

# William Lewis Lockwood

*Joseph C. Nate <sup>1</sup>*

Of the seven founders of Sigma Chi, William L. Lockwood was the first to be called from life's labors. His death on August 17, 1867,



*William Lewis Lockwood, circa 1861*

was the outcome of the wounds received in leading his company at the storming of Fort Wagner during the Civil War. The six founders who survived him were all of the Delta Kappa Epsilon contingent who formed Sigma Chi. "Lockwood was an ally called in as the battle grew fierce and made up the magic number, seven." His tireless devotion to the interests of the Fraternity of which he thus became a founder, his ability, chivalric spirit, and early death have all combined to give to this noble leader of the first years a high place in the history of the White Cross. The sources of material in the present memorial sketch, not formally stated, are fully indicated in the successive chapters and volumes of

this History.

William Lewis Lockwood was born in New York City on October 31, 1836. His parents, also, were natives of that metropolis, and among the old tombs of the historic Trinity churchyard is that of the maternal grandmother of Lockwood. The father of the future founder had attained success and wealth as an importer and general merchant in cloth, embroidery, and fine wear. The son received his earlier schooling in the East but chose Miami University in the West, then at the height of its popularity, for his college course. Of the Lockwood of the Miami days his fellow-founder, Benjamin P. Runkle, said in the after years:

He was different from each of the others. This difference was hereditary, and was sharpened by environment. He was western-born but cultured, and had been partly educated in the East. He was a slender, fair-haired, delicate-looking youth, with polished manners, and was always dressed in the best of taste. When he first came to Miami wondrous tales were told of his wardrobe, of his splendid dressing-gowns and the outfit of his quarters. He was refined in his tastes. He knew something about art, and understood

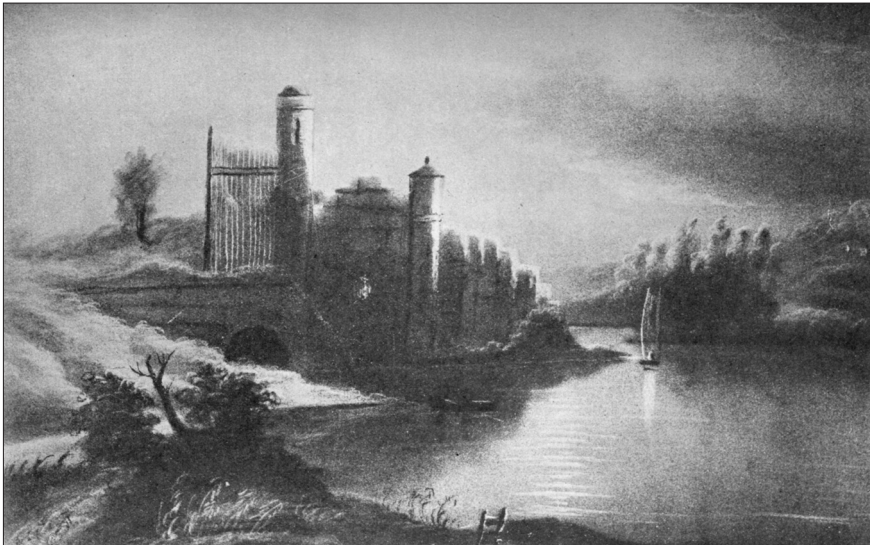
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<sup>1</sup> Joseph Cookman Nate. *The History of Sigma Chi 1855-1925*, Vol. I, pp. 1-16.

of the fitness of things genteel. We welcomed him into our circle. I understand why we wanted him. He could bring to our ambitious little band some things, mental and spiritual, that were sorely needed. But I do not understand why he so promptly responded to the call.

General Runkle, writing these words a half-century after their college years, had the recollection that Lockwood was western-born and reared, but had gone East for his preparatory schooling. Such was not the case. On the other hand it is now quite clear that Lockwood took some preparatory work at the Farmers' College, near Cincinnati, before entering Miami University. The former institution was well established under private auspices, and was the school of Benjamin Harrison and many other students of the time in preparation for the college work at Miami. In the college scrapbook of Lockwood are to be found a few printed programs of the literary societies of the Farmers' College. Also, on an old essay of his, now in the historical archives of the Fraternity, may be found the notation, "Farmers' College," and his name. In his work as the Custos, or treasurer, of the Alpha, Lockwood made use of drafts upon "Lockwood Brothers, New York City," and also of such upon "Lockwood Brothers, Cincinnati." It would seem that the New York house of the father had Cincinnati connections, and the parents of the founder may have had some short period of residence there, perhaps during the attendance of the latter at the Farmers' College.

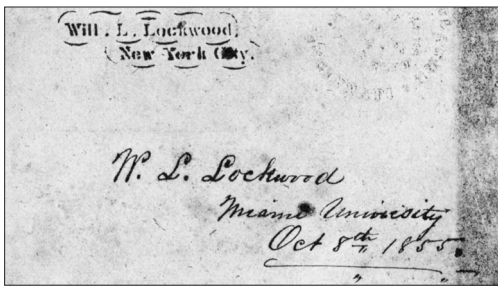
Scholarly in all his tastes, and even brilliant in departments of his college work, the finer arts had special attractiveness for young Lockwood.



*Crayon sketch in black and white by William Lewis Lockwood*

He possessed no slight skill as an artist, and his part in designing the first badge of Sigma Chi was based upon this talent. During the Civil War, Lockwood made many sketches of characteristic southern scenes and battle incidents which display his originality and skill, and which have been preserved. He was sought by Harper's Weekly to supply sketches of scenes at the front during the war, as a part of the noteworthy plans of that journal to illustrate the great conflict. The financial inducements were generous, but Lockwood declined the opportunity because he felt that he must be free to devote his leisure moments to the welfare of his company.

