

Object ID: *MG0828_SeriesD-62_F06*

Document: *Biographical History of Colonel Thomas Welsh*

Transcript:

Colonel Thomas Welsh

Was born in Columbia, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in May 1824 and began his military career on the breaking out of the Mexican War as a private Soldier in Company E, 2nd Reg^t. Kentucky Volunteers. he was soon made Corporal, then Sergeant, and 1st Sergeant of his Company. His bravery and good conduct at the battle of Buena Vista where he was badly wounded carried him a Commission as 2nd Lieut of 11th Reg^t U. S. Infantry in which he served with much credit until the expiration of the War with Mexico.

He re-entered the service of his Country on the 19th of April 1861 as Captain of Company F, 2nd Reg^t Pennsylvania Volunteers, was soon after promoted to be Lieut. Colonel of the same Reg^t. ~~The Regiment being disbanded on expiration of its three month term, Colonel Welsh was immediately appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania as Colonel of the Regiment to be raised for service during the War—and was placed in command~~

On the expiration of his three month term he was appointed Colonel of the 45th Regt Penn^a Vols – and was retained in command of the State Camp at Harrisburg Penn^a until early in October 1861 when he proceeded with his Reg^t to Port Royal S.C. With a portion of his Reg^t he was sent

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to occupy Otter Island – the advanced Post in direction of Charleston — during the operation against the Rebels on James Island in June 1862 Col. Welsh was in command of the 2nd Brigade in Genl Wrights Division.

~~He has been in constant and active duty~~ With the exception of 40 days absent sick, Col Welsh has been in constant and active duty ever since April 19th 1861. His Regiment – the 45th Pennsylvania now at Hilton Head S. C. is in every respect a Model Volunteer Reg^t and shows that good example added to kindness is the only correct mode of enforcing discipline in a body of intelligent Citizen Soldiers. With his Regiment he was sent north and assigned to the command of the Post at Acquia Creek – when Genl Burnside Evacuated Fredericksburg – Col Welsh took command of the Rear guard – bringing away all the Stores and Troops altho menaced by a very superior force of the Enemy – ~~At the Battle of His Brigade opened the Battle of South Mountain he opened the Battle~~

Analysis: Wiggin

Although undated, this was clearly written initially between July 1st – 18th 1862, when the 45th was at Hilton Head, then added to after South Mountain, September 14, 1862. Although written in the 3rd person, it is unquestionably written by Welsh himself.



According to Bates [Bates, Samuel P., History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-5, Vol. II, Harrisburg: B. Singerly, State Printer, 1869 (reprinted Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1993)], the 45th arrived at Acquia Creek August 5, camped at Brooks Station from the 6th until the 29th, returned to Acquia Creek on Sept 4th, then departed by water for Washington on the 6th after the warehouses, supplies, locomotives, etc. at Acquia Creek were burned.

Scope and Content:

Handwritten autobiography of Thomas Welsh, written in third person. Text sketches his military career through the Battle of South Mountain. This is an unfinished draft, with portions crossed out. Initially written in July 1862 while he was at Hilton Head, South Carolina then the section about Acquia Creek, Virginia and South Mountain, Maryland were added in pencil after the Battle of South Mountain, September 14, 1862.

