

affairs) reported that men died for the want of straw or materials to raise them from the cold, wet earth."

It is no wonder that men exposed to such hardships died; the marvel is that any should have survived them. All honor to those sturdy men of our family stock who, though but common soldiers in the ranks, devotedly endured such hardships and faced death at every turn to give liberty to their country and a republic to mankind! Especial honor and homage to the memory of the three who died in the service! They are not mentioned in history; their names are not engraven on enduring monuments of stone; they left no posterity to piously preserve the remembrance of their heroic virtues; and had it not been for the business records of the army in the State archives, their names would have been consigned to oblivion. Yet to such as they are we indebted for the establishment of our beloved country, with its free and beneficent institutions, and again for its salvation in the late war of the Rebellion. While their spirit remains to animate the hearts of her people, the Republic will endure.