Lockwood was possessed of marked literary ability. Even in boyhood he began the collection of volumes which became the foundation



*Signature in Founder Lockwood's Latin Lexicon.*

of his fine private library. He earnestly urged that the first chapter of Sigma Chi would find its success measured largely by its respect for the scroll upon the badge, as the emblem typifying the literary character of the Fraternity. Greatly prized among the archives of Sigma Chi are

a number of poems, essays, plays, and short stories read by Lockwood before the chapter at its stated meetings. Even his cursory correspondence reveals a literary genius, being characterized by apt expression and ready use of classical allusion. His letters to the other early chapters were usually in an optimistic, light-hearted vein, exhibiting the play of wit and a fun-loving spirit, but often with a quick transition to the seriously beautiful things of literature and art.

College associates, those not identified with Sigma Chi as well as his chapter comrades, ever remembered him with fondness and admiration. The diaries of the war years have numerous references to these friends of the Oxford day—letters received and written, and occasionally some glad reunion. His spirit of friendship far outreached the boundaries of Sigma Chi, dear to him as was the White Cross circle. His memory was the more enshrined among his fellows by the facts of his heroism and suffering as a soldier and his early death.

He was always a great favorite as a correspondent with the earlier members of Gamma, the second chapter of Sigma Chi which, with Runkle, he installed on December 24, 1855, and to which his letters were a constant encouragement. It was this fact which led H. Eugene Parrott, Gamma '60, to write Colonel Dudley W. Strickland of Lockwood's regiment, in January, 1885, inquiring as to Lockwood. The reply of Colonel Strickland

was a memorable tribute to the life and soldierly character of this founder of Sigma Chi.

Lockwood's college notebooks, some of which remain among his library volumes, are models of method and neatness. His handwriting, of clear and well-formed characters, was especially adapted to the laborious task of transcribing the original Constitution-Ritual of Sigma Chi into the cipher devised by himself and Runkle in the early spring of 1856.

It is not usual for the highest business qualifications to be combined with the finer tastes and artistic temperament which characterized Lockwood. But, besides the possession of these refinements, Lockwood inherited the financial abilities of his father. He was clearly ranked among his chapter associates as the most thoroughgoing business man of the group. At the first election of the Alpha he was appointed treasurer of the chapter-its "Custos," or "Delta," as the office was best known-and was continued in this relation throughout the following two years. In the third and final year of Alpha, the office passed into other hands but Lockwood was depended upon for continuing oversight and direction of its financial affairs. With the establishment of additional chapters these duties came to include the general treasurership, or Grand Quaestorship as now known, of Sigma Chi. His administration of these fiscal interests was characterized by a business sagacity and, better still, by an integrity which justified the words of Runkle:

Lockwood knew, instinctively, the value and power of money. He managed all the business of the first convention and banquet. All the expenses were paid in cash and on the spot. After graduating he became a manufacturer of woolen fabrics. I remember that he wrote me he was "now entering the race for a purse." He was the only Sigma Chi [founder] to whom this idea occurred. He furnished the business spirit to the little band, and without it we must utterly have failed.

The wisdom of the six of Delta Kappa Epsilon in associating Lockwood as a fellow-founder shines out in all the records. From the outset his confidence in the future of Sigma Chi equaled that of any. Of his tireless labors for success, the records tell the story. The manuscript of an oration is notated as "Written in December, 1855" and "Spoken before the Sigma Phi Fraternity, January, 1856." The fully comprehensive subject was "Man." An extended and really remarkable study for a young writer, it found its peroration in their Fraternity undertaking.

I look back over the few short months since our union of

kindred hearts and minds was brought forth. The offspring of love and good intent! . . . Many difficulties will beset our path, but like David we must go forth alone to fight the Philistines, and like him we will conquer and shall be the best of old Miami's sons.

But in order to become so, we each and everyone must struggle upward and onward. Let us strive to be rich and great, not in lands and money, not with the vulgar throng, but rich in mental worth, great among the intellectual. . . and good, that "thy spirit shall come at times to the dreams of men to settle peace within their souls." Let us spare no labor, nor be sparing of toil. Let us give our whole strength to the work, and endeavor to fill with honor the place where we are.

Following, there is a fine expression of the rewards of such endeavors, and of their satisfactions "when the last grains are dropping from the glass of life." Then there is what now reads like a vision of the years to come, and the hearthstones of a hundred chapter homes.

And when the green on our graves has mouldered away, some gray warrior sitting by night at the blazing fire will tell thy deeds to his sons, and they shall bless and admire the men of old.



*Adelaide Rollins*

Truly, it was all the earnestness and idealism of a young man at the beginning of the second college year. Yet those were just the qualities of which Sigma Chi was born.

Lockwood was graduated from Miami University on July 1, 1858, and on that same day he was married to Adelaide C. Rollins, a cultured Oxford girl, a native of Maine, and from an old New England ancestry, but whose home from her earlier girlhood was in the Ohio college community. Their wedding journey was by way of Cincinnati to New York City, which became their home. The closing up of the affairs of the Alpha chapter had been consummated even before the separation of its members at Commencement time. Some final matters, however, were carried out by Lockwood at his home in the East, notably the transmission of the Constitution-Ritual and a charter to the newly organized Lambda chapter at Bloomington, Indiana.

The friendship in Sigma Chi of Franklin H. Scobey and William L. Lockwood was unique and beautiful. From their first acquaintance

in Miami, after the opening of the college year, 1854-55, the two were the closest of friends. It had been upon the nomination of Scobey that Lockwood was selected as the seventh member of the founder group, and throughout the three ensuing years of chapter life Scobey was always closer to Lockwood than any of the others. There was much in common between them in tastes and habits. There were also those temperamental differences which so often attract. Scobey's father was a physician of standing, of Hamilton, Ohio. The parental home had afforded the boy, Frank, unusual opportunities for personal development. In him, Lockwood found a thoroughly congenial spirit, and the most earnest college quest of both their lives was Sigma Chi. Lockwood's first-born son was named for Scobey—Frank Scobey Lockwood. Runkle, of the founders, was wont to say in after years that had Scobey married and had a son, the name would have been "William Lockwood Scobey."

