

George Alexander Carmichael
Co. B, 9th Rhode Island Infantry
Rhode Island Grand Army of the Republic, Burnside Post no. 2
Father of George A. Carmichael
(22 Dec 1869 – 19 Apr 1930)
Elisha Dyer Camp no. 7, RISUVCW

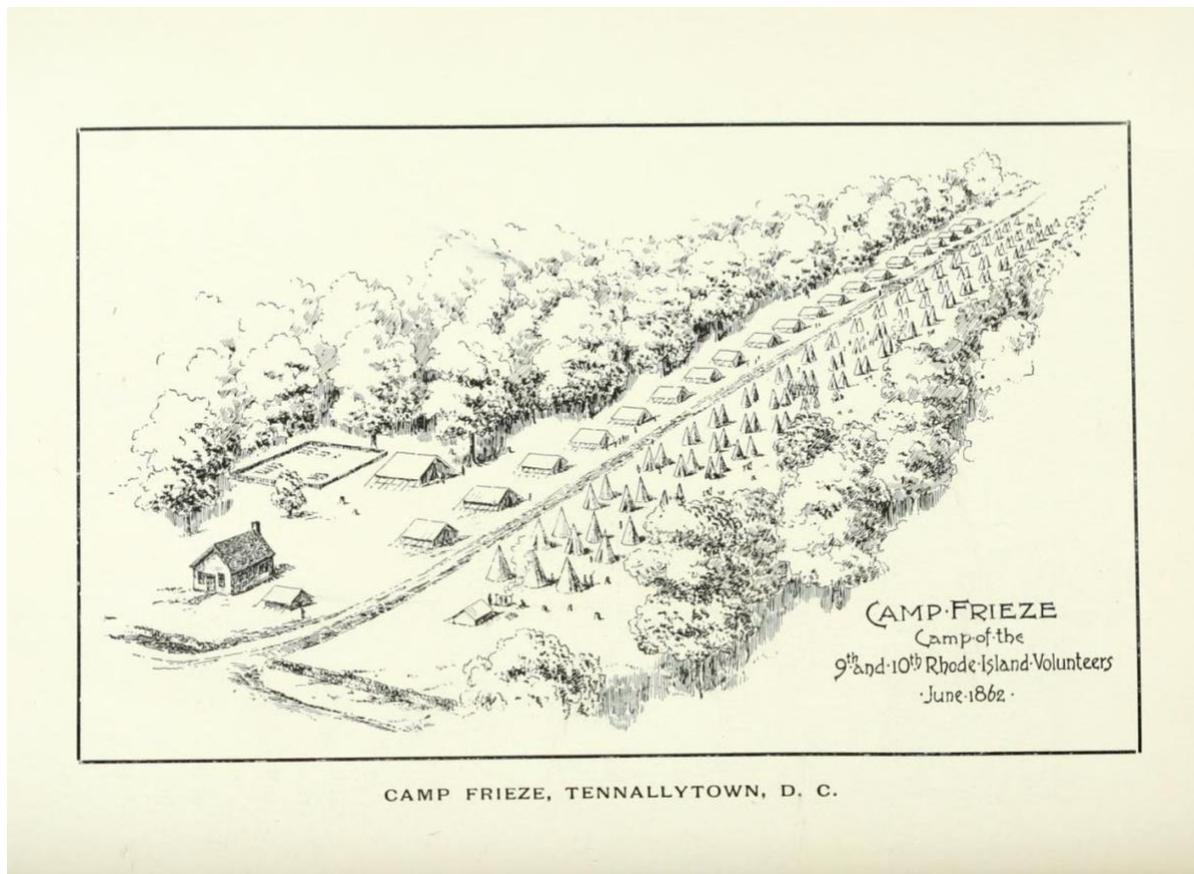
Written by Jamie McGuire, PDC

George A. Carmichael was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1839 to George and Elizabeth Carmichael. The family immigrated to the United States in 1848 and settled in Hopkinton, RI. George Jr. was raised in his father's woolen manufacturing business and was well-situated for a successful career in adulthood. At the outbreak of the Civil War, George was in the process of petitioning for US citizenship, having made official declaration on 7 April 1861.

