

**SNOWBALLS AND SKIRMISH LINES  
A HISTORY OF  
THE FINCASTLE RIFLES,  
ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,  
CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA  
1859-1865**

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## **The Fincastle Rifles, 1859-65**

Americans of the nineteenth century shunned the maintenance of a large professional army. Consequently, when civil war broke out in the United States, military forces on both sides were swelled by citizens of all kinds. Trained by a cadre of professionals, these citizen-soldiers soon learned the art of war; they often fought with a ferocity making up for their lack of training and experience.

The Fincastle Rifles, of Botetourt County, Virginia, was composed of such men: carpenters, doctors, wheelwrights, blacksmiths, and many other trades and professions. The company was formed in the fall of 1859, during a period of increasing sectional tension. Its first officers were William Anthony, Captain; R. K. Thompson, D. Houston and J. H. Camper, First, Second and Third Lieutenants, respectively. In its early days, the company's uniform consisted of civilian pants and a linsey hunting shirt.

John Brown's insurrection at Harpers Ferry occasioned the first summons of the company, which left Fincastle by rail in 1859. Destiny brought them together with Jeb Stuart and Robert E. Lee who was home on leave. Lee was ordered to Harper's Ferry where he assumed command of a Marine detachment to quell the riot and Stuart was his second. All three would be inexorably linked. The company patrolled the town for a week maintaining order and then withdrew. For his service, each man received thirty-five dollars. With these funds, they bought blue uniforms trimmed with bright green braid<sup>1</sup>. The raid at Harpers Ferry heightened the militia's awareness of the imminence of hostilities. Thereafter the unit drilled even more diligently. During bad weather,

the company would meet in the grand jury room of the Fincastle Courthouse. Their drilling was enhanced by the drums and fifes of Dan Hill and Resin Mahew, two hired blacks.<sup>2</sup>

When hostilities commenced, Fincastle supplied the young Confederacy with twelve fighting units. one of which was the Fincastle Rifles which enlisted en masse on April 23, 1861. The town bade them farewell as they journeyed to Bonsack's Depot to await further orders. Captain Anthony died being replaced by R.K. Thompson.<sup>3</sup> The muster roll of this fledgling rifle company listed seventy men including two additional blacks, William Hill and Lewis Fisher employed as cooks.<sup>4</sup> three days later they were ordered to proceed to Richmond. Upon arrival, they were mustered into the Confederate army and lettered "D". Colonel Samuel Garland was selected as the regimental commander. During their stay at the Confederate capitol, the men received a gift of one barrel of smoking tobacco and two boxes of chewing tobacco from Burger Brothers Saw Manufacturing Company.<sup>5</sup>

The flavor of the time shines through when one reads this exhortation from the Lynchburg Daily Virginian. "Good news from the Southwest of Virginia! The people are rising en masse and that everybody in that region is preparing for the coming struggle, the descendants of those who fought at King's Mountain and Cowpers will render a good account of them in the hour of trial.....Roll on the ball. Keep it moving until every son of the South shall be prepared for the vile invader."

Garland's command was designated the Eleventh Regiment and assigned to Longstreet's corps. The Eleventh regiment now settled into the routine of camp life punctuated by drill almost hourly. By May 10, the recruits were ordered to Manassas Junction, by none other than Robert E. Lee, where they were to begin formal training. Arriving on Sunday, May 14, with 490 men, the

Eleventh was assigned to the Fourth Brigade under Colonel G.H. Terret. Garland's sister regiments were Moore's, Galad's, and Corses's Regiments of Virginia Volunteers.<sup>6</sup>

After the organizational process was disposed of, the company spent the summer learning the art of war. The men were taught how to march in battle formation as well as the loading and firing procedures of their Mississippi Rifles, their goal being the delivery of three rounds per minute. The necessities of war also required practicality. Captain Garland of the Home Guards published this list of items that every well prepared soldier should carry. To wit:

*two stout blankets*

*two woolen under-shirts, very heavy*

*two pair thick cotton drawers*

*one pair stout shoes, one pair boots*

*three towels, four handkerchiefs*

*silk comb, brush and toothbrush, stout linen thread*

*needles, wax, buttons, pins and thimble in a small bag*

*knife, fork and spoon*

*one canvas bedcover for two men*

*one day's cooked rations in a tin*

*box or knapsack*

Within a year, these recruits turned veterans would survive with only the clothes on their backs, a blanket roll, a musket and a few graybacks (lice) for company.

During training at Camp Pickens (named after South Carolina Governor Francis W. Pickens), Company D had one more change of command. Captain Thompson resigned to join the Botetourt Artillery. David Houston replaced him and John Camper was elected First lieutenant.<sup>7</sup>

## **Manassas**

On July 21, 1861, came the company's first clash of arms at the Battle of Manassas. The Fincastle Rifles were not with the main contingent of troops; instead, they were entrenched along the river bank at Blackburn's Ford on Bull Run. A skirmish line was stationed before them at the water's edge.

Late in the morning, enemy artillery pounded the Confederate lines. Halting the bombardment at noon, the Federals launched two infantry attacks across the river. Both assaults were repelled and the enemy retired under cover of more artillery fire. Replying with his own cannonade, Longstreet called up two guns from Walton's artillery and four six-pounders and three rifled guns-from Eshelman's battery. Firing continued for an hour as the Union forces fell back toward Centreville.<sup>8</sup>

The day after the battle, the Eleventh collected the spoils abandoned by the Union forces.<sup>9</sup> The Confederacy was thus supplied with many guns, cartridge boxes, canteens and other spoils of war. These supplies augmented those issued by the quartermaster.<sup>10</sup> In the space of three months, Quartermaster David Meade issued to Company D, 11 cords of wood, 29 pairs of shoes, 17 jackets, 17 drawers, 40 shirts, and 252 bushels of corn.<sup>11</sup> Three years later, Confederate soldiers had to rifle the corpses of their companions to survive. After scavenging the battlefield they returned to Camp Pickens. William Blackford visited the camp to see his sons in the Eleventh, "I never saw men so knocked up" he said, "footsore and weary, they hailed their camp, miserable as it was, as a second home."

After the grisly job of cleaning up the battlefield, the company marched to Centreville, where it manned picket lines and stood guard for a few weeks. On August 2, Company D marched to a new camp (Camp Harrison) at Fairfax Court House. The march was a hot, dusty one and many fainted from the heat. The site chosen was not the best, for there was little drainage. As a result, disease ran through the ranks and subsequently the Rifles suffered their first war-related deaths. Thomas Davis and James Hastings succumbed to typhoid fever. Seventeen others were incapacitated. Some, like Private W. Bosserman, were sent back to Botetourt County to recuperate.<sup>12</sup>

When camp was established, the men whiled away the hours with such games as football, bandy and cards. Drilling, though necessary, was still tedious, the men, with their typical lack of discipline, otherwise known as southern individuality, would break ranks at the first sign of a rabbit, chasing the poor animal until the sport of it was gone. Except for picket duty in nearby Fairfax, the regiment was inactive for the next few months. Disease continued to take its toll. Five sick men were sent home to recover. Four others were medically discharged. In addition to the illnesses, transfers of men to special details sapped the company's strength.

### **Dranesville**

Camp was broken on December 20, when four regiments and a battery were sent to Dranesville on a foraging expedition. The regiments were, the Eleventh Virginia, Tenth Alabama, Sixth South Carolina and the First Kentucky. The battery was the Sumpter Flying Artillery from Georgia. These units, numbering about 1,200, were under the command of J.E.B. Stuart.<sup>13</sup> The Confederates blundered into five regiments of Federal troops numbering 3,100 men.

Both forces deployed on either side of the road with artillery in the center of each line. The Eleventh Virginia advanced and dislodged some Federal skirmishers from dense underbrush and pines. However, the superior Federal forces regrouped and threatened to overwhelm the Confederate line.<sup>14</sup>

After two hours of bitter fighting, Stuart's command withdrew and Company D was ordered to cover the retreat of the artillery. The guns lost all but one horse, which Sergeant Theodore Hammon aided by Private Sam Ammen, guided through knee-deep mud. The company's casualties were light. Several were wounded and one man, Private Melvin Gibbs, was killed, His frozen body was recovered the next day. The wounded were left at Frying Pan Church, to which the Confederates had retreated on December 21.<sup>15</sup>

In the Dranesville skirmish, Private Wyndham Carper volunteered as a dispatcher from Colonel Garland to General Stuart. After delivering his message and returning, he found his company's position occupied by the Ninth Pennsylvania. "I got away as fast I could," he wrote, "and was almost covered up with pine needles, shot off by Minni (sic) Balls. Just as I was jumping across a branch, a ball crashed through my shoe from the heel to the big toe. The Yankees yelled out, 'Shoot the Damn Rebel.' I fell into the branch and, finding no bones broken, I made for the wagon train and escaped."<sup>16</sup>

In an attempt to cheer the troops after the Dranesville debacle, the Confederate officers issued them "pine top," a rot-gut whiskey. They became so spirited that they started a brawl with Company G. The camp guard quelled the riot and the troops settled down to the dull winter routine.<sup>17</sup> The company's depleted ranks were bolstered by 32 recruits. They arrived in camp on April 10. By the

18<sup>th</sup>, they had traveled down the James and were digging in at Yorktown. Not long after they arrived, the company was subjected to annoying cannon fire. In fact, a direct hit was scored on Sam Ammen's knapsack tearing it up and blowing the bottom out of a canteen. Reminding the men that desertion was not tolerated, the Regiment witnessed its first drumming out of two cowards. Their heads were shaved and they were marched out of camp to the tune of "The Rogue's March."

### **Williamsburg**

Rain fell incessantly while they were in the fortifications. One Private Hunter of the Eleventh felt that life offered "no fire, no comfort, no hope". If he was lucky, Hunter would get "three soggy crackers washed down by dirty water" for breakfast. There General Longstreet joined General Magruder, where some 50,000 Confederates faced General McClellan's army of 125,000.<sup>18</sup>

Harassed by enemy sharpshooters, the Eleventh was deployed about 1,000 yards in front of the main Federal lines. The troops then had to contend with artillery fire, which resulted in ruined supplies and frayed nerves.<sup>19</sup> The Confederates held the line for several days but were compelled to fall back because of inferior numbers. Withdrawing from the trenches on May 3, the Confederate Army, giving battle all the way, was pursued by Federal forces. During this retreat, horses and mules were pulled under the mud by sinking artillery and left for dead. Both armies lost many of their animals similarly.

Barely recovered from this exhausting march--and it still was raining-- the Fincastle Rifles took part in the Battle of Williamsburg on May 5. They were in a wooded area on the extreme right of the Confederate line. Facing them, sometimes only ten yards away, were Union sharpshooters. Pouring a deadly volley into the Union troops, Garland's men charged through the underbrush

pushing back the blue-coated soldiers. The Federals rallied and halted the Confederates, who withdrew to the woods to reform and reload from the cartridge boxes of the dead. They then returned to the fighting. Colonel Garland, though wounded, refused to leave the field and led his regiment battle was over.<sup>20</sup>

Subsequently, the Federal army received reinforcements and the Confederates were pinned down for the rest of the day. The Fincastle Rifles remained flat on the ground, and retired at 10 P.M. Rain fell as they withdrew in the ever-worsening quagmire.

