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Troop movement along Mississippi prelude to active battle campaign

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MOVEMENTS OF THE TROOPS

This movement of the troops was not what Sewall supposed it to be, the start of another attack on Vicksburg. It was an expedition for the purpose of expelling a battery, which had been firing on the Union transports, as they came down the river, loaded with supplies. Six thousand troops were taken up the river one hundred miles, and landed at Greenville, Mississippi, and from there marched fifty miles into the interior.

They found a beautiful country, with roses in bloom, and peaches, and apples, the size of hickory nuts, on the trees . . . It was a country of large plantations, fine homes, and good negro quarters.

The inhabitants had fled, and all of the negroes came to meet them, begging to be taken along, and willing to tell all that they knew. Five hundred men, women, and children followed them back to the boats . . . A large amount of property was destroyed by fire, and mules, horses, wagons, and cattle were seized for the use of the Union army. There was some fighting with attacking, and running rebels, but few were wounded, and only one man was killed. After returning to the boats, they remained there a few days, and then were returned to Milliken's Bend.

Here they found that a mail had come in for them, and some of the soldiers, through the Sanitary organization of the North, received packages from home. Sewall had

a box containing some home cookies, fried cakes, some sweet flag, and horseradish. He knew that Mother and Julia had packed the box, and it meant much to him.

While this force had been away on this expedition, on April 16th, seven ironclads, led by Admiral Porter, in person on his flagship, *Bento*, ran by the batteries at Vicksburg at night. General Sherman writes: "The scene was truly inspiring, and sublime. As soon as the rebel gunners detected the flagship, they opened fire on her with shot and shell. The roaring of the cannon, the bursting of the shells, and finally the burning of the *Henry Clay*, made a picture terrible to see."

Houses near the river were set on fire, and huge bonfires sent up flames a hundred feet high, making the night as light as day. The transports towing barges of supplies hugged the other side. Many were disabled, but the most went through . . . On the 26th six more transports, with numerous barges, were drifted past Vicksburg. Grant, with supplies for his troops, and boats to ferry them across the river safely below the batteries of Vicksburg, was now ready to start his active campaign.

Milliken's Bend April 18.

1863

My Dear Wife,

I have learned that some gunboats and transports have run the blockade, and are below Vicksburg. The movement of the troops down the river, and this event, denote that active work is at hand. We are expecting the order to return to our camp, but may not get it for several days . . . The boys that are now with me are well, and I am relieved of the extraordinary care of the sick that I have had for the last six months. The death of Fred Blodgett is an irreparable loss. He was one of the best friends that I ever had.

. . . Although I received the majority of votes for the majorship in the company,

the Colonel decided for Lieutenant Stremming. If I ever try to rise in rank again, I hope that I may be more successful. . . I will write again when I know what we are to do. Affectionately,

S. S. Farwell.

This decision of the Colonel in favor of Lieutenant Stremming was made on account of his friendship for the man, and the Colonel soon realized that he had made a mistake. Although Stremming held the rank of Major, Sewall Farwell really performed the duties of the office the most of the time, during the rest of the war. There were no opportunities to rise in rank, until he was given his commission as Major, as an acknowledgment of his services at that time.

On April 30th McClernand's, and McPherson's men were ferried across the river, and landed on high ground, just below Grand Gulf. Sherman, who had been making a show of battle against Haines's Bluff, thus causing Pemberton at Vicksburg to recall troops he was sending to reinforce Grand Gulf, and Port Gibson, against Grant's landing, was ordered to move his troops south as fast as possible to join them. The order came to the men on the 2nd of May.

My Dear Wife,

Our men are on the march to Carthage. I remain behind to make out some necessary rolls, and pay Joseph Cline a visit. I found him in a hospital six miles away. He is very sick, but he knew me. He whispered my name, and said, "I commenced three letters to you." . . . I shall never see him alive again.

I am starting now to join the main army under Grant. We march tomorrow, at daylight. Our mail communications will be cut, and it may be the fate of Vicksburg will be decided before you hear from me again. I am glad that I am able to go with my company. . . .

S. S. Farwell.

March down river made in 6 days over bad roads

THE MARCH TO VICKSBURG

This march down the river took six days. The army marched over bad roads, cut up by heavy army traffic, by way of Richmond, Roundabout Bayou, down the Mississippi River to a plantation, called Hard Times. The roads were more or less obstructed by wagons, and detachments of troops, but the men made good progress, in spite of this.

There was a good deal of a scramble to get across the river, but Sherman, by means of a transport, Forest Queen, and some gunboats, had his whole corps across by the Seventh. Eleven days after this, these same troops looked down from Walnut Hill, behind Vicksburg, on to the Yazoo River, from which they had made their first unsuccessful attack months before.

The night, after they had crossed the Mississippi River, Sewall Farwell wrote from Grand Gulf:

We reached here yesterday, after a hot, and tedious march from Milliken's Bend. We crossed the river just below this place. We had a sharp engagement on landing, as this place is naturally strong. The army extends about fifteen miles out. The land is hilly, with deep ravines, and underbrush. Rations will be hard to get, and if disaster should come, we may be in a bad fix . . . we must be successful, or be destroyed, for we are so far away from our base of supplies."

General Grant had expected General Banks, who was operating on the Red River to join him here, and with his help, to make this place a base of supplies. But now he found that Banks could not get here for two or three weeks, and then with only a force of about ten thousand men.

This would make a delay in his plans of at least a month. With the forces about Vicksburg, he felt quick action was necessary, so he decided to cut loose from any base. He only stopped long enough to get up his ammunition, and what rations he could of hard bread, coffee, and salt . . . He would live off of the country, and it proved that he was able to find enough mutton, pork, poultry, and forage to supply the army . . . but, as Sewall had written, "If disaster should occur . . ." but fortunately it did not.

