

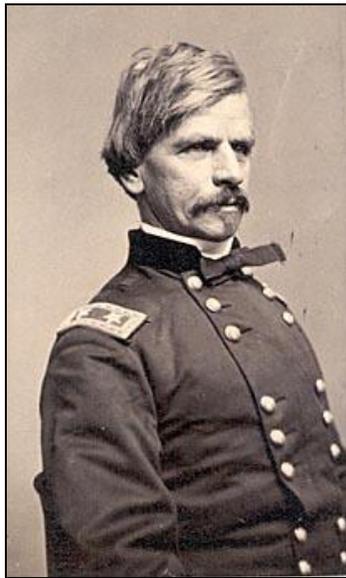
CHAPTER 7

The Youngest Brother and the 110th NYS Infantry

Phillip Henry Scriber was the younger brother of Stephen and Charles Scriber and was born on May 1, 1843.¹ At the age of 19 he left the Town of Schroepel farm and enlisted at Fulton, NY in the 110th NYSV Infantry where he was mustered in as a private in Company A during late August of 1862.^{34, 43} Ironically, he was mustered in less than a week before both Charles and Stephen were wounded at 2nd Manassas. According to Phisterer's²⁹ the regiment left the State August 27, 1862. The regiment proceeded to Baltimore, Md., August 29, 1862, via Albany and New York, then attached to the Defenses of Baltimore, Md., 8th Army Corps, Middle Department, where they remained in Camp Patterson for about two months, to October, 1862.

The unit then embarked for Fortress Monroe, LA., arriving on November 6th, 1862.^{34,50} Here they were assigned to the Department of the Gulf, for the expedition under command of General Nathaniel P. Banks. Going by water to New Orleans, the regiment embarked aboard the steamer "Ericsson" for Fortress Monroe, where they arrived on November 6, 1862. They remained at Ship Island nine days and then proceeded by steamer to New Orleans and were ordered into camp. They were in camp for weeks and then removed to Baton Rouge. Later, in March 1863, they were ordered to Port Hudson, where they were present at the first bombardment of that place by Farragut's fleet. Eight war-vessels, ("Hartford", "Richmond", "Mississippi", "Monongahela", "Kineo", "Sachem", "Albatross", and "Genesse") comprised the expedition to Port Hudson. On the night of the 15th of April, 1863, all being in readiness, a red light from the flag-ship signaled the squadron to weigh anchor, and the steamers,

followed by the four gun-boats, steamed along in the night. They had not proceeded far, when challenged from a rebel battery on the river-bank. In cooperation with Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's offensive against Vicksburg, Union Major Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks' army moved against the Confederate stronghold at Port Hudson on the Mississippi River with battery after battery opening fire. In a 1903 pension report⁴² Phillip did mention that he was wounded in the left leg and contracted disease of the ear while at Port Hudson, LA. For the latter part of 1863 he guarded prisoners and later was sent to a hospital in Baton Rouge.⁴³



Major General Nathaniel Prentice Banks (commander of the Union forces at Port Hudson, La)

On May 27, 1863 after their frontal assaults were repulsed, the Federals settled into a siege which lasted for 48 days.³⁴ Banks renewed his assaults on June 14 but the Confederates successfully repelled them. In the assaulting column, four companies of the NYSV 110th Infantry, A (Phillip's Company), B, E, and I took part, under command of Major Charles Hamilton. On July 9, 1863, after hearing of the fall of Vicksburg, the

Confederate garrison of Port Hudson surrendered, opening the Mississippi River to Union navigation from its source to New Orleans. The 110th were also with Major General Nathaniel P. Banks, as he launched an expedition up Bayou Teche in western Louisiana aimed at Alexandria. On April 9th, two divisions crossed Berwick Bay from Brashear City to the west side at Berwick. On the 12th, a third division went up the Atchafalaya River to land in the rear of Franklin intending to intercept a Rebel retreat from Fort Bisland or turn the enemy's position. Major General Richard Taylor sent Colonel Tom Green's regiment to the front to ascertain the enemy's strength and retard his advance. On the 11th, the Yankees began their advance in earnest. Late on the 12th, Union troops arrived outside the defenses in battle line. An artillery barrage ensued from both sides until dark when the Yankees, many of whom were hit by Rebel cannon fire, fell back and camped for the night. About 9:00 am on the 13th, the Union forces again advanced on Fort Bisland. Combat did not begin until after 11:00 am and continued until dusk. In addition to Rebel forces in the earthworks, the gunboat Diana, now in Confederate hands, shelled the Yankees. U.S. gunboats joined the fray in late afternoon. The fighting ceased after this. Later that night, Taylor learned that the Union division that went up the Atchafalaya and landed in his rear was now in a position to cut off a Confederate retreat. Taylor began evacuating supplies, men, and weapons, leaving a small force to retard any enemy movement. The next morning, the Yankees found the fort abandoned. Fort Bisland was the only fortification that could have impeded this Union offensive, and it had fallen.³⁴

On July 9th 1863 General Gardiner surrendered his entire command to General Andrews of the Union forces. At the surrender, the 110th regiment was present. After that

