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From Thomas Hudson
Newberry, S.C.
5/1/09

Co. D.
4th Ala. Inf

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY.
MONTGOMERY.

Union Town Ala May 1st 1861.

A Diary of the Canebrake Rifle Guards kept during their services in the war between the Confederate States of America and Abraham Lincoln commenced in the early part of the year 1861. This Diary is kept by James G Hudson who goes with the Company in the capacity of Chaplain and Treasurer of the Company.

The Canebrake Rifle Guards from Union Town Perry County Alabama tendered their Services to Gov. Moore of Alabama (under his call for Volunteers) on the 18th day of April 1861. and were promptly recieved and accepted. On the 23rd of April ~~the~~ Capt Clarke recieved a dispatch from Gov Moore instructing him to report his Company in Montgomery on friday the 26th instant. On thursday morning the 25th inst the company left Union Town for Selma with 84 men rank and file. At Selma Austin Aycock and Robert Mitchel joined the company. The company left Selma, on the steamer Senator, for Montgomery on friday morning at 9. O. Clock. in company with the Governor's Guards & Magnolia Cadets of Selma Ala. The three companies arrived at Montgomery at 7. O. Clock P. M, and were kept standing in the Street nearly two hours before

they could find any one to direct them where to go. The company were finally ordered to march to the armory of the Independent Rifles, where they had to sleep on the floor without blankets. (Note - Every thing is in perfect confusion in the different departments in Montgomery, it is next to impossible to procure arms, equipments, blankets or provisions. A number of our men could not be furnished with a blanket). The Company left Montgomery for Dalton Georgia, on Sunday morning the 28th at 8. O. clock with four new recruits added to their number, viz- James Curry, George Sayre, William H Terrell & David Trowell. The line of Rail Road from Montgomery to Dalton was lined with crowds of anxious and enthusiastic spectators who welcomed the soldiers with manifestation of patriotic devotion. A large crowd of men, women, children and negroes were collected at the Depot in West Point Georgia, who recieved us with every demonstration of patriotism and heartfelt enthusiasm. Cheer after cheer rent the air; the ladies waved their handkerchiefs and showered hundreds of beauquets on the heads of the soldiers. At every town and cross road in Georgia the same patriotic feelings were manifested. At At-lanta the people covered acres of ground. We arrived in Dalton on Monday mornig at 2. O. clock and were quartered

in the second story of a large brick building, which was unfinished, consequently open and very cold and disagreeable. The soldiers had to lie on the floor, a number of them without blankets. the weather clear but quite cold. A number of the men caught cold and were sick for several days from the exposure. Monday April 29th - pitched our tents and went regularly into camp life - William Terrell, Dr Kitchel, William H. Hudson John S Buck and several others on the sick list. 30th Several others sick from exposure. nothing of interest occurring. A negro boy belonging to Hungerford let a pistol fall out a belt, which caused it to explode inflicting a flesh wound through the negroe's arm. May 1st The different Companies all turned out on parade (Eight in number) and marched through the principal streets of the city to the methodist Church, where the Ladies, and citizens of Talton generally welcomed them and entertained them in a manner calculated to inspire the Soldier with patriotism, and nerve his arm for the contest. A large arch of evergreens was erected at each corner of the front of the church under which the soldiers had to pass. On one arch was a banner with the motto - welcome Soldiers of Ala. On the other arch a flag with the motto - God protect and defend the 4th Regiment of Alabama Volunteers. The regiment was drawn up, by companies, in front

of the church, and each company addressed by a young lady, to which suitable ~~addresses~~ responses were made by some member of the Company selected for the Occasion.

The address to the Canebrake R. Guards was delivered by Miss Hardin and was responded to by Buck Jones.

This ceremony being over, a number of gentlemen were called upon who responded with patriotic speeches, after which, the regiment was marched back to quarters.

