

FOURTH REGIMENT IOWA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

Roster and Record of Iowa Troops in the Rebellion

The Fourth Iowa Infantry was organized under the proclamation of the President, dated May 3, 1861. The companies composing the regiment were mustered into the service of the United States at Camp Kirkwood, near Council Bluffs, Iowa, and at Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis, Mo., on different dates, ranging from August 8, 1861, to August 31, 1861. The discrepancy in the dates and places of muster in of the companies is accounted for by the official records in the office of the Adjutant General of Iowa, which show that Colonel Dodge was ordered to employ the companies which first reached the designated rendezvous at Council Bluffs, in an expedition to the southern border of Iowa, to repel a threatened rebel invasion of the State. In his official report, the Colonel states that the rebel force, that was being organized, disbanded and scattered upon the approach of the Iowa troops, and the object of the expedition was accomplished without a convict. In the meantime the other companies, as they arrived at rendezvous, were ordered to proceed to St. Louis, in pursuance of orders from General Fremont, the exigencies of the service requiring the rapid concentration of troops at that place. By the 15th of August, all the companies, except I and K, had reached Benton Barracks. Colonel Dodge further reports that the eight companies which had reached the barracks left there on the 24th of August, for Rolla, Mo., where they joined the troops being concentrated there, and became a part of the Army of the Southwest under General Curtis. The remaining companies—I and K—were not mustered into the service until August 31st and did not leave Benton Barracks until September 13th, when they were sent forward to Rolla, where the full ten companies composing the Fourth Iowa Infantry were for the first time in camp together.

It will thus be seen that—as a full regiment—it had lacked even the brief opportunity for drill and instruction which the three regiments which were first organized in Iowa had been given while in their camps at Keokuk, and that it had to acquire such instruction after taking the field, and in the presence of the enemy. Detachments, consisting of one or more companies of the regiment, were sent out upon reconnoitering expeditions, from time to time, while encamped at Rolla, but no important movement against the enemy was undertaken until January 22, 1862, when the regiment started upon a winter campaign which was to put to the severest test its fortitude, courage and endurance of hardships.

General Curtis was in command of the Union troops, and by vigorous marching endeavored to overtake the rebel army under General Price. It was confidently expected that a battle would occur at Springfield, Mo., but the enemy continued to retreat towards the Ozark mountains, with the Union army following closely in his rear. At Sugar Creek, the advance of General Curtis came up with the rear guard of the enemy, and a brisk engagement ensued, in which the Fourth Iowa—with the brigade to which it belonged— supported the cavalry and artillery which led the advance, and drove the enemy from the field. After repeated maneuvers to gain advantage of position, the two armies at last confronted each other, and it became evident that a great battle was impending. The rebel army, having reached its chosen ground—a strong position at Cross Hollows, near the town of Fayetteville, Ark.—and being reinforced by fresh troops, and bands of savages from the Indian Territory, halted, and awaited the attack of the Union Army. But, instead of making a direct attack, General Curtis, by a skillful movement, succeeded in completely flanking the enemy's position, and making it untenable, and the rebel army was again compelled to retreat.

Subsequently General Curtis' troops were stationed, by divisions, at considerable distances apart, in order to obtain supplies from the surrounding country, and the enemy, taking advantage of this situation, was preparing to attack these separated forces and prevent them from being concentrated. They succeeded in passing the extreme right flank of the Union army during the night of March 6th, but General Curtis was apprised of the movement in time to change front and partially concentrate his forces, and, on the morning of March 7, 1862, the two armies again confronted each other, on the high ground of Pea Ridge, and, after some preliminary maneuvering on both sides, the battle began, and continued during that day and part of the next, ending in a complete victory for the Union army. The following extract from the official report of the part taken by the Fourth Iowa Infantry in the battle of Pea Ridge shows how well the regiment acquitted itself, and how nobly it maintained the honor of the State of Iowa on that field:

On the morning of the 7th of March, it was known that the enemy was advancing and attacking our army in the rear, when the regiment, in pursuance of orders from Colonel Dodge, marched about two miles from camp, and took position near the Elkhorn Tavern, on the right of the brigade, and to the right of the Springfield road going north, near the southern outlet of the Ozark Pass. Two companies were deployed as skirmishers to the front, and soon became desperately engaged with the enemy, who poured shot, shell and minie balls into their ranks incessantly, for two hours, but owing to the dense timber, our loss at this point was not very

great. The left wing of the division, and also the left of Colonel Dodge's brigade, was now desperately engaged. Colonel Dodge ordered his lines to be closed, and awaited the attack, in the meantime keeping his skirmishers, and one section of the First Iowa Battery at work until about 2 o'clock, when the enemy ceased firing and drew back. Colonel Dodge changed front to the right, which left the regiment on the extreme right of the brigade, as well as of the whole army. The line being formed and our skirmishers drawn in and in their places in line of battle, the regiment in common with others awaited the concentrated attack of the enemy, whom we saw preparing for it. We did not wait long. The attack was made with apparently ten times our number, accompanied with the most terrific cannonading with grape, canister, solid shot and shell. For full three hours the regiment stood under this terrible fire, which dealt death to its ranks. The regiment being flanked on the right by a greatly superior force of the enemy, and their artillery being in a position to completely enfilade its lines, and the left wing of the division having fallen back to the open fields, leaving the left exposed, which was also flanked, it was compelled to fall back obliquely to the right, which it did in good order, fighting its way out, hard pressed by the overwhelming numbers of the enemy, to the open fields, where it was met by General Curtis who ordered it to fix bayonets, and charge back upon the enemy, which it did gallantly, eliciting from the General in his official report this highest need of praise. "This regiment won immortal honors." It being now dark, and the enemy having ceased firing, the regiment, after having lost in killed and wounded almost one-half of those actually engaged, marched back to camp, partook of a scanty repast and immediately commenced preparations for the deadly conflict impending for the succeeding days, filling their cartridge boxes, and cleaning their guns, which had become very foul. This being done, the regiment was marched back, and bivouacked on the field until daylight, soon after which the fight was resumed by artillery. The regiment took its place again to the extreme right, marching forward in line of battle, pursuing the enemy, who commenced retreating early. It pursued the enemy until it had orders to halt.

Soon after this orders were given to march back to the battle ground of the previous day and go into camp. The mention of individual acts of bravery could not be made without being invidious, The report from which the above extract is made was written by Col. J. A. Williamson who succeeded Lieutenant Colonel Galligan, who commanded the regiment, and was wounded in the battle. Colonel Dodge, in his Official report as commander of the First Brigade, says: The list of killed and wounded in the brigade shows that it fought against fearful odds, and disputed the field with great stubbornness, Every field officer in the brigade was disabled, and had to leave the field, and only two Lieutenants were left in the battery.

Lieutenant Colonel Galligan rendered efficient service in holding the Fourth Iowa firm, no part of which gave an inch, until the whole was compelled to fall back. I wish to mention especially the bravery and valor of Capt. H. H. Griffith (acting Major) and of Lieut. J. A. Williamson, Brigade Adjutant; also of private, J. W. Bell, Adjutant's clerk, Fourth Iowa, who fell mortally wounded while nobly doing his duty. The conduct of the above named officers came under my personal observation. All did well and fought nobly, in winning a great battle. Capt. W. H. Kinsman with Company B, Fourth Iowa, and two companies of the twenty-fourth Missouri, were detached from the brigade and deployed as skirmishers on the extreme left of the division, holding the high ridge on our left flank, which he did efficiently, and with great good judgment, against a greatly superior force of the enemy.

After the battle of Pea Ridge, the regiment remained in camp for several weeks. Col. G. M. Dodge was promoted to Brigadier General shortly after the battle, and Adjutant J. A. Williamson succeeded him as Colonel of the regiment and Captain Burton succeeded Lieutenant Colonel Galligan, who had resigned. The regiment marched with the army to Helena, and participated in all the hardship and suffering of the succeeding campaign. It remained at Helena during the greater part of the summer and autumn of 1862. It subsequently joined General Sherman's army in the movement down the Mississippi River, against Vicksburg, in which it bore a most conspicuous part. On December 28 and 29, 1862, it participated in the desperate fighting at Chickasaw Bayou, suffering severe loss, and duplicating its record of gallantry at Pea Ridge. On the 10th and 11th of January, 1863, it again engaged in battle at Arkansas Post, after which it returned to Young's Point, landing there January 22, 1863, remaining there and below there at Gregg's Plantation until April 2, 1863, when it went 150 miles up the Mississippi River to Greenville, and from there engaged in the Deer Creek Valley Expedition. Returning to Milliken's Bend, it started on the active campaign against Vicksburg by way of Richmond, La., and Grand Gulf, Miss., to Jackson, Miss., and thence moved to Vicksburg, and became part of the investing force on May 18, 1863.

It engaged actively in the siege operations until the surrender July 4th, then it marched to Jackson and participated in the siege operations there, until the evacuation by the enemy July 16, 1863. After the fall of Jackson, the regiment went into camp on Black River, fourteen miles in rear of Vicksburg where it remained from July 29, 1863, until September 22, 1863, when it embarked on steamer and proceeded to Memphis, Tenn., from which place it began the march ending at Chattanooga, Tenn., where it arrived November 23,

1863. The regiment participated in the battle of Lookout Mountain, November 24, 1863, in the battle of Missionary Ridge, November 25th, and in the battle of Ringgold on the 27th. On the 3d day of December, 1863, it went into camp at Bridgeport, Ala., and later moved from there to Woodville, where it remained in camp until the 26th of February, 1864, when it was ordered to proceed to Des Moines, Iowa, and report through the Governor of the State to the superintendent of recruiting service, for furlough and reorganization, and at the expiration of the thirty days' furlough—to begin after the regiment reached Des Moines—the regimental commander was ordered to report to Brigadier General Osterhaus, commanding First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, in the field. In compliance with this order, the veteran soldiers of the Fourth Iowa returned to their State, and enjoyed to the fullest extent the brief respite from the toils and dangers of war, at their own homes, and with their families, and the loyal friends of the cause for which they had suffered and endured so much and for which they would continue to suffer and endure, until the enemies of the Union should be completely conquered, and a lasting peace secured. At the expiration of its furlough, the regiment returned to the field, and rejoined its brigade and division at Nashville, Tenn., from which place it moved forward and participated actively in the great campaign which led up to the siege and culminated in the fall of Atlanta.

