

## "My War Record"

When the first battle, "Bull Run" as the Yankees called, "Manassus Junction", as we named it, was fought and we had gained such a glorious victory, we all thought that it would end the fighting. Instead of our pushing on to Washington, following up our great victory, our men in authority thought best to remain on the defensive. President Lincoln called for a large re-inforcement of volunteers and soon had an army three times as large as ours, and soon after renewed the fight. We had a large number of our men killed and wounded, among them Capt. Robbins, my Aunt's husband. I went on to Virginia at my Aunt's request to bring him home. I found him at Lexington. I spent a week or two with him and visited the battle field and the home of Thos. Jefferson.

After getting home and he had gotten well enough to ride, we decided to try to raise a Cavalry Company and go out and fight on our own hook. We soon made up the Company, and John T. Morgan, then a private in the Virginia army, was commissioned to raise a regiment of Partisan rangers and wired us to join his regiment and when our Company was called to meet in Selma for organization we decided to do so. Col. Morgan had several other Companies in the State who were to join him. We were ordered to rendezvous at Oxford, when the regiment was soon organized. Morgan appointed me acting surgeon until Dr. Miller Francis who was in the Virginia Army, could be transferred. After spending five or six weeks here in inspecting and organizing the command, we left, going towards Huntsville to meet Genl. Buell who was threatening an invasion of our State with a large force, but before we had gone far in his direction he thought it wise to return to Nashville. We followed on, being about a week behind. We had a picnic time on the march. At every place we passed through the people cheered us, and came out with sandwiches, buttermilk, pies and cakes, and the young ladies singing the "Bonnie Blue Flag" and "Dixie". Before reaching Nashville, however, we were captured by Genl. Forrest, with whom we served until Genl. Bragg came to Murfreesboro with his army, when Genl. Forrest went to West Tennessee and we transferred to Genl. Wheeler's command, with whom we saw some hard service. I was with him in several valuable and successful raids in rear of the enemy, notably the raid on Luverne and the one from Black Grove to the Cumberland River below Nashville, when he captured two transports and one gun boat and burned a large depot of the enemies' supplies on the river. This raid, it was then said, made him a Major General, but I cannot go into all the details of my ups and downs through Tenn.

After we had followed back to the south side of the Tennessee River, our command which had then seen hard service for more than a year, was ordered back to Oxford to recuperate, rest, secure horses, etc. And I was ordered to report to Dr. Stout at Chattanooga to be assigned to Hospital duty. I did so and he ordered me to report to Dr. Gamble at Ringgold, who placed me in charge of the officers' ward at the place. I then sent for my wife, whom I had not seen for over a year, to visit me. She came, bringing the children, but did not stay longer than a week or two, as the enemy was making preparations for a forward move, and the hospitals ordered to move to Newman, which we promptly did in good order. I was fortunate to secure "College Temple", presided over by professor Kelley, a northern man, for my hospital, which was regarded as the nicest in the town. On one occasion Genl. Bragg sent Major Clare, his Chief of Staff, and two other officers, to inspect the various hospitals. After going to Atlanta, Macon and Columbus, and lastly to Newman, "College Temple" was the last of the four located here they inspected, and before leaving they complimented me by saying that they were well pleased with the manner in which it was kept and if they had to be sent to a hospital they would come to College Temple. I had for my assistants Dr. Archer from Maryland, Dr. Griffith who after the war went to California, and Dr. <sup>Smith</sup> Branack, now of *Barry* New York, all of whom were fine young men. *is fine* After the battle of Chickamauga I was ordered to report to Dr. Fluellen Medical Director of the Army at Genl. Bragg's headquarters on Missionary Ridge. Immediately on my arrival there I was ordered to go to Crawfish Springs, and take charge of the twelve division hospitals of the enemy, which had fallen into our hands with some twelve or fifteen hundred wounded, and to see that they were properly cared for. I had a detail of half a dozen Cavalry men and an ambulance, and instructed to send over the battle field and gather up any soldiers who might still be uncared for. Also to secure all the captured medical and surgical supplies that might be there and report them to Maj. McMekin at Chickamauga. I found thirty-seven Yankee surgeons in charge. On arriving I reported to their chief surgeon in charge who received me very courteously, etc. etc. After I had been here about a week I had orders from Genl. Bragg to select five hundred of the more wounded to be exchanged with Genl. Roscraty for the same number of our men. After this was done I was to send the rest to the rear to be retained as prisoners of war. After doing this and sending to the 2nd Master the captured property, I reported to Surgeon Fluellen at army headquarters, and was ordered back to Newman where I remained until the army fell back to Maryetta where

another stand was made and a battle fought. I was again ordered to report to Major Director at Maryetta with Dr. Welford. Here we were placed in charge of the receiving hospital where we did hard work for nearly two weeks operating and shipping the wounded to Atlanta. We were then ordered to Atlanta and after a week or ten days we were returned to Newman. Soon after my return to Newman we were ordered to Macon and from there sent on to Fort Valley, where I remained for two months, long enough to have a difficulty with one of the surgeons for slandering my friend, Dr. Welford. I was then ordered to Selma and reported to Surgeon P. E. Scott, and was assigned to duty there, where I was when Wilson raided and took that place.

I was a most fortunate soldier. Never asked for any change of places, but was lucky enough to always be assigned to good ones. I am glad that I went into the War, and of my record, though I never shot a Yankee.

*Pinestly him  
only in 1900 to 1903*

*This was written by  
Lt. Robert Dandridge Jackson  
tasked by  
J.M. Jackson  
B'hem  
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