May 2nd At Eleven O. Clock an election was held by the regiment for field Officers. On casting up the ballots it was ascertained that Capt. Egbert Jones of North Alabama was elected Col. of the Regiment, Capt Law, of the Tuskegee Zouaves was elected Lieut. Col. and the Hon. Charles Scott of California Major. At 9. O. Clock at night the company recieved orders to march the next day at Eleven. O. Clock for Lynchburg Va. Three new recruits viz. J. F. E. Stith of Mobile, Robt. H. Henly and P. K. McMiller of Marengo Co. Ala. joined the company at Dalton. Note – The Citizens of Dalton treated the Soldiers with marked attention & kindness; the ladies were particularly kind and attentive furnishing the Soldiers with many useful articles of clothing & food. The ladies of Dalton will long live in the memory

of the Canebrake R. Guards. On May 3rd Struck our tents at 10. O. clock am. marched to the Depot and took our departure (in company with the whole regiment) for Lynchburg. Va. numbering 96. men, rank & file, as follows— Officers— Richard Clarke, Capt T. K Coleman 1st Lieut, L. R. Terrell 2nd Lieut, D. W. Fitts 3rd Lieut, W. O. Hudson 1st Sergeant, 2nd Wm H. Hudson, 3rd I. F. Walke, 4th F. M. Delorme, 5th J. D. Buck. 1st Corporal Wm H. Long 2nd W. A. Chambers, 3rd C. A. Terrell, 4th P. Edga Ware.— Privates— Pat. Y. Adams, Austin C Aycocke, E. W. Booker, Wm H Baptist, Saml. T. Chambers, Edward, F. Christian, A. H. Cunningham, Thos L Christian, James Curry, R. W. Darden, Thos B. Edwards, P. H. Elkin, F. D. Forniss, T. K. Forniss, P. D. Fowler, Edward, F. Gouldman, W. W. Gray, P. W. Harriss, Josiah W. Harrison, James. A. Harwood, Wm H. Hill, P Warren Hudson, Thomas Hudson, James G. Hudson Chaplain & Treasurer, Wm H. Hungerford, Walter Hungerford, P. R. Hutcherson, Robt. H. Henly, Bush Jones, Joel F. Jones, William B Jones S. F. Jackson, F. N. Kitchell, Benj. N. Locket, P. W. Manix Geo. F. Marable, G. S. Markham, P. McIntosh, Pat D Monaghan, T. S. Monaghan, A. P Moneghan, Lewis A Morgan Pat H. Mongomery, Josiah P Murphy, Robt. Mitchel, P. K McMiller, R. W. Nicolson, G. S. Nicolson, S. L. Norwood, T. P. Norton, Wm E. Fegram, Surgeon, Saml S Fichering, John. L. Fitts, James

James Philips, Walton Purtle, William T. Pope, D. A. Perkins, David Prowell, Thomas Ramy, Jas. M. Redding, N. T. Richardson, Henry W. Saunders, Cap Saunders, G. W. Sherman, Lou A. Simms, P. R. Shumate, Robt. A. Smith, B. F. Steele, George Sayre, H. Eppes Stith, E. W. Thompson, A. Wood Tinsley, George W. Thomas, Wm. H. Terrell, Tim Walton, Andrew Walker, Mims Walker, Anderson Walker, Wm. H. Ware, Thomas White, P. T. Wilson, T. I. Whitt, Fulton W. West. The company in passing through Tennessee were hailed with enthusiasm in some places, in others with marked coolness. Several Union Flags were seen flying, Old Andy Johnson was making Union ~~spee~~ Speeches along the line of the Rail Road. At Knoxville, a large and enthusiastic crowd greeted the Soldiers with many marks of patriotic feelings. Knoxville is getting right. May 4th Arrived at Bristol at 10. O. Clock and remained until Five. 5th Arrived at Lynchburg at 10. O. clock and marched directly to our quarters, about two miles from the city, pitched our tents and entered again upon camp life. Bush Jones, Wm. H. Terrell, Dr Kitchell, and Solomon H. Jackson quite sick. Late in the evening it commenced raining, which continued during the night, rendering it extremely disagreeable, and unpleasant.

