

## Capt. A. H. Flewellen Recollection of the battle of Murfreesboro

MONTGOMERY, ALA., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1863

From the Columbus Sun.

Battle of Murfreesboro—39th Ala.

The following letter written by Capt. A. H. Flewellen, of the above regiment, will prove highly interesting to many of our readers. The letter is dated three miles south of Murfreesboro, January the 1st:

“I thank God that I am privileged to report myself alive to-day. He has, indeed, been very merciful and gracious to me. I have not time to relate the stirring and exciting events of the past five days. We have been in line of battle since Sunday.—Tuesday about 11 o'clock, A.M., the 28th and 39th were drawn up to support Robinson's battery, about two miles from Murfreesboro, it being known that the enemy were advancing. We were drawn up behind a fence, and at 3 o'clock, P.M., the enemy came yelling, and then followed heavy firing on both sides. We repulsed them gallantly—the loss of the 39th being one man killed and three wounded—none of my company. The enemy lost 90 killed and wounded. They rallied and charged again at 6 o'clock, and were repulsed again—they losing 40 and we none.

We held our position all night, sleeping or resting, till just before day, when we retired, as we heard them planting batteries very near us, and supposed they would shell us the first thing after light. At sunrise we discovered the enemy drawn up about a quarter of a mile in front of us, and we were ordered to charge the battery, which we immediately did, and found ourselves in the tightest place I ever was in. We advanced through the open field, not knowing the enemy was posted in the corn field, until we were fired upon. At the same time, the battery was cross-firing all the time, and between the two fires we suffered heavily. I went into the charge with 22 men—had two killed, (Osborn and Dunnaway,) and 9 wounded, none dangerously. Kennely was knocked down by a shell, but not hurt much. Lt. Gillis was wounded in the hip.

We reached the battery or very near it, and captured one piece, but were compelled to fall back under a heavy fire to where we first started. We were thrown into confusion, and when we were ordered to rally and charge again, I could not find but two of my men, Holcomb and Wall. We passed through the same fire, and just as we reached our first position, near the battery, a ball struck Wall's arm, broke it, passed on and knocked Holcomb down—They appealed to me, as I passed them, for help, but I could not as were in the thickest of the fight. We were again repulsed, being greatly overpowered. Capt. Jennings was wounded in the hip. Capt. Stanford killed, and Capt. Clayton mortally wounded. As we retreated or fell back for reinforcements, a “spent-ball” struck me in the back—I was not hurt. We rallied again, and finding one of my straggling men,

I advanced again with one man only; but just before we reached the field, heavy reinforcements had been thrown in and enemy repulsed. I continued the onward movement until I was exhausted and could go on no farther. The battle raged furiously all day. The charges and retreats across the field were made in double quick. I lost my blanket, as I was unable to carry it longer. The enemy were driven back several miles, and I fear another battle will ensue this morning, having but three men fit for duty, I was ordered out here to collect all the efficient men of the regiment who had straggled. I returned in a few moments."

A. H. Flewellen

Capt. Co. F, 39th Reg't [sic] Ala. Vol.

Murfreesboro', Tenn.