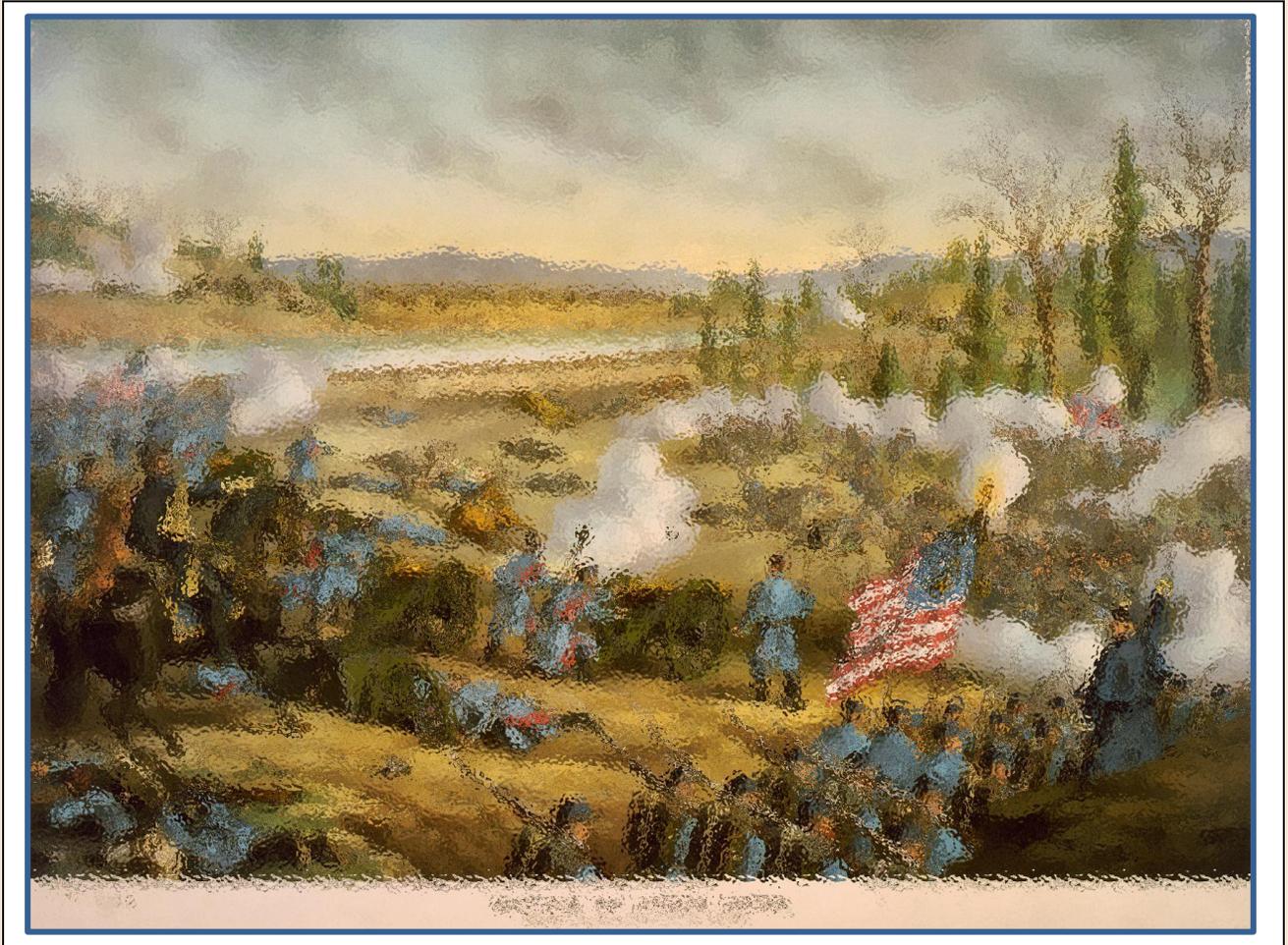


THE DIARY OF SIMON MAYER
1862-1865



Our family has a direct link to the Civil War and the Confederacy. Our great-great grandparents, John and Janette Mayer, and their large family were linked in battle through their fourth oldest, Simon Mayer, and relatives Oscar Levy and Simon Lehman, as well as their own efforts to repel or foil Union forces in and around Natchez.¹

Simon Mayer – the “Major” – is without question our most noted Civil War veteran, with stories told and written about his exploits and avowed dedication to “the cause”, along with this diary and letters that he wrote during his service with the Mississippi 10th Infantry that was first mustered in 1861.

Simon and his nephew, Oscar Levy, who emigrated from Landau, France in 1850, when he was only seven years old, enlisted in a local militia – the Natchez Light Infantry – in 1861, completed 90 days service in Kentucky, then enlisted in March 1862 with the Natchez Southrons, which became Company B in the 10th Mississippi. Simon was 23 years old and began with the 10th Mississippi as a private, with duties as a clerk to Gen. James Ronald Chalmers. He was, after all, 4’8” – and while small in stature, his height probably saved his life or from serious wounds more than once. Simon Lehman, who emigrated in 1859 when he was 17 years old, and Oscar Levy served as medical corpsman, and while the casualty rate in the Civil War spared few from serious wounds or death, the fact that our family had three members serve – and live – during three years of war is noteworthy.

Simon served his three years largely as an aide to Confederate generals – Chalmers, James Patton Anderson, and Jacob H. Sharp and would be in the company of numerous others while carrying out his duties – and while it’s unclear whether he, Oscar and Simon were present at Shiloh in April 1862, at least Simon would be present when the 10th fought at three other critical battles – Stones River, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge.

Interestingly, he writes in his diary of being bucked off his horse during the Stones River fighting before withdrawing from the field with an injured Gen. Chalmers to a dentist’s home in Murfreesboro, but not of the legendary story of having his hat shot from his head at Missionary Ridge.

¹ Several accounts are utilized for this brief biography of Major Simon Mayer, including: Simon Mayer Family Papers, No. 815, Howard Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University; *Aunt Sister’s Book*, 1929; Mayer Family Reunion book, February 2002; *The Jewish Confederates*, by Robert N. Rosen.

According to the family story, he was galloping across the battlefield when a bullet passed through his perched, military-style campaign hat, missing his head. He was initially reported as killed in action, prompting his sisters to prepare for the return of his body and his burial when they received a telegram confirming that he was, in fact, alive.

One of Aunt Sister's favorite "Major Simon" stories tells of a dinner our great-great uncle attended with Gen. Sharp at a home in Tennessee. As the officers, including Major Mayer, filed in, the hostess mentioned that the seat next to the general was for his "little boy," to which the general retorted, "Madam, that little boy is my brave aide-de-camp Major Simon Mayer."



One more story also is told – cited in the Mayer Family Reunion booklet as taken from "Jews in Early Mississippi" – that war comrades told stories of the "Little Mississippi Major" reflecting upon his kindness to the wounded. One story tells of his dismounting from his horse to allow a wounded soldier to ride while Simon walked alongside.

While Simon was away at war, his family was living through wartime Natchez. His father, John, organized a home guard. When the Union gunboat, *Essex*, arrived in September 1862, John and other older men of Natchez took the fight to the Yankees, believing their town was under attack when, in fact, the Union soldiers were seeking only supplies, and

not a fight.

The *Essex* returned fire, its shells causing fires in numerous homes and forcing the mayor to surrender the city. The sole casualty was seven-year-old Rosalie Beekman, who died in the Mayer home.

When the Union soldiers threatened to burn Natchez to the ground, the Mayers and their neighbors moved quickly to nearby towns. John Mayer eventually bought a home in Washington, five miles from Natchez, to house his family while he continued to live in their Natchez home to keep his businesses operating.

The Mayer story continues a year later after the fall of Vicksburg. Resentful of the Union occupation of both Vicksburg and their hometown, Janette Mayer and two of her daughters would hide much-needed clothing and supplies in their hoop skirts for delivery to friends, who would then send the goods on to Confederate soldiers.

According to a family story, on one occasion, as they confronted Union soldiers who ordered them to show their papers, “With fear and trembling, Emma handed the guard the papers. Imagine her delight when she noticed that he was trying to read them upside down. ‘Any contraband goods?’ the guard asked. ‘No’ replied the girls. ‘Drive on then and have a nice day with your friends.’”

More controversial, though, was an event involving daughter, Ophelia. She wrote a letter describing the occupying general as a “miserable tyrant”. Unfortunately, the letter didn’t make it out of Union hands. She was arrested and confined in the Natchez City Hall along with 20 other women.

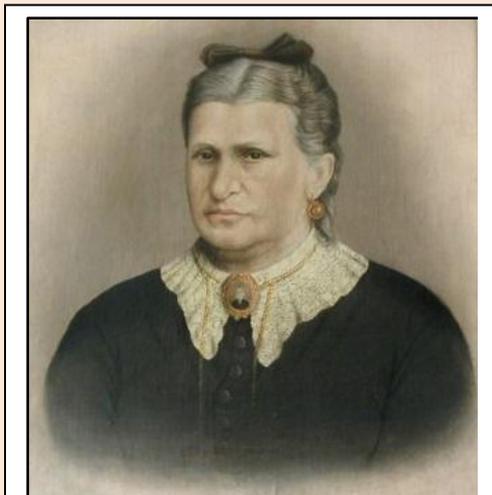


Figure 2 Janette Mayer, the Major’s mother – our great-great grandmother.

Union soldiers surrounded the Mayer home for three days – no one in or out – and the Mayer store was closed, the family threatened with confiscation of all their goods. A “Yankee” businessman, Isaac Lowenburg, a sutler who had traveled south with the Union Army, had come to know the Mayers as he tried to befriend Ophelia, and he prevailed upon the authorities to release her and the other women.

Ophelia and Isaac were married in January 1865. They are Aunt Sister’s mother and father.

Simon, meanwhile, writes in his diary about hearing of the arrest. In one of his letters, he writes of his concern for his sisters, telling them, “don’t let the scoundrels intimidate you. Afraid to come out and meet us on the battlefield like men, they, like brutes, make war upon defenseless woman & children.” In that same letter, he beseeches his brother, Henry, to join the men “now fighting for our rights and independence.” (See below.)

Despite their transgressions against the Union, the Mayers and their home continued throughout the war to be a center for mutual discussion between Confederate and Union supporters. “Only people of the highest culture and dignity can sustain themselves honorably in such an anomalous position, and Natchez was the place to find such people,” according to one account of the times.

Simon returned home a hero, married Emma Roos and they named their first child Robert E. Lee Mayer. In 1898, the Major spoke to a gathering of Confederate veterans on Robert E. Lee’s birthday, reminding them of the “Lost Cause” and those who died “with the rest of Heaven upon their cheeks & the fire of liberty in their eyes.”

The record seems to be clear of the Major’s fervent support for the Confederacy. In the April 1864 (*see page 241*) letter to his family, the Major asks of his brother:

“ ... to at least join the Army now battling for our rights and independence. I hope he has awakened to the realities of the situation, & no longer can remain passive to the scenes that are daily enacted in the grand drama now in full play upon this continent, but that he sees that he too has a part of play, and will with light heart & strong arm, backed by a determination to do or die, come forth and take his place on the broad arena. I am in full earnest in regard to the course I have marked out for him, and I do not want it said, when Peace shall once more gladden our hearts, that a brother of mine, who had nothing to keep him back, acted the coward, and was afraid to come out & meet his would be masters, and subjugators. I hope that my pleadings in the last few letters that I have written are not in vain.”

In that same letter, he is clear in his loathing of the Union supporters, who he termed abolitionists. He says the followers of Abraham Lincoln have made war “upon the decrepit old age, defenseless women & helpless infancy,” engaged in “rapine, destruction & murder” and of “starving our people” into subjugation.

Robert Rosen, in his landmark work, “*The Jewish Confederates*”, says that Jewish soldiers such as Simon Mayer fought for the South for many reasons. Some of the soldiers had fled their native Germany to avoid military service, yet eagerly volunteered for the Confederacy. Rosen says simply that Jewish Johnny Rebs fought for:

“... Patriotism and love of country; to defend their homeland, their yearning for a fatherland they could believe in; Jewish tradition as they understood it; to demonstrate to

the North that their rights, liberty and property, including slaves, could not be assailed; hatred for the Yankees; social and peer pressure; being caught up in the frenzy of secession and war; to escape from home and everyday work and see the world; for adventure, pay and excitement; and to prove that Jews could fight.”

Noted historian and author, Rabbi Bertram Korn, wrote, “The Jews of the Confederacy had good reason to be loyal to their section. Nowhere else in America – certainly not in the antebellum North – had Jews been accorded such an opportunity to be complete equals as in the old South.”

After the war, the family’s Confederate soldiers returned home. Simon Lehman, who was about 24 years old when the war ended, became a naturalized citizen in 1868, married in 1874 and he and his wife, Sallie (the census lists her as “Sarah”), are found in the 1880 census living in Union Church, MS, about 45 miles east of Natchez. They have two children, Jonas, 5, and Henrietta, 2, and Simon is working in merchandising

Aunt Sister – Clara Lowenburg – writes in her memoirs about visiting the Lehman family in 1881 in Union Church. She says that Simon was running a plantation store. “It was our first venture into grown-up land. We went buggy riding with the boys that clerked in the store and grown-up men called on us at night,” she writes. “One man whose name was Galbraith called on evening and we sat on the gallery talking to him, in the moonlight. He was an accomplished tobacco chewer and spitter, so expert was he in spitting a ring around us that when we left, Cousin Simon had to reach a hand to help us jump over it without getting the juice on our shoes.”

She writes that the Lehman’s had a “comfortable home” in Union Church, but Sallie Lehman wanted her children to attend school in a bigger town, so the family sold their home and moved to New Orleans. In the 1900 census, the family is still in Mississippi – in Natchez. With them are a daughter-in-law, Clara, her four-month old daughter, Esther, sons, Jonas and Harrod, and daughter, Henrietta. Simon is working in wholesale merchandising, his sons as store clerks. From burial registry records, we know that Simon died in 1908 in Memphis, and is buried in a New Orleans cemetery.

Aunt Sister also writes about Oscar Levy, who marries in 1875 and leaves Mississippi for San Francisco. While attending a wedding in St. Louis, Aunt Sister finally meets him. She writes: “Cousin Oscar Levy, a nephew of Grandpa Mayer who none of our

generation had seen, was in St. Louis and was so happy to meet us. He had dearly loved our mother, Ophelia. He had married a very rich woman and they were living in San Francisco.”

Whether he had married rich is hard to determine from census records. In 1900, he’s living with his wife, Flora, and two children, Robert, 23, and Charles, 22, in an apartment building about four blocks from San Francisco’s Union Square. His occupation was merchandising. Aunt Sister would see the Levy’s at least twice more, according to her memoirs.

Simon Mayer died in 1905 of a gunshot wound to the head, an apparent accident when a small pistol he kept at his bedside fell to the floor and discharged, the bullet striking him behind his right ear. He is buried with many of his family members in the Natchez City Cemetery, Jewish Hill section.

The original diary is in the Rare Books Library at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, donated in 1955 by Simon Mayer’s son, Harold, who also donated the letters to Tulane. A photo and brief description of the diary, as well as a five-minute podcast about the diary’s contents, can be accessed here:

<http://americanjewisharchives.org/aja/aje/details.php?id=700>

The diary also is part of the American Jewish Archives on-line discussion about Jews and the Civil War. The family also may find interesting this link to the Archives’ on-line discussion: <http://americanjewisharchives.org/aja/aje/details.php?id=701&page=1> That’s a link to Julius Ochs and his Civil War experience. He married Bertha Levy, who was a niece to our great-great-grandfather, John Mayer. Julius and Bertha’s son, Adolph Ochs, would become the owner of the *New York Times*, as well as a frequent travel companion of Aunt Sister. The Ochs also welcomed Aunt Sister and other family members into their homes numerous times, according to her memoirs.



The Diary of Major Simon Mayer

1862-1865

10th Mississippi Infantry

Confederate States of America (CSA)



1862

On the evening of the 29th July 1862 we struck tents at Saltillo, Miss. and marched down to the depot. The cars, as expected, were not on hand, and with a rain commencing to fall we pitched our tents and prepared for a nights rest. Nothing of interest

occurred during the night, with the exception of the firing of some eight guns off in the distance, which caused somewhat of an alarm, but all soon was again quiet and Morpheus reigned supreme.

30th. The following morning at 7 1/2 O'Clock, we went aboard the cars and were soon wending our way over the Mobile and Ohio Railroad towards Mobile. Along the line of RR we were pretty well treated, particularly by the ladies who at each successive place seemed to try to outvie those of the place just left, in their kindness to the soldiers.

We arrived at Mobile on the morning of the 31st. and were immediately transported from the cars, or rather marched under the escort of cavalry, (this, however, was not at all in honor of

us, but to keep the men in the ranks), to the boat lying at the wharf. As soon as all were aboard, she left her mooring, and soon turned her head out to sea. On our way around the point, we passed the Confederate Str. "Florida", the Cotton Clad Ram "Baltic" and two of the water Batteries erected for the defense of the City. We soon reached the Tensas River and at 4 P.M. we were landed at Hayne's Landing. Here we disembarked and awaited the arrival of the cars. Pending the arrival of the cars, the Boys generally performed something in which we all stood greatly in need - an ablution. At 8 O'Clock P.M., we were aboard the cars, and travelling at the heels of the Iron Horse toward Montgomery, Ala.

The following morning, the 1st. of August, we reached Pollard Station, and that evening, amid one of the heaviest showers of rain, in which it was ever my lot to be caught, we halted at Montgomery. Here we stopped over night, pitching tents near the Fair Grounds, and the next day, 2nd, at about 2 O'Clock, we were again aboard the cars bound for Atlanta, Ga. Along the line of RR. between these two places, we were greeted at every station, and between them, with perfect showers of fruits, accompanied by the sweet smile of woman, which alone was enough to assure us we were welcome, and while oft turning back the dastardly invaders from the soil they dare pollute by their presence, were not forgotten.

We reached Atlanta on Sunday, the 3rd, at about 12 N and at 2 O'Clock P.M. we were again on our way to Chattanooga. We stopped all night at a station about 30 miles from Atlanta, in consequence of the dawn train being behind time.

