

WAR HISTORY

Of The

Prattville Dragons



Compiled By

CAPT. WILBUR F. MIMS

COMPANY H, THIRD ALABAMA CAVALRY

PRATTVILLE, ALABAMA

Autauga County

1861-1865

From  
Mrs. John A. Lusk  
797 Blount St.  
Quintessville  
Ala.

Victory Childs Records  
Alabama Division U. D. C.  
April 18<sup>th</sup> 1945  
" " "

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Courtesy of  
Mrs. Adelaide B. Van Diver  
President Alabama Division, U. S. C.  
Prattville, Ala.

## WAR HISTORY OF THE PRATTVILLE DRAGOONS

By CAPT. W. F. MIMS

Company H, Third Alabama Cavalry  
Prattville, Autauga County, Alabama

Early in April, 1861, when our community was astir as to the important question of enlisting in some branch of military service in defense of our dear Southland, there appeared in our midst one Samuel D. Oliver, from Robinson Springs, a neighboring town, urging the necessity of organizing a company of cavalry. His endeavors were richly rewarded by a ready response of the best citizens of town and vicinity. The work of a few days sufficed to secure a sufficient number to form the organization. Naturally there was much excitement. Many not being able to furnish their mounts were greatly discouraged. That great and good man, Daniel Pratt, so well known for deeds of charity and generosity supplied the deficiency at a cost of many hundred dollars. Our noble women both old and young encouraged the cause by providing articles of comfort in the way of clothing, blankets, etc., their words of encouragement and general interest greatly modified the serious side of the situation. One of their first acts was to make a beautiful silk flag, which was presented to the company by Miss Abbie Holt. This scene occurred at the Academy April, 1861. After these exercises the company took up their march to the Montgomery Fair Grounds where they went into camp.

Here Captain Jesse Cox of Steamboat notoriety from Mobile, Alabama, united with the company as a private. The company was organized as follows:

Jesse Cox, Captain.  
S. D. Oliver, First Lieutenant.  
A. Y. Smith, Second Lieutenant.  
Adam Felder, Third Lieutenant.  
Wm. Montgomery, Brevet Second Lieutenant.  
T. J. Ormsby, First Sergeant.  
R. M. Moncrief, Second Sergeant.  
E. W. Parker, Third Sergeant.  
J. L. Wainright, Fourth Sergeant.

W. F. Mims, Fifth Sergeant.  
W. L. Knox, First Corporal.  
John Cotton, Second Corporal.  
Geo. W. Ward, Third Corporal.  
J. M. Hall, Fourth Corporal.  
A. S. McKeithen, Surgeon.  
Norman Knox, Bugler.  
H. F. DeBardeleben, Ensign and Commissary.  
William Patterson, Farrier.

Privates—William Booth, D. B. Booth, B. H. Booth, Jesse H. Booth, Britton Boon, Lucien Brown, Hiram Brown, W. N. Bush, Geo. O. Brosnahan, Mack Brewer, I. H. Cox, Thomas Carter, Adam Cloninger, John Cook, A. P. DeBardeleben, R. K. DeBardeleben, Geo. W. Durden, Warren Deavenport, Thomas Flynn, Henry Fralick, W. A. Graham, W. T. Goodson, W. T. Goodwin, Thomas Graves, Robert Graves, Y. P. Gordon, Robert Goodson, W. A. Goodson, J. M. Hill, T. B. Hill, A. Henchen, David Harrold, T. J. Hamilton, John Harris, B. F. Haynie, James Haynie, Mathew Hale, Geo. W. Hale, Henry A. Hale, Charles Herron, Julian Johnson, J. H. Jarrett, Harper James, Henry Kelly, H. J. Livingston, John Montgomery, A. McGruder, S. Mims, A. D. Mims, D. C. McCord, O. H. McWilliams, A. T. Mitchell, A. C. Oats, S. H. Pearce, John Pearce, A. D. Pope, W. T. Rice, C. P. Riggs, E. A. Reese, Littleton Reese, Robert Roper, Jno. L. Raulinson, James Raulinson, C. W. Smith, V. J. Smith, T. L. Smith, W. J. Smith, Sidney Smith, T. W. Smith, John Stolenaker, Alison Scroggin, G. W. Sears, E. C. Stewart, Robert Ward, William White, M. S. Wadsworth, W. W. Wadsworth, John Wainright, Thomas Williams, John Wood, Jasper N. Thompson, Clinton Thompson.

