

THE BATTLE OF **LONE JACK.**

Correspondence of the Republican.

SEDALIA, Mo., August 26, 1862.

In looking over the various accounts of the battle of **Lone Jack**, fought on the 16th inst., I find that that importance is not given to it which it demands. The papers speak of it generally as a skirmish, or, at best, a fight, when in reality it was a *battle*, and a most bloody one, too. Considering the numbers engaged, it was the most sanguinary field of the many in Missouri, resulting in a greater loss of life and more disabled men in proportion to the force engaged. All the credit too is given to the Missouri State Militia, and the fact of other forces being engaged on the Federal side is totally ignored. With your permission, I wish to make a plain statement of facts in relation to the action, as well in justice to the *Seventh Cavalry Missouri Volunteers* and the *Third Indiana Battery* as to the militia.

The whole of our force, numbering about seven hundred men, was commanded by Major FOSTER, Eighth Missouri State Militia, he being the superior in rank. On the night of the 15th we encamped in

Eighth Missouri State Militia, he being the superior in rank. On the night of the 15th we encamped in **Lone Jack**, having repulsed eight hundred rebels, under Col. COFFEE, the same evening, with a loss on our side of two killed.

The morning of the 16th, about 4½, A. M., while the men were engaged in attending to their horses, our pickets came rushing in from all sides, but one with the intelligence that we were completely surrounded by an overwhelming force, which was true; the rebel force numbering thirty-two hundred or nearly *five to one* having us entirely surrounded, except a narrow pass on the south west side. The battle was commenced by the rebels about four hundred in number opening on us a severe fire of musketry from a hedge on the north-west side, which was returned by the Third Indiana battery with canister and shell, and by two companies "A" and "C" of the Seventh Cavalry Missouri Volunteers, with carbines and rev-

volvers: this fire continued fully twenty minutes, during which time many of our brave fellows fell. At this time the firing became general, and the rebels pouring in on the side where the battery was stationed, in overpowering numbers, drove our men back and captured the battery: in a charge to recapture it **Msj. FOSTER** was fatally wounded, and **Capt. BRAWNER**, Company "A," Seventh Cavalry Missouri Volunteers, being the senior officer present, assumed command; he immediately ordered two companies of the Eighth Missouri State Militia, to be thrown out as skirmishers, covering each flank; from some cause the company on the left failed to do so, but **Capt. OWENS**, company "F," Eighth Missouri State Militia came up on the right in gallant style, making a bayonet charge on the rebels, concealed in the cornfield, dispersing them in all directions. **Capt. BRAWNER** himself charged at the head of a party (of whom I myself was one) composed of a detachment of the Seventh Cavalry Missouri Volunteers, and a portion of Militia, was wounded and only saved his life by shooting down with his revolver, a secesher who evidently had evil designs upon him. In this charge

shooting down with his revolver, a secesher who evidently had evil designs upon him. In this charge none of the Militia followed but remained in the road in the greatest confusion.

In the meantime, companies "A," "C" and "E," Seventh Cavalry Missouri Volunteers, had retaken the battery, but suffered a terrible loss. The enemy had possession of a hill, and their sharpshooters were picking off the gunners one by one until a shell from one of the guns fired the building, when the rebels incontinently "skedaddled." The rebels then made another desperate charge to recapture the battery, and were successful, but paid dearly for it, and before they could turn it against us, **Capt. SPELLMAN**, company "C," and **Lieutenant ANDERSON**, company "A," with detachments from companies "A," "C," "E" and "F," Seventh Cavalry Missouri Volunteers, with a yell that made secesh tremble in his boots, led a terrific charge, and succeeded, after unparalleled hard fighting, in retaking it. In this charge **Captain SPELLMAN** was wounded in the side and arm, and **Lieutenant ANDERSON** was wounded in the side, while another ball split the strap on his right shoulder. None of the militia participated in either of the brilliant charges to retake the battery, they be-

der. *None of the militia* participated in either of the brilliant charges to retake the battery, they being on the extreme left, where there was terrible fighting; but the hardest fighting by far was around and in the immediate vicinity of the battery, which was testified to by the fearful loss of life. At every step could be seen men with bowels protruding through their death wounds, brains scattered everywhere, here a rebel with half his head blown off, by his side a Federal with his breast shattered to atoms, the next step a man cut in two, by his side a body without a head; poor fellows dying, begging, praying for a drop of water, others raving in the wildest delirium, some sending messages to the loved ones whom, alas, they were destined never more to see, and others cursing the hand that sped the fatal ball. Oh, it was a scene which must have made the angels weep, and one which I trust I may never witness again. After the last recapture of the battery we found ourselves masters of the field, but Col. COFFEE arriving soon after with the force of eight hundred, which we compelled to retreat the evening before, and attempting to cut off our retreat by the south, Capt. BRAWNER deemed it prudent to retire, particularly as we were about out of ammu-

Col. COFFEE arriving soon after with the force of eight hundred, which we compelled to retreat the evening before, and attempting to cut off our retreat by the south, Capt. BRAWNER deemed it prudent to retire, particularly as we were about out of ammunition. Our scattered forces were collected, formed in order, and we retired with the stars and stripes gallantly waving over our heads, the rebels, now numbering four thousand, not daring to give us even a solitary parting shot.

We were compelled to leave the battery, as it could not be brought away for want of horses, those belonging to it having all been killed. We spiked and dismounted the guns, and left them as a sedative to the rebels. Our loss in arms is slight, as we brought off nearly everything of value except two ambulances which we could not move for want of horses, and which we would not, even if we could, as they contained hospital stores for our wounded, whom we left under a flag of truce, which was sacredly respected.

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