

most I make for the credit of the district and to
 [for six columns.]
 "A Brave Soldier Boy!"
 Among the many acts of heroic bravery, so
 widely circulated among the newspapers as stir-
 ring "scenes by flood and field" in the recent battle
 of Manassas Plain, on the 21st July, 1861, none more
 justly deserves a passing memento than the gallant
 department of young DAVID MYERS, of Louisiana,
 a grand son of Col. DAVID MYERS, deceased, for-
 merly of Richland District, in South Carolina.
 This gowd soldier is only fourteen years old,
 and a member of 'Capt GARY's Company, in
 Hampton's Legion, and is a nephew of the Hon.
 TILMAN WATSON, of Edgefield District, whose
 name that Company bears (the Watson Guards).
 This little fellow deserted his military school at
 Aiken, and contrived to enlist secretly in a Company
 for the defence of Charleston and the subjugation
 of Fort Sumner, without letting his father or any
 of his relatives know anything of his whereabouts,
 and lived so privately at Morris' Island during the
 siege, there, that although he had two uncles
 (Senators in the State Legislature) in that city during
 the month of January, who frequently visited the
 works and defences, they never dreamed that he
 was enrolled in the encampment as a soldier there,
 where he remained until the surrender by Major
 ANDERSON.
 This so fired his young heart, that he then insisted
 on going to his grandmother's, in Edgefield District,
 that he would be permitted to join the Watson
 Guards, under Capt. Gary, and said that he was
 determined to fight the Yankees to the end of the
 war, and his grandmother at last yielded, and sent
 a big strong negro fellow to take care of him.
 On the day of the memorable battle Dave was
 sick, and had been several days; but, with a light
 breakfast, and a blister on him the size of a break-
 fast plate, he ran seven miles as well as any of
 them, and was in the midst of the severest part
 of the fighting, after being five hours on foot, shot
 an officer and advanced upon him under a heavy
 fire some distance in front of his company, and
 captured a sword from his person, which he now
 bears in his own possession; he killed a soldier and
 took his gun, also, in another part of the fray; and
 at the outset of the battle, when Lieut. Col. John-
 son fell dead, and his brother field officers were
 bearing him off the field to the rear, and the legion
 began to reel, "We have no officer left to lead
 us," Capt. Gary, in a loud voice, said (raising his
 sword), "Follow me!" when, among the fifteen or
 twenty who followed him, Dave was of that num-
 ber; although they had eventually to fall back to the
 main body.
 After the action, and unobscuredly to the disas-
 trous defeat and disorderly retreat of the Grand
 Army, when once more upon his sick pallet, Mr.
 John Nicholson, a brother soldier who had more
 experience, advised him to go back to Richmond
 to recruit his health, but turning over with his
 teeth firmly set, he declared that he would never
 do that until the Confederate Army had captured
 the City of Washington.
 That nothing should deprive him of being pre-
 sent on that occasion, and true to his instincts he
 is still lingering in the field, awaiting the slow but
 certain approaches of the army to that result.
 Long life to the noble fellow, the gallant boy,
 whose grandfather fell mortally wounded by the
 Tories, near Orangeburg, in the Revolution of
 1776, while leading a detachment of Whigs to the
 charge, and in the moment of victory! Well
 done! Our brave soldier boy!

David Myers Hampton's Legion



Clipped By:
hjs21
Wed, Sep 8, 2021