

STATE OF NEW YORK :  
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CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK:

I, ALEXANDER BIRD, of Ellicottville, Cattaraugus County, New York, being duly sworn deposes and says,

That in June 1865 he was discharged by reason of the close of the war, as First Lieut. of and commanding Co. F 154 New York Volunteers. That on the 2nd day of May 1863 he was First Corporal of Co. G. of said Regiment, 11th Army Corps. That on the said 2nd day of May 1863 he was with his said regiment and participated with his regiment in the Battle of Chancellorsville, Va. That on the said 2nd day of May he well knew C. P. Vedder who was then Captain of Co. H of said regiment, which regiment was encamped in an open field near Raw Ball Tavern, near General Howard's Headquarters. That at some considerable distance, probably 100 rods in the rear of said regiment was a dense piece of woods, and that said regiment was fiercely attacked by Stonewall Jackson about 5 P. M. of that day. That the loss of the regiment was heavy in killed and wounded, as the advance of the Confederates was stubbornly resisted. The regiment was driven back inch by inch and when surrounded on three sides and a heavy fire pouring in on the regiment it was ordered to retreat.

I remember distinctly of seeing Capt. Vedder after the order for retreat was given not in front of, but in the rear of the retreating regiment, as I was close by him.

I also well knew W. F. Chapman, First Lieutenant Co. K of said regiment. While the regiment was on the retreat Lieut. Chapman was dangerously wounded being shot through the leg and through his body at the shoulder. He was a short distance in advance of Capt. Vedder on the retreat when he was shot, about 30 or 40 rods from the

[Ellicottville Historical Museum]

woods, and as said Vedder came up to him he said, "For God's sake Captain help me into the woods and don't let me be taken a prisoner". Capt. Vedder at the risk of his own life <sup>and under a heavy fire</sup> assisted Lieut. Chapman to a place of greater safety in the woods. That the greatest casualties were on the retreat to said woods, and Capt. Vedder and ~~Lieut. Chapman were both every minute in peril of their~~ lives until the woods were reached. That deponent was on the right of Capt. Vedder and Lieut. Chapman, and somewhat further towards the woods assisting another wounded man to the woods, and after reaching the woods he saw Capt. Vedder in the open field partly carrying Lieut. Chapman on his back, but did not see them after they reached the woods, as deponent plunged further into the woods to join the rest of his regiment which was in advance of him in the retreat.

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Subscribed and sworn to  
before me this 4th day of March 1901.

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