110th left Port Hudson, it encamped at Algiers a few days opposite New Orleans, and then embarked aboard transports for Sabine Pass. Afterward they joined General Bank's Red River expedition to the Trench country which turned into a miserable failure. Magruder drove him back and the expedition was abandoned. The regiment returned to camp opposite New Orleans at New Iberia. In February of 1864 they proceeded to Fort Jefferson at the Dry Tortugas (Islands off the Florida Keys). Most of the 110th departed New Orleans via the steamer Merrimac. Fort Jefferson served as a Union prison and the regiment remained here on garrison duty for the remainder of the war, being in charge about 900 prisoners. Although this fort was in a sub-tropical “vacation-like” spot it was a monotonous life for both convict and guard. Several prisoners who had been convicted by a military court of collaborating with John Wilkes Booth arrived in July of 1865. Among those prisoners was the celebrated Dr. Samuel Mudd, of the Lincoln assassination notoriety.⁵⁰ He had set Booth’s broken leg during his escape and was arrested as an accomplice. Dr. Mudd was actually held prisoner for several years until he was pardoned by President Johnson in 1869 for his heroic services in a yellow fever epidemic.⁵⁰



Fort Jefferson at Dry Tortugas, Florida <http://www.nps.gov/dрто/>

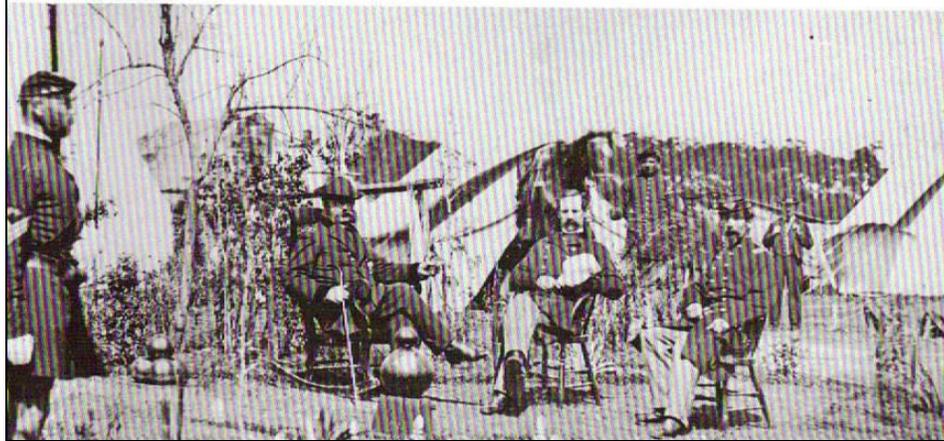
The 110th was with the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 19th Army Corps, to February, 1864. then to Key West, Fla., District of West Florida, Dept. Gulf, to August, 1865. (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyoswego/military/110thnyhist.html>, accessed 10/31, 2007) The unit was honorably discharged and mustered out, under Colonel Charles Hamilton, August 28, 1865, at Albany, NY.^{34,43} All together the 110th listed a total of 55 as killed, wounded, or missing but more than 150 died from disease.⁵⁰

Upon being mustered out of the army, Phillip returned home to Schroepel and lived with his wife and parents. It appears that Phillip was married before he left for the war as he had a son Charles who was born around 1863.¹ (1870 Census) In 1867 he purchased his parent's property from them in the Town of Schroepel, worked as a farmer¹, then sold the property to a neighbor in 1872.³⁹ He had a daughter (Delia) who died at 4 months of age. His wife, Seelinda died September 23, 1869 at the age of 27 (Chase Cemetery records). Records from the National Archives⁴² noted that in 1870 he moved to Missouri for a year then to Cheyenne, Wyoming for many years until about 1906.

In his mother Lydia Margaret's obituary¹⁷ in 1907 he was listed as a resident of Cheyenne, Wyoming at that time although his pension records state he left Cheyenne in 1906. Regardless, at some point after 1906 he moved to Cambridge, MA where he was eventually under the care of his sister Delia Scriber Dewitt (Taylor). Phillip passed away on November 10th, 1915 and is buried in the family plot in Lysander's Chase Cemetery.



Determined to eliminate Port Hudson, Major General Nathaniel P. Banks ordered his columns to surround the Rebel fortress. Frank H. Schell's drawing (left) shows the kind of terrain that made the march an enduring misery for Union soldiers. On the evening of May 26, Banks met with his senior officers to plan an all-out offensive. Major General Christopher C. Augur (below, seated in the rocking chair) was among those who opposed Banks' plan. Nevertheless, Augur obeyed orders and directed the attack in his sector the next day. The heavy assaults launched on May 27 were bloody failures, leading to a siege that soon forced the defenders into near starvation. "Rats," reported one Southerner in Port Hudson, "which are very numerous in our camps, are considered a dainty dish, and are being considerably sought after. . . ." Port Hudson did not surrender until July 9, ending the longest true siege in American military history.



The American Heritage New History of the Civil War. Freidman/Fairfax Publishing: New York, NY(p. 291)⁸