

THE LANCASTER FENCIBLES

As the centennial of the Civil War approaches further study of local volunteer militia groups is appropriate. Mr. Blaker explores that unit which was so peculiarly Lancastrian.

Chapter I

ORGANIZATION

Just prior to the Mexican War, there originated in Lancaster a volunteer unit of militia. Captain John R. Findlay was its founder.¹ Its name was impressive enough, and evidently its actions equaled it, for it was to be modified slightly and used at a later date for an even more famous group of Lancastrians. This unit was called "The Old State Fencibles of Lancaster."² The only "action" this unit saw was in 1844,³ when it was called to Philadelphia to aid the local officials in suppressing a riot in that city. Subsequently, the unit disbanded for reasons unknown, and Lancaster was without a military unit.

Next, we must turn our attention to the nation as a whole. In the early 1850's, American businessmen and our country's diplomats were looking toward Central America and envisaging a canal across the Isthmus of Panama. However, this region lay in Central America and as we shall see was taboo for America as a nation.

The reason for this was simple. In April of 1850 the United States of America and Great Britain had drawn up the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. By this treaty,⁴ both sides agreed that neither would make any incursion on the area of Central America. The United States assumed that this meant British withdrawal from the Bay Islands, Greytown, and the Mosquito Coast. Britain did not see it this way, but tended to look on it as a clause restricting further occupation.

In 1854, Franklin S. Pierce, then the President, and the Democrats desired to divert the attention of the people away from the growing slavery issue. To do this, they called attention to the fact that the British were still in Central America and would not get out, **and** did not look favorably upon American designs for a canal in that area.⁵

Naturally, the country was aroused and to some extent preparations for, and expectations of, war were quite prevalent. Many companies of militia began to take new life, and others were formed. So it is that many units, which were later to see action in the Civil War, came into being.

It is at this point that we return to the city of Lancaster again. By this time (1854) the ideas had begun to spread and many Lancastrians were thinking of war. In their thoughts we find the reason for the raising of a new military company. A newspaper article of the period serves to back up this theory. It is from this⁶ that I quote:

We know that the gallant Captain and his brave comrades are ready to "face the music" at the first blast of the war trumpet. When that day comes, and we think it is not far distant, the "Fencibles" will, no doubt, be among the first to offer their services to the country. We are glad to see this military spirit and hope that fear of a war with England will not keep more from joining.

This unit was not raised to fight a civil war at all, but was raised in order to be ready for a national conflict. Little did they suspect what lay before them.

However, this is not the first mention of our gallant band. To find this, one must go back to the month of November in the year 1855. In the Lancaster Intelligencer of that date⁷ there appears a small article with the blaring title, "Military Spirit Reviving." The article goes on to say,

We understand that a new Military Company is about being organized in this city. There are already over fifty names enrolled, and the command will be given to a gentleman who has had much experience in military affairs. It is to be an infantry company. Success attend the efforts of those who are instrumental in getting it up.

To the Lancastrians of the time, this must have proven just another development of a rapidly burgeoning town. Just think what was going on.⁸ Buchanan was moving for the Democratic nomination to the Presidency. The institutions of Franklin and Marshall College, and the Lancaster County Normal Institute at Millersville had just begun to develop into the larger institutions that they are today. A good indication of the period is very neatly given in an advertisement of Kramph's Oak Hall Clothing Store on North Queen Street.⁹

"Hail Lancaster, progressive city, Hail!"
 How rapid is thy growth! Each passing day
 Brings new improvements forth in bright array.
 Where once bleak lots and stagnant pools were seen,
 And "Desolution saddened all the green,"
 Three giant Cotton Mills may now be found
 And handsome buildings ranged in order round.
 Within the compass of a single year,
 We see the splendid County Jail appear.
 The reign of candles now is o'er.
 Bright burning gas illumines every store.
 And ere the waning of another year,
 We'll have a splendid College here.
 And last, not least, 'fore 1851
 (If that is finished which is now begun)
 Three Churches more, whose morning bells thru time
 Will ring a merry Christmas time.
 Much has been done, but much remains to do.
 A Court House soon we'll have and a Market new.
 But after you have ta'en your wonted round
 And all the sights of this vast city found,
 To F. J. Kramph's Cheap Clothing Store repair
 And view the vast Improvements centered there.

It was in an atmosphere of this kind that the town awoke to find a military company forming. By December of 1855,¹⁰ the unit had been raised, and both a name and a leader chosen. The company would go by the name "The Fencibles." This name most probably rose from the desire of the unit to imitate the former "Old State Fencibles of Lancaster," but there are a number of other sources from which the title could have come. For example, by definition the word fencible means a soldier enlisted for home service only. With the natural affinity of the people of those days for sticking around their homes, the name could have been chosen to emphasize the unit's purpose — to defend Lancaster. Nor does the fact that there was an older Lancaster unit with that name preclude the fact that the unit could have picked the name because of another famous unit having the same name.¹¹ Still, it seems most logical that the first reason given is the most likely.

To lead this unit, Captain John H. Duchman came to the forefront. As was the custom, he was elected to his position but the fact that he was an "old soldier" probably singled him out as the best possible choice. Mr. Duchman had fought in the Mexican War and was generally supposed to be "knowing" in the matters of the military. He was skilled in organizing, as we can see from the fact that the newly formed company did not fail.

It is interesting to note that the "Fencibles" were the first such company to be raised in Lancaster City since the Mexican War. The **Lancaster Intelligencer** chides the townspeople on this point, and remarks that Reading, a town of similar population, had about four or five already raised and doing well.¹²

From December 1855 until February 1856 there is no mention of the "Fencibles." The newspapers of this time state,¹³ "This new military com-

pany under the command of Captain John H. Duchman is rapidly filling up in numbers. Some sixty or seventy of our gallant and enterprising young men have enrolled their names, and the average number in attendance at the drill room is fifty." From the bare beginnings in November of 1855 until the end of February 1856, the unit seems to have progressed quite well. By the middle of March 1856, it had progressed even farther and it now merited first hand appraisal by the staff of the **Lancaster Intelligencer**.¹⁴ Their comments follow.

We attended one of the drills last week of the new military company, being formed in this City by Captain John H. Duchman, and were agreeably surprised at the efficiency of the men, and the precision with which they march and perform the different evolutions connected with company drill. All this is highly creditable to the veteran officer at the head of the corps who, by his untiring energy connected with his ability and experience as a commander, has already brought his men to a state of perfection in drill which few older companies can surpass. The company has adapted, we believe, the army uniform, with slight alterations, and will make its first appearance on parade sometime during the Spring or early in Summer. They are now some fifty men enrolled, and the ranks are daily filling up. We hope to see it, in the course of a few months, one of the strongest, handsomest, and best drilled companies in the State.¹⁵

Along about April, the "Fencibles" must have decided they would have need of a band, to supply music for marching. Anyone who has ever tried to keep time to cadence called by a man, or has called it himself, can readily understand their desire for a strong beat to stir one's feet. Remember, also, that this unit is now more a social organization;¹⁶ the threat of war with England subsided, and the threat of civil war not yet prominent, a band would naturally add to the festive spirit. So, the company probably got talking during one of its "breaks" from drill and decided it would need a band. Someone probably knew of a band and suggested they be invited to affiliate with the unit. A vote may have been taken on the receipt of the band's acceptance of the invitation. Actually, this happened, and the vote was unanimous¹⁷ for unification. The band chosen was the "Independent Brass Band" which became the "Fencible's Band," an honor which they accepted on 1 April 1856.

With the acquisition of a band, the company finally made its first public appearance on 14 April 1856. As usual, the **Lancaster Intelligencer** was on hand for the great event.¹⁸ "This fine military company made its first appearance on parade, in fatigue dress,¹⁹ on last night week (14 April 1856). There were some 40 men in the ranks, and they not only looked well, but marched with admirable precision. May the company continue to flourish under its experienced and veteran commander." The company was well received by the public, if we are to judge by this article.

