

The Battle of Pleasant Hill

ISSN 0003-4827



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Recommended Citation

"The Battle of Pleasant Hill." *The Annals of Iowa* 3 (1897), 71-72.

Available at: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/annals-of-iowa/vol3/iss1/10>

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ing constitutional conventions are unfortunately very meager. As a part of so much of this record as refers personally to Judge Springer, we copy the following expressions of the press at the time of this memorable reunion. *The Louisa County Record* of January 26, 1882, said:

Judge Springer has been honored by Louisa county, and he has honored the county by his bold and noble life. He came to this country when he was scarcely past boyhood (or years), and here he bore Iowa was admitted as a sovereign State of the Union. He has served the county and State in various important positions for the past forty years, and every word spoken in his praise reflects honor on the whole county, whose citizens have always been anxious to bestow a trust or office that he has never betrayed, and now after almost his sixtieth year passed as a public servant, and in all the varied and trying positions in which he has served the county, State and Nation, it must be quite a rare thing, as well as a privilege, when a citizen that no respectable person has ever charged him with a dishonorable act. We hope he may live many years to reap the fruits of a well spent life.

We take the following from an editorial in the *Des Moines Daily Register* of January 20, 1882:

Twenty of the members and most of the all-star convention of twenty-five years ago were on the stage, and a splendid looking lot of men they were, much superior even to what had even now been expected. It was a proof that fine looking men have been the fashion in Iowa from the first. Judge Springer, the President twenty-five years ago and again yesterday, past three score and ten years, is even the gentleman of this respect and respectability, and wears his years gracefully. He surprised and delighted all present by the preserved vigor and undiminished force of his mental powers, and was a presiding officer in every way worthy of the distinguished occasion. The people of Iowa would be content to present him as their type of a true man and higher ideal of government. He has lived in Iowa a long life that is without a stain, has filled it constantly with good works and good deeds, has won the respect and kept the friendship of his fellow men, and served the State with equal fidelity and ability. A man so admirable, so deserving to be warmly and freely honored, and grace to this occasion of yesterday, and here his honor with such quiet yet perfect dignity as to gain renewed admiration from all who witnessed the ceremonies.

We will only add that Judge Springer has spent the past winter at his long-time home in Columbus Junction, in excellent health for one of his years, his perfect habits of living having enabled him to withstand an attack of the grip which came upon him in the winter. All who enjoy the acquaintance of the venerable statesman, as well as those who read his personal recollections in the last number of *THE ANNALS*, will join us in the hope that he may long be spared to his kindred and the State he has served with such fidelity and distinction.

THE BATTLE OF PLEASANT HILL.

It has been well stated by some writer that no correct realization of the war of the rebellion would be possible until the private soldiers should write their recollections of the

"moving accidents by flood and field" in which they bore a part. THE ANNALS a few months ago published a thrilling account of the battle of Champion's Hill, as it was seen by Hon. S. H. M. Byers, who was in the thickest of the fight; and now we have a like account of the battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, by Mr. A. J. Barkley, of Boone. He was a private in Co. D, 32d Iowa Infantry, and was desperately wounded and made a prisoner. What he saw he describes with graphic pen. While there are official reports of regimental, brigade and division commanders, we doubt whether in all that has been heretofore published any account gives such vivid pictures of that stubborn fight. The memorable cavalry charge which was so completely wiped out, is mentioned in the reports of both the Union and Confederate officers, though they differ in some of the details. Col. William T. Shaw said in his official report of the Confederates in that charge—"not a single man escaped." Col. James I. Gilbert of the 27th Infantry wrote: "Our men remained quiet until they had approached to within short range, when a full volley was fired into the rebel ranks. The effect was telling. Riders reeled and fell senseless. Horses were struck dead as if a bolt from heaven had riven the very air. The scene was an appalling one. Scarcely a man who made that charge but met death on the spot." Brig. Gen. H. P. Bee, who commanded the 1st division of Green's (confederate) cavalry corps, said in his report: "The command was literally swept away by a cross-fire at close range from an enemy concealed behind a string of fence. * * * The fire was as unexpected as disastrous." This was one of the events of that bloody day described by Mr. Barkley. Col. Shaw posted himself in front of his command in order to restrain his men from firing until the cavalry was almost upon them. In fact, so close were the confederates that the rebel leader, Col. A. Buchel, fell mortally wounded at Col. Shaw's feet. But how Mr. Barkley fought, was wounded, captured, and finally released, is admirably set forth in his article.

Having served four years in the depths of a great
and yet unended national peril, I can view this
call to a second term, in no wise more flattering to
myself, than as an expression of the public judg-
ment, that I may better finish a difficult work,
in which I have labored from the first, than
could any one less severely schooled to the task.

In this view, and with assured reliance
on that Almighty Ruler who has so graciously
sustained us thus far; and with increased
gratitude to the generous people for their con-
tinued confidence, I accept the renewed trust,
with its yet onerous and perplexing duties and
responsibilities.

Please communicate this to the two Houses
of Congress.

The above is the original manuscript of Abraham Lincoln's
acceptance of his second presidential term, in his own hand writing,
delivered to the Joint Committee of Congress appointed to inform him officially
of his election.

The committee consisted of

Senator Lyman Trumbull of Ill.

Representative J. F. Wilson of Iowa, and Rep. John L. Dawson of Penna.

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