Making 18 commissioned and non-commissioned officers and 82 privates, total 100, with two faithful colored cooks, Sandy House and Woodson Pope.

Immediately after its organization, orders were received to report to Pensacola, Florida, to become a part of General Bragg's army, then organizing for active service.

In due time, after many experiences entirely new to us, we arrived at our destination, realizing that patriotism and privation were inseparable companions.

A site on the bay, west of Pensacola, was selected for a camping ground, a more beautiful spot could not have been assigned us, in a grove fronting the bay, fanned and tanned by balmy gulf breezes, we remained for ten months being trained in the school of the soldier.

A book could be written on this life of the camp, its effect on different characters, the seasoning process, physically and morally developed wonderful surprises. Sickness, and even death visited our camp, furloughs and discharges were granted. New members came in to keep up the roll of the company. Thus our camp life of ten months passed, with the usual experiences of such a life. Alas, we had been dreaming a sweet dream.

The reverses that befell Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston in the early part of movements in the army of Tennessee was making a very unfavorable history for our Confederacy. We longed to mingle with the "Blue Coats" and try our skills with saber and navy pistol.

In February, 1862, we were ordered to entrain for Chattanooga, Tennessee, and to dispose of all surplus baggage. This meant a great sacrifice to us, as we were loaded down with clothing, bedding, etc., which was furnished by friends and relatives while in camp on the bay. Passing through Montgomery, (after a stay of 24 hours) in due course of time, we arrived in Chattanooga in the midst of a severe spell of snow, sleet and rain; remaining one night and day. We proceeded to Corinth, Mississippi, where Johnston, Bragg and Beauregard were organizing the army of Tennessee, to meet General Grant who was massing his forces at Pittsburg Landing, with a view to penetrating the heart of the Confederacy. After much suffering by man and horse from the severe weather, we arrived in Corinth. Imagine the effect of this sudden change from a Florida temperature to the rigors of a Tennessee climate. When the roll was called many could not answer to their names, being reported unfit for duty. Hospitals were filling rapidly. Heavy details were being made on the men reporting for duty to watch the enemy encamped twenty miles away, at Pittsburg Landing.

Our tents were pitched in the rain, and before we could build fires from wet, green wood to warm and prepare meals, two details were made to scout the position of the enemy. One of these details was commanded by Captain Jesse Cox, the other by First Lieutenant S. D. Oliver. The party under Capt. Cox composed of twelve or fifteen men, were ordered in a southeasterly direction. The other party, about same in number, was ordered in a southwesterly direction. Up to the time of our arrival at Corinth, we had not been connected with any cavalry command, but still held our relation with Seventh Alabama Infantry, which we

acquired at Pensacola. Our arms consisted of cavalry sabers and Colts navy pistols. Thus lightly armed, we proceeded to answer our first call to face the "Blue Coats" we were so anxious to mix with while camping in Florida. So far as I remember, the scouting party under Lieutenant Oliver returned without particular incident. Being a member of Captain Cox's scouting party I have a vivid recollection of our experience. The work being new to us we were not as cautious as we learned to be later, and consequently ran into a picket who left his hat to mark the position he had occupied. We realized that we were dangerously near a large force and within their lines, and retired on the Purdy road; we had gone but a short distance when our rear guard dashed in and reported the enemy approaching. We had in charge a Yankee cavalry prisoner that fell into our hands a short time before the alarm, who on the approach of his companions showed a disposition to escape. He was put under special guard and rapidly marched to the rear. There must have been one hundred men in the attacking party, armed with the deadly Spencer rifle. We were in a narrow lane at the time we attempted to form for the charge; this position caused confusion in our ranks, and we could have been overrun and captured on the spot had the enemy used proper judgment. Instead of charging us with saber and pistol they dismounted and took position behind large oak trees. In the mean time we retired to the mouth of the lane and formed to charge. In the face of a heavy fire from greatly superior arms and force, we retired in some confusion after losing by instant death one of our number, Robert Roper. This baptism of fire was delivered about three weeks before the battle of Shiloh, and in our rounds of duty as scouts, couriers and police was soon forgotten in contemplation of far more stirring scenes to come.

