

# CHATTANOOGANS OF BYGONE DAYS RECALLED

## "Old Familiar Faces," Reprinted From The Times of Oct. 12, 1890, Tells of Will Crisp, the Irrepressible; Miotke, the Tailor; Pearson and His Turbulent Sons, "Fatty" Harris and a Host of Others

**THIS** article, written nearly thirty-eight years ago by an anonymous historian, is reprinted from THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES of Oct. 12, 1890. In reading it Chattanoogaans will do well to remember that many of the men mentioned have passed away, that a few have returned to Chattanooga and that the rest still wander far afield.

### OLD FAMILIAR FACES.

Should old acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind?  
Should old acquaintance be forgot  
And days of Auld Lang Syne?

We sometimes soon forget the familiar faces and pleasant words of those who at different times have figured conspicuously in our battle through life, either by business contact or social relation, when they have been taken from our midst by death or change of residence.

Many readers, especially those who have claimed Chattanooga as their home any length of time, will find below names that will recall memories which have slumbered for years and, perhaps, would have never been thought of again but for this article. One has but to look over some of the old city directories to be convinced of this fact.

While we have just cause for feeling proud of the growth of our city one cannot help wondering at the great number of people who have at some time or other lived here and since moved away. Then there are those who have been taken from us by the grim reaper, death, but of these I have said nothing, leaving them to rest in peace. Among the list will be noticed some who have left us under peculiar circumstances or have been forced to do so through the discovery of their wicked ways, but I am happy to say there are a great many more whom we were loath to part with and would be delighted to welcome back among us at any time.

### Histrionic Will Crisp.

I have often thought of Will Crisp, who for several years had a paint shop in the rear of the Bradt Printing Company. Will was well known by everybody in town as a whole-souled, jolly good fellow, and, though only an ordinary sign painter, he by his wonderful cheek and limber figure held a position in society that other men could have done under circumstances. Being of a glib disposition, Will at one time

J. W. Burton was one of the first and best operators the Western Union Telegraph Company ever employed here and served in that capacity a long time, and I think was at one time local manager. He is now farming on Sand Mountain.

W. C. Delong, familiarly called "Wick," is in Texas.

E. B. Edwards, formerly one of the firm of D. Hitzpatrick & Co., wholesale liquor dealers, was later on in the same business alone and occupied

J. F. Mee, who at one time did business here under the firm name of Mee & Mills, is now farming at the mouth of Pewee Creek on the Tennessee River. His partner, Mills, is dead.

Those Wild Pearson Boys.

A. A. Pearson was a Justice of the Peace here in 1871 and was the chief promoter and afterward captain of the Metropolitan Police. Pearson had four or five sons who were a "holy terror" and source of fear to

ness after many years of success, and has gone to farming back on Look-out.

Speaking of old times and things, I wonder what has become of that mail pouch which was invented by Sam Strauss and others, "with the accent on the others," and alleged to have been adopted by the Government. Sam is a Government agent in the Indian Territory, having been appointed to that position by President Harrison, but whatever became of the mail bag is a mystery, for I have been around several postoffices and have never seen one in use yet.

### Became a Detective.

Clarence Eaves was once a telegraph operator in the Western Union office at this place. He is now a famous detective with the Pinkertons in New York City. Several noted criminals and large rewards have been captured by him, thereby adding to the great reputation of the Pinkerton Detective Agency more than to his own credit.

F. F. Morrill, who was Secretary and Treasurer of the Wason Car Works, which is now known as the Chattanooga Car and Foundry Company, is at present cashier of a bank in Connecticut.

W. A., better known as Wal Carr, was a Chattanooga in "Stanton's time," and was in the general office of the A. & C. Railroad, which J. C. Stanton (who, by the way, did more to start the place to building up to the great city she is today than any other one man) was the President of and built the road. Wal Carr is living in Chicago and J. C. Stanton is at the head of a railroad in New York.

