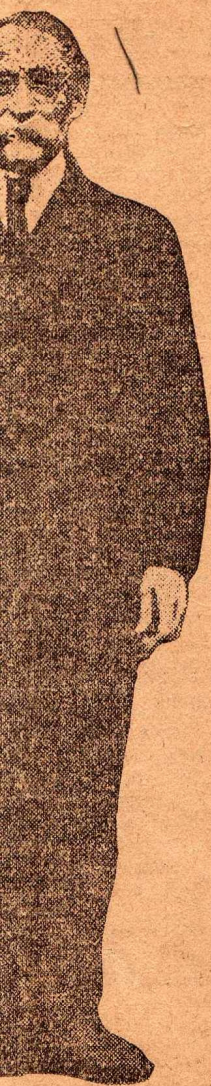


THE YOUNGEST CIVIL WAR VETERAN

BE THE YOUNGEST
THE CIVIL WAR.



JOHN MANTLE.

had to return to his
persuaded his mother's

messenger to enlist with him in the German company. They went through the war together and today John Liefeld, of Madison, Wisconsin, and John Mautte, of Hamden, Connecticut, are the only survivors of that company. The former was a guest at Mr. Mautte's home a short time ago.

THE ELEVENTH CONNECTICUT.

The Eleventh Connecticut Volunteer regiment was as green as ever any command in uniform when it was hurried out of Hartford for the front. Mr. Mautte says their ignorance of things military was as pathetic as it was amusing. Often it proved mighty dangerous but once it was actually a source of saving many lives. The veteran tells that story in this manner:

"As a regimental guide I was given a little white flag to carry on a rod stuck into the muzzle of my musket. At our first battle, Newbern, N. C., we were as bewildered as though we suddenly had been called upon to make a dash for the North Pole and had never been north of Boston in preparation. Our regiment stood at dress parade in the direct line of the direct line of the enemy's fire, awaiting orders to do something. Round about us the artillery duel was terrifying. Round about us the artillery duel was rifle. Other regiments were charging on the enemy's breastworks. Finally the orders came to advance and the colonel ordered me to place the stars and stripes in place of the white flag I was carrying and away we went. On the second charge we gained the breastworks and captured a number of rebel gunners. Then, to our astonishment, we learned why the Confederates were not firing at our regiment as it stood in full view and exposed to their guns. They had mistaken my regimental guide's white flag as a flag of truce or surrender and did not want to violate it.

IN LEE'S REAR.

Mr. Mautte delights to recall the

fact that the division of which his regiment was a part was sent to Lee's rear during Gettysburg and there did such effective work in cutting off supplies, destroying bridges and roads, tearing up railroad tracks, and hampering facilities for a possible retreat, that the Confederates were greatly weakened. This has been said by experts on the war to have been one of the most effective moves of the kind in military history.

COL. STEADMAN.

Colonel Steadman, commanding the Eleventh regiment, was a Wallingford man and as Mr. Mautte says: "A magnificent soldier, a perfect gentleman, and a lion on the field of battle." He died on the field of Petersburg hit by a fragment from a rebel shell. At the time of his death he was an acting brigadier-general in command of troops making the famous charge.

LINCOLN'S MESSAGE.

The Eleventh was enlisted for three years when it left Hartford. When the time was approaching for the regiment's mustering out of service, Lincoln was calling for "three hundred thousand more."

One morning the regiment drawn up into line was standing at "Attention" when the colonel stepped before the men and read a message from the President. It said that he was trying to raise three hundred thousand more men, that the crisis in the war was at hand, that seasoned veterans of three years experience were worth three times as much as untrained citizen-soldiers, and that the men of the Eleventh regiment who would favor the President of the United States with a re-enlistment for three years more or until such

time as the rebels should surrender, would be counted high in his estimation. He then thanked them for their three years' service and complimented the command on its record in the battles fought. The colonel said nothing after reading the President's letter except: "Those who wish to re-enlist for further service as outlined in the letter of President Lincoln will stand four paces to the front on command. Forward, march!"

Only 50 men out of the thousand in the regiment stood still while their comrades stepped off smartly to the fore, thereby enlisting for three years more.

STUDENTS' FRIEND.

Yale men in Sheff, especially those who take mechanical engineering, know Mr. Mautte well. For 19 years he has been running the engines in Winchester hall where all of equipment used by students of mechanical engineering in the past has been located. Now that the new mechanical laboratory is in use he will come in contact with the students less than heretofore. However he numbers among his friends scores of the Sheff boys who have pestered him with questions in years gone by.

LARGE FAMILY.

The old soldier, or should we say young soldier, takes great pride in his family. His seven sons are: Charles, a machinist; Arthur, a plumber; John, a drug clerk in New York; George, an engineer; Edward, an officer in the U. S. Coast Artillery; Louis, a musician, and Henry, a plumber. His four daughters are: Mrs. Catherine Weiser, Mrs. Arthur Carroll, Mrs. John Talbott, and Mrs. Mark Hill, all of this city.

Mr. Mautte's brother, Louis, also a veteran of the Civil War, is living at the Soldiers' home in Maine. He was a member of the 21st Massachusetts Volunteers and was wounded in both legs.