

HISTORICAL SKETCHES
of the
NINTH MICHIGAN INFANTRY

(General Thomas' Headquarters Guards)

With an Account of the

BATTLE OF MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE
SUNDAY, JULY 13, 1862

*Four Years Campaigning in the Army
of the Cumberland*

BY CHARLES W. BENNETT
of Company G

*Regimental Meetings Since the War
By Henry C. Rankin*

of Company C

GRAND RAPIDS

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Regimental and Company Organizations

By Frank A. Lester, Jr.

Son of Frank Lester, Co. C

1913

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The officers at Muldraugh's Hill became very nervous, though the rebel army was at Bowling Green and all of our army between. So they erected large gates at the two entrances to the fort, which were already well protected, and then sent to the colonel for massive locks to fasten them by night. Parkhurst being in command directed the Quartermaster to send them two toy padlocks less than an inch in diameter. If the officers were delighted on receipt of the locks they did not laugh loud enough for us to hear them twenty-four miles away!

Friday, March 7, Major Fox arrived with companies H and I, having been relieved at Muldraugh's Hill by Capt. Lamphere's Coldwater battery. The same day we drew new Austrian rifles, a fairly good gun.

Sunday, March 9, orders were read on dress parade from Gen. Buell ordering the Twenty-third Brigade, to consist of the 9th Michigan, 3rd Minnesota, and 8th and 23rd Kentucky regiments, with Colonel Wm. W. Duffield as commander, the brigade to report at once to Nashville. Company F arrived the same day from Nolich.

Tuesday, March 11, the Eleventh Michigan relieved us at Elizabethtown, and the Ninth left for West Point, where we arrived at 3 p. m. the next day. While waiting here the band received new silver instruments which so delighted them that they appended almost everybody, day and night.

Ever since Jan. 9 Col. Duffield had been on a board to examine officers at Bardstow. He joined us here, but immediately left for Louisville where the other regiments of the brigade were concentrating to embark on boats. We waited for them until Wednesday, March 19, when the Jacob Strader, the largest boat on the river, came, and we boarded it, but did not start until about midnight, when the other regiments came on boats with Col. Duffield in command, and all proceeded down the river, there being six boats in our fleet.

Arrived at Nashville at 8 a. m. Sunday, March 23, and at 3 p. m. the Ninth marched through the city and camped on a hill about two miles southeast of the city on the Murfreesboro pike, the 8th Kentucky, 3rd Minnesota, Jewell's battery and two com-

panies of the 7th Penn. cavalry camping near us. The 25th Kentucky with two companies of the 7th Penn. cavalry went east to Lebanon.

Saturday, March 29, we started for Murfreesboro, the 8th Kentucky and the cavalry and battery going with us, but I think the 3rd Minnesota went to Tullahoma. About noon Gen. Mitchell overtook us and sent the 8th Kentucky back to Nashville because the city officials had refused to take the oath of allegiance, and Gov. Johnson wanted more troops left in the city. Marched thirteen miles and camped in a field near a small stream and a large spring; the cavalry and artillery companies camping with us.

Sunday, March 30, started at eight o'clock. Had to go three miles out of the way through fields and a very rough road to get across a stream, the rebels having burned the bridge on the pike. Ate dinner on this route.

Turned out for a similar reason and forded a stream half knee deep, and went into camp in a clover field near a nice spring. That night one of Co. C's men (Gus. Whitney), fell while on guard and accidentally shot his wrist so it had to be amputated. This is our third and most serious accident.

Monday, March 31, passed a house where several ladies stood at the gate waving their handkerchiefs. It being the first demonstration of the kind on this march each company heartily cheered them as it passed. When within one and a half miles of Murfreesboro we turned to the east of the pike to wade another shallow stream, and went into camp on a pleasant green in the edge of oak woods and peachtrees in bloom. A large number of Loomis Battery came out and visited us that evening.

The next morning, Tuesday, April 1, we were ordered to put on our best clothes because we were to pass so many troops, General Mitchell's Division, of which we were to form a part. We marched through the city past Gen. Mitchell's tents, and camped on a ridge three-fourths of a mile southwest of the court house on the Manchester pike, near a Mr. Avant, who was in the celebrated Charleston convention the year before with Col. Parkhurst when the Democratic party split. Murfreesboro was a city of about 2,500

population, 30 miles southeast of Nashville.

April 3rd company B took possession of the Court House as city post guards, with Capt. Rounds as Provost Marshal and Gen. Mitchell appointed Lieut. Col. Parkhurst military governor of the District of Murfreesboro. Gen. Mitchell moved the most of his Division to Shelbyville that day. April 7th the first train of cars came from Nashville and went on to Shelbyville.

Friday, April 11, companies C, F and G, under command of Capt. Wilkison, went by train to Wartrace, twenty-three miles south, to aid about two men of the 42nd Indiana infantry, who were suddenly attacked that morning by about 250 rebels under Col. Stearns. The Indiana men drove the rebels away before we arrived, losing four killed and over thirty wounded. We stayed with them until next day, the enemy not returning.

Tuesday, April 15, a large flag was raised on the Court House, Col. Parkhurst delivering a splendid address.

Wednesday, April 22, after tattoo, Col. Duffield received an order to concentrate the brigade by Saturday and be ready to start for Corinth. Notwithstanding the lateness of the hour the news soon spread to our men, and then to the other regiments, and for half an hour they were wild with cheering. The next day the marching order was countermanded, but the brigade must concentrate and await further orders. Saturday, April 26, the 32d Kentucky and the two companies of 7th Penn. cavalry arrived from Lebanon and camped near us.

Tuesday, April 29, Gov. Blair, Adjutant Gen. Robertson and colonels Pittman and Froid made us a visit and gave stirring patriotic addresses. On the same day the 3rd Minnesota arrived. This was the first and only time the Twenty-third Brigade was all together. On May 2nd there was brigade drill for the first and only time. Saturday, May 3rd, the 8th Kentucky and the Ninth went to Shelbyville to repel an expected attack from John Morgan, and the 8th Kentucky remained there. The brigade had been together a little over three days and drilled once. On May 22, prominent citizens were arrested on the 2nd Kentucky left for Paducah and never joined the brigade again. Nashville to be held as hostages to

This scattering of the brigade led to the disastrous battle in July which not only ruined our brigade organization, but some thought also led to the retreat of Gen. Buell's army, and that general's downfall.

Morgan's force next appeared on the railroad north of Murfreesboro, and so on May 4 the Ninth was rushed back by train and at once started towards Lebanon in pursuit. But the officers soon realized the absurdity of chasing cavalry with infantry and the Ninth was sent back into camp. But Col. Duffield with Parkhurst and four other staff officers of the Ninth joined Gen. Dumont's cavalry in the chase after Morgan. After tattoo on the evening of May 5th the regiment was aroused up to greet their return, when Col. Duffield said, "Well, my boys, you all know we have been chasing old Morgan for the last three days. The whole Ninth went out at first--then we were all infantry. Last night we started out with only cavalry, (about 600), and overtook him at Lebanon. We surprised him completely this morning, cut him all to pieces, and took 200 prisoners, with their arms, etc., and though there were only six members of the old Ninth finally along, the town was surrendered to your own Colonel Parkhurst."

A Confederate account (Atkley's) of this battle at Lebanon says: "About 200 men escaped with only 'a few of his men' who had been horses. He and those few men got across the Cumberland River in small boats, but our cavalry captured their horses, including Morgan's favorite 'Black Boss.' This put a quiver on Morgan which he never raised another force."

Friday, May 9, the regiment escorted Col. Duffield to the depot and reluctantly bid him good bye as he left to take command of the Department of Kentucky during the absence of Gen. Burbridge, though at that time we thought it was permanently. This left Col. Lester of the 4th Minnesota that post.

Saturday evening, May 10, Col. Parkhurst was fired at by a would-be assassin while he and Capt. Rounds were riding in the streets. For this and other similar outrages, twelve prominent citizens were arrested on Monday by Capt. Rounds and sent to Nashville to be held as hostages to

that post.

prevent further outrages by citizens. That was in accordance with an order that had been issued by Gov. Johnson. When the Ninth turned out to drill on the next day, Tuesday, the 13th, they were marched to the city, divided into squads and searched all the houses for arms, and it was reported 200 guns were found loaded. This action greatly excited the citizens and they swore vengeance—which no doubt they took later.

On this day Captain Deland issued the first of several numbers of "The Union Volunteer," devoted mostly to local events. He was aided by printers in the regiment, an abandoned printing office being used for the purpose. This illustrates that the army was composed of men of all professions, and capable of doing almost any work an emergency demanded.

On Thursday, May 29, the Ninth took train for Shelbyville to join a force of about 5,000 troops under Gen. Negley in an expedition to make a demonstration against Chattanooga. The writer, not yet having recovered from typhoid fever, was left with about fifty other convalescents to guard our camp, and for two weeks our duties were very severe for sick men, and it was the first and only time I ever got "homesick."

The Ninth was assigned to Col. Scribner's (of the 38th Indiana) brigade. The first day out the 38th had the advance and boasted they would "bush" the "feather bed" regiment, as they called the Ninth; but at night the Ninth was at their heels, though the last half mile was made on the run. Next day the Ninth had the lead and when they went into camp at night no Hoosiers were in sight. We heard nothing about "feather bed" soldiers after that.

The weather was hot and dry, the roads dusty and mountainous, and the object being to surprise the enemy, the marching was rapid, averaging about 25 miles a day—one day reaching 35 miles. The brigade lost 25 horses and mules in one day from heat and fatigue.

From Walden's Ridge our artillery shelled the rebels in Chattanooga, silencing their batteries, and the Ninth went to the river and while two companies fired in the advance as skirmishers, the regiment fired a volley into the town. But no effort

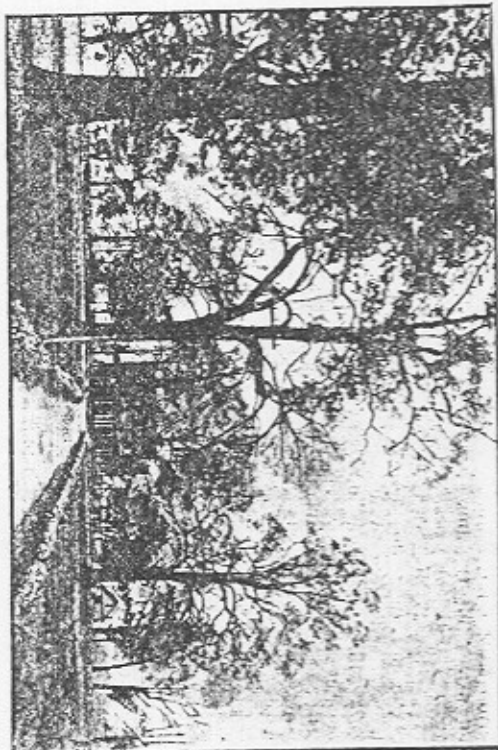
was made to cross the river, greatly to the disgust of our men, who pronounced the expedition a total failure. But when they returned June 12 all tired out, ragged, dirty and disgusted, they learned that some mind "blighter up" sent them there to scare the rebels into rallying to the defence of Chattanooga so our troops could capture Cumberland Gap, which was accomplished.

The Ninth lost one man of Co. B drowned while bathing in Duck River; Chas. W. Decker, of Co. B, killed by a Kentucky cavalryman with whom he was quarrelling, and one man of Co. E missing. At two different times while the regiment was gone Col. Lester got scared and telegraphed for reinforcements, and each time two or three regiments came on special trains from Nashville—only to go back next day disgusted and cursing him. The 11th Michigan came the last time and we had a splendid visit with the Quiney boys.

