

Capt. Hugh R. Miller, Co. G, 2nd Mississippi Infantry, On the Battle

THE GREAT BATTLE OF MANASSAS.

Report of Capt. Hugh R. Miller

Hon. W. S. Bates:

It was due to the friends of the "Pontotoc Minute Men"¹ that I should give them some account of the part performed by us on the 21st of July in the battle of Manassas; but this duty is now rendered doubly incumbent, by certain grossly erroneous statements recently published in the *Examiner*², purporting to give an account of our conduct on that memorable day. Justice to the men, as well as to the officers, demands that those statements shall be corrected.

We were led into battle by General Bee³ early in the morning. We went upon the field with 68 men, rank and file, with all the commissioned and non-commissioned officers at their posts⁴ – a larger number than any other company in the regiment turned out that day⁵.

As we approached the enemy's front, and neared the point where we were formed into line-of-battle [Matthews Hill] Col. Falkner⁶ was detached with three companies, (not seven) to-wit; the Tishomingo Rifles⁷, Iuka Rifles⁸ and Town Creek Rifles⁹, about two hundred yards from the other seven companies of the regiment. The object was to endeavor to silence, or force back a battery of the enemy with these three companies, and succeeding or failing in this, that they should unite with the body of the regiment.

The other seven companies, including our own, were led up by Gen. Bee and formed on the side of a fence inclosing a corn field in our front, through which the enemy were advancing. – We were ordered by Gen. Bee, who posted us, to lie down behind the fence and to await the approach of the enemy – throwing down the fence so as not to obstruct our fire or advance, if it became advisable. The seven companies were thus posted – the 4th Alabama¹⁰ regiment being on our right, and about 300 yards in advance of our position, on the hill-side, and in the open cornfield. After we had formed thus behind the fence, the O'Conner Rifles¹¹, Captain Buchanan¹², who were on our *left*, were ordered forward by General Bee as skirmishers¹³. They deployed in the open field in our front, abreast with the line of the 4th Alabama regiment, and became immediately engaged in a brisk fire with the enemy, which they [kept?] up, until compelled by overwhelming numbers, to rally upon the companies remaining at the fence, bringing one of their men badly wounded. They came down and formed on our right.

In the meantime an incessant fire had been kept up between the 4th Alabama and the enemy. From the time we had been posted at the fence, the enemy had been throwing shot and shell about 30 feet over our heads, cutting trees and limbs that fell amongst us. Having discovered the error in their aim, they gradually lowered the range of their guns until their shot and shell passed immediately over our heads and about us. At last a shell fell about 20 paces in front of the left of our company, scattering fragments and dust in every direction. At this moment all the

companies of our regiment, posted at the fence, *except the Pontotoc Minute Men* and the *Cherry Creek Rifles*, (the O'Conner Rifles being still engaged in skirmishing in our front) sprang to their feet and retreated across the woods in our rear. Three men on the left of my company rose to their feet, supposing from the movement of the other companies that there was an order to retreat. None of them "fled" or moved a pace. Seeing the movement of the others I instantly sprang to my feet and said, "down men, stand to your posts, there is no order to retreat". I was instantly obeyed and those who had risen to their feet, every man remaining at his post; although, by this time, the Minié balls, as well as shot and shell, from the artillery, rained thick around us. No other officer of my company gave any command whatever – none was necessary. What Lieut. Fontaine may have done by "calls" and "signals" to those of other companies who "fled", I know not – I heard nothing of it then, or since, until I saw the publication in the Examiner. It is due to the Cherry Creek Rifles to say that they did not partake of the panic, and did not leave their post, but the few of them who had arisen to their feet promptly assumed their original position, Capt. Herring¹⁴ expressing his concurrence with me that there had been given no order to retreat.

It is proper to remark that this was the first occasion on which my men had been subjected to the fire of the enemy, and nothing occurred during that terrible day, that inspired me with such a high degree of confidence in their firmness and bravery, and in their readiness to obey my commands in the midst of peril, as the promptness with which they obeyed my orders and remained at their posts. *They did not fly*, or need to be *rallied*; but remained at their post with unblanched cheeks, until they were ordered to change position by the officer in command of them.

