

H.C. Hart's Contributions by Patrick Jones

Henry Cowles Hart was born August 19, 1818 in Bristol, Harford, Connecticut to Orrin and Eunice Hart. Little is known about the early days of his life, but according to the introduction from his fife and drum manual, he received a "thorough practical course of instructions from the Drum Major of the Military Academy at Middletown, Conn., under Professor Partridge." (Partridge) Connecticut Births and Christenings, 1649-1906

At some point, Hart moved from his place of birth in Connecticut to Canandaigua, Ontario, New York. In the 1860 census he is listed as a "woodturner", age 42, and birthplace Connecticut. He must have been an accomplished musician at this time, because the very next year he enlisted as Drum Major of the 20th New York State Militia, later designated the 80th New York State Volunteers.

		Carrie "	1	F.				"
799	799	J.B. Francis	47	M	Master Cabinet Maker	2500	1500	Conn.
		Harriet J. "	42	F.				"
		Henry C. Hart	42	M	Wood Turner			"
		Lucinda S. "	42	F.				M.H.
		Jane Flynn	43	F.	Domestic			Ireland

In this muster roll of the 80th N.Y.S.V., we can see Henry C. Hart enlisted on October 1, 1861 as Drum Major. His age is 43, which is consistent with his birth year. Also, Kingston, New York is at the southeastern corner of New York, close to the Connecticut border.

MUSTER ROLL of the Field and Staff of the 80th Regiment, N. Y. S. V., (20th Regt., N. Y. S. Militia,) commanded by COLONEL GEORGE W. PRATT, called into the service of the United States by Proclamation of the President, from the — day of —, 186—, (date of this muster,) for the term of the war, unless sooner discharged.

Numbers of each grade.	NAMES. PRESENT AND ABSENT. (Privates in alphabetical order.)	RANK.	AGE.	JOINED FOR DUTY AND ENROLLED.				TRAVELING.		VALUATION IN DOLLARS, OF—		REMARKS.
				When.	Where.	By whom enrolled.	Period.	To place of rendezvous. No. of miles.	From place of rendezvous. No. of miles.	Horses.	Horse equipments.	
1	George W. Pratt.....	Colonel..	31	Sept. 5 1861	Kingston, N.Y.	.....	During the war.	....	....	....	....	Mustered by Capt. A. S. Smith. Oct. 3
1	Theodore B. Gates.....	Lt.-Col..	34	Sept. 5	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do Capt. McMahon. Sept. 10
1	Jacob B. Hardenburgh.....	Major....	25	do 5	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do Capt. A. S. Smith. Sept. 24
STAFF OFFICERS.												
1	John M. Schoonmaker.....	Act. Adj..	23	do 5	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do Capt. Jas. Smith. Oct. 25
1	Cornelius D. Westbrook.....	Engineer..	38	do 5	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do Capt. A. S. Smith. do 4
1	John S. Griffiths.....	Qr. Master	33	do 5	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do do do 3
1	Diamond Elmendorf.....	Comm'r'y.	44	do 5	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do do do Sept. 24
1	Selahi O. Tuthill.....	Paymast'r	23	Oct. 23	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do Capt. P. Ward.. Oct. 23
1	Robert Loughran.....	Surgeon..	26	Sept. 5	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do Capt. A. S. Smith. do 3
1	Robert K. Tuthill.....	Asst. Surg.	26	Oct. 3	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do Capt. McMahon. do 3
1	Cornelius Van Santvoord...	Chaplain..	44	do 10	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do do do do 10
NON-COMMISSIONED STAFF.												
1	Theodore Van Kleek.....	Sgt. Major	22	Oct. 5	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do do do do 5
1	John McEntee.....	Q. M. Sergt	26	Sept. 24	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do do do Sept. 24
1	John W. Edmonds.....	Hoe. Stw'd	21	do 5	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do Capt. Bankhead. do 5
1	Henry C. Hart.....	D'm Major	43	Oct. 1	do	.....	do	....	....	....	....	do Capt. A. S. Smith. Oct. 1

I certify, on honor, that this Muster Roll exhibits the true state of the Field and Staff of the 20th Regt., N. Y. S. M., for the period herein mentioned; that each man answers to his own proper name in person; that the remarks set opposite the name of each officer and soldier are accurate and just.

GEORGE W. PRATT, Col.,
Commanding the Regiment.

Date— Station—

I certify, on honor, that I have at Washington, D. C., on this 31st day of October, 1861, carefully examined this Roll, and, as far as practicable, caused the allowances, stoppages and remarks to be justly and properly stated; and mustered the Field and Staff for payment.

GEORGE W. PRATT, Col. Commanding, and
Mustering Officer.

