by a dastardly attempt to wreck a train on the D. & H. Company's Gravity road, which was carrying an excursion of citizens with their wives to Honesdale. This excursion was gotten up especially for the benefit of Col. Morrow and a company of the United States officers, who were in command of the troops stationed here. This attempt was made by the displacement and spiking of a switch at a culvert, over a ravine, some forty feet deep. The party providentially escaped with some severe bruises, a brakeman alone having been seriously wounded. This dastardly wickedness deeply impressed the people with a sense of the dangers to which the city was yet exposed, and the work of drilling the companies went on with renewed energy."

On November 14, the corner-stone of an Armory for the new organization, was laid with impressive exercises. On November 24, steps were begun for the incorporation of the battalion as the Scranton City Guard Association. The charter was granted on January 14, following.

"On the 14th of April, 1878, the Guard celebrated the anniversary of its muster into service by an excursion over the Gravity Road to Honesdale, and the enjoyment of the hospitality of that city," writes Dr. Logan in "A City's Danger and Defense." "Here was initiated the idea of taking the men into camp for the purpose of instruction and practice in the duties of a National Guardsman. Captain Bryson asked and obtained permission to place Company A in a camp under military order for a week. This company went into camp on the Dyberry, near Honesdale, on the evening of August 14th, and broke camp on the 19th." In 1878, largely as a result of the industrial riots of the previous year, there was a complete reorganization of the National Guard, in response to the public demand. "There were, perhaps, few military organizations in the State that were more potent in awakening this long dormant military spirit, and in bringing the National Guard

battalion of four companies. Hence it was suggested that it would be the part of wisdom to anticipate the action of high authorities and secure such outside companies as would most readily affiliate with the Guard, and thus create a regiment capable of a first-class reputation. To this end the young men of Honesdale, of Carbondale, and of the Providence of Hyde Park wards of Scranton were encouraged to enlist and organize companies, with the expectation of being united with the Scranton City Guard. Thus the military enthusiasm created by the success of the Guard, which was the first organization in the State that owned its own rifle range and among the first to own its own Armory, spread and was directed into the best channels. By the visit of the Guard to Honesdale, and the encampment of Co. A in that place, a military spirit was aroused, which, within a few months resulted in the enrollment and organization of one of the best companies in the State; with Captain George F. Bentley in command, and Lieutenant D. R. Atkinson and Horace G. Young in the rear. The Honesdale Guards were mustered into service, formed of 50 men, a number of which had

Three additional companies were afterwards organized in the country adjacent to Scranton, and on October 10, 1878, the Thirteenth Regiment, N. G. P., was formally organized. The following officers were elected: Colonel H. M. Boies, Lieutenant-Col.



MAJOR HENRY M. BOIES, Former Captain of the Thirteenth Infantry.

years ago, the following written story of the early days of the Honesdale Guard.

This article entitled "Good Old Times" reads:

During the winter of 1877-78, an effort was made to form a military company in Honesdale. Some of our young men became interested, and met evening after evening in Weaver's

hall among all classes a desire was expressed for a company which would combine military with them.

About the middle of August, 1878, an agitation paper was circulated, largely through the influence of Geo. E. Bentley and William H. Stanton. In a day or two sixty names were obtained. Nearly all those who had been interested in the attempt to raise a company the winter before signed the paper. There were some exceptions; two of the most notable being Dr. R. W. Brady and Charles E. Krapp. In both instances business prevented their joining.