The next morning at about 7 O'Clock, the 4th, we left the Station for Chattanooga where we arrived at 4 O'Clock P.M. On our way to Chattanooga, we crossed the Chickamogee River 13 times. At one place, when turning a curve in the valley, I was deeply impressed with the beautiful scenery before me. Just here we crossed a long bridge of trestlework, had the clear and placid waters running beneath us, and extending on either side, winding its way until lost in the

mountains, the little village of Cartersville, in our front, and the Blue Ridge of Mountains on either flank. At Chattanooga, we remained until 5 O'Clock when we were sent out to Tejuers Station, about 11 miles from Chattanooga, which had been selected as the camping ground of the Reserve Division Army of the Miss. The 10th Miss. being the only Regiment present of our Brigade, we were comparatively at our ease for a few days. General Chalmers and staff arrived on the 7th and the next day, the 8th, all was going along as usual. At this place we had chances of buying provisions and fared pretty well. Here we remained until the 18th, when a forward movement was ordered, our tents struck, and we marched to the Tennessee River,

passing through the town of Harrison, Tenn. - at which place we met with neither cheers nor smiles, everything seeming desolate, and it was here that we saw a foundry completely deserted, and out of the furnace where once flowed the molten iron, now was underneath overgrown with grass and weeds. What a theme for a moralist!

We crossed the Tennessee River at Johnston's Ferry and encamped upon its bank. No sooner were the boys put at "Rest" than down to the River they rushed to enjoy a bathing and swim in its clear and beautiful water. Here I met on the 24th with an accident which near cost me the loss of my left eye. While writing at Headquarters and others were putting up a tent, they accidentally let the pole

fall, which striking the table, recoiled, struck me under the eye and with such force as to cause me to fall senseless to the ground in which unconscious state I lay for about 2 1/2 minutes, when I had the wound dressed, and for a few days went with one eye blind.

On the 26th a forward move was ordered and we struck tents, and marched to Camp Walthall near Dallas, Tenn., a distance of about 3 miles. Here we were encamped in a beautiful place with the Cumberland Mountains in full view all the time. We remained here until the 30th when we moved to Possum Hollow, a distance of about 8 miles, which place we reached about dusk, and set up headquarters under a large Oak Tree, on the

side of a hill, and under shadow of several large rocks, with a beautiful, clear and cold spring of water about 20 yards distant.

On the morning of the 31st at 4 O'Clock we were again on our march and reached Smith's Cross Roads about dusk when we were mustered for pay and ordered to cook three days rations preparatory to crossing the mountains. We, that night, went to Morgantown, a small village at the foot of Walden's Ridge, and encamped there for the night. At 5 O'Clock on the 1st we commenced to cross that high and rugged peak, 1800 feet high, and a rough and tedious road it was. At several presented with beautiful views of the surrounding country. Fruit trees were in abundance both on the side and

at the top of the Ridge. This day we marched 22 miles and halted on the top of the descending roads where we bivouacked for the night and I have had one of the most severe headaches with which I have ever suffered.

On the 2nd we descended to Pikeville, Tenn. and there halted to rest. Here we were encamped on the top of an elevation, with the range of mountains surrounding us and the beautiful Sequatchie Valley in our front, the scenery was supremely grand. We halted here until the morning of the 4th of September, when we started to cross the Cumberland Mountains, a height of 2,000 feet above the level of the sea. We crossed it and encamped at the opposite base on the night of

the 5th and the following morning, the 6th, marched through Sparta to Bunkers Hill, where we arrived at about 4 P.M.

On the 7th at 6 A.M. we started and marched all day, and hauled up at Bashams' Springs, Tenn., but rather a rough looking place. I will here record that all along the route, the "peculiar institution" was rather scarce, and fully explained the cause of the people's lukewarmness, since the announcement of the abolition policy of the Lincoln despotism.

On the morning of the 8th, we started for the Cumberland River, which place we reached about 4 P.M., passing through Gainesboro, and Dough's Pass in the Mountains. At Gainesboro we were

greeted with cheers and waving of handkerchiefs and cheered on to deeds of immortality. We encamped upon the banks of the Cumberland and enjoyed a swim on its clear and placid bosom and the thought struck me forcibly, that that same smooth and tranquil could hardly have been the same river that had been a pathway, as it were, to the Yankee hirelings, and caused such a gloom and degree of depression over the whole Southern people at the fall of Fort Donelson, but such it was, and I rejoiced at the fact that our troops, there surrendered, were again in arms, and that the Fort was but lately evacuated by the Federals.

On the morning of the 9th at 7 O'Clock, we started for Centreville, Tenn. and, after a tiresome

and rough march of 20 miles, halted within 1/2 mile of the place and 1 1/2 miles of the Tennessee and Kentucky line, where we pitched our Head Quarters, beneath a beautiful walnut grove, with a clear creek running at our feet. On our road to this place, we passed a cave known as North Fork Cave, which I entered and penetrated to the depth of importance. On the 13th I started out to Cave City with the wagons and reached the place about 9 O'Clock P.M. and, to my surprise, found the whole Command gone, and was unable to find out from anyone their whereabouts or which road they had taken. Being somewhat tired, I laid down to rest, with the hopes of the breaking of day throwing some light upon their whereabouts.

MUNFORDVILLE²

The morning of the 14th, as I had hoped, came, and with it the news of the Brigade having gone to Memfordsville road and that firing was heard in that vicinity early in the morning. I soon learned from a Courier, sent back by the General, for all the wagons that could be sent forward, to bring back the wounded, that there had been a fight and I immediately jumped into the first wagon, armed with a bottle of whiskey, and a haversack of edibles and was soon on my way to Rowlette Station, at which place our wounded lay. I there found E.J. Pasko mortally wounded, Nathan Foules severely wounded in the left breast and Chas. Houk badly

² <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/munfordville.html>

wounded in the fleshy part of the thigh by a piece of shell and M. Hughes, H. Heidegger, Joe Haughton, G. Eisle and E. Kibbe slightly wounded, but the last named were in a day or so on duty again. I hope that I may be spared the witnessing again of such sights as were there to be seen. Men who but a few short moments before were in all the vigor of life, now lie prostrate by the desolating hand of war, bruised and mangled in every conceivable manner, some with their arms and legs shattered, others pierced through the body, head, and, in fact, suffering almost unendurable agonies and excruciating pain. From the boys I learned at daylight on the 14th, our Brigade, commonly known in this Army as the "high pressure brigade"

attacked the enemy in his entrenchments and fortifications overlooking Green River, and a desperate fight ensued during which our Brigade charged the works three successive times and were each time repulsed with heavy loss. Our regiment, the Bloody 10th Miss., which had made its mark upon the sanguine fields of Shiloh, was on the left, and was under a most galling fire from the enemy, of Grape and Canister, for about 4 hours when a flag of truce was sent in for the cessation of hostilities that the dead on both sides might be buried. Our gallant Colonel, Robt. A. Smith of Jackson, Miss. was severely wounded, it is feared mortally, although when we left Memfordsville he was still alive. But slight hopes, if any, were

entertained of his recovery. His loss to the regiment is irreparable, as by the congeniality of his spirit and the magnanimity of heart he has endeared himself to all under his command as will stand the test of ages, and his kind treatment to his men will ever be fresh in their memories. "None named him, but to praise, none know him but to love." Our Lt. Col. Jas. G. Bullard of Itawamba, was gallantly cheering on his men, when he fell, his body literally riddled with balls. He lived about 15 minutes, and his last words were, "I die in a glorious cause, I die for the Confederacy, tell my wife of this, and tell her my last thoughts were of her and the little ones." Thus passed from this world one of the most kind hearted and affable

spirits as ever trod the earth and his memory will ever be green in the hearts of the men of the 10th Regiment, when recalling the terrible horrors under which he passed from this life. "He sleeps his last sleep and no sound can awake him to glory again." E.J. Pasko, our brother in arms in Natchez

Southerns died the following day, and it can be said of him that he died nobly, falling on the field of battle, mortally wounded, "his feet to the field and his face to the foe." "Requiescat in pace."

After burying all our dead, and taking as good care as possible of our wounded, we returned to Cave City, where we halted all day of the 15th, and on the morning of the 16th, at daylight, the whole army under command of the invincible

Bragg marched out to the enemy's works, and having surrounded it, the General demanded an unconditional surrender. Guns were fired at intervals during the day, and at midnight on the night of the 16th, Col. Wilder, 50th Indiana Regiment Command Post, unconditionally surrendered his whole Command, some 4300 men, with about 6000 stand of arms, 210 pieces of artillery, and a large supply of Commissary and Quarter Master stores and ammunition. In the fight on the 14th our Brigade went in with 1500 men and lost 36 killed and 242 wounded. Our regiment lost 117 killed and wounded.

On the morning of the 17th, our regiment moved into the Fort, and the prisoners were

marched out on the Turnpike where they laid down their arms, the Commanding Officer giving his sword to Kentucky's gallant son, Buckner. The Yankees seemed rather downhearted, as they had only been in service about three weeks, and were so soon brought to the humiliating alternative of surrender. We were permitted to remain here about two days and then destroying the RR bridge, we started, on the 20th for Hodgenville, but marched 16 miles and halted for the night in an open field. The next morning, the 21st, we started at daylight and marched to Hodgenville, where we encamped for the night.

On the 22nd we started and marched 18 miles, and stopped at night about 5 miles from

Bardstown, Kentucky. On the 23rd we crossed Salt River, and passed through Bardstown, to Mill Creek upon the Springfield Road, where we encamped. At Bardstown we were greeted by the whole population, who turned out to receive us, with hearty good cheers, and the waving of Confederate Flags and Con. We passed through town to the step of "Dixie".

On the 24th, we are still in the same encampment nothing of interest transpiring, excepting the raising of a flag over the Court House at Bardstown by General Buckner, upon which occasion the people were addressed by Bragg, Polk, Buckner and Chalmers.

The 25th, we are still encamped on Mill Creek, and 3 1/2 miles from Bardstown. On the 26th, nothing worthy of note occurred, still remaining in the same encampment, which by the way was used by the Federals when last here, and called Camp Roupeau. On the 27th, a good shower of rain fell, which served to lay the dust which was very bad, and being from a turnpike road, was very injurious to the eyes. At about 2 O'Clock, we struck tents, or rather flies, and moved over toward Nazareth, being then 1 1/2 miles nearer Bardstown, and encamped upon Stewart Creek, having a good spring of water near at hand.

On the 28th, it being Sunday, I went to town to the Catholic Cathedral, which is a very neat

structure, being finely decorated within, and the altar superbly finished and gilded. The singing and music was splendid, as good as any I have ever heard in a choir. The priest delivered a very good sermon. Our walk to town and back was quite pleasant. We, on the way back to camp, stopped at a house to get water, and were asked in to take a seat and rest, which we accepted, particularly as the invitation was extended by a nice, good looking young lady, with whom we spent a pleasant hour or two.

On the 29th nothing worthy of note transpired, still remaining at Camp Smith, trained in honor of our gallant Colonel. The 30th, 1st and 2nd were spent in the same place, nothing occurring to

disturb the dull monotony of the previous days, except such rumors as are generally heard around camp and which tend to keep up the excitement.

On the morning of the 3rd, we were ordered to move on the Springfield road, and we marched on that day 14 miles, halting near the St. Joseph's Convent, a Catholic school for young ladies. The General being unwell was invited down to stay all night at the house but he respectfully declined. The Mother received Officers and men alike with marked kindness and the guards stationed at the place during the night were very well treated, being furnished with supper and with breakfast before leaving in the morning.

On the 5th at 4 1/2 O'Clock we were on our march for Danville passing through the town of Springfield which, by the way, is a very pretty place indeed, and where we were greeted with cheering and waving of handkerchiefs and a display of Confederate flags; and also passed through the town of Perryville where we were also well received and passing over the bridge across a creek, we went out the Pike and encamped about 1 mile from town near two of the clearest springs I have ever seen.

On the morning of the 6th, orders having come to General Withers, to move on to Danville road - and being out of a few little necessaries, I went on ahead to Danville but was unable to procure anything but some tobacco which the men were

overjoyed to get, having been out for near a week. Danville is a beautiful place and the suburbs reminded me of Natchez, the beautiful sites and fine houses. In Danville, I learned from Gen. Tom Walker, Judge Advocate on Bragg's Staff, that the Brigade had gone to Harrodsburg and off I put for the place. Tired as I was I reached Harrodsburg at about 4 P.M., and was some two hours finding out where the Brigade had gone but finally having learned the road they had taken, I started and reached camp at about 8 P.M. Our Brigade was encamped upon the banks of Salt River, the same old river where the broken down politicians gave up when they had played out. We moved on at daylight. We encamped near a church which is

noted in the History of this part of the State, as some years back, a guard was stationed around it during service to prevent the Indians from attacking them. Near by is now built a large stone residence on the site of what was once known as "Fort McAfee". We were ordered to cook two days rations and be ready to move at a moment's notice, the line of march all being ready, was taken up about 7 O'Clock P.M., the moon being bright and clear. We marched until 3 O'Clock A.M. on the 8th when we halted on the Danville pike having passed through the town of Salvisa on the route. Here at this place the ground is just two miles across from Salt River to Kentucky River.

On the 9th, orders being given to get ready for a fight, I joined the Company, procuring a gun and equipment, and was soon ready. The march was taken up at about 9 O'Clock A.M. when we were advanced cautiously toward the enemy. Our cavalry were soon skirmishing with them and took several prisoners, among them the color corporal with his colors, our Cavalry having charged the enemy whereupon they fled and left the "Colors" in our possession. Advancing about two or three miles, we were drawn up in line of battle to the left of the turnpike, under cover of a hill and here bivouacked for the night.

At 1 O'Clock on the morning of the 10th we advanced by the "right flank" through a cross road

with the intention of surprising the enemy at daylight and advanced cautiously until break of day when we came up with their pickets and brisk skirmishing ensued, we driving in their pickets, when we were halted and about 300 prisoners passed by. We then advanced rapidly, and our regiment was ordered up to support the S. Shooters who were engaging the enemy. Our regiment advanced by the right flank down to a ravine, and then formed line of Battle, when the command "forward guide center" was given and on we went in line up the hill through a corn field and down into the next ravine, where we halted again, but were soon ordered to advance again, and moved forward until we reached nearly the crown of the

hill, commanding the position of the enemy, when we were ordered to kneel. Soon, however, our Colonel commanded "Forward Guide Center" and was about to say "March" when Lt. Banks, aid to the General, came up and ordered us to fall back. This order came just in time to save our Regiment, as a few moments later and we would have engaged three brigades of the enemy, and would doubtless have suffered severely. When we reached the road, the whole wing of the army was ordered "Left in Front" down the road to Harrodsburg Springs, where we halted for about 1/2 hour, when we were ordered again into line and were marched out on the Perryville pike to about two miles from Harrodsburg, where the whole Army was

drawn up in line of battle. All this afternoon it continued to rain and the weather became quite cold. At our bivouac we built huts of rails and straw to protect us from the weather.

On our way through Harrodsburg, we saw E. Walworth who is on Kirby Smith's staff. He looked well and hearty and seemed to stand soldiering very well.

On the morning of the 11th, at 4 A.M., we fell back to Harrodsburg, and on out the Bryantsville road. At about 3 P.M. we came to Dicks River, where was presented the most picturesque view it was ever my lot to witness. Stepping out from the road, I stood upon the brink of a precipice overlooking the valley beneath. The banks on either side were of

solid rock and perfectly perpendicular, and the sprinkling of trees, together with a few houses, and an occasional cornfield, combined with the clear greenish water of the Dicks, made the scene supremely grand. I could have stood for hours gazing upon it. General E. Kirby Smith here past us, and such a shout as went up, cheering him on in the path of noble daring, opened at Richmond, Ky. on the 30th of August, 1862, as made the walk in ring. He is a man of medium size, somewhat advanced in years, wears spectacles, and seemed perfectly inured to the hardships of Camp Life. He wore no badge or mark by which he might be known or to distinguish his rank. We bivouacked on the opposite bank of the river for the night.

On the 12th, we were drawn up in line of battle expecting the enemy to attempt to cross the river, but they didn't come. This day whiskey was dealt out to the men and it made quite a number of them sick.

On the 13th, at daylight, we started back on the road and went at quick time, or rather "skedaddled" before the Yanks who were close upon our heels. We passed through Bryantsville and Lancaster and halted for the night on the roadside. We marched this day 27 miles and when we halted we were very much fatigued and hungry, being on 1/2 rations in consequence of the scarcity of bread stuffs. The people in the towns through which we passed seemed glad that we were leaving

and some of the ladies waved Union flags at us and told us "to git."

On the 14th, we marched 20 miles, passing through Crab Orchard, and halted near Mt. Vernon, where we bivouacked for the night. This day I reported back to the General for duty as my feet were blistered from the hard marches, and I saw no necessity of marching when I could ride.

On the 15th at 6 A.M. we marched from Camp, passing through Mt. Vernon at about 7 O'Clock and this day made slow progress, the road being rough and rugged. The country through which we passed this day is very poor indeed. We halted near the Rock Castle River at about 4 P.M. where we bivouacked for the night. The men being out of

ration, they actually did beg the corn for the stock that they might parch it to eat. Some beef was dealt out and they were compelled to eat it without salt or bread.

On the 16th we crossed the river and passed over a rough road and halted in an old field on Little Rock Castle River. On the road we passed the "Wild Cat Fortification" which were erected to stop the march of Talicoffer but which he compelled the Yanks to evacuate.

At daylight on the 17th we started and marched but six or seven miles halting near London on Big Laurel Creek. On the 18th, at 5 A.M., we started and passed through London, a small place on the road, halting for the night near

Barboursville, having marched 18 miles, and did not reach our bivouac until 12 O'Clock midnight, which was very disagreeable, particularly as the mountain air was quite cold.

On the 19th, we passed through Barboursville, passing through Flat Lick, a small village. We marched 16 miles this day.

On the 20th, we crossed Cumberland Ford and proceeded to within 1 1/2 miles of the Gap, which was in sight, when we encamped for the night.

When I reached the South side of the Cumberland, I learned that 16 bushwhackers had been disposed of the night before, and went out to where they lay to see them. I saw one of them, a young boy of 16 years, when one of the officers came up and

*proposed to press all those around to bury the dead
- when I skedaddled.*

*On the 21st, the wagons having advanced over
through the Gap, the column was set in motion at 8
O'Clock and slowly ascended the mountain and at
20 minutes to 9 O'Clock we passed the cornerstone
which was placed there to designate the spot where
the States of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia
come together, and which was inscribed on the
four sides with the names of the Government
headquarters of State of each of the states, and on
the fourth side with the names of the architects.
Since leaving Saltillo, we have passed through six
states, namely - Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia,
Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia. Cumberland*

Gap is the most strongly fortified place I ever saw, next to Goblentz on the Rhine. On the Northern side there is a round fort, just hiding the Gap from view and which commands the valley in front, while in the rear, on either flank of the Gap, rises two high peaks which are also fortified and about center faced with rifle pits. On the South side, the pits around the flank peaks extend on that side, and below, and commanding all the approaches, are built four casernated batteries, one of 4 guns, two of 3 guns, and one of two guns, which make it impregnable. A splendid spring of water runs on the left of the road, while on the right runs a very large stream which works two flour mills. We encamped this night on the banks of the Powell

River, a small stream, the water of which is very sweet and clear as crystal.

