

8/22/92 JTB

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great grandson of

Capt. John H James

26th Ohio Volunteer Infantry
served under Col. Fyfe

James Eaton has original
copy of Rosecrans
Campaign with the
Fourteenth Army Corps

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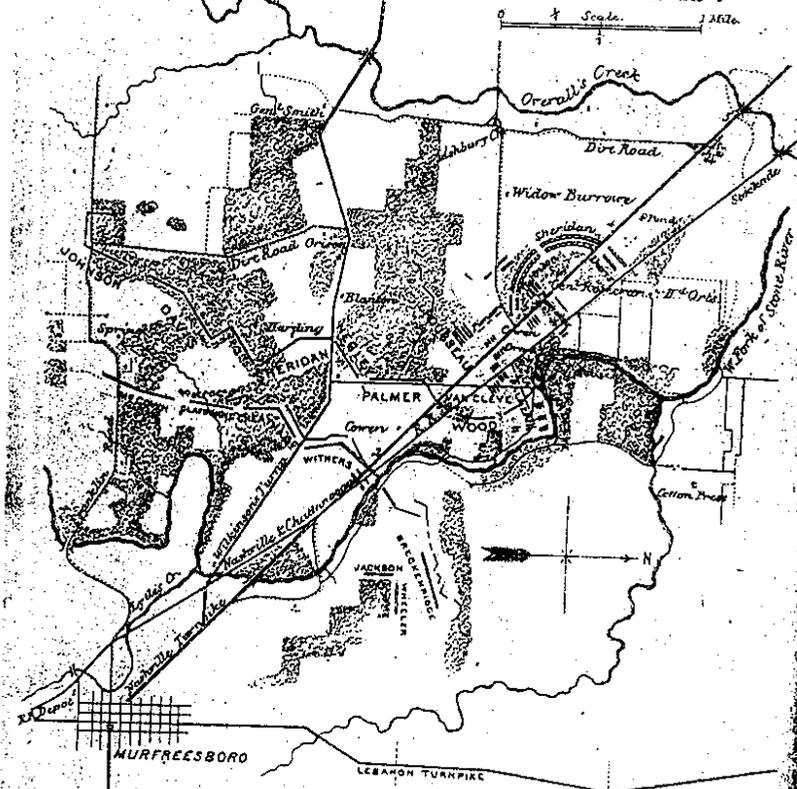
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TOPOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF THE
Battle Field
OF
STONE RIVER.

Surveyed under the Direction
OF
CAPTAIN N. MICHLER,
Corps Top^g Engineers, U.S.A.
MAJ. J. F. WEYSS,
Assisted by
Cap^{ts} W. Starling, D. P. Thurston, J. R. Stinchcomb
AND
Lieut. M. Allen, U.S. Vol.

EXPLANATION.

U.S. FORCES	DIVISION	1 st Position	—
	DIVISION	Last Position	—
REBEL FORCES	DIVISION		—
	CAVALRY		—
		Line of Works	—
		Houses	—



Explanatory.—The rebel line of battle and their line of attack on the first day (as represented in the map) do not correspond. It was impossible for the Topographer to represent both. He therefore chose the line of battle of the rebels until they moved to the attack. The divisions of McCown and Withers then obliqued to the left until the left of their line projected beyond the right of Johnson's right, flanking him. The reader will bear in mind that the attack first fell upon the left of Johnson's division, then his right brigade, then Davis and Sheridan. The position occupied on the first day of January, is not fully represented; the entire line of the Left Wing not appearing in the map. This was omitted by the Topographer to avoid confusion in a reduced map. Otherwise the diagram is very perfect.

ROSECRANS' CAMPAIGN

WITH THE

Fourteenth Army Corps,

OR THE

ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND:

A NARRATIVE OF PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS, WITH AN APPENDIX,
CONSISTING OF OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE

BATTLE OF STONE RIVER.

By "W. D. B.,"

CORRESPONDENT OF THE CINCINNATI COMMERCIAL.

*William
Deming
Burkham*

CINCINNATI:
MOORE, WILSTACH, KEYS & CO.,
25 WEST FOURTH STREET.
1863.

or to resign. An invalid might obtain temporary respite in the hospitals, or resign. A hale man, unless recommended by his superior to resign, "for the good of the service," was summarily notified to return to duty. The rule was inexorable. But the General was swift to relieve the army of incompetents. He declined to listen to personal appeals. "I don't care for any individual. Everything *for the service*; nothing to individuals." Although an ardent friend, he would not permit the claims of friendship to interpose against the interests of his country.

