

# DEEDS OF VALOR

FROM RECORDS IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

HOW AMERICAN HEROES WON THE  
MEDAL OF HONOR

HISTORY OF OUR RECENT WARS AND EXPLORATIONS

FROM PERSONAL REMINISCENCES AND RECORDS OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED  
MEN WHO WERE REWARDED BY CONGRESS FOR MOST CONSPICUOUS  
ACTS OF BRAVERY ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, ON THE HIGH  
SEAS AND IN ARCTIC EXPLORATIONS.

AMONG OTHER RECORDS THE STIRRING ADVENTURES OF:

Admiral W. S. SCHLEY  
Admiral GEO. DEWEY  
Lieut-Gen'l NELSON A. MILES  
Maj.-Gen'l WM. R. SHAFTER  
Admiral D. G. FARRAGUT  
Admiral D. D. PORTER

Admiral GEO. W. MELVILLE  
Lieut. G. W. DeLONG  
General A. W. GREELY  
Commander W. D. CUSHING  
Hon. L. P. di CESNOLA  
Gen'l F. J. BELL

Hon. WM. F. CODY, (Buffalo Bill)  
Gen'l MARION P. MAUS  
Gen'l ARTHUR McARTHUR, Jr.  
Gen'l DELEVAN BATES  
Gen'l JULIUS STAHL  
Hon. JOHN C. BLACK

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INTRODUCTION BY

BRIG.-GEN'L H. M. DUFFIELD, U. S. V.

Illustrated

COMPLETE IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME I

THE PERRIEN-KEYDEL COMPANY

DETROIT, MICH., U. S. A.

1907

## LIKE AN ANGEL AMONG THE WOUNDED

“ON THE night of December 30, 1862, my regiment, the Fifteenth Indiana, was ordered to cross Stone River, at the ford. The command was obeyed, but as we advanced up the hill on the opposite side, we met the enemy in force, and, countermarching, recrossed the river. Here we bivouacked. Early the next morning our colonel passed along the officers’ lines and said: ‘Get your men up. Our pickets are falling back. The enemy is advancing.’ In a second we were all astir, and at the dawn of day the bloody battle of Stone River commenced.

“Our position was between Stone River on our left and the railroad and turnpike on our right, and directly in front of Breckenridge’s Corps. The firing from the Confederate batteries was terrible and very destructive.

“Colonel G. A. Wood, who commanded our regiment, was ordered to hold our position on the left, nearest to the river, at all hazards. Three times he charged Jackson’s Brigade and three times put the enemy to flight, capturing a greater number of prisoners than there were men in our own command when we went into battle. But this was accomplished only with a fearful loss of life. Of my own regiment every alternate man was either killed or wounded. Though a non-combatant, I was with my regiment during the entire battle, comforting the dying, carrying off the wounded and caring for them.

“During the struggle Captain Templeton fell, fatally wounded. I carried him to the rear and remained at his side, until he breathed his last. I copied his last message and sent it to his friends at home. My own next-door neighbor in Westville, Ind. Captain J. N. Foyster, dropped mortally wounded into my arms, the same ball killing two other brave soldiers.

“Colonel I. C. B. Suman, of the Ninth Indiana, was shot twice, one ball severing the artery in the arm, the other penetrating the body and lodging between two ribs, whence I pulled it out.

“One boot was filled with blood and he was bleeding his life away. I dressed his wounds and helped him on his horse and he rode back into the raging battle. John Long, a private, had one leg shot to pieces. He cut the dangling limb off with his pocketknife and hobbled off using his gun for a crutch, until I took him up and carried him to the rear. Calvin Zenner of Company



REV. JOHN M. WHITEHEAD,  
Chaplain of the 15th Ind. Infantry.  
Born in Wayne Co., Ind., March 6, 1823.

Brigade -  
Wagner  
Division -  
Wood  
Wing -  
Crittenden  
Medal of  
Honor of  
STRI

Robert G. Co. D (killed at STRI)

G, received a fatal wound. I carried him back. A number of soldiers gathered around the dying comrade and I offered a prayer for him. He talked to all of us and then said: 'Now boys, let us all once more sing a song together.' And he struck up the hymn, 'O Sing to Me of Heaven.' Then he said: 'Good-bye boys, I am going home. I am mustered out.' And he closed his eyes and ceased to breathe. After night-fall, when both armies were quiet along the front lines, I helped to bring the wounded to the general hospital, carrying those who could not walk on my shoulder to the ambulance."

Chaplain John M. Whitehead who furnishes the foregoing vivid pen picture from the battlefield with all its horrors, modestly omits to mention that he helped many hundreds of wounded soldiers, brought comfort and solace to a great number of dying and preached at many a hero's grave. Colonel I. C. B. Suman says of him: "I was severely wounded at the battle of Stone River. When Chaplain Whitehead gave me his assistance, he was all besmeared with the blood of the wounded he had cared for. He seemed to be an angel among



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the wounded, Yankees and Johnnies alike. He thought nothing of the danger he was in, caring for the wounded, looking after the dead, directing and assisting their burial. I came in contact with many chaplains during my long service in the army and can truthfully state, that Rev. John M. Whitehead was the most worthy one that ever came under my notice. In camp, on the march, and on the field of battle, especially that of Stone River, his services were performed admirably, and without the hope of reward or promotion."

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## BROUGHT IN HIS MAJOR --- DEAD

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PRIVATE JOSEPH R. PRENTICE writes: "It was at the battle of Stone River that Major Carpenter was killed. We had been ordered to advance on the enemy, so we formed up, and, marching at ease, we left the wood which had sheltered us up to that time, and started to cross a large, barren field. As soon as we emerged from the cover of the wood, the enemy opened a terrible fusilade on us, and several of our men were killed. The Confederates had a small breastwork or shelter on the other side of the clearing among some cedar trees, about five hundred yards from the position which we occupied. From this shelter they kept up a galling fire on our men. Our brigade was in the middle of the line of attack, and very soon the rebels slackened their fire on our division and concentrated all their energies upon the two wings of our line.

"It was evident that if the flanks were weakened, the enemy could very easily surround us almost completely and so have us wholly at their mercy. To defeat this plan Major Carpenter ordered us to retreat in good order, and, after we had about faced, he fell in behind, and proceeded to follow us in the rear.

"No sooner did the enemy see us retreating, than they opened fire on us again. I was in the front rank in the advance, now in the rear in the retreat, and could plainly see the awful destruction wrought upon our ranks by the death-dealing work of the enemy. Suddenly, above the din and roar of battle, I heard our major call out: 'Scatter and run, boys!' and was about to join the rest in the rush to a place of safety, when I heard a horse bearing down on me like mad. As I ran, I looked around, and saw that it was Major Carpenter's horse dashing after us, frenzied by several slight bullet wounds. By yelling at him I managed to turn him and head him along our lines. Then I rushed after



JOSEPH R. PRENTICE,  
Private, Co. E, 19th U. S. Infantry.  
Born at Lancaster, Fairfield Co., Ohio,  
Dec. 6, 1838.