It was the case, however, that with Lockwood all his friendships ran deep. He kept in touch with his closer Miami associates by correspondence maintained under the difficulties of soldier life in the war, and afterward until his death. Such was particularly the case as to Milton Vernon, the youth who came into the new Sigma Chi at Miami early in 1856, having transferred from the Western Military Institute at Nashville; as to "Ben" Runkle of the founders; and as to Renwick Johnston of the Geneva Hall contingent, between whom and Lockwood a peculiarly deep and abiding friendship developed after their first acquaintanceship at Miami.

With his home established in New York City, Lockwood, in addition to assisting in the business establishment of his father, engaged in the study of law. On May 17, 1860, he was admitted to practice at the bar of the state, and formed a law partnership in New York City with an intimate friend, Mr. Dudley W. Strickland. The young firm leased most desirable office quarters, purchased a fine law library, and at the opening of the Civil War, in 1861, had entered successfully upon the practice of their profession. But in the heart of each the call of his country was foremost. The two immediately set about recruiting a company among their friends and associates.





## William L. Lockwood And The Armies Of The East

The service of William L. Lockwood and his regiment covered leading campaigns in the Carolinas, Florida, and, in the closing years of the war, with the armies of the James and of the Potomac in Virginia. Thus, the enlistment of Lockwood in the East, with that of Bell, Runkle, and Scobey in the armies of the West, and of Caldwell in the Confederacy, gave to these five soldier-founders fields of service fairly co-extensive with the entire scheme of military operations of the four years of the war. Most interesting for Sigma Chi are remaining fragments of correspondence, the diary, and other records relating to one another and to Miami, and the photographs which were interchanged among them during those years. In respect to such records as these, none was more faithful than Lockwood. He was a ready writer and always methodical. His records which remain constitute the best collection of the kind which we have from the founders who were in the Civil War.<sup>2</sup>



*William L. Lockwood, Soldier*

William L. Lockwood gave himself to the Union just as in more boyish years he had given himself to the founding of Sigma Chi. He had completed his law studies at his home in New York City and was admitted to the bar on May 17, 1860. When the war opened he was successfully established in a law partnership with an intimate friend, Mr. Dudley W. Strickland. When the call to arms came, the two immediately set about to organize a company among their own friends and associates. They acted in co-operation with the Rev. James H. Perry, D.D., pastor of a prominent Brooklyn church, a trained military man who had served in the Mexican War. Under government and state direction, Dr. Perry and others were organizing the regiment which became the Forty-eighth Regiment of New York Volunteers. The organization was avowedly seeking to recruit

<sup>2</sup> See Volume I of History, the William L. Lockwood Memorial Volume, chap. ix, Note 16, and other references in that Volume for the discovery of this valuable material, for many years in storage at Urbana, Ohio. Much of it has become a part of the historical archives of the Fraternity through the courtesy of Mrs. Adelaide Rollins Lockwood, the widow of Founder Lockwood, late of Saratoga Springs, New York. Brother Lockwood gathered and preserved a complete set of photographs of officers of his regiment and other military pictures of historic importance.

clean, moral young men and was distinguished for the high character of its personnel. Humorously, and yet admiringly, the regiment with its preacher-colonel was sometimes known as "Perry's Saints."<sup>3</sup>



*Colonel James H. Perry*

Of the two young lawyers, Strickland was somewhat the older and had some military training. He was appointed captain of the company, and Lockwood its first lieutenant. The father of Strickland, William P. Strickland, was a clergyman of New York City, and became the first chaplain of the regiment. The recruiting work for Company H was pressed by Strickland, the son, and Lockwood in churches and clubs and among barristers, clients, and neighbors. Its quota was the first listed as fully secured, on August 16, 1861. Within a month, the remaining companies of the regiment were mustered in. Their rendezvous was Camp Wyman at Fort Hamilton. Those were days of drill for the men and the ardent study of

tactics by the officers. There was a review by Governor Edwin D. Morgan, famous war-governor of New York, upon whose staff that day was the youthful Chester A. Arthur, afterward president of the United States. The ministers of New York and vicinity presented Colonel Perry with a horse, with formal ceremonies at the camp.

The regiment formed in hollow square, and there were speeches. Then Colonel Perry, a man of fine, athletic figure, mounted the splendid animal, which was soon to become the pride of the whole regiment, saluted his preacher-visitors and rode away. Such were the scenes of recruiting, drilling, and camp life, that were going on all over the land.

Finally, on September 17, 1861, the Forty-eighth New York proceeded to Washington. The trip was by steamer from Fort Hamilton to South Amboy, New Jersey; thence by rail to Philadelphia, where the soldier boys were hailed and feasted; and then on to Washington and the brigade camp on Capitol Hill. Early in October they moved on to Annapolis, and

