

and retired to the ridge, where we took position in the main line of the battle.²¹⁶

When Pickett's charge was made in the afternoon, it appeared at first as though he would strike the position held by our division, and some sharp-shooters were brought up to strengthen it; what troops they were I have forgotten, but I can never forget the gallantry of the officer who commanded them²¹⁷; He posted his men along the line of our regt., which had made a slight breastworks of rails etc, and then as he rode up and down said, "keep cool boys, alter your sights to suit your distance and make sure of your man before you fire." I don't know his name, nor whether he was killed or not, but I ~~often~~ never think of that field and day without seeing in fancy that noble steed and gallant man as they went along the line, apparently unconscious of the iron hail which was falling all around them.

Pickett struck our line a little to the right of us; the sharpshooters and the right of our regt., opened an oblique fire on the charging column as it came up the ridge, but it soon fell back again, broken and disorganized, and the battle of Gettysburg was virtually at an end.

Apologizing for taking up so much of your valuable time,
I am, Dear Sir,
Yours respectfully,
Wm. R. Ramsey
Late Sergt. "F" Co. 150th (Bucktail) P.V.
1914 S. 12th St.

[See Plate 6]

**MEMORANDA OF LT. COL. HUIDEKOPER
CONCERNING THE 150TH REGT. PA.
Gettysburg, July 1, 1863**

Encamped June 30th about four miles south of Gettysburg on Marsh Creek, throwing out strong pickets towards the west.

216. See Map [3] P-18.

217. These troops were Maj. Homer R. Stoughton's 2d U.S. Sharpshooters Second Brigade, First Division, Third Corps. See Map [3] O-19.

Started for Gettysburg Wednesday July 1st, and passed Gen. Doubleday stationed on road in front of Seminary.

Moved rapidly to the front, part of the time on double quick, throwing off knapsacks, which were not recovered; while in the field between Seminary and McPherson's farm. Took position in rear of brow of hill in orchard, about half way between McPherson's barn and woods to the south, the 149th P.V. on our right. Company G was thrown out as skirmishers into wheat field in front.

While here John Burns came up and insisted upon fighting with our regiment. Col. Stone was wounded: Wister assumed command of brigade and myself of regiment.

Lost three men, killed or wounded by explosion of shell fired by rebels. Enemy advancing, the 149th was thrown on Chambersburg road east of barn and faced north, while 150th was advanced to crest of hill, moving somewhat to the right, so that these two regiments could mutually protect each other.

Firing then commenced across the wheat field.

Rebel troop advancing from the north, the 150th changed front to the right and fought the new enemy.

These being repulsed, the regiment assumed original position and resumed contest. Again faced northward to meet Ewell's men, charging them to close quarters and taking from [them] the flag of the 149th which had been captured. This was immediately restored to the 149th Regt.²¹⁸

Major Chamberlain wounded while at extreme left of regiment and was carried from the field afterwards by four of our men. Regiments were divided, four companies fighting rebels from the north and four companies fighting rebels from the west; then the regiment concentrated and had a desperate fight with the enemy from the west; who was in three lines, which relieved each other from time to time.

Regiment forced back several times, but rallied readily and advanced, which was done under my personal directions, and upon my accompanying the color sergeant.

The Iron Brigade in the woods gave way before our men did and were slowly retreating when a battery or section galloped up to help stem the tide of men pouring into our lines. Seeing

218. This claim regarding the recapture and return of the 149th flag is not true.

that the rebels in the woods had advanced to a line parallel to the position of the battery, I sent word to the commander to retire, which he did without having time to fire a shot. After this I was wounded in the elbow and went into the barn to have the arm wrapped which was done with a cord I had taken from my saddle bag in fear of some such necessity for using it.

Upon my return to the regiment, I found its right wing had been forced around the colors and I [saw] that many men of the 149th Regt. had assembled about our men and were incorporating themselves in the 150th.

Too weak to remain with the regiment, I directed Col. Wister to assume command and to retire slowly and I moved to the rear followed by my own men in a few moments.²¹⁹ When I reached the valley and commenced ascending Seminary Ridge, the rebel line, which had driven Biddle's brigade back, was advancing in magnificent order across the open ground, in front and north of the Seminary, almost on the same line as myself.

Upon approaching the town, Capt. Shaw with the division ammunition train met me, and I advised him to retire, and not endanger it, which was done.

Was cared for by the Surgeons about five P.M., and captured by the rebels.

[Note in margin]

56P. 76th N.Y. Wilber's battery.

When Cutler's brigade changed from the position at the front (the second time) it changed front to the rear, advanced to the outer edge of the woods and formed along the fence: when it engaged the enemy's infantry.

Letter of Capt. Joseph M. Leeper

Montgomery, N.Y.

April 28th, 1883

to Col. John B. Bachelder

Dear Sir;

219. This is also not true. Lt. Col. Huidekoper followed Col. Wister in command of the regiment and was himself replaced by Capt. Cornelius C. Widdis.