On the 22nd we started on the march and reached Tazewell, which place was deserted, and passing through the town, we took the Knoxville road and halting for the night near Clinch River, marching this day 18 miles.

On the 23rd, we crossed Clinch River by wading it and passing through Maynardville, halted for the night about 1 mile the South side of the latter place.

On the 24th, we marched from our bivouac and after a tedious and rough march halted on Beaver Creek, about 9 miles from Knoxville, where we bivouacked for the night. On the 25th still

remained at our camp the weather, however, turning very cold.

On the 25th, Lt. Baker and squad arrived in camp and brought us all letters from home, which although old, were very welcome. On the 26th, I arose and found the ground covered with snow which continued to fall all day, and covered the ground to the depth of several inches. The Camp on the 26th presented a beautiful appearance, all covered with snow, and the trees drooping under their weight. On the 27th the General left for Richmond, Va. On the 28th still at our old Camp on Beaver Creek - nothing worthy of note transpiring.

On the 29th I went to the town of Knoxville and bought several little articles. Saw there several acquaintances but found the town very dull seeing no one but soldiers. Also saw a guard pressing in Conscripts which seemed very hard but as a matter of necessity must be executed. Returned to Camp at about 5 P.M. nothing of interest transpiring. On the 30th still at the same Camp.

On the 31st, orders being received to move to town, we acted accordingly and reached Knoxville about 12 N., but did not get off as the balance of the 1st Brigade had not been able to get transportation.

On the 2nd, about 12N, we started for Chattanooga, which place we reached about 2

O'Clock A.M. on the 3rd, and at 11 A.M. we again set sail for Bridgeport reaching the bridge about 6 O'Clock P.M. where we bivouacked for the night.

On the 4th, we crossed the Tennessee again by means of two boats and several flats, which took us all day and at night we bivouacked near Bridgeport. On the 5th still remained at B., leaving there at about 7 O'Clock P.M. and travelling at night, we reached Tullahoma at about 3 A.M. on the 6th. We pitched tents on the 6th about a mile from the railroad and 1 1/4 miles from town.

On the 18th still at the same Camp, nothing worthy of note transpiring, excepting that on the 6th I was advanced as Actg. Asst. Adjt. Genl. on the staff of the Brig. Comdg. Genl. caused by the

temporary absence of the Asst. Adj't. Gen. W.A.

Goodman.

On the 22nd, we started from our encampment and passing through Tullahoma and Manchester, we halted about 1 1/2 miles from the latter place, on the Banks of Big Luck Creek.

On the morning of the 23rd, we started from our encampment at sunrise and marching 16 1/2 miles halted at the place of Mr. Hoover, this being my birthday, I wished that I was at home, but I was consoled by the remembrance of that old maxim - "What can't be cured must be endured."

On the 24th, at daylight, we again set out and marched to Murfreesboro, through that place to an encampment about 2 miles beyond toward

Nashville. We immediately set to work to build chimneys and make ourselves comfortable generally. Still at this encampment on the 4th of December, nothing worthy of note transpiring, excepting an occasional skirmish in our front.

On the 5th, snow to the depth of 4 or 5 inches covered the ground but luckily the most of the troops have winter quarters. This evening Smith's Corp on the right and Hardee's on the left were moved up and part of Cheatham's Division ordered to make a reconnoissance toward Nashville supported by Wheeler's Cavalry.

It is rather cold weather, with snow ankle deep, to make any military movements, but orders must be obeyed. On the 6th Jos. E. Johnston arrived.

Snow still on the ground. Distant booming of cannons heard, supposed to be Cheatham's command driving back the enemy. For the last 5 days, the whole army has been without a particle of salt. This evening, however, a large supply reached town, Murfreesboro.

On the 7th, nothing worthy of note happened except that Cheatham's Company returned late in the evening and brought some 50 prisoners, eleven wagons and a lot of Commissary supplies.

The snow still covers the ground. The 8th - Morgan and Hanson's Brigade Infantry took some 1800 prisoners at Hartsville, Tenn. with a loss on our side of 200 killed and wounded. Weather still cold, but snow beginning to thaw.

On the 9th, nothing transpiring, the snow still thawing. On the 10th all the snow has disappeared. All quiet in front. On the 11th ditto. On the 12th ditto.

On the 13th, grand review by the President and staff, Joe Johnston having gone to Mississippi. The Review passed off fine and the President expressed himself well pleased with the military bearing and appearance of the men. On the 14th, the President left for Mississippi. On the 15th all quiet along the lines. On the 16th ditto. Morgan moved with Mattie Ready of Murfreesboro.

On the 17th, heard of the fight at Fredericksburg and the glorious victory of our army over that of Burnside's, with a loss to the

enemy of 15,000 and about 2,000 on our side. The enemy also lost 14 General officers.

On the 18th, nothing of interest except particulars of the fight in Virginia.

On the 19th, all quiet. On the 20th rumored evacuation of Nashville by the Yanks and its occupation by Wheeler. Not yet confirmed on the 21st. Weather beautiful. All quiet along the lines. On the 22nd ditto. On the 23rd ditto. On the 24th ditto. It being Christmas eve a large ball was given in town by the 1st La. and 2nd Ky. Regiments.

On the 25th the General returned. Day principally spent in drinking egg-nog and work. At night went serenading some young ladies, Misses Smith, and spent a nice evening.

On the 26th, heaving firing all day in front.

On the 27th, firing rear all day and cannonading continues in front. A battle soon expected. Wheeler lost one gun.

On the 25th Capt. Goodman went home and I have been acting Adj't. Gen'l. since.

STONES RIVER

On the 28th, received orders to go to the front as the enemy were advancing. At 9 A.M. we left our Camp on Stones River, and proceeded out the Wilkinson Pike about 1 1/2 miles, when we were assigned our position, and the brigade was immediately deployed into line of battle. Rails being just in front, the fences were raided and breastworks made with the rails to the height of

about 1 1/2 foot, behind which the men were ordered to lie down. Heavy cannonading continued in the front, and came nearer and nearer. Generals Bragg, Polk and Cheatham passed down our lines during the day and were each in turn loudly cheered by the "high pressure." On Monday morning, the 29th, Wheeler's Cavalry gradually drew the enemy on, and at 10 O'Clock, they began to heave in sight. At about 12 O'Clock I was sent forward to the Sharp Shooters with an order for them to burn some house in their immediate front, when I witnessed a Regiment of Wharton, Texas Rangers draw up in line of battle, and as the enemy emerged from the woods, they were met with such a volley from the Rangers as

made the "Bucktails" turn and run. Our Cavalry then retired to the rear of our Brigade and again formed in line of battle. The ground was well adapted to Cavalry charges, it being clear and open, studded here and there with a small skirt of trees, not enough to be of any disadvantage, but sufficient to add beauty to the scenery. Late Monday evening the enemy's Sharp Shooters came in sight, and skirmishing was kept up for some time - when night put an end to all the shooting.

During the night the Signal Corp of the enemy were kept busy, no doubt assigning the different Corp and Divisions to their respective places. Signal lights were to be seen all night. About midnight the flood gates of heaven were let open and a shower of

rain fell and continued till morning when the wind blew off cold. This rain was very disagreeable and tended greatly to discommode the troops, who were lying in the trenches, as well as materially affect the ground in front of the Brigade, but although the troops were completely drenched with rain, their ardor and anxiety to meet the vandal foe was not a whit affected and the morning of Tuesday, the 30th, found them in good spirits, and anxious to open the conflict. Heavy skirmishing continued all along the lines, the enemy evidently wants to feel our position, but our skirmishers held their ground. At about 11 O'Clock A.M. cannon was heard in the distance, which told the story - but too true for the Yanks that the Indomitable Wheeler



Figure 4 Stones River battlefield as it looks today. This scene, near where Simon Mayer was shot off his horse during the battle, is at the intersection of McFarland Lane and Nashville Pike on the Order of Battle map map, page 38.

*separate attacks
and were as often
repulsed, and
given an
addendum of
what was to*

follow on the following day.

During the night of Tuesday the Corps of Lt. Genl. Hardee was moved from our right to our left, with the evident intention to make an attack on the enemy's right the next morning. The enemy had massed a large force upon our left and center and it showed the consummate Generalship of Braxton Bragg in moving the troops to our left to meet any attack which might have been made.

On Wednesday morning at daylight skirmishing extended all along the line but particularly heavy on the left of our line, and was the forerunner of the desperate and brilliant attack on the enemy's right at 8 O'Clock A.M., which resulted in the utter discomfiture of the enemy and added new luster to our successful arms. Having massed our troops on the left, it would not do to let the enemy move his troops to our right and attack us, as he no doubt would have done had we not anticipated him, as had he been permitted to attack on our right, he would have certainly turned and driven in our right flank. As it was, he was driven before the determined assault of our troops, some six miles,

and it seemed for a while that the mark would be an easy one but when the order to attack the center was given, and executed, it was found out that they had massed a large force to meet this attack, and after being driven about a mile, hold their ground, and fought with a bravery and determination worthy of a better cause. Our Brigade with its right resting on Stones River and the left on Wilkinson Pike, lay in an open field, under cover of the brow of a hill, and was formed in echelon. When the order to charge was given, with a yell such as only Mississippians can give, they went over the hill and through the cornfield in front, pouring a murderous fire into the ranks of the enemy and steadily driving them before

them. Notwithstanding the shower of shell and grapeshot, and the leaden hail of bullets, they went onward until they reached Cowan's House, where they were halted and again formed in line. Well

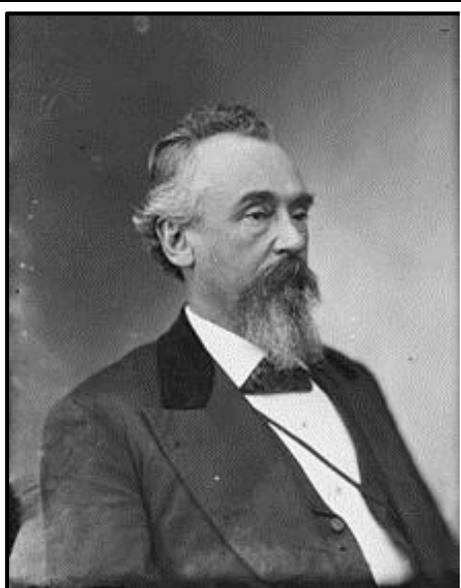


Figure 5 Brig. Gen. James Ronald Chalmers

might it be said: "In arms the noble phalanx stood, a living wall - a human hood." About an hour before the charge the General went out in the rear of the Brigade to see if all was well, when in riding down

the line he was met with such a shower of shell that he and staff came out of it at a double quick.

General Chalmers was wounded near Cowan's House by a piece of shell striking him back of the

head. The wound is slight, but painful.

None of his staff officers were hurt.

I was thrown from my horse in

the early part of the action, he becoming frightened at a shell bursting some 20 feet behind me, reared and pitched and off I went, nearly breaking my arm but luckily no bones broke. I left the field with General Chalmers and conveyed him to Murfreesboro, where he remained at the house of a Dr. R.S. Wendell³ and I remained with him. This was the bloodiest day of the seven days fight before



Figure 6 This historical marker is near where Gen. Chalmers was wounded and Simon Mayer was shot from his horse during the Battle of Stones River. The land is now for sale as a subdivision about 1/2 mile from a major medical center near Murfreesboro.

³ The Wendell home no longer stands in Murfreesboro.

Murfreesboro and resulted in the enemy's being driven back on all points. Being in town with the General, I saw nothing more of the fight, excepting on Thursday, the 1st of January, 1863, I was sent out to see Genl. Withers, who I found in the woods near our Brigade, at which time the enemy were shelling the woods very lustily, but failed to dislodge our boys.

1863⁴

Fighting continued the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of January. On the evening of the 2nd, Breckenridge's Div. made an assault on the enemy's left and drove them back, but were themselves compelled to fall

⁴ Note here that the Battle of Stones River had as an historical backdrop the enactment of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation that took effect Jan. 1, 1863. The Confederate and Union soldiers, according to various accounts of the battle, were well aware of the proclamation.

back, when the enemy brought their artillery to bear upon them. They lost three pieces of artillery.

The result of the successive engagements were the capture of 3 Generals, 3 Generals killed and 3 Generals wounded and some 5200 prisoners, with a large quantity of commissary and quartermaster's stores destroyed by Wheeler, with some 600 wagons, and the capture of some 1,000 head of mules and also the capture by our troops of 43 pieces of artillery. The number of dead and wounded and missing of the enemy has been variously estimated at from 20,000 to 30,000 but I think the first will cover the loss. Our loss was - two Generals killed, two wounded, 3 pieces of artillery and some 12,000 killed, wounded and missing out of 29,000

engaged; a great number of our wounded being so slightly that they are now on duty.

On the night of the 3rd a retreat was ordered, the troops being exhausted and worn down with fatigue, and by staying there to risk a battle in such a condition, was running too great a risk, for the benefit to be derived, for had they attacked us, and been repulsed we could not have followed up the victory, with our men in such an exhausted condition.

On the morning of the 4th, under a tremendous shower of rain, our Brigade left the entrenchments at 2 O'Clock A.M. and marched all day reaching Shelbyville, Tenn. about 5 O'Clock

P.M. and halted for the night about 1 1/2 miles south of that place, having marched 28 1/2 miles.

On the 5th, I went to Tullahoma and Lynchburg and on the 6th to Winchester. The General stopped with a Mr. J.T. Slatter at Winchester where he was well treated. I remained with the wagon train all day of the 7th and 8th. On the evening of the 8th I went to the Brigade.

The following morning, the 9th, we struck Camp and set out for Shelbyville and halted for the night at Hurricane Creek church. Here I drank a fine egg nog in commemoration of the secession of Mississippi from the Federal Union.

On the 10th, we left our Camp for Shelbyville, a distance of 14 miles, which we reached about 4 P.M.

very much jaded from the rain and mud through which we passed. We pitched Camp on the banks of Duck River about two miles from town in a very pretty place.

On the 11th, I went to town, but could learn nothing of importance. On the 12th nothing worthy of note transpired. The weather is very fine and springlike which is a God send as the troops are arranging their encampment.

On the 13th the weather still fine, nothing worthy of note, excepting a dispatch from Richmond on the subject of mediation by Switzerland taken from the Washington Republican (Lincoln organ) which says that the mediation by the independent Republic of

Switzerland would have more effect, than that of haughty France or damnable England.

On the 13th the weather cloudy and wind very high. About 10 O'Clock rain began to fall and continued throughout the day and night. Nothing new to note. On the 14th still raining with occasional sleet. On the 15th the weather bitter cold, the troops with only about two or three tents to the Regiment and suffering very much from the weather. About 12 O'Clock N. snow began to fall and continued the balance of the day and all that night and all day of the 16th, but the wind being very high, the snow did not cover the ground to more than two inches in depth, night of 16th still snowing and morning of 17th few flakes fell. About

9 O'Clock A.M. the sun appeared and though obscured at times by the passing clouds shone the principal part of the day. The snow beginning to thaw. The General arrived at Shelbyville today but is still confined to his room.

On the 18th the snow had near all disappeared, but weather still very cold. On the 19th a hazy mist seemed to pervade the atmosphere and much semblance of more rain. On the 20th it rained all day and weather very disagreeable.

On the 21st it began to clear up with now and then indication of snow. All quiet in front except the capture of a large train of wagons by Forrest.

On the 22nd the weather cleared off. All quiet in front. On the 23rd the heavens again assumed

their somber appearance and threatened to dampen the earth. On the 24th rain fell near all day. Nothing worthy of note transpired.

On the 25th no rain, but the day was dark and gloomy. This day the General having been transferred to Mississippi issued a farewell address to the troops and at night the band serenaded him.

On the 26th the General left for Mississippi. Clouds hovered over head all the forenoon and the afternoon the flood gates of heaven were opened. At 7 1/2 O'Clock a stiff breeze struck up, leaving us in momentary expectation of the tents being turned up side down. The rain continued all night and daylight of the 27th broke forth with a heavy snow

on the ground and quite a snow storm blowing which continued until about 11 O'Clock. A.M. when it ceased. The weather bitter cold. Clouds hovered over head all day. On the 28th, day broke with snow falling thick and fast and the ground soon was covered to the depth of some four inches. About noon it ceased and the wind shifted and the evening and night were bitter cold. All quiet in front. On the 29th the sun shone brightly all day.

On the 30th heavy cannonading in front. Walthall's Brigade ordered out to the front. The weather very cold but clear.

On the 31st the weather was cloudy all day with an occasional sprinkle of rain. Walthall's Brigade returned without seeing the enemy.

On the 1st of February rain fell all the forenoon. News of the raising of the blockade at Charleston reached us causing much excitement. The weather for the last two days being quite sultry, the wind shifted about noon today and blew off cold. I wrote a letter to Bro. N. today via Memphis.

On the 2nd, the sun shone brightly. Occasional firing of cannon in front. On the 3rd snowing at daylight and weather bitter cold. The sun came out about 12 O'Clock and the snow soon disappeared. The evening and night the coldest we have ever had. On the 4th rain and sleet alternately during the day.

On the 5th the weather still cloudy. Jos. E. Johnston arrived in town. On the 6th all quiet in

front, weather somewhat moderated. Sun shining now and then.

On the 7th sun shone all day. About 1 O'Clock Jos. E. Johnston rode through the encampment, the ground being too wet and muddy for a regular review.

On the 8th rain fell near all day. Nothing worthy of note transpired, excepting reception of an order to move to the front on outpost duty, which was luckily countermanded at night, in consequence of a review the next day.

On the 9th the sun shone brightly and the weather resembled the days of Spring. At 1 O'Clock we moved out to the ground selected for the review and were soon in line. As soon as the whole

Division was in line and all in readiness, the column was broken into Companies and marched past the reviewing officer at a "shoulder arms". As soon as the review was over, our Brigade was ordered out to relieve that of Col. Manigault and at 2 O'Clock P.M. we left our encampment on Duck River and moved out the Triunne Pike some 6 miles where we halted and pitched our tents, near the house of Parson Hooker on Fall Creek 6 miles from Shelbyville, 23 miles from Triunne and 43 miles from Nashville. On the 10th rain fell near all day and the weather was very disagreeable. All quiet in front.

On the 12th rain in the morning. In the evening received news from Col. Prather Comdg.

Cavalry in front, that the enemy were about to advance. About midnight received a message from him that his pickets were driven in. Forwarded the message to General Polk who immediately ordered us up to Col. Prather's support.

All being in readiness at 4 O'Clock A.M. on the 13th, we struck out for the advance line. About 1 mile this side of Unionville, commonly called "Doolittle" we halted at a cross road, it being rumored that the enemy's Cavalry had outflanked us and were going towards our wagons. This being soon found out to be untrue, we advanced on through Unionville and formed line of battle about 1 mile beyond in a cedar thicket. The enemy came up to within about 1/2 mile of our

ambuscaded lines and doubtless smelling a mouse retraced their steps at a "double quick". Quiet being again restored we returned to our Camp.

