

(Historic Union Cemetery grave marker)
PETER PALLANGE, CO. F, MICHIGAN 7TH INF. REG
SEPT. 29, 1840—JAN. 30, 1916
FATHER OF BARBARA PALLANGE SEELY
FOREBEAR OF SIX GENERATIONS OF THE
SEELY OF REDWOOD CITY

Peter Pallange's Military History; family history follows.

The 7th Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry left Monroe, MI, Sept. 5, 1861, with 884 officers and enlisted men, under the command of Col. Ira B. Grosvenor, then set out to join the Army of the Potomac. The next month after its arrival at the front, the Regiment took part in the battle of Ball's Bluff.

The spring of 1862 it was assigned to the Third Brigade, Second Division, Second Corp, under McClellan in the Peninsular Campaign of 1862. It fought gallantly at Yorktown, Fair Oak, Peach Orchard, Savage Station, White Oak Swamp, Glendale, Malvern Hill, and Manassas. The Regiment was complimented on numerous occasions by commanding generals during this campaign for its steadiness under fire, its gallantry in action, and its stubborn resistance when confronting the Confederate Forces. Its losses were severe.

Under Colonel Norman Hall the Regiment fought at the battle of Antietam, where its ranks were decimated by nearly one half. The Seventh gained an enviable reputation at Fredericksburg in Dec., 1862, when it volunteered to cross the Rappahannock River in pontoon boats, under fire of opposing sharpshooters, to drive the Confederate skirmishers from their cover behind walls, rifle pits, and stone buildings, who were firing to stop the engineers from laying a pontoon bridge so the army of Gen. Burnside could cross. Many were killed or wounded while crossing in the boats, but they reached the opposite bank where they charged the Confederates, driving them from cover and capturing a large number of prisoners.

The Seventh entered the Pennsylvania Campaign in 1863 with the Army of the Potomac, and by long and forced marches reached Gettysburg on the 2nd of July, being assigned a position on Cemetery Ridge, where it remained until the close of battle on the 3rd of July. The Regiment took 14 officers and 151 men into action; following the two days of fighting 21 were killed and 44 wounded. The Seventh then joined in the pursuit of the Confederate Army to its retreat into Virginia. On Aug. 20th it sailed from Alexandria, VA, to New York, to remain during the progress of the draft riots, which were causing turbulent times there.

The following October the Regiment was again with the Army of the Potomac, fighting a battle at Bristo Station. It was on active duty, marching, fighting, and building earthworks until December, when 162 of its members re-enlisted, returning to Monroe on Jan. 2, 1864, where it was furloughed for 30 days, at the end of which it returned to its old camp at Barry's Hill.

In May the Regiment started on the long campaign which finally ended later on in the Siege of Petersburg and the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomatox Court House.

During that long campaign, it was part of the famous Second Corp and crossed the Rapidan River on the 4th, then shortly afterward engaged with the Confederates at the fearful battle of the Wilderness. It fought at Spottsylvania, where it assaulted the Confederate works with great loss. It took part in the series of engagements following Spottsylvania and was in the disastrous charge at Cold Harbor.

The Regiment crossed the James River and arrived before Petersburg on the 15th, where it assisted in building fortifications, performing its share of picket duty until the end of July. While in front of Petersburg, it took part in the numerous actions in the vicinity, engaging the opposing forces at Deep Bottom, Reams Station, Hatcher's Run and Boynton Plank Road.

When Gen. Grant commenced his famous flanking movement around Petersburg, the Seventh took a conspicuous part, moving to High Bridge and Farmville. It was still on the march April 9th, 1865, when Gen. Lee surrendered at Appomatox Court House. After the surrender, the Seventh marched to Burkville, then to Richmond, and finally to Washington, where it took part in the Grand Review.

June 6th the Regiment was ordered to report to Gen. Logan at Louisville, Kentucky, arriving in that city on the 22nd. July 5th it was mustered out of service, returning to Jackson, Michigan, where it was paid off and disbanded.

1861-1865: 7th Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry (Peter Pallange enlisted 8/9/1861 in Portage

Lake, MI)

Total Enrollment 1375

Killed in Action 127

Died of Wounds 56 (Peter was wounded.)