Water becoming scant at our camp, the Ninth moved on Tuesday, June 17, to Mel. Manny's Grove, about a mile north of the Court House, where water was abundantly furnished by a large spring just east of Manny's house, which was on the right of the camp to the north, and about ten rods away. There

was an ordinary square picket fence about three feet high on one right separating us from Manny's private yard. There being plenty of room we spread our camp out for the first time to full, regular army distances, making it the handsomest and most comfortable camp we ever had, the large trees making it shady and cool. The regiment faced to the west, the color line being on a small street from town to Manny's, and about one block east of the Lebanon Pike.

Friday, June 20, the 3rd Minnesota came and camped on our left towards town, and beyond them were the artillery, cavalry and all the teams and wagons of the Post. Lester ordered Parkhurst to condense our camp to give him more room. Parkhurst refused and was put under arrest by Lester, but was released the next day. There had been some friction between these officers before about the government of the city. Because of this ill feeling, which began to extend to the men



MAJOR MANNY'S RESIDENCE
From photo taken by F. A. Lester in April, 1913.

The picket fence that separated the Ninth from Manny's yard was just at the front edge of this picture. Our camp was on the right of the road this side of the fence where the trees were larger and more numerous in 1862. The big spring was east (to the right) of the residence in a little gully.

of the regiments, Lester and doing their washings and in spite of Kelly moved his regiment and Hewitt's battery to the Nashville Pike northwest of the city about one mile from our camp, on Thursday, June 26. That was another military blunder.

Do you remember the "dog killers?" Dogs got so numerous in camp that they were a nuisance; so one morning Col. Parkhurst told the guards instead of discharging their guns at a target to take the dogs out and kill them. They took a bunch of them into the woods near Manny's spring, tied one to a tree, and one guard stepped back a few paces and fired at it. The first killed the dog's ear, which made it howl and struggle to get away. Another one fired and cut the rope that held the dog, when it ran towards the spring, all the guards fired a running fire on it. There were half a dozen men at the spring

camp, which he did at once through the excitement of it all was that in the excitement all the dogs escaped and none were killed afterwards. So for several weeks the "dog killers" were the butt of the regiment.

Quite a number of negro slaves had come into camp and were helping as cooks, teamsters, etc. One day two slave owners came to Col. Parkhurst and demanded a negro slave be turned over to them. Parkhurst told them it was a matter he had no control over, but that he would order the negro out of camp and then they could do what they pleased. So an order was sent to the negro to leave

the front entrance, but immediately try, 8th, 21st, and 23rd Kentucky Infantry around and came in at the rear. The white men chased him, but the regiment would not let them pass in, telling them that "citizens" were allowed to come in only at the front, which was a fact. So they came around back and reported to the colonel, who again ordered the negro out, and the same circular race was repeated, and again the men returned and complained. By this time a large crowd had collected to see the fun, many of them jollying and jeering the slave catchers. The colonel's fire was up and he forcefully ordered them to leave the camp at once or he would arrest them for disturbing the peace! Never after that did a slave catcher come to the Ninth for a negro. This was before the question what to do with runaway slaves had been decided. General Butler had not yet named them "Contrabands," which he set to work for the government, and later made them into soldiers. Col. Parkhurst decided the question then and there as far as his jurisdiction extended.

Monday, June 30, companies D, E, F and I went to Tallahoma to Garrison that place under command of Major Fox; company B still being in the Court House. That left just five companies, A, G, H and K in camp. There were seven roads radiating from the city which required from ten to fifteen picket guards on each, which made guard duty very heavy for the Ninth, as Col. Lester refused to do his share of it.

Friday noon, July 11, the Ninth went to the depot and escorted Colonel and Adjutant Duffield to our camp; the Colonel having returned to assume his old command. The boys were delighted, and it was commented on that the Colonel pitched his tent in our midst instead of going to a brick house for headquarters, as Lester and others had done. It was such things that made Duffield popular with his men. That evening an order from Gen. Buell at Huntsville was read on dress parade for the 23rd Brigade to hold itself in readiness to march. It also assigned the 21st Kentucky Infantry, and the 5th Kentucky Cavalry to the brigade, at that stage of the war the grade would then consist of the 9th Michigan Infantry, 3rd Minn. Infan-

try, 8th, 21st, and 23rd Kentucky Infantry, 5th Kentucky Cavalry, four companies of the 4th Kentucky Cavalry, four companies of the 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry, and Hewitt's Kentucky Battery of six guns. These forces were scattered, but were ordered to concentrate at Murfreesboro and Tullahoma. I did not then know that Brig. Gen. Thomas T. Crittenden came on the same train with Col. Duffield, and was to take command of the Post and all these forces, and so perhaps I misunderstood the order in assuming that all were to be included in the 23rd Brigade under Duffield. It was the talk that we would go to McMinnville and extend eastward. If Gen. Buell had made such a movement two weeks earlier he would not only have saved Murfreesboro, but probably saved his chase to Louisville later, and the battles of Perryville and Stone River.

In his official report Colonel Duffield says that on Saturday, July 12, "General Crittenden and myself visited the several camps, discussed the impropriety of a divided command, and decided upon a concentration, but as neither of us had assumed command we deferred it until the morning. But on the morning the blow fell and the danger we had anticipated became a reality. General Crittenden made his headquarters in town, while I preferred camping with my own men, and therefore pitched my tent with the five companies of the Ninth Michigan."

Now let us view the

MILITARY SITUATION IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE IN JULY, 1862.

At that time the front of Buell's army was on the Memphis and Charleston railroad extending from Bridgeport, Ala., on the east, to Florence, Ala., on the west, with headquarters at Huntsville, Ala. His army was supplied by two lines of railroad from Nashville, one via Murfreesboro and Tullahoma to Stevenson, Ala., and the other via Franklin and Columbia to Decatur, Ala. These roads had to be heavily guarded, because John Morgan and other cavalry leaders frequently made raids in our rear (for that stage of the war the rebels outnumbered us in cavalry), and the Ninth Michigan was helping to protect that service at Murfreesboro.

It belonged to the Twenty-third Br. in Murfreesboro on July 18th, and no grade, which had been commanded by our Colonel, Wm. W. Duffield; but he had been absent two months on special duty commanding the Department of Kentucky, and sick in Detroit. He had just returned two days before the battle, but had not yet assumed command. Lieut. Col. Parkhurst was in command of the regiment and also military governor of the city by former order of Gen. Mitchell. Colonel Lester of the 3rd Minnesota being ranking officer during the absence of Duffield, had unwisely moved his regiment and Hewitt's Battery to a position on Stone River northwest and a little over a mile from the camp of the Ninth Michigan.

Murfreesboro was becoming so important as a base of supplies that Brig. Gen. Thomas T. Crittenden, of Indiana, had arrived Friday, July 11th, to command all the troops in that locality (but had not yet assumed command), and as our brigade had received orders that evening to concentrate and be prepared to march, it is evident Buell was preparing to extend his left eastwards by sending our brigade to McMinnville, forty miles southeast of Murfreesboro. (Later records show that Buell was thus planning). At that time no rebel forces were known to be nearer than Chattanooga, about 100 miles via McMinnville, and the most of Bragg's army was supposed to be west of there in northern Mississippi and Alabama.

The official reports disagree about the cavalry at Murfreesboro on the morning of July 13th. Forrest says there were two companies of the 4th Kentucky Cavalry camped in the city aiding Company B in provost duty, and two companies of the 7th Penn. Cavalry camped near the Ninth. Duffield says there were two companies of the 4th Kentucky Cavalry camped near the Ninth, but of company B, commanded by Lieut. Wright (Captain Rounds being provost marshal of the city was in a separate office), were in the Court House, in the center of the public square of the city, acting as provost guards or city police, guarding the jail and other property and Gen. Crittenden's headquarters in a hotel.

Colonel Lester had nine companies of his regiment, the 3rd Minnesota Infantry, one company was guarding

a railroad train that day), numbering 450 men, and four guns of Hewitt's 6th Kentucky Battery, seventy-two men. These figures are taken from Col. Duffield's official report which said, "The total effective strength of the command at Mufreesboro on the morning of the 13th of July did not exceed 814 men, including pickets." And he erroneously counted 81 cavalrymen, when there were less than fifty armed.

Porter reported that he captured "between eleven and twelve hundred" but that included several hundred teamsters of the post, and the sick and nurses in all the hospitals, many of whom had been sent from the army in front.

I had recently been promoted to Orderly Sergeant, and was so ambitious that I usually arose at about four o'clock to dress, wash and arouse the men for roll call at reveille, which was at five o'clock. The following is the

Story of the Battle of Mufreesboro
as written to my father on August 1st, except passages in parenthesis, which are later additions.

"I arose at a quarter past four o'clock (I am sure of that time because I looked at my new watch) on the morning of Sunday, July 13, 1862, and while in the rear of the camp on the east side I heard two guns in the direction of our pickets on the Woodbury Pike, the road east towards Chattanooga. It aroused my suspicions a little, but as Col. Lester had allowed some promiscuous firing, and negroes were hunting occasionally, and as I knew of no rebels nearer than Chattanooga, I did not arouse the camp, especially as the four squads did not. As reveille was not till five o'clock, all were quietly sleeping except a few cooks who were chopping wood for their breakfast and while washing, each time I stooped down I could hear an unusual roar like a distant wind-storm, but as I raised to listen I concluded it was the echoes of the chopping. But to satisfy myself I at last put my ear near the ground, and then distinctly heard the clatter and roar of cavalry on the gallop.

"I ran to each tent in our company, yelling, 'turn out, the rebels are com-

ing.' By the time I had reached the second tent, our company bugler, William White, began to blow the alarm (poor fellow, he was killed in his tent, shot through the head before he got dressed), and that aroused a drummer, who beat the long roll. By this time the rebels had reached our hospital on the Woodbury pike and a few shots were fired there. That aroused all the troops. The rebels soon reached the brigade teamsters camped about eighty rods on our left towards town, and then they came to the cavalry, which was beyond where the 3rd Minnesota Regiment and Hewitt's Battery had camped, on our left. The cavalry hardly had time to get out of their tents, let alone arming and mounting their horses. There was a good deal of yelling and scattered firing in those camps, and the ropes stretched from tree to tree for hitching the horses, tumbled many a rebel horse and rider, but these delayed the rebels only a few moments.

"Capt. Mansfield was sick in bed in Maj. Manny's house, 1st Lieut. Hull Selton was Officer of the Guard, leaving my company, G, without an officer. I got the company all in line, counted by twos and divided off into sections and platoons, and started to form on the color line in front of camp, but the Adjutant called me to come to the left with Company C, which was the only other company that was then organized, company C being tented next to our left and were aroused by my calling out Company G.

"Then Col. Parkhurst rushed out of his tent and commanded to form square in the space on the left previously occupied by the four companies gone to Tullahoma. But there being no rules to form square only pany rushed to that space, and while in this dilemma of trying to form like like Indians, their horses on a gallop. We were all in a huddle. The rebels began firing, being armed largely with shot guns loaded with big shot, which came like hail. Our men did not wait for orders to load and fire, but at once gave the rebels a hot reception. A large number fell on all sides of me while in this huddle. One ball hit my cross belt just

over my heart which first aroused me to a sense of danger, and I began to load my gun, having been too busy before trying to get the company in position. After a little some one (some of my company has since told me it was Col. Parkhurst) ordered "fall back over the fence," meaning the picket fence on the right of the camp, and about eight rods away. The order was obeyed by many, but others fell back part way but did not go over the fence, some getting behind trees. This move made us more scattered so the rebel firing was not so fatal, and they did not try to scale the fence—except I was told one did it, but horse and rider fell dead when they landed.

