

# AT STONE RIVER.

## Twenty-fifth Anniversary of a Great Battle.

### PHIL SHERIDAN'S DIVISION

#### His Brave Brigade Commanders Were All Killed.

The Story of Seven Days' Fighting—Constructive Military Strategy—On Both Sides They Fought Like Brave Men, Long and Well—the "Round Forest," Portraits of Distinguished Officers, "Old Ross's" Victory—It Lost Kentucky to the Confederates—Bragg's Battle Wheel.

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Christmas night, 1862, Col. G. W. Roberts, of the Forty-second Illinois regiment, one of the unsung heroes of the Army of the Cumberland, gave a dinner to a few brave officers. He commanded the Third brigade in Gen. Sheridan's division. He had been doing garrison duty at Nashville, but had asked to be sent where fighting was to be.

His request was granted, and he was ordered to join the brigade, moving to meet Bragg at Murfreesboro. It was a time of hurrying and preparation. The only Christmas soldiers of either army had was that which they passed in thoughts linked with the loved ones at home.

However, Col. Roberts and his friends made the best of it. They "played," as the children do, that it was a merry occasion; that their soldier's fare was a feast, and that all around them was light and warmth and joy. Among those present were Col. Harrington and Lieut. Col. Tallafiero.

Col. Roberts was a man of commanding presence, a giant in strength and stature. He had distinguished himself already for his dashing bravery and skill, and the future was as bright before him as that of any man in the United States service that night.

At the close of the frugal feast Col. Roberts rose, tall and splendid in his strength, and proposed a toast to the success of the Union arms. All knew a battle could not be long delayed. Col. Roberts made a little speech that thrilled his few hearers. He spoke of the fight which he waited for like Job's war horse. As he raised his glass he closed his speech with these words:

"I, for one, will take all chances of rebel bullets!"  
"So will I!" "And I!" cried Harrington and Tallafiero, as they too brought their glasses to their lips. The toast to victory was drunk with cheers and enthusiasm.

A week afterward, Jan. 1, 1863, all three—Roberts, Harrington and Tallafiero—lay dead upon the battlefield of Stone River.

### GEN. ROSECRANS.

Oct. 4, 1862, Gen. William S. Rosecrans had won the battle of Corinth, Miss. The Federal army under Buell had, meantime, been tramping up and down Kentucky, fruitfully pursuing Bragg and letting him escape at last. Oct. 8, 1862, Buell was relieved from command and Gen. Rosecrans was summoned to take his place at the head of the Union army in Kentucky. The day that he was thus summoned (Oct. 25) he had just issued to his troops a dispatch congratulating them on their bravery and endurance at the fight of Corinth.

The two leading generals at this time in the west were Grant and Rosecrans. Grant commanded the Thirteenth army corps, known as the Army of the Tennessee. To Rosecrans was given the leadership of the Army of the Cumberland. His district comprised northern Georgia and Alabama and Tennessee east of the Tennessee river.

Rosecrans was nothing if not energetic. Oct. 30 he was at Louisville. The Federal army had been ordered to Bowling Green, Ky., after Perryville. By Nov. 1 its advance had reached there. Nov. 3 Gen. Rosecrans arrived in person to take command of it. William Starke Rosecrans was an Ohio man, born in 1819. He was graduated at West Point in 1842, and entered the engineers corps, to which the most prominent students were assigned.

He was assistant professor at West Point after his graduation. In 1854 he resigned from the army because of ill health. At the beginning of the civil war, however, he entered the service.

On assuming his new command Gen. Rosecrans reorganized his army. He divided it into a right center and left wing, commanded respectively by Gen. A. M. McCook, George H. Thomas and T. L. Crittenden.

Buell had left Negley and Palmer at Nashville with two divisions. Bragg, on marching into Kentucky in the summer of '62, left in Tennessee a force of 10,000 men under Gen. John C. Breckinridge to "blockade Nashville." He did so, and for six weeks Negley's and Palmer's men in Nashville had no communication with the north.

was put in command he at once demanded that this defect should be remedied.

During the siege a body of Confederate troops, infantry and cavalry, 8,000 strong, under Gen. Roger Hanson and N. B. Forrest, from Breckinridge's command, appeared before Nashville with the intention of making a general battle. But just as they were about to attack an order came from Bragg for them to desist at once. Thoroughly angered, Forrest obeyed. This was Nov. 6.

