GREENSBORO NORTH STATE: Thursday, October 4, 1888.



One of the Bloodiest Battles of the Civil War.

SEPTEMBER 19 AND 20, 1863. The Armies of Bragg and Rosecrans Meet at Last.

The Story Told a Quarter of a Century Later-After Three Months of Retreating Bragg Makes a Stand and Fights. Re-enforced from Lee, at Richmond, and Johnston, in Mississippi, He Wins a Victory-A Fatal Gap in the Union Line-Gen. Thomas, the Rock of Chickamauga-Garfield's Ride.

The battle of Chickamauga took place Sept. 19 and 20, 1863, with a preliminary fight Sept. 13. The heaviest fighting was on the 20th, and on Sunday.

The engagement of Wilder's mounted infantry at Leet's tanyard, Sept. 13, was the premonitory signal of the battle. It occurred near Lee & Gordon's mill, while Crittenden, in obedience to Rosecrans' order, was concentrating his corps.



The center corps of the Union army changed position for the time. Gen. Thomas late in the afternoon and during the night of Sept. 18 marched his corps, except Negley's division, to the north to protect the road to Rossville. Negley's division was left behind to guard the ford of the Chickamauga, near Crawfish spring.

Gen. Thomas and his soldiers marched all night long. The road from Chickamauga creek to Rossville cut the northward road, over which Gen. Thomas marched, at Kelly's farm, hence to become historic.

At Kelly's farm Gen. Thomas' weary divisions halted. Thomas posted Baird's di-

vision at Kelly's house. On Baird's left, and north of him, Brannan's division was posted. The two divisions were placed so as to cover the roads leading from Alexander's and Reed's bridges, and Lambeth ford, across the Chickamauga. The design was

BRIG. GEN. ABSOLOM thus to intercept BAIRD. Bragg's attempt to

cross the Chickamaura and advance towards Chattanooga. The roads at which Baird and Brannan were posted both led into that Rossville road which was the key to the situation. Gen. Gordon Granger's command was posted as a reserve at Rossville. On the evening of Sept. 18 Col. Dan McCook, of Granger's command, made a reconnoissance eastward to the Chickamauga, and burned Reed's bridge across that stream. He reported to Gen. Thomas that one Confederate brigade was already across Chickamauga on the west side. As McCook had burned the bridge nearest them, it would be possible by an immediate attack to capture the whole brigade. Accordingly, with the early dawn of Sept. 19, Gen. Brannan moved forward with two brigades and attacked the Confederate force that McCook had reported.

BATTLE OF SEPT. 19.

This attack of Gen. Thomas at early morning, Sept. 19, was the opening of the battle of Chickamauga. But it was not the opening Bragg had anticipated.

Sept. 18 Bragg gave his orders to his generals for next day. His troops were to cross the Chickamauga at three different points, from Reed's bridge on the north, next by Alexander's bridge south, and third by Tedford's ford, still further south. These cross-

ings were all north of Lee & Gordon's mill, about which,

Gen. Thomas organized the three fresh di-visions at once, Reynolds on the right, Pal together. day's battle cants obeyed in the tardy manner described. The mer in the center and Johnson on the left. They attacked Cheatham's flank. Brannan's division, still in fighting trim, came against Cheatham on the front. The Confederates fell back in confusion.

But now great clouds of Confederates appeared on the west bank of the Chickamauga. There seemed no end to them. Behind Cheatham was A. P. Stewart's division from Buckner's corps. It contained 3,500 men. As Thomas pursued Cheatham's flying columns, Stewart attacked Palmer so vigorously that he was forced back.

Van Cleve's division came to the support of Palmer, who formed Thomas' center in the column organized to pursue Cheatham. Behind the Confederate division of A. P. Stewart were two more, those of Hood and Bushrod Johnson. They followed up the attack of Stewart strongly, driving back both Palmer and Van Cleve.

