

ESTATOOEE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION
Volume II, Number 2 June, 1987

ESTATOOEE (ěs-tă-tô-ě): Also spelled Estootowie in early records. A Cherokee Indian place name, shortened to Estatoe/Estatoah, from which the Toe/Towe River designation is derived.

Officers of the Association (1987):

President: Kenneth Nelson
Vice-President: Lloyd Bailey
Treasurer: Paul Kardulis
Secretary: Theresa Blankenship
Directors: James Byrd
 John Young
Parliamentarian:
 Bill Young

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Winter (Annual) meeting of the Association was held at the Library in Burnsville on March 29, 1987. The program topic was "Historic Structures in Yancey County," presented by Mitzi Presnell Shook and based upon her research for a project funded by Yancey Co. and by the N.C. Division of Archives and History. Emphasis was upon structures outside the town of Burnsville, with perhaps a continuation at a later date.

Election of officers for 1987, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Association, resulted in the list shown above.

Revision of the Bylaws, proposed at the meeting of the Association on Oct. 12, 1985, became effective with a final reading and unanimous approval of the members present and voting.

Two strategies for increasing the membership of the Association were discussed and approved: (1) distribution of a letter to past and present members, outlining previous programs and including a copy of the most recent issue of the newsletter (Estatoee), and (2) the placing of an article in "The Yancey Magazine" currently being planned by the Chamber of Commerce. Each member of the Association should receive a copy of the current newsletter by mail, if they were not present at the related meeting. Paul Kardulis, as Treasurer, would assume the duty of membership chairman.

The ongoing need of the Association for office, display, and storage space was discussed. Theresa Blankenship was authorized to explore a possibility that had recently come to our attention.

Future Programs:

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 21, at 1:30 p.m. at the Library in Burnsville. Paul Kardulis will discuss (and illustrate with slides) aspects of one of the companies from Yancey who were part of the Confederate Army (Co. C, 16th N.C. Regiment).

Subsequent programs will discuss education in the county (Edgar Hunter), aspects of law and the bar association (Dick Bailey), medicine, and architecture.

Correspondence with the Association:

Secretary: 108 Town Square,
Burnsville, N.C. 28714

Vice-President (and program chair):
4122 Deepwood Circle, Durham, N.C. 27707

SOME PRINTED GENEALOGIES OF YANCEY FAMILIES

- BAILEY. Lloyd R. Bailey, The Bailey Family of Yancey County, N.C. 3 vols., mimeographed (about 3,000 pages), 1982-1983. Out of print. Copies in Avery-Mitchell-Yancey libraries and in N.C. State Genealogical Library.
- BARNETT. Donald L. McCourry, Biography of Ed Barnett. Privately printed, 1986; 350 pp. Not a genealogy in the usual sense, but it does contain a vast amount of information about Barnett and related families of the Pigeon Roost area of present Mitchell Co. Author's address: P.O. Box 358, Nebo, N.C., 28761. Copies in Avery-Mitchell-Yancey Libraries.
- GRIFFITH/GRIFFIN. Clarence W. Griffin, Descendants of Chisolm Griffin. Privately printed, 1931. Copy in State Genealogical Library.
- HOLCOMBE. Elizabeth Weir McPherson (Mrs. Lewin D.). The Holcombes: Nation Builders. Apparently privately printed, 1947. A huge volume touching on many other families in Buncombe, Madison, and Yancey Counties. Author's address: P.O. Box 3265, Columbia Heights Station, Washington, D.C. Copy in State Genealogical Library.
- HORTON. George F. Horton, The Hortons of America. Seattle, Wash.: Sherman Printing and Binding Co., 1929 (a corrected reprint of the 1876 edition). A large volume, which includes, in the 6th generation, the family of Zephaniah Horton of Yancey (at pp. 145ff.). Copy in the State Genealogical Library.
- HONEYCUTT. Gwendolyn Rose Honeycutt, The Honeycutt Family Tree. Mimeographed, 1983; 194 pp. Basically a compilation of records of birth, marriage, and death, for the family of pioneer Moses Honeycutt. The names are not connected in the usual genealogical fashion. Author's address: Rt. 2, Box 173, Rockhouse Road, Johnson City, Tenn., 37601.
- MCCOURRY. Carolyn D. Wallin, The McCurrys of Bald Mountain Creek. Mimeographed, 1979; 185 pp. Author's address: Rt. 7, Regents Drive, Greenville, S.C., 29609. Out of print.
- MCKINNEY. Estelena M. Harper, Charles McKinney and Related Families. Mimeographed, 1972; 269 pp. Copy in State Genealogical Library. Author's address: 252 Broadview St., Anaheim, Calif., 92804.
- PENLAND. Blanche Penland Browder (Mrs. Nathaniel). The Penland Family of North Carolina. Rev. ed., mimeographed, 1975; 182 pp. Milton P. Penland of Burnsville may be found at pp. 87, 107-110. Copy in Duke University Library. Author's address: Hayesville, N.C.

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RAY. Kirby Ray Whitaker, They Were Trailblazers: Those Rays.

Mimeographed, ca. 1980; 283 pp. Vol. II is entitled: Ray History.

Mimeographed, 1985; 490 pp. Copies in "very-Mitchell-Yancey Libraries (?). Author's address: 20 Bellhaven Rd., Asheville, N.C., 28805.

