

Record of  
John Hall Hamilton  
As a soldier of the Confederate Army  
1861-1865

Enlisted as a private of Company H, Seventh Tennessee Volunteer Infantry in May 1861. The regiment was composed of men principally from Wilson and Sumner Counties, was trained for about two months at Camp Trousdale near Gallatin. A brigade composed of the First, Seventh and Fourteenth Tennessee regiments was formed, commanded by General Robert Hatton of Lebanon. The regiments were sent to Virginia about the last week in July 1861. The brigade was placed under command of General Loring and did a great deal of marching in northeastern Virginia during the latter part of that year, was attached to the command of Stonewall Jackson during what is known as the Romney or winter campaign of January 1862 which was very hard on the men as they marched day after day and at times at night sleeping wherever night found them, without tents and often times without rations. The brigade seems to have been detached from Jackson and placed under General Edward Johnson until May 1862. It was attached to the Corps of General A. P. Hill and under the command of Stonewall Jackson and served under these generals until their deaths, Jackson in 1863 and Hill in 1865.

Battles

Seven Pines and Fair Oaks

May 31 and June 1st June 26th to July 1st 1862

Brigadier General Hatton killed, the brigade lost 44 killed, 187 wounded and 13 missing during the seven days fighting around Richmond, Beaver Dam Creek, Mechanicsville, Ellersons Mill, Gains Mill, Malvern Hill and Fraysers Farm. All of these were hard fought and after these fights, the men were considered veterans. Uncle Dick Hamilton was almost killed by a bullet which plowed through the top of his head. Uncle Joe and J.H.H. came through without being struck.

Cedar Mountain  
August 9th 1862

After these battles, Stonewall Jackson separated his command from General Lee and went back toward central Virginia and fought a hard fight on August 9th at Cedar Mountain, the brigade losing 19 killed and 116 wounded. The 5th Ala. Battalion and the 19th Ga. Regiment were now serving with the three Tennessee regiments.

Second Battle of Manassas or Bull Run  
August 28, 29, 30th 1862

On August 25th Jackson set out on his march around the Federal Army from Jeffersonton to Salem, 26 miles; August 26, Salem to Brístoe Station, 30 miles; August 27 to Manassas Junction; August 27, night march to Centerville; August 28th back to Manassas battlefield where the fighting began on the afternoon of the 28th. Almost the entire Federal Army attacked Jackson and he held them off until the arrival of Longstreet under the command of General Lee on the afternoon of the 29th. The fighting was almost continuous for three days when the Federals retreated from the battlefield on the night of the

31st. Brigade loss- 21 killed and 213 wounded.

Harper's Ferry  
Sept. 15th

Antietam, Md.  
Sept. 17th

Shepherdstown  
Sept. 19th, 1862

Hard long marches and fighting every day. Brigade loss, 22 killed and 171 wounded. The arrival of A. P. Hill on the field after a long march from Harper's Ferry during the height of the battle is said to have saved the day.

The army did no more hard fighting until Dec. 13th, 1862. After the death of General Hatton, the brigade was placed under the command of General Archer, a Virginian and of the regular army before the war.

Fredericksburg  
Dec. 13th, 1862

At the Battle of Fredericksburg, the brigade was placed upon the extreme right of the line of battle and at one time was almost surrounded when the Federals broke through between Archer and General Gregg, but the Federals were driven back. Brigade loss, 40 killed, 211 wounded, 166 missing.

Chancellorsville  
May 1st, 1863

General Stonewall Jackson received his death wounds in this battle. The brigade as usual saw very hard fighting and lost 44 killed, 305 wounded and 16 missing.

Gettysburg, Pa.  
July 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 1863

The brigade saw hard fighting on the first day, was advancing through a woods and suddenly found itself surrounded by two Federal brigades. General Archer and seventy-five of the Seventh Regiment were captured. The regiment rested on July 2nd. On July the 3rd the brigade formed the right of the assaulting column of Pickett in his celebrated charge against the Federal center on Cemetery Ridge which has been called the "High Tide of the Confederacy." Twenty of the men of the Seventh went over the stone wall which was the first Federal line where, as Lieut. Col. Shepherd of the Seventh says in his official report, the regiments melted away. The Color Bearers of the Seventh were shot down for the third time, the last man tearing the flag from its staff and bringing it out under his coat. The other regiments also had their flags shot down three and four times. There were not enough men left to be considered a brigade. Uncle Joe Hamilton, who was not in the charge, says that there were only three of the Company left at roll call next morning. John H. Hamilton was struck first by a spent ball upon the thigh and later beyond the two fences that they had to cross in the charge. Was shot through the left leg near the knee and lay upon the field for ten days after the battle. He said the Federals treated him well. He was exchanged about three months later and rejoined his regiment. For further details, see the official report by Lieut. Col. S. G. Shepherd attached. Brigade loss in killed, wounded and captured were 677 out of 1048. Nearly 63%.

