

Diary of  
**WILLIAM A. BROWN**  
Sergeant - First Sergeant - Lieutenant  
of  
Stanford's Mississippi Battery, CSA  
1861-1865

The original diary of Lieutenant Brown was transcribed by the J. Z. George Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1915. The diary was supposedly transcribed exactly as written; however, many words, phrases, and names were apparently mistaken due to the difficulty in reading Lieutenant Brown's penmanship. Additionally, as the war progressed, Brown relied heavily on abbreviations and initials. In 1986-1990 the UDC version was thoroughly researched and significant corrections made. A special effort was made to correct misinterpretations by the UDC and identify initials and abbreviations. No major changes in the grammar were attempted except to insert paragraphs for ease in reading.

R. B. Hansen  
Pascagoula, Mississippi  
July, 1990

Stanford's Mississippi Battery, Inc.  
P. O. Box 861  
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Jim -  
Pay attention to last  
few pages. I never  
finished the editing  
there after finalizing the  
last original pages - just  
before the Civil War.  
Rogers

13<sup>th</sup> USCT flag  
Any Yankee  
records on the  
casualties they  
had?

WM. A. BROWN'S BOOK.

Dec. 21-1867.

Preface

In this book I propose to make an exact transcript from a "note book" I kept most of the time while in the Confederate Army, and to add such remarks, et cetera, as I may now think proper. My notes while in the army were entirely of a personal nature and, in fact, were written only with the view of assisting my memory in recalling names, dates, and the like. I intended to transcribe it immediately after the War, with such incidents added as memory might suggest, but my business being such that I could ill spare the time, and my mind being kept in such a state by the "angelic conduct" of the freedmen with whom I had to deal, that I felt in no humor for doing that which I had set aside as the pleasant task of many an idle hour. I do not write it now in this form for any other object than my own satisfaction and that I might have something to guide me when memory becomes less faithful than now, while the [past] events are still intimately associated with events still happening.

I will have it distinctly understood that this is not public property, and I wish no one to read it unless I give my personal consent. I do not write it for friends or relatives to read, so, should it accidentally fall in the way of any, they will please remember that I withhold my consent to their reading it. And those who do read it will, I hope, not forget that being private, it is beyond the reach of criticism; for I do not write it with the view of it meeting such a test; then keep your learning for a higher mark and a more worthy occasion and remember too, that it is but the prosy memoir of an ordinary soldier; his camps, marches, and battles; entirely wanting in dash and adventure. And unless you feel an interest in his person and the part he played in our struggle for nationality, and what we thought to be our rights, then do not throw your time away in reading this. If you read with a view of learning, the feelings of the soldier and the sentiments of the man, then leave them here without reading further. As a soldier I did, and as a citizen I do, honestly believe the most severe commentary that has been, or could be written on the cause for which I willingly fought for nearly four years, is embraced in these words - it was lost.

W. A. B.  
Yazoo County, Miss.  
Dec. 22nd, 1867

31st. Ordered to cross the river. After crossing one piece, the order is countermanded. Accidental acquaintance with Miss Mollie Rice. Call on Mrs. and Miss Wood. Supper at hotel. Brass bands playing overtime.

November 1864.

1st - Tuesday. pontoons being laid and trestle bridge built on side next to Florence. Finished at dark. Ride over town and out to the works.

2nd. [The] one piece ordered to recross the river. Go to Mrs. Woods for letter. Camp one mile from South Florence. Cloudy and cold.

3rd. Mail letter to Betty Elam from Miss Wood. Remain in camp. Rain.

4th. Write to Sallie Elam. Remain in camp.

5th. Big frost. Clear. Send letters by hand to Grenada.

6th. We cross Tennessee River on pontoon bridges this evening. Camp one mile northwest from Florence. Go to church p.m.

7th. Heavy rain last night. Get wet. Letters from Sallie Elam and Mrs. Frost. Call on Mrs. Wood and Professor Rice's. Mrs. Wood out at home. Go to church at night.

8th. Write to Mrs. Frost. Division review by General Clayton-rain.