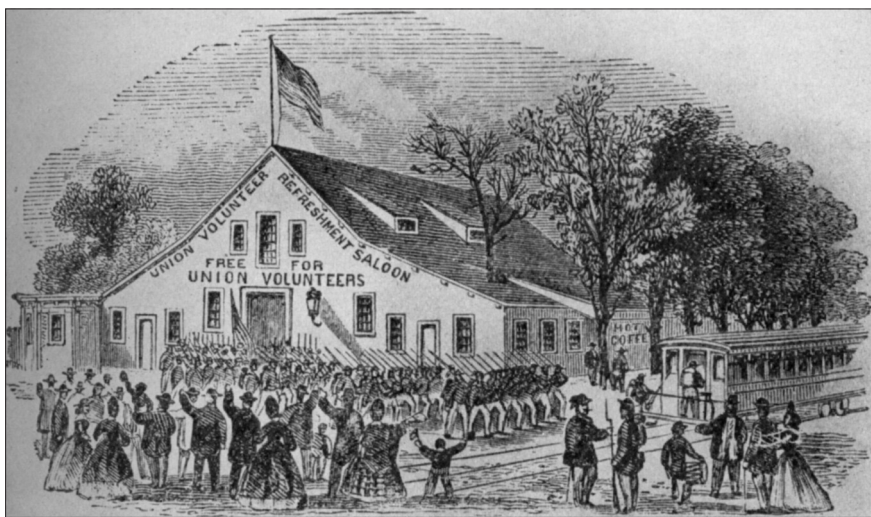
<sup>3</sup> Colonel Perry had left the United States Military Academy at West Point in his third year there, for active service in the Mexican War. He served in that war with conspicuous ability. In the Civil War, the great career anticipated for him in the army was prevented by his death early in the conflict. He died from an apoplectic stroke on the afternoon of June 18, 1862, while his regiment was in its quarters at Fort Pulaski, Georgia. He was buried outside the Fort, but his remains were afterward removed to Cypress Hills Cemetery, Brooklyn, where a noble monument was erected to his memory by the comrades of the James H. Perry Post, G.A.R., of Brooklyn, and the Hanson Place Methodist Episcopal Church of that city from the pastorate of which he had enlisted for the war.



there learned that their real objective was an attack upon some unknown point on the southern coast. War was becoming real to these men who so recently had been in the quiet pursuits of home, office, and business in and around the great metropolis.

The end of October found the fleet and forces at Fortress Monroe. There were fifty war vessels with them in Hampton Roads, the Forty-eighth Regiment being aboard the "Empire City." The whole expedition sailed under sealed orders. It withstood a terrific storm at sea. Then came the successful attack on Port Royal on November 7, 1861, and the landing of the Union forces on South Carolina soil. The camp of the Forty-eighth was on Hilton Head Island. This continued to be its location for several months of preparation and waiting for campaigns to follow. "Hilton Head," with its scenes and events of daily soldier life, is a frequent reference in the diary and correspondence of Lockwood during the war.

On New Year's Day of 1862, Lockwood's company had its first



*Refreshments for the Soldier Boys, Philadelphia, 1861.*

experience in battle. The Union forces were pressing southward from Port Royal, and this minor engagement is known as that of "Port Royal Ferry." The report of Colonel Perry said: "The men and officers of my command behaved with great steadiness and resolution, obeying the word of command under fire as if they had been on drill." A little later came a similar but heavier action for the capture of Dawfuskie Island. In April, Fort Pulaski, Georgia, was taken and a month later became the headquarters of the Forty-eighth Regiment.

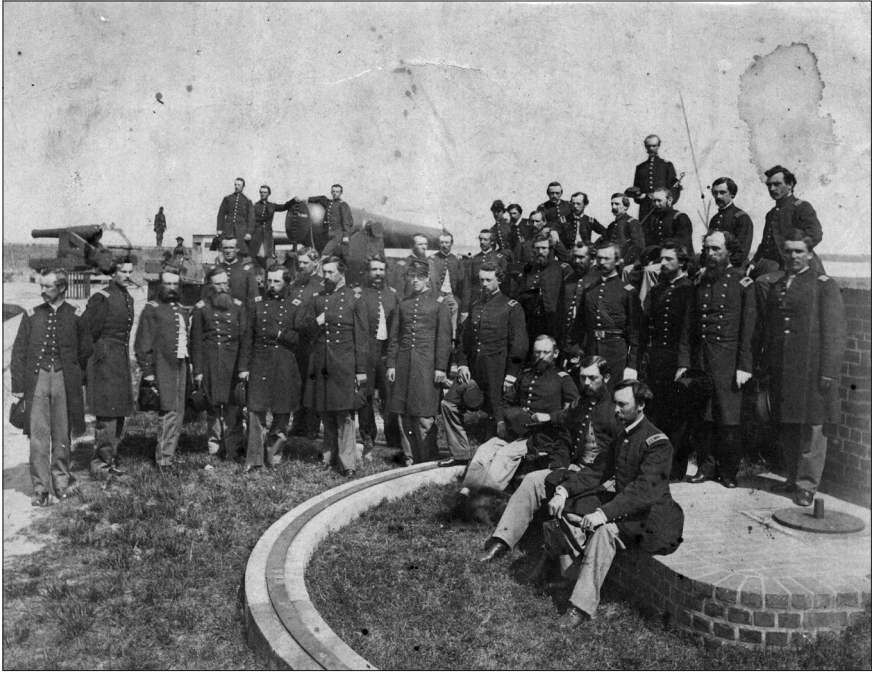
The Fort was situated on Cockspur Island at the mouth of the Savannah River, at the southeastern point of South Carolina. Here on June

18, 1862, Lockwood was promoted to the rank of captain and first assigned to Company F of the Forty-eighth. In January, 1863, he was transferred to the captaincy of his original company, H, his old comrade, Strickland, having been advanced to the rank of major of the regiment. There were to be yet several months of garrison life, with only skirmish engagements in the vicinity. It was the duty of the regiment, with other forces at points round-about, to hold the Sea Island Group as the base for later activities.

At last the movements began which looked toward the capture of Charleston, South Carolina. There were memorable actions against the Confederate fortifications on Morris Island. In this campaign, a final victory on July 10 opened the way to the later attacks on Fort Wagner, the next objective. Of the action of July 10 the historian of the regiment writes:

It was only a matter of a few moments-that crossing of Lighthouse Inlet, by the little flotilla of launches; but they were moments of intense excitement. The men at the oars pulled with their might; in some boats the men cheered; in others they remained silent; it was no time for words; in twenty minutes we were in the surf. General [George C.] Strong leaped ashore with the agility of a deer, waved aloft his sword, and shouted to his troops, "Come on, brigade!" It may be questioned if in all the history of the war a more picturesque and striking figure could have been seen than that of the young General as he sprang into the surf that day and called on us to follow him. The General called for the Forty-eighth New York; the sailors at the oars in our boats put us ashore in quick time, and without waiting for further orders we dashed ahead and drove the rebels out of the first line of the rifle pits, then out of the second. By ten o'clock we had captured two-thirds of the island.

