

memorable "night march over hill, and through forest and valley," and at sunrise of Saturday, Sept. 19th, it was in line on Crittenden's left in possession of the main roads to Chattanooga on which the enemy (having received heavy reinforcements) was planning to rush to Chattanooga. Thus, instead of being the center of the army as usual, Thomas's corps became the left wing and held that position all through the two days battle against the repeated assaults of the greater part of the rebel army.

On the morning of the 19th the regiment went back to Dickey's post-office, on the Chattanooga Valley Road, and later, Colonel Parkhurst wrote, "by order of the commanding general (apparently Gen. Rosecrans) took train to Chattanooga and parked it on the bank of the Tennessee River." He does not tell what train it was, but comrade Thad. S. Vinning says he was Corps Wagon Master at that time and had charge of the train, and that it was the Medical Supply train.

So during all of the first day of the great battle the Ninth was guarding that precious train down the Valley Road in rear of our army to save it from capture.

All accounts agree that at six o'clock on Sunday morning, Sept. 20, leaving one company (or the detail of men) to guard the headquarters train at the river, Col. Parkhurst started with the remaining eight companies to escort the Medical Supply train to the field hospital at the front, going through Rossville and turning south up the Dry Valley Road; but on arriving at McFarland's Gap, within one and a half miles of the hospital, Col. Parkhurst learned that the enemy had possession of the hospital, and he halted the train there. He wrote in his diary, "About 12 o'clock McCook's and Crittenden's corps gave way and fell back in great confusion. I succeeded in checking them and preventing a stampede. All the troops went to Rossville later and took up new positions. General Thomas saved the army from utter defeat by his bravery and heroism. Our loss today has been very heavy."

That was all the modest colonel wrote in his diary, but General Crittenden reported that "After leaving

the hill (where his corps was overpowered) and riding slowly about a mile and a half, I met Col. Parkhurst with his regiment and men enough—whom he had stopped—to make another regiment of ordinary size, and who seemed to be well organized. The colonel rode up to me and asked if I would not take command. I told him no, that he was doing good service; and I directed him to hold his position and let the artillery, wagons and wounded pass, and then follow on, covering the rear."

Colonel Parkhurst continued to stop stragglers until he had several thousand, held his position, but did not "follow on" after his superior officer, who went to Chattanooga.

Early in the stampede Lieut. Elkin, of Gen. Baird's staff, reported to Gen. Negley, "Colonel Parkhurst with his provost guards of the Fourteenth Corps is stationed at the Chattanooga road, stopping the disorganized troops, and forming a new line." Gen. Negley remarked, "To save the army from rout, a new line will have to be formed." Making desperate efforts in vain to stop the struggling mass, Gen. Negley finally came to where the Ninth had effectually blockaded the pass by its line of bayonets, of which he reported, "I found Colonel Parkhurst with the Ninth Michigan Volunteers energetically checking the stragglers." He joined in the work of stopping and reorganizing the retreating troops, and near evening, moved the whole force of several thousand to Rossville, and placed them in line for defending that important position.

Captain Alfred L. Hough, A. C. M., in reporting about the repulse of the right wing and conditions near McFarland Gap, said, "The only organized body I saw there was the Ninth Michigan, Col. Parkhurst, stopping all persons except the wounded."

In his report of the battle to Gen. Halleck, Gen. W. S. Rosecrans said, "Major General Thomas says that as provost marshal at the head of his regiment, Col. J. G. Parkhurst did most valuable services on the 20th in arresting stragglers and in reorganizing the troops who had been driven from the field."

In relating those "most valuable services" rendered by the Ninth on that occasion, "Michigan at Chicka-

mauga," written by Capt. Charles E. Belknap, says, "About 12:30 o'clock stragglers began to make their appearance from the front, and two companies, (D and E, under command of Capt. Wiggins) were deployed to the right and left of the road to halt these men and form them into companies.

"These men were not demoralized, but simply needed leaders or commanders, and cheerfully joined the Ninth in their work. In the mean time trains, sections of batteries, ambulances with wounded, and camp followers with led horses came rushing in confusion over the road, and the entire regiment with bayonets fixed were formed across the Gap and the stampede checked.

"The artillery was placed in command of a Captain Hotchkiss, and the stragglers under command of Major Jenny, of the Ninth. The trains were loaded with the severely wounded and in an orderly manner sent through the defiles in the hills to Chattanooga. Lieutenant Doubblaere, with one company, was sent back to Chattanooga with the medical train. Retiring on this road some distance to an open field, the line was again halted and General J. C. Davis, having arrived with part of his division, assumed command. Later Generals Sheridan and Negley came up and the lines reformed."

"Again the Ninth Michigan Infantry was the savior of the left wing of the Army of the Cumberland. As at Stone River, this gallant regiment was in the right place. General Thomas' at that stage of the battle was the only organized force in position of defence. The Corps of McCook and Crittenden were broken and in retreat, only parts of the divisions and brigades in condition for action and very few of them in place.

"Thomas' broken lines were one and a quarter miles to the left, fighting for dear life. The only avenue by which the remnants of the right wing could go to his assistance was the Dry Valley Road; and it, and indeed the whole valley, was filled with a struggling mass of stragglers, wagons, batteries, ambulances and troops of all arms, on a stampede for Chattanooga, pressed both by the enemy's infantry and cavalry. Here the master hand of the Ninth, Colonel John

G. Parkhurst, placed his veterans with bayonets fixed, and every unhurt man was halted. The 'rank and file' were not panic-stricken, were not whipped, but needed some strong hand and head to guide. With cheers the men rallied on the lines designated, not by states and regiments, but the men of different states, shoulder to shoulder.

"The wounded, and there were thousands of them, were passed to the rear. The wagons and transportation of the army were filled with those unable to walk and then sent on their way. The artillery was turned about, 'the guns shotted,' and with new life and courage the gunners stood at their posts.

"Soon 5,000 men, good and true as ever wore the blue, bid defiance to the foe, and the rout was no longer a rout of the men who carried the musket. Generals, 'tis true, had gone to Chattanooga, giving up the field as lost, not so the soldiers of the ranks. The advance of the enemy on the Dry Valley Road was checked and the transportation of the army saved, as were also thousands of the wounded.

"Had not the Ninth Michigan stretched its lines across the narrow gap and checked the rout, the enemy would soon have swept through with a resistless wave, not only capturing men, wagons and batteries, but it would have cut off all lines of retreat to General Thomas towards Chattanooga, and caused the destruction of the army.

"If the two roads converging at Rossville had been relinquished to, and had been seized by the enemy, it would have in all human probability sealed the fate of General Thomas' command. The influence this judicious movement exerted over subsequent events may be designated in future history as an accident; but it was one of those military accidents which restored order with equilibrium, and changed the front of a defeated army, and unquestionably saved Chattanooga.

"The soldiers of the Army of the Cumberland were students of war. They studied the topography of the country through which they passed. They were not machines, but intelligent men, quick to grasp the idea of battle, as they did later at Mission-



BROWN'S FERRY, FROM SOUTH BANK. DISTANT, WEST-SIDE VIEW OF LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN



Standing—1, Capt. S. S. Barrows; 2, Lieut. Chubb; 3, Surg. G. A. Smith; 4, First Lieut. and Q. M. Tucker; 5, Capt. Purdy; 6, Capt. Dobbelaere; 7, Capt. H. Barrows; 8, Capt. Coleman;
 Sitting—1, Capt. Mansfield; 2, Capt. Wright; 3, Capt. Pond; 4, Capt. Armstrong; 5, Col. Parkhurst; 6, Lieut.-Col. Wilkinson; 7, First Lieut. and Adj. Canfield; 8, Capt. Thomas; 9, Capt. Wiggins; 10, Capt. Bangs.

A GROUP OF NINTH MICHIGAN OFFICERS

Photo taken at Chattanooga, Tenn., Nov., 1864.

ary Ridge—a battle that was not fought as planned, and not planned as fought—but was a battle of generals and privates, in which the matchless courage and devotion of those men in the ranks out-shone the plans and strategy of the generals. The department commander and two corps commanders with their retinue of staff officers and escorts had gone to the rear. They no doubt were whipped, but the men with the saber and the musket had remained in the woods and the mountain jungles to fight it out and bring glorious victory to their cause.

“The Ninth afforded a rallying point for the disorganized right, and when there came an hour’s time in the contest, regiments, brigades and divisions came together as if by magic; order came out of turmoil, and the morning of the 21st of September found these men in ranks eager to renew the fray. The men of the right wing had not lost courage, but were defiant and full of confidence, and were disappointed that they were not to be led back to meet the foe.

“It may not be out of place to say that it was the firm belief of the men in the ranks that the enemy were badly punished and broken, that an advance in force would have met easy success. And it is the firm belief today of the survivors of that bloody battle, that a great mistake was made in not renewing the attack on the morning of the 21st.”

The state of Michigan has erected a fine monument bearing a life sized statue of Colonel Parkhurst near the grounds where the Ninth stopped the great stampede.

The Ninth remained in line of battle at Rossville with the reorganized troops under command of General Negley during the night of Sept. 20 until two o’clock on Monday morning, the 21st, when, on receipt of an order from Gen. Thomas, the regiment again went to the main road leading to Chattanooga to be ready to stop stragglers if any came from the battle that was expected to be resumed that day. But, with the exception of an artillery duel, no fighting occurred—the enemy had got enough.

During the day Col. Parkhurst arrested 167 men with arms who were skulking to the rear, and sent them under guard to Chattanooga, and they

were later sent to Nashville to be court-martialed for cowardice.

