

(May 1904
no 3)

NINTH KENTUCKY CAVALRY, C. S. A.

BY RUSSEL MANN.

This regiment was organized in December, 1862, by the consolidation of the battalions of Maj. W. C. P. Breckinridge and Maj. R. G. Stoner. Major Breckinridge, being the senior in rank, became colonel, and Major Stoner lieutenant colonel of the regiment. The regiment was composed of young men recruited in the blue grass region of Kentucky, the sons of farmers, mechanics, and professional men, and many young men who quit college to enter the service. From its organization until the close of the war this regiment was engaged in active and arduous service. No other cavalry regiment in the Confederate army did more hard fighting and important service, and none was more distinguished for gallantry and endurance. It was a part of Morgan's command from its organization until he started on his famous and disastrous Ohio raid in the summer of 1863. At the time of this raid the 9th Kentucky was detached from his command and placed on an important post in the barrens of Tennessee, picketing and scouting a large territory between the Confederate and Federal armies. General Bragg refused to relieve the regiment; hence its failure to accompany Morgan on that raid.

After Morgan's capture, the 9th Kentucky was assigned to the command of Gen. Joseph Wheeler and placed in a brigade composed of the 1st, 3d, and 9th Kentucky Cavalry, and served with this command until the close of the war, taking part in most of the engagements with the Army of the Tennessee from the battle at Nashville until the close of the war. Two companies of the regiment, C and G, were dismounted temporarily to do important picket duty in front of Missionary Ridge for some time before that battle. They served in this battle as infantry from the beginning until the close, and with the rest of the regiment assisted in covering the retreat of Bragg's army back to Dalton, Ga. They fought in all the hundred days' engagements from Dalton back to Atlanta, and after the battle of Atlanta they assisted in the capture of Stoneman's command near Macon, Ga.

The 9th Kentucky also fought Burbridge at Saltville, Va. Its action at Dug Gap and Noonday Creek was so conspicuous and gallant that this regiment became known throughout the entire army for its bravery.

At Dug Gap the small brigade to which this regiment belonged held this point against several furious attacks of a division of Hooker's Corps until reinforced. At Noonday Creek one of the most important cavalry engagements of the Atlanta campaign was fought between eleven hundred of Wheeler's command and Garrard's Division of four thousand, and in the charge and rout of Garrard's command the gallant 9th bore a conspicuous part. General Wheeler in the disposition of his troops in this engagement formed the 9th Kentucky on the right and the remainder of his force on the left of the road on which Garrard's Division was advancing, with his battle lines extending on each side of the road.

In this engagement the 9th Kentucky, with Company C at the head of the column, led by Col. W. C. P. Breckinridge, Capt. Ed Taylor, and Sergeant Major William A. Gaines, made one of the most gallant charges of the war. The regiment had been held on horseback in reserve sometime after the battle commenced. When the charge was sounded, they dashed across an open field to the creek under a heavy fire at short range. This creek on account of recent heavy rains was deep. Some few of the horses bounded over the creek, and the rest of the regiment were hurriedly forwarded into line and dismounted, and under a heavy fire renewed the charge on foot, wading the creek waist-deep and forcing the

enemy back in confusion from their battery, completely routing and driving them back two miles with heavy loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners, and captured one hundred horses and men. Fifty of the enemy's dead were counted on the field. Our loss was fifteen killed and fifty wounded.

The 9th Kentucky was on one raid with Wheeler's command into Middle Tennessee, and after its return to Georgia followed and fought Sherman from Atlanta on his march to the sea, and took part in the battle of Bentonville, N. C., the last battle of the war of any importance.

This was one of the regiments sent to meet President Davis, his family, and Cabinet after the fall of Richmond and to guard them to the Trans-Mississippi Department. They guarded them across North and South Carolina to Washington, Ga., where President Davis became convinced that it would be impossible to reach the Trans-Mississippi Department with so large an escort, and dismissed the regiment on the 10th of May, 1865, about one month after the surrender of General Lee's army.

TO SURVIVORS OF TENTH ALABAMA REGIMENT.

BY JAMES R. COLEMAN, RIVERSIDE, ALA.

I have just returned from a trip over the old battlefields in Virginia, and while there I visited the graves of our loved ones buried at Bristow Station. The cedar posts that were placed there as a directory of each grave were so badly obliterated that I was unable to make out the names. A number of cedar trees have grown up over the graves, the largest being about the size of a man's thigh. The land where our dead were buried is owned by the daughter of a Federal soldier. I pleaded with her to sell me the small space; but she refused to do so, assuring me, however, that the soil over which our loved ones lie shall never be tilled so long as she is spared upon the earth. I wanted this spot especially to show the respect I have for my brother, Sidney L. Coleman, who was killed at Dranesville, Va., December 20, 1861, and for my comrades who so gallantly fought and gave up their lives in our behalf. I desired to erect a monument to them.

I greatly desire that all surviving members of the 10th Alabama Regiment furnish me with the number of and name of each one of their company buried at Bristow Station, Va., also a list of all who died or were killed during the war; also that each one of us still living contribute something in their memory by erecting a monument in their honor. Any aid from comrades will be greatly appreciated. It is our duty, comrades, as well as that of our sons and grandsons to show our profound respect for our dead who sleep beneath the sod in that lonely spot at Bristow Station.

I desire to know of Nat Sims, who first belonged to the 10th Alabama and later joined Mosby's Cavalry, served with it to the close of the war, then, coming back to old Virginia, married and reared a family there. If he is marked as absent without leave from the records of the 10th Alabama, it should be changed. All honor is due him. He is now supposed to be dead. At the next Reunion, to be held in Memphis, let every member of the old 10th Alabama display on a card his company and regiment. All comrades should do that.

Mrs. Frank Anthony Walke writes the VETERAN a very interesting letter from Norfolk, Va. She says her Chapter, Hope Maney, U. D. C., has for four years given an annual prize in the high school of that place for the best essay on Southern subjects; that these papers are so good that it is hard for the judges to decide between the contestants.