



The Tragic Story of the Bridgens Brothers

By Norman Dasinger, Jr., May 25, 2020

blueandgrayeducation.org



New Hope Battlefield, Georgia, 1864 | War Department

At the battle of New Hope Church, fought May 25, 1864, in Paulding County, Georgia, the Confederate Army of Tennessee, primarily Gen A. P. Stewart's Division, fought Sherman's Army Group, specifically three divisions of Gen. Joe Hooker's 20th Corps.

Stewart's artillery that day consisted of Eldridge's Battalion, which included three batteries of cannon: Stanford's Mississippi, Oliver's (Eufaula) Alabama, and Fenner's Louisiana—16 guns in all. Eldridge had 43 men and 44 horses killed that day, and his artillery fired almost 1,600 rounds.

Fighting with Fenner's guns were three brothers named Bridgens. Two of them were working one of the guns and the third was attached to the adjacent gun. R. A. Bridgens was killed; another brother was severely wounded, and the commander called for the third brother to take his place, which he did promptly. He passed through the battle unhurt.

A book of poetry titled *War Flowers* was published by John Altgustin after the Civil War, and it included a piece about the Bridgens brothers. A portion of it is reproduced here:

"To Our Dead at New Hope Church"

They sleep the deep sleep 'neath the sanctified sod

Made holy with patriot gore;

One died—he had sighted his gun ere he fell,

That round was the corporal's last;

His soul on the canister rushed with a yell,

And scattered the foe as it passed,

Another was tending the trail—Came the shot

And buried itself in his head—

His brother stretched out the pale corpse—murmured not

And stern, took the place of the dead

He also was struck but unmoved he remained;

At his post like a statue he stood,

Til his third brother came on the ground, crimson-stained

By the flow of his own kindred blood,

'Twas then the young Spartan, on giving his place

To the last of the heroic three,

Said, "Brother," then looking the dead in the face

"Give them one for revenge and for me."

All honor and fame to the good and the brave

The dead of our patriot band,

The martyr who perished their country to save

At Liberty's welcome command.



Battle of New Hope, Georgia, 1864 | LOC



This Civil War Dispatch has been brought to you by the Blue and Gray Education Society, a non-profit 501-3C educational organization. Please visit us at www.blueandgrayeducation.org.

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

P.O. Box 1176
Chatham, VA | 24531 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.