

BATTLE OF HAWK'S SHOP, JUNE 24, 1864

Reports of the Battle of Hawk's Shop, or Saint Mary's Church, on June 24, 1864, are sadly lacking on the Confederate side. This engagement should be distinguished from another bloody cavalry combat bearing the same name and fought on May 23rd of the above year.

The field of the battle of June 24th is in Charles City County, about two and one-half miles from the White River and on, or near, an imaginary line drawn from the White House on the Pamunkey to Harrison's Landing on James River. It is twenty miles or more from Richmond, the Trevelian battle of June 15th in Louisa, checked by Hamptonville and Charlottesville, and from a junction with General Hunter in his raid on Lynchburg, which made it necessary to pause and reform their line. Here the Confederate force became so rapid that the morning of June 24th was not reached until the night of the 23rd, they fell back to the line of the White River, where they were joined by Hampton's men returning from the Trevelian raid.

Under the escort of three divisions of the Federal Cavalry, the train was moved out across the Chickahominy on its way across Charles City County to the White River. The number of men was over 900.

To assist in protecting the train, the division of Cavalry commanded by Brigadier-General D. M. Gregg, was sent in the direction of St. Mary's Church, about three miles from the Confederates that quarter. These regiments numbering seven, with three batteries, were placed in a line to fortify with breastworks of logs, rails and felled trees.

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CONFEDERATE DISCUSSES

THE RIGHTS OF PRESIDENT-ELECT

It may seem folly for an ordinary mortal to disagree with one who appears before the public in the position of the probable incumbent of the highest position within the power of the people of the United States to give, but emperors and potentates of all descriptions have been so frequently in the wrong that it is at least obvious that position cannot be considered as insuring the correctness of the plans and purposes of the occupant.

The South by a vast amount of its citizens strictly followed and upheld this worship of Almighty God.

The North totally, as a majority, substituted for that real worship of Almighty God, which makes "church-going" but an appanage of applied Christianity, flat of power, either of majority or of force and became a worshipper of the dollar.

As is invariably the case, crucifying right, abnegating basic law, the North demanded that the South join in its disruption of the principle which bound the States together as a nation; and upon the refusal of the South to accede to the schemes of majority fiat, under the sophistry of "holding the Union intact," crucified its sole living principle, the Bill of Rights.

From 1845 until the present time each passing day has seen some national act which has had as its basis the monstrosity of majority fiat, until the Bill of Rights is ignored in every line of national action, and each and every individual who suffers is directly traceable to this one cause.

Naturally the North, once assuming a heinously criminal course, cannot be drawn from it, but it is merely confers to others that it is in the wrong, but as well that it dare not for one instant face its own knowledge of its acts of rapine and fraud and of murder, continued to-day against the individual in exactly the same manner as in the past to the South.

Unfortunately, measurably so, many of the younger children of the North, seeing the success of this product of criminality is a legitimate result, even a "blessing from the Almighty," and have unknowingly deserted the principle of the fathers.

When Governor Woodrow Wilson, "born in the South," appears before us and begs us to join the Northern line of battle for right, we must remember "the accident of birth makes no man, and we must conscientiously and, as in the days of that Battling in the wilderness, which was to the South as His struggle in the desert, North to the South, and shall bear fruit some day, but oh! could they come back! We alone must take their places.

MILTON A. NOBLES, 1836 Real Estate Trust Building, Philadelphia, Pa., December 31, 1912.

along the front of one or more Confederate regiments in order to escape. These unfortunate Federals maintained good order in their feeble-quick movements to reach Georgetown and the river fell in the road as they ran.

One of them, pursuing a path behind the other, was seen by the eye of the present writer, who, seeing him fall, supposed at the moment he had stumbled, but it was found to be shot through with a bullet. From his pocket he drew a pistol, and fired a missive from his New England lady love.

The men who were posted behind the breastworks being now in general retreat, the Southern line was pushed forward, however, before an open field was reached, at the farther side of the breastworks, a second Federal line appeared, and this met the Confederates with such serious results as made it necessary to pause and reform their line. Here the Confederate force became so rapid that the morning of June 24th was not reached until the night of the 23rd, they fell back to the line of the White River, where they were joined by Hampton's men returning from the Trevelian raid.

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A rapid and concerted rush was made by the Confederates, many of whom fell within a few feet of them, and some on them, in order to move forward.

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This night General Grant telegraphed General Butler: "Sheridan has been attacked this evening and with great difficulty has been repulsed. The routing of his train so far. He expects another attack at daylight, and would be much assisted if some infantry could reach him in time."