TIPTON. Ervin Charles Tipton, We Tiptons And Our Kin. San Rafael, Calif., 1975 (by the author?). 1564 columns, concerning the descendants of Maj. Jonathan Tipton of Washington Co., Tenn. and his descendants. Tipton Hill in Yancey is named for him. Out of print. Author's widow seeks help in reprinting (25 Sunset Way, San Rafael, Calif., 94901 (415-453-4461).

YOUNG. Perry Deane Young, Young. Mimeographed, 1959. 42 pp. Author's address not given (born in Buncombe Co., but concerns Yancey family almost totally). Copy in my file.

In addition to these more comprehensive works, sketches may be found in Old Buncombe County Heritage, I (OBC Genealogical Society, 1981), and in Vol. II which is scheduled for publication this year. A list of the specific articles on Yancey families may be found in Estatooe, I, No. 2 (April, 1986), p. 6. In addition, sketches may be found in the OBC Genealogical Society's newsletter (A Lot of Bunkum).

Sketches or longer genealogies may be found in various issues of Families of Yancey County (Ancestor Seminars Library, 418 Hwy. 110 North, Whitehouse, Texas, 75791). To date, they include: WILLIAMS, EDWARDS, WHITSON, JARRETT, PATE, MASHBURN, THOMAS, BYRD, TIPTON, BIDDIX, WHITTINGTON, BUTLER, PHILLIPS, CARTER, HUTCHINS, RAY, HANEY, YOUNG, DELLINGER, SILVER, LEDFORD, MASTERS, BEAVER, ANGEL, ADKINS, GARLAND, PETERSON, BENNETT.

My own file contains typescripts which I have picked up here and there: ROBINSON/ROBERTSON, LEWIS, PEAKE, GREEN, BAKER, CROWDER.

My own notes on the following families vary from sketchy to voluminous: BYRD (1,000 pages), HONEYCUTT (600 pages), HAMPTON, HOWELL, PATTERSON, BLALOCK (extensive documentation from four archives in Oregon and Washington), THOMAS, MOORE, PHILLIPS, RAY (200 pages

Mention should also be made of Avery County Heritage (3 vols., found in regional libraries). Although focused upon Avery families, there are connections with Mitchell and Yancey Counties.

POSTAL SERVICE IN YANCEY COUNTY, 1856

location	postmaster	compensation	revenue to P.O. Department	established ↓
Bakersville	Isaac A. Pearson	\$7.01	\$4.39	1827
Bald Creek	Samuel L. Wilson	6.95	3.22	1839
Burnsville	Jesse N. Broyles	63.77	57.94	1835
Childsville	Albertus D. Childs	8.05	5.22	1850
Day Book	Melchizedec Chandler	4.76	2.10	1852
Egypt	Hezekiah Lewis			1855
Grassy Creek	Jesse Mason	8.07	4.44	1835
Ivy	Thomas D. Carter	18.83	8.90	1830
Ledger	John C. Green	7.02	4.67	1855
Paint Gap	Jesse Horton	1.53	.90	1854
Ramseytown	Cornelius R. Byrd			1852
Red Hill	John W. Bailey	4.03	3.17	1853
Yellow Mountain	Alexander Erwin	.69	.54	?

(Source: Post Office Directory (New York: J.H. Colton, 1857, p. 132)
 (Dates established from microfilmed document, "Postmasters in the U.S.,"
 in State Archives))

POSTAL SERVICE ROUTE IN THE 1840's

"Route 2899: From Morganton, by Linville ^River, North Cove, Bakersville, Burnsville, Bald Creek, Ivy, Stockville, to Asheville: 97 miles and back, once a week. Return by Young's instead of Bakersville."

(Source: Postal Routes in North Carolina. Copy in Carolina Room, U.N.C., Chapel Hill)

Postal Service in Yancey County, 1846

location	postmaster
Bald Creek	Samuel L. Wilson
Bakersville	David D. Baker
Burnsville Courthouse	Lorenzo D. Poteet
Grassy Creek	Tilmon Blalock
Ivy	Daniel Carter

(Source: Table of Post Offices in the United States)

Postal Service in what would become Yancey County, 1831

location	postmaster	present county
Greenleesville	James Greenlee	Yancey
Ivy	Daniel Carter	Madison
Bakersville	David Baker	Mitchell

(Source: Table of Post Offices in the United States)

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FLAT CREEK
BAPTIST CHURCH MINUTES
1833-1931



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membership lists and obit-
uaries.

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Weaverville, N.C. 28787
Telephone 704-645-6302
1986?

Delia Tipton Brittain [Mrs. Harvey], Upper Laurel and Her People
(Mars Hill: Southern Appalachian Center, 1987; 185 pp.). An
interesting and well written account of life on the Puncheon Fork
of Laurel Creek in Madison Co. (formerly Yancey Co.), during the
19th and 20 th centuries. Contains genealogical information on
English, Phillips, Tipton, and other families of Yancey. Author's
address: 262 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, N.C. 28801.

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the Court-House, at SALISBURY, N. C.

ROBT. C. HILL,

*First Lt. Corps of Artillery,
C. S. Army,
General Recruiting Officer.*

May 8th, 1861.

YANCEY'S CONFEDERATE TROOPS: CO. "C," 16TH RGMT.

Although soldiers from Yancey served in perhaps a dozen Confederate units, the vast majority of them were in N.C. Regiments 16, 29, and 58. The first of these, designated "The Black Mountain Boys," has gotten more publicity than the others, with the roster (usually with small errors) published a number of times (most recently in the article, "Soldiers Fought As Black Mtn. Boys," in Common Times: Written and Pictorial History of Yancey County, p. 27; Burnsville: Yancey Graphics, 1981). Since this company is the subject of the Yancey History Association's meeting of June 21, it is appropriate to provide a (brief!) bibliography here.