"The fight lasted about 15 minutes (the official reports say half an hour, but 15 minutes was long enough for me at the time), when the rebels skeddaddled, and some of our boys in their eagerness chased them several rods on foot. We fell in and marched to a log house on the left of camp towards town which was surrounded by a high picket fence, and took our position in that yard. The occupants, (a Mrs. Lewis) left the house and some of the boys went in and made a good block house of it by knocking out the chinks between the logs. (I remember I thought at the time that those boys were cowards; but afterwards, with more experience, I have thought if all of us had gone into one of the large brick dwellings in the vicinity we could have held it for the rebels had no artillery).

"Company C and a sergeant and eight men of company G went towards town as skirmishers, and for eight long hours did good execution in picking off small squads and stragglers of the enemy. (In a letter to me dated March 5, 1912, comrade Anthony C. Chapaton, of Detroit, voluntarily refers to that incident, and gives the names of our company, G, who volunteered to go out at that time, and that they went to protect the Seminary Hospital. They were Sergeant Andrew Nubler, C. R. Brand, Anthony C. Chapaton, Joe Leary, Frank McTurk, Conrad Ramirez, Jacob Maudler, B. J. Stoddard and Charles A. Breton). We made a harriade in our front with wagons and halas of hay.

(Colonel Duffield in his official re-

port said, "The rebel force consisted of the 2nd cavalry brigade, C. S. A., commanded by Brig. Gen. N. B. Forrest, over 3,000 strong, consisting of one Texas regiment ("Texas Rangers") Lieut. Col. Walker, 1st and 2nd Georgia regiments, Colonel's Wharton and Hood; one Alabama regiment, Col. Saunders; and one Tennessee regiment, Col. Lawton. The Texas regiment and a battalion of one of the Georgia regiments, in all over 800 strong, attacked the five companies of the Ninth Michigan Volunteers. So fierce and impetuous was their attack that our men were forced nearly to the center of the camp, but they fell back steadily and in order, with their faces to the foe; but upon reaching the center of the camp (I wrote at the fence on the right of camp), their line was brought to a halt, and after about twenty minutes of nearly hand to hand fighting the enemy broke and fled in the wildest confusion, followed in close pursuit by one company as skirmishers. A squadron of cavalry at this time launched at their heels would have utterly routed and annihilated them. Indeed, so great was their panic that their officers were unable to check the fugitives for a space of seven miles, and Colonel Lawton, commanding the Georgia regiment, was subsequently arrested by General Forrest for misconduct under the fire of the enemy.")

"Another part of the rebel force attacked Company B in the Court House. The boys barricaded the doors, then went into the second story and fired from the windows. As there was a street on each side, the rebels were much exposed and lost heavily; but finally enough of them got to the doors and battered them in and started for the stairs. But here Company B had a greater advantage and kept them down. Then the rebels started a fire on the lower floor, and the 42 men of Co. B surrendered after fighting three long hours, and killing and wounding more than their own number. The rebel loss was severe here, but Co. B's loss was only three men wounded.

"About six o'clock a force of the rebels started for the Minnesota camp. Col. Lester had had ample time to form and had chosen a position about 80 rods towards town. The rebels swept around him and burned

the Court House had only three men (slightly wounded) equalling forty per cent of our number!"

(The official reports showed that the rebel loss in killed and wounded was more than double our loss).

"After consulting with his officers Col. Parkhurst decided it would be folly to try to hold out longer, and surrendered. Some of the newspaper men and higher officers censured the Ninth, but they knew nothing about the situation—the blame was not with the Ninth.

"The rebels rode up to us in good order (which they did not do in the morning), led by Gen. Forrest, who assured Col. Parkhurst that our private property should be respected—a promise not kept. Forrest then sent a flag of truce to Col. Lester (compelling Adjutant Dunfield to go along so that Lester could see that we had surrendered), and Lester surrendered, not having fired but one volley during the half day, though one company and the battery had done some skirmishing.

"During the morning fight Capt. Mansfield came from his sick bed in Manny's house and remained with us until the rebels were driven out of camp. Had he been a coward he could have remained in safety where his sickness amply excused him to stay. He, Col. Dunfield, and all the wounded, and the sick in the several hospitals were paroled, Mansfield agreeing to report to the rebels at Chattanooga as soon as well enough, (which he did in about two weeks).

"We fathered up everything we thought we could carry. The Sitter gave the boys all his goods, and the Quartermaster gave us all the clothing he had. This was packed in our knapsacks, and the rebels told us we need not carry them, but put them in the wagons, all of which they took away with our teams. We thought that was very kind of them—but as we never saw the knapsacks and clothing again, we changed our minds. Our furs and everything valuable were put into our wagons, and then they burned our tents and such wagons as we had no teams to draw.

"A few days before, our cavalry had captured a large number of horses and mules and a number of prisoners. Of course the prisoners were released, but a large number of our officers and men were allowed to ride those horses and mules. "About four o'clock p. m., we started on the road towards Chattanooga, passed through Woodbury late in the evening, and went into bivouac in a field about midnight, the ground being our only bed, with only the sky for a covering. Notwithstanding, I was so tired that I slept soundly till morning. The mounted officers and men were about ten miles ahead of us, but they waited for us and we overtook them about noon, and we all arrived at a place where we were paroled at midnight, Monday, July 14. This was in a yard surrounded by a high, light board fence, in the rear of which was a large brick residence, which was two miles beyond McMinnville, and 42 miles from Murfreesboro. "We had not had much to eat thus far except the little we took on the start, and what blackberries (which were quite abundant along the road) we picked, though the rebels kindly shared with us what they could get; and some of them went ahead and made the citizens fill pails and barrels with drinking water, for which the hot days and rapid marching made us truly grateful. As we passed through the villages of Woodbury, Sunday evening, and McMinnville Monday evening, both were highly illuminated—to honor us, the boys said! All the Johnnyes were kind to us, the Texas Rangers being a jolly lot of fellows. The Minnesota boys spent a good share of their time in cursing Col. Lester for his cowardice in not coming to our aid.

"Tuesday morning we received a small ration of corn bread which the Johnnies forced the citizens to bring in, and then, fearing our cavalry would overtake and rescue us before they could march us to Chattanooga, the day was spent until four o'clock paroling us. Duplicate lists were made of the names of the men by companies, and each man signed them pledging to not take up arms again until exchanged. One set of these papers was kept by Forrest, and one set was given to Captain John M. Eslington, of the Pennsylvania Cavalry, who was to lead us back. All the rest of the officers were held and taken south.

"At four o'clock we started on our return march, but waited in McMinn-

ville until after dark for a small luncheon of bacon, corn-bread, biscuit and bread which the citizens kindly served to us in a school house—probably the best they could supply to so many on short notice. Forrest allowed the band to keep their instruments (which he had no use for) except the drums, and after a citizen had slipped a \$2.50 gold piece into Lieut. Monton's hand, they played "The Star Spangled Banner," and several other National airs, and then that citizen took them to his residence for supper, where several young ladies quietly drew from their pockets small National flags, which they did not dare to show on the streets. Perhaps it was largely due to some of these loyal citizens that we got our suppers, but they all seemed to enjoy the music of the band.

"After this we went about seven miles and bivouacked for the night. We were not all together again until we reached Nashville. Some had money and hired teams to take them through, some walked faster than others, and we had to scatter along in order to get anything to eat, which was bought by those who had money, and begged by those who had none, but the blackberries along the roadside helped very much.

"I arrived at Murfreesboro Thursday noon, the 17th. Here the Penn. Cavalry gave the parole of each company to the First Sergeant with orders to report all to Nashville. I visited Captain Mansfield and got my dinner (it was the first full meal I had had), visited all of our wounded in both hospitals, and left for Nashville with all of my company that I could find. I learned that several of our wounded had already died, and several others had suffered amputations.

"The Fourth Kentucky (Federal) cavalry took possession of the town and before I left, and Gen. Nelson came on trains with his brigade from Nashville the next day. The most of the Minnesota boys did not go till next day when they got onto the cars north of Murfreesboro as they returned from taking Nelson down, for Nelson was so mad he forbid their riding on the cars. Some of the men that were friends of me met Nelson with his train at Laverne and he abused them in his characteristic way, calling them cowards, cursing and swearing at them, etc., and it was said he ordered one of his sergeants to take some men out behind the depot and shoot one of our corporals who tried to speak in defense of the Ninth. They took the corporal out of sight of Nelson and let him go. (So when the news came to us at Camp Chase a few weeks after that Gen. Jeff C. Davis had killed Nelson for abusing him, instead of mourning, some of our boys cheered and swung their caps).

"I did not get to Nashville until nearly night, Friday, July 18th. We were sent into a temporary camp near the city to await further orders.

"The newspapers had published garbled and exaggerated reports of the battle, and because of Col. Lester's cowardice and inaction, all the officers and men at Murfreesboro were stigmatized as cowards. (There was one exception: I received from my father over a column article from the Chicago Daily Tribune from their correspondent at Louisville, which I still have, that gave us high praise).

"Even General Buell issued a condemnatory order saying there were four companies of the 4th Kentucky cavalry, and three companies of the 7th Penn. cavalry there, which was not true. All the Kentucky cavalry had left there previous to that time. There were four companies of the Penn. 7th cavalry stationed there, but two of them went to Lebanon the evening before, leaving only two others near our left, and one of those was without guns. And none of the various other regiments that had been ordered to concentrate there under Gen. Crittenden's new command had arrived yet.

"Gen Buell continued. "It appears from the best information that can be obtained that Brig. Gen. Crittenden and Col. Dunfield of the Ninth Michigan regiment and all the cavalry, were surprised and captured early in the morning in the houses and streets of the town, or in their camp near by, with but slight resistance, and without any timely warning of the presence of the enemy." (Later official reports show that both Gen. Buell and Gen. Mitchell received notice that Forrest had crossed the Tennessee at Chattanooga and was moving towards

Murfreesboro, but they failed to give either Gen. Crittenden or Col. Duffield that information).

"The first and last clauses were correct. We were surprised. The rebels came from Chattanooga Friday noon (see Forrest's report), a hundred miles away, and from Woodbury, twenty miles away, after dark Saturday night, and our cavalry scouts had returned into camp before that time. The citizens had said we would get cleaned out if we did not liberate the men held as hostages, but they had threatened the same many times before. But this time they got their long threatened revenge, for they evidently had posted the rebels at Chattanooga of the situation so that they not only knew where each camp was, but even the hotel and room in which Gen. Crittenden was sleeping. But there were no soldiers in the houses and on the streets, except the private guards, and the sick in hospitals.

"Third charge, 'with but slight resistance,' was outrageous. If fighting till nearly half our fighting men were killed or wounded is called 'slight resistance,' a few hundred against three thousand, as it was supposed, what better could men do?"

"The General adds, 'Take it in all its features, few more disgraceful examples of neglect of duty and lack of food conduct can be found in the history of wars. It fully merits the severe penalty which the law provides for such misconduct. The force was more than sufficient to repel the rebel attack effectually. The mortification which the army will feel at the result is poorly compensated by the exertion made by some, perhaps many of the officers, to relieve the disgrace of the surprise.' (It is a satisfaction to us today to know that our mishap was not half so disgraceful as was the surprise Bragg gave Buell soon after that, when he chased him back to Leipersville. But the blame was not with the Ninth, nor with the men of the Minnesota regiment and Hewitt's Battery, nor with Crittenden or Duffield; but it was with Buell for not notifying us that Forrest was coming, and with Col. Lester for dividing the camps, and then not trying to help us and doing no fighting himself. He and Buell both got their deserts later).

"This is a specimen of editorial bravery and good fighting! What judgment of military matters can such a simplification have? He is either a knave or a fool, and I guess both. But we have hundreds of just such editors who are and have been trying to engineer the war.