Mine Run            The Wilderness            Spotsylvania            Cold Harbor  
Nov. 26, 1863    May 4th to 7th, 1864    May 8th, 1864    June 1st to 3rd, 1864

Petersburg Seige  
During Fall and Winter 1864-1865

Wellen R. R.  
The Crater

The official records give no detailed losses of the Confederate Army during the last year of the war but the brigade saw hard fighting in every battle fought by the Army of Northern Virginia. These battles were fiercely fought and losses terrible, especially on the Federal side as General Grant was willing to sacrifice his own men to wear out his opponents by offensive tactics. General Lee and his army were on the defensive. A battle would be fought. The Federals outnumbered the Confederates. Grant would try to push Lee out of his way, always failing, would start to march around his opponent. Lee would again throw his little army in front of him. Another battle, the same result and they would start all over again, the Confederates constantly falling back on Richmond. General Grant finally decided that he would make his final drive against Richmond from the Southern side. Lee took position at Petersburg about 20 miles from Richmond. There they fought all fall and winter, the lines being extended until Lee had less than a thousand men to defend a mile of line. Grant gradually cut all railroads entering the Confederate Capitol and Lee's lines, cutting off all sources of supply to the Southern army.

In April 1865, General Lee decided to evacuate Petersburg and Richmond and try to cut his way out and unite with General J. E. Johnson in Ala., but was finally surrounded and forced to surrender his army of less than 20 thousand.

The writer has heard his Father (J.H.H.) state that for three days before the surrender that they had nothing to eat but a handful of shelled corn around and that the men were so hungry that they chewed leather straps and the buds of the trees. After the surrender, the soldiers of both armies mingled together and the Yanks divided their rations with the men that had been fighting each other a few hours before.

My Father and uncles, Joe and Dick, all reached home during the month of May after an absence of four years.

J. Pearre Hamilton  
April 2nd, 1925

On back of envelope:

Mr. PostMaster. I don't know of any better  
address for this man than Mt. Juliet. A long  
time ago his F.O. was  
Green Hill  
Tenn.

On front of envelope:

J.P. Hamilton  
1210 Poplar Blvd  
Jackson Miss.

Wm. Anderson Smith  
Mt. Juliet  
Tenn.

inside:

1210 Poplar Blvd.  
Jackson, Miss.

Mr. Wm. Anderson Smith

Dear Anderson, Ida wrote me about the death of your good wife. I am very sorry to hear of it. It is a great loss when two people have lived together for about 50 years, as I imagine you have. Margie my first wife and had lived together for nearly 47 years., when she died going on 7 years ago--

I was alone, my only son Jack lived in N. C. and has five children. they were very anxious to have me come and live with them, but I hesitated about that.

In my young days before I married Margie I used to go with one of her best girl friends in Nashville. She was in our wedding and Margie was in hers- about a year apart. She married a young Miss. man, he died in 1952. So this lady had been a widow all these years, and lived alone., although she has four fine daughters all living here in Jackson. So I began to fly down there for a visit occasionally. I could save so much time by flying. That kept up for about 3½ years. We married and here I am. I quit my job in Nashville 2½ weeks before I came. We are enjoying life even if we have passed the three score and ten .

I often let my thoughts go back to our boy hood days, many of them we spent together hunting- indians at first, then later- rabbits, squirrels and birds. We knew about where every fishing and swimming hole was in cedar creek and Cumberland river. I made many trips down there. The Williamson farm( now Noel Nokes) I felt belonged to me- I knew where every varmint had his den- back in our ash woods as we called. Cedar grove and all the negro familys that lived over there. Jim Taylor was fat, Ben Iage was lean, Jim Norris repaired shoes, Henry Clark and many more., that I have forgotten. We never thought about smart alex negroes then. They knew their place and we respected them and did not mistreat them. They were happy.

