

REPORT

OF THE

Shiloh Battlefield Commission

TO THE

GOVERNOR OF IOWA.

---

DECEMBER 3, 1895.

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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F. R. CONAWAY, STATE PRINTER.  
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EMMETSBURG, Iowa, December 3, 1895.

*Hon. Frank D. Jackson, Governor of Iowa:*

DEAR SIR—The Iowa Shiloh Battlefield Commission, appointed by you, “to locate and mark the positions held by the Iowa regiments at the battle of Shiloh,” consisting of one member of each of the several regiments engaged, viz.: Second Iowa, G. L. Godfrey; Third Iowa, G. W. Crosley; Sixth Iowa, C. A. Huston; Seventh Iowa, J. B. Morrison; Eighth Iowa, L. Kinkead; Eleventh Iowa, J. H. Munroe; Twelfth Iowa, E. B. Soper; Thirteenth Iowa, C. W. Kepler; Fourteenth Iowa, W. T. Shaw; Fifteenth Iowa, E. C. Blackmar, and Sixteenth Iowa, John Hayes, beg to report:

That it met at the office of the national commission at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, pursuant to appointment, all members, except Morrison, of the Seventh, being present, on the 14th, 15th and 16th days of November, A. D. 1895, and made a thorough and complete examination of those portions of the battlefield of Shiloh on which the Iowa regiments fought, and was able to determine very satisfactorily the several positions held by them during the engagement, and definitely located and marked the same.

The grounds, under the direction of the national commission, have all been carefully surveyed by the government engineers, and a complete and accurate map thereof is in process of preparation, upon which the several positions appear as located and fixed by this commission.

The locations of the several positions on the battlefield were made with reference to the surveys thereof by the government engineers, and the same were carefully noted by them in the presence of the commissioners, which insures their correct

presentation on the maps of the National park. Accompanying this report is a copy of such map, so far as its preparation has progressed, showing the several lines and positions occupied by the Iowa regiments during the first day's fight, as located by the Iowa commission and approved by the national commission, and to which reference is made without particularizing; but, for your information, should explanations seem necessary or desirable, the commission attach hereto reports of the several commissioners explanatory of the several lines and positions occupied by their respective regiments, except Morrison of the Seventh Iowa, who was absent, but the report of Commissioner Godfrey of the Second Iowa, covers the same points, as the two regiments—Second and Seventh—remained together during both days of the battle.

In the discharge of our duties we were greatly aided by General Buell, Colonel Cadle and Major Reed of the national commission, who, during our stay, gave their entire time to assisting us with our work. As Colonel Cadle was a member of the Eleventh and Major Reed of the Twelfth Iowa, and both were engaged with their respective regiments at the battle of Shiloh, and also have since devoted much time and study to the positions of the contending forces, both federal and confederate, their assistance was peculiarly valuable.

In view of the great historical interest that does now and always will attach to the battlefield of Shiloh, and the National park, into which the same is now being converted, and the important and perhaps controlling influence upon the final results of the battle exerted by the distinguished bravery and persistent fighting of the Iowa regiments on the 6th day of April, 1862, it would seem that the populous, wealthy and patriotic state of Iowa should now testify its appreciation of those qualities of her citizen soldiers that made the state famous in the annals of the great rebellion, by erecting at those historic spots granite monuments and markers inferior to none others that may be erected in the park, commemorating their great deeds, that visitors to this National park in the ages to come will read and know what Iowa and her soldier citizens did for their country in its time of greatest need.

It is believed by the commission that \$100,000 would not be too large a sum to be appropriated by the state for this great work, and that this sum would enable the commission to erect to each regiment a monument and to suitably mark every line

and position upon which Iowa troops fought at Shiloh with granite blocks and slabs, inscribed with appropriate inscriptions, preserving the facts of history and the names of those who gave up their lives on that bloody field.

Both patriotism and state pride should cause the whole state, as well as the legislature, to take an active interest in this matter and see to it that this appropriation is made.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

G. L. GODFREY,  
*Com'r Second Iowa Infantry*  
G. W. CROSLY,  
*Com'r Third Iowa Infantry.*  
C. A. HUSTON,  
*Com'r Sixth Iowa Infantry.*  
J. B. MORRISON,  
*Com'r Seventh Iowa Infantry.*  
L. KINKEAD,  
*Com'r Eighth Iowa Infantry.*  
J. H. MUNROE,  
*Com'r Eleventh Iowa Infantry.*  
E. B. SOPER,  
*Com'r Twelfth Iowa Infantry.*  
CHARLES W. KEPLER,  
*Com'r Thirteenth Iowa Infantry.*  
WM T. SHAW,  
*Com'r Fourteenth Iowa Infantry.*  
E. C. BLACKMAR,  
*Com'r Fifteenth Iowa Infantry.*  
JOHN HAYES,  
*Com'r Sixteenth Iowa Infantry.*

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PITTSBURG, Tenn., Nov. 16, 1895.

