

Dr. Scholl studied medicine with his father and then graduated from the Bellevue Medical College, New York City. The following sketch is copied from an old newspaper:

“Dr. J. W. Scholl came to Crawford county about 1855. He was a native of this state (Pa.) and was born and raised to manhood in the east. His father was a physician and was brother of Dr. Peter Scholl who practiced medicine hereabouts as early as the “twenties” and died at his home in Woodcock township, some years since. Dr. Peter Scholl married into the Woodring family, his wife being a sister of Mr. Charles Woodring of this place, and he was consequently allied to that large relationship by marriage. Joseph W. studied medicine with his father and attended lectures and was graduated at Bellevue Medical College, New York City, before coming to this place. Here he settled down permanently to practice his profession and married Catherine, daughter of the late Charles Hecker. He was a young man of education and ability, of decided originality, a humorist of no mean order, possessing a fine sense of the ludicrous and a genial conviviality of disposition that made him companionable and entertaining wherever he went. His repartee and jest in those palmy days were full of pith and point and his invincible good humor rendered him a general favorite, but alas! these amiable qualities were not conducive to his prosperity in after years.

“When the War broke out he enlisted as a private in Co. B, 83rd Penn. Vol., but his services were at once required in the medical department, to which he was soon permanently transferred by appointment as Hospital Steward, which position he held during a period of three years. Dr. Scholl, like many other young physicians, enlisted with a view to promotion in the line of his profession when his services would be needed, but in this he made a sad mistake, for in the medical department of the army there is no promotion from an enlisted grade. A Hospital Steward is an enlisted man, and whatever his qualifications may be, he can rise no higher unless first discharged from the service, and a useful steward can not well be spared and his chances of procuring a discharge are at no time good, and in fact it can not be done unless physically disabled for duty. He was therefore shut out from all chance of promotion, though often performing all the duties and assuming all the moral responsibilities of the higher grade. That his duties were well performed goes without saying, and he enjoyed the confidence and respect of all grades in the service.

“The formation of our line of battle at Gaines’ Mills was in the form of a semicircle, with the field hospitals located at the central point or the axis of the position. After a fearfully stubborn fight, lasting until sundown, in which we lost 9000 men, our forces retired from the field leaving our dead and wounded in the hands of the enemy. Dr. Scholl was at his post with the wounded at the field hospital and was taken prisoner. The enemy left him with his ghastly charge to get along as best he could after taking for their own use every appliance that he had not succeeded in secreting so that it could not be found. The Doctor did this deftly while his superiors were standing around dazed and appalled at the situation. The enemy swept on after our retreating columns, leaving behind the horrid debris of slaughter. Their own dead and wounded covered the hills, for their loss on that bloody field was greater than ours, as they were the assaulting party and we fought on the defensive. The capacity of the city of Richmond was taxed to its utmost to find hospital room for their own suffering wounded, while ours lay out upon that fatal hill with no other care than a few captured medical attendants could give them. All the night after the battle Scholl was among those mutilated men, carrying them on his back to places where he could best attend to their needs. He dressed their wounds, bound up their broken bones, and did everything possible to relieve their sufferings. The badly wounded and dying were crying for water and the little man ran back and forth, holding the canteen to their parched lips and bracing them up with words of encouragement.

“The dawn of the day only served to widen the field of his labors and discover other sufferers in want of help. Tirelessly he worked on, reducing the wild chaos to a system, and without thinking or caring for self, devoting his whole energies to the relief of his comrades. The horror of the situation does not come within the range of comprehension to one who has never witnessed it. It was thus, day and night, for a number of days before the authorities at Richmond found time and means to look after the surviving “Yanks,” valuable to them only as material for exchange. They were then gathered into sheds and barns and our heroic little doctor was chucked into prison. During all this time his labor was incessant and he scarcely ever slept, but when tired nature asserted peremptorily her demands he would lie down by some wakeful man that he might be awakened if any cry of distress might be heard from any part of the field. These facts we learned from men who owed their lives to his untiring exertions in their behalf. Maggots were eating the poor fellows up and the stench was appalling, but through all Scholl fought with a courage and a persistence that was wonderful and saved many useful lives to the country and to their families by his own unaided exertions.

“It was sometime in August that he was paroled, and when he came to James river to take the steamer for Annapolis we saw him and had an opportunity to exchange only a few words. His countenance was ashy pale, his eyes leaden and his steps weary, and from that time on Scholl was stoop-shouldered, broken down, and prematurely old. His splendid constitution, that had upheld him under the terrible strain on that field of horrors from which other men shrank, gave way at last under the reaction of the prison pen. When exchanged at Annapolis he was forthwith detached for general hospital duty where he remained until the expiration of his term of service.

“He possessed an extraordinary memory that enabled him to be very useful in assisting his comrades in procuring pensions. While with the regiment he did nearly all the visiting and treatment in quarters and he became intimately acquainted with the men by personal contact, and he never forgot the facts relating to each individual case. He will be sadly missed in this line by his old comrades, for there is no other man living who can supply his place.

“It is alleged that our friend had faults or frailties, for which he was severely criticized. If he had, we do not wish to remember them. We know that he possessed as kind a heart as ever throbbed in human breast. His ear was ever open to the cry of distress, and his hand extended to relieve without

thought of fee or reward. His practice lay largely among the poor, whom he never oppressed.

“These are the qualities that we would remember, and now that he is dead and passed beyond the range of cruel criticism, we would recall to the memory of men the good that he has done in life and strive to remember him at his best.”

The criticisms referred to were caused by intemperance in drink, which caused his death.