

TICKEL/TICKLE FAMILY GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER

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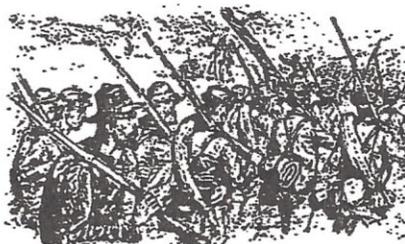
July 1-2-3, 1993 is the 130th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.



There were ten members of the Tickle family who were infantry men in the Army of Northern Virginia and participated in that battle. The three day battle was complex and records of individual confederate soldiers are incomplete. This newsletter will only examine the actions in which our family members were involved. This information has been compiled through eye witness accounts, historical accounts, and North Carolina Troops Rosters. The effects of the battle of Gettysburg have been deeply felt by our family for generations. Our cousins gave their best and often their lives for the Old North State. The nineteen Tickle men who enlisted in the North Carolina regiments were not slave holders, they were farmers, who loved home and family. They were not necessary secessionists, because several families from both Guilford and Alamance Counties of North Carolina felt strongly about staying in the union. Only after their native state seceded did our family volunteer to fight for North Carolina. This is written to familiarize us with

their bravery, valor, and sacrifice.

THE CIVIL WAR GETTYSBURG



Confederate Infantry On The March

In mid May of 1863, in Richmond, Virginia, General Robert E. Lee met with President Jefferson Davis and other officers of the Confederate Army. At this time the decision was made to invade Union soil. General Lee's plan was to march north through Maryland, into Pennsylvania and capture the capital city of Harrisburg, then move on with the hope of capturing Washington, D.C. This, General Lee was sure could be done, for at no time was the morale of the troops higher. They had repeatedly defeated the Union army and were flush with victory.

The Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by General Lee, was divided into three corps. The First Army Corp was commanded by Lt. General James Longstreet.

The Second Army Corp was commanded by Lt. General Richard S. Ewell. The Third Army Corp was commanded by Lt. General A. P. Hill.

Private George Sanford Tickle and Private W. (possibly William) Tickle were serving under General Ewell in Company A of the 53rd North Carolina Regiment commanded by Col. W.A. Owens. The 53rd Regiment was attached to Brig. General Junius Daniel's Brigade and was assigned to Major General Robert E. Rodes' Division. George Sanford Tickle had enlisted on April 20, 1862. W. Tickle enlisted on May 14, 1862.

