

HSR 44

Home stead Fla
Oct 4th 1912



Mr. Thos L Owen L.L.D.

Dear Sir
complying with your request I
send a sketch of my service
I may have gone into details too
minutely and may have appeared
to use the first personal pro-
noun too much, but except dates
(for which I have a poor memory)
it is correct; Part of it may be
of historic interest part of no
interest perhaps - You are at
liberty to make such use of it as
you think best

Yours truly &c

Henry H. Sturgis,

Please excuse pencil
as my hand is too nervous
to use pen satisfactorily

(over)

B

I will send a sketch of my
father's life as soon as I can
get important data from a
sister in Texas.

Rev. G. F. Sturgis was well
known in Ala as a minister
and educator.

H. H. Sturgis

1st War Record of
H H Sturgis



When the dark cloud of war hovered over the South land I was entering my 17th year; had prepared to the Sophomore class in Howard College Marion Ala. Realizing how impossible it would be to concentrate my mind on Greek roots and higher Mathematics; I decided to defer my college course till later. I had been a close student of history and dreaded the thought of war. I never wore the blue cockade though one was given me till Alabama seceded. My health was always delicate, of a nervous temperament too tender hearted to even kill a chicken except at the peremptory command of mother though fond of my horse dog and gun often preferring the quiet sport of fishing. When however Alabama seceded I donned the blue cockade and told the boys, I

2nd



would go as far as any in defence of
My State. Early in the Spring I ran away
from home to join a company but left
a note telling where I had gone and why
My father went after me and brought me
back. He however finally gave his consent
and I joined the Cavalry was sent to
Mobile in camp of instruction under Capt.
Hunter. I was taken soon after with
Typhoid fever in Nov and lay till Feb
Nursed by my ever faithful loving father
Being discharged from service on account
of physical inability I was sent home
My oldest brother (now of Birmingham Ala.)
Sturges was in Virginia with the 3rd
Ala Inf. In Apr I reenlisted in Co. G. 44th
Ala Inf and reached Richmond during
the ~~7~~ Seven Days battles. Being visited
by my brother on Sunday (he was convales-
cing from wound received at Seven Pines)
I obtained permission from Lieut Tenant

3rd



Solr Derby in temporary command to go with my brother to Richmond. Saw some balloons sent up to make observations went to an Episcopal Church saw Pres-
Daves who was called out during service. The cannon could be heard in a battle then raging. Returning at sunset according to promise I found the 47th had gone leaving orders for all absentees to follow the next day down the Darbey-train road Comrade Cox and my self went till we came where Wilcox's Brigade was camped Not knowing what to do ^{we} asked and obtained permission from Capt McKearie of Selma Blues. (as I was acquainted with many in the company) to join the company temporary; they however warning us that we were going into a battle soon. My experience differs little I suppose from others going into their first battle suffice it to say. I felt nervous on hearing

4th



the shrieking of the shells. I was wounded slightly after getting under fire but made two ineffectual charges on Mc-
Leland's center where 18 guns and two lines of infantry poured their deadly fire upon our line. returning to the rear Capt Mc Rorie noticed me limping and asked what was the matter. I replied I had struck a Minnie ball with my shin and it hurt me, he examined it and said the bone was split and to go to the rear and help the doctors in the hospital. As I was returning I met a couple of litter bearers and we picked up a Capt who had the calf of his leg shot off whom we carried to the rear. One sees the horrors of war in a field hospital but none of the shrieks screams and cries of the wounded so graphically pictured by the poets imagination. This was the bloody battle of Frasier's farm.