We were soon brought face to face with one of the hardest fought battles of the War between the States. The battle of Shiloh was precipitated by the Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston, who had determined to redeem the great disaster that befell him in February at Fort Donalson. Early in the first week of April, 1862, his vast army moved in the direction of Pittsburg Landing to attack General Grant's position before the arrival of Buell. How well he succeeded in surprising the enemy's camp early on the morning of April 6th and driving him until death relieved him of further command is a matter of history. The

Prattville Dragoons were on the field from start to finish, doing duty as couriers for the different commanding generals, sometimes used for charging batteries. Our casualties were two killed, Adam Cloninger and John Stolemaker, with several slightly wounded and several horses shot. The duties of the company carried them to every part of the battlefield, and many acts of gallantry were accorded by proper authorities.

On the 9th of April we returned to Corinth with the shattered forces of infantry commanded by Beauregard. The next thirty days was devoted to the sick and wounded and re-organizing the army.

Disease and death made sad havoc with many that escaped the casualties of battle. Within this period we lost by disease C. P. Riggs, W. T. Goodwin and Britton Boon, besides a number discharged.

Grant had been slowly advancing on Corinth and finally entrenched. Our troops constantly skirmishing. General Patten Anderson, whose troops were skirmishing with the enemy on the Farmington road, failing to develop the strength of the enemy, a detail from the few Prattville Dragoons left in camp, under command of Lieutenant Oliver was ordered to the front with instructions to find the enemy. As we advanced to the thick wood in which they were concealed we were fired upon by a heavy line of skirmishers, resulting in the mortally wounding of T. J. Ormsby, and serious wounding of D. B. Booth and A. Hennen, both being disabled from further military service.

On the night of April 30th General Beauregard evacuated Corinth, later occupying Tupelo, Mississippi. Here the army went into camp for rest and re-organization. At this place Beauregard being in ill health turned over the command to Bragg. Here the resignations of Captain Cox, Lieutenant Oliver and Lieutenant Felder were tendered and accepted. These worthy officers were given commissions in the infantry, Lieutenant Montgomery resigned on account of ill health. Thus left in a state of orphanage commanded by a sergeant, our members few, we continued to perform duties as couriers and scouts until May, 1863.

June 27th, 1862, General Bragg left Tupelo with a view to the occupancy of Chattanooga, having already sent General McGown's division in advance. About July 18th, Colonel Joe Wheeler, who had been commanding infantry, was ordered to take charge of and re-organize all of the cavalry of the army of Mississippi, and conduct the same to west

Tennessee to divert the Federal army in that section from the movement of General Bragg to Chattanooga.

August 14, 1862, General Bragg made preparation to march into Middle Tennessee, and from there to Kentucky, where he entered September 15th. General Buell from Louisville, with a large force marched to intercept the movements of the Confederates. October 7th Bragg was overtaken by Buell and on the 8th the battle of Perryville was fought, in which the Confederates were victorious. On the 9th Bragg continued his march, followed by Buell. A junction with Kirby Smith was made at Harrodsburg; the remainder of this perilous march was covered by Kirby Smith, assisted by Colonel Wheeler. The Prattville Dragoons were actively engaged in many capacities meeting with no casualties, but acquiring a few fine horses, though our duties were arduous. We counted this march as a picnic.