It was now near 3 o'clock in the afternoon, The roar of battle was growing more and more terrific. The Union troops, listening anxiously down at Crawfish Spring, knew by the veering of the sound gradually to the westward that Thomas' men were being promised to be still hotter than the one just driven. The divisions of Wood, Davis, Sheridan, and finally Negley, were sent one after another to the scene of action. Van Cleve's Union division was hurled back: next Reynolds'; next Davis' was driven. Wood came with his division in time to stay briefly the victorious Confederate tide, when he too was about to succumb.

But Gen. Phil Sheridan's division came on just in time to save Wood's division and the day. Half past 4 brought Negley's division. It went into the fight on the hard pressed center and hurled into the Confederates volleys of shot that they could not withstand. They retreated, and Negley pursued them till night.

D. H. Hill, on the extreme Confederate left, ordered an attack during the day of the 19th at Glass' mill, not far from Lee & Gordon's mill. One of Breckinridge's brigades was crossed over the Chickamauga and made an attack on Negley's division that had been left at Crawfish Spring. But Negley's division was hurrying to the Federal left to the aid of the hard pressed forces there.

D. H. Hill believes that at this moment it would have been an admirable piece of tac-

tics for the Confederates to attack the thinned Union forces left at Lee & Gordon's mill. But that was no, part of Bragg's plan. Bragg himself was at Tedford's

Heroic and thrilling incidents there were at Chickamanga in plenty. Capt. J. W. Miller, now literary editor of The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette, has recently written a "I saw Shuridan lead one of his brigades

(Laibold's) under fire across a cleared field left of Breckinridge. These belonged to D. and place it exactly where he wanted it. He came galloping back on his famous black horse (I never saw him on any other) with hat off, sword flashing, and face glowing with the magnificent passion of the battlefield. He passed me, then turned in his stirrups, and said: 'We're driving them, d-m them.'

In two or three minutes he came in view again with another brigade.

AFTER DARK.

Both sides spent the night of Sept. 19 preparing for next day's battle. Rosecrans, anxious and weary, assembled his corps commanders at his headquarters at Widow Glenn's house. All of his army except two brigades had been in action that day. Another day's fighting was before them that

passed. "The battle the next day must be for the safety of the army and the possession of Chattanooga," said Rosecrans. On the Union side Rosecrans gave his orders for Sept. 20. Thomas was to continue his line just as the falling darkness found it, forming the left of the army. Chattanooga was to the left of Thomas. Mc-Cook's command GEN. H. P. VAN CLEVE. was to be in line on

the right of Thomas, his own right covering headquarters at Widow Glenn's house. Crittenden was ordered to have two divisions in reserve just back of the junction of McCook and Thomas, so as to support either in case of need.

Immediately after dark the order was given for the Union troops to go into position. The divisions were formed in line just as they came, without reference to the corps to which they belonged.

Longstreet reached Bragg from the east at 11 p.m. Hood's division of his corps had arrived before and had taken part in the battle that day. That night Bragg, in military parlance, "changed his organization in face of the enemy," as commanders are warned not to do. Bragg divided his army into two wings, the right under Polk,

battle began at \$:30 a. m., and Negley did

not reach Thomas for an hour after that. The Confederate attack began as Rosecrans had expected, on the left. Breckinreminiscence of Sharidan in that day's fight. | ridge's division advanced on the Confederate right, with Cleburne's division to the

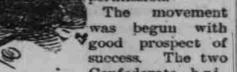
H. Hill's corps. ON THE UNION LEFT.

The heavy battle of the day began about 9:30. Breckinridge and Cleburne made a tremendous assault on the Union left. Negley had only just arrived there. Beatty's brigade of his division was struck heavily by Breckinridge and driven back. There were no breastworks in front of the Union line

With Baird's division of the Union line began the breastworks. On the right of Baird was Johnson's division of McCook's corps. To the right of Johnson was Gen. John M. Palmer's division of Crittenden's corps.