Background:

- Barrett, John G. The Civil War in North Carolina. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 19 .
- Deyton, Jason Basil. "The Toe River Valley To 1865." The North Carolina Historical Review, 24 (Oct., 1947), 423-466.

Regimental History:

- Clark, Walter (ed.). Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-'65. Raleigh: State of N.C., 1901. See Vol. I, pp. 751-773 for the 16th Regiment, which is reproduced below.
- Jordan, Weymouth T., Jr., and Louis H. Manarin. North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865, A Roster. Raleigh: State Division of Archives and History. For the 16th Regiment, see Vol. VI, pp. 1-9 (1977).

Roster of soldiers:

- Moore, John W. (ed.). Roster of North Carolina Troops in the War Between the States. Raleigh: State of N.C., 1882 (four volumes). Lists date of enlistment, with notation about casualties. An old standard, brief and sometimes incomplete.
- Jordan and Manarin (op. cit.). Compiled service records, often giving place and date of enlistment, age, when and where present, illness and hospitalization, death (if during war), date and place of discharge, etc. The project is on-going, with the volume containing the 29th Regiment now available.

~~St. Asaph~~ St. Asaph Hospital

Alfred A. Barham
John Collins
David Roberson
Josiah R. Dellinger
Daniel Barnett
John McLaughlin

This page, and the following one, are reproduced from the account book of Co. C, 16th N.C. Regiment, C.S.A. ("The Green Mountain Boys"). It apparently was kept by 2nd Lieut. William J. Byrd (of Jacks Creek), and lists: assignments of guard duty, issue of clothing and weapons, and occasionally notations about casualties.

Misson

Daniel. Keck

May 14th 63

W. A. McLellan Sr. C.S.A.

May 14th 63 To one Enfield Rifle
" " " To one Cartridge Box
" " " To one Cap. Box
" " " To one Shoulder Strap
" " " To one waist-Belt
" " " one Bayonet
" " " one Bayonet scabbard
" " " one screwdriver
" " " one Thumb Nise

James Thomson Dr	To Cash	
Dec 1	uniform coat	4 50
"	1 pr of Pants	3 00
"	2 Shirts	1 00
"	2 pr of Slips	80
"	2 pr of shoes	4 00
"	1 Cap - 1 Blankett	2 29 1/2
Nov 10	Dr To Confederated States of America	
Dec 1	pr of socks	30
"	1 over coat	4 50
"	1 short coat	4 00
"	1 shirt	1 50
"	1 short coat	4 00
Nov 11	1 pr of Pants	3 50
" 15	1 Blanket	3 75
Nov 14	1 pr of shoes	2 40

M. J. Honeycutt, Dr	To Cash	
Dec 1	uniform coat	4 50
"	1 " Pants	3 00
"	2 Shirts	1 00
"	1 pr of Slips	40
"	1 pr of shoes	2 00
"	1 Cap - 1 Blankett	2 29 1/2
Sept	Dr To Confederated States of America	
Dec 1	pr of socks	30
"	1 over coat	4 50
"	1 pr of Pants	3 30
"	1 shirt	1 50
Nov 14	1 pr of shoes	2 40
		17 89
March 6/69	Maldy Carrall Dr	
	To 1/2 Ben Carr	2
	to 1 pr Pants	2 2
13	to 1 Dr Carr	12
18	to 1 pr shoes	2 3
	to two Ben Carr	1 0
April 1 st	to 1/2 Ben Carr	2 5
		6 12

Letter by John Smith McElroy of Burnsville (son of John W.), Col. in the 16th N.C. Regiment (formerly Captain of Co. C, from Yancey County). The letter is addressed to Gov. Zeb Vance (from Asheville), whose brother (Robert Brank Vance) was married to Harriett McElroy (daughter of John W.). [Original in N.C. State Archives.]

Casus Vicar Friendsburg Va
~~July~~ 23rd 1869

Gov Vance

I send you by the
bearer of this my old Battle Flag which
an old Soldier has become so scared and
by the hardships of war that at last he has
placed upon the altar and sent
to his friends for protection and preservation.
It was first loaned to my Regt by Gen
Wade Hampton of S.C. but after the hard
fought battles around Richmond he was so
well pleased with the way my Regt had sustained
and honor it that he presented it to the
Regt, that it has been where shot and shell
fell thick and fast its appearance will testify
It has been carried by my Regt in the follow-
ing named battles (to wit) Seven Pines, Mecham-
sville Gaines Mill Frazer's Farm Corder Run
Manassas Ox Hill Harper's Ferry Sharpshurg Shepherds
-town and would have been carried at Friendsburg
(as which battle my Regt took no small part) but
for its worn and tottering condition. It was first
carried by John Ford of Rutherford County

until he was promoted to a Lieutenant after the
 battles around Richmond for Gallant conduct; since
 that time one of its Beams has been killed and
 several others wounded but the brave old Flag
 has never been permitted to touch in the dust, or
 fall to the rear, but has always been borne to
 the front and sustained and protected by the
 noble officials that compose the Sixteenth Regiment
 of 62 Regts. I want you to keep it ~~and preserve~~
 until I return to North Carolina if I should
 have the good fortune to do so, if I should
 send it to my friends in the western part
 of the State from which my Regiment hails, for
 they will be glad to see such a proud memento
 of the noble deeds of their generous ^{brave} ~~highly~~
 -tain boys.