After lying in line all day undisturbed, the Ninth with the whole army quietly retired during the night to Chattanooga, where it arrived early Tuesday morning, Sept. 22nd.

The Ninth immediately went into camp close to General Thomas on the foot of Cameron Hill, which was between the city in a bend of the Tennessee river. The Signal Corps established a station on the top of that hill, and several times I had the privilege of viewing the rebel army, and especially Gen. Bragg’s Headquarters on Mission Ridge, which could be plainly seen through their glasses. One day I was present when they discovered the “key” to the rebel signals so that they could readily read them, and they almost went wild with joy.

For several weeks following the great battle the army was very scant of rations and forage, because everything had to be hauled by wagons from Stevenson, Ala., over fifty miles away, and over mountainous roads on the north side of the river. Hundreds of horses and mules died of starvation, and at times the men were on quarter rations. And to make the situation worse, on Oct. 2, Gen. Wheeler captured and burned a large supply train in Sequatchie Valley, including eight of our headquarters wagons, and several guards of the Ninth were also captured, though paroled soon after. But the balance of our headquarters train got through and the Ninth fared much better than the most of the army.

During the siege all the supplies from Stevenson for the army were brought across the river over a big pontoon bridge that the engineers had laid at the upper end of the city. For the purpose of destroying this bridge the rebels went several miles up the river on the south side, cut a large number of big logs, made them into an enormous raft, and one dark night started it down the river. But our men were not asleep and got word of it in time to make a large opening in the bridge, then met the raft, piloted it through the opening and floated it to one of our saw mills just below, where it was later sawed into lumber and used for building several steamboats, one of which is shown in

this book. Thus the rebs unwittingly aided us.

Those bridges were built, saw mills run, steamboats constructed, and railroad bridges built and tracks relaid by men from the ranks; and if we captured a flour mill or a locomotive men were at once found to run them—showing that our army was composed of men of all trades and professions.

October 16, 1863, the War Department appointed Gen. Grant to command the "Military Division of the Mississippi," including the Departments and armies of the Tennessee, the Cumberland, and the Ohio, and the same order made Gen. Thomas commander of the "Department of the Cumberland," succeeding Gen. Rosecrans. Thomas assumed the command on Oct. 20, several days before Grant arrived, and immediately began to "do things" to get supplies to the besieged army.

Saturday, Nov. 7, he appointed Col. Parkhurst Commander of the Post of Chattanooga in addition to his other duties, and the 44th Indiana and 15th Kentucky regiments were assigned to him for post duty; and Nov. 28 the 18th Kentucky regiment was added. Among his first acts Parkhurst selected grounds for burying the Union dead, and this later became the first part of the now famous National cemetery at Chattanooga.

In addition to his many other duties as commander of the post and Provost Marshal of the 14th corps, Colonel Parkhurst conducted the investigation of all prisoners and deserters from the Confederate army, as well as the reports of all the individual scouts and spies of our armies, keeping his commanding officers well informed of all that was transpiring within the Confederate lines.

During the battles on Lookout and Missionary Ridge, Nov. 23 to 25, the Ninth continued its duties as provost and prisoner's guards.

Friday, Dec. 25, Christmas, three hundred and six of the regiment re-enlisted for three years, "Veteranized," and, in accordance with the offer of the government for that action, Col. Parkhurst received an order to take the regiment to Michigan for thirty days leave. All those that did not re-enlist were assigned to duty in the Eleventh Michigan, where they

remained until March 24, about a month after the Ninth had returned, when they rejoined the Ninth and served out their original three years term.

After waiting three days for a boat, on Monday, Dec. 28, the Ninth boarded the steamerm "Paint Rock" (built by the army men) for Bridgeport, where they took cars for the north. They arrived at Louisville at two o'clock p. m., Dec. 31, but their ferryboat had two accidents and did not land them in New Albany until dark. They were in a drenching rain all the afternoon, wet to the skin, and a sudden change froze their clothing stiff on their bodies. They built fires on the track in the depot to keep from freezing while waiting for their train.

No train came and the boys spent that awful "Cold New Year" with much suffering until toward night the citizens kindly gave them a warm supper. They left at 9 o'clock that evening, but it was so cold the train stopped frequently to let steam accumulate, and to load on wood, which the locomotives then used for fuel. They suffered so much on the cars (freight) that they layed over at LaFayette, Ind., from Sunday noon to Monday noon, where the citizens fed them, quartered them in the court house, and did all they could for our comfort, for which the boys will be ever grateful.

Trains ran so slow because of the cold that the regiment did not reach Coldwater, where it was to rendezvous and reorganize with recruits, until 11 o'clock a. m., Tuesday, Jan. 5, 1864. The boys were much disappointed because there were no people at the depot. Colonel Parkhurst wrote in his diary, "A very cool reception. No one met us at the depot." Capt. H. Barrows wrote the same words, and added, "This town is not only Coldwater, but it appears to be a cold-hearted town. The people don't seem to think soldiers amount to much."

But probably the reason for the apparent neglect was the severity of the cold, and the fact that the regiment had been expected on each train for several days and did not come, because when the regiment was ready to return south the citizens gave them two receptions and banquets—one to the men and one to the officers.

The men marched to the barracks at the fair grounds north of the city and stayed over night, but it was so cold there that the next day they moved into the Court House, and Fireman's and Crippen's halls.

On Friday, Jan. 8, all the men were given furloughs and transportation by Col. Parkhurst, which he had been to Detroit and secured from the Adjutant General, and all left for their various homes.

Col. Parkhurst left for the South Feb. 5, and on arriving at Chattanooga Gen. Thomas immediately appointed him "Provost Marshal General of the Department of the Cumberland."

The regiment left Coldwater Feb. 20, under command of Lieut. Col. Wilkinson, who from that time on till their muster out was in command of the regiment the most of the time, though its movements and duties were ordered by Col. Parkhurst from Gen. Thomas. The regiment had secured about 200 recruits and left 500 strong. When near LaFayette, Ind., the train ran off the track demolishing four cars, and about 25 miles south of Indianapolis the train again ran off, eight cars being smashed or tipped over, but fortunately not a man was hurt.

On reaching Chattanooga Feb. 29, the regiment resumed its duties as provost guard at Gen. Thomas' headquarters, guarding the military prison, and also guarding prisoners on trains to Knoxville and Nashville. About 100 recruits had been sent there in advance during January, and later in the year the regiment was filled with recruits to a full regimental number.

The Atlanta Campaign.

The armies under Buell, Rosecrans, Grant and Sherman each had a Right Wing, Left Wing and Center, and in each one Gen. Thomas commanded the Center, which also had the most men. During the Atlanta campaign the Ninth took charge of rebel prisoners on fields and on trains north, and was in care of Gen. Thomas' Headquarters. It started out with him on May 4, 1864, and was with him in the following battles and movements:

Tunnel Hill, Buzzards Roost, Rocky Face, May 5 to 12. Snake Creek Gap, May 12. Resaca, May 13 to 15.

Adairsville, May 17 to 18. Kingston, May 19. Euharlee, May 23. Burnt Hickory, May 24. Dallas, Pumpkinvine Creek, Allatoona, May 25 to 30. New Hope Church, May 31. Big Shanty, June 10. Movements about Kenesaw Mountain, June 10 to July 2:—Pine Mountain, June 14; Lost Mountain, June 15 to 17; Pine Knob, June 19; Assault on Kenesaw, June 27. Vining's Station, July 4, 5. Chattahoochee River, July 6 to 17. Peach Tree Creek, July 19, 20.

Siege of Atlanta, July 22 to Aug. 25. One day during the siege the headquarters camp was so near the front that the rebel sharpshooters and artillery recognized it as of some headquarters and directed a fire on it. Private James Quinn, company H, was wounded so that he died Sept. 18. Gen. Thomas directed that the camp be moved to one side out of range of the rebel fire.

Flank movement around Atlanta via the west on Jonesboro, Aug. 25 to 29—Mount Gilead Church, Aug. 27; Red Oak, Aug. 28; Jonesboro, Aug. 30 to Sept. 1. Over 1,600 prisoners were taken at Jonesboro who were listed and sent north on trains in lots of 500 per day guarded by members of the Ninth and two other regiments, all under the orders of Col. Parkhurst.

Lieut. Frank A. Palmer writes: "While on the Atlanta campaign march (Capt. H. Barrows mentions this on May 25), an incident occurred whereby the 9th found itself in rather a dangerous and doubtful position. While on the advance, Gen. Thomas' headquarter train and guard were given special privileges, if circumstances permitted, whereby the use of the highway that would not interfere with the advance of other troops, was assigned to them.

On the occasion mentioned, Gen. Hooker, commanding the right wing of the army, had taken a road to the west of the road assigned to the 9th and its train, which road veered to the west, thus opening up a gap between the center and the right wing; the road assigned to the 9th took us right through the gap, and not until descending quite a hill into a small valley, late in the afternoon, did we discover our situation, and probably would not have done so then only for

the fact that a detail of cavalry scouts who were stationed on top of the hill on the other side of the valley discovered us first as being Federal troops, and hastened to meet us with the information that we were in dangerous territory, that the left wing of the rebel army was camped just over the hill beyond, and he and his companions were watching them. Orders were at once given to park the train in an open field where we had halted; extra ammunition was issued to all and orders given to remain perfectly quiet until further orders. After some little time the train was about faced and started on the road back, and later the regiment was ordered to follow. It was then nearly dusk, and soon after started to rain, and was so dark that it was difficult to keep in the road or see our comrades in front of us. About midnight one of the advance wagons had the misfortune to break an axle, bringing the train and regiment to a halt. After standing for some time in the mud and water an order was passed down the line to make ourselves as comfortable as we could, until further orders. It being so dark we did not dare move out of our tracks, so just had to sit or lie down in the mud. Just as daylight began to show, the wagon having been repaired so it could be moved, we fell into line and began to move on, and it was not until about nine o'clock in the forenoon when we reached Gen. Thomas' headquarters, receiving "a scolding" for our escapade, and congratulations for our narrow escape with the train."