General Grant said afterwards, that as soon as the news of the arrival of the troops behind Vicksburg reached the North, floods of visitors poured in. Some coming to see friends, or relatives, would bring for a treat chickens, or some kind of poultry, when many of the soldiers had lived so long on chickens, ducks, and even turkey, that the sight of them would take away their appetites. They much preferred bacon, if they could get it.

Grant, on leaving Grand Gulf, had a force of 32,000 men. Pemberton, at Vicksburg, had a force of 40,000. At Jackson

were 15,000 men, under Johnson. The scattered forces, at different points, swelled the number of Confederates to 60,000 men.

Grant's plan was to move his troops with great rapidity, dividing them so as to throw against each detachment of the enemy a force greater than its own . . . After the march was under way, he decided to march to Jackson and take the Capital, and prevent Johnson from forming a junction with Pemberton.

McPherson's corps encountered about seven thousand men at Raymond, and defeated them, after a sharp battle. He had agreed to reach Jackson at the same time, if possible, with Sherman, and General Grant was with Sherman the last day of the march . . . It rained in torrents the night of the 13th and all of the next day. The roads were terrible. The mud was heavy, and deep, and for long distances the roads were covered with water, but the men never murmured.

They were met with resistance, but it was only to cover the retreat of Johnson, and Grant's troops took possession of the city. The next day, Sewall wrote this letter to his people.

Senate Chamber, Jackson, Miss.

May 15, 1863

I am writing you from the senate chamber of the capitol of Mississippi. We reached here yesterday evening, having found, much to our satisfaction, that the rebels had evacuated the place.

I wrote you from Grand Gulf, and I hope that you received the letter. We marched eighteen miles the first day, and camped within three miles of the rebels, where they were fortified in force. We camped a day, and started on at night, marching nine miles, with the rebels at our right . . . The next day we met with resistance, and were fired on.

The enemy was concealed in the brush, along a creek, and they killed seven of our men, before they were driven off . . . We were under fire for awhile, and the bullets whizzed about very unpleasantly for us . . . One man in Company A was wounded, but our company encountered no losses. While this skirmish was going on, and for some time after, we could hear some fighting near Raymond. We marched through Raymond the next day, and could see that the field had been severely contested.

Wednesday we marched all day in the rain and mud, and we realized that we were going to Jackson, with the intention of taking the place before dark . . . As we neared the town, we thought that we were going into a big fight, but presently a cheer was heard, and then the shouts increased, as the word was passed down the line that Jackson was ours.

The rebels had left, leaving their tents, and burning great quantities of supplies

. . . We marched in with blistered feet, wet clothes, and empty stomachs, but no one heeded these things, in the great satisfaction that the enemy had been out-generated.

I do not doubt but there is much work for us yet to do. Indeed we may have to march tomorrow, but the army is in good spirits.

I see by a rebel paper here that Hooker has met with defeat in the East. I hope it is not as bad as represented . . . I have not heard from anyone since I left Milliken's Bend. I am as well as could be expected.

Affectionately, S. S. Farwell.

OUTSIDE OF VICKSBURG

Sherman's men were ordered to remain at Jackson to complete the destruction of the railroads, and burn the enemies' manufacturing plants, while the rest of the army moved toward Vicksburg. But the next day, after the order was issued, a dispatch from Pemberton to Johnson was intercepted by Grant, in which it was learned, that an attempt would be made to join the two forces in battle against him, so Steele's division was sent at once to join the main army at Bolton.

The battle of Champion Hill had been fought, and won, by the Union troops, before this division reached there, but they met with resistance all of the way . . . The next two days Pemberton was covering his retreat into Vicksburg, and there was severe fighting and skirmishing. Sewall was knocked down by the explosion of a shell, and several of his men were wounded. He wrote of the two unsuccessful charges on the works of Vicksburg, made after Pemberton's men were safely behind its works, regretting the useless loss of life.

"We now are sure of taking Vicksburg. It is surrounded by an army that cannot be whipped in a fair fight. We only have to wait, and victory is sure to come."

The army now settled down to a siege which lasted six weeks. The place was completely surrounded on land, and patrolled in front by the gunboats on the river. Sherman's forces occupied Walnut Hill, and they looked down on the very spot, where they had made their first disastrous attempt to carry Vicksburg in January. Later Steele's division was moved down the bluff a short ways. Sewall writes of their being in a ravine, hot, and shut out from any breeze, but shielded from the rebel fire. Shells from their big guns were constantly passing over their heads.

Grant's army was now reinforced until he had 60,000 men. They moved forward with pick and shovel, drawing in the lines on the doomed city, digging mines, and

Sewall receives word of the death of his brother's little boy

tunnels. The men were busy with picket duty, and the regular work and routine of army life . . . The mortars were throwing shells into the place, a beautiful sight at night, and there was constant firing on both sides of the lines.

It was very hot, the water was poor, and there was much sickness among the men. But they were well fed, and cared for, and they now had perfect confidence in Grant, and Sherman, and their morale was good.

At this time Sewall received word of the death of his brother's little boy, in Chicago. He had never been a well child. He writes to Marcus that he is pained by the news; separation means so much at such a time. In this letter he writes that Malinda has written that Mary is strong and well, but full of mischief, while Luna is a "good baby," just able to creep about some.

My Dear Wife,

You may imagine my surprise on Thursday to learn that Lalon was in camp looking for me. I was very much astonished, for I did not dream of such a thing. He had written me, asking if it would be possible for him to get down, but I had answered that visitors were not allowed below Memphis.

It seems that there has been much anxiety in the North over the fate of the men . . . He looks well and hearty. He could not stay, as he had to get back to Freeport. Bidwell was going East as soon as he returned.