Date—Oct. 21, 1861. Station—Washington, D. C.

FIELD AND STAFF, 80th REGIMENT, N. Y. S. V.

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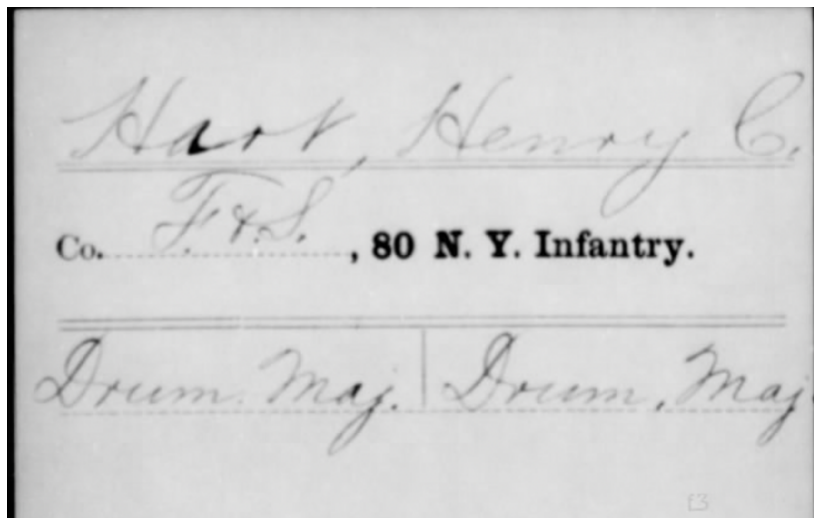
1186 REPORT OF THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

HARRISON, JOSEPH H.—Age, 20 years. Enrolled, September 10, 1861, at Kingston, to serve three years; mustered in as second lieutenant, Co. A, October 22, 1861; discharged, September 5, 1862.

Commissioned second lieutenant, March 17, 1862, with rank from October 22, 1861, original.

HART, GEORGE W.—Age, 23 years. Enlisted, February 22, 1864, at Kingston, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. H, February 29, 1864; promoted corporal, December 11, 1865; mustered out with company, January 29, 1866, at Portsmouth, Va.; also borne as George H.

HART, HENRY C.—Age, 43 years. Enlisted at Kingston, to serve three years, and mustered in as drum major, October 1, 1861; no further record.



Hart's enlistment with the 80th was meant to be for 3 years, however, by 1862 he was tasked with finding drummers for the 71st New York State Militia. According to the Mattatuck Drum Band's records, Hart was employed in early 1862 by the 71st's Quartermaster George W. Roosevelt. This is corroborated in the regimental history as well.

Early in 1862 Quartermaster George W. Roosevelt of the 71st regiment, N.Y.S.M., then organizing, employed Col. H.C. Hart to organize the Regimental Drum Corps. Col. Hart came to Connecticut in quest of drummers and fifers, but met with little success until one evening while sitting on the veranda of a Hotel in Southington, he heard drums in the distance. On inquiry he learned it was the Wolcott Drum band practicing in the center of town six miles away. He immediately hired a rig and hastened to Wolcott. The ultimate result was that he engaged Henry Chatfield as leader and instructor, and Hezekiah and Leslie Todd as fifers. About the state they found other men, and obtained the balance they needed in New York City. The corps; became very efficient before going to the front. They were attached to the Army of the Potomac, and it was said that the 71st regiment, N.Y.S.M., had one of the best drum corps in the Union army. After the war Mr. Chatfield related the following: "When Gen. Grant took command of the army he reviewed all the troops, and as he and his staff passed the 71st regiment the corps played Hail to the Chief to Wilcox common time. He paused in front of the players and when they had finished he remarked, "Well boys I never heard such a hell of a noise from so few drums in my life!" He then passed on."

The regiment had left home without any music, not even a Drum Corps. This was much missed, and the arrival on the 6th, of a Drum Corps, was hailed with delight; with it came 15 recruits. Later, this Drum and Fife Corps became the joke of the camp, it seemed to be of the vintage of 1776, its favorite airs were "Jefferson and Liberty" and others of that or older period, the leader was an odd sort, of the backwoods type, and received from the men the soubriquet of "Connecticut Pie."

The last line of this entry is most interesting, indicating that the style of drumming was not what the soldiers were used to hearing. Also, the nickname "Connecticut Pie" would coincide with Hart's birthplace, as well as supporting the fact that the drummers were not native New Yorkers.

History of the 71st Regiment N.G.N.Y

Volume 1 Number 1 March
1973 Ancient Times

July 4th, 86th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, was properly celebrated at Camp Martin, Fort Gaines, Tennallytown, by the 71st Regiment.

