

shorter period on the line of the Union Pacific railroad, for which he selected the sites for certain depots and towns, but at a salary which compelled him to resign the position.

General Williamson, though reserved with strangers, and cold in manners to those with whom he is not well acquainted, is exceedingly genial with his friends. He is whole-souled and generous. He does not always make himself as agreeable as he can, but can be extremely pleasing when he wants to, or feels it to be his duty. He is just and honorable in his professional and business transactions. A radical republican, he is liberal in his estimates of those whose political views are opposed to his own. As a soldier, his record is that of a gallant officer from the beginning to the end of the war. There were many who received more of rank and emolument than he; there were few, if any, who conferred more honor upon the state or the Union cause than General James A. Williamson.

REPORT OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST MAJOR GENERAL STERLING PRICE IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1864.

(Continued from page 94.)

“The enemy was repeatedly repulsed, and one very bold and dashing charge made by him down the road upon the battery was very handsomely repulsed by portions of the 16th Kansas cavalry and 2d Colorado cavalry, the centre charge being held in person by Lieut. Col. Walker, commanding the 16th K. V. C., and in which charge he received a severe wound in the foot. Finally in the face of a very heavy fire from the first brigade, the enemy forced a very large column into a small copse to the right of my brigade, and commenced a flank fire upon me. Not having force enough to dislodge the enemy from his new position I fell back towards Brush creek, forming line upon each ridge, until I received orders from the north of the creek, the battery meanwhile having been placed in a commanding position on the hill. After

forming on the bottom, I sent part of the 2d Colorado cavalry on foot as skirmishers through the woods. The 12th K. S. M. were also sent into the woods on foot, doing good service. The footmen kept steadily driving the enemy until the advance of the whole division was ordered, when our old position was regained; and after a short fight the enemy was completely routed and fled precipitately from the field. Every one advanced as speedily as possible, continuing the pursuit until dark. Col. Jennison, with portions of the 15th and 16th Kansas cavalry and 2d Colorado cavalry in the extreme advance."

Col. Jennison reports:—

"On the morning of the 23d the brigade was under arms at daylight, and after having supplied itself with ammunition from the train sent out from Kansas City, retraced its march of the previous evening, coming on the rebel lines about three miles from the town, where it assumed position as the centre of the line, with the brigades of Cols. Ford and Moonlight on the flanks. The brigade was thus deployed on the right of the road in a large field traversed by rail and stone fences, which to some extent impeded active cavalry operations, though affording excellent protection to dismounted troops. Our skirmish lines were immediately formed and had advanced but a few rods, when severe and incessant fire of small arms was commenced upon them, and replied to with utmost spirit, the enemy commencing almost instantly to fall back.

"Our lines were then advanced some distance, a rapid fire being kept up from either side, until the rebels having received a reinforcement, made a desperate stand and succeeded in temporarily pressing us back beyond our original position and to the edge of a small body of timber skirting the wood, upon which the 2d Colorado battery was posted. At this point the fighting again became severe, and a second time we were compelled to retire, a movement participated in by the entire division, the first brigade however forming the right of the new line about two hundred yards in rear of its first position, the second brigade having left the field. At this point a desultory fire was kept up for some time, the rebels making no

positive demonstration, our lines being reinforced by the militia under Col. Blair.

“At length the enemy pressed forward and succeeded in planting one section of a Parrott battery on the line road, rendering our position one of extreme danger, his line being heavily reinforced at the same time.

“Leaving the position, we fell back on the line road almost to the suburbs of Westport, where the army was re-organizing and concentrating for a final effort, and soon the order was received for a general advance along the entire line, which was obeyed with the utmost alacrity.

“The 1st brigade, with a detachment of the 2nd Colorado, and McLain’s battery, took position on the right of the road, commencing an impetuous attack upon the rebels, who were rallying for a charge upon the battery, one section of which was posted directly in the road.

