

# Confederate Veteran

---

February, 1922: p. 49

## GEN. E. M. LAW AT GETTYSBURG.

[The following tribute appeared in the Charleston (S. C.) *News and Courier* soon after the death of General Law.]

Maj. Gen. Evander McIver Law will always be remembered as a South Carolinian, one of the most gallant of the many gallant officers contributed by South Carolina to the Confederate army. He was born in Darlington, educated at the Citadel, from which he graduated in 1856, and was one of the first teachers at the King's Mountain Military School at Yorkville when Colonel Coward and Gen. Micah Jenkins established that famous institution. In 1860 he left Yorkville to start a military school of his own at Tuskegee, Ala., but a few months later, in January, 1861, he headed a company of Alabama volunteers and took part in the capture of Pensacola and the fort at that place shortly thereafter being made lieutenant colonel of the 4th Alabama regiment. His service thenceforward in the armies of the Confederacy was continuous, and he fought in most of the great battles of Virginia and distinguished himself again and again at the First and Second battles of Manassas, at Gaines's Mill, and Malvern Hill, at Boonesboro and Antietam, at Fredericksburg and Gettysburg, at Chickamauga, and in all the hard campaigns from the Wilderness to Cold Harbor.

In the dispatches which told of General Law's death mention was made of the fact that at the battle of Gettysburg, where he commanded Hood's division after General Hood was wounded, "he was signally successful, having been brevetted on the field at Gettysburg by General Longstreet for maneuvering his division on the Round Top in such a manner as to effect the disastrous repulse of Kilpatrick's division of mounted Federal troops." In the *Century Magazine* for December, 1886, General Law himself told the story of how Hood's division, which occupied the Confederate right at Gettysburg, held the front line throughout July 3, 1863, that long day which followed the disastrous but immortal charge of Pickett. The most spectacular event of that day was the repulse of Kilpatrick's division when General Farnsworth, emerging suddenly from the woods at the base of the Round Tops, led the charge upon the Confederates in which he and all but a handful of his men met their deaths.

When the charge began General Law was talking with the officers of Bachman's Battery, a Charleston organization, commanded by Capt. James Simons and Gen. Rudolph Siegling. He hurried off one of the members of his staff with orders to detach the first regiment he should come to on the main line, and send it on a run to head off the advancing cavalry. This happened to be the 4th Alabama regiment, and as Farnsworth and his men came galloping up the valley the Confederates ran out in the open ground on the farther side, opening fire as they ran, the course of the cavalry being abruptly checked and saddles rapidly emptied.

**OldMagazineArticles.com**

*GEN. E. M. LAW*

“Recoiling from this fire,” General Law wrote, “they turned to their left and rear and directed their course up the hill toward the position occupied by our batteries. Bachman's Battery promptly changed front to its left, so as to face the approaching cavalry, and, together with the infantry supports, opened a withering fire at close range. Turning again to their left, Farnsworth and the few of his men who remained in their saddles directed their course toward the point where they had originally broken in, having described by this time almost a complete circle. But the gap where they had entered was now closed, and, receiving another fire from that point, they again turned to the left and took refuge in the woods near the base of Round Top. There they came in conflict with the skirmish line of the 15th Alabama regiment, and General Farnsworth, refusing to surrender, killed himself with his pistol. In the charge on Bachman's battery some of Farnsworth's men were shot within thirty-five or forty yards of the battery's guns.”

General Law in his prime was one of the handsomest of men, as straight as an arrow, with jet black beard, and of dashing appearance. The grace of his manner was flawless. He had not lived in South Carolina since the early 90's, when, for a time, he edited the *Yorkville Yeoman*. He was held in the highest esteem by his surviving comrades throughout South Carolina and only a few weeks ago, at a meeting of Camp Sumter in this city, warm tributes were paid him by Colonel Armstrong and others, and he was elected to honorary membership in the Camp.