Here are some extracts from letters written by Comrade Frank Lester, Company C, during the Atlanta campaign:

"Ringgold, Ga., Friday, May 6, 1864. We left Chattanooga May 4 about nine a. m., and reached this place about sunset, having marched about 25 miles, carrying our knapsacks and three days' rations—a hard march for the first day. We were assigned to duty at headquarters."

"Camp near Big Shanty, June 18. (This is the place where the Andrews Raiders captured a locomotive two years ago). There has been a continuous roar of artillery and musketry all day. The rebels have a good position in the ranges of the Alatoona mountains, and seem determined to

fight hard before retreating. We have taken a good many prisoners during the last few days."

"Camp near Marietta, Ga., Sunday, June 26. There is an average of 50 to 100 prisoners sent to Chattanooga daily. Last Monday we sent 300, the most we have sent at any one time. A good many rebels are deserting and coming into our lines every day. Saturday night the rebels were driven out of their breastworks, which were the strongest I have yet seen. The trees were literally cut to pieces by the shell and bullets. Tuesday and Wednesday was the hardest cannonading we have heard."

"Near Kenesaw Mountain, July 2. Our lines were advanced last night but not until many hours hard fighting. Our men filled boxes and barrels with sand and pushed them before them as they 'crawled' along towards the enemy, and drove them back without losing many of our men. Our lines are now about 30 rods apart, but both sides have good breastworks, and the first man that looks over gets a hole through him."

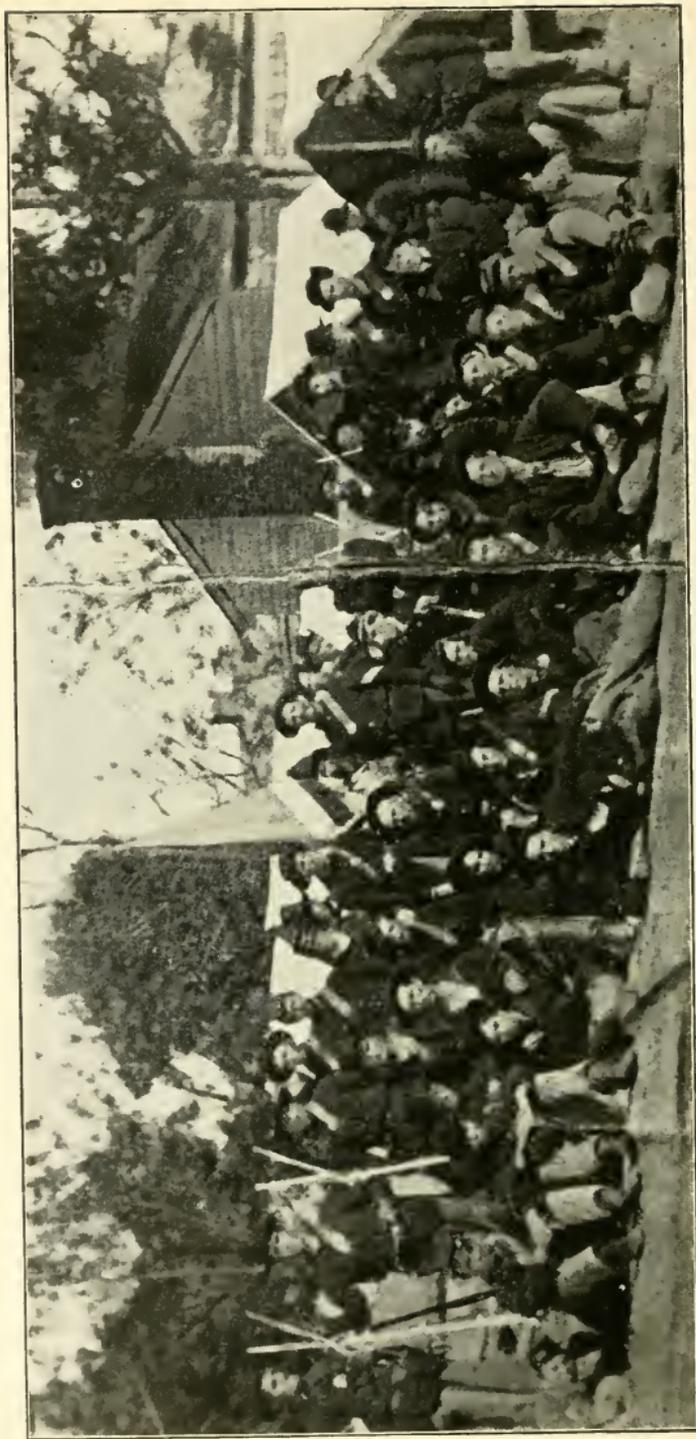
"Tuesday, July 12. I returned from Chattanooga last night where we went with 500 prisoners. We have taken nearly 5,000 during the campaign so far. We are now ten miles from Atlanta. It is very hot now, but we have plenty to eat and the boys are in fine spirits."

"Friday, July 29, camped near Atlanta. We have a string of prisoners at headquarters a 'mile long.' The rebels shelled us out of our last camp and we moved to the rear last Monday. Some of the shells tore down several of our tents."

"Saturday, Aug. 6. We have over 300 prisoners today, and they keep coming in."

"The bridge over the river (Chattahoochee) has been finished and the cars now run to our lines. (This shows how rapidly the army engineers rebuilt bridges and repaired the railroad so that supplies were brought with little delay). We have 300 prisoners today." (Every day during this campaign the Ninth was receiving and sending to Chattanooga more or less prisoners).

"Camp near Chattahoochee River, Sunday, Aug. 28. A detachment from the Ninth is in camp here guarding 400 deserters whom we brought from



COMPANY C. Photo taken at Chattanooga, Tenn., April, 1864.



WILLIAM H. WILKINSON
Captain, Major and Lieut. Colonel
Commanded the Ninth from Feb. 5,
1864, to its Muster Out, Sept. 15, 1865

Chattanooga. We have orders to turn them over in the morning, when we will go on to the regiment, which is now near the city."

"In the field 25 miles south of Atlanta, Sunday, Sept. 4. We have just completed one of the greatest raids of the campaign. We moved to the right and got in rear of the rebels, tore up the Atlanta and Montgomery railroad, and then moved onto the Macon railroad. The rebels tried hard to stop us and we had one of the hardest fights of the campaign, but we drove them from the road, tore it up, and took possession of Jonesboro Sept. 1." (The Ninth took active part in destroying the railroads).

About 3,000 prisoners were taken there, but 2,000 of them were exchanged in a few days, and others were sent north by Colonel Parkhurst, as previously stated.

On Thursday, Sept. 8, the Ninth marched to Atlanta and went into a very comfortable camp in the north part of the city, and resumed its duties as provost guards, which became quite arduous.

Again Frank Lester wrote: "Atlanta, Monday, Oct. 24. The regiment is still with General Thomas' Headquarters. The boys are interested in the coming election. Every loyal soldier will vote for Lincoln. The rebels want McClellan elected and when our prisoners heard he had been nominated they gave him three cheers."

Lester October 29, General Thomas started for Nashville to organize an army to oppose Hood, and on Monday, Oct. 31, the Ninth left for Chattanooga with Headquarters train and office equipments. They had a long train, it rained nearly every day so they had to sleep under the wagons for shelter part of the time, and it was so muddy and the march so tedious that they did not reach Chattanooga until Sunday, Nov. 6. But that was in time to give all the "Boys" over 21 an opportunity to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 8, for Abraham Lincoln, which the most of them gladly did.

On June 1, 1864, the Ninth and Twenty-Second Michigan Infantry were organized into a brigade designated as the Reserve Brigade, Department of the Cumberland, with Col. Heber La Favour, of the 22nd the commander, and both regiments acted as Provost Guards of that army

during the Atlanta campaign, the movements and duties of each regiment being generally different, and under the direction of Colonel Parkhurst. The two regiments marched together from Atlanta to Chattanooga, having in care a long train of ninety-six wagons with six-mule teams, and thirty-two ambulances, with Thad. S. Vining, of Company C as Wagon Master of the Army of the Cumberland. The brigade was discontinued when the Ninth went to Nashville in March, 1865.

When Gen. Thomas went to Nashville to organize an army to oppose Hood, Col. Parkhurst went with him, but the Ninth remained as a part of the garrison to hold Chattanooga. The guard duty of the never-to-be-forgotten winter campaign at Chattanooga, with Hood's despairing forces preying upon our outskirts, was arduous in the extreme.

The Ninth also guarded steamboats on the Tennessee river up to Knoxville and down to Decatur, Alabama.

After the battle of Nashville Gen. Thomas was made commander of "The Military Division of the Tennessee," which included all of Kentucky, Tennessee and Northern Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, with headquarters at Nashville, and he again promoted Col. Parkhurst to Provost Marshal General of that Division.