*Gen. William T. Shaw, Chairman:*

SIR—In compliance with a resolution of the commission adopted yesterday, I have the honor to report:

That I have examined the camp grounds and line of battle occupied by the Second Iowa Infantry on the field of Shiloh, on the 6th and 7th days of April, 1862. I had no difficulty in finding our camp ground, as it was located in a small open

field, a half or three-quarters of a mile west of the landing, and in the vicinity of the camps of the Seventh and Fourteenth Iowa, and the same is properly marked on the map being prepared by the national commission.

As to the line of battle occupied by the Second Iowa, there is no dispute, and the same is properly marked on the national map. Early on the morning of the 6th, the long roll was sounded and immediately the regiment was formed, and then moved forward by the flank, until a short distance from the advancing enemy; then we were thrown into line of battle, in the timber, and across the Corinth road, on the right of the Seventh Iowa, we having the right of Tuttle's Brigade of the Second, Seventh, Twelfth and Fourteenth Iowa Infantry. As soon as we were formed, we advanced to the edge of a field, where we were halted in view of a portion of the enemy's infantry and artillery, and directed to lie down and hold the enemy in check, if possible. This position was in front of what is known as the "Duncan field" or house, as it is now called, and from this house the rebel sharpshooters annoyed us very much. We held this position during the entire day, resisting the repeated attacks of the rebel infantry and nearly all the time under a galling fire of cannister, grape and shell. Between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, the enemy were discovered passing through the timber on our right to our rear. This information was at once conveyed to General Tuttle, and we were ordered to fall back on the Corinth road, which we did in tolerable good order, considering the fact that we passed through the most galling flank fire from the enemy. Having gained the high ground near the Third Iowa camp, we again formed in line of battle and helped to hold the enemy in check. As night approached, we again fell back toward the landing, but west of the Corinth road, and some distance in advance of the camp of the Fourteenth Iowa, where we remained all night, drenched and chilled by the heavy rain that fell for several hours. Early on the morning of the 7th, we advanced in support of our troops who were then pressing the enemy in front, and on our way we passed over the grounds in front of where the Twelfth and Fourteenth Iowa fought the day before, and here I wish to digress long enough to say that such a sight of horror I never saw before. It was most appalling. The dead lay so thick on the ground that one could scarcely walk without stepping over the dead body of a rebel soldier. Well may this be called the hornet's nest.

Passing on beyond these lines, we encountered the enemy in the woods beyond the field known, I believe, as the peach orchard. Here we formed in line of battle, and after a short engagement, the enemy was routed, a charge was ordered, and a few prisoners taken.

This, as I now remember, was our last fighting at Shiloh.

From this point we returned to our camp, reaching there about dark Monday evening, tired and hungry, having been from camp two days and one night.

I wish to say that I have made this report somewhat longer than I should have done, but for the fact that I have never been able to find a report of the part taken by the Second Iowa Infantry in the battle of Shiloh. I have looked through the adjutant-general's reports of Iowa, and the records of the rebellion, but have as yet found nothing regarding the Second Iowa in this battle. Hence, I have set forth a brief sketch of the part taken by the Second, as I now remember it, not claiming however, that it is absolutely correct in every particular.

Respectfully submitted,

G. L. GODFREY,  
*Com'r Second Iowa Infantry.*

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### THIRD IOWA INFANTRY.

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PITTSBURG LANDING, Tenn., Nov. 16, 1895.