After the close of the Kentucky campaign Colonel Wheeler was commissioned Brigadier General, and operated with Forrest and Breckenridge around Nashville. Late in November, 1862, General Bragg went into camp at Murfreesboro. Cumberland Gap had been recovered and Middle Tennessee redeemed. General Wheeler was ordered to report to General Bragg soon after the encampment. General Rosecrans advanced from Nashville and precipitated the battle of Murfreesboro December 31, 1862, the Confederates claiming the victory. Owing to reinforcements to the enemy the Confederates could not hold the field, and retired to Tullahoma, Tennessee. The Union army being so badly shattered by recent campaigns did not resume operations for several months. In the meantime Bragg was resting and reorganizing at Tullahoma. During this period the Prattville Dragoons had received a number of recruits from Alabama and from Tennessee. In April or May, 1863, we were ordered to reorganize by electing commissioned officers. This election resulted as follows: James M. Hill, captain; Wilbur F. Mims, First Lieutenant; Robt. M. Moncrief, Second Lieutenant; Shadrach Mims, Third Lieutenant. From this time to the close of hostilities we were known as Company H, Third Alabama Cavalry. The recruits in this new organization were as follows:

Calvin Blair, Tennessee; W. J. Boon, Jas. H. Booth, G. W. Dismukes, Jas. T. DeJarnett, Thomas Dutton, Henry Dubose, Alabama; John Duffee, Tennessee; T. J. Elliott, Henry Lewis Golson, J. Hodges Golson, George DeRamus, Ely DeRamus, Alabama; John Garner, Nathan Garner, Wm.

Hinton, Thomas Oakley, John Hathaway, Tennessee; W. Y. House, Hugh Parks, John Parks, William Patton, (nephew of Gov. Patton) Joe S. Reese, T. W. Sadler, Joseph A. Smith, A. G. Stewart, Alabama; James Sumner, Thomas Starnes, Tennessee; Harry B. Thomas, William Thompson, McKinney Thomas, Archibald Wilson, William Quinn, William Zeigler, Alabama; John Russell, Tennessee.

It will be seen that the entire enlistment from first to last is 135. For the next two years our history was that of Wheeler's Cavalry, which closed with the surrender of R. E. Lee.

General Joe Wheeler's cavalry was one of the most noted for activity and efficiency. Quoting from "Wheeler's Campaigns": "Wheeler and his men fought more, marched more, suffered more, cost their government less, and inflicted greater injury on the enemy than any other cavalry command in the Confederate army." From the experience we had in his service, I can heartily endorse the above sentiments.

We embarked on our new career as Company H, Jas. H. Hagan's Third Alabama Cavalry Regiment, General William Allen's Brigade, Wheeler's corps. Later Joe Robins, of Wilcox, was commissioned Colonel of the Third Regiment, and Jas. H. Hagan, was advanced to brigade commander. Our arms consisted of pistols and clumsy muskets, sabers were abandoned as a useless weapon to carry with Enfield "artillery." The ineffective weapons issued to our cavalry is a matter of history and has been sufficiently commented upon.

In June, 1863, Rosecrans advanced on Bragg's position at Tullahoma. July 3rd, Bragg marched in the direction of Chattanooga with a weakened force, having transferred a considerable number to the Mississippi department. About the middle of August, 1863, Bragg occupied Chattanooga. August 26th, the Union army advanced to the vicinity of Chattanooga and commenced shelling the city. September 7th, McCook and Thomas crossed the mountains to the south of Chattanooga and flanked Bragg out of his position, which he abandoned on the 8th of September, retiring to Lee and Gordon's mill, twelve miles from Chattanooga.

I find that I have omitted in regular order, the battle of Shelbyville, Tennessee, which occurred the 27th of June, 1863. In the operations of the different commands of cavalry during the advance of Rosecrans on Bragg, while retreating from Tullahoma to Chattanooga, the Third Alabama cavalry was with General Martin's brigade. After

many days of work as raiders and destroyers of Federal supplies, we arrived in front of Shelbyville.

To cross the pike on the Murfreesboro side, we dismounted in line. Seemingly the enemy was not expected so soon, as details had been sent to the city for rations to supply man and horse. We had scarcely unsaddled our horses before we saw that the pickets were being run in. Hastily we prepared for the conflict that was near at hand.

To make a long story short, we were completely stampeded. Orders were given for every man to take care of himself. Thus General Martin's command fared in this surprise from 12,000 Federal cavalry. At another portion of the city General Wheeler was busy gathering the scattered Confederates and making a bold fight while expecting General Forrest. The heroism of General Wheeler on this occasion is unsurpassed, but all in vain. This gallant knight of sword was compelled to flee, narrowly escaping capture. The casualties to our company in this affair was the capture of Magruder, Goodson, Golson, and the killing of J. Hodges Golson and Lucien Brown. Those who escaped had thrilling stories to relate.