The next evening, Company D was relieved and sent to nearby Fort Magruder for a rest. Casualties were heavy. Five men were killed: one while the company shifted position in the line of battle; the others died during the advance into the woods. Thirteen were wounded, including Lieutenant James and Color-Bearer Hickok. C. Johnson was listed as missing and George W. Loop had been wounded in the side and left for dead. He had actually been taken prisoner and sent to Cliffburne Army Hospital in Washington, where he died at 5:00 a.m. on May 18. The men's sacrifices were not unnoticed. Shortly after the battle, an article appeared in the Lynchburg Daily Virginian exclaiming that the Eleventh Regiment played a prominent part in that bloody battle and " bore itself gallantly." Indeed it had, the Eleventh as a whole suffered 30 men killed and 125 men wounded in that sanguinary affair.

After a few days rest, the company set out for Richmond in the rain and mud. Again the artillery wheels sank to the hubs. By May 9, the regiment reached the Chickahominy River at Bottoms Bridge, where it camped for several days. Here, while on picket, Private Robert Carper was wounded and captured by the enemy. He died on May 19, in the nearby Baptist Church Hospital.

<sup>22</sup> His younger brothers, George and Wyndham, were unhurt. However, Wyndham wrote: “On the retreat from Williamsburg to Richmond, I was pushed off the pavement in a hurried march through Williamsburg and my shoes were left in ten inches of mud. I was barefooted from there to Richmond.”<sup>23</sup>

### **Seven Pines**

In addition to its previous losses, the Rifles by May 30 had seven men sick and one A.W.O.L. There were hardly enough healthy men to fight in the next day’s Battle of Seven Pines, That same evening, a rainstorm deluged the exhausted Confederates. For hours the men made futile efforts to sleep. Then “Turn Out” was sounded and they were ordered to prepare two days’ meals and to be ready to march at a moment’s notice. They were so undermanned that orders were given to take every man--even the cooks!

Detailed a reserve unit, the Eleventh was stationed in a field, three quarters of a mile from the Federal lines. Around noon desperate fighting developed and the Eleventh was called forward four hours later. A messenger from General Hill galloped forward pleading with the company to hurry. The Union forces had been driven back from the breastworks, and more men were needed to hold that position.

The Eleventh went forward at double quick. As the men reached the woods, scores of wounded poured through their ranks and made their way to the rear. Reaching their assigned position proved risky because the men had to move 500 yards across the line of battle. Captain Houston was wounded, and Lieutenant John T. James assumed command. With a shout, the Eleventh moved

forward, pushing the Federals from their trenches. The Union troops retreated 50 yards behind their lines, counterattacked, and pushed the Eleventh back to the original Federal lines.<sup>24</sup>

During this melee, Captain Morgan, of Company C, saw Color-Bearer Hickok, of Company D, the only man left standing in one area. In an instant, Hickok was shot down, and Color-Bearer Jim Haynes, of Company F, seized the colors and rushed to the side of his mortally wounded Captain, Henry Fulks crying out “ Oh, my poor Captain is killed.”<sup>25</sup> In the evening, the Company moved to the right and did not engage in the next day’s fight. Again, the casualties for Company D were heavy. Six were killed and buried on the battlefield, including two noncommissioned officers and twenty-one were wounded.<sup>26</sup> After the battle, the Eleventh went on picket duty in the woods near the site of the previous day’s battle.

### **Seven Days**

Soon thereafter, the exhausted “Rifles” fought in the Seven Days’ battles around Richmond, The company was not engaged until June 30. At four o’clock the Battle of Frazier’s Farm began. The Eleventh, now commanded by Kirkwood Otey—Garland had been promoted to Brigadier General—took up position on the right center of the Confederate line. The Fincastle Rifles were stationed behind a swamp. At the command they charged through the swamp, up a rise, through a wooded area, and into a clearing. They overran a Union battery of eight pieces.

The enemy retreated but several men of the Fincastle Rifles were captured: J. N. Ammen, Oliver Perry Rader, W. D. Jones, H. B. Smith, James E. Smith and H. T. Thompson. They were put aboard the steamer *Coatzacoalcas* on July 9 and taken either to Fort Delaware or to Fort Columbus

in New York harbor. Jones, H. B. Smith and Thompson were exchanged for Federal prisoners at Aiken's Landing in July.<sup>27</sup>

### **Second Manassas**

With the summer nearly gone, the Union army attempted another invasion of the South. This time it was General John Pope, who, on August 30, 1862, led the Northerners to another defeat at the Second Battle of Manassas. It was General Pope who proudly proclaimed that his "Headquarters was in the saddle." and that he had seen nothing but gray backs in his career.

During this encounter, Company D was stationed at the top of a rise. Heavy cannon fire burst around it all day. Finally the company advanced at 4 P.M. The Fincastle Rifles served as the skirmish line for the Eleventh, now under the temporary command of Major Adam Clement. Advancing abreast of Kemper's and Jackson's troops, these three units captured two batteries stationed near the Chinn House. Moreover, they drove the batteries' supports from the field. The Confederates continued to hold their line 100 yards in advance of the enemy's former position. However, they were eventually forced to retire in the face of superior numbers.<sup>28</sup> Elsewhere on the field the Federals were badly beaten and, after another counterattack, retreated north.

Company D lost two dead, one of whom was Alfred Gibbs, the brother of Melvin, killed at Dranesville. Four were wounded, among them the ubiquitous, but apparently indestructible, Color-Bearer Hickok. These casualties, though insignificant on paper really turned the Fincastle Rifles into an ineffective fighting unit. By August 31, 1862, the company had lost 58 men, either killed, wounded, taken prisoner, diseased, missing or A.W.O.L. The ravages of war had thus reduced their total to 15 now led by Third Lieutenant Jacob Frier.<sup>29</sup>

## **Antietam**

The Second Battle of Manassas was the beginning of the ill-fated Maryland campaign. The next phase came on September 15, when the Confederates attempted to block a pass near South Mountain to keep the Federals away from the Rebel army to the east. The Union forces were atop South Mountain when the battle began, The Confederates had to scale the slope under heavy bombardment; Just beyond the crest of the mountain was a stone wall and beyond that a cornfield. The Southerners were forced back to the stone wall where fierce fighting developed. Eventually they were repulsed. Three men of Company D were wounded; one of them, J. Hendricks, fell into the hands of the enemy.<sup>30</sup> Sam Ammen noted with some disgust that “we are always called to storm the enemy at the head of charges due to the company’s possession of the superior Mississippi Rifle.”

Fighting by Antietam Creek occurred soon thereafter. The Fincastle Rifles, with the rest of the Eleventh, were stationed in a ravine on the Confederate right behind Toomb's Georgia brigade. The Georgians were entrenched on the bank of the Antietam River facing Burnside's Bridge. All morning Burnside had been attempting to cross the bridge. Late in the afternoon he finally made it, though at a cost of several thousand casualties. The Georgians gave way and rushed into the Eleventh, which tried to make a stand. The Eleventh also gave way and was flanked and overwhelmed by the onrushing blue forces.<sup>31</sup> Timely as ever, General A. P. Hill's Light Division arrived from Harper's Ferry to stem the tide of battle. He deployed his troops and plugged the widening gap in the Confederate line. The arrival of the Light Division turned a possible Confederate rout into a stalemate. That evening the lucky Rebels recrossed the Potomac near Winchester for a much needed rest.

### **Fredericksburg**

On October 25, the Eleventh left Winchester and marched via Culpeper Court House to Fredericksburg, arriving on November 25. Across the Rappahannock at Stafford Heights, the Federal army was preparing to attack Fredericksburg.<sup>32</sup>

The assault began on December 11. Confederate sharpshooters of Barksdale's Mississippi unit picked off Union engineers as they attempted to bridge the Rappahannock. In an attempt to dislodge those pesky sharpshooters, Burnside ordered the Federal artillery to raze that part of town occupied by the Mississippians. When the cannonade failed, the Federals resorted to an amphibious assault. This attack finally drove Barksdale's troops back.

The Federal troops then readied for an assault on Confederate positions on Marye's Heights, a half mile above the town. On the morning of December 13, they struck. Late in the afternoon, after six Union assaults had been repelled, the Eleventh was called forward from its reserve position. The regiment double-quickened to relieve troops who had been firing all day.

The Eleventh's destination was a cut in the sunken road behind a stone wall. Once there, the company came under the fire of Union sharpshooters who had taken position in nearby homes. One private from the Eleventh stuck his finger up from behind the wall and shouted, "Look boys, I am going to get me a furlough wound." His bravado was short-lived however and with common sense prevailing, he quickly withdrew his finger.<sup>33</sup>

Corporal Carper wrote of this battle that "we witnessed the attack made by two corps on Stonewall Jackson at Hamilton Crossing. Thousands seemed to go down before Jackson's cannon, and the whole plain was soon covered with the wounded. General Maury's (Meagher's) Irish, Brigade was almost annihilated by the Washington artillery and Cob's Georgia brigade."<sup>34</sup>

At nightfall Carper wrote it was a "horror of horrors....within thirty steps of us lay the Federal wounded, moaning all night". The suffering of the enemy proved too much for Confederate Sergeant Richard Kirkland of the nearby Second South Carolina. At the risk of his life, Kirkland brought water to the wounded Federals on that cold December evening. By morning, the Union army had had enough and recrossed the Rappahannock the next day. Company D suffered little in the fight. Four soldiers from Fincastle were wounded; one, McDowell Crowder, was shot in the leg and later died.<sup>35</sup>

Fredericksburg's aftermath saw the Eleventh Regiment in winter quarters at Guiney's Station, just south of Fredericksburg. The monotony was soon broken by a large scale snowball fight. One evening, a picket for the Eleventh challenged an unidentified person. He was quickly attacked by men of Toomb's Georgia brigade. A snowball fight materialized with battle flags flying and rebel yells filling the night air. The outnumbered Virginians were compelled to yield, even after General Pickett's men were summoned for support. Montgomery Corse, the commander of the Virginians, called for a snowball fight "to the death" The irate Georgians then overpowered Corse and sat on him until he acknowledged defeat. Several bloody noses and gouged eyes resulted from this faux battle.<sup>36</sup>

In late January, rumors were strong that the enemy would attempt to cross the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers for another fight. They marched to Chancellorsville for a bit of reconnaissance in the midst of an eight inch snow fall. Nothing happened so they returned to Guiney's Station.

