

Oscar F. Campbell

Barnard's last resident veteran of the war of the rebellion, Oscar F. Campbell of East Barnard, passed on to his eternal reward Wednesday April 6, 1921, and was laid to rest Friday afternoon, April 8 in Branchview Cemetery in South Royalton.

More than 150 men whom we love to call heroes, left their farms and firesides in this town during those troublous days of '61-'65 and served well their country in the ranks and on the high seas.

One company of brave men, under the command of Captain Harvey N. Bruce of Pomfret, 26 of whom were Barnard's own boys, was formed in Barnard, and was known as Co. G, 16th Vt. Infantry.

Oscar F. Campbell enlisted in this company, which with its regiment, was in the thick of the fight at Gettysburg. The revised roster tells us that on the night of the 2nd of July, "the battle ceased with the Sixteenth in the front line." This was along Cemetery Ridge. On the 3rd, Co. G was in the line which was drawn into an engagement with Pickett's right flank and as the roster says, "We fired directly into the Rebel flank and advanced about 100 yards and continued the charge until Pickett's division had mainly disappeared, a great proportion being killed or wounded." The regiment came out of the battle with prisoners many times its own number, and three stands of colors.

Monroe Kendall of Bethel, John Howland and Daniel Parkhurst of South Royalton and it is thought, Albert Preston of Sharon and Harper Hazen of Hartford are all that are left of Co. G (at least of men about here).

From time to time there have come to live among us Grand Army boys from places far and near, but one by one these, too, have left town, or joined the ranks on the other side in response to the bugle summons.

Oscar Campbell will be remembered as the last surviving resident member of the Grand Army of the Republic in Barnard, and of its famous Co. G.

Oscar Campbell was born in Pomfret Sept. 9, 1833 and was at the time of his death Barnard's oldest citizen. He spent his early years in Pomfret and Barnard. While still a young man he followed the trail of the "forty-niners" and went to California, where he spent the better part of the next ten years prospecting and working in the mining camps, often as a cook. His party on the trip out did not follow the usual routes, but went by way of the Gulf of Mexico, footing it across the Isthmus, and by boat up the coast.

The outbreak of the war found him in Barnard, and soon a resident of the farm now owned by Berton Hawthorn on the West side.

Feb. 24, 1862 he was married in Bethel to Miss Anna M. Jenne of Derby. On Sept. 4 of the same year he enlisted in Co. G 16th Vt., and was mustered out Aug. 10, 1863. After a

year's rest, he enlisted Aug. 25, in Co. D, 9th Vt. Infantry. It is said that at brigade inspection in the winter of '64-'65, the 9th was pronounced the best regiment in the division. The 9th was conspicuous in some noted battles and participated in the fall of Richmond. Charles and George W. Durkee of Tunbridge were comrades of Mr. Campbell in Co. D. While in the war he sometimes served as a cook. He was mustered out for the last time, June 13, 1865.

For the next few years we find him making a home for his growing family. Their first child Lewis J. was born in Derby during the father's last months of service in the army. The three younger children were born in Barnard.

In the early eighties the family moved to Tunbridge, where he joined their Grand Army Post, in which he was a member until his death. Here, also, their second son Georgie H., died in '86, and in '88 he was afflicted by the death of his good wife. And here, also, he lived until too feeble to do much, when he went to stay with his son, Archie, then living in Pomfret on Allen Hill. Added to the feebleness of his later years, was the embarrassment at all times of growing deafness, which began in the early years following the war. Very quietly, with little warning, he just fell asleep, and was not, for God took him.

Through most of the years Mr. Campbell followed farming, though there was a short time he was prospecting in North Carolina and again in the vicinity of Locust Creek in Barnard.

Mr. Campbell was a law-abiding citizen, industrious, hospitable and neighborly, respectful of church and religion.

The funeral services were held at the home of his son, Archie, on Broad Brook in East Barnard and were attended by many friends, including several town officials and comrade F. Y. Snow of the 9th Vermont. Flowers were in profusion. The address of the officiating clergyman, rev. Louis I. Holway, aimed to make significant the character and heroism of a loyal citizen, a brave soldier and a true friend. There joined the mourning group at the service in the cemetery his old comrade of Co. G, John Howland, and two comrades from the Tunbridge post, A.P. Osborne and Elihu Tuller. Only seven of this post are left.

The following sons survive to honor the memory of their loved parent: Lewis J. of Enfield, N.H., Archie of East Barnard and Ira Delbert of Pomfret.