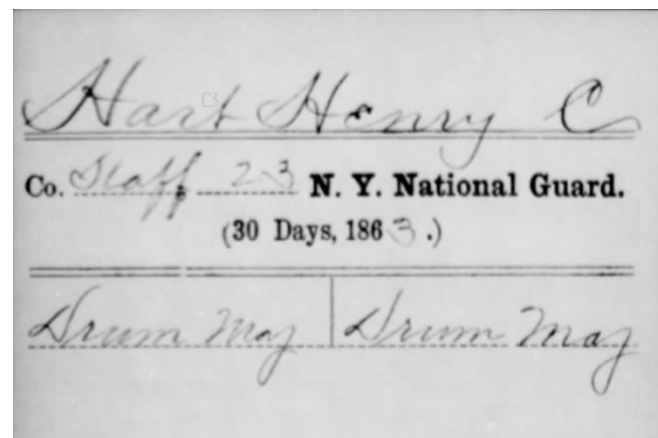
The following program of exercises were gone through to the great satisfaction of all present. Captain D. C. Meschutt of Company D presided, and Colonel Martin and his staff sat upon the platform:

1. Opening prayer by Private Wm. Jeffries of Company H.
2. Music by Drum and Fife Corps, "Hail Columbia." ←
3. Song—"Star Spangled Banner."
4. Song—"America," by Private Wm. Jeffries, Company H.
5. Music by the Drum and Fife Corps, "Jefferson and Liberty." ←
6. Song—"Red, White and Blue," by Private Alfred B. Hall, of Company C.
7. Music by the Drum and Fife Corps, Fancy Piece. ←
8. Reading of the Declaration of Independence by Sergeant J. A. Lucas, N. C. Staff.
9. Music by Drum and Fife Corps, "Star Spangled Banner," ←
10. Song—"Viva L'America," by Lieutenant Gregory, of Company A.
11. Music by Drum and Fife Corps, "Hail to the Chief." ←
12. Oration by Private J. K. Osborne, Company G.
13. Song—"American Boys," by Richard Barnett, Company D.
14. Song—"Dear Old Flag," by Richard H. Barrowe, Company H.
15. Music by the Drum and Fife Corps, "Yankee Doodle." ←
16. All sing "Old Hundred."

Left: Fourth of July celebration activities from July 1862. The "Drum and Fife Corps" are featured a number of times including their selections of music.

History of the 71st Regiment N.G.N.Y

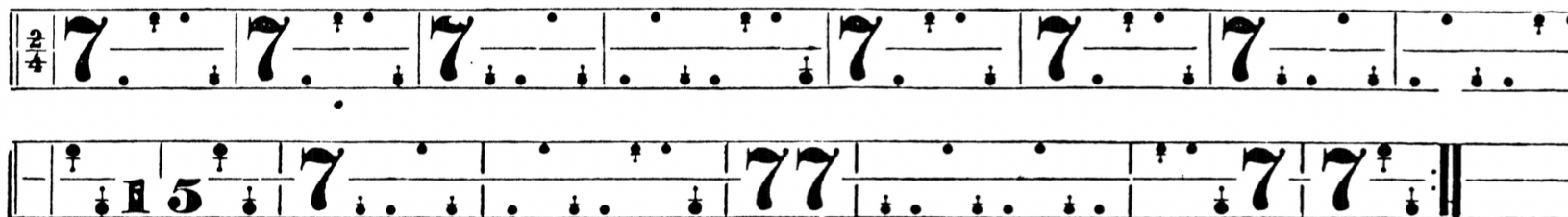
Finally, Hart enlists in the 17th New York National Guard for a period of 30 days as "Drum Major."



Prior to the American Civil War, the 71st New York existed as a militia organization. As such, they were required to drill and train in a military fashion. As such, music was an integral part of the marching and training. In 1853, a Drum Corps was organized of boys. Their uniforms consisted of "red jackets, white belts and blue trousers, the cap being red with white and blue trimmings." Also, a brass band was enlisted under the leadership of Harvey J. Dodworth.