In the '70s J. C. Whitney, who at that time was connected with W. Crutchfield & Co., wholesale dry goods and notions, was one of the handsomest and most popular society men in the town. He was to Chattanooga then what a well-known bachelor I have in my mind's eye and who resembled Whitney not a little is now. Of course, this "don't go" if anybody guesses who it is. Whitney moved from here to Chicago and is engaged at a tremendous salary as a tea expert, there being but few good men of the kind in this country.

Years and years ago A. L. Colwell established in the building now occupied by G. A. Jarnigan as a grocery store the hardware business which is now conducted on such a mammoth

during the war and was a surveyor and civil engineer here several years after, when he removed to Birmingham, Ala., where he still resides.

Louis Bach, who was selling clothing here in 1871 and later on, is now conducting the same business in Tiffin, Ohio.

Ike Saunders! Is there anybody who, if he were here only for one day eight or ten years ago, doesn't remember Ike Saunders? If so, I would like to see the color of his hair and know his or her name. Ike was probably the best known man in town in his time. Nothing ever happened in the "burg" that he didn't know all about or have a hand in. And I can remember what a prominent part he always took in Fourth of July celebrations, no small affairs, either, for Chattanooga took a great deal of pride in her Fourth of July celebrations in those days—much more so than now. The program carried out on July 4, 1876, would do credit to the city now, to which I would call the attention of our city fathers should they desire to celebrate at some time in the future. Ike Saunders is now in Detroit, Mich., in the wholesale whisky business.

### An Old Bakery Stand.

O. K. Brooks, who was in the bakery business with G. M. D. Heard, as Brooks & Heard, their old stand being on the east side of Market Street, between Sixth and Seventh, is now married and lives in Cleveland, Ohio. He is Secretary and Treasurer of the Cleveland Malleable Iron Works.

Paul Kammerer carried on an upholstery business in a small frame building on Market Street, next to the old First National Bank, now occupied by Bradt. The wooden building which Kammerer was in has long since been torn down and a handsome three-story brick erected in its stead. Kammerer was here a number of years and no doubt, by way of his trade, has made life easier for a great many of us. He is still following the same business in New York.

As far back as 1870 and for a number of years later, E. P. Belknap was the leading dentist of the place and had a "pull" at all our old citizens. Belknap and his family, which consisted of three pretty daughters and a son, were very popular.

The elder gentleman is practicing his profession in Cincinnati and the younger is traveling with a minstrel show. The girls I never kept up with.

Importing houses in New York, and he can't do enough for any old friends from Chattanooga when they come up his way.

Thomas W. Ragsdale, a former Chattanooga, prominent in society and a leader in military affairs, who was for so long connected with the freight department of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad, is now General Superintendent of the Memphis Elevator Company at that place.

W. R. Carlile, at one time of the

Chattanooga. He was identified with all the leading newspapers at different times, and was once United States Gauger for this district, and is now publishing a paper at Jackson, Tenn.

S. A. Cunningham at one time claimed Chattanooga as his home and since leaving here has visited us on numerous occasions and is always entertained by the elite of the city. He was at one time proprietor and publisher of THE TIMES, afterward

he is in the Indian Territory, but I guess he will never come back to Chattanooga.

Parks Foster, who was once Assistant Superintendent of the Roane Iron Works, is now in Elyria, Ohio.

Jake Friedman, of the old popular grocers who kept store for so long on Market Street, between Eighth and Ninth, is in San Antonio, Texas.

Years ago Joseph Ourbacker was a leading merchant here in stoves and tinware. He is now in Louisville, Ky.

Ruble & Hight was one of the prominent old firms, agricultural implements, and their place of business was out beyond the Western and Atlantic crossing, about where Chess, Carley & Co.'s oil depot is now. I think Frank Hight is somewhere in Georgia, and George S. Ruble, who owned and lived at the Mountain Home, on Lookout, is now farming at White Cloud, Minn.

E. O. Tade, who was cashier of the National Savings Bank and Trust Company, and for whom "Tade Town" was named, is now living in California.

John G. Webb, in Chattanooga's earliest days, was a ticket broker and confectioner, but left town to take up his abode in New York. John and his wife are very familiar figures in New York society, she being an elocutionist of some note.