On the 14th all quiet in front. Rain fell near all day. Weather still rather warm. On the 15th rain fell all forenoon, but after noon cleared off and wind blew a cool breeze.

On the 16th being relieved by Walthall's Brigade, we struck tents and returned to Camp near Shelbyville, a drenching rain falling all day. The 17th, 18th and 19th rain fell incessantly. On the 20th and 21st the sun shone once again but on the 22nd, 23rd rain again fell.

On the 24th the sun again disappeared. All quiet along the front. An order issued today by

*General Polk establishing quarantine in Shelbyville
in consequence of Small Pox.*

*On the 25th nothing worthy of note transpired.
Rain fell all day in torrents and continued all
night and the wind blew a perfect gale causing the
river to rise and soon overflow its banks. All day on
the night of the 26th rain continued to fall and
the river continued to rise and on the night of the
26th washed away the Brigade Commissariat but
luckily the Brigade had two days rations. The
water is so deep at the bridges heading to town
that no one can cross.*

*On the 27th rain still fell with now and then a
cessation. The river gradually receding. No news
from the front. Received an order from Army*

Headquarters to send all extra baggage and clothing to the rear, which looks like a movement is on hand.

On the 28th the sun came out in the forenoon but afternoon rain commenced to fall and continued all night. At about 10 1/2 O'Clock P.M. the wind blew a terrific gale threatening to uproot our tents and leave us at the mercy of the storm, but all was soon over and nobody hurt.

On the 1st of March all quiet and the wind very cold. Received orders to relieve 4th Brigade on outpost. On the 2nd at 8 A.M. we struck tents and marched out on the Triunne Pike about 6 1/2 miles from town, where we pitched tents and made ourselves comfortable as possible. On the 3rd

nothing worthy of interest transpired excepting snow fell about two hours, just enough to cover the ground.

On the 4th all quiet until about 3 P.M., when our Cavalry came dashing into our lines hotly pursued by the enemy. (One of Russell's men was really cut with a saber across the forehead, the wound of the kind I have never seen.) Col. Russell's Ala. Cavalry were surprised at Unionville and stampeded and hotly followed by the Yanks who were not halted until they reached our picket when they were fired upon and stopped. The Officer's horse was wounded and he jumped off and escaped, supposed to be wounded. Russell's Regimental Camp was burned and all the wagons

carried off. His Regiment lost about 50 men and our picket lost 5 men. Our Brigade pursued the Yanks and re-established our Old Cavalry lines, reaching our Camp on return at 11 O'Clock P.M.

On the 5th heavy cannonading occurred in front in direction of Franklin, which afterwards proved to be a brush between the enemy and Van Dorn in which he captured 5 Regiments of Infantry. Evening rather uneasy in consequence of Roddy's Cavalry being driven back to Duck River from Chapel Hill. He first routed their Cavalry, but was then attacked by the Infantry, when he dismounted his men and fought them killing and wounding some 20 men.

On the 6th rain fell in torrents near all day. At about 10 O'Clock the whole Corps moved out from Shelbyville to check the further advance of the enemy, who were supposed to be advancing. At about 2 O'Clock P.M. the enemy drove in Col. Prather's Cavalry and took possession of Middleton, some 6 1/2 miles in out front, after burning and destroying which, they retired. A heavy rain fell all night, all the other Brigades, with the exception of ours, bivouacking.

All day of the 7th rain fell. Heavy cannonading heard in direction of Chapel Hill, nothing further heard from front. On the night of the 7th at 10 O'Clock received orders to move

forward at 5 O'Clock A.M. on the following morning.

On the morning of the 8th at 5 O'Clock our Division moved forward in direction of Eagleville, having learned from Van Dorn that he would get in the enemy's rear, and wanted us to operate in his front and possibly bag the party. We moved out to Rover some 5 miles from Eagleville when Col. Russell's Cavalry was sent forward to fell the enemy, but soon reported from Eagleville that the enemy had fallen back beyond Harpeth River, and eluded the move of Van Dorn. Having also learned from Van Dorn that the enemy had been heavily reinforced, we moved back to our position 6 1/2 miles from Shelbyville. Learned by way of

Murfreesboro that a heavy fight had occurred at Vicksburg and the enemy well whipped, with a loss of 20,000 men. Also learned that reinforcements to the amount of 15,000 under Genl. Sigel had reached Ravenscroft and look for a fight for the supremacy of Middle Tennessee.

On the ninth all quiet in front. The sun shining brightly all day. 8 A.M. were relieved on outpost and took up line of march for old Camp near Shelbyville, which place we reached about 12 O'Clock, passing through Shelbyville we saw the prisoners captured by Van Dorn, some 1800 men with a Col. Comdg. They are mostly from Indiana, Illinois and Michigan and although tired of war and wanting peace they are willing to fight it out

and that all the talk about disaffection in the Northwest is bosh. We lost in the fight some 200 men. I saw General W.T. Martin and staff who was in command of the escort of prisoners. They all look well and hearty.

On the 10th heavy rain falling all day. All quiet in front. On the 11th cold and sun shining brightly. 12th nothing new, weather still clear and springlike.

On the 13th all quiet excepting the escape of Van Dorn from the enemy who had him surrounded but we sent out McCown's Division who cut off the designs of the enemy and outflanking them, relieved Van Dorn, who crossed Duck River with all his trappings. Lts. Baker and Gobleau

reached Camp tonight with letters from home, both looking new.

On the 14th all quiet in front. Van Dorn sent in 30 prisoners captured the day before.

On the 15th weather still very beautiful, spring time. A Courier with dispatches from Rosencranz captured by our Cavalry and sent to town. A deserter arrived from the enemy who reported that a week since, the whole Yankee Army had rations cooked, and orders to march out against us but the heavy rains prevented the move. Rumored in town that Bragg and the whole Right Wing of our army are on their way up here, which if so, presages another battle soon, we making the attack.

On the 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th all quiet in front, nothing worthy of note transpiring. On the night of the 20th rain fell during the night. On the 20th Major General Withers returned from

Mobile where he had been for his health.

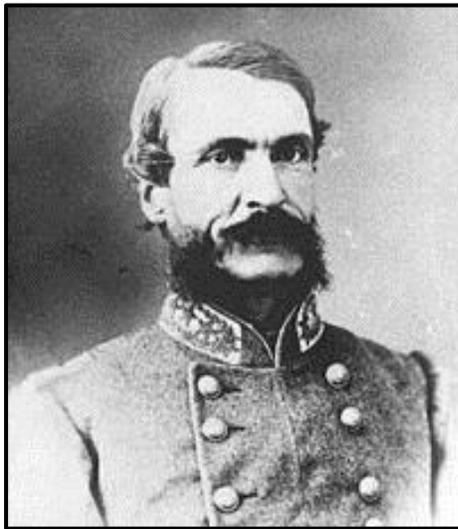


Figure 7 Gen. James Patton Anderson

On the 21st Brig. Genl. Patton Anderson was assigned to the command of this Brigade and the Brigade hereafter to be known as

“Anderson’s Brigade”. On the 22nd Genl. Anderson issued his address assuming command of the Brigade.

Various rumors afloat of the evacuation of Murfreesboro but all doubtless without foundation.

On the 24th rain continued to fall all day.

Nothing new.

On the 25th weather very cold and sun shining. Rumors of all kind afloat. Orders issued for all conscripting to cease. On the 26th rain falling all day. Enemy making no demonstrations in front.

On the 27th day set apart as fasting and prayer by the President. Generally observed by troops. News received of capture of 500 prisoners by Van Dorn at Spring Hill. Review of the Division to take place tomorrow by General Withers. At night a

terrific wind blew nearly upsetting all the tents, chimneys, etc. but "nobody hurt."

On the 28th no review had in consequence of inclemency of the weather and postponed. Wind high and weather cold.

On the 29th weather very cold and real March winds. Making preparations to go on picket. Order received at night for a review of the Corps by Lt. Genl. Polk.

On the 30th the wind very cold and rain all morning but at 1 O'Clock we marched out to the field selected for the review and soon were over with it. Strange to say a Col. Benton was in command of the Division, all our Generals being at the Court Martial of Maj. Genl. McCown. The Review

was a very cold affair. It was gotten up for the benefit of Col. Wm. Preston Johnston, son of the fallen hero of Shiloh and Aid de Camp of President Davis.

On the 31st at 8 O'Clock we struck tents and

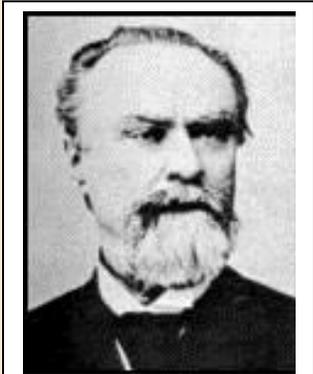


Figure 8 Gen. Jacob Hunter Sharp

started out on picket, the weather being cleared up. We relieved Col. Manigault at about 12 O'Clock N. and were all soon snugly fixed.

Wharton's Texas Cavalry were in our front and had a little skirmish capturing 6 prisoners.

On the 1st heavy cannonading was heard in the front and our Gen. May was sent forward to ascertain the cause, who came back and reported

*that our pickets were driven out of Eagleville
nobody hurt.*

*On the 2nd all quiet. Col. J.H. Sharp, Blythe's
Miss. relieved Col. W.F. Tucker 41st Miss. of the
command of Brigade. Our Cavalry drove the enemy
6 miles beyond Eagleville and now have an outpost
beyond that place.*

*On the 3rd all quiet in front. Weather very
spring like. On the 4th part of Wharton's Cavalry
left for Lebanon, Tenn. with a prospect of going
into Kentucky. Horse race to come off at Unionville
or "Doolittle," between General Wharton's horse
and a mare of Col. Harrison of one of the Texas
Regiments. \$10,000 bet on the race. On the 5th the*

race came off and was won by Genl. Wharton. All quiet in front.

On the 6th, being relieved on outpost by Walthall's Brigade, we returned to Camp near Shelbyville, which we immediately changed, as the weather was warmer and the foul air compelled us to move to a new Camp, which we did, about a mile distant from the old one. On the 7th still busy moving camp. All quiet in front.

On the 8th received news of fighting at Charleston. No particulars, hope for best. On the 9th heard that General Polk had received a dispatch from Charleston stating that the Montauk was sunk and several others disabled. On the 10th news from Charleston confirmed and fighting still

progressing. On the 11th, heard of the sinking of 4 gun boats at Charleston and the capture of one of the monitors. A terrific storm at dark lasting about 1/2 hour and after a heavy rain cleared off. On the 12th, weather clear and beautiful. On the 13th, nothing worthy of note, rain falling and the wind blowing a perfect gale. On the 14th, wind and rain falling. On the 15th, ditto - all quiet in front.

On the 16th, at about 9 O'Clock A.M. cleared up and at 2 O'Clock the whole Corps was reviewed by General Bragg. The sight was really beautiful, the whole Infantry, with the exception of two Brigades (on picket duty) of Polks Corps being present in three lines, Cheatham's Division in the front, McCown's next and Withers' Division in the last

line. The occasion was graced by the presence of numbers of the beautiful ladies of Tennessee. The General seemed well pleased with the appearance of the troops. After he passed down the lines the troops were wheeled by Companies into column and marched by in review. The spirits of the troops are very buoyant and the step was light and easy.

(Received the melancholy news of the death of Fred Davis of our Company at Chattanooga.)

On the 17th, General Bragg returned to Tullahoma. The weather quite warm and summerlike. On the 18th, all quiet in front, various rumors afloat.

On the 19th, received news of the passage of 5 gun boats and two transports past Vicksburg. All

quiet in front, the enemy making no demonstrations. On the 20th, passage of the gun boats confirmed. Dunbar and Monette, members of the Company, taken prisoner at Murfreesboro returned to Camp having been exchanged. On the 21st, various rumors afloat, among others the return to Vicksburg of the troops ordered up here. No demonstrations in front. About 3 P.M. the wind changed, the clouds gathered and soon the rain commenced to fall continuing all the balance of that day and through the night.

On the 22nd, about 8 O'Clock A.M. the weather cleared off and the sun shone out brightly. Various rumors afloat concerning advance of the enemy.

On the 23rd, Hardee's Corps moved up from Tullahoma to Wartrace and Manchester which places they now occupy.

On the 24th, report that the enemy have fallen back and our Cavalry ordered to press forward. A general engagement looked for soon.

On the 25th, all quiet in front, rain commencing to fall in the afternoon and continuing through the night. On the 26th, the weather cleared off, and all quiet in front.

On the 27th at 7 O'Clock we struck tents and moved out on Triunne Pike to relieve Marigault's Brigade on outpost. At 8 O'Clock, rain commenced to fall and the weather threatened to be bad throughout the day, but at about 10 O'Clock

cleared up and fine weather the balance of the day.

On the 28th, rain now and then throughout the day. Simon Lehmann detailed to proceed to the rear, with the extra baggage of the Brigade.

On the 29th, rain and blustering cold wind throughout the day. All quiet in front so far.

On the 30th, skirmishing. Our Cavalry commanded by Col. Orton driving the enemy out of Eagleville and beyond Harpeth River.

No cannonading on the 1st May. The morning broke beautiful and bright. All very still and calm in front, the enemy seeming to await our advance.

On the second the wind arose and rain fell near all day.

On the 3rd weather hazy near all day.

Malone's Texas Cavalry advanced and ordered to the front.

On the 4th, being relived by Doe's Brigade, we returned to our old Camp near Shelbyville.

On the 5th, wind very high and cold for the season, rain threatening. Fighting in Virginia reported. Rumored that Forrest had captured a large number of prisoners near Rome, Ga.

On the 6th, rumored capture of 1600 prisoners by Forrest confirmed and the news of his triumphal entry into Rome, Ga. received. The glorious news of the defeat of the abolitionists in Virginia under "Fighting Joe" received. Stonewall Jackson reported severely wounded. A.P. Hill hurt slightly. General

Paxton killed. Rumored fight between Morgan and the enemy at McMinnville. Rain fell near all night.

All day of the 7th weather cold and disagreeable, drizzling, cold rain throughout the day. Confirmation of victory in Virginia. News of Stonewall Jackson's loss of left arm.

On the 8th, General Van Dorn murdered⁵ at Columbia by a Dr. Peters. Deploring the loss of the Chieftan at this critical period, I cannot but think the perpetrator justifiable. Weather for the past two days cold and rainy.

On the 9th, weather cleared off beautiful. Received news of capture of one complete Division

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl_Van_Dorn

by Lee, together with the transportation and supplies of the whole army that crossed the river.

On the 10th received confirmation of the great victory gained by Lee over "Fighting Joe Hooker", but with the sad tidings of the amputation of the left arm of Stonewall Jackson and worse than all that he was wounded by his own men during the night attack on Saturday.

On the 11th various rumors afloat, such as evacuation of Port Hudson, Vicksburg and other points, and bad items generally from Mississippi, but all only rumors. All quiet in front.

On the 12th received news of fight between Kirby Smith and Banks in which the latter was badly whipped and also of the capture of the

Cavalry that made the raid near Richmond, and also the sad news of Stonewall Jackson, the hero of the revolution. Well might it be said, "A great and good man has fallen." His loss to his country will be irreparable.⁶

On the 13th, all quiet in front. McCown's Division sent to Mississippi and Churchill's Arkansas Post men expected here. General Bragg arrives at Shelbyville and makes it his headquarters and makes a grand inspection tour. He was well pleased with the appearance of Camp and men.

On the 14th rumors afloat of the capture of Banks by Kirby Smith, and all on the tiptoe of

⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonewall_Jackson

expectation for news from Mississippi. General Forrest arrived to succeed to the Command of Van Dorn. At night went serenading in town.

On the 15th, rumored fall of Jackson, Miss. and pretty generally believed. All quiet in front. At night went visiting in town.

On the 16th, fall of Jackson confirmed, and rumored in the evening that the enemy are surrounded and must surrender. Hon. Jas. Pheelan, Senator from Mississippi, accompanied by Genl. Bragg and Genl. Anderson, visited the Brigade, and he made a few happy remarks to each Command. He is a very noble looking man, some 5 feet 8 inches high, large, well proportioned frame, intelligent countenance, grey eyes, silvered

hair, and seemingly a man of some 50 years. Order received for all disabled and convalescent officers and men to be sent to the rear, and some talk of the impending crisis being near at hand.

On the 17th, all quiet in front, grand picnic given by Manigault's Brigade. Went visiting in the evening.

On the 18th, received letter from home. All quiet, rumors of a fight soon coming off. All the Union people ordered to go outside of our lines.

On the 19th, rumors of fight near Jackson, Miss. and the destruction of large amount of property by the Yanks.

On the 20th, rumored evacuation of Jackson confirmed and also of fight between our forces

under Pemberton and the Yanks under Grant, which was indecisive and Genl. Lloyd Tilghman killed.

On the 21st all quiet. Had a mess of strawberries for the first time since being out.

On the 22nd heavy skirmish in front, the enemy capturing one piece of artillery, but we recaptured it. Received news of fighting in Miss. in which Yanks acknowledge loss of 6,000, but claim the capture of 30 pieces of artillery. The enemy in full retreat. Pemberton in hot pursuit.

On the 23rd, in obedience to orders, moved our encampment to rear of fortifications on Triunne Pike, some 3 miles from town. The reported capture of guns in Miss. somewhat confirmed in the papers.

Dame rumor has it that Vicksburg has fallen, which however is doubted.

On the 24th, received news of the repulse three times of the enemy at Vicksburg, and of Joe Johnston being on their rear, and the news generally from Miss. very cheering. All quiet in front.

On the 25th learned of two Brigades of Breckenridge's Division going to Mississippi and another to go today, accompanied by the General.

On the 26th, received further news from Mississippi and of the defeat of the enemy. Hon. C.L. Vallandigham of Ohio came into our lines as an exile, from home.

On the 27th, further news from Mississippi and of the assaulting of Vicksburg 9 times by the enemy, in each of which they were repulsed. General Steele (Yankee) reported killed. The loss of the enemy very heavy.

On the 28th, further news from Vicksburg of several assaults on the works and the repulse of the assaulters. There was a very serious accident happened in the Company yesterday, causing the death of Sam Earheart by the discharge of a gun in the hands of Sgt. W. Aldrich.

On the 29th, various rumors afloat. Pemberton and Johnston formed a junction and captured 9,000 prisoners. Pemberton burning tar and other purifiers to obviate the stench arising from the

bodies of the unburied dead Yanks in front of our works.

On the 30th received news of the terrible repulse of the Yanks in Vicksburg and report of their falling back to Big Black.

