**Account of**

**The Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia**

**1864, June 3rd:** We were called up at 4 a.m. and marched to the front where were breast works and there formed in division front in close Collum ready to charge on the enemies works. Recall that when all formed and ready to charge our brigade commander made us a little speech telling us that we were to charge and what to do when we did, also that while waiting some little time before ordered to move, how the teeth of many chattered though it was not cold, it was no doubt caused from nervousness in thinking of the charge. Besides we had had nothing to eat and everything was wet. The waiting and thinking of it was worse than the charge as it turned out, for when we started we had gone but a little way until drawing the rebels fire we were halted and fell back a short ways where we were protected somewhat by a slight descent of the ground where we lay on our stomachs and peek over the crest of the rise. When drawing their first fire, [Canfield] Humphrey of our Co. was hit in the knee and later the leg was amputated and [he] died I think. While lying down in line looking towards the enemy, T.F. Bennett who lay by side of his brother was hit by a ball that went through the brim of his soft hat, into his mouth, knocking out one or two teeth then down his neck into his body. He made no move only to straighten his body and was dead without uttering a sound. We buried him that evening a short distance from where killed. James Nichols, Horace Chester & Harrison Rood were wounded. Rood was not hurt much as he came back to the line after going to the rear for a short time when hit, but thought he was when hit. At same time that Humphrey was hit a Ball hit me on the inside of my left Knee cutting off a little Skin, it felt as if burned with a hot iron for a few minutes. After laying here awhile we were moved to our left some little ways where we lay on the ground in line as before & in the Woods, here we waited to be called on or to repulse a Charge if one was made on us. While here many of us went to sleep we were so tired from being on the Boat so long & our sleep being broken by being called up nights. After dark the Regt was Marched very quietly to where we had no idea. On the way Kinney & myself in some way lost ourselves from the Company, but found it with less trouble than we expected in the dark & quiet that had to be kept, we found them so close to the Rebels that we could hear them talk & what they said, the Regt was throwing up a new line of Breast Works & not allowed to Speak or make any noise with the Tools we used so as not to have them hear us & perhaps drive us away before we had our works sufficient to give us some protection. Quite a number of dead men were buried in the works that were Killed that day. Another Regiment relieved us just before light & we were taken to a line of works in the rear to rest & get something to eat, but before we left, someone Towards morning & when we had got the works so as to give some protection made a noise in driving a Stake in the works, at almost the first blow he struck the Stake the Rebs fired a Volley at us & from that time knew we were there but could not see us or tell just where we were as long as we made no noises. This was our first day in the Battle of Cold Harbor Va.