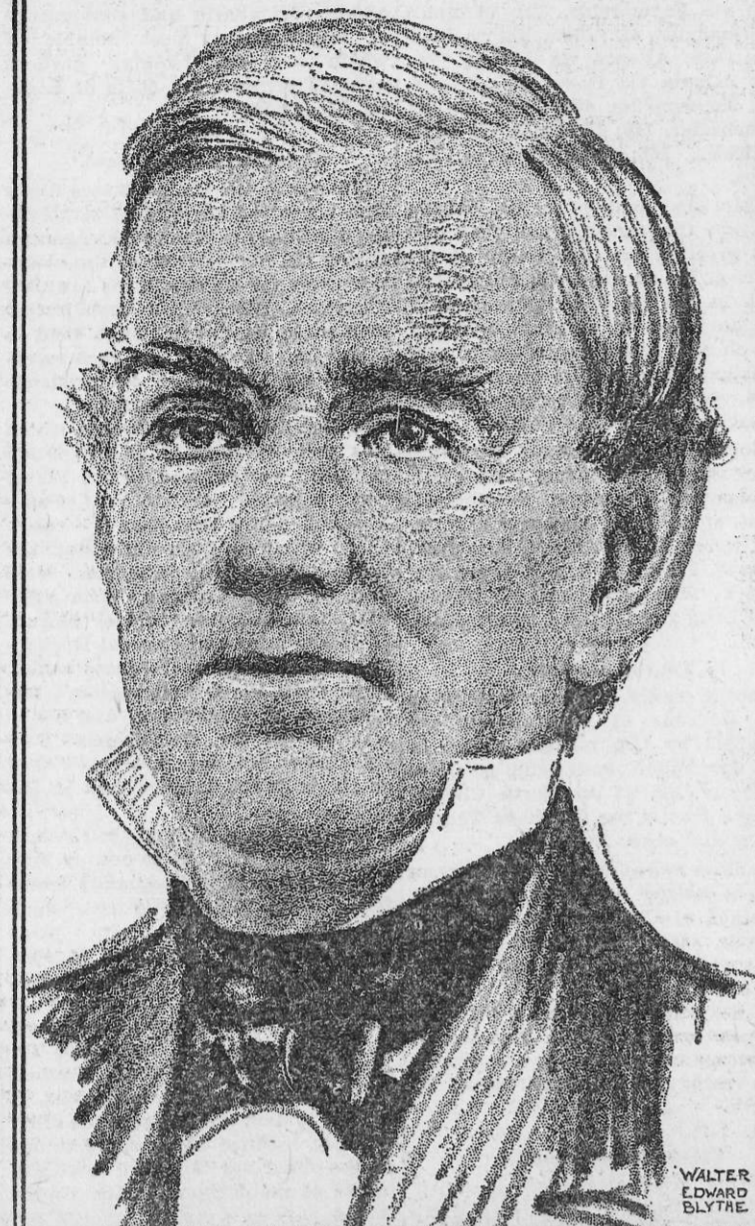
Harry Wilcox was a plumber and the organizer of our first volunteer fire company, which merged into a paid department of which he was the chief. No man in town was better known than Harry Wilcox. He is now in New Orleans.

