

60th N.C.

HISTORIES

OF THE

SEVERAL REGIMENTS AND BATTALIONS

FROM

NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE

GREAT WAR 1861-'65.

WRITTEN BY MEMBERS OF THE RESPECTIVE COMMANDS

EDITED BY

WALTER CLARK,

(LIEUT.-COLONEL, SEVENTIETH REGIMENT N. C. T.)

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ZEBULON B. VANCE, GOVERNOR, 1862-1865.

SIXTIETH REGIMENT.

By JAMES M. RAY, LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

The Sixtieth Regiment, North Carolina Infantry, Confederate States Army, more largely representative of Asheville and Buncombe than any other regiment going out from this State, had its nucleus in a battalion of State troops. The organization of said battalion having been authorized by the Governor of North Carolina early in 1862, Dr. Joseph A. McDowell, of Warm Springs, Madison county, a member at that time of the Legislature, was invested with power to raise it. He called to his aid a number of well known gentlemen who raised the companies, and in May, 1862, the organization of said companies into a battalion was temporarily effected, with Dr. Joseph A. McDowell, Major commanding; Edward M. Clayton, Adjutant; Augustus W. Patton, Quartermaster, and Robert L. Coleman, Commissary.

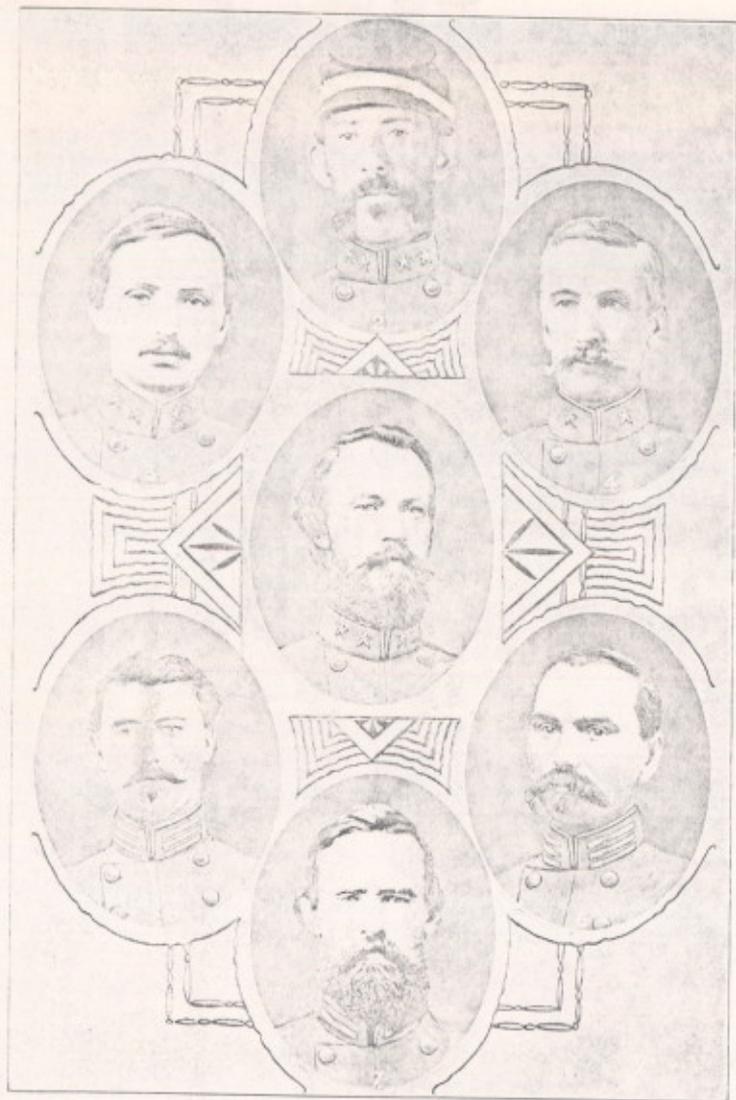
The battalion was designated as the Sixth, and was composed of six companies, as follows:

FIRST COMPANY—Hardy's Light Artillery, made up in Asheville and near vicinity; Wash M. Hardy, Captain; Harry Deaver, First Lieutenant; Pleas. Israel, Second Lieutenant; J. Thomas Weaver, Junior Second Lieutenant.

SECOND COMPANY—McDowell's Madison county company; Joseph A. McDowell, Captain; Belton Ducket, First Lieutenant; B. F. Patton, Second Lieutenant; W. P. Cook, Junior Second Lieutenant.

THIRD COMPANY—Reynold's company, made up in Asheville and vicinity; F. S. H. Reynolds, Captain; Thomas W. Patton, First Lieutenant; John Gregg Chambers, Second Lieutenant; Thomas H. Riddle, Junior Second Lieutenant.

FOURTH COMPANY—McDowell's Buncombe company; Wm. W. McDowell, Captain; Thomas J. Candler, First Lieu-



SIXTIETH REGIMENT.

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|---|---|
| 1. James M. Ray, Lieut.-Colonel. | 4. James T. Huff, Major. |
| 2. James T. Weaver, Lieut.-Colonel.
(Killed at Columbia, Tenn., December 7, 1864.) | 5. M. C. Toms, Captain, Co. A. |
| 3. Thad Coleman, Lieut.-Colonel. | 6. Robert L. Coleman, Captain, A. C. S. |
| | 7. John G. Chambers, 1st Lieut., Co. C. |

tenant (taking the place of his brother, Wm. G., resigning on account of his father's death); Samuel C. Wright, Second Lieutenant; J. B. Hyatt, Junior Second Lieutenant.

FIFTH COMPANY—West's company, composed largely of Haw creek and Swannanoa river men; W. Riley West, Captain; Elic West, First Lieutenant; Dr. J. S. T. Baird, Second Lieutenant; John Sales, Junior Second Lieutenant.

SIXTH COMPANY—Stevens' company (this company was made up by James M. Ray and Goodson M. Roberts, but both declined the Captaincy and recommended Dr. Stevens, who was elected; it was composed principally of Turkey creek, Flat creek and Reems creek men); Dr. J. M. Stevens, Captain; James M. Ray, First Lieutenant; Goodson M. Roberts, Second Lieutenant; John H. Reynolds, Junior Second Lieutenant.

The first movement of the battalion was a march down the French Broad river, making the first day ten miles, stopping at Alexander's, a noted country hotel and stock stand; thence to Marshall and Warm Springs, going into a camp of instruction, drill, etc., on a beautiful island in the French Broad, a few miles below Warm Springs. Here there were additions to the command of two more companies:

Fletcher's, of Henderson county—Charles M. Fletcher, Captain; Rufus Downing, First Lieutenant; Thomas Shipman, Second Lieutenant; James Brittain, Junior Second Lieutenant.

Huff's company, of East Tennessee, from vicinity of Big creek, Coker county, Jas. T. Huff, Captain; James Nelson, First Lieutenant; M. M. Jones, Second Lieutenant; W. R. Stokely, Junior Second Lieutenant. James Nelson died at Murfreesboro and Lieutenant Stokely resigned. They were succeeded by Leonard C. Huff and Royal Brooks.