9th. Invitation from Miss Wood dated 8th to dine to-morrow. Call on Annie Hardy with Warner Moore. Bought one pair boots from Captain Hope. Paid two-hundred dollars, had to borrow the money.

10th. Write note to Miss Wood excusing my absence. Move camp one and a half miles north of Florence.

11th. Went to ball at the college given by officers of the corps. Dull affair.

12th. See Major W. and Mrs. Rice. Pontoon bridge still unfinished.

13th - Sunday. Go to church at night to hear Doctor McFerrin. Write to Mrs. Ross.

14th. Write to Mrs. Ross for clothing. Send letters by B. W. L. Butt, who is detailed to go [home] for clothing for the company. I go to work on fort with Fenner's and Eufaula Batteries. Write note to Miss Mollie Rice. She declines to go to theatrical entertainment which did not come off.

15th. Theatrical by Fenner's Battery. Good affair, [but the] house was crowded. Rain last night.

16th. Received letter No. 9 from Mrs. Pearson yesterday. I answer it with No. 11 today. Rain. Day of fasting and prayer.

17th. Attend theatrical and ball given by Fenner's Battery at the college. Large audience.

18th. Rain last night and to-day.

19th. Remain in camp. Had plenty to eat since we have been at Florence.

20th - Sunday. Leave camp at 8 am bound for Tennessee. Roads in desperate condition. Stalling all day. Camp ten miles from Florence [at] 5 p.m.

21st. Slight snow. Cold and disagreeable. Cross the line into Tennessee this p.m. Heavy roads. Camp at dark.

22nd. March at 8 a.m. Slight snow. Steep hills to climb. March five miles and camp at dark. Very cold.

23rd. March 9 a.m. Camp 4 p.m. Move twelve miles from West Point.

24th. March 9 a.m. Road still heavy. See Lieutenant Frasure of the 7th Kentucky Cavalry. Pass through Henryville. Camp three miles from Henryville at 12 o'clock at night.

25th. March at 8 a.m. Pass through and camp one mile from Mount Pleasant. Get into beautiful country. Not much enthusiasm from citizens.

26th. March [at] 7 a.m. Halt near Columbia. Yanks in our front. Skirmishing. For the last three days [we] have had six ounces of flour to the man. [For] two days had good pike. At 3 p.m. we move one mile to the left of the pike and bivouac. At 10 p.m. I write to Betty Elam. Raining. I had to cook tonight.

27th - Sunday. At 2 p.m. we move to the right near the pike, and two miles from Columbia. Some picket firing.

28th. Yankees reported out of Columbia. In p.m. we move inside of the Yankee works. Enemy all gone from Columbia.

29th. Ready to move at daylight. Heavy cannonading in front. Remain in camp. Borrow one hundred dollars from Rondeau. I go to knoll near Columbia and saw our boys charge the Yanks on the other side of [the] Duck River; grand sight.

30th. Horses in harness all last night. March one hour before day. Cross Duck River on pontoons. Pass through Spring Hill. Get to the ridge one and a half miles from Franklin 4:30 p.m. From Columbia to Franklin twenty-five miles. Very heavy firing around the town. Our men charging the Yanks. Heavy cannonading. We have but little artillery action. Musketry as heavy as I ever heard. Heavy musketry until 11 p.m. All quiet at 12 night. Our battery moves to the left of the line at 1 o'clock tonight, and take position [that is] clear to the Yankee works. At 3 a.m. we move inside the Yankee works. Yanks all gone. Everybody out hunting Yankee plunder, which is very plentiful along the works. Not much sleep tonight. The cries from the wounded [that are] left where they fell between the lines is very distressing. Darkness and uncertainty of the whereabouts of the enemy prevents assistance going to them. All quiet at daylight.

:30  
December 1864

1st. - Thursday Went round the works where the charge was made by Brantly of Tuckers ~~of~~ Brigades. Men piled in the ditches--Yanks on inside--ours on outside--Horrible sight. Men busily engaged burying the dead in trenches & graves. At 1 <sup>1/2</sup> p.m. bat[talion] took up line of march, going through Franklin crossing Marple's Creek camp 3 miles from F[ranklin]. Franklin to Nashville 18 ~~is~~ miles.