Things were beginning to swing along quite rapidly now. It was time to get organized on a more formal basis, so the unit held its first election. This took place at a meeting on 19 May 1856 and the following list tallies the results.²⁰

Captain	(unanimously elected)	John H. Duchman
First Lieutenant		Emlen Franklin
Second Lieutenant		Michael H. Locher
First Sergeant		John R. Reigert
Second Sergeant		Harry Hook
Third Sergeant		James McCalla
Fourth Sergeant		Henry Slaymaker
Quartermaster		J. Hamilton Reigart

Of these men, Emlen Franklin, Michael H. Locher, and John R. Reigert all rose to lead units into battle at such places as Fredericksburg and Antietam. The man to remember here is Emlen Franklin, for he is the star just risen.

There was yet one more act before the "Fencibles" could be considered a legal military unit. This was their official incorporation into the county and state organizations. The *Lancaster Intelligencer* for 3 June 1856 tells of this action.²¹ "On Wednesday evening last, the same officer organized the 'Fencibles' of this City under command of Captain John H. Duchman. Colonel Amweg was assisted by Colonel Samuel H. Price and Lieutenant C. F. Voight." From this point on the "Fencibles" are a going military concern. So, a unit which was raised to defend the country from a foreign state has turned into a gallant, dashing, social organization. Little does it suspect that in a few short years, it will be called upon to defend its country from itself.

Chapter II

THE HAPPY YEARS

The title of this second chapter is perfectly suited to the next three years of the "Fencibles'" existence. During this time, the unit practiced and became a well known figure in Lancaster City and County and also in the surrounding area of Pennsylvania. Its band also grew to become especially well liked and famous and consequently attended many, many fashionable functions. Without further delay then, let us trace the events of these spirited years following the company's organization.

On 30 June 1856,¹ "The Philadelphia National Guards" commanded by Captain Peter Lyle arrived in Lancaster and were treated to a gala, festive time by the "Fencibles." They (the Guards) were encamped at Wabank and treated like royalty. Everything was done to make their stay as comfortable as possible and they appreciated it as we shall see a bit later.

The fourth of July 1856 was a great day for the newly formed "Fencibles" and, accompanied by their very able brass band, they stepped out on parade during the morning hours.² At this time the ranks had grown until the company numbered 45 muskets. Later, in the afternoon,³ the always eager band escorted the "Humane Hose Company" in the annual fireman's parade which began at one o'clock. It was quite a festive day and, from newspaper accounts of the times, everyone must have enjoyed themselves

"The Philadelphia National Guards" had been quite impressed by the warm hospitable nature shown them by the Lancastrians. Of interest is the complimentary resolution sent to the "Fencibles" by that unit.⁴

Resolved that we recognize the magnificent hospitalities of that crack Corps, the "Lancaster Fencibles," the ripened fruits of that luxurious generosity indigenous to the "Garden County" of the Keystone State; the sumptuous entertainment at Fulton Hall on our arrival in their city, and bountiful collation on our return, were eminently characteristic of their high reputation as hosts; and while we are constrained to admit our inability to rival its lavish profusion, we still cherish the hope of enjoying at no distant day, the opportunity of trying to reciprocate the attentions showered upon us.

Resolved, that the unremitting attentions of Captain Duchman and the officers of the "Fencibles," to make our stay one of real, real pleasure, and their uniform courtesy and attention to our every want, has proven them to be worthy to support and maintain the fame and reputation of the "Flag Company"⁵ of the State.

On 28 August 1856, the "Fencibles" put on their walking shoes along with their band and paraded through the city. This parade had two purposes. First, the company was to be inspected and second, it wanted to show off its new uniform. After marching through the major streets of the City, the unit was drawn up in Centre Square, where it was given a thorough inspection by the Brigade Inspector, Colonel William S. Amweg.⁶ Then the proud group submitted to something new. After the inspection was over they remained in position and "a fine Daguerreotype of them was taken by Mr. Addis."

Amazingly enough, this likeness of the "Fencibles" is still in existence today in the collection of the late Christian H. Martin. Fortunately I have been able, through the Library of the Lancaster **Intelligencer Journal**, to obtain a print of this picture.

After this gala event things settled down to routine business of drill. The next time that the "Fencibles" appeared was on Monday afternoon, 6 October 1856,⁷ when they staged a full dress parade. Other than the fact that a parade by Lancaster's only military unit was something special, the parade was routine.

Far from routine was the activity undertaken in the month of November, however, when the men decided to let loose and have a little fun. On the nineteenth of that month, they held their "First Annual Military and Citizens Dress Ball" at Fulton Hall.⁸ As was mentioned earlier, this affair serves to accent the social quality of the group. One can easily imagine the scene with the neatly dressed soldiers strutting about seeking to gain the favor of this or that lady, and everyone generally happy and gay.

November was an active time for the band also. On the 28th of that month we find them alone again. They are actually not alone, for the crowd of 250 Franklin and Marshall College students that they were leading can hardly be overlooked. This aggregation was on its way to pay a "formal" visit to President-elect Buchanan.⁹ This seems a rather large group to go visiting, but knowing Franklin and Marshall College

students, it sounds typical. At any rate, the President was well disposed towards them, and after a brief speech and some refreshments, they all went home.

For all its festive spirits and socializing, the "Fencibles" was no "sissy" unit. On 8 January 1857, they paraded in commemoration of the Battle of New Orleans, with the temperature being "a degree or two below zero."¹⁰ Not many modern day military units would attempt this, but these men were out to prove they were tough. The company was, in the words of John H. Duchman, its commander, "now well organized and equipped and all that is wanting is an accession of new members to its roll list."¹¹

The unit was religious minded, too, and the unit went to church at the Trinity Lutheran Church, on Duke Street. There it heard a sermon by the Reverend G. F. Krotel on matters that would interest "the only military organization in the City." This was Sunday, 28 February 1857.¹²

On the whole, the cold weather was not a time for military show, however, and so the "Fencibles" generally kept to the warmth of their armory. The departure of President Buchanan for Washington was an opportunity not to be missed, and we find the "Fencibles" rising to the occasion. They made known the fact that 40¹³ of their number would escort the newly elected dignitary on his way to Washington. On 2 March 1857 amid much fanfare the unit proceeded to make good its statement. They went all the way to the "city of distances"¹⁴ and participated in the inaugural parade. All the way they were treated well until they reached Baltimore, Maryland on their way home. Here they were insulted by "rowdies." They arrived in Lancaster at the railroad depot at 9 p.m. 5 March 1857.¹⁵ From here they marched to their armory at Fulton Hall where they dismissed with a shout after a short speech by Captain Duchman.

Though Fulton Hall provided space for the "Fencibles," it was not provided with the military facilities necessary for equipment. To alleviate this situation, the group constructed a rack for rifles and drawers for uniforms and equipment. This was completed about 18 April 1857.¹⁶ The details of this work may be found later in this work. Also, the band received new uniforms so that they would be dressed exactly like the unit. That their uniforms differed to a degree may be seen in the photograph already discussed.

Spring had come at last and with its arrival the time for another inspection rolled around. The Inspection was held on 12 May 1857 in Centre Square, and as usual Colonel Amweg, the Brigade Inspector, was on hand. After the inspection the "Fencibles" hung a picture in their armory. It was a portrait of their gallant Captain — John H. Duchman, and had only recently been completed.¹⁷ In the words of a newspaper of the period:¹⁸

A beautiful ambrotype likeness of Captain Duchman has been executed by Addis, of East King Street, and hung up in the Fencibles' Armory at Fulton Hall. This portrait, which is of large size, is handsomely framed in a heavy, gilt oval frame, and was ordered by some of the Captain's military friends. As a work of art, it reflects much credit on Mr. Addis.

It must have been an impressive sight in its time.

The season for outdoor fun had arrived, however, and the "Fencibles" planned a picnic. Although originally scheduled for 18 June 1857,¹⁹ it was cancelled until June 23 because of a heavy rain²⁰ on the date originally scheduled. It did not rain the second date, however, and so, bright and early about 8 o'clock,²¹ the "Fencibles" paraded through the City with its band under the able baton of its leader, Professor Ellinger, and about 9 o'clock arrived at Hershey's Grove about a mile from the City. During the course of the day, the men took time out from their dancing to the music of the "Fencibles String Band" to have a target practice.²² The targets were placed at a distance of 60 yards, and the men fired away. When the smoke cleared away, Private Lawrence Matthews was awarded the first prize, a silver cup, for his excellent shooting. A second prize went to Corporal James P. Dysart, and he would proudly display a silver medal in recognition of that fact. All in all it was a festive occasion and must have been a wonderful sight.