### **North Carolina Interlude**

In late March, the regiment broke camp and set out for North Carolina via Petersburg. The men were transported in cold, drafty railroad cars. They kept warm by building fires on piles of dirt in the center of the cars. They arrived at Goldsboro "well smoked," according to Company C's Captain Morgan where three men were shot for desertion. Moving on to Kinston on the Neuse River, the men received plentiful rations. Morgan said that the abundance of sweet potatoes, rice, black-eyed peas, cornbread and bacon was immensely enjoyed by men who had known the scarcity of supplies in Virginia.<sup>37</sup>

Having completed their reconnaissance mission against New Berne, the troops left North Carolina , On April 4, 1863 for Virginia. They traveled by train to Franklyn Station, just south of Petersburg. Then, combining with Longstreet's men, they crossed the Blackwater River and marched to a point near Suffolk.<sup>38</sup> The object of the exercise at Suffolk was to prevent the sending of reinforcements to Hooker at Stafford Heights opposite Fredricksburg. During the Suffolk skirmishes, the Rebel forces had established a strong line of breastworks and rifle pits. One day the Federal Pickets advanced and opened fire with their artillery. Replying similarly, the Confederate artillerists scored a direct hit on a Yankee caisson. Seeing the explosion, the men of the Eleventh let out the Rebel yell after which the Northerners turned and ran.

The next day, under a flag of truce, a Union detail returned to retrieve their dead. One Yank said "When you fellas raised that yell, we thought you were charging us and we decamped in short order." Captain Morgan put it this way "The Rebel Yell had terrified them again." The next day in the midst of skirmish lines deploying, Federal forces set a nearby house afire, the occupant's crime was the feeding of hungry soldiers of C and D Companies. After these inconclusive skirmishes, the Eleventh rejoined the Army of Northern Virginia in May at Culpeper. Some members went fishing at a nearby mill pond. They feasted on 400 fish and 2 large turtles.

## **Gettysburg**

The Confederacy was riding high at this point in the struggle. They had soundly defeated the Federal Army at Fredricksburg and again at Chancellorsville. The prevailing feeling seemed to be that one more great victory would be the beginning of a peace process with the North. With that in mind, Lee elected to bring the war to northern soil for the decisive victory he was seeking.

Numbering some 75,000 men, the Confederate army set out to invade Pennsylvania. As with the previous year's Maryland campaign, Lee's army once again was depleted by deserters. These independent soldiers would fight like the devil on Southern soil which they were defending, but they saw no need to carry the war to the North. Notwithstanding, Company D left Culpeper and crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains at Snicker's Gap. Passing through Berryville and Martinsburg, the troops crossed the Potomac at Williamsport. They continued on through Hagerstown and into Chambersburg, Pennsylvania by June 28. <sup>39</sup>

Marching through Pennsylvania, one member of Company D spotted a patch of onions in a garden by the roadside. Having a weakness for this vegetable, he helped himself. An enraged Yankee woman flew out of the nearby house and gave him a beating with her broom. The soldier tried to escape her broom by running to the barn hoping to catch some fowl. Again he was thwarted, this time by two other women armed with sticks. Outnumbered and chagrined, the private returned to his amused comrades. <sup>40</sup>

One of the first missions of the Fincastle Rifles (and other units) was to destroy the Hagerstown And Chambersburg Railroad Depot. They completed this task on July 2 and moved to within five miles of Gettysburg. <sup>41</sup> There they rested and prepared for battle.

On July 3, Company D was formed in the woods along Seminary Ridge with the rest of Longstreet's troops. Federal artillery fire raked the tree branches, showering the men with splinters.

<sup>42</sup> At the sound of a signal cannon, the men prepared to attack. Using 159 artillery pieces for support, Lee was going to advance with ten brigades of infantry. <sup>43</sup> After preliminary cannonading, the army emerged from the woods and marched slowly, inexorably toward its objective, a stone wall behind which was a clump of trees, hereafter to be simply known as "the

angle.” In the distance, behind it, as far as the eye could see, was a solid line of blue-clad soldiers. Thus began Pickett’s famous charge.

The Fincastle Rifles were selected as the skirmish line for the Eleventh which was positioned on the far right of the Confederate line, only the Twenty-Fourth Virginia stood between them and the end of the line. They were stretched out in a single line 100 yards ahead of General James Kemper’s Gray columns. Soon Federal artillery began to tear up the southern ranks. At 1,000 yards, the Parrot Rifles ripped holes in the Rebel line. At 700 yards, the brass Napoleons opened fire with solid shot. As the distance closed, the Union artillerists changed from solid shot to shrapnel and canister. The Eleventh came within 30 yards of the lines, fired their weapons and charged.

Color-Bearer Hickok was hit and the colors were knocked from his hands. He caught them and led the Eleventh to the wall. Shot again, Hickok jumped on the wall, planting the colors in it. The Southerners overran the first line of defense and again Hickok was wounded—this time by a piece of shell in his side. As he fell, the flag was recovered by the regimental adjutant.<sup>44</sup>

Scrambling over the wall, the commander of the Eleventh, Kirkwood Otey was wounded. James Hutter, who replaced him, was himself wounded, and John Holmes Smith, a mere captain, took over a colonel’s position. The Confederates were desperately hoping for reinforcements that never came. Twenty minutes later, with whole lines falling, the Southerners could only give way slowly and retreat toward Seminary Ridge listening to the taunting Union soldiers chant

“Fredricksburg, Fredricksburg”.

Miraculously, only five men in Company D were wounded: Color Bearer Hickok, Private J. N. Ammen, Abe Fluke, Lewis Alderson and Private W. R. Carper. Captain Houston, on duty with the regimental staff, was wounded and died the next morning in a nearby barn.<sup>45</sup>

Carper was present when Captain Houston died and recorded his dying words: “Wyndham, be true to your God and your Country.” Houston was buried a few feet from the barn in which he died. Though wounded in the head and arm himself, Carper went out to the road, where a battalion of cavalry soon passed headed south. “Each soldier led two horses,” he wrote. “I said, ‘Throw me a Halter.’ I mounted and rode to the Potomac River.” At the Potomac, Carper returned the horse to the cavalry and was thrown a hat by an officer, his being shot off his head during the charge.<sup>46</sup>

Retreating under cover of rain on July 4, the beaten Confederates arrived in Maryland, where they turned over Federal prisoners to General Imboden. The Seventh and Eleventh Regiments were ordered to stay and cover the withdrawal of the slower artillery units.<sup>47</sup> The Fincastle Rifles reached Orange Court House, where they camped for the rest of the summer. They stayed in that area and near Taylorsville the remaining months of 1863.<sup>48</sup>

“I am so wretched tonight. I cannot sleep and so will write some in my journal. I have been thinking of my past association with Capt. Houston and it makes me so sad to think that I ever caused him any sorrow. I would give anything to hear the circumstances of his death. If I could only hear something about him, I would not feel so miserable. Ma thinks I ought to send his ring

back to his family, but I do not know any of them and it would be hard for me to do so.<sup>49a</sup> So says Lucy Breckenridge of Grove Hill, Virginia upon hearing her former fiance's death at Gettysburg.

### **North Carolina Revisited**

In January 1864, the Eleventh left for another campaign in North Carolina, this time to capture Carolina coastal territory held by Federal forces. The route to New Berne was through dreary country. The terrain was flat and sandy. Falling rains transformed the road into canals half a leg deep. Still the men kept up their spirits, often singing patriotic songs.<sup>49</sup>

Leaving New Berne on April 5, the Eleventh and its sister regiments invested Fort Adam in Plymouth, North Carolina. The fort, equipped with several 32-pound cannon, was manned by about 2,000 troops. With the aid of the gunboat *Albermarle*, the Confederates took the fort in five days. The *Albermarle* entered a fierce engagement with three Federal ironclads. She rammed and sank the *Southfield*, captured the *Bombshell*, and drove off the *Miami* with several disabled guns and a dead captain. Then the Confederate soldiers and sailors forced the surrender of the fort, taking 1,600 prisoners, 2,000 muskets, and 25 cannon.

The Fort Adams campaign resulted in light casualties for Company D. M. B. Dent and George Blackwell were both killed by the same projectile, one by the ball, the other by the spent and broken sabot off the shell. A need for dry socks probably saved Wyndham Carper's life. The soldiers were assigned to the rifle pits in alphabetical order; had not Carper requested to go back to camp for dry socks he would have been in the same rifle pit where Blackwell and Dent were killed. Several others had deserted.<sup>50</sup> On, May 2, the troops marched to Kinston, went by rail to Jarrett's

Station Virginia. From there due to Federals tearing up tracks they marched the rest of the way to Petersburg.<sup>51</sup>

### **Drewry's Bluff**

The North Carolina campaign ended with the Eleventh being called upon to attack Drewry's Bluff in Virginia. The troops crossed Falling Creek at the P and R River Road and took station on the Confederate left being told to sleep on their arms. The next morning they were stationed 200 yards behind Colonel Gracie's Alabamian's. The troops advanced up a rise under cover of their artillery. Gracie's regiment reached the summit and continued down the opposite slope toward a wooded area. Confederate artillery then advanced to the top of the rise and poured shot and shell into the woods down below. Under heavy Union fire, the Alabamian's broke and streamed to the rear through the Eleventh and Twenty-Fourth Regiments.

The Virginians then moved to the edge of the woods and swung around the Federal right and rear. After fierce fighting, the Union forces, an entire brigade under General Heckman, became demoralized and surrendered on the spot.<sup>52</sup>

On May 17, Terry's Brigade marched through Richmond, each regiment displaying a stand of captured Union colors "drooping beneath the glorious Southern cross."<sup>53</sup> Company D suffered relatively little in this battle. Robert Lemmon and John Kelly were wounded. Kelly's wound was in his knee and his leg had to be amputated.<sup>54</sup>

### **Petersburg**

The company was then ordered to Petersburg, where it joined the rest of the Confederate Army defending the besieged city. For the most part life in the trenches could only be called miserable.

The troops lived in mud and filth for months. For an occasional relief, Company D traded tobacco and newspapers with the Second Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery directly opposite them. Some Confederates would deliberately expose themselves to enemy fire, shaking their fists and cursing fiercely. Others amused themselves by sharpening their ramrods and firing them at the enemy. After some practice they became quite accurate. Desertion became a real concern at one point. Discouraging it was not easy and a waste of ammunition. The troops in the trenches were ordered to keep up a low and continuous fire in the evenings to keep potential deserters from running between lines. During one terrific exchange of volleys, Wyndham Carper's Rifle grew so hot, he could hardly hold it. Carper had fired about 60 rounds without a break. His brother George went back to the lines to get more ammunition. The most direct route was running on top of the breastworks in full view of the enemy. He did so with minnie balls whipping the air around him.

On some occasions, the regiment was shifted to other positions in the long line of battle around Petersburg. On August 16th with two other regiments, they moved north of the James River and occupied trenches held by the Richmond Militia. Lee inspected the troops the next day. When he learned who they were the General exclaimed "All right, I know these men and they will do their duty." The militia units were down right stunned when on the 19th, Federal Pickets advanced. It was not the Federals that astounded them but the behavior of the Virginians. They called out to the blue clad soldiers "Don't fire, we're Pickett's Division", newspapers, tobacco and coffee was then exchanged.<sup>55</sup>

Between March 8th and March 18th, the division was detached in an effort to chase down Sheridan's Cavalry. However, it was to no avail and they returned to Richmond tired and hungry with nothing to show for it.