6th Cloudy and rainy; a number of the men sick from colds, William Terrell and Jackson quite sick. Thos. Ramy taken sick to day.

7th Terrell and Jackson better; Ramy very sick, several others on the sick list. To day all the companies belonging to the 4th Regiment of the Alabama Volunteers were mustered regularly into the service of the Confederate States of North America; and each man required to take an oath to support the Constitution of the Confederate States and obey the Officers in Command. Some six or eight men from North Alabama refused to take the oath. To day regular military discipline was established in the camp and sentinels stationed.

8th Clear bright day, all our men better, except Ramy, who is quite sick, nothing of interest occured in the Camp.

~~9th Bright & clear in the morning, a light shower in the evening. To day all the different companies in the regiment were drawn up in line and mustered regularly into the Service of the Confederate States~~

9th Cloudy & Showery during the day, nothing of interest occured in the camp.

May 10th Bright & clear, most of the members of the company who had been sick came into camp to day improved in health & strength. About 11. O. clock at night just as every thing had become quiet, and still, and the Soldiers worn down with fatigue, had fallen into gentle slumbers, dreaming of home, its comforts and enjoyments; orders were recieved to prepare for marching immediately with rations cooked for two days. In a few moments the whole encampment was in a bustle and stir, cooking and packing up for the march, none knew whither. By daylight we were all ready to march, but no order came to "forward march". There we remained lounging about until five, O, Clock the next evening when the order came to take up the line of march to the Rail Road depot, to be transported thence to Harpers Ferry. At Six, O, Clock P. M. the trains left the depot with the Regiment aboard, reaching Charlottesville the next morning just before day.

Note= The writer of this diary having been sick for two days before the company left Lynchburg, was left on the road near Orang Co. House, where he lay sick for three weeks before he was able to follow his company. During this interval the diary will necessarily be imperfect.

He left Locust Dale on Monday the 3rd day of June and overtook his company at Harpers Ferry on thursday following.)

Sunday - May 12th - The company reached Manapa junction about twelve O. Clock to day and partook of dinner consisting of raw meat and hard bread. Left Manapa on the train for Strawsburg, where they part arrived at Eight. O. Clock A. M. and partook of a hearty breakfast (standing in the Street) consisting of a chunk of fat meat with a very small quantity of bread, which the "boys" ate with cheerfulness as good Soldiers. having finished breakfast, the Regiment took up its line of march (on foot) for Winchester, where it arrived about 5. O. Clock P. M. This was the first march of any considerable distance the company had been called on to make (distance 18 miles) (on foot) but like good soldiers who had left their homes to serve their country with patriotic feelings and motives, the march was made in good order and without murmurings, with a few exceptions. The company remained in Winchester until Eight O. Clock P. M. when the boys were relieved of their tiresom march by taking a ride on the Rail Road to Harpers Ferry (the point of destination) a distance of thirty miles. Arrived at Harpers Ferry at twelve O.

O'clock at night. An amusing and laughable, though not very agreeable and pleasant incident occurred in connection with our landing at the Ferry. The night was as dark as Egypt and the rain pouring down in torrents. When the train arrived at the depot there was no one present to direct the company where to go, or to show them their quarters. In a short time however the quartermaster made his appearance and directed Capt. Clarke to follow him together with his company. It was arranged that Lieutenant Ferrell should see that the boys were all in line before the order was given to march; in a few moments the Lieut. called out (as it was understood) "all right" when Capt Clarke gave the Order "forward march". The quartermaster, lantern in hand, took the front and led the company some three hundred yards to a brick building (recently occupied as a dwelling house) as their quarters for the present. On arriving at the building and looking around lo; and behold; not more than forty members of the company were present. The question was, what had become of Lieut. Ferrell and the rest of them. The night being dark and rainy, and the "boys" entire strangers in H. Ferry, it was thought advisable to

