

Address,
at Cincinnati Ohio, 1895.

Vol. 6, No. 9.

Subject.
Battle of Griswoldville.

H. S. HOWARD,

SOLE AGENT

SPELTERINE HOOF STUFFING.

WASHINGTON RED CEDAR SHINGLES.

GENERAL AGENT

BURKE PATENT FLEXIBLE STAMPS.

156 COLLEGE STREET.

BURLINGTON, VT., _____ 189

Address,

at Cincinnati Ohio, 1895.

Vol. 6, No. 9.

Subject.

Battle of Gravellyville.

Address "Battle of Griswoldville"

Loyal Legion Meeting at
Cincinnati, O. 1895

Griswold is a station on the railroad that runs from Macon to Savannah and is ^{out} ten miles from Macon. The village proper, named Griswoldville, is a few hundred yards from the station.

To map out the battle of Griswoldville, one may do so more easily by making first a slight sketch of our general operations. Remember, Atlanta has been won; then saved; then then depopulated almost, and its ashes abandoned. Sherman's right wing, i. e. the Army of the Tennessee, about 33,000. strong under my command, had left Whitehall near Atlanta, the 15th of November, 1864.

Kilpatrick's cavalry, about 5,000 horsemen, had reported to me and were sent ^{during part of the march to the sea} to clear my front and watch my right flank as we wandered southward.

Till November, the 19th, to all appearances, we were sweeping on toward Macon; then first ^{our} ~~the~~ infantry by a turn to the left crossed to the East of the Ocmulgee by pontoon bridges. The steep and muddy banks were bothersome. The cavalry followed and as soon as over the river again turned down the first roads toward East Macon. The army after ^{with difficulty} clambering up the east bank of the river, made straight for a station on the Macon and Savannah R. R. called Gordon. ^{our} ~~the~~ trains, including Kilpatrick's stretched out, were thirty-seven miles long. To get these wagons

Journal of the Expedition

August 25th 1864

Criswell is a station on the railroad line from

to Savannah and is ten miles from there. The village
proper, named Criswellville, is a few hundred yards from the

station.

To map out the battle of Criswellville, one may do so

more easily by making first a slight sketch of our general

operations. Remember, Atlanta has been won; then comes the

operation against the Confederate army, and the army is defeated.

Following, i. e. the Army of the Tennessee, about 25,000, strong

under my command, had left Mitchell near Atlanta, the 15th of

November, 1864.

Alleged to be a cavalry, about 2,000 horsemen, had reported

to me and were sent to fight at front and within my line.

Then as we advanced, southward.

Still however, the 15th, to all appearances, we were

keeping on toward them; then first the infantry a line to

the left crossed to the east of the Confederates' position.

The steep and rocky banks were both sides. The cavalry followed

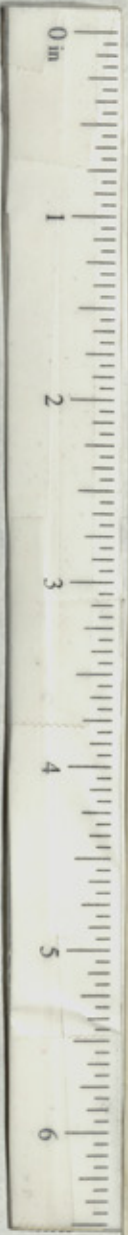
To map out the battle of Criswellville, one may do so

more easily by making first a slight sketch of our general

operations. Remember, Atlanta has been won; then comes the

operation against the Confederate army, and the army is defeated.

Following, i. e. the Army of the Tennessee, about 25,000, strong



"parked" at Gordon without accident was ^{our} ~~the~~ problem.

Osterhaus, commanding ^{our} 15th corps, was on the right. He struck the Macon and Savannah R. R. early the 22nd of November. Then, turning back a little toward East Macon, he told Gen. ^{his subordinate} Chas. R. Woods to watch out that way with his division and help Kilpatrick, for much Confederate force, perhaps 5,000. strong of infantry and cavalry and artillery was reported as already over the Ocmulgee in East Macon and proposing to attack something! They might at least catch our long, snaky trains and cut them assunder. Gen. Woods, obey^{ing} ~~his~~ ^{his} orders from Osterhaus, ^{facad} ~~took~~ back ^{took} up a strong position near a church; then he sent thither one brigade, his second, Brig. Gen. C. C. Walcutt, commanding, with total present for duty, 1,513 men. Walcutt had also two cannon of the 1st Michigan. Just then, at the start, the Confederates were driving ^{noisily} ~~before~~ ^{before them} a part of Kilpatrick's cavalry. Wood, thereupon, sent Walcutt that way past the station of Griswold.

