

First City Troop Officers — "Devon 1891. Capt. J.L. Wilson, Lieut. J.R. Fell, Sgn. A.W. Biddle, and Lieut. J. Rawle" (From an inscription on the rear of the photograph) — *Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.*



Officers reviewing the Stable Area. Note the proximity of the tents (on the left) to the stables. *Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.*

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Stable Area

In addition to regular camp duties, the First City Troop's daily routine included camp and stable guard duty, as well as feeding and watering the horses and cleaning the stables. The Troop wore regulation brown jeans for work about camp and wide-brimmed hats of gray felt.

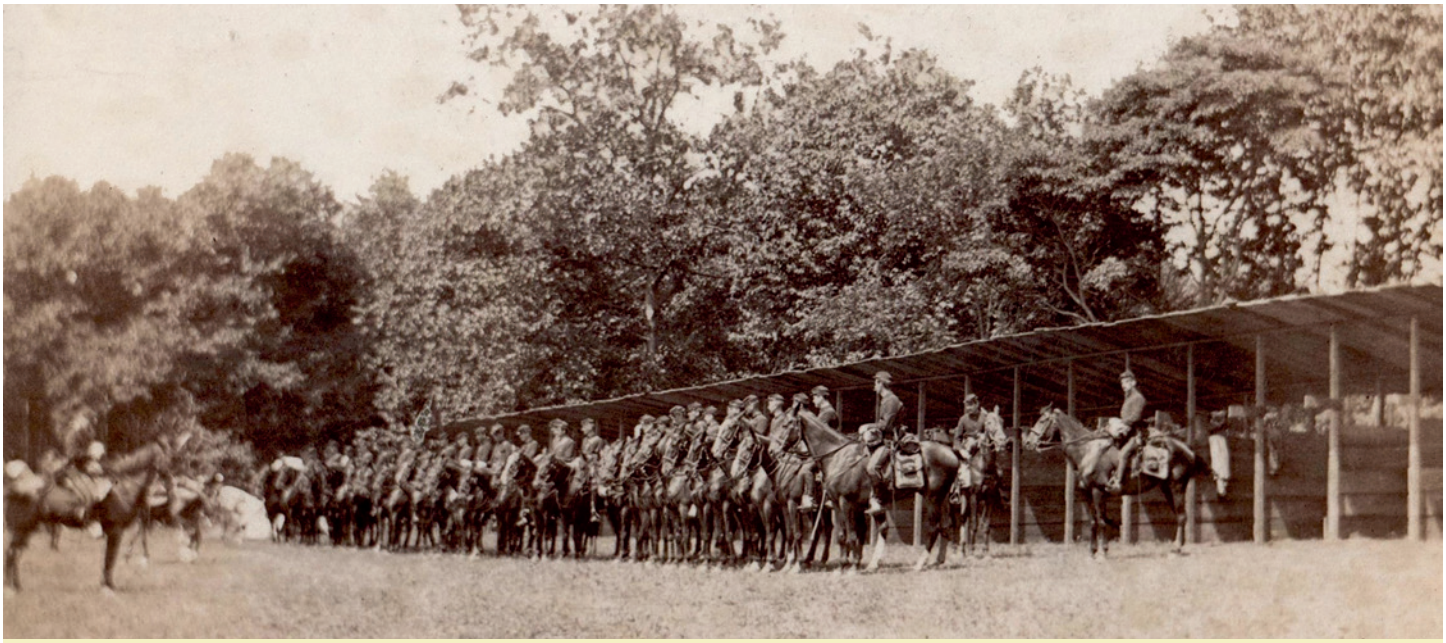
Sources: First City Troop Minutes Book, 1884-1894, First City Troop Archive.

"Captain Wilson of the City Troop," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 5, 1891, p. 10.

Stable Area photographs. *Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.*



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This photo appears to be of a mounted inspection in front of the stable. *Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.*

Camp Sherman Day 4 "Governor's Day"

Good weather set the stage for Tuesday's "Governor's Day" at Camp Sherman. The various inspections occurred during the morning, and Governor Pattison, Major General George R. Snowden, and their guests shared lunch at the Devon Inn, stating that Camp Sherman had exceeded all their expectations.[33] One of the guests, Minister A. Loudon Snowden, was vacationing at the Inn while on a two-month leave from his position as United States Minister to Serbia, Greece and Romania. He was a former Captain of the First City Troop.[34]

Although fewer than expected, by the afternoon a crowd of perhaps 5000 people had arrived. Many were young ladies in summer gowns, and the City Troop kept the extensive grounds south of the Devon Inn clear.[35] The Governor's review started at 5 PM, and every company in the First Brigade turned out in force.