From Atlanta began the remarkable campaigns in Georgia and the Carolinas, and the march with Sherman to the sea, in which the Fourth Iowa Infantry had its full share. The regiment participated in the battles of Columbia, S. C., and Bentonville, N. C., and continued on the march to Richmond and thence to Washington, where it marched, with many other Iowa regiments, in the grand review of the battle scarred and war worn soldiers of the armies of the West. After remaining for some time in camp near Washington, the regiment proceeded to Louisville, Ky., where it was mustered out of the service July 24, 1865, having served nearly four years. The compiler of this brief historical sketch of the service of this splendid Iowa regiment has made diligent search among the official records, and has found a mass of reports, and correspondence connected directly with the history of its service, which—but for the limitations under which he is working—would enable him to increase this sketch to the proportions of a good sized volume. In response to the request of the Adjutant General of Iowa, near the close of the war, Col. J. A. Williamson wrote a condensed report of the operations of the regiment, which extended over a very wide field, in many southern states, but could not give a list of "posts" occupied. He says, "I can hardly realize the meaning of the term as connected with this regiment. We have stopped from time to time to rest, after an active campaign, but never had charge of any post, or fixed camp, from the time the regiment was really equipped for the field at Rolla, Mo., in the fall of 1861." Only those who have had the same experience can realize the feeling, which old soldiers had in common, that it was useless to make definite calculation upon remaining even a single day in one locality. While troops did remain in the same camp, sometimes for weeks, or months, they never knew how quickly a change would be made, and therefore, in time of war, the soldier's life is very much the same as that of the Nomads, ready to break camp and to move upon the shortest notice. Such was, in a most pronounced degree, the experience of the Fourth Iowa Infantry during its long period of service from 1861 to 1865. The subjoined roster, summary of casualties, list of those buried in National Cemeteries, and of those who were captured by the enemy and confined in rebel prisons, have been carefully compiled from the official records.

The paragraph after each name in the roster gives briefly the history of the service he rendered, and the descendants of the soldiers of this gallant regiment may here learn how well and faithfully they served their country in her hour of greatest need, and know that a great and grateful commonwealth has herein discharged a high duty to the memory of her brave sons. Inseparably connected with the history of this regiment is that of the man who first commanded it, and under whom it won its first glorious victory. Subsequently he won high honor as a General and enjoyed the personal friendship and confidence of President Lincoln and General Grant. Since the close of the war, he has achieved fame and distinction in civil life. Through all his career he has cherished the memory of the men of his old regiment, and has—from time to time—given evidence of his abiding friendship for them. This is therefore an appropriate place to record the official military history of Iowa's most distinguished soldier. The record is compiled from the files of the War Department in Washington and of the Adjutant General's office of the State of Iowa, and is therefore officially correct.

MILITARY RECORD OF MAJOR GENERAL GRENVILLE M. DODGE.

Captain Council Bluffs Guards July 15, 1856.

Appointed Colonel Fourth Iowa Infantry June 17, 1861, and ordered into camp at Council Bluffs.

Commissioned Colonel Fourth Iowa Infantry July 6, 1861.

During July marched with part of his regiment to Missouri State line against Poindexter, who, with 1,200 Confederates, was threatening Southwestern Iowa. Poindexter retreated when Dodge approached.

Reported at St. Louis with Fourth Iowa Infantry August 13, 1861.

Proceeded to Rolla, Mo., August 24, 1861.

Assigned to command of post at Rolla, October 9, 1861.

Commanded expeditions to Houston and Salem, November 1, 1861. Enemy defeated in both engagements. Wounded in left leg, December 15, 1861.

Assigned to command of First Brigade, Fourth Division, Army of Southwest January 21, 1862.

Advanced to Springfield. That place occupied February 13, 1862.

In engagements at Sugar Creek, February 17, 1862, and Cane Creek, February 20, 1862.

Defeated Gates' command at Blackburn's Mills, February 27, 1862.

Battle of Pea Ridge, March 6, 7 and 8, 1862. Wounded in right side.

Commissioned Brigadier General of Volunteers, March 31, 1862.

Reported to Major General Halleck at Corinth, June 6, 1862, and ordered by him to report to Brig. Gen. W. F. Quimby, commanding District of Columbus, to rebuild Mobile & Ohio Railroad.

June 28, 1862, assigned to command of Central Division, Army of Tennessee with headquarters at Trenton, Tenn.

Finished rebuilding Mobile & Ohio Railroad in August and built stockades and earthworks at all its important bridges and stations.

During the time in command at Trenton the captures of Dyersburg, Huntington and O'Brien were made, and Villipigue was defeated on the Hatchie River.

September 29, 1862, by order of Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant, was assigned to the command of the District of Columbus, Ky.

Captured Colonel Faulkner and his command at Island No. 10. Also captured the State troops and conscripts, some 1400 in number, twenty-three miles west of New Madrid.

October 30, 1862, assigned by order of Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant to command Second Division Army of Tennessee, at Corinth, Miss.;

November 15, 1862, assigned to command of the District of Corinth, by order of Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant.

Extensive fortifications and important works in and around Corinth finished while holding that command.

December 1, 1862, a combined movement was made from Holly Springs and Corinth in which his troops captured Tupelo and Okolona, Miss., defeating the enemy and capturing the stores at those places.

December, 1862, by order of Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant, moved to Lexington and Spring Creek, Tenn., driving Forrest across the Tennessee River.

February, 1863, attacked Van Dorn's column at Tuscumbia, Ala. Place was captured with its stores, artillery, etc.

April, 1863, in command of Second Division, part of Fifth Division and portion of Cavalry Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps. Made expedition in Northern Alabama, defeating the forces of the enemy in the Tuscumbia Valley. During the movement the fights at Bear Creek, Cherokee, Burton Station, Leighton and Town Creek occurred. Immense quantities of stores for Bragg's army were captured and destroyed.

April, 1863, Chalmers and Ruggles were attacked and defeated at Tupelo.

June, 1863, crossed the Tennessee River at Savannah. Moved into Van Dorn's rear. Captured the town of Florence, defeating its garrison.

June 19, 1863, attacked Furgeson's command on Big Muddy, and stopped raid on Memphis & Charleston Railroad. Fighting was severe and loss considerable.

July 8, 1863, assigned to command of left wing Sixteenth Army Corps with headquarters at Corinth.

July 14, 1863, defeated a portion of Roddy's command at Jackson, Tenn., and captured a large number of prisoners.

August 15, 1863, made raid on Granada, Miss., capturing a large number of locomotives, cars, railroad stocks, stores, etc., and defeated the enemy at Water Valley and Granada.

While in command at Corinth organized and mustered into the service First West Tennessee Cavalry, First Alabama Cavalry, First Alabama Colored Infantry, and several companies of colored troops for siege artillery.

October 30, 1863, command was attached to command of Major General Sherman then moving into Middle Tennessee.

During months of November and December, 1863, rebuilt Nashville & Decatur Railroad, also pontoon bridges across Tennessee River at Decatur, Ala., and the Duck and Elk rivers, and constructed good and substantial earthworks and stockades at all the important bridges and points. During this time the command had several engagements with the enemy, and captured and fortified Decatur, Ala.

January, 1864, organized and mustered into service Second and Third Regiments Alabama Colored Infantry.

May 5, 1864, in command Sixteenth Army Corps in the field at Atlanta campaign. Took part in the battles and engagements at Ships Gap May 6th, Snake Creek Gap May 9th, Resaca May 11th Estounula River May 12th, Kenesaw Mountain, Roswell, Decatur July 21st, Atlanta July 22d, Ezra Church July 28th.

Commissioned Major General June 7, 1864.

Wounded in head August 19, 1864.

October 14, 1864, ordered to City Point, Va., to visit General Grant.

November 3, 1864, assigned to command of District of Vicksburg and to command of left wing Sixteenth Army Corps.

December 2, 1864, assigned to the command of Department and Army of Missouri.
 December 9, 1864, commissioned Major General Missouri State Militia
 January 30, 1865, Department of Kansas added to Department of Missouri.
 Gen. Jeff C. Thompson surrendered Confederate forces in Arkansas.
 During January, February and March, 1865, made Indian campaigns on the plains, opening up the stage lines and rebuilding telegraph lines which had been destroyed by the Indians.
 1865-66, made Indian campaigns extending from Arkansas River on south to Yellowstone on north. In these campaigns several severe battles were fought by forces under Generals Sanborn, Ford, Conner, and Colonels Cole, Walker and others. Treaties of peace were made with the Comanches Apaches, Southern Cheyennes, and other Southern Tribes, and a council was held with the Northern Cheyennes, Arapahoes and Sioux at Fort Laramie, and basis for treaty agreed upon. For services in this campaign received the thanks of the Legislature of Iowa.
 Resigned March 1, 1866.
 Accepted May 30, 1866.

