

HISTORY

OF THE

90TH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

IN THE

WAR OF THE GREAT REBELLION IN THE
UNITED STATES, 1861 TO 1865

BY

H. O. HARDEN

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LIST OF BATTLES IN WHICH THE REGIMENT WAS ENGAGED.

Perryville, Ky	Oct. 8, 1862.
Stone River, Tenn.....	Dec. 31, 1862, Jan. 2, 1863.
Ringgold, Ga	1863.
Tullahoma Campaign	Sept. 11, 1863.
Chickamauga, Ga	Sept. 19 and 20, 1863.
Resaca, Ga	May 14 and 15, 1864.
Kenesaw Mountain, Ga.....	June 9-30, 1864.
Battle of Kenesaw Mountain.....	June 27, 1864.
Nickajack Creek, Ga.....	July 2-5, 1864.
Atlanta, Ga	July 22, 1864.
Jonesboro, Ga	August 31 to Sept. 1, 1864.
Franklin, Tenn	Nov. 30, 1864.
Nashville, Tenn	Dec. 15-16, 1864.
Asheville, N. C.....	April 6, 1865.

Besides the smaller engagements of Wild Cat, Ky.; Burnt Hickory, Ga.; Bald Knob, Ga.; Columbia, Tenn., and almost innumerable skirmishes.

Dec. 1862

21st.—General inspection this morning. We leveled off the camp ground and had dress parade.

22nd.—The division went out on a foraging expedition, and did not get back to camp until 10 o'clock at night. These foraging expeditions were to gather feed for the horses and mules, and provisions for the men.

23rd.—We had until 1 o'clock to wash up, then had a company drill and dress parade.

24th.—The regiment went out on picket duty again today.

25th.—This is Christmas, and what a contrast between *our* Christmas and those who are at home in good, comfortable houses, with plenty to eat and good beds to sleep in, and good nurses when sick. The regiment came in off picket and we afterward had dress parade.

We have been quoting from John Chilcote's diary, in connection with our personal knowledge, and that of others. Chilcote became sick and was sent to barracks No. 1, Nashville. The measles, mumps, chicken pox, smallpox, and about everything else had broken loose and taken hold of the boys, and the death rate was alarming. There are 102 of the 90th buried in the National cemetery at Nashville, including those who were killed. As there is a gap in Chilcote's diary, we now quote from W. G. Mauk's diary, for a while.

26th.—Our brigade received marching orders this morning. This proved to be the advance on the enemy at Stone River, or Murfreesboro. A large army was concentrated here, and moved out on different roads to meet the enemy. Gen. W. S. Rosecrans was the commander of the Union army, and Gen. Braxton Bragg of the Confederate army. Our division moved

towards Murfreesboro and skirmished with the enemy's outposts. The regiment passed through Lavergn, which is half way between Nashville and Murfreesboro, on the 27th, and camped on Stewarts creek.

28th.—The army is still advancing on the enemy slowly, and a big battle is expected. What the outcome will be God only knows.

29th.—At 8 o'clock the forward movement was resumed, the regiments marching in divisions and in columns at half distance. We arrived near Murfreesboro, where we remained in position.

30th.—At 7 o'clock p. m. the division was massed in a cotton field, badly mixed, and in no condition for offensive movements. This was within one mile of Stone River.

31st.—The morning of the 31st found the regiment in line. After standing thus for some hours, hearing the din of battle in the rear, its turn came to be placed face to face with the enemy, where it fought as coolly as if it had been on a hundred battlefields. The enemy was, however, in too great numbers, and the 90th being without support, was compelled to fall back on the main force. At 12 o'clock m. the regiment was formed in line on the left of the pike and supported a battery the remainder of the day. The men having lost their blankets and knapsacks, suffered terribly that night from the cold.

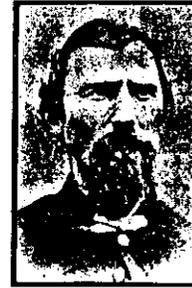
January 1, 1863.—The second day of the battle the regiment was in line all day, but most of the fighting was done by artillery. On the eve of January 1 the regiment, with the 31st Indiana, was ordered to charge across an open field. They obeyed, and drove the enemy from its position.

1st.—The day was quiet on both sides, the two armies resting for a death grapple, which was to take place the next day.

2nd.—On the morning of the 2nd the regiment occupied a position on which 58 pieces of artillery had been massed which sent Gen. Breckenridge's rebel corps howling back over Stone River. At 5 o'clock p. m. Gen. Palmer ordered the 90th Ohio and the 31st Indiana to move across an open field. They obeyed, and charged the rebel position still on the national side of Stone River, and with but little loss became masters of it.

The best account we have ever seen of this part of the battle is given in an article in the Chicago Inter-Ocean, and which we give, although its author is unknown to us. The boys of the 90th will recognize the graphic scene described, as they were a part of it. Here is the article, as far as it relates to that memorable charge and counter-charge, turning the tide of battle and the defeat of the first day into a grand Union victory.

"Breckenridge's charge at Stone River on the 2d of January, 1863, has been described by hundreds of officers and military historians, and yet not one gives a picture of the battle on that day as I saw it. Nothing that appears in the official reports of Rosecrans, Crittenden or Palmer, or Bragg, or Breckenridge, shakes the impression or blurs the picture that holds possession of my mind. I read acquiescently the reports as to the situation on the morning of the 2d of January as to the position of the troops, as to what Rosecrans saw and surmised as to what new dispositions were made to meet the expected onslaught, as to what Maj. Mendenhall did in concentrating artillery, as to what happened before the rebels reached the river, and what followed. But another picture comes up in my mind.



W. D. HUDSON,
1st Lieut. Co. I.



CAPT. S. D. WIDENER,
Co. E.—1863.



CAPT. ROBERT D. CADDY,
Co. C. Killed Sept. 20, 1863,
in the battle of Chickamauga, Ga.



CAPT. A. R. KELLER.
From a war-time photo. C
Keller was the President
the 90th O. V. I. at the t
of his death.

"We were in Palmer's division and our brigade occupied a point of high ground that seemed to extend out tantalizing toward the enemy. We had spent the greater part of New Year's day and night in throwing up breastworks, and shortly after noon, on the 2d, we were lounging in line, arms stacked behind the works, gossiping over hardtack without coffee. There had been a good deal of noise, of course, but artillery firing didn't count with the boys, and just at that time there was a lull. It was so quiet that we distinctly heard the tramp of marching men, and, looking to our right, we saw a full division of our own troops massed in close battle order moving toward us. They came within a few hundred yards, and settled down like a great flock of blackbirds. Then another division settled down in the same way, a little to our left and rear.

"We noticed that there was no talking among the men, that orders were given in low tones, and that the brigades were unaccompanied by batteries. We noticed also that there was a gathering of general officers in our rear, and that there was no firing along the line. There was so little noise and confusion that we heard Col. Granville Moody, sitting on his horse some little distance from us, say, 'May God have mercy on those poor men.' Looking then to the front we saw in the distance great orderly masses of gray pressing forward. On they came, line after line, until there were five lines visible, and then, while we stood gawking in amazement, there came down upon us a hail of bullets, knocking splinters of stone from our breastworks and splinters of wood from our guns, still stacked.

"We dropped to the ground, crept to the gun-stacks, took our rifles, and fell into line along the breastworks. On the instant it seemed to me the heavy masses of men in blue on our left and right spread out like great fans and came into line of battle. Away in the distance to the left we saw our advance brigades crumble to pieces and the men come trailing back. At a signal, sixty pieces of artillery massed near us

opened on the advancing Confederate column. We were in the midst of terrific battle before we realized it.

"We could see then that there had been careful preparation for this attack. We knew that long line of belching cannon was not there by accident. We knew that the divisions that had come over so quietly to us had been sent by some one who anticipated the attack, but to us the storm came like the sudden bursting of a hurricane. Minute after minute passed and still the sixty canon roared and the ground in front of us was half hidden by smoke. Then suddenly all was still again, and looking forward we saw charging columns meet with a crash. We saw thin lines of our own men in blue plunge down into the smoky indistinctness of the conflict. Still we crouched with tense nerves, until the major general commanding the division said hoarsely, 'Go.' Then it seemed to me that the whole army swept forward.