"We left Nashville Friday morning, July 25, and arrived here in Camp Chase on Sunday, July 27. We reached Cincinnati about four o'clock Saturday p. m. The telegraph had announced that 800 rebel prisoners were coming, and asked for guards to escort them from depot to depot through the city, a distance of about two miles. Consequently about 100 policemen were on hand, armed and equipped, and a row marched on each side of us, guarding us more strictly than the rebels did while they held us. The streets were lined with curious spectators, and though we had nothing to eat all day, instead of feeding us, as the rebel citizens of McMinnville did, they jeered and hooted at us. To the credit of a few I will say that they cheered us after they recognized our uniforms. But some of the city papers referred to us in a sneering way as the men who surrendered at Murfreesboro. I wrote a reply to the Daily Commercial as soon as we arrived here, telling the facts about the fight and defending the Ninth, which they had the fairness to publish. But I have no copy to send you. But the Ninth will never forget or forgive the unjust treatment and abuse received from the papers and citizens of Cincinnati.

"This is as full an account of our battle at Murfreesboro as I can write, you now. Camp Chase, Ohio, Aug. 1, 1862."

In a report made some months afterwards (after his return from captivity), Colonel Parkhurst said: "The forces attacking my camp were the First Regiment Texas Rangers, Col. Wharton, and a battalion of the Georgia Rangers, Col. Morrison, and a large number of citizens of Rutherford county, many of whom had taken the oath of allegiance to the United States Government. There were also quite a number of negroes attached to the Texas and Georgia troops who were armed and equipped, and took part in several engagements against my forces during the day. (This is when the 'citizens' got in their oft repeated threats of revenge).

"During the engagement I sent three distinct messages to Colonel Lester, all of which he received, informing him of my situation and of my ability to hold it till he could come to my assistance, but Colonel Lester refused to afford me any assistance, refused to fight, and refused to allow his command to fight. Consequently at half past twelve o'clock, having lost thirteen killed and seventy-eight wounded (over one-third of my command), and being reduced to one hundred and thirty-seven men and officers, the enemy, having nothing to apprehend from the Minnesota regiment, and Hewitt's battery, concentrated his whole force upon my camp, and sent in a flag of truce with a demand for a surrender, of which the following is a true copy:

"Murfreesboro, July 13, 1862.
Colonel: I must demand an unconditional surrender of your forces as prisoners of war or I will have every man put to the sword. You are aware of the overpowering force I have at my command, and this demand is made to prevent the effusion of blood. I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
N. B. FORREST.

In his report made after returning from captivity Gen. T. T. Crittenden said that he assumed command of the Post of Murfreesboro Saturday forenoon, July 12. He selected Lieut. M. Duffield for Adjutant, and with him and Col. Duffield visited the different camps, saw the imprudence of a divided command and selected a new camp near the old one, and told Col. Duffield to concentrate all the troops there; but being assured by Col. Lester that there were no rebels nearer than Chattanooga, action was deferred for the next day, and the attack came as a surprise that morning. He praised the Ninth for its gallant fight in driving twice its numbers of the enemy out of camp, and holding its position for eight hours after losing half of its number. ("This fragment of a regiment, under his gallant lieutenant-colonel (Parkhurst) fought splendidly, and deserves honorable mention"); and he praised Company B for holding the court house three hours under repeated assaults, when it surrendered only because the enemy had set fire in the building, and that Company B kept himself from being captured until it surrendered. He estimated our effective forces did not exceed 950 men while that of the enemy was 2,600.

By request of General Crittenden after his return from captivity a Court of Inquiry was held at Nashville, Dec. 17, 1862, which reported in part as follows:

"11th. That the Ninth Michigan Infantry was promptly formed and repeatedly repulsed the enemy. That at about eight o'clock a. m., they took a more sheltered position, which they held until 12 o'clock, when they surrendered; their commanding officer being wounded and having lost nearly half their number in killed and wounded.

"12th. That one company (B) of the Ninth Michigan Infantry, acting as provost guards, held the court house in the town until eight o'clock,

when they surrendered after it was set on fire.

"15th. That the estimated number of troops at the post was about 1,040; that of the enemy, 2,600."

The court exonerated General Crittenden and Colonel Duffield, and laid all the blame for the capture of Murfreesboro on Colonel Lester who was dishonorably dismissed.

THE FLAG OF TRUCE. Comrade E. Q. Lyman writes me that the messenger from Forrest hearing the white flag came in on the street where he and comrade H. C. Rankin were on Company C's skirmish line; and while one of them guarded the messenger, the other reported the matter to Colonel Parkhurst, who ordered that they bring the messenger in blindfolded, which they did.

Comrade James F. O'Loughlin says he was the youngest and smallest member of Company G, and at the time of the battle he was an ambulance driver. He was asleep in his ambulance when the rebels charged past him into camp that morning. He got out, secured a gun from a wounded comrade, and after the rebels were repulsed he went after them with Company C on the skirmish line. After using up his "forty rounds," he obtained a horse from a captain of the Penn. cavalry and carried messages from Col. Parkhurst to the skirmish line, and acted there as a lookout. Soon after the regiment reached Camp Chase he went to Detroit and enlisted in the Eleventh Michigan Infantry, then in the Army of the Potomac. Later he was transferred to the 2nd U. S. Cavalry. While in those two regiments he experienced hard service in the battles of Fredericksburg, South Mountain, Antietam, Gettysburg, and other important battles in the East.

Confederate Account of the Battle.

General Forrest's biographer says that Forrest crossed the river at Chattanooga on Wednesday, July 9, went on two roads to McMinnville where they arrived the next day. A few scattering companies joined him here making his whole force about 1,500 strong. They left McMinnville Friday noon, July 11, and arrived near Murfreesboro soon after daylight Sunday morning. "A company of Wharton's Texas Rangers went forward and was

soon halted by the Federal outpost.

In answer to the challenge, "who goes there," they replied that they were a company of the 7th Penn. cavalry waiting to join their regiment at Murfreesboro. "The Federal soldiers were not aware of their mistake until they were surrounded by the Rangers, who, with pistols drawn, captured the entire picket force without firing a gun to arouse the sleeping Garrison." (But I surely heard two guns).

"From these pickets Forrest learned that Brig. General Crittenden had superseded Col. Duffield, and, what pleased him more, that the camps of the Ninth Mich. and Third Minnesota were still separate. Forrest divided his command into three sections—the Texas Rangers under Col. John A. Wharton, were to take the advance and assault the five companies of the Ninth Michigan Infantry and two companies of the 7th Penn. cavalry; the second section under Forrest's immediate command to attack the Court House, jail, and surround the hotel in which General Crittenden was known to be sleeping; and the third section was to charge immediately through the town without halting, and prevent the 3rd Minnesota and Hewitt's battery from coming to aid the forces in town. The command was then formed in column of fours upon the picket, and advanced slowly and cautiously until just as the day was dawning they were in sight of the tents of the Federal encampment. The command to charge was then given, and away Wharton sped down the rear and clatter of the horses' hoofs upon the macadamized turpicks, and the wild yells of the entire Confederate command as they swept onward, aroused the sleeping Federals from their beds. Before the Penn. cavalry could get to their horses the Texans were among them, and those not captured or killed pushed over to the camp of the Ninth Michigan, which by this time was in wild confusion as the result of the surprise. "The plucky Michlanders, however, suddenly and unexpectedly assailed, were not to be taken without a fight. Acting Brigadier General Wm. W. Duffield, running out of his tent, called to his men to get their guns and stand their ground. He had scarcely

given this command before the Texans were riding in among them, firing at them, as the gallant Duffield said in his official report, at short range with 'shot guns and pistols.'

"A pistol shot from Wharton himself seriously wounded Duffield, who was forced to relinquish the command of the infantry to Lieut. Colonel John G. Parkhurst. By this time the Federals had rallied, and under Parkhurst's inspiration poured a heavy fusillade into the Confederates, who had made into the Confederates, who had lost their organization and were scattered in all directions through the camp. Here Col. Wharton was badly wounded, and, being unable to take further part in the melee, the Texans were thrown into temporary confusion and driven back some 200 yards from the Federal position. The Union commander, with great judgment, rallied his troops in an enclosure of not fenced with heavy cedar pickets set on end in the ground, and by the use of a number of wagons which were loaded with hay and other army supplies, within a few minutes had extemporized a formidable stockade, and now held a strong position. Lieut. Col. Walker, who took command of the Rangers after Wharton was disabled, recognizing the great loss of life which would follow any attempt to take Parkhurst's position by storm, deployed his men around it in order to hold them penned up until Forrest could come to him with his aid."

Then follows a description of the fighting through the forenoon similar as I have given it. He estimated their loss at 25 to 30 killed, and about 100 wounded, but says that Duffield said in his report that the Confederates loss was doubly that of the Federal, and does not doubt but Duffield was correct. He claims they captured 1,100 or 1,200, which may have been about right, for they counted all the sick and nurses in the hospitals, teamsters, and other men there on detached duty. He says the 3rd Minnesota lost two killed and eight wounded; the Penn. Cavalry, five killed and twenty wounded, and Hewitt's battery had one killed and three wounded. Gen. Forrest's biographer now claims that the capture of Murfreesboro here was his greatest exploit, and he quotes Lord Woolsey as saying it was

the most brilliant feat of the war. But I can see nothing very brave or brilliant for 1,500 men to attack half their number by surprise when they were well informed by their friends, the citizens, that the Federal troops were divided into three camps over a mile apart, and they know the location and strength of each camp. Their own reports admit that, though the 225 men of the Ninth were taken by surprise, we repulsed their charge and drove their 800 cavalrymen in confusion out of our camp, and held them out of shooting distance eight hours. And though our little band had been reduced to 125 armed men, they did not think it prudent to renew the attack until Forrest confronted us with his whole force and demanded us to surrender under penalty of being slaughtered as at Fort Pillow.

The facts are that Forrest, Morgan and Moseley were never known to attack a force that they knew was stronger than their own. "Those men made their reputations for 'brilliantcy' by surprising and defeating small or forces guarding bridges and stations out of reach of reinforcements, being previously posted by citizens who were always their friends in the localities attacked.

Some writers, especially Forrest's biographer, claim that the rebel victory at Murfreesboro was no disaster to our cause that it led to Bragg's invasion, and Smith's retreat to Louisville; but it is absurd to claim that the loss of 1,600 men and that small town should lead to such results. The facts were that Bragg's army had been driven south from Corinth and was still confronted in Western Tennessee by Grant's army, and in Middle Tennessee by Buell's army, and the only hope the rebels had was for Bragg to quietly concentrate his army in Eastern Tennessee and rush to the Ohio river, expecting to beat our army in the race and add to his own by new recruits which he was induced to believe he would secure in Kentucky. But he failed in both objects, and was in a losing game from that time on to the end of his career. Rebel official records now show that the raid on Murfreesboro by Forrest was planned as a preliminary to Bragg's invasion of Kentucky.

ly, which Buell was too slow to dis- cover and prevent.

The Tullahoma Companies.

Companies D, E, F and I had rather strenuous duties during the summer of 1862 in building a large stockade at Tullahoma, guarding the town, and running railroad trains south to Decatur, and on the branch roads eastward to McMinnville, and westward to Winchester. In the latter part of July the men were loaded into wagons one night after ten o'clock, and made a raid with some cavalry to Manchester and captured several hundred barrels of flour.

August 13 on receiving an inquiry from General Thomas about the fortifications and forces under his command, Major Fox replied, "A few rifle pits—no fortifications. Colonel Warner's Brigade left last night for Manchester. I have only 200 infantry, 150 cavalry, no artillery. Am good for any rebel force of 600 without artillery."

