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## THE OWOSSO TIMES.

EDMUND O DEWEY, EDITOR.

OWOSSO, FRIDAY, OCT. 6, 1899.

### REUNION OF 7th MICH. INFY.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.

To follow through the course of the great rebellion the story of any one brave union soldier would give ample and alluring material for a volume, and to record the deeds of gallantry, the hardships and the perils of a single union regiment forms a task fit in its scope for the American historian. It would be truly a vain attempt for me in the progress of a few moments to try to circumscribe in narrative the checkered experience of the 27th Michigan Infantry. But only shall I try to search out from those most thrilling times a few of the most fateful days of all, and in brief bear to your minds thoughts of them. It was in the darkest days of the civil war, when from every direction ill omened sounds came to northern ears of southern victory and northern defeat, when the President was downcast, tried and discouraged, when anxious eyes scanned hasty head-lines bringing not joyous news but sorrow and mourning, indeed the Valley Forge of the rebellion when from northern firesides came the reserve force of the nation, held back for this single extremity.

The apparently hopeless siege of Vicksburg was in progress and Lee was plunging northward on his last great effort at northern invasion when the 27th Michigan was ushered into active service to meet and help to overcome the last gasping, desperate struggle of the short lived confederacy. Joined to the 9th corps they swelled the forces pounding at the gates of Vicksburg and witnessed one of the greatest victories of that greatest of American generals—General Grant. The capture of Vicksburg was the debut of this great chieftain, and as for the first time we hear his name rung through the nation with highest praise due the deeds of the 27th come to light. The fortune and the career of this general and of this regiment seem inseparably linked together for from this time on scarcely without exception were they under his command. The regiment joined the forces of Grant in the latter days of June 1863. There had been months spent in attempting to capture by storm this American Gibraltar. There had been the many attempts to reach the rear through mpass and bayou, the running of the fleet past the batteries on the heights amid the torrent of flame, shot and shell and finally the sitting down around about in patient and tireless siege waiting for the surrender sure to come. Then followed the days of suffering and starvation to the people penned up within the walls of the city until their General Pemberton came out under the oak now famous and concluded terms of capitulation.

After the joyful news of the fall of Vicksburg had set the North ablaze with new hope and redoubled energy for the war's prosecution through the trend of events we may follow our regiment on to the fall of Jackson, the capi-

tal of Mississippi; then chased by the rebel commander Longstreet on away to Knoxville in that retreat so similar to Washington's retreat across Pennsylvania in its hardship, sacrifice and strategy. Late in April of 1864 the 27th regiment was joined to the famous army of the Potomac and under the nominal command of their former general Grant remained throughout that last great campaign which closed the war. Upon the tardy must be equalized the cares of those earlier come. For as the first are first to suffer so must the latter ones suffer harder at the last. And thus upon the 27th drawn from the vitals of the north in her last attempt, fell the brunt of the carnage of the last year of the conflict. From the day on which the regiment was joined to the army of the Potomac until the close of the war unceasing tumult and daily battle enjoined their tireless struggle. When we scan the pages of warfare written in the crimson of human sacrifice we at last sighing lay the book upon the shelf, sick with the passion of human nature, the mistakes of human reason and miscalculated pre-conceptions and the useless and ghastly expenditure of human life. Why do brothers tear at the throats of brothers like ravenous wolves over the wounded carcass of their prey? Why does passion like a demon to human happiness thrive in the councils of state? Into the very tissue of the body of our nation was imbedded the germ of dissention and disease. When every other remedy had failed to cure the most dangerous operation of all was tried and thanks to the skill of her physicians proved successful. To the 27th now remained the bloodiest time of its entire career and words fail to tell and pen refuses to describe the scenes of fire and sword which followed. Here came the great battle of the Wilderness known to us of younger years only as a hell of fire and slaughter and some terrible trap whose jaws snapped death. In this campaign were included the battles celebrated for their carnage and bloodshed—the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor. In each of these engagements the regiment was bravely conspicuous and from its ranks fell in battle its quota of the terrible number. The army of the Potomac, it is said, during this campaign of but six days lost more men than did the American armies in our second war with Great Britain, in the war with Mexico and in the Spanish-American war, all combined. It was six days of the fiercest, most relentless and persistent fighting, the bloodiest engagement and the supreme effort ever put forth by human might or recorded by pen of man. The campaign was from the Rapidan to the James river and each movement saw a repetition of the plan of the one preceding. From the battle of the wilderness Grant moved by the left flank, swung clear of the enemy and encountered them a second time at Spottsylvania Court House. There were two routes open to the army on its march to Spottsylvania, fifteen miles away. Warren's and Hancock's corps went directly forward by what was known as the Brock Road. Sedgwick's corps and Burnside's 9th corps went by a detour: to the east then straight south to field of action. Sedgwick and Burnside were to co-operate with Hancock. In moving rapidly forward by night the cavalry escort of General Meade so hindered the advance of Warren's corps that the confederates were enabled to reach the vantage ground some time earlier than the union forces appeared. Lee's left had been found impregnable and all thought of crushing that had been dismissed. But the center was apparently weak for protruding far out in front from the wings was a salient and this it was considered could be taken by the union forces. The 11th day of May, 1864, was spent in making all arrangements, and at nightfall a heavy rain began to fall; so under the obscurity of the Egyptian darkness with rain and night as friends Hancock moved forward, co-operating with the