Nov. 17 the advance of Rosecrans' army, with the commander-in-chief himself, reached Nashville, and immediate prospects of capturing it from the Union forces ceased. Rosecrans established his headquarters in Nashville.

Rosecrans immediately began to put in order the railroad from Louisville to Nashville. It was completed Nov. 26, and thereafter trains running regularly over it kept the Federal army in reach of supplies. To guard it from Confederate attack Gen. Thomas was stationed with his division at Gallatin and Rosecrans' army lay watching each other, Bragg at Murfreesboro, Rosecrans at Nashville.

Gen. John M. Palmer was a brave and popular officer, commanding the second division in Rosecrans' left under Crittenden at Stone River. He was born in Kentucky in 1817, but when a youth migrated to Illinois, like Abraham Lincoln, and, like him, became a lawyer.

In April, 1861, Palmer became colonel of the Fourteenth Illinois regiment, which went to Missouri under Gen. Fremont; became a brigadier general in December, 1861, and assisted at the capture of New Madrid and Island No. 10. He commanded a division under both Grant and Rosecrans, and bore such gallant part in the battle of Stone River that he was promoted to major general. He was at the battle of Chickamauga and commanded the Fourth corps during the Atlanta campaign.

Of the two armies lying at Murfreesboro and Nashville, Bragg had 40,000 men, one-third of it cavalry; Rosecrans 43,000, very little cavalry. While they thus waited an affair occurred Dec. 7 which conferred no luster on the Federal arms. At Hartsville, a few miles east of Nashville, Col. A. B. Moore had been posted to guard a ford over the Cumberland river. Early on the morning of Dec. 7 John Morgan and his men appeared before the town without warning and attacked it. His approach was a surprise to the Federal camp. There was sharp fighting for an hour, when Moore and his whole command were captured, with the loss of 150 men. For this exploit John Morgan was made a brigadier general.

Dec. 22, Morgan and all his men, 4,000 strong, were off again for Kentucky. He had orders from Bragg to destroy the Louisville and Nashville railroad in Rosecrans' rear and break his communications north. At the same time Bragg sent Forrest on a raid elsewhere. And this was exactly the time chosen by Rosecrans, with full knowledge of the situation, to attack Bragg himself at Murfreesboro. Bragg's cavalry absent, their two armies, his own and Bragg's, would be more nearly equalized.

**NASHVILLE TO MURFREESBORO.**  
Dec. 22, Gen. Thomas moved from his headquarters at Gallatin and joined the main army at Nashville. He took with him two divisions, Rouseau's and Negley's, and one brigade, Gen. Speed S. Fry's.

James S. Negley was born in Pennsylvania in 1836. He was not a graduate of West Point. A considerable proportion of western army officers were not graduates of the United States Military academy. Negley, however, served in the Mexican war. In 1861 he recruited a brigade of volunteers in three days, and became their commander. He called public attention to the fact that arms were being re-

moved from the United States arsenal at Albany, Pa., for Confederate use, then joined the western army with his brigade. He defended Nashville in connection with Palmer in the summer of 1862, and along with that general was promoted to be a major general for gallantry at Stone River. He afterwards served in Georgia and Alabama.

On Christmas night, 1862, Rosecrans sent around among his commanders the word to march southward. Singularly enough, at that very time, Bragg was planning an attack against Rosecrans at Nashville.

Dec. 20, 1862, Rosecrans began his march against Bragg and Murfreesboro. The fight, which began here Dec. 31, is indiscriminately called the battle of Stone River and Murfreesboro. It is also spoken of as Stone's River.

Bragg's army consisted of three corps. Hardee's corps was west of Murfreesboro; Polk's and Kirby Smith's corps were at Murfreesboro.

When Rosecrans' army moved forward, McCook's corps, the right wing, advanced on the Nolinsville pike toward Triune against Hardee's corps.

cavalry and artillery operations exceedingly difficult.

Bragg's plan of battle was very similar to that of Rosecrans. His left wing, under Hardee, was on the west, opposite McCook's approaching corps. His center, under Polk, he kept at Murfreesboro. His right wing, under McCown, he stationed at Readyville, east of Murfreesboro. In dividing his troops for battle, McCown's division was posted in the rear of the others as a reserve.

Meantime the Confederate cavalry of Wheeler and Wharton had amply fulfilled instructions and greatly annoyed Rosecrans' advance. He said it was impeded by "clouds of horsemen." McCook was skirmishing with these clouds of horsemen all day Dec. 20. He reached Nolinsville that night, however.