We of the "rank and file" had but a faint idea of the amount of work and responsibility that was entrusted to Col. Parkhurst. He had charge of our scouts and spies; interviewed and "pumped" rebel deserters, from whom it was said he could get more information than any other officer in the army, and he had to take charge of all rebel prisoners captured by Thomas' army. Over 1,600 prisoners were captured at Jonesboro in one day, and at Nashville over 4,000 were taken in one day. Van Horne's "Life of General Thomas" says, "According to report of Colonel Parkhurst, Provost Marshal General of the army, Hood lost during the Tennessee invasion over fifteen thousand men by capture and desertion." All of these and those taken during the Atlanta campaign under Thomas passed through Parkhurst's department. Lists of them had to be made, and then all sent under guards to north-

ern prisons. Of course he had aids, Adjutant Duffield being one of them for a long time, and at times one, two, and at one time three regiments besides the Ninth performed that guard work on the field and on trains under his command. He also issued and refused passes to the hordes of citizens who wanted to come into or go through our lines for all kinds of purposes, loyal and disloyal, and so he had to be on the alert for the disloyal ones. For example, for several weeks before and after the battle of Nashville no citizens were allowed to ride or ship goods on the railroad south of Louisville without his permit; and the same rule applied to all the roads south of Nashville—he controlled them for military purposes.

The following cut from a daily paper at the time shows a sample of Parkhurst's orders:

"Headquarters Department of the Cumberland, Office Provost Marshal General, Nashville, Feb. 19, 1865.

"On and after the 22nd inst. no citizen not in Government employ will be permitted to come to Nashville over the Louisville and Nashville Railroad except upon a military pass from these headquarters.

By command of Major General Thomas. John G. Parkhurst, Col. and Provost Marshal General."

Feb. 16, 1865, Gen. Thomas sent him into Northern Mississippi with staff and escort under a flag of truce, and he arranged with Generals Forrest and Taylor for the exchange of several thousand prisoners, which were later passed north and south through Vicksburg. Of the Federal prisoners thus exchanged, 1,866 left Vicksburg for their northern homes on the ill-fated steamer "Sultana," and 1,101 of them cruelly perished when that boat was destroyed by explosion and fire just above Memphis on the morning of April 27, 1865.

On his return from that mission, March 23, General Thomas complimented Colonel Parkhurst for his success, and then suggested that he order the Ninth to Nashville, which he did. Captain S. A. Wiggins, of Co. E, was on Gen. Thomas' staff and in charge of the Military Prison at Chattanooga from September, 1864, to September, 1865, and Company E and enough other men to make his

force 100 were left with him for several months to guard that prison.

The regiment arrived at Nashville by rail on March 29, and was at once assigned to duty by General Thomas as guards for his headquarters, and also at the Military Prison there. Men of the Ninth guarded the notorious guerrilla, Camp Ferguson, from prison to court and back during the several weeks of his trial. (He was convicted of over 100 cold-blooded murders, and the writer witnessed his execution by hanging on Friday, Oct. 20, 1865).

Comrade Frank Lester wrote, "Nashville, April 16, 1865. Yesterday morning there was to have been a grand military parade here and at night an illumination of the city. That morning the flags floated from every house and every one was rejoicing over the good news of Lee's surrender.

Just then the news came that the President was dead—that he had been assassinated! Then everything was in a turmoil. No one believed it at first and the men rushed to the telegraph office and to Headquarters to learn if it was true. Every one was dumfounded and did not know what to say. At noon every flag was at half mast, and was tied with black crepe. All the business places in the city were closed and every military headquarters was a place of mourning. There were several men shot by guards because they rejoiced over the death of Lincoln. A strong patrol was kept through the city all night."

"Nashville, April 23. There was a grand display here on Wednesday, the 19th. All the soldiers in the city led the procession, then came Gen. Thomas and his staff and others with their staffs, then the hearse-wagon drawn by twelve horses, one black and one white horse in each span. The wagon had three platforms. On the top one was the Stars and Stripes. The wagon was trimmed with black and white. After this came the fire companies and all the other societies, and then came the citizens. It was estimated that there were 40,000 in the procession, as it took an hour and 40 minutes to pass a given point. The soldiers all mourn the loss of Lincoln, our great martyred leader."

On June 25, 1865, about 100 men of the 18th Michigan Infantry whose

term of service had not expired were temporarily assigned to the Ninth because the 18th was to be mustered out the next day. In a measure that may account for the larger enrollment given the Ninth in "Michigan in the War."

The regiment continued at Nashville performing the same general services until September 15, 1865, when it was mustered out of the service, and the day following, in command of Lieut. Col. Wilkinson, left for Michigan, arriving at Jackson on the 19th, and on the 26th and 27th was paid off and disbanded.

On recommend of Gen. Thomas, Col. Parkhurst was made Brevet Brigadier General May 22, 1865, and he held his position on Thomas' staff until mustered out of the service Nov. 10, 1865.

As early as June 24, 1862, the Ninth had attracted such favorable attention that O. D. Green, Assistant Adjutant General at Nashville Headquarters in an official letter recommended the regiment to General Buell who was then at Huntsville, Ala., for his headquarters provost guards, and Lieut. Colonel Parkhurst for provost marshal on his staff.

The Ninth was assigned to General Thomas because he desired a few men as provost guards for his (the 14th) corps; the Ninth numbered only 350 when it arrived at Nashville in December, 1862, and General Thomas had got a favorable impression of the regiment because of its fighting at Murfreesboro in July, a fact that had just been established by the Court of Inquiry about that battle. As the regiment increased in numbers by the return of the exchanged officers and men, increased duties developed for it to perform. The regiment held its position because the men and officers took great pride in being the special guard for General Thomas whom they delighted to honor, and so did all they could to please him. Second, Col. Parkhurst's legal ability made him a useful member on the general's staff to

decide legal questions for management of the loyal and disloyal citizens; and his training as a lawyer fitted him for "pumping" information from citizens and spies (in which he excelled) and instructing our own scouts and spies, thus keeping Gen. Thomas informed about the citizens and the enemy. Thus, because of diligence in duty and industry in usefulness, both the regiment and its colonel were kept with Gen. Thomas several months after the close of the war when most other regiments had left the service.

Comrade H. C. Rankin writes, "The Ninth saved the day at Stone River, and again at Chickamauga by stopping thousands of stragglers and turning them back to their regiments when they were sorely needed.

"The Atlanta campaign from May 4, 1864, when we left Chattanooga, until Sept. 6, when we entered Atlanta on the south side from Jonesboro, was the greatest campaign of modern times.

"For ninety successive days there was not an hour, perhaps not a minute of the time when cannonading or musketry, shot or shell, firing singly or by volleys, could not be heard. It was one continuous battle from Ringgold to Atlanta. Somebody was under fire all the time. We had to fight for every inch's advance.

"To have been Thomas' Headquarters Body Guard, and to have helped to make it possible for the great Virginian to push back the enemy 100 miles through his own country, was glory enough for one regiment."

During the larger part of its service the Ninth was the trusted body guard of General Thomas, and provost guard of the different armies he commanded, receiving his entire confidence for courage and fidelity in the discharge of duty, which on marches and battle fields was arduous. On two occasions, at Stone River and Chickamauga, the regiment received special commendation in general orders for valuable services in restoring several thousand lost and panic-stricken men to their regiments at

times when their help was sorely needed. That both Col. Parkhurst and the Ninth performed their duties well and meritoriously must be evident or they would not have been so constantly advanced and kept in such important positions of trust and

responsibility all through the war under the immediate eye of "The Rock of Chickamauga." Repeated compliments coming from such a source give the regiment an endorsement scarcely equaled by that of any other regiment in the service.

The Ninth Michigan Infantry Association

"One Country, One Language, One Flag."

By Henry C. Rankin

Tradition rather than history marks the origin of the Ninth Michigan Infantry Association. As the early history of Nations, Greece, Rome, Persia, Germany, the beginnings of our association are involved in obscurity. Various legends have been in vogue, each claiming to have given rise to what we call our reunions. As ancient cities strove for the honor of Homer's birth, so Detroit, Jackson, Fowlerville, Portland, claim this later honor, the founding of the Ninth Michigan Infantry Association.

In 1866 there was a meeting of some Ninth Michigan men in Detroit. In October, 1868, there was an informal gathering of ex-soldiers of the Ninth at the old Hibbard house in Jackson. No regular reunions, so far as we knew, of any Civil War regiment were held at that time. The idea was new to us. During the next ten years other informal meetings took place. A semi-organization was made in 1872 at Jackson. Officers were chosen. No set time was appointed for another meeting, hence this organization fell into disuse. Detroit, Fowlerville, Portland, Coldwater, Lansing and other towns in the seventies endeavored to form a reunion of the ex-soldiers of the Ninth.

Lack of available written records are the veils of obscurity, which, intervening, together with the final mustering out of so many of the Ninth's citizen-soldiers, may keep from posterity the exact facts in the case. Hence this brief resume of our

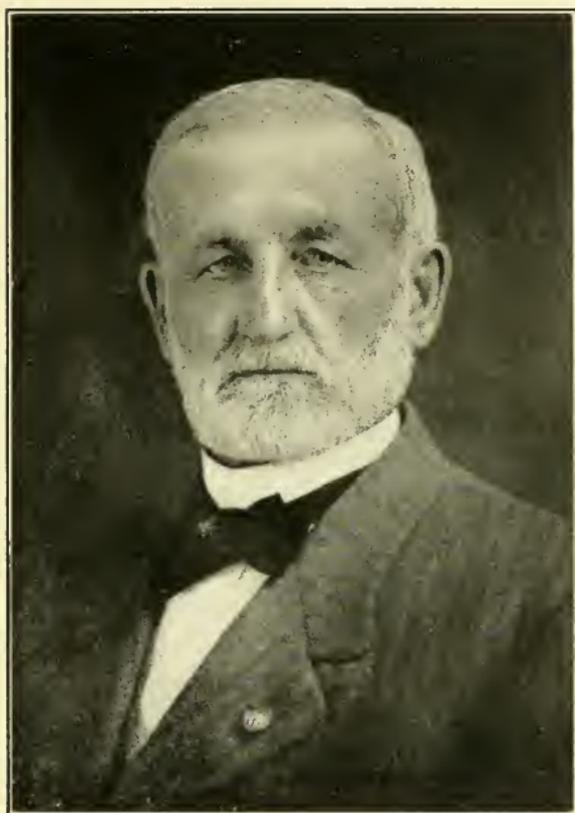
association from best records obtainable.