On the 31st received news of the loss of the enemy at V. estimated at from 20,000 to 30,000, including Genl. Kerr, Lay, Burbidge, Brown and one other.

On the 1st, news of the demoralization of the Yankee troops at Vicksburg, and their refusal to again assault our works. Pemberton uses hand grenades against the Abolition forces.

On the 2nd, news of the destruction of 11 vessels off Pernambuco by the Ala. and Fla. Enemy

indicating a forward movement in our immediate front. Troops ordered to have three days rations cocked and be in readiness to move at any moment. Reported that the enemy are falling back from Murfreesboro and destroying bridges as they go along.

On the 23rd at 8 A.M., the Brigade moved out on Eagleville Pike in light marching order and marching out to within two miles of Versailles halted for the night.

On the morning of the 4th, advancing in the direction of Salem, the Cavalry drove in the pickets of the enemy. The enemy not coming out, we retired and returned to Camp marching 28 miles. Raining very heavily near all day. Brigade reached Camp

about 8 O'Clock P.M. Rumored that a dispatch had been received announcing the capture of Grant and 10,000 men, but not believed. Rain fell all night and near all day of the 5th. Heavy firing on the left, all quiet again in front. Reported again that the enemy have made another assault on Vicksburg and been repulsed. Pemberton reported wounded. Yankee General Logan killed. Kirby Smith reported to have crossed at Port Hudson under heavy fire of Yankee gunboats with loss of about 200 men. Reported that Siege of Port Hudson raised.

On the 6th, received letters from home by Lts. Gobeau and Baker who arrived safe today. All quiet in front.

On the 7th, went over to Regt. to see boys and found all well, but three cases of small pox in Regimental Encampment. No late news from Vicksburg.

On the 8th, all quiet. Rumors from Vicksburg but nothing reliable. On the 9th, the 10th and 44th Miss. put in quarantine in consequence of small pox breaking out among them. All quiet. No news from Miss. Rain all the afternoon. Brig. Genl. A.P. Stewart, Cheatham's Div. promoted to a Major Generalship and ordered to report to Lt. Genl. Hardee to command the new Division forming.

On the 10th, raining all day. All quiet in front. Cheering news from Vicksburg. Enemy admit a loss

of 50,000 so far. Peace party in the North raising their head.

On the 11th, weather cleared off, all quiet in front. Received news of crossing of Rappahannock again by the advance of the enemy and their being driven back to Stewart's Cavalry.

On the 12th, all quiet. Rumors of Lee's army being on the move. Vicksburg still holds out nobly. On the 13th, all quiet, nothing worthy of interest.

On the 14th, went to church to hear Rev. Dr. Palmer of N. Orleans. Notoriety - and it was really a treat to be spellbound as I was by the elaborate command which he has of words, and it was really a "feast of reason and a flow of soul."

On the 15th, all quiet. Weather very beautiful.

On the 16th, nothing worthy of note, excepting report of hanging of Col. Orton and Adj't. Franklin as spies. Orton was formerly Aide to Genl. Lee, then Aide to Bragg, then Chief of Artillery, then Captain of Escort and lastly made Col. of Cavalry. This is a sad affair and it is thought that Col. Orton had lost his mind.

On the 17th, all quiet. Rumors of fight in Virginia, also at Port Hudson. Received news of fight at Miliken's Bend, through Yankee papers.

On the 18th, news from Virginia confirmed. Wilson's whole Command and all their trappings and Cs. captured at Winchester. Everett commanding the old "Stoveall Corps". Claim the

capture of 10,000 prisoners. Wilson reported escaped. Another Cavalry advance reported at Chambersburg, Pa.

On the 19th, received news of the terrible repulse of the enemy at Port Hudson, on the 12th enemy charged 27 times, but were each time compelled to retire, and at last our troops assaulted the enemy's works drove them from there and spiked all their seized guns. This is glorious news. Lee reported at Harper's Ferry and crossing into Maryland en route from Pennsylvania. Dr. Palmer preached to the Brigade morning and evening, and they had a very good attendance and preached good and eloquent sermons as are his usual characteristics.

On the 20th, news from Port Hudson confirmed. Stuart and Lee reported at Chambersburg, Pa. and the County people fleeing. Couch, the Deptl. Comdr. acknowledged his inability to save the country South of Susquehanna.

On the 21st Stuart reported at Harrisburg, Pa. The North in great consternation. News from Vicksburg, all being quiet. Yankee raiders make demonstration against Knoxville and destroy a large factory at Lenon's Station and tear up part of the track. Troops sent to Knoxville to reinforce Buckner.

On the 22nd, at 8 O'Clock moved out on Unionville Pike to Fall Creek where we relieved Manigault's Brigade on outpost. All quiet in front.

Stuart's Cavalry reported 10 miles from Philadelphia.

On the 23rd, all quiet the forenoon, but soon a courier arrived with notice of the advance of the enemy. The Command was ordered to be in readiness at a moment's notice. Nothing further transpired and the enemy fell back.

From the 24th to 26th all remained quiet. Night of the 26th received orders to move at once to Shelbyville and cross the river on Flat Creek Road. It was evident that we were going to fall back having lost H - and Guy's Gap in the encounters with the enemy.

Accordingly at 5 A.M. on the 27th we took up line of march in Shelbyville and passing through

that place at about 9 O'Clock, we took the road to Tullahoma. We reached the crossing of the Tullahoma and Lynchburg and the Shelbyville and Winchester road about dark, after a very hard march of 27 miles over a very rough road. Here we were left to picket the road and as rear guard of the army, and to support the Cavalry if necessary. About 9 O'Clock P.M. the 10th and 44th Miss. Rgts. were sent to the rear to guard the balance of the wagon train and assist them to ascent the steep hills. Our Cavalry were disgracefully driven out of Shelbyville and lost their battery of artillery. Many of the men barely escaped with their lives by swimming the River. Brig. Genl. Martin and Major General Wheeler barely escaped capture, the former

after killing one, and placing two others hors de combat, escaped, with the loss of his sword.

At intervals during the 28th showers of rain fell, but all remained quiet.

On the morning of the 29th received orders at 7 O'Clock that the Brigade be hurried to its position in the line, as the battle would open in an hour. We immediately marched through a drenching rain to and through Tullahoma when we were formed in line of battle left of Fort Rains, and in supporting distance. We were left of the second line. Rain fell all day almost without intermission. At 5 O'Clock Rosencranz was formed in line of battle 5 miles out but made no show toward an advance.

On the 30th all remained quiet, rain still falling. At 12 O'Clock midnight we left Tullahoma and reached Allisonia the morning of the 1st at about 1 O'Clock. The railroad bridge and two wooden bridges over Elk River were destroyed, and our army silently but patiently awaiting the approach of the enemy, but no enemy came.

At about 7 O'Clock on the 2nd, we left Allisonia and passing through Decherd, reached Cowan's Station about 2 O'Clock P.M. At about 3 P.M. we were formed in line of Battle, it being reported the enemy were advancing, in which position we remained until 1 O'Clock P.M., when we left and proceeded to ascend the Cumberland Mountain; the ascent being steep and rough, it took us all

night to make it, and the morning of the 3rd found us on the top of the mountain, worn out with hunger and fatigue. From base to base of the mountain is 9 miles and it was near dusk when we descended the Southern slope. I was sent forward to have rations cooked and ready by the time the troops arrived next morning. I reached the mouth of Battle Creek where it empties into the Tennessee 5 miles above Bridgeport at about 11 O'Clock and delivering the order I retired for the night.

4th - At daylight, the rations all being cooked, the wagons were ordered across the River, which they crossed on Pontoon Bridge. I waited arrival of troops who came up about 11 O'Clock A.M. and rations being distributed, we crossed the River and

marched to Nijerjock Cave near Shell Mound where we encamped for the night.

At 7 O'Clock A.M. on the 5th, we set out and marched to Blue Springs. About 5 O'Clock P.M. we encamped. Here we had a large abundance of blackberries and the troops enjoyed the same.

On the 6th, at 7 O'Clock A.M., we set out and crossing Racoon Mountain, and the point of Lookout Mountain, encamped about 2 miles from Chattanooga at about 3 P.M.

Having been shut out from the world, as it were, during the change of base by Bragg, we have learned of the brilliant campaign of Lee and his brilliant victory at Winchester and advance into Pennsylvania. On the 7th, heard they were fighting

near Gettysburg, Pa. and Lee had gained a brilliant victory - telegraph says captured 40,000 prisoners - needs confirmation.

On the 8th, learned of the fall of Vicksburg, the "Gibraltar of the South."⁷ This news caused a momentary depression of spirit among some, but like lightning soon passed away and nerved with the belief of our cause, resolved to redouble energies, and make up for the temporary loss of that point, which is after all of not so much importance as some would have us believe, and the country is in a better condition to sustain and overcome the shock than they were at the fall of Fort Donalson.

⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Vicksburg

On the 9th, learned of the capture of Kenner Station 10 miles from New Orleans and also of the capture of Brashear City by Genls. Dick Taylor and Magruder, and also heard of a force marching on Fort Jackson below the City.

On the 10th learned further particulars of fight in Pa., which were however so bungled up as to confuse the whole, still the news plainly showed that the "Grand Army of the Potomac" under Major Genl. Meade, the successor of "Fighting Joe Hooker" had been discomfited.

On the 11th, learned of a new attack on Charleston by land and water, but confident of our ability to hold it and drive back the insolent foe,

with a second edition of the repulse of the Monitors in April last.

On the 12th, rumors of Lee's falling back, and reports of D.H. Hill driving Dix out of Va., who was attempting another on to Richmond.

On the 13th, at 9 O'Clock, we left Chattanooga for Bridgeport where we relieved Jackson's Brigade and we guarded the R.R. from Shell Mound to Bridgeport. The enemy reported to be concentrating in front of Bridge at the town. Three prisoners brought in by the cavalry and captured near Winchester. Fighting at Jackson, Miss. with strong belief in our success.

On the 14th, all quiet in front. Enemy repulsed at all points of attack at Jackson. Our troops

confident. The people of the North still in great consternation over invasion by Lee, and destruction of the shipping by privateer "Tacony" which vessel was at last captured and destroyed.

On the 15th still hold our own at Jackson, and Lee still north of Potomac at Hagerstown.

On the 16th, assault made by enemy at Jackson and repulsed with heavy loss. Bombardment at Charleston continues.

On the 17th, Jackson was still nobly holding out, although enemy reported as moving on the flank, and evacuation looked for. Charleston still defies the assaulters.

On the 18th, received news of Jackson being evacuated and army falling back to Pearl River.

Received news of great riot and resistance to draft in New York City and Springfield, Mass. and Hartford, Conn. Gov. Seymour declares City, County, and State of New York in insurrection. This is too good and I only hope that it may be true and that now that the resistance has been openly proclaimed and carried into execution, that it may gain strength and the whole North be thrown into one grand vortex of civil strife, that they too may know the horrors of a civil war.

On the 19th, further news of riots, and also riots at Baltimore and on Staten Island and Brooklyn. Lee with his whole army safe across the Potomac. Lt. Genl. Harden ordered to Miss. and Lt. Genl. D.H. Hill ordered here to take his place. Maj.

Genl. J.M. Withers, our late Div. Commander has resigned in consequence of ill health.

Bombardment of Charleston unabated.

On the 20th, received news of charge on Battery Wagner at Charleston on the 18th.

Sept. 5, 1863

The several items of interest omitted to be noted down since the 20th of July are as follows:

Lee's Army has successfully fallen back to its old line of defense on Rappahannock and been followed by Meade, who in his turn has also fallen back to Washington. Charleston has defied so far all the efforts of the enemy, who have bombarded successively Sumter, Wagner and the City - all,

however, to no effect, and the old "City by the sea" still bravely holds out.

John Morgan, the Great Guerrilla Chief, made a dashing raid through Kentucky, Indiana and parts of Ohio, laying waste everything in his track, but he was at last overwhelmed and himself and part of his command captured, the balance reaching Dixie in safety.

Chattanooga, for the last two weeks, has been the scene of great commotion, the enemy having shelled it. We left Bridgeport the 21st of August, 1863, the date of first shelling, and have been on the move ever since, and are now momentarily in expectation of receiving marching orders. -

Walker's, Breckenridge's and Gregg's Divisions from

Johnston's Army have reinforced us, and it is also rumored that Hill's Corps from Virginia has arrived but put no reliance in it. A great battle is imminent, and when it comes off, the victorious shouts of the invincible followers of Braxton Bragg will reverberate throughout the length and breadth of the Confederacy.

Knoxville is evacuated by our troops, but the enemy is afraid to enter it, fearing a trap has been set for them.

I have written several letters home and to N.Y., some by opportunities and some by flag of truce from Bridgeport.

On the 5th in the afternoon received orders to prepare three days' cooked rations, and be ready

for a move at a moment's notice. On the 6th we took up line of march for lower bridge over Chickamoga Creek back of Harrison's Landing, which place we reached after a very rough and dusty march, at about 4 P.M. Our Brigade was immediately put on Picket duty relieving Deshler's Brig., Hill's Corps.

On the 7th all remained quiet until about dusk when notification was received of General D.H. Hill to prepare for an attack of the enemy that night, as it was anticipated from their several movements, that they would attempt a crossing of the River about midnight. All dispatch was used and all eager and prepared for the attack, but our hopes

were doomed to disappointment, as all passed off very quietly.

On the 6th, we were in turn relieved by Estor's Brig., Walker's Div., and returned to McFarlands Springs near Chattanooga.

On the 7th we received orders to prepare two days rations and be ready to move at a moment's warning. At about 5 P.M. Major General T.V. Hinderman, our new Division Commander, visited our Brigade, and addressed them in a few stirring, yet eloquent remarks.

On the 8th, we received orders to have six days rations prepared and be in readiness to move; three days rations in haversacks and three days to be transported. At about 5 P.M. we received

marching orders and set out for Lee's & Gordon's Mills, which we reached that night, a march of about 13 miles.

On the 9th we remained quiet, but were held in readiness to move, as the enemy were advancing.

At about midnight on the 9th, we received marching orders from our encampment, and set out for McLemore's Cave, where Thomas' Corps of the enemy were reported to be. We reached there about mid-day on the 10th, and were immediately drawn up in line of battle, with orders to advance.

On the 11th skirmishing was kept up with the enemy near all the afternoon, our forces attempting to overrun and capture the whole force, but the enemy reached the gap (Cooper's), before

our forces, consequently escaping. They had in all about 15,000 men, 12 pieces of artillery and about 150 wagons. About 8 P.M. we fell back to Lafayette, the gap where our wagons were encamped, which place we reached about daylight on the 12th.

We moved out on the road South of Lafayette where we remained until about 10 O'Clock P.M., when we again went out to meet the enemy (Evittendon's Corps) at Rocky Springs, 7 miles North of Lafayette, which place we reached at daylight, and immediately formed line of battle, 13th; at about 9 O'Clock the line advanced about a mile, where the line was formed and artillery planted ready for the expected engagement. At about 3 P.M. very heavy skirmishing was going on, on our

extreme left, between one of the Brigades in Cheatham's Division and a portion of the enemy. At sundown all was again quiet, and further movements were suspended until daylight.

At about 8 A.M. on the 14th, we received orders to move back - left in front - to Lafayette, which place we reached at about 5 P.M. Such dust as we encountered on this march, it has never been my lot to endure; it was indeed suffocating, at times being so dense as to be impossible to see across the road. The troops were, however, shouting and yelling all along the road and as we passed through town they fairly made the earth and houses shake. I here saw Billy Sullivan, Will Cameon, Chas. Chotad, W. Fowler, Jas. Gaetney, of

the Breckenridge Guards, all of whom were in fine health and spirits.

On the 15th all was quiet in front, and nothing to break the dull monotony but the various camp rumors afloat, among others, the arrival of Longstreet's Corps from Virginia. Price is reported to have again thrashed out the enemy at or near Little Rock, Ark. Kirby Smith also reported as having gained another victory in Louisiana.

The enemy have also been disastrously repulsed at Charleston and in an attempt to take Sumpter, the old flag that floated over that stronghold at the time of its surrender to Beauregard, was captured, together with three other stands, and 16 officers and 160 men. Bully for Beauregard!

On the 16th, the forenoon passed off quietly - but the afternoon was all excitement, having received orders to march against the enemy. Lt. Genl. J. Longstreet arrived in Lafayette. His Corps expected to reach here in a day or two. General Bragg issued the following general order. Hdqrs. Ar. T. In the Field. Lafayette, Ga., Sept. 16 1865

Genl. Order No. 180—

The troops will be held ready for an immediate move against the enemy. - His demonstrations on our flanks have been thwarted, and twice has he retired before us, when offered battle.

We must now force him to the issue. Soldiers! You are largely reinforced. - You must now seek the

contest. - In so doing, I know you will be content to suffer privations and encounter hardships. -

Heretofore you have never failed to respond to your General, when he asked sacrifices at your hands.

Relying on your gallantry and patriotism, he asks you to add the crowning glory to the wreath you wear. - Our cause is in your keeping. - Your enemy boasts that you are demoralized and retreating before him.

Having accomplished our object by driving back his flank movement, let us now turn on his main force, and crush it in its fancied security.

Your Generals will lead you. - You have but to respond to assure us a glorious triumph over our insolent foe. - I know what your response will be. -

Trusting in God and the justice of your cause, and moved by the love of the dear ones at home, failure is impossible and victory must be ours.

S/ Braxton Bragg

Genl. Comdr.

At about sunset we moved out in the direction of Lafayette and took the road leading across Pigeon Mountain to a point in Crawfish Valley near Lee & Gordon's Mills, which place we reached after a very dusty and fatiguing march, at about 10 O'Clock P.M. bivouacking in an old open field, on the side of a spur of the range of mountains,

near a large and clear spring. Being near a potatoe patch and a sugarcane field, both were soon cleared of their harvest, almost as quickly as I write this, sweeping both fields as though a harrow had passed over them. The Yanks destroy and steal of the citizens all stock and wearing apparel, but our men equally as quick, press all eatables, so between both armies the poor citizen is left almost destitute of either food or raiment.

On the 17th at daylight we moved out and formed line of battle near the Chattanooga and Lafayette roads where it crosses the Chickamauga. Heavy skirmishing with the enemy was carried on near all day, but night put an end to hostilities.

Chickamauga

On the 18th cannonading opened on our right, and soon the word came that Cheatham's and Buckner were forcing their way across the ever memorable Chickamauga. Some few wounded were brought in, one or two only being seriously wounded. Heavy musketry was heard about dark and I knew that the Rubicon was crossed. I was attacked by a chill, succeeded by fever, which lasted a week, but again passed off.