"When I read the accounts of the battle I know that this is not true, but the vision comes up of all the army in sight sweeping forward at a full run; of fleeing men in gray, of captured flags and artillery, until in the dusk we came squarely upon the intrenched lines of the rebel army and were recalled. Then I remember the elation with which the brigadier and major general spoke to us and with what a quick, elastic step we returned to our old intrenchments.

"The picture, as I see it, is that of the magnificent advance of Breckinridge's corps; the silent gathering of our own divisions to meet the attack; the mysterious, awesome silence that came just before the Confederates opened fire; the sheet of flame that came from the line of cannon, the magnificent countercharge of the Union troops, and the retreat of Breckinridge's men, shattered and broken. In no official report, in no letter of any correspondent is the battle described as I saw it, and no historian gives an adequate idea of the tremendous activities of those three hours in which victory came to the Union army."

THE MEN SAVED THE GUN.

TIFFIN, OHIO, January 29, 1902.

Comrade Harden:

In the official reports of our Regiment's engagement at Stone River, note that one of our commissioned officers, aided by several "men," drew off one of the abandoned brass field pieces. You will find the *officer's* name in the report, but *not* those of the *men*. I want to *vindicate history*, if not myself, by saying that I was *one* of the *men* — can't think now, of the name of another of Co. D Boy, who shared in the rescue. As I think of it, now, I seemed possessed of *double, mule strength*, and we marvel when we consider the *inducements* we had to move on, about that time. Any way, we saved the handsome, brass guns, but when we had landed the trophy on *our ground*, we experienced "that tired feeling," which suggested that we "go way back and sit down!"

This is our pleasant recollection of Stone River. Among our unpleasant recollections of that day, is the *strong impression* that when we fired our parting salute, before turning our backs on the Cowan House, somebody was hurt in that great crowd that rushed down on our then weak and abandoned lines. They shot to kill, and when I was detailed to assist in burying our regimental dead, we saw something of their deadly aim. They had both time and opportunity to study *ours*. Just what they found as fruits of our "careless shooting," we can't tell, and it is well.

S. C. Goss, Co. D.

THE BATTLE OF STONE RIVER.

We give the account of the battle of Stone River, as written by Lieut. Col. G. C. Kniffen, of General Crittenden's staff, who commanded the corps of which the 90th was a part, the account being the best and most accurate we can get, or have seen.

"On the 26th of December, 1862, General W. S. Rosecrans, who on the 20th of October had succeeded General D. C. Buell in command of the Army of the Cumberland, set out from Nashville, Tenn., with that army with the purpose of attacking the Confederate forces under General Braxton Bragg, then concentrated in the neighborhood of Murfreesboro, Tenn., on Stone River.

"The three corps into which the army was organized moved by the following routes: General Crittenden by the Murfreesboro turnpike, arriving within two miles of Murfreesboro on the night of December 29th; General Thomas's corps by the Franklin and Wilkinson turnpikes, thence by cross roads to the Murfreesboro pike, arriving a few hours later; General McCook's corps, marching by the Nolensville pike to Triune, and bivouacking at Overall's creek on the same night. The forward movement had not been accomplished without some sharp fighting. The advance of Crittenden had a spirited action at Lavergn, and again at the Stewart's Creek bridge. McCook fought at Nolensville, and the cavalry, under General Stanley, found the march a continuous skirmish; but the Confederate advance pickets had fallen back upon the main line, where they rejoined their division.

The armies were about equally matched. Bragg's effective strength was about 37,712, and Rosecrans' 43,400.

Rosecrans' left wing, under Crittenden, bivouacked on the night of December 29th, within seven hundred yards of the Confederate lines in front of Murfreesboro. His orders were to go into Murfreesboro, and he was inclined to obey them."

We wish our readers to bear in mind, Crittenden's corps, Palmer's division and Cruft's brigade, and by reference to the map, can readily see the position of the 90th regiment. — Ed.

"Riding forward, he found the two advance divisions arranged in line of battle, and, against the remonstrance of General Wood, ordered a forward movement. Palmer united with Wood, however, in protest,

on the ground that an advance at night over unknown ground, in the face of a force of unknown strength, was too hazardous to be undertaken.

"General Crittenden finally suspended the execution of the order an hour, and soon after it was countermanded by General Rosecrans, who came up to Crittenden's headquarters at the toll-house on the Nashville pike.

"Crittenden's line of battle was the base of a triangle, of which Stone River on his left, and the line of a dense cedar thicket on his right formed the other two sides. General Wood's division occupied the left, with his flank resting on the river, General Palmer's the right, while General Van Cleve was in reserve near a ford of Stone River. Of Thomas' two divisions, Negley formed on the right of Palmer, with his right on the Wilkinson pike, while Rousseau was in reserve.

"The soldiers lay down on the wet ground without fires, under a drenching rain. The slumbers of the commanding general were disturbed at half-past three on the morning of the 30th by a call from General McCook, who had just come up, and who was instructed to rest the left of his corps upon Negley's right. Of his divisions, Sheridan, therefore, preceded by Stanley's cavalry, moved on the Wilkinson pike, closely followed by R. W. Johnson and Davis. Skirmishing into position, the line was formed by resting the left of Sheridan's division on the Wilkinson pike, Davis taking position on his right, and Johnson in reserve.

"The general course of the Nashville and Murfreesboro pike, and the railroad where they crossed the line of battle, is southeast. On the left of the turnpike, and opposite the toll-house, was a grove of trees of about four acres in extent, crowning a slight elevation known as the "Round Forest," in which Wagner's brigade was posted. The line of battle trending irregularly southward, facing east and accommodating itself to the character of the ground, was much nearer the Confederate line in front of McCook than on the left, where the flanks of the contending armies were separated by Stone River. At 4 o'clock General Mc-

Cook reported the alignment of the right wing, together with the fact that two divisions of Polk's corps and two of Hardee's were in his front, extending far to his right out on the Salem pike. General Rosecrans objected to the direction of McCook's line, and said it should face strongly south, and that Johnson's division, in column of regiments at half distance, should be held in reserve in rear of Davis' right at close musket range; but he left the arrangement of his right wing with the corps commander, who had been over the ground. The right wing, generally occupying a wooded ridge with open ground in front, was further protected from surprise by an outlook over a narrow cultivated valley, widening from left to right from 200 to 500 yards, beyond which, in a dense cedar thicket, the enemy's lines were dimly visible. Confidence in the strength and staying qualities of his troops, and reluctance to yield a favorable position without a struggle, together with the fact that the retirement of his line must be executed in the night, induced McCook to make the fatal mistake of leaving his position unchanged.

"The plan of battle was as follows: General McCook was to occupy the most advantageous position, refusing his right as much as practicable and necessary to secure it; to receive the attack of the enemy, or, if that did not come, to attack sufficiently to hold all forces in his front. General Thomas and General Palmer were to open with skirmishing and engage the enemy's center and left as far as the river. Crittenden was to cross Van Cleve's division at the lower ford and to advance on Breckinridge. Wood's division was to cross by brigades at the upper ford, and, moving on Van Cleve's right, was to carry everything before it to Murfreesboro. This move was intended to dislodge Breckinridge, and to gain the high ground east of Stone River, so that Wood's batteries could enfilade the heavy body of troops massed in front of Negley and Palmer. The center and left, using Negley's right as a pivot, were to swing around through Murfreesboro and take the force confronting McCook in rear, driving it into the country toward Salem. The suc-

cessful execution of General Rosecrans' design depended not more upon the spirit and gallantry of the assaulting column than upon the courage and obstinacy with which the position held by the right wing should be maintained. Having explained this fact to General McCook, the commanding general asked him if, with a full knowledge of the ground, he could, if attacked, hold his position three hours,—again alluding to his dissatisfaction with the direction which his line assumed, but, as before, leaving that to the corps commander,—to which McCook replied, "I think I can."

