

## Anderson W. Pidcock (ref. # 112261) and the Civil War



Anderson W. Pidcock was born December 21, 1844, the oldest child of Charles and Mary Pyatt Pidcock. He was planning to follow his father in the Carpentry trade and was apprenticed to Master Carpenter, Theopolis Stout on July 21<sup>st</sup> 1860 when the census was taken.

Name:	<b>Anderson Pidcock</b>
Enlistment Date:	9 Aug 1861
Side Served:	Union
State Served:	New Jersey
Service Record:	Enlisted as a Private on 9 August 1861. Enlisted in <a href="#">Company H, 6th Infantry Regiment New Jersey</a> on 26 Aug 1861. Promoted to Full Corporal on 1 Sep 1862. Killed <a href="#">Company H, 6th Infantry Regiment New Jersey</a> on 6 May 1864 at Wilderness, VA.
Sources:	13

**Source Citation:** Side served: *Union*; State served: *New Jersey*; Enlistment date: *9 Aug 1861*..

**Source Information:**

Historical Data Systems, comp.. *American Civil War Soldiers* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 1999. Original data: Data compiled by Historical Data Systems of Kingston, MA from the [following list of works](#).

Copyright 1997-2000 Historical Data Systems, Inc. PO Box 35 Duxbury.

**6<sup>th</sup> New Jersey....fact...."This distinguished regiment is included as one of William F. Fox's (circa 1889) top 300 Union Fighting Regiments."**

The **6<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Volunteer Infantry** (also called the "6th New Jersey Volunteers") was [regiment](#) of [infantry](#) from [New Jersey](#) that served in the [Army of the Potomac](#) during the [American Civil War](#).

## 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment Service

The regiment was recruited in the counties of Burlington, Camden, Mercer, Hudson and Hunterdon, and was mustered into Federal service in August 1861. During its field service fighting against the [Confederates](#), it took part in a number of engagements, such as the [Battle of Williamsburg](#), the [Battle of Chancellorsville](#), the [Battle of Gettysburg](#), and the [Battle of the Wilderness](#). A monument to the 6th New Jersey Infantry stands in the "Valley of Death" near [Devil's Den](#) in the [Gettysburg National Military Park](#). It marks the general area where the unit fought on the [second day \(July 2, 1863\)](#) of the Battle of Gettysburg.

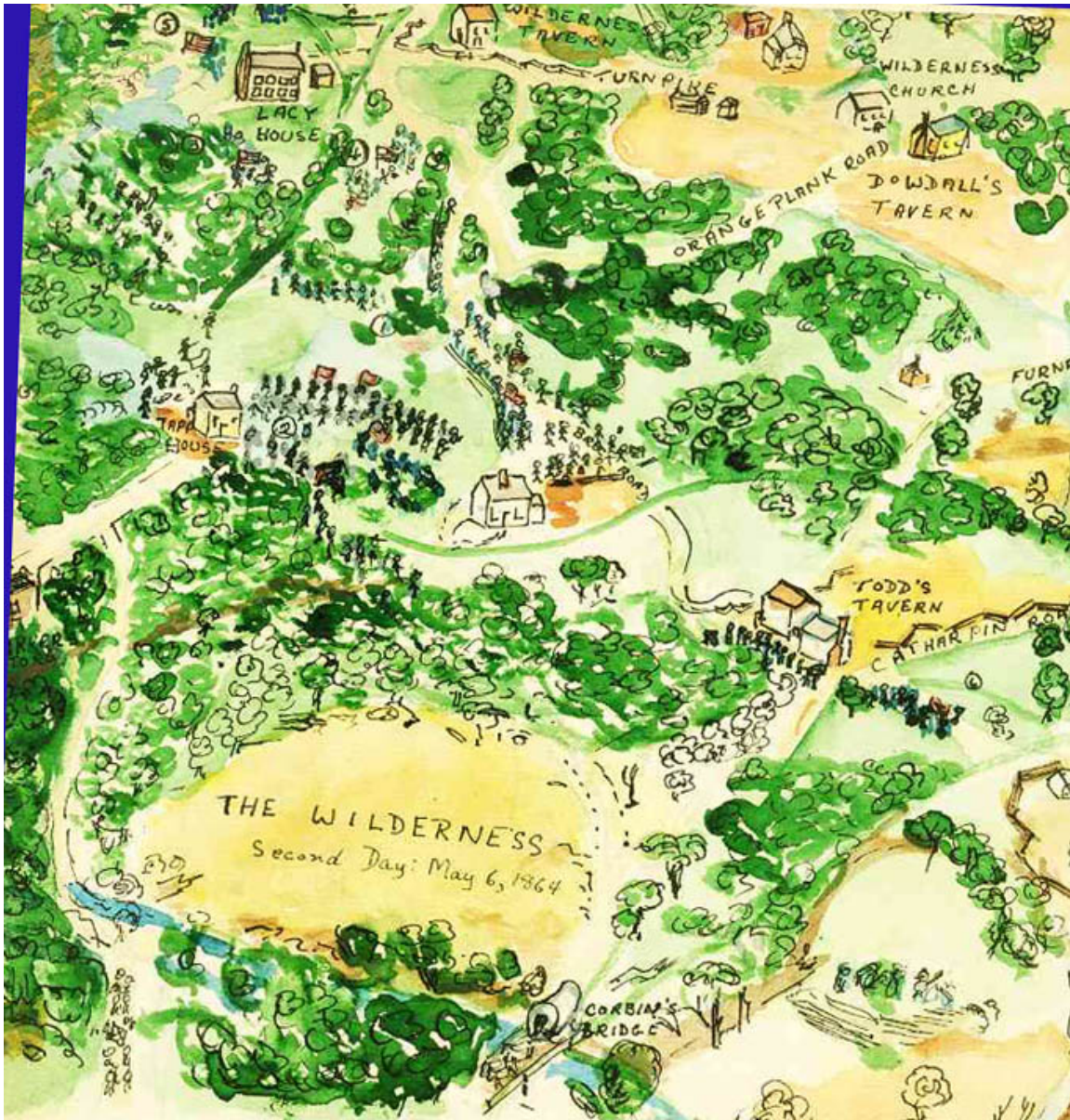
On September 13, 1861 the Sixth was brigaded with the [55th New York, Gardes Lafayette](#), the [62d New York, Anderson Zouaves](#) and the [102nd Pennsylvania](#) (the Old 13th Pittsburgh Washington Infantry), under the command of General [John J. Peck](#). However, the 6th was soon removed and placed in the "Second New Jersey Brigade" along with the [5th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry](#), the [7th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry](#), and the [8th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry](#). Despite its beginnings as an all-New Jersey unit, regiments from other states were eventually added to the brigade, starting in 1863. It fought as part of the [Army of the Potomac's III Corps](#) until the corps was disbanded in March 1864. From that point until its muster out it was part of the [II Corps](#).