SUMMARY OF CASUALTIES.

Total Enrollment	1557
Killed.....	61
Wounded	338
Died or wounds	54
Died of disease	239
Discharged for wounds, disease and other causes	333
Captured	49
Buried in National Cemeteries	136
Transferred	37

FOURTH REGIMENT IOWA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY .

Term of service three years.
 Mustered into service of the United States at Council Bluffs, Iowa, Aug. 15, 1861, by Captain Lewis Merrill, United States Army. Mustered out of United States service July 24, 1865, Louisville, Ky.

This regiment was made up largely in the southwest portion of the State. Company A was from Mills County; Company B. from Pottawattamie, Harrison, Cass and Shelby; Company C, from Guthrie and Dallas; Company D, from Decatur and Clarke; Company E, from Polk, Warren and Dallas; Company A, from Madison and Warren; Company G from Ringgold; Company H from Adams and Union; Company I from Wayne; Company K from Taylor and Page. The first field officers were: G. M. Dodge, colonel; John Galligan, lieutenant-colonel; W. R. English, major, and J. A. Williamson, adjutant. The regiment went into camp at Council Bluffs in June and July, 1861, and, early in August, was ordered to Missouri, and was in camp at St. Louis and Rolla for some time, drilling and preparing for active service in the field. It was in Curtis' army in the campaign which closed with the Battle of Pea Ridge, in which Dodge commanded a brigade, and the Fourth Regiment was under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Galligan, who was wounded in the battle and resigned, April 3d, when Adjutant J. A. Williamson was promoted to lieutenant-colonel, and Lieutenant R. A. Stitt became adjutant. The Fourth was in the thickest of the fight at Pea Ridge on both days, and did excellent service, losing nearly one-half of its entire number in killed, wounded and missing. Dodge and Williamson were among the wounded. In the first day's battle, on the 7th of March, 1862, the Fourth Iowa, in the brigade commanded by Colonel Dodge, fought like veterans. Early in the day, General Carr's Division, on the right wing of Curtis' army, assailed by overwhelming numbers, made a most determined fight. For seven hours the Rebels pressed on his lines, and his division was forced back half a mile, while presenting an unbroken front to the enemy. The Fourth Iowa and Thirty-fifth Illinois, under Dodge, lying behind an old fence, were now attacked by a greatly superior force supported by artillery. The charge was met by a deadly fire and the enemy driven back in confusion. Again and again the Rebels rallied and renewed the attack and were each time repulsed with heavy loss. At one time the ammunition became exhausted and the Fourth made a gallant bayonet charge under the direction of General Curtis. The splendid fighting of the Fourth Iowa and Thirty-fifth Illinois challenged the admiration of General Van Dorn and other Confederate officers. For brilliant services in this battle, Colonel Dodge was made a Brigadier-General; Williamson was promoted to colonel; Captain Burton to lieutenant-colonel.

Having driven the Confederate army out of Missouri, General Curtis marched toward Little Rock. The continuous rains rendered the roads nearly impassable and after remaining at Batesville and Jacksonsport several months, and finding it impossible to subsist his army in that country, he marched to Helena.

A number of cotton speculators followed the advance of the Union army to reap rich harvest in getting possession of that staple. General Curtis, in attempting to control these rapacious speculators and use the cotton in a way to bring the greatest benefits to the Government, made enemies of many influential men of wealth, who were looking solely to personal gain. Helena and the surrounding country had a large slave population. As the negroes came into the Union lines the commanding General found another serious problem confronting him. Our Government had adopted no settled policy to govern the action of the department commanders in the matter and each had to act upon his own judgment. The Fourth Regiment remained at Helena until December, when it joined General Sherman's expedition against Vicksburg and took a prominent part in that campaign, which terminated so disastrously to the Pinion cause.

BATTLE OF CHICKASAW BAYOU

On the 20th of December, 1862, General W. T. Sherman embarked with a large army on transports at Memphis, and, descending to Helena, was joined there by General Steele and his command. The army, which filled a hundred transports, then continued the journey to Milliken's Bend, about twenty-five miles above Vicksburg. On Christmas evening orders were issued for the fleet, next day, to attack Vicksburg. The plan was for General Grant to march to the rear of the city and cooperate with Sherman in the attack. On the 20th of December, General Grant's army was at Oxford preparing to move on Jackson and Vicksburg. He had collected at Holly Springs, arms, ammunition and provision for the army during the campaign. Colonel Murphy, of the Eighth Wisconsin, with 1,000 men, was guarding them. He was surprised by Van Dorn's cavalry early one morning and, without resistance, surrendered, with all of the army supplies. This loss of his trains and supplies compelled Grant to fall back to Grand Junction, and defeated his plan of cooperation with Sherman in the attack upon Vicksburg. Grant's retreat had liberated the Confederate army, which had been gathered at Grenada to oppose his advance, and, unknown to Sherman, it had hastened to the defense of Vicksburg. This city occupied a range of high bluffs bounded on the north by swamps and bayous almost impassable. Protected by abatis covering rifle pits, with the bluffs as strongly fortified as skill and slave labor combined could make them, the place was absolutely impregnable from assault, when defended by a large army. The mighty task which Sherman attempted was simply impossible; but somewhere in the long line he hoped to find a weak place where the army could force its way. The men were in excellent spirits and anxious to be led against the stronghold. Porter's gunboats were ready to render all possible assistance. The troops were landed along the Yazoo River on the 26th of December. By the morning of the 29th the entire army was in position to move upon the works. The Rebel batteries opened fire on our lines and the battle began. All night our soldiers had heard the heavily loaded trains rolling into Vicksburg, bringing reinforcements from Pemberton's army. Thayer, who commanded the brigade in which was the Fourth Iowa, charged upon the enemy and carried the first line, drove the Rebels from the second and halted under a terrible fire, waiting for support, scores of brave men and officers falling at every discharge. The couriers, sent for reinforcements, were shot down. Thayer rode along the line, in anguish over the slaughter of his men and warmly commended their bravery. But no help came, and, at last, he gave the order to fall back. Slowly the regiment retired in order, as the terrible fire thinned its ranks. Ingersoll says:

"There were many Iowa regiments and batteries which behaved with that high degree of credit which the troops of the State everywhere maintained throughout the war, but no regiment from any State behaved with more devoted gallantry than the Fourth in the assault of the 29th December Every officer and man did his whole duty and only regret that they could not accomplish more." *

The regiment went into action with five hundred and eighty men and officers, of which one hundred and twelve were killed and wounded. Colonel Williamson and Captain Still were wounded, Lieutenant J. M. Miller and Lander Pitzer were killed. General Grant, long afterward learning of the gallant conduct of the regiment, commanded by general order that the Fourth Iowa Infantry had inscribed on its colors, "First at Chickasaw Bayou." The brave fighting and sacrifices of that bloody battle were in vain, as it was not possible for the gallant army and able commander to take that strongly fortified city by assault, and it was an undeserved humiliation for the President to remove General Sherman from command, by placing over him General McClelland.

The Fourth Iowa was in the campaign led by McClelland against Arkansas Post and was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Burton, Colonel Williamson being disabled by wounds and sickness. In January, 1863, the Fourth was again in the army before Vicksburg, when for two months, were spent the darkest days of its service in the cypress swamps, under the frowning batteries of the enemy. Toiling on the famous canal, struggling in mud and rain, lying in camp through that dreary winter, while Grant was working out the great problem of how to subdue the Rebel stronghold and open the Mississippi River With Steele's Division, the

Fourth embarked on steamer early in April and, ascending the river to Greenville thence marched eastward, threatening Vicksburg in the rear and collecting great quantities of provisions for the army, while Grant was drawing his lines around the doomed city. Returning towards Vicksburg, this division of the army rejoined the main body at Grand Gulf and took part in the brilliant campaign, which drove Pemberton's army back into the city. The Fourth was in the assault of the 92d and met with severe loss in the general defeat; then, for forty-seven days, it was employed in the siege, as the lines were gradually closed. The regiment lost about eighty men during the siege. It was there to rejoice in the final great victory; which resulted in the capture of the stronghold and the entire Confederate army defending it, by far the most damaging blow inflicted upon the enemy up to this time. After the surrender, the Fourth joined Sherman in his movement against General Johnston's army, capturing Jackson, the Capital, and driving Johnson out of the State. Colonel Williamson was now in command of a brigade in which was the Fourth Iowa. The regiment was in Osterhaus' Division in his expedition to Corinth, luka and Cherokee, and took part in several engagements. In November, the division joined the army at Chattanooga. In the Battle of Lookout Mountain the Fourth was on the extreme left of Hooker's command. When the battle opened, the division moved across an open field to Lookout Creek, where it was for some time exposed to a severe fire, but finally moved on up the mountain, where the fight was warm. As night came on, the regiment held its position on the mountain prepared to renew the battle next day. When morning dawned, it was discovered that the enemy had withdrawn to Missionary Ridge. Early in the morning, the Fourth, Ninth and Thirty-first were sent to Rossville Gap, and placed in a good strategic position, turning the Rebel left. They were attacked by a heavy column of the enemy and a fierce battle ensued in which the Fourth bore an active part until the Rebels were routed. It joined in the pursuit on the 26th, and at the Battle of Ringgold, the next day, fought with great gallantry, saving two railroad bridges, which were set on fire by the retreating army. After these battles the Fourth moved to Woodville on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad and went into winter quarters. On the 25th of February, 1864, the men were mustered in as veterans and were granted furloughs. They reached Des Moines on the 9th of March, while the Legislature was in sessions which adjourned to give the veterans a royal reception The ladies of the city joined with the General Assembly tendering to the gallant soldiers a banquet, where honors were accorded to the boys in blue, who had fame on so many battlefields. By the first of May, the regiment had again joined the army of General Sherman which was sweeping onward toward the sea, overcoming all opposition. In the long marches, skirmish lines, a battlefields, Williamson's Brigade, composed of Fourth, Ninth, Twenty-fifth, Thirtieth and Thirty-fifth regiments, bore a prominent part. In the battle of the 22d, before Atlanta, this brigade made a gallant char recapturing De Grass' famous battery of twenty-four pound Parrott guns, which had been taken.