He said that Mother was well, but that Julia was not strong, and Charlie did not grow very fast. Father was thin, and careworn. He no doubt has worked too hard . . . Monticello is improving a good deal . . . Lalon brought me plenty of socks, collars, a new pair of boots, and many small articles, which will come in handy. He would not take what they were worth, and is over-generous in such matters.

He has been out where the bullets are flying, and I can see that he would make a good soldier, even to rashness."

But such praise of this younger brother, Lalon, who was growing rich in his business at Freeport, with no family claims upon him, was hard for Malinda to bear. She wrote Sewall that she thought that he might have had some consideration for her, and let her know that he was going to Vicksburg. Marcus had been so thoughtful of her, but Lalon never wrote, and evidently did not care how she was getting along.

Sewall wrote in answer, that Lalon had taken a sudden notion to go, and had not had time to write anyone, not even home. .

"Few have a brother who would face the danger of such a trip, or the expense of it."

Malinda seeing how he felt about it, for it must have been a great treat to him to see one of his own people, dropped the subject, but she chafed over this trusting appreciation of the goodness, and generosity,

of this young man, whom she felt to be so selfish, and conceited. Going to see Sewall had been no doubt an adventure.

Sewall wrote of the monotony of the routine of duty; of the heat; of the disheartening news of Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania; of his fears of the political situation; and of the disloyalty of some of the northern papers . . .

"Marcus, I have no tolerance for the traitors who rejoice in our defeat; who encourage the South to continue in this struggle, therefore being responsible for the loss of thousands of lives, and making doubtful the end of the conflict . . . The feeling in the army is one of intense hatred for such men . . . The course of the New York Tribune is very pernicious, and is leading to the worst results . . . Many men do not see this, and applaud the most radical statements.

He was much concerned over the health of his men. He was often not well himself, and shows in his letters, that in spite of his natural good sense, and poise, the strain of the long siege is telling on him.

But finally the white flags are raised above the parapets of Vicksburg, and the surrender of the city is accomplished.

Vicksburg, July 5th,
1863

My Dear Wife,

Yesterday Vicksburg surrendered. I intended to write you fully today, but we are not allowed to enter the city. At one o'clock, A.M. we were ordered to go to the rear . . . We go with Sherman after Johnson. I am well.

Affectionately,
S. S. Farwell.

General Johnson, who had been doing all that he could to relieve Pemberton, so as to enable him to escape from Vicksburg without surrendering to Grant, now that this had happened, turned his army towards Jackson. Grant ordered Sherman to pursue him . . . Three detachments of Sherman's command, marched at once, crossing the Big Black, at different fords, converging on Benton.

The weather was fearfully hot, the roads were dusty, and Johnson, as he retreated, had cattle, hogs, and sheep killed, and thrown into the ponds, and rivers to pollute the water. Sherman's men marched rapidly, meeting with resistance, as Johnson covered his retreat into Jackson, which was now strongly fortified.

On reaching there, on the 17th of July, Sherman found that he had evacuated the place . . . Steele's division was sent after him as far as Brandon, fourteen miles. But Johnson had carried his army safely away, and General Grant ordered the men to return, as further pursuit, in the ex-

treme heat, would have been fatal for the men.

Sherman was now put into clean camps on the Big Black, in about the same position that he had occupied during the siege. It was evident that this army was to have a season of rest for recuperation, and Sewall applied for a furlough, and was allowed to go back to Iowa.

He felt that he must go back to Monticello, on account of business for his company, and he would not have time to go there, and to Oskaloosa, too, so he sent word to Malinda to meet him at Monticello. This meant a hard journey for her by stage, railroad, and boat, with two small children, and the visit with Sewall in the old home was the cause of much heart-burning jealousy.

Marcus and Lalon came from Chicago, and Freeport, and they monopolized Sewall's time. There were so many things to do in caring for the baby, and keeping little Mary quiet, and out of the way. So much preparation of food, and washing of dishes . . . Then it seemed everybody in the county wanted to see Sewall.

He had to take time to visit the families of his company, some who had lost their sons. His family wanted so much of him; there were so many demands on his time . . . The furlough was soon over, and she was on her tiresome journey back to Oskaloosa.

But there were compensations: The friends at Fairfield met her, and insisted on her staying to rest, and have a visit with them, and it was so at Pella. The trip was broken, and made pleasant for her, and by the time she was back in her rooms again, she realized how much of a comfort, even seeing Sewall for those few days had been.

THE NEXT MOVE OF THE ARMY

After the fall of Vicksburg, General Grant proposed another vigorous campaign . . . He felt that he had a great army of trained soldiers, troops so efficient, that they should be used at once. His military mind conceived the idea of marching to Mobile, to reduce that place, so as to cut off General Bragg's supplies, thus thwarting his operations against Rosencrans, in Tennessee.

To drive the Confederates from Tennessee, and hold Chattanooga, seemed to Grant the next important step in the prosecution of the war. From that part of the country the enemy was drawing large supplies of food, minerals, and iron . . . By cutting the railroad communications from that point, the manufacturing plants of Rome, and Atlanta, would be seriously injured.

But although he urged his plans on Hallack, that general disapproved of

After fall of Vicksburg, Union troops fight in Tennessee

them, and commenced depleting Grant's army, by sending detachments to different points, where they did little good. Grant was compelled to stand idly by, and realize that after his great victory, he was now accomplishing nothing.

However, the war was at too crucial a stage, and he was too valuable to remain idle long. Soon the Government woke up to the fact that it was threatened with a dreadful disaster in Tennessee.

In the early part of the war Buel, who had driven Bragg from Kentucky, without a serious battle, had been much criticised by politicians for his slowness, and lack of aggression. He had been relieved of his command, and succeeded by Rosencrans, a general much inferior to him in ability.