I remember the school days at Green Hill and some of our teachers, Miss Maud Viverett, Mrs(S ?) Cloyd, and one man Oren Bass, there was more that I've forgotten. Some of the boys and girls I remember, the Carter girls and boys, Maggie Glasgow, Haud Mann, Athe Everette(my girl) Mamie Adams(another of mine) old Shack Lowe, Harvey and Mrs. skine Adams, Joe Payne Sharp, Richard Bullington, the Winter boys(always looking for a fight) I remember the excitement when Will and Joe Winters waylaid and

killed old man Jones the toll gate keeper. There were many others that I have forgotten. Mary and Chas. Burton come to mind, the ligons too were there. After that I rode to Mt. Juliet for 2 or three years or parts of years, Ah- those were great days, littledid we think of the changes that would occur during our lives. Just let your mind go back and think of some of the things we have seen come about that have changed our entire method of living. The Telephone, the Electric light, the Street Car (A story about a Chinaman seeing a street car for the first time, remarked, No pulley, no pushie- but go like hellie all samie. That Chinaman knew how to express himself) Then the wireless, the radio, the automobile. The airplane, I never thought that I would ever put my big foot in one. T. V. and hundreds of others too technical for me to mention.

Are you still a member of old Cedar Lick Church? Many dear memories go back there, I can see some of the old members sitting in the amen corner, Mr. (Betty?), Enos Jennings, Uriah Peak your father and mine and others. The preachers that we had I can remember only two- Col. J.G. Shepherd and Bro. Gilliam. I joined the church while he was preaching. We went to S.S. there and out to Green Hill. There was a cotton gin right on the corner across the road from where the woman's club is now. I noticed two people were killed there a short time ago.

Do you remember old man Stroud with the red whiskers. I never forgave him for cutting a watermelon one day and giving every one <sup>one</sup> <sup>piece</sup> but me. He kept the store part of the time. I could go on and on about those good old days and the many scrapes I got into. There is one I must tell. You will remember old Jess Everett. He lived by his wits, don't think he ever did a days work.

Just a year or two before I came to Washville John and I rented his place to pay him money rent. We had a fine corn crop in those bottom fields also 4 or 500 bu. of wheat, lots of clover hay, the barn was full and some in shocks. About the time John began to haul the wheat to mkt he, Jess, levied on everything we had. So we lost all our years work. Esquire Jim Adams granted the attachment, I knew nothing of law, neither did John I suppose, All he did was to give old Jess a good beating.

That summer we had that little field down on the creek just above an old (?) there was a long fishing hole on the east side, the creek was on two sides of this field. One day I was scouting around over there and found several cattle just playing the devil with our corn. We would drive them out, thenext day they were back, wasn't much fence around the field. There was a big red bull in command of the gang. We did not know who owned them. They just belonged across the creek. So one day I carried my shot gun along. There was Mister Bull all by himself having the time of his life. The corn was as high as I was. So I turned him around so he was headed away from me, I knelt down and let him have both barrels along about where he would sit if he sat down. The effect was electrical, and instantaneous and far beyond my expectations, he raised his tail until it stood out in a straight line, he headed for the creek, not particular where, except to get out of that corn field. As it happed unbeknownst to me there were a gang of negro women and children fishing along under those sycamores. They set up an awful howl and squalls, you couldn't blame them for they were quietly fishing and all at once two loud shot gun reports,

and here comes a bull like a hurricane. Just missed them by a few yards. It wasn't any trouble to trace Mr. Bull from where he was standing to where he went through the fence, he did not tarry to find where he came in. Our corn was not bothered, and about a month later I was out on the pike and saw a man and a boy driving a red bull toward Nashvilld. I barely glanced at his sitting place- as I passed by. It was my old friend Mr. Bull.

I started out to write you a nice polite letter, had no idea of writing a book. If we ever see each other again we have lots more to talk about. Another thing I will mention, Bud Glasgow, Dan's father, used to keep his left eye closed all the time. One summer he was having his wheat thrashed, you will remember how all the neighbors joined in and helped each other so there were about 20 or 25 men and boys to be fed. The thresher broke down and there sat all those people waiting for dinner time, and maybe supper too, Bud Glasgow's closed eye was wide open.

Now, have a large family get several of them to take turns about and wade through this terribly long letter. I like Miss. very much, spent last week-end down on the gulf coast at Biloxie. Just before that a brief trip to Jack's in N.C. and a few weeks before away out in Texas.