A correspondent of the *New York Tribune* says of Wiliamson's Iowa Brigade, in the battle of the 22d: "It was one of the bravest, truest, most tenacious fighting brigades that has marched to the rescue of our Nation's liberties The Fourth had fought bravely at Resaca, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain and at Jonesboro, until loss had reduced its numbers below two hundred. Major Nichols was severely wounded, Captain Anderson was wounded at Jonesboro; Lieutenants Baker and Cram were killed at Ringgold. Several changes were made officers; Major Nichols was promoted to lieutenant-colonel, and Captain A. R. Anderson was promoted to major.

In the pursuit of Hood 's army which began October 5 the Fourth Iowa took part. It remained with Sherman his march through the Carolinas and fought at Bentonsport, the last battle of that famous campaign. Early January, 1865, Williamson received his well-earned and long-delayed commission as Brigadier-General. The Fourth Regiment marched from Raleigh to Washington and participated in the final grand review, and was then sent to Louisville, where it performed provost duty until mustered out in July, 1865. It reached Iowa, at Davenport, on the 28th, numbering four hundred and fifty seven men and twenty-three officers. Entering the service with 1,000 men, three hundred had been added to its ranks as the war progressed. Now, at the close, the 1,300 were reduced by sickness, disability from hard marches, wounds, death, starvation in Rebel prisons, nearly eight hundred. Such was the terrible waste of four years of war in one regiment.

FOURTH INFANTRY – Iowa and the Rebellion

ORGANIZATION AND RENDEZVOUS OF THE REGIMENT AT COUNCIL BLUFFS -MARCH BEFORE MUSTER-DRILL AT ST. LOUIS-THE PEA RIDGE CAMPAIGN-THE BATTLE-MARCH THROUGH ARKANSAS-LONG STAY NEAR HELENA-THE BATTLE OF CHICKASAW BAYOU-SHERMAN AND MCCLERNAND-ARKANSAS POST-GENERAL GRANT'S SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN AGAINST VICKSBURG-THE SECOND CAPTURE OF JACKSON-IN CAMP-MARCH TO THE RELIEF OF CHATTANOOGA-THE BATTLES THERE-BATTLE OF RINGGOLD-THE MARCH TO "THE HEART OF THE CONFEDERACY"-TO SAVANNAH-THROUGH THE CAROLINAS-HOME

That portion of southern Iowa, usually called "the Missouri slope," contributed most of the troops to the formation of this distinguished regiment, and all its members, or very nearly all, came from counties now within the Fifth Congressional District. It was organized by Grenville M. Dodge, who was its first colonel, now well-known to the remotest parts of the Republic, but who, at the time here spoken of, was a civil engineer, only known to a few "railroad men," and who, from want of brass, might have been still engaged in the quiet pursuit of his profession, but for the fact that Governor Kirkwood happened to discover the energetic qualities which were concealed under a modest demeanor. He gave Dodge a colonel's commission, wherefrom resulted one of Iowa's best regiments and one the country's best major-generals. The Colonel lived at Council Bluffs, and here the regiment was organized during the summer of 1861. 1

1 Company A, from Fremont, Mills and Pottawattamie counties, at its organization numbered seventy-four men, commanded by Captain Wm. R. English, and Lieutenants Thos. H. Head and Samuel Shields. Company B, numbering ninety-three men, from nearly a dozen counties in the southwestern part of the State, was commanded by Captain Seth H. Craig, Lieutenants George H. Ford and William H. Kinsman. Company C mostly from Guthrie County, was organized with Thos. Seeley as captain, and S. D. Nichols and J. P. McEwen, subalters. Company D, from Decatur, numbering one hundred and three, was commanded by Captain George Burton, and Lieutenants Joseph S. Warner and John B. Springer. the county of Polk furnished most of the ninety-six officers and men composing Company E-Captain Henry H. Griffith, and Lieutenants W. S. Simmons and Isaac Whicher. Some of this company were from Warren, and a few from other counties. Madison, assisted to some extent by Warren County, raised the men for Company F, eighty-one in number, commanded by Captain H. J. B. Cummings, and Lieutenants R. S. Still and John S. Goshorn. Captain Edmund W. Rice, and Lieutenants Lovena Hopkins and Randolph Sry brought in a company of eighty men from Ringgold County. Adams and Union, with some assistance from Cass furnished Company H; Captain E. Y. Burgan, and Lieutenants Henry G. Ankeney and Jas. J. Haffer. Wayne County, helped a little by Clark, set up a large company-numbering one hundred and seven-with Captain Wm. E. Taylor, and Lieutenants Samuel S. Glasgow and Gideon L. McCune, which Lieutenants resigned, however, early in January, 1862, and were succeeded by F. Crathorne and R. S. Jackson. Captain Joseph Cramer and Lieutenants Geo. W. Fredley and Jas. T. Crittenden commanded Company K, consisting of ninety-five men from page and Taylor counties.

But two companies-B and E-were mustered into the service at Council Bluffs. These were mustered in on the 8th of August. The other companies, except I and K, were mustered at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, on the 15th of August and the last two at St. Louis on the 31st of August. At this time the regiment numbered, rank and file, nine hundred and forty men.

The organization of the regiment was completed by the appointment of John Galligan of Scott County, lieutenant-colonel, and the promotion of Captain William R. English, of Company A, to the majority. James A. Williamson, of Polk, was appointed adjutant; Phineas A. Wheeler, quartermaster; Myron W. Robbins, surgeon, Wm. S. Grimes, assistant; and Rev. Thomas M. Goodfellow, (suggestive name) chaplain.

All the companies had not reached the rendezvous at "Camp Kirkwood," near our principal city on the Missouri River, when a threatened invasion across our southern border demanded immediate attention. Two hundred picked men, being twenty-five from each of the companies present, marched to the relief of the threatened locality. They went as far as Clarinda, the county seat of Page county, and, reinforced on the way and at that place, by companies of Home Guards the whole presented a warlike front against which the marauders could have accomplished nothing. Struck with a wholesome dread of several hundred determined men, well armed, all of whom came from a locality where the tightest punishment for horse thieves was hanging without benefit of law or clergy, the bands of Missourians dispersed, and our soldiers leisurely returned to Camp Kirkwood. And it may be as well to remark here as elsewhere, that the few bands of Missouri rebels who have since had the temerity to enter our southern tier of counties on errands of plunder and murder, have invariably been welcomed "with bloody hands to hospitable graves. "

The regiment left Council Bluffs per steamer about the close of the first week in August, and proceeding down the Missouri to St. Joseph, there took cars for Hannibal, whence the journey was made on the Mississippi to Jefferson Barracks. Here and at St. Louis, near by, the regiment remained drilling a short time, and then, armed and equipped, moved by rail to Rolla. At this place the command first settled down into the monotony of camp life and drill, and here it waited, as thousands elsewhere waited, till the rebellion gained such gigantic proportions, that mere physical power, unaided by the might of right, and the blessing of God, would, perhaps, have been entirely unable to suppress it. The period was improved by officers and men fitting themselves more thoroughly for the life and duties of soldiers, and was, therefore, beneficial; but many of the

men here died of diseases incident to the camp—" good and true men," says a correspondent, "who amid the rush of praise for the living I fear will not receive the honor due them."

When the sultry days of summer had given way to the cold winds that foretold a severe winter, the men built barracks for themselves, but the health and comfort of the troops were not increased by being crowded within their too contracted walls. Two expeditions made during the winter did much more to recuperate the health and spirits of the troops than all the in-door comforts of their winter quarters. One of these was a march boo Licking, in Texas county, some distance southwest of Rolla, which resulted in the dispersion of a considerable rebel force and the capture of much property, with which were a number of horses, cattle, and mules. Another march was made to Dry Glaze, in La Clede county, which, though resulting in no material profit to the government, served a good purpose upon the health of the troops.

General Curtis arrived at Rolla on the 27th of December, to take command of the Army of the Southwest, concentrating there. Our regiment turned out to receive the General in military style, and there was a fine display on the occasion. During the ceremonies, Colonel Dodge's pistol, in his saddle-holster, was accidentally discharged, and inflicted a severe wound in his thigh—the first in the regiment—which kept him from duty for some time.

General Curtis with his gallant little Army of the Southwest, moved from Rolla on the 23d of January, 1862, with the purpose of giving battle to Price, then encamped, with a largely superior army, at Springfield. During this march and campaign, closing with the brilliant victory of Pea Ridge, Colonel Dodge was in command of the brigade to which our regiment was assigned. Lieutenant-Colonel Galligan had command of the regiment.

