

Our Old Battle Flag.

This week Maj. E. A. Hickman received per express from Mrs. Josephine Clay, Lexington, Ky., an old flag which was once the battle flag of the 6th Missouri (Confederate) Infantry. This flag, which was received by the 6th Infantry just at the opening of the fall campaign, 1863, passed through the battles of Iuka, Corinth, Chewalla, Grand Gulf, Bruinsburg, Champion's Hill and Vicksburg. Just before the close of the siege of Vicksburg Col. Erwin, the commander, gave the flag to his wife, now Mrs. Clay, and requested her to embroider upon its folds the following inscription:

"SIXTH MISSOURI INFANTRY,

1863

EUGENE ERWIN, COL. COMMANDING.

This regiment was the first to charge the inner intrenchments at Corinth, Miss., and twenty-six of thirty commissioned, and twenty-two of its twenty-eight non-commissioned officers were killed or wounded.

WM. HUFF, ENSIGN,

received nine wounds in defense of this flag before resigning it to a comrade, and of the 300 men who went into the battle only thirty answered at roll call afterward."

Mrs. Erwin took the flag, but before she could carry out Col. Erwin's wishes that gallant officer was killed leading a repulsing column at the outer entrenchments, and Vicksburg had surrendered.

A few weeks after the surrender, Mrs. Erwin and her little family were kindly furnished transportation to Lexington, Ky., whither she took the flag. It she has kept ever since.

Last week Maj. Hickman concluded that many of the survivors of Erwin's regiment, principally residing in this county, would like to look upon their old gonfalon, and wrote Mrs. Clay asking for it. She sent it immediately, and it will be exhibited at the reunion at Higginsville next Tuesday.

The flag is a red field bordered with buff fringe. In the upper left hand corner is a crescent. In the center of the field are thirteen stars. It is somewhat moth eaten, but otherwise splendidly preserved. It has several bullet holes through it, which were put there in the various engagements through which it passed.

Of the regiment which bore this flag through so many bloody engagements, and of Col. Erwin, its commander, and a former resident of Independence, the SENTINEL will have something to say in the future. Col. Erwin was one of the most gallant officers in the Confederate service. His history and death have never yet been recorded. His praises have only been sung in the moans of the gallant remnant of his followers who saw him fall, or laid him in the "dead line" at Vicksburg, and yet, no nobler man or braver officer ever gave his services to his state or country. As to the material of which the regiment was made, the inscription on the flag bears full testimony.