At daylight on the 19th the attack was made on our right and soon the booming of cannons and the rattle of musketry was heard, telling the death knell of many a brave soldier, and of the destructive effects of war. The heavy firing continued near all day, lasting until dark, when

night put an end to hostilities. Our Brigade suffered severely - killed 80; wounded 454; and missing 24 - making a total of 558. The result of this ever memorable Battle of Chickamauga was a complete and glorious victory by the Army of Tenn. over a boastful and haughty foe, with a loss to him of ___ prisoners, ___ pieces of artillery, ___ stand of small arms and ___ stands of Colors. The battlefield was literally strewn with the killed, dying and wounded of both armies, those of the enemy greatly outnumbering our own. Horses lay promiscuously over the field and in several places, and one particularly, where Carnes' Battery, Wright's Brigade, Cheatham's Division was captured by the enemy but retaken, they lay in heaps of 10 and 12.

Never did troops enter into a fight in better spirits and more eager to meet the foe, and well and nobly did they uphold and carry the Stars and Bars on the 19th and 20th of September, 1863, making them days to which they can excitedly point as those on which they added renewed lustre to the already bright Arms of the Confederacy.

All was under the immediate supervision of our beloved General Braxton Bragg and well has he established his claims to genius, ability and consummate generalship, and the future historian in detailing the accounts of the bloody Battle of Chickamauga will but show to the world with what a masterly hand those troops were handled and maneuvered - leaving bright and luminous in the

gallery of our great Generals, the star of our
Braxton Bragg.

On Sunday night (19) the enemy retreated
toward Chattanooga - On the 20th our troops
commenced the pursuit about midday, the
forenoon having been employed in burying the
dead. Our Division encamped at the juncture of the
Chattanooga and Egleville with the
Chickamauga and Lafayette roads. We remained
here all day on the 21st and on the 23rd at
daylight moved in the direction of Chattanooga
reaching Missionary Ridge about midday and
descending on the Chattanooga side for about a
quarter - where we were again drawn up in line of
battle and all expected to assault the enemy's

works. Late in the evening the enemy's heavy guns were opened on us, with but very slight casualties.

On the 24th, the Division was moved back to the ridge out of range, and there again aligned. Our Batteries were all put into position ready to open at the command. The enemy engaged in strengthening their works, having a chain of Forts and the town of Chattanooga entirely environed with entrenchments. Headquarters are established on top of the ridge where the Chickamauga and Chattanooga road crosses it.

With the exception of occasional picket firing, all remained quiet and nothing to mar the dull monotony until the 30th - when a flag of truce passed and an exchange of wounded agreed upon.

Ambulances were immediately sent forward and 2500 of the enemy's wounded sent their lines, while they only had 40 of ours. It is rumored that Brig. General Dan Adams of our Army, who was wounded at Chickamauga and taken prisoner, requested to be left inside the enemy's lines until better able to stand the trials of a move.

On the 1st and 2nd a hard rain drenched the earth and all nature seemed to smile after the refreshing shower. The evening of the 2nd it cleared up and all was clear and serene and the atmosphere very pure.

On the third all remained in status quo - not a gun firing.

Headquarters were again removed to the top of ridge where Shallow Ford and Chattanooga road crosses it. A beautiful and picturesque view is here presented of the Chattanooga Valley. On the left the Lookout point looms up in the distance, then come the line of entrenchments and chain of forts of the enemy, interspersed with their many white tents, the principal fort being just to right of the town, which is almost entirely obscured from sight by the timber and on the right quietly flows the placid Tennessee, across which the enemy have a pontoon - and further to the right and to the rear, rises up Waldron's Ridge - while in front spreads out the Valley of rolling ground made beautiful and interesting by the many fine residences seen and

*the ruins of what once were the palatial residences
environing Chattanooga - and striking one
forcibly of the vandalism of the Abolition hordes
who would subjugate us.*

*On the 4th preparations were made and guns
planted to open upon the enemy at daylight. Lt.
Genl. Polk and Major General Hinderman have
both been relieved of their Commands, the former
for disobedience of orders on the field and the
latter for disobedience of orders while
commanding forces at McLemore's Cave.*

*Lt. General Longstreet has issued the following
address to the troops under his Command during
the Battle, of which our Division constituted a part:
Headquarters Left Wing*

Army of Tennessee

September 23, 1863

The Lt. General Commanding expresses his congratulations to the brave troops of his Command on the brilliant victory which has crowned their heroic efforts.

The enemy, lately, so defiant and exulting has been driven from his chosen positions with slaughter, and the loss of artillery, prisoners, arms and colors. To this glorious result you have contributed no mean share.

The gallant troops of the Army of the Tennessee have also once more exhibited that prowess that has ever illustrated the bloody battlefields of the West, and have fulfilled the high expectations that

were entertained for them. Side by side with their brave comrades from Virginia, they have breasted the wave of invasion and rolled it back.

Soldiers! Much has been done, but not all. The fruits of your splendid victory are to be enjoyed. Tennessee and Kentucky with their rolling fields and smiling valleys, are to be reclaimed to freedom and independence - You are to be the agents for their deliverance, and your task requires the same heroic fortitude, patience and courage always shown by you in the trying past.

Your General looks to you for renewed exertions

-

Sgd/ J. Longstreet

Lt. Genl.

On the morning of the 5th, as soon as the fog and smoke had cleared away, our Batteries opened a slow fire, which were but slowly answered by the enemy. What amount of damage was done, I cannot say, but there was considerable stir caused in the Yankee Camp. Two or three guns were fired after dark, but no reply by the enemy...also one at about 3 O'Clock A.M. on the 6th. This day all was quiet and only one gun fired during the day and that one by the Yanks, eliciting no reply from our side. A steamboat was today seen near all day, assisting in repairing the trestle bridge over the river which had been washed away by the rise in the river. Reported that Wheeler has burned two

trains of supplies for the enemy in Soquatchio Valley - 500 wagons. Hope it is true.

President Davis reported to be on his way to visit the Army of Tennessee.

General Polk on being relieved of Command issued the following address to the troops:

Hd. Qtrs. Polk's Corp A.T.

Missionary Ridge, Sept. 30, 1863

To the Officers and Soldiers of Polk's Corps:

In consequence of an unfortunate disagreement between myself and the Commander in Chief of the Department, I have been relieved of my Command, and am about to retire from the Army. Without attempting to explain the circumstances of this disagreement or prejudicing

the public mind by a premature appeal to its judgment, I must be permitted to express my unqualified conviction of the rectitude of my conduct and that time and investigation will amply vindicate my action on the field of "Chickamauga."

I cannot, however, part even temporarily with the gallant officers and soldiers of my old Corps, without the deepest feeling of regret, and a heartfelt expression of my gratitude for the courage, conduct and devotion, they have always manifested while under my Command.

Belmont, Shiloh, Perryville, Murfreesboro and Chickamauga, all attest on your part the very

highest soldierly qualities, and are crowded with precious memories.

Contending with our numerous, well appointed and merciless enemy, for all that man holds dear, you have borne unexampled privations with fortitude, fought with indomitable bravery, and ever yielded a ready and cheerful obedience to your Officers. Soldiers who struggle in such a cause and with such hearts "can never be conquered." - Clouds and darkness may enshroud you for a time, but the sunlight of the future is bright and glowing. The blood of the Patriots is never shed in vain, and our final Victory is certain and assured.

Whoever commands you, my earnest exhortation and request to you is, to fight on and fight ever with true hearts until your independence is achieved. Thousands of hearts may fall crushed and bleeding under the weapons of the foe, or the passions or mistakes of friends, but the great cause must never be sacrificed, or our flag abandoned. Our cause is just and your duty to your Country and God is as clear as the sun in the heavens.

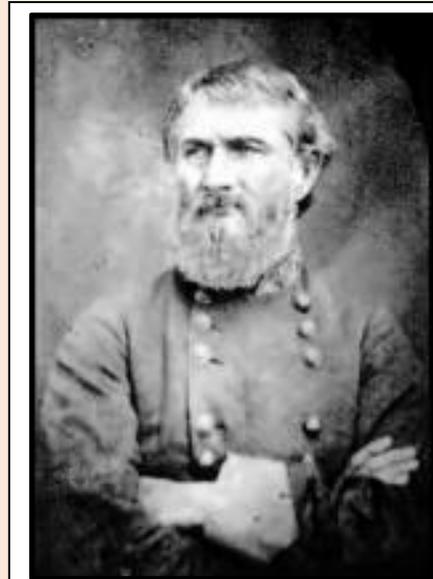


Figure 9 Gen. Leonidas Polk, "The Fighting Bishop". In 1844, he built St. John's Episcopal Church in Thibodaux.

I leave my Command in the care of the bravest of the brave, who has often led them in the darkest

hour of their trials; he and you will have my hopes and prayers to the Ruler of the Universe, for your happiness and success.

Your kindness, devotion and respect for me exhibited during the years of our association both in camp and on the field is graven on my heart and will be treasured there until it ceases to beat.

Your Friend,

Sgd/ Leonidas Polk

Lt. Genl.

On the 7th all quiet, with the exception of an occasional gun - nobody hurt.

On the 8th, various rumors afloat - among others the arrival of the President. Several guns

fired during the day. Yankee captured confirms burning of wagons by Wheeler.

On the 9th all quiet. President arrived, is the guest of General Bragg.

On the 10th President, accompanied by General Bragg and Staff rode along the lines and spoke to the troops in glowing terms of our prospects and the condition of affairs. In the afternoon had grand "powwow" with General Officers.

Reported that reinforcements to Rosencranz are near him...exchanged papers with the Yanks, who had no later dates than the 3rd - and apologized by saying that their mail facilities were bad just at present, but the truth is that Wheeler has taken charge of R.R. & C. - General Morgan

soon to be exchanged for General Neal Dow, the Maine liquor law man, in our hands.

Reported that we are constructing pontoons above, which looks like a forward move - hope so.

On the 11th, all quiet - not a gun being fired - rumors afloat of further doings by Wheeler, but nothing authentic. - President still here - today riding over the ever memorable field of Chickamauga.

On the 12th - nothing worthy of note transpired. All quiet - at about dark rain commenced to fall and continued throughout the night. - The President, being serenaded, made a speech to the crowd, telling them that he had just returned from a ride over the field, and thinks

that any General who could lead an army over such a field to Victory was deserving the implicit confidence of the troops and of the country, as he had his, and furthermore that the first duty of a soldier, from the lowest private to the general, was implicit and immediate obedience to all orders of their superiors.

On the 13th, being the day of election in Ohio, our batteries all along the line were ordered to open on the enemy at 10 A.M., but subsequently the order was revoked, in consequence of the very inclement weather. Rains continuing to fall throughout the day and following night.

On the 14th rain continues. - Confirmation of Wheeler's exploits, from himself, having with his

Command, arrived at Courtland, Alabama. He burned the railroad bridges over Elk River at Alisonia, over Hickory Creek near McMinnville, over Duck River near Wartrace and over Stone River near Murfreesboro. He captured and destroyed between 700 and 1,000 wagons and captured the town of McMinnville, together with its garrison (the 4th Tenn. (Fed)), and says he burned a larger supply there of stores, than he has seen collected at one point since the war, taking 12 hours to burn them. He also captured the town of Shelbyville, with its garrison, and destroyed some stores there, and although heavily pursued toward the last by the enemy, reached Dixie in safety, but with heavy losses. Bully for Wheeler!

On the 15th rain continues until 7 P.M. when it clears off. All quiet - no news.

President issues an address to the troops as follows:

Hd. Qtrs. Army of Tennessee

Near Chattanooga, Oct. 14th, 1863

Soldiers!

A grateful country has recognized your arduous service and rejoiced over your glorious victory on the field of Chickamauga.

When your countrymen shall more fully learn the adverse circumstances under which you attacked the enemy, though they cannot be more thankful, they may admire more the gallantry and patriotic devotion which secured your success.

Representatives of every State in the Confederacy, your steps have been followed with affectionate solicitude by friends in every portion of the country. Defenders of the heart of our territory, your movements have been the object of interest and anxiety. The hopes of our cause greatly depend upon you, and happy it is that all can securely rely upon your achieving whatever, under the blessings of Providence human power can effect. Though you have done much, very much remains to be done.

Behind you is a people providing for your support, and depending upon you for protection. Before you is a Country devastated by your ruthless invader, where gentle woman, feeble age, and helpless infancy have been subjected to outrages

without parallel in the warfare of civilized nations. With eagerness they watch for your coming to their deliverance; and the homeless refugee pines for the hour when your victorious arms shall restore his family to the shelter from which they have been driven.

Forced to take up arms to vindicate the political rights, the freedom, equality and state sovereignty which were the heritage purchased by the blood of your Revolutionary sires, you have but the alternative of slavish subscription to despotic usurpation, on the independence which vigorous, united, and persistent effort will secure. All which fires the manly breast, nerves the patriot, and exalts the hero is present to stimulate and sustain

you. Nobly have you redeemed the pledges given in the name of Freedom to the memory of your ancestors and the rights of your posterity.

That you may complete the mission to which you are devoted, will require of you such exertions in the future, as you have made in the past; continuance in the patient endurance of toil and danger, and that self denial that rejects every consideration at variance with the public service as unworthy of the holy cause in which you are engaged.

When the war shall have ended, the highest of praise will be due and probably given to him who has claimed least for himself in proportion to service he has rendered; and the bitterest self

reproach which may hereafter haunt the memory of anyone, will be to him who has allowed selfish aspirations to prevail over a desire for the public good. United as you are in a common destiny, obedience and cordial co-operation are essentially necessary, and there is no higher duty than that which requires each to give to all, what is due to their station. He who sows the seed of discontent and distrust prepares for the harvest of slaughter and defeat. To zeal you have added gallantry; to gallantry, energy; to energy, fortitude. Crown these with harmony, due subordination and cheerful support of lawful authority that the measure of your duty may be full.

I fervently hope that the ferocious war unjustly waged against our Country, may soon be ended - that, with the blessings of Peace, you may be restored to your homes and useful pursuits - and I pray that our Heavenly Father may cover you with the shield of His protection in the hours of battle, and endow you with the virtues which will close your trials in Victory complete.

Sgd/ Jefferson Davis

On the 16th weather cleared off beautifully after the rain and quite a cool breeze blowing. All quiet in front. Various rumors afloat, one being of a great victory in Virginia by Lee over Meade and another of the election of Vallandigham by 70,000 majority, but both want confirmation.

On the 18th rain again commenced and continued all day. Rumors of a victory in Mississippi, La. and confirmation of the victory in Va., but no particulars. Lt. Genl. D.H. Hill relieved and ordered to report to War Department caused by his heading a petition to President for the removal of our beloved Chief - Braxton Bragg.

On the 19th weather cleared off cold - went down to Chickamauga Station - received letter from home (Sept. 25th) - received news that Lee had driven the Yanks into their fortifications at Centreville - that Roddy's Cavalry had captured Stevenson and reported by scouts that Army of Rosencranz is living on two (2) crackers a day, the pickets giving a blanket or an overcoat for a few

biscuits, and also that the pickets in our front offer to exchange a blanket for a pone of cornbread.

This, if true, shows things in their true light and Rosencranz will either have to get up and dust or capitulate, but I have no idea he will wait until the latter alternative is necessary, but trust that he may be compelled so to do by matter of necessity.

On the 20th, beautiful clear day - reported that Banks and staff and eighteen (18) Regiments have been captured by General Dick Taylor in Louisiana - about a dozen shell fired at the enemy from Lookout. Received news of an address to the people of Mississippi, by the President adjuring them by all they hold dear, and for the relief of the Country at large, to now rally and relieve the

troops posted in the interior and reinforce General Bragg, in order to crush Rose's, and hasten an end to this struggle for independence. He also expresses a hope that, if all goes well, that with the coming of spring, not one enemy will tread our soil. God grant that his hopes may be realized.

On the 21st, was ordered to relieve Lt. R.M. Gill of the 41st Mississippi Regiment as A.A.A. Genl. of Brigade. At about 11 P.M. received order to send two regiments to the front of Cheatham's Div., it being ordered at once to Charlestown.

On the 22nd rained near all day, enemy all quiet.

On the 23rd clear day, enemy shelling occasionally, but nobody hurt.

On the 24th, all quiet raining again all day and wind very cold.

On the 25th Lookout Batteries firing on the enemy. Received news of the fight near Philadelphia, Penn. between our cavalry and the enemy, and the easy victory achieved.

On the 26th learned of Rosencranz being relieved by Thomas—thus had another of their leaders been decapitated, in consequence of a defeat, and but follows in the wake of McClellan, McDarell, Pope, etc.

On the 27th learned of the fight during the night between a part of Longstreet's corps and a corps of the enemy - no particulars - fight near Racoon Mountain at Wahatchie.

On the 28th, batteries from Lookout firing all day, enemy replying occasionally. Sleet fell all afternoon and wind very cold.

On the 29th, was relieved of duty as A.A.A. General by return of Capt. Walker Anderson. Weather very cold. Our batteries and those of the enemy exchanging shots, nobody hurt.

On the 30th, all quiet, weather cold and wind boisterous. Various rumors afloat but nothing reliable.

On the 31st, our batteries engage those of the enemy and keep up the fire throughout the day with what effect - is unknown. Learned of Lt. Genl. Polk being ordered to Miss. and of Lt. Genl. Hardee returning to this command.

On the 1st of November weather still cold - moved headquarters to top of ridge. News confirmed of the exchange of Corps Commanders. Batteries for Lookout firing all day, but result unknown.

On the 2nd, weather cloudy, with prospects of rain, early in the morning batteries on Lookout firing - afternoon, enemy's batteries shelling our picket lines. Reported that Maj. Genl. Cheatham has been relieved of his duty with this Command and that Maj. Genl. Buckner has asked to be relieved. Reports lack confirmation.

On the 3rd weather hazy and threatening rain. Reported that Maj. Genl. John C. Breckenridge has been made Lt. Genl. - Rumored

that A.P. Hill's Corp from Va. are on the way to this point. Received letter for Jule dated N.Y. Aug. 20, 1863 per flag of truce at Richmond.

On the 4th all quiet, with an occasional firing of a gun. Lt. Genl. Hardee assigned to duty with this Corps. McLaw's Division of Longstreet's Corps gone to East Tenn.

On the 5th, rain near all day, cold, boisterous wind blowing. Nothing new stirring. Received letter from home, 12th Oct.

On the 6th enemy shelling our pickets. Walthall's Brigade exchanged for Vaughn's Brigade of Cheatham's Div. - Received order announcing assumption of Command by Genl.

Hardee. Longstreet's Corps gone to Loudon or thereabouts, and stirring times looked for soon.

On the 7th all quiet. Cheatham's Div. returned from neighborhood of Loudon, having been relieved by Longstreet's Corps.

On the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th, nothing worthy of note transpired. Indian summers have set in and the weather is very pleasant. Batteries at Lookout still keep up a fire, daily salutations.

On the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th all quiet, weather rather exchangeable. Batteries on Lookout keep up a daily fire for the enemy.