Excuse my heroics given this old Flag
 for when I think of hard ships and hard fought
 battles my little band has gone through with
 such cheerfull good will my heart swells with
 pride & enthusiasm, also excuse me for troubl-
 ing you with such a charge I should not have
 done so but I know you would be proud of a
Trust that reflected credit upon ~~your~~ Old North
 State & especially the western portion of it.

Respectfully Yours O. A. D. W.
 J. S. McElroy

J. S. McElroy
 1862
 28
 6

*

HISTORIES
" OF THE
SEVERAL REGIMENTS AND BATTALIONS
FROM
NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE
GREAT WAR 1861-'65.

WRITTEN BY MEMBERS OF THE RESPECTIVE COMMANDS.

EDITED BY
WALTER CLARK,
(LIEUT.-COLONEL SEVENTIETH REGIMENT N. C. T.).

VOL. I.

PUBLISHED BY THE STATE.

RALEIGH:
E. M. UZZELL, PRINTER AND BINDER.
1901.

11269

SIXTEENTH REGIMENT.

BY BENJAMIN H. CATHEY, FIRST LIEUTENANT COMPANY A.

The Sixteenth Regiment North Carolina Troops was organized June 17, 1861, at the city of Raleigh. Its officers were as follows:

STEPHEN LEE, of Buncombe county, Colonel.
R. G. A. LOVE, of Haywood county, Lieutenant-Colonel.
B. F. BRIGGS, of Gaston county, Major.
D. F. SUMMEY, of Buncombe county, Quartermaster.
J. M. ISRAEL, of Buncombe county, Commissary.
J. H. WHEELER, JR., of Buncombe county, Adjutant.
J. L. ROBINSON, of Macon county, Quartermaster Sergeant.
COLUMBUS MILLS, of Polk county, Surgeon.

The regiment was composed of twelve companies, as follows:

COMPANY A—*Jackson County*—A. W. Coleman, Captain.
COMPANY B—*Madison County*—John Peak, Captain.
COMPANY C—*Yancey County*—J. S. McElroy, Captain.
COMPANY D—*Rutherford County*—H. D. Lee, Captain.
COMPANY E—*Burke County*—E. J. Kirksey, Captain.
COMPANY F—*Buncombe County*—P. H. Thrash, Captain.
COMPANY G—*Rutherford County*—C. T. N. Davis, Captain.
COMPANY H—*Macon County*—T. M. Angel, Captain.
COMPANY I—*Henderson County*—W. M. Shipp, Captain.
COMPANY K—*Polk County*—J. C. Kemp, Captain.
COMPANY L—*Haywood County*—R. G. A. Love, Captain.
COMPANY M—*Gaston County*—B. F. Briggs, Captain.

The twelve companies were made up of those who were the first to volunteer from the mountains, and were men in the bloom



of manhood, ninety per cent. of whom were unmarried. When the regiment was organized, and before the hardships of future campaigns had wrought upon it, it was remarked upon by citizens of Raleigh and Richmond for its unusual fullness in numbers and faultless *personnel*.

The regiment, after its organization, remained in Raleigh, drilling and performing guard duty, until the 5th of July, 1861, when it left there for the seat of war. It arrived in Richmond the 6th of July. From thence, after a stay of a few days, it was ordered to northwestern Virginia to re-inforce General Garnett, who was being pressed by General Rosecrans. Before reaching there we were met with the report that General Garnett had been killed in an engagement at Laurel Hill. The regiment now proceeded to Valley Mountain, where we arrived in the latter part of July. Strengthening the forces late under the command of General Garnett, we held the gap without trouble, save an occasional heavy picket engagement.

It was while we were stationed on this mountain, lifted high above the surrounding country, that the measles appeared in the regiment, rendering at least two-thirds of the men unfit for duty and resulting in a number of deaths. The earth, notwithstanding its elevation, beneath a moss-clad surface, was filled with water and the atmosphere was cold and dense. This was the first and one of the most severe experiences in sickness of the regiment.

As we drowsed one day in our tents we were awakened by a small deer which leaped off the mountain side into the midst of camp. In almost a twinkling the little fellow was taken captive without force or demonstration other than our hands and the "rebel yell."

It was on this mountain that the Sixteenth first got sight of General Lee. It is impossible to describe the effect upon the troops upon his appearance among them. Our courage, already full and determined, breathed a new life, for we saw in him a leader in whom were met and blended those elements that would illustrate all that was meant by "our cause and our strife." His

person was the finest we had ever seen. There was only a bold hint of silver in his hair. His eye, lustrous and clear as a mountain brooklet, seemed in its normal line of vision never to fall below the distant horizon, and yet our souls were pierced by the mingled pathos and nobility of his look. He was the most magnificent horseman we had ever seen; the most perfect citizen-soldier and the manliest man. The General had his field-glass and was making a survey of the surrounding country, when a member of the Sixteenth, a shrewd, inimitable fellow, stepped up to him and, paying the usual homage, promptly asked him for a chew of tobacco. General Lee as promptly turned to a member of his staff, who supplied the much coveted *quid*. The heart of our great chief responded as quickly to the humble private who sought a chew of tobacco as to the brilliant subaltern who sought a promotion.

On the 17th of September we vacated Valley Mountain and fell back to Elk Mountain, where we remained a few days. From thence we marched to Greenbrier River, where we lay until October 4th, when we marched across the country to Millburn, where we boarded cars for Manassas Junction. Here we staid for several days. Thence we marched to Occoquan Bay and stopped a few days. Then we marched to Wolf Run Shoals, where, stationing our pickets several miles in the direction of Alexandria, we remained until about April 1, 1862, when we took up the line of march to Yorktown, by way of Frederickburg. It was while we were at the last named place that we heard of the battle of Shiloh and the sad intelligence of the death of General Albert Sidney Johnston. At this time the Sixteenth was attached to Hampton's Legion.