"D. M. FOX, Major Commanding." The same day he received the following order:

"Headquarters 1st Division, District of the Ohio, Decatur, Tenn., Aug. 13, 1862.

"Major D. M. Fox, Commanding, Tullahoma.

"Build at once a strong stockade sufficiently large to accommodate all your infantry."

"GEO. H. THOMAS,

"Major General."

About August 24 company D went to a point about six miles south of McMinnville to help two companies of the 18th Ohio Infantry build a large stockade to guard a bridge there. About noon, August 29, as our men were out eating, some of Forrest's dismounted men crept up a ravine behind some willow bushes and made a rush for the stockade, which was not yet completed; but our men just succeeded in beating in the race by getting inside first. Then followed a severe fight by our two hundred men against Forrest's whole force of 1,500, which finally resulted in an ignominious retreat of the rebels, who left thirteen dead, including Capt. Houston, of the Texas Rangers, and 41 wounded, and it was reported that more than twenty wounded rode away. The Federal loss was seven of

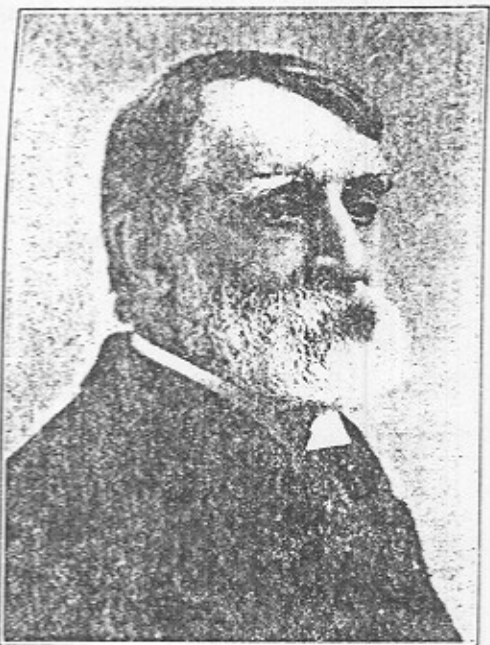
the 18th Ohio wounded, Lieut. Wallace of Co. D had an ear clipped, and Corporal Edward S. Acker, of company G, who escaped with his pistols from Murfreesboro and was then staying with company D, was severely wounded in the hip. Company D received special commendation for its part in this affair in later reports.

Captain W. Y. Houston was a nephew of the celebrated Gen. Sam Houston, and in honor of that uncle Joseph Hanchett and some others of Co. D made a coffin out of a farmer's wagon box (the only boards they could find), and buried him in a separate grave under a large wild cherry tree, and Joe is sure he could find it to this day.

After the battle Capt. H. R. Miller, of the 18th Ohio, commander of the post (Lieut. J. N. Wallace had command of Company D, of the Ninth) desired to send messages to the Federal forces at McMinnville and Manchester informing them of his dangerous situation, but as the mission was so dangerous he called for volunteers, and Henry T. Thayer, of Company G (one of Acker's plackets), volunteered to go to Manchester (eight miles away) and Clinton L. Lee, Company A, 18th Ohio, volunteered to go to McMinnville. Both went on foot and got safely through the enemies' lines, and gave information of the critical situation.

When Buell's army was falling back to Louisville our four companies with two ten pound Parrott guns of Capt. Swartz's 7th Indiana Battery left Nashville Sept. 9th, as a rear guard. On Sept. 10, after passing Gallatin they were erroneously ordered to turn west towards Springfield, Tenn., but at night learned their mistaken order and returned to the Nashville Pike the next morning. This put them so far in the rear that at a little after noon, Sept. 11, 1862, (the records are wrong that give the date as Sept. 22), near Tryee Springs, Tenn., their advance guard was suddenly surrounded and captured by rebels that were in ambush. Lieut. Fox and Schofield being mounted rode forward to learn the trouble, and both were shot.

Major Fox at once put his command in good position, sent company I forward as skirmishers, and the artillery opened on the enemy lively with



GENERAL Wm. W. DUFFIELD
First Colonel of the Ninth
and a Veteran of the Mexican War.



DORUS M. FOX
First Major of the Ninth
Colonel of the 27th Michigan Infantry

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shells. After about two hours of skirmishing Forrest withdrew, leaving several wounded, two of whom died the next day. That was Forrest's third encounter with men of the Ninth. Lieut. Fox and Schofield, and Charles Heckling, of the battery, were severely wounded, and Dr. Cyrus Smith, C. B. Andrews of company I and a company F man took them to a hotel and remained with them. In about a week Lieut. Schofield recovered so he and his nurse went by a chance conveyance to Bowling Green. Lieut. Fox died Sept. 23, and Corporal Byron Roath, Co. F, came with an ambulance under a flag of truce and took the body to Bowling Green.

Just as Fox died another party of rebels took comrade Andrews away and kept him a prisoner four days in an old cotton gin, then paroled him and he marched "single file" to Bowling Green. Alex. M. Bennett, Co. D, was one of the captured advance guards. The enemy put him on a mule tied by a kid rebel and hurried them away; but when the fight began the mule took fright, broke away from its leader and ran away with Bennett into a thicket of brush where he was knocked off. He ran and hid in a straw stack near by and remained until after dark, then found his way back to the pike and went on after his company. The other captured guards were paroled the next day and followed on.

On reaching Bowling Green, Ky., the four companies were left to help Harrison that place, and occupied the principal fort on the hill in rear of the town when the paroled men of the other six companies joined them Nov. 2, 1862.

Camp Chase to Nashville.

Camp Chase was located four miles out of Columbus, Ohio, on a plain where the state had erected barracks to accommodate several thousand men as rendezvous for organizing new regiments. At the time of our arrival, there was also a large prison there in which were several thousand rebel prisoners guarded by state militia. The camp was also used to care for Federal paroled prisoners, the Ninth being among the early arrivals. The commander of the camp, a Colonel Allister, at once ordered us to do our share of

camp and prison guard duty. This the men utterly refused to do, claiming it would be a violation of their parole oath. For over three weeks the situation was critical, all kinds of punishments being threatened to compel the men to perform guard duty; one punishment being the refusal to let us have any clothing, though none of us had had a change since the rebels took all our surplus over a month before. But the boys finally won, for on Aug. 18, the daily papers had an order from the War Department that paroled prisoners should not bear arms for any purpose. When this was shown to the colonel he consented to let the Orderly Sergeants draw clothing for the men. After that our fare was good. Tossing unlucky victims in a blanket was one of the pastimes, and one day before the trouble was settled the Major commanding our regiment tried to stop it, when he was suddenly seized and lost until he begged.

I petitioned Gov. Blair to get permission for us all to go home and stay until exchanged and thus save our keeping. He replied he would try to do so, but urged us to be patient and stay there till orders came. (The "Rebellion Records" show that Gov. Blair did telegraph the Secretary of War, asking to have the regiment sent to Detroit). But the time dragged so that the men gradually slipped away by night on French leave until so few were left that my chum, Henry Kenyon, and I decided to go too. We had to go to a station about ten miles out to take the train because the officers had placed guards at the depot and six miles out to keep our men from going on the cars. We arrived home Wednesday, Sept. 10, but on Monday got news that the regiment was exchanged and that all men in the state must report to Detroit, where we went the next day, having enjoyed only five days' visit.

At that time Kirby Smith was threatening Cincinnati, and militia, farmers and every one that had any kind of arms were rushing to its defence. When we arrived at Camp Chase Adjutant DuBois and Lieut. Wright had gone to Covington with all of our men, about sixty, who were put on guard near the front with poor guns and no ammunition! They got

unconscious that they were not yet exchanged and Dunfield left for Michigan to see Gov. Blair about it.

One night about forty laid down their guns and under the lead of Sergeant Bertrand of company G, who secured a pass for the party, came over to Cincinnati. Our party of about twenty-five arrived the night before; we were all being fed at a city market house, where the citizens were feeding everybody free that had a gun or a uniform, and finally the two parties were brought together by some officers who had received notice to arrest some Michigan men as deserters, and were placed in the city barracks and all held alike as prisoners. I finally got out and went to Maj. Gen. Wright, commander of all the forces there, and explained the matters to him, and after investigating it he concluded the regiment was not yet exchanged, and gave me next day an order to take the men back to Camp Chase, where we arrived Sept. 25, to find Capt. Mansfield had come.

In a few days positive orders of exchange came and we started south under Capt. Mansfield, arriving at Portland, four miles below Louisville, Oct. 7, where Lieut. Wright and his men joined us soon after. There we were united with an "Independent Battalion" (the boys called it the "Meckel Brigade"), of over twelve hundred men belonging to various regiments that had remained in Nashville to hold that city. A Major Raymond, of the 51st Illinois, acted as Colonel, and Capt. Mansfield as Major. The Ninth men were organized into two companies of about fifty men each, under command of Lieutenant Iliran Barrows and Wright, the only other officers present. For lack of officers all the First Sergeant served as Lieutenants. The Battalion was completely clothed, armed and equipped like a new regiment. It started on cars south Monday night, Oct. 20, to help chase John Morgan, who was then at Elizabethtown. Our men under Lieut. Barrows were left at Salt River bridge to strengthen the Home Guards there, and when in about two miles of Elizabethtown we overtook another train with the 107th Illinois Infantry on board. All quietly left the cars and formed line, sent skirmishers forward, and as soon as day dawned we

rushed into town. But the rebels had fled, though Morgan had barely time to dress, and our advance killed a captain and wounded a captain and four men of his escort. Our Battalion bivouacked in the grove where the Ninth formerly camped, and waited for the men left back, and for our wagon train of forty wagons. Snow fell there an inch deep Saturday night, Oct. 25! Cars then ran only to Munnfordsville, where passengers walked over Green River on a foot bridge, and then took other cars from Bowling Green—the large bridge there not having been rebuilt after its destruction by Bragg's men.

Our train having arrived we left Elizabethtown on foot on Sunday morning, Oct. 26, and reached Green River at Munnfordsville Monday evening. Thursday afternoon, Oct. 30, we crossed the river single file on planks placed on scoops, and took the cars to Cave City where we had to disembark to wait for other trains.

While waiting here the first through train from Louisville arrived, Saturday, Nov. 1, with the new commander of the army, Gen. Rosecrans, and staff on board. His train had to wait at so. He got off and our "Meckels" quickly formed in line and saluted him, and he gave us a nice little speech, after which we gave him "three cheers and a tiger."

We arrived at Bowling Green by cars Saturday evening, Nov. 1, and joined the four companies of the Ninth in the fort on the hill in rear of town on Monday, Nov. 3rd. Our 100 men and three officers made the whole force there of the Ninth 270 men, with two captains and five lieutenants, under command of Capt. Jenny. Major Fox having gone to Michigan with the body of his son killed at Tyree Springs. He got appointed colonel of the twenty-seventh Michigan Infantry, and did not return. Capt. DeLand also became colonel of the Michigan Sharpshooters.

General Rosecrans kept his headquarters at Bowling Green about two weeks, and on Nov. 8 issued the following order: "Col. S. D. Bruce, with four companies of the 9th Michigan Infantry, four companies of the 28th Kentucky Infantry, ten companies of the 7th Kentucky Infantry, and the Fourth and Eighth Regiments of Ken-

tucky Cavalry will proceed to clear the country lying between Murfreesboro and the Green River and the Cumberland, and not only did good fighting there, but from Mableton to Hopkissville, and by command of Maj. Gen. Rosecrans."