By early 1865, the siege was beginning to tell on the Confederates. In a letter to the Secretary of War, Lee wrote that his right wing had been in battle for three days and nights. Some men had had no meat and all were suffering from enemy fire, scant clothing, hail and sleet.<sup>56</sup> As for Company D, three men deserted to the enemy. Another came down with bubonic plague. Losses through desertion and disease nullified whatever advantage had been gained by the addition of conscripts in October 1864.<sup>57</sup>

### **Five Forks**

Realizing that the fall of both Petersburg and Richmond was at hand, President Davis and General Lee thought it best to try to join forces with General Johnston's troops farther south to continue the war effort. Lee sent Pickett's division of 19,000 troops to Five Forks to meet Sheridan, who Lee thought might try to attack his right flank. It was critical to hold Five Forks because here the Confederates could take the Southside Railroad and meet with Johnston. Pickett drove back Federal cavalry and Warren's Fifth Corps. However, the Federals were reinforced by Sheridan's troops, Pickett began a slow retreat back to the Confederate lines near Petersburg. Suddenly, the troops were trapped on three sides by Union forces.

J. Risque Hutter, now commanding the Eleventh, first told Jake Frier of Company D, his adjutant, to try to escape. Then he reversed himself and ordered the troops to surrender. The Federals dashed for the Eleventh's colors still guarded by Hickok. Refusing to surrender the colors, Hickok kept firing until he himself was badly wounded. The company virtually ceased as a fighting unit in this battle. Oliver Perry Rader, who somehow rejoined his unit after his capture during the Seven Days' battles, was killed and 21 others were captured.<sup>58</sup>

During the Five Forks fight, Private Nathan Lemmon, of the Fincastle Rifles, found himself alone in a wooded area facing the onrushing Union forces. He made for a clump of trees in which he hoped to hide. Moments later General Sheridan passed within 20 yards of his hiding place. Believing the Federals had missed him, Lemmon was startled when a voice ordered him to come forth. He did so, forgetting that he still held his musket. Observing this oversight, the Union soldier who spoke to him hastened to disarm the lone Confederate. Sheridan rode back and questioned Lemmon, who remained mute.<sup>59</sup>

### **To Appomattox**

On April 2, 1865, Lee's army of 35,000 troops abandoned the trenches around Petersburg and fled westward toward Appomattox Station. Close behind him were Sheridan's men, who forced the end of the Confederate column to do battle at Saylor's Creek. Having marched for four days with no food and little sleep, the Confederates turned on their pursuers and made a last stand.<sup>60</sup>

Despite their dwindling numbers, the gray-clad troops charged, only to be driven back. The battle became a clubbing melee with men biting one another's ears, throats and noses. When it was over, the Confederates had lost 6,000 men, including Generals Ewell, Kershaw, Custis Lee, Dubore, Hunton and Corse all of whom were captured.<sup>61</sup> Wyndham Carper and Nash Baker at this point resolved never to be captured. They made for a stand of timber and evaded capture, there they went on to Farmville then Appomattox where they were detained by provost marshals.

The survivors joined the retreating, ragged, starving Confederate army, hoping to make Appomattox Station for rations not knowing that Sheridan's men had captured the supply train on April 8. The next day, at Wilmer McLean's home, Lee concluded that further resistance was futile. At 4:00 P.M., on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, Grant wired Secretary of War Staunton that the rebellion was over. Sympathetic to their defeated foe, soldiers of the 118th Pennsylvania Regiment doled out their rations, with their example being followed by other Federal units. "The sweet aroma of real coffee staggered the Confederates, condensed milk and sugar appalled them and they stood aghast at just a little butter."<sup>62</sup>

On April 12, the Eleventh Virginia was formally surrendered by Third Lieutenant Lewis Noftsinger of Company D. Of 1,000 men, barely 100 remained in the regiment. Only 10 men from the Fincastle Rifles gave up their arms.<sup>63</sup>

Thus ended the war for this hard fighting unit. Disbanding, the men headed home to make the best of it in this second birth of their country. Nearly 140 men served in Company D throughout the war. Like other units, they had their share of shirkers and deserters but for the most part, it was a unit Fincastle and Botetourt County would remember with pride. Through the torrential rains of Williamsburg, the freezing cold of Dranesville and Fredricksburg; through the searing July heat of that last day in Gettysburg and through the heart-wrenching surrendering of their star-crossed banners at Appomattox, the men of Company D never wavered in their devotion to their cause. The survivors like Color-Bearer Martin Hickok, Corporal Wyndham Carper, Nash Baker, Jake Frier and Nate Lemmon could now go home to start a new life among the ruins of the old Confederacy.

## ENDNOTES

- 1.) Frank M. Housman, “*A Short Sketch of the Fincastle Rifles,*”  
Fincastle ‘Herald, July 3, 1891, pp. 1-2.
- 2.) Ibid., p. 2.
- 3.) Lee A. Wallace, Jr., *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations 1861-65*  
(Richmond, 1964) p. 121.
- 4.) Housman, p. 3. Confederate service records state that 65 men enlisted on April  
23rd, 1861; however, the enlistment dates of seven men were not given.
- 5.) *War of the Rebellion, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*  
(Washington, 1880-1901), Series 1, Vol. II, pp. 824, 841, 944.
- 6.) Wyndham Randolph Carper, “*An Epitome of My Tramp Through the*  
*Civil War,*” ms. The author expresses his gratitude to Mrs. Minor Jones of Clifton  
Forge, Virginia, for a typed transcript of Carper’s account.
- 7.) *Compiled Confederate Army Service Records, Eleventh Regiment, Virginia\_*  
*Volunteers*, National Archives (Washington, D.C., 1960), rolls 499-513;  
Housman, p. 3.
- 8.) *War of the Rebellion*, Series 1, Vol. II, p. 461. Longstreet’s battle report.
- 9.) Ibid., p.498
- 10.) W. H. Morgan, *Personal Reminiscences of the War of 1861-5* ( Lynchburg,  
Virginia, 1911) p. 83.
- 11.) *Quartermaster Records Eleventh Virginia Volunteers, CSA*, Confederate Museum,  
Richmond, Virginia.
- 12.) Captions of Records and Events, *Compiled Confederate Service Records, Eleventh*  
*Regiment, Virginia Volunteers* (Washington, 1960).
- 13.) W. S. Hammond, “*Dranesville,*” Southern Historical Society Papers, Vol.
- 14.) XXXVII (Richmond, 1909) p. 69.
- 14.) *War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. V (Washington, 1881) p.490. Report of  
General Stuart.
- 15.) Housman, p. 4.
- 16.) Carper, p. 2.
- 17.) Housman, p. 4; Confederate Service Records.

- 18.) Housman, p. 5; Morgan, p. 97.
- 19.) Housman, p. 5; note in the margin stated “It was Sam Z. Ammen’s knapsack that was destroyed.”
- 20.) Morgan, p. 99; *War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. XI (Washington, 1884), p. 575. Report of General Ambrose P. Hill.
- 21.) *Lynchburg Daily Virginian*, Vol. X no. 238, p. 3 (date not discernible); Confederate Service Records.
- 22.) Housman, p. 6; Confederate Service Records; Morgan, p. 117.
- 23.) Carper, p. 2.
- 24.) Confederate Service Records; Morgan, pp. 122-125.
- 25.) Morgan, p. 126.
- 26.) Housman, p. 7; *Lynchburg Daily Virginian*, June 4, 1862.
- 27.) *War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. II, part II, pp. 762-764; Confederate Service Records.
- 28.) *War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. LI (Washington, 1897), p. 134.
- 29.) *War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. XII (Washington, 1885), p. 626.
- 30.) Housman, p. 10; Confederate Service Records.
- 31.) Housman, p. 10; Robert Thomas Bell, *The Eleventh Infantry Regiment, CSA*, 1968, p. 78.
- 32.) Caption of Records and Events; Morgan, p. 142.
- 33.) Morgan, pp. 149-150; Confederate Service Records.
- 34.) Carper, pp. 3-4.
- 35.) Confederate Service Records.
- 36.) Bell, p. 85.
- 37.) Captions of Records and Events; Morgan, pp. 157-158.
- 38.) Morgan, p. 159.
- 39.) Confederate Service Records.
- 40.) Housman, p. 12.

- 41.) Captions of Records and Events; *War of the Rebellion*, Series 1, Vol. XXVII, part III (Washington, 1889), p. 1090.
- 42.) Housman, p. 17.
- 43.) Mark M. Boatner, *The Civil War Dictionary* (New York, 1969), p. 338.
- 44.) Housman, pp. 15-16; Bell, p. 93.
- 45.) Housman, p. 16.
- 46.) Carper, p. 4.
- 47.) *War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. XXVII, part III, p. 1090.
- 48.) Captions of Records and Events.
- 49.) Morgan, p. 177.
- 49a) Breckenridge, Lucy, *Diary of a Virginia Girl, 1862-1864*, ed By Mary D. Roberston, Kent State University Press, 1979; July 20, 1863 entry.
- 50.) Morgan., pp. 180, 185, 187; *War of the Rebellion*, Series 1, Vol.III (Washington, 1891) p. 56.
- 51.) Morgan, pp. 181, 187.
- 52.) J. N. Sutter, "Who Captured Heckman's Brigade?" *Confederate Veteran*, MV (January, 1916) p. 29; Morgan, pp. 197, 203.
- 53.) J. W. Sumpter, "Fighting that was Close By Us," *Southern Historical Society Papers*, XXXVII (Richmond, 1909) p. 182.
- 54.) Confederate Service Records.
- 55.) Bell, p. 54
- 56.) Morgan, p. 101.
- 57.) Confederate Service Records; *War of the Rebellion*, Series IV, Vol. III (Washington, 1900) p. 857.
- 58.) J. R. Hutter, "The Eleventh at Five Forks Fight," *Southern Historical Society Papers*, Vol. XXXV (Richmond, 1907) pp. 358, 362. The *Fincastle Herald* reported that Hickok threw the flag, using it as a spear. As he reached for another weapon, he was shot down.; Boatner, p. 284.
- 59.) Housman, p. 18.
- 60.) Boatner, p. 723
- 61.) W. A. Watson, "Fighting at Saylor's Creek," *Confederate Veteran* XXV

(October, 1917) pp. 448, 451.

- 62.) Frank P. Cauble, *Proceedings Connected with the Surrender of The Army of Northern Virginia* (Springfield, 1962) p. 111.
- 63.) Housman p. 19.