On the 17th, was aroused in the morning by a heavy fire of artillery on the right of our line, which turned out to be our batteries shelling the

enemy across the river, where they had erected winter quarters. One man severely wounded on our side, extent of damage to enemy not known.

Received of 18th Oct. from home.

On the 18th very dense and heavy fog pervading the atmosphere during the morning and forenoon - Weather Indian summer like.

On the 19th nothing worthy of interest transpired - guns fired occasionally. The following general order published to the army:

Headquarters Army of Tenn.

Missionary Ridge

Nov. 16/63

Genl. Orders No. 208

That the enemy does not intend to carry out in good faith the cartel agreed on between his Government and the Confederate States for the exchange of prisoners of war, has long been demonstrated by his acts and is now officially recognized.

Such a cruel proceeding so opposed to the laws of humanity and an enlightened civilization, is a virtual acknowledgment by the enemy of his inferiority; and it shows a craft and cunning worthy of the Yankee, in imposing upon us the maintenance of thousands of his prisoners, that they may consume the substance which should go to the support of our gallant men and their families.

This should be known to our officers and men. They should know that, if taken prisoners, those who survive their cruel treatment will be forced to languish in Northern dungeons until the close of the war, subjected to the taunts and barbarity of a merciless foe. If their liberty and their lives must be lost, the alternative of Honorable Death on the field of battle, nobly fighting for the cause of freedom, will be accepted by brave and patriotic Southern soldiers.

The General deems it his duty to announce these facts to the troops of his Command. The designs of the enemy are transparent and our officers and our soldiers are forced to accept the policy imposed by him.

By Command of

General Bragg

Sgd. Geo. W. Brent

A.A.G.

On the 20th and 21st nothing worthy of note to indite.

On the 22nd, Buckner's Division moving past our line were shelled by the enemy and several were wounded. One shell fell on top of the Ridge near headquarters and threw the dust around in all directions. Nobody hurt but everyone scared and trees were in demand. The enemy shelled all along the lines during the day, but with very little effect.

On the 23rd batteries opened bright and early but nothing worthy of note transpired, until about

2 P.M. when a large body of troops estimated at about 10,000 who had been in full view in our immediate front deployed in line and their skirmishes being deployed on the sides, the whole advanced, and driving back our picket, took possession of two hills in front of our brigade, but guarded by 28 Ala. Regt., Manigault's Brigade. Picket firing was kept up the balance of the evening, when night put an end to all hostilities. The sight was beautiful to see - the long lines of Yankee troops as they were marshaled in battle array, and deployed, advancing in as perfect a line as if on dress parade. All preparations were made for the resistance of an attack at daylight.

Thus ended my 24th birthday, all bustle and confusion.

On the 24th the enemy made a vigorous attack on Lookout Mountain, but were driven back with heavy loss. Walthall's Miss. Brigade sustained the brunt of the attack, and well did they do the duty assigned them. Repeated attacks were made on the left of our line, but as often repulsed. Heavy cannonading and musketry raged throughout the day on the left and to some extent on the extreme right of our line. But the enemy gained no foothold and every attempt of theirs was foiled. During the night no forces evacuated Lookout Mountain and all the troops concentrated on

Missionary Ridge, preparatory to an expected assault on that position in the morning.

At daylight on the 25th, an attack was made on our right, but repulsed and from that time to mid-day, when a lull ensued, the battle raged in all its fury. Seven successive assaults were made by the enemy, but as often they compelled to fall back under the terrible and galling fire of the invincible hosts of Cleburne and Cheatham. A number of prisoners were captured, and 8 stands of colors. At about 3 P.M. the enemy advanced on our centre, and about 4 1/2 P.M. the left centre having given way, the enemy gained an advantageous position, which they improved and soon compelled the whole line to fall back, leaving about 40 pieces

of artillery and a number of prisoners in the hands of the enemy. The enemy fought with a desperation worthy of a better cause and prisoners captured state that General Grant promised them that if they carried the Ridge, he would give them a furlough of 60 days and bounty of 600 dollars, which I do not doubt to be true, but that it is one of those promises held up to the eye and ear, but doomed to be broken to the hope. About 9 P.M. having been ordered across the creek to the wagons with the papers of the Brigade, when we received orders to move forward toward Ringgold, Ga., which we did, and travelled until 3 A.M. on the following morning when we halted within 1 mile of Ringgold.

Longstreet reported to have captured Burnside and his army, but lacks confirmation. The loss of our Brigade in the fight was as follows: Killed 11, wounded 73, missing 182 - making a total of 266.

On the 26th moved through Ringgold and traveled all day, passing through ___ Hill and encamping for the night at Dalton, Ga.

On the 28th, moved through Dalton, Ga., down the Resaca Road and traveled in a hard rain and over miserable road all day and night, arriving at Resaca about 12 M. on the 29th. Just before starting from Dalton, the Brigade came up with us and remained at Dalton. Cleburn's Division were the rear guard of the army, and held the enemy back.

On the morning of the 30th started back to Dalton, which place we reached at about 12 M. on the 1st of December and were immediately ordered out to the Brigade on picket three miles to the front, on the red clay road, where we arrived at about dusk.

On the 2nd nothing new, all quiet. Longstreet reported falling back and Burnside in pursuit. Cleburne reported to have whipped the enemy near T___ Hill. Reported that General Bragg intends to resign or retire from the Army.

On the 3rd received confirmation of the report in the following General order:

Hd. Qtrs. Army of Tenn.

Dalton, Ga. Dec. 2/63

Gen'l orders

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Upon renewed application to the President, his consent has been obtained for the relinquishment of the Command of this Army. It is accordingly transferred to Lt. Genl. Hardee.

The announcement of this separation is made with unfeigned regret. The association of more than two years which bound together a commander and his trusted troops, cannot be severed without deep emotion. A common cause and dangers shared on the many hard fought fields from Pensacola to Chickamauga, have cemented bonds, which time even can never impair.

The circumstances which render this step proper, will be appreciated, however, by every good soldier and true patriot, and the last appeal the General has to make to the gallant army which has so long and so nobly sustained him, is to give to his successor, that cordial and generous support so essential to the success of our arms. In that successor you have a veteran whose brilliant reputation you have aided to achieve. He cannot fail, if properly sustained, to fill the measure of our Country's expectations.

To the Officers of my general staff, who have so long, so zealously and so successfully struggled against serious difficulties, in support of the Army and myself, is due in great degree, what little of

success and fame we have achieved. In bidding them and the Army an affectionate farewell, they have the blessing and the prayers of a grateful friend.

S/ Braxton Bragg

Genl. C.S.A.

Official

G.W. Brent (Sgd.)

A.A.G.

Thus was retired from the field of active operations one of the master spirits of the revolution, and whose place neither in the Army, which he has so long and so well commanded, nor in the affections of his troops, can never be filled. Long may he live to enjoy the benefits of his well

earned reputation, and the future Historian in chronicling the events and the lives of our great men, will hoist on high the name of Braxton Bragg, as synonymous with cool courage, consummate bravery, and determined devotion to the cause he espoused and served so well. Reported that General J. Johnston succeeds to the command of the army.

On the 4th all quiet, and various rumors afloat. Received following general order from General Hardee assuming command of the Army of Tennessee.

Hdqtrs. Army of Tenn.

Dalton, Ga Dec. 2/63

To the Soldiers of the Army of Tenn. !

General Bragg having been relieved from duty with this Army, the command has devolved upon me.

The steady purpose, the unflinching courage, and the unsullied patriotism of the distinguished leader who has shared your fortunes for more than a year, will be long remembered by this Army, and by the Country he has served so well.

I desire to say, in assuming command, that there is no cause for discouragement. The overwhelming numbers of the enemy forced us back from Missionary Ridge; but the army is still intact, and in good heart. Our losses were small and will be rapidly replaced. The country is looking to you with painful interest. I feel that it can rely upon

you. Only the weak and the timid need to be cheered by constant success. The veterans of Shiloh, Perryville, Murfreesboro, and Chickamauga require no such stimulus to sustain their courage and resolution. Let the past take care of itself; we can and must secure the future.

W.J. Hardee

Lt. Genl. CACS

Official

Kinlock Falconer

AAG

On the night of the 4th Genl. Bragg left for Newman where his family now reside.

On the 5th all quiet, nothing worthy of interest transpired. Cannonading heard in the direction of Ringgold.

On the 6th all quiet. Cavalry ordered to the front. Longstreet reported to have raised the siege of Knoxville and to be retreating into Virginia.

News received of the rapid retreat of Meade toward Washington, pursued by Lee. Rumored that Beauregard is to succeed Bragg. - Wrote letter to Col. Shaw.

On the 7th all quiet in front - weather dark and cloudy. Today meets the Congress at Richmond, as also does the Congress at Washington. Both have fearful responsibilities before them. The people of both Countries will look

to them for relief from the miseries and calamities of direful war.

On the 8th all quiet in front. Rains and cold all day and night. Not even a rumor afloat. Papers report death of King of Denmark on 15th of November, 1863.

On 9th weather fine and bracing. All quiet in front. Dame rumor has it that our Brigade goes to Miss. to recruit. Longstreet reported, in consequence of heavy reinforcements to Burnside, to have raised the siege of Knoxville and to be falling back toward Atlanta. His wagon train reported as having passed through Murphy, N.C. day before yesterday.

On the 10th all quiet - nothing stirring.

On the 11th, weather hazy. Cavalry report Yankees advancing but believed, however, as there is no cannonading heard.

On the 12th rainy and disagreeable all day. Scouts report all Yanks withdrawn to Chattanooga. Received letter stating that Natchez was invested on the 6th inst. and expected to be taken by the Rebs.

On the 13th, all quiet in front. Received synopsis of the President's message, which is a very able document, and a literary production that would adorn any age, or prove the eminent statesmanship of any man. The President handled all subjects that now present themselves to our country, and clearly and forcibly presents

remedies, for the evils that exist. Particularly well does he touch upon our foreign relations and exposes to the world the treachery and double dealing and perfidiousness of the British Nation in their actions toward this Country.

On the 14th all quiet in front, although the Cavalry is in considerable commotion. Received news of the safety of Longstreet's Command in Est. Tenn. Were visited by several young ladies of the neighborhood, who came to witness dress parade and to hear the bands play.

On the 15th all quiet, visited Dalton today, as also Div. Hd. Qtrs. and had a long chat with General Anderson. Among other things, he gave as his opinion, as the cause of our troops running at

Missionary Ridge in the late engagement the following: 1st. The demoralizing influence of the newspaper criticism upon Genl. Bragg, which had possessed the troops unconscious though they were of the existence of such influence, and want of confidence in the Commanding General. - 2nd. The apparent and palpable success of the enemy at Lookout Point, which our troops were led to believe was impregnable. 3rd. The unfortunate transfer on the eve of the battle of several of the Brigade and under different commanders with whom they were unacquainted and in whom there was naturally a want of confidence. 4th. The bad management of putting one half the forces below and the other half on top of the ridge, which necessarily incurred the

demoralization of the troops either at one place or the other. 5th. The overwhelming and grand display in all the glorious pomp and circumstance of war of the enemy all the time, from the commencement of the fight to the time of the attack, which of course disheartened our troops knowing that they had only one line to cope against three or four; and 6th - that the brand of Providence was visible, in the conduct of our troops, for had they fought with their accustomed bravery and intrepidity and had held their ground, the whole tea party would have been captured, as the enemy had, unknown to anyone in our army, had a full Corps. Div. and Brigade in our rear and were awaiting an opportune moment

to make the attack. - These are in my opinion sufficient reasons for the conduct of our troops on that memorable 25th of Nov. 1863.

On the 16th, all quiet, and nothing unusual occurring to mar the dull monotony.

On the 17th received synopsis of Abe. Lincoln's message. He offers a general amnesty and pardon to all who will take a prescribed oath to the support of his government, with the restoration of all property except slaves. This is offered to all persons in the army below the rank of Brig. General. This is a virtual acknowledgment of his inability to subdue the rebellion and I look for its having a very salutary effect in Europe, for us, although not much is expected in our favor of Europe.

On the 18th, 19th and 20th all quiet - and nothing new except the escape of John Morgan from the Ohio Penitentiary. Rumored that Jos. E.

Johnston takes command of the army on Wednesday.

On the 21st and 22nd all quiet. Capt. A. left for home and I was assigned to duty as A.A.A.G. of the Brig.

On the 23rd Genl. Jos. E. Johnston assumed command of the Army.

On the 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st nothing worthy of note. Christmas passed off very dull, although had eggnog, and turkey stuffed with oysters, etc.

1864

On the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th all quiet.

Capt. Anderson returned from leave, sent up application for furlough of 30 days.

On the 6th, 7th and 8th weather very cold.

Snow on ground morning of 8th. Received furlough app. evening of 8th. On 9th started for home on train at 8 O'Clock P.M. Weather bitter cold.

February 12th - Arrived in camp from home.

Had quite pleasant trip.

All quiet in front until the 22nd when it was reported the enemy were advancing.

Morning of the 23rd, the army was put in line of battle ready to receive the advance. The Army was in line 5 days, but the enemy did not attack

us, excepting in front of Stewart's Div., when they were handsomely repulsed, and doubtless thought that if their reception by Reynold's and Clayton's Brigades were an earnest of what was in store for them that "discretion was the better part of valor", and they accordingly retired.

On the 28th, the troops all returned to their former encampments and quiet again reigned supreme.

29th all quiet. - Not even a rumor.

On the 1st received order of Lt. Genl. Hood, assuming command of our Corps. His address is as follows:

Hd. Qrs. Hood's Corps. A.T.

Dalton, Ga. Mar. 1st. 1864

Genl. Orders

No. 31

The Lt. Genl. Com'd'g. desires to say to the Officers and men of this Corps that, though he comes among them a stranger, he trusts they will not be strangers long. He has come to share their hardships and their dangers - their pleasures and their triumphs. The welfare of the Command will be the object of his most anxious solicitude; to fight it successfully in the day of action is his highest ambition. But the history of war teaches that two thirds of the elements of success in battle consist in preparation for it. He will, therefore, expect from all prompt and cheerful compliance with orders and the requirements of discipline, and a cordial

cooperation with him in his efforts to carry this Corps to the highest point of Military efficiency. A short period will perhaps elapse before the opening of the campaign.

Let us employ each day with singleness of purpose in perfecting our drill, our organization, and our discipline; and we may confidently await the trial of arms.

By - Command of Lt. General Hood

Sgd/ Archer Anderson

A.A. Genl.

On the 2nd and 3rd, all quiet and nothing to chronicle. I forgot to make mention on the 28th of the promotion of Brig. Genl. Patton Anderson, and

his transfer to Dept. of Fla. - He issued the following address:

Hd. Qtrs. Hinderman's Div. & Co.

Dalton, Ga. Feb. 27/64.

"Circular"

"Called by the order of the President to another field of action, I am compelled to bid farewell to the gallant Division whose fortunes it has been so long my privilege to share. While cheerfully obeying the order to go where-ever my services are deemed most needful; I cannot part without regret from troops who have so worthily seconded my poor efforts in behalf of our sacred cause.

"Past scenes of peril and privation, bravely encountered by you all, have taught me to regard

you not only as comrade soldiers, but as long tried friends. Let me then appeal to you to continue in the path of honor and duty. Toil, danger and bodily suffering are minor evils compared with the damning disgrace that must inevitably attach to every man who now betrays the trust reposed in him by our country. Be in the future as you have been in the past - true, patriot, soldiers - aiming only to do your duty to your country and your God, and reason will ere long return to the foe who so madly strives to enslave us. He will withdraw his baffled hirelings from our soil, and leave us to enjoy in peace the independence so nobly won.

To my own brigade, I would say that the honor they, whilst bearing it, have reflected on my name,

shall never been sullied by act of mine. Past associations have knit us even more closely to it, than to the other gallant brigades of this Division; its rolls are filled by old familiar names - its ranks are thronged by old familiar faces; I have ever felt myself identified with its interests and striven with such ability as I possess to promote them.

Comrades and friends, I bid you - Farewell.

Sgd./ Patton Anderson

Major Genl.

Official:

W.G. Barth / Sgd.

A.A.G.

On the 4th all quiet. On the 5th General Hood reviewed the troops of Hinderman's and Stevenson's

Div. General Hood is a fine looking man, and although he lost a leg at Chickamauga he has recovered and is again in the saddle to battle for our cause.

On the 5th General Hinderman left on 30-days leave, having tendered his resignation. It is thought he has taken this step because Hood, his junior, was promoted over him. If this be so, I hope the President will accept his resignation, as I think that any man that would resign or fuss over such a cause has no interest in our cause whatever, his main object being to satisfy his ambitions and seeking personal aggrandizement.

On the 7th received news of the enemy under Sherman having come to grief.

On the 8th all quiet. Reported that Lt. Genl. E. Kirby Smith has been promoted to full General P.A.C.S. All quiet in front.

On the 9th all quiet in front. Rumored that Genl. Hinderman has been made Lt. General. I hope it is not so. Read particulars of the raid on Richmond, by General Kilpatrick, which was indeed a bold and daring affair, and came very near being successful. About dark, rain began to fall and continued almost throughout the entire night.

On the 10th weather cleared off beautifully. Review of our Brigade ordered for today is postponed in consequence of the rain last night.

On the 11th weather clear and beautiful, although rain fell again last night. Review of Brigade took place today by Gen. Hood who was very much pleased with its appearance, pronouncing it the second best Brigade in the Army; the Kentucky Brigade being the first. Hood's Inspector General pronounced our transportation the best he had ever seen, either in this or the Virginia Army. Quite a compliment to the old "High Pressure."

On the 12th, nothing worthy of note transpired. All quiet in front.

On the 13th, paid a visit to the Brigade. Found boys all well and in the very best of spirits. All anxious to be on the move. All quiet in front. Not

even a rumor afloat. Read in the papers account of the great fire in Natchez, on the 12th February, 1864. Hope I may soon get a letter giving me detailed account of it and the losses incurred.

On the 14th weather turned very cold. All quiet in front. Appointment of Col. W.F. Tucker as Brig. Genl. received and carried to him. The appointment creates universal satisfaction.

On the 15th all quiet, weather still very cold.

On the 16th weather unchanged. Genl. Hood had a Corps drill and a sham battle which was very grand indeed. The troops formed in double line of battle and, amid the roar of the cannon and the rattle of musketry, and here and there a change in some part of the line, advanced about

3/4 mile. I think this is a good mode of keeping the troops in good spirits.

On the 17th nothing worthy of note transpired.

On the 18th General Deas left for 30 days.

Rumor says he goes to Europe. He has tendered his resignation. Genl. Walthall in command of Division.

On the 19th, all quiet in front - weather still cold, but somewhat moderated.