After Governor Sprague's call for troops in 1861, George was part of a groundswell movement of Rhode Islanders who, inspired by duty and patriotism, joined the "National Guard" of the State, which was comprised of militias and companies from each city, town and hamlet. At midnight on May 25, 1862, Sprague received notice from Edwin Stanton that the Rhode Island "National Guard" units were to be mustered into regimental service and dispatched to the defense of Washington at once. Sprague ordered the raising of two regiments and one light artillery to answer the call, and this was the beginning of the 9th and 10th Rhode Island Volunteers and the 10th Light Artillery. The response was immediate and the overwhelming numbers of ready National Guardsmen provided a full complement for both regiments within two days. For his part, by late afternoon on May 25, 1862, George Carmichael, who was at that time a member of the Westerly National Guard, mustered into the 9th Rhode Island Infantry as a private. The regiment departed Providence for Washington on 27 May.

The regiment arrived in Washington, D.C. on 29 May and was placed under General Samuel P. Sturgis' brigade command. The Ninth Encampment was called "Camp Frieze," named in honor of the Quartermaster General of Rhode Island. The 9th became part of a complex and dug-in collection of encampments, earthworks, and fortifications that sealed off Washington D.C. so well "that at no point afterward, during the war, did the Confederates ever seriously attempt to assail them."¹

¹ Spicer, 86



In late June, the regiment marched a scorching 18 miles to join the 10th Rhode Island Infantry in the Second Brigade, Reserve Army Corps under acting Brigadier General Zenas Bliss in support of McDowell's Corps of the Army of the Potomac as McClellan advanced on Richmond. There they encamped at "Camp Misery" among the diabolical wood-ticks (alien to Rhode Island at that time) and grey backs. After the defeat at Gaines's Mills and McClellan's retreat, the 9th returned to duty in and around the Capital, splitting up to about a dozen forts on the east side of Washington, including Fort Meigs, where George Carmichael and the rest of Co. B under Captain Henry C. Card were deposited. The remainder of the

hot summer of 1862 was passed away in the forts manned by the Ninth Rhode Island Volunteers, in regular drills and custom fortification duties, preparing those who afterwards re-enlisted for greater efficiency. Fort life thus proved an excellent school for military order and improvement.²

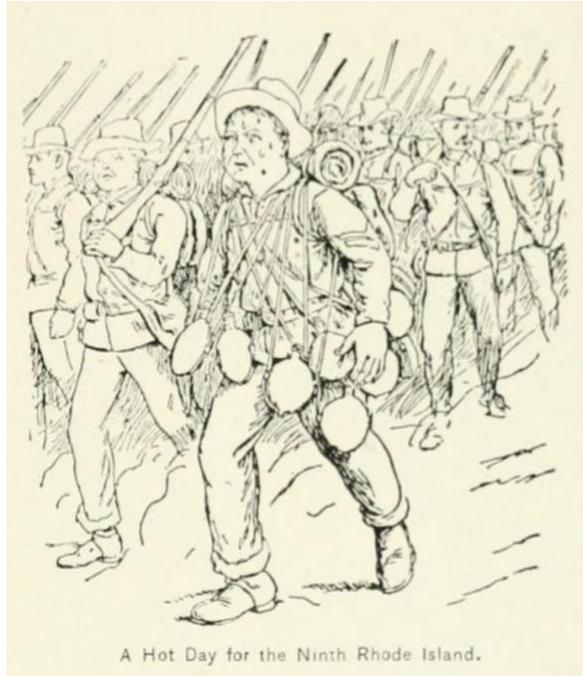
² Spicer, 104

The 9th received its muster out orders and departed Washington on August 25th and was back in Providence by the morning of August 29th. As the Regimental Historian noted,

The history of the Ninth Regiment is necessarily brief and uneventful. It is not identified with brilliant deeds, such as attract the gaze and call forth expressions of wonder or admiration. It cannot point to hard fought battles, and exhibit a long list of casualties as evidence of its prowess. But if destitute of these features, impartial history will nevertheless give it a deserved recognition as a reserved power. Important, but not dazzling duties were assigned it, and these duties were quietly and faithfully performed. In every respect it was a credit to the State, and worthy of being held in honorable remembrance.³

George Carmichael continued to serve three years in the Rhode Island National Guard as a Captain of Co. H of the 8th Militia, garrisoning the west passage of Narragansett Bay. He went on to become the successful owner of the Carmichael Manufacturing Co. in Shannock. After receiving his United States Citizenship in May of 1865, he would represent the towns of Richmond and Charlestown in both the General Assembly and the State Senate for many years and was instrumental in the establishment of the Soldiers Home in Bristol by introducing key resolutions leading to the establishment of the Soldier's Home in Bristol. He was a Comrade of G.A.R. Burnside Post 2. He died at 64 years old on 12 July 1903 and was laid to rest in River Bend Cemetery, Westerly, RI.