Breckinridge had suggested to his commander, D. H. Hill, the attack on the ex-

treme Federal left, in front of Beatty, where there were no breastworks. He proposed, with two brigades, to try to get in the rear of the Union breastworks. Hill gave permission.



Confederate bri-GEN. JOHN'M. PALMER. gades making the

attack were those of Adams and Stovall. Beatty was in the rear of Baird's division. It seemed possible that Adams and Stovall might succeed in flanking the Union left. But at the very moment when the Union line was thrown into confusion, order was restored through the heroic act of a Federal colonel. He snatched his regimental flag from the color bearer, waved it aloft and headed his horse directly toward the advancing Confederates. Instantly his own men rallied around him.

Thus was formed a nucleus, where a successful stand against the Confederates was made. Then came re-enforcements from Negley, and the Confederate tide was stayed. The two brigades were beaten back. Adams, the leader of one, was wounded and captured. As Adams and Stovall attacked Beatty and threw him into confusion the Confederate generals Helm and Cleburne advanced against Baird's front and attacked heavily. But in front of Baird began the log breast-

Confederates took advantage of this fatal gap in the line.

Longstreet poured the whole Confederate left wing into the space, and wheeled his force around towards his own right. The Union army was cut in two. The corps of Crittenden and McCook were struck in flank. They were driven from the field.

The Union line of battle that had stood so bravely from north to south in the morning was bent back. All south of the divisions of Baird and Johnson were rolled backward till they extended from east to west, almost at right angles to the position they held in the morning.

Through the gap swept the Confederate forces of Stewart, Hood, Renshaw, Johnson and Hindman. Preston followed as a support. They poured through the breach like waters over a broken levee.

South of the break McCook was left with only a portion of Sheridan's and Davis' divi-

sions. He ordered. these to quickly change front and attack the Confedcrates. They obeyed. Among them was the brigade of the gallant and lamented Gen. William H. Lytle, of Cincinnati. The soldier-poet obeyed his commander's order, and rode to his death on the GEN. W. H. LYTLE. field of Chickm-

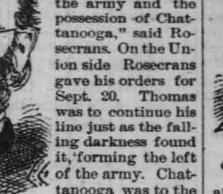
mauga. . A beautiful monument marks his grave in Spring Grove cemetery, Cincinnati

It was impossible for the few brigades with McCook to stay the tide of battle. They were overpowered and captured.

At the moment when the gap was made several of Rosecrans' divisions were changing position and were in transit to Thomas on the left. They were taken at a disadvantage and utterly routed. Davis' division was thus beaten.

Sheridan's division was the last on the Union right. When the Confederates struck their blow two of Sheridan's brigades were in the act of marching to the left to aid Thomas. They encountered the advancing enemy and endeavored to check them, but in vain. They were repulsed, and fell back on the Dry Valley road. There they reformed. and had a second unsuccessful fight. Then they retreated westward, and by a circuitous route reached Rossville. Thence they advanced to the aid of Thomas.

To sum up: Davis' and Sheridan's whole divisions had been driven from the flekk Part of the divisions of Wood; Van Cleve and Brannan had been defeated and thrown into confusion. The brigades from these divisions that escaped were those that had gone to join Thomas. The Confederates captured over 2,000 prisoners, 40 guns and vast quantities of army supplies. There was now left of the Union army Thomas, the Rock of Chickamauga. With him were the divisions of Baird, Johnson, Palmer and Reynolds. Wood and Braunara had formed anew in a line from east to west. Two brigades of Negley's and one of Vars Cleve's were with them. The corps of Mc-Cook and Crittenden had been beaten:



MAP OF CHICKAMAUGA.

The famous battle takes its name from a creek or small river that flows north through the valiey between Mission Ridge and Pigeon mountains, and empties into the Tennessee four miles above Chattanooga.