The first attempt on Fort Wagner, on July 11, failed in everything except to demonstrate the great and unexpected strength of the Fort. Many months had been devoted to fortifying it, and it was protected by every device known to military engineering. The only approach was across a narrow strip of sand lying between the marshes and the sea. Sumter, Cummings Point, and other Confederate forts lying farther in toward Charleston, could aid it with concentrated and cross-fire. The garrison was in command of General William B. Taliaferro, one of Stonewall Jackson's veterans. The historic attack of July 18, 1863, may be regarded as a climax of career not only of Lockwood of Sigma Chi, but of the entire Forty-eighth Regiment in which he fought. The assault became known as the most terrible and fatal in modern warfare-except Balaklava. There "sheeted with fire, shot through with canister, and grape and shrapnel in the most

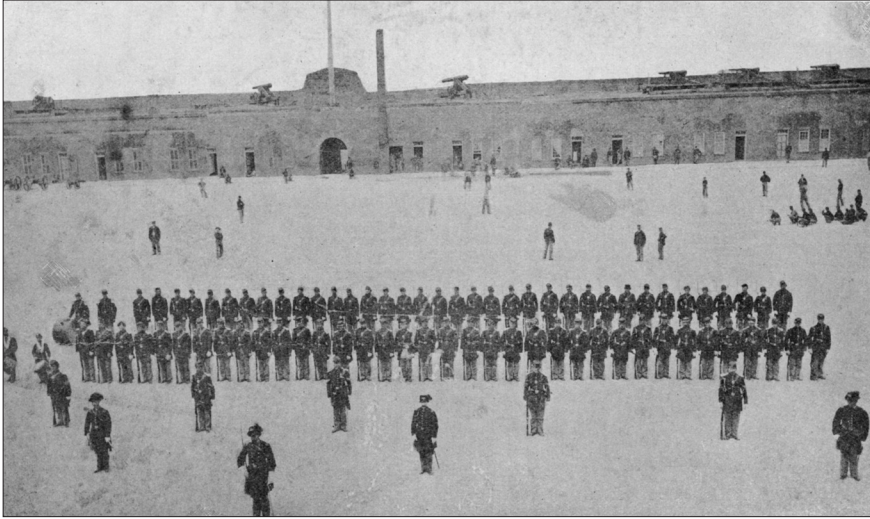


*Field, Line, and Staff Officers of the 48<sup>th</sup> New York at Fort Pulaski, Georgia*

desperate struggle and deadliest spot of the war—amid all dangers, but without dismay—this brave regiment. . . . upon that spot, and in that single immortal hour, almost all perished, leaving but a remnant behind to remind the world that it had ever been.”

The assault by the troops followed a terrific bombardment from the sea. The first assaults were made by the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts, the colored regiment of Colonel Robert G. Shaw, and by the “Fighting Brigade” of General Strong. The withering fire held them back, yet scores fell in the ditches before the fort and upon the very ramparts. Night had come and a storm had arisen. Other regiments were waiting—the Sixth Connecticut in advance, and next the Forty-eighth New York. Its historian tells of the sensations of the men:

They knew now that Fort Wagner was not evacuated, nor disabled by the bombardment; and that its garrison was ready also to give them a more deadly reception. It is doubtful if any man who has never known the experience of a moment like that can conceive it. With blanched cheeks, indeed, but with undaunted hearts in the face of imminent death, they determined that night to do their duty. The voice of General Strong rang clear as he gave the command “Column, forward! Double quick, march!” and forward



*Company H, 48<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers, Fort Pulaski, Georgia, Spring, 1863*

on the full run they rushed. The earth shook beneath their tread, the storm lulled, the very sea beside them seemed to grow quiet; the cannon firing of all the batteries and from all the ships suddenly ceased.

When we had gone twelve hundred yards and the head of the column was almost to the ditch, suddenly the parapets were alive with men; they “yelled,” they fired all their muskets and their cannon straight in our faces. It was as if the deepest pit of hell had vomited its hottest fires upon you. It was as light as day, and that noble column reeled and swayed and fell, shot through with grape and canister and shrapnel—the deadliest missiles of cruel war; these crushed their way through the bared breasts of that dauntless column of loyal blue, and levelled it to the earth. Oh, it was pitiful! The air was on fire everywhere, and the fire seemed to have voices that now moaned and now cheered, and now cried with pain; the deadly volleys followed each other faster than I can write them; the dead and dying were piled in heaps, heroic, far up that fatal slope; the sea moaned, the thunder muttered in the sky. It grew dark suddenly, and only the eye of God saw the survivors of that shattered column pushing up toward the fort. Here was one, yonder another, ten steps away a third—all that were left standing of the solid columns that had melted away in the fires; but they did not halt, did not retreat—they pressed on. Those in the rear followed them, trampling down their dead and dying comrades, stumbling over wire entanglements as they rushed in the dark towards the

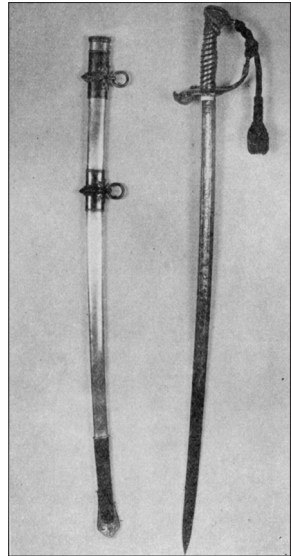


fort. . . .