The 4th Alabama regiment, after withstanding a heavy fire for about half an hour, was compelled to file to the right to avoid being outflanked by vastly superior numbers, and retreated in good order far to our right, leaving only our three companies to face an advancing column of from three to five thousand men supported by artillery. As they advanced over the hill we fired a few rounds and retired though the wood in our rear. Here, as at all times during the day it was the constant aim and effort to Lieut. Palmer¹⁵ and myself, as previously agreed upon in conference, to keep our company together – compact. And in retiring across the wood, they did preserve good order – the O'Conner and Cherry Creek Rifles leaving us far in their rear. As we approached an open field in the rear of the wood, and after we were without the range of the enemy's shot, I commanded "halt – about face – right dress," all of which was promptly done; and to compose and reassure the men, as much as to secure good order when we advanced into the open field, I caused the company to tell off by twos. All this was done by my command, and not by the command of Lieut. Fontaine or any one else. It was not necessary for me to "*come up*;" I was all the time up, and immediately with the company, and so was my second in command, Lieut. Palmer.

We then filed by the right flank into the open field, passing down a hillside to a small creek, or "run"¹⁶ as they are called here, until we came up with the O'Conner and Cherry Creek Rifles. – We now discovered a large body of the enemy coming over the ridge in our rear and to the right of the line over which we had just passed. Our three companies immediately crossed the run and formed fronting the enemy. We could not retreat up the opposite hillside without being under the fire of the enemy for several hundred yards. The enemy had fired a few shots at us, and had wounded one of Capt. Herring's men. After a moments conference with Capts. Buchanan and Herring, we determined to form our men in the channel of the creek [Young's Branch], and if forced to do so to retreat down the channel. The command was immediately given, and the men sprang into the water – the banks affording a fine breastwork and protection.

We opened fire upon the enemy within good musket range, and the dead bodies found upon the hillside afterwards, attest the effect of our shots. – The enemy were advancing in column of division, and immediately in the rear of the regiment nearest to us, another loomed up over the ridge with a flaunting flag of stars and stripes. – They were in full United States uniform, and there was no reason whatever, from their appearance and position, to doubt that they were the enemy; yet a silly clamor was raised by some as to whether they were friends or enemies. This was silenced by the command to form in this creek and to fire upon them.

To our surprise and gratification the regiment in advance, fell back under our fire up the hill out of the range of our guns, uniting with the regiment in their rear. This afforded us an opportunity to avoid being swallowed up by overwhelming numbers, and we retired across the ridge in our rear [the area behind the Robinson House south of the Warrenton Pike and near the right flank of Jackson's Brigade]. Here we became separated from the O'Conner and the Cherry Creek Rifles, and did not see the latter company again during the day.

We retired across the ridge and through a skirt of woods to the [south?] side of the Warrenton road, where we met with Gen. Bee, who inquired of me for Col. Falkner; I replied that I had not seen, or been able to find him, or the regiment, since we were posted in the morning, and that I desired orders. Gen. Bee immediately led us forward near a house, known as Robinson's – a free negro – and posted us on the hill-side on the right of a Virginia regiment [the regiment in question was not identified, but probably the 5th Virginia since it was on the right of Jackson's Brigade. Hampton's Legion was also in the same area] and passed on to the house on the top of the hill [the Henry House]. In a few moments he returned and appealed to us and the regiment on our left, to move up to the house and aid in holding an important position that a few men had held for some time. We immediately sprang up, and so did the men of the regiment on our left [this may have been Hampton's Legion], but their colonel springing to their front ordered them to remain where they were, that he (Gen. Bee) was not their commander. Gen Bee expressed his indignation at this, and turning to us said "come on Mississippians," and led us up to the right of the house and formed us in the lane directly in front of the line of the enemy who were not yet within musket range. – The Cherry Creek Rifles were not with us at this time at all, as stated in the publication in the **Examiner**. Archibald Clark¹⁷, II. [?] McPherson¹⁸ and Mr. Gaillard of the Coonewah Rifles had come and joined us when the [company?] left the fence where we were posted in the morning, and were the only persons with us, not of our own company.