“Hardly had we taken position, when the enemy charged in column upon the guns up the road, which were supported by the 2nd Colorado, the 1st brigade being to the right, in front as they advanced. Company “E” 15th K. V. C., forming the left of the brigade line, and deployed as skirmishers.

“Seeing that a desperate effort was required to save the battery, I immediately rallied company “E,” and led in person a charge upon the flank of the rebel column, a movement which was entirely successful; though a desperate hand to hand contest ensued. After maintaining which for a short time the enemy withdrew in disorder towards his main line, southward. * * * The enemy having fallen back upon the road, our lines reformed and again advanced through the field, on the right of the road, driving the rebels at all points.

“Directly in the road, at the summit of a slight slope, a body of the enemy seemed determined to make a stand, when I was ordered, by Gen. Blunt, to charge the hill with his body guard, and one squadron of the 2d Colorado, all the troops available at that instant.

“Drawing sabres and forming column of four, the squadrons

dashed with reckless courage upon the hill into the very midst of the rebels, who, not waiting to ascertain our strength, and hardly making a show of fighting, broke and fled, some into the timber, on the left, but a majority down the road. A detachment was then dismounted and deployed along a stone fence skirting the woods, and a spirited fire opened on the rebels in the woods, to the left, but these soon made their way out and joined the main rebel body, about a mile distant, where the enemy's lines were yet unbroken; and upon which, at this period, a section of McLain's battery, under Lieut. Ayres, was brought to bear with telling effect.

"Generals Curtis and Blunt, having reached the scene in person I was directed to charge the rebel's lines with the 1st brigade, on the right and left of the road, under cover of a heavy fire from the Colorado battery, which was worked with rapidity and the utmost precision, by Captain McLain and his Lieutenants.

"Lieut. Col. Hoyt, with six squadrons of the 15th Kansas volunteer cavalry, was directed to advance on the left, while with one company of the 15th, the 3d Wisconsin detachment, two companies 2d Colorado, and General Blunt's body guard, I took the right.

"The brigade thus formed advanced, charging the rebel lines with an impetuosity that overcame opposition.

"The enemy, then confused and demoralized, broke and fled, scattering arms and equipments along the road, and covering the ground with the *debris* of a routed army.

"For more than a mile the brigade pursued, never drawing rein, while the rebels, too demoralized to attempt a halt, seemed each determined to save himself, as best he might.

* * * * *

"The 1st Brigade in advance of the pursuing column maintained its position during the remainder of the day, coming up with the enemy below Little Sante Fe, and skirmishing with his rear until dark."

Col. Jennison, honorably mentions most of his officers, especially Lieut. Col. Hoyt, Maj. T. J. McKenny, of my staff,

who joined him in the advance, Captain Johnson, and many others who deserve commendation.

The whole brigade deserves the gratitude of their country.

Col. Moonlight's report says: —

“Early in the morning of the 23d, I received orders to supply my command with ammunition and rations and take the right of the line of battle, about to be formed a little south of Westport.

“This was promptly done, and in front of the 2d brigade the enemy were driven back for over a mile, after a stubborn resistance. The command on the left had fallen back, so I was not supported in that direction, allowing the enemy to come upon my flank and deliver a raking fire.

“To meet this fire and preserve order, it was necessary to wheel two squadrons to the left, which was done in fine style by companies “A” and “F,” 11th (Lieut. Drew commanding company “F” after the battle of Little Blue).

“My command fell back in good order, handsomely protected on the right flank by Lieut. Col. Woodworth, 12th Kansas, S. M., who reported to me that morning with a part of the regiment.

“Col. Woodworth is deserving much praise for dashing on the enemy's flank of skirmishers in the manner he did.

“After falling back to Westport, I received orders from Gen. Blunt, to pass around the right flank of the enemy, and keep in between him and Kansas, which order was faithfully carried out, and while our forces from Westport were putting Price to rout, the 2d brigade whipped in on the right flank in hot pursuit of that portion of the enemy invading Kansas.”