In a few days after our arrival at Bowling Green another rumor got circulated that we were not yet exchanged, and there was no little excitement. Many of the men refused to go on duty. Telegrams were sent to Col. Dunfield and Gov. Blair at Detroit, and to Washington; and official reports now show that for some days even the authorities at Washington were "baited up" over the matter, as they twice sent a dispatch that the regiment was not yet exchanged, but finally, on Nov. 11 a dispatch came from Gen. Boyle at Louisville, saying that the regiment was surely exchanged, the order having been sent to him from Washington. We had no more trouble over that matter after that.

Nov. 22nd we were temporarily united with the 2nd Michigan, and both, and 11th Ohio regiments with Lieut. Gen. Gordon Granger in command, and had several brigade drills. We left Bowling Green Dec. 2, marching on the pike, and arrived at Edgefield, opposite Nashville, Dec. 5, Tuesday, Dec. 16, Capt. Wilkinson, company A, Capt. Rounds, company B, Lieut. Curry, company K, and Adjutant Dunfield joined us. The next day by order of Gen. Thomas we started back to Gallatin to Garrison that town, but while eating dinner at noon, nine miles on the way, a messenger arrived on a foaming horse with an order from Gen. Rosecrans for us to return, which aroused tumultuous cheering, and we came back to Edgefield. The next day we moved to four miles south of Nashville on the Franklin pike, camping near Hons-ward's division, Saturday, Dec. 20. Wilkinson received commission as Major, and took command. It was said that Capt. Leomin persuaded Gen. Rosecrans to order us back from Gallatin to Gallatin on Garrison duty, assuring him that the Ninth was a fighting regiment, and he wanted it assigned to the brigade he was in; but Gen. Thomas chose otherwise.

The day before Christmas three things happened that made great rejoicing in the Ninth regiment. First, a Court of Inquiry into the affair at Murfreesboro reported that the Ninth and not only did good fighting there, but that soon after company D with others badly repulsed Forrest near Mableton, and that the four companies also repulsed him again at Tyree Springs. It praised the Ninth, and laid all the blame for the failures at Murfreesboro on Col. Lester, whom it cashiered. (The history, "Minnesota in the War," says that four other officers of the 3rd Minnesota were dismissed for cowardice at Murfreesboro).

Second, in view of this report it was reported that Gen. Thomas said he had special duties for a regiment that had repulsed Forrest three times, whether he did say that or not, we got an order that day making the Ninth his headquarters guard, and we moved to near his tents two miles nearer the city that afternoon.

Third, and greatest of all—Colonel Parkhurst arrived that evening, which made the boys fairly wild with rejoicing. It was like a long absent father returning to look after the welfare of his family, and at once restored spirit and confidence to the men of the regiment.

Now notice the changes brought about in six months:—Gen. Nelson, who cursed and abused us at Lawrence, was dead—killed for his abominableness; Gen. Buell, who so misrepresented and maligned us in his orders, was dismissed from command of the army for gross "incompetency and bad conduct" than was shown by any one at Murfreesboro; and the Court of Inquiry cashiered Col. Lester, the real culprit in the disaster. Col. Parkhurst and the Ninth were vindicated and honored, and there is no doubt that if our beloved Colonel Dunfield had not been so prematurely disabled from the service, he would have been given a Star with a prominent command.

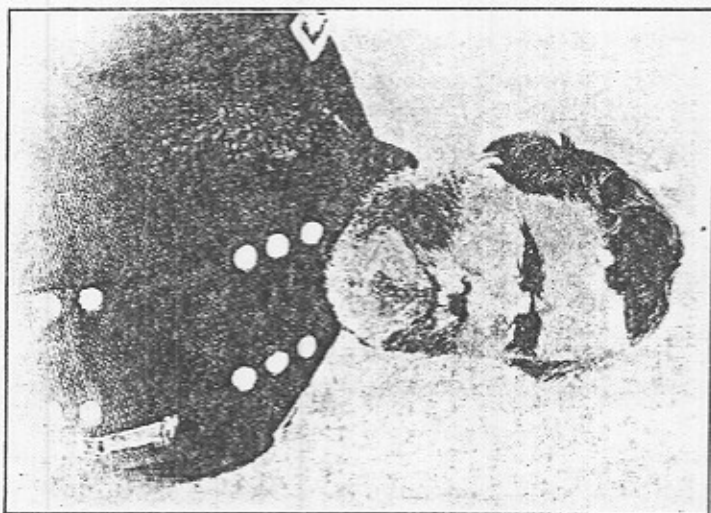
The report of the Court of Inquiry was so favorable that Gen. Thomas was so pleased that he appointed Lieut. Col. Parkhurst (soon after promoted to Colonel), Provost Marshal of the 11th Army Corps, which Thomas commanded, and the regiment was made provost guards of the corps. Thus all our malignant enemies had been disgraced and punished, and Col. Parkhurst



EPHRAIM MARBLE, in 1911
First Lieut. Co. F; Captain Co. B.
Also Served in Mexican War
in 15th U. S. Infantry



CHARLES W. BENNETT, in 1911
Private, Sergeant, Orderly Sergeant
of Co. G and 2nd Lieut. Co. F of the
Ninth; and Captain and Brevet Major
13th U. S. Colored Infantry.



MAJOR GENERAL GEO. H. THOMAS
Affectionately called "Pap Thomas"
by his Army.
"The Rock of Chickamauga."
"He Never Lost a Battle."

and the Ninth vindicated and honored by promotions.

From this time on the Ninth always camped near Gen. Thomas' Headquarters, whether at night on marches, or in permanent camps. It guarded his office and tents, his supply train of 25 to 40 wagons, guarded prisoners on the battle field and on trains, and stopped our own stragglers, and was the police of his command.

The Stone River Campaign.

Under Generals Anderson, Sherman and Buell the army was called "Army of the Ohio," but under Rosecrans it was changed to "Army of the Cumberland."

On Friday, Dec. 26, 1862, this army began its movement against Bragg at Murfreesboro. The Ninth moved south a little on the Franklin pike, and then crossed through fields to the Nolensville pike and marched four miles south and camped for the night, Dec. 27. We went one mile south of Nolensville and camped, being sixteen miles from Nashville. It rained all day and the muddy roads were so bad that some of our wagons did not reach us till two o'clock at night, and some of the companies had no rations for supper. Crossed over a mill dam single file on planks and timbers.

Sunday, Dec. 28, we came back two miles and marched on a dirt road across eight miles to the Murfreesboro pike which we struck two miles south of Lavergne, and went south to within ten miles of Murfreesboro. Col. Parthurst's diary agrees exactly with mine in these dates, routes and distances, and Capt. B. H. Stevens and Comrade Frank Lester say their diaries show that we were on the Nolensville pike on Dec. 27. So the records that credit the Ninth as fighting at Lavergne, Tenn., Dec. 27, 1862, are wrong. The regiment was eight to twelve miles from there on another pike that day. The Ninth was never in a fight at Lavergne, though it had two narrow escapes north of there the next week.

Wednesday, Dec. 31, the great battle of Stone River began at day-break. Our right wing was crushed, and soon our defeated men came by the hundreds to cross Overall's Creek on the Murfreesboro pike where there was the only

bridge saved by our men in advance. Sergeant E. A. Burnett, company B, was the first to see the panic stricken men coming, and he rallied his company to stop them. But the Colonel soon deployed the regiment across the road in rear of the bridge, letting them come over, and extended the line to the right and left to the creek, and thus stopped about 5,000 men, including cavalry, infantry and artillery. After noon we marched them all back across the bridge. Soon after the rebel cavalry got in our rear and came there to fobble us and burn the bridge, but the cavalry and artillery that we had stopped opened on them furiously and drove them away, capturing and killing about forty. Before night all these stragglers were sent to their respective regiments. The Ninth received special praise in general orders for thus saving so many men to again join their regiments and help in the fight.

In his official report Colonel Parthurst said: "On the morning of the 31st of December the battle was opened by the enemy attacking General Rosecrans' right, which was under the immediate command of Major General McCook and the attack was made with such force as to put our forces on the right to rout and utterly demoralize them, and a general stampede was the result. Teamsters, army transportation, cavalry and infantry came rushing in confusion and terror, and it seemed that the whole army had broken and was rushing to the rear and for the Nashville Pike. My regiment being in the rear of the center of the line of battle and at the bridge over Overall's Creek on the Nashville Pike, and believing that the fate of the army depended upon checking the stampede and stopping the fleeing and frightened troops, I at once put the regiment in line of battle extending either side of the pike, with fixed bayonets, with flank-eds extending on either flank, and with orders to stop everything but wounded men. I had barely time to form when our cavalry rushed upon my line with great force and like men making a desperate charge, and it was with the utmost difficulty that we were enabled to check the first charge made upon our line, but by a free use of the sabre and the bayonet we were enabled to hold the first rush

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of the cavalry; then came infantry, verging, Wheeler with about 3,000 rebel cavalry attacked a wagon train behind us, and burned about 75 wagons, fleeing cavalry and forming them in line on our flanks, and in placing several pieces of fleeing artillery in position.

I now had a force of about two thousand cavalry and about three thousand infantry, and eleven pieces of artillery in position, and all organized from the stampeded and demoralized troops of our army. At this juncture the rebel cavalry following our routed army made a charge upon my advanced lines, which was handsomely repulsed by the cavalry I had organized from the troops which but a few minutes previously had given way in despair and were fleeing for dear life. After the repulse of the rebel cavalry our cavalry pursued the enemy till he reached the woods to the right of the pike; and soon after a brigade under command of Colonel Walker, of the 31st Ohio, came to my aid from Stewart's Creek, and immediately set to work organizing the stragglers and sending them under a guard, from the 9th Michigan Infantry, to their commands as fast as their locations were discovered. For this service the 9th Michigan Infantry received a very flattering mention by Major General Thomas in his report of the battle of Stone River. I feel, and have no hesitancy in saying, that had not the 9th Michigan Infantry by her determined courage checked the stampede of the right wing of General Rosecrans' army on the morning of the 31st of December, the demoralization would have extended to the whole army; the battle of Stone River would have resulted in the defeat of the Federal arms, and General Rosecrans would have been compelled to fall back to Nashville.

At nine o'clock that night we marched onto the battle ground, bearing the piteous groans of hundreds of wounded, making us realize the horrors and inhuman savagery of war. It was very cold, which must have added greatly to the suffering of the wounded. We did not sleep much lying on the ground among the cedars, for at three o'clock the next morning, Jan. 1, 1863, we were aroused and started for Nashville to guard a train. After we had gone a few miles north of Lavergne, Wheeler with about 3,000 rebel cavalry attacked a wagon train behind us, and burned about 75 wagons, fleeing cavalry and forming them in line on our flanks, and in placing several pieces of fleeing artillery in position. The regiment across the road and stopped them, and then we waited in line of battle some time expecting the rebels to attack us. But they did not, but went back and attacked the Michigan Engineers who were building a stockade at Lavergne. The Engineers had only an abatis of brush around them, but they withstood seven assaults of the rebels, who then retreated, having lost forty or fifty killed and wounded. We arrived safely in Nashville and went to our former camp at eight p. m., having marched thirty miles that day.

Saturday, Jan. 3, started back with train. When nine miles south a lady in a covered carriage came out of the woods on our right and told the colonel that Wheeler's whole force was just over the hill lying in wait for us. Corporal B. A. Roth, Company F, had captured a nice horse the day before, and the colonel sent him as a scout ahead of the advanced guard. He got too far ahead when eight rebels fired at him from the bushes. One bullet wounded his horse in the neck, another went through his saddle, a third cut away his canteen, and a fourth badly tore his coat under the right arm. Of course he surrendered, and was taken to where the rebels were congregated, and it looked to him as if there were eight thousand of them! They did not molest us, but about two hours afterwards a long train with ammunition came along and they attacked that furiously, looting being a witness to the fight. But the rebels did not know that a whole brigade was guarding that train, and they got unmercifully whipped, with many killed and wounded. Roth and about thirty others were paroled and reached Nashville the next day.