"Swift witnesses had borne to the ears of General Bragg the movements of General Rosecrans. He had in his army about the same proportion of raw troops to veterans as General Rosecrans, and the armies were equally well armed. By a singular coincidence Bragg had formed a plan identical with that of his antagonist. If both could have been carried out simultaneously the spectacle would have been presented of two armies turning upon an axis from left to right. Lt. General Hardee was put in command of the Confederate left wing, consisting of McCown's and Cleburne's divisions, and received orders to attack at daylight. Hardee's attack was to be taken up by Polk with the division of Cheatham and Withers, in succession to the right flank, the move to be made by a constant wheel to the right, on Polk's right flank as a pivot.—The object of General Bragg was by an early and impetuous attack to force the Union army back upon Stone River, and, if practicable, by the aid of the cavalry, to cut it off from the base of operations and supplies by the Nashville pike.

"As has been shown, the Union and Confederate lines were much nearer together on the Union right than on the left. In point of fact, the distance to be marched by Van Cleve to strike Breckinridge's right, crossing Stone River by the lower ford, was a mile and a half. To carry out the order of General Bragg to charge General Rosecrans' right, the Confederate left wing, doubled, with McCown in the first line and Cleburn in support, had only to follow at double-quick the

advance of the skirmish line a few hundred paces, to find themselves in close conflict with McCook.

"The Confederate movement began at daybreak. General Hardee moved his two divisions with the precision that characterized that able commander. McCown, deflecting to the west, as he advanced to the attack left an opening between his right and Withers' left, into which Cleburne's division fell, and together the two divisions charged upon R. W. Johnson and Davis, while yet the men of those divisions were preparing breakfast. There was no surprise. The first movement in their front was observed by the Union skirmish line, but that first movement was a rush as of a tornado. The skirmishers fell back steadily, fighting upon the main line, but the main line was overborne by the fury of the assault. Far to the right, overlapping R. W. Johnson, the Confederate line came sweeping on like the resistless tide, driving artillerists from their guns and infantry from their encampments. Slowly the extreme right fell back, at first contesting every inch of ground. In Kirk's brigade 500 men were killed or wounded in a few minutes. Willich lost nearly as many. Goodspeed's battery, on Willich's right, lost three guns. The swing of Bragg's left flank toward the right brought McCown's brigade upon the right of Davis' division. Leaving the detachments in R. W. Johnson's division to the attention of two of his brigades and Wheeler's cavalry. McCown turned McNair to the right, where Cleburne was already heavily engaged. Driving Davis' skirmishers before him, Cleburne advanced with difficulty in line of battle, bearing to the right over rough ground cut up with numerous fences and thickets, and came upon the main line at a distance of three-fourths of a mile from his place of bivouac. It was not yet daylight when he began his march, and he struck the Union line at 6 o'clock. General Davis now charged the front of Col. Post's brigade nearly perpendicular to the rear. Pinney's battery was moved to the right, and the 59th Illinois assigned to its support. One-fourth of a mile to the right of Post, Baldwin's brigade, with



Color Bearer DAVID C. GOODWIN, Co. E.

Severely wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, Ga., Sept. 19, 1863, being the ninth color guard to fall on the first day. He served as Color Sergeant without promotion.

Simonson's battery on its right, took position behind a rail fence on the margin of a wood. Carlin's, Woodruff's, and Sill's brigades were on the main line of battle. Against this force, about 7,000 strong, without works of any kind, Hardee hurled the seven brigades commanded by Manigault, Loomis, Polk, Bushrod Johnson, Wood, Liddell and McNair — 10,000 men. The engagement which followed was one of the fiercest of the day. Baldwin was the first to give way. After half an hour's spirited resistance, finding the left of McCown's division in pursuit of the remnants of Willich's and Kirk's brigades, advancing far beyond his right, Baldwin withdrew to the edge of the woods in rear of the front line, and tried to make a stand, but was driven back. The salient angle formed by the junction of Post's brigade with Carlin's, which at this time formed the right of the extreme Union line of battle, was in the mean time fiercely assailed. In front of Post, the Confederates under McCown, in command of McNair's brigade of his own division, and Liddell of Cleburne's division, received a decided repulse; and Cleburne was for a time equally unsuccessful in pushing back the main Union line. Three successive assaults were made upon this position. In the second, Vaughan's and Maney's brigades of Cheatham's division relieved Loomis' and Manigault's. In the third attack Post's brigade was enveloped by Hardee's left, which sweeping toward his rear, made withdrawal a necessity. Sill had been killed in the first assault. Schaefer's Union brigade was brought forward to the support of the front line. The dying order from General Sill to charge, was obeyed, and Loomis was driven back to his first position. Manigault advanced at about 8 o'clock and attacked directly in his front, but meeting with the same reception, was compelled to retire. A second attack resulted like the first. Maney's brigade now came up and advanced in line with Manigault's supported by Vaughan's. Turner's Confederate battery took position near the brick kiln and opened fire, under cover of which Manigault

made an unsuccessful dash upon Houghtaling's Union battery. Colonel Roberts was killed, and Colonel Bradley of the 52nd Illinois, succeeded to the command of the brigade. Having completed the formation of his line, Hardee gave the order for a general advance, and that portion of the right wing, which, up to this time had resisted every assault made upon it, retreated in perfect order toward the left and rear, with empty cartridge boxes, but with courage undaunted. Schaefer's brigade, being entirely out of ammunition, obeyed Sheridan's orders to fix bayonets and await the charge. Roberts' brigade, having a few cartridges left, fell back, resisting the enemy. With the country to the right and rear overrun by McCown's infantry and Wheeler's cavalry in pursuit of R. W. Johnson's routed division, one-half of which were either killed, wounded, or captured, and with a strong, determined enemy pressing them upon front and flank, Davis and Sheridan now found themselves menaced by another powerful auxiliary to defeat. Their ammunition was nearly exhausted, and there was none nearer than the Nashville pike in rear of Crittenden. On the other hand, McCown, in his report, refers to the necessity of replenishing his ammunition at this juncture, Liddell's brigade having exhausted forty rounds per man.

"Carlin's brigade retired and reformed on the Murfreesboro pike. Woodruff held out some time longer, but finally followed Carlin toward the left, taking all the artillery with him, with the exception of one gun from Pinney's battery. Captain Pinney, dangerously wounded, was left upon the field. The withdrawal of the artillery was a matter of greater difficulty. Nearly all the horses having been killed, the attempt was made to withdraw the pieces by the use of prolonges. Lieut. Taliaferro, commanding a section of Hescoc's battery, was killed, and his sergeant brought off his two guns by hand. The ground was, however, too rough, and the road to safety too long, and in consequence the six guns of Houghtaling's battery were abandoned. Dragging the remaining pieces of artillery with them, Sheridan's division at 11 o'clock emerged from the

cedars on Palmer's right, passing Rousseau on his way to the front. Cheatham's Confederates advanced in line of battle over the ground vacated by the Union right wing, and came up with Stewart's brigade hotly engaged with Negley, while Cleburne and McCown, sweeping toward the Nashville pike driving hundreds of fugitives before them, encountered a new line improvised by Rosecrans to meet the emergency.