September 19, 1863, began the battle of Chickamauga. After a hard day's fight neither side could claim a victory. On the 20th Bragg made such disposition of his army as to win the victory. Rosecrans retired to Chattanooga and was making every preparation to retreat, but finding that Bragg was not pressing him, remained, very soon receiving large reinforcements. Sherman from Mississippi was added to the Union forces at Chattanooga, also the commands of Howard and Hooker from Virginia. In the meantime Bragg was fortifying Missionary Ridge, extending his fortifications across the valley. Grant arriving from Virginia commenced a movement against Bragg's position. On the 25th of November occurred the battle of Missionary Ridge, which history shows was extremely disastrous to the arms of the Confederacy. On the 2nd of October, 1863, during one of Wheeler's raids to cut off supplies of the Union army at Chattanooga, occurred the battle of Sequatchie Valley, in which the largest train of ammunition and supplies were captured, either in the army of Virginia or Tennessee. One thousand six mule teams, laden with commissary, quartermaster and ordinance stores. Citizens reported that there were from one to two thousand wagons and five thousand mules destroyed. The achievements of our company on this occasion were very marked. In the midst of a fight with

the train guards, we dismounted and drove them up the mountains, fighting from one rock to another, until the enemy disappeared in the heights above. Returning, we engaged in the work of destruction to our hearts' content, securing everything that heart could wish in the way of edibles and drinkables. While we were making merry, a party of Federal cavalry appeared on the scene. We were in the best of humor to fight, and proceeded to perform that duty in a satisfactory manner by covering the rear of our command until relieved. On returning to the army, General Wheeler received the thanks of President Davis and General Bragg for his brilliant campaign. During the remainder of the month of October, 1863, General Wheeler's command was actively engaged with the enemy. After the battle of Chickamauga, Bragg ordered General Longstreet to Knoxville with 15,000 men to drive Burnside out of East Tennessee. Burnside had captured Cumberland Gap, and on his way to Chattanooga encountered Longstreet, and was driven into Knoxville. From November 1st to 23rd, General Wheeler was actively engaged in the vicinity of Knoxville, killing, wounding and destroying the property of the enemy. November 23rd, 1863, Wheeler received orders from Bragg (who was near Chattanooga) to report to his headquarters with such portion of his command as he might select. General Will T. Martin was ordered to report to Longstreet for service in the East Tennessee campaign; this command was composed of two divisions, (Armstrong's and Jno. T. Morgan's), the Third Alabama Cavalry being with Morgan's division.

Thus began the memorable East Tennessee campaign. Our gallant Wheeler had left us with a portion of his large command. Bragg could not sleep unless he knew that his favorite was guarding him—his demands on Wheeler had been merciless. What a great pity he had not been more successful, with the assistance of vigilant and tireless Wheeler. The siege of Knoxville, November 30th, 1863, by Longstreet, was a failure, he having heard of Bragg's defeat and Sherman's approach. While the army was at Dalton, General Bragg resigned, Joseph E. Johnston being placed in command.

Leaving the main army, now under command of Jos. E. Johnston, I will take up the East Tennessee campaign, in which we were to participate, beginning November 30th, 1863. Our work began around the besieged city of Knoxville, a portion of our command dismounting and skirmish-

ing with the enemy's pickets. Other portions were engaged with the enemy's cavalry in the vicinity of Maynardsville and other points, doing much damage to the enemy. December 2, 1863, the entire command was ordered to return to Knoxville to cover the retreat of Longstreet, which occurred the 4th of December, being followed by the enemy. In this movement we had our hands full.