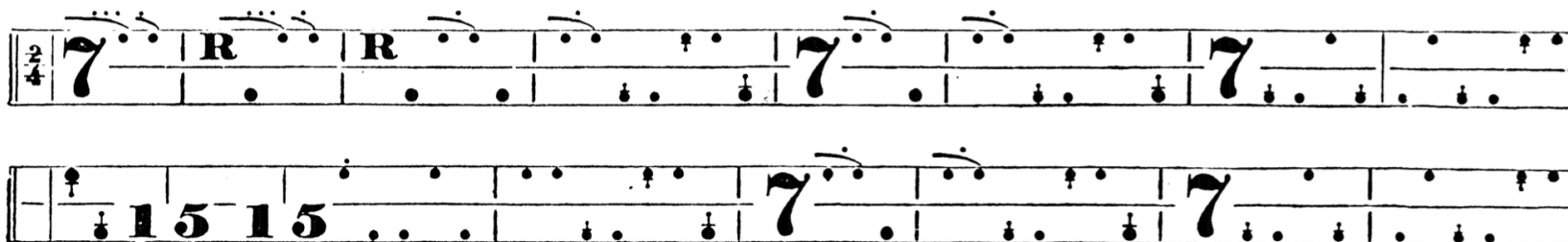
In 1857, the leader of the drum corps was "Mr. Conklin." This is a significant detail due to the fact that in Hart's *New and Improved Instructor for the Drum* he states, "The two following tunes are inserted by request, being original, and beat by Matthew Conklin, Drum Major of Dodworth's celebrated Brass Band, N.Y."

The two following tunes are inserted by request, being original, and beat by Matthew Conklin, Drum Major of Dodworth's celebrated Brass Band, N. Y
No. 71.—M. CONKLIN'S 2-4 FLAM TAP BEAT.



Fife Part, the Cuckoo's Nest, or any Hornpipe.

No. 72.—M. CONKLIN'S 2-4 STICK BEAT.



The dots over the slurs above the upper line indicate that the right hand stick hits the left above the ball as it is held near the head of the Drum.

... and, there after a short time they returned to the academy.

“The Drum Corps in charge of Mr. Conklin did well * * * some of the boys in the corps are most too small to drum on the line of march; they cannot take the full step and are very liable to get into the bad habit of stepping short.”

Taken from: *History of
the 71st Regiment*

Unfortunately, it doesn't appear that Conklin was ever Drum Major of the Dodworth Band. That position was held by Harvey Dodworth until December of 1865 when it was turned over to David L. Downing.

The year closed with extensive preparations for a grand ball to be given in the Academy of Music, the proceeds of which was to be devoted to the completion of the Vosburgh monument; and a drill in the arsenal. During the year Harvey Dodworth retired from the leadership of the band which he had lead for so many years; he was ably succeeded by his assistant, David L. Downing.

Of the drill the “World” said:

“On Wednesday evening, December 27th, the 71st Regiment of New York Militia, participated in a battalion drill which amply illustrated their proficiency in the infantry branch of the art of war. The exercises took place in the State arsenal and the hundreds of jets with which it was illuminated lit up a scene of beauty, intellect and fashion, rarely seen outside the walls of the Academy.

“The occasion was fittingly set apart to inaugurate the new bandmaster, Prof. Downing; its debut was eminently successful. At eight o'clock line was formed, the exercises being in ployments and deployments according to Morris' Tactics—some of the exercises were marvelously perfect. That of ‘Charge bayonets’ was a model; and this was followed by the difficult one of forming column by fours, which was faultlessly effected.

“The dress parade throughout, every evolution, was admirable; and at one time, the grand preparation for battle, as presented in the order preliminary to firing, excited special interest from all present.”

Taken from: *History of
the 71st Regiment*

Hart also attributes other tunes as being played by “A. Lydecker for many years fifer in Dodworth’s”. These would be the *No. 2 - Slow Scotch*, *General Bank’s March* and *No. 32 - Quick Retreat*. Another indication of his service with the 71st and familiarity with its musicians.

16 No. 2.-SLOW SCOTCH. General Bank's March.

As played by A. LYDECKER,
for many years Fifer in Dodworth's



No. 32.-QUICK RETREAT.

A. LYDECKER.



The Mattatuck Drum Band also makes the claim that Hart was not the inventor of his musical notation used for drumming, but it was copied from one Samuel Wilcox. The following information was compiled by Ted Kurtz.

Ted had also uncovered evidence that Col. H.G. Hart's "New And Improved Instructor For The Drum," (1862), was a plagiarism of Wilcox' method. In addition, it developed that the famous Col. Hart's background is quite suspect. Neither the Army, nor the Military Academy at West Point, have any records justifying his claim to the title "Colonel."

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About 1830, Samuel Wilcox was induced to become their instructor. He was an aged man who had served many years in the English army, principally in India. He introduced an original style much different than had been previously used. Formerly all drumming had been taught by rote, but his was a simple and useful notation, and from thence on was carefully adhered to. He was a strict advocate of rudimental drumming, and introduced several beats that were previously unknown in this country. Some of these, the Mattatucks still use just as he taught them 143 years ago. It is said that he was an exceptionally good snare drummer, and it is certain he was a very capable in-

structor, for the old hand made great strides and established an enviable reputation under his instruction.

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