"Thus far the plan of battle formed by Bragg, had been carried out in strict conformity, with its requirements. It now remained for Withers and Cheatham to drive the Union center back upon the Union left. The retirement of Sheridan's division precipitated the entire command of Cheatham and a portion of Withers upon Negley's two brigades and two brigades of Rousseau, on the left of the Wilkinson pike, taking them in front, left flank and rear. The roar of artillery and the sharp rattle of musketry had aroused these brigades early, and they stood in line for hours, in momentary expectation of an attack upon their front. This, it is possible, would have been repulsed; but when it came in such a questionable shape, preceded by a cloud of retreating troops, but one course appeared to present itself to the commander, and that was to fall back. Nevertheless, he faced Colonel T. R. Stanley's brigade to the right, and ordered Col. John F. Miller to hold his position to the last extremity. Miller arranged his brigade in convex order, with Schultz's battery on his right and Ellsworth's battery on the left. Simultaneously with Cheatham's advance upon his right, Stewart's and Anderson's brigades attacked Miller in front. Miller's lines were barely formed when a heavy musketry and artillery fire opened upon his men, who met the charge with a well directed fire. On his right was Stanley, and the rapid discharge of Schultz's and Ellsworth's guns told with terrible precision upon the ranks of the advancing Confederates who soon halted, but did not abate their fire. The 29th and 30th Mississippi, of Anderson's brigade, made a dash upon Schultz's battery, but were hurled back behind the friendly cover of a stone wall, where Stewart

passed them in his charge upon Miller. A bayonet charge was met by the 21st Ohio, and repulsed with great gallantry. The fighting at this point was terrific. All along the front the dead and wounded lay in heaps, and over their bodies came the assaulting host, seemingly strong and brave as when the first charge was made in the morning. But the inevitable result of a successful flank movement, by which the ammunition trains had been captured, came to Negley's strong fighting brigade as it had come to those of Sheridan and Davis. Ammunition was nearly exhausted, and it could only be replenished in rear of Crittenden, whose lines still stood intact. Negley ordered Stanley to retire, which he did in perfect order; and Miller's brigade, after holding its position until the ammunition on the persons of the killed and wounded was all used, slowly fell back to reform in Palmer's rear.

"Rosecrans, having arranged his plan of battle, had risen early to superintend its execution. Crittenden, whose headquarters were a few paces distant, mounted at 6 A. M., and with his staff rode to an eminence, where Rosecrans, surrounded by his staff-officers, was listening to the opening guns on the right. The plan of Bragg was instantly divined, but no apprehension of danger was felt. Suddenly the woods on the right in rear of Negley appeared to be alive with men wandering aimlessly in the direction of the rear. The roar of artillery grew more distinct, mingled with the continuous volleys of musketry. The rear of a line of battle always presents a pitiable spectacle of a horde of skulkers, men who, when tried in the fierce flame of battle, find, often to their own disgust, that they are lacking in the element of courage. But the spectacle of whole regiments of soldiers flying in panic to the rear was a sight never seen by the Army of the Cumberland except on that occasion. Captain Otis, from his position on the extreme right, dispatched a messenger, who arrived breathless, to inform General Rosecrans that the right wing was in rapid retreat. The astounding intelligence was confirmed a moment later by a staff-officer from McCook, calling for re-enforcements.

"Tell General McCook," said Rosecrans, "to contest every inch of ground. If he holds them we will swing into Murfreesboro and cut them off." Then Rousseau with his reserves was sent into the fight, and Van Cleve, who, in the execution of the initial movement on the left, had crossed Stone River at 6 A. M., at the lower ford, and was marching in close column up the hill beyond the river, was arrested by an order to return and take position on the pike facing toward the woods on the right. A few moments later this gallant division came dashing across the fields, with water dripping from their clothing, to take a hand in the fray. Harker's brigade was withdrawn from the left and sent in on Rousseau's right, and Maston's Pioneers, relieved at the ford by Price's brigade, were posted on Harker's right. The remaining brigades of Van Cleve's division formed on the extreme right, and thus an improvised line half a mile in extent presented a new and unexpected front to the approaching enemy. It was a trying position to those men to stand in line while the panic-stricken soldiers of McCook's beaten regiments flying in terror through the woods, rushed past them. The Union lines could not fire, for their comrades were between them and the enemy. Rosecrans seemed ubiquitous. All these dispositions had been made under his personal supervision. While riding rapidly to the front, Col. Garesche, his chief-of-staff, was killed by his side by a cannon-ball. Finding Sheridan coming out of the cedars into which Rousseau had just entered, Rosecrans directed Sheridan to the ammunition train, with orders to fill his cartridge-boxes and march to the support of Hazen's brigade, now hotly engaged on the edge of the Round Forest. The left was now exposed to attack by Breckinridge, and riding rapidly to the ford, Rosecrans inquired who was in command. "I am, sir," said Colonel Price. "Will you hold this ford?" "I will try, sir." "Will you hold this ford?" "I will die right here." "Will you hold this ford?" for the third time thundered the general. "Yes, sir," said the Colonel. "That will do,"

and away he galloped to Palmer who was contending against long odds for the possession of the Round Forest.

"At half past 10 o'clock Rousseau's reserve division, shorn of one brigade, under command of Major General Lovell H. Rousseau, was ordered into action on the right of General Negley. The two brigades commanded by Colonels John Beatty and B. F. Scribner, known as the 17th and 9th of the old army of the Ohio, were the same that only three months before had hurled back the strong fighting brigades of Hardee on the bloody slopes of Chaplin Hills at Perrysville. The regular brigade, composed of five battalions of the 15th, 16th, 18th and 19th United States Infantry, commanded by Col. Oliver L. Shepherd, under perfect discipline, was placed on the extreme right. The line was formed in a dense cedar thicket, through which Cleburne's and McCown's victorious columns were advancing, sweeping everything before them. On the left the roar of battle in Negley's front showed that all was not lost, and to his right Col. John Beatty's brigade was formed. Scribner was held in reserve. The shock of battle fell heaviest upon the regulars; over one-third of the command fell either killed or wounded. Major Slemmer, of Fort Pickens fame, was wounded early. Steadily, as if on drill, the trained battalions fired by file, mowing down the advancing Confederate lines. Guenther's battery could not long check the fury of the charge that bore down upon the flanks and was fast enveloping the entire command.

"Lt. Col. Kell, the commander of the 2nd Ohio was killed; Col. Forman, the boy Colonel of the 15th Kentucky, and Major Carpenter of the 19th Infantry, fell mortally wounded. There was no resource but to retreat upon support. At this moment Negley's division, with empty cartridge boxes, fell back, and Rousseau, finding his flanks exposed, after a heroic fight of over two hours, fell back slowly and stubbornly to the open field, where his flanks were more secure. Captain Morton, with the Pioneers and the Chicago Board of Trade battery, pushed into the

cedars, and disappeared from view on their way to the front simultaneously with Harker. The general course of the tide of the stragglers toward the rear struck the Nashville pike at the point where Van Cleve stood impatiently awaiting the order to advance. All along the line men were falling, struck by the bullets of the enemy, who soon appeared at the edge of the woods on Morton's flank. At the order to charge, given by General Rosecrans in person, Van Cleve's division sprang forward, reserving their fire for close quarters. It was the crisis in the battle. If this line should be broken all would be lost. Steadily the line moved forward, sending a shower of bullets to the front.

"The brigades of Stanley and Miller having fallen back, as previously described, and the entire strength of Cheatham and the brigades of Mithus and Cleburn having come upon Rousseau, the latter had fallen back into the open field, where he found Van Cleve. Loomis' and Guenther's batteries, double shotted with canister, were posted on a ridge, and as the Confederate line advanced, opened upon it with terrific force. Men fell all along the line, but it moved straight ahead. The field was covered with dead and wounded men. The deep bass of the artillery was mingled with the higher notes of the minie-rifles, while in the brief pauses could be distinguished the quickly spoken orders of the commanding officers and the groans of the wounded. It was the full orchestra of battle. But there is a limit to human endurance. The Confederate brigades, now melted to three-fourths of their original strength, wavered and fell back; again and again they re-formed in the woods and advanced to the charge, only to meet with a bloody repulse. All along the line from Harker's right to Wood's left the space gradually narrowed between the contending hosts. The weak had gone to the rear; there was no room now for any but brave men, and no time for new dispositions; every man who had a stomach for fighting was engaged on the front line. From a right angle the Confederates left had been pressed back by Van Cleve and Harker and the Pio-

neers to an angle of 45 degrees. This advance brought Van Cleve within view of Rousseau, who at once requested him to form on his right.