The roads were in an almost impassable condition, but the army nevertheless made good progress. Halting at Lebanon a few days, it did not reach the vicinity of Springfield till the 12th of February, on the evening of which day our advance guard of cavalry attacked the enemy's outposts and a brisk skirmish ensued. Our regiment was called into line, and quickly forming, marched to the front, and here for the first time came under fire. The rebels were soon driven, however, and the men went into bivouac. By three o'clock of the following morning, General Curtis had his army in motion, in three columns, designing to attack at daylight. The Fourth Iowa had the advance on the left. Lieutenant Stitt of Company F. in charge of the skirmish line, entered Springfield about daylight. It had been evacuated during the night, and the rebel rear guard left the city as he entered. The whole army started in pursuit of Price the next day, and in three days marched ninety miles, the advance all the while skirmishing with the enemy's rear. On the 17th, at Sugar Creek, near the extreme southwestern part of Missouri) our cavalry brought on a heavy engagement with the enemy, and Colonel Dodge's brigade was brought up to support our troopers and artillery, but the rebels retired before the infantry became actively engaged.

Here the army halted a few days for rest and supplies, Price meantime continuing his retreat to the Boston Mountains. where he was reinforced by McCulloch, Van Dorn and McIntosh with a large body of troops, principally from Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas, and a considerable number of Indians. General (Curtis moved to Pea Ridge and there awaited attack, his army somewhat scattered for convenience of supplies. In the battle of that name which soon afterwards took place and which was one of the most desperate contests of the war, resulting in a most brilliant Union victory, the Fourth Iowa was engaged almost all the time for two days, and fought in such a way as to win the high commendations of the general commanding the army, and the unmixed praise of the people of our State.

The losses of the regiment were very heavy, amounting, in killed, wounded, and captured, to nearly half the number who were able to carry their muskets into the fight.²

"On account of the wound of Lieutenant Colonel Galligan, there was no regular official report made of the part taken by the regiment in the battle of Pea Ridge, which I shall describe at some length in my account of the Ninth Infantry. The following list of casualties is taken from the Report of the Adjutant General:

Colonel G. M. Dodge, wounded; Lieutenant-Colonel John Galligan, wounded, Adjutant James A., Williamson, wounded.

Company A-Killed, George A. McCay; Wounded, Lieutenant George A. Henry; Corporals John M. Bannon, A B. Kearney; David L. Jaycox, William Lillebridge, George M. Miller, James A. McElroy, R. M. Sansbury, Charles Wilkenson, (mortally), Jonathan Fowler, Seward L. Payne, Henry Blenker, (wounded twice, disabled for life). Company B-Wounded, George W. Tucker; Company C-Wounded, Thomas L. Reed, George W. Bike, Z. T. Buker, Reason C. Darby, (mortally), R. N. Farnsworth, William H. Hummer, E. C. Mount, William O. Madison, Abram Mouray, James Robinson, (mortally), John Strain, L. S. Slaughter, (mortally), O. f. Gilbert, (mortally), H. H. Lenon; Company D-Killed, William N. Harrison, Henry E. Vaughan, John N. Williams;

Wounded, Captain George Burton; Sergeants John P. Finley, Fredrick Teal, Charles A. Gilham; Isaac W. Whetstone, (mortally), John D. Childers, Charles M. Little, b F. Wells, John C. Arnold, Henry B. Burns, William T. Cowell, (severely wounded and missing), Merrick Davis, Robert E. Haywood, Charles Handly, (mortally), James M. Harron, William Hawkins, Willis Hines, (mortally), Isaac N. Ketchum, (mortally), M. G. Lawrence, John Marcum, Samuel Martin, John Pickett, A. J. Rumley, Seth Rowe, Lewis Solomon, F. M. Smith, John Swineheart, Arnold Tucker, Reuben Welden; Company E-Killed, Hiram D. Cornish; Wounded, Sergeant E. W. Barnum; Corporal L. P. Rhoads, James Beek, J. W. Bell, (mortally), Isaac Clary, M. Foster, Charles W. Greene, Samuel H. James (mortally), Isaac Reeves, Abraham Stumbach, Henry A. Barrett, (mortally), Jeremiah Hinman, Company F—Killed, Sylvanus Hiatt, Abraham Holmes; Wounded, Abraham Guilliams, W. W. Crandall, Casper Ambrenst, Anderson Bird, A. M. Burdick, William S. Debusk (mortally), George B. Davis, James H. Dorrence, Daniel G. Dunsmore, John A. Easton, A. P. Hiatt, Samuel B. Harris, William Logan, O. F. Smith, John W. Smith, (mortally), James Sturman, (mortally) James Sturman, (mortally), E. C. Stewart, (promoted) John M. Holliday; company G-Wounded, Captain Randolph Sry; Lieutenant Frederick Teal, (and promoted for bravery); Corporals William W. Robinson, L. H. Barton, G. Gobble, Augustus Leabo, James M. Millsaps, (mortally) Charles W. Powers, Joseph B. Russell, Daniel B. Smith, Henry W. Rose, Larkin T. Sipp, Herman Obenhoff, Frederick Beck; Company H-Killed, James A. Campbell, James Lullen, George Rose; Wounded, Captain E. Y. Burgan; Lieutenant Lyman Parcher; Corporals Abraham Moore, William H. Bartlett, F. M. Campbell, A. Fraks, A. Freshour, George W. Hight, William R. Harlow, C. D. Lawrence, Y. A. Meeker, John S. Peregrine, John W. Ratliff, A Walkup, A. L. Clark; Company I—Killed, J. Morgan, Alfred O'Conner, Samuel Williams; Lieutenant Robert S. Jackson; Wounded, Sergeant George A. Robinson, (severely wounded, promoted to Second

The victory having been won, the army remained in camp within a short distance of the battlefield for nearly a month. Whilst the regiment was here encamped, Colonel Dodge was promoted a brigadier-general. Lieutenant-Colonel Galligan here resigned, and Adjutant James A. Williamson was promoted to his place, and within a month was promoted to the colonelcy. When Lieutenant-Colonel Williamson received his promotion, Captain Burton, of Company D, was made Lieutenant-Colonel. These promotions were made while the regiment was on the march, the commissions not being received till some months afterwards. It moved from the camp near Pea Ridge, on the 5th of April, and proceeding in a direction north of west, kept in that course for nearly an hundred miles, when it turned to the right, and entering Arkansas, marched on Batesville. This town is on the left bank of the White River, and somewhat east of north, about one hundred miles from Little Rock, being on the old road from that capital to St. Louis. It was General Curtis' intention to move from Batesville directly on Little Rock. With this view, he halted some days at Batesville, awaiting supplies. They having arrived, but in no sufficient quantity, the army was put in motion in the direction of Little Rock on the 18th of May. It was now two hundred miles distant from the terminus of the railroad whence it received regular supplies. The rain poured down daily; the country, in comparison of ad other countries which the troops had seen, was a dreary wilderness. Nevertheless, they trudged on through the mud and mire without murmuring, obtaining scanty supplies of food along the line of march, husbanding that which had been brought from the north for future exigencies, until the roads became absolutely impassable. The rains had made this part of Arkansas a vast dismal swamp. And so the little army, on short rations, and scantily clothed, slowly waded its way back to Batesville, the capture of Little Rock, under these circumstances, being deemed impracticable. Having through great hardships again reached Batesville, the army went into camp, and there with such patience as could be mustered, awaited the improvement of the roads. During the halt here, the army was scattered about the country again, in such localities as could do best toward keeping the detachments from downright starvation.

During the latter part of June, the little army was concentrated at Jacksonport,

Lieutenant next day), Sergeants John Keplinger, Marshal Nelson: Corporals B. L. Everett, Henry S. Trumbull, (mortally) James A. Harper. wounded twice; Privates, John T. Atkinson, M. B. V. Brotherton, Nathan E. Coppel, (mortally), Thomas Church, Joseph C. Conine, Allen Carter, (prisoners), Hans Erekson, John J. Estes, Henry Honk, (mortally), Philip Miskimmins, William Moore, Samuel J. Messenger, (prisoner), Samuel H. Moore, Mordecai Smith, (prisoner), Thomas Sharp, Company K—Killed, Edward A. Richardson; wounded, Lieutenant James Crittenden, (mortally) Corporal Thomas J. Jack: Isaac M. Beims, Alvin M. Brooks, William Chenoweth, John Swing, George R. Helmer, Nathan D. Ring, B. L. St. Clair, Ira Sleath, Ferdinand Verges, Joseph Van Grundy, Allen Woods, Walter S. Bodwell, Ambrose L. Cobb.

near the junction of Black with White River. A train of supplies had recently reached this place from the north, its guard having had incredible difficulties in convoying it through a wide extent of hostile country. Nor were the supplies sufficient in quantity to give the troops full rations for a single week. They had already suffered no little from the want of rations, and had stripped the country roundabout for many miles so entirely bare of food, that there was not left, perhaps, a pig, a chicken or a pound of meal, which could have been taken without the

utmost injury to the inhabitants. On the 4th of July the starving army moved "in search of supplies," marching along the bank of White River, and hoping to meet others of our forces at Clarendon, distant an hundred miles from Jacksonport. Clarendon was duly reached, but the forces which had been stationed there were now withdrawn. The column then wheeled to the left, and after three more days of suffering from the scorching sun, hard marching, hunger, and thirst, came out of the wilderness, and found food, raiment, and rest, at Helena, on the 14th. Even Helena was gladly hailed by the well-nigh famished and entirely ragged troops, with enthusiastic expressions of satisfaction. They had now been in the field for five months and a half, nearly all the time in that section of America which may well enough be regarded as the heathendom of our land—a region whose physical aspects are uninviting and uninteresting, and whose inhabitants, for the most part, are rude, unlettered, unacquainted with law, and regardless of right; whose savage barbarities perpetrated upon aged Union men and defenseless women during the early stages of the rebellion, had in them only the quality of unmixed atrociousness. The great novelist of humanity has most appropriately placed the scene of her darkest pictures of slavery—the avarice, the debauchery, the savagery of Legree, the murder of Uncle Tom—on the border of this gloomy region, the hither frontier of which was traversed by General Curtis' little army. His march through the wilderness of Arkansas was, on all accounts, one of the severest of the war.