With Bragg, Sept. 13, were four corps: Those of Buckner, Polk, Walker and D. H. Hill, D. H. Hill had been sent from Richmond to take command of Hardee's corps. By the arrival of Longstreet from Lee's army Bragg had five corps.

In the fight of Sept. 20, Confederate authorities put the Union force at nearly 46,000, and the Confederate at 49,000. Federal figures, say Bragg had 70,000, Rosecrans 55,000 effectives. With Bragg were many Confederate soldiers who had been captured at Vicksburg and Port Hudson and been paroled. but who had not yet been exchanged.

Sept. 13 McCook's corps was still at Alpine, in the western edge of Georgia. At midnight of that day he received an order to hurry with all speed and support Thomas at Stevens Gap, on the east side of Mission Ridge, When McCook first reached Alpine, finding himself isolated from the rest of the Unice army, he had sent his wagon train back to the top of Lookout range.

McCook made all haste to obey. The order he received came directly from Thomas. Its instructions were to move two divisions of his corps to Stevens Gap, and leave the third to guard the wagon train. McCook took the wrong road, crossed Lookout range, was obliged to recross it, and after a march of great hardship and fatigue reached McLemore's Cove on the night of Sept. 17. With him were Stanley and the cavalry.

Crittenden had been ordered also to move forward his corps and connect with Thomas on Chickamauga creek. Sept. 14 he moved his corps, except Wood's division, to Mission

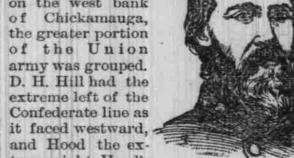
Thomas' extreme left, under Reynolds, was on the west fork of Chickamauga creek. Wood's division of

Crittenden's corps was left alone at Lee & Gordon's mills on the west bank of Chickamauga. Sept. 18 the three corps of Rosecrans' army were once more in supporting distance of one another. Bragg was receiving heavy reenforcements from

Lee's army at Rich-GEN. T. J. WOOD. mond. This Rosecrans became aware of Sept. 16, and his anxiety was greatly increased.

Once more Bragg prepared to attack the Union army. His preparations occupied from Sept. 13 to 17. He ordered his generals o concentrate along the east banks of the Chickamauga. The Union army was by Sept. 18 concentrated on the west side.

The vital point to both armies was now the road from Lafayette to Chattanooga. This road passes through a gap in Mission Ridge at Rossville. Whichever, therefore, could



treme right. Hood's GEN. J. B. HOOD. division was the

only part of Longstreet's corps present at the fight of Sept. 19. The rest had not yet arrived. The Federal line extended from Crawfish Spring on the south to Kelly's farm on the north, a distance of five miles. Bragg's order contemplated first the crossing to the west bank of the Chickamauga in the order named, then a general movement from the Confederate right toward Lee & Gordon's mill, on the left, and a vigorous attack on the Federal line as the move was executed from right to left.

It will be seen that the attack of Gen. Thomas on the Confederate right before Bragg's army was ready, on the morning of Sept. 19, changed this plan of battle.

It was Forrest's cavalry that Gen. Thomas' troops met and attacked on the road to Reed's bridge early Sept. 19. The attacking Union force was Brig. Gen. John T. Croxton's brigade.

Behind Forrest's cavalry were two brigades of Confederate infantry. Croxton drove the cavalry back upon the infantry. These brigades, Ector's and Wilson's, in turn advanced and drove Croxton back upon Baird and Brannan. Then the Confederates were beaten back like a receding wave again by Baird and Brannan.

There were, however, many more Confederates than one brigade across on the west bank of the Chickamauga in the vicinity of the Reed's bridge road. Gen. Baird, after driving back Ector and Wilson, paused briefly to rearrange his line. At this moment Liddell's whole Confederate division. 2,000 strong, struck him.