But fortune sometimes favors the inferior man, and it was so in this case. In a battle, known as that of Stone River, or Murfreesborough, where he had command of 43,000 men, against 34,000, he gained a victory over Bragg, who withdrew his troops from the field. . . . But the loss of life was so great, that if it was a victory for the North, it was a dearly bought one.

After this battle, which had been fought about Christmas time, Rosencrans remained inactive at Murfreesborough, although urged to take the offensive against Bragg, while so many of the enemy were engaged in defending Vicksburg. He made no move until after that place had fallen, then he marched, while Bragg fell back before him.

On the 9th of September, he entered Chattanooga, and believing Bragg was retreating backward to the south, he ordered his troops to pursue him. Bragg turned on him at a time when his different divisions were widely separated, in crossing the mountains, and for a week Rosencrans wildly strove to reunite his army.

Reinforced by Johnson's army, Buckner, and Longstreet, Bragg forced the battle. In this engagement, Rosencrans gave an unfortunate order, which opened a gap in his line, through which the enemy rushed, driving a mass of soldiers in confusion from the field. Rosencrans, who had been carried away with his fleeing troops, sent a dispatch to Halleck: "We have met with serious disaster."

In this battle, General Thomas, commanding the left wing of the army with 25,000, repulsed, during the whole afternoon, a force of twice that number, saving the army from total destruction, and gaining for himself the title of "The Rock of Chickamauga." . . . He was able to withdraw his troops into Chattanooga, where the rest of the army had taken refuge, and the place was at once fortified for a siege.

In this crisis, General Grant was placed in command of all the armies in the West, except the one under Banks, in Arkansas.

He relieved Rosencrans, at once, putting Thomas in his place, commanding him to hold Chattanooga until reinforced.

"We will hold the place until we starve," Thomas replied. . . . And at that time such a consummation did not seem far off.

Before he had received his new commission, General Grant had been ordered to send reinforcements to Rosencrans, and he had sent all of Sherman's corps, except one division, which was left to guard Vicksburg. The first division to start was the one commanded by General Osterhaus, in which was the 31st Iowa. Sewall wrote on board a steamer, "John J. Roe," on September 27th, 1863.

My Dear Wife,

I did not expect that my next letter to you would be on board a steamer, but so it is, and we are now between Memphis and Helena, on our way up the river. . . . The usual secrecy prevails, about army movements, and we do not know where we are to disembark.

Our brigade commander is aboard with us, and he does not know if we are to get off at Memphis, or Cairo. Our mission, no doubt, is to reinforce Rosencrans. We have heard that there has been a great battle in Tennessee, but do not know the result.

I hope that no serious disaster has happened to his army. It would tend to prolong the war for sometime to come, and mean another hard campaign.

I have not heard from you yet, and feel anxious to know how you reached home with the babies. If you and the children escape sickness after such a journey, I shall be thankful indeed.

I suppose that we are leaving Grant's army never to return. I think that the rebels can never regain a hold on the Mississippi River, and the war, as long as it continues, will be carried on in other parts of the country.

The year spent in this department has been an eventful one. We started from home, believing defeat to be almost impossible. Then came the repulse at Chickasaw Bayou. We were exposed to sleet, cold, and snow on the boats. . . . The success at Arkansas Post was followed by thousands of deaths from exposure.

There were dark days at Young's Point, so many sick, and dying; no money to buy things the sick needed; no money to pay the troops, no vegetables to counteract the sameness of the soldier's fare. . . . It seemed as though the army would perish from disease, and leave the enemy exulting over the graves of our brave men.

But friends in the north rallied, and supplies of food were sent. Better organization in camping conditions, and care of the sick were established, and all this meant a new dawn of life.

In the spring we made that grand march

under Grant, by way of Grand Gulf, and Jackson, to Vicksburg. . . . Then came the assaults on the enemy's works, with its loss of life. . . . and then the exposure, and labor, of the long siege, terminating in the surrender of Vicksburg, on our nation's birthday.

Our Corps was ordered to pursue Johnson, and we marched through the heat and dust to Jackson, and then on to Canton, driving him before us beyond pursuit, and our work was done.

We are satisfied with our record for the year, and only wish that peace could follow, but I fear there is much still to be done, before it comes.

I am glad that I could go home when I did, and I more than ever look forward to the time we can have our home again. . . . Write me often, tell me of little Mary's sayings. Luna, too, will soon be running about, and saying little words.

If we disembark at Memphis, I may see James (James was Malinda's brother). . . . Be sure and provide yourself with good food, and lay in a store of potatoes, and apples, before winter. Keep me posted about everything. I will write you when I know more about our movements.

(Later) . . . I find that we are to land at Memphis.

Yours affectionately,
S. S. Farwell.

FROM MEMPHIS TO CHATTANOOGA

From Memphis, this division went to Corinth by rail. They were still in ignorance of where they were going. From Corinth to Chattanooga, a distance of about four hundred miles, by the round-about way they had to travel, they marched. The troops under Osterhaus, supported by those of Morgan Smith, were ahead of Sherman, and were engaged in fighting off skirmishers all the way.

As Sherman's instructions were to repair the railroad, they were ordered forward to drive the enemy beyond Tusculumbia, Alabama, and they were in a severe fight, at Cane Creek, where many lives were lost.

Sewall writes his brother, Marcus: -

We drove the rebels five miles today. The rain was pouring down, the mud was heavy, and the most of the time we had to fight our way through thick underbrush. . . . The rebels seem to be in force here, and we are in ignorance of what may be before us. . . . We are now ordered to be ready to move with two day's rations in our haversacks, so the wagons need not follow us for several days. Our position is far from inviting now, but I hope for the best.

Near Eastport, Alabama,
November 1st.

