

### An Interesting Account of How Col. Harrison Cheney Missed General R. E. Lee.

The Rochester Post Express gives the following interesting account of how Col. Harrison Cheney, formerly of Sandusky and at one time Assemblyman from this district, turned defeat into victory at Gettysburg:

Colonel Harrison Cheney, for thirty-three years a member of the United States Railway Mail Service, has resigned. Colonel Cheney, who lives at 1893 South avenue, was on the Pennsylvania run, between this city and Olean, for twenty-two years, and previous to that time he was for ten years on the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg railway. His resignation went into effect on Saturday, his 84th birthday. Colonel Cheney's retirement was hastened by injuries he received when struck by an automobile near Main and St. Paul streets on May 5th, last year.

Col. Cheney claims the honor of having made the battle of Gettysburg a victory for the United States army during the civil war. On September 8, 1862, he raised a company for three years of the war, in Cattaraugus county, and this company, with him as captain, was mustered in as a part of the 154th New York infantry. On the first day at Gettysburg when the forces were merely lining up for the battle, Captain Cheney and his entire company and others, totaling 180, were taken prisoners while operating on the Baltimore pike. Captain Cheney had been wounded during the fighting and said that he was going to find a surgeon before he went to the rear with the other prisoners of war.

"I started down the road," Col. Cheney said today, "and a few minutes later came upon General Robert E. Lee, commanding the Confederates. The general stopped me. 'Captain,' he said, 'how many men have you on that hill?' He pointed to a hill that was the key to our entire position. The question struck me as of a leading character and I thought quickly. I knew there was only a small regiment up where he was pointing, and that it could be wiped off the map with hardly an effort. 'Not less than 10,000 or 15,000 men,' I answered quickly, and no effort to capture the hill was made at that time. If it had been taken the result at Gettysburg would have been different."

Colonel Cheney was subsequently transferred with his regiment to Sherman's army and marched with Sherman to the sea. He was promoted to be lieutenant colonel, and took part in the grand review of the northern army in Washington, in May, 1865. Although thirty-three years in the railway mail service, he will not receive a pension. Men in the United States mail service are not given any.