Would love to hear from you

Pearre Hamilton

Commentary  
and  
a bit of family  
history

In reading Mother's diary, one cannot help but come to the conclusion that she was intensely Southern in her feelings at the time she wrote and she had not surrendered at the time of her death. She was fairly well educated and well posted upon public questions of the times in which she wrote and lived.

Her family (The Pearre's) were descended from the French Huguenots and came to Tennessee from Charleston, S. C. as evidenced by an inscription upon the fly leaf of an old Bible in the possession of a son of Mother's sister. The name of Joshua Pearre and date of 1803 were written giving the price in pounds and shillings that he paid for it. I do not recall the place, if given.

My Father's family evidently came to Tennessee between 1785 and 1800, as I have seen a copy of an old will executed by William Hamilton dated at Charleston, S. C. in 1785, in which he mentions his lands in the Watauga settlements upon the Cumberland. They first lived out from Nashville upon the White's Creek Road and then moved or rather built the old home place on the Stewart's Ferry Road in 1824 as evidenced by the date cut upon a stone in one of the chimneys. My Grandfather and Grandmother are buried there. The place was sold for division after Grandmother's death in 1905. Grandfather's name was Eleazar and Grandmother was a Miss Emily Perry. The Perrys lived at the end of the Couchville Road near Stones River and it is said that Great-Great-Grandfather Perry was a Revolutionary soldier.

My Father, John Hall Hamilton, called by all, Jack, was born in 1829, was one of a family of 10 sons and two daughters, all of whom lived to reach their majority. Uncle Alexander (the eldest, I believe) was a soldier of the War with Mexico, four were soldiers of the Confederacy--Jack, Joseph, Richard and Dent. The latter was taken prisoner at the fall of Fort Donelson and died in a Northern prison, the other three were members of Company H of the 7th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry. This regiment was composed principally of men from Wilson and Sumner counties. Most of them were educated and were from well-to-do families. The regiment entered the service in May 1861 and with the 1st and 14th Tenn. regiments formed the brigade known as Hatton's, as General Robt. Hatton of Lebanon was its commander until his death at the battle of Seven Pines. Hatton was succeeded by General J. J. Archer and the brigade was known as Archer's Brigade thereafter.

The brigade was sent to Virginia in July 1861 and was placed under the command of Stonewall Jackson in December of that year and was with Jackson until his death in May 1863 and was a part of that glorious army (The Army of Northern Virginia) until its surrender at Appomattox in April 1865. Uncle Dick was almost killed at the Battle of Seven Pines, being struck by a bullet in the head, and given up as dead. My Father was badly wounded while charging the heights of Cemetery Ridge with Pickett on the third day of Gettysburg (which charge has been made famous since by song and story and was aptly called the "High Tide of the Confederacy"). He was a prisoner for three months and was exchanged and returned to his regiment instead of coming home as so many of the soldiers (other mentions) did. He stayed with his command until the end and returned home in May 1865 for the first time since he went away four years before.

Father was a graduate of Union University ( a Baptist school at Murfreesboro) and was teaching at Union Seminary at or near Lebanon during the winter of 1860 and 61. Mother was his assistant and he must have decided that he needed her as his assistant for life for they became engaged to be married before he entered the army. The breaking out of the war seemed to have closed the school. Teacher and at least a part of the pupils laid aside their seeking after knowledge and sought glory and death upon the battlefield as Mother mentions in her diary of two of them being killed.

Mother taught school in a brick building upon the Hillsboro Pike just across the Davidson Co. line in Williamson within a hundred yards or so of Little Harpeth. The building is still there at this time.

Father and Mother were married in August 1865 and within a year or two moved to Clinton, Ky. where John, Joseph, and Maggie were born. Maggie was never well and died within the year that she was born and was buried in the Cator Cemetry on Uncle Robert's place. None now knows the grave. Clinton was not a healthy place and they moved back to near Beechville, Williamson Co; where Pearre was born. Father taught school at Franklin, Triune, and at other places. Ida E. was born at Antioch and the family moved to Wilson Co. shortly after.

Father died of pneumonia Dec. 7, 1891; Mother died in Memphis at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Currie F. Taylor, Dec. 24, 1913; Joseph died of typhoid-pneumonia at Nashville Dec. 17, 1897; all are buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetry at Nashville.