*C. A. Huston, Secretary Iowa Shiloh Battlefield Commission:*

SIR—I have the honor to report that I have made a very careful personal inspection of the portion of the battlefield of Shiloh on which the First Brigade of the Fourth Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps was engaged, and have been able to locate the positions occupied by the Third Regiment of Iowa Infantry Volunteers from the time the regiment went into action at about 7 o'clock on Sunday morning, April 6, 1862, until the close of the battle on that day, and find that the positions of said regiment as indicated on the map prepared by the National Shiloh Battlefield Commission are substantially correct, with the exception of the last position occupied by said regiment, which does not now appear upon said map. The last

position held by the Third Regiment, Iowa Infantry Volunteers, was in the rear of artillery posted near Pittsburg Landing and was taken about 5 o'clock on Sunday evening, after the command of the regiment had devolved upon me. The regiment had become separated from the brigade, and at my request Col. M. M. Crocker of the Thirteenth Iowa Infantry Volunteers permitted us to join his regiment and to form on his right, which was done. We were at this time exposed to a very heavy artillery fire and changed position twice after joining the Thirteenth Iowa, Colonel Crocker giving his commands to the Thirteenth and Third Iowa. As this is an important part of the history and service of my regiment, I have, for the purpose of absolute historical accuracy in this matter, consulted Col. C. C. Cadle and Col. H. H. Rood (late adjutant of the Thirteenth Iowa Infantry), both of whom are present with the commission at the writing of this report, and they fully confirm my statement as to this last position of the Third Iowa Infantry on Sunday, April 6, 1862. With this last position properly indicated on the map the positions of the regiment will be properly shown.

As to the location of the camp of the Third Iowa Infantry, I have to report that the position indicated on the map above referred to is absolutely correct, the camp being near General Hurlburt's headquarters, at the junction of the Corinth and Savannah & Hamburg roads. I have verified the location of the camp by matters so distinct in my memory that I am certain I cannot be mistaken. On the right of the camp ground, and immediately adjoining it, we buried the dead of my company (E), which services I superintended, and was enabled to positively identify this spot, from which the records of the national cemetery at this place show the remains to have been subsequently removed. The depressions from the reopened graves are still very distinct, as are also the circles formed by ditching around the Sibley tents (with which we were then provided) and the depressions where the regimental sinks were located.

In closing this report I wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered me by Col. P. W. Crawford, who was first lieutenant of Company A, Third Iowa Infantry, at the time the battle was fought, and who was wounded in the first day's engagement. Colonel Crawford has made the visit to the battlefield at this time at my request and has been of great

assistance to me in helping to locate and define the positions, etc., as indicated in this report.

Very respectfully submitted,

GEORGE W. CROSLY,

*Late Major Third Iowa Infantry Vols., Com'r.*

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PITTSBURG LANDING, November 16, 1895.

*Col. W. T. Shaw, President Iowa Shiloh Battlefield Commission.*

DEAR SIR—In behalf of the Sixth Iowa Infantry Volunteers, I would respectfully report that on the 14th, 15th and 16th days of November, 1895, in conjunction with General Buell and a member of the engineer corps of the national commission, I made an examination of the battlefield of Shiloh, to ascertain and properly mark and designate the camp and lines of battle of my regiment during the engagement of April 6 and 7, 1862, and herewith submit a statement of the result of my examination, as follows:

My regiment was attached to the First Brigade, Fifth Division of the army of the Tennessee. The brigade was composed of the Sixth Iowa, Fortieth Illinois, and Forty-sixth Ohio Infantry Volunteers, and was commanded by Col. John A. McDowell. The regiment was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Cummins who was unfit for duty and was relieved from command early Sunday morning, April 6, 1862, and the command of the regiment devolved successively on Captains Iseminger and White, who were killed, and Captain Williams, who was severely wounded.

Our camp was the extreme right of the army, and on the Purdy road, at a point about one-half mile east of where said road crosses Owl creek. The camp ground is now occupied by the Herley residence. On Sunday morning, April 6, 1862, the regiment, having laid on its arms all night, formed in line of battle, about 5 o'clock A. M., about 50 yards in advance, and south of its camp, and breakfast was served to the regiment in line of battle. This position was held until about 8:30 A. M. No fighting occurred on this line. The regiment then fell back on the Purdy road, east and north, to near McDowell's Brigade headquarters. Thence north over an open field to the woods that skirt the field, where its second line of battle was formed.