The infantry of the Hampton's Legion were formed in the yard and about the house on our left. Gen. Bee succeeded in bringing up a few companies of a Virginia regiment who formed on our left in the lane. We had been posted here but a few minutes when we discovered a regiment of the enemy emerging from the woods upon an open ridge directly upon our right and within three hundred yards of us – my company being on our right flank and nearest to them. Their appearance and position at once demonstrated that they were of the enemy. Capt. Herring was not there to make any suggestion, nor did I think for a minute they were friends. The entire statement in the publication by Lieut. Fontaine on this part of the subject is a mass of error and confusion. If any signals were exchanged with the enemy here, I heard nothing and saw nothing of it. It was evident that they had come up to take us on the flank by a quick and unexpected attack. Col. Harper of the Va. Regiment [the 5th Virginia of Jackson's Brigade] passed along the lane in our rear a short distance, and returning quickly, remarked to me as he passed, "they are certainly the enemy and will be upon us immediately." His companies I discovered immediately withdrew along the lane to the left of the house and I saw no more of them.

I pause here for a moment to correct a few immaterial errors. I did not order the men here or elsewhere during the day, to "cease firing." I was at no time bothered with doubts, which seemed to afflict others, as to the character of the troops around us. I did *not* fire my rifle here as stated. I did not have it with me at this time. I first fired at the fence where we were first posted in the morning, and when the enemy were at least five hundred yards from us. Before doing so, I cautioned the men not to fire because I did, as the enemy were entirely beyond the range of their guns. I then elevated the sight and took aim at a man on horseback whose head and body I could just see over the ridge – the enemy's line being entirely out of view. I reloaded it, and again, when we formed in the channel of the creek, as before stated, I then fired at the enemy again, when on the reloading and attempting to cock it I found it out of the order so that I could not do so, and as we were led up to our position by Gen. Bee, in passing through the woods, I met a Georgia soldier [probably a member of the 7th or 8th Georgia of Bartow's Brigade], leading off another whom I took to be wounded, and asking him merely what troops and regiment he belonged to, I requested him to take my gun to his camp as it was an useless incumbrance to me, which he readily agreed to do. – I delivered it to him and that is the last of it.

To return to the narrative of events. We were left alone in the lane, our men had fired a few ineffectual shots at the column of the enemy in our front, just before we discovered the regiment flanking us on our right [may have been a regiment in Keyes' Federal Brigade]. In a very few moments after this regiment first made its appearance, it advance upon us at the double-quick, firing. I immediately ordered a retreat, without hearing any suggestion from any one – it was a necessity obvious to everyone. The greater portion of the company jumped over the fence in our rear, and forming the enclosure on that side of the lane, retiring diagonally from the front of the approaching regiment. Some few passed directly from the enemy down the lane into the yard. Of this last number was John M. Ward¹⁹, who was last seen standing in a broken panel of the yard paling loading and firing. – Here he received his mortal wound. – My men continued to halt and fire as they retreated through the orchard down the hill. William E. Wiley²⁰ received his mortal wound about thirty paces from the fence we had just crossed, and where he must have halted and have been firing at the enemy, as the shot entered his face and came out at the back part of his head. Both he and Ward were killed instantly. As we retreated down the hill, in the orchard, and about fifty yards from where Ward stood, Spotswood Dandridge²¹ had his thigh broken, and appealing to me as I passed him with the rear of the company, not to leave him, I turned and called to two or three men to assist John F. Wray²² who had already got to him, and they carried him from the field. In the meantime, Archibald Clark of Capt. Taylor's company²³, and Berry M. Ellzy²⁴ of my company, were wounded – Clark mortally. The advance of the enemy was retarded and our escape secured by the firing of a portion of my men, which was kept up longer perhaps than was prudent or consistent with their safety. When my attention was called by Dandridge to himself, I saw Ward and hallooed to him to come on, but the distance and noise were so great that he could not have heard me. He was then alone, and no one of our company was near him when he fell. – Nearly the entire company passed through the orchard, and down the hill, having left the lane at the start, and did not form again until we had retreated about three hundred yards and without the range of the enemy's guns. Here I halted the company and reformed it – the wounded being carried to the rear, except Ellzy who was wounded when none of his comrades were near him, and who was taken prisoner by the enemy, but afterwards abandoned by them from alarm, thereby affording him the means to escape.