We arrived at Yorktown in April, where, on the 26th, we reorganized the regiment, electing C. T. N. Davis, Colonel; John S. McElroy, Lieutenant-Colonel; W. A. Stowe, Major, and B. F. Moore, Adjutant. A good many changes were made in company officers.

After staying at Yorktown several days, eating oysters and taking in the points of historic interest, such as the old Revolu-

tionary fortifications and the spot where General O'Hara surrendered Cornwallis' sword to General Lincoln, we marched again on the 5th of May, passing through Williamsburg. A short time before reaching the last named point a determined engagement took place between Hampton's Legion and the enemy's cavalry, in which there was some severe hand-to-hand fighting. Then followed several days of hard marching, through rain and mud, in which there was no time to stop or draw rations. It was under these circumstances that the regiment reached the Chickahominy swamps, where picket duty and skirmishing began in earnest. At this time General McClellan had got pretty good foot-hold on Virginia soil, and within a few miles of the Confederate Capital. He had extended his line from the James River a considerable distance up the Chickahominy. His organization was to every appearance complete. Balloons could be seen to ascend every day, spying out our peculiar location. The enemy was using in front of the Sixteenth some large New Foundland dogs as advance pickets. When we wished to move forward our picket line we disposed of these "quadruped Yanks" in short order by administering our favorite prescription, "rebel" pellets in lead.

On the 21st of May we were thrown in line of march in great haste and moved at a double-quick for a distance of four or five miles down the Chickahominy and brought up at the battle of Seven Pines. We were at once thrown in line of battle immediately in front of a Federal battery. The Sixteenth moved forward under a galling fire from these batteries and small arms as well. Our original purpose was to charge and take this battery, but on coming within fifty feet of the guns we found ourselves confronted by a miry swamp, covered with timber felled towards us, the limbs of the trees being sharpened and forming an impassable abattis. Behind this the enemy had constructed heavy earth-works, making an impregnable barrier. Here we lay down so close to the enemy that he could not lower his guns so as to bring them to bear upon us. Finally we withdrew in perfect order.

Night-fall affording him opportunity, the enemy abandoned that part of his line. From memory, the only source from which the writer may draw, we are unable to give the accurate result of this engagement. The Sixteenth lost some of its bravest and best officers and men, among whom was the gallant and beloved Colonel Davis. The termination of the struggle at Seven Pines left the Confederates in possession of the ground and master of the situation. It was here that General Joseph E. Johnston was wounded by a fragment of shell, and he was carried back to Richmond.

Robert E. Lee, having up to this time no command, was now assigned to duty in command of the forces in front of Richmond. The Sixteenth now belonged to Pender's Brigade, A. P. Hill's Division. The vigilance and activity of both armies hourly increased; picket and other service grew harder and more hazardous day by day. The mud and slush of the swamps along the Chickahominy were obliged to be traversed by day and by night and the only chance for rest or sleep was to drop upon the ground, at length to awaken to see the dirty foam-line tracing the high-tide on our already not overtidy jackets.

In this wise we passed the leaden hours until the 26th of June, when A. P. Hill marched his division across the river at Meadow Bridge, hastened to Mechanicsville and dashed his brigades against the heavy fortifications of the enemy, taking them at the point of the bayonet. In this engagement the Sixteenth, after finding our own batteries, came upon a paling fence which, at night, appeared to be an obstacle, but the regiment went against it with such force that its presence did not affect in the least our orderly movement, and the regiment closed up to the enemy's fortifications and immediately in front of a strong battery of artillery. It seemed that the enemy had made ready to bring a heavy cross-fire to bear upon the Sixteenth, especially its right wing, and, as if to increase our peril, we were exposed to a fusillade of grape and canister that was coming from our own batteries planted in our rear. The writer, discovering this situation, called the attention of Colonel McElroy, who, all possible dispatch,

moved us to the left and thereby released the regiment from its unequal and perilous position. The struggle which now ensued was one of extreme prowess and severity, terminating at least in the complete dislodgment of the right wing of McClellan's grand army.

I am not prepared to give the correct casualties of that memorable evening, but for the purpose of illustration, Company A lost in killed and wounded twenty-seven men, twelve of whom were killed on the field or mortally wounded. In this engagement there happened a curious coincident. Company A had eight brothers, representing four different families. These eight brothers were messing together in pairs. When the battle was over and the roll was called only four of these brothers answered, and each of the survivors had lost a brother killed on the field. This was the second pitched battle in which the Sixteenth had participated.

At night-fall we were moved a short distance to the right, the enemy having been dislodged from our front. Here we spent the night so close to the enemy that every word spoken in a common tone of voice could be distinctly heard from our line. The writer stood picket during the night in the edge of the swamp so near the enemy's picket that any sound above a whisper could easily have been heard. Well does he remember his comrade who stood only a few paces away—a beardless boy, but as brave as any who wore the gray. Our surroundings were a solitary desert of horror. The owls, night-hawks and foxes had fled in dismay. Not even a snake or frog could be heard to plunge into the lagoon which, crimsoned by the blood of men, lay motionless in our front. Nothing could be heard in the black darkness of that night save the ghastly moans of the wounded and dying.