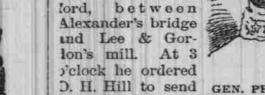
The Union troops receded again, "as a wave beaten back from the shore." When the Union wave receded, it left stranded on the place where it had been Loomis' battery and Bush's Indiana battery. These were quickly taken possession of by the victorious columns of Liddell.

Baird's broken lines were melting away in confusion. Liddell's Confederates hastened jubilantly after them, when suddenly the pursuers found themselves confronted by a long, grim wall of blue and steel.

Baird had managed to reform his division on the right. In addition, one of McCook's divisions from Crawfish Spring had arrived in the nick of time.

Only for this arrival it would have been hard for Thomas to save his left on the forenoon of Sept. 19, Gen. Rosecrans himself. apprehensive for Thomas, had ordered Mc-Cook to send Johnson to his assistance. The distance was five miles, and Johnson arrived only just in time.





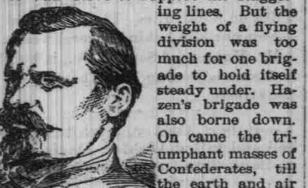
GEN. PRESTON SMITH. Cleburne's division to the extreme Confederate right to oppose

Thomas. Cleburne had six miles to traverse. over a road choked with army baggage. It was sunset when he gained the place to which he had been assigned. Here he atacked Brannan's division so vigorously that ie captured 3 guns, 2 flags and 300 prisoners. At the time of Cleburne's attack with the fresh division from Hill's corps Gen. Thomas was in the act of reforming his divisions to give them a better position for the battle of the morrow, which he saw to be inevitable. Baird's division was placed on the extreme left, Johnson next to Baird and Palmer next to Johnson on the right. To the right of Palmer was the division of Gen. Joseph J. Reynolds. (There were two Gen. Reynolds in the army of the north during the war. Brig. Gen. John F. was killed at Gettysburg July 1, 1863. Brig. Gen. Joseph J., of the Army of the Cumberland, was a division commander at the battle of Chickamauga.) In Gen. Thomas' new arrangement of his division Brannan was assigned as a reserve to the rear and right of Reynolds' division. Gen. Cheatham was on the Confederate Cle-

burne's left in the fresh attack on Thomas late in the afternoon. The fighting on the left of the attacking column, Cheatham's division, was desperate for a time during this attack. A brave and popular Confederate officer, Brig. Gen. Preston Smith, was killed.

At one time during the afternoon a portion of Bragg's army actually crossed the Rossville road and obtained possession of it. This is denied by Polk's son. Gen. Van Cleve held the center of the Union force engaged in the fight of the morning after. At 5 o'clock Van Cleve's ranks were broken by the terrible Confederate fire, and fell back pell mell. Gen. W. B. Hazen's brigade lay along the Rossville road.

"Now Van Cleve is in for it," exclaimed Hazen. He sprang upon his horse and quickly formed his regiments in the rear of Van Cleve to support his stagger-



the earth and air seemed dusky with them. One regiment alone of Hazen's brigade stood GEN. HAZEN. its ground. That

was the Forty-first Ohio., Col. Aquila Wiley. | close of the gap left by Negley. As he saw the flying men from Van Cleve's the gap and Wiley quickly closed up his line been obeyed.

the left under Longstreet. To Polk were assigned the forces of Hill, Walker and continued along the Cheatham, with Forrest's cavalry. With Longstreet were to be the commands of the right, in front Buckner, Hood and Hindman, and Wheeler's cavalry.

Longstreet and Polk were with Bragg on Union troops bethe night of the 19th. He gave to them his wing commander's orders to attack the Union lines at daylight. But D. H. Hill says that no proper preparation was made for such an attack. The troops were not

aligned, and he himself did not hear that he had be assigned to Polk till after midnight. Gen. Polk sent him the word, and told him to come to Alexan-Hill moved his troops forward. At 7:25 a. m. they were eating their

breakfast. At this time an order came BISHOP POLK. from Gen. Polk di-

der's bridge.

recting Hill to begin the attack. A messenger had been sent to Hill in the night with an order to attack at daylight, but it failed to reach him.