In the organization of battalion and the promotion of Captain McDowell to Major, First Lieutenant Belton Duckett became Captain, Second Lieutenant B. F. Patton was made First Lieutenant, Riley Chambers Second Lieutenant, and Robert M. Clayton Junior Second Lieutenant. This addition of two companies, making eight, entitled the battalion

to two field officers, Lieutenant-Colonel and Major. Major McDowell was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and First Lieutenant Harry Deaver, of Hardy's company, was chosen Major, the vacancy in his company being filled by the promotion of Junior Second Lieutenant J. Thomas Weaver to the First Lieutenantcy and the election of Marion C. Toms Junior Second Lieutenant.

Captain J. M. Stevens being assigned to duty as Assistant Surgeon, First Lieutenant James M. Ray was elected to the Captaincy made vacant by his resignation; Second Lieutenant Goodson M. Roberts was made First Lieutenant; Junior Second Lieutenant John H. Reynolds was made Second, and Ervin West was elected Junior Second Lieutenant.

After a stay of two or three months on the island, the battalion was by the Governor, through General E. Kirby Smith, having headquarters then in Knoxville, Tenn., tendered to the Confederate Government, was accepted and ordered to Greenville, Tenn., to guard certain stores, railroads and railroad bridges while Bragg was on his Kentucky campaign.

Very soon after reaching Greenville it was decided to change the battalion, by the addition of two companies, to a regiment. Ward's Polk county (N. C.) company, J. L. Ward, Captain; Lawson B. Davis, First Lieutenant; Eli Jackson, Second Lieutenant; C. S. Monroe, Junior Second Lieutenant—coming in, made one of the number, and the other was made by volunteers and details from companies unnecessarily large. This was officered by the election of Lieutenant G. M. Roberts as Captain; McGruder (W. R.) Alexander, First Lieutenant; Josiah M. Jones, Second Lieutenant; S. P. Luther, Junior Second Lieutenant.

These additions making ten companies, the complement for a regiment, another field officer became necessary. Lieutenant-Colonel McDowell was promoted to full Colonel; Major Deaver was made Lieutenant-Colonel, and Captain Wm. W. McDowell was chosen Major. The vacancy made in his company by the promotion of the latter was filled by the advancement of First Lieutenant Thomas J. Candler to Captain, Second Lieutenant Sam. C. Wright to First, Junior

Second Lieutenant J. B. Hyatt to Second, and the election of J. M. Cole to the Junior Second Lieutenantcy.

By the promotion and transfer of First Lieutenant Roberts, of Ray's company, Second Lieutenant Reynolds advanced to First, Junior Second Lieutenant West to Second, and Robert White was elected to the vacancy of Junior Second Lieutenant.

The organization of the regiment was further perfected by lettering and giving place in line to the companies. Hardy's company was given first position on the right and lettered A; Duckett's company second position on the right and lettered B; Reynolds' company third position on the right and lettered C; Fletcher's company fourth position on the right and lettered D; Candler's company right centre and lettered E, and made the color company; Ray's company left centre and lettered F; Ward's company second from centre on left and lettered G; Huff's company third from center on left and lettered H; Robert's company second from left wing and lettered I; West's company extreme left wing and lettered K.*

Towards the last of September, or about the first of October, 1862, the regiment was ordered to Murfreesboro, Tenn., and on reaching there encamped to the left of the railroad and very near the city. Here the men were engaged in drilling and guard duties of one sort and another until late in December. For a time the regiment was assigned to Reynold's Brigade, then to Preston's and to John C. Breckinridge's Division. In the latter it continued until after the battle of Chickamauga.

MURFREESBORO.

In the last days of December the regiment broke camp at Murfreesboro and was advanced to meet the Federals under Rosecrans, coming out from Nashville, and meet them it did, on Stone river, a few miles west from Murfreesboro. On

*This was a departure from military regulations which placed the companies in the following order from right to left A, F, D, I, C, H, E, K, G, B, the object being that when the regiment was divided into 5 divisions, they would be commanded by the 5 senior captains. Besides in this way, A was on the right, B on the left and C in the centre.—Ed.

Wednesday, 31 December, 1862, the battle was well on, and the Sixtieth, eager for the fray, having tired of long inactivity, was ordered across the river at a ford on the Nashville pike, the men crossing by wading and jumping from rock to rock, something of a ledge extending quite a distance into the water. On reaching the west side of the river the troops were immediately under fire, and yet they kept alignment and moved forward with the martial tread of veterans, notwithstanding the discouragements met with on every hand, for even while in the ford they were met by the litter corps, carrying to the rear the wounded, the blood running almost in streams from some of the litters. This, and the groans of the poor maimed men, and worse still the woeful tales of the demoralized retreating soldiers who had been engaged and repulsed just before this advance, were not calculated to steady the nerves of men under fire for the first time. Some were indiscreet enough to exclaim that it was "useless to go any further, for all hell couldn't dislodge the blue coats" from their strongly fortified position. The line, however, moved forward until it encountered obstacles which covered the entire front, these obstacles being the Cowan house, a large brick building, with stables, other out-buildings, gardens, lots, etc., all enclosed by cedar picket fences.

The regiment was necessarily thrown into considerable confusion and some of the companies fell back, while others pressed forward under the most terrific fire of musketry and artillery in their front and a most annoying enfilading musketry fire from a cedar grove to the front and left. The advancing companies got around the obstructions mentioned one way and another. Company F, commanded by Captain Ray, struck the obstacles at the garden and finding two or three pickets removed and a pathway through the garden, he threw his men in single file and, with three of the color guards belonging to Company E, J. L. Morgan, from Hominy creek, bearing the flag, marched through the garden and emerged into a cotten field to find themselves alone and under the most galling fire.

The men were ordered "down," the only command known in tactics appropriate to the occasion. Here they hugged the

for a few minutes, when away to the left it was seen a was being made upon the cedar grove that was then the most destructive fire, when the command "Up, ligue, double-quick, charge!" was given and the com-oon reached and formed on this attacking force, which a part of our own brigade, containing some of our com-that had passed around to the left of the obstacles, ng the line and then had come forward. Of these Company E, commanded by Lieutenant Hyatt; Com-I, commanded by Captain Huff, and Company K, com-d by Captain West, other companies of the regiment engaged further up the line.