Wheeler's cavalry was such a thorn in the flesh to Buell's and Rosecrans' armies in the west as J. E. B. Stuart's was to the Army of the Potomac. He was Bragg's chief of cavalry, and he effectively covered that general's retreat from Kentucky. He was especially successful in destroying and capturing Union supply trains. On some of these raids he captured several millions' worth of property.

Joseph Wheeler was born in Georgia in 1833, graduated at West Point in 1853, and became lieutenant of cavalry. Two years later, 1861, he resigned his commission in the United States army, and cast his fortunes with the Confederacy. He was rapidly promoted, and commanded an infantry brigade at Shiloh. Following that he was made a major general, although very young, and the command of the cavalry corps of the Confederate Army of the West was given to him. The Confederate congress and the Confederate legislature of South Carolina gave him a vote of thanks for his services.

After the death of J. E. B. Stuart, in 1864, Gen. Wheeler, at the age of 28, became the senior cavalry commander of all the Confederate forces east and west. At the close of the war he settled in Alabama and studied law and became a cotton planter. Gen. Wheeler is now a member of the United States house of representatives from Alabama.

Gen. William J. Hardee was the first to meet Rosecrans' advance under McCook. He formed in line of battle the night of Dec. 20 and on the morning of the 27th awaited the Federal onset.

Gen. Hardee was born in Georgia, in 1818. He was graduated at West Point in 1838, and entered the dragoons, January, 1861, he resigned from the United States army for the purpose of joining the Confederacy. In that service he became a brigadier general in 1861. He took brave part in the battle of Shiloh, and for it was promoted to be a major general. In October, 1862, he became a lieutenant general. He took active part in the fighting in the west until the summer of 1864. He was the commanding general at Savannah and Charleston when they were taken possession of by the Federal forces in 1865. He was with Johnston's army at its final surrender, April 27, 1865.

By the night of Dec. 20, while McCook's men bivouacked at Nolinsville, Gen. Crittenden's corps had reached Lavigne, a village northeast of Nashville and Murfreesboro. Lavigne was an important strategic point. Thomas' corps was well on the way.

A fog so thick that no man could tell whom he was firing at prevented a fight between McCook and Hardee on the morning of Dec. 27. Under its friendly cover, Hardee burned the bridge over Wilson's creek, and retreated toward Murfreesboro. McCook's advance under Johnson and Sheridan repaired the bridge, crossed the creek, and encamped that night at Triune.

The morning of Dec. 29 came, counting off the hours that brought the approach of the great battle. During that day McCook, leaving part of his command still at Triune, took the rest eastward over a road leading directly into Murfreesboro. Another night passed. Dec. 30 McCook brought his whole command up, those from Triune with the rest, till he met the Confederate pickets at Murfreesboro.

The first division of the First Confederate corps (Polk's) at Murfreesboro was commanded by Maj. Gen. E. F. Cheatham. He was a man of great courage and address. At the battle of Belmont, Mo., he escaped capture by a Federal regiment in a unique way. He saw a number of cavalrymen coming down the road toward him. He rode forward to meet them, attended only by an orderly. "What cavalry is that?" he asked them. "Illinois cavalry," was the answer. "Oh, all right," quickly answered Cheatham. "Illinois cavalry, remain where you are."

They stopped, and then with much outward dignity but inward scrambling, Gen. Cheatham and his orderly rode back within the Confederate lines unrecognized.

By the morning of Dec. 30, McCook and the Federal right wing had advanced to within seven miles of Murfreesboro. The left wing under Crittenden was still nearer, being only three miles away from the town, on the bank of the west fork of Stone river. Thomas was in place in the center, with Negley's division of his corps next to McCook and Rouseau's division next to Crittenden. Dec. 30 Gen. Jeff. C. Davis divided McCook's corps advanced quite to the west fork of Stone river, fighting it was at every step. Sheridan's division was also engaged in forcing this advance, and the two together lost 275 men.

### BATTLE OF STONE RIVER.

The battle of Stone River proper began Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1862. There had been preliminary skirmishing for days before, but that day the general engagement opened. There were various fights, extending over Dec. 31, Jan. 1, Jan. 2 and Jan. 3. Thus the battle of Stone River was really several battles.

McCook's battle line has been criticised. It was said to be too long and thin, and to be much broken, the divisions facing in different directions.