We were again without orders and without a field officer to lead us, and moved across the field toward the left of our line of battle until we came upon a South Carolina regiment [the only South Carolina units in the area would have been the remnants of the 4th South Carolina of Evans' Brigade, or Hampton's Legion of Holmes' Brigade], with which, at the suggestion of Lieut. Palmer, I had determined to remain during the day. We had formed on their right but a short time when we discovered the O'Conner Rifles on another part of the same field, Lieut. Palmer and myself, after consultation, concluded that it was our duty to unite with them, and if possible find our own regiment. We accordingly drew off and joined the O'Conner's, and with them moved up to a point near our left wing, and above and to the left of a portion of the 4th Alabama regiment which we found there without a field officer and in great confusion. Our men had just sat down for the first time during the day to rest, and some had started to a ravine nearby to get water, when Gen. Bee came dashing down the hill, exhibiting intense anxiety and addressing himself to us and the Alabamians on our right and below us, he said "men, there is a position here important to be held, move up quickly and support it." Instantly our men were on their feet, and my company being on the left, and our route being to the left, I faced the company to the left and marched off by the left flank, the O'Conner's who were on our right did the same and followed us, Gen. Bee leading us at a canter, whilst we moved at "double-quick." It is proper to state here that Lieut. Leland²⁵ had remained with us during the day until his strength was completely exhausted. He was so feeble from protracted illness that he scarcely ought to have gone upon the field at all. When we had halted to rest, as above stated, others said to me that they were broken down and unable to go further. Of this number was Wm. Barr²⁶ who was quite feeble from a recent illness. As we moved up the hill, having near a half a mile to pass over, Mr. Barr gave out, not knowing where or how far we were called on to march, and turned to the left down a road leading towards Manassas, whilst our course was nearly in the opposite direction. Here, as he informs me, he was soon joined by Lieut. Fontaine and another, a private, of my company.

There was no other regiment, or considerable body of troops on our side anywhere to be seen on or near the field over which we passed. I had occasion to look back after we had advanced several hundred yards up the hill, and discovered that the Alabamians, although they appeared to be moving, were yet in confusion, and several hundred yards in our rear. The O'Conner's were close up with us, and continued so until we approached the brow of the hill and formed into line – they forming on our right.

There was no regiment then on the field *upon which we were formed, nor were we formed upon the flank of any regiment*, as stated by Lieut. Fontaine. He did not reach that part of the field, and therefore knew nothing about it.

As we advanced toward the hillside and before we were nearer than four hundred yards of the enemy's line, which was not yet visible from where we were, I discovered the last stragglers of a Virginia regiment [the regiment is unidentified, but had to have been a regiment of Jackson's Brigade], which had just been repulsed from this position, retreating across our front toward Manassas. It was the repulse of this regiment that caused Gen. Bee's anxiety when he came for us.

Hitherto we had been led up to positions to await the approach of the enemy, now we had to advance upon the enemy, with the balls whistling around us like a hail storm. The Minute Men and the O'Conner's moved steadily forward, loading and firing rapidly as they advanced, until we were within seventy-five yards of the enemy's line. No other troops came up on the field, the Alabamians having fallen back, or turned towards Manassas. Just after we had formed into line and came within range of the enemy's guns, Gen. Bee wheeled around our left flank, and to our rear, and in a few seconds received his death wound from a point of woods to our left, where some of the enemy had concealed themselves [probably portions of the 1st Minnesota]. A few minutes afterwards Lieut. Palmer received his death wound by a shot from the same quarter, and from the nature of the wounds of many of my men, they must have been shot from the same direction. – Our attention was directed exclusively to the front, and we apprehended no danger from this quarter. This party had pursued our retreating forces across the ridge, and had ensconced themselves there after Gen. Bee had come down the ridge for us. The artillery on both sides had ceased to fire sometime before we were led up, and it was now a contest solely of the infantry in and about the silenced guns of Sherman's²⁷ and Rickett's²⁸ battery. We were led up immediately in front of the left gun of this battery. The enemy's shot did not reach within three hundred yards of the road taken by Mr. Barr and others towards Manassas. Men never exhibited greater firmness and fearlessness, than did the Minute Men whilst under fire of the enemy. I had, I suppose, about fifty men at this time some had been wounded, some had gone to carry the wounded to places of safety and to attend to them, and a very few had become faint by the wayside. As it was, we had Lieut. Palmer killed here, and fourteen men wounded, including Mr. Gaillard²⁹, of Capt. Taylor's company, who had fought with us all day. Andrew J. Clements³⁰ here received a wound that has since proved mortal. In a little while the enemy began to retreat and the firing ceased, We had no numbers to justify pursuit – the O'Conner's had suffered severely – and I called back my men who were most advanced, and as I turned back myself, I heard the voice of Charlie Earle³¹ calling me to the aid of Lieut. Palmer. I turned to him and discovered that he was badly wounded. Calling upon Manahan³², Barksdale³³, E.L. Earle³⁴, Cooper³⁵ and some others to assist me, we bore him slowly from the field. Our other wounded men were borne from the field by their comrades. The enemy had fled; – not another gun was fired, and we were last upon the field.

