GEN. FELIX H. ROBERTSON,
CRAWFORD, TEXAS.

Crawford Tex
April 25th 1909

Capt S. H. Dent
Eufaula Ala

My dear Dent. I was delighted to get your note of 19th instant.

So far as I can recall the circumstances of the Flag for our old Battery the facts are about as follows viz.

When on the March made overland from Tupelo Miss to Chattanooga the Artillery passed through Tuscaloosa Ala, and rested there for a day or more. and during that delay Miss Mary Leland, Mrs. Tam Moore (a daughter of Bishop Cobb) and other ladies made that flag and presented it to the Battery.

It was carried from that date with the Battery so long as I remained with it; and after that time you can speak from your own knowledge.

I am glad you still have it and I am glad you will deposit it in the Care of the State of Ala.

If there were any public ceremonies at the presentation I have forgotten them.

If I remember correctly, I was temporarily in Command of a Battalion, composed of the four Companies of Artillery then attached to Withers Division, while we were making that March, and if that be correct Lusdens Battery was

with us on that March, and in that event you can get accurate information perhaps, from Dr. Jas. P. Searcy, who was & I hope still, is, in Charge of the Ala. Asylum for the Insane.
His sister (formerly Miss Stella Searcy) now the wife of Genl Geo. D Johnson of Ala. can also give you some of the facts.
She was a very bright & charming young lady at Tuscaloosa at that time & she took an active part in the preparation of that Flag.
If you think I can give you information on any other point I will be glad to answer your questions.
I have fully decided to go to Memphis and I ask you to attend that reunion if possible.
I would be glad if you can go with me out to Shiloh Battle Field. I have latterly renewed my interest in that Conflict and I want to go on the ground so as to fix in my mind more clearly the several positions we occupied in that battle.
I have never been able to reconcile with ~~the~~ my own recollection of the sequence and respective times of the several incidents of that battle (as I remember them) ~~with~~ the time of the occurrences as they seem to be fixed by the published Reports.
The time of Prentiss Surrender is fixed at about 5 o'clock P.M. His Surrender of course occurred after we had broken the Union line. but how long after? When Gladden's Brigade struck the Main line it has always seemed to me that the Yankees did not hold us more than a few minutes. I remember well that Genl Gladden

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instructed me to halt the Battery in a small valley near a small brook and await his orders to advance. It seemed to me to be only a little while, until Capt Scott, an aide to Genl Gladden brot us the word to advance.

While we were awaiting orders under the shelter of that Hill the Rifle bullets passing through the trees above us cut the half grown leaves which fell on us in a continuing shower. I remember also what was then to me a novel sight, the streams of wounded men passing to the rear in all stages of disability from wounds received in our line of battle which ~~went~~ had passed on to the top of the hill which sheltered our battery.

I remember another sight which was not ~~pathetic~~ pathetic. As we went by Rail from Mobile to ~~Shiloh~~ Corinth a particularly stalwart and soldierly looking fellow wearing the striking uniform of some New Orleans Command got permission to ride with our men and we saw much of him for that trip, and I was particularly impressed with him. While, did not at that time affect much love for the Yankees, I could hardly keep down ~~a feeling~~ some feeling of pity for such unfortunate Yanks as might come in contact with that Confed.

We lost sight of that ~~soldier~~ when we got to Corinth and while we were in that Valley awaiting Gladden's orders that Confed. Soldier came again into view.

His uniform was still conspicuous and his splendid mustache had the same fierce twirl it wore while he was on the train with us some month before. but his steps which were long and hasty did not take him towards those Yankees on the hill, but he was running to the rear. No blood bespattered his uniform, and the speed with which he moved to the rear made it evident that no foeman's bullet had damaged his transportation facilities. So I had again demonstrated, for my red saying that "appearances are deceiving".