On July 4, 1857 the Fencibles were again in their glory as they strutted down the streets early on that day and then probably retired to watch the fun.²³

An even greater occasion to parade presented itself in August, however. On the seventh²⁴ the "Fencibles" announced they would escort Governor Pollock to Millersville where he was scheduled to deliver a speech. This they did along with the other units in the mile long procession. The **Daily Evening Express**²⁵ seemed to think that they looked so well that they might even rival the "Old State Fencibles of Lancaster." During their visit a Mr. Locher took pictures and it is from this notice²⁶ that all the confusion over the existing photograph arises. It states that during the "Fencibles'" visit to Millersville, by taking photographic views of the company in full uniform, of the normal school building, and of the residence of the "president of the school, the visit was made more lively." Now, if these pictures were taken at Millersville, how could the Lancaster City Hall get into the background? Secondly, if the picture in existence was taken at this time, why wasn't the band dressed exactly alike as we have learned they are by now? The answer is very simple; this photograph is probably the one taken a year earlier.

After such an active month, the unit settled down for a while and nothing is heard of them. In October their band ventured forth twice, however. The first instance was on the seventh of that month when they went to Philadelphia²⁷ and participated in the Grand Fireman's Parade being held there. Why a military band should participate in a fireman's parade is a puzzle, but this is not the most unusual thing they would do during their existence. They then returned to Lancaster and on 22 October 1857²⁸ participated in the Grand Parade of the Local Red Men. This must have been an energetic unit for it was continually doing this type of thing and did much to establish fame on its own as well as for the unit.

The winter months came rolling in and with them came the season of indoor activities. Their first ball having been a success, the "Fencibles"

determined to have a second one and possibly turn it into an annual affair. A committee was set up²⁹ consisting of Hambright, Locher, and Dysart and headed by the unit's secretary, Mr. Slaymaker. They announced that the Second Annual Ball of the Lancaster Fencibles would be held on 8 January 1858. The affair was carried to a successful conclusion and a good time was had by all. That same day they paraded in honor of the forty-third anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans.³⁰

January was an active month that year and on the nineteenth of the month the "Fencibles" paraded to the train station and left for Harrisburg.³¹ The purpose of the trip was to parade in the inaugural procession of Governor Pollock. On the afternoon of 26 January 1858, the procession took place and by all accounts was a grand affair in the spirit of the times. Once again the band stepped to the forefront and on the evening of that same day went round to call on the Governor at Jones House. They serenaded him and were lauded and left.³² The next day the unit returned to Lancaster.

February was a comparatively uneventful month, with the "Fencibles" appearing in public only once. The occasion was Washington's birthday.³³

Again the "Fencibles" slip from the public view and it is their band which next emerges. On 15 April 1858,³⁴ the "Fencibles Band First Grand Promenade Concert" was held at their armory in Fulton Hall. Because of its tremendous success the affair was carried over on the sixteenth and seventeenth also.³⁵ This fact seems to attest to the reputation the band had gained as a fine musical group. Continually the praises flow in and the popularity of the "Fencibles" Band will grow with them as we shall see.

The eleventh of May 1858 was a happy day for the parading "Fencibles," for after their inspection at 2 o'clock each member received \$1.50 for his efforts.³⁶ This money was to be paid to each man for every parade made not exceeding 6 per year. It can be bet on, that they would get their full six parades in before the year was out.

By June the weather was right for another picnic and so the Second Annual Lancaster Fencibles Pic Nic was held³⁷ on 22 June 1858 at Rocky Springs. The "Fencibles" first paraded and then, about 9 a.m.,³⁸ departed to the grounds. This year the pic nic was to be only a festive occasion, no target practice being held. To insure dancible music and allow their band to enjoy themselves, the unit hired "Keffer's Band" for the dancing. The day was almost spoiled when a group of rowdies appeared and attempted to "crash" the gathering. They were routed and the incident soon forgotten.

On the fourth of July 1858 the "Fencibles" paraded early, firing salutes at various points on their trip. Later, in the afternoon, the unit went to Wabank for a general good time. The day was evidently a success.³⁹

The next month the "Fencibles" ventured out without the band. The reason for this was probably the fact that the parade was held in the evening and music might disturb people. The date was 3 August, and the

“Fencibles” mustered only 30 muskets.

About this time a new company appeared in Lancaster. When it was ready to be mustered into the Brigade a mass parade was planned. This event was scheduled for 8 September 1858⁴⁰ and Captain Duchman was elected⁴¹ honorary colonel of the Lancaster County Regiment. It was he, who would head up this affair. Franklin commanded the unit in the parade. The officers at this time were as follows:⁴²

Captain	John H. Duchman
First Lieutenant	Emlen Franklin
Second Lieutenant	Michael H. Locher
Quartermaster	Dr. William Whiteside
Surgeon	Dr. Henry Carpenter

This article is also valuable to us because it is here that we get the only uniform description which serves to authenticate our photograph and to give us a color picture of the apparel. This description will be touched upon in a later chapter.

In September⁴³ the Fencibles took an excursion. Boarding the Reading and Philadelphia Railroad at 11 a.m. they reached Harrisburg at 12:30 and had their lunch at Herr's restaurant. They then took the Lebanon Valley Railroad to Reading, arriving there at 5 o'clock. They paraded in Reading where they were acclaimed and then went on to Philadelphia and more parades. Everywhere they went the 50 men and 16 musicians were hailed as a fine example of military prowess and precision. Upon returning home they were well received and thoroughly tired out.

November means cold weather, and cold weather means ball time; and so on 9 November 1858⁴⁴ we find the Fencibles holding their third annual ball. To supply music for this affair the “Fencibles Band” and Keffer's full orchestra were on hand. In the usual manner it was a great success. The month was to be marred by an illness contracted by Captain Duchman. Nevertheless, in true military spirit the “Fencibles” took to the streets under the command of Lieutenant Emlen Franklin and paraded quite extensively. This was on November seventeenth.⁴⁵

To round out the year an election was held⁴⁶ for the purpose of filling the post of third lieutenant, recently vacated by John P. Dysart. This event took place on the sixth and Corporal James P. Dysart was duly elected to fill the vacated post.

A new year was coming, and with it many new events. To start off the year, Captain Duchman and Lieutenant Franklin ventured to Philadelphia⁴⁷ for the purpose of presenting the “Philadelphia National Guards” with a testimonial letter praising them and thanking them for their hospitality of the previous September.

The eighth being the anniversary date of the Battle of New Orleans, the “Fencibles” turned out and paraded once again.⁴⁸

On 25 January 1859 a reunion was held⁴⁹ and from reports of the time, it must have been a real wow. The armory at Fulton Hall was lavishly decorated and the night was filled with festive spirit.⁵⁰

The unit then settled down until March when they were presented

with two fine swords. The widow of General John Steele gave them his sword, and in a like manner, Mrs. Rosina Hubley presented them with the sword of Colonel Gibson. These two swords were hung in a prominent place in the Armory at Fulton Hall.⁵¹

In April four men resigned from positions. On the fourth an election was held to replace them.⁵²

Quartermaster	Charles R. Frailey (replaces Dr. W. Whiteside)
Second Sergeant	Henry E. Slaymaker (replaces Harry Hook)
Fourth Corporal	Dr. Samuel Fahnstock (replaces John L. Adams)

The by-laws were made more strict at this time, and the group had risen to number seventy.

On 27 May 1859⁵³ the time had come for a visit from Brigade Inspector Colonel Amweg. The "Fencibles" turned out sixty strong including their band. After the inspection, the unit marched to the German Rifle Society's Range along the Conestoga. Corporal Fahnstock captured the first prize musket, while Sergeant Weaver won a barrel of flour. Private Anderson was given a silver medal for the best single shot all day.

On the seventh of June⁵⁴ the band was off again. This time it was invited to Columbia for a parade. Its acclaim was spreading.

It was time for another complete election and so on 14 June⁵⁵ after "45 muskets" turned out for a parade the "Fencibles" held an election of officers.

Captain	John H. Duchman
First Lieutenant	Emlen Franklin
Second Lieutenant	Michael H. Locher
Third Lieutenant	James P. Dysart

Although Emlen Franklin was capable and perhaps desired the command, the venerable Duchman was influential enough to hold on to that position this one last time.