Notes of this position were taken by the engineer of the national commission, who accompanied us. Here severe fighting was done, which resulted in material loss to the regiment in killed and wounded. From this point, the regiment moved north and east, to a point in the woods, south of the Sowell field, and forcing the enemy back from the crest of the ridge, and taking advantage of the timber and logs that lay on the ridge, held this position against repeated attacks of the enemy from about 10:30 A. M., until about 3:30 P. M. The exact position of the regiment on this field, I have been unable to determine other than by my own personal recollection, unverified by any positive historical land marks, and, as at this point my regiment lost fifty men killed, and 120 men wounded, and there was collected and buried, from our immediate front, eighty-five dead confederates; and as this position was the extreme right of the army, and after 12 o'clock, April 6, 1862, was the farthest point from Pittsburg Landing held by the union forces on Shiloh battlefield, I respectfully ask for additional time to thoroughly and exactly define the metes and bounds of this unknown and unsung Hornet's Nest on Shiloh's historic field.

Your commissioner acknowledges with great pleasure the valuable assistance of the national commission and engineer corps, and especially to General Buell, who, notwithstanding his advanced years, spent two days with me in the woods, tracing out the positions of my regiment, seemingly heedless of labor and fatigue, and intent only upon assisting me to exactly define the object of my mission.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. HOUSTON,  
*Com'r Sixth Iowa.*

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FORT MADISON, Iowa, December 2, 1895.

*Col. W. T. Shaw, Chairman:*

DEAR SIR—The undersigned commissioner of the Seventh Iowa respectfully reports: On the arrival of the Seventh Iowa at Pittsburg Landing, early in March, 1862, they went into camp at the right of the Corinth road, about three-quarters of a mile out from the landing, and on the morning of Easter Sunday, April 6, 1862, the camp was alarmed by distant cannonading, which no one present was able to explain. About 8 o'clock

in the morning, as the regiment was preparing for Sunday morning review, an order was received, to be prepared to march at a moment's notice with forty rounds of ammunition; this was quickly followed by another order to make it eighty rounds, and the third order to march to the front, which was immediately complied with. The regiment belonged, at this time, to what was known as the Iowa Brigade, commanded by General Tuttle. We marched to the front, meeting many demoralized soldiers on the way, and finding ourselves coming rapidly near the scene of action, we formed ourselves in line of battle with the rest of the brigade, the Second Iowa on the right, next the Seventh, next the Twelfth, with the Fourteenth on the left. We marched to the front in line of battle and occupied a road, where we stopped, the position of the Seventh being facing a field, on the opposite side of which the rebels were seen in very heavy forces, and where they had posted some batteries which constantly shelled our line. We went into this position about 9:30 A. M., and remained there until about 4:30 P. M., all the time under a galling fire of the enemy. Our casualties were not so heavy as might be supposed, owing to the protected position which we occupied. Repeated charges were made on this line by the enemy, all of which were repulsed. About 4:30 P. M., the troops to the right and left of our brigade having fallen back, and the enemy forming in our rear, we were ordered by General Tuttle to fall back, which we did, beginning on the right. The Second and Seventh got out all right with some loss, but the Twelfth and Fourteenth were not so fortunate. The Seventh Iowa fell back and partially re-formed with the Second Iowa, but only for a short time, when we again fell back and took a position on the Corinth road immediately in front of our camp. This position was taken about 6 o'clock in the evening. At that time a column of rebel cavalry formed in front of our line and manoeuvred for some time, but finally fell back, as it was then growing dark. We held this position all night, and on the morning of the 7th we went to the front again in support of some of the regiments of Buell's army, but were not engaged to speak of on that day, and finally returned to our camp in the evening, which we found had been converted into a hospital for the reception of the wounded, who were being treated by the surgeons.

At the time the commissioners visited the battlefield in November last, I was suffering from a severe cold and did not attend that meeting. I had, however, visited it in April last, at the time of the reunion of the "blue and gray," and in anticipation of the conversion of this battlefield into a national park, and for the purpose of spying out the positions held by my regiment, I went over the ground carefully during parts of two days, and found the camp ground of the regiment as above described, although the spot was thickly grown up with young timber. I also found the location held during the battle, and my selection of the spot agreed thoroughly with yours and others who were then present, among whom was Capt. H. I. Smith of Company B, Seventh Iowa. We looked the ground over thoroughly, and I remembered very distinctly that during the battle on April 6th, a shell had struck a large oak tree near the left of our regiment, and that the top falling had wounded several men. Captain Smith also remembered this incident. We located this tree, and found it still standing with its top torn off, and the largest part which had fallen being almost entirely decayed, but still there. The body of the tree, after thirty three years, still stood, but its interior was entirely turned to black dust, except a shell about two inches thick around the outside. Captain Smith and myself procured a board and marked it with paint, "Position held by Seventh Iowa, from 9:30 to 4:30, April 6th, 1862." This we nailed to a tree on the line, and I understand from the commissioners who attended the meeting in November, that this location was fully concurred in by all the others, and that these positions have been marked by the government commissioners on the maps they are preparing.

