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General, but he declined the position in order to remain as a front-line officer.

Mortally wounded at Little Round Top, he lingered until 7 July, long enough to receive a general's commission (although it was not ratified by the Senate), and his remains were returned to Erie in the company of his father. His death prevented meeting his then-unborn daughter, who only lived about a year, and cut short a promising postwar career. His widow never remarried.

Given Vincent's short life, this is necessarily a short biography, yet Myers has done a good job in researching the facts of his life and highlighting his relatively unknown military career prior to his "day in the sun" on 2 July 1863. Although many of his sources originate in the *Official Records*, there are other primary and secondary documents, memoirs, diaries, unit histories, newspapers, books, and online sources listed in the Bibliography.

Unfortunately, there are no maps. There are photographs included of Vincent, his wife, and wounding location, among others, as well as one appendix which Myers employs to further discuss the controversy of just who saved the army and the Union on that fateful July day in Adams County, Pennsylvania, in 1863.

For an unknown Union officer, Myers has done well to provide the facts of his life and a cogent argument that Vincent deserves much more credit, not only for a short life lived but for a decision which ultimately affected a battle's outcome and possibly the fate of a nation.

Stuart McClung

***Answering the Call: Erie County, Pennsylvania in World War One*, edited by Mary Jane Phillips Koenig, et al. Erie: Erie County, Pennsylvania World War One Centennial Committee. 176 pp., \$27.00 (including shipping) softcover.**

Few Americans in the summer of 1914 grasped how events unfolding on the world stage in Europe would come so close to home over the next three years. President Woodrow Wilson viewed our participation in the war from the beginning by declaring our neutrality. Erie County, Pennsylvania, like countless other locations dotted across the United States, came to realize that our involvement in the war was inevitable. On 6 April 1917, at the urging of Congress, President Wilson declared war on the Central Powers. The conflict would end nineteen months later, on 11 November 1918, after the death and misery of hundreds of thousands of souls.

The history of Erie County in the war might have been lost or

forgotten had it not been for the efforts of the county's World War I Centennial Committee. Founded in August 2018, committee members sought to create a plaque to honor the 201 local men who died in the war. Their initial goal went beyond researching the men and included a robust history of the region's participation in the war and public memory of past events decades later.

When combined, the contributions of twenty-two authors to Erie County's World War I experience share the complete story of one community's participation. Four of the committee members (Mary Jane Phillips Koenig, Susan Bowser Mueller, Ann Silverthorn, and Bill Welch) took on the responsibility of editing the work. All the members of the committee who collectively added to the book (which for some included personal knowledge about their soldier forebears) are to be applauded.

The book is divided into several smaller chapters, each looking at how Erie County sacrificed much toward the war effort, along with the legacy following the end of the war. The two largest chapters focus on veterans from Erie County. The first covers participants from the County who died during World War I, which includes short vignettes, and where available, photographs of the veterans. The other provided the most complete listing to date of veterans from Erie County who served in the ranks of the United States Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.

Additional chapters focus on Erie's efforts to ramp up industry in support of the war effort, which could have easily been overshadowed in the book by the military action of the resident soldiers in uniform. Two other chapters include the lineage shaped from the Pennsylvania National Guard into the ranks of the 28th Division, fighting in France, and the men of the National Army – the component accounting for men conscripted from Erie – many into the ranks of the 80th Division.

One chapter was devoted not only to the men who died, but to their widows and mothers who were given the opportunity to make the pilgrimage to Europe to visit the gravesites of their fallen husbands and sons. The national organization became known as the Gold Star Mothers, and it offered closure to the extended families of deceased veterans of the war from Erie County.

The final chapter includes a helpful guide for genealogists or anyone researching veterans of World War I. The sources explained were limited to draft registration cards, service files (including the loss of records from the fire of 1973), burial records, the great war history commission, and helpful online sources. The research guide made no accounting for veterans of the Navy, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard (organized in 1915) to locate finding aids to research

veterans from the other branches. Readers could have profited from a more robust description of available sources of the other branches of the military and their participation in World War I.