2nd. March at 6 a.m. halt 1 p.m. 4 ~~is~~ miles from Nashville. Infantry intrenching - 6 p.m. infantry Bat[talion] move to the line ~~is~~ miles from the capitol & threw up works.

3rd. Threw up works. Yankee works 2 ~~is~~ miles in front. I go to Maney's Brigades on the right to look for Capt[ain] Head - 9th <sup>[Tennessee]</sup> Regiment to the left at Franklin <sup>[move]</sup> from the ridge a look at the City Capitol. Dark night 3 p.m. to the front and make line of works. Some shelling & skirmishing today.

4th. Had my glass & haversack stolen last night. Get them this morning. Our position is now <sup>[at]</sup> 4 p.m. in front of Dr. Berry's large unfinished brick house. Some shelling to the left all day--works finished 5 p.m. Sunday. Didn't know it until gone.

5th. Some shelling & shirmishing--letter from Mrs. Ross.

6th. Wrote to Mrs. Ross. Enclosed letter of November 26th to Bettie Elam--nothing unusual on hand today.

7th. Some picketing & shelling - \_\_\_\_\_ very cold.

8th. 11 a.m. drove in the Yankees \_\_\_\_\_ without much fight. Have been getting full rations for last 4 days. Have been getting only 1/2 lb flour \_\_\_\_\_ meal since left Florence.

9th. Snow & sleet 1 inch deep - very little firing -- very cold.

10th. Since we have been here we sleep in old bath house - Our present position is about 3 ~~1/2~~ miles from and nearly due South of the capitol & 7 ~~1/2~~ miles east of Franklin pike. \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. busy moving back to old works at Cedar Stable -- very cold.

11th. - Sunday. Exceedingly cold - I did not get out of bed until 1 p.m. - Sleep in old stable. Snow still on the ground & hard frozen. Drew money to 1st June - \$90.00.

12th. Very little firing out on lines - Still very cold.

13th. At work all day on fortifications. To the right & in rear of Brick house - 1st section 300 yds [yards] to our right - we [2nd section] had no detail to help - Snow still on the ground.

14th. At work on trenches - All quiet.

15th. Have guns in works at 4 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ right 12 m[idd]day heavy fighting began \_\_\_\_\_ left. Continued heavy all p.m. gradually working to the right to half mile to left of [Stanford's Battery]. Quiet in our front \_\_\_\_\_ Fort Negley threw a few shells at us - 4 p.m. ordered to be ready to move - 12 night leave \_\_\_\_\_ 8 move 1 mile back & left p[osition] on hill 300 yds [yards] East of Franklin pike \_\_\_\_\_ infantry skirmishing \_\_\_\_\_

16th. Up at light - 7 a.m. General Clayton orders us to get ready for action - Go into battery & unhitch horses & send them out of the way Put up logs, rails \_\_\_\_\_ to protect from minnies - 7:30 a.m. skirmishers driven in close to works - 10 a.m. Yankee Battery opens on us & skirmishers retire inside of works. Yankee skirmishers come 200 ~~yards~~ yards of works - Heavy cannonading on left of the pike - 11,000 enemy charge the works just to left of pike \_\_\_\_\_ - back - fight in works on the left. By 12 m[idd]day their fire on Stanford's Battery & enfilading line on our right. Shelling from these batteries was almost incessant all day. Enemy seen maneuvering on our front. 2:30 p.m. charge began extending from the pike to Stanford's Battery. Negroes in front, whites supporting, they got within 30 yards of the works - charge lasts about \_\_\_\_\_ - minutes - enemy driven back leaving colors of 13th United States Colored Troops ("Presented by the Colored Ladies of Murfreesboro") in 50 ~~yards~~ yards of Stanford's Battery. Dead & wounded mark the line, come to by the enemy. Most of the dead being negroes. During charge the <sup>three batteries</sup> Batterys kept up concentrated fire on Stanford's Battery. Shots going through our works. Heavy fighting on left 4 p.m. in line on the left of the pike brake. Before horses could come up all the troops on our left had broken & we were forced to leave our guns. Everything in confusion 7 full retreat - Yanks came near closing in around us - After nearly breaking down I rode out behind W.N. Pass on a harness horse - Clayton's Division covers the retreat. Battery got to Franklin 11 p.m. - casualties of today killed (left on field) E. M. Coe M. E. Bond [and] <sup>John</sup> Gable buried at Franklin Wounded severely: J. Crowder, left on field, R. N. Reeves /