³ Spicer, 115



Bibliography

Spicer, William A. 1892. "History of the Ninth and Tenth Regiments Rhode Island Volunteers, and the Tenth Rhode Island Battery, in the Union Army in 1862."

Washington
Providence, sc.

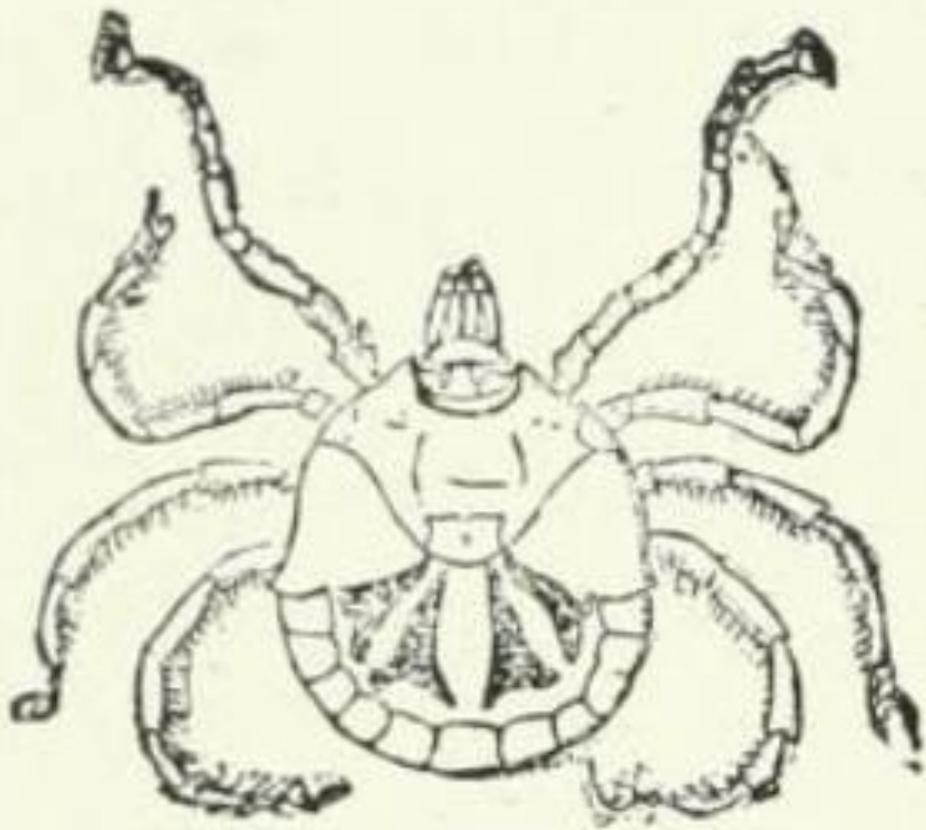
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
May Term, A. D. 1865

Respectfully represents *George Carmichael, now of Hopkinton*
in said County, that he was born in *Glasgow in Scotland* in
~~about~~ the year 18 *39* and that he arrived in _____ in the
United States, ~~on or about the~~ ~~day of~~ _____ in the year 18 *48*
and has ever since resided in this Country, and for *5* years last past in this State;—
That on the *7th* day of *April* A. D. 18 *61* he made declaration
of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and caused the same to be recorded in the
records of *Supreme Court for this County* _____ as appears by the
Certificate herewith produced.

WHEREFORE he prays that he may be admitted to the rights of citizenship of the United States of
America, in conformity to the laws in such cases made and provided.

George Carmichael Jr

PROVIDENCE, SC. Providence, A. D., 18



The Industrious Woodtick.

This portrait is many times larger than he really was, but not half as big as he often felt.