^{our} Cavalry and infantry kept skirmishing in a lively ^{renewed this whole} ~~driving back the hopeful confederates~~ manner till Osterhaus naturally thought Walcutt had gone far enough. He instructed Woods to draw him back to Duncan's farm nearer to his supporting Division. Here they found abundant trees and some very convenient swamps, impassible, except at a few points. Here Walcutt ^{wisely} chose the edge of a wood with open

ground in front of him; and throwing up the usual cover of rails and logs, while some of Kilpatrick's men guarded the more distant sweeps beyond the swamps, he made a long and extraordinary barrier for his foes, should they dare to venture into his dangerous region. Those 1513 ^{Yankee} men behind that barrier with two cannon to cover the approaches by using iron hail were more than equal to 10,000. opponents however determined they might be.

As near as I can work out the detail of order from the report, the regiments went into position from left to right as follows : (Second Brigade)

46 th	16th Ohio, 218 enlisted men.	Lt. Col. I. N. Alexander, Com'd'g.	
	6th Iowa, 177	"	Maj. W. H. Clune
103 rd	103 rd Ill., 219	"	Maj. A. Willison
	97th, Ind., 366	"	Col. R. F. Catterson
	100th, Ind., 327	"	Maj. R. M. Johnson
	40th Ill., 206	"	Lieut Col. N. W. Hall

(2nd Brigade) reinforce.

12th Ind.	enlisted men	Maj. Elbert D. Baldwin	"
-----------	--------------	------------------------	---

A section of artillery, battery "B" 1st Mich, Capt.

Albert F. R. Arndt, commanding. The two pieces (i. e. the sec-

tion) were located on the east side of the field near the road and near the middle of the line, probably but partially covered by an ^{epaulement} ~~epaulement~~; early in the action they had to be withdrawn on account of the enemies' fire becoming very destructive to men and horses.

Gen. Woods ^{account} says : "I ~~also~~ applied to Col. Murray for some cavalry to cover the flanks; he kindly sent a regiment to each flank, covered and watched the crossing of the swamp." This was during the battle." That, then, was the preparation on our side preliminary to the battle called "Griswoldville", ^{named} ~~named~~ sometimes "Duncan's farm." Before finishing the ^{story} ~~story~~ from our points of observation, let us look at the other side.

General Gustavus W. Smith was an assistant professor in engineering at West Point the last year of my cadet term, (1853 & 4) and taught our class. He, though quite a young officer, had been before that time twice brevetted for gallantry and merit in the Mexican War. He was a self-respecting dignified man of marked ability. He had left the army and was trying his skill in civil pursuits, holding just before the War the office of street commissioner in New York City, when the secession took him south. General Smith was in the neighborhood of Macón

... was located on the east side of the ...
... the ... of the line, probably but partially covered
... in the action they had to be withdrawn on
... the ... the becoming very decisive to men
... and ...

... Gen. Woods says: ...
... to cover the flank; he kindly sent a ...
... each flank, covered and watched the crossing of the ...
... This was during the battle. That, then, was the proposition
... to the battle called "Grassowillie"
... before ... the ...
... as look at the ...

... General ... was an assistant professor and
... at ... the last year of my ...
... (1885 & 4) and ... a young
... officer, and ... that time ...
... and ... the ... he was a ...
... man of marked ability. He had left the ... and was giving his
... to civil ... holding ... the office
... of ... in New York City, when the ...
... took the ... General ... was in the neighborhood of ...

the 15th of November, 1864, when ~~we~~^{we} set out from Atlanta toward S Savannah. His story, dated Dec. 4th, 1864 at Savannah, addressed to Gen. Hardee, has interested me greatly, and I think that part of it touching Griswoldville will be of value to the veterans of Wood's division, especially of Walcutt's brigade. ~~Here follow some extracts.~~ Here is his record:

General:-

On the 12th of October last, I received at Macon a telegram from General Hood directing me to assemble as rapidly as possible all our available forces in that vicinity and make a demonstration on Atlanta as soon as the necessary transportation could be procured. Under this order, I in a short time had at Lovejoy's Station a force numbering about 2,800 effective muskets, three batteries of Confederate artillery and between 200 and 300 local reserve cavalry. The whole force was under my command, much the larger portion of infantry belonging to the First Division of Georgia Militia. Finding this force inadequate to make a direct assault upon Atlanta, garrisoned as it then was, General Hood suggested that I should, if practicable, cross the Chattahoochee and destroy the line of railroad between that river and Etowah. For various reasons which were submitted to Generals Beauregard and Hood (and by them approved), it was deemed neither practicable nor expedient to make a direct attack

the 1st of November, 1904, when I was out from Atlanta toward
Savannah. His second, Major Dec. 1st, 1904, at Savannah, addressed
to Gen. Hays, was interested in the present, and I think that part
of the following Christmas will be of value to the veterans of
the division, especially of Major's division.