J. L. Shimpock            J. E. Allen            R. P. Tarpley            J. W. Vance  
R. P. Brooks            W. B. Baines            T. H. McLean

John Thomas - 3 killed 15 wounded.

17th. Move with wagon train of Clayton's Division at 10 a.m. - Have 1 caisson & 2 ordnance wagons left of the Battery. Rain most of the day, on the road all day & night, great many stragglers on the road. Sleep an hour or two.

18th. Sunday - Got to Columbia & bivouac 1 mile <sup>South</sup> of Columbia at 4 p.m. - on the march 32 hours.

19th. At 12 o'clock, last night ordered to take horses of ~~S.B.~~ <sup>[Louisiana]</sup> Stanford's Battery & go 9 miles back after Fenner's Battery [which was] stuck in the mud. Hitch 12 horses to our gun & bring it to camp by 2 p.m. Road very bad all day. Some heavy fighting on west side of Duck River. Have to use blankets for overcoat.

20th. March on the Pulaski Pike - rain p.m. Halt at 10 p.m. ~~two~~ <sup>three</sup> miles from Pulaski - wagon stalled. Rain freezing as it fell. Rain most of the night. Extremely hard time. Lt. McCall up in \_\_\_\_\_. I [was] off foraging all day & night.

21st. No sleep last night - too wet & cold. March at daylight. Halt in Pulaski. 4 p.m. move across Richland river 3 miles from Pulaski & sa.m.p. Roads very bad 12 horses to a gun.

22nd. March at 6 a.m. very cold - Go out with W.B. Baines foraging - Stop at night with Mr. Dollins 1 mile from Alabama line. Have excellent supper; Pleasant night.

23rd. Good breakfast - no charges. Rejoin Stanford's Battery at 12 midday - Halt 23 miles from Florence - Lt. Martin out - Cross line into Alabama.

24th. Marched 7 a.m. - Halt at dark 10 miles from Florence - Martin & McCall out.

25th. Up at light - March 9 a.m. Start to Florence but hear the Yankees are there & go no nearer than 4 miles. Gunboats & transports there - hear firing there cross Shoal Creek & camp 1 mile from ~~Banbridge~~ <sup>Bainok</sup> on Tennessee River.

26th. March 12 midday. Cross river 8 p.m. on pontoon bridge at Banbridge - Halt 3 miles from B[anbridge] at 9 p.m. Roads very bad - Gunboats come above Florence & fight our batteries.

27th. Take telegram for Company to Grenada & go to Tuscumbia to forward it - Line cut by the enemy below Corinth. Can't dispatch. Go on to Barton Station with Jones & stop for the night in kitchen. Nothing but cornbread to eat. Have to cook it. Rain today. Roads bad.

28th. Go to Station & mail letters. Write to Mr. Ross. p.m. return to Stanford's Battery & camp for the night 2 1/2 miles from Barton - Turps very cold.

29th. March at daylight - Halt 7 miles from Iuka.

30th. Ready to move at 2 p.m. Pack up at dark in rain to march. 9 p.m. - unharness & bivouac - no move - rain - cold.