Col. Moonlight's brigade, deserves commendation.

Brig. Gen. W. H. M. Fishback, K. S. M., participated in this battle, commanding militia on the right, under Major Gen. Deitzler, and reports as follows: —

“The 23d instant the enemy appeared in line of battle a little south of Brush Creek, near Westport.

“Generals Curtis and Blunt occupied a position in front, and directed our movements in person.

"About 8 o'clock, A. M., our entire force moved out to meet the enemy, and took position on Brush Creek, extending our lines from east to west, Col. Jennison's brigade occupying the left, Col. Moonlight's the right, and my brigade the centre.

"Here the brigade was dismounted and acted as support to the batteries.

"The battle at this point was fierce and stubborn, and with varying success, neither side gaining any great decisive advantage for more than three hours. The rebels hotly contesting every foot until about 11 o'clock, when they began slowly falling back. Our men stood up nobly to their work and maintained their ground like veterans, and, seeing their advantage, were eager to pursue.

"The enemy were now plainly feeling their way out and loosing nerve. Our boys commenced, and soon the whole woods resounded with loud and long-continued cheer after cheer, as we drove them and pushed them from the timber.

"Our batteries are now hurried through the cornfield, followed by the militia, who are supporting them. Here we have punished them severely, their dead are numerous, and lie on the field unburied.

"Our loss, compared with theirs, is trifling. By 12 o'clock we have reached the open prairie, four miles south of Westport, where we see on our left, as far as the eye can reach, a long column advancing towards us. We are inspired with new and intense interest. We look and listen. We are not long in doubt. We hear the artillery of Generals Pleasanton and McNeil. They have at last reached us and given the enemy's right a taste of their power. We now have them. The retreat became a perfect route. We cannot keep pace with them, the battle is over, the victory won, and nobly won."

The militia of Kansas behaved nobly, and saved their state from devastation.

Col. Blair's command, on this occasion, was mainly K. S. M., and he reports his movements, as follows : —

"Pursuant to Gen. Blunt's orders, I formed my brigade on the high ground, south of Westport, overlooking a little creek,

the southern acclivity of which was covered with a dense growth of timber and underbrush. After the line was formed and the artillery in position, I dismounted the militia, leaving every sixth man to hold horses, and pushed them through the timber to the front, where I formed them behind a fence and in front and on the left of the 15th Kansas cavalry, under Lieut. Col. Hoyt.

"Before us was an open field, on the other side of which was the enemy in considerable force, and strongly posted behind a stone fence, which formed an admirable cover.

"We were partially protected by the edge of the timber and a rail fence. Firing was kept up rapidly and heavily for half an hour, the enemy being held firmly in check, but I attempted no advance, as I did not know whether our flanks were clear or not.

"In a short time the 15th retired in obedience to orders, and very soon after I received an order, through Col. L. J. Crawford, of the staff, to fall back to my first position.

"Accordingly, I marched to the rear, through the timber, and formed immediately on the north bank of the creek, without going clear back to my original position. * * *

"A rumor reaching me that the enemy was attempting to flank my position on the right, and fearing to await for orders, lest it might be accomplished, I despatched a messenger to Gen. Blunt, to inform him of what I was doing, and hastily threw my line up into the dense timber on my right, twice its own length, and then pushed it steadily forward.

"At this time, I received orders from Major Gen. Curtis to make the movement which I had already commenced.

"Thus reassured, I moved forward as rapidly as the thick undergrowth and broken ground would permit, until I came to the edge of an open field and formed a junction with Col. Hogan's regiment, which had been sent forward from a different direction.

"A heavy fire was here opened on us from a cornfield, which stretched from our right front, and which seemed filled with skirmishers, and from a large brick house, in an orchard

just beyond, in which a party of sharp-shooters were stationed.

"In a few moments, several of our men had fallen, and the fire was incessant and close. I immediately ordered the right of the brigade forward and drove the enemy from the corn-field and house, while the left of the line kept straight forward through a stubble-field on their flank.