Mother in her writings mentions so often that it had been months and months since she had received a letter or even any news from Father. I think this could be explained by the fact that early in 1862 the Federals had possession of all Middle Tennessee and was under their control and I suppose mail stood a small chance of getting thru the lines, and another thing, I don't suppose that he often had a chance to write and if he had the time, did he have writing material? Stonewall Jackson gave his men but little rest from marching and fighting.

She also seemed to blame him for not coming home as her soldier friends and relatives so often did. They were often within a few miles of home while he was nearer a thousand miles away, and then as many of his comrades have said he was always at his post of duty. If all the soldiers of the South had put in the service that he did and for the length of time that he did, there might have been a different story to the result of the struggle.

J. Pearre Hamilton  
Nashville, Tenn.  
February 24th, 1925

P.S. There are quite a number of pages torn from the book that Mother used and, if she wrote after Jany. 1864, she must have destroyed it. All of the events of 1864 were so disastrous and discouraging from the Southern standpoint, that perhaps she had not the heart to write of them.

J.P.H,



Burrell Perry -  
2-16-1767 - 5-13-1857

Esther Bird - 9-8-1767 - 8-23-1855  
married: 12-11-1789

Children

Temperance - 1794 - 4-10-1872 married John Hall 10-30-1815

Turner Perry

" Rhoda Goodman

no dates

Charity

married Cyrus Sharpe 1st  
Maj John H Clements 2nd

1800 - 1884

Patsience C Perry

married John Smith

5-22-1802 - 10-20-1889

Burrell Perry Jr

married Decca Elizabeth Gleave

1-9-1805 - 11-15-1890

6-28-1816 - 5-25-1874

Hamilton History

Emily Perry

married Cleaver Hamilton - married  
11-20-1823

5-29-1807 - 7-31-1895

(she was 16 - he was 30)

Children

Burrell Perry Hamilton

unmarried

9-6-1824 - 10-9-1846

James Turner Hamilton

unmarried

12-7-1825 - 1-26-1899

Henry Clay Hamilton (continued)

children continued

Bird Hamilton Calvert born Oct 5 1873

Rosa Hamilton Calvert 2 children (1 dying in infancy)

Catherine Hamilton born 3-19-1875 un married  
May 1963

Margaret Hamilton Trice born 7-10-1877

Bingham Hulme Trice 1 son

George Hamilton Trice 1 son - 1 daughter

James Holiday Trice married no children

Andrew Horner Trice 3 daughters

Luric Hale Trice 1 son 2 daughters

James Winter Hamilton born 10-5-1879

Dorothy W Hamilton Parfet 1 son 1 daughter

Wilma M Hamilton Witkowski 2 daughters

Robert Edwin Hamilton 1 son - 1 daughter

Henry Clay Hamilton 2nd wife Emma Phillips died in 1893 no children

3rd " Fannie Gleaves no children

Alexander Bird Hamilton

no birth date died of yellow fever in Newwester Texas in 1861

Lucien Franklin Hamilton married 1st Martha Cabler <sup>she + 1 child</sup> <sub>die</sub>

Lucien + Rebecca both died 2nd Rebecca Mullins

of yellow fever in 1867 at Navasota Texas

James Turner Hamilton went to Texas and brought back Laura + Edwin

+ 2 freed negroes to Tenn

Eliaser Blackburn Hamilton (Lieut) married Sarah Buckner - 5 children

Pvt 55th Tenn Infantry Co 24 taken prisoner to Donkerson died in prison

Camp Butler Ill

Children

Emma - Mr Billington 4 children

Maud - Mr Jackson 5 "

Thad - Alice — 6 "

Eliaser - died young unmarried

John Hall Hamilton married Mary Louisa Brewer 6 children

8-22-1830 - 12-7-1891

children ~~John~~ ~~Emilia~~ ~~Hamilton~~ ~~daughter~~

John Hall Hamilton 7 children

Joseph Porter Hamilton - died young - unmarried

Maggie - died an infant

Joshua Perry Hamilton - 1 son

Sarah Emily Hamilton Taylor 1 son - 1 daughter

Mary Esther Hamilton married Thos B Neal Larve Zan Neal  
9-22-1832 - 4-14-1900

Zan Neal married Jennie -  
children

Bessie Neal Alexander 1 daughter

Charlie several children

James 2 or 3 more children

Jemspanance Elizabeth Hamilton never married (aunt Lizzie)  
1834 - 1907

Joseph Porter Hamilton married Josephine Turner no children  
8-23-1838 - 10-8-1912