"Up on the hill, the City Troop gave one final look at their horses, and Battery A offered one last prayer that their gun carriages would not break down nor the time-worn harness drop from the horses, and then started for the reviewing ground south of the Devon Inn." [36]

The spectacularly uniformed staffs of Governor Pattison, Major General Snowden and General Dechert added to the pageantry. The fife and drum commenced, and the organizations took up their positions. Each regiment took its turn, passing between the Governor and the band. They moved with military precision as the flags dipped in salute to the Governor, and the scene was described as exceedingly brilliant. Last to fall into line was the First City Troop who had held the crowd at bay. Every soldier sat straight in the saddle as he passed the Governor, and with that, the review ended.

Robert E. Pattison (1850–1904)



Pattison was the nineteenth Governor of Pennsylvania and the only Democrat to hold the office between the Civil War and the start of the Great Depression. In May of 1891, shortly before the encampment at Camp Sherman, he considered running for U.S. President. In 1896 he became an unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

Sources: "May Be a Pennsylvanian," *Pittsburgh Press*, May 9, 1891, p. 9.

"Robert E. Pattison Dead," *Daily American (Somerset)*, August 4, 1904, p. 1.

Image Source: "May Be a Pennsylvanian," *Pittsburgh Press*, May 9, 1891, p. 9.

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Troopers standing in formation with an officer walking on the far left. Note what appears to be rain coats worn by some of the men. *Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.*

Immediately following the inspection, the Governor galloped back to headquarters and held an informal reception with numerous visitors. He would leave for Mount Gretna in the morning.[37]

Much rivalry existed among the various regimental bands as to who would be first to sound the "retreat" after the headquarters flag was lowered at sunset. The signal gun would be fired followed by the shout, "There she goes!" followed by the start of the music. Perhaps one band was ahead of the others, but apparently it would have been nearly impossible to tell.[38]

Hard work was scheduled for the rest of the week at Camp Sherman as the "show business" — the term used to describe the reviews and inspections — had ended. Battalion and company drills, "riot" drills, practice skirmishes, and rifle practice would be scheduled for the remainder of camp.[39]

The Sunset Gun

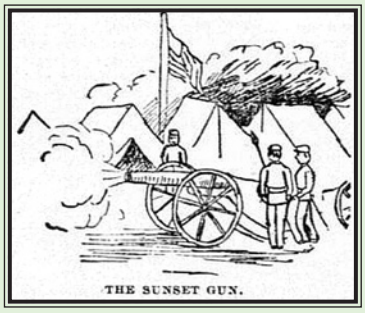


Image Source: *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 22, 1891, p. 1.