Federals were in strong force in the cedars and were roTECTED by uplifting ledges of limestone rock and the cedars, but the charging Confederates had reached a that there was less danger, possibly, in going forward remaining standing, or than in retreating. Having crossed the open field and reached the edge of the cedars, o short was to be shot down, having no protection what-nd to retreat over the open, exposed ground even worse, this they would receive the fire not only from the small but make themselves targets for the heavily masked ies on an eminence near the river.

go forward seemed the only alternative and to this the als offered a stubborn resistance, encouraged by having ed former charges to dislodge them. They fought with ism only excelled by the advancing Confederates. At ical moment in the struggle, when the lines were see- g and it seemed questionable which was to prove the ; General Preston, with the gallantry of a true Ken- in, seized the colors of one of his regiments and, sink- eep his spurs into the sides of his noble horse, cried out, es sounding above the roar and crash of the battle, "Fol- ie, my brave men!"

e act and the words were electrical, and, with a shout will go down the ages as the "southern rebel yell," the sprang forward as if but freshly reinforced, and the als were forced to fall back, though in justice to them it be said, foot by foot, contending most stubbornly over

every inch of the ground. They were, however, finally forced to give up the stronghold, and the "boys in gay" slept that memorable night in the cedars, upon the blood ground, in the midst of heaps upon heaps of dead men. It was actually "a sleep with the dead," for they were in arm's length that night of almost every man. The horror of it was not felt in its ghastly hideousness until the morning dawked, when the fatigue and excitement incident to the battle had worn away. Ever to be remembered will be that morning of 1 January, 1863, by the participants in that battle.

Just at the moment of General Preston's seizing the flag the Federal batteries, as if to counteract his move, ent crashing into the ranks a most terrific fire of grape and canister, taking off the head of one of the general's staff officers and killing and wounding many others of the brave band that surrounded him. Here Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Deaver, of the Sixtieth, was dashed to the ground by his frantic horse and so stunned that Captain Ray, in front of whose command the accident occurred, sent Merritt Stevens, a stalwart man, to carry him from the field. Colonel Deaver, brave, gallant fellow, was never after able to do a day's service, having been an invalid really for months before the battle.

At nightfall the tragic scene described had a respite, at least as to the small arms; the artillery never holding up during the night. At the order to "halt, cease firing, lie down," General Preston slowly rode down the line, having something commendatory to say to each command. On reaching the Sixtieth he asked: "What command?" On being answered, "A portion of the Sixtieth North Carolina," he said: "This is your first battle of any consequence, I believe. Indeed you Tar Heels have done well. I must say you advanced further than I intended you should, but I thought I would see how far you would go. Now, a little later, if any of you see fit to venture out and gather up abandoned guns, I will make honorable mention of it. It will be attended with some danger and I thus make it voluntary. Now, take your rest as best you can, but whatever you do, build no fires and make no noise which will indicate your posi-

son to the enemy, for they have the range of all these points and will shell you out."

In response to the request to gather in abandoned guns, William Hutson, from the vicinity of Shufordsville, a member of Ray's company, brought off the field thirty-five, more than enough to arm his company, after its depletion by the killed and wounded in the battle through which it had just passed. This man Hutson was conspicuous for his cool bravery under fire. The daring fellow succumbed, however, to disease and died a few months later in the hospital at Tullahoma.

On New Year's day the regiment was comparatively inactive. The next day, 2 January, 1863, it, together with the balance of the division, was ordered to recross the river and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon went into that ever to be remembered "Breckinridge's Friday evening charge. Rosecrans had massed a heavy force in a skirt of timber on the east bank of the river, under the shadow of his "batteries of an hundred guns," and Bragg ordered Breckenridge with his division to dislodge them. To do so he was forced to cross an open field more than a quarter of a mile in width, with the enemy lying stretched upon the ground in the edge of the woods with deadly aim on the advancing line.

To say that the fire was terrific but mildly expresses it. How any escaped has ever been a matter of wonder. Nothing but a Divine Providence could carry men through such an ordeal. About half way into the field the Sergeant-Major of the Sixtieth, young Stanhope Erwin, from Burke county, was killed; an early martyr in his country's cause, a noble, gallant boy, not out of his teens.

Here, as on Wednesday, the contest was a stubborn one, the Federals seemingly determined at all hazards to hold their position under the protecting care of their heavy artillery, while the Confederates were equally as determined that they should not, and on they surged, little recking the thinning of their ranks, or the disadvantages that they fully recognized they were laboring under. Harder and harder they pressed, driving, at first it seemed, the opposing line inch by inch, finally moving it more easily, at last to the river, into and

across it. Soon they rallied and came forward again to find Breckinridge's sturdy men as immovable, by any confronting demonstrations, as the great oaks about them.

An unexpected flank movement, however, accomplished by crossing a force up the river and climbing a precipitous bluff, made necessary by reason of inadequate numbers to meet both lines, a falling back. This, while not as orderly as might have been wished, was without panic and Patton Anderson's Brigade had no part in protecting Breckinridge's men from annihilation, as was falsely reported and strongly intimated, at least, in General Bragg's official report, his troops not coming up until darkness closed the action.

This Friday's battle has always seemed a most useless one, and one too showing most inefficient generalship on the part of General Bragg. Without a simultaneous move on the part of the army on the west side of the river against the enemy's strongly fortified position, the attempt to do more than Breckinridge did was one of the impossibilities, as any one at all versed in military affairs could readily have foreseen.

Saturday, following the grand work of a few men the day before, was spent in marching and countermarching, through an almost incessant rainstorm, the whole appearing to be purposeless. Later in the day, or rather at night, the retreat of the entire army commenced; indeed, it might be said both armies, for there can be no doubt that the Federals had determined to fall back and that both armies were retreating at the same time, a case several times repeated in subsequent battles by reason of our generals not following up their victories.

The losses of the Sixtieth in the two battles may be summed up as follows:

In Company A, Lieutenant Weaver commanding: Sergeant-Major Stanhope Erwin, killed; Sergeants M. C. Toms, D. H. Waggoner and D. W. Owen, wounded; Captain J. T. Garison, wounded; Privates J. E. James, Robert Paris, H. N. Bridgers, wounded, and J. L. Alexander missing.

Company B, Captain Duckett commanding: Sergeant J.

A. Hipps, missing; Privates Wm. Shetley, killed; Charles Stokely, W. R. Cook, seriously wounded; James Woody Elk-anah Hicks, John Shetly, John E. Waddell, Wm. Plemmons and B. F. Lawson, slightly wounded.

Company C, Captain Reynolds commanding: Wednesday, Lieutenant Alexander; Friday, Sergeant W. A. McBrayer, wounded; Privates J. W. Dillingham, A. W. Searcy, W. S. Penland, W. G. Dillingham, Jackson Whitlock, wounded.

Company D, Lieutenant Shipman commanding: Privates Noah Hudson and F. J. Israel wounded.

Company E, Lieutenant Hyatt commanding: Wednesday, Lieutenant Wright; Friday, Lieutenant Hyatt, wounded; Sergeants W. W. Slate and T. J. Harkins, wounded; Corporal W. P. Green, wounded; Privates E. G. Howell, Thomas Brookshire and John Morgan, wounded.

Company F, Captain Ray commanding: Privates M. Foster, J. Foster, J. Wilson, F. R. Wilson, N. Hudson, James H. Tweed, Wm. White, J. H. Penland, D. L. Mann, Solomon Frisby, wounded; F. M. Parham and Wm. Pritchett, missing.

Company G, Captain Ward commanding: Privates Leander Peck, Alexander Edwards, J. B. Swain, M. M. Edwards, Davidson Edwards, Wm. Pegg, wounded; George Ellison, W. P. Caruth and James Wilson, missing.

