

**1861 VS 1882. "CO. AYTCH,"
MAURY GRAYS, FIRST
TENNESSEE REGIMENT; OR,
A SIDE SHOW OF THE SHOW**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649113781

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by Sam. R. Watkins

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SAM. R. WATKINS

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1861 vs. 1882.

“CO. AY TCH,”

MAURY GRAYS.

FIRST TENNESSEE REGIMENT;

OR.

A SIDE SHOW OF THE BIG SHOW.

By SAM. R. WATKINS,
COLUMBIA, TENN.

*“Quaeque ipse miserima cidi,
Et quorum pars magna fui.”*



NASHVILLE, TENN.:
CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN PUBLISHING HOUSE,
1882.

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TO THE MEMORY
OF MY DEAD
COMRADES OF THE
MAURY GRAYS,
AND THE FIRST TENNESSEE REGIMENT, WHO
DIED IN DEFENSE OF SOUTHERN HOMES AND
LIBERTIES; ALSO TO MY LIVING COMRADES,
NEARLY ALL OF
WHOM SHED
THEIR BLOOD IN
DEFENSE OF THE
SAME CAUSE, THIS
BOOK IS RES-
PECTFULLY DED-
ICATED BY THE
AUTHOR.



PREFACE.

"Co. AYTEH."—This week's *Herald* contains the last number of "Co. Aytch" that will be published in the paper. . . . The Generals, and President, and Vice-President, and other high officials have published their accounts of the war, but Sam Watkins is the first high private who has written up the common soldier side of the matter. In big, gilt-edge books, the General, the President, and the Vice-President, tell about their plans, their battles, their retreats, their measures, and their ideas, and not a word about what the poor, sore-footed, hungry, and naked soldier felt. In "Co. Aytch," we see the old "webfoot," dressed in a dirty, greasy, gray suit—or rather non-suit—a cotton blanket thrown across his shoulder, and fastened under his cartridge-box belt; a greasy, dirty haversack hanging down—very thin and flabby; with shoes of untanned leather. There he goes, footsore, tired, and hungry, but chipper and sassy, and ready for the battle. In "Co. Aytch" we see this same "webfoot" in camp, cooking his rations—corn meal bread, corn meal coffee, corn meal soup, blue beef, with not an eye of grease on it. He lies down on the cold ground, in an old thin blanket, and shivers through the night. In "Co. Aytch," we hear this "webfoot" talking to his comrades, cheering their drooping spirits, discussing the situation, defending the General, hoping for final victory, and a glorious return home to father, mother, and sweetheart. In "Co. Aytch" we see this same "webfoot," hungry, ragged, dirty, and footsore, "on the battle's perilous edge," the light of victory in his eye, a gun with a gleaming bayonet in his hands, springing forward like a deer, a ringing shout upon his lips, rushing up to the breastworks, behind which belch Napoleon guns and volleys of musketry; see him cross the *abattis* at a bound; see him as he stands upon the enemy's ramparts, shouting victory! In "Co. Aytch" we see this same "webfoot" shot down by a minnie ball, and lying cold and stark in death, and thrown into a common shallow grave, unbonored, unknown, and unsung, far away from fond loved ones. In "Co. Aytch" we see other soldiers, driven by hunger, stealing hogs, others deserting and going home. All this we see in "Co. Aytch." Every old soldier, and every son of an old soldier, should have a copy of it.—*Columbia Herald.*