"General Harker, entering the woods on the left of Van Cleve, passed to his right, and now closed up on his flank. The enemy had fallen back, stubbornly fighting, and made a stand on the left of Cheatham. Brave old Van Cleve, his white hair streaming in the wind, the blood flowing from a wound in his foot, rode gallantly along the line where Harker was stiffly holding his position, with the right "in the air." Bidding him hold fast to every inch of ground, he rode on to Swallow's battery, which was working with great rapidity. He then passed to the left, where Gen. Samuel Beatty's brigade were firing with their minie-rifles at a line of men which seemed to be always on the point of advancing.

"The advance of Bragg's left wing had brought it into a position at right angles with the original line. The entire strength of the center, and most of the left, was concentrated upon the angle formed by Rousseau and the right of Palmer's division. Chalmer's Confederate brigade, which up to 10 o'clock had lain concealed in the rifle pits on the right of Wither's line, arose at the order, and under a terrific fire, dashed forward across an open field upon Palmer's front. Finding that the time had come for a decisive blow, General Bragg now directed General Breckinridge to send two brigades to the left to re-enforce Polk. General Pegram, who, with the cavalry, was posted on the Lebanon pike in advance of Breckinridge's right, had observed Van Cleve's movement and notified General Breckinridge that a heavy column of infantry and artillery had crossed Stone River and was advancing along the river bank upon his position occupied by Hanson's brigade. Interpreting this as the initial movement in a plan which was intended to strike his division, Breckinridge declined to obey Bragg's order, which in his report he terms a "suggestion." At ten minutes after ten he replied, "The enemy is undoubtedly advancing upon me." Soon after he wrote to



JOHN D. NICELY.
1st Lieut. Co. D.



MAJ. GEORGE ANGLE.
1864.
Killed in action near Atlanta
Ga., July 2, 1864.



SURGEON R. H. TIPTON
1862.



CAPT. J. S. MCDOWELL.
Co. B.—1862.

Bragg, "The Lebanon road is unprotected, and I have no troops to fill out my line to it." At half-past eleven, upon Bragg ordering him to move forward and attack the Union left, Breckinridge replied, "I am obeying your order, but my left is now engaged with the enemy, and if I advance my whole line farther forward and still retain communication with my left, it will take me clear away from the Lebanon road and expose my right and that road to a heavy force of the enemy advancing from Black's." The withdrawal of Van Cleve appears to have passed unnoticed by Breckinridge, and was undiscovered until too late to accomplish any good by complying with Bragg's order. Thus, by simply thrusting forward the left flank of his army and at once withdrawing it, General Rosecrans had held four Confederate brigades inactive at a time when their presence in support of Chalmers might have administered the *coup de grace* to the center of the Union line.

"The movement of Crittenden's left and center divisions upon Bragg's right wing having been arrested, Wood's division was in position to cross at the upper ford. Wayne's brigade was at the river bank. Hascall was in reserve some distance to the rear of the opening between Wagner's right and Hazen's left. The withdrawal of Negley from Palmer's right precipitated the attack of Donelson's and Chalmer's brigades against the right, and Adams and Jackson against the left. Chalmer's attack was made in great fury. His men had been confined, without fires, in their rifle-pits for forty-eight hours, and when finally the order came at ten o'clock to "up and at 'em," they came forward like a pack of hounds in full cry. Cruft recoiled from the attack in the open field between the Round Forest and the wood in which Negley was engaged, and falling back, met the charge at the time that Negley moved to the rear. Now Cruft's right was in the air and exposed to attack by Donelson following Negley. Cruft repulsed Chalmer's in his front, but Donelson's brigade, pouring to his rear threatened to envelop him. Grose, from his position reserve, faced to the right, and soon

after to the rear, and bore back the charging columns, enabling Cruft to withdraw.

Cruft's brigade was composed of the 90th Ohio, 31st Indiana, 1st and 2nd Ky. — Ed.

"When Chalmer's assault first fell upon Palmer's right, Hazen faced his two right regiments, the 6th Ky. and 9th Ind., to the rear, where the impetus of Chalmer's assault on Cruft had borne him, at the same time retiring the two left regiments, the 41st Ohio and 110th Illinois, some fifty yards to the left of the pike and engaged to the front, the 40th Indiana having fallen back. A burnt brick house (Cowan's) in the immediate front of the Round Forest afforded cover for the enemy, and in the steady, persistent effort to force back the front of Hazen's line the action became terrific. All of Hascall's brigade, and two regiments of Wagner's being engaged on the right of the 6th Kentucky, and Wagner's remaining regiments being in position at the ford some distance to the left, the assault on the left was borne by Hazen, whose brigade was thought by Folk to be the extreme left of the Union line. Upon this point, as on a pivot, the entire army oscillated from front to rear for hours. Hazen's horse fell, shot square in the forehead. Word came that the ammunition of the 41st Ohio was nearly exhausted. "Fix bayonets and hold your ground!" was the order. To the 110th Illinois, who had no bayonets, and whose cartridges were expended, the order was given to club their muskets, but to hold the ground. The 9th Ind. now dashed across the line of fire, from a battery in front, to the left, to relieve the 41st Ohio. Cannon-balls tore through their ranks, but they were rapidly closed up, and the men took their place in the front line, the 41st retiring with thinned ranks, but in excellent order, to re-fill their empty cartridge boxes. An ominous silence succeeded, soon followed by the charge of Donelson's fresh Confederate brigade and the remains of Chalmer's. The time had been occupied in the readjustment of Palmer's line. The 24th Ohio commanded by Col. Fred Jones, and the 36th Indiana, shorn of half its strength in the previous assault, were

sent to Hazen's support. Parsons' battery was posted on the left. The 3rd Kentucky, led by McKee, dashed forward and took position on the right of the 9th Indiana across the pike. The terrible slaughter in the regiment attests its courage.

"While Hazen and Wagner were thus gallantly defending the left of the line from 9 o'clock in the morning until 2 in the afternoon, the fight raged not less furiously on their immediate right. Here a line was formed, composed of two brigades of Palmer's division and Hascall of Wood's, filled out by the remains of Sheridan's and Negley's divisions, who, after they had replenished their ammunition, formed behind the railroad embankment at right angles with Hazen's brigade, which alone retained its position upon the original line. Farther to the right was Rousseau, with Van Cleve, Harker, and Morton on his right. At the supreme moment the chances of victory were evenly balanced. The undaunted soldiers of the left and center had swept past the crowd of fugitives from the right wing, and now in strong array they stood like a rock-bound coast beating back the tide which threatened to engulf the rear.

"Along this line rode Rosecrans; Thomas, calm, inflexible, from whose gaze skulkers shrank abashed; Crittenden, cheerful and full of hope, complimenting his men as he rode along the lines; Rousseau, whose impetuosity no disaster could quell; Palmer, with a stock of cool courage and presence of mind equal to any emergency; Wood, suffering from a wound in his heel, stayed in the saddle, but had lost that jocularity which usually characterized him. "Good-bye, General, we'll all meet at the hatter's, as one coon said to another when the dogs were after them," he had said to Crittenden early in the action. "Are we doing it about right, now, General?" asked Morton as he glanced along the blazing line of muskets to where the Chicago battery was hard at work. "All right, fire low," said Rosecrans as he dashed by. Colonel Grose, always in his place, had command of the Ammen brigade, of Shiloh memory, which, with Hazen's and Cruft's bri-

gades, had driven the right of Beauregard's victorious army off that field. After the formation of this line at noon, it never receded; the right swung around until, at 2 o'clock, considerable of the lost ground had been retaken. The artillery, more than fifty guns, was massed in the open ground behind the angles in the line (28 Union guns had been captured), where they poured iron missiles continuously upon the Confederate line. They could not fire amiss. The fire from Cox's battery was directed upon Hanson's brigade across the river, whence Cobb, with Napoleons, returned the compliment with zeal and precision. Schaefer's brigade, having received a new stock of cartridges, formed on Palmer's right, where later its commander received his death wound, the last of Sheridan's commanders to fall during the day. At 4 o'clock it became evident to the Confederate commander that the only hope of success lay in a charge upon the Union left, which, by its overpowering weight, should carry everything before it. The movement of Cleburne to the left in support of McCown had deprived him of reserves; but Breckinridge had two brigades unemployed on the right, and these were peremptorily ordered across the river to support General Polk.