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## Appendix A

This appendix includes a roster and a brief description of the remaining men in Company D, Eleventh Virginia Volunteer Infantry, C.S.A. The information has been gleaned from the official Confederate Service Records in the National Archives. (*Italics indicate another source for the information.*)

- Alderson, Lewis A.                      Age 19; enlisted April 23, 1861; July 30, 1861, elected Sergeant; captured June 28, 1862 before Richmond; wounded and captured at Gettysburg; captured at Five Forks, released from prison June 23, 1865.
- Allen, Henry C.                          Age 23; enlisted April 23, 1861; resigned May 31, 1861; transferred to 28th Virginia Infantry Regiment in May, 1862.
- Ammen, George W.                      Age 17; enlisted 1/19/65; enlisted too late to have an official record. *Alive in 1895.*
- Ammen, John N.                         *Born in 1842 Botetourt County*; enlisted 4/23/61; elected Sergeant 7/30/61; returned to ranks 11/1/61; promoted Corporal early 1862; POW 6/28/62, before Richmond; exchanged 7/12/62; 5'7"; WIA and captured at Gettysburg; paroled 9/8/63; promoted to sergeant 7/18/64; POW at Five Forks, 4/1/65; released from Point Lookout 6/23/65; *died 6/23/95.*
- Ammen, Samuel Z.                      Private; enlisted at Centreville, August 7, 1861; one source said he was discharged in May, 1863; another said he was transferred to the CS Navy in 1862.

Anderson, Chas.T. Age 26; Corporal; enlisted April 23,1861; held rank of Corporal Saddler; resigned as corporal 7/30/61 Served with company commissary for a short period.

Angle, J.B. No official records.

Baker, Nash J. Enlisted 4/23/61;Age 17; POW 6/28/62 by Richmond; exchanged 8/5/62; absent, sick in Botetourt 5-7/28/63; present through 12/64; 5'6".

Barber, William *Born Pittsylvania county*; enlisted 4/23/61; age 27; Driver, detailed as ambulance driver 5/62-8/63; present then through 12/64; POW at Five Forks 4/1/65; released from Pt. Lookout 6/23/65; 5'6 1/2 ' *occupation, leisure; in UCV Staunton, 5/22/07 ; died at Soldiers Home in Richmond 12/25/10, aged 80.*

Blackwell, George H. Enlisted 4/23/61; age 24; *farmer*; absent 7/8/61; absent as baggage guard in Richmond 5-12/62; absent sick in Botetourt 5-8/63; present in 4/64; *KIA North Carolina.*

Blankenship, Jos. T. Enlisted March 1, 1862, for three years; wounded at Seven Pines, May, 1862; wounded in the finger at Fredricksburg, Dec., 1862; wounded in the leg, February 28,1863; Went AWOL on the same date; returned February, 1864.

Blankenship, William H. Enlisted March 1, 1862 for three years; contracted typhoid fever 1863; had valvular disease of the heart August 12, 1863; January, 1864 died of Pleurisy in Farmville-*widow is Paulina Blankenship.*

Brown, Alfred N. Enlisted March 1, 1862 and paid as a drummer; July 30th, 1864, detailed as a drummer to the regiment.

Brugh, Jacob *Born in Botetourt County*; enlisted 2/28/62; *Farmer*; discharged 5/29/62 because of convulsions; age 33, 5'9"

Brush, J. Sick in Botetourt County 9/62.

Bosserman, William                      Enlisted 4/23/61; age 18; painter; absent 9-10/61 and 5/62; present through 12/64.

Britt, William H.                          Born Sussex County; enlisted 4/23/61; age 25; driver, detailed as a teamster 11-12/62; returned to duty 9-10/63; detailed as a teamster again 7-8/64. Sick in Danville in 10/64.

Camper, John H.                            Born 11/1/38; enlisted 4/23/61 as Lt.; age 22; clerk; absent sick 9-10/61; WIA 5/5/62, returned to regiment 1/9/63; absent on furlough 11-12/63; absent sick 7-8/64; POW 4/6/65 at Saylor's Creek. Took oath at Johnson's Island 6/18/65, age 26 5'10" *died 1/24/1922; buried East Hill Cemetery, Salem, Virginia.*

Camper, Newton L.                        Enlisted 4/23/61; age 19; Mason; present until last roll 1-2/64; *died 5/14/1917 in soldier's home in Richmond.*

Camper, Thomas J.                        Age 20; enlisted April 23, 1861; discharged at Centreville, December 14, 1861; reenlisted June 14, 1864 for three years; January 13, 1865. Admitted to Chimborazo hospital for Neuralgia of the face.

Carney, Abraham                          Enlisted August 31, 1863 in Orange County for three years; went AWOL March 1865. John Preston, Secretary of War issued a writ for his arrest.

Carper, George M.                         Enlisted 4/23/61; age 18; absent sick 5-8/63; present 7/64.

Carper, George W.                        Born 10/6/42; enlisted 3/1/62; absent sick from enlistment until 1864; Present 12/64; died 1/11/1920; buried at Galatia Presbyterian Cemetery, Botetourt County.

Carper, John W.                            Enlisted 3/1/62; KIA in Williamsburg 5/5/62.

Carper, Robert B.                         Enlisted 4/23/61; age 23; Doctor; absent sick 10/61; MWIA and POW, 5/5/62; died 5/19/62 from wounds.

Carper, Wyndham Randolph	Born 11/2/40; enlisted 4/23/61 age 20; Corporal 12/20/63; absent, sick 1-2/63; WIA at Gettysburg; returned 9-10/63; present 12/64; died 7/26/1925; buried Galatia Presbyterian Cemetery, Botetourt County.
Carroll, W	Sick in Botetourt County, May, 1862; . Died of dysentery, June, 1862.
Chafin, John H.	Enlisted March 1,1862 for three years; captured at Saylor's creek, April, 1865; released June 24, after signing oath of allegiance to the United States.
Chafin, Richard	On muster roll 10/18/64. Paroled at Appomattox Court House, April 9,1865.
Craig, John C.	Age 23; Private; enlisted April 23,1861; absent sick 9-10/61 appointed Corporal January 10, 1863; present 12/27/64.
Croft, David B.	Enlisted 4/23/61; age 26; cooper; absent sick 7-8/61; absent 9-12/62; absent 5-7/63; POW 4/6/65 at Farmville; released from Point Lookout 5/6/65.
Crowder, Charles L.	Enlisted March 1, 1862 for three years; October 1862, sick in Botetourt County.
Crowder, McDowell	Enlisted March 1, 1862; WIA 12/13/62 in the leg; died at home of wounds, 4/20/63.
Davidson, Maxwell T.	Age 26; enlisted April 23, 1863; July and August 1861, absent on special duty; November, 1861 on duty with the signal service; surrendered as Captain of the 11th Virginia Signal Corps at Appomattox; paroled at Charlotte North Carolina May 11,1865.

Davis, James R. *Born Botetourt County 6/6/40; Age 19; Private; enlisted April 23, 1861; July and August, 1861, in Botetourt; January 26, 1862, Suffered from general debility; January 28, 1862 medically discharged; captured at Five Forks in April, 1865; released from Pt. Lookout 6/12/65; 5'10" died 2/11/1920 in Fincastle.*

Davis, Volney Enlisted 4/23/61; age 18; absent sick 11-12/62; absent with leave 1-2/64; WIA 5/64 at Drewery's Bluff; returned 10/64; POW 4/5/65 at Amelia C.H.; released from Pt. Lookout 6/12/65; 5'11 1/2".

Dent, M.B. Enlisted March 1, 1862 for three years; sick in Scottsville, no date; May, 1862, sick in Richmond; July 12, 1862. Contracted bronchitis; May 23, 1863, sick in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Dillen, John Edward Enlisted 4/23/61; age 19; carpenter; absent sick, 9-10/62; present 12/27/64.

Douglass, J. Enlisted 2/27/62; died 6/12/62 of Typhoid fever in Richmond.

Falls, John Henry Enlisted March 1, 1862 for three years; wounded at Seven Pines 5/31/62; sick leave, August, 1864; Captured at Amelia C.H. April 5, 1865; released June 12 from Pt. Lookout 5'5 3/4".

Fellers, Peter G Age 19; Sergeant; enlisted April 23, 1861; promoted to Sergeant again November, 1861; October, 1862, appointed as a nurse in Warrentown Hospital; sick February, 1863; appointed Corporal April 23, 1863; August 3, 1863 transferred to Fourth Virginia Heavy Artillery.

Fleig, Joseph Enlisted April 23, 1861; May, 1862, sick in Richmond; wounded at Williamsburg; captured at Gettysburg and took U.S. oath of allegiance.

Fluke, Abe	Enlisted March 1,1862; May, 1862, sick in Richmond; wounded Gettysburg in the right shoulder and captured 7/3/63
Fluke, Jacob A.	Enlisted 3/1/62; WIA 5/5/62; WIA 9/14/62; returned 11-12/63; Enrolling Officer 7-8/64.
Garmen, George	Age 37; Private; enlisted April 23, 1861; hospitalized May 26, 1862; returned to company April 10, 1863 (escaped from Fort Delaware); present 12/27/64.
Gibbs, Alfred	Enlisted 4/23/61; age 25; clerk; WIA 5/31/62; KIA 8/30/62.
Gibbs, Melvin	Enlisted 4/23/61; brother to Alfred; age 21; printer; KIA 12/20/61 in Dranesville.
Godwin, James	Enlisted 4/23/61; age 18; clerk; absent on special duty 10/61 til 2/62; WIA 5/31/62. Transferred to Co. C 2nd Va. Cavalry 11/14/62.
Graybill, William L.	Private; enlisted August 1,1862; present 12/27/64.
Grady, Jewett H.	Private; enlisted March 1,1862; May 31,1862 wounded at Seven Pines; April 1,1865, captured at Five Forks; June 27, released from Pt. Lookout 5'8".
Hamilton, George W.	Enlisted 4/23/61; age 22; WIA 5/5/62; present until POW 4/1/65 at Five Forks; released from Pt. Lookout 6/14/65; 5'8 3/4".
Hammon, Theodore	Enlisted 4/23/61; age 24; on road party 11/61 to 3/62; made Sgt. In early 1862; KIA 5/31/62.

Haynes, Henry A. Private; enlisted March 1, 1862; absent in Botetourt December, 1862; AWOL May 23, 1863, returned Feb. 2, 1864; wounded at Richmond, no date.

Hazlewood, Chas. T. Enlisted 4/23/61; age 21; driver; made Sgt. 7/30/61; reduced in rank late 1862; detailed on Provost guard 9/63 to late 1864; POW 4/4/65 Amelia C.H.; released from Pt. Lookout 6/14/65; 6'0 1/2".

Hazlewood, William G. Enlisted 4/23/61; age 29; tailor; absent sick 10/61 to 5/62; WIA 8/30/62, never came back.

Hendrick, John H. Private; enlisted July 3, 1861 at Manassas Junction wounded at Boonsboro and captured.

Henkle, John M. Age 17; Private; enlisted at Fincastle on July 10, 1861; absent sick 10/61; discharged 7/23/62, expiration of term; 5'9".