. . . .At last a mere handful of them, but all that remained of the "Fighting Brigade" stood triumphant upon the parapets, and the strongest bastion of Fort Wagner was taken. Then there rang a great shout of victory over the sea, but it was lost in the shrieks of pain that followed it around the world. . . .<sup>4</sup>

The men who had succeeded in thus gaining the sea-face bastion at Fort Wagner were the survivors of the Sixth Connecticut and of the Forty-eighth New York, the regiments which had led the column, and a handful of men from other regiments who had joined them. For some time they held it, but the losses had been terrible. In the attack, and in the efforts to reinforce it, almost all of the higher officers engaged were killed or wounded. Late in the night, the last shattered regiments turned back still further cut to pieces even in their retreat by the fire of grape and canister which pursued them. In the days which followed, the newspapers of the North had columns filled with the lists of the dead and wounded. The Forty-eighth Regiment had gone into the assault with eight companies, five hundred men and sixteen officers. The next morning only eighty-six men answered to the roll call. Fifteen of the sixteen officers were killed or wounded. Lockwood's wound, which ultimately caused his death, was a grievous shot through the right shoulder and back. It never fully healed.

Fort Wagner was defended with a bravery



*Lockwood's Swords  
Presented by his Company just  
prior to the assault  
on Ft. Wagner.*

<sup>4</sup> From *The History of the Forty-eighth Regiment, New York Volunteers, 1861-65*, by the Rev. Abraham J. Palmer, D.D., published by Charles T. Dillingham, New York, 1885. Cf. Vol. I of this History, the William L. Lockwood Memorial Volume, and biographical sketch of Lockwood, for statement as to Dr. Palmer, the historian of his regiment, a leading churchman of New York City and famous for his eloquent Civil War lecture, "The Die-no-mores." The latter title was from the name given to Company D of the Forty-eighth New York Regiment of which Dr. Palmer was a member. It was a company made up largely of students of Pennington Seminary, raised by Professor Daniel C. Knowles, a teacher in the institution. The company gained its name during the war from the hymn-singing proclivities of its members, led by their teacher-captain, Professor Knowles.

It was the privilege of the author [Nate] to know the late Dr. Abraham J. Palmer personally during many years. The present History undertaking claimed his special interest and had his helpful suggestions as to many matters connected with Founder Lockwood, whom he remembered well as a brave comrade of the Forty-eighth New York. We are indebted to Dr. Palmer for military facts and statements, certain photographs, and identifications of pictures, etc.



equal to that of the great hearts which assailed it. Writers representing the respective sides afterward vied with each other in ascribing measureless valor to a worthy foe. General Taliaferro said in a subsequent account of the action: "The truest courage and determination was manifested on both sides on that crimson day at that great slaughter-house, Wagner." The movement concluded for the time the effort for the capture of Charleston. The shattered remnant of the Forty-eighth Regiment, with other troops, was transferred from Morris Island to Hilton Head and afterward to Florida. Lockwood, however, was long in the hospital, and the opening of 1864 found him still at Hilton Head. He was convalescent and performing duties specially assigned him. On January 14 came both recognition and reward for his faithfulness as a soldier. He was appointed Acting Adjutant Inspector General, Second Division, Tenth Army Corps. This was on the staff of General William F. Smith, in the Army of the Potomac. The work brought him into contact with many regiments and officers and won him high commendation.



*A Council of War—With Refreshments, Hilton Head, South Carolina, just after the assault on Fort Wagner. Lockwood is the fourth from the left in the row of standing men.*

Lockwood was, however, still weakened by his long illness. There are numerous references in his diary, doubtless never intimated elsewhere, of weakness and even suffering after the more arduous days of his work. In February he left for his New York home on furlough, and thence to Oxford, Ohio, where Mrs. Lockwood and their little son were spending the war years. In the latter part of March, considerably strengthened

in body, he rejoined his old regiment then in camp at Palatka, Florida. Here his duties continued to be those of inspector general. In April they returned to Virginia and became a part of the Army of the James, which was subsequently merged into the Army of the Potomac. There followed the skirmishes and battles by which the Army of the Potomac forced its way toward Richmond. Lockwood's strength was being undermined by the conditions involved, of exposure, the fatigue of the trying days and nights, and his old wound. The last action in which he participated was the hard one at Drewry's Bluff on May 16, 1864. It was a thirteen-hour action under General Benjamin F. Butler in command of the northern forces and General P. G. T. Beauregarde in command of those of the South. The losses on the Union side were three thousand and on the Confederate even more. Lockwood's diary entry, in a hurried, penciled hand, is:

Monday 16—At daylight a terrible fire opened on us—our flank turned—we repulsed a heavy charge—but suffered severely—retreated. Capt. Young, 76 Pa. Capt. Mosier 48th N. Y. killed—reached camp almost worn out about 9 P.M.

The weakened body of the man, if not the brave heart, was indeed "almost worn out." There were a few more days of struggle against the continuing drain upon his strength. After conferences with his warm friends among the higher officers, Lockwood yielded to the inevitable. His resignation was written in camp on May 24, 1864. He saw Generals Turner, Gillmore, and Butler personally, and the approval of each was promptly given. On Thursday, May 26, he was enabled to leave for Fortress Monroe. There, late that same day, he received his more final papers as honorably discharged from the service. "A free man," he wrote, "yet I am sorry." This was at the close of the third year of the war, and in his own twenty-eighth year.



Their organization became Company H of the Forty-eighth New York Volunteer Infantry. Strickland, having had some military training, was appointed Captain of the Company with Lockwood as his First Lieutenant.

The company was recruited largely among younger professional and business men of New York and Brooklyn. It was always recalled by the widow of Brother Lockwood that in those days of recruiting the young lawyer was often unusually absorbed in thought. In order to spare the feelings of his family circle, he seldom spoke of the progress being made in the formation of Company H. Almost the first announcement of his

plans in the home was made when he entered on a summer night in 1861 clad in the blue uniform of the Union Army. It was hardly a surprise to his family. They knew that "he could not have done otherwise."