Company H, Captain Huff commanding: Lieutenant W. M. Jones and Sergeant C. C. Jones, wounded; Privates W. H. Headrick, Nicholas Ellison, George Marrow, W. P. Moore, G. W. Manstook and Corporal Willie Chapman, wounded.

Company I, Captain Roberts commanding: Corporal Wilson and Privates R. Gray and Peter Gray, wounded; Privates Wm. S. Alexander and Alfred Fisher, missing.

Company K, Captain West commanding: J. G. Ledbetter, killed; Privates Moses Hall, R. W. Alexander, M. A. Roberson, Ephraim Glass, J. W. Clark, W. R. Bartlett, A. L. Bird, S. P. Young, Jonathan Allison, D. M. Wells, J. A. Clark, wounded, and M. C. Gossett and Thomas H. Wilson, missing.

Breckinridge's Division, of which the Sixtieth was a part,

fell back to Tullahoma and went into winter quarters. The weather following was of the meanest—raining, sleeting and snowing, and slush and mud seemed to be the normal condition of things in that dreary and desolate region. The suffering was great. The men sickened and many died, both of officers and privates, Quartermaster-Captain Augustus W. Patton among the former, entailing a loss irreparable to the regiment, he being a most efficient officer and the highest type of a man in every way.

CHANGES IN OFFICERS.

Here, too, commenced an investigation of the conduct of certain officers and companies in the fights in front of Murfreesboro, and while most, if not all, were from the peculiar state of things not greatly censurable for any neglect of duty, a pressure was brought to bear on them and several resignations were tendered, and quite a revolution was wrought in the officials; an entire change in the field officers and many changes in company officers. Captain Hardy, of Company A, was made Colonel and Captain Ray, of Company F, Lieutenant-Colonel. The position of Major for some reason, was left vacant. The promotion of Captain Hardy making a vacancy in his company (A), First Lieutenant Weaver was promoted to Captain, the Second Lieutenant and Junior Second Lieutenants advancing respectively, and John W. Lindsay was elected to the vacancy of Junior Second Lieutenant. The vacancy of Captain in Company F, caused by the promotion of Captain Ray, was not filled, but First Lieutenant Reynolds allowed to command. Captain Belton Duckett, of Company B, resigning, First Lieutenant B. F. Patton was advanced to the Captaincy; the Second and Junior Second Lieutenants advanced respectively, and the vacancy of Junior Second Lieutenant was not filled. Captain F. S. H. Reynolds, of Company C, resigning, First Lieutenant Thomas W. Patton was promoted to Captain, and Second and Junior Second Lieutenants advanced respectively. Samuel W. Davidson was elected Junior Second Lieutenant. After the death of Lieutenant Riddle, Lieutenant Davidson advanced to Second and Henry K. Rhea elected to the vacancy of

Junior Second Lieutenant. Captain Fletcher, of Company D, and his Lieutenants leaving the company, Lieutenant John Gregg Chambers, of Company C, was temporarily put in command. Later H. Clay Lorange was appointed First Lieutenant, James M. Ford Second, and Robert C. Evans Junior Second Lieutenants. Lieutenant Lorange taking command, relieved Lieutenant Chambers, who returned to his company on 17 November, 1863, Jesse R. Gilliland was appointed Captain and commanded the company until wounded in front of Atlanta, from which he never recovered, Lieutenant Lorange again taking command. Captain West of Company K, resigning, Adjutant E. M. Clayton was made Captain and William T. White elected Junior Second Lieutenant.

The vacancy of Adjutant by the promotion of E. M. Clayton, was filled by the appointment of Orville Ewing, Jr., of Nashville, Tenn. The position of Sergeant-Major made vacant by the killing of Stanhope Erwin, was filled by the appointment of Frank M. Miller. Captain G. M. Roberts, of company I resigning, First Lieutenant W. R. Alexander was promoted to the Captaincy, the Second and Junior Second Lieutenants advanced respectively, and the Junior Second Lieutenantcy was not filled.

Dr. J. M. Stevens resigning as Surgeon, Dr. Griffin, of Louisville, Ky., was assigned to duty in his stead, assisted by Lieutenant Robert Cooper. Dr. Griffin was superseded by Dr. Mackay about the time the regiment left for Mississippi. The latter was a surgeon of considerable note, having served quite a time in the English army with the Scottish Highlanders before coming to America. Phifer Erwin was made Quartermaster in place of W. Augustus Patton, deceased, B. J. Alexander being retained as Quartermaster-Sergeant.

In the early spring of 1863 the regiment, as also the division, broke camp at Tullahoma and moved to Wartrace. It was then in Preston's Brigade, Breckinridge's Division, Hardee's Corps. In early summer it went to Fairfield, and later was ordered to Jackson, Miss. On reaching there it went into camp upon the banks of Pearl river, here remaining until about 1 July, Joseph E. Johnston in the

meantime hurriedly getting together transportation for a movement on Vicksburg to relieve Pemberton, who was being besieged by General Grant. Four days' marching via Canton, under the broiling sun of that, then, almost tropical clime in dust shoemouth deep, drinking water from any place it could be found, and this, much of the time, being stagnant, muddy, stockponds and even from hog-wallows along the line of march, the command reached the waters of the Big Black on the night of 4 July, the commander of the Sixtieth, Lieutenant-Colonel Ray, being the general field officer of the day. About midnight the word passed from brigade to brigade and from regiment to regiment that Vicksburg had capitulated. A retrograde movement was at once ordered and the retreat commenced and continued until Jackson was reached. The troops fared better on the retreat than on the advance, so far as water was concerned, for the wells and cisterns along the route that had been stripped of buckets and drawing arrangements by the owners had been replaced after the passage of the troops and, of course, not anticipating so speedy a return, they were found in place and there was comparatively little suffering for water. The citizens of Canton, it must be said, however, did everything possible for the comfort of the soldiers, both advancing and retreating, lining the sidewalks with buckets and pitchers of water.

Johnston made a stand at Jackson and set himself in battle array. Very soon he was confronted by the Federals in force and the contest commenced, first skirmishing along various parts of the line. Finally, on 16 July, a strong demonstration was made upon that part where the Sixtieth had position and for a time the battle was fierce, but the defense was stronger than the enemy seemed to have anticipated, the retreat was sounded and the attacking forces withdrew.

The Sixtieth's casualties were but slight, a few men only being wounded. Among that number was James Parker, of Company E, whose wound necessitated the amputation of one arm. This was done most skilfully by Dr. McKay, surgeon of the regiment.

General Johnston did not see fit to offer resistance for any considerable time to the occupancy of the city and withdrew

his forces, the Sixtieth going to Brandon and encamping on a ridge not a great way from the station, in the track of a cyclone that had passed through that section of the country some time before, and hence the name "Camp Hurricane," by which the rendezvous was known. Here Colonel Hardy, Lieutenant-Colonel Ray and several officers of the line passed their examinations for promotion, although they had been on duty in their respective assignments, most of them, from the time of leaving Fairfield, Tenn. Lieutenant-Colonel Ray commanding the regiment on the advance from Jackson to Big Black and on the retreat as well.