On the 20th paid a visit to Brigade and Company. Found all the boys well and in good spirits. Enemy's cavalry making some demonstrations but all to no purpose. Recognition rumors again started, which were of course only

gotten up for effect, and perhaps exist only in fact in the fertile brain of the author of rumor.

On the 20th, all quiet. No rumors afloat.

Weather still cold, but somewhat moderated.

On the 21st, all quiet. Weather turning colder.

At about 8 P.M. sleet began to fall.

On the 22nd in the morning snow covered the ground and all around nature had donned her flaky mantle. The troops had a gay time snow balling, and had regular battles. The General and field officers all participating. Received three letters from home - February 25 and Mar. 9. All quiet in front.

On the 23rd, snow still on the ground, but fast melting. Snow shines brightly. Mr. Howe from Natchez arrived.

On the 24th high wind all day - weather very cold - snow all gone. Received news of threatening aspect of affairs in Kentucky. Hope to see a rupture with the U.S. Government. All quiet in front.

On the 25th, all quiet. Rain fell near all day. Weather very cold.

On the 26th, all quiet. Received letter from home by Bob C. (Mar. 7th, 1864) No news. Snow again fell night of 25th but all melted away.

On the 27th, weather beautiful and springlike. Wrote home by Mr. Howe. Gipser arrived from home. Nothing new worthy of note.

*On the 28th, all quiet along the lines. -
threatening rain.*

*On the 29th all quiet, nothing new.
Hinderman's resignation disapp'd.*

*On the 30th, rain near all day, making it very
disagreeable.*

*On the 31st, all quiet, weather beautiful and
clear. Hardee's Corps had a grand rehearsal today,
preparatory to the grand sham fight of tomorrow.*

*On the 1st April, rain fell near all day.
Hardee's sham fight postponed. All quiet. Scandal
afloat concerning a certain Major General in our
Army. Wrote letters by Lt. Baker.*

*On the 2nd, weather still very bad. Went out to
Brigade. All quiet in front.*

On the 3rd, Genl. Hinderman arrived. Lt. Baker, with Shaw and Patterson, left for home. News of the destruction of Paducah, Ky. by Forrest, and capture of Union City, Tenn. by him received. All quiet in front.

On the 4th, received confirmation of news of Forrest's doings. Rumored that part of his army goes to Va. Hope it will be Hood's Corps. Weather still cold, rainy and windy.

On the 5th, Genl. Hinderman resumed command. Received news of an outbreak in Southern Illinois. The enemy evidently are making heavy demonstrations against Richmond. All quiet. Again rumored that we move soon to Va. Hardee's sham fight to come off tomorrow.

On the 6th, weather again bad, preventing the sham fight from coming off. Papers full of the uprising in Illinois, but like all other spontaneous commotions in the North it will soon again die out and amount to nothing.

On the 7th, the heavens, although cloudy in the early part of the morning, soon cleared off beautifully and a springlike day burst upon us. About 9 O'Clock, the troops of Hardee's Corps began to assemble and were put in position, while here and there, and everywhere could be seen ambulances filled with the fair sex who had come up to witness the grand sham fight. Many a battery of bright eyes was destined to play sad havoc that day, with some of the gay and festive staff officers

who were playing the gallant so hugely. At about 1 O'Clock P.M., all being ready, the battle commenced and the rattle of musketry and roar of artillery was almost incessant for about 2 hours, accompanied by the maneuvering of the troops here and there endeavoring to outflank the opposing side - here a charge accompanied by the well known yell of the Southern boys - and there a cavalry charge, repulsed by the sudden formation of a hollow square. The scene viewed from a very high point commanding the bold field, was exciting in the extreme. It was really a gala day for the ladies, but rather a severe tax upon our boys and was unnecessary expenditure of ammunition, but I suppose it was all for the diffusion of

interesting and entertaining knowledge. By 5 P.M. all the troops and fair sex had disappeared and quiet reigned supreme.

On the 8th, weather again bad, all quiet in front. Lemons sent up an application for furlough.

On the 9th, all quiet - weather cleared off beautifully.

On the 10th, Lemons left for home, on 30-days furlough. He really acted like he was "narrish", but I can well appreciate his joy, at after an absence of two years, being able to go to see all his relations.

On the 11th, nothing stirring. No news rumored. Papers full of the anticipated "On to Richmond" lead by the modern Ulysses, but like all

its predecessors, it will be a failure, it matters not what the odds.

On the 12th, all quiet - reported that 11 of our pickets captured yesterday. Weather again rainy and disagreeable. Papers in Atlanta suspended publication on account of strike of printers. Wrote letter home by Billy Sullivan.

On the 13th, all quiet. Visited the pickets of the Brigade, with Genl. Tucker. News of big fight in Louisiana received.

On the 14th, rain began to fall and continued all day.

On the 15th - all quiet - the 5 men of Manigault's Brigade condemned to be shot today, for desertion, were reprieved until the wish of the

President can be had. Miss M.E. Walker, Asst. S. 52

Ohio Rgt., was captured today by our pickets.

Twenty-two Yankees captured by the Cavalry near
Cleveland.

On the 16th - all quiet. In afternoon went out
to Brigade and in Company with Genl. T. passed
the picket lines, to a friend's house, where we
partook of a very nice supper. Returned to Brigade
Hd. Qtrs. 1 1/2 O'Clock P.M. - stayed all night.

On the 17th, weather beautiful and springlike.
Witnessed inspection of the Brigade, which is in
fine trim. Wrote letter home by Sgt. Benzel. Heard
that the Yankees at Natchez were playing the deuce
and had arrested a large number of the ladies,
Sister Ophelia among them, and had them all

confined in Court House. No letter from home of later date than Mar. 9th. News of the fight and Confederate Victory in Louisiana. Confirmed - Yankee loss reported at 17,000. Chalmers reported as having captured Fort Pillow.

On the 18th, day set apart for review, weather cloudy, rainy and disagreeable. Review postponed. Rumored that Genl. Forrest is dead - hope it is not so. Genl. S.D. Lee reported as advancing on Vicksburg. Gold quoted in N.Y. on 15th at 179. All quiet in front.

On the 19th, sun shone out beautifully, but very windy weather. The review of the army took place at about 12 O'Clock M. and passed off very well. The troops all looked very well and are well clad and

shod. Received particulars of the storming of Fort Pillow by Forrest and Chalmers, which is the most gallant thing of the war. All the garrison killed but 200, and pity that any were left.

On the 20th, beautiful weather, cannonading in front. Enemy reported to be massing troops in our front and stirring times expected soon. Forrest not dead. Gold in N.Y. quoted 18th at 180.

On the 21st, weather cloudy. All quiet in front. Received news of re-occupation of Paducah by Forrest and demand of surrender of Fort Halleck at Columbus Ky. Bully for Forrest! About dusk a drizzling rain began to fall. Gold quoted in N.Y. on 16th at as high as 189, but subsequently fell and closed at 178.

On the 23rd all quiet. Saw in the papers of the banishment from Natchez of several ladies, among them a Miss Ophelia Mayer, and am fearful that it is my sister and hope soon to hear. On the 23rd Wheeler's Cavalry had a little brush with the enemy and killed 20 outright and took 30 prisoners and 50 horses. The enemy massing heavy forces in our front and all expect them to come down upon us soon, but let them come and another Chickamauga with better fruits will be enacted in Georgia.

On the 24th, all quiet in front. Received news of gallant victory of Genl. H__ at Plymouth, N.C. - capturing a lot of prisoners and spoils. From every quarter, "Victory" is borne on the breeze, and

everything looks cheerful. Sent dispatch to Brookhaven to find out whereabouts of the Miss Ophelia Mayer banished from Natchez.

On the 25th, all quiet in front. Enemy very active and fight expected in the next 10 days. Received orders from Our Div. to move out into bivouac, to position in front.

On the 26th, all quiet. Div'n. moved out 3 1/2 miles, on Cleveland Road, beyond Dalton.

On the 27th, received news of the fight in Miss. Dept.

On the 28th, received following dispatch from Brookhaven, "Your Sister at home all right."

Further particulars received of fight at La.

On the 29th, all quiet. In the afternoon reported enemy advancing. Command held ready to move.

On the 30th, all quiet again. Everything looks hopeful and cheery.

On the 1st, rain fell very heavily all day. All quiet in front.

On the 2nd, enemy advanced again. Command ordered under arms, expected that fight comes off soon.

On the 3rd, news received that enemy are moving in Va. - All quiet in front - all serene yet.

On the 4th, Yankees advancing again. Troops under arms, command ready to move. In the afternoon, enemy retired.

On the 5th, all quiet. At about 10 O'Clock A.M., received noticed that the enemy were advancing - and for the Command to be held ready. At about 3 O'Clock P.M. wagons were ordered packed and loaded - and at about 7 P.M., troops were ordered to move to their respective positions in ranks. A fight is eminent - when it does come off, victory will perch on our banner and the discomfited foe will be forced to seek refuge beyond the Tennessee. I go into fight as Aide to Major Genl. T.C. Hinderman, our Div'n. Commander. Putting my trust in the God of Israel, I hope to come out safe and all O.K. - but should a wise Providence decree it otherwise, I humbly bow in submission to His will. If I fall, it will be with my feet to the field and my face to the

foe. - Received letters today from home by Lt. Baker, Shaw and Patterson who arrived last night. - Wrote to Alberto today.

1865

Apr. 10, 1865 (Note: This was one day after surrender at Appomattox and cessation of the war.)

Consolidation of Sharp's Miss. Brigade was effected as follows to be known as 9th Miss. Regt.

Colonel W.C. Richards

Lt. Col. S.S. Calhoun

Major J.M. Hicks

"A"

Capt. J.N. Atkinson

1st Lt. D.C. McRaney

2nd Lt. A. Garrow

"B"

Capt. Jas. W. Fite

1st Lt. J.M. Bates

2nd Lt. T. Bratton

"C"

Capt. T.H. Dickson

1st Lt. L. Pierce

2nd Lt. S.M. Garrett

"D"

Capt. T.W. Richards

1st Lt. Simon Mayer

2nd Lt. E. Weaver

"E"

Capt. T. Otis Baker

1st Lt. B.F. Robertson

2nd Lt. J.B. Farris

"F"

Capt. R.A. Bell

1st Lt. J.H. Rogers

2nd Lt. Thos. Fox

"G"

Capt. D.A. Campbell

1st Lt. J.W. Clingan

2nd Lt. J.W. Woodward

"H"

Capt. J.M. Nolan

1st Lt. L.K. Latham

2nd Lt. J.M. Mallett

"J"

Capt. E. Hood

1st Lt. J. Vance

2nd Lt. W.E. Waddell

"K"

Capt. G. Spooner

1st Lt. W.B. Brown

2nd Lt. J.P. Darden

Hd. Qrs. Mil. Div'n. of the West

In the Field Raleigh N.C.

April 27, 1865

S.F. Orders

V. 65

The General Com'd'g announces a further suspension of hostilities, and a final agreement with Genl. Johnston, which terminates the war as to

the armies under his command, and the country east of the Chattahoochie.

Copies of the terms of convention will be furnished Major Genl. Schofield, Gilmer and Wilson, who are specially charged with the execution of its details in the Department of N.C., Dept. of the South, and at Macon and Western Georgia.

Capt. Jasper Myers, Ordnance Dept. U.S.A. is hereby designated to receive the Arms, etc., at Greensboro and any Com'd'g. officer of a Post may receive the arms of any detachment and see that they are properly stored and accounted for. Genl. Schofield will procure at once the necessary blanks and supply the other Army Com'd'rs that uniformity

may prevail, and great care must be taken that all terms and stipulations on our part be fulfilled with the most scrupulous fidelity, whilst those imposed on our hitherto enemies be received in a spirit becoming a brave and generous Army.

Army Comdrs. may at once loan to the inhabitants such of the captured miles, horses, wagons and vehicles as can be spared from immediate use and the Comdg. Generals of Armies may give provisions, animals or any public supplies that can be spared to relieve present wants, and to encourage the inhabitants to renew their peaceful pursuits and to restore the relations of friendship among our fellow citizens and countrymen.

Foraging will forthwith cease, and when the necessity or long marches compel the taking of forage, provisions or any kind of private property, compensation will be made on the spot, or, when the disbursing officers are not provided with funds, vouchers will be given in proper form payable at the nearest military dept.

By order of -

Major Genl. W.T. Sherman

S/ L.M. Dayton

A.A. Genl.

Hd. Qrs. Army of Tenn.

April 27, 1865

Genl. Orders

No. 18

By the terms of a Military Convention made on the 26th inst. by Major Genl. W.T. Sherman, U.S.A. and Genl. E. Johnston, S.S.A., the officers and men of this Army are to bind themselves not to take up arms against the United States until properly relieved from that obligation and shall receive guarantees from the United States Officers against molestations by the United States authorities, so long as they observe that obligation and the laws enforced where they reside. For these objects, duplicate muster rolls will be made immediately and after the distribution of the necessary papers, the troops will be marched under their officers to

their respective States and there disbanded. All retaining personal property.

The object of this convention "pacification" to the extent of the authority of the Comdr. who made it.

Events in Virginia which broke every hope of success by war imposed on its General the duty of sparing the blood of this gallant Army, and saving our country from further desolation and our people from ruin.

S/ Jos. E. Johnston

General

On the 1st and 2nd, the Army was paroled at High Point, N.C. and Greensboro, N.C.

On the 3rd, the Corps moved homeward and marched to within 1/2 mile of Lexington, N.C. and encamped 5 miles beyond, having marched 23 1/2 miles. Received following farewell address from Genl. Johnston:

Hd. Qrs. Army of Tenn.

Near Greensboro, N.C. May 2/65

Genl. Orders

No. 22 - Comrades;

In terminating our official relations, I earnestly exhort you to observe faithfully the terms of pacification agreed upon, and to discharge the obligations of good and peaceful citizens at your homes as well as you have performed the duties of thorough soldiers in the field. By such a course you

will best secure the comfort of your families and kindred, and restore tranquility to our Country.

You will return to your homes with the admiration of our people, won by the courage and noble devotion you have displayed in this long war. I shall always remember with pride the loyal support and generous confidence given me.

I now part with you, with deep regret and bid you farewell with feelings of cordial friendship and with earnest wishes that you may have hereafter all the prosperity and happiness to be found in the world.

S/ Jos. E. Johnston

General

On the 5th resumed march at sunrise and encamped 10 miles from Charlotte, N.C.

On the 6th, passed through Charlotte and encamped 10 miles this side, near Baptist Church at Wm. Boyce's.

On the 7th, resumed march and encamped near Branch, having marched 18 miles in S.C. At 8 O'Clock we resumed the march and encamped at 1 A.M. near Brattanville, S.C. This night we separated from the Brigade.

On the 8th, we resumed the march at sunrise - passed through McConnellsville and crossed Broad River at S____ Ferry and encamped 1 mile this side. Tonight the rain fell in torrents but, while we

regretted to have it, the crops were really in need of it.

At sunrise on the 9th, we resumed the march and passed through Unionville and encamped on this side of the Henesee River, having marched 29 miles.

On the 10th we passed through Laurenceville, crossed Ready River at Tumbling shoals and encamped near Mr. Gilkerson's, having marched 25 miles.

On the 11th we crossed Saluda River at Gambrell's bridge and travelled 22 miles.

On the 12th, crossed the Savannah River at 12 O'Clock and encamped on Beaver Dam Creek, having traveled 21 miles.

On the 13th, crossed Broad River at Jones' Ferry.



(This is a letter Simon Mayer wrote to his family, 22 days after the end of the war and 17 days after Lincoln's assassination. The original is at Tulane University. A question mark or ellipsis indicates a word or wording that was difficult to transcribe.)

Sharp's Brigade

May 2, 1865

Dear Parents,

At sunrise this morning, we turn our faces homeward - What a thrill of joy at the thought, but how sad the reflection that all our efforts for the last four years have been in vain. Eager and anxious as I am to ... be at home yet willingly would I forego that pleasure if I thought we could alter the present circumstances of our return. But why should I give way to sad reflections, conscious of the justice of our cause. I am still proud & defiant & conscious that while we have been forced to succumb to overwhelming (?) - we have still made an honest & glorious fight & as the boys express it have kept the flies off the Yanks for the past four years.

Cousin (?) will assure you of my good health and I hope that ere the month of June shall have passed the Major will be able to present himself to you ...

I will defer until our meeting which God grant will be soon such little news which I will be glad to commiserate.

Don't be angry now because I do not come around with (?). My reasons for staying with the command I will give when I get home - (?) for the present to state that I think them good.

I am well provided with clothes & will not suffer but would like to have a nice light pair of boots to get into when I reach home.

(...) farewell.

May the God of Israel guard & protect you all my dear, and may He march safe to us with all good health ... in ... peace and happiness.

Kiss all the children for me & give my love to all relations. No more for the present.

Putting my trust in the great "Ruler of the Universe" & hoping that I may reach home soon in safety, good health & that you will all enjoy the blessings of this life.

I am ever your Devoted Son & Bro.

Simon

Remember me to all friends & (?)

According to the "*Military History of Mississippi*", on this day in 1865, the men of the 10th Mississippi began their long march home from High Point, N.C., walking most of the way. A sergeant, who kept a daily record during the war, reported that the regiment marched 3,500 miles and was transported by rail or water 5,000 miles during its Civil War service.



Figure 10 The Mississippi 10th Infantry's 5,000-mile march during the Civil War.

Camp near Dalton Ga.
April 17th 1864.

My dear Parents Bro's & Sisters.

Another chanced presents it - self and I avoid myself of it. No letter from you as yet, later than the 10th or 12th of March, and I nearly am getting uneasy lest something has happened which you wish to keep secret, but I pray to our Heavenly Father that such is not the case, and that my failing to get letters, is alone attributable to the difficulties of getting them through the lines - and I hope that I may soon receive several long letters from you all my dears.

I hope that long one this reaches you that you have seen Cousin Simon. That he has told you everything that is of interest to you, and I hope that on his return he will bring me long letters from you all; and I also hope that Bro. Henry will accompany him, if not to join the "Southrons" to at least join the Army now battling for our rights and independence. I hope that he has awakened to the realities of the situation, and no longer can remain passive to the scenes that are daily enacted in the grand drama now in full play upon this Continent, but that he sees that he too has a part to play, and will with light heart & strong arm, backed by a determination to do or die, come forth and take his place on the broad arena. I am in full earnest in regard to the course I have marked out for him, and I do not want it said when Peace shall once more gladden our hearts, that a brother of mine, who had nothing to keep him back, acted the coward, and was afraid to come out & meet his own be masters, and subjugators. I hope that my pleadings in the last few letters that I have written, are not in vain.

A gentleman from the vicinity of Stately, came up to the Army yesterday, bringing his young son to enter the service

Figure 11 Major Simon Mayer's letter urging his brother, Henry, to join the Confederate Army.