On the fourth of July 1859, the "Fencibles" paraded in Lancaster in the morning and then again in Lititz in the afternoon. This must have been quite an active day for the "Fencibles," but they were acclaimed just as loudly in both parades.⁵⁶

On the eleventh of July at one of their meetings, the "Fencibles" received official thanks for their part in the festivities of the fourth. All were pleased and impressed.⁵⁷

There were three parades during the months from August to November. The first was on 2 August 1859;⁵⁸ the second, a parade at Maytown which was reached by train and canal boat, was on 3 September 1859;⁵⁹ and the third, again in Lancaster, was on 3 October 1859.⁶⁰ At all three affairs the "Fencibles" were lauded and acclaimed as a "crack" unit.

On 11 November 1859 the unit decided to honor its gallant band leader, Captain George Ellinger.⁶¹ He was given a silver E-flat cornet horn made by Mr. Isaac Fiske of Worcester, Massachusetts. Engraved on the horn was the following: "Presented to Captain George Ellinger,

leader of the Fencible's Band, by a few of his friends, Lancaster, November 11, 1859." It was a moving occasion and a beautiful gift, as any music lover will agree.

The second of December 1859 marked a fitting close to the year's activities with the Fourth Annual Ball of the Lancaster Fencibles. As usual it was a tremendous success and enjoyed by all.⁶²

On the ninth of January 1860,⁶³ (the eighth being a Sunday), the "Fencibles" again braved the cold and paraded in honor of the Battle of New Orleans. At this time they exhibited their new uniform overcoat, a description of which is not given.

The "Fencibles" drop from the news until 6 March 1860⁶⁴ after this parade. In March they turned out for a moonlight parade under the command of First Lieutenant Emlen Franklin. Unfortunately, they got rained on and thoroughly soaked. Still, the fact that Lieutenant Franklin was leading heralded a new note.

With this event the end of the "happy" period drew nigh, and the beginning of the troubled years was fast approaching.

Chapter III

TIME OF UNCERTAINTY

With the advent of April 1860 things began to change in the Nation, the State, the City, and the Lancaster "Fencibles" were not ones to be out of the social mode. After so much gallant service, Captain George Ellinger retired from service as band director. The Fencibles were aghast but quickly recovered their senses. On 3 April 1860¹ it was announced that Mr. Daniel Clemens would take over the leadership of the band. He had experience, coming directly from the "City Band of Reading."

This event was unheralded, but an election, which was held on Friday the thirteenth of April, was expected and from the results one can see that by a slow process, control of votes had swung to Franklin. The aged old soldier, John H. Duchman, faded away and retired. The results are as follows.²

Captain (unanimously elected)	Emlen Franklin
First Lieutenant	Michael H. Locher
Second Lieutenant	James P. Dysart
Third Lieutenant	Mitchell J. Weaver

The Lancaster Examiner and Herald of the time³ also mentions the fact that Captain Franklin held a party at his home on East King Street. Could it have been a victory celebration? One can only guess.

To honor its new band director the "Fencibles Band" threw a Complimentary Ball at Fulton Hall. This was held on the twenty-first of May⁴ after much work and practice. The Armory was gaily decorated, and the reports of the time indicate that it was an excellent affair. Mr. Clemens had established himself.

May days also meant inspection days, and on the twenty-second of the month Major Benjamin F. Cox, the new Brigade Inspector, accomplished this act at 5 o'clock in Centre Square.⁵

The band also participated in the "Washington Ladies Fair," keeping up its practice of participating in odd and interesting affairs.⁶

Captain Franklin was anxious to keep up the military prowess of the unit and so he led them to the banks of the Conestoga where they once again held a target practice. This was on 19 June 1860⁷. As per usual, prizes were given for excellent performances.

First Prize — a Maltese Cross	Private J. Miller Raub
Second Prize — a Silver Medal	Sergeant J. Druckenmiller
Third Prize — a Musket	Private C. F. Voight
Fourth Prize — a Silver Cup	Corporal Wm. Urie Hess

An even greater event took place, on July fourth of that year.⁸ After an 8 o'clock parade the "Fencibles" drew up in Centre Square with a large crowd looking on. Private James K. Alexander stepped forward and, after a short speech, presented a most beautiful sword to Captain Franklin. Its handle was of German silver, wrought with military devices. It had a helmet on the end and a guard representing a Maltese Cross. The scabbard was of brass ornamented in a manner similar to the handle on which was inscribed, "Presented to Captain Emlen Franklin by the Lancaster Fencibles and a few of his personal friends, Lancaster, July 4, 1860."

On the eighth of July the unit turned out for a torchlight parade. By this time its ranks had grown to 100 and the sight must have been quite stirring.⁹

Two more parades took place the following month. The first was for the purpose of an Inspection by Brigadier General Witwer. It was held at 1 o'clock on 7 August 1860.¹⁰ The second was held on 8 August 1860,¹¹ and was just a routine parade. That is, if anything the "Fencibles" did could be considered routine.

In September the Brigade was called out to camp and on the fourth of that month, with much fanfare, the "Fencibles," accompanied by their band, boarded a train for Camp Patterson. They were there from the fourth until the ninth and during that time both the company and the band were singled out as crack units, the band being chosen to serenade the staff. On Saturday the unit returned and after parading to their armory were dismissed.¹²

On the nineteenth of September, Captain Franklin received a shipment of arms from the United States authorities. They were of the type which used the minnie-ball and were supposed to be able to throw a ball a distance of 1,000 yards. These guns will be discussed later, but it may be said that they were quite an addition to the "Fencibles."¹³

The people of Manheim evidently were impressed with what they had heard about the "Fencibles" and on 30 October invited them to participate in a parade there. This the unit did along with its band.¹⁴ Here, however, an interesting point is raised. The "Fencibles Band" is continu-

ously referred to as the Brass Band, but here it is referred to as a Silver Band. Since this is the only occasion on which this happens, it seems safe to assume that the designation, "silver," was an error.

From November 1860 until February 1861 the "Fencibles" seem to have gone into hiding. There is no mention of them in any of the newspapers of this period. However, in February a vacancy was made by the resignation of Owen Hopple who had been Colonel of the regiment in which the "Fencibles" were enrolled. To replace him, Lieutenant Mitchell J. Weaver of the "Fencibles" was elected.¹⁵

Also in February was the fair held by the "Fencibles" band. Not much is said about this affair other than that it was held. Its success is therefore dubious, but one must remember that the national situation had grown serious and events probably crowded much local news out, or at least held it to a minimum.¹⁶

The "Baltimore City Guards" visited Lancaster in March and in the *Lancaster Intelligencer*¹⁷ we find their official thanks for a most enjoyable time. One of the three groups thanked was our "Lancaster Fencibles."

On 12 March 1861 ex-president Buchanan returned and the "Fencibles" were the first unit in the parade.¹⁸ It was a happy but sad day for all concerned.

Lincoln was in the White House, Major Anderson was in Fort Sumter, and the South did not like the position of either of the men. They had quit the Union and now they resolved to do something about Major Anderson. On 12 April 1861, they did. Fort Sumter was bombarded and the Civil War was on.

Lincoln acted immediately, and issued a proclamation calling for 75,000 volunteers.¹⁹ Lancaster was in tumult, and on 16 April 1861 the "Fencibles" of Lancaster offered their services to help fill the sixteen regiments required of Pennsylvania.²⁰ The time for fooling around had passed and the times of trial and error had come.

Chapter IV

THE WAR YEARS

On 16 April 1861 the "Fencibles Band" played patriotic numbers while the people of Lancaster County voiced their sentiments at the court house.¹ Two days later, 18 April 1861, they provided music for a flag pole raising in Centre Square.² Lancastrians were desirous of displaying their firm Union sympathies, and from here on, a flag was flown daily over the center of the community. It was of course "Old Glory."

