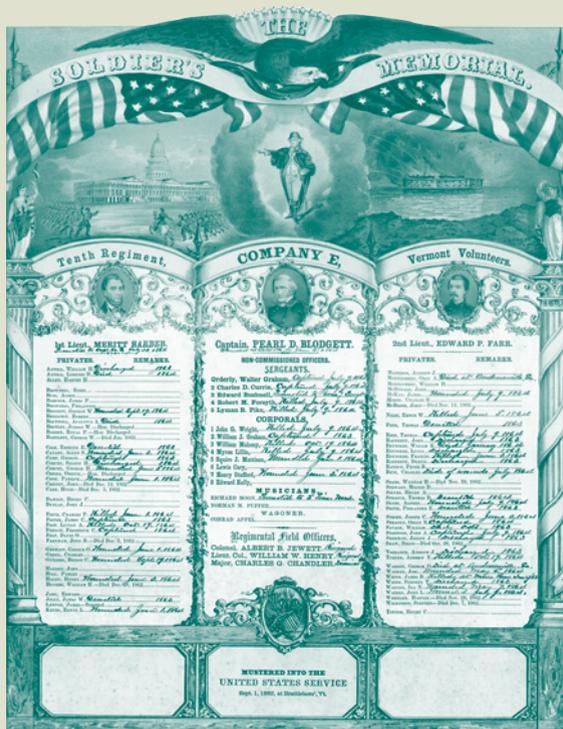


VERMONT HISTORY



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- A Fire by the Pond: The British Raid in Derby, Vermont, December 27, 1813 Kenneth Lawson
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The Journal of the Vermont Historical Society

About the Cover Illustrations

Civil War Registers

The 150th anniversary of the American Civil War has increased public interest in the history of that bloody conflict. Often forgotten in the research process are the decorative, flat paper pieces that were produced to commemorate each unit's service. The broadside collection at the Vermont Historical Society's Leahy Library contains illustrated lithographic registers of thirty-one different units of Vermont Volunteers who served during the Civil War. These large, handsome items, entitled either "Soldier's Memorial" or "Military Register," were produced in nine different designs by seven different companies. Represented in the collection are monochromatic and chromolithographs by Currier and Ives (two designs, 1862); Schroeder and Sanders (1862); H. Schroeder; Major & Knapp (1864); Sarony, Major & Knapp; A. Hoen & Co. (2 designs); and an unknown lithographer (the credit line has been trimmed off).

The lithographers printed large sheets with decorative borders, usually 18" × 24" in size, that were then used by enterprising printers to create unit rosters. None of the lithographers or printers that created these records were located in Vermont; they all seemed to be located in the Washington, D.C./Baltimore area. In most cases the rosters list all of the men who served in the unit in three columns with the officers in the center. The list was accompanied by smaller panels containing a chronological listing of the battles in which the unit fought and a panel giving the date and place of the unit's enlistment. Some of the rosters have been annotated in pen by an owner to indicate the fate of the various members of the unit. One includes actual photographs of the first and second lieutenants pasted into ovals at the top of the list of soldiers.

The rosters employ interesting iconography. Most include a large American eagle or Lady Liberty graced by American flags and military equipment. George Washington makes an appearance on one of the designs, as do the White House, Fort Sumter, and the Constitution. Almost all of them have vignettes that tell of the personal sacrifice of separation from family. Recruitment, departure, camp life, battles, and

of her husband in battle. Another illustration shows a soldier writing home, while in the matching vignette his wife hands a package to a postal carrier. Two small illustrations show them each longing for each other. The final display shows two representations of a homecoming scene at the bottom of the roster. A. Hoen & Co. produced two versions of this design, with the later version including people who are more animated than in the first.

An interesting example is that of Company C of the 9th Vermont. This is the only company for which we have two different rosters. The first contains a panel that shows the unit's activities only for the year 1862 and states matter-of-factly, "Sept. 15, 1862, Surrendered to Stonewall Jackson at Harper's Ferry." This entry is followed by five others placing the unit's location at Annapolis and then Chicago (where they were held in parole camp), recording that the unit was paid for the first time, and recording the death of two men. The second roster, using a design by H. Schroeder, carries the unit's history through 1864 and does not mention the surrender or internment at all.

These rosters graphically represent the significance of the Civil War in the lives of its participants and their families. The decorative borders contain sentimental scenes that reflected the feelings of many who experienced the war. The prints were produced at an impressive size and contain striking designs, often in vivid colors. They would have been framed and hung on the walls in houses belonging to veterans and their families. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, these rosters were a way for citizens to remember the hardships of war and to memorialize the service of individual soldiers.

To see examples of all nine different designs in the collection of the Vermont Historical Society visit www.vermonthistory.org/cwregisters.

PAUL A. CARNAHAN, *Librarian*

Front cover: The Soldier's Memorial, Tenth Regiment, Company E, Vermont Volunteers. Published by Currier and Ives, 1862, with printed entries through January 1863 and handwritten entries through October 1864. The cameo portraits are (left to right): President Abraham Lincoln, General Winfield Scott, General George B. McClellan. This roster includes the names and notations for the regimental field officers William W. Henry and Charles G. Chandler. Their conflict and careers are discussed in an article in this issue by David R. Mayhew.

Back cover: Details from the two Civil War memorial registers published by A. Hoen & Co., showing the evolution of that company's iconography.

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VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
60 Washington Street
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