Although not present at the meeting of the commissioners in November, I understand that it was decided that I should make this report, which I respectfully submit.

Yours truly,

J. B. MORRISON,  
*Commissioner for Seventh Iowa.*

PITTSBURG LANDING, Tenn., November 16, 1895.

*To the Shiloh Battlefield Commission, Hon. W. T. Shaw, President:*

The undersigned after having examined the ground on the field of Shiloh, relative to the camp and the several positions occupied by the Eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in the battle on that field, on the 6th day of April, 1862, submits to the commission the following report, to-wit:

*First.*—I found the ground occupied by said regiment as its camp, and find it to be the same as has been designated in pencil mark by Major Reed on the official map of said field, and for the description of said position the attention of the commission is referred for approval.

*Second.*—I have also found the first position of the regiment in the battle and find it to be with its center resting near a stake marked 466—S. 82, as set and marked by the surveyors of the national commission, appointed for such survey. The regiment at the above position faced about south of west.

*Third.*—I have also found and recognized to a certainty the second position occupied by the regiment in the battle line and which is the same as now appears on the official map of the national commission, as marked there by Major Reed at my direction. I have personal recollection of this position, and from my own recollection, together with other evidences and lateral facts and circumstances, this position as has been already marked on the official map is correct. This position places the left center of the regiment at right angles with a road that existed at that time and evidences of which are yet plainly seen. It was also parallel with an old road which is yet discernible. This position has been shown by me to Major Reed and appropriate marks made on the map of the national commission, and he to preserve their identity.

*Fourth.*—On careful examination of the ground and after having taken into consideration relative facts and evidences, I have found and designated to Major Reed of the national commission the third position of the Eighth Iowa in battle line, and find it to conform to the statements of Colonel Geddis in his report relative to this position. This position has been designated in

pencil on the official map by Major Reed, and the attention of the commission is referred to the same. The above position is at right angles with the second position of said regiment, and is between the stake set by the national survey, marked respectively L. 64, S. 74..L, 66 S. 72... The front of the regiment was nearly southward and extended from about east to west, north of the brow of a ridge on which extends the old road above referred to and across which the regiment had its second position as above indicated. In this road the greater part of Company E rested as did also a few files of Company H in said second position.

*Fifth.*—As to the point of surrender of the Eighth Iowa Infantry, after careful examination into the facts surrounding the same, I find the surrender to have been at or near a point now designated by a stake set and marked by the national survey as follows: L. 56 S. 88. T.

The foregoing findings I find to conform to the report of Colonel Geddis made of the positions of said regiment and as published in "volume 10, series 1, page 165 of the War of the Rebellion, official records of the union and confederate armies."

The result of my investigation relative to the positions of the Eighth Iowa Infantry has been very satisfactory to me, and I hope that the different positions of said regiment, as above indicated, may be confirmed by the Iowa commission and meet the approval of the survivors of said regiment, and that such positions may be permanently marked on the official map and that said positions may be marked by the erection of suitable monuments at the respective localities named by the loyal people of Iowa as a tribute of respect to those who lost their lives in maintaining them.

Before closing this report, I take pleasure in acknowledging the very valuable assistance I have received from Major Reed and Colonel Cadle, of the national commission. They have made themselves familiar with every part of the field and with the history and the traditions of the same. Without the assistance of these courteous gentlemen, it would have been exceedingly difficult for me to have ascertained the essential facts to accomplish my mission; with their assistance the task has been rendered comparatively easy and affords the assurance of the correctness of my labors. I would also acknowledge the kind and valuable assistance rendered to me by Colonel Shaw of the Fourteenth Iowa. He remembers quite well the events of that

fatal day, and has kept up that acquaintance with the field that was then formed, and he has patiently imparted his knowledge of the important features of the field to all who desired it. His statements to me relative to the field and the battle have been very beneficial to me in determining the positions of the Eighth Regiment, as set forth in this report.

Very respectfully submitted to the commission this 16th day of November, 1895, at Pittsburg Landing, Tenn.

L. KINKEAD,  
*Commissioner Eighth Iowa Infantry.*

PITTSBURG LANDING, Tenn., November 15, 1895.