Our generals intended to open the

Sewall writes his brother from Bridgeport

Railroad to Chattanooga, but it is so destroyed, it would be like building a new one. The design now seems to be to cross the river, and march at once to Chattanooga, or some point where we will be the most needed. We are having a serious time with rain, and mud. This place is on the Tennessee River. Our army is now crossing.

Bridgeport, Fifty miles from
Chattanooga, November 15th,
1863.

Dear Brother:

We have been marching every day since leaving Chickasaw. Our route has been a round-a-bout one, on account of swollen streams. Our whole corps has now arrived at the source of supplies of the army. Hooker is here, with a division from the Department of the Potomac. He has six thousand men.

I stood the march well, but part of the time I had boots, that hurt my feet. I have also suffered with sore eyes. At times I have been afraid that I would have to give up, and go to the hospital for treatment. With all that is transpiring here, I feel that I cannot do so now.

Bragg has Rosencrans under siege at Chattanooga. It is terrible to realize how nearly the Army of the Cumberland was crushed in the last battle. I shudder to think of what might have happened, had Bragg driven Rosencrans from Chattanooga. The roads in such dreadful condition he would have lost all his artillery in the mountains.

But Grant is here now, and Sherman is ready to support him. They have been able to get food into the place, and it may be that Bragg will fall back, without a battle.

S. S. Farwell

Bragg, however, had no thought of retreating. He felt too sure of his position being impregnable, and of the ultimate surrender of the place.

Sherman had been ordered to meet Grant in Chattanooga, and to bring up his troops as fast as possible. He took a steamer that night, and the next day was heartily welcomed by Grant and Thomas, who realized the extraordinary efforts he and his soldiers had made to come to their relief. . . . They walked out to Fort Wood, and in full view of the rebel pickets, no doubt in danger from sharpshooters, looked over the situation.

Lookout Mountain, with its rebel flags and batteries, stood out boldly. They could see the smoke of an occasional shot, which fell just short of Chattanooga. On Missionary Ridge were the rebel tents, and a line of trenches extended from Chattanooga to Lookout Mountain.

"Why, General Grant, you are besieged!" cried Sherman.

"It is too true," General Grant replied, in his quiet way.

Grant pointed out Bragg's headquarters, where officers were seen to be constantly coming and going. He said that the mules and horses of Thomas's army were so starved that they could not haul the guns; that forage, corn, and food were so scarce, that the men, in their hunger, stole the few grains of corn, that were given to favorite horses; that the soldiers had been so demoralized, that it was feared they could not be made to move out of their trenches.

He told Sherman that Bragg was so sure of success, that he had detached Longstreet to march to Tennessee to effect the capture of Burnside, at Knoxville, and that the Government was frantically besieging him with telegrams to go to his relief.

He now planned to strike Bragg at once, defeat him, or at least make him recall Longstreet, so as to save Burnside, whose twelve thousand men were in danger of having to surrender on account of starvation.

He wanted Sherman's men to cross the river on a pontoon bridge, under cover of the night, and attack Bragg on the right flank. . . . He wanted Sherman to attack first, as then he thought the Army of the Cumberland would fight well. . . . The generals then rode to the mouth of the Chickamauga River, dismounted, and Sherman and Smith crept down to the very spot where the pontoon bridge was to be thrown across.

Sherman started back to Bridgeport. He was unfortunate in missing his boat, but with his indomitable energy, he obtained a rough row boat manned by four soldiers, and taking his turn at the oars through the night, managed to reach Bridgeport in the morning, with many difficulties.

It rained, and the water was high. The frail pontoon bridge gave way under the weight of his troops, and Grant had to delay his proposed attack a day, before he was in position. He was supported by a division of Thomas's army, but he had to leave, what he called one of his best divisions (Osterhaus's, in which was the 31st Iowa) to support Hooker, on Lookout Mountain.

Sherman was to attack the flank of Bragg's army on Mission Ridge, while at the same time, Hooker was to charge the rebel works on Lookout Mountain, and when Bragg had drawn men from the main part of his army, to strengthen these positions, Thomas was to charge up Missionary Ridge, and try to pierce the center of Bragg's army.

The attack worked perfectly, as planned. Hooker took Lookout Mountain, on the first day of the battle. Sherman fought fiercely on Missionary Ridge. Bragg

massed his men against him, but he held the ground he gained.

Then Hooker, with much skill, marched his men around the mountain, the second day of the battle, and joined in the fight on Missionary Ridge. . . . Then came the famous dash of Thomas. With twenty thousand soldiers, with Sheridan at their head, his army rushed up Missionary Ridge, piercing Bragg's center, sending his soldiers in panic from the field. Dana telegraphed to Washington: "Glory be to God, the victory is ours!"

Company H. had fought the first day on the mountain, sometimes above the clouds; sometimes enveloped in a pouring rain, the fog so bad about them they could hardly see what was before them. They had been in a position of great danger. . . . Many were wounded, and some were killed.

For twelve hours they fought with no relief, clearing the mountain, and taking many prisoners. . . . The next day they marched around the mountain, and reached Missionary Ridge in time to take part in the battle on its last day. They fought fiercely until the dash of the Army of the Cumberland, and Bragg's retreat.

Sewall Farwell writes:

After that wonderful charge, the excitement cannot be imagined. Our gallant Colonel rode along the lines on a splendid horse, captured from the rebels, waving his hat and shouting over the victory. . . . He said that he was proud of the day he came to Iowa; of the Iowa Brigade, and of the 31st Iowa. He was proud of being one to help in the capture of Lookout Mountain, and Missionary Ridge. These victories should be inscribed on our banners. . . . It was the proudest day of his life!"

But Sewall Farwell's joy was overshadowed by his grief over the men he knew, who had been maimed and killed. . . . Of one he wrote:

"He possessed the sweetest, and purest nature, I ever came in contact with, never shrinking from duty, or danger. His dying words were, 'Straight on, Captain!' I have lost a true, and loving friend."