August 23, 1878, all the signers, in pursuance to notice, gathered in Liberty Hall, to meet Major Henry M. Boies, the mustering officer. The room was filled with spectators. Major Boies made an earnest and able address and then administered the oath of allegiance. Two of the sixty withdrew before this ceremony was performed; so the new company counted just fifty-eight men—the pick of the town. An election was held on the spot, under the direction of Major Boies. A precedent was formed that night, which for over

ten years was strictly adhered to:—There was no contest; only one candidate for the same office. George E. Bentley was elected Captain; D. R. Atkinson, First, and Horace G. Young, Second Lieutenants. It is unnecessary to speak here of Bentley's death. "Of the dead nothing but good should be spoken,"

and a dead Captain nothing but good can be spoken. Thanks, mainly to his energy and sound judgment, all went well. The non-commissioned officers were appointed, Wm. H. Stanton at the head of the list, and a better appointment could not have been made. In E's service he was the most untiring and zealous of human beings. There was much to be done. Order had to be brought out of chaos. One or two evenings were devoted to effecting a civil organization. The new company became known as the "Honesdale Guard." Sergeant Shuman wished the name to be the "Irving Blues," but his motion was lost. A few days after the muster in, we were assigned to the Scranton City Guard as Co. E, but we were a company only in name,—unarmed, un-uniformed, and with very misty notions in regard to discipline.

Drilling soon became incessant. We labored under great disadvantages. Not the least formidable was one almost unrecognized by the men, and only vaguely appreciated by the officers. We were all too well known to each other, and only long experience taught us the absolute necessity of laying aside all social familiarity between officers and men, the moment we were under orders. We drilled for the first four months sometimes twice a week; occasionally three times; and twice four and five times each week. And we did drill, too. Every night meant one hour squad drill, and one hour company drill.

The first drills were held in Weaver's Hall, but the large room, now converted into T. B. Clark & Co.'s factory, was soon rented, and for five years used as our Armory. It was badly adapted for the purpose; in fact, a miserable place, much too small, and broken up by iron pillars, but we made the most we could of it, and so did our visitors, for every drill brought its host of lookers-on. Our early efforts must have been ludicrous in the extreme. The men were generally speaking, wholly untaught, and we did not have one officer qualified to instruct a squad in Upton's Tactics. We did not lack for veterans in our midst. Bentley and Stanton had both served when mere striplings under an emergency call. And among the non-commissioned officers, Shuman had been in (Continued on Page Three).



CAPTAIN CARR J. KELLEY, Present Commander of Company E, Thirteenth Infantry.

of Pennsylvania out of the entanglements of this immense organization than was the Scranton City Guard," writes Dr. Logan. "By the character of the young men who composed the companies, by the earnest efficiency of the officers, and by the worthy pride and interest taken by the citizens in the battalion, the military zeal of the city of Scranton spread through all the towns in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The commanding officer was approached by letters from inchoate companies for counsel. Proposals for the consolidation with the City Guard of new companies, made of the best material, in neighboring cities poured in upon him. Under the consolidation ordered by the Act of 1878, it was soon supposed by the Major and some of his advisers, that the Scranton City Guard could hardly hope to retain its existence as a separate

unit. Hence a Water-Burg Co. Regiment was organized, and Co. E was transferred to this regiment ever since its organization. The first encampment of this regiment took place at Long Branch, N. J., in August, 1879, and this tour of duty served to induce the State authorities to have a Guard encampment annually.

Co. E, like the Thirteenth Regiment, has an interesting history. It has always been close to the hearts of Honesdale citizens, and deservedly so. A great fair given for the benefit of the company in April, 1890, is still well remembered as one of the greatest affairs of the kind ever held in this State. At that time an interesting newspaper, entitled "Attention," was issued in behalf of the company. We republish from its columns of more than a score of

years' Hall for organization and drill. The State authorities were very slow, however; and their dilatory conduct proved fatal to the movement; for that time at least. In the spring the members of the proposed new company, adjourned their meetings, "to wait the further action of the authorities at Harrisburg"; this amounted to a practical abandonment of the project.

The excursion of the Scranton City Guard Battalion in August, 1878, and the encampment of A Company, at Honesdale, set everything ablaze again. The A men were here one week; their camp being located on 16th street, in some (then) vacant lots, opposite the residence of a R. W. Tilly. It was constantly thronged with visitors. No company in the State could at that time have appeared to better advantage than did A, and their presence here excited the warmest interest, as well as



COMPANY "E" UPON ITS RETURN FROM THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT TAFT.

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