### Built First Street Railway.

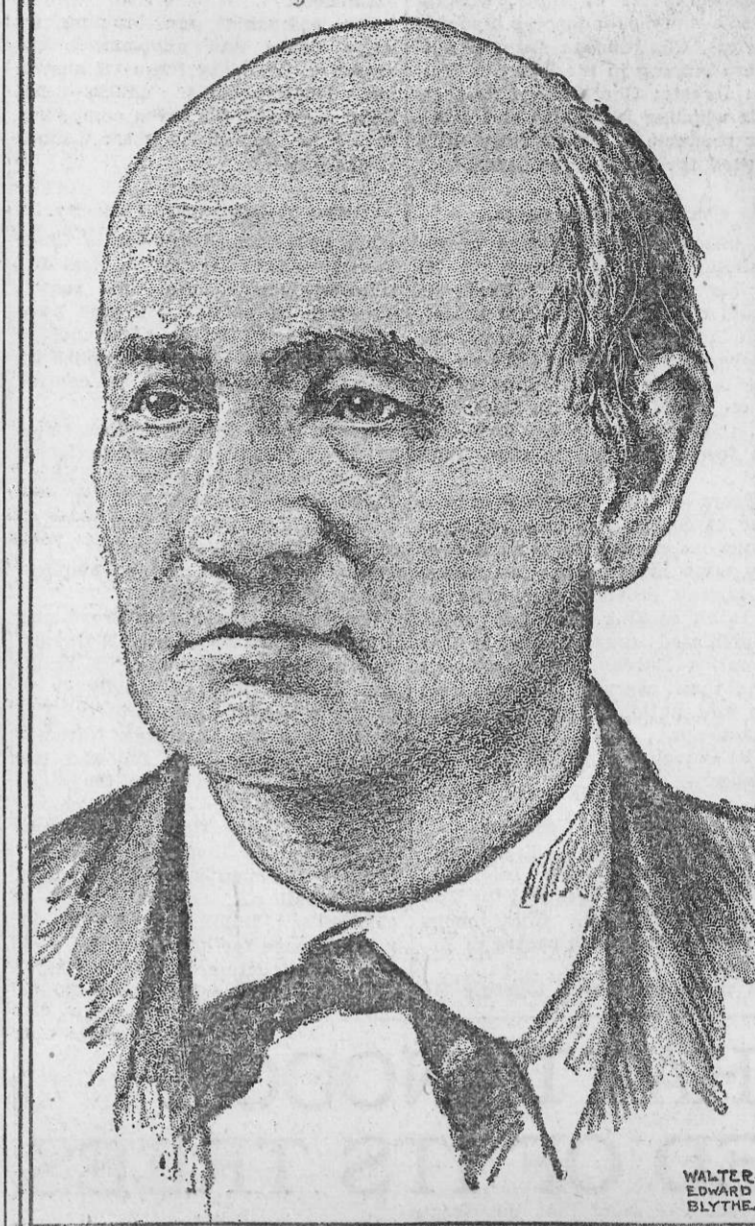
A. L. Harris, commonly called "Fatty Harris," was the man who built the first street railway Chattanooga ever had. The line reached from the corner of Ninth Street to the river, and had two cars with a single mule pulling each, and everybody was allowed to ride free the first day. "Fatty" is in Atlanta now and is publishing a Railway Gazette.

Thomas J. Hewell used to be in the employ of the Queen & Crescent Company at this point. Hewell was the man who, as a detective in the Pinkerton service, fired the first shot at the mob in the St. Louis railway strike some time ago and for which he was tried and honorably acquitted.

William Booth was a Market Street grocer a few years ago; he is now in South America.



WALTER EDWARD BLYTHE.



WALTER EDWARD BLYTHE.

and James Hall, Crisp, himself, painting all the scenery and managing the whole affair, acquitting himself very creditably. He soon after left Chattanooga, and, the last I heard of him, he was traveling with a dramatic company throughout the Southwest. Strange to relate, this aggregation of all stars never strikes Chattanooga for some reason or other, I cannot imagine why, unless it is that William so dislikes to be "dunned."

F. Miotke was a tailor here a number of years ago, part of the time with S. Bissinger as Bissinger & Miotke, and later by himself. All of the dudes of those days had Miotke make their clothes, for he was about the only fashionable tailor here, but some of them never got their last suit out for which they left their measure and money, for Miotke "turned up missing" one morning, and, after several days' inquiry, it was found that he had eloped with a well-known woman and gone to Texas. He has not been heard from since.

This landing was christened Chattanooga in 1838, when the State granted the first charter. Treaties signed in 1838 banished the Indians from their homes, and troops escorted thousands of men, women and children of the Cherokee tribes and marched them toward their reservations beyond the Mississippi. In the long march of more than 600 miles more than 4,000 Indians died—a ghastly sacrifice to the greed of the white man's civilization.

the storeroom on the corner of Ninth and Market, where the Chattanooga National Bank now is.