"About half a mile to the front, the cavalry and artillery came out in the road on our left, and we joined the line, relieving Jennison's cavalry from its position in support of McLain's battery.

"We then commenced driving the enemy steadily before us, and from thence until his retreat became a rout, it was as much as my dismounted men could do to keep up with the artillery.

"As soon as the heaviest of the action was over, I sent details back to bring up the horses, and pushed forward with my own dismounted men and artillery."

The Colonel makes honorable mention of many of the militia officers, and very justly commends the conduct of the Kansas militia, for their good conduct during the day, for all which I refer you to his entire report, which, with all from which I make extracts, and many more, are respectfully submitted.

Major S. S. Curtis, 2d Colorado, who, with a small detachment, went in search of Gen. Pleasanton, early in the day, returned at night reporting Gen. McNeil's operations which came to his notice.

About 10 o'clock, A. M., I was ordered to take a squadron of the 2d Colorado, commanded by Captain Kingsberry, and proceed *via* Independence, to Gen. Pleasanton's command and inform him of the position and operations of Gen. Curtis.

I went within one and a half miles of Independence, when finding I was far in the rear of Gen. Pleasanton's command, I turned south, and striking the Independence and Hickman's mill road, I followed it until I came up with Gen. McNeil's brigade, which I found drawn up in line of battle on a ridge, with a number of dismounted men in the valley, in front of them.

On the opposite side of the ridge, to the south, about three-fourths of a mile distant, the enemy were deployed and still deploying. Some artillery fire was progressing when I came up, which continued for several minutes thereafter; but, as the enemy continued to deploy troops, and was endeavoring to flank us on both sides, Gen. McNeil ordered the command to fall back about half a mile. I could hear nothing from Gen. McNeil of Gen. Pleasanton's whereabouts, and concluded he must have passed between me and the Big Blue.

As I had rode hard for some fifteen miles, and the squadron showed some signs of fatigue, I rested them for about two hours, and then struck almost due west, on a by-road which brought me to the Big Blue, at the Westport ford, where there were signs of very severe fighting that day, broken wagons, cannon balls, shells and dead bodies were scattered along the road for two miles.

The dead seemed nearly all of the Kansas militia and the rebels.

I saw but one white man, who appeared to have been a federal soldier, and two negroes.

I came to Gen. Sanborn's camp shortly after dark, and there first learned the particulars of the battle of the day, and also, that Gen. Pleasanton had effected a junction with Gen. Curtis, and that both were probably encamped several miles to the west. I then pushed ahead with my squadron and reached head quarters at Little Santa Fe, at 10 o'clock P. M., having traveled about forty-five miles during the day.

The movements, west by Colonel Moonlight, and east by Major Curtis, show the extent of operations both east and west, by both the troops of Gen. Rosecrans and mine, to have extended east and west from near Hickman's mill to the state line.

And other reports show the contest to have extended from Westport to about five miles below Little Santa Fe, where Col. Jennison left the enemy at dark.

The active part taken by other officers of my staff in this victory, will be found in their several reports.

Those of Major Weed, Major McKenny, Major Hunt, Major Charlot, Captain Meeker and Lieut. Roberts, will be found interesting, as well as those of my volunteer staff, Gen. Lane, Gen. Pomeroy, Col. Roberts, Col. Cloud, and others.

I have only extracted portions to illustrate leading truths of history, omitting what is also of interest, but not essential to the presentation of our general movement. I have been only anxious to give the general outlines of affairs, which extended far beyond the reach of any one observer, inviting examination of the reports of my subordinates, who in various positions saw and participated in the movements and bloody strife of this campaign.

The victory of Westport, was most decisive. We did not stop to count our losses or bury our dead in any of these conflicts. In killed, wounded and missing, it was probably five hundred.

The enemy's loss in killed and prisoners, was not larger, but their men scattered, leaving two broken cannon, many muskets, and much of their equipments on the field.