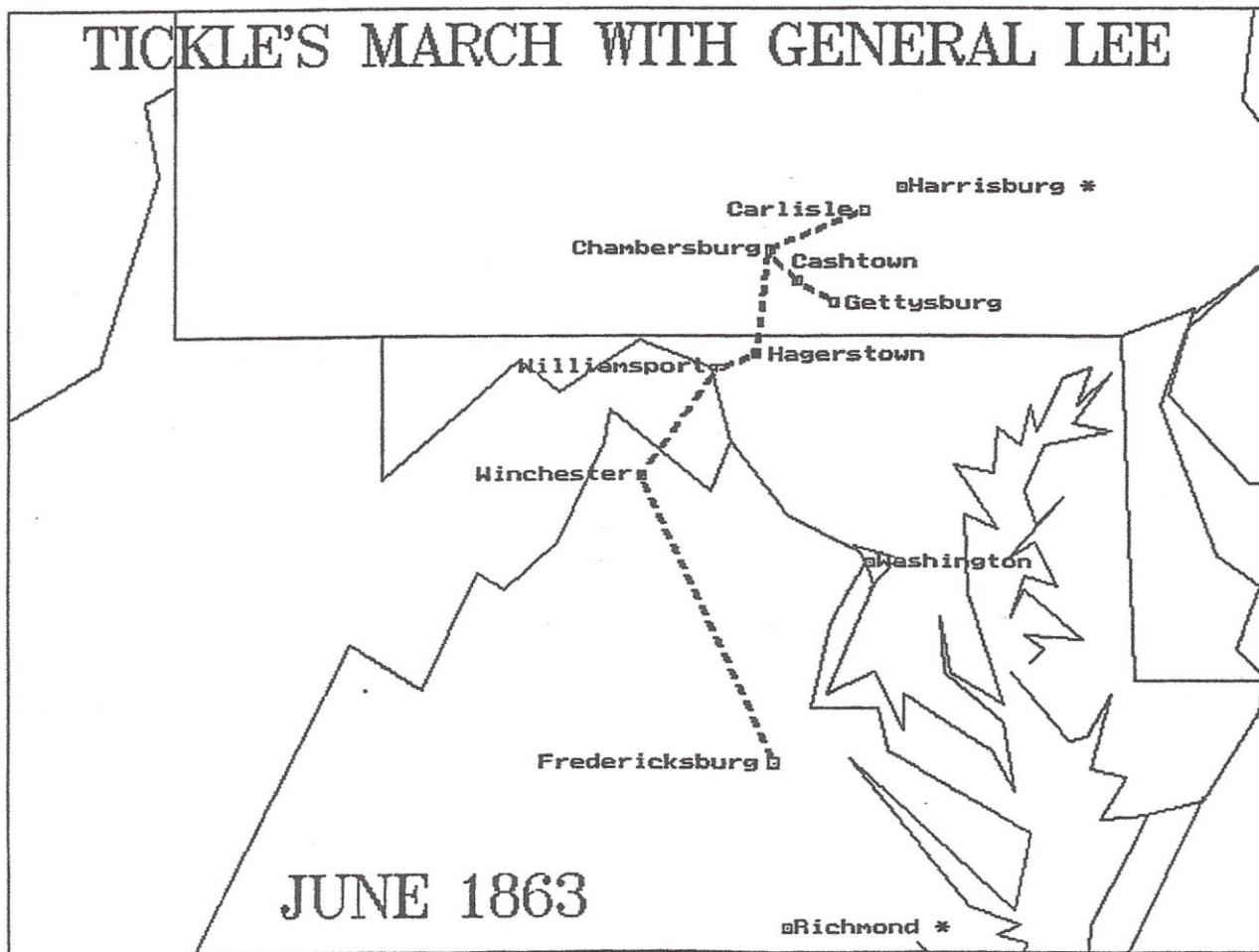
Eight members of the Tickle family under the command of General Hill were in Company K of the 47th North Carolina Regiment led by Capt. Robert H. Faucett. These included three sons of George Tickle, Private Levi Rodney Tickle, who enlisted September 14, 1862 at age 23, Private Julius Rankin Tickle, who enlisted April 30, 1862 at age 20, Private George Rufus Tickle who also enlisted April 30, 1862 at age 18, two brothers Private Andrew F. Tickle who enlisted April 30, 1862 at age 21, and Private Calvin Tickle who enlisted March 13, 1862 at age 18. Also serving at this

time in the 47th Regiment were their cousins Private Charles Alexander Tickle who enlisted February 28, 1862 at age 21, Private Simeon Tickle who enlisted March 13, 1862 at age 43, and Private Absolum B. Tickle who enlisted March 21, 1862 at age 29. All of these men enlisted for the duration of the war. This company was raised February-March of 1862 in Alamance County and was known as the "Alamance Minute Men". It was mustered in at Camp Mangun, near Raleigh, North Carolina on April 30, 1862 and was later assigned to the 47th

Regiment as Company K. The 47th Regiment was commanded by Col. G.H. Faribault and attached to Brig. General James Johnson Pettigrew's Brigade and assigned to Major General Henry Heth's Division.