"THE EYES OF THE ARMY."

The improvement of his cavalry was a primary consideration in his system of reorganization. "Cavalry," he was wont to say, "are the eyes of the army. They can be made its hands and feet." It was his object to elevate them to that excellence. Lee's Kansas Cavalry in the Army of the Mississippi, under his encouragement were renowned in all that country for their efficiency. He wanted whole divisions like them. When he assumed command of the Fourteenth Army Corps, he supposed he had twelve or fifteen thousand veteran cavalry troops. He was surprised and chagrined that he could not muster half that number. A portion of these were chiefly valuable for their capacity to evade danger and good service. A troop of jockeys with riding whips were quite as effective as some of the squadrons. No fault of theirs, but of neglect, lack of capable officers, and deficiencies of equipment.

He applied for Brigadier General David S. Stanley, an officer of great spirit, and superior military

skill, for Chief of Cavalry, and that General was relieved of the command of perhaps the best division of volunteer infantry in the federal army, to regenerate the cavalry arm of the Fourteenth Corps. There was no reserve from which to draw reinforcements, and the General Commanding applied to the War Department for five thousand Colt's revolving rifles as a substitute for men. About three thousand were received when the arsenals were exhausted. His mind was so impressed with the conviction that revolving arms would give best assurance of success, that if he had been offered the option of raw men or improved arms, it is probable he would have preferred the latter. It needs no argument to satisfy the public that five charges are superior to one, but the War Department has not yet discovered it. The moral ascendancy, which such arms impart to troopers who know how to use them, is of more value to the service than their relative physical strength. They have a double force, inspiring with confidence the men who are supplied with them, and terrifying the enemy.

General Rosecrans desired to make the cavalry arm perfect by combining with it an organization of mounted light infantry with light batteries for rapid movement, but the government had no such troops. The rebels had adopted it with brilliant success. It finally became so indispensable that infantry brigades were mounted and disciplined for the service.

The physical contour of his department also required a pack mule train to mutually adjust the parts of his projected system of warfare. It was almost impossible to penetrate the mountains of East Tennessee with ordinary transportation. It was a para-

mount object with him to relieve that Switzerland of America from oppression. It was crushed with the most accursed tyranny on the face of the earth. Its quiet citizens had been murdered for loyalty to their government. Its helpless women and children had been driven to the mountain caves, and their dwellings were eaten up by incendiary flames. Thousands of its patriotic men were fugitives, or were toiling and fighting to reach their homes once more. Their hearts were stricken, and they might well exclaim in agony of hope deferred: "How long, oh Lord, how long!" It never will cease to be astonishing that the deliverance of the mountaineers of Tennessee was so long delayed. General Rosecrans from sympathy and for important military reasons determined to accomplish it. But there was delay here too. A train of five thousand pack mules, which were indispensable to the enterprise was ordered, and months elapsed without satisfaction of the requisition.

DISCIPLINE.

The discipline of the corps in all its departments was an object of unremitting effort. There was no sound reason why the discipline of veteran volunteers should not be equal to that of regulars. It was not the fault of the soldiers, who exhibited a ready acquiescence to orders when officers showed capacity and nerve. There were a few regiments in the army fully equal to those in the regular service. These had zealous officers of large capacity. There was one mode especially by which neglect of duty, carelessness and incompetency, would be eliminated and the army purified. General Rosecrans solicited

authority to dismiss officers from the service for satisfactory military reasons. The reply of the Secretary of War expresses the character of the application, to wit:

"Washington, Nov. 3, 1862.

"MAJOR GENERAL ROSECRANS:

"The authority you ask, promptly to master out or dismiss from the service officers for flagrant misdemeanors and crimes such as pillaging, drunkenness and misbehavior before the enemy, or on guard duty is essential to discipline, and you are authorized to use it. Report of the facts in each case should be immediately forwarded to the War Department, in order to prevent improvident restoration.

"[Signed,]

E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War."