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.—AP^RL 14, 1861, <i>v.</i> AP^RL 14, 1862.	
We are one and undivided.....	9
The bloody chasin.....	11
Eighteen hundred and sixty-one.....	12
Camp Chestnut.....	13
On the road.....	15
Stanton.....	16
Wayn Springs.....	17
Chest Mountain.....	20
Sewell Mountain.....	21
Romey.....	23
Standing plaket on the Potomac.....	25
Schwartz and Puffer.....	27
The court-martial.....	28
The death watch.....	29
Virginia, fare-well.....	30
CHAPTER II.—SHILOH.	
Shiloh.....	32
CHAPTER III.—CORINTH.	
Corinth.....	38
Rowland shot to death.....	41
Killing a Yankee sharpshooter.....	42
Colonel Field.....	43
Captain Joe P. Lee.....	44
Corinth forsaken.....	45
CHAPTER IV.—TUPELO.	
Tupelo.....	46
The court-martial at Tupelo.....	47
Raiding on castingscars.....	48
CHAPTER V.—KENTUCKY.	
We go into Kentucky.....	50
The battle of Perryville.....	52
The retreat out of Kentucky.....	57
Knoxville.....	61
Ah, Sneak.....	62
I jine the cavalry.....	63
CHAPTER VI.—MURFREESBORO.	
Murfreesboro.....	64
Battle of Murfreesboro.....	66
Robbing a dead Yankee.....	69
CHAPTER VII.—SHELLEYVILLE.	
Shelleyville.....	70
A foot race.....	70
Eating mussels.....	71
Poor Berry Morgan.....	72
Wright shot to death with musketry.....	73
Dave Sublett promoted.....	74
Down Duck river in a canoe.....	77
Shineral Owlsdowsky.....	78
CHAPTER VIII.—CHATTANOOGA.	
Back to Chattanooga.....	80
Am visited by my father.....	80
Out a lurking.....	82
Hanging two spels.....	83
Eating rats.....	84
Swimming the Tenn. with castingscars.....	84
Am detailed to go foraging.....	85
Please pass the butter.....	86
We evacuate Chattanooga.....	88
The bull of the woods.....	88
The wing of the "Angel of Death".....	91
CHAPTER IX.—CHICKAMAUGA.	
Battle of Chickamauga.....	95
After the battle.....	96
A night among the dead.....	97
CHAPTER X.—MISSIONARY RIDGE.	
Missionary Ridge.....	99
Sergeant Tucker and General Wilder.....	100
Newsies Point.....	101
Battle of Missionary Ridge.....	101
Good-bye, Tom Welsh.....	105
The rear guard.....	106
Chickamauga Station.....	107
The battle of Cat creek.....	108
Ringgold Gap.....	109
CHAPTER XI.—DALTON.	
Gen. Joe E. Johnston takes command.....	111
Commissioners.....	115
Dalton.....	115
Shooting a deserter.....	116
Ten men killed at the mourners-bench.....	116
Dr. C. T. Quintard.....	117
Y's, you got my leg.....	118
Target shooting.....	121
Uncle Zack and Aunt Daphne.....	122
Bed tape.....	125
I get a furbough.....	125
CHAPTER XII.—HUNDRED DAYS' BATTLES.	
Rocky Face Ridge.....	128
Falling back.....	130
Battle of Resaca.....	131
Adairsville octagon house.....	134
Kennesaw line.....	136
Detailed to go into the enemy's lines.....	136
Death of General Leonidas Polk.....	138
General Lucius E. Polk wounded.....	139
Dead Angle.....	141
Battle of New Hope Church.....	150
Battle of Dallas.....	151
Battle of Zion Church.....	152
Kingston.....	154
Cassville.....	154
On the banks of the Chattahoochee.....	155
Removal of Gen. Joe E. Johnston.....	156
Gen. Hood takes command.....	157
CHAPTER XIII.—ATLANTA.	
Hood strikes.....	159
Killing a Yankee scout.....	159
An old citizen.....	162
My friends.....	163
An army without cavalry.....	164
Battle of July 22nd, 1864.....	165
The attack.....	166
Am promoted.....	171
28th of July at Atlanta.....	172
I visit Montgomery.....	172
The hospital.....	174
The Capitol.....	175
Am arrested.....	177
Those girls.....	178
The talisman.....	178
The brave Captain.....	179
How I got back to Atlanta.....	180
The death of Tom Tuck's rooster.....	182
Old Joe Brown's pets.....	184