"The charge of Adams and Jackson, and the subsequent attack of Preston's and Palmer's brigades have been described. The errors made by General Polk in making an attack with the two brigades that first arrived upon the field, instead of waiting the arrival of General Breckinridge with the remaining brigades, was so palpable as to render an excuse for failure necessary. This was easily found in the tardy execution of Bragg's order by Beckinridge, and resulted in sharp criticism of the latter. The Union 3rd Kentucky, now nearly annihilated, was relieved by the 58th Indiana. The 6th Ohio took position on the right of the 26th Ohio, with its right advanced so that its line of fire would sweep the front of the regiments on the left. The 97th Ohio and 100th Illinois came up and still strengthened the position. They had not long to wait for the Confederate attack. These dispositions had

hardly been made when a long line of infantry emerged from behind the hill. Adams' and Jackson's brigades were on the right, and Donelson's and Chalmers' badly cut up but stout of heart, were on the left. On they came in splendid style, full six thousand strong. Estep's case-shot tore through their ranks, but the gaps closed up. Parsons sent volley after volley of grape-shot against them, and the 6th and the 26th Ohio, taking up the refrain, added the sharp rattle of minie-rifles to the unearthly din. Still the line pressed forward, firing as they came, until met by a simultaneous and destructive volley of musketry. They staggered, but quickly re-formed and re-enforced by Preston and the Confederate Palmer, advanced again to the charge. The battle had hushed on the extreme right, and the gallantry of this advance is indescribable. The right was even with the left of the Union line, and the left stretched far past the point of woods from which Negley had retired. It was such a charge as this that at Shiloh broke the strong lines of W. H. L. Wallace and Hurlbut, and enveloped Prentiss. The Confederates had no sooner moved into the open field from the cover of the river bank than they were received with a blast from the artillery. Men plucked the cotton from the bolls at their feet and stuffed it in their ears. Huge gaps were torn in the Confederate line at every discharge. The Confederate line staggered forward half the distance across the fields, when the Union infantry lines added minie-balls to the fury of the storm. Then the Confederates wavered and fell back, and the first day's fight was over.

"New Year's was a day of fair weather. During the night Rosecrans retired his left to a more advantageous position, the left resting on Stone River at the lower ford, where Van Cleve had crossed on the previous morning, the line of battle extending to Stoke's battery, posted on a knoll on Rosecrans' right. Walker's and Starkweather's brigades having come up, the former bivouacked in close column in reserve in rear of McCook's left, and the latter posted on Sheridan's left, next morning relieved Van Cleve's division,

now commanded by Colonel Beatty, which crossed the river and took position on the margin of a woodland that covered a gentle slope extending from the river to an open field in its front.

"Across this field the Lebanon road running nearly at right angles with Beatty's line, was nearly in sight. In his front and right, an elevation still held by Hanson's brigade of Breckinridge's division was crowned by Cobb's battery of artillery. On the left and rear, Grose's brigade of Palmer's division occupied a knoll in support of Livingston's battery on the following day.

"The Confederate line, formed by Polk and Breckinridge on the right and Hardee on the left, extended from the point of Stone River where Chalmer's brigade had bivouacked since the 25th, in a direction almost at right angles with its original line.

"At dawn on January 1st, the right flank of General Polk was advanced to occupy the ground vacated by the Union army on the west bank of the river. Neither commander deemed it advisable to attack, but each was watchful of every movement of the other. The picket lines on either side were thrust forward within sight of the main lines of the opposing force, on the alert to notify their commander of any movement in their front. Weaker in numbers, but more compact, and decidedly stronger in morals, each awaited the order to advance and close in final struggle.

"General Bragg confidently expected to find the Union troops gone from his front on the morning of January 2nd. His cavalry had reported the pike full of troops and wagons moving towards Nashville, but the force east of Stone River soon attracted his attention. Reconnoissance by staff-officers revealed Beatty's line, enfilading Polk in his new position. It was evident that Polk must be withdrawn or Beatty dislodged. Bragg chose the latter alternative, and Breckinridge, against his earnest protest, was directed to concentrate his division and assault Beatty. Ten Napoleon guns were added to his command, and the cavalry was ordered to cover his right. The line was formed by placing Hanson's brigade of Kentuckians, who had thus far

borne no part in the engagement, on the extreme left, supported by Adam's brigade, now commanded by Col. Gibson. The Confederate Palmer's brigade, commanded by Gen. Pillow, took the right of the line, with Preston in reserve. The artillery was ordered to follow the attack and go into position on the summit of the slope when Beatty should be driven from it. The total strength of the assaulting column was estimated by Bragg at six thousand men. His cavalry took no part in the action.

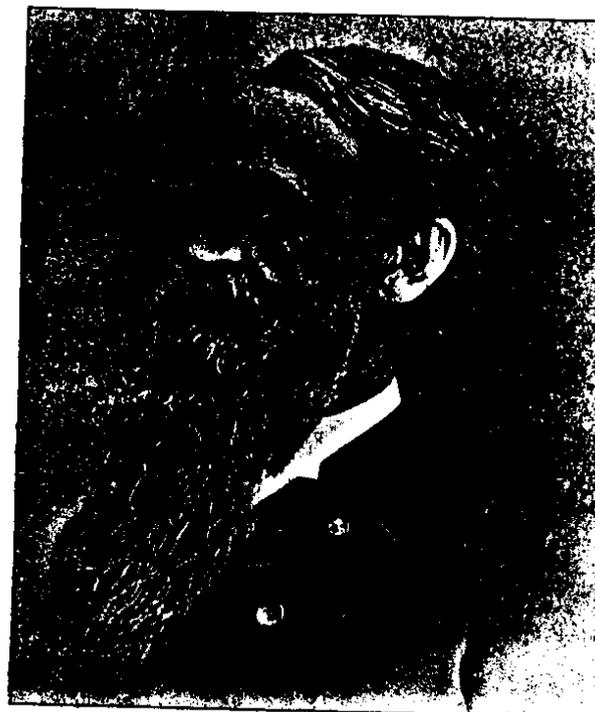
"In the assault that followed a brief cannonade, Hanson's left was thrown forward close to the river bank, with orders to fire once, then charge with the bayonet. On the right of Beatty was Col. S. W. Price's brigade, and the charge made by Hanson's 6th Ky., was met by Price's 8th Ky., followed by Hanson and Pillow in successive strokes from right to left of Beatty's lines. Overborne by numerical strength, the Union brigades of Price and Fyffe were forced back upon Grider, in reserve, the right of whose brigade was rapidly being turned by Hanson, threatening to cut the division off from the river. The space between the river bank and the ridge occupied by Grose, now presented a scene of the wildest confusion. The pursuit led the Confederate column to the right of Grose, and Lieut. Livingston opened upon it with artillery, but he was quickly ordered across the river. Crittenden, turning to his chief-of-artillery, said, "Mendenhall, you must cover my men with your guns." Never was there a more effective response to such a request; the batteries of Swallow, Parsons, Estep, Stokes, Stevens, Standart, Bradley, and Livingston dashed forward, wheeled into position, and opened fire. In all, fifty-eight pieces of artillery played upon the enemy. Not less than one hundred shots per minute were fired. As the mass of men swarmed down the slope they were mowed down by the score. Confederates were pinioned to the earth by falling branches. For a few minutes the brave fellows held their ground, hoping to advance, but the west bank bristled with bayonets.