A general order (No. 4) embodying the foregoing was promptly published, directing that officers dishonorably dismissed, should be divested of the insignia of rank in the presence of their respective commands, and be escorted by soldiers outside of the camp. It was severe but it had a most salutary influence.

rebels slacked fire, and in a short time disappeared altogether, leaving Colonel Matthews master of the field, though severely bruised by a fall from his horse. The brigade marched home triumphantly, and received the plaudits of the army for its brilliant conduct. Our loss was Adjutant B. R. Muller, of the Thirty-Fifth Indiana, and four enlisted men killed; two commissioned officers, including Lieutenant Colonel Balfe, and thirty-three enlisted men wounded, and four missing. The rebel newspapers announced that their casualties were one hundred. We captured but one prisoner. The skillful management and gallant bearing of Colonel Matthews was generously applauded by the General Commanding.

SPECIAL HONORABLE MENTION.

The conduct of the troops was scanned with interest because it was the beginning of the campaign, and it was desirable to measure the reliability of the army. Colonel Matthews reported that every man in the command behaved himself handsomely, and upon his official recommendation, General Rosecrans published a field order, of which the following is a copy, commending the heroism of the brave sergeant and ten men who held Dobbin's Ford so stoutly, viz.:

SPECIAL FIELD ORDER.

The General Commanding takes this method of complimenting the following non-commissioned officers and privates of the Twenty-First Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, for their gallant conduct in the skirmish near Dobbin's Ford, on the 9th inst.:

Sergeant J. F. Morton, Co. F, commanding squad.

Corporal Henry Stabel, Co. A.
 " J. P. Hagan, Co. F.
 Private Geo. P. Montjoy, Co. A.
 " Cassius Kiger, Co. A.
 " Edward Welch, Co. A.
 " Wm. Murphy, Co. A.
 " R. B. Clusin, Co. F.
 " W. W. Oliver, Co. F.
 " Jno. Morton, Co. F.
 " B. S. Jones, Co. F.

By command of

MAJOR GENERAL ROSECRANS,

J. BATES DICKSON, *Captain and A. A. General.*

Such prompt recognition of good conduct in battle has vast influence upon the *morale* of an army. It is to be regretted that all commanders and the government have not yet learned to attach sufficient importance to the value of rewards to the brave soldiers of the Republic.

GENERAL STANLEY'S SPIRITED DASH ON FRANKLIN.

The revolving rifles were received four or five weeks after they were ordered. General Stanley distributed them immediately among his most reliable cavalry troops. The Fourth Ohio Cavalry, which was one of the best regiments in the field, was now properly armed for the first time since it had entered the army. Other regiments which had been neglected were also improved by the new arm. The men evinced anxiety to practice their five-shooters on the rebels. Stanley, nothing loth, proposed to gratify them. Massing a considerable force on the 11th of December, he pushed down the Franklin road for the

purpose of making a reconnoissance and to surprise the rebel garrison at Franklin.

Soon after passing the outposts the twang of a carbine advertised the presence of the enemy. The advance guard pressed up sharply and evoked a sharp volley from a line of horsemen in a thicket. Dashing furiously forward a regiment of Wharton's Texas riders were driven out of their nests and scurried over the hills, our fellows after them at a slashing pace. It was an exciting hurdle race, over rocks and ridges, hedges and fences, while a merry ping of rifles and carbines rang through the woods in every direction. It was now rifle and spur; on, Stanley, on; run, rebels, run; until the last gray-back disappeared in the jungle. The bugles sang truce for the nonce, and the blue jacket clans gathered in to breathe a little. Pushing out his scouts right and left, Stanley was not long in beating up more game. Again it was rifle and spur, and rattle of small arms, but the enemy refused to await the shock. The whole day was thus galloped away, Stanley losing not a man, the rebels keeping clean out of revolver range. At nightfall Stanley had chased the enemy beyond Triune, destroyed two camps, and had captured some prisoners and horses. The men were jaded, but flushed with success.

THE SURPRISE FOLLED.

The command was now about west of, and only seven miles from Murfreesboro. There was a strong rebel force at Nolensville in front of them, the main body of Bragg's army was at Murfreesboro, and Buckner's

division was behind them. Nevertheless Stanley determined to make a dash at Franklin. Accordingly the horses were fed, and the men rolled up in their blankets for a few hours' slumber. Unfortunately an hour or two before the time appointed to move a prowling rebel drew an ineffective shot from one of Stanley's videttes, a Tennessee sergeant. He returned the fire with fatal effect. Not long afterward another picket firing alarmed the rebels at Franklin so that a surprise was out of the question.