I have no space for eulogy; but a better man, a more skillful and faithful officer, or a braver soldier than Lieut. Palmer never drew a blade. Andrew J. Clements, William E Wiley, and Jno. M. Ward, had, by their uniform good conduct, in camp and upon the battlefield, commanded my highest approbation.

Josephus J. Pickens³⁶ was temporarily separated from the company as formed into line in front of the enemy, by a gun of our artillery in retreat, running immediately across our rear. He diverged a little to our right, and took a position near an old apple or cherry tree where he had a fine chance at, and did good service upon the enemy, but unfortunately was too much exposed to another body of the enemy, and received a severe wound through both

thighs. He fell where he was shot, and was unable to move – one thigh being badly broken. – There I found him, and had him carried on a door-shutter to the place of rendezvous for the wounded. He is reported to be doing well, as all our wounded are – tho' several of them, Pickens, Ellzy, Alexander³⁷, and McMicken³⁸, are badly wounded

Archibald Clark, who received his mortal wound whilst fighting with my company, was a brave and gallant soldier.

This much I have felt that justice of the company demanded of me. It is not intended as a full report of all that we did on that day. We were near the enemy's front all day, and were repeatedly complimented by Gen. Bee for our firmness and bravery. He was the only field officer who witnessed our conduct, and unfortunately for us, and for the truth of the history, this gallant officer did not live to make a report. We achieved a great victory, and are content. If the part performed by the Minute Men is not misrepresented, they are willing to wait and let their good deeds herald themselves.

HUGH R. MILLER

Capt. Pontotoc Minute Men.

The facts as stated above are true as far as they are within the recollection of the undersigned, and we were in the battle of the 21st July, the entire day.

Thomas J. Crawford³⁹, Jno. W. Dillard⁴⁰, Allen Moore⁴¹, Wm. H. Topp⁴², W. E. Manahan, G. B. Mears⁴³, T. J. Rye⁴⁴, W. C. Nowlin⁴⁵, J. W. Combs⁴⁶, J. M. Barksdale, E. L. Earle, John McCurley⁴⁷, J. J. Donaldson⁴⁸, Richard Drake⁴⁹.

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¹ Company G - Pontotoc Minute Men - Pontotoc County: Mustered into State service at Pontotoc on 2 March 1861.

² ^{2nd} Lieutenant Charles D. Fontaine was a 46-year-old attorney from Pontotoc when he joined the Pontotoc Minute Men on March 2, 1861. He was active in Democratic Party politics and was elected state representative from Pontotoc in 1844 and in 1846. He ran for circuit judge in 1853 to succeed Miller and lost in a three-way race. He ran in 1855 as the "Know Nothing Party" candidate for governor and lost. In 1860, Fontaine was elected as one of the four delegates from Pontotoc County to the Secession Convention along with Miller. He enlisted in the Pontotoc Minute Men and was elected ^{3rd} Lieutenant. However, personal animosity between Miller and Fontaine broke into the open when Miller explicitly criticized Fontaine for the latter's report of the Battle of First Manassas in **The Examiner**. Shortly afterwards, in October 1861, Fontaine resigned from the Pontotoc Minute Men. After the Civil War, he is believed to have been the leader of the Ku Klux Klan in Pontotoc County. He died in September 1871 and is buried in the Pontotoc Cemetery.

³ Brigadier General Barnard Elliott Bee, commander of the Third Brigade, Confederate Army of the Shenandoah. Mortally wounded during the battle.