December 10th, we had a severe engagement with the enemy's cavalry at Russellville, in which the Third Alabama was conspicuous for gallantry. At Bean's Station Longstreet turned upon the enemy, a considerable battle resulting. Up to the 29th of December we had engaged the enemy at Dandridge, Mossy Creek, Tallbott's Station and other points. At Mossy Creek we engaged the enemy's cavalry in an open field hand to hand; but were compelled to retire before advancing infantry and artillery. Here we lost John Russell, wounded and captured. Lieut. Moncrief was slightly wounded by the fragment of a shell. The horse of the writer was shot through the nose. In this engagement our entire command was destitute of ammunition, both artillery and small arms. It is not my intention to dwell on the hundreds of encounters with the enemy in this campaign. By January 1, 1864, we were in a sad plight. We had received no pay for our services for six months. Our clothing was worn and ragged, the winter was severe. Some were without shoes, very few had overcoats. We had to depend on foraging the country for supplies. Without wagons or tents, we marched and slept in the snow and rain. Our sufferings were almost beyond belief. Had it not been for the abundance of corn and meat, our suffering would have been greater. In this campaign we lost by capture M. S. Wadsworth, A. P. DeBardeleben, A. D. Mims, and others now forgotten. E. C. Stuart was wounded and captured. Having passed the winter of 63-64 in East Tennessee, we were ordered to take up the march to Georgia, thereby reuniting with our command under Wheeler, who was bravely struggling to protect Jos. E. Johnston against Sherman's advance to Atlanta. Glad were we to leave such scenes and join our old comrades, yet we knew that our hardships would not be less. We longed to be with our old commander, General Wheeler, fighting was our profession, we were veterans. In leaving East Tennessee we passed up the beautiful French Broad river coming out at Asheville, N. C. Here we met civilization composed of old men and women, young and beautiful ladies and girls, the latter appealed most to

our admiration, but alas, our toilet was in no condition to accept their hospitality. Continuing the march, our spirits revived and horses improved in condition.

Sometime in May, 1864, we arrived at Dalton. Sherman, with 112,000 troops, was in front of Johnston, whose force was 65,000. This was the beginning of the Atlanta campaign. The following battles occurring in May and June: Rocky Fall Ridge, Resaca, New Hope, Pickett's Mill. Arriving at Altoona, Johnston held his position about three weeks in June. On the 21st occurred the battle of Kolb's Farm. The latter part of June to July 2nd, occurred the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, one of the fiercest of the four years' war. On the 10th of July General Johnston fell back to Atlanta and was there relieved by General John B. Hood by the order of President Davis. During the long siege of Atlanta many battles were fought. The battle of Atlanta and the battle of Ezra church, the latter occurring about August 1st, were the most important.

Being entrenched in the city was a tedious experience with our regiment. No fresh buttermilk, no fresh pork, no hot cornbread or biscuits. The opportunity soon came to mount and resume active service.

In August Sherman ordered Generals Stoneman and McCook, cavalry leaders, to raid on our supplies and destroy railroads, even burn residences and destroy the home supplies of our defenseless women and children. We entered into this chase like schoolboys in a game of baseball. Result—General Wheeler defeated McCook, capturing nearly all of his men and horses. General Iverson captured General Stoneman and his command, but few escaped, many were captured by citizens while trying to make their way back to their commands. The next move of Wheeler after this incident was a raid in Sherman's rear, with thousands of Yankee cavalry in pursuit. After a trip of two weeks the command returned to Atlanta, receiving the thanks of General Hood.

September 1, 1864, General Hood evacuated Atlanta. General Sherman entering the following day. His famous march to Savannah soon began. It would be quite a volume to contain a detailed account of the operation of our cavalry for the next few months. Our duties were to guard the enemy's front, rear and flanks, this being of the utmost importance to prevent depredations by the enemy. Day and night the cavalry were guarding, scouting and fighting. "Campaigns of Wheeler" gives a detailed account of every



skirmish and battle with the enemy from Atlanta, September 1st, to Bentonville, N. C., where the last infantry conflict occurred, the 20th and 21st of March. After the infantry had ceased fighting the cavalry were in daily combat until we received official notice of Lee's surrender.