31st. Marched at 7 a.m. - very cold - cross Bear Creek - cross line into Mississippi - camp 1/2 mile west of Iuka at sundown.

away by the battle, now live on the little farm, and one of them told me that he and his brothers found, upon returning home, in the then little "clearing" after the armies had gone, the dead bodies of three North Carolinians lying under the fallen tree and that they gathered twenty-eight pounds of bullets from the stump and limbs! Out of a large bucket filled with bullets, I was given by him as many as I wished as souvenirs. Many are still to be picked up all over the vicinity. Monuments to Union soldiers are numerous there, and conspicuous is the very striking one, inclosed with handsome iron railing, to General Sedgwick, whose corps was a famous one. Another interesting monument marks the spot where Texas soldiers refused to charge until General Lee, who had ridden to the front under fire, ceased exposing himself and retired to the rear. One of his men caught his bridle and turned his horse around, the soldiers all shouting, "Lee to the rear!" which he reluctantly obeyed.

NOTE.—This sketch has been penned largely from memory without technically correct historic data before the writer, but it is substantially correct and is hardly deserving of hypercritical comment.

#### ON HOOD'S CAMPAIGN INTO TENNESSEE.

BY T. G. DABNEY, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

The articles by Capt. R. N. Rea in the July and August numbers of the *VETERAN* are interesting sketches of his personal exploits during the war of the sixties, and he gives vivid pictures of many thrilling war scenes. However, Captain Rea's memory of those events is at variance with mine in some particulars, and I wish to offer some comment in all good will.

I was a sergent of Bradford's Mississippi Battery, Company F, first Mississippi Light Artillery. That command was in a state of disorganization as a result of the surrender of Port Hudson, La., in July, 1863, in which siege it bore its full part. Capt. J. L. Bradford, a very gallant officer, was so severely wounded during the siege that he was disabled from duty for more than a year after the surrender of his battery. All four of his lieutenants were under arrest for incompetency when the siege began, and none of them took any part in the fighting. The command of the guns necessarily fell upon the more intelligent sergeants.

In January, 1864, I, with thirty of Bradford's men, after being exchanged, was assigned to duty with Hoskins's Mississippi battery. This battery became attached to Cockrell's Missouri Brigade, of French's Division, Polk's Corps, which became Stewart's Corps after the death of General Polk, on Pine Mountain, in June, 1864. We were, therefore near neighbors of Sears's brigade, and participated in all the movements of that brigade from Rome, Ga., in May, 1864, to Atlanta, to Nashville, Tenn., and finally to Blakely, Ala., at the wind up, where we fired our last shots at the enemy before being overwhelmed by vastly superior numbers on April 9, 1865, the day that General Lee surrendered at Appomattox.

Comrade J. D. Harwell, in the September *VETERAN*, refers to a slight error of Captain Rea's in saying that Admiral Farragut commanded the Federal fleet in Milliken's Bend during the siege of Vicksburg. During the siege of Port Hudson, contemporaneous with that of Vicksburg, Farragut's fleet lay below Port Hudson, and gave us abundance of big mortar shells, which were disturbing to mental equanimity, but did no damage except in one instance, when a large specimen of that genus fell upon a gun in one of our water batteries, disabling the gun, with some casualties.

Captain Rea relates an exploit that he performed while in Atlanta just before the evacuation of that place, wherein he made a scouting excursion to the Chattahoochee river, accompanied by a small squad of his men. He brought back fourteen prisoners, and reported the enemy's movements to General Sears. He then proceeds to say: "The next day General Hood began moving his army to the left, leaving our brigade before Atlanta and stretching out our line until the men were thirty feet apart, and very soon the great battle of Jonesboro was fought. Every command in the army was engaged in that battle. In the meantime our brigade, after leaving a few men in the entrenchments, was in the city destroying the government and railway property. At 2 A.M. our brigade left Atlanta at a rapid gait, and just as we were leaving the suburbs the explosion of the magazines shook the city from center to circumference. As we marched along the streets, it seemed that every woman and child in Atlanta was standing in the doors or yards with sad faces and in tears," etc.