Company H was organized as one avowedly seeking men only of high moral type. The regiment as a whole was influenced in an unusual degree by similar ideals. Its colonel was the Rev. James H. Perry, D.D., pastor of a prominent Brooklyn church. He had received a thorough military training, and had served in the Mexican War. He died in the Civil War service, and above his grave in Cypress Hills Cemetery, Brooklyn, a noble monument honors his name. The story of the activities and adventures of the regiment is one of absorbing interest. It was published by Dillingham, New York, in 1885, as *The History of the Forty-eighth Regiment, New York Volunteers, 1861-65*, written by the Rev. Abraham J. Palmer, D.D., a leading churchman of New York City, and a member of the regiment.

The late Dr. Abraham J. Palmer, the historian of his regiment, was himself a member of Company D, the "Die-no-mores," and had claim to being the youngest enlisted soldier in the Union Army. This company was raised by Professor Daniel C. Knowles, a teacher in the Pennington Seminary at Pennington, New Jersey, and was made up largely of students of the institution. It gained its name from the hymn-singing proclivities of its members, led by their teacher-captain, Professor Knowles. The exploits of the company and of the regiment of which it was a part were widely heralded after the Civil War in the eloquent lecture of Dr. Palmer, *The Die-no-mores*.

The military career of the young officer, Lockwood, whether in the life of camp or on the battlefield, was all in keeping with his high and courageous character. On June 18, 1862, he was promoted to the captaincy. No officer could have more fully won the confidence and affection of his men than did he. Regularly, he drew upon his personal resources to supply needs or comforts for those who were sick or could otherwise be helped. The Tiffany sword presented him by his company, carried with honor by the soldier, became the prized heirloom of his family after his death.

It was in the memorable action of the assault on Fort Wagner on July 18, 1863, that Lockwood fell, stricken by a grievous wound through the shoulders. From this injury he never fully recovered. Late in the fall, however, he was again in the active service.

It was the custom of Founder Lockwood during the war years to keep a diary of his daily activities and impressions. The entries repeatedly reveal the sturdy spirit which, after Fort Wagner, held him to his duty despite the sapping of his strength by his wound and the continuing exposures of the service. Many entries, also, tell of letters which reached him from the Sigma Chi men of Miami, themselves nearly all in the

armies. After January, 1864, his military assignments were conditioned by his physical limitations. These assignments included the high honor of the post of Acting Assistant Inspector General on the Staff of General William F. Smith in the Army of the Potomac. The work brought him into contact with many regiments and officers, and won him uniform commendation.

In February of 1864, he went home to New York City on furlough, and thence out to Oxford, Ohio, where his wife and the little fellow, Frank Scobey, awaited the coming of husband and father. There, he visited the literary societies of the University again, and renewed the mingled memories of Oxford streets and Miami halls. On a trip to Cincinnati, on February 24, he found Isaac M. Jordan. We can well believe that their reminiscences were of the old Alpha, and their fellow-founders, and of the changes the eight years had brought for them all. Strengthened by the rest, Lockwood returned to his regiment, then going into quarters at Palatka, Florida, on the St. Johns River. Soon there was a return to Virginia, where the Forty-eighth New York became a part of the Army of the James, and that of the Potomac, and of those mighty subsequent movements which were the beginning of the end.

Through May the campaigning was strenuous, with hard marches, severe skirmishes, and, on May 16, the thirteen-hour battle of Drewry's Bluff. The latter was the final major action in which Lockwood participated. His journal reveals with what fortitude he was holding to his work. At last, the strong soldier spirit was compelled to yield to the continuing drain upon the physical resources, from the wound and from exposures. The resignation and honorable discharge of Lockwood from the service because of disability was of the date June 26, 1864, at the close of the third year of the war. His whole course well justified the tribute paid him long after his death by Colonel Strickland, his friend and early associate in law practice and for three years his comrade in arms: "He was a noble fellow, a true friend, and as gallant and brave a soldier as wore the blue."

Lockwood spent the months following his discharge in New York City and its vicinity. While seeking to rebuild his health and make new plans for himself, he assisted in the business of his father for which the war made helpers difficult to obtain. The condition of his health seemed to render a renewal of the law business impossible. One interesting trip took him to the region of Wheeling, West Virginia, to investigate an excitement over some new oil fields. His business acumen in that connection might be envied by oil investigators of the more modern period. The diary entry was, "Find the oil-wells all overestimated and their owners all liars." The next day he quietly entertained himself at the hotel with reading and billiards while waiting for some fellow-investigators to become satisfied.

Next to books and magazines, good music, and art, the favorite

recreation of Lockwood was billiards. When in New York or other cities he regularly attended the best plays and operas. The record of an occasional fishing or hunting trip shows a fondness for those sports and for the great out-of-doors. Chiefly, however, he was a constant reader. The book titles named in his diary exhibit both the wide range of his reading and its up-to-date character. Among magazines, the *Atlantic Monthly* was a favorite.

The church affiliation of Brother Lockwood was that of the Protestant Episcopal Church. He was regular in his attendance at the church services, and not infrequently attended those of other denominations than his own. Good music in the churches shared in his words of appreciation equally with good preaching. In the last years, at Usquepaugh, the little Queen's River Baptist Society of the village claimed his interest and help. It is very clear from the whole record that in this man Sigma Chi had a founder whose character was rooted in a noble faith and whose worship was "in spirit and in truth."



*Queen's River Baptist Church, Usquepaugh, top, and Lockwood's Usquepaugh home as they appeared in the 1990s. Photo: Simeon Lipman, Rhode Island, 1996*

Late in the year 1864, Brother Lockwood removed to Usquepaugh, Rhode Island. There, with co-partners, he purchased the local woolen mills and organized the firm of Lockwood, Aplin and Company. Usquepaugh, an Indian name, was a small manufacturing settlement near West Kingston, Rhode Island, a few miles inland from Narragansett Pier on the Atlantic Coast. The business was one attracting eastern capital toward the close of the Civil War, and one with which the Lockwood concern in New York had contacts. Much was hoped, also, for Lockwood's health from the out-of-door life it made possible. The surrounding country was beautiful with forests, rivers, and hills, and the climate was bracing with its ocean air. The father of Lockwood, in

addition to a considerable investment in the woolen mills, built a pleasant home for his son and family, a short distance from the mills. A feature of the house was a library, with shelves built in for Lockwood's many volumes. In these surroundings were passed the few remaining years of life of this founder of Sigma Chi. It was one of his satisfactions that, having "entered the race for a purse," as he wrote Runkle, he saw the business of his concern enlarge steadily and become thoroughly profitable.



