

I had no sooner given my consent than he proceeded to act ; and, with other Massachusetts men, formed a plan, the result of which you know. A finer body of men than the California Hundred, as they were called, was scarcely to be found in any State ; and they left San Francisco, Dec. 11, 1862, for Boston ; arriving in New York the 2d of January, and in Readville the next morning. They formed Company A, Second Massachusetts Cavalry. They remained in camp a little more than a month ; when they were ordered to Gloucester Point, Va. Here they were chiefly engaged in picketing, scouting, &c. ; in all of which they performed the various duties assigned them so as to win the respect of their commanding officers. In April, the rebels came down upon Fort Magruder and Williamsburg ; and Capt. Reed was ordered there in command of a squadron. Our force there was not large ; yet, contrary to their expectations, they were not attacked ; and, after a stay of about a month, the command returned to Gloucester Point. They remained here about a month longer ; when they received orders to join Col. Spear's command in his raid up the Peninsula, and here they saw their first severe fighting. I send you a letter from one of the members of the company describing the taking of the South Anna Bridge, which was done by Sewall's command. It is not for me to speak of his coolness and bravery ; but I can say that his actions at that time but increased the respect and confidence of his men. They approached quite near Richmond at that time, and were successful as to the object of the expedition. Soon after their return, they were ordered to join the army in the defences of Washington ; and were finally camped at Vienna, Va. For the last four or five months of his life, Sewall had commanded a battalion, though not commissioned as major ; and no officer in the whole regiment was more popular or more respected. Of the closing scenes of his life, I presume you are informed. It seems so sad, he was so young, and just upon the verge of military life, — so promising, so beloved ; but 'tis well. He gave his life to that country he loved so much, and fell as a brave soldier wishes to die. Had he remained in San Francisco, he could have attained distinction in civil life ; but he cared not for it.

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