The night overpassed, welcome day found us forming in line of battle. General Pender rode up in our front and, taking the stump of a cigar from between his lips and holding it between his thumb and finger, thanked us for our conduct during the previous day and notified us that in a few minutes we would be called upon to storm the line of Federal breastworks as we had

done the past day. Expressing his utmost confidence in us, he said: "When you mount the enemy's works I will be with you, if living." In a few minutes the order was given and forward we moved, but on arriving at the enemy's lines we were only confronted by a strong picket, the enemy having abandoned his position during the night and retreated in the direction of the James. We pursued, and coming upon him at Gaines' Mill we again gave him battle. Here, for several hours, we waged against fearful odds one of the bloodiest struggles of the war, with the usual result—the complete rout and defeat of the enemy. The Sixteenth, as on all occasions, did her full duty, receiving the praise of her officers for coolness and execution. This engagement took place June 27th. The loss to the Sixteenth was heavy.

On the 30th of June the Sixteenth helped to fight the battle of Frazier's Farm. Here, as at Mechanicsville, A. P. Hill opened battle and charged the enemy's earth-works. Sweeping over his first and second lines and reaching the third, we stormed the same with the bayonet. Just at this crisis there came Federal re-inforcements in overwhelming numbers, and on making a determined charge they regained the works and, advancing, pushed the little force of Hill, about eight thousand strong, slowly back for some distance. Retreat, or even defeat, was unknown to us, and the Sixteenth, with Hill's Division, took and held a stand against odds of probably four to one. In this position we stood, destruction looking us in the face. Slowly but surely we were being cut to pieces, but no murmur or movement indicating disorder was to be heard or seen. As we thus stood and suffered, and just at the most trying moment, a welcome sound—the roll of musketry and thunder of artillery—came from the direction of the old Cold Harbor house. How welcome and inspiring the sound none may imagine except those who composed the decimated lines of the Sixteenth and Hill's Division. We closed up and raised the yell, for we knew it was Jackson and that re-inforcements were at hand. The struggle continued till about sunset, we holding the center, when suddenly the decisive strug-

gle ensued which ended in the repulse of the Federal lines and the driving of them back under cover of their gun-boats. Our loss in officers and men was heavy and apparently irreparable. Captain A. W. Coleman, of Company A, was killed by a shell early in the engagement. The command of the company then fell to Lieutenant A. W. Bryson until he became severely wounded, when Sergeant John S. Keener commanded the company the remainder of the day.

The Sixteenth participated in the engagement at Malvern Hill. The regiment displayed its wonted coolness and intrepidity. The loss was comparatively light. Thus ended the Seven Pines and seven days' battles.

The survivors of the Sixteenth having got a little rest and recuperation, and McClellan having fallen back on Washington, our faces were turned northward.

On the 9th of August we took part in the battle of Cedar Run. Our casualties were comparatively small. After much fatigue from hard marching we reached the field of Second Manassas on the afternoon of the historic 29th. Pope at once made a vigorous attack on our left, plunging with great fury into A. P. Hill's Division and piercing with the bayonet a gap in our line. It looked for a time as if the entire left wing of our army would be annihilated by the greatly superior number of the enemy, and nothing but the most heroic fighting of which men were capable did save us from annihilation. Finally, after superhuman effort, the enemy along this line were repulsed. He rallied, only to be driven back the second time. So stubbornly was the ground contested that volleys were delivered at a distance of only ten to fifteen steps. The Sixteenth, true to its record, repulsed the enemy in its front in six separate assaults. Our opponents on this memorable day were led by General Kearney, of Mexican renown. They behaved themselves like men.

Night-fall of the 29th found Hill, having been re-inforced, still holding his ground. With the close of the day General Kearney retired from our front. The field itself was the most unanswerable witness to the day's contest. A railroad cut run-

ning through the field was filled with the bodies of men dead or wounded; some were riddled with bullets, others were torn by shells, and many were pierced by the bayonet.

The morning of the 30th of August found the opposing armies face to face in battle array. Arms were taken up where they had been laid down and the struggle re-opened with increased fierceness. The events of the day are too numerous to admit of record in a brief sketch. In the afternoon a tremendous force was hurled against our left and center and a struggle ensued that beggars description. It is enough to say that it was one of the most desperate and bloody struggles of the war. The Sixteenth held her position from first to last, dealing such blows as she was capable, repulsing every onset of the enemy and faithfully contributing towards the rich but dearly earned victory to our arms at Second Manassas. The loss to the Sixteenth was heavy.

On the afternoon of the 1st of September the battle of Ox Hill was fought in the midst of a terrible rain-storm. In this engagement the Sixteenth participated, sustaining her reputation for reliance and fortitude. It sustained some loss in killed and wounded.

On the 4th of September we crossed the Potomac and arrived at Frederick City, Md., on the 9th. After remaining here some days we marched by a circuitous route, crossing the Potomac some distance above Harper's Ferry, to Martinsburg. The snail force at the last named place fled before us to Harper's Ferry, leaving to us all they had of quartermaster and commissary stores.

By Sunday night of the 14th we had completely surrounded Harper's Ferry. The Sixteenth, with Pender's Brigade and Hill's Division, occupied the south side of the town. Just after dark we were assaulted by a line of battle, receiving very unexpectedly a heavy volley, but nothing daunted, we as quickly as possible returned the compliment, raised the yell and, sweeping forward, repulsed the enemy with some loss. We were troubled no more during the night, except by the moans and groans of the wounded and dying enemy, who failed to regain their fortifications. Our casualties were small.

