

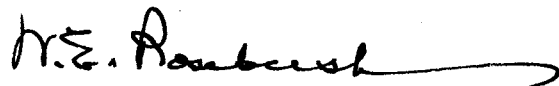
We all tend to dress facts to suit the structures we build. Historians do their best to avoid this. But there is always the temptation to write something that will sell—dramatic, different, popular appeal at the time and so on. However even first hand participants of the same unit, often tell entirely different stories of a battle. This was especially true of the Civil War. Thus Historians have no easy time, nor can they always be accurate.

If you had not made a major point of these comparative casualties, no one probably would have questioned your work. For people nowadays do not know much about the detail of American History. The Technical Editor of GUNS Magazine is an example. He wrote me that he was "not enough of a Western scholar to give any answer". I respect him for his frankness. All the more reason therefore for Historians to guard the record accurately, fairly, reliably.

I think the Indians first "learned that it was suicide to charge a fortified position" not at Crow Creek in the winter of '69-'70; rather they learned it two years earlier on Piney Island. I know something of the old "trap door" Springfield and its power. At close range one of those conical balls could easily make casualties of two or three Indians. No special or expert knowledge is claimed but I must protest when I think an obviously wrong interpretation of details has been made.

Thank you for your courtesy.

Sincerely,



W.E. Rosebush