"Hanson was mortally wounded, and his brigade lost over four hundred men; the loss in the division was 1410. There was no thought now of attacking Grose, but one general impulse to get out of the jaws of death. The Union infantry was soon ordered to charge. Col. John F. Miller with his brigade and two regiments of Stanley's was the first to cross the river, on the extreme left. He was quickly followed on the right by Davis and Morton and by Hazen in the center. Beatty quickly reformed his division and recrossed the river and joined in the pursuit. The artillery ceased firing, and the Union line with loud cheers dashed forward, firing volley after volley upon the fugitives who rallied behind Robertson's battery and Anderson's brigade in the narrow skirt of timber from which they had emerged to the assault. The Union line advanced and took possession of the ground from which Beatty had been driven an hour before, and both armies bivouacked upon the battle-field. General Spears, with a brigade guarding a much-needed supply train, came up and took position on the right, relieving Rousseau on the following morning.

"General Bragg had been promptly notified by General Joe Wheeler of the arrival of this re-enforcement to his antagonist, and says in his report: 'Common prudence and the safety of my army, upon which the safety of our cause depends, left no doubt on my mind as to the necessity of my withdrawal from so unequal a contest.

"Bragg acknowledged a loss of over 10,000 men, over 9,000 of whom were killed or wounded, — nearly 25 per cent of the total force engaged. The loss in the Union army was, in killed, 1,533; wounded, 7245=8778; and in prisoners, 3489. Total 10,734.

"Apprehending the possible success of a flank movement against his left, General Bragg had caused all tents and baggage to be loaded on wagons and sent to the rear. On the night of the 3rd he began his retreat, and continued it south of Elk River, whence he was ordered back to Tallahoma, Tenn., by General Johnston.



From a recent photo.

CAPT. WILLIAM FELTON, Co. A.

Capt. Felton is now (1902) living in Columbus, O.

OUR REGIMENT'S FIELD HOSPITAL AT
STONE RIVER.

While it was the fate of some other regiments to do more actual battling than the 90th, the history proves that it was always alive to its position and duties, always prompt and faithful to its orders, aiming in every instance in camp, march, or field, to do everything that might be required of a regiment, and to this end its faithful officers carefully watched over the welfare of its men, and the completeness of its equipments.

As illustrative of these truths, I recall circumstances that led me across the Stone River battlefield, about two weeks after the engagement. I spent the night in Murfreesboro, sleeping in a store that had been a temporary hospital, and on a counter upon which I was told that a wounded soldier had died the previous night with vermin in his wounds. I mention this incident to show how deficient the medical staff of the army was in needed surgical supplies and attendants, and to indicate by contrast how far ahead the 90th was in its provisions for emergencies.

The next morning I crossed Stone River, and walked across the battlefield, almost over the route taken by our regiment, even looking inside of the brick house that was an object of interest to our boys during the fierce struggle. Arriving at the rear of the field, I came to a large, square hospital tent; and my heart gave a bound as I read upon the flag above it: "90 O. V. I." About the hospital were some smaller tents for the diet work and the attendants.

A corporal of the 6th Ohio, wounded in that battle, and taken to our hospital, thus refers to it in a story in Harper's Magazine of 1863:

"There was scarcely more than an hour of sunshine left on that Wednesday, the fearful first day at Stone River, when the driver assisted me out of the ambulance and gave me in charge of the attend-

ants at the field hospital of the 90th Ohio. The large, square-made hospital tent was already becoming crowded, some of its inmates evidently newcomers, like myself. At the further end one of the surgeons was busily at work bandaging a ghastly wound in the arm of a poor wretch, the sleeve of whose blouse, cut away at the shoulder and all matted and stiff with gore, was lying on the ground beside him. One of the attendants, with both sleeves rolled up to the elbows, had just set down a basin of water and was assisting the surgeon in securing the bandage. Another of the wounded sat on the ground, a little behind the group, waiting with mute patience for his turn to come next. Close by, and down upon one knee, was the chaplain, with a memorandum book and pencil, taking the sufferers' names, with the commands to which they severally belonged, and the home address of the friends of each. Not in vain, I thought, was even this last care, for it could scarcely be very long before sad occasion to improve it would be given by some of our number.

"The surgeon was soon ready for me, and proceeded to examine the wound with evident care and interest. * * *

"In kind, skillful, tenderest hands, reader, though strangers all, I felt that I was among friends at once. Perhaps, though, you cannot have portion in the gratitude that wells up in my soul while I recall their unwearyed ministrations, you will yet share in my confidence as I end here the story on my part in the ranks at Stone River."

I think that nothing in all its arduous campaigning gave me more pride in "ours" than this illustration of the readiness of the 90th to be and do the utmost that was possible for a regiment. Later, I was identified with some of the hospital work of our eastern army, and I came to realize nearly all it meant for a regiment to be prepared to care for its men when the enemy's bullets put them out of service. After all these years there comes to me a

thrill of satisfaction with every recollection of that 90th Regiment O. V. I. field hospital at Stone River.

CORPORAL H. ANDERSON, Co. I.

CONNECTED WITH GEN. PALMER'S STAFF.

"It was after the battle of Stone River, and before going to Camp Cripple Creek, while temporarily camped in the timber, with a farm house near by, in whose yard Gen. Palmer was kindly (?) asked to make his headquarters. Jacob Bibler and James Rittenhouse caught a pig, and were in the act of skinning it. Percival Stuter and I were gathering 'broom sage' for our bed, but came up as the slaughtering was going on, and looking on wishfully, when an orderly, John by name, came riding up and took all four of us to headquarters. Stuter and I proved an alibi, while the other two had every circumstance against them. We were dismissed to our quarters, while they were put under guard. They bore the disgrace (?) of being guarded in camp, while the very next day we bore the fatigue of guarding a wagon train up to Nashville, walking back to camp the second and third days afterward, about thirty miles. When our division commander came to be "Senator John M. Palmer," of Illinois, I wrote to him for a favor, reminding him of my connection with his staff, which he still remembered. He was prompt to grant my request, and ever since I have a cabinet photo of our venerable "Pap" Palmer. It is more than likely the General got the hog.

S. C. Goss, Co. D.

SNAP SHOT PICTURES TAKEN AFTER MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS.

When a boy we amused ourselves by setting on end a row of brick and then pushing over one at the end, which, by turns, caused the whole line to be prostrate. Here's something like it: When on our forced march from Lexington to Louisville, in

September, '62, we "tuckered out" under our load, and Captain (then first lieutenant) Sutphen came to our relief by carrying our gun. Next came Major Yeoman, on his sorrel horse, and relieved the lieutenant by carrying the gun; then came some unknown comrade, who feigned to be the OWNER of the gun, and said he'd "take it now," and did. Then we had no gun to carry, until we came to camp in the timber, near Louisville. Then, from that on, we had!

Who took our gun; and whose was the last brick to fall? Honest, now, and no arrests or court martial shall follow. Our next view was taken at Stone River, in the edge of the cedars, before the brick (Cowan) house.

We stopped behind a tree, a rod or so from the fence, when our regiment took position, relieving the 2nd Kentucky Regiment, intending, by our more advantageous point of view (?) to silence the rebel cannon, playing on us in front! Capt. Perry said some words, and we moved forward, and laid down behind the fence. Rebels seemed to take advantage of the fact of my being down, like the rest, with my face to the ground, and fired more vigorously now. Captain vehemently commanded: "Why ——— don't you shoot?" I couldn't see anything, and Rosencranz had said in General order: "Don't shoot till you see something"; and I didn't. At last we saw something. It seems to me now as if the rebels were six or eight lines deep as they moved down on us. It was the first shot I ever made at a human being, and it seemed like firing at the broad side of a Pennsylvania barn. I can't tell how far away they were at the time, but, putting several things together, I concluded that my shot must have done terrible execution in those advancing lines. While the enemy was rallying from the effects of my shot, our regiment withdrew, without one of our boys being shot in the back, a thing which could hardly have happened if those Johnnies had not been in great trepidation — from my volley. The evil which came out

of it, to our side, was that several of our company — including Capt. Perry and Mahlon Harps — were so deafened by the noise of my gun, and so shrouded in the smoke of it, as to either not hear the command to fall back, or else failed to find their way out of the smoke, and were, accordingly, taken prisoners. We apologize, at this late day, for the disaster which our heroism brought these comrades. When we came to consider the situation, the rebels seemed to be farther away when we fired, although they were all the while moving in our direction. As we think of it now, every tree seemed to have a Confederate behind it, and we wonder how that, between two armies, those trees ever escaped alive!