Monday morning, the 15th, we apprehended another serious struggle. Sunday night had been cool and frosty, but the Sixteenth had laid upon her arms. Though chilled and shivering, we were eager for the fray. An artillery duel was already proceeding with great warmth. At sunrise Pender was ordered to the front. He was on the spot in person and the order was instantly obeyed. Over the hill the left wing of the Sixteenth swung, and it was the first to be exposed to the enemy's fire. As suddenly as the enemy's firing had begun it now ceased, and a white flag was seen to crown their stronghold. The Sixteenth, with Pender's Brigade, was the first to march down upon them. We found them drawn up in line, with arms stacked and discoursing music of a patriotic sort—from their point of view. It was in fact quite a splendid reception, but what a contrast! The enemy was spotlessly dressed in brand-new uniforms, shoes and buttons, and gold and silver trappings glistening in the morning sun, while we were almost naked; a great many of us without shoes, without even a faded emblem on our ragged coats to tell even rank or official command. Thus ended Harper's Ferry. The casualties of the Sixteenth were not severe. The fruits of Harper's Ferry were eleven thousand prisoners, thirteen thousand stands of arms and seventy-three pieces of artillery.

From Harper's Ferry the Sixteenth, with Pender's Brigade and Hill's Division, marched to Sharpsburg. Arriving there early in the afternoon of the 17th, we found the battle raging furiously. General Jones, with two thousand five hundred men was opposing Burnside with fifteen thousand. Our force of two thousand men under Hill and two thousand five hundred under Jones fell upon Burnside and after a desperate struggle, in which the enemy numbered more than three to one, we drove him from his position and pressed him back until dark coming on the engagement ceased. Here again, all the circumstances considered, the grand army under McClellan had experienced another decisive defeat. The loss of the Sixteenth was comparatively slight. The next day General Lee lingered, awaiting another attack, but none was made.

The morning of the day following found Lee on the other side of the Potomac supplying his army with rations and ammunition. Taking up the line of march, we halted long enough at Bunker Hill to devour some plain provisions and then to fall upon the ground for a little much-needed rest.

On the 20th we were again ordered in line and were marched down the Harper's Ferry road. There were many conjectures among the soldiers as to where we were going. On reaching a point opposite Shepherdstown, we were halted, fronted toward the river, our guns were provided with fresh caps, skirmish lines were thrown out and the order was given to "Forward, march!" Our skirmishers were soon hotly contesting every inch of the ground with those of our same old enemy, and in less than fifteen minutes we were closely engaged. The Sixteenth moved steadily forward, driving everything before her. Retreating through an open field, the enemy fell back under cover of the river bank. It was here that our duty again became arduous and the demand of the moment called for a decisive blow. Rushing over the river bank, we intended giving the enemy the bayonet, but before reaching him he fled in the wildest confusion, some plunging headlong into the river and others attempting to cross on a foot-bridge purposely erected for their retreat if events should require. This engagement resulted in much loss of life to the enemy, the very river being tinged here and there with his life-blood. This duty was performed under the fire of as many Federal cannon as could be planted and manned in our entire front. Added to the storm of grape and canister which the enemy continued to belch forth, there was a line of small arms playing upon us from the Maryland side; but the charge was made and the victory was gained with such amazing dispatch that our casualties were inconsiderable. Thus ended the battle of Shepherdstown.

The writer deems it not uninteresting in this connection to reproduce from memory, and word for word, the official address of A. P. Hill after the last named battle, for the reason that in all the engagements therein referred to the Sixteenth was a participant. General Hill said: "Soldiers of the Light Division,

you have done well and I am pleased with you. You have fought in every battle from Mechanicsville to Shepherdstown, and no one can yet say that the Light Division was ever broken. You held the left at Manassas against overwhelming numbers and saved the army. You saved the day at Sharpsburg, and at Shepherdstown you were selected to face a storm of round shot, grape and shell such as I have never before witnessed. Your services are appreciated by your commanding general."

After the battle of Shepherdstown the Sixteenth Regiment marched back to Bunker Hill. Here Company A was transferred to the Thirty-ninth North Carolina Regiment and Company L to the Sixty-ninth North Carolina Regiment (Thomas' Legion).

The Sixteenth Regiment remained in camp at Bunker Hill until about the first of October. About this time the Federal army crossed the Potomac at Harper's Ferry and advanced to Warrenton. Leaving the Valley, Longstreet's Corps confronted the enemy near Culpeper Court House. About the 20th Jackson also abandoned the Valley above Winchester and moved forward to New Market. From thence he proceeded to the vicinity of Guinea Station, a point on the railroad leading from Fredericksburg to Richmond.

Everything now pointed to Fredericksburg as the scene of another great conflict. On the 10th of December Burnside began preparation for crossing to the south side of the Rappahannock. Finally, with much difficulty and great loss of life, he succeeded, and on the morning of the 13th the battle began. The engagement was a bloody and destructive one, ending in Burnside being literally cut to pieces, repulsed and defeated—not for any lack of courage or of numbers among his troops, but for want of generalship. Here, for some reason unknown to the writer, it seems that A. P. Hill left in his line a gap of about two hundred yards. Bordering on this gap, the Sixteenth, with Pender's Brigade, was placed. The enemy, perceiving this to be a vulnerable point in our line, sought to pass through it. He came near succeeding and in his attempt inflicted a severe pun-

ishment upon that portion of our line. The Sixteenth was an active participant in the arduous duties and dangers of the day. Many unsuccessful attempts were made by the enemy to break through our lines, first at one point and then at another, but without avail. The battle as a whole resulted in a signal victory for our arms. Burnside retreated to the north side of the Rappahannock. The Sixteenth only lost in this engagement, in killed and wounded, thirty-two men.