Their retreat commenced on what is called the line road, which they generally followed southward in their flight, and subsequent pursuit, to the Arkansas river.

CHANGE OF FORCE AND PURSUIT OF PRICE'S ARMY.

The enemy having been fairly defeated at Westport, after over three days of fighting, a vigorous pursuit was necessary to prevent his taking our military posts, which are located near the state line at various points between the Missouri and the Arkansas, a distance of about three hundred miles.

The troops of Gen. Pleasanton, the militia, about ten thousand strong, and my regular volunteers, about four thousand, were now more than sufficient to pursue Price.

Halting at a farm-house near Indian creek, about half past two on the 23d, these matters were discussed. Generals

Pleasanton, Deitzler, Blunt, Sanborn, and most of our staffs, having stopped for dinner and consultation.

General Pleasanton proposed to move his command eastward, toward Harrisonville, suggesting the long march of some of his cavalry, which had come up from Arkansas, and also the importance of the Missouri volunteers being at their homes on the day of election, now near at hand; but Governor Carney and General Deitzler urged the necessity of discharging the Kansas militia, who with indifferent equipments and doubtful pay, had left their homes and served faithful in checking the enemy.

This I considered reasonable, and Gen. Pleasanton concurred.

The militia residing north were released, and martial law rescinded in all the country north of my position by the following order :

HEAD QUARTERS IN THE FIELD, ON INDIAN CREEK, }
3 o'clock P. M., October 23, 1864. }

General Field Order, }
No. }

So much of General Order, No. 54, Head Quarters Department of Kansas, as proclaims martial law north of the Kansas river, is hereby revoked. The enemy are repelled and driven south. Our success is beyond all anticipation. The General delights to relieve the people north of the Kansas from the burden.

By order of Major Gen. [✓]Curtis.

C. S. CHARLOT, Major and A. A. G.

OFFICIAL: John Williams, A. A. G.

From the same point I telegraphed Gen. Rosecrans, as follows :—

INDIAN CREEK, October 23, 1864, 2:30, P. M.

MAJOR GEN'L ROSECRANS :—

Your despatch duly received. I have had a hard fight this morning before the rebels gave way, but about an hour ago Gen. Pleasanton's forces crowded the enemy on my left, and his rout was complete.

He now retreats cautiously, but as fast as possible. My horses are in fine condition, and we can continue the pursuit with success, if provisions can be brought forward fast enough.

Very Respectfully,

S. R. CURTIS, Maj. Gen.

✓

To this, in the evening, I received the following reply:—

INDEPENDENCE, Mo., October 23, 1864, 8:45, P. M.

MAJOR GENERAL CURTIS:—

Indian Creek, Missouri:

Your despatch, 2½ P. M., received. Am happy to have such good news. I repeat my belief expressed in yesterday's despatch to you, that our combined forces can bring Price to grief. Infantry can co-operate, reaching Little Santa Fe to-morrow evening, perhaps further. Will use every available means of transportation to supply you, *via* Pleasant Hill. Please use your influence to get the Kansas people to supply Pleasanton's horses, the result will amply pay them.

W. S. ROSECRANS, Major Gen.

Having thus disposed of the militia, Governor Carney and General Deitzler returned to direct their homeward march and muster out, of those living north of us.

General Pleasanton, with his division and my regular volunteers and militia, residing south of Kansas river, now resumed the pursuit, arriving at Little Santa Fe, about dark, when I forwarded to you the following despatch:—

HEAD QUARTERS ARMY OF THE BORDER, }
LITTLE SANTA FE, October 23, 1864, 5½ o'clock. }

MAJOR GENERAL HALLECK:

Washington, D. C.

The enemy is in full retreat and much demoralized. He moves directly south, on and near the line road. Gen. Pleasanton united his forces with mine at 2 o'clock. Our losses are inconsiderable. We lost one gun yesterday, and took one to-day. The pursuit will be renewed at daylight.