Tuesday, Dec. 30, Bragg changed his line of battle somewhat. He moved his reserve division, McCown's, to the front, and put Hardee in command of it. Breckinridge's division formed the Confederate right. Cleburne was in his rear as a support. Cleburne's division was taken from Breckinridge and placed in the rear of McCown's division on Breckinridge's left. Bragg's force was formed in two lines, the second a sixth of a mile behind the first. In front of the first were intrenchments.

Meantime Thomas in the center, and Crittenden on the left, had, like McCook, found every foot of their advance to Murfreesboro on the 28th and 29th of December contested. They converged to within supporting distance of each other Dec. 29. That night Rouseau's division of Thomas' corps camped at Stewartsville, while Negley's division of the same corps advanced to within three miles of Murfreesboro. Dec. 30 Rouseau's division came up. That day Crittenden's force, under a sharp fire, came within full sight of Murfreesboro. Hardee's brigade, indeed, crossed Stone river to the Murfreesboro side that evening, in the face of Breckinridge's force, but was ordered to return.

Bragg had weakened his right under Breckinridge to strengthen his left, where he believed the heaviest fighting would be.

Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge, who commanded the Confederate right at Stone River, belonged to the famous old Kentucky family of that name. They were a handsome, finely developed race physically. John C. was born at Lexington in 1821, was educated in his native state, except a few months spent at Princeton college, New Jersey. He studied law and became a distinguished member of the bar. He likewise was a major in the Mexican war.

After the war he returned to his home in Lexington, Ky., and died there in 1873. At Stone River he sustained a serious defeat. A brigade commander in Bishop Polk's second division at Stone river was Gen. James Ronald Chalmers, afterward famous as the representative in the United States congress from the famous "Shoestring district" of Mississippi.

James Ronald Chalmers was born in Halifax county, Va., in 1821. When 8 years old he was taken to Mississippi. He was educated in South Carolina, but returned to practice law in Mississippi. Chalmers was a member of the convention that passed the Mississippi ordinance of secession. After that he entered the Confederate army as captain, and became a brigadier general. After the war he entered law and politics. He was elected to the legislature of Mississippi in 1870, and thence to the United States congress two terms.

As the two armies faced each other Dec. 30, 1862, Bragg meant to make the strongest fight on his own left with Cleburne's and McCown's divisions under Hardee against the Federal right under McCook. He meant to force the Federal right steadily back upon its own left at Stone River until a revolving wheel. That he would do Nashville, east of Rosecrans' supplies, and the whole Federal army of the west would be at his mercy.

Each general gave orders to attack the other at daylight on the morning of Dec. 31, in the morning. "Breakfast at daylight," was the order. "Breakfast in the dark" and "breakfast at daylight," was Bragg's command to the Confederate army.

As a consequence, perhaps, Bragg obtained the advantage on the Federal right from the beginning. Johnson's division was surprised at breakfast, with neither soldiers nor officers in their places at the moment.

### BATTLE OF DEC. 31.

The fight of Dec. 31 was the severest of the series of four days' battles. Gen. A. Willich's second brigade of Johnson's division was the most completely surprised when the Confederates under McCown advanced to attack them at 6:30 o'clock. Gen. Willich himself was absent from his brigade, and Johnson's headquarters. Some of his artillery horses were away from their guns, getting water in the rear.

Owing to a failure to execute Bragg's orders precisely, the Confederates did not advance in two lines, as had been planned, but in a long single line, McCown on the left, Cleburne on the right.

Kirk's brigade was the portion of the Federal army first attacked. Kirk called on Willich's brigade, on the extreme right, for aid. Willich's brigade had no commander, and no attempt was made to respond to the call. There was sharp but short fighting, and then Johnson's division went to pierce Kirk himself, mortally wounded, and Willich was captured as he was hurrying back to his brigade. Kirk's and Willich's brigades were nearly half of them killed, wounded or captured.

Only Col. Baldwin's brigade of Johnson's division remained unshattered. It was in reserve near division headquarters. The remains of the two beaten brigades went streaming back to the rear past Baldwin, only pausing in their flight to give information of the disaster. At that Col. Baldwin quickly formed his brigade in line to meet the pursuing Confederates. They appeared in great numbers—moving clouds of men. On the front Baldwin's brigade held them gallantly for a time, but they came on in overwhelming force and flanked him on the right, enfilading his brigade. Then he was forced back and retreated slowly, just in time to miss having his whole brigade captured. What was left of the other brigades of Johnson's division was being reformed in the rear, and these Baldwin joined.