For further details see <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreghst/unnjinf2.htm#6thinf>

## Battle of the Wilderness

On the 20<sup>th</sup> General Burnside having meanwhile been appointed to the command of the army, the brigade took up its line of march for Falmouth, where it arrived, after various experiences, on the night of the November 28<sup>th</sup>, many of the men being without shoes and all short on rations. During this march, while lying at Fairfax Station, on the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, General Patterson, commanding the brigade, died suddenly in his tent, and Col. Revere, of the Seventh Regiment, succeeded to the command. General Patterson was a brave and efficient soldier, and was highly esteemed by his command.

**Battle of the Wilderness**



THE WILDERNESS: After the indecisive fighting on May 5 the Federal line, facing south, roughly parallels the Brock Road, opposed by two of Lee's three corps. The second day's action opens with Hancock's II Corps breaking through A.B.Hill's lines (1). Longstreet's corps, moving north past the Tapp House on the Orange Plank Road, blocks Hancock's advance (2), turns the Union flank, and is only halted, late in the afternoon, at the Northern breastworks along the Brock Road. Menhille, Federals on the right under Sedgwick and Warren are unsuccessful in their attacks (3) on Ewell's corps. About 2 p.m. Burnside reinforces the Union center with the IX Corps and attacks Hill (4), who holds him. In the evening Gordon strikes the extreme Union right (5), threatening Grant's communications, but his advance is halted by darkness. The following night Grant (6) and Lee (7) race for Spotsylvania Court House, and Lee's Army of Northern Virginia gets there first.



“On the 3rd of May (1864) General Grant, who had succeeded to the command of all our armies, having completed his preparations for a summer campaign, ordered an advance towards the Wilderness, a densely-wooded tract of table land, stretching southward from the Rapidcan nearly to Spottsylvania Court House. The Second Corps, with which the Second Brigade was now identified, crossed the river at Ely's Ford, and moved straight on to Chancellorsville, where arrived on the 5th, scarcely a shot having been fired. Meanwhile the other corps **were** brought into position and the enemy took up a line parallel with our advance. On the 5th, the Fifth Corps, under Warren, was heavily assailed by a large force of the enemy, the Sixth Corps being at the same time attacked by another force under Ewell, and a stubborn battle ensued, night closing upon the field. Meanwhile, the Second Brigade had been advanced to an elevated position on the Brock road, which extends to the east towards the Spottsylvania and Fredericksburg road, where breastworks were hastily thrown up – two regiments, however -- the Fifth and Eighth New Jersey, under command of Colonel William J. Sewell - moving up the road to its junction with what is known as the Furnace road, where Sewell was placed in command of the skirmish line. From this position, an advance was presently ordered, and the men dashed impetuously over the breastworks, eager to engage the foe. At this point, however, as elsewhere upon the field, so dense was the undergrowth that it was found impossible for the troops to maintain their alignment, so that, when coming into line of battle, owing to the pressure from the Sixth Corps on the right and the Excelsior Brigade on the left, there was not sufficient room to form a line in two ranks, causing for a time considerable embarrassment and difficulty. The movement, however, continued, the line of battle presently passing over the skirmish line and opening fire, which was promptly returned. At this moment, unaccountably as it seems, the left of the line suddenly gave way, and the confusion becoming general, regiment after regiment fell back, all efforts to rally them short of the breastworks being ineffectual. The enemy, however, did not advance, and the corps held its position during the night.