Our regiment remained at Helena most of the time during the remainder of the summer, through the following autumn, and up to the time when General Sherman made his movement, resulting in an unsuccessful attack on Vicksburg, near the close of the year. Whilst the camp was near Helena, during this period, the regiment made a few expeditions into the country, which were of no great importance. Among these expeditions were: One, which purposed moving up the Arkansas River to a considerable distance, but which failed of accomplishing its object, whatever that might have been, on account of the low stage of water; another, made near the close of November into Mississippi, as far as the railroad leading north from Granada, which was destroyed for some distance, when the troops returned, bringing with them large quantities of cotton and supplies, and many horses.

During a considerable portion of the period in which the Fourth Iowa had its encampment at Helena, General Curtis was in command of the district. It was a time when new questions were perplexing, in their abstract phases, the minds of our statesmen, and presenting numberless difficulties in the way of the practical solution to the minds of our commanding officers. Perhaps there was no officer surrounded by more difficulties of the nature here referred to than General Curtis. His headquarters were at a place which may fairly be described as our southwestern outpost. Beyond him, on the right of the Mississippi, lay a vast extent of territory in the undisputed possession of the insurgents. On the left of the Mississippi to the southeast, the rebels had everything their own way, holding without opposition the richest portions of the confederacy, abounding in wealth and military resources. Below him the enemy held Vicksburg, the key to the navigation of the great river, and laughed at our impotent attempts to deprive him of his advantage by diverting the father of waters into an artificial channel. But to the northward navigation was unobstructed, and the conquests of our arms during the year had opened up a wide area of country to trade, which had theretofore for some time been hermetically sealed to the enterprise of our merchants and speculators. By this time there was a most profitable demand for the staple productions of the South, and Helena swarmed with those who were anxious to take advantage of it. The Treasury Department had established no rules governing trade in the districts recently conquered from the insurgents. The whole subject was in a state of confusion most sadly confounded and decidedly uncomplimentary to the practical abilities of the authorities at the national capital. General Curtis was perforce compelled to assume jurisdiction over matters more properly recognizable by civil functionaries, or see his camps changed into markets for cotton and dens of thieves. Moreover, the negro question, notwithstanding the sensible solution which had early been given to it by Major-General Butler, was still, for all practical purposes, in a most chaotic and indeterminate state. Helena was surrounded by negroes, who, lately the slaves of men now waging war against the Union, were left in an undefined status by their fugacious masters; but who, themselves true to the Union, were certainly, on that account, entitled to respectful consideration, if not to army rations. In his practical solution of both questions—the cotton question and the negro question, that is, to put them briefly, General Curtis was guided by thoughtful wisdom, and the dictates of philanthropy and patriotism; but it was impossible for him to decide them wisely, philanthropically and Patriotically, without incurring the displeasure of many who overt both able and willing to inflict damage upon his reputation. His solution of the questions was very simple. He banished the crowds of speculators from his camps, leaving the business of cotton buying to a few gentlemen of character and standing, who had been recommended to him by the authorities at Washington; and, instead of supporting the negroes at the public expense, he gave them control over the cotton of their rebellious masters, which had been planted and cultivated by their own labors. This policy, so wise and just in itself, and which resulted so beneficially to the government, nevertheless received the emphatic opposition of large numbers who had crowded into Helena for the purpose of making hasty fortunes, and of all those army officers, both regular and volunteer, whose accomplishments in the matter of Christian civilization taught them to think considerably less of a human

being of a dark color than of an army mule, or horse of any color. His administration at Helena during this period was afterwards the subject of investigation by a military commission, over which Major General McDowell presided; but its investigations, though of an ex-parte nature, entirely failed to connect General Curtis with any speculation, so that the President, Abraham Lincoln, was constrained to declare, with an emphasis unusual to his cautious nature, that there was not a word of evidence against him. This just conclusion came, indeed, too late to maintain the General in command of the Department of Missouri, to which he had been meanwhile assigned; but in time to preserve his reputation unsullied from the attacks of dissipated generals and trimming politicians who had assailed him. But, inasmuch as he had in the fall of 1861 assisted the same class of men to ruin General Fremont, he must have reflected, as he yielded his command to Schofield, that there is sometimes a degree of poetic justice to be observed in the affairs of men.

Meantime, however, and before the worst vicissitudes of fortune befell the General, for an administration whose wise and philanthropic measures should have secured for him the gratitude of the country and the thanks of the government, the little army which had so heroically followed him through victory and suffering in Arkansas, passed under the control of others. When he left Helena, our regiment bade him an affectionate farewell, destined to be the last during the war, the men all joining in the ceremony with unaffected feeling. They remained at Helena till the departure thence of the army under General Sherman for Vicksburg on the campaign which terminated so disastrously to the Union army in the

BATTLE OF CHICKASAW BAYOU.

On the 20th of December, 1862, Major-General Sherman embarked with considerable haste and disorder a large army on board transports at Memphis, and proceeding down the river, was reinforced at Helena by General Steele. The whole army, on an hundred transports continued the voyage to Milliken's Bend, twenty-five miles above Vicksburg. At this point the entire fleet arrived on the evening of the 24th, and there the army remained, without debarking, during the following day, except a detachment under General M. L. Smith, sent out to destroy a portion of the Vicksburg and Texas railroad about ten miles west of the stronghold. On Christmas evening the troops were made glad by the announcement of orders that early on the morrow the army would move with the object of attacking Vicksburg by Chickasaw and Haines' Bluffs. The intelligence was the more gladly received because with it came the understanding that General Grant was marching on the rear of Vicksburg, and that the cooperating armies would move in combined attack. We shall hereafter see why General Grant was prevented from carrying out his part of the plan.

Utterly ignorant of the unfortunate events which had compelled the retreat of Grant before he had reached anywhere near Vicksburg, General Sherman and his army sailed down the Mississippi and up the Yazoo early on the morning after Christmas, officers and men enthusiastically confident of dining next day in the city. The disaster which followed seemed all the more disastrous on account of the exuberant spirits under which the attack was commenced.

Before proceeding to speak of the movements resulting in the defeat of Sherman, it may be well to speak of the nature of the localities in which he was operating. Vicksburg, it is well known, is on the bank of the Mississippi, about two miles below a sharp bend. The course of the river, in fact, here forms a peninsula, in front of Vicksburg some five or six miles long and about one mile wide. Opposite the point of this peninsula Chickasaw Bayou flows into the river. Its whole length is only about seven miles. It flows from the Yazoo, taking first a course not far from south, and having reached the vicinity of the line of bluffs about two miles from its source, follows their general direction toward Vicksburg. It is, however, some hundred yards from the base of the hills, which are about three hundred feet high, and extend in a general range as far as Haines' Bluff. The Yazoo flows parallel to the bluffs for some five or six miles, and about four miles distant. The space intervening is, for the most part, low and swampy, abounding in lagoons, quicksands, and bayous.

The fleet reached this uninviting locality about noon of the 26th, but on account of the difficulties of landing, the debarkation of the army was not effected till near night. Our lines extended along the river-bank about six miles, General A. J. Smith on the right, next to him General M. L. Smith, then Steele's division, next General Morgan, whose division, on the evening of the 26th, held the extreme left of the line. On the morning of the 27th, General Steele embarked Thayer's and Hovey's brigades, and went some two miles up the Yazoo, debarking some distance north of Chickasaw Bayou. On the 28th, he advanced toward the bluffs, and had some severe fighting. The only route by which he could approach the bluffs, was along a narrow causeway, raked from one end to the other by the artillery of the enemy. The First Iowa battery, Captain Griffiths, and Landgraber's battery opened on the rebels, and after a severe cannonading caused the abandonment of two of the enemy's batteries. Still the causeway was commanded by other artillery, supported by sharpshooters, and the attempt to gain the bluffs by this route was abandoned. Steele reembarked on the night of the 28th,

and on the next morning took position south of Chickasaw Bayou, but still holding the left of the line. Meantime, the other portions of the army had moved up to the bayou, fighting as they marched, and on the morning of the 29th were ready to cross and assault the enemy's works.

The position of the Union forces at this time was as follows: General Morgan on the south side of the bayou; on his immediate right, was General Blair's brigade; General M. L. Smith's division (now commanded by General David Stuart, General Smith having been severely wounded on the evening of the 28th) was on the right center; General A. J. Smith was moving up to the extreme right, and General Steele was coming up on the left. Several bridges had been constructed across the bayou before noon.

