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AT LITTLE ROUND TOP

Andrew J. Tozier of Litchfield Held Aloft the Flag – A Thrilling Tale

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Tozier of Litchfield are the guests of Dr. and Mrs. W.S. Norcross at their home on Oliver Street, Auburn.

There are good and sufficient reasons why these two men should be warm friends. In the first place they are cousins, but there is a stronger tie that binds. During the war they both served together as prisoners in the hell pen of Belle Isle and the care that Mr. Tozier gave his wounded friend was the means of saving his life.

Mr. Tozier is a man with a history. He was the color sergeant of the 20th Maine regiment and stood by the side [of] Gen. Chamberlain on Little Round Top. In all his public addresses Gen. Chamberlain has given Sergeant Tozier full credit and has said that he did more than any other one man to save the day.

When the summit of the hill had been reached the battle raged the fiercest around the colors. The color guard of six men dropped dead one by one until Sergeant Tozier alone remained. Placing the staff of the flag in the hollow of his arm and at an angle where it could be plainly seen, he seized a gun with the other hand and continued to load and fire until the battle was won. A score of bullets went thru the flag but strange to say the color bearer was unhurt. Every man around him was shot, but the flag still waved. In speaking of this critical time to the Journal this morning, Mr. Tozier said:

“We had about 500 men in our regiment when we reached the summit of Little Round Top and then commenced a tragic scene. My color guards were all shot around me in a few moments and then the smoke was so thick that I could see but a few feet away. My regiment had changed position and fell back a short distance and before I realized it I was standing entirely alone in front of the line holding the colors with one arm and firing with the other. Of course I was the target for many bullets, but I didn’t get scratched.

“Gen. Chamberlain was the bravest man that I ever saw in battle. Thruout that awful fight he remained perfectly cool and was always in front where the battle was the fiercest. A Carolina regiment was pressing us hard when Chamberlain sprang directly in front and engaged in a sword combat with its colonel. Both men were splendid swordsmen, but Chamberlain proved to be the best and soon had the rebel commander at his mercy. The southerner surrendered his

sword and a big pistol to General Chamberlain, who turned around and coolly gave them to an aid. O, but Chamberlain was a brave man!”

A nice little story is this. Mr. Tozier had all sorts of experiences during his army service in two different regiments. Dr. Norcross was the Seventh regiment and Mr. Tozier was a member of the Second when the battles of Gaines Hill and Goldings Hill were fought. The doctor was shot in the neck at the latter fight and came near losing his life. The same day Tozier was shot in the hand and severely wounded. Norcross was under Gen. Connor and when hit by the same bullet fell against his commander. This happened at Savage Station near Gaines' Landing and later both men were captured and placed in rebel prisons. They were then sent to Belle Isle and only the careful nursing of Tozier saved the life of Norcross. Tough old days were those.

Mr. Tozier is now rising 70 years of age and loves the memory of the old days. He is a member of Libby Post, in Litchfield while Mrs. Tozier is a leading spirit in the corps. It was this corps that secured the splendid soldiers monument that now stands in front of the cemetery at Litchfield Plains. This monument was made by John Finn of Auburn and is one of the finest in the State. It is quite unnecessary to say that these old army comrades are having a grand time these winter days in reviving the scenes and incidents of those dark days in Dixie.