

LIEUT. COL. RICHARD CHARLTON.

Of all the heroic sons that the gallant State of Mississippi gave to our great cause, Lieut. Col. Richard Charlton was the peer of the best in all that constitutes true and noble manhood. He was born in 1825, near Gallatin, Tenn., the son of James and Rachel Charlton. He attended the country schools and "Sylvan Academy." His military career began at the age of twenty years, in 1847, when he volunteered at Gallatin, Tenn., in Company I, of the First regiment of Tennessee volunteers for service in the Mexican war. Capt. W. M. Blackmore commanded the company, and Richard Charlton was fourth sergeant. This regiment was in the battles of Monterey, Cerro Gordo, and in the siege of Vera Cruz. Charlton did his whole duty in that war, and he returned to his home respected by every soldier of that command.

In 1861, at the call of duty, he went into service for sixty days from Raymond, Miss., where he was then living, at the expiration of which time he raised a company known as the "Charlton Rebels," in February, 1862, which formed a part of the Forty-Fifth Mississippi infantry regiment. This regiment was commanded by Col. Hardcastle, with Richard Charlton as lieutenant colonel. Hardcastle was disabled for duty soon after the regiment was organized, so that it was virtually commanded by Col. Charlton during the war. This regiment participated in the following battles: Perryville, Ky.; Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Franklin and Nashville, Tenn.; Ringgold Gap, Resaca, New Hope Church, Kennesaw Mountain, Marietta, Atlanta, and Jonesboro, Ga.

This war-worn remnant of a regiment surrendered with the shattered battalions of Joseph E. Johnston, at Greensboro, N. C., on April 26, 1865.

During the entire war, from its inception to its end, Lieut. Col. Richard Charlton, of the Forty-Fifth Mississippi, was engaged in active field duties, rendering conspicuous service in battle and on the march, and as a Christian gentleman in camp. He was wounded twice. After the war he returned to his home, and resumed his business. He died at Hot Springs, Ark., about fifteen years after the war, and his body was taken to Raymond, Miss. Peace to his ashes.