During the night before, our troops, lying cold and comfortless in their dark bivouacs, heard trains of cars moving into Vicksburg from the east. They were bringing heavy reinforcements to the rebels. Their position, exceedingly strong by nature, was further fortified by art. On the plateau between the bayou and the base of the bluffs, were lines of rifle-pits, protected in front by abatis, whilst the bluffs themselves were crowded with batteries and heavy artillery, whose concentrated fire might sweep the plateau from one end to the other, as with the bosom of destruction. Early on the morning of the 29th, the rebel batteries commenced a heavy cannonade, principally directed against the center held by Morgan. With occasional cessations it was kept up all the forenoon, during which time there were several engagements of infantry, as opposing regiments came within reach of each other. General Sherman had issued no order announcing an hour for the assault, but by order of General Morgan, Blair threw his brigade across the bayou above where it bends to the right, and forming in line marched through sloughs, bayous, quicksands, and abatis, upon the first line of rifle-pits. Colonel De Courcy's brigade, of Morgan's division, marched against the works at the same time. Both passed gallantly through a murderous fire, and carried the first line with a dash, and soon after the second. But the whole force was still under destructive fire. Thayer had been ordered to support Blair. He crossed a bridge lower down the bayou, moving by the flank, but with only one regiment—the Fourth Iowa. The next regiment, the Thirtieth Iowa, was directed to take a different course by General Steele, and those coming after followed this. Thayer sent back for support, but without waiting for it to come up, charged the works in his front, about two hundred yards to the right of Blair, and about the same time, with the Fourth Iowa Volunteers alone. They carried the first line of works, drove the rebels from their second line, and there remained under a terrible fire waiting for support, scores of the best men in the command falling at every discharge from the enemy's batteries and sharpshooters. But the support did not come, the couriers sent for it being killed or wounded on the way. General Thayer rode along his little line, and absolutely shedding tears at sight of so many brave men falling around, addressed the troops in a few as grateful words as ever fell from the lips of a stout-hearted commander. Receiving no intelligence from his absent regiments, he gave the order to fall back, which these heroic men obeyed, retreating slowly and sternly under the same fire through which they had passed on their perilous advance. A portion of Blair's brigade had advanced to the base of the bluffs, where they had a hand-to-hand contest with the enemy there posted, but the main part of General Morgan's division was not moved across the bayou in time to take part in the assault, whilst but one regiment of the division under Stuart was able to cross the bayou at all. So the assault was only made on the left, and by about three thousand men, of whom about eight hundred were killed or wounded. There were several sharp encounters along the whole line, but the unsuccessful assault on the left was the battle of the day.

In the engagements near Chickasaw Bayou, there were several Iowa regiments and batteries which behaved with that high degree of credit which the troops of the State everywhere maintained throughout the war, but no regiment from any State ever behaved with a more devoted gallantry than "the old Fourth," in the assault of the 29th of December. "Every officer and man," says Colonel Williamson, with terse expressiveness, "did his whole duty, and regretted that he could do no more. The regiment went into the action with four hundred and eighty men and officers, of whom one hundred and twelve were killed and wounded. Among the killed was Lieutenant E. C. Miller, of Company G. who had command of the skirmishers on the 28th. No braver officer has fallen in his country's cause.

3 Colonel Williamson was hit several times during the battle, and had his uniform well perforated with balls. but he continued in command and throughout Lieutenant Leander Pitzer was mortally wounded and Lieutenant J. M. Miller killed. Captain R. A. Still was severely wounded. I think a list of casualties suffered by the regiment in this terrible fight has never been published.

4 General Grant, nearly a year after the battle, when he had fully reflected upon all the facts connected the facts and by general order, the Fourth Iowa Infantry, placed "First at Chickasaw Bayou" on its colors—a distinguished honor given, I believe, to but a single other regiment, (the Thirteenth Regulars,) during the whole war.

The army remained near the scene of its defeat a few days, caring for the wounded, and burying the dead. Preparations were also made for an attack on Haines' Bluff, but it was wisely abandoned. On the 2d of January, 1863, the troops were all on board "the miserable transports" again, and soon on the way down the river. At the mouth of the Yazoo, the fleet was met by the steamer Tigress, having on board Major-General John A. McClernand, to whom General Sherman reported. In a day or two, the latter issued a general order, in which he said: "A new commander is now here to lead you. He is chosen by the President of the United States, who is charged by the constitution to maintain and defend it, and he has the undoubted right to select his own agents. I know that all good officers and soldiers will give him the same hearty support and cheerful obedience they have hitherto given me. There are honors enough in reserve for all, and work enough, too. Let each do his appropriate part, and our nation must in the end emerge from this dire conflict purified and ennobled by the fires which now test its strength and purity" It was, perhaps, impossible for William T. Sherman to submit to the military authority and guidance of John A. McClernand without a feeling of bitterness. Every man of genius is apt to have a knowledge of the fact, and it is not unlikely that a man of General Sherman's military genius can tell a martinet at sight, from a soldier of real capacity. I am not so unjust to proper discipline as to say that General McClernand amounted to a martinet, but it is certain that General Sherman must have had very incorrect ideas both of his own and of McClernand's military talents not to have felt chagrined at his own inferior command. His order announcing the change was severely commented on by the press. The ill success of the attack on Vicksburg under his command, and the success of the campaign against Arkansas Post, under McClernand, which so soon followed, were damaging to the reputation of the former. Even the troops in the command, not knowing that Sherman planned the campaign which was so successful, thought for the time being that he was a little crazy, and that McClernand was a great captain. They changed their minds in both respects before the war came to a close.

In this campaign against Arkansas Post, which resulted so gloriously to our arms. the Fourth Iowa, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Burton, Colonel Williamson being wounded and sick, took an active part, and was in the front line preparing to move upon the enemy's works when the garrison of Fort Hindman surrendered. After this fight, the regiment again embarked on transports and spent there to more weeks of the cramped existence necessary in "life on the river wave." On January 23d, the men debarked and went into camp in the dismal swamps opposite Vicksburg. There, behind the great levee of the Mississippi, under the dark shades of the cypress, and the threatening frowns of the opposite batteries, they spent the darkest days of their service—more intensely gloomy even than the period of their hunger and deprivation in Arkansas. It continued two months, the men spending their time in making observations of the works and guns at Vicksburg, trying to keep themselves dry, and throwing dirt out of the famous canal across the peninsula opposite the stronghold.

About the 1st of April Steele's division embarked on steamers, and passing up the river about one hundred miles debarked at Greenville, Mississippi, and thence marched thirty-five or forty miles eastward, meeting and driving the enemy on several occasions, and making threatening demonstrations toward the rear of Vicksburg. The expedition was important in the way of diverting the attention of the enemy from Grant's main movement, and in collecting large quantities of supplies throughout the fertile and wealthy region traversed. Its object having been accomplished, the command returned to Milliken's Bend, and took up the march for Grand Gulf, and there rejoining the army, marched on Jackson. Our regiment was on the extreme right. It struck the railroad some distance south of Jackson, marched by that route toward the city, and was one of the first regiments to enter the town. Having done much work of destruction, the division marched for Vicksburg; crossed the Big Black River on the night of the 17th of May, made a forced march on Haine's Bluff, flanked the enemy out of their position there, drove them from Walnut Hills, and established communications with our fleet on the Yazoo River. The next day the rebels were driven into the works of Vicksburg, and the investment of the stronghold was completed. Steele's division was on the extreme right, the flank resting on the river. The Fourth Iowa, on the right of the second brigade from the river, in taking position on a hill or point five hundred yards from the enemy's main works, had a brisk skirmish, and firing from both sides continued all day. The regiment lost quite heavily. It took part in the assault of the 22d, but coming to a broad ditch, filled with abatis, where it was exposed to an enfilading fire, it fell back, after considerable loss. And on the steep sides of the familiar hill it remained for forty-seven days—forty-seven weary, wearing days, under the hot sun and hotter rebel fire; the whole command much of the time, and part of it all the time, on the front line and in the ditches, under the fire of the sharpshooters, and in range of the flying shells, standing picket, sharpshooting and working in the trenches. During the siege the regiment lost in killed and wounded about eighty men.

Our regiment was among those which immediately after the capitulation of Pemberton, moved out to join General Sherman in the second movement against Jackson, which resulted in the recapture of that capital in less than a fortnight from the surrender of Vicksburg, and in compelling Johnston to evacuate the State. In the

pursuit of Johnston's army the regiment went as far as Brandon, where there was a brisk combat with the rebel rear guard. Destroying the railway there, the command returned to Jackson, did its part in the wholesale destruction of railways and public property which followed, and then marched to the vicinity of Vicksburg, where the men pitched their tents, and remained in camp till they started on that memorable campaign which resulted in raising the siege both of Chattanooga and Knoxville, in East Tennessee, and the spirits of Unionists all over the land. The encampment of the brigade of which the regiment formed a part, and which brigade was now under command of Colonel Williamson, was not very far from the railroad bridge over Big Black River.

About the middle of September it broke camp and marched to Vicksburg, where it embarked on steamers for Memphis, arriving there on the 27th. The division, General Osterhaus commanding, was sent thence by rail to Corinth. Thence in a few days it marched to luka, and, having repaired the railway thither, moved to Cherokee station, Alabama. In the series of engagements which here took place, our regiment took an active part, being frequently called out of bed into line, to assist in driving away the rebel mounted forces which were constantly harassing our troops at Cherokee. Whilst Osterhaus' division was engaging the attention of the enemy, and persuading him that General Sherman would move to the relief of Chattanooga by the south bank of the Tennessee River to Decatur, that astute commander was quietly crossing the river at Eastport, and marching on, north of the stream, toward Chattanooga. On October 24th, the troops under Osterhaus broke camp, and having driven the enemy to Tusculum, there gave him a farewell volley, and countermarching to Eastport, soon afterwards joined the main column, and arrived at Chattanooga the 23d of November.