9th corps. At dawn on the 12th the troops charged forward, swept over the abates and breastworks, demoralizing the enemy and taking 4,000 prisoners. But farther on appeared another line of earth works, and rallying from these the confederates riddled the small force of union troops. But with bulldog tenacity they held their ground and fought it out in the bloody angle, the federal troops trying to cut the confederate forces in two, the rebels striving to recover their lost ground. Over the breastworks poured the merciless volleys of both sides. Union reinforcements were hurried in and massed behind the protection of the salient. Time after time did Lee try to regain his ground and charge after charge was repulsed. In this terrible maelstrom of slaughter was engaged the celebrated Irish Brigade which fought with desperate stubbornness. The reinforcements rushing in encountered the wounded of this brigade walking or being hurried to the rear. One brave son of Erin, with his arm all shattered and bleeding, pale as death, but trudging bravely out of the way, shouted to the tress on-coming soldiers as he raised his wounded limb in sight: "Go in byes, dom'em we've got'em." On this terrible day 10,000 union soldiers fell and an equal number of the opposite side. The carnage was appalling, the attempt useless and Grant was repulsed. But on toward the James moving always by the left flank, fighting those severest of engagements always repulsed but ever hammering. I need not tell you more of the Wilderness campaign, for the half of that tale has not yet, on earth, nor possibly ever can be told.

On the 15th of June the troops reached Petersburg and then began that long and tedious siege which closed so memorably at Appomatox. To tell in detail the events of these 9 months would

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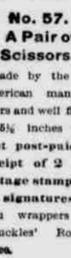
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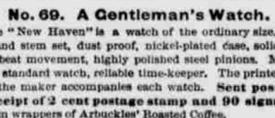
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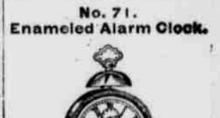
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The "New Haven" is a watch of the ordinary size. Stem wind and stem set, dust proof, nickel-plated case, solid back. Quick but movement, highly polished steel pinions. Modeled after a standard watch, reliable time-keeper. The printed guarantee of the maker accompanies each watch. Sent postpaid on receipt of 2 cent postage stamp and 90 signatures cut from wrappers of Arbuckles' Roasted Coffee.



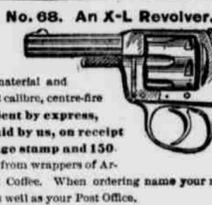
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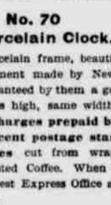
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perhaps as tedious as were the days of idle waiting and listless fighting. But one event I wish to mention because of the important part played there by the 27th Michigan, and that was the explosion of the celebrated mine and the charge on the crater by the 9th corps. A mine, the scheme of Colonel Henry Pleasants of the 48th Pennsylvania, had been constructed from the union lines to a point under one of the enemy's forts. As early as the 18th of June the 9th corps had been drawn up within 130 yards of the confederate lines. General Burnside favored the scheme of blowing up the confederate fort but he was hampered in his operations by the opposition of General Meade. The main gallery of this mine was 510 feet in length with lateral galleries at the end 37 and 38 feet long respectively, right and left. It was the plan of General Burnside to send the division known as the "Black Division," in a charge each side of the crater to be formed at the explosion of the mine. But to this also Gen. Meade objected and at the last moment although the colored division had been drilled for this especial purpose, Gen. Burnside was compelled to change his

CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN.

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