The comment I wish to make on the above is this: It must be inferred from Captain Rea's account that Sears's Brigade was the only command left in Atlanta at the time of its evacuation. I had always supposed that the whole of Stewart's corps moved out of Atlanta on that occasion. Certain it is that at about 2 A.M., on September 3, Hoskins's battery, along with Cockrell's Brigade, marched through the streets of Atlanta amid deathly stillness until the explosion of the magazines as we left the city. I saw no women and children in the yards at that early hour.

In the morning we found that extensive preparations had been made by the Engineer Corps for our retreat, roads being blazed out through the woods with sign boards directing the various commands which way to go. It is still my impression that Cheatham's Corps and S. D. Lee's Corps fought the battle of Jonesboro, while Stewart was left to guard Atlanta.

At sunrise or the morning of September 5, we found ourselves near General Hood's new firing line at Lovejoy Station, thirty miles below Atlanta, after a continuous march from Atlanta. A ten-day truce was proclaimed that day.

After relating the events of the attack on Allatoona by French's Division, Captain Rea proceeds: "I shall pass over the long, fatiguing march to Columbia and its incidents. We crossed Duck River ten miles above Columbia, and the other two commands crossed the river in front of the town, with Schofield's army before them and pressing them with energy."

Again: "Before Hardee's and Cheatham's corps could get across Duck River, our corps, commanded by Stewart, was over and very near Spring Hill, where we halted in line of battle and remained near the Spring Hill and Columbia pike all night long, sleeping upon our arms."

To begin with, there was no Hardee's corps at that time, General Hardee having retired some time before, and Gen. Cheatham having succeeded him.

I had a conversation with Gen. A. P. Stewart in Biloxi, Miss., a short time before his death, with special reference to the episode here under review, and will give General Stewart's version of the sequence of events on that occasion. With a very distinct recollection of that conversation with General Stewart, he is thus quoted: "Hood had maneuvered very skillfully, and had got Schofield completely entrapped. He placed Lee's command in Schofield's front, and then ordered Forrest to cross Duck River and drive back Wilson's cavalry and uncover Schofield's left flank. He ordered Cheatham to follow Forrest, and advance on Spring Hill and occupy that

position. He ordered me to follow Cheatham, but when I had advanced a few miles above Columbia, I received orders from Hood to halt my command and take position in line of battle fronting the pike. I afterwards asked Hood why he halted me there, and he said he thought Schofield might try to escape that way. After remaining in that position about two hours, I was ordered to continue the march to Spring Hill. When I approached Spring Hill about dark, I saw Hood by a small fire on the side of the road, with a single orderly in attendance. As soon as I got in speaking distance of Hood, he began to inveigh against Cheatham for not obeying his order to attack at Spring Hill. It was on my tongue to ask Hood why he did not himself see that his order was obeyed, but I thought it would sound disrespectful."

The truth is, as the impression is firmly fixed in my mind, that Forrest drove Wilson's cavalry force, ten thousand strong, away to the northward beyond Spring Hill, and to the eastward, and sent a detachment across to Spring Hill to skirmish with the enemy until the infantry could be brought up to take the place. Cheatham's Corps reached Spring Hill early in the afternoon, and Brown's division of Cheatham's Corps was deployed in front of the place, which was occupied by a detachment of Schofield's army, guarding a large wagon train parked there, to make an assault upon them. But Brown's division was never ordered to advance to the attack.

Stewart's Corps reached the vicinity of Spring Hill, as above related, about dark; and we all lay supinely sleeping near the pike, without even a picket to challenge the approach of the enemy, while Schofield with his whole army quietly marched by us in the night; and by daylight Schofield's army and his large wagon train, posted at Spring Hill, were well on their way to Franklin, where he gave us, behind strong fortifications, the bloody fight that Captain Rea so vividly describes. It was currently believed at the time that Schofield's men did light their pipes at our camp fires as they marched by our slumbering hosts.

Of the retreat from Nashville Captain Rea, says: "General Hood succeeded in taking his army across the rivers of Harpeth, Duck, Shoals Creek, and Tennessee, which latter we crossed just above Florence, Ala. Three gunboats were shelling us as we crossed on our pontoon bridge to the Tuscumbia side of the river. They might as well have shot popguns at us as we got over without a single casualty."