At five o'clock on the morning of the 6th, six regiments of the brigade again advanced, three regiments, the Fifth, Sixth and Eleventh New Jersey, being placed under Colonel Sewell. The men were soon in position, the regiments under Sewell skirmishing briskly as they moved into an open space in Ward's Brigade, which had become divided, leaving two of its regiments on Sewell's left. Steadily the line advanced, pushing the enemy back, and taking many-prisoners. About ten o'clock, the firing on this part of the line ceased for a time, and the men obtained a brief rest, but towards noon, having received reinforcements, the enemy again opened on the left and rear of the brigade. Being thus flanked, Colonel McAllister changed his line so as to face the enemy, and a body of troops in his front giving way, he became speedily and actively engaged, delivering volley after volley into the rebel ranks. Again, however, the enemy flanked his left, and being exposed to a fire in the front, on the left flank and rear, he ordered the troops to fall back to another line. Here again however, they were taken in flank by a withering fire, and after fighting desperately for a time to hold the position, the men yielded, still contending every inch of the way, and retired to the breastworks, where the brigade was re-formed under shelter of the works and abattis. The fighting up to this time had been of the most furious character, the enemy throwing his heaviest masses of troops against the corps, and displaying courage amounting almost to madness in his desire to break our lines and obtain possession of the road. But our veterans were equally resolute, equally

courageous, and only when overwhelmed by superior numbers, fell back, fighting grimly as they went, to their original line.

Here, upon the re-formation, Colonel McAllister, addressing his men, told them they must hold the line — the second -- at whatever cost; and bravely did they respond, when, as the enemy at a later hour again advanced and our first line presently gave way, they received the full shock of the assault. Not a man in the brigade faltered or fell back; but standing in solid ranks, firing with deliberate aim and unceasing activity, they held sternly in check the menacing columns. So rapid and destructive was their fire that the enemy found it utterly impossible to hold the first line of works to which he had advanced.”

### **Other glimpses of the Battle of the Wilderness: "Songs of the Civil War"**

At a high point in the Battle of the Wilderness in May, 1864, the Union IX Corps was thrown back by a savage Rebel flank attack. Suddenly one of the men raised his voice in the stirring words of the song that begins "We'll rally round the flag boys, we'll rally once again"; and the boys in blue returned to the fight.

-The American Heritage Picture History of THE CIVIL WAR p. 379

### **Lee's Miserables**

During the days of battle (in the Wilderness, at Spotsylvania, and at the "Bloody" Angle, May 6-12, 1864), through which we had just passed, very little relief, physical or mental, had been obtained; but there was one staff officer, a Colonel B\_\_\_\_, who often came as bearer of messages to our headquarters, who always managed to console himself with novel-reading, and his peculiarity in this respect became a standing joke among those who knew him. He went about with his saddle-bags stuffed full of thrilling romances, and was seen several times sitting on his horse under a brisk fire, poring *over* the last pages of an absorbing volume to reach the denouement of the plot, and evincing a greater curiosity to find how the hero and the heroine were going to be extricated from the entangled dilemma into which they had been plunged by the unsympathetic author than to learn the result of the surrounding battle. One of his peculiarities was that he took it for granted that all the people he met were perfectly familiar with his line of literature, and he talked about nothing but the merits of the latest novel.

For the last week he had been devouring Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables". It was an English translation, for the officer had no knowledge of French. As he was passing a house in rear of the "angle" he saw a young lady seated on the porch, and, stopping his horse, bowed to her with all the grace of a Chesterfield, and endeavored to engage her in conversation. Before he had gone far he took occasion to remark: "By the way, have you *seen* "Lees Miserables?" anglicizing the pronunciation.

Her black eyes snapped with indignation as she tartly replied; "Don't you talk to me that way; they're a good deal better than Grant's miserables anyhow!" -General Horace Porter

### **Mrs Lee**

The order of General Grant on the 15th of April, 1864, for the removal of all civilians from the army, released Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Huband, who had been associated with her, from their duties at Brandy Station. But in less than a month both were recalled to the temporary base of the army at Belle Plain and Fredericksburg, to minister to the thousands of wounded from the destructive battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania. At Fredericksburg, where the whole town was one vast hospital, the surgeon in charge entrusted her with the care the special diet of the Second Corps' hospitals. Unsupplied with kitchen furniture, and the surgeon being entirely at a loss how to procure any, her woman's wit enabled her to improvise the means of performing her duties. She remembered that Mrs. Harris had left at the Lacy House in Falmouth, opposite Fredericksburg, the year before, an old stove which might be there yet. Procuring an ambulance, she crossed the river, and found the old stove, much the worse for wear, and some kettles and other utensils, all of which were carefully transported to the other side, and after diligent scouring, the whole were soon in such a condition that boiling, baking, stewing and frying could proceed simultaneous and during their stay in Fredericksburg, the old stove was kept constantly hot, and her skillful hands were employed from morning till night and often from night till morning again in the preparation of food and delicacies for the sick. Nothing but her iron constitution enabled her to endure this incessant labor.