647
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I rejoined the 8th the next day and went into the battle of Malvern Hill but was sent back to aid in the field hospital after getting under fire. My experience in a field hospital relieved me of my nervousness. My only thought was to help relieve pain and kindly bind the wounds and speak a word of cheer to the dying. What a field for thought in a field hospital. Amputating limbs, probing ^{for} and cutting out balls! and amid it all the quiet fortitude of the wounded scarce a groan is heard. Thousands come given temporary aid and hurried to the General Hospital where they can receive better treatment. Two days later I returned to my command bearing a complimentary letter to Coln Kent of 44th. He received the letter and began to abuse me for leaving my command and fighting with the

6th



8th Ala threatening me with arrest and severe punishment, both Derby than whom no nobler Christian gentleman ever wore the grey (He was killed at Sharpsburg leading the regiment after both Kent resigned) took my part after reading the letter and told Kent that instead of being censured I should be honored for doing my duty Kent shut him up by saying, I am in command of this regiment both Derby. (Appropo of both Derby, when in the second Manassas, the pommel of his saddle was shot off with a grape shot he quietly got down picked it up put it in his pocket quietly remarking I will have to mend my saddle. No spirit of bravado but punctilious to duty

My next service was on the way to 2nd Manassas, where we held the enemy

412



in check till Lee could occupy the
Manassas Gap. We did some little
fighting at White Sulphur Springs but
mostly supporting some batteries. I took
the mumps and remained with the
command till they left to follow Lee
when I remained in Warrenton till
day being afraid to travel in the rain.
at night march, I followed on but did
not reach the command till close of
2nd Manassas. when I was again sent
to assist the doctors -

After Manassas our next move was
to Maryland ~~stopping~~ I was detailed
on rear-guard to pick up stragglers and
had to hunt Leesburg Va to keep them
up, crossing the Potomac, about night
camping in a marshy swamp, I awoke
the next morning with a chill march
about three miles and with a burning
fever was unable to go on so was left

8th



on road side. I managed to get to a house about noon almost delirious with fever. about sunset some cavalry scouts reported a heavy force of cavalry advancing - being urged by the family to leave. I did so not knowing where I was going I blundered along till late in the night when I came to a farm and crawled between some stacks of straw till day. A negro woman coming to milk found me and she brought some milk bread & coffee. her husband fixed me in a shuck house. the family had left the gentleman going to our army the lady to her parents the day before I witnessed a skirmish fight near the farm. My fever developed into pneumonia. I suffered severely with my lungs. I remained here three days with no attention save what the darkeys could render. The negro man

9th



went to a camp near by. Thinking they were our men and told them of my condition they came and making me get up by prodding me with their sabers forced me to march to the Baltimore turn pike near where the Washington pike joins it near Fredric Md. When I reached the pike (Coln (after Genl Farnsworth) was passing at the head of his command (he was killed at Gettysburg) and seeing my condition as I leaned against the fence coughing and expectorating frothy blood cursed and threatened the men for taking a dying man a prisoner drawing his sword he said I feel like chopping your id-heads off. He made one dismount and take me to some house where I could be cared for which was done but I was sent on that evening to another house

10th



I staid till morning and being put in
an army wagon was hauled about
5 miles a guard being sent with me
and a soldier confederate from 3. Co.
toward Washington we had to walk
to Darnestown (17 miles from Washing
(I think) there I could go no farther, and
Coln A. G. H. Darne a noble Christian
southern Sympathiser seeing my con-
dition invited us to dinner though it
was 3. P. M. Coln Darne engaged the
gasskey in conversation and I was
sent up stairs to bed, ministered to by
that angel of mercy as if I were her
son. Here I remained for a month
brought back to health again - I was
parolled and went back to the army
at Winchester. I remained in paroll
camp till we went to Sulpepper from
there I was sent to Richmond having
another attack of pneumonia which!