It was here, too, that Dr. McKay, by his extra rigid regular army discipline, incurred anew the anger of many of the regiment, who claimed that they were out to fight tyranny in every form, and while engaged fighting back an invading army, they would at the same time resist being domineered by, as they claimed, a military martinet in the person of the regimental surgeon. They commenced the exhibition of their determination to get rid of the doctor by a night attack upon him as he swung in his hammock in his marquee, cutting down the hammock and then casting some stones, more to frighten, possibly, than to hurt, for they were not really bad men. The doctor appealed to Lieutenant-Colonel Ray, again in command of the regiment, for redress and reported an entire company as being the offenders, but as he could name none, either as leaders or participants, no action could well be taken. Colonel Ray, esteeming him for his skill in surgery and his general learning, was anxious to save him any injury, or any repeated indignity and begged the doctor to allow him to effect his transfer, which was done and old Dr. Straight, a Mississippian, was put in his place, a most lovable character, who soon endeared himself to the men very greatly.

In September Breckinridge was ordered to Georgia to reinforce General Bragg, who was again to join issue with General Rosecrans. It so happened that some of the higher officers being away on leave, and others desiring to go via Mobile, Ala., the command of the brigade devolved upon Lieutenant-Colonel Ray, who had it in charge until reaching the point of destination.

CHICKAMAUGA.

On reaching Chickamauga (the Indian name "Chickamauga" means river of death) the two armies were found in battle array and skirmishing more or less severe occurred from day to day, commencing on about the 10th. The Sixtieth had position on the left of the army and upon that part of the field in which vicinity were Glass' and Lee and Gordon's flouring mills.

The line of battle was constantly undergoing changes, not very considerable until the 18th and 19th. Then the changes were radical, the left, or a great part of it, embracing the Sixtieth, was moved to the extreme right wing. On the 18th everything indicated fighting and a regular engagement was unquestionably at hand. The ominous clouds of war hung like a pall over the army; the atmosphere was full of it; the warrior, as well as the war horse, could "smell it from afar." Curses were changed to prayers, cards in the pockets were replaced by Testaments and a quiet determination took the place of jests and ribaldry.

Sure enough on Saturday, the 19th, the struggle began in earnest. As the day waned the contest became hotter and hotter, and at dark it seemed only just begun, and raged furiously until way into the night. When the ranks could no longer see each other they would fire at the flash and report of their opponents' guns. The Sixtieth, up to this time, had not been hotly engaged. The night of the 19th it marched hour upon hour, crossing the river at Alexander's bridge, when it seemed almost time for cock crow, if one had dared to be so bold in hearing of men hungry enough to have eaten him, feathers and all! Tired and worn, a final halt was called and the men threw themselves upon the ground and in almost a twinkling were wrapped in sound slumber, such as is known only to soldiers. But O! of such short duration was that sleep. Not waiting until day dawn, the long roll sounded—a sound that like the rattlesnake's warning notes, never failed to put all hearers on the alert. Hastily every man, knowing intuitively what the call boded, was up in busy preparation, and at daybreak was in line ready for any fate.

Written unmistakably in almost every face was "we go to victory or death." Alas! all to victory, many to death.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ray was in command, and being called upon for a speech, the commanding officers of other regiments on the right and left, already haranguing their men, he said: "I hardly think it just the time for a speech. Later it may be necessary. We know full well what is before us. I am no more anxious for the conflict than the rest of you, but I mean to do my full duty and have confidence that you will do the same."

Up to near this time, probably within two days, Captain Candler, senior Captain, had been acting Lieutenant-Colonel, as has been stated, the regiment having no Major, but upon an order from General Breckinridge to Acting Colonel Ray to send a mounted officer to the rear to see what was the trouble that rations for three days had not been sent forward, he detailed Captain Candler for this work and had Captain J. T. Weaver assigned to duty as second in command, and the regiment commenced the day's work so officered, young George Leavel, of Mississippi, acting as voluntary aid to Lieutenant-Colonel Ray. At this battle the Sixtieth was in Stovall's Brigade, Breckinridge's Division, D. H. Hill's Corps.

Notwithstanding the early preparations, it was near 9 o'clock before the troops were actually engaged. The skirmishers at once uncovered the Federal line of battle and the work began, the Confederates continually advancing, at many points, however, meeting strong resistance. The casualties for a time were inconsiderable. Lieutenant Wm. White and Sergeant J. L. Cathey were among the first seriously wounded, both losing a leg, Lieutenant White's proving fatal. These were both men of distinguished bravery.

It was not infrequent that ludicrous and laughable scenes came up even during the battles. In the first charge made here, the men had been strongly admonished against throwing away shots and ordered to hold their fire until ordered by commanding officers. A Federal sharpshooter had from some cause fallen behind his comrades as they had been driven back and the fellow was running for dear life diagonally

across the front of the Sixtieth. When first seen he was probably 250 yards away. Redden James a Sergeant in Company F, asked permission to fire at him. It being given, he turned loose his carbine, whereupon the fleeing soldier tumbled, but in a moment was up and off again. Another shot was fired at him and again he fell, but as quickly as before he was up and on the run. Then the third man fired and another tumbling down. By this time the line had reached him and when ordered up, it was found the fellow had not been touched, but had adopted this ruse, as he said, to prevent a volley being fired at him, and hoping every little run to pass from the front of the charging line.

The direction of advancing columns up to about 11 o'clock had been a little west of south, but reaching the Lafayette pike, leading out from Chattanooga, near where stood Jones' and McDonald's houses, the direction was changed due south, at least as to Stoval's Brigade, of which the Sixtieth was a part. Soon after this charge came the tug of war. As the Federal line was driven back it seemed to be strengthened in numbers, probably by reinforcements or the falling back on reserves, and to grow in desperation, and the advance of the Confederates as the sun approached the meridian became more and more difficult. From 11 until 12 o'clock it was a life and death struggle.

The Federal line of battle was of an unheard of shape, running east and west through Kelley's field, then bending round to due north and extending probably 500 yards, bending around again in a westward direction, some distance parallel to the line through Kelley's field, but stopping short before reaching Lafayette pike, or touching the line west of said pike, thus leaving an opening or gap in their line. And it was here the Sixtieth got in its nice work; passing the right of this west line, it forced its way into this gap, receiving an enfilading fire for a short time in passing said line, and drove the opposing forces back into Kelley's field into their breastworks.

FARTHEST TO THE FRONT AT CHICKAMAUGA.

By forcing their way into this gap the gallant men of the Sixtieth enabled the State and United States commissioners, in reviewing the battlefield in order to locate the exact position of the various commands, to say:

"This point [marked by a tablet] reached by the Sixtieth North Carolina Regiment of Infantry, at noon, on Sunday 20 September, 1863, was the farthest obtained by any Confederate troops in this famous charge."