This we do know for certainty that during the reunion of the soldiers and sailors of south western Michigan held at St. Joseph in August, 1883, a few of the Ninth did effect a permanent organization. Comrade John Mater, of Dowagiac, was elected president for the ensuing year, Comrade W. F. Hurlbutt, secretary-treasurer. Twenty-two ex-soldiers at St. Joseph formed the nucleus of our regimental association. The dues were placed at five cents to be used to get in touch with as many P. O. addresses of the veterans as possible. Almost the entire night of August 22 was spent in talking over old times and making preparations for future reunions.

August 21, 1884, the association met in a grove under a big tree near Battle Creek. President Mater called the assembly to order. H. M. Duffield, Capt. Marble, Capt. Carris, George L. Fisher, and some thirty other Ninth Michigan men were brought together during the day. A letter was read from General W. W. Duffield, others from other ex-soldiers. Comrades Duffield and Marble made enthusiastic speeches commending in strong terms the idea of annual reunions. Upon invitation of Geo. L. Fisher backed by his Post and W. R. C. the association voted to go to Fowlerville in '85. Gen. W. W. Duffield was chosen president, H. C. Rankin vice-president, W. W. Hurlbutt secretary and treasurer. The dues, on motion, were raised to ten cents per annum.



NINTH MICHIGAN MONUMENT
at Chickamauga Park



HON. HENRY C. RANKIN
Company C.
President Ninth Michigan Association



One hundred four names and addresses, through dint of considerable effort, were on the roll at the close of the Battle Creek meeting.

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 1885, Fowlerville set a great pace for future reunions. There had been a business meeting held the evening before, fifty of the Ninth being present. It was voted, then, to meet the incoming trains on the morrow, the Boys marching, as of old, headed by the Fowlerville cornet band. The next day brought a hundred other Ninth Michigan men. To see them scan the faces of each other, the Boys on the platform greeting those alighting from the various trains; to watch mutual recognition; to observe, even then, war-worn and furrowed faces light up eagerly, with more than brotherly affection when they could recall one another; again to see the looks of disappointment when some found 21 years too long an interval to recollect with distinctness—these were common occurrences. Other memories, however, were induced, later in the day, to come out of their hiding places, thus revealing many old-time reminiscences supposed to be forgotten. Acting president Rankin had a busy time at Fowlerville; Col. Parkhurst served in the humble capacity of assistant secretary. All the old Co. K Boys played host. Fisher was here, there, everywhere taking care of the guests. John Gilluly Post, No. 114, G. A. R., the W. R. C. and the ladies of Fowlerville extended every possible courtesy to the visitors. One comrade had walked 25 miles to get to a train. Several had driven 50 miles, others had made what seemed, then, to be great sacrifices to be on hand. It was our first great reunion, 169 of the Boys enrolled. There was a rousing banquet, with many patriotic toasts; there were hours and hours of story-telling and face to face colloquies; the greetings were cordial, the partings at the close, regretful. It was a great home-coming, as it were, and we all enjoyed it thoroughly. Col. Parkhurst was chosen president for the following year, Lieut. Curry, vice president, Comrade Rankin, secretary-treasurer.

The next year (1886), the Association met at the old Biddle House in Detroit. There was a much smaller

attendance than the year before at Fowlerville, but Comrades Duffield, Starkweather, Fales, Andrews, Guthard, Cole, and other Detroit men put forth their best efforts to make the Boys feel at home. The regiment went by the steamer Sapho to visit Fort Wayne. A business meeting was held on the steamer, Comrade Rhodes beating the assembly call. The dues were raised to 25 cents at this meeting. In the evening there was a camp fire held at the Biddle House during which time, more slumbering, war-time recollections were awakened. Lansing was chosen for the next reunion, Capt. Starkweather was made president and Capt. Dobbelaere secretary-treasurer.

August 31, 1887, we met in the State House. Among other good things were the patriotic recitations and war songs of a Miss Mabel Plummer with whom the comrades were so pleased, that, on motion of Capt. Marble, they elected Miss Plummer daughter of the regiment. At this reunion, Col. Parkhurst, in the name of the Association, presented to the Military Museum in the capitol a picture of a group of the Ninth's officers taken at Chattanooga in 1864. A camp fire was held in Representative Hall in the evening during which time certain state officials were orators of the occasion. Capt. Dobbelaere was the toastmaster. Capt. Marble was made president for the ensuing year, Comrade C. A. Kelley, secretary-treasurer.

Grand Ledge entertained the association in 1888. There was a fine program. The Grand Ledge cornet band was in attendance. Fisher sang the Army bean. Miss Plummer again sang and recited, there was a good banquet, and a good time generally. Capt. Marble was re-elected president for the next year, C. A. Kelley, secretary-treasurer. Fowlerville pressed the Boys to return for their 1889 reunion. Remembering what a send-off we had in '85, this invitation was gratefully accepted.

The second Fowlerville reunion (1889) made headquarters at Comrade Fisher's home. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher played host and hostess that day to a pretty big family. The yard and house were fitly decorated for the occasion. Lieut. Curry delivered the oration. Fulsome resolutions were drafted in commendation of the Fish-

ers and other Co. K comrades and the good citizens of Fowlerville for another pleasant and memorable reunion. A letter was read from Gen. W. W. Duffield and many others from absent comrades at the evening camp fire at Fisher's home. This reunion is memorable for the many tete-a-tetes, an especial era of good feeling prevailing.

August 26, 1890, we met at Fenton, president Fisher in the chair. Rev. Mr. Kennedy delivered a most welcome and memorable address which was responded to by General W. W. Duffield in characteristic, gentle words of tenderness and warm expressions of fraternal regard for the men who marched with him in 1861. Those who heard the courteous old commander will never forget those fatherly anxieties and admonitions. Capt. Dobbelaere was made assistant secretary, C. B. Andrews, secretary-treasurer; Lieut. C. R. Brand, president for the next reunion to be held in 1891 at the time of the National Encampment at Detroit.

This reunion (1891) was in point of numbers the greatest of all since the war closed. Three hundred twenty-nine ex-soldiers answered to their names when the roll was called. Detroit was crowded to its utmost capacity during this high tide of Encampments, State and National, three decades after the Civil War began. The Association found quarters in the Barstow school building where they were called to order under not very promising conditions for holding a reunion, but receiving a cordial invitation from Judge Brown at his commodious home, 702 Jefferson Ave., they repaired thither to hold the exercises. A letter from W. W. Duffield was read at this meeting. Some extracts are as follows:

"Pineville, Ky., Aug. 1, 1891.

"I need not tell you that I am bitterly disappointed. For the past two months I have looked forward with great pleasure to meeting with you once more—receiving the warm grasp of your hands and listening to the hearty welcome I well know you would give me. But although I shall not meet you in person I will be with you in heart and feeling. Looking back to that happiest portion of my life spent with you in the field, with grateful remembrance of the kindness

and courtesy received at your hands I pray the Good Father to spare us all till our next reunion which I sincerely trust will unite us all once more.

"Till then I shall gratefully remember your great kindness and cherish that bond of comradeship—stronger than the ties of kindred—which endears you all to

"Your sincere friend and comrade,
"W. W. DUFFIELD."

It was voted at this meeting to get up a complete roster of the regiment. Comrade J. W. Fales made it possible by donating \$50 towards this purpose. Much credit is due Comrades Dobbelaere and Andrews for their painstaking efforts to get the enrollment and addresses. Eleven hundred survivors were registered in this little book which did duty until Frank A. Lester of Mason with infinite pains brought out a complete roster twenty years later.

Albion was chosen as place of holding next (1892) reunion; Comrade Bissell, president, Comrade Sibley, secretary. The usual order of exercises was followed at Albion with a comparatively small number present. Lansing was selected for the 1893 assemble; Captain Dobbelaere, president, Comrade Caleb Smith, secretary, the time being coincident with that of the State Fair.

August 15, 1893, we again met in the State House. President Dobbelaere cordially welcomed his old comrades to Lansing. This was largely a social gathering. Letters were read from Col. Parkhurst and others who thought they could not be present. Resolutions were drafted in memory of the daughter of the regiment, whose demise was reported the previous May. The time was principally spent in little groups recalling old times. The organization elected Capt. Stevens president for 1894, Comrade Van Horn, secretary-treasurer and selected Portland as the place of next meeting.

This reunion (1894) was attended by an unusually large number of wives and daughters of the veterans. The Portland Observer said that it was owing to the prevalence of hard times and no reduced rates on railroads that so many of the old Ninth were absent. What was lacking in numbers, however, was made up in good social time. Rev. D. E. Mil-

lard read an original poem. Good letters were received and read from Major Fox and Capt. Marble, letters which ought to have a place in the history of the regiment. Comrade Rankin was elected president for the ensuing year, Comrade Dobbelaere chosen secretary, Detroit selected as place for reunion in 1895.

