

BOUGHT BY THE 14TH C.V.

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Part of the Gettysburg Battlefield on Which a Famous Charge Was Made.

An interesting point in connection with the recent visit of the Twenty-seventh regiment to the battlefield of Gettysburg, is that on the day on which the monument was dedicated, Rev. H. A. Stevens, chaplain of the famous 14th C.V., purchased an acre of ground of the greatest historical interest on the field as trustee for the regiment. The ground is that on which the house and barn of William Bliss stood until it was destroyed by two companies of the Fourteenth on the second day of the fierce battle of Gettysburg.

The story of the capture of these buildings is the record of one of the boldest and bravest deeds done by the soldiers of Connecticut during the war. The Fourteenth was attached to General Hayes' division of Hancock's corps, and were in position behind an old stone wall, right in the center of the Union line, one of the most exposed points on the field. The Bliss homestead was situated about half a mile in front of them very near the confederate line. The house was in possession of the rebels, and from it the sharpshooters were pouring a deadly fire on the Union center. It was evident to General Hayes that this must be stopped, and companies from the First Delaware were sent to drive the rebels out. They succeeded in doing so, but it was not long before the sharpshooters had regained possession and were at their telling work again. Then a detachment of the Twelfth New Jersey was sent to drive them out again, but they succeeded only in the same manner as did the Delaware troops. Finally, on the second day of the battle, two companies of the Fourteenth were ordered to make a charge upon the buildings, capture and destroy them. From the regiment's position behind the stone wall the ground sweeps down in a graceful slope, and down this the brave Connecticut militia rushed in the midst of a cyclone of shot and shell. Never flinching they came upon the Bliss mansion, drove the sharpshooters out, set fire to the house and barn and effectually destroyed the stronghold of the sharpshooters.

The charge is described as rivaling in bravery the celebrated charge of the Light Brigade at the battle of Balaklava, immortalized by Laureate Tennyson. Nearly twenty of the Connecticut men were killed outright and over a score were seriously wounded.

It is to commemorate this event that the blood-stained, shot-ridden acre has been purchased.

“We decided to purchase this property at our last reunion,” said Frederick H. Chase, who was a member of the 14th. “A tablet marking the event will be placed upon the right of the homestead, and our veteran association will probably hold its reunion there next year and place the tablet in position. I think the property was purchased for \$300.”

Rev. Mr. Stevens is now located at Washington, D.C. He is secretary and treasurer of the veteran association of the 14th.

Editorial Note: The action described in this article at the Bliss barn and farm house occurred on the third and not the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg just before Pickett’s Charge on the same portion of the battlefield.