

trying weather. A little later the brigade went to Richmond and was ever after attached to the Army of Northern Virginia. It had very full ranks when it marched from Fredericksburg on its way by Harper's Ferry to Gettysburg, Colonel Burgwyn having been one of the cadets of the Virginia Military Institute who had in 1860 guarded John Brown of Harper's Ferry while the latter was awaiting execution.

It was at Gettysburg that the Twenty-Sixth made the record which gave it a name, and there the brigade faced the famous "Iron Brigade," which lost at Gettysburg sixty-one per cent of its strength, the Second Wisconsin losing the greatest percentage of all the two thousand regiments in the Federal army, its loss being seventy-seven per cent of all those engaged. In a desperate charge the colors of the Twenty-Sixth were cut down ten times and all the color guard killed, when Colonel Burgwyn seizing the flag cried out, "Dress on the colors!" and in a moment was struck by a bullet which passed through both lungs, and in falling he was caught in the folds of the flag and turned around so that he was wrapped in it. In a moment two other men who had taken the flag were shot down, and for the thirteenth time the flag was on the ground.

Lieut. Col. John R. Lane when told, "No man can take these colors and live," replied, "It is my time to take them now. Twenty-Sixth, follow me!" and in a few moments the Federals gave way before the fierce charge, and just as Lane reached the crest of the coveted eminence a member of the Twenty-Fourth Michigan, the last man to retire, turned and shot him, and down went the colors for the fourteenth time. Lane was carried to the field hospital, and there a very singular thing happened. Lane, dreadfully wounded in the head, was delirious, but became quiet and found that lying next to him was a wounded Georgia officer. Lane heard this officer say, in a composed voice, "There, now, Vicksburg has fallen, General Lee is retreating, and the South is whipped." He ceased speaking and in a few moments an attendant said he was dead. General Lee did not retreat from Gettysburg until the evening of July 4th and Vicksburg did not surrender till that day. Lane, now become by Burgwyn's death colonel of the regiment, was removed from the battlefield in a wagon and the wagon train was attacked by Federal troops. He, though unable to speak on account of his wound, got out of the wagon, mounted his horse and escaped.

The Twenty-Sixth lost more heavily at Gettysburg than any regiment on either the Federal or Confederate side during the entire war, as is shown in that admirable official publication, "Regimental Losses in the Civil War," by Col. William F. Fox of Albany, N. Y., who declares, "The Twenty-Sixth North Carolina heads the list. I have taken great pains to verify its loss at Gettysburg, for I am inclined to believe that in time this regiment will become as well known in history as the Light Brigade at Balaklava." As a matter of fact the Twenty-Sixth had there driven three regiments. The regimental loss at Gettysburg, out of a strength of 800, was no less than 584 on the first day, and this was brought up on

the third day to 588 killed and wounded and 126 missing, practically all of whom were killed, as Colonel Fox states, they having been lost in Pickett's charge. Burgwyn, a member of an historic family, was the youngest colonel in the Confederate service. One of the companies of the Twenty-Sixth, commanded by Captain Tuttle, went into action on the first day with 3 officers and 72 men and came out with 1 officer and 2 men.

Lane, the regiment being recruited, was its commander until the end of the war, the men enduring every privation, being engaged in no end of battles and ending their career in this famous organization at Appomattox, sticking to their bloody work until the very last, for it was at Appomattox that a North Carolina brigade fired the last volley and made the last charge, with the familiar and dreaded "rebel yell."

There was to be a strange linking of the Twenty-Sixth with not only the Burgwyn family but the United States, for as soon as Colonel Burgwyn fell, his death very quickly following, his negro body-servant took his horse, sword and gloves and carried them to Capt. William H. S. Burgwyn, his brother, who used them until he surrendered at Appomattox, and then they were put away as treasured relics, but when the war with Spain broke out Burgwyn, who for a time after the war lived in Baltimore and who was colonel of the noted Fifth Maryland Regiment, but who was then living in North Carolina, was tendered the command of a regiment of North Carolina Volunteers by Governor Russell, and came to Raleigh, organized and drilled his regiment and left with it for the far South, wearing the same gauntlets which his gallant and remarkably handsome young brother Harry had worn at Gettysburg and in many other battles.

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