Heslip, James S. Enlisted 4/23/61; Cpl; age 23; blacksmith; reduced in ranks 7/30/61; absent sick 8/61; discharged 11/4/61 by surgeon's certificate.

Hopkins, John S. Age 20; Private; enlisted April 23, 1861; absent sick 9-10/61; transferred to Albermarle Rangers, 10th Va. Cavalry in September, 1862; wounded at Seven Pines.

Hickok, John F. Enlisted 4/13/63; WIA 4/1/65.

Hickok, Martin V.B. Born 10/14/36; enlisted 4/23/61; age 24; clerk; absent sick 7-8/61; WIA 5/5/62; WIA 5/31/62; Made Color Sgt. 9-10/62; promoted to ensign 7/18/64; absent on furlough 2/65; WIA (both thighs) and POW 4/1/65; released from Johnson's Island 6/18/65; 5'9"; *died* 4/5/1913.

Hypes, Bishop A. Private; born 8/2/33; enlisted 4/23/61; carpenter; MWIA 5/31/62 at Seven Pines; died 6/3/62; buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Richmond.

James, Edward W. Enlisted 4/23/61; age 16; printer; KIA 5/5/62, Williamsburg.

James, John T. VMI grad; enlisted 7/22/61; LT.; WIA, POW, 5/6/62; returned To company 9/23/62; made Capt. 7/3/63; POW 4/1/65 at Dinwiddie C.H.; released from Johnson's Island 6/18/65; 5'9".

Jennings, John W. Enlisted 2/13/63; present 12/3/64.

Jennings, Pollard Age 17; enlisted April 23, 1861; May 6, 1861 issued a surgeon's certificate of disability; issued a return of artisan's certificate for gunsmithing.

Johnson, George S. Enlisted March 1, 1862 for three years; September and October, sick in Fincastle; On furlough in November, December, 1863.

Johnson, Whitfield Died May 19, 1862 at an army hospital in Lynchburg from wounds received at Williamsburg.

Jones, William D. Enlisted 3/1/62; POW Seven Days; Exchanged 8/5/62; age 18; deserted 2/13/65.

Keefauver, Edward Age 30; enlisted April 23, 1861; February, 1862 sick in Botetourt; May, 1862 reenlisted for two years; July 12, 1862. Caught Syphilis; August 7, 1862 transferred to a medical detail in Lynchburg; March 3, 1863 unfit for field service; May 10, 1863, court martialled, forfeited one months pay; August or September, 1864 wounded; March 10, 1865 wounded and transferred to Wayside Hospital in Farmville. *Applied for pension in Oklahoma*



18, 1864; captured at Five Forks, April 1,1865; released June 20, 1865.

Lemmon, John P. Enlisted March 1,1862; wounded at Seven Pines May 31,1862; sick and absent in Botetourt June, 1863; returned August 19,1863; captured at Amelia Court House April 5,1865; released June 28.

Lemmon, Nathan E. Age 21; Private and Sergeant; enlisted April 23,1861; wounded at Williamsburg May 5,1862; returned to company, November 5, 1863. POW 4/1/65; released from Point Lookout 6/28/65; 5'9".

Lemmon, Robert N. Enlisted 4/23/61; age 19; WIA 5/31/62; returned 1/63; absent with leave 1-2/64; WIA at Drewery's Bluff; 60 day furlough.

Lemmon, Samuel B., Private; enlisted at Taylorsville, October 10,1863; captured at Amelia Court House April 5,1865; released June 20,1865 from Pt. Lookout.

Linkous, James R. Enlisted 4/23/61; Lt.; age 32; clerk; resigned 12/21/61

Loop, George W. Enlisted 4/23/61; age 19; MWIA and POW 5/5/62; died 5 a.m. 5/18/62.

Lowman, Cyrus W. Enlisted 4/23/61; age 25; POW 4/1/65; released from Pt. Lookout 6/28/65; 5'6".

Luster, Luther Enlisted 4/23/61; age 22; absent sick 9-10/61; KIA 5/31/62 at Seven Pines.

Marks, Robert S. Enlisted 4/23/61; age 20; absent sick 9/61 until discharged 11/7/61, on surgeon's certificate.

Maury, John K.	Enlisted 4/23/61; age 30; carpenter; KIA 5/5/62 at Williamsburg.
Montgomery, William J.	Enlisted August 7, 1861 at Centreville; sick in Botetourt September and October, 1861; captured February 16, 1863; AWOL, June, 1863 to February, 1864.
McCready, Henry	Born Glasgow, Scotland; enlisted 4/23/61; age 32; Tailor; discharged 7/23/62, expiration of enlistment.
McDowell, James	Enlisted August 15, 1861 at Centreville, appointed Color Corporal August 30, 1861; discharged February 25, 1863; present again in July and August, 1864; captured at Five Forks April 2, 1865; released June 15; POW report lists him as having a fair complexion, light hair and gray eyes; wounded ankle, no date.
McKallister, John F.	Enlisted 4/23/61; age 21; KIA 5/31/62 at Seven Pines.
McNeal, Robert F.	Enlisted 4/23/61; age 32; made Corporal 12/20/62; POW 4/6/65 at Fisher's Creek; released from Newport News 7/1/65; 5' 10".
Moler, James H.	Enlisted 4/23/61 as Sgt.; age 23; carpenter; reduced in ranks 7/30/61; absent sick 7/61 until discharged 11/21/61 due to rheumatism.
Montgomery, Henry	Enlisted 8/7/61; POW 10/9/62; exchanged 10/31/62; deserted 5/63.
Montgomery, William J.	Enlisted 8/7/61; absent sick 10-11/61; deserted 5/63.

Murray, Barney	Enlisted March 1, 1862; AWOL forty days, returned April 27, 1863; captured at Five Forks April 1, 1865; sent to Point Lookout, Maryland; Released June, 1865.
Murray, J.P.	Enlisted March 11,1862; AWOL, November 9,1862, returned February 1, 1863; November, 1863, absent and detailed as a provost guard, returned in February 1864.
Murry, Oliver H.	Enlisted March 1, 1862; wounded at Seven Pines; July and August, sick in Botetourt.
McNeal, Robert	Age 32; Private: enlisted April 23, 1861; Made Corporal December 20, 1862; captured at Fisher's Creek April 6, 1865.
Nofsinger, Lewis	Enlisted 4/23/61; age 31; Tinner; detailed 9-10/62; made Ord. Sgt. 12/20/62; absent 9-10/63; made Lt. 9-10/63; paroled 4/9/65 at Appomattox.
Northern; William H.	Enlisted 4/23/61; age 25; Tinner; made Cpl. 7/30/61; KIA 5/31/62 at Seven Pines.
Perkins, Thomas F.	Age 18: enlisted June 15,1864 at Cold Harbor for three years; has other records with the Lynchburg Home Guards; captured April 1,1865 at Five Forks; released from Lookout Mountain, Maryland, June 16,1865; POW description was light complexion with brown hair and blue eyes.
Poague, Joseph K.	Enlisted 4/23/61; age 21; Farmer; medical discharge 11/25/61 due to phthisis.

Pritchard, Alexander                      Enlisted March 1,1862; sick in Petersburg October, 1862; December 31,1862, listed as not being on hand for six months; June 17,1863, died.

Pritchard, James I.                         Enlisted 3/1/62; present 12/26/64.

Pritchard, James W.                        Enlisted March 1,1862; in Petersburg with pneumonia, no date.

Rader, Oliver Perry                        Born 8/1/40; enlisted 4/23/61; age 20; absent sick 10-12/61; POW 6/30/62 age 21; 5'8"; exchanged 8/5/62; absent sick 7-8/64; present 12/30/64; KIA 4/1/65 at Five Forks; buried Rader family cemetery.

*Randolph, G.W.                              Died 8/21/64; buried at Hollywood Cemetary, V-247.*

Redmond, Isaac P.                         Enlisted March 1, 1862; sick in September and October, 1862; AWOL, November 1,1862 to August, 1863.

Simmons, William                         Enlisted April 23,1861; captured at Battle of Boonesboro in September, 1862 and exchanged; AWOL December 1862 to February 1,1863; guarded baggage in Richmond, April and May, 1863; captured July 3,1863 at Gettysburg; exchanged in February, 1864; captured at Cheatersville, September 14,1864.

Simpson, John C.                         Enlisted 3/1/62; POW 6/30/62; age 18; 6' 0"; exchanged 8/5/62; present 12/26/64.

Smith, Henry B.                             Enlisted 3/1/62; POW 6/30/62; age 21; 5'5 1/2"; exchanged 8/5/62; deserted 2/13/65.

Smith, Jacob B.                             Age 26; enlisted April 23, 1861; Wounded at Seven Pines, May 31, 1862; AWOL November 9,1862; AWOL again in January and February, 1864.

Smith, Richard	Private; enlisted February 21, 1863; AWOL May and June, 1863.
Spickard, John G.	Enlisted 3/1/62; WIA 12/13/62 in leg;; present 12/27/64.
St. Clair, Isaac	Enlisted 4/23/61; age 45; on furlough 4-8/62; absent sick 11/61-5/62.
St. Clair, William H.  as	Age 20; enlisted April 23, 1861; made Sgt. early 1862; wounded at Williamsburg, May 5, 1862; wounded at Seven Pines; in September and October, 1862, he was on detached duty, Serving as an enrolling officer; listed as killed in battle, May 21, 1863; also listed as captured at Saylor's Creek in April, 1865; POW description lists him as having a fair complexion, light hair, blue eyes and five feet seven inches tall; also listed as having died from wounds received from the battle at Seven Pines; Letter in service file indicates that Acting Lieutenant J. Frier certified his death and that the Confederacy owed St. Clair \$25.00 for clothing and four months back pay for a total of \$69.00 to be paid to his mother.
Thompson, Henry T.	Age 21; Enlisted April 23, 1861; captured June 28, 1862 near Richmond; sent to Fort Delaware July 9; POW description lists him as 5' 10" brown hair and hazel eyes; exchanged July 12, at Aiken's Landing; September, 1862 wounded at Boonsboro; September and October, 1863 collected stragglers and conscripts in Botetourt; assigned guard duty by General Echols; captured at Five Forks April 1, 1865; released June 21, 1865 from Pt. Lookout; 5'9".
Thompson, Robert K.	Enlisted 4/23/61; Captain; age 30; merchant; resigned 7/16/61 to join the Botetourt Artillery.