Determined not to be balked, Stanley prepared to move upon Franklin at all hazards, but he now waited until broad daylight. Gathering his force in hand, he advanced cautiously upon the town, drove in the rebel pickets, and then shot out the head of his column directly at the main street. The rebels fled to the houses and opened a brisk fire, but the Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry under Major Wynkoop, charged into them, and drove them pell mell into the country. Stanley lost not a man. The enemy left a Captain and four privates dead in Franklin, and ten severely wounded, besides fifteen or twenty prisoners who were cut off. General Stanley occupied the town an hour or two, destroyed a valuable flouring mill, captured a considerable number of horses, and returned to receive the congratulations of the General Commanding for his spirit and enterprise. The conduct of the troops, especially that of the Seventh Pennsylvania and Fourth Ohio, was spirited and daring. The reconnoissance was perfectly successful. It had been reported that the enemy was shifting his forces to turn our right. General Stanley ascertained that no demonstrations of the kind were making.

The fog was so dense that it was impossible to distinguish objects a hundred and fifty yards distant. Movement was therefore greatly retarded. About two miles from camp, General Johnson's vanguard—Brigadier General Kirk's brigade in advance—encountered the enemy in strong force of cavalry, infantry, and artillery. A sharp fire was opened upon Johnson, but the fog was so dense that it was impossible to distinguish friend from foe. Our own flank skirmishers had fired upon Stanley's cavalry, and General McCook, being unfamiliar with the ground, and having ascertained that Hardee had been in line of battle all night waiting for him, deemed it prudent to delay further operations until the fog lifted.

At one o'clock the mist being partially dissipated the columns moved forward, the Thirty-Fourth Illinois and Twenty-Ninth Indiana Infantry in advance as skirmishers, supported by Edgerton's Ohio Battery and the Thirtieth Indiana Infantry; the Seventy-Seventh Pennsylvania and Seventy-Ninth Illinois following in line of battle in reserve. Baldwin's brigade deployed on the right of the road. Upon approaching Triune, General McCook ascertained that the main body of rebels had retired, leaving a force of cavalry with a full battery to contest the crossing of Wilson's Creek on the edge of the village, the bridge having been destroyed by the enemy. Driving the rebel skirmishers before him, General Johnson, by sharp fighting, finally gained the crest of an elevation overlooking Triune, and the enemy were descried in line of battle, with their center in the village. Edgerton's Battery was immediately put in position, and opened with such effect that the

rebels were quickly thrown into confusion, and treated rapidly down the Eaglesville road, Johnson's skirmishers following as speedily as possible. It now began to rain, and thick fog again obscured the country. The ground was also very heavy, and movement was seriously retarded. General McCook therefore determined to halt. General Johnson crossed Wilson's Creek with much labor, rebuilt the bridge, and encamped on the opposite side. Throughout the day the men had displayed the steadiness and pluck of veteran soldiers, and notwithstanding the stubborn resistance they met, they did not lose a man, the enemy losing several. Sheridan's division went into camp near the village, and General Davidson took position at the junction of the Balle Jack road with the Nolensville pike. Thus far all was well, and the designs of the enemy were not yet divined.

THE LEFT WING.

The troops of the Left Wing had been ordered to be roused an hour and a half before dawn of the 27th, to breakfast as speedily as possible, and to be under arms in line of battle before daylight. General Wood, an officer who enjoys a peculiar reputation in the army for his vigor and his vigilance, and his precision in regulating guard duty, having the lead upon this day, superintended the exact execution of the order. An occasional shell from the opposing high ground shortly after morning dawned, showed that these precautions were not lost. The Left Wing being further advanced than the Right, the former did not move forward until eleven o'clock, when Wood's division, Brigadier General Hascall's brigade in front, took

lead. The entire cavalry on the Left Wing had been directed to report to General Wood, and that officer, satisfied from the nature of the country that its position in front would be injudicious, and retard rather than aid the progress of the infantry, directed it to take position in the rear of the flanks of the leading brigade.