Here is the record:

On the 1st of November last, I received at noon a
telegram from General Hood directing me to assemble as rapidly as
possible all the available forces in that vicinity and make a
demonstration on Atlanta as soon as the necessary transportation
could be procured. Under this order, I in a short time had at
Hollywood's Station a force numbering about 2,800 effective
men, these consisted of Confederate artillery and between
250 and 300 local reserve cavalry. The whole force was under my
command, and the larger portion of infantry belonging to the
First Division of Georgia Militia. Finding this force inadequate
to make a direct assault upon Atlanta, I then was,
General Hood suggested that I should, if practicable, cross the
 Chattahoochee and destroy the line of railroad between that
river and Brown. For various reasons which were submitted to
(General Beauregard and Hood I and my men approved), it was
deemed neither practicable nor expedient to make a direct attack

upon Atlanta, or upon the railroad line, as suggested; so my command continued in observation near Atlanta, preventing the ^[i.e. the Union Soldiers] enemy from foraging, and keeping them in their line of works; supporting Brigadier-General Iverson, who had just in advance of us, two brigades of cavalry.

On the night of the 12th of November, Major-General Wheeler, of the cavalry, reached my headquarters, and soon after, the advance of his forces from Alabama began to arrive. On the 15th of November the enemy ^[Howard's wing] moved out from Atlanta and advanced upon us with his whole force, viz, the Fifteenth Seventeenth, and Twentieth Corps, with artillery and cavalry, which was soon after, ^[in the 20th Nov there!] joined by the Fourteenth. ^[Confederate] Our cavalry were driven that afternoon from Jonesburgh to Lovejoy's and at dark I moved my force back to Griffin, at which place we had fortifications, and I felt we could there check the enemy ^(Howard's men) should he advance directly upon us.

On the afternoon of the 16th it was ascertained that the great mass of the enemy's forces ^[Howard's troops] had moved through McDonough, on the direct road from Atlanta to Macon, at which latter place there was at that time no garrison. At dark on the same day I ^(G. W. Smith) left Griffin and marched my command to Forsyth, a distance of thirty-five miles in twenty-four hours. Learning that the enemy ^(the Yankees) were crossing to the east bank of the Ocmulgee River, I moved

the command to Macon, and about that time received orders from Gen. Beauregard to report by letter to Lieutenant-General Taylor. ~~A copy of that letter is herewith transmitted.~~

All of my command except the Georgia militia and two regiments of State Line troops, which reported to me just before leaving Lovejoy's were at this time turned over to Major-General Cobb. The defense of a portion of the line around Macon, on the west bank of the Ocmulgee, was assigned to the force still left in my command. Before the troops were fairly in position, orders were received to cross the river and occupy a position covering East Macon. This movement occupied the whole night. Soon after daylight next morning my five ^(Confederate) brigades were in the respective positions assigned them, no two being in the same part of the field.

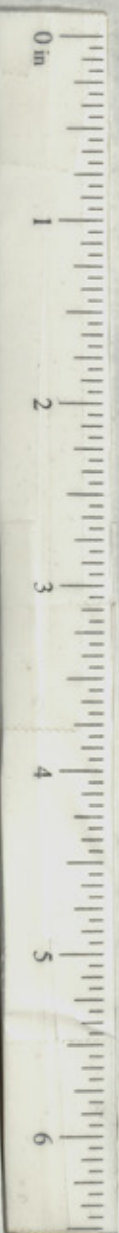
During the morning of Monday, the 21st, the First Brigade, ^(Gen Hardee's) under your personal instructions, given direct to the colonel commanding, were sent along the line of the Central Railroad with orders to move as rapidly as possible, either by rail or otherwise, to the city of Augusta. In the afternoon of the same day, Anderson's battery of artillery was assigned to the militia, and you directed me to move as soon as possible with this battery, the Second, Third and Fourth Brigades of militia, and the two regiments of the State Line, to Augusta. They moved Tuesday morning in the direction of Griswoldville, with orders

the command to march, and about last time received orders from
Gen. Bessant to report to Major-General Taylor.