Died in Confederate prisons 17

Died of Disease 147

Discharged from wounds 344

Total Casualty Rate 50.2%

Note: My cousin, Helen Seely Brouqua, found the above info on Wikipedia. It was edited by Don and Lois Harvey and further edited by me. Judith Seely Kirk

Family History of Peter Pallange

Peter Pallange was born Pierre Pallansch in Habergy, Province of Luxemburg, Belgium. His parents were Christophe and Margarethe (Weber) Pallansch. At age 8 he and 3 siblings sailed with their parents to the USA, arriving in New York City Aug. 3rd, 1846. By April, the family was settled in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. The Americanization

of the family's names occurred there. At 21, Peter enlisted in company F, Michigan 7th Infantry Regiment. He was wounded during his service and mustered out in August 1864, according to family records. (There is a discrepancy on this date with the Regiment's history, above, that says the whole regiment was mustered out on July 5th.) Sometime during his 21st year, Peter married Maria Koenig, born in Random Lake, Wisconsin, where the family settled. They had 10 children. By age 45 the family lived in Fredonia, Ozaukee, WI where Peter was listed as a farmer. At age 50, Peter was listed as living in the Carlton/Twin Lakes area of Minnesota, working as a day laborer. At the age of 70, Peter was living in New York City, listed in the census as self-employed, the keeper of a boarding house. Maria was still alive, but nothing much is known by this time about her, and not much about their children, EXCEPT for their daughter Barbara. We do know that the oldest daughter, Alberta Elizabeth, became a nun at age 16, with the Franciscan Sisters of Charity in Manitowoc, and much later a younger brother, Percival, moved to California, where he managed a large turkey ranch in Palmdale.

In August of 1914, Peter, age 74, was admitted to a NYC Home for the Aged and Infirm, listed as a farmer and widower (which he was not). Listed as a relative was his 4th child, Barbara, and her husband, George Everett Seely, at 917 Jefferson Avenue. Redwood City. (Two houses east of Hudson St on the south side, and still there.) By August of 1916, Peter was living with Barbara and George, who had 4 year old twins, Barbara and Robert, born on Leap Year Day, 1912. They also had 7 year old Oliver, and as well, two older sons, Gordon, 17, and George, 16. On January 27th, Peter became ill and died on Jan. 30th. He was buried in what is now the Historic Union Cemetery, his grave marked by a flat bronze marker, stolen much later and replaced by 5 of Peter's great-grandchildren (Gordon Jr., Sandra, Carol, Judith, and Barbara) with the granite marker now in place. His grandson, Robert, one of the twins, later told his own daughter that he remembered being told by his mother that Grandpa had gone to heaven, after which he and his sister ran outside to see if they could see Grandpa going up to heaven.

Barbara Mary Gertrude (confirmation name) Pallange married George Everett Seely in 1896 at age 18; George was 24. George's family goes back to Pound Ridge, NY, in 1763. Coincidentally, his father, Major George W.B. Seely of NYC, fought on the Union side in a NY regiment in the battle of Malvern Hill during the Peninsular Campaign in which Peter Pallange also fought in a Michigan regiment. George and Barbara had two sons in Milwaukee, WI, Gordon M. born in 1898, and George P., born in 1899. George was "brought out" to Redwood City, according to family lore, as a leather splitter for the S.H. Frank Tannery. His and Barbara's third son, Oliver Q., was born there in 1909. In 1911, the family lived at 418 Fuller St., where George and Barbara's twins were born on Leap Year Day, Feb. 29th, 1912. That site is now part of James A. Thompson's Law Center building at the corner of Allerton and Fuller Streets.

An article in the Times Gazette of August 22, 1914, says that "George E. Seely, who will undoubtedly be the next Justice of the Third Township, holds the unique position of being the best known "unknown" in the field of San Mateo County politics", and goes on to tell of his 17 weeks of long house-to-house canvassing during the evening hours." Justice of the Peace George Seely used the now beautifully restored Courtroom A,

upstairs in the old Hall of Justice, now a museum, when the court of Judge George Buck, the only Superior Court Judge in San Mateo County, was not in session.