11th
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again brought me near to death
after convalescing I was sent to
Danville till I was able to regain
my strength, I returned to my command
at Fredricksburg soon after the
battle there. From Fredricksburg
I went with Hoods division to Suffolk
where we had some hard fighting
~~then~~ we returned to Fredricksburg
after the battle of Chancellorville
then began the Pennsylvania cam-
paign. A little diversion at Sneekers
gap where we fought some cavalry
on the top of the mountain
When we crossed the Patomac several
barrels of rum were confiscated,
carried to the camps and the heads
knocked in and "Boys help yourselves"
was the order of the day. The result
was that our army was scattered from
the Patomac to our camp in Pennsylvania

1217



lying along the road side dead drunk
fell reaching camp. Till late in the
night they came staggering in.

At Gettysburg our command was on
the right wing and though we had
marched 30 miles we captured Little
Round Top. Our flag was shot down
four times I think picked up last by
a dog Nellie Fort, who climbed upon
the gun carriage as the gun was being
fired and knocked off by a Yankee
with the swab-staff.

After our return from Gettysburg nothing
of importance occurred till the great
religious revival in camp near
Fredericksburg. Christians led by the
faithful preaching of the gospel rallied
under the banner of Christ and many
thousands were recruited into the service
of Christ being as valiant soldiers of
the banner of the Cross as of the Southern

13th
7

14

Cross
Our next move was to Chickamauga
where we drove the enemy into Chata-
nooga and would have captured
them there but for the negligence of
Brag. Our next engagement was ~~with~~
beyond Lookout Mountain on Raccoon
Mt a nasty night fight where we got so
mixed we could not tell which was
who we captured and burnt a wagon
train. Then through East Tenn. to
Knoxville some skirmishing on
the way at Knoxville we fought but
failed to capture the city. Several
minor engagements kept us busy
during the winter. I received my first
and only furlough during our stay
in East Tenn. I came back in time
to return to Va. We fought at Wilder-
ness and Spotsylvania. Shortly after
the latter battle while lying near



157K



there in three days. We hurried back to report movement of the whole army Infantry Artillery Cavalry and all, the message was sent to Lee when he sent back Thanks to the scouts Move the whole army. We started immediately and by an all night march intercepted Grant at North Anna burned the bridge and were ready for him before 10 AM. We fought there and kept ahead of his flank movement all the way. The next general engagement was at Cold Harbor. Grant's slaughter open, when from daylight till late in the evening line after line was thrown against our earth works. Their loss was terrific but we stood our ground till our ammunition was nearly exhausted; I was sent to the rear for more and another with

1615



me, returning he was shot through the arm but I tied it up the best I could and he helped me carry the boy in; (I forget his name) I never did I see men hungrier for rations than they were for this ammunition; We were sent to the relief of Petersburg next going partly by trail, were the first to reach there, the enemy being held in check by the home guards (the old men and boys) The ladies had provided coffee in barrels along the side walks and begged us to "drive the yanks back" many were in tears but we with hearty cheer told them we would make them hump which we did driving them back about a mile. From then on we had constant fighting till the evacuation. In November I was sent again to the hospital hardly able

17th
4

to walk worn out with constant fighting and exposure. I soon became able to do duty guarding prisoners at Bell Isle and then at Libbey afterward transferred to duty guarding the Rayall Flouring Mills till just before the evacuation I was transferred to soldiers home popularly known as the brown's nest from which we went on the retreat. Two of us were detailed to fire the Confederate Tobacco warehouse. We rolled three hogheads together pulled out the loose hands split up some splinters struck the match watched till it was well under way. went out locked the door returned to the brown's nest took our baggage and crossed Mayor's bridge after it was fired and stood on the hill in Manchester



1875



and witnessed the burning of the city, a grand but terrific sight. Soon however we left on the sad march to Danville where we drew our scanty rations and had a fight over the bridge which we burnt being again with my command then on to Spematox where ~~my~~ our army surrendered - No tongue or pen can describe the feelings of our men when the news reached us. Lee has surrendered, I returned home to find a horde of vultures preying upon the dying Confederacy. "To the victors belong the spoils" was their slogan. I did not join the Ku Klucks nor did I get a cent's worth of the contraband cotton. I began to prepare for my life work, the ministry of the gospel. In this work, I still continue

