

March 22, a foot deep snowfall had many members of his regiment filled with thoughts of Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties. ³⁰

During March of 1864, Reuben E. Fenton, a member of the U. S. House of Representatives from Chautauqua County, presented to President Lincoln a petition signed by himself and seventeen others. The appeal recommended the promotion of Colonel Jones to brigadier general. The President turned the paper over to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and there the matter lay. ³¹ When Jones led the 154th New York out of Lookout Valley on May 4, 1864, Adolphus Buschbeck was in command of the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 20th Corps. The regiment was now a part of the Army of the Cumberland in General Sherman's reorganized command. The 11th and 12th Corps had been consolidated to form the 20th. Von Steinwehr left and Major General John White Geary assumed command of the division. ³²

Four days after the opening of the campaign, May 8, Geary's division was ordered to make a demonstration against Dug Gap on Rocky Face Ridge, Georgia. The mountain was crowned with a palisade of boulders behind which waited the Confederate infantry. Huge rolling stones as well as rifle fire confronted them as Colonel Jones led his regiment up the mountain. Underneath the large outcropping of rock the men of the 154th paused to catch their breath and then Jones led his command to the summit. He had no sooner mounted the rocks at the crest when he was thrown back over the escarpment. In this fall he was injured by a contusion. After safely removing their colors from the mountaintop, the remaining members of the 154th were ordered to retreat by Lieutenant Colonel Dan Allen. ³³

Colonel Jones returned to Chattanooga after the battle and spent a month convalescing while his regiment continued south to battles at