The casualties in the last hour of this charge were heavy. Lieutenant-Colonel Ray was severely wounded and forced to leave the field, after calling Acting Lieutenant-Colonel Weaver, notifying him of his being disabled, and turning over to him the command of the regiment. The regiment in its last action here was confronted by the Second Minnesota, which reported a loss of 33 per cent. of its members, fighting, too, a part of the time, behind breastworks. Indicating somewhat further the severity of the struggle here, three generals were killed almost in a stone's throw of the position of the Sixtieth in Kelley's field—Generals Helm and Deshler, of the Confederates, and General King, of the Federals.

Soon after Acting Lieutenant-Colonel Weaver took command of the regiment the line was withdrawn and reformed north and somewhat west of Kelley's field and held inactive for a time, then advanced upon another part of the Federal line, and near sundown was drawn up in support of Forrest's cavalry. It was here held in reserve a short time, and then ordered into the charge being made on the enemy's breastworks, which were taken most gallantly, the Federals being driven pell-mell, the Confederates scarcely halting at the breastworks, but pursuing the panic-stricken, retreating forces in the direction of Chattanooga. And so ended the day's work, and with similar work on other parts of the battlefield, the great and bloody battle of Chickamauga.

The hurried and brief reports of commanding officers make it absolutely impossible to give the casualties of the Sixtieth in these different engagements, but they were great, some of the companies having only five or six men to answer to their

names at roll call on the night of the 20th. Among the officers wounded, not already mentioned, were Lieutenant John H. Reynolds, seriously, losing an arm; Lieutenants Leonard Huff and Sam W. Davidson and Captain W. R. Alexander, slightly. Of the color guard, every man save one, George Lindsey, was killed or wounded. The bearer of the flag, Sergeant Bailey, though mortally wounded, called Sergeant Lindsey to him, told him he was shot, showed him the wound and said: "I turn over to your keeping the colors."

Here again is another instance of great victory, at an expense of almost a deluge of the best blood of the country and apparently nothing achieved. The failure to press Rosecrans while on the run and take Chattanooga, and thus reclaim a large part of Tennessee, was a blunder that could not be understood by the rank and file of the army and was never satisfactorily explained. Had this been done, and none doubted the possibility of it, the Federals could never have boasted of victories at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, for those battles would never have taken place.

General Breckinridge, through Lieutenant Clay, of his staff (grandson of Henry Clay) sent expressions of his sympathies to Colonel Ray at field hospital on the morning after the battle on the 20th and was unstinted in his praise of the conduct of the Sixtieth.

MISSIONARY RIDGE.

The following up the retreating Federals, after the hard fighting on the 20th, was very leisurely and in a half-hearted way, giving them time to rally, reorganize and offer battle again, on plans very advantageous to them. The Sixtieth was inactive for a day or two, and then by slow marches took position on Missionary Ridge, overlooking Chattanooga. Here on 25 November it was brought into action, but was so situated as to be able to do but little effective work, having the enemy too far away at the beginning of the conflict to reach them except by plunging shots from the artillery and the longest range guns, and when getting nearer they were almost completely sheltered by the natural curvature of the mountain. On the Federals reaching the top of the bluff, a

sharp engagement took place, but the disparity in numbers was so great the Confederates were forced to retreat, the Sixtieth falling back to Dalton, Ga., and there taking up winter quarters. Owing to the great depletion in the ranks of both the Sixtieth and Fifty-eighth Regiments, the two were consolidated while on Missionary Ridge, the field officers of the Sixtieth kept in command and those of the Fifty-eighth transferred.

The campaign of 1864 opened with a clash between the opposing forces in front of Dalton, the Sixtieth and Fifty-eighth participating in the battle. This resulted in a victory to the Confederates, the Federals again falling back in the direction of Chattanooga. The casualties as to the North Carolinians were slight in this action, save in the killing of Lieutenant Thomas H. Riddle, of Company C, an efficient and popular young officer. This battle was known as "Stoney Ridge." In the spring and summer of 1864, the Fifty-eighth and Sixtieth North Carolina belonged to A. W. Reynolds' Brigade, Stevenson's Division, Hood's Corps. In August, Colonel Wash. M. Hardy, of the Sixtieth, was in command, temporarily, of the Brigade.

FROM DALTON TO ATLANTA.

The Sixtieth returned to Dalton and went into their old quarters. Sergeant-Major Frank Miller was here made Second Lieutenant in Company A, Thomas F. Davidson was made Junior Second Lieutenant to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Lieutenant Reynolds, and Calvin Shackelford to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Lieut. Wm. T. White. Here it remained until the beginning of what is known in history as the "Johnston-Sherman Atlanta campaign." This was a succession of battles and retreats upon the part of Johnston, inflicting heavy losses upon Sherman. By his peculiar tactics, of selecting his positions and drawing Sherman back on him, he was seriously crippling him and yet apparently giving him victories by his retreating and the other advancing. 'Twas said in this campaign that from first to last Johnston disabled and killed of Sherman's army in numbers aggregating nearly 50,000, a force almost equal to

that with which he fought him. The Sixtieth was frequently engaged in this campaign, a dozen or more times, the most important battles being at Resaca, Cassville, New Hope Church, Kennesaw Mountain, Jonesboro and Atlanta, and never to its discredit. Its losses were considerable, particularly in wounded, many of the very best officers and men being disabled. Specially deserving mention are Captains Ed. M. Clayton and Jesse R. Gilliland, Lieutenants Frank M. Miller and Robert Cooper.

CHANGE OF GENERALS.

The War Department at Richmond, under influences, not creditable to either side, assumed to dictate to Joseph E. Johnston as to the further conducting of this "Atlanta Campaign," and this greatest of strategists, declining to be so handicapped, allowed himself to be superseded and the Confederate Government committed the greatest blunder of its short life in bringing about such a condition of things. Some of the older generals who were asked to take command, saw the unwisdom of a change at that particular crisis, and declining to become a party to it, it was left to the dashing and daring Texan, General John B. Hood, to take charge of that gallant body of men that almost worshipped their great displaced leader. A sad day indeed was it, in and around Atlanta, when the change in commanders was made known. No half dozen defeats in battle could have had so depressing an effect upon the troops. In the Federal ranks the contrary feeling prevailed; the elation on one side was equal to the depression on the other. General Sherman said: "Now we'll have something to say when and where we fight. Up to this time it has been when and where Mr. Johnston said."

Of course General Hood had to carry out the behests of the war department, with, it was presumed, General Bragg as adviser, and an entire change in plans was brought about, he taking the offensive and making desperate onslaughts upon Sherman's lines, and while victorious in a way, and fully sustaining his well earned reputation as a daring, successful fighter, they were at such a sacrifice of his men, as to make suicidal a continuance of it and hence it was determined to

adopt other tactics. So the army swung around, recrossed the Chattahoochee river and opened the way to an almost uninterrupted march of Sherman to the sea; while, in the short-sighted policy of the powers at Richmond, the movement was supposed to cut their supplies from Nashville, little thinking of the communications Sherman was opening up ahead of him.

THE MARCH ON NASHVILLE.

Passing through North Georgia, North Alabama, crossing the Tennessee river at Florence, where a small force of Federals offered slight resistance, but were easily overcome by the troops of which the Sixtieth was a part, the march was continued into and through a section of the State very appropriately called "The Wilderness," where it might have been justly said, in the language of Sheridan, "that a crow in flying over it would have to carry his rations with him." The men subsisted principally upon scant supplies of "corn dodger" and "sorghum molasses."