When we arrived at Lavergne the Michigan Engineers were again expecting an attack, and we stayed with them over an hour, but none came. The Ninth no doubt escaped a tight one on both those occasions because the rebels were looking for bigger game. We arrived at the front late in the evening and found Gen. Thomas about where we left him, and bivou-

acked the best we could in the mud. I saw trees from all sizes up to eighteen and cold, gathering cedar twigs to help keep us out of the water; but the most of us were drowned out before morning. Just before dark the rebels made their final desperate assault on our left, but were terribly slaughtered by fifty-seven pieces of artillery concentrated against them. Sunday both armies were rather quiet.

Monday, Jan. 5, it was learned that the rebels had evacuated the city and fled south, and the army moved in. We passed over a part of the battle field and the ground was covered with the dead of both sides. Col. Parkhurst wrote to his sister that day that "It was the proudest day of his life when he was permitted to enter, with his regiment at the head of a victorious army, the town, where, but a few months before, they had been made prisoners." And the regiment was permitted to go into its old camp in Manny's Grove, which we did with much cheering.

After the battle Frank Lester wrote, "The town is full of wounded men and the rebel wounded died by the hundreds at first for lack of medicines and surgeons; but we soon aided them, and also supplied them with rations."

During the winter and spring of 1863 the Ninth had to perform heavy guard duty at headquarters and in guarding government property, so that at times some men had to go on every other day. In addition to that forty men were mounted under command of Adjutant Duffield or Lieut. Hull (changing), who did police duty for the whole army around Freeboro, arresting drunks and disorderly men, who were sent to their regiments with instructions from Col. Parkhurst that they be properly punished "by command of Maj. Gen. Thomas." The boys soon humorously named them the "Forty Thieves."

On January 25, I wrote, "Our regiment went foraging last Tuesday, and again Wednesday, passing through where our Right Wing (McCook's) was driven back and lost so heavily on the first day of the battle of Stone River. To see the effects of that battle the one wonders how a single man escaped. The underbrush was literally mowed down by bullets, the large trees did not have a space as large as one's hand free from scars, and

I saw trees from all sizes up to eighteen inches in diameter cut down by bullets, shot and shell."

Comrade Frank Lester wrote to his folks about this same trip, "I saw trees about this name trip, 'I saw trees about eighteen inches in diameter that had been cut down by cannon balls."

Again on Jan. 29, "Our regiment went our foraging east of the Nashville pike. We passed over the battle field where our Center fought, and saw the same work of destruction as mentioned last week about our Right Wing."

Again, Feb. 8, "We used to think 13 to 16 miles was a good day's march, but last Thursday we arose at four o'clock, got breakfast and went with two other regiments and two guns of Church's (Coldwater) Battery and 200 wagons twelve miles out north-east on the Liberty pike; loaded all our wagons with forage and returned at 8:30 p. m., making 24 miles through mud, and fording two rivers. But my! we were tired!"

Again, Feb. 14, "Our last foraging trip was in rear of our extreme Left where the rebel cavalry frequently attacked our foraging parties, and had sometimes captured a few wagons, and so we went three regiments in search of forage in a safer locality. We went eight miles northwest on the Nashville pike, then five miles east, and had the luck to find enough at one rebel plantation to fill all of our third wagon. While loading them some cavalry appeared in the distance. Thinking they were rebels we quickly formed in line of battle and they did the same. Then they slowly approached us and when near enough each discovered that both wore the Blue. The "jumps" in our throats went down! It rained the most of the day, and the twenty-six miles' march through mud and wading streams, including Stone River after dark when returning, kept us busy until 8:30 p. m., and you can bet we were soaking wet, cold and tired!"

The Liberty Raid.

On Monday morning, April 27, a large part of the regiment and two companies of the 27th Indiana, in all about 350 men, with 54 wagons, started for Liberty, a village 29 miles southeast. We marched 22 miles

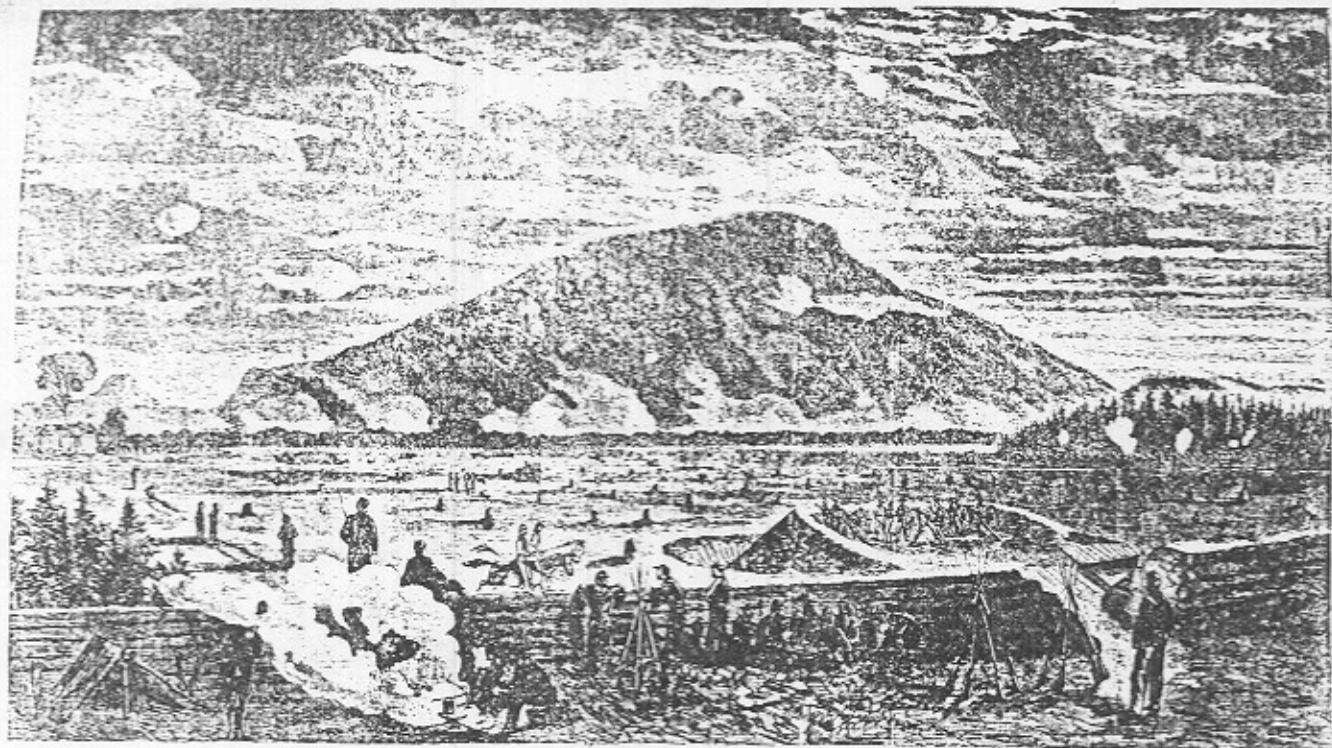
and camped that night on ground where a rebel cavalry force had camped the night before. When we reached Liberty near noon the next day we found General Wagner's brigade (Colonel Starkweather's) here. They had just arrived from McMinnville which had just been captured by General Reynolds's Division, to which they belonged. They expressed surprise that so few men were sent into such a dangerous locality. We went after a large amount of bacon and some forage that had been found, but more especially to rescue a large number of loyal families (nearly 200 people in all), who had been so pillaged by the rebels as to be in a starving condition. It was a pitiful sight to see feeble old men and women, and younger women and children haggard from hunger, and so destitute for clothing and other comforts. The most of their men were in our army, largely in Colonel Stokes's Tenn. Cavalry, which came with Wagner, and helped us to gather the people in from a circle of three or four miles around, for which purpose the train and men were divided into four parties. All these assembled at a point four miles towards Freeboro about ten o'clock Wednesday, and started for Murfreesboro via Milton on a road farther to the north and supposed to be safer; one brigade going before and the other behind us and the wagon train, the cavalry keeping with the train, and many officers were equally as bad, also scouting. When we arrived Thursday noon, April 30, everybody was surprised, because it had been reported that we were all captured; and on the last two mornings our whole army had stood at arms because the rebels were so active in front, but they made no attacks, and were quiet again.

Card playing was most resorted to for while away the monotony of camp life, but during these warm spring evenings, as there were several "big dances in our smooth streets. No little part of the fun was gained at these "hides." One evening the officers got a lot of negroes from town to give us a sample of negro "shin dice."

Nearly every company contained one or more jokers—men who seemed to never get tired, never got "blue," and seemed to need only "half rations" of sleep. No day's march was so tedious that they could not at its close dance a jig, sing a song, tell a story or crack a joke. They were the last ones to go to sleep and the first ones to wake up. Even on the battle field their witty tongues were not at all silent, and no doubt they were "pleasings in disguise" for the spirit of the army.

On Feb. 12 a little incident occurred that was quite important to the writer—he was appointed Second

JOHN G. PARKHURST, in 1865
Lieut. Colonel and Colonel of the Ninth, Brevet Brig. General;
Provost Marshal General, Department of the Cumberland



Lookout Mountain, 1,600 feet above Tennessee River. Northeast view from Federal Works on Chattanooga Creek.
Company F crossed it three times and was chased by Rebels 25 miles on its top.

Lieutenant and assigned to Company P, and soon after the company presented him a beautiful sword, belt and sash, which he still keeps in grateful remembrance of the men of Company P. First Lieut. Ephraim Marble made the presentation speech. He was a veteran of the Mexican war, having served in the 15th U. S. Infantry, and at this time was acting Commissary of the regiment. He was later on Gen. Thomas' staff as Assistant Commissary of the Fourteenth Corps. He and Major Jenny are the only original officers of the regiment living in June, 1913.

Wednesday, June 3rd, the regiment joined General Negley's Division in large fields east of the town and was reviewed by General Rosecrans. Serjt Charles M. Bertrand, Company G, had made a light frame for his knapsack that made it set so square on his shoulders that it attracted Gen. Rosecrans' attention. He stopped and inquired his name, company and regiment, complimented him for the neat appearance of his knapsack and his whole personal equipment, and suggested to the regiment to imitate him. Such kind noticing of enlisted men was characteristic of General Rosecrans.

Tullahoma and Forward.

The Ninth started with the army on the Tullahoma campaign June 24, 1862. It immediately began to rain, and continued nearly every day for two weeks, making the roads almost impassible for men, wagons and artillery, and swelling the streams so they were more difficult to cross. Thomas went out on the Manchester Pike, and that afternoon Whider of the Left Wing of our army took the enemy by surprise and captured Hoover's Gap after a brisk fight, which the rebels tried in vain to recapture the next day. Mc Cook's men on the Right Wing captured Liberty Gap, a similar strong position, which the rebels also tried to retake the next day. These two strong positions were the right and left keys to Bragg's strongly fortified position at Tullahoma, and as our army began to close in on his flanks, Gen. Thomas learned July 1st that Bragg was retreating.

Thomas started in pursuit via Manchester, but at Elk River the rebels had burned the bridge which so delay-

ed us that on July 2nd Bragg was safely going over the mountains into the Tennessee valley, to finally concentrate at Chattanooga.

The Ninth then went into a camp with Gen. Thomas in a beautiful grove near Decherd, Tenn. Here a new duty developed. The hundreds of recovered sick and wounded men now returning from northern hospitals every day were all sent to Col. Parkhurst who detailed members of the "Forty" (who were supposed to know the position of every regiment) to pilot them to their various regiments.