On the victorious divisions of Hardee swept, so far swinging around the circle just as Bragg had planned for them. Gen. Jeff. C. Davis next determined the force of advancing wave. Davis threw Post's brigade quickly to the right to meet them with changed front. On they came, an irresistible avalanche of men. They charged with the "rebel yell." Fresh troops from Gen. Withers' division of the Confederate center had by this time joined them. These came in a torrent against Carlin's and Woodruff's brigades of Davis' division and Still's brigade of the right of Sheridan's division. Together the three brigades of Carlin, Woodruff and Still made gallant resistance, and at length drove back the advancing Confederate columns. The Confederates reformed their lines almost immediately, being re-enforced by reserves from Cheatham's division. Again they charged, and again were driven back by the three stubborn brigades. Gen. Still charged in turn and drove back the force opposite him to his intrenchments. But in this gallant charge Still himself was killed. Post's brigade of Dav-

division had meanwhile also repulsed the attack of Cleburne's men.

After changing front Post's brigade fought nearly at right angles to their former position. This made an angle of the left of Davis' division and the right of Sheridan's. Against this angle the Confederates threw all their force for the purpose of enfilading the Union ranks. Twice they had been repulsed, yet a third time they assaulted the Federal position. At that third attack the long-enduring brigades of Davis' division gave way and fell back into the cedar thickets behind them.

Then Sheridan, next on Davis' left, was in turn obliged to protect his own right flank. Col. George W. Roberts commanded Sheridan's left brigade. Sheridan quickly withdrew Still's brigade, whose commander had been killed from his right and ordered Col. Roberts to take its place and charge on the Confederates, who pursued Davis' division into the cedar grove. Roberts did so and checked their advance long enough for Sheridan to reform Still's brigade and another on a new line. Roberts joined the new line with his brigade. Sheridan then attempted to reform Davis' division, but failed.

Still the Confederates swept on in ever increasing waves. They at length turned Sheridan's own right. The right of the center corps, Thomas', was held by Negley. Immediately Sheridan joined his front to Negley's, and formed Roberts on the right, facing south.

The successive positions on the right wing of the Federal force that morning may be described as two sides of a square, one facing south, the other east, forming an angle with each other. One after another the south sides of the square melted away, again to be followed by other brigades swung round to the right in the same position. The main line faced east.

Sheridan at length formed his brigades in three sides of a hollow square, placing two brigades to face westward, at right angles to Roberts and in the rear of Negley. Upon all three sides of this square the Confederates poured shot and shell at once. Three times the whole force of Hardee's and Polk's corps, four divisions, dashed in mass against it. The artillery of the two opposing forces was in some cases not more than 600 feet apart.

Each time the Confederates were repulsed, but at great cost. The gallant Col. Roberts, who had defied Confederate bullets that Christmas night six days before, was shot dead. Early all the horses belonging to Sheridan's brigade artillery were killed. Sheridan's men had exhausted their ammunition. They had been fighting almost continuously in this terrible battle for four hours. Sheridan fell back through the cedars to the Murfreesboro pike. Negley's division, too, was broken.

While the fight was going thus disastrously to McCook on the right, Rosecrans was with the left. His headquarters were in the rear of Crittenden's corps. Rosecrans' plan was for his left to cross Stone river and sweep into Murfreesboro while his right engaged Hardee's main force west of the river and town.

Gen. Van Cleve crossed early in the morning with two brigades, meeting no opposition. Gen. T. J. Wood's division was following Van Cleve. A thunderous roaring on the right showed that McCook was engaged.

An hour passed. The left wing was still crossing quietly to the east bank of Stone river. Suddenly one of McCook's staff rode hurriedly to the commander-in-chief and told him the right wing was hard pressed and needed assistance. But he was not told how badly it was going; that Johnson's division had been surprised and routed, and that Davis' brigades had been doubly sent back word to McCook to hold on to the last, and then went on crossing his left. It was true the firing sounded more and more to the west, but McCook had been directed by Rosecrans to bear gradually to the west and north in the fight, in military parlance to refuse more and more to the right, and this seemed in accordance with instructions. Rosecrans' plan of battle also comprised somewhat the idea of a revolving wheel.

