

Assistant Surgeon Corydon C. Rugg

Private Truman D. Blowers of Company G recalled that when the regiment was driven in precipitous retreat from Kuhn's brickyard at Gettysburg on the afternoon of July 1, 1863, Assistant Surgeon Corydon C. Rugg stayed behind to care for the wounded. When a Confederate demanded his sword, Rugg threatened to run him through and declared he had no business to demand the sword of a surgeon. Blowers concluded, "Rugg was too courageous." As Chaplain Henry Lowing reported, "Dr. Rugg was three days a prisoner in Gettysburg but was treated like a gentleman and had full liberty to do all he could for the wounded."

Corporal Emerson M. Wiltse of Company D related another story of Rugg at Gettysburg. Wiltse was wounded in the shoulder during the fighting at the brickyard. On the night of July 3 he made his way to an academy, where he found Rugg operating in the makeshift hospital. Wiltse told Rugg of the wounded needing care back at the brickyard, and Rugg grabbed some supplies, obtained a pass from a Confederate general, and headed to the village's northeastern outskirts. On the way, the two encountered an enemy ambulance carrying two Confederate officers. Rugg treated the two; they were most grateful. Arriving at the brickyard, the surgeon found a houseful of patients, who clamored for his attention until he told them he would work his way from one end of the building to the other.

First Sergeant Francis Strickland of Company I, wounded in the right arm during the brickyard fight, told a similar story. Strickland lay bleeding on a blanket between two wounded Confederates until dark, when, he reported, "Dr. Rugg found me, dressed my arm and entirely stopped its bleeding," thereby quite likely saving Strickland's life. About midnight Rugg returned to the brickyard with a one-horse wagon and conveyed Strickland to a church in town, where his

shattered limb was amputated two days later by Surgeon Van Aernam.

Rugg was present with the 154th for most of the Atlanta campaign. A veteran recalled that Colonel Patrick Henry Jones scolded Rugg during the campaign for taking too many risks and asked him why he was so far to the front. To look after the boys, Rugg replied. Jones ordered him to take shelter in a hollow — but Rugg did not stay there long, slipping back closer to the fighting. By the time of Atlanta's fall, Rugg was broken down in health. He submitted his resignation, which was accepted on October 4, 1864, and he was discharged for disability on that date.