

VISIT TO HIS BATTLE FIELD.

A Queen Anne's Ex-Confederate
Soldier Looks Upon Gettysburg.
Reminiscences of the Great
Battle in Which Many
Natives of This County
Were Engaged.

Through the courtesy of Col. John C. Legg, a prominent commission merchant, of Baltimore, and one of the directors of the Western Maryland Railroad, a party of us, ten in number, were invited to accompany him to Gettysburg on Decoration Day, May 30th, ultimo.

We left Baltimore at 7:30 and traveled over the Western Maryland Railroad as far as Emory Grove, then took what is called the Baltimore and Harrisburg division to Gettysburg.

This town has a population of three thousand and is the county town of Adams county, Pennsylvania. It lies in the centre of a beautiful valley formed by several ranges of towering hills. North of the town the country is not so rugged, but south, east and west, the hills are lofty and precipitous. To the westward, distant about a mile is a ridge bordering on the east bank of Willoughby's Run. A quarter of a mile from town, in the same direction, is another elevation called "Seminary Ridge."

It was in this peaceful valley lying between these two ridges that the first day of that terrible battle was fought, which has guaranteed to the little town of Gettysburg a ghastly, glorious, ever lasting place in history.

South of the town and a quarter of a mile away is Cemetery Ridge, running due south, it curves to the eastward, and then

turns to the right again towards the town. This is called Cemetery Hill. Further to the eastward is Culp's Hill. Toward the south is Round Top which is a high wooded peak, and just north of this peak is a smaller one called Little Round Top.

Rock Creek, a small stream, flows along the right base of Culp's Hill. Looking from Culp's to the northward we see rising before us another hill known as "Benner's."

All the broken, rocky country west of Round Top is commanded by it, and is strewn with huge boulders of rock, one of which lies directly over a splendid spring of delicious water. The rock has been perforated and an iron pipe inserted, through which flows in soothing murmurs a never-ending stream of ever refreshing water.

A handsome team and efficient guide awaited our arrival, and we were soon on our way over the spot replete with glory and sadness. We first visited the house, wherein during the battle, a young lady, Jennie Baker, engaged in the domestic and peaceful occupation of cooking supper, was killed by a shell. All over the town can be seen evidences of that awful battle; shells embedded in houses and fences perforated by bullets.

After leaving town we drove upon Cemetery Hill occupied by Rickett's Rhode Island Battery (6 guns) during the battle. This hill gave us a fine view of the ground which A. P. Hill fought over. This was the third corps composed of Heth's, Penders and Anderson's divisions. We then went to "Round Top," which gave us a grand view of Longstreet's position. This was the first corps composed of Pickett's, McLaws' and Hood's divisions. We walked over the ground where Pickett made his magnificently fatal charge. The Confederate loss in this frightful series of engagements was terrible. Of the five thousand men who advanced with Pickett, thirty-five hundred were killed or wounded; of his four brigade commanders, Garnett was killed, Armistead dying, and Kemper

frightfully wounded. Of the fourteen field officers, who were in the advance, but one came back. Some of the details of the conflict exhibit instances of undaunted, reckless courage that make the bosom swell with pride, and some of the scenes so terribly sanguinary as to make the heart sick. Seventeen hundred brave spirits under Whiting went into the fray; three hundred alone came back as evidence of the deadly carnage. The Ninth Virginia lost every man but thirty-eight.

We went over the whole of the ground occupied by the Federal army, but only visited that part of the Confederate line occupied by Johnston's division of Ewell's corps, which was the extreme left wing of our army and directly opposite Culp's Hill. It is here that the Second Maryland Regiment made its famous charge, capturing the first line of breastworks of the enemy, and holding them during the night of the second days' battle, within a stones throw of a New York and a Pennsylvania Regiment. The reserve not coming up, they were compelled to fall back. They have erected a very handsome monument on the breastworks captured from the enemy. They have two marble markers showing where their right and left flanks rested that eventful night; also a marble marker sixty feet in advance of the monument, showing that our gallant boys in gray so gamely charged that they drove the enemy that distance beyond their own breastworks.

We next visited Benner's Hill, which part of the line was occupied by Andrews Battalion of Artillery under command of Major Latimer, consisting of three batteries; the Rockbridge(Va), First Maryland and the Chesapeake, the last named occupied the centre. Well do we remember our position upon a piece of rugged, rocky ground and in full view the almost impregnable position of the enemy, our impatience at what we deemed unnecessary inaction, our eagerness at the word of command from our handsome Captain

Brown, our feelings of almost exultant satisfaction as the enemy's shot fell in our rear, out of range; but, alas, how sadly were our hopes to be grimly dispelled. The enemy soon got our range, and in a short while, on the spot which a few minutes ago was filled with strong, buoyant and brave men, there remained but broken cannon, bloody corpses, and a few sad-hearted

The battle field covers an area of 25,000 square acres and is studded with 466 handsome monuments and more in process of erection. More than five million dollars has already been thus expended.

