

**THE PITTSBURGH BLUES**

By

CAPTAIN JOHN H. NIEBAUM

(Continued from the October, 1921 number)

## PART IV.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES OF MEMBERS OF THE BLUES

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Gen. Richard Butler, father of Captain James R. Butler was one of the most distinguished Pennsylvania officers of the Revolutionary Army, and the eldest of five brothers, designated by Washington as the "Five Butlers, a gallant band of Patriotic Brothers." Gen. Butler was in continuous service throughout the Revolutionary war, part of the time as lieutenant colonel of Morgan's famous rifle regiment. He distinguished himself at Saratoga and Monmouth and led one of the two storming parties at the taking of Stony Point. He was present with his regiment in the operations on the James River and at the capture of Cornwallis. He was second in command under St. Clair in his expedition against the Indians in 1791, and was killed in the disastrous fight on the Miami River on the 4th of November of that year.

Capt. James R. Butler, who commanded the Pittsburgh Blues in the War of 1812, was a son of Gen. Richard Butler and was born in the old log house on Marbury Street. When his Company was about to start on its long wilderness march to the Wabash country he took it along Marbury Street, where his aged mother was still living, and calling a halt there, walked up the steps to the door, where she was standing, to bid her farewell. On leaving her she said in a clear voice, words which were distinctly heard and long remembered by the men:

"My son, remember, that you are a Butler. Keep that name ever in honor. Farewell, God Bless you"!

In 1810 Captain Butler was a member of the firm of Bean & Butler in the warehouse and commission business on Front, between Wood and Market streets. On May 7, 1812,

he became a member of Brown, Barker & Butler, dealers in hardware, and was elected Captain of the Eagle Fire Company. Later he became custodian of the Allegheny U. S. Arsenal and held that position for a long period. He was of commanding figure and distinguished appearance, usually wearing a long military cloak in season. He took an active interest in all civil and public affairs; was a member of the first City Council of Pittsburgh, elected July 2, 1816; also a director of the Bank of Pittsburgh in 1819. In 1820 he was one of the executors of the estate of General O'Hara, deceased.

February 21, 1821, he was appointed prothonotary of Allegheny county. In 1826 he was captain of the Pittsburgh Light Artillery, resigning February, 1830. His active and useful life closed April 30, 1842, in the Allegheny Arsenal, of which he had been appointed military storekeeper by President Monroe. His body was interred in the Trinity Church burying ground. The *Morning Chronicle* of April 30, 1842, says Col. Trovillo ordered out the uniformed Pittsburgh Battalion of Pennsylvania Militia for the funeral. The line marched to Trinity Churchyard in the following order: Nine survivors of the Pittsburg Blues, Irish Greens, Allegheny Fencibles, Jackson Blues, Duquesne Greys, Allegheny Light Cavalry, Washington Guards, Jackson Guards, German Guards, and Artillery, U. S. A.

The pall bearers (old Pittsburgh Blues) were Col. E. Trovillo, John Park, Major N. Patterson, John D. Davis, John Davis, E. F. Pratt, Capt. Willock and Geo. V. Robinson. There were 104 carriages, and citizens on foot, and horsemen. All survivors, with one exception, attended the funeral. Masses of people assembled all along the route of march.

Col. Butler was an unobtrusive character and fully appreciated, by those that knew him, for every trait that enobles American character. Seldom has the greensward covered a more exemplary one.

First Lieutenant Mathew J. Magee made a trip home on official business on January 13, 1813, and carried letters and packages back to the boys. He was an expert tactician and drill master. Commanded the Pittsburgh Blues in part of the fighting at Fort Meigs during the temporary illness

at the post of Captain Butler. After returning from active service he joined the regulars and was commissioned captain and major in the Fourth U. S. Rifle Regiment, and was in charge of the recruiting rendezvous at Pittsburgh. His death occurred in 1826.

Ensign James Irwin was the only son of Colonel John Irwin. After serving one year with the Blues in the Northwestern Army he organized the second company of Pittsburgh Blues and started for Baltimore with a company of 70 volunteers for service in the east. They were on the march about one week when they were recalled, their services not being needed. He died January 7, 1818, mourned by a host of friends and was buried with military honors in the First Presbyterian burial ground.

First Sergeant Elijah Trovillo after the war was a colonel of Pennsylvania militia. He was the soldier of whom it is written that he kept on cooking his meal, while an Indian in a tree outside the lines at Fort Meigs kept peppering away at him with his gun, but without effect. This was certainly a brave but foolish act. April 23, 1819, Trovillo was appointed paymaster of the 28th Regt. P. M. January 8, 1824, he was captain of the City Guards. May 28, 1834, was colonel commanding the Pittsburgh Legion, which consisted of a uniformed battalion of Pittsburgh volunteer militia.

Second Sergeant Isaac Williams was wounded at Fort Meigs May 5, 1813.

Third Sergeant John Willock was wounded at Fort Meigs May 9, 1813. He became a major in the Pennsylvania militia in 1821.

Fourth Sergeant George Haven was of the business firm of Irwin & Haven, with a store located at Market & Diamond streets. He also had a hat store later.

First Corporal Nathaniel Patterson became a major in the 28th Regiment Pennsylvania militia. Was major and Brigade Inspector in 1821. His son, John W. Patterson, served during the Mexican War in the Jackson Blues. Later joined the Washington Infantry, in 1855, and was killed while Colonel of the 102nd Pennsylvania Infantry in the battle of the Wilderness, 1864.

Third Corporal Samuel Elliott was wounded at Mississineway Dec. 18, 1812.

