

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS
of

COLONEL SAMUEL FRAZER GRAY

49th Ohio Volunteer Regiment
Grand Army of the Republic

Born East Union, Ohio December 16th, 1833

Died Indianapolis, Indiana September 1908

Sixth child of Reverend David and Naomi Gray

Brother of Emily Gray Ruthrauff

Great Uncle of John Edmunston Baker

In honor of Colonel Samuel Frazer Gray
this book has been compiled by his granddaughter
Elizabeth Bearnnes Dill, and is presented to
John Edmunston Baker. Christmas 1953

WRITING ON BACK OF OLD ARMY PICTURE

This photograph was taken at Nashville, Tennessee - forty years ago, age thirty years, rank Lieutenant Colonel of the 49th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, organized by Colonel W. H. Gibson at Tiffin, Ohio. I entered the service in September, 1861, as first Lieutenant, was made a Captain January 9th, 1862, a Major January 24th, 1863, and Lieutenant Colonel December 3rd, 1863. I had command of this regiment continuously from December 31st, 1862 until October 1864, participating in all the battles in which it was engaged during its entire history but two. My promotions were the result of rank (Seniority of Commission), except that of Major after the battle of "Stone's River", or Murfreesboro. Soon after the engagement commenced, I was in command as the Junior Captain. In the transmission of this commission, Colonel Gibson, then commanding the Divisions, wrote as follows:

"The genuine soldier is ambitious of promotion and hails it as a result of rank with delight. This rule, I think, should not obtain in the volunteer service, but all promotions should be as a recognition of gallantry and good conduct in battle. It should ever be your pride to reflect that, entering the service in a subordinate position, you soon rose to a command, and in less than 18 months, to a field office, securing the command of a veteran regiment, whose history is an honor, alike to our state and the individuals, who have, by their good conduct and heroism, achieved an enviable reputation. Your present position was won by valor on the bloody field of "Stone's River", where the ground drank deep of the blood of our heroic companions".

This picture was taken when passing through Nashville, with the regiment going home for a thirty day furlough, which was granted as an inducement for re-inlistment as veterans, agreeing to serve three years more after the expiration of the first term. I was going home to my wife and children, full of soldierly pride and conscious of considerable military success and bearing up my forehead an honorable scar received in battle: so it occurred to me to have my "picture took".

Indianapolis, Indiana. March 18th, 1906.

L E T T E R

Seven miles south of Chattanooga - Sept. 21, 1863

My dear Wife:

Our brigade is in the front line - has been fighting for two whole days. Our whole army fell back to this position last night after two days of the hardest fighting of the war. It was currently reported in the rear that I was killed - and think - or am afraid that the report will reach you before this. Our own regiment thought me killed for a little while. I was struck on the forehead by a glancing ball which knocked me down - with a very bloody face - but I soon picked up again and went to the rear - had it dressed and went back again - at the same time a spent ball struck me on the top of the shoulder cutting through the clothing only. My coat was cut near my left side. Well - I am thankful that my life has been preserved. The enemy has not manifested any disposition to follow us. Colonel Stoughton was wounded in the shoulder and his regiment badly cut up. On the 19th our regiment captured 2 guns and the brigade got the whole battery of 6 guns. We had a successful fight but our loss was heavy. Send these few lines to David as I have not time to write him.

Affectionately,

Sam

No. 34

Report of Col. William H. Gibson, Forty-ninth Ohio Infantry, commanding
First Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS, FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION, RIGHT WING.

Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 5, 1863.

Captain:

The capture of Brigadier-General Willich renders it my duty to report to Brigadier-General Johnson, commanding division, the participation of this command in the events of the last ten days.....

The Forty-ninth Ohio sustained its high reputation, and, though it lost 10 officers, it faced the foe at every point. Captain Gray, as ranking officer, had charge of a portion of the regiment on the 31st, and proved himself brave, prudent, and competent for any command....
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W. H. GIBSON,
Colonel, Commanding First Brigade.

Captain J. R. Bartlett,
Acting Adjutant-General

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Excerpts from a report on the Stone's River Campaign, including the battle of Stone's River, Dec. 31, 1862 -- Jan. 2, 1863, in Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Vol. XX, Part I, p. 303-309.



Headquarters Co of 58th B of C. May 3rd 1864
This is to certify that John Ruthwell has presented as a
credible substitute for 60 days of your hundred days
J. B. Green
County Co of 58th B of C.
P. B. Morrison Orderly

Headquarters Co of 58th B of C. May 3rd 1864
This is to certify that John Ruthwell has presented as a
credible substitute for 60 days of your hundred days
J. B. Green

County Co of 58th B of C.
P. B. Morrison Orderly

Headquarters, Co of 58th B. of C., May 2nd 1864.
This is to certify that John Ruthwell has presented an ac-
ceptable substitute for his term of 90 and hundred days.

J. H. Green

County, Co of 58th B. of C.
P. B. Morrison Ordery



MONUMENT TO THE 49th OHIO VOLUNTEER REGIMENT IN
THE NATIONAL CEMETERY AT CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.
THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN ABOUT 1897



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