The legislature of the following winter provided that a delegation from each Michigan military organization participating in the battle of Chickamauga, September 19-20, 1863, might be sent to Chickamauga September, 1895, to take part in the dedication of Chickamauga Park. Some forty of the Ninth took advantage of the time and occasion to revisit Muldraugh Hill, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga and other points of interest to them in '61-'65. A reunion was held on Muldraugh hill, another in the court house yard in Chickamauga, President Rankin in the chair, a third when a little coterie of enthusiastic Ninths gathered round the regimental monument, surrounded by a statue of General Parkhurst, and erected at McFarlan Gap. The dedication of that great National Park held special interest for the men of the Ninth from the fact that their esteemed comrade, H. M. Duffield, delivered the oration and because Chattanooga was headquarters so long. The book, "Michigan at Chickamauga," speaks of the Ninth's reunion of 1895 on that memorable battle field. At the Chattanooga meeting Mrs. Margaret Parkhurst Morey, Col. Parkhurst's daughter, was elected daughter of the regiment.

On account of the '95 reunion being held on historic ground in Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia, Detroit naturally received the meeting in '96. President Rankin called the Boys to order at 3 p. m., November 11, in Odd Fellow's hall. Adj. Duffield had seen to it that the old battle flags in custody of the Q. M. General were loaned to us for one day. The Boys received the familiar banners with three rousing cheers. Under such inspiration they fell in by twos and marched to Comrade Duffield's residence on Jefferson Ave., where the entire body, the old standards in their midst, was photograph-

ed. The reception to the Ninth in the Duffield home was gracious in the extreme. The Duffields had provided a stately orchestra to enliven the occasion. The Boys sang the old war songs as interludes and preludes to the classic music. Patriotic recitations delighted the company, and then the feasting for the comrades and the members of their families. After this necessary part of every successful reunion the Association returned to Odd Fellow's hall and held their camp fire into the wee sma' hours. The next morning at the business meeting a motion was made and carried that the president, first vice president, and the secretary be elected for life. In pursuance of this purpose Col. Parkhurst was elected president, Adj. Duffield first vice president, Capt. Dobbelaere secretary. Coldwater was chosen for place of next meeting. The Association finally marched to the foot of Woodward Ave. and by the courtesy of the D. U. R. was treated to a couple hours' ride within the city.

Coldwater was fitly decorated for such an auspicious event—the coming of Gen. Thomas' body-guard to the home of his old-time Provost Marshal General, October 6-7, 1897. At 4:30 p. m. the Ninth, headed by the Coldwater band, marched to Gen. Parkhurst's residence on North Clay street. On arriving the company was first photographed and then swarmed in through the spacious portals where thirty Mesdames and Misses stood in the receiving line with Gen. Parkhurst and our daughter of the regiment, Mrs. Morey. The Coldwater Mandolin Club added to the pleasure of the gathering. Delighted with their reception, the Old Boys were loath to disperse from such congenial quarters. At 8 p. m. came the banquet at the G. A. R. rooms where covers had been laid for one hundred fifty. From thence to the capacious reception hall where Gen. Parkhurst in his happiest vein introduced Mayor Sherman who turned over to the old guard the keys of the city. An enthusiastic camp fire concluded the festivities. Of former officers of the Ninth present at Coldwater to greet Gen. Parkhurst were Adj. Duffield, Captains Marble, Conely, Dobbelaere; Lieutenants Bennett, Bunnell, Curry, Palmer; among visiting comrades were Benjamin. Coy,

Hubbard, Sibley, Lester, Lyman, Leach, Coder, Kramer, Pixley, Guthard, Siggins, Holt, Sine, Bissell, Fisher, Garrison, Tiech.

During the second day the boys marched in a body with a flag to the city high schools, where Duffield and others made patriotic speeches to crowded rooms of students.

During October 4 and 5, 1898, following the Cuban imbroglio, the Ninth Michigan Association met at Marshall. E. Marble and wife headed the enrollment followed by seventy-five comrades, not a few accompanied by their wives. Upon Capt. Marble largely rested the responsibility of giving his old comrades a fond reception and, as always hitherto, nobly did the hero of two wars rise to the opportunity. Dinner was served at the M. E. church under the auspices of the W. R. C., chicken pie and delicious coffee, with all besides that make up a square meal. There was not a break or jar in all the feasts—those of the inner man, those of reason and flow of soul, others in the friendly walks and talks. The toasts, the impromptu speeches, the songs, the recitations, the handshakings, the tete-a-tetes, were all the best, the liveliest the regiment had ever been favored with. A big delegation of the Ninth visited the city schools and gave some lessons in unmistakable patriotism. The Marshall reunion has been held in grateful, ever fond remembrance by all who were fortunate enough to be present.

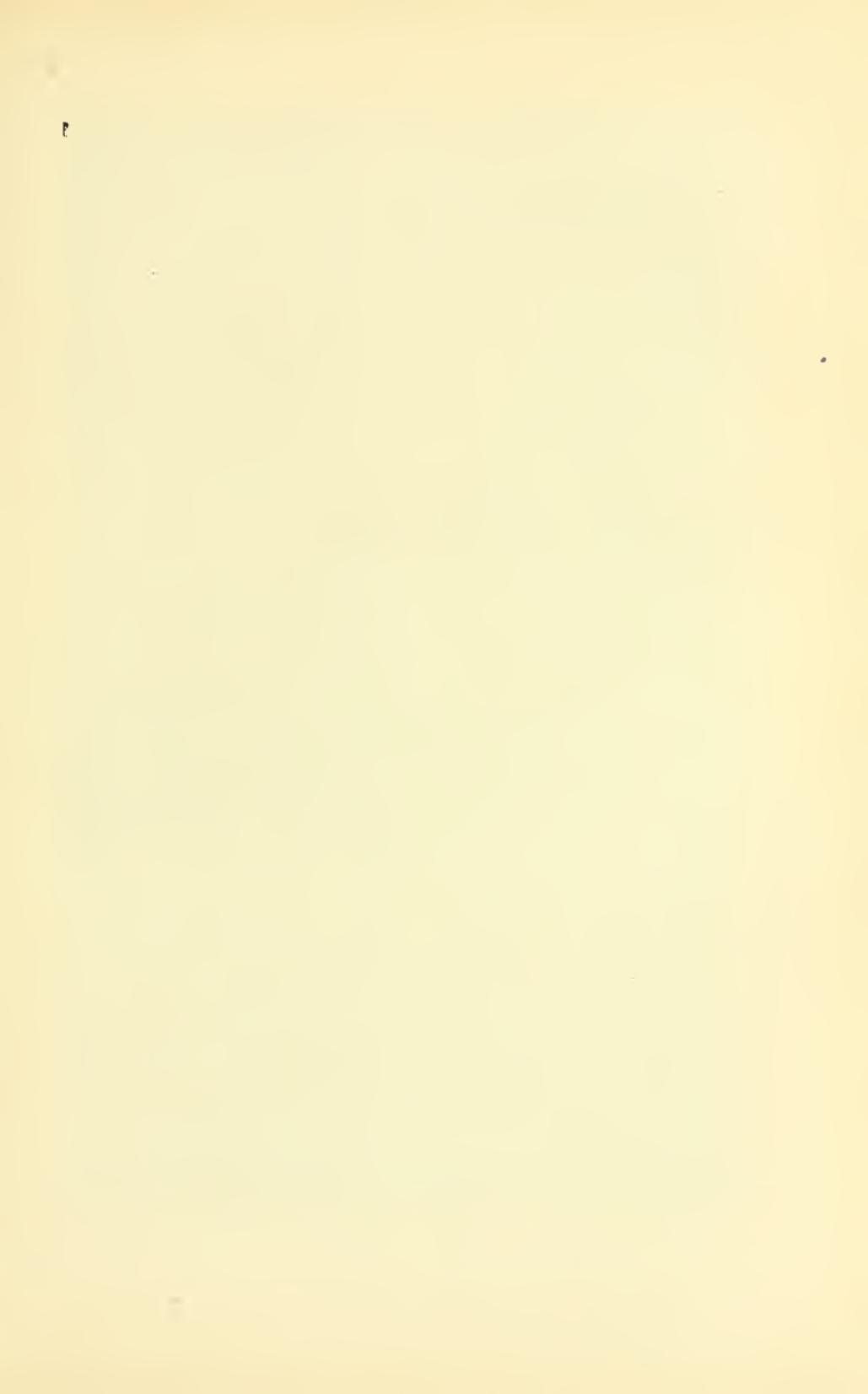
The Army of the Cumberland meeting in Detroit the year following, it was thought appropriate and profitable by our Executive Committee to hold our '99 assembly at that time. The bigger obscured the lesser, however, and the reunion was not a great success. There was, after a long waiting time, however, a boat ride on the river, a vote to go to Mt. Clemens next year, and some big speeches at the camp fire of the Army of the Cumberland well worth listening to.

Sixty-two comrades, a dozen accompanied by their wives, met at Mt. Clemens, October 16 and 17, 1900. Several hours were spent correcting the roster made nine years before. During this long rollcall the ex-soldiers seemed to be in retrospective moods, associating the names called with events of by-gone days of the

early sixties. Mt. Clemens did the agreeable during this reunion; there was plenty of time for visiting, to many of the veterans always most enjoyable part of these annual gatherings; the banquet room was brilliantly lighted, the Stars and Stripes in profusion amid the decorations.