At length another messenger arrived, telling the commander that the whole right wing was in retreat. It was a time for swift action. Van Cleve's brigades were recalled and sent quickly to the center. Rouseau was sent into the cedar thickets to aid Sheridan and Negley. Van Cleve and Wood were ordered to cross the river and come up on the double quick. Gen. Palmer's division was the only one of the left wing that had not moved to cross the river. It was chiefly on the west side of the Murfreesboro pike. Gen. W. B. Hazen's brigade lay partly across the pike. Gen. Hazen died while chief of the United States signal service. Rosecrans at once began to form a new line in place of that which had been broken. As the victorious Confederates rushed on, still turning the circle of the wheel, they encountered Hazen's and Craft's brigades of Palmer's division. They met gallantly the onset of the enemy while Rosecrans was forming his new line.

Rouseau's division, meantime, cut its way through the Confederates to the rear of the cedar thicket, and with Negley's division formed in line, with their batteries upon a slight hill to the rear. Palmer's division was on Negley's left, and here, with Rouseau's and Negley's divisions, and Hazen's and Craft's brigades of Palmer's division, was some of the most desperate fighting of that bloody day. From the little hill Gaultier's and Loomis' batteries poured double-shotted canister upon the Confederate masses. Four determined assaults were made to break the Union line in front of Rouseau, but each was repulsed. In a charge against Craft's brigade Chalmers was severely wounded. Palmer had one more brigade left in his division—Groses'. It formed his reserve at first, but was at length drawn into action.

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Rosecrans showed himself that day a gallant leader of men. Riding hither and thither on the front line he was constantly exposed to danger. At the time of the assault of Breckinridge's men against "Round Forest," Rosecrans was there with his staff, being anxious for his left. A shell from the enemy burst near them. A piece grazed Rosecrans, just missing him, and took off the head of his chief of staff, Col. Garesche.

Col. Julius F. Garesche was a Cuban and a gallant officer, greatly beloved, and his death was profoundly lamented by his comrades.

On that day of fighting Gen. Thomas, on the center, first had opportunity to manifest himself on a large scale. Those staying quiet on the east bank of the river which afterwards made him famous. Through all the fiery ordeal of Stone River he stood cool and unmoved, giving orders, and to him Rosecrans turned as to a rock of dependence.

It was the formation of his new line of battle that saved the day for Rosecrans Dec. 31. The battle of Stone River was fought on the west and north of Murfreesboro. Rosecrans' line faced to the east and south Dec. 31 in the morning. The new line was northwest of the old one and faced more toward the west. The successive positions of the Federal and Confederate lines at Stone River is an interesting and instructive study in military science.

In the evening of the 31st Rosecrans and his generals met and considered the situation. Gen. Wood had been wounded in the foot early in the day, but had never left the saddle till 7 at night. Then he took from the wounded foot his boot and held it upside down. Blood poured from it like water. In that condition the general had sat upon his horse and given orders all day.

Some of the officers wished to give up the fight and retire to Nashville. Rosecrans refused. That night he completed his new line and prepared for the fight of

JAN. 1, 1863.

The first day of the new year was Thursday. Early in the morning the Confederates tried without success to force Thomas' line in the center. The attempt was several times renewed equally in vain. There was also some cavalry skirmishing. In the afternoon Bragg massed his troops heavily toward the Federal right, but no attack was made by either general. On the Federal side during the day Van Cleve's division again crossed the river to the Murfreesboro side, and here was continued skirmishing between his men and Polk's corps. Some other slight changes in the Union troops were made.

At daylight on Friday, Jan. 2, Bragg opened fire on the Federal center. He also opened fire on McCook on the right. He was endeavoring, as he had been the day before, to find whether Rosecrans was retreating. A heavy artillery fire speedily convinced him to the contrary.

At the same time he made the discovery that Van Cleve's division had obtained a position to enfilade Polk's whole line. Breckinridge's division was ordered to dislodge him. It advanced in two lines, Pillow's and Gen. Roger M. Hanson's brigades in the first line, Preston's and Adams' in the second. They were protected by cavalry on the right.

Van Cleve's division was commanded by Col. Samuel Beatty. Negley's division was placed in position on the west bank of the river as a reserve, to support Beatty in case of need. At the same time Gen. Crittenden massed his artillery on the west bank opposite Breckinridge's division, and prepared to rake the Confederates as they came on to attack.