February, 1865, Jas. M. Hill resigned his commission as captain of Prattville Dragoons, or Company H, Third Alabama Cavalry. First Lieutenant W. F. Mims was commissioned captain; Second Lieutenant R. M. Moncrief was commissioned First Lieutenant; Shadrack Mims was commissioned Second Lieutenant, and J. N. Thompson, Third Lieutenant. Capt. Hill had been in ill health for some months and it was with sad hearts that we parted with this brave and kind hearted companion. The Yankee cavalry command that interested General Wheeler most was that of General Kilpatrick. This command composed of about 5,000 picked men, were our constant antagonists, and almost invariably got the worst end of a fight. Among the many encounters we had with him, I cannot pass the following: Early in March, 1865, while near Fayetteville, N. C., our command, by a forced march, came upon his camp before daylight; his pickets were captured without firing a gun. Assisted by three small brigades from Hampton's cavalry, a charge was made about daylight by both commands at different points. The position of the camp was greatly in favor of the enemy, being protected by a long boggy marsh. Kilpatrick was known to be quartered in a cabin in a small open field near the marsh. When the charge was sounded Colonel Hagan of Third Alabama, followed by Company H, were the first to lead from Wheeler's position. Arriving at the marsh only a few of us could flounder through. We found the enemy aroused and bravely preparing to resist. Assuming a position in a pine forest, they poured a hot fire into our little squad. Vainly did our gallant colonel call for his men to charge. There was not more than a half dozen, the others were in the marsh. The situation was extremely critical. Spying the cabin, we took shelter. Colonel Hagan and Major Farris exposing themselves were wounded. Major Farris being shot in the thigh, afterward losing the limb. We discovered that General Kilpatrick had escaped in his night attire. The hindrance to a successful charge caused great confusion. However, Wheeler's and Butler's commands charging on their camp soon relieved us from our embarrassing condition. Before leaving the cabin we compelled Kilpatrick's valet (a mulat-

to) to deliver whatever of his effects we could carry conveniently. The writer enjoyed for a long time comforts furnished by this noted Union cavalry leader. "Campaigns of Wheeler" does not give this encounter as much of a success for our arms. After capturing several hundred prisoners and a few wagons we retired in the direction of Fayetteville, carrying our booty with us. There has been some unpleasant controversy between Hampton's and Wheeler's historians as to this encounter.

General Sherman entered Savannah December 23rd, after the evacuation of General Herder. Later, Sherman, with two columns, took up his march, one column in the direction of Augusta and the other in the direction of Charleston.

About this period General R. E. Lee was appointed Commander-in-Chief of all Confederate forces. Under his order General Jos. E. Johnston took charge of the forces in Carolina. His instructions were to concentrate all of his forces, Stevens' and Cheatham's divisions from Tennessee and Hoke Smith's and Hampton's from Virginia, and drive Sherman on back to Savannah. In the meantime Sherman was expecting reinforcements. Many were the battles fought between Savannah and Bentonville between the infantry of each army, very few favoring the Southern cause. The cavalry continued its work as hertofore stopping neither night or day. Johnston failed to arrest the march of Sherman, his forces being united at Bentonville, N. C. Here Sherman's 70,880 troops were held at bay by our combined forces of 20,000 cavalry and infantry for two days. Wheeler's cavalry performed some of its most brilliant work in the battle of Bentonville, which began March 20th, lasting through the 21st. Our army met with a decided reverse, falling back in the direction of Raleigh. April 10th Sherman advanced on Johnston. The cavalry fighting between the armies was severe. We did not have any official notice of the surrender of Lee in Virginia. Kilpatrick had requested Wheeler to stop fighting, that Lee had surrendered. This report being circulated through our command had a tendency to depress our patriotic spirits, for none of us, after going through a four years' war, wanted to take any risk of being killed under these conditions. Colonel Joe Robins ordered our company to charge the enemy when they came in sight. We were formed for the charge, the enemy came in sight. WE WERE ORDERED TO RETIRE. Even after this occurrence there was some skirmishing and several of

the Third Alabama regiment were killed and wounded. Lieutenant Melton of Selma was killed far in the rear while not on duty. About April 14th, while at Morrisville, N. C., we received official notice that Lee had surrendered. We were ordered into camp to receive our paroles. On the 18th of April Sherman and Johnston arranged terms of surrender.