⁴ In the Confederate Army—which was organized very much like the Union—a typical infantry company included about 100 men, led by a captain, 3 lieutenants, 4 sergeants, and 4 corporals. The regiment was headed by a colonel, a lieutenant colonel, a major, an adjutant, and a sergeant major.

⁵ There were at least 200-400 men on the sick rolls due to measles and mumps, two common camp diseases during the Civil War. The regiment was mustered in with over 900 men on May 1st, 1861. So, estimates would put the regiment's strength at between 500-600 men during the battle of First Manassas on July 21st.

⁶ Colonel William Clark Falkner, colonel of the 2nd Mississippi.

⁷ Company A - Tishomingo Riflemen (also called Tishomingo Rifles) - Tishomingo County: Mustered into State service at Corinth on 20 February 1861. Its officers were commissioned on 30 April 1861.

⁸ Company K - Iuka Rifles - Tishomingo County: Mustered into State service at Iuka on 6 April 1861.

⁹ Company C - Town Creek Riflemen (also called the Town Creek Rifles) - Itawamba County: Mustered into State service at Verona on 27 February 1861.

¹⁰ Also part of Bee's Third Brigade.

¹¹ Company B - O'Connor Rifles - Tippah County: Mustered into State service at Ripley on 4 March 1861. The Governor commissioned its officers on 4 February 1861. The company was presented a flag by Mrs. Judge Green; it marched to Saulsbury, Tennessee and took the train to Corinth.

¹² Captain John H. Buchanan, Company B, the O'Connor Rifles of Tippah County. Age 41. Captain of Company B at First Manassas.

¹³ It is logical that Company B should be ordered forward as skirmishers. Companies A and B are generally the left and right flank companies of the regiment. It was reported that these companies may have been equipped with rifle muskets (.54 caliber Mississippi Rifles) instead of the older .69 caliber smoothbore muskets and thus were effective at much longer range. Companies A and B were probably used as the regiment's skirmishing companies. Later in the war, the entire regiment would be equipped with either Springfield or Enfield rifle muskets.

¹⁴ Captain of Company I (Cherry Creek Rifles) at First Manassas.

¹⁵ 1st Lieutenant Richard A. Palmer, Company G, Pontotoc Minute Men, age 29, killed in battle on July 21st.

¹⁶ Young's Branch, a tributary of Bull Run.

¹⁷ Private Archibald Clark, Company H, the Coonewah Rifles of Pontotoc County. Age 44. Mortally wounded at First Manassas on July 21st, 1861. Died of wounds on July 23rd, 1861.

¹⁸ There were two men named McPherson in Company H, the Coonewah Rifles of Pontotoc County at potentially at First Manassas. The first name is unclear in the transcription. Private Henry McPherson was age 19. Private Lewis A. McPherson was 21.

¹⁹ Private John M. Ward, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men, age 30. Killed in action on July 21st.

²⁰ Private William E. Wiley, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men, age 22. Killed in action on July 21st.

²¹ Private Spottswood B. Dandridge, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men, age 18. Wounded (fracture of left thigh) at First Manassas. Discharged on November 15, 1861, for disability due to wounds.

²² Private John T. Wray, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 23.

²³ Company H, the Coonewah Rifles of Pontotoc County. Captain Samuel H. Taylor was the company commander during the battle of First Manassas.

²⁴ Private Berry M. Ellzey, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 20. Severely wounded (hip) at First Manassas on July 21st, 1861. Discharged for disability due to wound on October 27, 1861.

²⁵ 2nd Lieutenant William W. Leland, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 45. Resigned by reason of disability on August 1, 1861.

²⁶ Private William Barr, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 39. Discharged on November 6, 1861 for disability.

²⁷ Captain Miller may have actually been referring to Griffin's Battery D, 5th US since Griffin's and Ricketts' were the only two batteries deployed so far to the front at Henry Hill. (see note #28 below for Ricketts' Battery).