Hill was forming his line when, at 8 o'clock, Gen. Bragg rode up to him and demanded why he had not made the attack at dawn as commanded. Hill replied that he had not heard anything about it. Bragg said angrily: "I found Polk after sunrise sitting down reading a newspaper at Alexander's bridge, two miles from the line of battle, when he ought to have been fighting."

BATTLE OF SEPT. 20.

As the light dawned Sept. 20, the atmosphere was murky and full of vapor, like London in a fog. At daybreak Gen. Rosecrans in person rode all along his line with his chief of staff, Gen. James A. Garfield, and other aides

Gen. Rosecrans made some changes in his line, bidding McCook make the right shorter and more compact. He found the same fault with McCook's alignment of the right wing that he had done at Stone river: the line was too long and thin. The commander-in-chief directed Crittenden, on the contrary, to spread his divisions out more and farther to the left.

The Union troops were very carefully posted, so as to cover both the approaches to Chattanooga, over the Rossville and the Dry Valley roads. The two roads came together at Rossville.

The commander felt sure that the attack would be made on the Union left. He therefore sent orders to Negley to move up to Gen. Thomas. At the same time McCook was to

Then Rosecrans moved off to the left, where broken ranks pouring in a wave upon him, he believed the battle would begin. Re-Col. Wiley quickly parted his regiment by turning once more to the right, he found that companies. The fugitives passed through his orders to McCook and Negley had not crans sent answer back to Thomas that he

works. They were Union line towards of Johnson, Palmer and Reynolds. The

hind their defenses calmly watched the oncoming Confederates. When the southern soldiers were within range

a terrific fire from Palmer's division was suddenly GEN. B. H. HELM. poured into their faces. Gen. Helm's brigade was aumost cut

to pieces. Gen. Helm himself was shot and fell dead among his men. The officer next in command withdrew the brigade.

On the left of Palmer's division Johnson's men continued the fire. Palmer had begun. On the right Gen. Reynolds took it up. "Load and fire at will" was the order passed right and left along the Union line.

Under this withering fire the Confederates wavered, then stopped. Then they fell slowly back into the shelter of the woods whence they came.

The men who fought in the Union army

the 20th of September suffered torturing thirst. Bragg's army had crossed to the west bank of the Chickamauga. They had got possession of the springs which supplied the Union troops the day before. They lay in

wait for the squads of Union men who BUSHBOD JOHNSON. were sent for water

and captured them. A writer says: "Details of men were sent for water and never returned. There was not a drop of water on the whole field, and men and officers resigned themselves to the torments of thirst."

The diagram below shows the relative positions of the Union and Confederate armies on the morning of Sept. 20:

POLK.

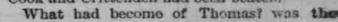
THOMAS. CRITTENDEN.

M'COOK. LONGSTEET. Thus arranged, the Union army faced eastward, the Confederates westward. Off to the east of both armies Chickamauga creek flowed on its way northward.

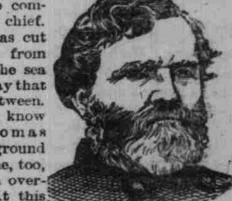
The Union divisions stretched in a long, irregular line between Thomas and McCook. Up to 11 o'clock all went well for the Fedtheir ground. They had borne the brunt of the chief. battle und sustained themselves.

THE UNION RIGHT.

Seeing in the beginning that he would be hard pressed, Thomas had sent to Rosecrans asking urgently for re-enforcements. Roseshould be supported if it took away the whole corps of McCook and Crittenden. Negley's ily to Negley. Crit- division was already on the way to Thomas, tenden's corps be- and Van Cleve's was started at once. Rosecrans ordered Gen. Wood to "close up ordered that to fill on Reynolds and support him," meaning that



question now in the mind of the commander in chief. Rosecrans was cut off entirely from his left by the sea of men in gray that surged between. He did not know whether Thomas still held his ground or whether he, too, had not been overwhelmed. At this



time Gen. James A. Garfield, Rose- "THE ROCK OF CHICKAcrans' chief of staff. MAUGA.' made the journey on horseback that has be come historic.

