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H. A. LONDON, Editor.

WAR REMINISCENCES.

Chatham's War History.

Chatham's Cavalry Companies.

Nothing has been yet said about Chatham's cavalry companies. There were two full cavalry companies organized in this county (Co. E and Co. S, of the 5th N. C. cavalry) and large detachments in other companies raised in other counties. We cannot now give a sketch of any of these cavalry companies, but with the aid of some of the survivors we hope to be published full sketches hereafter. The most desperate fight that Chatham's cavalry engaged in was the one at Chamberlain's Run, a few days before the surrender. The following account of that fight was published by Gen. Rufus Barringer, in 1867:

"On the 27th of March, 1865, General Grant was reinforced by Sheridan with 9,000 additional troops from the Valley. Two days thereafter, the Federal commander began to move against Petersburg. On the evening of the 29th, Sheridan reached Dinwiddie Court House. The right of our army was guarded by the cavalry division of Major General W. H. F. Lee. I was ordered to Dinwiddie Court House and lay (N. C. brigade) that night and the next day at Stony Creek, 18 miles from the Court House. Both had fallen in torrents, and our column was forced to make a long detour South and West of Dinwiddie, in order to reach Stony Creek. Marching nearly all night, and leaving our trains behind, we were ordered to rest late on the morning of the 31st, and that night on the White Oak road, near the famous Five Forks. This point is some six miles North West of Dinwiddie Court House, and was then held by Major General Fitz Lee, the marching cavalry corps of Army Northern Virginia. On Thursday, March 31st, we moved out to feel the enemy. Our division marched to the right along the road leading Chamberlain Run near Mr. Crowder's. The Run is about midway between the Five Forks and the Court House. It was full, past fording deep, and overflowing its low banks nearly one hundred yards. The enemy occupied, in force, the east bank.

This was my day to move in front. I had with me, 1st North Carolina, Colonel Cheek; the 2nd North Carolina, Lieutenant Colonel Gaines, and the 5th North Carolina, Captain McNeill—about 900 men. My other regiment—the 3d North Carolina, Lieutenant Colonel Moore—was back, guarding the trains. As we neared the Run, I threw forward a squadron (Captain Erwin of the 5th) to reconnoitre. As soon as the Federals saw this, they came forward a mounted force, formed line, and advanced towards us. I was ordered by General W. H. F. Lee, to dismount my front regiment, the 5th, and hold them in check. Protected by fence and undergrowth, the enemy proved rather strong for Captain McNeill. I was then ordered to dismount my whole command and attack—Colonel McNeill held the right, Colonel Cheek the left, and Lieutenant Colonel Gaines the centre—slightly to the rear of the 1st and 5th, the whole supported by Beale's brigade mounted, and by McGregor's battery (in reserve.) After a short skirmish, my line advanced, and under the personal direction of Gen. W. H. F. Lee, rushed upon the enemy with great spirit—the 2d pressing his centre, and the 1st and 5th sweeping his flanks.—Reaching the Run, Colonel Cheek and McNeill plunged into the water above and below the ford, dashed across under a deadly fire, and carried the Federal lines on the opposite side. Numbers of the enemy perished in crossing, and their whole force fell back rapidly towards Dinwiddie Court House. To finish their rout, General Lee ordered up his other brigade to make a mounted charge. General Beale found difficulty in crossing the Run, on account of obstructions in the ford, especially the killed and wounded—men and horses—impeding the way. His squadron over, it was hurled against the fleeing foe.—Two small but gallant forces, led by Colonel Savage, of the 13th Virginia, in person, was some how repulsed, and recoiled with heavy loss,—two charges falling in the charge. Instantly the Yankees rallied, and just then, receiving re-inforcements, they suddenly wheeled about, and, in turn, repulsed my two advance regiments. General Lee, seeing the advantage of the enemy, both in numbers and position, quickly ordered his whole command to re cross the Run, and hold the west bank. This effected, each party set to work fortifying.

In the midst of these spirited movements, Colonel Waller of the 8th Virginia, made a dash at the Yankee right and captured a number of prisoners.

Our loss in these spirited operations was:

The Virginia brigade, 24 killed and wounded.

The North Carolina brigade, 110 killed, wounded and missing.

My loss in field officers was disastrous. Colonel McNeill and Lieutenant Colonel Shaw of the 5th were both killed: Capt. Harris, acting Major of same regiment, painfully wounded: Lieutenant Colonel Gaines of the 2d, lost an arm: and Major McLeod, of the 1st, had a shot, not nigh fatal, through the face.

About the time this action began, General's Pickett and Fitz Lee, with a considerable force of infantry and cavalry, moved against the Federal lines further to the left—up the Run. They were there met by the main body of the Yankee cavalry. Two weeks evening, it was resolved [illegible] 31st, 1865, all as meaningful proof of the patriotic devotion and heroic spirit that still animated the gallant sons of North Carolina. This spirit is further shown by the following [illegible] known to be strictly true.

When the brave and generous Lieutenant Hughes fell, his brother sprang, for a moment, to his side. The last words of Lieutenant Hughes to his brother were: "Leave me on my horse and charge to the front!"

Frank Brown, a courier, [illegible] message to Major Lockhart, just [illegible] the order to retire. The noble youth, evidently ambitious [illegible] to the front of the column, and led the charge. He only [illegible] lockets. For a moment between [illegible] and, retaining presence of [illegible] he pressed "Wear it, [illegible] Those were [illegible]

As the two will closed the [illegible] water over [illegible]

[illegible]

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