We also drove through the National Cemetery, and a grand one it is, immaculately kept and ornamented by many beautiful marble shafts. The national monument, representing Peace, Plenty, War and History was erected at a cost of \$50,000. More than ten thousand Federal soldiers lie buried here.

One of the most pathetic coincidences of this bloody battle was recalled to mind by observing near the battle field an old frame house. In this house prior to the war lived a widow with two manly sons. Shortly before the war these two boys went South as far as Virginia to seek new fields of enterprise.

At the breaking out of hostilities they allied themselves with the cause of the Confederacy. Their first actual fight was at Gettysburg, and when the fight was over both their bodies, cold in death, were found within call of their mother's old home.

The return trip was rendered very pleasant by Col. John C. Legg's kindly consideration. In order to lend variety to the journey, he brought us back to Baltimore by a different route from the one we followed in going to Gettysburg.

We left by special train on what is known as the Western Extension of the Western Maryland Railroad and struck their main line at Highfield near Pen-Mar. We then took the fast mail train by Union Bridge and Westminster to Baltimore

passing en route through Adams and Franklin counties of Pennsylvania and Frederick, Carroll and Baltimore counties of our own Maryland.

The Western Extension was formerly called the Tape Line and was built by Thad. Stevens away in the thirties. It was purchased by the Western Maryland for \$600,000.

On the road we could not help paying a tribute of admiration for the spirit and enterprise of a man who would undertake and successfully carry through the building of a railroad through a country which no one would hardly suppose could be utilized for any purpose than to serve as an inspiration to the poet and painter. The train, as it winds around some portions of the mountain sides, is in the shape of a horse shoe so that a person standing on the engine may almost see into the back door of the rear car. The scenery is grand. Great towering mountains of rock with little streams of limpid water oozing out of its perpendicular sides; beautiful valleys covered with verdure; precipitous gorges; rough barren places and places that blossom like a fairy's bower. Everything, indeed, to please the eye; everything but monotony, and each turn reveals new beauties to charm us and make us sorry we have passed it until the next turn makes us glad we have.

Well, Messrs. Editors, I rather suspect we have, to use that ancient chestnut, "already trespassed too long upon your valuable space," so we will cease by saying we are glad we went to Gettysburg. If we live, we shall go again. We are glad to have seen how this generation has so lovingly remembered its dead soldiers, both blue and gray, for they have verily made a flower and art garden of the bloody field of Gettysburg. So long as our men and women pay such tribute to their worthy dead, the hour will never come when strong arms and brave hearts will be wanting to strike for home and country.

United States of America.

I, J. G. Lynch, of the
County of Chatham State of Georgia do

solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign; that I will bear true faith, allegiance, and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or laws of any State, Convention, or Legislature, to the contrary notwithstanding; and further, that I will faithfully perform all the duties which may be required of me by the laws of the United States; and I take this oath freely and voluntarily, without any mental reservation or evasion whatever.

J. G. Lynch

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this fourteenth day of January
A. D. 1865
The above-named has dark complexion, dark hair, and gray eyes;
and is five feet 10 1/4 inches high.

OATH AND PAROLE.

“I do solemnly swear, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Union of the States thereunder; and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified or held void by Congress, or by decision of the Supreme Court; and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion, having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court,—So help me God; and I give my solemn parole of honor (to be enforced according to military law,) that I will hold no correspondence with, or afford any aid or comfort to any enemies or opposers of the United States, save as an act of humanity, to administer to the necessities of individuals, who are in sickness or distress; and I solemnly declare that this Oath and Parole is taken and given freely and willingly, without any mental reservation or evasion whatever, and with full intention to keep the same.”



Certificate of Release of Prisoner of War.

HEAD QUARTERS, POINT LOOKOUT, MD.

Provost Marshal's Office, June 14 1865.

I hereby Certify, That *Edw. G. Lynch*

Prisoner of War, having this day taken the Oath of Allegiance to the UNITED STATES, as prescribed by the President in his proclamation of December 8th, 1863, is in conformity with instructions from the War Department, hereby released and discharged.

In witness whereof, I herewith affix my official Signature

A. M. Brady

Major and Inspector