*Col. W. T. Shaw, President Shiloh Battlefield Commission:*

DEAR SIR—In behalf of the Eleventh Regiment Iowa Infantry Volunteers, I would respectfully report that in conjunction with the other members of the Iowa Commission, on the 14th, 15th and 16th days of the present month I made an examination of the battlefield of Shiloh to ascertain and properly designate the positions, as well as the camp, of my regiment during the engagement of April 6 and 7, 1862, and herewith submit a detailed statement of my examination, and the same is as follows, to-wit:

Lieut.-Col. William Hall of the regiment was in command (Col. A. M. Hale being in command of the First Brigade of McClelland's Division, composed of the Eleventh and Thirteenth Iowa and the Eighth and Eighteenth Illinois), and on the 9th day of April, 1862, submitted his report of the part taken by the regiment to Lieut. Cornelius Cadle, Jr., Acting Assistant Adjutant-General of the First Brigade, First Division, Army of the Tennessee, which is so clear and definite as to leave no doubt as to where the Eleventh Iowa was on that occasion, so that with his report in hand I proceeded to locate the camp occupied by the Eleventh Iowa Infantry on the morning of April 6, 1862, and had no difficulty in definitely locating the camp in an open field, designated on the map as "Sewell's land," half a mile north of the Corinth road and about one mile northeast of the old Shiloh church, and from this point the regiment marched to the front and left about one-half mile, and formed in line of battle in an open, the right resting in a

pond in support of "Dresser's Battery," and the left resting on a road in support of "Burrows' Battery."

This open field is still open, and the pond mentioned is still there, but now drained so as to permit its cultivation, and the line established that day and occupied by my regiment is fully identified and established as the position first occupied and maintained for nearly two hours, the loss in killed and wounded being heavy. The regiment then retired, under orders, to a point about 100 yards to the left and rear of the old camp ground, where severe fighting took place again, resulting in heavy loss in killed and wounded, resulting in a loss of nearly 200 men out of a total number engaged of 750, with only one man missing, and the capture of one standard from the enemy.

The fourth and last position occupied by the regiment on the 6th of April, in support of the siege guns and batteries about one-half mile from the landing, as indicated on the map by General Buell as "H and 2," *Century Magazine* for March, 1886, which is substantially correct. We remained in this position until the close of the fight, and slept there that night.

The Eleventh Regiment did no fighting on the 7th. We moved out early in the morning on the main Corinth road, about one mile and a half, in support of a heavy gun, but the enemy was in retreat, and about 4 o'clock P. M. we reached our old camp ground and occupied our own tents that night.

In performing this duty, in locating our camp and positions in battle I was assisted by Colonel Cadle, who was at one time a member of my company, H, afterwards First Lieutenant and Adjutant of the regiment, and during the battle acting as Assistant Adjutant-General of the brigade to which we were attached, and to whom my thanks are hereby tendered.

JOHN H. MUNROE,

*Eleventh Iowa Commissioner.*

P. S.—The several locations and positions mentioned herein were noted by the engineer of the National Commission, and will so appear on the official map of the battlefield.

PITTSBURG LANDING, Tenn., November 16, 1895.

*Col. W. T. Shaw, Chairman Iowa Shiloh Battlefield Commission:*

SIR—I beg to report for the Twelfth Regiment, Iowa Infantry:

*First.*—That the position held by the regiment, the third from the right in Tuttle's Brigade, from about 9 o'clock A. M. until about 4:30 o'clock P. M., April 6, 1862, is very clearly identified and marked and has been correctly noted by the government engineers on the official maps.

*Second.*—The location and position where the regiment met the enemy, after passing over the first ridge directly in rear of the position occupied during the day while falling back, facing to the rear, in the ravine designated by them as "Hell's Hollow," where desperate fighting, resulting in the rout of the enemy, took place, was also identified and likewise noted by the engineers and designated on the official maps.

*Third.*—The point of surrender on the evening of April 6, 1862, at the camp of the Third Iowa Infantry, was also identified and located, the same being at what is now the McDaniel house, which is built at the extreme left of the camp, and the same is also correctly located and designated on the official maps.

*Fourth.*—The camp of the Twelfth Iowa was also visited, identified and its location correctly noted on the official maps, as well as the original burying place of the regiment's dead, subsequently removed to the National cemetery near by.