Hospital Corps 7th Iowa Vol. Infantry Co Hinder Col Rebt Station

Henry Clay Hamilton married 3 times 1st Elizabeth Stockett Hulme  
6-6-1840 - 12-6-1912 12-18-1840 - 7-13-1883

Children

May Hamilton Baker born 4-10-1870

Robt Baker died in infancy

Francis C Baker (Flaatt) 3 children

Hamilton L Baker 4 children

Eliager Hamilton

died in early childhood of diphtheria

David Dickerson Hamilton married Margaret Amanda Page  
7-24-1842 - 5-11-1922 12-16-1852 - 1-30-1931

7th Tenn Volunteer Infantry Co H wounded at Seven Pines  
children

Emily Hamilton Blake 1 son  
Paul Perry Hamilton no children  
Nellie Page Hamilton died in child hood  
Ben Newman Hamilton 4 daughters  
Ankley Thomas Hamilton 3 daughters  
Elsie V Hamilton Watkins 1 son 1 daughter  
Phillips Wise Hamilton 2 daughters

Robert Fanning Hamilton married Nancy Young  
6-12-1845 - 3-17-1925 10-10-1857

children

Dan Porter Hamilton 3 sons  
David Young Hamilton unmarried  
Robert Foster Hamilton 1 son 1 daughter  
Pruitt Hamilton died in infancy  
Nellie May Hamilton Demson 1 son 1 daughter  
Effie Hamilton died in infancy  
Robert Fanning Hamilton Jr 1 son

Report of Lieut. Col. S. G. Shepard  
7th Tennessee Infantry, Archer's Brigade, Heth's Division

August 10th, 1863

Sir;

In compliance with general orders No.---( to report the part that Archer's Brigade took in the recent engagements in Pennsylvania and Maryland) I beg leave to state that, although I was not in command of this brigade, yet I was in each of the engagements, and upon my own observation and the testimony of the officers of each of the regiments, I predicate my statements.

We left Cashtown, Pa. early on the morning of July 1st and marched down the turnpike road leading to Gettysburg. We had advanced about three miles when we came upon the enemy's pickets who gradually fell back before us for about three miles which brought us in sight of the enemy, upon a slight eminence in our front and to the right of the road.

General Archer halted for time while a section of a battery opened fire upon them. He then deployed the brigade in line, and advanced directly upon the enemy through an open field. At the extreme side of the field was a small creek with a fence and undergrowth, which was some disadvantage to our line in crossing, but the brigade rushed across with a cheer, and met the enemy just beyond. We were not over 40 or 50 yards from the enemy's line when we opened fire. Our men fired with great coolness and deliberation, and with terrible effect, as I learned the next day by visiting the ground.

We had encountered the enemy but a short while when he made his appearance suddenly upon our right flank with a heavy force and opened upon us a cross fire. Our position was at once rendered untenable, and the right of our line was forced back. He also made a demonstration upon our left, and our lines commenced falling back, but owing to the obstructions in our rear ( the creek ect.), some 75 of the brigade were unable to make their escape, General Archer among the rest. I saw General Archer a short time before he surrendered, and he appeared to be very much exhausted with fatigue.

Being overpowered by numbers, and our support being near enough to give us any assistance, we fell back across the field, and reformed just in rear of the brigade that was started in as our support. Colonel Frye took command of the brigade and after remaining in the woods for two or three hours, the whole line upon our left advanced, Archer's Brigade advanced at the same time upon the extreme right of the line. While advancing, the enemy threw a body of cavalry around upon our right flank. Seeing this, Colonel Frye changed the direction of his front so as to protect our flank. The cavalry did not advance upon us, but hung around during the entire engagement of the evening of July 1st.

During the night of the 1st and all day of the 2nd, we lay in position upon a road upon the right of our lines. We were not in the engagements of July 2nd.

During the night of the 2nd, we moved around and took our position in front of the enemy's works and remained there until the afternoon of the third.