D. R. Grafton was a butcher away back yonder, doing business alone sometimes and with a partner at others. At one time the firm was Grafton & Thatcher. Mr. Thatcher is still living here, but Mr. Grafton left several years ago and is now preaching in Texas. He was a very popular man and a prominent Mason.

H. H. Knox was on old citizen, in the general merchandise business and at one time a deputy sheriff, and was generally known and liked by everybody. He is now in the mercantile business at Calhoun, Tenn.

John Mitchell, a merchant, whom any of the old-timers will remember, is cotton-planting near Bluff City, Ala.

land, Ohio, and now has a nut and bolt factory at that place.

### Everybody Met at Fryon's.

In the good old days of my youth, on being sent by "Maw" for a spool of thread, a yard of "calico" or anything in the dry goods line, I would "scoot" barefooted, a "stone bruise" on one heel, across vacant lots, passing other stores where it could have gotten the thing just as well, and go straight to J. B. Fryon's—his was the store of all other stores, then, always filled with busy customers making purchases, and ladies making appointments to meet one another would say, "I'll meet you at Fryon's" at such or such an hour. Things have changed since then. Fryon is out of business now, and others have the "pull." Mr. Fryon is now a traveling salesman for the Corticelli Silk Company.

James Long was a son of the late John P. Long, one of the earliest settlers of Chattanooga, or rather Ross's Landing, as it was known when he came here. James was an engineer in the Confederate Navy

served for nine years as reporter on THE Tennessean and was known by everybody; but his health began failing and he determined to try the climate of Colorado in hopes of building up, but after a stay of several months, and having recuperated wonderfully, he returned here, only to fall rapidly in health again, so he has gone back to that wonderful country in which he feels confident his life will last much longer than in any other. He is at present working on THE DENVER NEWS and occupying the head position in the city department.

### Hospitable New Yorker.

While in New York recently I was pleased to meet an old Chattanooga boy who was "way up in G." "Out of sight," as the saying goes. It was none other than Coleman E. Adler, whom all the young fellows of a few years back will remember as a clerk in the jewelry house of Schott Bros., who came here from Cincinnati and were in business on the west side of Market, between Seventh and Eighth. "Coley" is the manager and expert for one of the largest diamond

firm of H. Clay Evans & Co., flour mill, is now in New York.

H. N. Snyder, who a long time ago had a dry goods and grocery store, was at one time editor of THE TIMES and later a traveling passenger agent with headquarters here, is now in the Pension Department at Washington, D. C.

on April 18, 1838, erected a log cabin in the woods and settled down for life. In 1838 a Postoffice was established and Mr. Long was appointed Postmaster.

As early as 1838 Chattanooga was a military post. Four companies of Tennessee volunteers in the service of the United States were stationed here. Later they were replaced by a portion of the regular army, two regiments of artillery, acting as infantry, composing the garrison.

When the Legislature in 1837 passed an act creating the Ocoee land district and established an entry-taking office at Cleveland, land could be entered at \$7.50 an acre. At that time the property owners of the quarter section that is now Chattanooga numbered twenty-eight. The owners transferred their right of occupancy to three commissioners or trustees. They were A. M. Rawlings, George W. Williams and John P. Long.

In the Summer of 1838 the town was laid off into lots by Josiah Patty of Roane County. Two hundred and forty acres were included in the corporate limits. Georgia Avenue was the eastern boundary. The present Ninth Street, then known as Garners Street, was the southern boundary. The south side of the river was the north line of the town and the foot of Cameron Hill was the western limit.

Captain Long died in his eighty-second year at his residence on Seventh Street on Jan. 30, 1889. He was born at Knoxville on Nov. 25, 1807. In addition to having been the first Postmaster and one of the three commissioners who laid out the town, he was for several terms the City Recorder or Judge. A merchant in early life, he later was admitted to the bar and yet later engaged in the real estate business.

he published and edited a paper in New York called The South, and is now on the staff of The Nashville American.