~~A copy of this letter is in the file.~~

All of my command except the 700th and two
companies of 300th and 300th, who reported to me just before
leaving today's camp. At this time turned over to Major-General
Cobb. The 700th of the line around camp, on the
west bank of the Occochee, was assigned to the force still left
in my command. Before the troops were fairly in position, orders
were received to move the river and occupy a position covering
East River. This movement occupied the whole night. Soon after
midnight next morning my five brigades were in the respective
positions assigned them, no one being in the rear of the
line.

During the morning of Monday, the 21st, the first brigade,
(Gen. Hargrave's) under your personal instructions, given direct to the general
commanding, were sent along the line of the Central Railroad
with orders to move as rapidly as possible, either by rail or
otherwise, to the city of Augusta. In the afternoon of the
21st day, Anderson's battery of artillery was ordered to the
line, and you directed me to move as soon as possible with
this battery, the Second, Third and Fourth Regiments of artillery,
and the two regiments of the State line, to Augusta. They moved
Tuesday morning in the direction of Brunswick, with orders



to halt there and await further instructions from me."

The second battery in the battle was probably from the Confederate Cavalry.

"Arrangements for transportation of ammunition and supplies
 (Gen. Smith) detained me a few hours in Macon, which place you (Gen. Hardee) had left on
 the evening previous. Lieutenant-General Taylor arrived there
 (of Nov.) on the morning of the 22nd. Information having been received
 (Howard's command) showing very clearly that a much larger force of the enemy was
 near the city than was supposed when you gave the orders for my
 (my troops) troops to move, he (Taylor) authorized me to direct them to
 return. My orders reached them on the eve of an engagement with
 what was supposed to be a small force of the enemy. Notwithstanding
 my order to avoid an engagement at that place and time, a
 collision occurred, we being the attacking party; and though
 the officers and men behaved with great gallantry, they failed
 to carry the works of the enemy, but held a position within 150
 yards of their line until after dark, when they were withdrawn to
 Macon by my order. The First Brigade of militia were not engaged,
 having passed that point in the execution of orders given by
 yourself (Gen. Hardee). Major Cook, commanding the Athens and Augusta battal-
 ions, moving under orders direct from yourself, was upon the
 ground and engaged in this action.

Our loss was a little over 600, being more than one-fourth
 of the effective muskets we had in the engagement. Several of
 the best field officers of the command were killed or wounded.

(Don. Smith) (Don. Smith)

(Confederates)

It is evident now that our men were opposed by the larger
 portion of one corps of the enemy, while another was marching
 from Clinton in their rear; and I consider the troops were very
 fortunate in being withdrawn without disaster. Lieutenant-
 General Taylor, having become satisfied that the enemy were
 leaving the vicinity of Macon, directed me to move my command on
 Friday morning by rail to Albany; thence march to Thomasville;
 thence by rail to Savannah.

In his report to Lieutenant-General Taylor, who arrived at
 Macon the day of the battle, General Smith has given his
 command, to wit :

Effective muskets (sent from Jonesboro)	1900
Reserves of all kinds	1200
Two batteries (a "battalion" probably 200)	200
State line troops	400

Actual fighting men with rifles and muskets	3700

Allowing 700 for the first brigade which left for Augusta
 the 21st of November we have 3000. "effectives"; including two
 batteries of artillery; besides the force Wheeler left back,
 namely, Col. Chas. C. Crew's cavalry brigade, whose cavalry
 was without doubt that which participated in the engagements in
 the vicinity of Griswoldville. At any rate my conclusion is

confederate

from their own accounts compared with ours, that there were, on the ground, or within supporting distance, an aggregate of Confederates, at least 4000 strong against our aggregate of all arms on the field of 2500.

We can now furnish the story of the battle: Catterson's account is the most graphic as follows: "He" (the word he *confederate* standing for a host) was soon discovered emerging from the woods about 800 yards from our position, and rapidly running across an open field toward us in three lines of battle, either of which more than *covered* ~~covered~~ our brigade front." Walcott just then caused Arndt to fire his two cannon. He was quickly replied to by four Napoleons from the front and right not more than 800 yards away. Their first shot struck and damaged a caisson; musketry could reach our men and horses so that Walcott soon retired his artillery. Catterson proceeds: "On came the enemy, endeavoring to gain possession of a ravine running parallel to and about 100 yards from our front; but the fire was so terrible that, ere he reached it, many of his number were stretched upon the plain. It was at this moment that Gen. Walcott received a severe wound and was compelled to leave the field." Catterson soon called for help for fear that his right flank might be turned. Baldwin's 12th Ind. and Murray's squadron of cavalry came at call. But the battle was nearly over, one man wounded and Adjutant Park's

Confidential

...the first ...
...the second ...
...the third ...
...the fourth ...
...the fifth ...