When the order to advance was shot. to me the Battery went speedily into action and as I recall the events, we did not get all our guns into Battery until the Yankee line broke. The guns that had been unlimbered (we had only 4 Napolean & 2 Cast iron. guns) were limbered to the front & went forward following the fleeing Yankees.

as we advanced, after reciving Genl Gladdens order, when we got near to our line of Battle I think we met Genl Gladden going to the rear wounded. I did not speak to him but his eyes were blazing and he was still mounted but the attention given by the men around him plainly told that he had been wounded. I had supposed until I read the official reports that he had been wounded in the arm by a Rifle Ball Now the reports say he had been struck by Cannon shot.

At the first discharge from our guns the Yankee line broke and we limbered to the front & without orders we followed the broken Yankee line. and it is in my Memory that we bore obliquely to the right as we advanced and finally we took position near a quartermasters Camp with several Regimental Camps to the North of it, and there we fired for some time across a field. towards our right. there Frank Pierce was Killed. Whilst still near that same position that Yankee Battery came out to give us battle.

In the fight which followed we lost one horse & drove the enemy away from 5 Cannon which finally we went out & brot. into Park with our own guns.

as my memory serves me two of those guns were 10 pdr. Parrots & 3 Brass pieces

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In attempting to fix our position on the field at that time I conclude from the Batt. field Map that our Battery stood near the Wicker Field and near the Camp of the Brigade Q.M. of that Brigade to which the 28th & 32nd Ill. Regts. belonged.

I remember as we passed to the R our position, seeing the breakfast tables of some of the officers all ready set, and while I was not used to eating Doughnuts for breakfast I particularly enjoyed a taste of them that morning. (taken from those set but abandoned tables.)

I also remember that while we were firing across that open field since known as "Peach Orchard Field" into the line fighting Chalmers & Jackson I caused the men at our left gun to roll some bales of hay so as to give some better protection against Rifle fire. From that same Q.M. Camp we took feed for our teams when we retired to Camp that night.

I have no way of fixing the hour at which we reached that position. It seems to me that we got there is much less than one hour after Genl. Gladden was wounded. (but that must be one of my errors)

I remember also that I passed with the Battery or a part of it around to our right and went in plain sight of the Camps of some Ohio Reg. The Tents were Sibley Tents & had the number of the Regt & State painted in large letters on each tent. While in that position we went into Battery & fired a few shots towards the river & we drew a heavy fire of Rifled Cannon (one of those shots killed Campbell) There was no infantry in sight and I soon ordered the battery or the part I had with me back to that quartermasters Camp.

In trying to fix that position accurately I am much perplexed & I ask you to reflect on this & let me have your best assistance.

The Yanks had better opportunities to mark their several positions than we did, and I conclude that their locations of their several Camps can be accepted as Correct
The locations given on the Official Map as the Rebs position at 4 P.M. are palpably erroneous if my opinion is Correct - I do not think there was any Union line South of the Wickerfield at 4 P.M. Apr. 6th 1862.
I have been trying to elicit some information from some of the Men with whom we fought that day - and for your information I send you under separate Cover a copy of a letter I have written to Adjt. Gen State of Ohio, also a letter I have rec'd from Capt Meyers who was 1st Sergeant of Meyers 13th Ohio Battery. & the one from which we captured the 5 guns -
Can you recall the name of the dead Sargeant who was killed by a Cannon Shot thro. the breast & from whose pocket a note book was taken giving the roll of Capt. A. Hickenlooper's Battery?
When you have considered the papers I send please return them to me with such notings as may seem necessary to keep me from falling into errors.
I find it impossible to recall the name of that man in our Battery who went forward first and discovered that the five guns had been abandoned - Can you tell me?
So much for that theme however.
I rejoice to hear that your sons & daughters are doing well.
It is but a matter of Course in my mind, for your sons to be good men highly respected & useful
I can boast of a large acquaintance, for I have known many men and of them, I have known a Considerable number under circumstances well Calculated to show clearly the real qualities of the individuals, and I want to say to you and to each one of your Children that you are the best man I have ever known. Give me the opportunity to meet you again at Memphis when I will tell you whatever I may have left out in this letter -

Yours friend & Comrade
Philip H. Robertson

After Five Days Return to

E. Y. DENT

Resident Agent

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

Eufaula, Ala.

From

Genl. Felix H. Robertson

4/25/09