On June 3, 1863 the Army of Northern Virginia started their invasion march northward with George Sanford and W. Tickle with General Ewell and the Second Army Corp leading. At Winchester, Virginia General Ewell's men met and defeated the forces of General Milroy, taking 4000 union prisoners

and supplies. General Ewell's Corp was followed by General Longstreet's First Corp. General Hill's Third Corp with the eight other Tickle men was still at Fredericksburg, Virginia guarding against an attack by General Hooker's Union forces who threatened to cross the Rappahannock River and capture Richmond. On June 15, when the Union Army started a northward movement, General Hill's Corp started toward Pennsylvania. The Tickle men were marching north on the same road that their grandfathers had travelled southward on when they settled in North Carolina.



The marching army stretched about 100 miles from beginning to end. The North Carolina soldiers in General Pettigrew's Brigade were well clothed and had been issued new shoes for the march. The weapons they carried were Enfield rifles. The entire army was full of confidence and in high spirits. Each soldier felt himself equal to three Union men.



Fording The Potomac River

When the Army of Northern Virginia reached the Potomac River at Williamsport, Maryland. They found the river swollen from recent rains. The soldiers removed their clothing, and holding their garments over their heads with their rifles and cartridge boxes, waded across the Potomac to find people of Maryland welcoming them with bands playing. Several carriages were filled with young ladies who had come to cheer the soldiers. Capt. William M. Owen observed, "The sight of thousands of 'Confeds' in the water and in the fields, 'sans culotte' must have been astounding and

novel in the extreme, and something the young ladies would not soon forget. Fifty thousand men without their trousers on can't be passed in review every day of the week."

The march continued through Hagerstown, Maryland and into Pennsylvania. The roads they marched on were too narrow for an army and they had to march along the side of the roads and in the fields trampling the crops. The wells of each farm they passed by were soon pumped dry by the thirsty soldiers. The rail fences were burned each evening by the soldiers as they made camp for the night. The army was living off the land as they marched through, and as a result, several chickens disappeared and cows were milked dry. One soldier was lauded for his ability to fill a canteen directly from the cow. The cherry trees were filled with ripe fruit and the soldiers stripped the trees clean. The over indulgence had a natural reaction on the men. One North Carolina Tar Heel remarked that "If we git in a battle today, I'll have to fight from a squattin position." General Lee had given strict orders forbidding interference with civilians and their property, but compared to the actions of the Union Army in the south, the behavior of the Army of Northern Virginia was exemplary.

The afternoon of June 27 found the Confederate Army in Pennsylvania forming an arc

around Gettysburg. George and W. Tickle were with General Ewell at Carlisle, and General Longstreet was at Chambersburg. The other Tickle men had just arrived at Fayetteville with General Hill. General Lee issued orders for the army to concentrate near Cashtown. On June 30 the Tickle men in the 47th Regiment were with General Pettigrew as he lead his brigade along the Chambersburg Pike toward Gettysburg. They were searching for supplies, and had heard that shoes were available there. At 10:00 am Pettigrew halted his men about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile west of Gettysburg along Seminary Ridge. Through field glasses he saw General Buford's Union Calvary and elected to withdraw rather than risk battle.

JULY 1, 1863

The day dawned rainy and misty, but later the sky cleared, and the heat was intense with high humidity. At 5:00 am the Tickle men in the 47th, with General Heth's entire division, marched down the Chambersburg Pike toward Gettysburg. General Pettigrew's brigade marched behind Archer's and Davis' brigade. The Tickle men were held in reserve on Herr's ridge as the first brigade encountered General John Buford's cavalry. Buford's cavalry held their line until they were replaced by the Union soldiers known as "The Iron Brigade," one of the

toughest and most experienced units in the Army of the Potomac.

In the early afternoon George and W. Tickle, with the 53rd Regiment under General Rodes', arrived north west of Gettysburg. They met the Union soldiers near Oak Hill, and were the first of our family to engage in battle. George Sanford Tickle was killed in this battle. W. Tickle was to fight again on the morning of July 3 near Culp's Hill.