We can ...

Confidential

...the first ...
...the second ...
...the third ...
...the fourth ...
...the fifth ...

covered

...the first ...
...the second ...
...the third ...
...the fourth ...
...the fifth ...
...the sixth ...
...the seventh ...
...the eighth ...
...the ninth ...
...the tenth ...

horse shot under him were all of Baldwin's casualties. Catterson winds up his account thus : " The battle commenced at 2:30 p. m. and lasted until sunset. During the engagement the enemy made three separate charges, and were as often repulsed with terrible slaughter. "

Gen. Woods foots up his losses "13 killed, 79 wounded and two missing " total 93.

Of the enemy's loss, he says " as near as could be ascertained without actual count "^{was} 300 killed and over 700 wounded. Gen. G. W. Smith puts his loss as a little over 600. This is as near as the Union and Confederate, opposed in battle, ever came together in estimating losses. That battle was a chance affair. It is difficult to ascertain who was in command ^{on the field} of the four Confederate brigades. It might have been Major-General P. J. Phillips who was reported by prisoners as slain on that field, ~~and~~ and it might have been Brigadier-General Robert H. Anderson, who was there and wounded. Gen. Smith was delayed in Macon while his command was hastening on toward Augusta. How Taylor, Wheeler, Cobb or himself could have imagined that their brigades could have gone on to Augusta after their experiences of the 20th and 21st of November between Macon and Clinton, or Gordon is a mystery. Surely they knew before the 22nd that two Corps of our Army of

the Tennessee were across all their roads of egress toward Atlanta, Milledgeville, Augusta and Savannah.

When sent forward, Gen Wood's report, I put ^{up on it,} ~~it~~ Nov. 27th/64 this endorsement: "The within was received subsequent to making my report. The engagement was of a more severe character, and our loss a little greater than the information led me to suppose; but fortunately the enemy attacked us at the very point where we were prepared, so that with a force only about one-third as large as that of the enemy he was so completely defeated that he has troubled (us) no more in that quarter. I renew my commendations of the brigade commander and others engaged on that day.

Respectfully,

O. O. HOWARD,

Major-General. ⁴

This story would not be quite complete without my letter of the 23rd ^{of} November to Major-General Osterhaus, commanding the 15th Army Corps :

General:-

I take pleasure in congratulating the brigade of General Walcutt, of General Wood's division of the Fifteenth Corps, on its complete success in the action of yesterday.

the Tennessee were aware all their losses of agents toward Atlanta,
Milledgeville, Augusta and Savannah.

supplied
When sent forward, Gen Wood's report, I met Nov. 27/64
this statement: "The wire in was received subsequent to the

1st report. The statement was of a more severe character, and
our loss a little greater than the information led me to suppose;
but fortunately the enemy attacked us at the very point where we
were prepared, so that with a force only about one-third the

force of that of the enemy we was so completely defeated that we
then learned (as) no more in that quarter. I know my own men
sions of the original commander and others engaged on that day.

Major-General
O. O. HOWARD

This story would not be quite complete without my letter of
the 2nd of November to Major-General Sherman, commanding the
1st Army Corps.

General:-
I have pleasure in now transmitting the enclosed of
General Wicks, of General Wood's division at the Battle of
Jones, on the complete success in the battle of Jones.

Officers from other commands who were looking on say that there never was a better brigade of soldiers. I am exceedingly sorry that any of our brave men should fall, and for the sufferings of those that are wounded. The thanks of the army are doubly due to them. I tender my sympathy through you to the brave and excellent commander of the brigade, Brigadier-General Walcutt. It is hoped that his wound may not disable him.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. O. HOWARD,

Major-General.

We marched over rough places and jolted along roads, yet all our wounded ^{from Gravel Station} ~~of this battle~~ were transported to Savannah without any loss of life en route.

regarding from other sources and after looking on my last
 there was a better picture of relations. I am extremely sorry
 that any of our boys have been killed. For the suffering of
 those who are wounded. The friends of the boys are doubly sad.
 To them I express my sympathy and hope to the boys and
 the most command of the British High School. I hope
 it is not too late for me to see him.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. O. HOWARD

Major-General.

We are sorry to hear of the death of your son, but all
 the work of the British High School is now in the hands of
 the British High School. I hope to see you soon.

CONFIDENTIAL