George and Barbara's children remained mostly local. Gordon graduated from Sequoia High School in 1917. He married Helen Fromm, daughter of August J. Fromm, who was the major shareholder of the Sequoia Hotel in downtown Redwood City. In early days, Gordon had a cigar store in the 2000 block of Broadway, north side, that was a franchise of the United Cigar Company. He sold tobacco and sporting goods, had billiards and pool, and a bar. Helen and Gordon's son, Gordon Jr., was born in the hotel in 1930, graduated from Sequoia in 1947, and retired as a history professor at San Francisco State University. He is responsible for all of the research of the family history, with the exception of Peter's military history, which his daughter Helen Seely Brouqua found. Gordon Jr. and his wife Evelyn have daughter Helen, above, married to Richard Brouqua; they have two grown children. Daughter Angela and husband Kyle Hampton have a new daughter, Regan. Son Grant and wife Gabrielle, also have a new daughter, Aurelia. Gordon and Evelyn also have another daughter, Clare Erlander.

George P. Seely, the next brother, was with the San Carlos Police Department for twenty-one years, retiring as chief in 1964. He helped to start the Police Reserves and brought reforms to the department, one of which was the use of civilians in the department office, freeing officers for patrol; that became standard practice in all departments. He married Lucille Sowle, from the Sowle family of Half Moon Bay, one of which was the half-owner of GeVan's Restaurant in Belmont, later The Vans, after brother Gene and his business partner, Ivan (last name unknown). George had a son, Robert E., now deceased, and daughter, Sandra Weissel, both of whom went into police work in Sunnyvale and San Mateo. Robert had three sons, Scott, Steve, and Michael and a daughter, Sue, who has a daughter, Amber. Amber and her husband have a new daughter.

George and Barbara Seely's middle son, Oliver Seely, retired as owner of Petronelle Dress Shop in San Carlos. He and his first wife Josephine had a daughter, Mary K. Seely, a research scientist who was the head of the Namib Desert Research Station in Gobabeb, now retired and living in Swakopmund, Namibia, Africa. Oliver and Josephine also had a son, Clinton B. Seely, "a retired academic and scholar, and translator of the Bengali language and literature" (Wikipedia), now in Chicago and Wisconsin.

As for the twins, Robert and Barbara, while born and raised mostly in RC, both graduated from Galileo High School in San Francisco, where by then father George was a night watchman. George and Barbara's only daughter, the second Barbara Mary, married Lambert Borghini, whose parents, Rocco and Carolina, were ranchers/farmers in the Los Altos hills long before they were the expensive residential location they are now. There were two sisters in the Borghini family as well. Barbara and Lambert had a daughter, Carol Borghini Hortin, who married

Robert Hortin, an orthodontist in Saratoga. both are retired in Saratoga, CA. The other twin, Robert, was a career pharmacist in San Francisco, San Carlos, and Redwood City. Robert and his wife Dorothy had two daughters, Judith Seely Kirk, retired educator in the RC and Sequoia Union High School Districts, and the third Barbara Mary (Slough), retired dental hygienist in Ketchum, Idaho. Barbara has two sons, Andrew Slough of Amsterdam, Netherlands, and Robert Slough, of Newport Beach, CA; Robert and wife Sara have a young daughter, Arya, and a son, Sina. Judith and John Kirk have two 5th generation California children. Their son, Wilford Seely-Kirk and Stephanie McDonald of RC have Maddox Kirk, 6th generation Pallange-Seely Redwood City resident. Wil and Stephanie also have a grown daughter, Kaylee McDonald. Judy and John also have a daughter, Kate Barbara De Barbieri Seely-Kirk (the 4th Barbara), now living in the Capital Region in NY. She and husband Edward De Barbieri have two young sons, Oliver and Arlo. When living in Brooklyn, Kate lived three miles from the burial location of her great-great-grandfather, Civil War Vet George W. B. Seely, in The Evergreens Cemetery in Brooklyn. He was Justice of the Peace George's father, and he fought for the Union in the Battle of Malvern Hill, in which Peter Pallange also fought, bringing the Seely family full circle: New York, California, New York.

(Entry to the HUCA online history by Judith Seely Kirk, 1/16/2022)