

The description of a battle n

The following article was presented to The United Daughters of the Confederacy by Mrs. W.C. (Sallie Betty Roult) Petty, whose husband's family was present during that terrible battle and much of this information was passed to her by members of the family.

I like to claim kin to people, so I'll tell you Sallie Betty was a first cousin to Patricia's grandfather of that day.



George
Bryson

"Accurances"

Battle of Cedar Mountain, 9th August 1862

"In June 1862, Gen. John Pope was put in command of the Federal Army of Virginia. He was a boastful, vain man and when asked where he would make his headquarters, replied 'In the saddle.' He also said he expected to see only the backs of the enemy. Things turned out otherwise as you will.

"One of his first official acts, after being placed in command, was to issue a manifesto directing a series of depredations upon the peaceful citizens of the county, ordering arbitrary arrests, and directing that the oath of allegiance should be administered.

"Next, he conceived the idea of getting to Gordonsville and capturing the two railroads that meet there, then known as the Virginia Central, and the Orange and Alexandria roads, now the two roads, the C & O and the Southern.

"Then as now, they were of great importance to the country as they carry great food supplies to the cities of Richmond, Petersburg, and Norfolk, and others especially important then because of the Confederate armies about Richmond.

"Pope got as far as the foot of Cedar Mountain, (then called Slaughter's Mountain,) the name having been changed by the Federals in their report of the battle supposedly, because the name of Slaughter, was a little too apt for the occasion, on account of the great slaughter of their troops in the battle there, and the Orange road.

"He was met by General T.J. 'Stonewall' Jackson supported by Generals Ewell, A.P. Hill and Winder. Jackson was largely out-numbered, but as usual was not afraid to offer battle, with the result, that Pope was forced to retire 'Behind the Rappahannock, and Culpeper was freed of the presence of his hated troops.' (P.P.S. in St. Marks P.,)

"This battle was fought on August 9th 1862. It was a short battle but one of the Hottest of the war. Jackson lost 223 killed, 1,060 wounded, and 31 missing.

"The Federal loss was 1,861 killed, and wounded and 723 missing. A New York regiment, the 28th I think, was almost annihilated, and a Massachusetts regiment lost 35 per cent. The remnant of the New York regiment have erected a handsome monument on the place occupied by them, with the names of their killed upon it.

"The battle began about noon and lasted only a few hours. About 3:30 Gen. Winder, who had stepped to one side to overlook an advance, was killed. A stone marks the

spot, right on the Orange Road, seven miles from Culpeper.

"Gen. Fields, so well known after the war to Culpeper people and all Virginia was also wounded in the foot, just North of Cedar Run Church on the Orange road. He was taken back to Crooked Run and his foot was amputated on the dining table of Mrs. Cornelia Petty (my mother-in-law).

"The 42nd Va. lost its Commander, Major Lane; Col. Garnett was killed, Lieut. Col. Cunningham of the 21st Va. also lost his life. The 12th Ga. acted with especial bravery in this engagement. Frank Hill of Culpeper C.H. and brother of Mrs. George L. Browning, of Orange, a mere boy was wounded in the hand, and as he was crying, a friend said, 'Hush Up! Gen. Fields has lost his leg.'

"Many other interesting things could be told of this event but it would make this paper too long. The remains of those killed were gathered after the war, and brought to Culpeper C.H. Ours were placed in the mound surmounted by an imposing shaft in Fairview Cemetery here.

"This battle was fought on the land then owned by Mrs. Crittenden, William Major, Messrs. Brown and Hudson. The wheat fields across which the Federals retreated and where the slaughter was so great, was the Crittenden wheat field.

"Long after the war a Federal soldier came to locate the spot where he remained all night, lying wounded in a wheat shock, both sides saying he was too near dead to bother with.

"A Confederate Doctor gave him a chunk of opium to ease his pain, and said that was all he could do. On finding him still alive the next morning he was taken to the hospital, where recovered.

"The Crittenden home was used as a hospital, and the lawn was literally covered with the wounded and dying.

"Our J. William Jones, Chaplain and Historian of the Southern Army, assisted by Miss Anna Crittenden, (afterwards Mrs. Major Smoot) a daughter of the house, ministered to those poor soldiers as they lay on the ground under the shade of the grand old trees of this Virginia homestead.

"Long after the war, in speaking of the service rendered there, Dr. Jones told me he would never forget this beautiful girl, dressed in white and followed by a servant bearing a basket of wine and bread, etc., as she bent over those poor wounded men not shrinking from the sight, but helping and cheering all she could.

"During the battle, Mrs. Crittenden and her servants occupied the cellar under the house, but did not retire to that

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place of safety until a shell had entered the room where she and her daughter, the same Anna, were seated, and after, coming through one wall, and went out without exploding.

"Miss Anna Crittenden waved a sheet from one of the upper windows of the house to the Confederate soldiers, until an officer rode up and told her to stop and go into the cellar, or the house would be torn to pieces by shells.

"A pathetic incident of the battle was the loss of memory of a young Yankee soldier, who had been wounded in the head. He was found wandering in the field but could never tell his name or regiment.

"For a long time he stayed in the Culpeper Jail, but was finally placed in the county poor-house where he lived until several years ago, dying an old man and never having remembered who he was."

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