Governor's Day Review

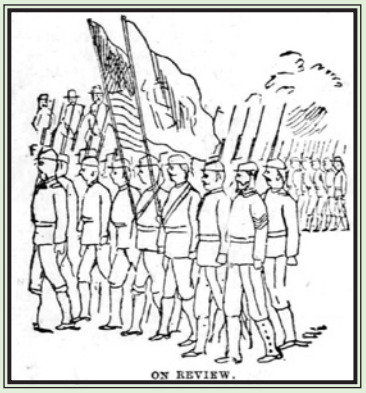
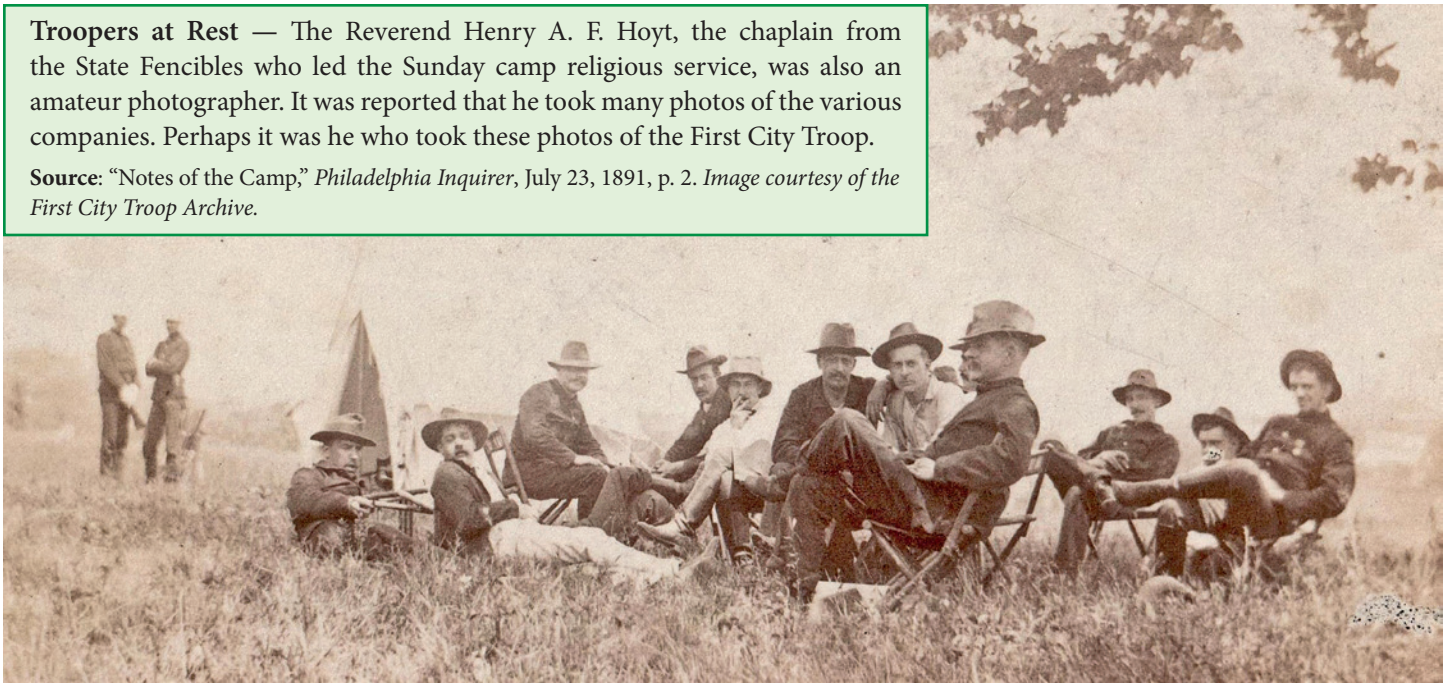


Image Source: *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 22, 1891, p. 1.



In Formation — In this photo, the mounted First City Troop has lined up in formation behind foot soldiers. The wooded area in the background seems consistent with the area identified as "Woods" on the *Philadelphia Inquirer* map of Camp Sherman. **[See "Camp William T. Sherman Map" on page 6]** Note the guidon, or small swallowtail flag, held by one of the mounted soldiers. *Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.*

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Troopers at Rest — The Reverend Henry A. F. Hoyt, the chaplain from the State Fencibles who led the Sunday camp religious service, was also an amateur photographer. It was reported that he took many photos of the various companies. Perhaps it was he who took these photos of the First City Troop.

Source: "Notes of the Camp," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 23, 1891, p. 2. *Image courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.*

Camp Sherman Day 5 and 6

By 7:30 AM on Wednesday, Governor Pattison and Major General George R. Snowden had left for Mount Gretna where they would review the soldiers of Third Regiment just as they had done with the First Regiment at Devon.

The remaining days at Camp Sherman were spent in practice skirmish and drills. The rifle range was opened.[40] A thousand rounds of ammunition was issued to each company, many of which were blank cartridges. The firing sound could be heard for much of each day. Except for a misunderstanding with one angry farmer over the use of private land, the range was considered a complete success, with "mimic combats between companies." Fortunately, there were few reported injuries.[41]

The First City Troop had its first practice skirmish on Thursday afternoon, "rallying like veterans to the notes of the bugle on the slope of the hill that descends from their camp."[42] Apparently the Troop also did excellent work throughout the week as part of the provost guard. This duty involved the patrol of a ten-mile radius around the camp, and the men were in the saddle continuously from 12:30 AM until 9:30 PM. Due to their efforts, the daily return of stragglers averaged about 100, with most of them merely wandering off for fun, with few cases of insobriety.[43]



Practice Skirmish — This photo appears to be the Troop engaged in a practice skirmish on the hills above the Devon camp. *Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.*



Riding in Formation — The First City Troop riding in formation on the hills behind the Devon Inn. Note the swords in scabbards hanging from the back of the center horses' saddles. *Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.*

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