In the engagement of July 3rd, the brigade was on the right of our division in the following order: First Tennessee on the right; on its left, the 13th Alabama; next, the Fourteenth Tennessee; on its left, the Seventh Tennessee; on the left, the Fifth Alabama Battalion. There was a space of a few hundred yards between the right of Archer's Brigade and the left of Gen. Pickett's Division when we advanced, but owing to the position of the lines, as we advanced, the right of our brigade and the left of Pickett's gradually approached each other, so that by the time that we had advanced a little over half way, the right of Archer and the left of Pickett touched and connected.

The command was passed down the line by the Officers Guide Right, and we advanced our right, guiding by Gen. Pickett's left. The enemy held their fire until we were within fine range and opened upon us a terrible and well-directed fire. Within 180 or 200 yards of his works, we came upon a lane enclosed by two stout post and plank fences. This was a very great obstruction to us, but the men rushed over as rapidly as they could and advanced directly upon the enemy's works, the first line of which was composed of rough stones. The enemy abandoned this, but just in the rear was massed a heavy force. By the time we had reached this work, our lines all along, as far as I could see, had become very much weakened; indeed, the lines right and left as far as I could observe, seemed to melt away until there was little left of it. Those that remained at the works saw that it was a hopeless case and fell back. Archer's Brigade remained at the works, fighting as long as any of the other troops either on the right or the left, so far as I could observe.

Every flag in the brigade except one was captured at or in the enemy's works. The First Tennessee had three color bearers shot down, the last of whom was at the works and the flag captured. The 13th Alabama lost three in the same way, the last of whom was shot down at the works. The Fourteenth Tennessee had four shot down, the last of whom was at the works. The Seventh Tennessee lost three color bearers, the last of whom was at the works, and the flag was only saved by Capt. A. D. Norris tearing it away from the staff and bringing it out beneath his coat. The Fifth Alabama Battalion also lost her flag at the works.

There were seven field officers who went into the charge, only two came out; the rest were wounded or captured. The loss of Company Officers was in the same proportion.

Our loss in men also was heavy. We went into the fight on the first day with 1048 men, 677 of whom were killed, wounded or captured during these engagements.

I cannot particularize where so many officers and men did their whole duty. There were doubtless some, however, as always is the case, who did not do their duty and richly deserve the severest punishment that can be inflicted.

After our unfortunate repulse, we reformed upon the same ground from which we advanced, and waited for an advance from the enemy, which, however, they did not see proper to make; so ended the conflict of the day.

We remained here until the night of the fourth, when we retired and fell back beyond Hagerstown, Md. We next took position between Hagerstown and Williamsport, where we lay in line of battle for two days and retired the night of the 13th. Owing to the darkness of the night and the impossibility of the artillery getting on we found ourselves 5 miles from the river at daylight. We moved on to within two miles of the river and formed a line of battle upon the crest of

a hill to protect our rear until the artillery and the column in advance of us could cross the river. While here, a small squadron of the enemy's cavalry consisting of 75 or a 100 men made their appearance in our front. They were mistaken at first for our cavalry until they had advanced upon us. Their first charge was upon the First Tennessee which was upon the right of the brigade, our men unfortunately did not have all of their guns loaded and were forced to fight with clubbed guns, the enemy finding that they were making rather slow progress at this point, moved down the line upon the 13th Ala., Seventh and Fourteenth Tennessee regiments, who by this time had gotten most of their guns loaded, and were but a short time in killing and wounding a majority of them. The rest made a desperate effort to escape back to the woods but most of those were shot from their horses as they fled, so that not over a dozen or twenty made their escape. We lost in this affair one killed and seven wounded.

It was our misfortune to lost in this affair General Pettigrew who was in command of the brigade. No ecomium that I might add could do justice to his memory. Both officers and men feel that by his death the Confederacy has lost a model soldier and one of her most gifted sons.

We received orders to retire beyond the river, and we moved out with General Pettigrew's Brigade on our left, our route to the river was part of the way through a dense and tangled copse of undergrowth, with deep ravines running up from the river. We kept our line pretty well organized in passing through these obstructions and passed beyond the river.

Not wishing to burden with a report too lengthly, I have noted down in brief style the facts deemed most impostant for your information. All of which I beg leave to respectfully submit.

S. G. Shepard  
Lieut. Col. 7th Tenn. Inf.

Archer's Brigade  
Heth's Division  
A. P. Hill's Corps.

Note: Col. Shepard became a Baptist minister after the war and I have heard him preach at the Old Cedar Lick Church about 1890.

J.P.H.