His devotion to the mill operatives was like that for the members of his company in war time. He was known and loved in every home. The books in the splendid library were systematically loaned among them. At times of epidemic illness, his visits were as faithful as those of the physician. But the remaining years were to be all too brief. The terrible wound sustained at Fort Wagner proved victor over the quest for health. The end came on August 17, 1867, in Lockwood's thirty-first year. The remains were laid at rest in the Lockwood family lot in the beautiful Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn.

### DEATH OF WILLIAM L. LOCKWOOD<sup>5</sup>

William L. Lockwood was the first of the seven founders of Sigma Chi to depart from this life. His death occurred at Usquepaugh, Rhode Island, on August 17, 1867. Three years before, much broken physically by his wounds received in leading his company in the assault upon Fort Wagner, he had relinquished his active service at the front. In the hope of rebuilding his health, he had sought the out-of doors opportunity and the bracing ocean climate at Usquepaugh. There, in the active management of the woolen mills he had purchased, he bravely fought his three-year battle for health and strength. The story of Founder William L. Lockwood's life, including much of his last three years at Usquepaugh, has already been told. His unwavering affection for Sigma Chi was not forgotten even in those busy closing years with their times of suffering and weakness. It was possible for him to know but little of the rebuilding of the Fraternity after the Civil War. There was an occasional interchange of letters with his old associates of the Alpha at Miami University. Sometimes there was an exchange of photographs, especially those of army days. Always, it was evident that no later friendships could mean quite as much to Lockwood as those of the boyhood college years at Oxford. In his last summer, there was an increasing weakness from the old wounds. The end came almost suddenly. After only a brief illness that was recognized as critical, this founder—"one of the bravest soldiers who ever wore the blue," as his colonel afterward wrote of him—fell asleep.

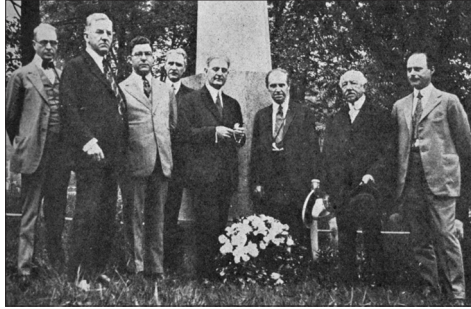
The death of Lockwood was probably unknown until long afterward in any chapter of the Fraternity existing at that time. One of the interesting studies of the period is that of the manner in which the entire twenty-one members of old Alpha at Miami became almost wholly disassociated with the active affairs of Sigma Chi after the Civil War. The former chapters, many of them, were gradually becoming re-established after the interruptions of the long conflict. But the chapter at Miami was

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<sup>5</sup> Nate, *History*, Vol II, pp. 549-550.

gone. When the war closed, it had been inactive for seven long years. So far as we have knowledge, there was hardly a single member of the old Miami group who was so located as to renew any active contact with the continuing work of the Fraternity they had founded in 1855.

The men of Gamma, at Ohio Wesleyan, began to learn the whereabouts of the Founders in the early seventies, in completing the first Catalogue of Sigma Chi, issued in 1872. They gave careful recognition, also, in that volume, to the honored place of the founder-group in the history of the Fraternity. The heroic work of the first years at Miami was then known at



*Lockwood Memorial Dedications, Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York, June 28, 1920.*

Delaware, through old letters and records and the stories of alumni, as a tradition of noble beginnings. Most interesting are the circumstances under which Founder Benjamin P. Runkle opened a correspondence with the Gamma in 1879 which led to his becoming the guest and speaker of the chapter at its famous Greenwood Lake Reunion of that year. His message then spoken gave new knowledge of the early years. And the time was to come when not only Runkle but also Lockwood and the other five would be known in the Gamma and in the hundred chapters of Sigma Chi, the foundations of which they had laid in the little town of Oxford, Ohio, in the long ago.

While Sigma Chi endures, the name of William L. Lockwood will be an imperishable heritage. The designer of the White Cross, he lived and died its chivalrous knight *sans peur et sans reproche*. Long years passed before the Fraternity inaugurated its custom by which on June 28 of each year, the anniversary of the founding, its flowers for memory are carried to the last resting-places of those who at Miami in the fifties founded Sigma Chi. On the Founders' Day of the year 1900, a little group of active and alumni members of New York and Brooklyn first found the resting-place of William L. Lockwood. The passing years have brought their renewals of the memorial service held—as will the years to come. The tribute that it pays is one of gratitude for the life which for the while has gone away and for the purpose of nobler living among those who for the while remain:

With sacred circle broken,  
Go, then, dear brother, bearing  
We come, O comrades dear,  
Their fragrance to thy rest;

To lay the parting token  
The cross fraternal wearing  
Upon our brother's bier.  
Upon thy peaceful breast;  
We give, in our last greeting,  
And, though the roses perish,  
Sweet roses as a sign;  
The jewel's luster die,  
Tho' earthly love is fleeting,  
Our hearts shall ever cherish  
Its spirit is divine.  
Thy place in Sigma Chi.

By thought of thee made tender,  
By thine example good,  
We'll strive to win the splendor  
Of perfect brotherhood.  
Till, whether in the heaven,  
Or earth, made heaven-sweet,  
The stars again are seven,  
The circle is complete.

-MARION MILLS MILLER, Beta '85,  
in the *Service in Memoriam* of Sigma Chi.