Weeks, James M.	Age 29; Private; Enlisted April 23, 1861; wounded at Williamsburg, May 5, 1862; captured at Williamsburg and exchanged; absent in Bedford City, no date; discharged May 29, 1862.
Williams, George	Enlisted 4/23/61; Cpl.; age 21; absent sick 10/61-2/62; discharged 5/30/62 due to consumption; 6'4".
Williams, Richard B.	Age 19; Private; enlisted April 23, 1861; Corporal June 30, 1861; wounded at Seven Pines, May 31, 1862; January, 1863 detailed to collect conscripts.
Wood, James Archelus	Born 9/1/47; enlisted April 23, 1861; Captured at Fisher's Creek April 6, 1865; released July 1, 1865 at Newport News; 5'8". Died 3/3/1940; buried at Glen Wilton Cemetery.
Word, William W.	Enlisted 4/23/61; age 16; absent sick 9-12/61; WIA 5/31/62; KIA 8/30/62, Second Manassas.
Wright, Allen P.	Enlisted 3/1/62; Cpl.; WIA 5/31/62; never returned.
Zammer, S.	Discharged 5/20/62.
Zimmerman, Barnett	Private; enlisted March 1, 1862; wounded at Seven Pines May 31, 1862; detailed to drive cattle for Longstreet, September and October, 1862; May and June, 1863 served as teamster in a corps commissary train; returned to company, October 20, 1864; captured at Five Forks April 1, 1865; released June 22.
Zimmerman, William,	Private; enlisted March 1, 1862; AWOL for 40 days beginning in January, 1863; captured at Five Forks, April 1, 1865; released June 22, 1865.

## **Appendix B**

### **An Epitome of my tramp through the Civil War**

As Recorded by Wyndham Randolph Carper

Company "D" Eleventh Va. Volunteers

C.S.A.

I left home April 1861 and joined the Fincastle Rifles. We moved from there on the Virginia Tenn. R. R. and were mustered into service in Richmond, Virginia, on the 17th day of April 1861. We were drilled by the V. M. I. Cadets for several weeks. While in Richmond, the Eleventh Virginia Infantry was formed, consisting of Company 'A', Lynchburg Rifles; Company "B Campbell County"; Company C, Campbell County; Company "D Botetourt County; Company 'E", Company 'F', and Company 'G', Home Guard, Lynchburg; Company "H"; and Company 'I', Loudon County; and Company 'K', Botetourt County.

About the first of May 1861, we were moved by rail to Manassas Junction. Finding only a company of cavalry there, we found very good barracks newly built. We were put through company drill, regimental and skirmish drill almost hourly. Col. Samuel Garland Was our Commander. He afterwards became Brig. General and was killed in 1862 at the Battle of Boonsboro, Maryland.

During the first battle of Manassas, I had measles and no one was left at the camp but Doctor Granberry who took care of me. He found me after I had fainted and took me to my bunk. At the Battle of Manassas, July 21, 1861, the Eleventh Virginia Infantry was in line at Blackford Ford. After the above battle our brigade, commanded, by General Longstreet, went into camp at Centerville and from there to Mason's and Munsun's Hill and did picket duty in front of McClellan's Army viz the Army of the Potomac, we spent the winter at Centerville. The Eleventh Virginia Regiment had a skirmish with McCall's Division at Drainesville, Virginia in December 1861. In that skirmish, I Volunteered to dispatch, (Verbal) from, Col. Garland to General J. E. B. Stewart, who was in command of the expedition. I delivered the message, and on my return I found the Ninth Pennsylvania occupying our position. I got away as fast as I could and was almost covered up by pine needles shot off by minni balls. Just as I was jumping across a branch, a ball

crashed through my shoe from the heel to the big toe. The Yankees yelled out, "Shoot the Dam Rebel." I fell into the branch and, finding no bones broken, I made for the wagon train and escaped.

We spent the winter of 1861 in comfortable quarters at Centerville, and in the spring we were transferred to Yorktown by the way of Richmond. After doing picket duty there for some time along the Warwick River, we fell back to Williamsburg and fought that furious battle, My oldest brother, Dr. R. B. Carper, was mortally wounded at Williamsburg. My brother George and I came out O. K. On the retreat from Williamsburg to Richmond, I was pushed off the pavement in a hurried march through Williamsburg and my shoes were left in ten inches of mud. I was barefooted from there to Richmond.

The next engagement was Seven Pines. In the Battles of Williamsburg and Seven Pines we lost seventy-five men. After the Battle of Seven Pines, I was sent to Chimborazo Hospital, Richmond, with typhoid fever. My aunt Susan Childs moved me from the hospital to her home in Richmond. I missed the Seven Days battle around Richmond. My brother, George, had a minni ball pass through his hat and our Chaplain, Bishop Grandberry, lost an eye at the Battle of Frazier's Farm. Owing to my illness, I did not return to the Army of Northern Virginia until September, 1862. I went by way of Lynchburg Charlottesville and Staunton, and footed it down the valley for one hundred miles to Darksville, where General Lee's Army was camped. Shortly after arriving at camp, Jackson and Longstreet's Corps were reviewed by General Lee, Jackson, and Longstreet. It was indeed a grand sight to see the eighty thousand men pass in review. Immediately afterwards, we were marched hurriedly across the Rapidan River waist deep in mush ice. Marching rapidly through the wilderness of Fredericksburg, we went into camp on a ridge facing the Rappahannock River. We had fly tents, captured from our friends on the other side.

On the morning of the 13th of December 1862, we prepared for action as General Burnside's Army was crossing the river on pontoons, our brigade was held in reserve on Maryes Heights and we witnessed the attack made by two Corps on Stonewall Jackson at Hamilton Crossing. Thousands seemed to go down before Jackson's cannons and the plain was soon covered with the wounded. General Lee and his staff were within few yards of our stacked rifles, it has been said that one of the staff remarked, "Isn't it a Grand Sight. Lee's reply was, "Too much of it, and we would be fond of it.

About sunset, we relieved General Randson's brigade at the foot of Maryes Heights with little or none lost. The Tar Heels were out ammunition. The night following our going into position, was Oh Horror of Horrors, the moaning of the Federals wounded within thirty steps of us. When daylight appeared they lay across each other. General Maury's Irish Brigade was almost annihilated by the Washington artillery and Cob's Georgia brigade. After the battle, my Captain, his brother, and I went over the battlefield where General Jackson's Corps fought and the Federals were being buried. They seemed to have fallen in line of battle. We went into winter quarters at Guinea Station on the R. I & P. R. R.

In the spring of 1863 we were sent to Kingston, N. C., remaining there for a month. We were then ordered back to Virginia, and upon our arrival,, we joined General Lee's Army on his invasion of Pennsylvania, remaining a week or ten days at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. On the night of July 2, we reached Gettysburg and about 2:00 P. M. on July 3rd Pickett's Division made its famous charge on Cemetery hill. This division answered to Roll Call on the morning of July 3rd, fifteen thousand and on the next morning only fifteen hundred. Our beloved Captain Gardner Houston was mortally wounded. He said to me a few moments before death, 'Wyndham, be true to your God and. your Country.'" Only a few of Company 'D' were wounded, I being one of them, was wounded as we drove in the Federal pickets. I was wounded early in the action and carried off the field for dead.

A federal bomb knocked down three of the four litter bearers and I came to. An ambulance came up. I got in and was taken to a Pennsylvania barn where a field hospital was located. That evening I saw arms and legs cut off by our surgeons, something I had never witnessed before. The next morning orders came for those able to walk that by going out to the main road a conveyance would be found. As I was only wounded in my head and left arm, I walked out and took a seat on the roadside. A battalion of cavalry passed followed by a lot of led horses. Each soldier led two horses, I' said, 'Throw me a Halter,' I mounted and rode to the Potomac River. When I reached the ferry, General W. E. Jones made me turn the horse over to the soldier I had gotten him from. I had ridden all day without a hat, mine being shot to pieces. I started up from the river walking when I met the Fifty-eighth Virginia Infantry Regiment going at a double quick to hold the Ferry, as the enemy was advancing. As the Colonel and his staff passed, one of the officers ran his hand under his saddle and threw me a hat.

From the Potomac to Staunton, Virginia, the people by the way were kindness itself to us poor weary soldiers. From Staunton to Richmond, I rode on a freight train in a box car loaded with wounded for Chimborazo hospital. I received a furlough from there, home. At the expiration of thirty days, I had to report to the hospital in Lynchburg, as my arm had never healed. After remaining about three months and having read all the books in the city library, I left Lynchburg with a lot of convalescents who were returning to the Army of Northern Virginia. Between Lynchburg and Gordonsville, a detective examined our passes. I had none. He wanted to know if I was going home. I told him I was going from home to my command at Taylorsville, Virginia. Jeff Davis could feed be as well in a camp as in a hospital. He let me go on and I went into a hut with the mess that I belonged to, viz, my brother, George, Nash Baker and others. Shortly after reaching Taylorsville, we were transferred, (Terry's Brigade), to Smithville, N. C. at the mouth of Cape Fear River as reinforcements for Fort Fisher. We camped on the coast, and Oh! such oysters, crabs, fish, and plenty of western fat bacon. Our brigade having lost so many men at Gettysburg the year before, I always thought General Lee gave us this delightful trip, though it turned out to be anything else,

before we returned to Virginia. From Smithville, N. C., we took a steamer to Wilmington, N.C. a distance of sixty miles, though it seemed over a hundred through the sand. Arriving just above Plymouth in front of Federal Fort Adam and hardly stacked arms, when a Federal Gun Boat came bombing down the Roanoke River. They gave us a broad side, one hundred fifty pound shell. One of our regiments, being concealed and on the river bank, shot down the smoke stack.

It was our first contact with gun boats, but not out last. We were then put on picket duty in front of Fort Adam, the rifle pits having been dug the night before. We had to cross a cypress swamp to reach our picket line and our feet caught on cypress knees causing us to fall into two feet of water. We waited several days, fearing that we would have to attack the Fort. In going, over to picket line about the third morning, just as we started to cross the swamp, Dent remarked 'I would as soon go to hell for a cup of cold water, as to cross this swamp again. In less than an hour, his head was shot off by a cannon ball. I had asked my Captain to allow me to return to camp for a pair of yarn socks, received from home the day before. I asked this permission just after Dent made that awful remark. I would have been killed or wounded if I had not gone back after the socks, as soldiers were detailed in the alphabetical order. George Blackwell, Dent and I would have occupied that rifle pit together. George Blackwell was mortally wounded by a brass band that flew off the cannon ball which killed Dent.

When our iron clad came down the Roanoke River, Fort Adam surrendered to our regiment 150 soldiers and ever so many cannons of heavy calibre. We saw our first hand grenade. We marched our prisoners around Plymouth when four thousand had surrendered. We had a great time going into the Federal sutle tent getting confectionerys, etc. Major General Hoke had command of the expedition. The Federals were surrendered to General Hoke from St. Louis. General Mat Ranson's Brigade was there and they were some fighters from the Tar Heel state. Our iron clad sunk two gun boats and the rest made all speed for Roanoke Island. I got permission to go over the iron clad, as it was at the wharf. It only had one six pound pounder brass cannon. It resembled a large mud turtle.

Colonel Dearing, who commanded the sixty-second North Carolina Cavalry, was a gallant soldier and a very fine looking officer. As he was a Lynchburg boy he knew many of the boys in our regiment. He lost his life at High Bridge on the retreat from Petersburg.