On the morning of December 17, after the rout of Hood's army before Nashville, this writer (who had been fighting gunboats on the Cumberland river below Nashville, with two ten-pounder Parrott guns of Hoskins's battery, one of which was lost during the night march by a broken axle) approached the Franklin pike about sunrise. The pike was filled with a disorganized mob of soldiers without weapons. I pursued my solitary way down the Franklin pike amid most dismal surroundings, with rain and sleet overhead and icy slush underfoot. When I had proceeded about ten miles down the pike, I encountered General Hood, riding entirely alone, his countenance haggard and weary. After some questions, I was ordered by General Hood to turn back to a creek about five miles behind, turn out to the right and report to Colonel—somebody. I obeyed orders, of course, and, on arriving at the point designated reported to the colonel, and position was taken alongside of about three hundred infantry and two guns of Cowan's Mississippi battery, under Lieut. George Tompkins, of Vicksburg. We remained in this position about two hours, expecting the enemy to advance upon us; but the colonel learned that our position was being flanked, and we

I never saw nor heard of General Hood after that interview with him, and supposed that he had dropped out of sight. (General Hood was with his army until in January, 1865, when relieved.—ED.)

As to the crossing of the Tennessee River, near Florence, under the fire of three gunboats, the pontoon bridge over which Hood's fragmentary army crossed the Tennessee River was located fully five miles above Florence. When we got there, Lieut. George Tompkins, with two Napoleon guns of Cowan's battery, and I, with one Parrott gun of Hoskin's battery, were ordered by General Stewart in person to proceed down to Florence to intercept a Federal gunboat that was coming up the river to cut our pontoon bridge. We reached Florence about dark, and reported to a colonel of Roddy's Cavalry. We were ordered to place our guns in a small lunette work but a little above the water surface. Having had experience in gunboat fighting, I knew that the lunette work was a death trap, so I suggested to the colonel that, having a rifle gun, I could use it more effectively on a more elevated position. He then ordered me to place my gun on the spur of a ridge a little farther down the river, and several hundred yards from the river bank, which order I was not slow to obey. About daylight next morning I was awakened by the sentinel, who reported that the gunboat was coming up the river. There were also two wooden boats, one on each side of the large double-turreted monitor that was turning the bend below. The engagement began at once from our side, and the wooden boats dropped back down the river. The gunboat steamed slowly up and came directly across to our side of the river, stopping exactly opposite to my gun, and not over two hundred yards from Tompkins's guns, which were about on a level with the guns of the gunboat.

Tompkins gallantly pitted his twelve-pounders against the 11- or 12-inch Columbiads of the monitor. My gun was too much elevated for the Columbiads to be brought to bear upon it, and she did not fire a shot at me. But poor Tompkins's guns were smashed, and fifteen of his men killed or wounded, Lieutenant Tompkins being among the badly wounded.

About the middle of the afternoon, when the fifty rounds of ammunition of the Parrott gun had been fired at the gunboat, probably without doing her any material damage, the gun was withdrawn and taken back up the river to the pontoon bridge, where it was crossed over the river about midnight, along with a remnant of Forrest's Cavalry. The gunboat did not proceed any farther up the river and did no more firing, I believe.

#### IN BY-GONE DAYS—RICHMOND, VA., 100 YEARS AGO (1822).

"Edward Coles, formerly of Virginia, is elected governor of the State of Illinois by a majority of about 500 votes over his opponent, General Phillips."

(Edward Coles, son of Col. John Coles, was born in Albemarle County in 1786. He was educated at Hampden-Sidney and William and Mary, and from 1809 to 1815 was private secretary to President Madison. In 1816 he went on a mission to Russia, and in 1818 settled in Illinois. He was always strongly opposed to slavery, and in 1819 freed his slaves and gave to each head of a family 160 acres of land. Before his term as Governor was over he was tried for failure to give bonds that his emancipated slaves should not become public charges. He was heavily fined, but the State supreme court overruled the decision of the lower court. In 1833