He writes after the battle:

"Thanksgiving Day came clear and bright. We had no meat. Crackers and coffee for breakfast; crackers and coffee for dinner, and supper, but we passed the day thankful for our preservation, and the great victories we had won."

THE WINTER OF 1863 - '64

After the Battle of Chattanooga there came a pause in hostilities. It was a time of reorganization. The winter season was on, and that year was an unusually severe one. It was so in the North, and all over the country.

Sewall anticipates move into winter quarters

A week after the victory Sewall wrote from Bridgeport: - We have been here a week, and now have recovered somewhat from the fatigue and excitement of the great battle . . . We may now go into winter quarters, but I do not know where . . . At present we have poor tents, and not enough of them, and the men are getting along, as well as they can, through heavy storms.

I dread another march. The roads have been bad enough, but these heavy rains will make them almost impassable. We have but seven teams in the regiment: one for headquarters, one for the hospital, leaving but five for the men, and line officers. This with mules not yet recovered from starvation, makes very limited means of transportation."

About two weeks after this they were marched to Woodville, a place southeast from Chattanooga, thirty-five miles from Bridgeport. They reached there with the rain pouring from their coats, their feet sinking into the soft mud at every step. Here they made their winter camp, remaining there three months.

The time was occupied in guarding their trains of supplies, drilling, and the regular routine of army life . . . Here they received their mail regularly, and Sewall had letters from Malinda, Marcus, and his home people . . . He was much concerned over the illness of his baby, from which she was a long time in recovering, and much pleased over the way Mary was developing. Malinda wrote that she was an unusually bright, attractive, and intelligent child. Marcus sent him the northern papers, which were eagerly received, and read to shreds by the soldiers.

Woodville, April 28,
1864

My Dear Wife,

The camp is full of bustle for a movement which starts tomorrow, at half past five in the morning. It is no doubt the active campaign against Atlanta. We are far from operations, but the health of the company is good, and we are ready for the march. . . . Our corps follows the 16th, which follows the 20th. The spirits of the men never were more buoyant . . . We belong to the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division of the 19th Corps of the Army of the Tennessee. General Williamson, of Des Moines commands the corps, and General McPherson the Army of the Tennessee.

S. S. Farwell.

General Grant now was in command of all the Union Troops. The war situation was mainly this: The North possessed the Mississippi River, guarded from St. Louis to its mouth. It held Arkansas, and a few points in Louisiana. North of Memphis it held all of the territory east of the river, including the most of the state of Ten-

nessee, down to Chattanooga . . .

In the East, the Army of the Potomac, and the Army of the Virginia, stood in about the same positions they had held three years before. The North held West Virginia, the northern part of Virginia, to the Rapidan. The North possessed Washington, the South, Richmond.

The North was making the South suffer with the blockade, although it was not complete at this time. The balance of the south was still in the hands of the Confederacy.

The Union armies were divided into departments, with seventeen different commanders. Grant now planned to have these divisions work together as one army, opening the spring campaign all along the line, at the same time.

Sherman's objective was Atlanta, the capital of Georgia, the next important, strategic point in the South. Johnson had his troops massed, for the first attack, at Dalton. He had used negroes to build elaborate fortifications from that place to Atlanta, so that if he was driven from one position, he could fall back to another equally strong.

Sherman had an army of over 90,000 men, Johnson 53,000, but supported, as he was with negro labor, dependable supplies, and having the advantage of fighting on familiar ground, the two armies were very nearly matched.

Sherman had to depend on a railroad extending to Nashville, Tennessee, for his supplies, and the farther he moved to the south, the longer became this line to be guarded. He writes: "I have just added a hundred miles to my railroad connections, every mile of which is always liable to attacks by cavalry."

This campaign lasted four months, a long contested, inch-by-inch fight. By slow laborious flank movements, Sherman forced Johnson from one position to find him strongly entrenched in another a short distance away. Johnson's cavalry was strong, and efficient, and had to be watched constantly. Sherman's cavalry was not so good, and did not inflict as much damage on the enemy, as he had expected it would. There was skirmishing all the way, and three decisive battles were fought.

Altogether, it was a slow, wearing campaign . . . The North, not comprehending the difficulties encountered, grew impatient with the delay. But it was also so with the South. Jefferson Davis finally helped the issue by relieving Johnson, who had made a masterly retreat, and might have held out for months.

He placed General Hood in his place, who had the reputation of being a fighting

man . . . Sherman knew Hood, he had known him at West Point, and this was what he wanted. After two bloody charges, Hood was defeated, and the enemy evacuated Atlanta on September the Second, 1864.

Sewall Farwell wrote home through the skirmishing, guarding the railroads, and battles:

"We were ordered into the extreme front the afternoon of the 4th. The fight had been going on for ten days, both sides being protected by rifle pits, about a hundred yards apart, and both densely filled with men. There is more desperation in the fighting, than I ever saw before. There were dead men lying directly in front of us, who had been there for days. It was dangerous to move about, and the trenches had become filthy.

It was very hot, and the stench was unspeakable . . . After a terrible night we found that the enemy had deserted their trenches, which were very strong. The sight of the decayed bodies of the dead, covered with vermin, was most revolting."

He writes to Malinda: - "I am much pleased with your letters. You say there is a difference in mine, but whatever that difference, I see a great improvement in yours. . . .

I am so glad that you have such good church friends, and that Mary is such a bright, intelligent child. I think much of Luna. She must be a sweet baby . . . You must not think of taking in sewing. Prices are high, but I want you to be comfortable, and you have enough to do to take care of the children . . . Leave that work to the many who are in real need."