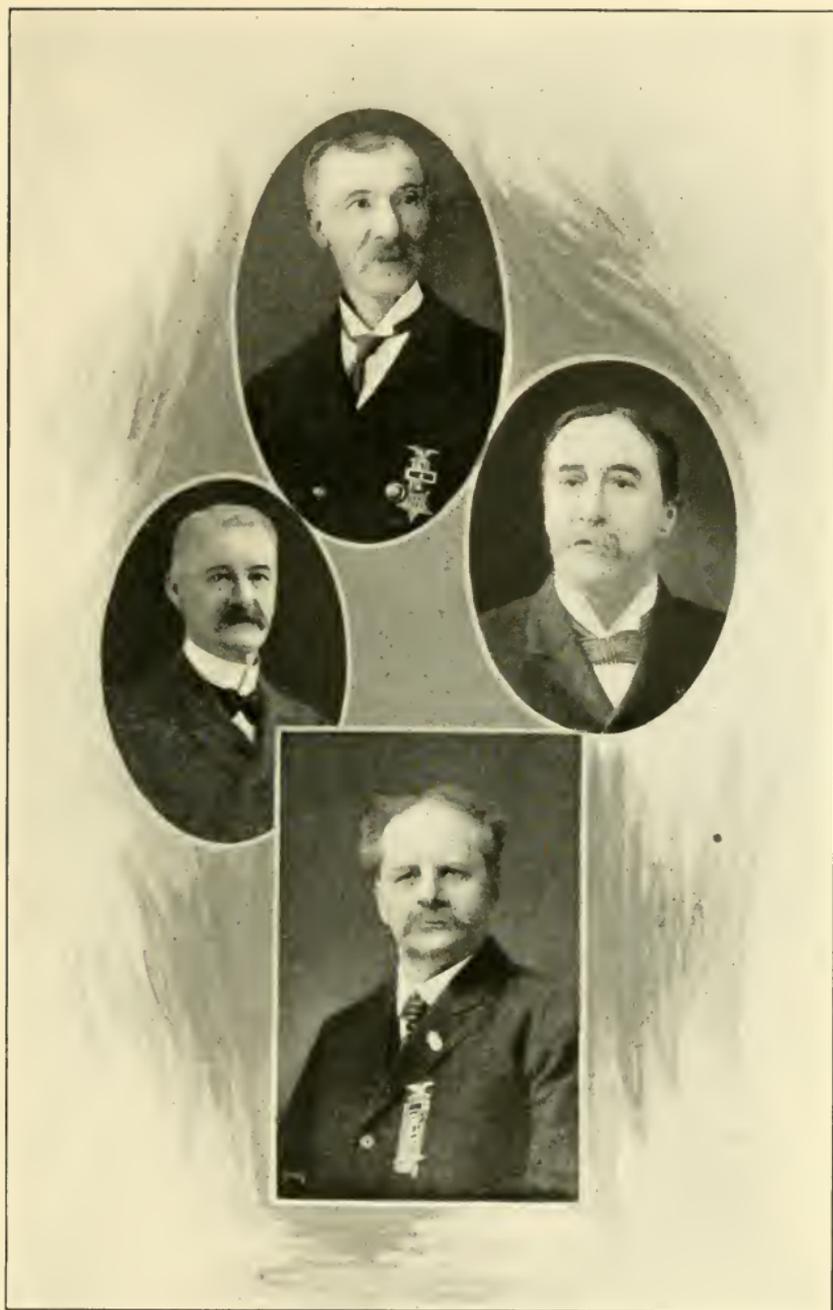
The Association sent Comrades Marble, Joy Warren, Sibley, and Rankin to visit the city schools and talk patriotism. This committee was enthusiastically received. Warren had enlisted in Macomb Co.; Sibley's brother was from the Mt. Clemens high school and had given up his life for his country; Marble had been prominent in educational circles all his life; Rankin was a teacher by profession. Marble's address on the occasion ought to have been preserved to coming generations. Marble's patriotism has always been of the Adams-Otis stripe. He comes by it naturally. His father was with Scott at Lundy's Lane, his grandfather with Warren at Bunker Hill. In no sense does he ever glorify war nor recommend resorting to it, except when other methods fail. His amor patriae is the deepest and most abiding, the purest patriotism conceivable.

The next year in October found the Association at Fowlerville again, 1901, the fortieth milestone in the history of the regiment, two score years since the struggle of giants began, in that final test for supremacy whether national or state sovereignty was to prevail. The Boys felt this fortieth year was an epoch in their lives; that that reunion would be one where-in they must call a halt and pass in review. Eighty-five were enrolled, about the same old standbys who could always be depended on. There was a seriousness about that gathering we all felt, yet could not explain. Parkhurst, the princely soldier, born to command, yet gentle as the most refined woman, was, on this occasion more dignified, more stately, more reserved than usual. The afternoon of Tuesday, October 1, was given over to quiet greetings, warmer ones than customary. The veterans seemed to notice in each other evidences of approaching old age. They would deny it, personally, but each saw it in his comrade. There was an inspiring camp fire in the evening at the opera



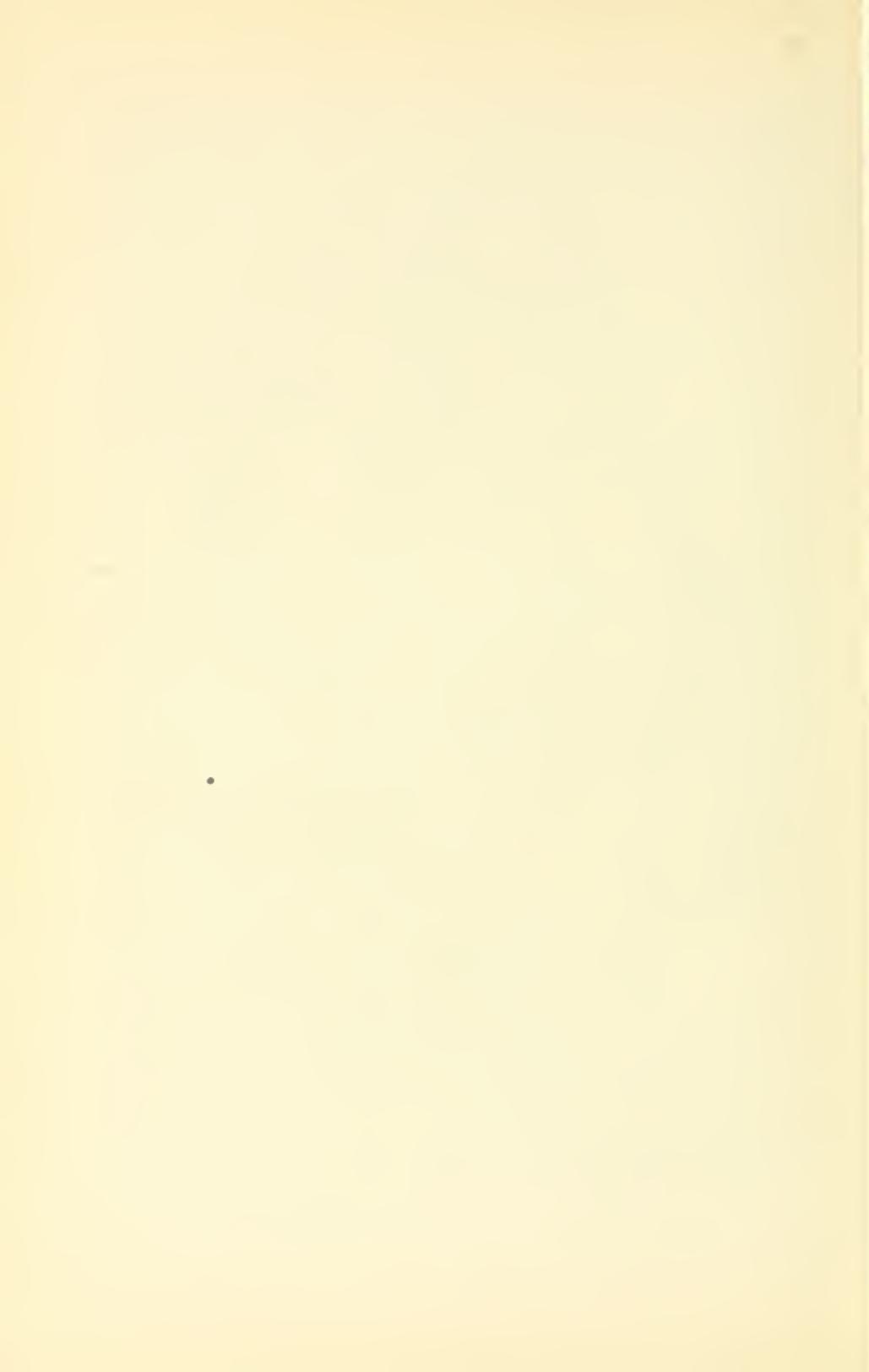


CHATTANOOGA IN 1863—CAMERON HILL IN THE DISTANCE



Four Ninth Michigan Men Department Commanders G. A. R.

William Siggins, Dep't Florida; Geo. M. Mott, Dep't California; Henry M. Duffield, Dep't Michigan; Perry Starkweather, Dep't Minnesota.



house. Comrade Miner described the old battlefields and camp grounds as he saw them the previous winter, and, while doing so, made a great hit in presenting his old regiment with a beautiful gravel which he himself had made. Wednesday morning the exercises opened with "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," a solo by Mrs. Rankin. The secretary read at some length from the files of a Murfreesboro newspaper of 1862 recalling vividly the old scenes. The following resolutions were adopted:

"Whereas, our comrade and fellow-soldier, Wm. G. Miner, of Co. D, has presented to the regimental organization an emblem of authority in this gravel, made by him from laurel and hickory grown on historic old Look-out Mountain, embedded with a bullet from consecrated Chickamauga and adorned with the red, white and blue of Old Glory; be it

"Resolved, that we accept from his hands and heart this token which expresses, more forcefully than words, memories olden passed into history of the campaigns in Tennessee and Georgia. That we desire to place on record our thanks to the comrade for his thoughtfulness in the gift which has in it so much of associated value.