Fourth Corporal Israel B. Reed was wounded at Mississineway Dec. 18, 1812.

Daniel C. Boss was wounded at Fort Meigs May 5, 1813.

Isaac Chess was wounded at Mississineway December 18, 1912.

Thomas Dobbins was wounded at Fort Meigs May 5, 1813.

John D. Davis was an auctioneer in Pittsburgh after returning from service.

Joseph Dodd was a native of Massachusetts. Wounded at Mississineway. Died at Fort Meigs June 18, 1813. He had endeared himself to a large circle of friends during his residence of several years in Pittsburgh by his cheerful manners and affable deportment. His remains were buried at Fort Meigs.

Corporal Samuel Elliott was wounded at Mississineway December 18 1812.

John Francis was killed at Mississineway December 18, 1812.

Samuel Graham died September 25, 1815, in Pittsburgh, aged 29 years. Was buried with military honors by the Pittsburgh Blues. He had conducted himself as a soldier and a man, in active service in scenes of difficulty and danger.

Oliver McKee was wounded at Fort Meigs May 28, 1813. Died next day.

Robert McNeal, last survivor of the Pittsburgh Blues in service in 1812-1813, died in Pittsburgh in 1884.

James Newman, promoted to Sergeant while in service, was killed at Fort Meigs May 5, 1913.

Pressley J. Neville was promoted to sergeant while in service.

John Park was wounded at Fort Meigs May 5, 1813. He was a member of the firm of Smith & Park, watchmakers and silversmiths.

John Pollard was born in Virginia, near Richmond, in 1789. He sprained an ankle during the fight at Fort Meigs but never had a pension. Reenlisted in 1814. Commissioned Captain. Detailed to carry ammunition and supplies from Pittsburgh to General Jackson at New Orleans via the rivers

on keelboats. Returned on foot with several of his men, the trip taking three months, carrying their guns and subsisting largely on game. He died in 1832. He was a kind, generous and provident father and husband, patriotic, and a leader without arrogance.

Charles Pentland, author of the diary giving the exact daily movements of the Blues, making the most valuable record of the company's active service, was a son of Major Ephriam Pentland, one of the most prominent public men of the time in Pittsburgh and the state. He died in 1833.

Edward F. Pratt became a captain in the Pennsylvania militia after his service in the Northwestern campaign.

William Richardson was killed at Fort Meigs May 5, 1813.

Chas. Wahrendorf was wounded at Fort Meigs May 5, 1813. Promoted to quartermaster sergeant in service. Was merchant in Pittsburgh and advertised staple and fancy goods, dry goods, jewelry and hardware, imported from Germany after a trip to Europe. Moved to St. Louis, where he engaged in business. He died Sept. 4, 1831. He was a native of Hanover, Germany. The survivors of the Blues held a meeting in Pittsburgh. Capt. Butler presided and passed resolutions of sympathy to Wahrendorff's family, and resolved to wear crepe on the left arm for 30 days.

George S. Wilkins promoted May, 1813.

#### LINES ON THE DEATH OF JAMES NEWMAN

*(These lines, on the death of Jas. Newman, of the Pittsburgh Blues were found in an old school book by N. Vernon, Frederick City, Md.)*

Behold yon band whose lightning gleams afar;  
 'Tis Butler's corps, so lately crowned with fame;  
 By Freedom roused they bravely lead the war,  
 And pluck the honors of a spotless name  
 On Maumee's banks they met their steel clad foes,  
 Loud shouts proclaim the contest now begun;  
 With bayonets fixed they front to front oppose,  
 Whilst clouds of smoke obscure the distant sun.

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Curst war away! Let peace return once more;  
 Come, gentle peace, we'll meet thy fond embrace;  
 Thou hast the means our blessings to restore,  
 And raise again the smile on beauty's face.

The following poem was found among old papers of the Ferree family, and credited to Jacob Ferree Jr. aged 18 years by Cora A. Weber Lindsay, a descendant of the Ferree's. Colonel Joel Ferree commanded the First Pennsylvania regiment and Captain Jeremiah Ferree had command of a company in the same infantry regiment in the north-western army of General Harrison and served in the same outfit with the Pittsburgh Blues

THE PITTSBURGH BLUES.

By JACOB FERREE, JR.

Farewell peace! Another crisis  
Calls us to the last appeal,  
Made when monarchs and their vices  
Leave no argument but steel.  
When injustice and oppression,  
Dare avow the tyrant's plea  
Who would recommend submission?  
Virtue bids us to be free.

History spreads her flag before us,  
Time enrolls her ample scroll,  
Truth unfolds to assure us,  
States united ne'er will fall.  
See in annals, Greek and Roman,  
What immortal deeds we find,  
When those gallant sons of freemen  
In their country's cause combine.

Sons of freemen have descended  
From a race of heroes tried;  
To preserve our Independence,  
Let all Europe be defied,  
Let not all the world united  
Rob us of our sacred right.  
Every patriot's heart delighted,  
In this country's call to fight.

Come then, war! With hearts elated  
To thy standard we will fly,  
Every bosom animated,  
Either to live free or die.  
May the wretch that shrinks from duty  
Or deserts the glorious strife  
Never know the smile of beauty,  
Or the blessing of a wife.

ERRATA.

In the April 1921 number, was published the roster of the Blues, and after the name of John Marcy it reads: "Discharged for disobedience." This should read "Discharged for disability."

## LIST OF REFERENCES AND NOTES.

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Chas. W. Dahlinger.

George T. Fleming.

THE END.