Our next view follows close on the one preceding: We came up to the 31st Indiana, who were being formed, or held in line, with difficulty. General Cruft himself at their head, like a true hero, by word and action, giving inspiration to the boys. We remember distinctly his words and more earnest appearance: "Now, men, for God's sake, remember you are from my own native state!"

They doubtless remembered it, but, like ourselves, they carried that sweet memory hastily out of those woods, and over that open country, to our new position, whose memory to us to day, is sweeter than that of the Cedars.

The picture which we now give is located in the edge of that timber and on the open ground beyond. Noah Lutz belonged to my "mess," just then, and we were making observations about its being "an inglorious morning," when, in our retrograde movement, we fell in with — Lieuts. Rains and Crow, who hitched us to one of our abandoned brass cannon, and together we hauled the thing rearward, and turned it over to those who presently put it to use again. This is the second instance where we appear as an important factor in turning the tide of battle, and saving our army from defeat and capture!

In his report the Colonel (Ross) mentioned only the commissioned officers as deserving special mention

for meritorious conduct. But then Ross wasn't to blame, for "no one sees a battle," and at the time, he didn't see us, and we were too modest to let him know we did it!

If Lutz wasn't the man, we are mistaken. Others were there, but they were not officers, but simply "men," and so we can't remember their names!

We have more pictures, but we must draw the curtain and say good-night.

S. C. Goss, Co. D.

SHERIDAN, Mo., March 31, 1901.

Friend and Comrade Harden:

You appear to have made quite a stir among the "dry bones." They appear from all directions. Among others, I see the names of J. C. Shaw and William Switzer, Company G. Why! Bless my body! I have not seen Shaw since he and Switzer stopped to camp on a field, the last afternoon of the Chickamauga battle, when we were changing our lines in somewhat of a hurry, just after General Tom Wood had made room for Longstreet, in the Union lines.

And Lafe Gaston, Kerr, O., I think the highest point he ever touched, was on the Stone River battlefield, a. m., December 31, 1862, when the right of our army was being thrashed like a school boy, and when our regiment changed position to the rear, and to the cedar woods. On the field between the lines lay a wounded comrade, exposed to a galling fire from both lines, raised partly up on hands and knees, was begging for some one to come and rescue him from the hands of the rebels. Gaston cast his cartridge box and gun on the ground, rushed between the lines and rescued the poor fellow, carried him through our lines and laid him on the ground, and when Lt. Wither- spoon remarked to Gaston that he might carry the wounded man back to the hospital if he wished, Gaston requested that some one else take him, as for himself he wanted to stay in the battle. Let's hear from the next. I wonder if this would not ornament a short history.

Were I a poet, I would try my hand right here. But let it go. I can't poetize. But I always cultivated Gaston's acquaintance after that. I do not know but that some time I may need him.

I hereby enclose a remittance for the History of the Regiment which you propose publishing.

We looked forward in those early years of '61 and '5. But now we are more inclined to be reminiscent, and then we will see how our backward view at this distance will correspond.

It will be worth the money.

Wishing you and all the Boys Good Luck and lots of it.

CAPT. JAS. K. JONES.

REMINISCENCES.

BY SYLVESTER RADER.

While camped in the open field, near Nashville, Tenn., in 1862, the ambulance came around, gathering up the sick, among whom was myself. We were taken to Hospital No. 1, Nashville, and dumped. Here we found three of the 90th Boys, four of us in all. I am the only one that lived to get away. The boys were: William Downs, John Westenberger, and a young man from Co. I, whose name I do not recollect. I saw Downs and the Co. I man die. John Westenberger died in the night while I was asleep. No one knew he was dead, until morning. Finding men dead in their bunks in the morning occurred several times while I was there.

I heard Dr. Duff, the assitant surgeon, curse a sick man, accusing him of "playing off," and call him names that were a disgrace to his mother, and in less than a week that same man was in the dead house. Here I heard sick men complaining of being hungry, who were unable to walk the length of the room, yet, the government was furnishing plenty of provisions for us, but the hospital steward, whose name I think was Snelgrove, was selling our provisions to a citizen grocery-man near by, and blowing in the money for drinks, theaters, and on the inhabitants of "Smoky Row." He

was detected, courtmartialed and sent to a military prison for two years. The Boys were going to lynch him the night before he got his sentence, but the authorities heard of it and hustled him off to prison early in the evening. Talk about absence of humanity, when a man will starve his sick comrades.

After the Stone River battle we received thirty wounded men, and I spent many hours pouring cold water on their wounds to keep down inflammation. Had they known the virtue of a small amount of carbolic acid, added to the water, thousands of men would be living to-day, who are under the sod.

I wish to speak of two incidents of our march from Lexington to Louisville. The Yankee trick we played on the Johnnies by hauling saw logs along, representing artillery; and the 90th being drawn up in line of battle on the south side of the pike to lock horns with the Johnnies.

On the 4th the enemy was nowhere to be seen, and the day was spent in burying the dead of the regiment, who were found stripped of all their clothing, except their drawers. Those seriously wounded were found with their wounds undressed.

The regiment lost in this battle 137 men killed, wounded, captured and missing. Six officers were wounded: Capt. M. B. Rowe, Lt. L. W. Reahard, Lt. Geo. W. Welsh, Lt. T. E. Baker, Lt. J. N. Selby, Capt. Thomas Rains, Capt. Alva Perry and Lt. J. F. Cook were captured. The names of the killed, wounded and captured, will be found in the regular roster, in another part of this work.

Col. Isaac N. Ross, who led the regiment in this battle, and who proved himself a brave and efficient officer, was immediately after sent to the rear in serious health. He afterward resigned, and Lt. Col. C. H. Rippey promoted to Colonel, and Maj. S. N. Yeoman to Lt. Colonel.

The dead were buried on the west side of the railroad and pike, in a low piece of ground, but were taken



ADJ. DAN. S. KINGERY.
Killed at Chickamauga, Ga.,
Sept. 20, 1863.



THOMAS PARISH, Co. D.
"The Old Blacksmith." Tak
at Cripple Creek, Tenn., 18



SERGT. S. C. GOSS.
Co. D.
From a war-time photo.



LT. J. L. HATFIELD.
Co. B.
From a war-time photo.

up and afterward interred in the Stone River National Cemetery near by. There are 34 of the 90th Boys sleeping the sleep of death in this cemetery, which is kept in fine style by the government they died to save. We quote from an article appearing in the *Fairfield-Pickaway News*, some ten years ago:

"The writer was over a great part of this battlefield in the latter part of 1864, and it was no uncommon thing to find the remains of men in the thick cedars, who had been covered with a little earth where they lay, heads and feet exposed as the dirt had washed off. Many of the fields where so much blood was shed, and where cannons thundered death and destruction on those memorable days, were planted in corn and cotton and men peacefully following the plow. Old Fortress Rosecrans is the best preserved fortification we have seen. Except the natural erosion, most of it is about as it was at the close of the war. The fortress is about half a mile north of Murfreesboro, and is about one mile long by half a mile wide, with the pike, railroad and Stone River running through it.

This was a memorable time, the men lying in mud and snow, suffered terribly from cold and exposure."

Bragg evacuated Murfreesboro and took up position at Tullahoma, Tenn., farther south on the L. & N. railroad. We lay at or near Murfreesboro, burying the dead and resting up, until January 7, 1863, when we moved on to Cripple Creek, about 6 miles farther, and went into camp. Here the regiment performed picket duty, drilled, etc., for some time.

Here is a blank in the diaries, which we are unable to get from any one, but the daily routine was camp and picket duty. We now come to where John Chilcote's diary gives us some information. We quote from it. Feb. 9th — Having been discharged from the hospital, we started on our way to join the regiment at Camp Cripple Creek. Passed through Lavergn and camped 20 miles from Nashville.