The affair on the twenty-fourth was probably a bit rushed, for this was to be the departure date of the "Fencibles."³ They were the first to go to the aid of their country from Lancaster City, and the town was out to really make an affair of it. At their Armory at Fulton Hall on Prince Street, Mayor Sanderson delivered "a most eloquent speech."⁴ This was followed by a few words from Reverend J. Isadore Mombert, of Saint James Episcopal Church. After this the unit marched to "Rankin's City

"Hotel" where a magnificent collation was prepared for them. From there they paraded to the railroad depot and, after Henry Baumgardner said goodbye, boarded a train for Harrisburg. Captain Franklin was delayed, by virtue of the fact that he was a lawyer and had a case in court. He finished up by the following Sunday and followed the unit on the 2 a.m. train of that date.⁵ The men leaving with "Fencibles" are as follows.⁶

Captain	Emlen Franklin
First Lieutenant	Michael H. Locher
Second Lieutenant	James P. Dysart
First Sergeant	David W. Miles
Second Sergeant	John H. Druckenmiller
Third Sergeant	Charles Heitshu
Fourth Sergeant	John I. Hartman
First Corporal	George Musser, Jr.
Second Corporal	Andrew McGinnis
Third Corporal	John P. Deiker
Fourth Corporal	William W. Hess
Drummer	John P. Shindle
Fifer	Joseph Cogley

PRIVATES

Atlee, William August	Jack, George W.
Altic, Joseph	Kuhn, William
Ball, Ambrose	Leibley, Andrew
Bear, Andrew	Markley, Samuel B.
Bear, Samuel C.	Murphey, William W.
Biggs, Henry C.	Myers, Edward
Bowman, Josiah	Miller, J. David
Boring, Edward	McGonigle, John T.
Bair, David, Jr.	Musselman, Samuel
Blickensderfer, William	Madden, John R., Jr.
Chamberlain, John B.	McCaskey, W. S.
Conn, Benjamin O.	Ober, Benjamin H.
Conner, John	Powell, John
Cross, John F.	Presterly, George
Coyle, Michael	Rowe, Samuel W.
Duncan, William F.	Rote, William T.
Dustman, William	Redsecker, James S.
Duchman, Jacob S.	Rote, Henry P.
Derby, George W.	Rife, William P.
Eicholtz, Andrew	Rote, John
Eberman, Edward	Strine, James B.
Fetter, Hannon	Stevens, Thaddeus, Jr.
Greiner, Michael	Shenk, Reuben W.
Gundaker, Emmanuel	Swentzil, Henry F.
Gercke, Herman	Steigerwalt, Samuel C.
Hager, Edward	Snyder, Jacob K.
Hartman, William H.	Strickler, Wilson
Hubleby, Chester S.	Sprenger, John A.
Haldeman, Clifford C.	Stubbs, John T.
Hayes, Charles E.	Tredwell, James B.
Hogendobler, John	Tumey, James
Holbrook, Samuel S.	Voight, Charles F.

While de-training at Harrisburg, Private T. Hall Foreman was injured in an accident. He was honorably discharged and sent home.⁷ The personnel of the band was thus.⁸

Joseph M. Cogley	Musician	Jacob H. Norbeck	Musician
George F. Bruderly	"	Jacob Adams	"
Herman Newmyer	"	Charles Streith	"
Joseph A. Bruderly	"	John P. Shindle	"
Charles Hepting	"	Frederick Wettig	"
George G. Myers	"	Henry Shenck	"
George F. Rote	"	Benjamin F. Adams	"

At Harrisburg, the "Fencibles" were mustered into the First Pennsylvania regiment of volunteer militia for the Service of the National Government. The date was 20 April 1861.⁹ For the next three months, they would be Company F in that unit. The band was attached to the regiment as its musical unit. This was quite a step up for our gallant tooters.

Of interest at this time, perhaps, is the pay which these men would receive for their trouble. A table of the rates published follows.¹⁰

Captain	\$60.00	per month
First Lieutenant	50.00	" "
Second Lieutenant	45.00	" "
First Sergeant	20.00	" "
Sergeant	17.00	" "
Corporal	13.00	" "
Private	12.00	" "
Musician	12.00	" "

The amounts bring home the inflationary attributes of our present day money if one considers that for these amounts one could exist in a fairly decent manner.

Having been provided with muslin, haversacks, hard tack and bacon, and twelve rounds, the regiment left Harrisburg on the evening of 20 April, under the command of Brigadier General George C. Wynkoop.¹¹ They headed for Cockeysville, Maryland with the idea of protecting the bridges of the Northern Central Railroad, and opening the broken communications with Washington. On the following Monday evening,¹² they withdrew to Camp Scott near York, Pennsylvania at the request of some Maryland officials. However, this stay was long enough for the papers to declare, "The 'Fencibles' . . . are encamped at Cockeysville, 12 miles from Baltimore."¹³

While waiting for orders and drilling at Camp Scott, Captain Franklin, Quartermaster Hartman, Corporal Hess, and Private Duncan visited their homes on a short leave early in May.¹⁴ They told of the praise and hospitality afforded the "Fencibles" by the York citizens. At this time John Reese was honorably discharged due to an injury incurred by accident.

Now began a fascinating series of letters which makes it possible to trace the "Fencibles" in their progress during the next three months. Although these letters, which were sent to the **Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, were merely signed "Knapsack," they are the work of Benjamin H. Ober, whose civilian job was reporting. His first letter is published on 22

May.¹⁵ It tells the story of the "Fencibles'" second advance. According to the letter, Camp Scott at York was left on 14 May 1861 at 8 a.m. They (the "Fencibles") proceeded by rail to Gunpowder Bridge, on the "Northern Central Railroad," just to the Northeast of Cockeysville, Maryland. On the way they left 15 men with another company to aid it in guarding a similar railroad bridge to the north. The band moved to within 4 miles of Baltimore at what was known at Cockeysville camp. The "Fencibles" called their camp, "Camp Franklin." While at this spot the citizens of Phoenix, a village about a half mile distant, presented the unit with new colors.

The following week the unit moved again, this time to the State Lunatic Asylum near Catonsville. This was located six miles from Baltimore on the Frederick Turnpike. As "Knapsack" put it, they had been "relieved of duty of guarding the N.C.R.R."¹⁶

While at this location, they were rejoined by their band, and one evening Colonel Yohe, the Regimental Commander, ordered a concert by the "Fencibles Brass Band." They obliged him with such stirring numbers as "Hail Columbia."¹⁷ Another event took place here also. John L. Weaver was elevated to the rank of a second lieutenant.¹⁸ All considered, it was a fairly exciting encampment.

One week later, yet another change was transmitted by Knapsack.¹⁹ On 3 June the regiment had moved, by train, to Baltimore, York, Harrisburg and on to Camp Cameron outside of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Prior to this move, they had guarded the Battle Powder Mill where 8 tons of powder lay waiting for use. This is what is known as sitting on a powder keg. At any rate there was no explosion and the company, as we have seen, moved on.

Camp Cameron was merely a staging ground, and on the 26th of June from another report from Knapsack we learn the story of the next move.²⁰ On 19 June 1861 the Regiment moved out as part of General Patterson's Army. The route of the "Fencibles" was to Williamsport, and on the 22nd the march was continued southeast through Funkstown, Boonsboro, and Middletown, finally stopping at Camp Yohe, Frederick, Maryland. This was actually the Maryland State Fair grounds, and the troops were quartered in British barracks built in 1752. Of interest is the notation by Knapsack that they had not had facilities or even water to bathe in since they left Harrisburg (20 April). Evidently this fact was brought home through the sense of smell. At this time Corporal McGinnis was honorably discharged.

Knapsack²¹ also informs us that the "Fencibles" stay here proved profitable, for it is here that the "Fencibles" see action. During the week of 26 June through 3 July they captured several wagons bound for the Confederacy. They amassed a grand total of 30 lbs. of sugar, several barrels of flour, some dry goods, and a "large supply of champagne." What happened to the champagne is anyone's guess, although these men would not be adverse to "destroying" enemy property.

Also in this letter we learn that John T. McGonigle was detached

from the Company. He was assigned to run the telegraph office at Frederick.

Once again the Regiment moved. This time (6 July 1861) it went to Martinsville (Martinsburg), Virginia.²² They were to remain here until the twenty-first of July, when they returned to Harper's Ferry. On the twenty-third they went to Sandy Hook and took a train for Harrisburg, where a few days later they were mustered out of service.²³

They returned home to Lancaster and a tremendous crowd on 27 July 1861.²⁴ Although they had no opportunity of meeting the enemy, the men had served to fill in the gaps at crucial points, freeing other units for battle.

