

## The Civil War and Hoosick Effort

Many men from the Town of Hoosick participated in the Civil War. On April 15, 1861, President Lincoln called for 75,000 men to put down the rebellion. Hoosick promptly responded by enlisting a company which was enrolled as Company H, 30th Regiment, New York State Volunteers. Seventy-one men signed the enlistment papers, the first was L. Burke Ball, the son of Levi Chandler Ball. He became Lieutenant of the company. Before leaving for the War, each man was furnished with a pair of merino shirts, a linen Havelock, a paper of needles, a dozen skeins of thread, a supply of buttons, and an ivory comb.

The company was quartered temporarily at Eagle Bridge. They moved to Troy where a regiment was organized, then shipped out to Washington, DC on June 28, 1861. The principal battles in which the 30th took part were Groveton, Second Bull Run, South Mountain and Antietam. It suffered its greatest casualties at Bull Run.

A second group entered Federal service on August 30, 1862. The 125th New York Volunteer Infantry was recruited from Rensselaer County with Company A from Hoosick. The 125th was sent to Harpers Ferry, Virginia, the site of a Federal arsenal and of John Brown's uprising. They camped in a flat field that was virtually indefensible, dominated on all sides by higher ground. Confederate General Robert E. Lee sent three columns of troops to capture the arsenal. Union Col. Dixon Miles sent 1,600 men to the heights and kept the remainder of over 12,000 men on the low fields close to the town. Once the Confederate soldiers overran the outpost on the heights, the Union army was hopelessly trapped. The next morning the Confederate army shelled the garrison from all directions and Col. Miles surrendered 12,419 men before succumbing to wounds he suffered in the battle. The captured men signed paroles which stated they could not fight until they were exchanged for an equal number of parolees from the other side. On November 22, the men of the 125th were exchanged for an equal number of Confederate soldiers. One of the soldiers was Levi Chandler Ball, who was then in his 50s. He was transferred to the payroll corps and spent the remainder of the war paying Union soldiers.

After the War, a strong veterans group formed under the Grand Army of the Republic.