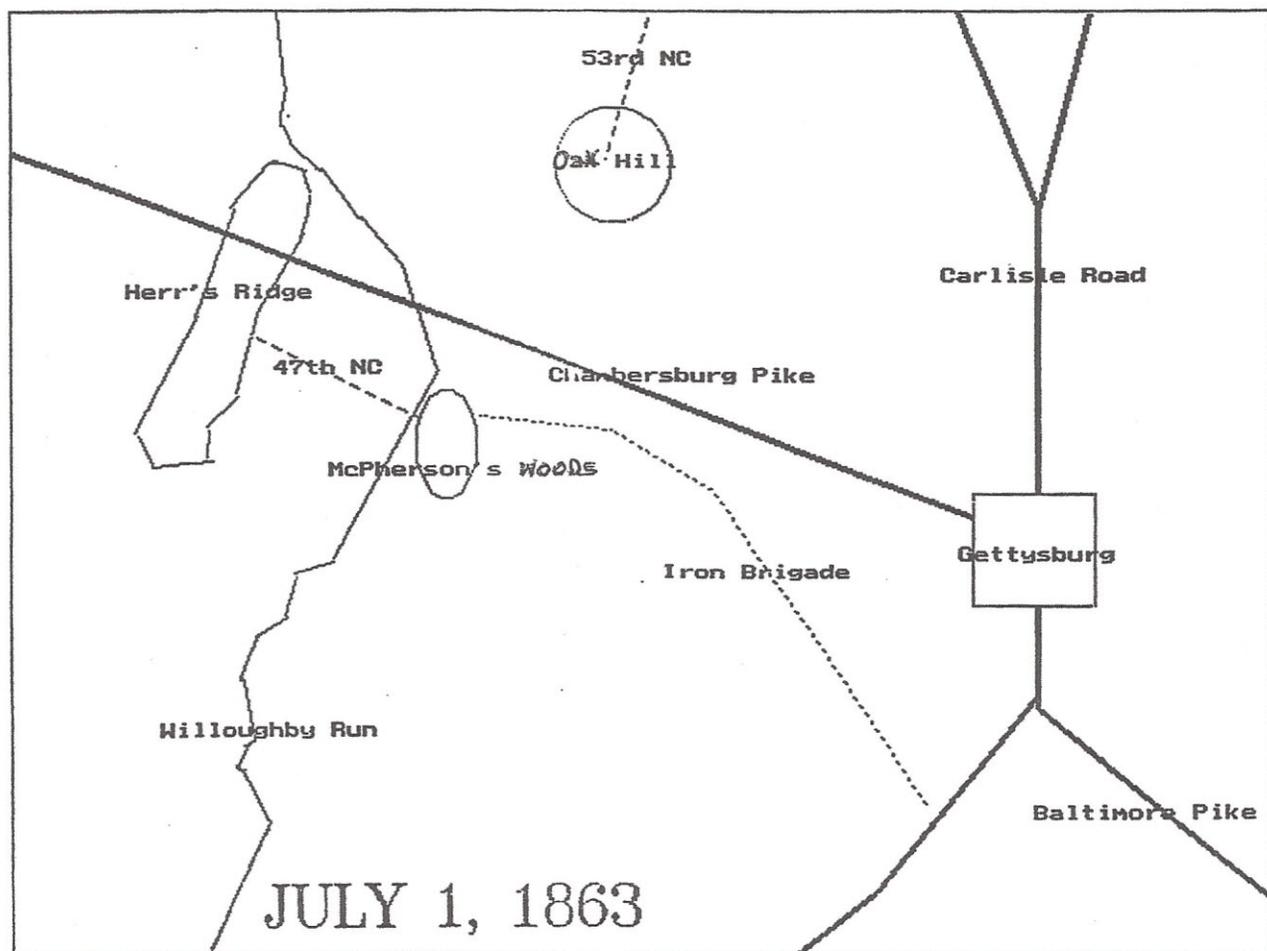
At 2:00 pm, the other Tickle's in Pettigrew's Brigade