### Steve Razor's Disappearance.

Everybody knew Steve Razor while he was here. Like a mushroom, he sprung suddenly among us and as suddenly disappeared. I understand

were cotton brokers, are now in Fort Smith, Ark., in the furniture business.

C. B. Freeman, a prominent Justice of the Peace here at one time and local politician, is now in Oklahoma.

John B. Glass, an old Chattanooga boy and for years connected with D. B. Loveman & Co., is now with D. Rich & Co., Atlanta, Ga.

Ed Gumph, who was with the Queen & Crescent here, is still with that road in Cincinnati.

Ben M. Howard, who was with J. H. Warner & Co. for several years, is now a Commissioner of Agriculture, located at Nashville.

J. C. Lodor, a civil engineer in the Government employ and working on the Muscle Shoals canal, is now residing in Charlotte, N. C.

H. N. McLane, who kept the little fruit stand in the old postoffice when it was on Eighth Street, is now keeping store on Lookout Mountain.

## HENRY WATTERSON DROPPED FROM STAFF OF THE REBEL

### Story of Famous War Journal Shows How It Dodged Shells and Federals, and How Gen. Bragg Had Marse Henry Displaced as Editor

THE CHATTANOOGA DAILY REBEL was published by Francis M. Paul, and Henry Watterson was chief editorial writer. Albert Roberts was an editorial contributor, using the pen name of "John Happy." Charles O. Faxon was another member of the staff. He was a brother of the late Captain John W. Faxon, veteran banker. The latter was an occasional contributor, his nom de plume being "John Halifax."

That The Rebel expected a time when it would be forced to "move along" and stand not upon the order of its going was evidenced by a rigid rule of subscription, that payment must be made strictly in advance, and no subscription would be received for a longer period than one month. The price was \$1 a month.

When Henry Watterson wrote, something was generally said which the reader was apt to bear in mind for a season. Even when he said mean things there was often a flavor about the way of saying them which enticed the reader to a smile. In the issue of May 22, 1863, was an article of considerable length under the title "Jacobinism in the North." It reviewed public men and events crisply, bitterly in instances. Thus was the losing sentence: "There is in fact a man among them with a great ear to take up the banner of endurance and march against the monkeys who rule."

Watterson had a dangerous weakness in his Rebel career, which began with a serio-comic episode and wound up with a rather tragic one. He despised General Bragg and delighted in expressing his contempt for that important personage. A seemingly authentic story was current illustrating this. The young editor had just heard something particularly exciting to his progressive dislike of the General, and, dropping in at a popular home, where sociability was always in flower, he found a considerable company to whom he could expatiate at length upon the favorite topic. He did so without interruption.

But suddenly it was "borne in upon him" that there was an atmosphere of embarrassment in the room, if not something like chill. Among those present was a grave-seeming man who had paid strict attention to his comments, making no remark about them nor evincing any inclination to do so. Watterson had never seen General Bragg, and probably did not know that the gentleman had arrived in town. He suddenly "broke off" the harangue and abruptly inquired of the stranger:

"Are you General Bragg?"  
"I am," was the curt reply.  
For once Mr. Watterson was non-plussed. He didn't even make a

couse of an engagement which he was about to have forgotten, then his forte was in finding a fort in retreat. By making good use of his legs and his feet, The Rebel quarters were on the Railroad Avenue (now Broad Street)

end of the present 517 Market Street. During certain shelling operations from across the river, Mr. Watterson and others of the management conceived the idea that special ef-

forts were being made to single them out for punishment. Mr. Watterson was much excited.

He went to W. P. Crow, a veteran locomotive engineer then employed

by the Western & Atlantic Railroad, and asked how much he would take to bring an engine and flatcar and move them beyond the danger zone. Mr. Crow replied that he could not undertake the hazardous feat without consent of his employers. They told him that they would assume no risk whatever in the premises, but if he wished to attempt the venture strictly on his own responsibility he might use an engine and car, keeping whatever The Rebel people would pay him. He agreed with Watterson to make the attempt for \$300 in Confederate money. The offer was promptly accepted. A time was agreed on and Watterson promised to be there for supervision.