The transition from this barren land into that fertile region known as the Blue Grass section of middle Tennessee, can hardly be imagined. Here, at Columbia, on Duck river, another body of Federals was encountered, and a sharp little engagement took place, the Sixtieth suffering somewhat, particularly in the loss of a brave young officer, Lieutenant Moreno, who had been assigned to duty with the regiment, having refuged a short time before from Pensacola, Fla.

FRANKLIN.

Instead of pressing the retreating foe and forcing a battle upon the ground where each contestant would have been on an equal footing, or, what would have been better, outflanking him, a thing seeming altogether practicable, he was allowed, uninterruptedly it might be said, to fall back on Franklin and ample time given to strongly fortify. Then when the Federals, it might be presumed, said, "Now we are ready, you may advance!" the Confederates, never counting odds, or reckoning obstacles, did advance. But what a scene of blood and carnage. The forces were more nearly

equal as to numbers than in most battles of the war, the Confederates having 18,000 to 20,000, the Federals 22,000 to 24,000. But by reason of the one being so thoroughly entrenched and the other compelled to advance through broad, open fields, the odds actually might be said, not unreasonably either, to have been about five to one. The battle was a most terrific one, the Confederates fighting with a determination scarcely ever equalled, even by themselves. Privates and officers alike went down in the melee, like trees in the sweep of a tornado. The casualties were indeed appalling, especially so on the Confederate side. Six general officers were killed and six wounded. Major-General John Adams of Stewart's Corps, and that indomitable old war horse of the same rank, Pat. Cleburne, went down in death, with Brigadier-Generals Granberry, Carter, Gist and Strahl. Thirteen regimental commanders were killed and thirty-two wounded. Many other field and line officers were killed and wounded, while about 6,000 of the rank and file were left dead or disabled upon the field, on the banks of, and in, the ditches that they were so gallantly charging. The Federal losses were estimated at one-half or two-thirds less, and yet it was counted a Confederate victory, because the Federals were driven from their strongholds and retired upon Nashville. The fewer of such victories the better for the victors, and that the battle of Franklin should ever have been fought was a mistake and a misfortune that no one, at all conversant with the facts, will for a moment question.

THE RETREAT FROM NASHVILLE.

The advance was then upon Nashville, the Sixtieth having a position from which the capital city could be seen, but into which it was never permitted to enter. In the engagement in front of Nashville the Confederates were defeated and commenced a retreat that with slight interruptions ended only in the surrender of the army in North Carolina. The Sixtieth, with a certain part of the troops, fell back on Murfreesboro, and while in line of battle here, with no active engagement on hand, the daring and gallant Lieutenant-Colonel

Thomas Weaver, in command of the regiment, was the target of a sharpshooter and instantly killed.

The command then devolved upon James T. Huff, of Cocke county, Tenn., who had some time before been promoted to Major. While the loss of Colonel Weaver was irreparable to the regiment, it was still in good hands, Major Huff having proven himself an efficient officer. The line of retreat was again taken up and again that desolate land of "The Wilderness" was traversed, on through Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina into North Carolina, disembarking at Smithfield, and in time to take a hand in the Bentonville battle of 19, 20 and 21 April, 1865, practically the last battle of the most remarkable war in the annals of history. Many of the Sixtieth had the distinction of having taken part in the first and last battle of the war—Big Bethel and Bentonville.

Quartermaster Phifer Erwin taking sick, Captain M. J. Bearden, former Quartermaster of the Fifty-eighth, took his place; Commissary Sergeant King in charge of commissary stores.

BENTONVILLE.

The casualties in the Sixtieth at Bentonville were not great, fighting principally from rudely constructed breastworks. There were a few slightly wounded, among the number Ed. Reno and J. M. Alexander. The sixtieth was in the brigade commanded by General Joseph B. Palmer. This battle, aside from being the last, was somewhat remarkable in bringing into conspicuous notice the daring and fighting qualities of the boys of the dear southland, the Junior Reserves. They fought with a heroism creditable alike to themselves and their veteran sires. The Buncombe Juniors were in the first battalion, commanded by Major D. T. Millard, of Asheville.

The battle of Bentonville was fought by Joseph E. Johnston, the idol of the western army, with less than 20,000 men, the Federals under Sherman numbering between 70,000 and 80,000, and that only a part of his army, yet victory perched upon the banners of the "cross in red." The Sixtieth retreated with the army through Raleigh, thence to Greensboro

and then to Jimtown. The Fifty-eighth and Sixtieth North Carolina on this retreat (which began 10 April) were consolidated and commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Thad. Coleman, and belonged to Brantley's Brigade, D. H. Hill's Division, S. D. Lee's Corps. *Official Records Union and Confederate Armies, Vol. 98, p. 1064.* It was doubtless surrendered as thus organized.

The news of the Army of Northern Virginia, under that grand old leader, Robert E. Lee, having surrendered reaching Joseph E. Johnston, he at once opened negotiations with General Sherman, looking to a closing of the contest between their respective armies, and on 26 April, 1865, the agreement was perfected and the scene sadly closed.

The Sixtieth was very fortunate in having a number of the Buncombe Riflemen, known as the Bethel company, to join its ranks, their experience in drill making them efficient drill masters. Many of them were made officers, to-wit: W. W. McDowell, Major; Robert L. Coleman, Captain Commissary; T. W. Patton, B. F. Patton and Marion Thomas, Captains of the line; Robert M. Clayton, John T. Sales, Thomas J. Shipman, H. Clay Lorance and Sam. W. Davidson, Lieutenants, and Ed. M. Clayton, Adjutant and later Captain. Others to the number of twelve or fourteen were non-commissioned officers and privates.

Three Buncombe families furnished fifteen men to this regiment; six Stevenses, five Sales and four Davidsons, and, singular to state, while several of them were wounded, none were killed and but one of the number has since died.

Dock V. Shope, of Swannanoa, was Orderly Sergeant from the beginning to the ending, and George Alexander, of the same section, Commissary Sergeant for the whole time, almost unparalleled instances, and, singularly enough, both were of the same company—Company I, G. M. Roberts', later W. R. Alexander's company.

Color Sergeant George Lindsay, who was entrusted with the flag of the regiment by his wounded predecessor on the battlefield of Chickamauga, 20 September, 1863, carried it to the end of the conflict, and on or about 2 May, 1865, at Jim-

town, N. C., was paid his prorata of the silver remaining in the Confederate States treasury, \$1.15, and paroled. Spending the 15 cents for luxuries of one sort or another, he retained the \$1.00, and still holds, as a precious souvenir, that and his parole.

The records of this regiment, from the time of the moving from Dalton early in 1864, are necessarily imperfect, by reason of the rapid movements and the multiplicity of incidents and events. To bring in more than has been done would so lengthen the narrative as to deter many from reading it and to require quite a volume to hold it.

