

25th Alabama ~ Battle of Murfreesboro

Capt Wilson Parks Howell

25th AL Inf. Co. 1

25th

History of the 25th Alabama Infantry Regiment

BATTLE OF MURREESBORO

Battle of Murfreesboro and falling back to Shelbyville, Tennessee

Where we spent the winter of 1862-1863

The leaving of Shelbyville and coming to Chattanooga ~ Battle of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge and Lookout Point or the "Battle above the Clouds" in November 1863

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General Bragg having evacuated Kentucky, the Federal troops under command of General Rosecrans had been concentrated about Nashville and Bragg's army around Murfreesboro. Only about 25 miles lay between the two armies. So about the last of December Rosecrans advanced on Murfreesboro sufficiently near to offer battle. So on the morning of 31st December we accepted the challenge and at them we went.

The enemy were posted in line of battle on the opposite side of a plantation from us some 800 yards and we advanced on thm through the open field under heavy artillery fire as well as musketry and our loss was very heavy in going through the field. Four men, Sid Phillips, Gus Pool, Charly Roper and Jack Ezzell of Company "I" were killed out right. Lieutenant Archibald

Patterson of Company "H" was also killed and every company of the regiment met a similar fate, in killed and wounded.

Our line, in the face of their concentrated fire, got within fifty yards of their battery when our line gave way and stampeded back through the field and we suffered worse than while advancing.

Among the killed in that unfortunate stampede was Major Costello who had just been promoted from the Captaincy of Company "K". It looked for a time that all was lost and we had some difficulty in rallying the men and reforming the line of another attack.

I remember just at this critical moment General Frank Cheatham, Major General of Tennessee troops came rushing to our aid. Made such a stirring appeal to the men, that our line was soon formed and in the face of another galling fire we charged on them again and so determined were the men that we rushed upon them and captured their battery and drove back the whole line, but they soon reformed their lines and for the live long day we fought over an area of two or three miles and at night fall we had driven them off the field.

Our regiment was led in this fight by Lt. Colonel George D. Johnston who displayed great courage and leadership and won the high esteem and love of the officers and men of the line. At night fall, when the firing ceased he was the only field officer with the regiment.

Our loss in killed and wounded was very heavy. Lt. Scofield of Company "C" from Columbiana was among the killed. I remember during the fight, of coming across his body just after he had fallen, he having been shot dead and I stopped long enough to take a plain gold ring from his finger and his pocket knife and pocket book and preserved them till after the battle and sent them home to his family.

I think I went in that morning with about 40 guns in Company "I" and when the battle closed that night there was only one man Pvt. Bob Clark and myself with the regiment. Most of the others had been either killed, wounded or captured.

Our loss was so heavy, that we did not renew the fight next morning. Although we had the previous –(*End of document*)

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Descriptive List and Pay Account of a Deceased Soldier

Descriptive List and Pay Account of Charles W. Roper a Sergeant of Company I of 25 Regiment Alabama Volunteers, was 23 years old, blue eyes, light hair light complexion 5 feet 7 inches high, born in Catham County, in the state of Alabama and by occupations a farmer was enlisted on the 14th day Oct. 1861 by Col. McClellan to serve for three years or during the war. The said Charles W Roper was last paid by Capt W. B. Marchio A27 to include the 31st day of August 1862 and he has pay due him from that time to the time of his death, which occurred on the 31 day of Dec 1862 in the battle of Murfreeboro there is also due him for clothing not drawn in kind.

For pay from the 31 st day of August 1862 to the 31 st day of December 1862 being four months and days, at \$17, per month	\$68.00
For commutation for clothing not drawn in kind	\$25.00
There is also due him for retained pay	\$
He is also entitled to a bounty of	\$50.00
Amount	\$143.00
He is indebted to the Confederate States	
Balance due	\$143.00

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Ropers, Charles W.

Pvt.

25 Ala. Co. I, 25 Regt of Inf. Ala.

Report of Death during deliberations near Mfreesbo Dec. 28 to Jan 4 Near Shelby Ja, 1863

Killed Dec 31, 1862 of the first charge.

Subject: Medal of Honor

Battle of Murfreesboro

General Order Number 131/3

Oct 3, 1863

Adjutant & Inspector General's Office, Confederate States, contains information relative to the man named, on the subject mentioned above.