Since they had left their arms behind, "this favorite company" were "not in a condition, at present (early August), for parade or drill."²⁵ However, by the end of the month of August when a funeral was held for George E. Hamilton, one of the first of Lancaster's war casualties, the "Fencibles" were re-equipped and ready to go.²⁶ The "Fencibles Band" did its part to aid the cause and on 30 and 31 August held concerts, the price of admission being only 10 cents per person. This was to allow everyone to come.²⁷

Colonel Hambright was busy in the meantime, forming a Lancaster County Regiment. On the nineteenth of September he was pleased to learn that the "Fencibles Band" had offered their services and had been sworn in.²⁸ Other members of the "Fencibles" left to take up command positions in this Regiment. After all, they were veterans now and had had five years experience.

The City looked to the "Fencibles" to go in as a unit as their band had done, but the "Fencibles" had had their fill of active duty; besides, they supplied many men to staff the Lancaster County Regiment, as are witnessed by its muster rolls.²⁹ This depletion of the ranks is emphasized by the gap in information about the "Fencibles" that exists from September, 1861 until January of 1862. Even then, the notice is about the "Fencibles Band." Although far away with a different unit (it was in Kentucky with the Central Division of the Army of the Cumberland), it was still referred to as the "Fencibles Band." What the press says is that it was ranked as "A no. 1."³⁰ Some of this may be local pride, but the fact is that the Band was continually called on to participate in reviews, presentations, and as a source of entertainment at headquarters.

In February 1862,³¹ the "Fencibles" turned out for the funeral of a former member killed in action. The deceased was John H. Dysart. Captain Franklin acted as pall-bearer. On 13 February 1862, at an afternoon meeting, Lieutenant John I. Hartman, president of the "Fencibles," communicated the resolutions of consolation to the relatives of the deceased. Captain Franklin was appointed to communicate these messages to those not present.³²

On Saturday the twenty-second of February 1862 the "Fencibles" in their grand old style paraded in honor of Washington's birthday.³³ Somehow, the reader does not get the impression that this was in fun. The

On the fourth of March the paper noted,³⁴ "We also learn that the 'Fencibles Band,' attached to Col. Hambright's 79th P.V. will probably soon return." This was a false alarm, for on 1 April 1862³⁵ it was reported that the band was not to be discharged, as most regimental bands, but was going to move up to the Brigade level and continue to serve. This attests to their proficiency already so many times acclaimed.

On the 19th of April³⁶ the "Fencibles" held an Anniversary Jubilee at their Armory in commemoration of their departure from Lancaster on 19 April 1861. The newspaper accounts tell of their sterling qualities and it must be said that they are not exaggerating when they describe how "the flower of the city"³⁷ left their homes, loved ones and businesses. The articles also point out that "Fencibles" furnished many officers and non-commissioned officers for the three years service, stating that "fifty or sixty"³⁸ of them were now serving. The Jubilee was an impromptu affair, with a few speeches, and camp songs recalling the three months service.

All this time, the "Fencibles" were existing without musical accompaniment. This could not last forever, and on 14 April 1862 the **Daily Evening Express** carries this advertisement on page three:

Six boys, whose respective ages shall not be under twelve or over fourteen years, are wanted as a Drum Corps by the Lancaster Fencibles. Instruction will be provided at the expense of the Company. Further particulars may be learned from the committee of the Company at the Fencible's Armory, Fulton Hall, on Tuesday Evening Next at 8 o'clock.

All applicants will Please Attend. Experienced Drummers, capable of imparting instruction, will please make known to the committee at the same time and place, the terms upon which they will give the instruction required.

ltd*

The Committee

The drum corps was successfully formed as we shall see.

In May of 1862³⁹ the "Fencibles" adopted a temporary uniform. It consisted of dark blue pants, a dark blue blouse and a fatigue cap. In appearance this must have been somewhat similar to the regular army uniform.

May was the start of the dissolution of the unit, although it was not evident immediately. In that month, "Stonewall" (Thomas Jonathan) Jackson opened his Shenandoah Valley Campaign and with a series of smashing victories threw fear of an Invasion into northern hearts. By General Order No. 23, Governor Andrew G. Curtin ordered out the Militia and called for volunteers.⁴⁰

The "Fencibles" called a meeting for 2 o'clock on the date of its issuance (26 May 1862),⁴¹ and the following day the company, led by Captain Franklin, set out for Harrisburg.⁴² However, upon reaching Harrisburg, it was discovered that the state was only accepting three year volunteers.⁴³ The "Fencibles" returned, their spirits dampened. They had wanted to enlist for nine months service.

By the fourth of July their spirits had recovered enough to allow them to parade at 7:30 a.m.⁴⁴ Later,⁴⁵ it was announced that as soon as volun-

teers would be accepted for one year, Captain Franklin and the "Fencibles" would be quick to join.

The "Fencibles'" chance came. Captain Franklin was given authority to form a new Lancaster County Regiment. J. I. Hartman was given power to swear in men for a company for the regiment. S. W. Rowe also was made a second lieutenant and started forming a company. The date was 23 July 1862.⁴⁶ The movement which was to dissolve the "Fencibles" was under way.

A new Brass Band was formed⁴⁷ and mustered into service about this same time, and the newspapers were thick with advertisements.⁴⁸

Volunteers Wanted for the Lancaster County Regiment in the First Company started under the Governor's late Proclamation.

Term of Service — Nine Months.

Men enlisting in this company will be entitled to all the benefits offered by the County Commissioner; to a bounty of \$25 from the U.S. Gov., paid in advance, i.e. when the Regiment is mustered in, and one month's pay in advance.

A premium of \$2 will be paid to each man as soon as he is mustered in.

The undersigned has, on the recommendation of Capt. Franklin, received a commission from the Governor giving him full authority to enlist and muster recruits to the United States service.

Apply at the recruiting office, above Reed, McGrann and Co.'s Banking House — entrance, 2nd door from Centre Square.

Advertisements like this spread all over the newspapers.

On the twenty-fourth the "Fencibles Drum Corps" went forth to summon men to a war meeting.⁴⁹ On the twenty-fifth a notice appears calling attention to the fact that the "Fencibles" were forming the officers and non-commissioned officers of the new Regiment.⁵⁰ Each day now the "Drum Corps" was out helping to recruit, and on 28 July 1862 they are praised very highly for their services which "imparts quite a lively air to the usually quiet, not to say dull, streets . . ." ⁵¹

On the 30th of July Franklin managed to establish a camp, through General Shaeffer and General F. Breneman. On the thirty-first,⁵² they completed the arrangements for all the camp equipment, and also were authorized to order the "best army clothing," ⁵³ for 980 men, which they did, from a Philadelphia firm before returning home.⁵⁴ The rest of the story of this gallant regiment may be found in their own history as the One Hundred and Twenty-Second Pennsylvania Volunteers, First Brigade, Third Division, Third Corps, Army of the Potomac. With their ranks filled with "Fencibles" and six out of ten⁵⁵ of the Regiment's companies commanded by "Fencibles," the gallant Lancaster Militia unit as we have known it faded into the past.

In September 1862 a plan was launched to raise a new unit to be called the "Lancaster Fencibles," but its story must wait for another time to be told. On the fields of such places as Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville the story of the old "Fencibles" continued not as a unit, but in the individual valor of its former members, who fought and died to preserve the Union.

THE UNIFORM¹

Our first indication of the uniform is given on 11 March 1856² when it is described as being the official "army uniform, with slight alterations." This is exactly what it is as we shall see. But to continue our short history of uniform development, we must next skip to 18 April 1857, where we learn that the band is finally equipped with uniforms similar to those of the unit,³ and the Armory is altered to provide drawers to keep these garments neat. It was not until 11 January 1860 that the unit finally achieved an overcoat design which satisfied them.⁴ After their three months service, there was a uniform shortage, which when combined with the musket shortage served to keep the unit out of affairs and off the streets of Lancaster for the greater part of a month.⁵ A real change took place, and can only be speculated on, when the unit adopted a temporary uniform on 20 May 1862.⁶ This completes the history of their uniform.

In the 14 September 1858⁷ issue of the **Lancaster Intelligencer**, both the fatigue uniform and the full dress uniform are described. Working from this and the miscellaneous plates of the **Atlas of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies**,⁸ which illustrates the official uniform of the army, we will next work out as careful a description of the uniform as possible.