In the battle of Lookout Mountain, our regiment, on the morning of the 24th, took position on the extreme left of Hooker's command. When Hooker became engaged the division moved across an open field to Lookout Creek, and being unable to cross remained there for some time exposed to a destructive fire. The enemy being at length driven from the opposite bank, a crossing was effected, and these troops marched up the mountain and joined Hooker, who was still engaged. The Fourth Iowa was now ordered to relieve a regiment on the front line, but it being dark, and the position to be taken far up among the boulders, it was some time before the regiment came into line. Once there, it remained in position during the night, exchanging compliments with the enemy till the night and the battle closed. About one o'clock at night the clouds cleared away, the moon shone bright and full, and the heavy shadows of the great trees and boulders gave to the scene an air of romantic sublimity, which mingled with the crack of the sharpshooters' rifles and the balls glancing from the rocks, made the finale of this "battle among the clouds" as noteworthy as the day's contest. When the morning fairly dawned, Lookout Mountain and Chattanooga Valley were found to be evacuated by the rebels, who had withdrawn to Mission Ridge. Our regiment, together with the Ninth and Thirty-first Iowa, marched early in the morning on Rossville Gap, and taking position in rear thereof, at once secured a most important strategic point and turned the rebel left without a fight. The enemy had not expected our troops could gain a passage of the Chattanooga before evening, and had not expected a small force at the gap, which our troops easily drove away before reinforcements could come up. A strong column of the enemy, however, was soon seen marching in the direction of the gap, and in its vicinity a heavy battle was soon raging, in which our regiment bore an active part, and which resulted in the complete discomfiture and rout of the enemy. The regiment joined in the pursuit on the 26th, and at the battle of Ringgold, or Taylor's Ridge, on the following day, fought with noteworthy valor and persistence against heavy odds, holding an important position, and saving, through the admirable skill of Major Nichols, two railway bridges which had been set on fire by the retreating enemy

After a few days' rest, our regiment went with the division to Bridgeport, Alabama, where it remained in camp about a fortnight, and then moved to Woodville, a station on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, where the command went into winter quarters built by the men themselves. On the 1st of January, 1864, the regiment reenlisted, but the men were not mustered into the service as veterans till the 25th of February. On the next day, they started home on veteran furlough; and going by Nashville, Cairo and Chicago, arrived at the capital city of Iowa on the 9th of March. The General Assembly of the State was then in session at Des Moines, and adjourned to give the Veteran Fourth a reception worthy of its brilliant and untarnished record. Not only the legislature, but the city authorities, did themselves honor by giving to the returning braves a cordial and magnificent reception. Nor did the honors stop here. The ladies of the capital prepared with their own hands a supper than which no better was ever spread upon groaning boards, or more heartily enjoyed. Music arose with its voluptuous swell. Bright the lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men. The joy was unconfined. No one who has ever had the fortune to participate in the hospitalities of the ladies of our capital city, of its citizens generally, can fail to appreciate the enjoyment of this occasion; for what the men and women of Des Moines do not know about making large assemblies perfectly at home is not worth knowing. Their reception at the capital will ever be bright in the memories of the veterans of the Fourth. The day

afterwards the men sought their homes in the different parts of the district, being everywhere greeted with the kindest demonstrations.

By the 1st of May, the regiment had rejoined the army, marching to take part in General Sherman's Georgia campaign. Throughout that campaign, crowded so full of skirmishes and battles, in almost all of which they took active part, the Fourth Iowa Volunteers maintained their honorable reputation, added largely to it, and made many sacrifices to wounds and death. In every skirmish and in every battle, the regiment behaved with its wonted gallantry, and was especially conspicuous on the memorable 22d of July, when Williamson's brigade, composed of the Fourth, Ninth, Twenty-Fifth, and Thirtieth Iowa regiments, made a gallant charge, retaking from the enemy De Grass' famous battery of twenty-pounder Parrott guns, the skirmishers of the Fourth being the first to reach it. The regiment, then in front of Jonesboro, at three o'clock on the morning of September 2, heard a heavy, roaring sound, like a double volley of heavy artillery. It turned out to be the destruction of the arsenals, foundries, etc., at Atlanta. ⁴ On the 5th, the army of the Tennessee started thitherward, and shortly afterwards encamped at East Point, where it remained during the rest of the month. Here our regiment, which had been reduced during the campaign to less than two hundred men, underwent several changes as to its officers. Major Nichols was promoted to the lieutenant-colonelcy, and Captain Anderson appointed to the vacancy. Several line officers, whose term of service had expired, resigned.

In the chase after Hood, which commenced on October 4th, the regiment took part, marching to northern Alabama by forced marches, and returning

⁴ I have been unable to obtain list of casualties in the regiment after Pea Ridge. The regiment was no less distinguished afterwards. As we have Keen, it won the highest honors at Chickasaw Bayou fought like brave men long and well at Vicksburg. Everywhere officers and men of the command were distinguished. A correspondent of the New York Tribune describing the battle of Atlanta, July 22d, calls Williamson's Iowa Brigade "one of the bravest, truest, most tenacious fighting brigades that have marched to the rescue of our nation's liberties." The reports of generals, the correspondence of influential journals, tire strewn with praises of the brigade, and of the regiment with whose history we now have to do. In all the battles in which it took part, it met with loss, and it is to be deeply regretted that the list of casualties, sent to the office of the Adjutant General, have been permitted to lie silent on the files.

Captain, afterwards Major Anderson, was wounded at Jonesboro; Lieutenant Charles Baker, Lieutenant Thomas Cramer, and Sergeant William J. Ferguson, were slain at Ringgold; Captain Frederick Teal was severely wounded at Columbia, South Carolina. Major Nichols was severely wounded on the Atlanta campaign. But I have accounts of no others.

with the army to the vicinity of Atlanta. It took part also in the "march to the sea," and in the march through the Carolinas, and was heavily engaged at the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, the last engagement in which the Army of the Tennessee was called upon to meet the enemy, who soon afterwards surrendered, thereby snaking a practical end of the war. The regiment marched from Raleigh to Washington City, remained in camp there a few days, participated in the grand review, and moved thence by rail and river to Louisville, Kentucky, where it performed provost duty till mustered out of service, in July, 1865. It arrived at Davenport on the 28th, numbering four hundred and fifty-seven men and twenty-three officers, some of the men having been transferred from other regiments at Washington City. "The returning heroes," says the Gazette, "were received with a brief address of welcome by S. F. Smith, Esq., who greeted their return to Iowa in behalf of the citizens of Davenport and the State at large." ⁵

I cannot close my imperfect account of this regiment, whose officers and men, from first to last so highly distinguished themselves, more appropriately than by quoting the farewell address of General Williamson, whose merits as a soldier were too tardily acknowledged by the government which he and his gallant command, whether regiment or brigade, had so long, so faithfully, so honorably served:

Headquarters District of Saint Louis
ST. Louis, Mo., July 6, 1865.

"FELLOW-SOLDIERS OF THE FOURTH IOWA INFANTRY:—Having received the appointment of brigadier-general, and been assigned to duty in another quarter, my official connection with you has ceased. In taking leave of you, I deem it but right to briefly allude to our past association as soldiers. Four years ago we left our homes and loved ones to fight for the Union cause. Then we numbered one thousand men. We were undisciplined and knew nothing of war, but we did know that our country needed our services, and that was enough. Since then we have had more than three hundred added to our ranks. Today our whole number is less than four hundred. Where are the one thousand of our missing companions? Most of them have fallen on

the battlefields from Pea Ridge to Columbia. Some have been discharged on account of wounds received in battle; but

5 The following is the roster of the regiment:—Lieutenant-Colonel S. D. Nichols- Major A. B Anderson; Adjutant L. Shields; Surgeon Dr. Greenleaf; Assistant Surgeon Dr. Whitefield Company A—Captain G. A. Henry; First Lieutenant E. Still. Company B-First Lieutenant Q. W. Lloyd. company C- Captain W. W. Campbell; First Lieutenant C. W. Hill. Company D- Captain F. Teele; First Lieutenant James Finley. Company E—Captain W. S. Simmons, First Lieutenant E. S. Bramhall. Company F—Captain, A. J. Tisdale; First Lieutenant J. H. Kelly Company G-Captain R. Sry; First Lieutenant F. Bennett. company H—Captain J. Bishop, First Lieutenant T. Alexander. company I—Captain Robert Laing; First Lieutenant G. J. Laing. Company K.—Captain P. K. Crisp; First Lieutenant W. A. Anderson.

the saddest thing of all remains to be told: some were starved to death in Southern prison-pens. An enemy claiming to be chivalrous and brave committed the dark, damnable deed of starving our brave men to death. God alone can avenge these 'murders most foul.' To us the work is not fully given. Human means are inadequate. You, the survivors of our glorious old regiment, will, I hope, very soon, be permitted to go home and enter again upon the duties and assume the responsibilities of citizens of the Republic and of the young State of Iowa, for which you have helped to make so glorious a name during this war.

"It need not be said to men like you, who have fought on more than thirty different battlefields, who, under Curtis, 'won immortal honors' at Pea Ridge, and made the memorable march through Missouri and Arkansas in mid-summer, who were ordered by General Grant to inscribe 'First at Chickasaw Bayou' on your banners, who were under Sherman at 'Chickasaw Bayou' and 'Arkansas Post,' who were under Grant through the entire campaign of Vicksburg, including Jackson and Brandon, who marched from Vicksburg to Chattanooga under Sherman, who fought with Hooker above the clouds at Lookout Mountain, and were with him at Missionary Ridge and Ringgold, who were under Sherman through the entire Atlanta campaign and participated in every battle, and who again under this great leader made the famous 'march to the ocean,' and thence to Washington, to be good citizens.

"Whatever may be said to the contrary, none can appreciate peace and civil government better than those who have so freely offered their lives in war to secure these blessings.

"In conclusion, I have only to add, that I thank my lucky star that my fortunes as a soldier were cast with you, and I thank you for my 'Stars.' May that kind Providence who has preserved and directed you through so many hardships and dangers, guide you in the path of honor and glory in the future as in the past.

"Your fellow-soldier,
"J. A. WILLIAMSON."