

GENEALOGICAL AND
PERSONAL HISTORY

OF THE

ALLEGHENY VALLEY

PENNSYLVANIA

UNDER THE EDITORIAL SUPERVISION OF

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schools, and this was supplemented by a course at the Teachers' Normal Department of Chamberlain Institute, Randolph, New York, from which he graduated in 1877, and he pursued a commercial course at the same institution, completing it in the unparalleled time of four weeks, also a special course of civil engineering, which profession he has since followed. He has devoted his attention to civil engineering, and has repeatedly been summoned to various parts of his and other states to settle land and other important engineering questions and disputes, and is considered one of the most reliable experts on questions submitted to him. Prior to taking up the active profession of civil engineering he was engaged for several years as a teacher in common, graded and union schools, holding a state teacher's certificate entitling him to teach in any part of the state of Pennsylvania. From 1875 until the present (1913), with the exception of six years, he has been the official surveyor of Warren county, Pennsylvania, and since March, 1895, has been the city engineer of Warren, Pennsylvania. At the present time (1913) he is chief engineer of the Hammond Engineering Company, which manufactures and erects water and sewage purification plants. He was for several years employed by the Pennsylvania State Department of Health as special engineer, to examine, report and recommend regarding matters of water and sewage purification that came before the department. He also acted, and does at present, as special engineer for the Pennsylvania State Railroad Commission. He was appointed by Governor Hastings in 1895 on the commission to determine the advisability of forming a new (Grow) county out of parts of Luzerne and other counties in the anthracite coal region. He was also appointed by the courts in 1886 to relocate the dividing line between Warren and Erie counties, in 1887 between Potter and Cameron, and Warren and Crawford, in 1895 between Center and Huntingdon, in 1909 between Crawford and Mercer, and in 1910 between Crawford and Venango counties.

When the United States declared war against Spain in 1898, Major Wheelock, being loyal and patriotic, and also having had a military experience from December 2, 1882, when he enlisted in Company I of the 16th Regiment of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, and having been promoted to corporal, sergeant,

(VII) Major De Forest A. Wheelock, son of Charles A. Wheelock, was born in Wheelock, Erie county, Pennsylvania, July 23, 1855. He gained his preliminary education in the common

first sergeant, second lieutenant, first lieutenant, and captain, he was one of the first to volunteer his services under the call for volunteers, ranking as captain of Company I, which was mustered into the service of the United States, May 10, 1898, after having been on duty at the call of the state authorities since April 27th. His was the only company from the state that volunteered with full ranks to a man. After camping at Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania, the company started for Chickamauga Park, Georgia, on May 15th, where he was joined by his son, Carl A., as corporal in his company, and subsequently ordered to Charleston, South Carolina, where they embarked July 22nd on the transport "Mobile," No. 21, and arrived at Ponce, Porto Rico, July 28th. The following night Captain Wheelock was ordered with fifty picked men from the 16th Regiment to El Coto, about seven miles distant, with orders to prevent any of the Spanish forces located there from burning the town, which they had threatened to, or from committing any other hostile demonstration. As Captain Wheelock and his men entered the town the rear guard of the Spanish forces retreated from the town. Captain Wheelock immediately took possession of the barracks just vacated by the enemy and captured several prisoners, as well as a large amount of commissary and quartermaster stores. On July 31st Captain Wheelock, in command of his company, and being reinforced by Company A, of Corry, proceeded under orders to Juana Diaz, took possession of the public buildings, telegraph and telephone offices, and at once hoisted the United States flag over the former. While at Juana Diaz, August 2nd, Captain Wheelock learned that at the seaport town of Port San Isabelle was a large amount of commissary stores ready to be delivered to the Spanish forces at Aibonita, and promptly during the night sent a detachment to take possession of the same. The detachment arrived just as the loaded wagons were starting for the Spanish lines. The detachment took the stores and some prisoners, and returned to Captain Wheelock's camp at Juana Diaz during the night, with stores, among which was a large amount of rice, which the captain at once turned over to the quartermaster of the 16th Regiment for the use of the men, which, as rations at the time were short, was a welcome accession. Guard duty was done there and outpost duty for two days, and a quantity of supplies and number

of prisoners taken, among the prisoners being the Spanish war secretary from Port San Isabelle, whose commission and saber the captain has ever since retained. The remainder of the 16th Regiment joined Company I and A, and on August 4th moved to a point halfway between Juana Diaz and Coamo, encamping along the military road. During the night of August 8th the regiment made a flank movement to get to the rear of Coamo, camping in the mountains during the night, and the following morning (August 9th) reached the top of the mountain overlooking Coamo, about sunrise, with the battery of the United States troops opened fire on the block house about two miles outside of the town, when the Spaniards retreated through the town and toward Aibonita, opening fire on the United States troops of the 16th Regiment, who were double-timing down the side of the mountain to intercept them. The battle lasted about an hour, when the Spanish forces surrendered. The principal part of the fighting was done by the First Battalion of the 16th Pennsylvania troops, composed of Companies I, A, H, and C. Captain Wheelock after the battle found that he had three men slightly wounded, but otherwise no casualties. When the Spaniards surrendered, Company I, under Captain Wheelock, entered the town of Coamo, took possession of the Spanish barracks and a large amount of government military stores, among which was taken the Spanish flag that floated over the barracks at the time the battle began, and which has ever since been retained by Captain Wheelock, who prizes it very highly. They then went into camp just east of the town, on that part of the battle field occupied by the Spanish forces during the engagement, remaining there until October 1st, when the regiment under orders started to march to San Juan, a seaport city on the north side of the Island, but after three days' marching were ordered back to Ponce. During this three-day period Captain Wheelock, who had just reported for duty from the hospital, was placed in charge of 136 convalescents whom he furloughed home, and rejoined his regiment in time to go with it back to the United States, leaving Ponce October 11th and arriving at New York on October 17th. He reached Warren with his company October 19, 1898, and was mustered out of United States service December 28, 1898. He continued in the service of the National Guard, being elected major October 14,

1907, and served as such till January, 1909, when after over twenty-six years' service he resigned and went on the retired list on account of long service.

Major Wheelock is a member of North Star Lodge, No. 241, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Occidental Chapter, No. 235, Royal Arch Masons; Warren Commandery, No. 63, Knights Templar, of which he is past eminent commander; Pennsylvania Consistory, 32nd degree, Valley of Pittsburgh; Presque Isle Lodge of Perfection, 14th degree, of Erie, Pennsylvania; Warren Lodge of Odd Fellows; due to his efforts, Lottsville Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized, he being its first noble and past noble grand; Warren Lodge, B. P. O. E., of which he is a past exalted ruler, and past trustee. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Engineers Society of Pennsylvania.