

Many Canadians are not aware that thousands of their countrymen served with distinction in the American Civil War from 1861 to 1865. They were present in all the great battles throughout the war. At the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, for example, soldiers from New Brunswick fought against each other during General Pickett's famous charge. Some from the lower part of the province had joined Southern Regiments while many more had joined with the boys from the North. One distinguished soldier who was wounded at the Battle of Cedar Creek was the son of Joseph Howe, the Premier of Nova Scotia. Twenty-three Canadians received the Congressional Medal of Honour for Bravery. Many others also distinguished themselves and received lesser medals. Among the most revered are those that participated with Colonel Joshua Chamberlain's 22<sup>nd</sup> Maine Regiment in the famous bayonet charge at Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg.

The book begins with a lively introduction and remains a delightful read until the very end.

*Fredericksburg Virginia May N<sup>th</sup> 1864*

*Dear Wife,*

*I will try and write a few lines to you as I lie here on my back, suffering all I can endure. It is hard work to write so that you can read it, but I thought you would rather see my own hand writing on the paper than any other. They all say I am getting along well. I have lost both my legs just above the knees and am very weak; but by the blessing of God I hope to live through it. Pray for me, dear wife. Many kisses to the children and much love to all. From your suffering husband.*

**D**AVID NICKERSON wrote this letter to his wife from an army field hospital in Virginia. He was a member of Company H, 22<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Volunteers, and received his wounds at the Battle of the Wilderness, May 12,<sup>th</sup> 1864. Cpl. Nickerson had left for the war two years earlier from the picturesque little village of Hampstead, New Brunswick. He was moved from the field hospital in Virginia to Harewood Hospital in Washington where he died on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Left behind in Hampstead were his young widow and two small children. David Nickerson was thirty-two.