From Plymouth we came to Petersburg and helped General Beauregard to bottle up Ben Butler. When we reached Petersburg, General Butler was nearly to Manchester. Having taken one of our forts, we got around by the way of Chester Station in their front and at three o'clock the next morning advanced upon their breastworks. The brigade in our front gave away and came back through our ranks. We kept advancing, not firing a gun until we reached a small strip of timber thirty or forty yards in width. We were then close enough to see them as they fired over their trenches. We threw ourselves on the ground and fired from elbow and knees. After firing several rounds, as I aimed to fire my rifle, I looked to the mouth of a barrel of an enemy's gun and it flashed through me that the one who pulled the trigger first, lived.

After the fight, I stepped the distance of only eleven steps between our line and theirs. My brother, George, was shot in the arm. Our losses and killed were heavy, as the enemy was firing in comparative safety. Then the order rang out, 'Cease Firing', some of our boys paid no attention to it. I recognized the voice of Lieutenant Luther Stout, a first cousin, who was in the Seventh Virginia Infantry, and I stopped the firing around us.

The Seventh Virginia Infantry, on our left, found the enemy hadn't fortified the James River and they marched up the line until they captured Fifteen Hundred Federals. The enemy had breakfast ready for us, camp kettles of chicken and beef, boxes of crackers, sugar and coffee, little did they think that we would eat their breakfast. After breakfast, Bill Bauseman and I went to the front to see if there was anything to be found. We found a young Federal soldier shot through the thigh

and unable to walk. He begged us to carry him to our lines. We took him up and he placed his arms around our necks. He said, 'Hurry, as our boys will come back in. We told him that we had captured them. We put him in an ambulance and he took off his watch and chain and offered them to us but we refused.

We witnessed the charge made by General Colquitts, Georgia Brigade, on the fourth to our right. It was a gallant charge. Fortunately, the enemy had not brought up their cannon. Evan Shoots, of the fifty-sixth Virginia Regiment, was wounded by a Federal shell. After this skirmish, we were moved via Richmond toward Spotsylvania Court House and joined our old corps.

General Lee was falling back toward Cold Harbor. We passed Yellow Tavern the day after General J. E. B. Stewart was killed. The dead horses looked like logs in the new ground. We went into line of battle some two or three miles beyond, and commenced to dig in. We had no pioneer corps, so we tore down a house and used the planks for picks and shovels. General Breckenridge, Kentucky Division, and they had a good pioneer corps following the division. I recognized one member of it, he being a young man that worked for my father on the farm. Our line was in a hard county road, so we had to work like beavers to dig in before dark, and next we had Headache timber on the works by placing logs on blocks so that we could shoot with comparative safety. Then we placed thirty or forty steps in front of our work, tops of trees, the limbs sharpened so the enemy would be entangled. We just ached for the boys to attack us by the thousands, as we had never fought behind breast works. They could see from an eminence that it would be 'Night Under the Hill' had they done so. Their sharp shooter annoyed us a little and gave several of our boys furloughs. The second night after our line was established, General Grant hurled two hundred thousand on our right end, of course, we thought they would attack us. The musketry sounded like a million men driving shingles on a house. It almost drowned out the sound of the cannons.

The night before General Grant moved from Cold Harbor toward the Chickahominy and James Rivers, several of our boys (Company "D") were detailed on picket duty in front. The picket lines were only distanced about seventy-five yards. At nightfall, a Federal Regiment was hurled on this picket line. We could hear the Colonel give the command, "Halt: Order Arms; Stack Arms! One gun fired in stacking arms and one poor fellow expired then and there. Of course, we expected to be attacked and were ready to fire one volley and retire to top speed, very little sleep that night for us. We had two recruits, James Wood and Tom Perkins, who had been assigned to our company a few days

before and we told them when the Yanks left they would get an overcoat, a U. S. blanket, and a pup tent.

At day-break, sure enough the Yanks were gone. We broke for their lines. I had my hand in a box of ground sugar and coffee putting it into my haversack, when bang went a minni ball through the box. I looked up and a sharp shooter was reloading his rifle, some three hundred yards off on a hill. Nevertheless, we got fresh beef, ham, and crackers, and when we were ordered to leave the rifle pits, General Jubal A. Early came down the line. Tar Heels deployed. He stopped with a Twenty-Fourth Virginia Regiment, his old command, and jibed us all, saying he had to take his Tar Heels to clear our front. We were not compelled to follow our regiment, so we went into a camp at a spring and cooked our beef and made coffee, how we enjoyed it. After eating and resting awhile, we overtook our regiment just at the pontoon bridge at Chafin's Farm on James River. General Lee was sitting on his horse alone when our division passed. Of course, we cheered him. On our way toward Petersburg we met a part of Ben Butler's command, and we immediately halted and formed line of battle and marched toward Bermuda Hundred. When we reached the front of Beauregard's lines we found that General Beauregard had marched his forces to keep Grant from taking Petersburg and only left the pickets to hold the line. We had to Lie down to protect ourselves from the sharp shooters, as they occupied higher ground. After remaining there several hours, an order came from General Lee's headquarters, to charge and retake our lines, which we did in quick time. Our prisoners were chiefly foreigners and the word "kill is all we could understand. The Federals tried to drive us out eight or ten times from picket lines. When they would give a huzza and attempt to charge, we would pour it into their lines through the heavy timber. We soon ran out of cartridges, having fired sixty rounds. My rifle got so hot that it was dangerous to handle. My brother, George, was sent back to the main line for ammunition and he walked on the top of the breast works amid a shower of Minni balls and refused to get down. Next day, General Lee, in his report to the Secretary of war, stated that Pickets Division had never failed to capture any position it had attacked. At Five Forks, we struck Warren's Corps of Forty Thousand and were scraped, there. being only One Thousand of us. Hood's Division on our right, extending to the Appomattox River, had no orders to retake their front but they saw us charge and swept everything before them, and the famous Beauregard was re-established from the James to Appomattox.

We remained on this line through the winter of 1864. Our opponents were Second Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery and we traded papers, tobacco, and just anything In March 1864, we were relieved by General Mahone's Division and were marched through Petersburg toward Hatcher's Run. After

passing Five Forks, we encountered General Sheridan's Cavalry and had several skirmishes with them, forcing them back and beyond Dinwiddie Court House. That night we fell back to Five Forks and the next morning commenced to dig in. About three P. M., our Regiment was taken out of our breastworks and double-quickened down the line to the left. We encountered Wallace's South Carolina Brigade, also some dismounted cavalry retreating. After passing them, we went into line at right angles to our line-of battle faced General Warren's Corps of Forty Thousand. They had flanked our left and were moving toward us out of the pines into an old field only about seventy-five yards from us. We got the drop on them and both sides dropped to the ground and commenced firing. After firing five or six rounds, John Amon, on my left, reached over Oliver Rader and said, "The boys are gone." I said to John that my ramrod is on my ball and here goes ramrod and minnie, knowing that I could get another, as wounded men leave their guns in the field. Our line extended up a hill and the boys could see the enemy flanking us, but we at the foot of the hill could not see them moving to envelope us on account of the smoke. After I secured another ramrod, I came across Nash Baker who said Corporal, we are gone up sure this time. He also said, the Yankee's would get all of us if we went back to our lines.

I told him we had never been captured and I proposed to go out the way the Yanks came in. We did so by evading stragglers from the Federal forces and reached Ford's Depot about dark. Had we followed our Company, we would have been caught as nearly all of our Company and Regiment were made prisoners. Oliver Rader, referred to above, was dead when John told me the boys had gone. His body was removed by his father and John Amon, after John Amon returned from prison. Our wagons being captured, we were rationed on the retreat for five days. the night of the fifth day we stopped near a corn crib and built a fire of fence rails and parched corn on the cob. I came from the corn crib with an armful of corn and as I passed General Terry, our Brigade Commander, I asked if he didn't want some corn for his horse. He replied, "What are you going to do with it?" I said "I am going to parch it." He said, "I will do the same, such is life."

The next day, Nash Baker and I were ordered to march forty or fifty yards from our lines especially when we reached the woods, for fear of ambush. When We reached Sailer's Creek, come two hundred men passed and when Nash and I reached the bridge it was crowded with our artillery. After they passed we got over and a cavalry man rode toward us and asked what troop that was going up the hill. We told him the last of the Pickett's Division. He moved off slowly to the left and than he reached some distance from us he put spurs to his horse, and very soon we saw a

brilliant array of Officers coming towards us and that Yank of a spy going to meet them. Our cavalry men all had blue overcoats and most of us too as it was that or nothing.

When Nash Baker and I reached the top of the hill, we saw our boys surrendering and we, having made a compact never to be captured and being between two fires, the Federal bombs passing both ways over us, concluded to hunt cover as Brother Rabbit. Seeing a strip of timber near by, we made for it and escaped capture. My brother, George, was stationed with a few Comrades behind a rail fence. The Yankee Cavalry charged them. One man being shot from his horse, the horse jumped the fence, George grabbed the bridle and mounted the horse and escaped, the other boys being captured.

After our escape at the Battle of Sailer's Creek, we pushed on to High Bridge. Night overtaking us, we were crossing the bridge when the cry was raised, the bridge is being blown up. We turned and crossed a ravine above the bridge, reaching Farmville at 9:00 O'clock P. M. We were very hungry, having had only a half of an ash cake. We had met a lone cavalryman eating an ash cake, I asked for a bite and he ran his hand under the pommel of his saddle and gave me the other half. It was the sweetest I ever tasted. We stopped at a house where there were two men sitting on a porch, I asked for food and the owner of the house took us in to dinner and we had a feast.

The next day we reached Appomattox Court House. A freight train was just leaving for Lynchburg, we crawled into an empty box car and reached Lynchburg-in the night. The cars were surrounded by guards who took us to the provost marshals quarters. The P.M. was General Kirk Otey who has been my own Colonel. He said "Hello Company "D", what are you doing here!"

We explained our escape. He kept us in his quarters and fed us crackers and raw meat.

The next day we went to Piedmont House to see if we could cross the river. There, we met two or three provost guards who said they wanted to cross the river to search an Irishman's Shanty for whiskey. We crossed with them and searched the shanty and found five or ten gallons of whiskey.

Bidding the guards good bye, we scaled the heights of north Lynchburg and struck the canal nine miles above the City. That night we reached Big Isle .and we were kindly entertained in a very nice home.

The next day we reached Pattonsburg and slept under a bar room with a saddle for a pillow. The next morning, out without breakfast, Nash said, I went to see my old mother before twelve o'clock today. We parted there.

I reached Squire William Penns as the family finished breakfast. After I had eaten a fine breakfast and thanked the Squire for his kindness, I said I must hurry on to see my mother and sisters, I have not seen them in two years. Squire.Penn said, "I will furnish you a horse to ride home. I accepted the offer, being worn out, and I reached home about one o'clock. After greeting the home folks, they asked, "Where is your Brother George?" I told them where I had last seen him.

The next afternoon, while lamenting George's absence, I looked up the road and said, 'Yonder he comes.' In a few moments he was in the yard and on the porch, so the war ended with me there and forever.