

Excerpts from the Official Reports of the Battle of Chickamauga  
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From the report of Lt. Gen. Longstreet, Oct, 1862

“---- I desire to mention the following named officers as distinguished for conduct and ability, \_\_\_: Major Generals Hood, Buckner, Hindman, and Stewart; Brig. Generals B.R. Johnson, Preston, Law (respectfully in command of division,) Kershaw, Patton Anderson, Gracie, McNair, and Colonels Trigg and Kelly----”

Report of Major Gen, T.C. Hindman Oct. 25, 1863

A.A. Longstreet’s Corps

“---- Deas swept like a whirlwind over the breastworks. Anderson’s fearless Mississippians carrying the breastworks in their front, moved up rapidly on his left, to Manigault’s place. Without halting, these two brigades then drove the enemy across the Crawfish Spring Road and up the broken spurs of Missionary Ridge...

... At eleven p.m., suffering much pain from injury received about midday, I relinquished to brig. Gen. Anderson the command of my division.

The usual commendatory expressions would almost seem to cheapen the service of the officers and men of my immediate command during the day, and those who fought with us in the afternoon. The relation of what they performed ought to immortalize them. For signal gallantry and efficiency, the Army and Country are indebted to Brig. Generals Preston and Johnston, and their several brigade commanders; also to Brig. Gen. Kershaw, and the three brigade commanders of my division; Anderson, Deas, and Manigault. Without the decided success the won on Dyer’s Hill, Chickamauga would not have been a victory, unless after another day of fighting and slaughter.”

From the Report of Brig. Gen. W. Preston Oct. 31, 1863

“...Col. Kelly had the horse short under him and displayed great courage and skill. During the action, he was reinforced by a regiment of the brigade of Brig. Gen. Patton Anderson, who was in this vicinity, for which timely aid I desire to express my obligations.”

From Report of Brig. Gen. B.P. Johnson, Oct. 24, 1863

Commanding Division

“...The advance of Brig. Gen. Anderson on our extreme right was a gallant and impetuous charge. It encountered a heavy force of the enemy posted in a strong position, from which they posted a valley of fire that speedily repulsed the charge. ---- Our artillery opened with canister, rallying in line at the batteries repulsed the charge of the foe.”

Report of Brig. Gen A.M. Manigault, Oct 8, 1863

“Just after having given the order for the retirement of the brigades, Gen. Anderson’s command of Mississippians, the reserve of the division, came gallantly forward and swept by me, his left regiment covering four or five companies of my right regiment. ---- The enemy had fallen back, owing to the advance of Gens. Deas and Anderson.”

Report of Brig. Gen. Z.C. Deas, Oct. 9, 1863

“By the time I gained the crest of the hill my brigade became somewhat scattered, and were, in consequence, checked for the moments in their onward movement. It was at this period that Brig. Gen. Anderson’s gallant Mississippi brigade came to my assistance, and as my men saw them coming they moved forward again, and with this brigade, captured several other pieces of artillery and scattered the enemy in our front so effectively that they never rallied or reformed again during the day on this part of the field.”

From Report of Brig. Gen. J.B. Kershaw, Oct. 15, 1863

“...about 3:00 Brig. Gen. Anderson’s Mississippi brigade came to my support. I described to him the situation and suggested an attack on the right flank of the position of the enemy. He acquiesced in my view and advanced his left preparatory to the movement, covering his front with skirmishers, who immediately became engaged, and drove in those of the enemy; but they advanced their line of battle at a charge, driving back Anderson’s brigade in some confusion. With hearty cheers the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> South Carolina engaged them with utmost enthusiasm; Anderson’s brigade promptly reformed and opened fire. In ten minutes time the enemy was driven pell-mell. The 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina and Anderson’s brigade dashed after him and drove him to the top of the hill.”

These are only a few of the mentions of your father in the official records of this battle. He is mentioned frequently, in regard to position, etc. And I thought you’d be interested in his own report as well as parts of other reports. You can easily see how much he was held in the esteem of his colleagues and superiors! He always seemed to shape up just when he was needed most. I was carried away with the style of these. They so frequently spoke of valor, gallantry, chivalry, bravery, heroism, etc. I don’t believe modern military reports are nearly so personal or so carefully written.

I copied these from a book in the college library, as I have an idea it might be difficult to locate another of I should want to in the future. I’m sending carbon copies to Cromwell and Adair of your father’s report, but this is the only one I made of the fractions of the other reports. I hope you are well, and the children and Joe join me in sending you much, much love.

Margaret

P.S. Thought you might be familiar with some of the names...

Transcribed by Christopher A. Baker, University of Florida, 2008.