After four days obstinate fighting the men and horses are much exhausted and must have a little rest.

S. R. CURTIS, Major General.

On the 24th of October.

At an early hour we resumed the pursuit, Gen. Blunt taking the advance as commander of the Kansas troops, which I now denominated as the first division, and Gen. Pleasanton following with his division, comprising, Missouri, Iowa, Indiana, and other troops which I denominate a second division, according to the rank of the Major Generals.

My telegraph to you *en-route* was indicative of the incidents of the day.

HEAD QUARTERS IN THE FIELD, 12 o'clock M., Oct. 24, 1864.

MAJOR GENERAL HALLECK:

Washington, D. C.

My pursuit of Price has extended down the line road opposite to Paola. He makes rapid progress, but dead horses and *debris* show his demoralized and destitute condition, and my probable success in overhauling him.

S. R. CURTIS, Major General.

I also sent the commander, Col. Drake, at Paola, intelligence of my progress, as follows:—

IN THE FIELD, ON LINE ROAD, 12 M., Oct. 24, 1864.

COL. DRAKE:

Your post and all north are now safe against Prices movements, as the advance of my pursuit is now south of you, and continuing rapidly, I hope fresh mounted troops will press down on Price's flank, by the Fort Scott roads, and by traveling night and day, strike his train.

He is scattering his heavy baggage along the road, but making rapid progress due south. I have fears he may move against Fort Scott, but shall press him so hard to-night he will not dare to make the divergence.

Try to press provisions to supply us as we go, or on our return.

S. R. CURTIS, Major General.

Our trains could not overtake us, and we had to pick up forage and food by the way, as occasion offered.

Fortunately the enemy left cattle along the road, which generally supplied us.

We halted to kill some of these near Westport, when night overtook us.

After about two hours rest, and refreshment, mainly on fresh beef, without salt or bread, I ordered the march resumed, Gen. Pleasanton's division alternating in taking the advance, and at eight o'clock it moved on cautiously, the night being very dark and rainy.

About one o'clock A. M., of the 25th, Gen. Sanborn, in the extreme advance, halted, sending back intelligence of his arrival near the Marias-des-Cygnés (pronounced in the country, Mary-de-Zene), where the enemy was in great force.

I sent forward Major Weed, Major McKenny and Major Hunt, to reconnoitre the premises, and directed Gen. Sanborn to open on the enemy with artillery, designing to interrupt his repose rather than make an assault, but the darkness,

rain, and washed roads, precluded it. Major Hunt formed three squadrons of the 2d Colorado regiment in advance, close on the enemy, and directed them to drive the enemy's pickets in and take possession of one of two mounds that occupies an isolated position on the north side of the stream. These daring troops gallantly opened the contest about three A. M., carrying out this order, assisted by Col. Gravelly, and a portion of the 6th and 8th Missouri state militia.

BATTLE OF MARIAS-DES-CYGNES.

The enemy had gone into camp in the timber, skirting the Marias-des-Cygnés, near the town of Trading Post, making fires and other extensive arrangements for rest and refreshments. My day and nights march brought my advance close upon them about 12 o'clock M., of the 25th, and at 3 o'clock Major Hunt led three companies of the 2d Colorado to attack and take the mound which commands the valley of the stream. This was gallantly executed.

I had sent a special order to Gen. Sanborn, who commanded the advance brigade, by Major Weed, to push forward artillery and open at long range.

This was retarded by the darkness, but the artillery fire commenced about four o'clock, A. M. As daylight approached our troops deployed, moving in lines against the enemy, who still occupied one of the hills and the timber skirting the stream.

As our lines rose steadily on the side hill, the enemy's forces on the summit melted away, till finally our forces had secured all the commanding position, with very little loss. Skirmishers moved into the timber, when the rebel camp was deserted in great confusion. A stand was made at the river crossing, where the enemy was felling trees and firing cannon, but our advance was so close upon them they left their guns and the ford, retreating in disorder.

(To be continued.)

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