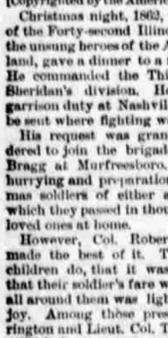
They moved up gallantly, in spite of the cannonading, and opened a heavy fire. Van Cleve's division retired across the river. They slipped between the men of Negley's line and went to the rear to reform.

The Federal fortunes were here saved by the strategy of Col. John F. Miller, commanding Negley's right brigade. Negley himself was absent in the rear. Col. Miller ordered the division to lie down behind the bluff of the river till Van Cleve's men had passed over and behind them. Then, as Breckinridge's men came on in pursuit, the recumbent soldiers were to rise suddenly and pour a deadly fire in their faces.

The order was carried out to the letter. Breckinridge recoiled and fell back. "Charge across the river!" was Miller's next order. It was done and the Confederates were driven to their intrenchments. While at the river Col. Miller received an order not to cross. Sure of victory, however, he took the liberty of ignoring the order, knowing the situation better than his commander. The Confederates were broken and the colors of the Twenty-sixth Tennessee were blundered among the captured Confederate battle flags.

"If we don't charge the rebels, they'll charge us," Col. Miller had said before crossing the river.

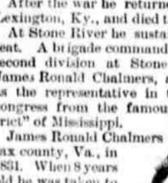
After it was done, and Hazen's brigade and Davis' division were following on after his men, then Miller obeyed his orders, went back to the west side of the river and took position on his old line.



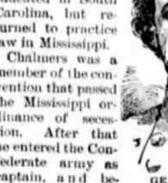
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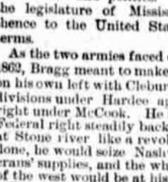
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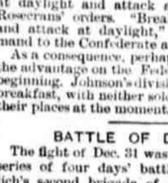
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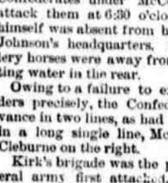
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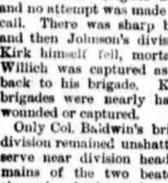
GEN. CHEATHAM.



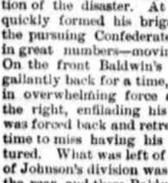
GEN. ROSECRANS.



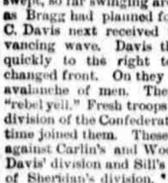
GEN. THOMAS.



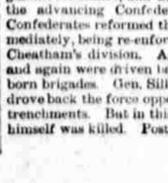
BRACKINRIDGE.



GEN. CHALMERS.



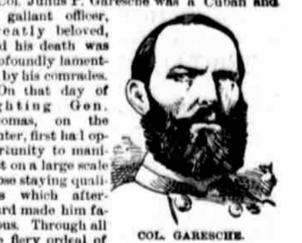
GEN. ROSECRANS.



GEN. THOMAS.



BRACKINRIDGE.



COL. GARESCHÉ.



STONE RIVER BATTLE GROUND.

Some of the officers wished to give up the fight and retire to Nashville. Rosecrans refused. That night he completed his new line and prepared for the fight of

JAN. 1, 1863.

The first day of the new year was Thursday. Early in the morning the Confederates tried without success to force Thomas' line in the center. The attempt was several times renewed equally in vain. There was also some cavalry skirmishing. In the afternoon Bragg massed his troops heavily toward the Federal right, but no attack was made by either general. On the Federal side during the day Van Cleve's division again crossed the river to the Murfreesboro side, and here was continued skirmishing between his men and Polk's corps. Some other slight changes in the Union troops were made.

At daylight on Friday, Jan. 2, Bragg opened fire on the Federal center. He also opened fire on McCook on the right. He was endeavoring, as he had been the day before, to find whether Rosecrans was retreating. A heavy artillery fire speedily convinced him to the contrary.

At the same time he made the discovery that Van Cleve's division had obtained a position to enfilade Polk's whole line. Breckinridge's division was ordered to dislodge him. It advanced in two lines, Pillow's and Gen. Roger M. Hanson's brigades in the first line, Preston's and Adams' in the second. They were protected by cavalry on the right.

Van Cleve's division was commanded by Col. Samuel Beatty. Negley's division was placed in position on the west bank of the river as a reserve, to support Beatty in case of need. At the same time Gen. Crittenden massed his artillery on the west bank opposite Breckinridge's division, and prepared to rake the Confederates