Brig. General J.J. Pettigrew

were ordered forward across Willoughby Run toward McPherson's Woods to engage the Iron Brigade. The advance was described by Major John

T. Jones of North Carolina, "In our front was a wheat-field about a fourth of a mile wide: then came a branch, with thick underbrush and briars skirting the banks. Beyond this was again an open field, with the exception of a wooded hill directly in front. The brigade moved forward in beautiful style, at quick time...When nearing the branch..the enemy poured a galling fire into the left of the brigade from the opposite bank, where they had massed in heavy force.... The 47th was exposed to a hot fire from artillery and infantry....On went the command across the branch



and up the opposite slope, driving the enemy at the point of the bayonet back upon their second line....On this second line, the fighting was terrible-our men advancing, the enemy stubbornly resisting, until the two lines were pouring volleys into each other at a distance not greater than 20 paces."

Capt. John W. Thorpe of the 47th reported that "We were met by a furious storm of shells and canister and further on by the more destructive rifles of the two army corps confronting us. One shell struck the right company, killing three men, and exploding in the line of file closers, by the concussion, felled to the earth every one of them. The other companies were faring no better. Still our line, without a murmur, advanced, delivering its steady fire amid the rebel yells, and closed with the first line of the enemy. After a desperate struggle this yielded and the second line was met and quickly broken to pieces. The day was a hot one, and the men had difficulty in ramming down their cartridges, so slick was the iron ram-rod in hands thoroughly wet with perspiration. All the expedients were resorted to, but mainly jabbing the ram-rods against the ground and rocks. This, with the usual causes, undressing our advancing line; still all were yelling and pressing forward through the growing wheat breast high, toward a body of the enemy in sight, but beyond the range of our guns, when suddenly a

third line of the enemy arose forty yards in front, as if by magic, and leveled their shining line of gunbarrels on the wheat heads. Though taken by surprise, the roar of our guns sounded along our whole line. We had caught the drop on them. Redoubled our yells and a rush and the work is done....The day was not ended, but the fighting in our front was over, and the 47th dressed its line and what remained of it marched to the place whence it started, bivouacked for the night, intoxicated with victory. Many were the incidents narrated on that beautiful, moonlight night."

Although our family was among the victors, it suffered many loses. Private Simeon Tickle was wounded in the head and thigh. Private Absalom B. Tickle was wounded in the head, shoulder and arm. He was captured by the Union forces and, even though hospitalized at Gettysburg, died of his wounds. The Tickle's who survived the first day of fighting spent July 2nd in camp and were not involved in any fighting that took place that day. They rested and prepared for the next battle which proved to be the most historical battle of the Civil War.

JULY 3, 1863

At 3:00 in the morning, the Confederate army began placing their artillery into position for the assault that we know as "Pickett's

Charge" and the "High Water Mark of the Confederacy." In the stillness of the morning, the stars twinkled between scattered clouds and the day promised to be warm. The moon was a little past full and the regimental flag hung limp. The men were still confident that today they would win the war and return home to North Carolina victorious. Their faith in General Lee was unwavering. They joked with each other as they prepared for battle. Before daylight they moved into position behind the cannons. There they waited, going for water and building fires to make coffee until the signal was given to start the cannonade.



The Grand Assault

At 1:10 pm, the confederate cannons opened fire on the union lines. The water they had drawn earlier was gone. The thirsty men tried to find relief from the heat under the trees, but many had to stand in the hot July sun. The cannonade continued for almost 2 hours. When the cannons ceased, silence covered the battlefield. It was now up to the foot soldier to determine the conclusion of the battle of Gettysburg.