I further beg to state that I was accompanied and assisted in this work by Lieut.-Col. S. G. Knee, formerly of Company H; Lieut. Abner Dunham, Company F, and Hart Spears, Esq., formerly of Company C, Twelfth Regiment, Iowa Infantry Volunteers, all of whom were present at the battle of Shiloh, with the regiment, and all the positions above noted were fully identified by them; and here I beg to return thanks to them for their thoughtful and kindly assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

E. B. SOPER,

*Com'r Twelfth Regiment Iowa Infantry.*

PITTSBURG LANDING, Tenn., November 16, 1895.

*Col. W. T. Shaw, Chairman Iowa Shiloh Battlefield Commission:*

DEAR SIR—In behalf of the Thirteenth Regiment of Iowa Infantry Volunteers I would respectfully report that with the others of my regiment who kindly rendered their assistance on the 14th, 15th and 16th days of November, 1895, I made an examination of the battlefield of Shiloh to ascertain and properly mark and designate the positions (as well as the camp) of my regiment during the engagement of April 6 and 7, 1862, and herewith submit a statement of my examination, as follows:

Col. M. M. Crocker was in command of the regiment, which was attached to a brigade composed of the Eleventh and Thirteenth Iowa and the Eighth and Eighteenth Illinois, attached to the First Brigade, First Division, Army of the Tennessee, and our camp was established in an open field designated on the map as the "Sewells land," to the right of the Eleventh Iowa, half a mile north of the Corinth road and about one mile northeast of the old Shiloh church, and from this point the regiment, about 8 A. M. on April 6, 1862, was ordered to a point on the left of the Second Brigade, in a skirt of woods bordering on an open field, and on the left of a battery. This field is now known as the "review field" and the battery is known to have been McAllister's (Second Illinois Light Artillery, Battery D). This position was fully identified. From this position, Colonel Crocker's report shows, the regiment retired a distance of 100 or 200 yards. This second position, where the regiment reformed and advanced, was also fully identified and is shown on the map now being made by the government as line 90, station 86.

In this position, where the regiment remained until about 12 o'clock, the regiment maintained its position firmly, resisting all attacks and retiring in good order and without haste for a distance of about 200 yards, as stated by Colonel Hare, commanding the brigade. Colonel Crocker does not give the distance or direction, but your commissioner and those with him think the distance considerably greater and they have not clearly fixed the point where this was, but have indicated their

judgment to the government engineers, subject to revision. In this position, for a period of about four hours, the regiment maintained its position against all attacks, and with severe loss. From this position, not fully identified, the regiment at 4:30 P. M. was ordered to fall back and form in front of the camps of the Fourteenth, Second and Seventh Iowa Regiments, the right of the line of the Thirteenth Iowa nearly in front of the right of the Fourteenth Iowa camp, and at a point which has been pointed out to the engineer in charge and will be properly noted on the maps.

Your commissioner asks for further time and the united judgment of other commands on the right and left of the regiment during the engagement in our last position, occupied from about noon to 4:30 P. M., before making a final decision as to its location.

Your commissioner acknowledges with great pleasure the valuable assistance of the following comrades of the regiment, who have accompanied him and very carefully gone over every portion of the ground and have fully agreed upon all the points in this report. Those comrades were: John R. McCloskey, Company A; D. S. Stover, Company B; S. W. Brunt, Company D; W. H. Penn, Company E; Henry Zimmerman, Company F., and H. H. Rood, Company A. Also to Colonel Cadle, General Buell, Major Reed and Captain Irwin for valuable assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. W. KEPLER.

*Com'r Thirteenth Iowa Infantry.*

ANAMOSA, Iowa, November 22, 1895.

*C. A. Huston, Waubeek, Iowa, Secretary Shiloh Battlefield Commission:*

SIR—I herewith report to you in regard to the location and position of the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry Volunteers, in the battle of April 6, 1862.

In September, 1895, I visited the battlefield, and in company with the secretary and engineer of the national Shiloh battlefield commissioners, located the camp and positions of the Fourteenth, in the engagement of the 6th.

We also located the positions of the Second, Seventh,

Twelfth and Eighth Iowa, taking careful measurements of distances and courses so as to enable the engineer to accurately locate their positions on the map now being made for the secretary of war. These positions were visited by the commissioners for the Second, Eighth and Twelfth Iowa, and their location verified and approved on the 15th and 17th of November, 1895.

The Seventh Iowa had no commissioner present, but its position being between the Second and Twelfth, and its movements being identical with the Second, there was no difficulty in locating its position on the map, by the engineer, as well as the other commissioners present.