GARFIELD'S FAMOUS RIDE.

The brave chief of staff left the commander in chief at Rossville, and rode around a distance of many miles, threading his way through bullets and gathering form till he reached the Union left, and found it stood firm.

Gen. Thomas, the hero of Chickamauga,

on learning of the disaster to the right, hastily placed the troops with him in a position of his own selection. It was upon a curving range of bills called Horseshoe ridge He "placed himself with his back against a rock,

GEN. STEEDMAN. and stood his ground for six hours against the repeated

assaults of the whole Confederate army. Garfield reached Thomas, and was greeted warmly. The glorious soldier told him he had seven divisions and a number of detachments intact, and was confident he could still hold his ground against any number of assaults. There were with him 25,000 troops. eral cause. Thomas' divisions had stood | Garfield hastily dispatched the good news to

> At Rossville Rosecrans had parted from Garfield. The aide went to find Thomas, the commander rode hastily to Chattanooga, toprepare a refuge for the remnants of his broken army, if the defeat was total, or teforward ammunition and supplies if Thomas was still intact.

McCook and Crittenden, escaping from the wreck, soon after joined him. While they tediy together, a di handed to Rosecrans. It was the one Garfield sent from the Union left. Rosecrans read it hastily. "Thank God!" he exclaimed, "the day isn't lost yet." "Gentlemen," he said to McCook and Crittenden, "this is noplate for you. Go at once to your commanda at the front."



again.

cure this gap at Rossville was sure of Chattanooga. At this time there was at Chattanooga only one brigade of Union troops, Wagner's, and at Lee & Gordon's mills, where the road to Chattanooga touches Chickamauga creek, there was for several days only, one division of Union troops, Wood's. An attack from Bragg any time from Sept. 13 to 18, on the Lafayette and Chattanooga road, would have secured it to the Confederates. But Bragg was waiting or re-enforcements. When, at length, he was ready to attack, Rosecrans had his three corps within supporting distance.

As the Union army lay, Sept. 18, it faced Chickamauga creek to the eastward. A tream called Crawfish spring flows into the west side of the Chickamauga, a short disance southwest of Lee & Gordon's mill. Around and north of Crawfish spring the nion army was grouped in regular order, Sept. 18, McCook on the right, Thomas in the enter, and Crittenden on the left. This poition on the 18th must be remembered in orler to get the situation of the 19th, the first attle day, clearly in the mind. Wilder's nounted infantry and Minty's cavalry were uarding the Union left to the northward. All day at intervals, during the 18th, word ame to Rosecrans that the Confederates ere massing more and more strongly upon is left.

He must save Chattanooga at all risk. art of the Union army must speed northard with all haste to guard the road leadng from Chickamauga creek to Rossville.

LEE & GORDON'S MILL

Yet again in this day of varying fortunes the tables were turned and pursuer became the pursued. Gen. Liddell's Confederates turned and retreated before the attack of Johnson's freshly arrived division. The retreating columns lost heavily in killed, wounded and captured, and were forced to leave behind all the Union guns they had captured.

Just after Liddell was driven from the field about 11 o'clock a. m. Gen. Bragg ordered Cheatham's division, 7,000 strong, to go to his relief. But Cheatham was too late. As Liddell fled Gen. Thomas quickly organized a pursuing column. Two more fresh divisions had just arrived to assist Thomas. Crittenden, at Crawfish Spring, had taken the responsibility of sending Palmer's divi sion to Thomas. Reynolds' division of Thomas' own corps reached the ground about the same time with Palmer.