As the companies formed their lines, the Tickers were in the front, to the left of Pickett's men and in the very center. At 3:00 pm, General Pettigrew gave the order "Now for the honor of the good old North State, forward!" There were no rebel yells now, only silence, each man eyed the small clump of trees under which the union division of General Hayes lay waiting for them. Perhaps our cousins glanced at each other re-assuredly, they had agreed to watch out for each other. As they emerged from the wood, they were among the first that the union soldiers saw as the Army of Northern Virginia advanced. How they looked to the Union men is best told by Lt. Frank Haskell 36th Wisconsin. "None on that crest now need be told that the enemy is advancing. Every eye could see his legions, an overwhelming, resistless tide of an ocean of armed men sweeping upon us! Regiment after regiment, and brigade after brigade, move from the woods and rapidly take their places in the lines forming the assault. Pickett's proud division holds their right, Pettigrew's their left. More than half a mile their front extends; more than a thousand yards the dull gray masses deploy, man touching man, rank pressing rank, and line supporting line. Their red flags wave; their horsemen gallop up and down; the arms of eighteen thousand men, barrel and bayonet, gleam in the sun, a sloping forest of flashing steel. Right on they

move as with one soul, in perfect order, without impediment of ditch, or wall, or stream, over ridge and slope, through orchard and meadow and cornfield, magnificent, grim, irresistible."

On our cousins march in route step, almost a hundred yards a minute. The grape shot and canister fire begins, with heads down against the storm they pressed on. Still they gave no rebel yell, that shrill cry they save for the final rush. Ahead of them lay the stone wall and the gleaming rifle barrels. "...Yankee lines loom larger as the boys in gray surge forward. Now there is a pause for aiming, and the roar of countless muskets, but the individual soldier is hardly conscious of the noise or the kick of his weapon. Rarely does he have the time to consider the effectiveness of his shot. He knows that scores of Yankees are falling, and his comrades as well, but he cannot attend to the details of slaughter on either side. He drops to his knee, fumbling bites off and inserts a cartridge, rams it home with a quick thrust of the rod, then rises and rushes forward with his fellows. On they go, these charging Rebs, feeling now that exaltation which comes after the fight gets under way." (Bell Irvin Wiley)

As they approached within 250 yards of the wall, Union General Hays shouted "Fire" and his men, who were crouched behind the wall,

stood up and a sheet of flame burst from their line. Major Jones C.S.A reported.. "we were met with a perfect hail-storm of lead from their small-arms. The brigade dashed on, and many had reached the wall, when we received a deadly volley from the left. The whole line on the left had given way, and we were rapidly flanked. With our thinned ranks and in such a position, it would have been folly to stand, and against such odds. We therefore fell back to our original position in rear of the batteries."

Although most historical accounts of the Grand Assault record that Pickett's Virginia soldiers were the ones to go over the stone wall, the North Carolinians advanced even further. There is now a monument at the mark they reached at the angle of the wall. One of our cousins may have gone this far. More likely they fell before reaching the angle of the wall. Private Andrew F. Tickle was wounded in the back and breast and captured. Private Julius R. Tickle was wounded in the arm, leg, and left eye. Levi R. Tickle was also wounded. The youngest Private, George R. Tickle, was reported captured in that battle, however records of the Federal Provost Marshal do not substantiate that report. Presumably, George was killed in the grand assault. Those who were able bodied helped the wounded off the field, but some simply crawled as best they could back to their lines.



Returning Home

On July 4th they laid in wait for the union forces to attack. They were too exhausted to do otherwise. On July 5th, the rain began falling again and the Army of Northern Virginia started their retreat. They moved slowly, frequently halting to give care to the wounded. When they reached the Potomac River, the Tickle men who were with General Pettigrew took position as a rear guard and held back the union cavalry while the troops crossed the river on a pontoon bridge. General Pettigrew, though wounded during the grand assault, was killed at the Potomac River. Our cousins that remained returned home to North Carolina to recover from their wounds. They were to fight future battles.