The writer has labored assiduously to give the history of the regiment as correctly as possible in brief form and submits it to the charitable criticisms of the survivors of the regiment. That there are some errors need not surprise any one. It could not be otherwise in writing without any substantial data, after the lapse of thirty-six years. The worst fault, he feels, is that of omission. He wishes it was practicable to note the heroic deeds of hundreds of the rank and file, some of which would bear no unfavorable comparison with that since famous act of Lieutenant Hobson; but to do this would take illimitable time and space. To mention some and not all would be an invidious distinction.

JAMES M. RAY.

ASHEVILLE, N. C.,
26 April, 1901.

ADDITIONAL SKETCH SIXTIETH REGIMENT.

By THOMAS W. PATTON, CAPTAIN COMPANY C.

The above regiment was organized early in the summer of 1862, in the county of Madison, N. C. Of its ten companies, seven were composed of men from Buncombe, one from Madison, one from Polk, and one from Cocke county, Tennessee.

The Field Officers at organization were Joseph A. McDowell, Colonel; W. H. Deaver, Lieutenant-Colonel; and W. W. McDowell, Major.

As soon as its organization was completed, the regiment was marched to Greenville, Tenn., and thence by rail transported to Murfreesboro, at which place it took part in the famous and hard-fought battles of 31 December to 3 January. With the Army of Tennessee, it retreated to Tullahoma, and there passed the balance of the winter of 1862-'63. At this place it suffered much from sickness, losing many good men.

About 1 May, 1863, it was in Stovall's Brigade, Breckinridge's Division, carried to Mississippi, and encamped near Jackson, on the banks of the Pearl river. Remaining there till 1 July, it marched in direction of Vicksburg, the intention of the General commanding being to attempt the relief of the garrison which had long been closely beleaguered there by General Grant, but on approaching the Federal lines, on 5 July, it was learned that the Confederates had capitulated the day previous, and the relieving forces were hastily marched back to Jackson.

In the fortifications around Jackson a rather severe engagement occurred on Sunday, 12 July. The Federals who had followed from Vicksburg concentrated on Stovall's Brigade and were repulsed with heavy loss, four flags were captured by our brigade. Subsequently, about 15 July, the Confederate forces were withdrawn, Jackson evacuated, and the Sixtieth Regiment for nearly six weeks was encamped at a point midway between Jackson and Meridian, Miss.

About 1 September, 1863, the troops there were carried by rail to Cave Spring, near Rome, Ga. Then began the marching towards Chattanooga, and the 19 September found this regiment on the field of Chickamauga. It took position late at night, and next day experienced its most severe battle, and that which was the most decided victory of any in which the Army of Tennessee ever took part. The loss in the Sixtieth was very great both in officers and men, among the former Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Ray was wounded so severely as to force him to leave the field and for the rest of the day the command devolved upon Captain J. T. Weaver, the ranking of the company officers. The following names were inscribed upon the roll of honor for gallantry in this battle: Second Lieutenant James H. Cole, Company G; Private H. Lowber, Company A; Private John Hinton, Company B; Private Marcellus S. Matthews, Company D; Private Henry Haman, Company H; Sergeant F. P. Randle, Company I.

The regiment's next experience was severe skirmishing around the fortifications of Chattanooga, followed by the disastrous battle of Missionary Ridge, from which it retreated to Dalton, and went into quarters for the rest of the winter of 1863-'64.

The campaign of the next summer began early with an engagement some few miles west of Dalton and continued, almost uninterruptedly, a succession of hard fights almost every day, and of wearisome marches by night, until Atlanta was reached, about the end of July. During this period, the Sixtieth performed its full part, and mourned the death of many of its good men. At Atlanta the army was reviewed by President Davis, and shortly thereafter, much to the grief of his soldiers, the beloved General Joseph E. Johnston was relieved of the command, and his place filled by the appointment of General John B. Hood. This officer was distinguished for his bravery, but had not the affection of the army to the degree in which General Johnston enjoyed it.

Under General Hood the army (the Sixtieth being still commanded by Weaver, then Lieutenant-Colonel) marched through Georgia, Alabama, crossed the Tennessee river at

Florence, and penetrated Tennessee. This was done almost without opposition. The enemy not being met to any serious degree until the arrival at Columbia, on the Duck river. Here some resistance was made, but not to amount to very much. On 15 and 16 December, 1864, was the dreadful battle of Franklin. The battle which there occurred, while apparently a Southern victory, was at such terrible cost of life as to completely cripple the army, and to put a stop to further prosecution of the intended invasion of Tennessee. The advance was, however, pushed, till a sight was obtained of the capitol building, but no effort was made to enter Nashville.

There being a Federal force at Murfreesboro, then in rear of the Confederates, a part of the army were detached to meet it, and to destroy the railroad between the two cities; the Sixtieth was included in this detachment; the labor and suffering involved in tearing up the rails and crossties from the frozen ground, without proper tools or appliances, was very great. Arriving near Murfreesboro, the Confederates being then under command of General Forrest, the Federal Garrison brought on an engagement which, with other disastrous results, caused the greatest calamity that had ever befallen the Sixtieth, in the death of its gallant Lieutenant-Colonel, James Thomas Weaver.

From the nature of these sketches, notices of individuals must be restrained to those who formed a part of the very life of each regiment. Realizing the necessity of this restriction, and readily obeying it, I do not hesitate to record the name of

JAMES THOMAS WEAVER,

as not only the one who was indeed the very life of his regiment, but who was as gallant a soldier, as true a man, as devoted a citizen, as was ever produced in North Carolina, which is equivalent to saying that he had no superior in the world, in these qualities.

From Murfreesboro the fearful retreat began, re-crossing the northern portions of the States of Alabama and Georgia, and the Sixtieth was found again facing Sherman at Branchville, S. C., hoping to restrain his march of destruction from

Savannah. With the feeble force at command of the Confederacy this hope, of course, was futile; the small army was easily flanked, and it followed to Columbia, just in time to grieve over its cinders. Thence through Charlotte, Salisbury, Raleigh and Smithfield, Bentonville is reached and the last battle of the war is fought, the Sixtieth participating, and some of its members having the distinction of having taken part in the first, and the last of the Confederacy's battles, that of Great Bethel on 10 June, 1861, and that of Bentonville, 19-21 March, 1865.

Falling back, we passed again through our State's capital 12 April. How sad did Raleigh look that day. Greensboro is reached and Johnston surrenders; with this ended the history of the Sixtieth North Carolina Regiment. While others perhaps may have gained more renown, and we have no intention of denying the right of any to all the honors which can be heaped on them, we insist that no regiment sustained more severe hardships, was more faithful to its recognized duty, to protect the honor of North Carolina than the Sixtieth. From its full ranks of 1,200 men, a bare handful, scarcely 75, remained to lay down their arms. The large majority of the others had given their lives to their State. Surely her citizens, now enjoying peace and prosperity, will not forget to honor the memories of those brave men.

With all ascription of praise and gratitude, as is their due, we will pray, "Let them rest in peace."

THOMAS W. PATTON.

ASHEVILLE, N. C.,
26 April, 1901.