We will begin with the dress uniform, for it is in that uniform that they are dressed in the existing photograph. Let us begin with a typical Fencible Private in his underwear. He would first pull on a pair of unpressed sky blue pants, probably held up by suspenders. Next he would put on his dark blue frock coat and carefully button each of the seven brass buttons. These buttons may have had an eagle on them, or perhaps an "F", one can only speculate on this point. Since the collar was high there was probably a hook of some kind to fasten it at the neck. After putting on some kind of black footwear, our "Fencible" would fasten on his white belts, one around the waist and one over the left shoulder, fastening them by the buckles so that both buckles were centered over the opening in the blouse. He might then check his epaulettes to assure that they were fastened on correctly. He would then look over his blue cap, making sure that the white plume affixed to the forefront was in good shape, and that the insignia, possibly an eagle, was straight. Once on his head this hat would be adjusted by a few tugs on its black rectangular peak and a careful placing of the chin strap. Pulling on a pair of white gloves and grabbing up his rifle, our "Fencible" was ready for a full dress parade.

The only difference in the band uniform as it ultimately turned out would be the substitution of a round blue pompon for the white plume.

The fatigue dress differed in that a dark blue roundabout and a kepi style cap, also blue, replaced the blouse and dress hat. Gloves and white

belts were probably also not worn.

If our "Fencible" had been an officer, he would have fastened on a black belt over a red sash and have fastened a straight officer's sword to this belt.

The winter overcoat finally adopted probably was knee length and dark blue. Other than making these conjectures one can go no further.

Chapter VI

THE ARMORY, ARMS, AND CONCLUSIONS

The "Fencibles" Armory was located on the third floor¹ of Fulton Hall, located on Prince Street. This structure modified to be sure, is standing today as the Fulton Art Theater. Although they apparently used this area from the very beginnings, it was not until 18 April 1857³ that it was really altered to fit their purposes. They constructed a rack and a case of drawers across the south end of the Armory. The rack was capable of holding 80 muskets, each of which was numbered to correspond with a drawer below. Over the years was added a portrait of Captain Duchman described as follows.⁴

A beautiful crayon ambrotype likeness of Capt. Duchman has been executed by Addis, of East King Street, and hung up in the Fencible's Armory at Fulton Hall. This portrait, which is of large size, is handsomely framed in a heavy gilt, oval frame, and was ordered by some of the Captain's military friends. As a work of art, it reflects much credit on Mr. Addis.

Besides this picture, in another part of the room, the two swords of military heroes of a past generation were placed in prominent positions.⁵

When one stops to think, a room in which fifty or sixty men could drill, must have been immense, and most probably included the whole of the third floor. In this vast space were held band concerts, numerous balls, collations of all types for visitors or for the unit itself, and the normal meetings and drill of the unit. This, then, was the Armory of the "Fencibles."

* * * * *

Probably the most intriguing part of the unit, and as yet an area unsolved, is the arms they used. Up until 19 September 1860,⁶ they most certainly used muskets as is witnessed by the quote above⁷ and in many other references too numerous to mention. However, no description is given and one can only guess at their origin and type. They most probably used a cap and nipple arrangement, but were probably old make guns. They may have come from the National Government, only this is highly unlikely since there are no records of such a purchase. Then too they may have come from the State government if it were not for the fact that they had them before they were mustered into the state militia. Most likely they were of local origin, perhaps even made by Lemman, but then again, these were muskets and Lemman was famous for rifles. At any rate



Uniform of the Lancaster Fencibles as reconstructed from research by William Andes. From an original colored drawing by William Andes.

the unit had muskets.

After the 19th of September in 1860, however, the unit seems to have switched to rifles.

Captain Franklin has received new arms from United States authorities . . . Minnie patent, and are, it is said, capable of throwing a ball a distance of 1000 yards.⁸

From this we may surmise that they were rifles — the Minnie patent referring to the conical type of bullet used in the latest rifled guns. Since the National Government did not start buying foreign make rifles until after this date, we may assume that it was made in the U.S. It might have come from one of three places, in that case. First, there was the arsenal at Harper's Ferry. Next, there was the famous Springfield Arsenal; and last but not least there was Henry E. Leman of Lancaster, who in November of 1856 had been awarded a large contract for rifles by the United States Government.⁹ If these rifles came from any of these sources, they probably were of 58 calibre although this too is unproven.

The bayonet used on the muskets, and probably on the rifle too, appears from the picture to be of standard type for the period.

Perhaps in the future some new information may be uncovered to bring to light the type of arms used by the unit; until then, we can make no definite statements about them.

* * * * *

Our work is now as complete as it can be at the present time except for some general observations of the author. The most important single fact that this work points out is the manner in which a unit, full of gay young men, was raised, enjoyed a few years of happiness and then was caught up in the whirlwind events of the American Civil War. What happened in Lancaster is, in a general way, typical of what happened to similar units all over the nation and in this it represents a larger part of history than just a short span of time in a limited community, involving a few score of men. The "Lancaster Fencibles" could have been any unit, in any town, north or south, at that time. It is this factor that lifts its importance far above the boundaries of Lancaster City.

Secondly, a unit such as this can never die. Although no relics belonging to it have yet appeared, it is very possible that before long a button, or buckle, or perhaps a part of a uniform, or maybe even something like the sword presented to Captain Franklin, will be discovered and throw new light on some region still dark.

Although its members have passed away, and its Armory has been dismantled, the memory of the "Lancaster Fencibles" will go on as long as there is a Lancaster. This work serves as proof of that fact.

NOTES

CHAPTER I

ORGANIZATION

1. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 28 September 1858, p. 2.
2. **The Daily Evening Express**, 22 August 1857, p. 2.
3. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 28 September 1858, p. 2. This date is an approximation by the author. The actual text reads that it was 14 years before that the riots had taken place. This makes it 1844.
4. Hunter Miller, **Treaties and other International Acts of the United States of America**, Vol. V. (Washington: The United States Government Printing Office), pp. 671-672. The actual text reads: "The Governments of the United States and Great Britain hereby declare that neither one nor the other will ever . . . occupy, or fortify, or colonize, or assume, or exercise any dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito Coast, or any part of Central America."
5. Henry Steele Commager and Samuel Eliot Morison, **The Growth of the American Republic** (New York: Oxford University Press, 1957), Vol. I, pp. 613-614.
6. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 26 February 1856, p. 2.
7. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 13 November 1855, p. 2.
8. Frederick Shriver Klein, **Lancaster County Since 1841** (Lancaster: The Intelligencer Printing Co., 1955), Chapter 2. This proves an excellent background source and it is from this that the following "setting" material has been drawn.
9. *Ibid.*, pp. 30-31.
10. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 18 December 1855, p. 2.
11. The various Zouave units are an example of this type of thing.
12. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 18 December 1855, p. 2. "There should be more military spirit in our midst—and it is rather a reflection on Lancaster that we have been so long without at least one military company, when our neighbor, Reading, with very little more of a population than we have, should be able to sustain, and do it well, 4 or 5." Evidently there had been no military units in existence at the time that the "Fencibles" were raised. This gives them the distinction of being the first of the units which would ultimately participate in the Civil War.
13. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 26 February 1856, p. 2.
14. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 11 March 1856, p. 2.
15. A complete description and illustration of the uniform is discussed later in the work and will not be handled here.
16. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 26 February 1856, p. 2. The most "enterprising young men" are joining.
17. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 1 April 1856, p. 2.
18. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 22 April 1856, p. 2.
19. See chapter on uniforms for description of fatigue dress.
20. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 27 May 1856, p. 2.
21. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 3 June 1856, p. 2.

CHAPTER II

THE HAPPY YEARS

1. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 24 June 1856, p. 2.
2. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 1 July 1856, p. 2.
3. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 8 July 1856, p. 2.
4. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 19 August 1856, p. 2.
5. The "Philadelphia National Guards" were the honor company of the state; hence "Flag Company."
6. **The Intelligencer and Lancastrian**, 2 September 1856, p. 2. All the material in this paragraph is taken from this paper.