institute a search for the missing boys, lest they should have to spend the night on the streets in the rain. Search was accordingly made up and down the Streets, hallowing at the top of the voice "Canebrake Rifle Guards", but all in vain, the boys could not be found, and the search ~~could no~~ was given up. About sunup next morning the missing boys made their appearance, wet and hungry. they had, the night before, by some unaccounted for mistake, become separated from the rest of the Company, had wandered about in the dark & rain until they found an old unoccupied building, where they turned in and spent the night, cold & wet, and without food or fire. What was said and done the next morning when they all got together, can better be imagined than described. A warm fire and good breakfast set all things right, and a large portion of the day was spent in hearty laughs over the occurrences of the night before.

The Company made this brick building their quarters for one week, when they were ordered to pitch their tents about a mile off, in the edge of a little village called Bolivar. The location for a camp was beautiful indeed, On a high bluff overlooking the Potomac and

in full view of the grand and picturesque mountain scenery which surrounds Harpers Ferry. The company remained encamped at this point some two weeks with but little to break the monotony of camp life, except the little incidents that daily occur in camp, which create a momentary excitement and then pass away. One day while the boys were lounging about. Dr Hudson, the Orderly Sargeant, came into camp and announced that he was instructed to detail two men from his company for a special purpose, that he wished two of the most intelligent young men in the company. Dr Baptist & David Trowel insisted on being detailed. Dr Hudson instructed them to dress themselves gently and report themselves at the Office of the Adjutant immediately. The boys dressed up and were at the Adjutant Office in short order. Having reported themselves, the Adjutant Ordered them to go over on the side of the mountain, a mile and a half off, to assist in cutting & rolling wood down the mountain. The boys were taken all aback and remonstrated, but to no purpose; the Adjutant said this was the only use ~~they~~ he had for them. The boys now saw the trick, but, poor fellows they had to cut & roll wood all day. Neither of them

has voluntarily reported himself ready for special mis
sions since. On one or two occasions while the Company
were encamped at this point, considerable excitement
was produced in the encampment, occasioned by orders
from "head quarters" to prepare to march at a moments
warning, coupled with rumors that the Hessians were
marching upon us in large numbers, and a battle
was momentarily expected. Two or three nights the
whole Army were required to sleep on their arms,
and it was not unusual for the boys during the
night to hear the drums & fifes of the enemy approach
-ing, and the reports of their cannon. But no enemy
made its appearance. Whether our Officers really
believed the enemy near at hand, or issued their or
ders for the purpose of making the Soldiers more
vigilant I cannot say. On Saturday the 1st
day of June orders came from head quarters to hold
ourselves in readiness to march at a moments warning
and to send all the sick to Winchester immediately.
This looked as though there were something in the
wind, and created quite an excitement in the camp
Although a number of our boys were complaining,
we could find only three who felt themselves

sick enough to be sent away. These were Edga Ware, Perrie Shoemake & Austin Acoche. A large number of sick were however sent off from the different Regiments under the idea that a battle was at hand.

~~I, Harr~~ This excitement, like the rest passed off without a fight or even the sight of a Yankee. On Sunday the ninth of June the Regiment recieved orders to strike tents and prepare to march immediately. In a short time the tents were all struck rolled up and packed in wagons preparatory to marching. In a few moments the order came to "forward march". The whole regiment were filed into the turnpike leading from Harpers Ferry to Winchester, The boys started off in high glee under the impression that their destination was Martinsburg, where the Yankees were said to be concentrating in large numbers. After marching about half a mile the Regiment was ~~altered~~ ordered to halt and pitch their thents. This was a sad disappointment to the boys; but military orders must be obeyed and the boys submitted with as good grace as possible. Instead of marching to Martinsburg to meet the enemy, the move was made as a change of locality, the better to guard the main entrance to