Butler, in reply, asked: "Will General Grant please tell me exactly where Sheridan is. And where is the place where our troops are, and the enemy is confronting them." General Butler, in reply, directed General Brooks as follows: "March at once two regiments of Cavalry to the aid of Sheridan, and take the nearest man. About 10 o'clock, General Grant telegraphed: "Orders gone out. It will take three regiments" and at 3:15 A. M. the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

General Hampton and one of the Federal commanders bore witness to the efficiency of General Lee's tactics. Of Chambers and his men Hampton wrote: "Brigadier-General Lee's tactics in this battle were the most efficient service contributing largely to the success at St. Mary's Church." G. W. BEALE.

talked over in camp. As he, too, came forward, one of his comrades said: "What you, too, Pat! I thought you said you wouldn't re-enlist." "Faith, I wouldn't," said he, "if you had not said grape shot at Sharpsburg for nothing." A short history of the regiment I wrote in camp that month states that on the day of the re-enlistment we had 100 men, and the 8th Alabama was among the first to respond to General Lee's request. The other regiments did the same.

The Army of Northern Virginia knew in the winter of 1862-4 of the blockade of the coast, and the reports of the Confederacy. It knew of the loss of the Mississippi River, of the gunboats that were patrolling almost every Southern stream, severing communication and cutting off the South from the West; it knew that Confederate railroads and rolling-stock were wearing out and supplies being exhausted; it had seen the Federal troops in the places of those who were to fall in battle, and it knew of the vast numbers that were being mustered in the army across the river. To look back now for a history of the Confederacy, and to see the brave deeds and lofty motives, and the survivors of the two armies are preparing for another meeting on Pennsylvania soil, a semi-centennial anniversary in July, 1913. From that day forward, Gettysburg battlefields stand forever as a memorial not only of American manhood and patriotism, but of American brotherhood as well.

The Army of Northern Virginia, excepting the other armies of the Confederacy, was the most nearly complete in its organization. It was the most efficient service contributing largely to the success at St. Mary's Church." G. W. BEALE.

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The writer was in command of the Eighth Alabama Infantry. We had enlisted in 1861 for three years. The term of the Federal Government was four years, and of non-slaveholding families. That army was in arms not to perpetuate slavery, but to maintain the independence of the Confederacy, over which the Constitution had been erected, while the army on the other side of the Rapidan was there to maintain that same Constitution over an undivided Union.

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floor was a handsome young Irishman, a lieutenant in a New York regiment. My mission was peculiar. Miss Abby Rudolph, an old friend from my town, Greenville, Alabama, had come with a permit from President Davis, counter-signed by General Lee, to pass the lines. Her mission was to deliver a message to the young officer at peace.

The young officer at peace, dispatched messenger, who soon returned with the lady, and in the meantime occurred a little talk, part of which I can never forget. The lieutenant had gone where when the messenger had come to Richmond again. "Yes," was the reply, "but you'll never get there. There we will," he said, "after a while, and if you swap generals we'll be here."

Then we had, out of the lieutenant's canteen, a drink, which I was free to confess as better than anything I had ever drunk before. The lady found in the habit of jumping at the chance for a drink with the alacrity he fears he must have shown there on the Rapidan, but, if, in the Providence of God, he should be permitted next year during the reunion at Gettysburg to meet again the chivalrous young foeman of that day, he hopes to greet him some day, and to tell him of the talk we had on that day, years ago down in Virginia. We were right after all. The big man did prove to be the 'best man.' You finally got to Richmond, but you got to Washington, and it was not long before we were back with us there last week when we dedicated, in the National Cemetery at Arlington, a memorial to the Confederate soldiers, and to the Confederate peace that was to be.

Whether that gallant young Irish-American is still living and these lines are to catch his eye and cause him to seek me out as a retreating foe, I do not know. He has long since moulted into the damp soil of the Wilderness, where he and I battled against each other a few days after our friendly talk, only every year falls can tell, but it is stranger than this that have happened. Indeed, if that young fellow had told the writer that the time was coming when he would be in the United States as faithfully as he was then serving the Confederacy, the dash young lieutenant would have been set down at once as a fit subject for a humorist's jest.

Our encampment extended fifty miles up and down the Rapidan, and a still greater distance back toward Richmond. The country was a wild, hilly, and wooded. Many of the best, nesting in stately groves, well back from the roads, contained spacious parsonages. The bright-eyed, soft-voiced, and the saw-toothed, and the name of the brothers were in the army, were always at home to the soldiers. They were now reinforced by others, who came as visitors. No one apprehended any immediate danger from the army of the United States. They were waiting, we knew, for the reinforcements—men enough, in the opinion of their generals, to crush us at once when the springtime snows over the mountains were in Richmond. In the meantime, behind our picket-lines, we were drilling, riding horseback with the girls, who were all accomplished horsewomen, and dancing in their bonnets and high heels. 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