

was a large open field, and on the left of this opening was Pegram's house, and as the battle was fought principally upon Pegram's farm it should properly be called the battle of Pegram's farm, as Peebles' farm was some hundreds of yards distant, but in this case, as in many other battles of the war, usage and not facts is conformed to. Beyond the open field mentioned was a long stretch of swampy woods, and at the farther side and extreme edge of the woods was a deep ravine, but beyond this the ground arose to a considerable elevation, and here was the line of works constructed by the enemy, and which was the objective point of General Heth's attack.

The Confederates advanced as follows : First, a thin line of sharpshooters ; next, a brigade of Virginians ; then the Second Maryland and Thirteenth Alabama, First, Seventh and Fourteenth Tennessee, in the order named ; following came Davis' Mississippi Brigade, and upon the extreme right McGowan's South Carolina Brigade.

The South Carolinians were the first to encounter the enemy as they dashed across the open space in magnificent order, and lost heavily, but carried the point of works in their front.

The Second Maryland plunged into the woods and crossed the swampy ground. Emerging from the woods into the open they were greeted with a heavy fire from the enemy's skirmishers, but, supported by the Thirteenth Alabama, they brushed aside the skirmishers and attacked his line of battle posted deep in the woods, and soon had possession of the enemy's outer trenches, but unfortunately the left held back from some unaccountable reason, and these troops in advance were placed in a difficult and dangerous position, and were subjected to as terrible a fire of musketry and artillery as any they had ever experienced. But tenaciously did the Marylanders and Alabamians hold on to the position gained, with the enemy but a few feet above their heads. Many were killed and wounded by the artillery and musketry fire, among the latter Captain Ferd. Duvall, who was in command of the Second Maryland, when the command devolved upon Captain John W. Torsch. This desperate state of affairs existed from 5 o'clock in the evening until midnight, during all of which time the contending forces were but a few feet apart. At length, after seven hours in the enemy's trenches, Captain Torsch withdrew his command and sought the works which they had left in the morning.

In a measure General Heth's attack was not a success, although he inflicted heavy loss upon the enemy in killed and wounded, and brought off four hundred prisoners. But Heth determined to make one more effort to regain the lost position, and an attempt was to be made to gain Warren's right and rear, and thus compel him to retire.

After an hour's rest, the Second Maryland was marched across the country