CONDITION OF THE NORTH

The North, at this time, was really prospering in spite of, or it may be on account of, the war . . . There had been a strong immigration movement to the West. Crops were good, and prices for agricultural products were high. Railroad stocks were booming, and factories were running over-time. With so many men in the field, labor was in demand, and received good pay. The foundation of many a great fortune was made in these years.

The Farwell family shared in this prosperity . . . Marcus, from Chicago, wrote Sewall of the purchase of a tract of land near the city, which he hoped might increase in value. Later a Cemetery Association was formed, of which he was stockholder, and president, and this land became the beautiful Oakwoods Cemetery, whose stock has been a fortune to his family . . . Lalor, by a fortunate

Prosperity comes to members of family during the war years

Partnership in an old firm, at a time of phenomenal rises in prices, found himself a rich man, and from these two sons there came an overflow of luxuries to the home farm in Iowa.

Father, Mother, and Julia were in "comfortable circumstances." Zophar Farwell was a good stock man, and as he had not given Sewall a title to his land before the war, he had the entire income from his six hundred acres, which during the war paid him well . . .

But during the midst of this prosperity, the country was going through a disquieting presidential campaign. Many people were influenced by the malcontents, and calamity writers of the war. Not having any conception of the stupendous task of conquering the South in their own territory, they had confidently expected a spectacular victory—a declaration of peace, after the battle of Lookout Mountain, and Missionary Ridge, with Grant being put in charge of all the armies.

When victory did not come at once, they were ready to prophesy defeat . . . There were so many grief-stricken families, many pitifully wounded, disabled soldiers, with many grievances. They were all in evidence.

There were too many would-be-drivers from the back seat. Lincoln was much criticised, and many thought that he was in danger of defeat. McLelland was nominated by the Democrats, with the chief plank in the platform, "Resolved that the war is a failure."

There was grave apprehension in the army. Sewall Farwell wrote his brothers: "I believe it will be a great misfortune to all if Lincoln is not elected . . . All the blood shed in our land will have been for nothing. If we do not go on until one or the other side is victorious, a miserable, patched-up peace will be the result, that will enable every peace-skunk to point a finger of scorn at the soldier . . .

I do not agree with you in your comparison of Grant and Lee. Had Grant had his western men with him in the east, he would have been successful long before this . . . I have great faith in both Grant and Sherman, and am contented to await results."

But there were many so called great men who were not. "I beg you, implore you, to negotiate a proposal of peace forthwith." So wrote Horace Greeley to Abraham Lincoln on the Ninth of August, 1864. "If peace cannot be made, to propose an armistice for one year."

Then came Farragut's conquest of Mobile Bay, and the most important part of the Gulf of Mexico was closed to the Confederacy. On the Third of September Sherman captured Atlanta, and Sheridan, who had been sent by Grant into the Shenandoah Valley, that rich storehouse of southern supplies, gained a brilliant

victory over Erling . . . Lincoln's election was assured, and the country went on with the business of ending the war.

ATLANTA AND HOOD

Although the evacuation of Atlanta was truly a victory, coming at a very opportune time, it was not a complete one. Hood, in spite of all efforts to prevent him, had escaped with his army, without a decisive battle, and this escape really placed the victors in a position of defense, which was most aggravating to General Sherman.

Hood, on familiar ground, in a friendly country, from which he could draw supplies for his troops, with an efficient cavalry, could move quickly from point to point, and while avoiding a general engagement, could constantly threaten the long line of railroad, on which Sherman depended for his supplies from the North.

Sherman, with his characteristic quickness of decision, on realizing that Hood had escaped him, decided not to pursue him at once. Instead he moved into Atlanta for a few days of rest to organize his forces, and consider what was best to do next.

He placed the Army of the Tennessee at East-point, sending them away from Atlanta; the Army of the Ohio to Decatur; while the Army of the Cumberland was placed in, and about, Atlanta . . . He then issued an order removing the entire civil population, and another denying all traders admission to the city, and army . . .

Waiting for the fall of Atlanta, hundreds of these men had collected at Nashville, and Chattanooga, ready to rush to the place with their wares, and reap a harvest of profit from the soldiers and citizens . . . These men were doomed to disappointment, as only three stores were permitted to operate, one for each army, under military supervision.

In his army experience, Sherman had seen Memphis, Natchez, New Orleans, and Vicksburg, all in the possession of a conquering army, and each city had required a full division of troops to garrison it, to keep order, and protect its citizens.

He could not afford to weaken his army by doing this at Atlanta. He did not want to remain on the defensive there. The real loss of Atlanta to the South, would be its destruction as a future source of supplies, so the population was removed, under military protection, option being given to the people as to where they were to go.

Sherman wrote to Halleck: "If the people raise a howl as to my barbarity, and cruelty, I must answer that war is war, and not popularity seeking. If they want peace, they and their relatives must stop the war."

This removal of the people caused a

great storm of disapproval in the South. General Hood wrote to General Sherman personally, declaring that the unprecedented measure of removing the civil population of Atlanta "transcends in studied, and ingenious cruelty all acts ever brought to my attention in the dark history of warfare."

But although General Sherman felt the criticism of his enemies keenly, he was upheld by the Government at Washington, and General Grant. To these men it had now become clear that to be cruel was to be kind. The Union could never be restored unless the South was conquered. Its people had declared they would fight until they died in the last ditch. They must be made to realize they might be taken at their word.

Sherman had hoped to defeat Hood at Atlanta, and with this army practically destroyed, had conceived the plan of marching, with his victorious army to cooperate with General Grant against Lee in the East.

It was now demonstrated that Lee was the military genius of the Confederacy. To conquer him, it was becoming more and more plain, that the whole support of the southern states behind him must be knocked out of the way . . . Sherman had conceived the idea that his splendid army was equal to his work.