As the Confederates advanced on the run in pursuit, they were met by a volley from the Forty-first Ohio that staggered them and stopped them for a brief space. Hastily reloading. Wiley was able to deal them another blow. He did this by quickly changing front and firing after the Confederates as they passed his right. Then loading once more as quickly, the skillful commander turned his men again to the front at a double quick, and dealt a volley anew to the fresh masses of Confederates. By this means he checked the Confederates till he could move to the rear and form a new line. At this time the Confederates were actually

in possession of the road to Chattanooga, They were the forces of Hood and Bushrod Johnson. But while they were hastening on victorious across the road to Chattanooga, Hazen dashed down the road and brought

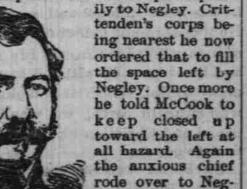
erates as they bore onward over the ground which Van Cleve's division had yielded.

this moment, the close of Sept. 19: "Bragg They were Baird's, Johnson's, Palmer's and had actually crossed the Rossville road and cut the Army of the Cumberland in two, with nothing in the gap but one regiment of 800 men." works the attack on the right of Thomas' divisions was unsuccessful. But to his left, where Baird was, his line did not extend to

But Hazen's batteries and that one regi-ment kept the Confederates back until Neg-on the night of the 19th, and Thomas at This left a gap. Bushrod Johnson, of Longley's division came to the rescue, when the once asked that Negley be sent to him to street's command, saw the vacant space, and at Chickamauga is classed in war histor. Confederates were in turn driven. Then secure his left flank from assault. The order pointed it out to his general. Instantly the a "barren victory."

Rosecrans repeated the orders peremptor-

GEN. NEGLEY.

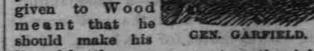


rode over to Neghad still not moved. He was waiting for

the relief to come to take his place in the line. The commander-in-chief himself dispatched Negley then at once. But long ere this the battle had begun.

During the night of Sept. 19 Gen. Thomas, into position some unoccupied batteries always mindful of the safety of his troops, there. With these he enfiladed the Confed- had ordered rude breastworks thrown up in front of his line. Some were breast high, and behind them lay the four divisions who Capt. Kimberley writes of the situation at were to bear the brunt of that day's battle. Reynolds'. Because of these very breast-

the space left by he should take po-Negley. Once more sition on the right he told McCook to of that officer's keep closed up division. A misunderstanding of all hazard. Again this order caused the anxious chief the mistake which was the undoing of ley's corps, only to find that Negley the right. The first the right. The first part of the order



line of battle more compact on the right of Reynolds. The second part meant that he should move to the rear of Reynolds. The order was written by one of Rosecrans' aides who was not a military man.

Gen. Wood interpreted the second part of Rosecrans' order technically and obeyed it. He moved towards the rear of Brannan's division, who was next on the right of Reynolds.

THE FATAL GAP.

Wood had dropped out of the Union line.

The dispatch infused new life into him He ordered Wagner to take his brigade, stops the flying stragglers from the front and reorganize them. He at once sent supplies to meet the army at Rossville.

Thomas fought till night, then withdrew his army to Rossville. At the most criticali period of the afternoon Gen. Gordon Granger brought his reserve force on the field from Rossville to the aid of Thomas and saved the day. His advance brigade was led by Gen. J. B. Steedman. Gen. Steedman took a regimental color in his own hands and led a victorious charge against Longstreet and took possession of a perilous. gap in the Union line. At dark the Confederates gave up the fight and left the field. Their last attack was repulsed with the naked bayonet.

In his report Rosecrans makes especial mention of the gallantry of the cavalry under Minty, Mitchell and Wilder. In the two days' battle of Chickamaugas Rosecrans lost over 16,000 men, Bragg 18,000 .The Union army was all gathered in Chattanooga by Sept. 23. The success of Bragar