"Resolved, further, that we acknowledge ourselves deeply indebted to the officials and to the citizens of Fowlerville, to the press, the clergy, the musical club, for all unusual favors and courtesies extended to us on our third visit to Fowlerville, acts of kindness which touch our hearts and bring from us hearty and unanimous responses of gratitude and gladness."

Mrs. Rankin then sang the "Star Spangled Banner." On motion the comrades voted to visit the Fowlerville Union School in a body which, headed by the regimental drum corps, they proceeded to do, seventy-five strong. The village president, Mr. Cole, announced to the school the object of this G. A. R. visit. Comrades Parkhurst, Marble, Fales and others made forceful addresses. They were in the proper spirit and gave voice with prophetic utterance.

October 22, 1902, the reunion was held at Mason, home of Comrade Lester. Mayor Whitman welcomed the Association, President Parkhurst responded; there was the usual routine

of business, then the annual banquet. The camp fire which followed was made up, principally, of one lengthy address which shut off all other would-be participants. The Mason reunion is agreeably memorable, too, from the fact that the Association found its champion there in the person of Frank Lester, Comrade Lester's son, whose zeal and devotion to the Association and to every man of the Ninth was without a parallel at that time, and has remained so up to this present. It was a gracious act at Mason on the part of the old regiment to make an honorary member of the Association, "bread cast upon the waters," which has returned many times in the days which have followed.

The next year, 1903, the Ninth held its reunion at Grand Ledge. Comrade Tracy is the only representative of the old regiment there but he always works like a beaver for the comfort of his comrades. The usual number registered, about seventy. Wednesday afternoon, September 9, was spent in renewing old friendships and in transacting the routine of business. The responses to toasts in the evening, during the banquet, brought out all the old-time eloquence and pathos. Gen. Parkhurst spoke on "The Rock of Chickamauga;" Capt. Starkweather on "Early Recollections of the Ninth;" Capt. Marble responded to the address of welcome. Comrades Fales, Dobbelaere, Hubbard, Stevens, Fisher, Miner, Palmer, Lyman and Mrs. Rankin took active parts during the camp fire, which, after an hour's interval for visiting, followed the banquet.

Howell entertained us in 1904. Its citizens had said to Lieut. Sargent, "Yes, Sargent, call upon us for what you will for the boys in blue." Gen. Parkhurst was ill and could not be present. Adj. Duffield, life vice president, officiated. The following telegrams were sent out. To Col. Duffield, Washington, "Your old regiment rejoices in the hallowed, inspiring memories which endear every one of us to our first commander and beloved friend." To Col. Parkhurst, Coldwater, "With sincere sorrow your comrades regret your enforced absence, but rejoice because your indomitable spirit still guides us." To Marshall, "We miss you, dear Com-

rade Marble, but join with you in hopeful expectation of clasping hands next year." Comrade Kelley's drawing of Muldraugh Hill, Kentucky, so vividly reproducing the old times was exhibited and called forth a good deal of attention. Major Jenny made the after dinner speech. The secretary called attention to the recent publication by the state of the regimental histories which could be had by application to the Adjutant General at Lansing. He also read a roster of 89 officers of the staff and line, more than fifty of whom had passed from earth.

At 7:30 o'clock the Howell band appeared, discoursed some patriotic airs, after which they headed the procession to the camp fire at the Court House. The Howell schoolgirls did the singing. W. P. Van Winkle's address was a masterly effort which received hearty commendation from a crowded courtroom. After the speeches the veterans visited at the hotels until a late hour.

At the morning session return telegrams were received, from Gen. W. W. Duffield, Washington, "My heart replies gratefully to your loving message;" from Gen. Parkhurst, "My sincere thanks for your kind sympathy and loving remembrance." It was especially urged that the ex-soldiers thereafter plan to make the second day of the reunion an essential part of the annual gathering and not break up until they do so in a body. Comrade Miner's gracious invitation, seconded by Comrades Klotz, Jordan, Wade and by other Co. D boys, to come to Portland for 1905, made evident the fact that Portland would outdo itself the next year to entertain the Ninth Michigan Infantry, so we accepted the urgent invitation and went to Portland the following September.

Promises at Howell the year before were made good. Everything which could be done, was done. The resident comrades, Miner, Klotz, Jordan, Van Horn, etc., backed by a loyal constituency of patriotic citizens, by the W. R. C. and by the G. A. R.'s generally, vied with one another in making possible a joyous and profitable gathering. The usual program was carried out. The Association had its "picture taken" the first day when everybody was on hand; a great deal of time was devoted to visiting. A

goodly number of comrades brought their wives and daughters. The presence of the ladies in later reunions has been a growing feature which everyone recognizes as a source of interest, helpfulness and pleasure. This was Gen. Parkhurst's last reunion in the flesh. He was full of years yet straight as an arrow. His presiding at Portland was dignified and impressive as of yore and yet his Boys, as he always called them, felt intuitively that the General's days were numbered, so they gladly accepted his pressing invitation to make Coldwater their place of rendezvous in 1906. His address at Portland, however, still showed much of the old forceful utterances which always marked his speeches. The Colonel, as the veterans loved to call him, was "in the saddle" to the last. He joined the immortals the following May, 1906.

October 12, 1906, but thirty-five of the once powerful regiment met at Coldwater, a feeble remnant of a once mighty host when an army of volunteers was marshaled for a great conflict of arms upon a thousand battlefields in behalf of the most righteous cause for which men ever contended for mastery. The daughter of the regiment would have it so that her father's old Boys must come once more to Coldwater though the General slept with the long roll of illustrious men who once had unflinchingly stood as leaders amidst the Nation's defenders. We were most cordially received, welcomed and feasted. Motor cars met the veterans and their wives at the depot; a reception was given us in the Parkhurst home; we looked upon the General's belongings and sat, some of us, in his familiar chair; we clustered in little groups in the library where the Coloney was so long a central figure; portraits of great Americans looked down upon us from the walls of the various rooms; the General's own military yet loving face among them, attracting, knitting and endearing us still more closely to the scenes and memories he, in life, adorned; we had beautiful and suggestive souvenir programs at the evening banquet, with the well-known features of Coldwater's most distinguished citizen and our greatly loved friend exposed to view as the flaps of the tent were lifted; General Duffield in his most graceful, charming

manner assumed the gavel of authority as our second life President; Mrs. Margaret Parkhurst Morey was the most gracious of hostesses; the citizens of Coldwater left nothing for our entertainment and comfort which could be done; there were good addresses at the banquet by some of Coldwater's most gifted orators; and yet a quiet, solemn and impressive awe permeated the entire reunion. The Association had purposed visiting the cemetery the next morning to strew with flowers the General's last resting place, but a violent snow storm unprecedented for the time of year prevented. Owing to the debility of Capt. Dobbelaere it was necessary to have him relieved from active work. Comrade Rankin was therefore elected assistant secretary and press correspondent, Comrade H. S. Hubbard, treasurer.

The next year (1907) the Association met in Detroit. There was a good attendance. After the business session, the executive committee provided a steamer for a ride on Detroit river. Arrangements had been made also for a banquet and toasts on the boat but owing to some misunderstanding the program miscarried. Comrade Miner's son, Rev. Frank Miner, was scheduled for the principal address. There was plenty of good music, plenty of wholesome food, a most delightful excursion down and up the river, but someone seriously blundered and the exercises prepared with so much care had to be postponed. The Association, however, banqueted later in the evening, and, rising to the necessities of the hour, as the Ninth Michigan were trained to do in Dixie, the standbys of the society managed to put in a couple hours' customary flow of soul. The daughter of the regiment's presence at this reunion was one of the really enjoyable features. There was plenty of time for visiting and the veterans made the most of it. As the years pass, our columns are more and more broken. We, therefore, feel the necessity of drawing nearer and nearer together as we close up our ranks and with faces turned forward continue life's battle until we, in turn, are mustered out.

In 1908 our steps were once again turned towards Fowlerville where three times before the regiment had

been received with open arms; upon the visiting veterans and their loved ones every fond care had been lavished; for the ex-soldiers only to ask, Fowlerville responded quickly with costliest gifts. There was an early gathering of the faithful ones for well they knew that participation at Co. K's home always exceeded the joys of anticipation. The first arrivals were confident that Benjamin or Fisher, Copeland or Lockwood, some or all of the resident members of the Ninth would be at the train to meet and welcome them home, for Fowlerville was beginning to seem like home. Indeed it was earnestly discussed at the business meeting later whether it would not be better to settle on Fowlerville or Portland as permanent headquarters of the Association, abandoning for aye our itinerary system.

It was a camp fire worth while that night. President Duffield's eloquent response to the welcome address sounded the keynote of the reunion; Comrades Hubbard, Guthard, Quinn and Fales followed the General with appropriate incidents and reminiscences; there were patriotic songs and recitations, music by the band at frequent intervals and then the thrilling, pathetic words, that fairly breathed inspiring thoughts, that brightly burned, of the daughter of the regiment, Mrs. Margaret Parkhurst Morey in her loving and comforting message in response to the toast, "My Father's Boys." There was nothing more to be said or done after her memorable address though we lingered until late the next day indulging our fancies in reveries or tete-a-tetes as we discussed means and measures which had in view the vital interests of our Association.

When the hour arrived for the customary bids for the honor of next year's entertainment there was a painful silence; for the nonce we were homeless, orphaned, men without a country, when Comrade Miner, dear faithful Miner, rushed into the breach and upon his own responsibility with heartfelt solicitation invited his old regiment to Portland for 1909.

So we went to Portland the next year (1909) and had the time of our lives, one continuous round of soul-stirring rejuvenations. A large minority of the veterans took the late