7. **The Intelligencer and Lancastrian**, 7 October 1856, p. 2.
8. **The Daily Evening Express**, 13 November 1856, p. 2, and **The Intelligencer and Lancastrian**, 18 November 1856, p. 2.
9. **Daily Evening Express**, 28 November 1856, p. 2.
10. **The Intelligencer and Lancastrian**, 13 January 1857, p.2.
11. **The Daily Evening Examiner**, 9 January 1857, p. 2.
12. **The Intelligencer and Lancastrian**, 24 February 1857, p. 2.
13. **The Daily Evening Express**, 24 February 1857, p. 2.
14. **The Intelligencer and Lancastrian**, 10 March 1857, p. 2.
15. **Ibid.**
16. **The Daily Evening Express**, 18 April 1857, p. 2.
17. **The Daily Evening Express**, 8 May 1857, p. 2.
18. **The Intelligencer and Lancastrian**, 12 May 1857, p. 2.
19. **The Intelligencer and Lancastrian**, 16 June 1857, p. 2.
20. **The Intelligencer and Lancastrian**, 23 June 1857, p. 2.
21. **The Intelligencer and Lancastrian**, 30 June 1857, p. 2.
22. **Ibid.**
23. **The Intelligencer and Lancastrian**, 7 July 1857, p. 3.
24. **The Daily Evening Express**, 7 August 1857, p. 2.
25. **The Daily Evening Express**, 22 August 1857, p. 3.
26. **The Daily Evening Express**, 24 August 1857, p. 2.
27. **The Daily Evening Express**, 7 October 1857, p. 2.
28. **Daily Evening Express**, 22 October 1857, p. 2.
29. **The Daily Evening Express**, 21 December 1857, p. 2.
30. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 12 January 1858, p. 2.
31. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 19 January 1858, p. 2.
32. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 26 January 1858, p. 2.
33. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 23 February 1858, p. 2.
34. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 13 April 1858, p. 2.
35. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 20 April 1858, p. 2.
36. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 11 May 1858, p. 2.
37. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 15 June 1858, p. 2.
38. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 22 June 1858, p. 2.
39. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 13 July 1858, p. 2.
40. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 7 September 1858, p. 2.
41. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 14 September 1858, p. 2.
42. **Ibid.**
43. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 28 September 1858, p. 2.
44. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 9 November 1858, p. 2.
45. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 16 November 1858, p. 2.
46. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 14 December 1858, p. 2.
47. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 12 January 1859, p. 2.
48. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 4 January 1859, p. 2.
49. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 25 January 1859, p. 2.
50. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 1 February 1859, p. 2.
51. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 15 March 1859, p. 2.
52. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 5 April 1859, p. 2.
53. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 31 May 1859, p. 2.
54. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 7 June 1859, p. 2.
55. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 14 June 1859, p. 2 and **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 22 June 1859, p. 2.
56. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 5 July 1859, p. 2.
57. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 20 July 1859, p. 2.
58. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 2 August 1859, p. 2.
59. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 6 September 1859, p. 2.
60. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 4 October 1859, p. 2.
61. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 15 November 1859, p. 2.
62. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 22 November 1859, p. 2.
63. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 11 January 1860, p. 2.
64. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 13 March 1860, p. 2.

CHAPTER III

TIME OF UNCERTAINTY

1. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 3 April 1860, p. 2.
2. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 17 April 1860, p. 2.
3. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 18 April 1860, p. 2.
4. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 8 May 1860, p. 2.
5. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 22 May 1860, p. 2.
6. **Ibid.**
7. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 19 June 1860, p. 2.
8. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 10 July 1860, pp. 2-3.
9. **Ibid.**
10. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 7 August 1860, p. 2.
11. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 8 August 1860, p. 2.
12. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 4 September 1860, p. 2.
13. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 19 September 1860, p. 2.
14. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 30 October 1860, p. 2.
15. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 27 February 1861, p. 2.
16. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 22 February 1861, p. 2.
17. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 12 March 1861, p. 2.
18. **Ibid.**
19. Samuel P. Bates, **History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-5**. Vol. I (Harrisburg: B. Singerly, State Printer, 1869) p. 1.
20. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 17 April 1861, p. 2.

THE WAR YEARS

CHAPTER IV

1. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 23 April 1861, p. 2.
2. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 24 April 1861, p. 2.
3. **Ibid.**
4. **Ibid.**
5. **Ibid.**
6. **Ibid.**
7. **Ibid.**
8. **Ibid.**
9. Samuel P. Bates, **History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-5**. Volume I (Harrisburg: B. Singerly, State Printer, 1869), p. 13.
10. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 8 May 1861, p. 3.
11. Bates, *Op. cit.*, p. 13.
12. **Ibid.**
13. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 24 April 1861, p. 2.
14. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 15 May 1861, p. 2.
15. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 22 May 1861, p. 2.
16. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 29 May 1861, p. 2.
17. **Ibid.**
18. **Ibid.**
19. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 5 June 1861, p. 2.
20. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 26 June 1861, p. 2.
21. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 3 July 1861, p. 2.
22. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 10, July 1861, p. 2.
23. Bates, *Op. cit.*, p. 15.
24. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 31 July 1861, p. 2.
25. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 14 August 1861, p. 2.
26. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 21 August 1861, p. 2.
27. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 28 August 1861, p. 2.
28. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 25 September 1861, p. 2.

29. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 1 October 1861, p. 2.
30. **The Daily Evening Express**, 6 January 1862, p. 2.
31. **The Daily Evening Express**, 13 February 1862, p. 2.
32. **The Daily Evening Express**, 14 February 1862, p. 2.
33. **The Daily Evening Express**, 24 February 1862, p. 2.
34. **The Daily Evening Express**, 4 March 1862, p. 2.
35. **The Daily Evening Express**, 1 April 1862, p. 2.
36. **The Daily Evening Express**, 21 April 1862. p. 2.
37. **Ibid.**
38. **Ibid.**
39. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 13 May 1862, p. 2.
40. **The Daily Evening Express**, 26 May 1862, p. 2.
41. **Ibid.**
42. **The Daily Evening Express**, 27 May 1862, p. 2.
43. **The Daily Evening Express**, 28 May 1862, p. 2.
44. **The Daily Evening Express**, 5 July 1862, p. 2.
45. **The Daily Evening Express**, 15 July 1862, p. 2.
46. **The Daily Evening Express**, 23 July 1862, p. 2.
47. **Ibid.**
48. **Ibid.**
49. **The Daily Evening Express**, 24 July 1862, p. 2.
50. **The Daily Evening Express**, 23 July 1862, p. 2.
51. **The Daily Evening Express**, 28 July 1862, p. 2.
52. **The Daily Evening Express**, 30 July 1862, p. 2.
53. **Ibid.**
54. **The Daily Evening Express**, 1 August 1862, p. 2.
55. **The Daily Evening Express**, 16 August 1862, p. 2.

CHAPTER V

THE UNIFORM

1. Refer to Page 187 for illustration.
2. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 11 March 1856, p. 2.
3. **The Daily Evening Express**, 18 April 1857, p. 2.
4. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 11 January 1860, p. 2.
5. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 14 August 1861, p. 2.
6. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 20 May 1862, p. 2.
7. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 14 September 1858, p. 2.
8. U.S. War Department, **Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies** (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1891-1895), plates 172-175, Miscellaneous.

CHAPTER VI

THE ARMORY, ARMS, AND CONCLUSIONS

1. **The Daily Evening Express**, 9 September 1862, p. 2.
2. **The Daily Evening Express**, 21 December 1857, p. 2.
3. **The Daily Evening Express**, 18 April 1857, p. 2.
4. **The Intelligencer and Lancastrian**, 12 May 1857, p. 2.
5. **The Lancaster Intelligencer**, 15 March 1859, p. 2.
6. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 19 September 1860.
7. Note 4, this chapter.
8. **The Lancaster Examiner and Herald**, 19 September 1860, p. 2.
9. **The Daily Evening Express**, 4 November 1856, p. 3.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mr. Blaker was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania amid the landmarks of Wyoming Valley's revolutionary war background, and it was here that his Father imbued in him that sense of appreciation for things historical. Just after his freshman year in high school, he moved to Rutherford, New Jersey where he now resides. It was during this time that his historical inquisitiveness led him to develop a keen interest in the Civil War. Upon graduation from Rutherford High School in 1956, he came to Franklin & Marshall College from which he received an A.B. in History. While at Franklin & Marshall, Mr. Blaker studied the background and events of Lancaster in the Civil War, finally narrowing his work to the topic at hand. Presently serving as an officer in the Air Force, Mr. Blaker hopes to continue his studies of History.