### Moved in a Hurry.

Crow kept the appointment, but Watterson did not. The next day, however, he saw Crow again and explained "with trembling lips" the reasons why he had failed.

Another arrangement was made, and this time Mr. Watterson was prompt. The venture was successful. Years ago Ben B. Crew, a pioneer Atlanta citizen, then "venerable head of the Phillips-Crew firm," gave to one of the newspapers there an account of his connection with The Chattanooga Daily Rebel. It was stated that Mr. Crew was general manager of The Rebel and "was close to Colonel Watterson in as strenuous a period of newspaper work as was ever known. And while he wrote and arranged advertising contracts and Watterson penned editorials, shot and shell were often screaming over their heads."

Many a time, the account said, they were compelled to move their plant on a box car to continue publication in face of the approaching Federal columns.

Mr. Paul himself was the first edi-

tor of his paper, but its success became so great that he was compelled to employ help, and he engaged Watterson as editor.

From Chattanooga, according to Mr. Crew, the concern was moved to Marietta, Ga. They continued publication there for many months, until "the Yankees" appeared, and then they removed to Griffin, Ga. There, he said, "the Yankees" raided them:

"Type was thrown out of the windows, the press broken, and the material generally impaired. An effort was made to revive The Rebel at Selma, Ala., but it met with little success."

### Marse Henry Fired.

But Mr. Crew left when the paper was driven from Marietta, to join the Fourth Tennessee Confederate cavalry, and, of course, from that time he could not speak from personal knowledge.

His account of Bragg's severe retaliation for contemptuous treatment by Watterson is confused as to time and place. The natural inference would be that it occurred here, and considerably before the battle of Chickamauga. But Mr. Crew said:

"The climax came when Watterson, in a strong editorial, expressed the belief that had General Bragg followed up his victory at Chickamauga, Chattanooga could have been recaptured."

"After this General Bragg wrote to the proprietor of the paper that such editorials must cease or the paper would be forbidden within the lines of the Army of the Tennessee. He also said he thought it necessary to sever Watterson's connection with the paper."

"When this letter was received, Mr. Paul was absent from the State. Counsel was taken with Mrs. Paul,

Governor Isham G. Harris, Mr. Whitthorne and John A. Fisher, President of the State Bank of Tennessee, who was in Marietta at the time."

They notified Watterson that his resignation was desired. He requested that his departure should not be announced for some days. A day or two later he received instructions to report to General Leonidas Polk, who was on Sand Mountain. Charles O. Faxon was appointed editor of The Rebel.

Regarding the final fate of The Chattanooga Rebel, Sam W. Duncan gave an account from personal knowledge, so he asserted. Mr. Duncan was long a well-known citizen of Chattanooga and was held in high esteem. He served in the City Council, was superintendent of construction for the Chattanooga Railway Company for many years, and was a contractor of important activities.

He was a soldier in the Seventh Pennsylvania cavalry. His story was that The Rebel outfit, such as it remained, was taken into custody at Selma, Ala., and utilized for publication of a paper called The Yankee Cavalier. It was printed on ruled paper. A soldier in Mr. Duncan's company, "M." set the type, and Duncan sold the papers at from 25 cents to \$1 per copy. Finally the material was "drowned" in the Alabama River, a tragedy in which Mr. Duncan took active part.

### City's Leading Citizen.

In all alphabetical lists of the people of Chattanooga, the name of Hester J. Aaron leads all of the rest. He is an upholsterer and resides at 1,805 Tinker Street, East Chattanooga. Miss Lucy Aaron, tall operator for the telephone company, leads all feminine lists because of her double "A" patronymic.

PERIPATETIC WAR-TIME NEWSPAPER

**THE CHATTANOOGA DAILY REBEL**

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, AUGUST 9, 1862.

**DAILY REBEL**

Published every morning at  
**FRANCIS M. PAUL**

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