We also built a "pull pen" about 25 feet square by standing fence rails close together on end in a trench. In to that all the "drunk and disorderlies" of the army so luckless as to be nabbed by the vigilant "Forty" (our mounted men) were taken during each day and evening where they were kept till next forenoon, when one of the "Forty" took each man to his regiment with an order to the colonel to properly punish him. "By order of Gen. Thomas: J. G. Parkhurst, Provost Marshal." Thus the army was disciplined.

Monday, Aug. 17, the Ninth began with the army moving over the mountains for the south. It was tedious work getting wagons and artillery up the steep, poor roads, but we finally reached Hollyar Springs, two miles east of Stevenson, Ala., Aug. 21. Company C was sent onto a mountain about a mile northeast to help establish and guard a signal station.

One morning while camped here the writer applied through the colonel for an appointment in a negro regiment, was at once ordered by General Thomas before an examining board consisting of Gen. Healy (for many years member of congress from Ohio after the war), a Colonel and Major, then in session at Stephenson, two miles away to where he walked, and from one to six o'clock that afternoon was kept in a "sweat box" by questions from those three officers. When through the Major privately assured him that he had passed a first class examination and would receive an appointment. It came October 16 from General Rosecrans as a Captain, with an order to report to the 13th U. S. Colored Infantry, then organizing at Nashville. Lieut. James N. Wallace also went with me as cap-

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tala. If our first officers had been subjected to as rigid an examination as we were, half of them would have stayed at home.

Thursday, Sept. 3, we marched to the Tennessee river and waited for the engineers to lay a pontoon bridge. It was over 1,200 feet across the river here, and it took sixty boats to reach across. They laid the bridge in just four hours and twenty minutes, and the Ninth was the first to cross on it. Marched seventeen miles up on the south side of the river, and turned to the right up a small valley into Raccoon Mountain, and camped long after dark near Moore's Spring. The day had been terribly hot and dusty, and we were a tired lot, and we did not know but we were all alone in the valley; but about nine o'clock to our surprise a band on top of the mountain began to play "The Star Spangled Banner," and as the music rang out through the still night and echoed down the valley thousands of soldiers both in the valley and on the mountain began to cheer, and I never heard that tune when it was more thrilling and lowered and the thousands of weary soldiers bivouacking there soon forgot the weary day's marching.

It was slow and tedious work getting wagon trains up the mountain when teams had to be doubled, and in many cases men with long ropes helped to pull them up. The Ninth had to give others the precedence, and we went into camp the next day only four miles on top of the mountain near a mill that was run by a creek. Raccoon Mountain was about eight miles across here, fairly level, and there were occasional cleared patches with log huts occupied by "poor white trash."

Sunday, Sept. 6, we went down the mountain at Brown's Spring, and went into camp within three miles of Trenton, in Lookout Valley, near Gen. Thomas, where we remained several days. Wednesday, Sept. 9, we marched up Lookout Valley five miles to Easley's. The 10th we marched about five miles to the head of Johnson's Creek where all of the 14th Corps crossed over Lookout Mountain. Enemy reported to be concentrating in force beyond this mountain, threatening Negley's Division which was at

ready over, and so the balance of the corps is rushing to his aid. Gen. Rosecrans moved his headquarters to Chattanooga today.

The Ninth remained in camp waiting for the corps to cross the mountain until 10 o'clock Sunday, Sept. 13, when, after many hours of hard work we got the train up, and crossed over, it being about five miles across by the route we took to Cooper's Gap (the most of the corps went down at Steven's Gap, a shorter route) where we descended and marched southward up Chattanooga Valley about two miles to near Steven's Gap 26 miles south of Chattanooga and camped by Gen. Thomas. About 10 o'clock that evening Col. Parikhurat gave a warm supper to Generals Rosecrans and Garfield, Charles A. Dana, Ass't Secretary of War, and several of their staff officers, all of whom were delighted by the unexpected feast.

Sept. 14 was a quiet day in our vicinity, but there was some skirmishing at the front, and the armies were concentrating. Gen. Rosecrans remained with Gen. Thomas all day. Gen. Negley sent 25 prisoners to the Ninth that he had captured the two previous days of skirmishing; and, unfortunately for the writer, I was officer of the guard and stayed up with them all night, and then started on a hard day's march without any rest or sleep.

Tuesday, Sept. 15, Company F was sent with twenty-five prisoners and nine wagons to Stevenson, Ala., for rations for Gen. Thomas' headquarters. One prisoner, an old man named Powell, who lived on Lookout Mountain, cut his throat with a dull jackknife just before we reached his home, and not believing he would live, we left him there, but sent a message to have our doctor come and treat him, which was done, and when we returned he was improving. We had many experiences and adventures on this trip, but nothing serious until returning.

All day Sunday, Sept. 20, the second day of the Battle of Chickamauga, we were returning with our train up Lookout Valley, in hearing of the cannonading. We should have gone the other way, northward to Chattanooga, but our orders were to return to the place where we started. We arrived in Johnson's Creek that evening and

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were all the forenoon Monday getting the train up the mountain, as teams had to be doubled and one wagon taken at a time, and men also pushing behind.

It is about four miles across the mountain here, and as we were about to go down at Cooper's Gap at three o'clock three regiments of cavalry came rushing up like bees swarming from a hive. They had been defeated by Wheeler's cavalry, and lost all their forty wagons and about 200 men.

We immediately turned our train northeast towards Chattanooga, 24 miles away, all the cavalry deserting us but two companies who held the Gap and killed seven rebels when they tried to come up. The colonel commanding the cavalry ordered us to burn the wagons and save the mules, but we refused, though we expected the rebels would soon overtake us, for there were two other passes where they could come up the mountain. Our wagons were loaded with rations for Gen. Thomas's headquarters, and we resolved to not abandon them—if captured we would go with them. But the cavalry waited for us towards night, and we felt safer. I never experienced such a hot and dusty march before nor since, but you can bet we made fast time, expecting an attack by the rebels every minute. The road on the mountain top was fairly level, but in places the mountain was so narrow that one could look down into the valley each side, and in other places varying to three miles, well timbered, except an occasional cleared patch and bog dwelling.

The cavalry left us soon after dark, but we did not reach the north end of the mountain where the road goes down until after midnight. It was about a mile down the mountain by the most crooked road I ever saw. Wagons frequently tipped over at the short turns and had to be uprightened "by main strength" and refueled. About two o'clock three overtrodden at once and we gave up, discouraged and exhausted, and sent the teams down to hunt for water. But some signal officers soon came down saying the rebels would be on the mountain there by daylight. So we sent for the teams, reloaded the wagons, and by hard work reached the foot of Lookout at daybreak, Tuesday morn-

ing, Sept. 22, 1862, just as the head of our army was coming in from the battle field. (If you hear any one say that our army was defeated at Chickamauga just remind them that Thomas held his positions all day Monday, Sept. 21, unmolested, and then quietly retired and took possession of Chattanooga, which was the object of the campaign.)

We crossed Chattanooga creek fast, but before we had finished to our surprise the army had thrown up a line of breastworks in our front, and another line in our rear. So we pulled out and went into the city and soon found our regiment. They were delighted to see us for they had concluded that we were all captured. The rebel flag floated from Pulpit Rock, the brink of Lookout, soon after we got into town. From Monday morning to Tuesday morning company parties had marched over thirty miles besides getting our train up and down the mountain, had taken no time to rest, eat or sleep, and nearly suffocated from dust and suffered much from thirst. But we saved the train with Gen. Thomas' rations!

Battle of Chickamauga.
Our story left the regiment "with General Thomas near Steven's Gap on the morning of Sept. 15. That day the Gen. Rosecrans left our camp, and near evening Gen. McCook and staff camped by us. His corps crossed Lookout 17 miles further north, and was now hastening north to join in the coming struggle. It was all quiet near us during the 16th, Sept. 17th the regiment moved with the train north to Diekey's post-office on the Chattanooga Valley Road. Friday, the 18th, the regiment moved with train east to Crawfish Springs, where it remained over night. Commodore Frank Lester says that on that evening a detail of two men from each company took the headquarters train and started down the Chattanooga Valley Road for Chattanooga, where, after an all night tedious march, they arrived the next morning, and camped on the bank of the Tennessee River. Col. Parkhurst does not mention this.

"night march over the hill (where his corps was overwhelmed) and riding slowly about a mile and a half, I met Col. Parkhurst in line on Crittendon's left in possession of the main roads to Chattanooga on which the enemy (having received heavy reinforcements) was planning to rush to Chattanooga. Thus, instead of being the center of the army as usual, Thomas's corps became the left wing and held that position all through the two days just against the repeated assaults of the greater part of the rebel army.

On the morning of the 19th the regiment went back to Diekey's post-office, on the Chattanooga Valley Road, and later, Colonel Parkhurst wrote, "by order of the commanding general (apparently Gen. Rosecrans) I took train to Chattanooga and parked it on the bank of the Tennessee River." He does not tell what train it was, but comrade Thad. S. Vining says he was Corps Wagon Master at that time and had charge of the train, and that it was the Medical Supply train.

So during all of the first day of the great battle the Ninth was guarding that precious train down the Valley Road in rear of our army to save it from capture.

All accounts agree that at six o'clock on Sunday morning, Sept. 20, Parkhurst with the Ninth Michigan having one company (or the detail of men) to guard the headquarters train at the river, Col. Parkhurst started with the remaining eight companies to escort the Medical Supply train to the field hospital at the front, going through Rossville and turning south up the Dry Valley Road; but on arriving at McFarland's Gap, within one and a half miles of the hospital, Col. Parkhurst learned that the enemy had possession of the hospital, and he halted the train there. He wrote, in his diary, "About 12 o'clock McCook's and Crittendon's corps gave way and fell back in great confusion. I succeeded in checking them and preventing a stampede. All the troops went to Rossville later and took up new positions. General Thomas saved the day from utter defeat by his bravery and heroism. Our loss today has been very heavy."

That was all the most colored were in his diary, but General Crittendon reported that "After leaving the hill (where his corps was overwhelmed) and riding slowly about a mile and a half, I met Col. Parkhurst with his regiment and men enough—whom he had stopped—to make another regiment of ordinary size, and who seemed to be well organized. The colonel rode up to me and asked if I would not take command. I told him no, that he was doing good service; and I directed him to hold his position and let the artillery, wagons and wounded pass, and then follow on, covering the rear."

Colonel Parkhurst continued to stop stragglers until he had several thousand, held his position, but did not "follow on" after his superior officer, who went to Chattanooga. Early in the stampede Lieut. E. Gen. Negley, "Colonel Parkhurst with his provost guards of the Fourteenth Corps is stationed at the Chattanooga road, stopping the disorganized troops, and forming a new line." Gen. Negley remarked, "To save the army from rout, a new line will have to be formed." Making desperate efforts in vain to stop the straggling mass, Gen. Negley finally came to where the Ninth had effectually blocked the pass by its line of bayonets, of which he reported, "I found Colonel Parkhurst with the Ninth Michigan Volunteers energetically checking the stragglers." He joined in the work of stopping and reorganizing the retreating troops, and near evening moved the whole force of several thousand to Rossville, and placed them in line for defending that important position.

Captain Alfred L. Hough, A. C. M., in reporting about the repulse of the right wing and conditions near McFarland Gap, said, "The only organized body I saw there was the Ninth Michigan, Col. Parkhurst, stopping all persons except the wounded." In his report of the battle to Gen. Halleck, Gen. W. S. Rosecrans said, "Major General Thomas says that as provost marshal at the head of his regiment, Col. J. G. Parkhurst did most valuable services on the 20th in arresting stragglers and in reorganizing the troops who had been driven from the field."

In relative losses "most valuable services" rendered by the Ninth on that occasion, "Michigan at Chick-