Readers who are interested in learning how one community participated in World War I and the years following the war will find this collection of historical material a welcome addition. Every city, town, and county should have its story told the same as Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Michael L. Strauss

*Yours Affectionately, Osgood: Colonel Osgood Vose Tracy's Letters Home from the Civil War, 1862-1865*, edited by Sarah Tracy Burrows and Ryan W. Keating. Kent, Oh.: Kent State University Press, 2022. 296 pp., \$58.00.

In the rush to send reinforcements to the depleted Union Army of the Potomac in the fall of 1862, following its severe losses in the Peninsula Campaign, many of the new units left their homes in the North only partially trained or even untrained. One such unit was the 122d New York Volunteer Infantry, a regiment raised in and around Syracuse. As Osgood Tracy, a member of the regiment, wrote to his mother from Maryland, "We have been on the go so much that we have had but one or two opportunities for regimental drill." (p. 13) Sarah Tracy Burrows, Osgood's direct descendant, with the help of historian Ryan Keating, has transcribed and edited her ancestor's letters for publication. The letters are supplemented with some of Osgood's postwar published reminiscences and preserved handwritten notes.

Osgood Tracy, born in Onondaga County (Syracuse), New York, in 1840, was the middle of three sons in his family. Receiving an above average education, Osgood was working as a clerk at the start of the Civil War. It was not until August 1862 that he enlisted for the Union cause. Initially enrolled as a private in the 122d N.Y., he was mustered into federal service as sergeant major of his regiment. Serving thereafter principally in staff positions at regimental, brigade, and division levels, but also as a company officer in combat, he advanced to the rank of captain and brevet lieutenant colonel by war's end. Osgood missed major combat at the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville, but his brigade was fully engaged at Gettysburg, in the Overland Campaign of 1864 (where he was captured and escaped after a lengthy trek through Rebel territory), in the battles around Richmond and Petersburg in 1864-1865, and in the Shenandoah Valley campaign of 1864 (where he was

slightly wounded). His brigade spent the winter of 1864 detached from the Army of the Potomac to guard Confederate officers imprisoned at Johnson's Island, in Sandusky, Ohio.

Burrows comments that "Influenced by political beliefs and driven by ideological, moral, and religious convictions, [Osgood] marched to war as a crusader." (p. xxiii) He referred to himself as a "Black Republican" and had little sympathy for slavery or the Confederate cause. His response in November 1862 to his men helping themselves to local supplies was, "I don't think a little bit of foraging will do any hurt." (p. 41) By December 1863, he and his fellows were engaged in outright looting: "They found a house where the family had left taking off their niggers with them ... so they left a guard to 'hold' the furniture until his [sic] return." (p. 168) The furniture found its way to the officers' huts in camp. Despite his language, Osgood wrote approvingly of moves to abolish slavery and of the recruitment of Negro soldiers into the army. His letters, mostly to his mother, were generally upbeat and cheerful, unlike many others of the genre. He enjoyed the camaraderie of life in camp and the company of his fellows, usually ate well (he gained 20 pounds in his first year in the army), and often had comfortable accommodations when not on campaign. Not all was levity. Besides combat, there were grueling marches and inclement weather to vex the troops. In the latter part of the war, rebel guerrillas and bushwhackers took their toll on Union forces. About the willingness of soldiers to engage in combat, Osgood wrote after the battle of Chancellorsville, "The boys ... don't 'hanker' after it so much as at first." (p. 110) In November 1863, he commented on the address made at Gettysburg by orator Edward Everett but made no mention of the now infinitely more famous remarks of President Abraham Lincoln.

Osgood wrote often about Maj. Gen. Edwin Vose Sumner and the general's sons, to whom he was related through his mother, and Maj. Gen. Henry Warner Slocum, who was a native of Syracuse, and on whose staff his younger brother, William "Will" Grant Tracy, served. Will saw action at Chancellorsville, where he was seriously wounded. Later he went West with Slocum and participated in the battle of Lookout Mountain, the Atlanta Campaign, and Sherman's March to the Sea. In 1895, General Slocum effected an award of the Medal of Honor to Will for gallantry at Chancellorsville. Others of Osgood's letters were addressed to Nellie Sedgwick in Syracuse, his love interest and eventual wife, other family members, and friends.

If the letters are a cut above the average soldier missives in content and quality, the editing leaves something to be desired. Difficulty in transcription of handwritten script is to be expected, but some errors