THAT PERILOUS RIDE AT CHICKASAW BAYOU.

H. H. Hockersmith writes from Springfield, Tenn.:

"Editor Veteran: Quite awhile ago I made inquiry in the Veteran as to whether there was any old comrade living who could give the name of the man who "rode into the very jaws of death" at the battle of Chickasaw Bayou, Miss., fought in 1863. Some two or three have already claimed this honor, or rather their friends claim it for them, the last one being that of Gen. Stephen D. Lee, whose article appeared in the Veteran giving the credit to a soldier by name of Champion.

"Now I have no reasons to doubt but what Comrade Champion did make a daring ride; and if he did, all praise should be accorded him. Yet I have two positive reasons to know that Champion was not the man who made the ride in question. Gen. Lee stated that Champion was carrying a dispatch to Gen. Pemberton at Vicksburg, whereas, as has already been stated, the hero upon this occasion was bearing a dispatch from our right to left, and delivered it, as I afterwards learned, to Gen. Withers in plain view of the writer and scores of others. And this is the first positive reason. I received a letter from Comrade Martin, of Vicksburg, Miss., which so thoroughly and completely described the incident as to 'dovetail' in so nicely as to what I saw as to not leave a shadow of doubt upon my mind as to the real hero, whom he stated was none other than 'Dick' (Richard) Wildy, of the Forty-Sixth Mississippi Regiment, and, as a matter of justice and history, I cheerfully back his statement. Comrade Martin also gave me a short sketch of the life of this gallant soldier prior to, during, and after the war, which was grand almost beyond conception, stating that Wildy became a successful lawyer and moved to California, where he died some twenty-eight or twenty-nine years ago.

"Most assuredly no one would pluck the laurel from the wreath of glory from Comrade Champion or any other hero, but history must not accord to him the ride made by another on this occasion. As has already been said, many daring feats were accomplished during the war, but none more so than this; and were it possible to erect a monument to the clouds, it would not be too high to commemorate and perpetuate the name of Richard Wildy, of the Forty-Sixth Mississippi Regiment, in his daring and hair-lifting 'ride into the very jaws of death' at Chickasaw Bayou in 1863. Peace to his ashes and rest to his soul."

LIEUT. C. A. HUNT, OF LEXINGTON, N. C.—In a letter from Comrade T. B. Beall, of Salisbury, N. C., he states: "In the July Veteran I see mention of Lieut. C. A. Hunt, of Lexington, N. C., in connection with a golden cross presented to a kind lady of Winchester, Va., for her ministrations to him when wounded at that place. He was a friend and comrade of mine, and the A. N. V. had no better or braver soldier. In the battle of Spottsylvania C. H., the enemy broke Lee's line to our right, and our division was ordered to charge over our breastworks and take them in the flank and rear. The undertaking being so hazardous, the whole line hesitated; but Lieut. Hunt sprang upon the top of the works, raised his sword above his head, and ordered the line forward. His brave example so animated the command that the men moved at once and passed over the works without hesitation, and by this fearless move helped to save the army from a great disaster. I don't believe in waiting till a man is dead before telling of his good deeds and brave acts. If more of it was done, we should be a happier people and great justice be done our fellow-man."

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