1915

though nearing my 70 year lifting
up the standard of the cross
have shot about 10 times and at
nothing but a few squirrels and
birds for food - detecting the
sound of a gun or the smell of
gun powder - I have served my God
as I did my country only hoping
to hear the baptist's my salvation
say well done



H. H. Sturgis,

W. W. Allbritton

April 15 - 1921

dictated this April 15 - 1921



Gen. G. Perry, at the beginning of
the war in 1860 - between the
states, was principal of a female
college in Tuskegee - My recollection
he joined our regiment and in its
organization was elected ^{Co. F - 44 Ala. Regt.} Major.
Kent, who was Col. - resigned.
Chas. A. Derby, Lieut. Col. - was killed
at battle of Sharpsburg, Md.
Perry then became Col. of the
44 Ala. Infantry - Saw Striade,
Hood's Division - Hood being
wounded at Gettysburg; Law
commanded the Division - Perry
commanded Law's Brigade - Hood
resumed the command of the Div.
at Chickamauga and was again
wounded in that battle - Law
commanding Hood's Division, and

Perry commanding Saw's Brigade.
Hood on his return, was promoted
to Lieut. Gen. - C. M. Field was
promoted permanently to Hood's old
Division - Saw would no longer
serve under ^{Gen.} Longstreet, and was
transferred to S Carolina - The
whole Command, Longstreet's Corps -
was transferred from East Tenn -
to Va., and for bravery and
meritorious conduct at the battle
of the Wilderness, Perry was promoted
permanently, to the command of Saw's
old Brigade - and surrendered in
command of the Brigade at
Appomattox Court house - Va. April
9 - 1865 - Returning to civil life
he died President of a College in
Kentucky. The Ladies of Antioch
presented him with a very fine
horse, which he rode during the war -
till the horse was killed from under
him in the battle of the Wilderness - Then
getting another horse, it was also killed from under

Col. N. H. B. Dawson of Delmar
married Miss Todd of Kentucky
sister of Lincoln's wife -
They never had any speaking
or calnings with each other



N. G. Pillsbury dictated this April 15, 1921

Hoover, White, Blair's, Adams's
Peace men -

The last battle of war was at Sugar Land, Ga.
Gen. Tyler was killed there -

The white people could not vote, on
oath they were required to take that
they had not abetted and given aid to the Confederate
Constitutional Convention in
different states and voted for them.
The negroes voting themselves

1119

44

Brewton Ala 8/7-'05

Hon. G. W. Owen

Montgomery Ala
Dear Sir.



I return list with
3 names added

E. W. Byrne & K. L. Nor-
alson, Selma & L. A.
Cockrell, Livingston
These were all living
lost account

I have copy of Muster
Roll of my Co. but it is
not original or official
I am not sure about Nor-
alson's initials. He was
called "Kinch".

If you will write to



E. M. Byrne, Selma, he
 will likely give you
 several more names
 and will give you
 Haraldson's correct
 initials.

There is an Edt officer
 on Gen Harrison's staff
 named Wardsworth,
^{from 44th Ala}
 but I do not know
 to what company he
 belonged. You can
 find out from him
 Yours Truly
 W. R. Neal

Headquarters
293rd., Company, CCC.
Camp MP-2, Vicksburg, Miss.

April 28th. 1935.

State Historian,
Montgomery, Ala.

Dear Sir:-

I am seeking some information and possibly you can help me, I would like to know the movements of the 44th., in Alabama Infantry, during the Civil War, how they were transported from Selma to their first engagement, and on all other engagements if possible, also who was Commanding them when they left Selma.

Thanking you for all the information you can give me, and if not able to can you inform me where this can be obtained.

Respectfully,



Albert S. Martin
Albert S. Martin,
Lt. Ord. Dept.

Lt. Albert S. Martin,
Co. 293, MP-2,
Vicksburg, Miss.