He realized that he could not march through a hostile country directly to Richmond, but he proposed to march through Georgia, consuming that rich granary of supplies in supporting his own army, making some seaport, preferably Savannah, where the navy could be depended on for supplies, thus enabling him to march through the Carolinas, to make a junction with Grant, in the East . . . It was a brilliant conception, but in danger of being frustrated by Hood, now that he had escaped.

While Sherman was considering this situation, Hood assumed the offensive by attacking his railroad. He had to give up all of his plans for the present, and go after him. He sent Thomas to Nashville, and left one corps to hold Atlanta. With the rest of the army, he started to pursue Hood . . . These hard, fast marches were hard on the soldiers.

Two miles from Rome, Georgia,
October 13, 1864

Dear Brother,

Our camp at Eastpoint was very suddenly broken up by Hood's attacking our railroad. We were sent after him, at once, and have had hard marching, but as yet no fighting.

The march is a hard one on the men. They have just drawn new clothing, and supplies, and that makes their haversacks very heavy . . . The disturbance of our rear has prevented us from being paid,

Soldiers march miles on empty stomachs

which is another hardship. Since the capture of Atlanta, the rations have been short, and the men have marched many miles on empty stomachs, but their spirits have been fine. They bear up well, and do not curse Sherman, and the war, as many at home do.

S. S. Farwell

Hood had conceived the idea of striking northward into Tennessee, to decoy Sherman out of Georgia. If Sherman should not follow, he felt that he could demoralize any force that would oppose him. He believed he could capture Nashville, and then invade Kentucky. In that state he thought he could find many recruits. He could then take his victorious army eastward, and join Lee, to the ultimate defeat of Grant . . . So both generals were dreaming their dreams of victory.

As Sherman followed Hood, he matured his plans. He decided to reinforce Thomas at Nashville, to leave with him a sufficient force to meet Hood, and then to return to Atlanta, and start on his march through Georgia to the sea.

The force that Sherman left behind him

for Thomas was rather a motley one. There were the 4th corps of 12,000 men; the 23rd Corps of 10,000, and 5,000 cavalry. In addition to these troops, Sherman had sent to Missouri for a force of 14,000 men, commanded by Andrew Jackson Smith, an able general, but this force did not join Thomas until the last of November . . . To these troops were added some 5,000 men, returning to the army from furloughs, and some other floating troops.

By early December the cavalry was doubled, and at last there had been collected a force of some 60,000 men. During this period Hood had met with unexpected delays, that gave Thomas the opportunity to organize these troops, gathered from so many sources. It was fortunate that this was so; for it was not until the First of December that Thomas was strong enough to assume the aggressive.

Grant was unjust to Thomas in this situation. He knew that the success of Sherman's march hinged on the defeat of Hood in Tennessee, and his anxiety for the result made him impatient over the

slowness of Thomas to attack. But Sherman knew Thomas through and through, and although the men were so different in temperament Sherman trusted Thomas implicitly.

As time demonstrated, there is no doubt that Sherman should have left another corps of men for Thomas, but that general was sure that he could manage, and was not at all perturbed by the impatience of Grant, his superior.

He knew that he might even be relieved of his command, which indeed nearly happened, but he calmly went on his way, getting his men in condition, and biding his time, and when he did strike, he achieved the utter destruction of Hood, and one of the most decisive victories of the war.

Without Thomas, Sherman's great march to the sea, would have come to nothing . . . But this decisive battle of Nashville, did not occur until the middle of December, a month after Sherman's men were on their way to Savannah.

Vinings Station, Georgia
November 8th, 1864

(To be continued)

President's message

Dear Reader:

Winter approaches, but fresh in the minds of all the active members is the wonderful success of the Society's EDINBURGH DAYS, held Sept. 21.

The weather was perfect, and spirits were high. The day before, Saturday, found Iowa covered with clouds and intermittent cold thundershowers, and there was no way we could have postponed the event. Ninety percent of the day's activities were held out of doors, and the event had already been postponed for one week because of another area activity.

NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO REMEMBER those whom you have been wondering what to get for Christmas. Many of the subscriptions to "JONES COUNTY HISTORICAL REVIEW" are gifts — most for Christmas, but many also for birthdays.

As a Christmas special we are offering a full year's membership AND subscription for ONLY \$5. The Review is published quarterly and contains area historical facts, which in most instances, have never been put in print, along with photos of area people, places, and things from years gone by.

NOW IS ALSO THE TIME to renew your own membership and subscription. REMEMBER, the Society operates on January to January fiscal year, and to be sure you will not miss an issue of the "REVIEW" it is necessary that we have your subscription or renewal by the end of

January.

The same holds true of your membership. A COMBINED RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION before the first of January brings you the reduced rate of \$6.

After Jan. 1, it will be \$7. A membership is only \$2 per year; a subscription is only \$5 per year. GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS, if ordered prior to Dec. 20, are only \$5.

The Society will hold its annual organizational meeting the second Sunday of January the time and place to be announced later.

The Society is honored to have one of its charter members on the State Historical Society Board of Directors. Judge Warren Rees of Anamosa has been appointed to this very important post. More on this honor in the next issue.

Those of you who have not had the opportunity to pay a visit to the museum complex, especially the newly finished library, "The Little Gallery," are in for a pleasant surprise. Hundreds of photos from way back when, along with diaries, letters, etc., are to be found, and much has already been cataloged and referenced. Thanks to our curators, Marg Lacock, and others who spent many hours getting it settled.

We were delighted that so many people took advantage of the facilities at the museum complex this past season. Civic, fraternal and area school groups spent time at the complex. A number of family reunions were also held at the complex.

Hope all of you can make the next meeting.

Sincerely,
C.L. "Gus" Norlin, President

Jones County Historical Review
Monticello, Iowa 52310

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