²⁸ Battery I at 1st Bull Run: Battery I, 1st US (Ricketts) and Battery D, 5th US (Griffins) were the 2 batteries ordered to advance, unsupported in a move that precipitated the turning point of the battle. Battery I, placed in the vicinity of Henry House Hill was immediately, upon unlimbering its guns, put under fire from Confederate Snipers that were using the Henry House for cover. The battery fired upon the house to silence these rebel snipers and in the process, killed Mrs. Henry, an elderly woman, who was bedridden. Her body was literally blown out of the house and as killing a civilian, let alone a woman, was considered bad luck, the Battery felt it had been cursed. It would soon prove to be a true prediction as the 33rd Virginia Infantry Regiment advanced upon the right flank of Battery I and Battery D and was able, because of poor identification, to pour a raking fire into both batteries, cutting them to pieces.

The Battery, upon advancing to Henry House Hill, goes right through the advancing battle line of the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Regiment, separating its Commanding officer, Col Gorman and 2 companies from the rest of the Regiment. It would be the 1st Minnesota that would incur the highest casualties of any regiment engaged that day.. Some of those casualties in the attempt to save Battery I from capture.

In the end, Battery I is overrun and loses all of its newly issued Parrott Rifles, their limbers, all of the caissons and most of their limbers, horses and equipment. It crosses Bull Run Creek, escaping with 3 limbers and

56 horses. Casualties include Lt Ramsey killed, Captain Ricketts, wounded and captured and over a dozen enlisted men killed and wounded. Many of the horses lie dead in harness, cut down by Confederate musket fire.

²⁹ Private William Gailliard, Company H, the Coonewah Rifles of Pontotoc County, Age 35. Mortally wounded (through the neck) at First Manassas on July 21st, 1861. In hospital at University of Virginia. Died of wounds on September 10th, 1861 at hospital in Charlottesville, VA.

³⁰ Private Andrew J. Clements, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 30. Mortally wounded (throat, jaw) at First Manassas and died of wounds on August 15th, 1861, at Charlottesville, VA.

³¹ Private Charles W. Earle, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 17.

³² Private William E. Manahan, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 30.

³³ There are two men named Barksdale in Company G that Capt. Miller may have been referring to. Private James M. Barksdale was age 45. Private Rowdy M. Barksdale was 17.

³⁴ Private Ezias L. Earle, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 25.

³⁵ Private Thomas J. S. Cooper, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 18.

³⁶ Private Josephus J. Pickens, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 21. Severely wounded in the leg at the battle of First Manassas. Discharged due to disability caused by wounds on December 4th, 1861.

³⁷ Private James W. Alexander, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 22. Severely wounded (in hip) in battle at First Manassas on July 21st, 1861. Sent to hospital at Charlottesville, VA. Discharged due to disability caused by wound on August 21st, 1861.

³⁸ Private Andrew J. McMickin, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 23. Severely wounded (in arm) at 1st Manassas on July 21st, 1861. Sent to hospital at Charlottesville, VA. Discharged for disability due to wound on October 31st, 1861.

³⁹ 1st Sergeant (promoted 1st Lieutenant to replace Lt. Palmer on July 21st, 1861), Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 27. Promoted to Captain on April 23rd, 1862 upon the resignation of Capt. Miller.

⁴⁰ 4th Sergeant John W. Dillard, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 23. Later promoted to Captain on July 8th, 1863 (while a prisoner of war).

⁴¹ Private Allen Moore, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 42.

⁴² 2nd Sergeant William H. Topp, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 38. Appointed 1st Sergeant on July 26th, 1861.

⁴³ Private Goldsboro B. Mears, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 26. Appointed Corporal on August 1st, 1861. Detailed on recruiting service in April 1862 and transferred to the 42nd Mississippi Infantry Regiment. Promoted to Captain in that regiment.

⁴⁴ 3rd Corporal Thomas J. Rye, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 21.

⁴⁵ Private William C. Nowlin, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 21.

⁴⁶ Private James W. Combs, Company G. The Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 33. Wounded at First Manassas. Later elected 2nd Lieutenant on April 21st, 1862.

⁴⁷ Private John McCurley, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 24. Later promoted to Corporal, 2nd Sergeant, 3rd Lieutenant, and finally Brevet 2nd Lieutenant on December 3rd, 1862.

⁴⁸ Private Joel J. Donaldson, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 30. Later promoted to Corporal and 4th Sergeant.

⁴⁹ 3rd Sergeant Richard Drake, Company G, the Pontotoc Minute Men. Age 20. Later promoted to Orderly Sergeant and later to the staff of Law's Brigade as Acting Chief of Ordnance.