General Hascall moved forward in two lines with skirmishers well out upon the front and flanks. Harker's and Wagner's brigades advanced on either side of the turnpike road prepared to sustain the advance, and especially to protect its flanks. General Wood also directed the supporting brigades to protect their outward flanks by flankers, so that the advance of the column was entirely insured against any flanking operation the enemy might project. Possession of Lavergne, a mile from our front, was the first object to be attained. The approach was through open fields over fallow grounds. The enemy was strongly posted in the houses of the village, and upon the wooded heights in the rear, from whence he was enabled to oppose our advance by a direct and cross-fire of musketry. Hascall's brigade advanced gallantly across the field under a galling fire, and with a line of steel quickly routed the enemy from his positions, the two leading regiments, Twenty-sixth Ohio, Major Squires, and Fifty-Eighth Indiana, Colonel Buell, losing some twenty men, all of whom were wounded, one of them mortally.

Hascall's brigade, supported by Estep's Eighth Indiana Battery pressed forward vigorously, encountering the enemy constantly in the numerous cedar rakes which afforded them cover, but the enthusi-

asm of our troops was irresistible. The rebels found but little time to rest before they were driven in confusion to new positions. General Wood, constantly on the alert, was watching every movement with jealous eye, permitting nothing to escape him, and the troops, confident in their able leader, pressed on rapidly under a drenching storm toward Stewart's Creek. It was a matter of cardinal importance to save the bridge at the crossing of the Murfreesboro road, and General Wood strained every nerve to accomplish that object. The creek is narrow and deep, flowing between rugged and precipitous banks. The destruction of the bridge would retard progress, and involve the necessity of constructing a new one. The advance pressed so hotly upon the heels of the enemy that they saw them cross the stream at double-quick, the artillery horses under whip and spur. It was afterward ascertained that this rapid maneuver was executed by Brigadier General Maney's brigade. The enemy, however, took time to kindle a fire upon the bridge, expecting from the opposite side to repel any effort to extinguish it, but the line of skirmishers and Colonel McKee's Third Kentucky Infantry, which had now been sent to the front, dashed gallantly forward under a sharp fire of musketry and extinguished the flames. While the skirmishers were performing this brilliant exploit, Hascall's left flank was attacked by cavalry. The line immediately changed front to the left, repulsed the attack quickly, and a company of the One Hundredth Illinois Infantry succeeded in cutting off and capturing twenty-five prisoners with their arms, and twelve horses with their accouter-

Loved the man (28th)
leading.

ments. The enemy now fell back some distance from the creek, leaving strong pickets upon the crest of the hill near the bridge. General Wood had pressed them so sharply that they left tents standing upon the southern side of the creek, and the encampment was strewn with arms.

A STEEPLE CHASE.

Meantime, after passing Lavergne, the Nineteenth Brigade, Colonel W. B. Hazen commanding, was directed to proceed via the Jefferson pike to Stewart's Creek to save the bridge at that crossing if possible. Ninety cavalry of the Fourth Michigan, under command of Captain Maxey, reported to Colonel Hazen, and they were placed under charge of his Acting Assistant Inspector General, Captain James McCleery, Forty-First Ohio Infantry, with directions to clap spurs to the troop as soon as the enemy were started, and not slack rein until the bridge was crossed. The distance did not exceed five miles. Flankers were thrown out, and the infantry and artillery were urged forward at a speed that kept them within supporting distance of the cavalry. The enemy were less than three miles from the bridge. McCleery and Maxey, by following Hazen's nery directions to the letter, made an exciting steeple chase of the whole affair. The rebels outnumbered our gallant little detachment fully five to one, but they went over the bridge at a slashing pace, Maxey's troopers charging at their heels. After crossing they formed upon the opposite side of the creek, but were soon dispersed by our artillery. In this brilliant affair

we lost one trooper killed and two were captured. We captured ten prisoners, killed one commissioned officer and several men.

Colonel Kennett had been slashing at the rebel cavalry all day, and by a gallant dash succeeded in cutting off and capturing a detachment of thirty-six men of Colonel John T. Morgan's Alabama regiment. The field was now clear to the line of Stewart's Creek on the left. Negley's division closed up on General Crittenden's right, and General McCook was quietly encamped in the mud at Triune. The General Commanding remained at his quarters until noon receiving reports, and in the evening rode to the left front to inspect the position. He expressed great satisfaction with the results of the day's operations, especially commending the vigor and skill exhibited by General Wood and Colonel Hazen.