In conclusion, I would say that the position of the First Brigade, Second Division (Tuttle's Brigade), having been maintained on the same ground during almost the entire day, and their camps not having been captured by the enemy, there was little or no difficulty in locating them, so that the preliminary map, which will be soon furnished the commissioners, will show the exact positions of the brigade and Eighth Iowa, on the battlefield.

WM. T. SHAW,  
*Com'r for Fourteenth Iowa.*

PITTSBURG LANDING, Tenn., November 16, 1895.

*Col. Wm. T. Shaw, President Iowa Shiloh Battlefield Commission:*

SIR—In behalf of the Fifteenth Iowa Infantry Volunteers, I have the honor to report that I have been perfectly successful in finding and definitely locating the position where its line of battle was formed in the battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, on the 6th of April, 1862.

The regiment having arrived from the north about daylight on that morning, was very soon thereafter supplied with ammunition and formed in line at the top of the hill at Pittsburg Landing, where we awaited orders until about 8:20 A. M., when we were ordered to the front to which we marched under the guidance of an officer of General McClelland's staff, but by such a circuitous route that it would now be next to impossible for any surviving member of the regiment to follow it or to find the position where the regiment first formed its line of

battle and engaged the enemy; a fortunate circumstance, however, has enabled me to overcome this obstacle and to find the position without reference to the line of march alluded to, and in order to verify the correctness of my conclusions I will state that the mortuary record of the national cemetery at Pittsburg Landing contains a list of the bodies of the killed of this regiment, which were removed to the national cemetery from the trenches where they were temporarily buried on the battle ground, and the location, bearings and description of these trenches are so definitely given in the record as to enable me, with the assistance of an engineer of the government commission, to find them without difficulty.

The trenches referred to are situated in the woods to the east of the south end of what is now known as the Sowell field, and the description as given in the mortuary record is such as to leave no doubt as to their identity, for it is there recorded that the bodies of the men (some of whom are identified by name as members of the Fifteenth Iowa), were removed from two trenches at a point about one-half mile south of the David Harmon place, and about one-half mile northwest of the Corinth road, fourteen in one line and three in another line, running north and south, the latter being about ten feet east of the former line.

The topography of the ground at the point referred to and in the immediate vicinity being in such exact conformity with my own recollections, and with the recollection of a number of other survivors of the regiment with whom I have recently corresponded on the subject, that I am absolutely sure of the correctness of my conclusion. In locating the line of battle of the regiment on the ground above designated, I assume that the dead were collected and buried as near to the spot where they fell as the shape and nature of the ground would permit, which seems to have been some little distance in rear of the center of the line, for in making a careful examination of the ground, both front and rear and on the two flanks, having in view the fact that the right of the regiment rested at or near the edge of the open field, and the left near a small stream or depression having somewhat steep banks, there would not seem to be sufficient room for the regiment on a line closer to the location of the burial trenches than that indicated by me to the engineer and which will appear on the official map now being made. Respectfully submitted,

E. C. BLACKMAR,  
*Commissioner Fifteenth Iowa Infantry.*

PITTSBURG LANDING, Nov. 15, 1895.

*Col. W. T. Shaw, Chairman:*

SIR—The undersigned has to-day made full investigation as to the position of the Sixteenth Iowa at the battle of Shiloh, and makes his report to the Iowa Commission:

Our regiment reached this landing on the morning of April 6, 1862; was at once formed in line on the bank of the river; there for the first time received ammunition and was shortly marched to the front, which we reached about 10 o'clock A. M. About a mile and a half from the landing we entered the northeast corner of what is now known as the Sowell field, near Oglesby's headquarters, and in conjunction with the Fifteenth Iowa were directed to a position on the south side of such field, near the timber. The right of the Sixteenth rested some 500 feet distant from the west line of such field, our front facing the timber. Here the losses of our regiment in the battle of Shiloh were largely sustained, and at the left of this line our dead were buried April 8th. The exact spot I am unable to fix. In this position we were engaged for a considerable time (given in official reports as two hours), when we retreated across the field, leaving it on the east side, about a quarter of a mile south of Oglesby's headquarters. In the afternoon a portion of our regiment was brought into position by Colonel Sanders, at a point now impossible for me to determine.

On the morning of the 7th our regiment formed on the Corinth road, about a half mile from the landing, as a support to siege guns, and there remained until the close of the battle.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN HAYES,  
*Commissioner Sixteenth Iowa*



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