The regiment remained about Fredericksburg and along the Rappahannock, performing guard and picket duty, until a short time before the battle of Chancellorsville. In this engagement, which occurred May 3, 1863, the Sixteenth was thrown into the fight at a point where the service of none but veterans was competent. When the smoke had ascended from the field and the roll had been called it was ascertained that fifty-nine of her brave fellows were wounded or killed. Colonel John S. McElroy was severely wounded while gallantly leading his men. No braver soldier or more chivalric gentleman graced the Sixteenth with command than Colonel McElroy. He was universally trusted and esteemed by the men. Upon the disability of Colonel McElroy, Lieutenant-Colonel Stowe assumed command. Colonel Stowe was a gallant and successful commander. His record was one of the best. It was upon this fatal field that Stonewall Jackson was mortally wounded. The Sixteenth had marched and fought and conquered under the eye of this great chieftain. With us his name was the synonym for success, and we took fresh hope when we heard the booming of his guns. Well does the writer remember how he looked when first he had the pleasure of seeing him. He sat on his horse very awkwardly, or perhaps I should say carelessly. His stirrups appeared to be several inches too short for his legs. His uniform was dingy and unkempt and his cap was pulled far down over his brow. He impressed one as being too much engrossed with the serious business of life to have time to attend to its numerous smaller amenities. It was upon this same deadly field that our gallant division commander, A. P. Hill

was seriously wounded and borne to the rear. These were some of the events that illustrated the battle of Chancellorsville. The dashing Stuart succeeded temporarily to the command of Jackson's Corps.

After Chancellorsville there was a brief but painful cessation of hostilities. About the 1st of June the larger portion of the Army of Northern Virginia disappeared from the valley of the Rappahannock, leaving Hill with his corps to watch the movements of Hooker. About the middle of June the latter withdrew from Fredericksburg and simultaneously our forces withdrew from the same place. Hill's Corps crossed the Potomac on the 25th of June at Shepherdstown and arrived at Fagotville, Pa., on the afternoon of the 27th. The opposing armies were concentrating their forces at Gettysburg for a decisive conflict.

As before mentioned, after the battle of Shepherdstown Company A of the Sixteenth (in which was the writer), was transferred to the Thirty-ninth Regiment, and for this reason he was not at Gettysburg and cannot write from personal knowledge. He has been unsuccessful in obtaining data from actual participants, and that he can truthfully record of the part the Sixteenth acted in all that, the fiercest, in some respects, of the battles of modern times, is that the regiment was there from first to last.

The Sixteenth, as all the other regiments of Lee's army, before it reached the field of Gettysburg had been very much reduced in numbers, and at the close of those crucial three days it was found that the Federal bullets had deprived her of the loyal services of seventy-two more of her heroes. This, to the writer, is the Sixteenth's all-sufficient message from Gettysburg. Here it was that the Sixteenth lost her beloved first brigade commander, William D. Pender. He was mortally wounded and died soon after. So familiar had his figure become to the ranks that his death was taken as a personal loss to each individual soldier. I recall his personal appearance and his conduct on the field and in battle as though it had been but yesterday. He was a medium size man, round of body, closely knit and muscular; his movements were agile and strong; his complexion was tan, his eye gray and

kindly, and his whole exterior indicated courage, nerve and power of endurance. His words were not many, but exceedingly comprehensive and to the point. Like all great soldiers, he was not a man of words but of action. He was one of the coolest, most self-possessed and one of the most absolutely fearless men under fire I ever knew. It was by no means an uncommon thing to see him smoking a cigar and issuing commands, to all human appearance unmoved, in the heat of battle. If he had lived and the war had continued he would have been promoted to a high command.

The Sixteenth, after Gettysburg, recrossed the river on the 14th, and thus ended the campaign north of the Potomac. The Sixteenth remained with the Army of Northern Virginia to the surrender—most of the time under fire and all the time marching, starving, but never despairing. The Sixteenth was brigaded with the Thirteenth, Twenty-second, Thirty-fourth and Thirty-eighth North Carolina Regiments, and the incidents of its history are largely identical with those narrated in the sketches given of those regiments. Our first brigade commander was Pender, who was succeeded by General Scales. She passed through the trying and unequal experiences at Petersburg and in its fall with our own heroic dead she numbered her trusted corps commander, A. P. Hill. Next to her own native commanders the Sixteenth learned to respect the person of A. P. Hill. He was one of the greatest military leaders that the civil war developed. I remember how he looked perfectly. He was one of the handsomest little men I have ever seen. I have seen his home (during the war) from which he was so rudely and suddenly torn—one of the most beautiful of the many beautiful Virginia places. General Hill was a fearless man and a brilliant commander, and his Light Division will go down side by side with the illustrious soldiers of history.

After Petersburg the Sixteenth, still undaunted, divided the corn of the horses to appease hunger and, stubbornly marching and fighting to the last, surrendered with General Lee at Appomattox. Their sacrifice was fully repaid when, the dread day

having arrived and the momentous act performed, they listened to the words as they fell from the lips of Robert E. Lee himself: "God bless old North Carolina!" With this blessing resting upon their heads, they turned their faces in the direction of their broken homes, where, through all the years that have followed, they have cherished the parting benediction of their great chieftain as a priceless heritage.

The total casualties of the Sixteenth Regiment for the entire war were something more than eight hundred men, leaving about five hundred men, a large majority of which last were not at the surrender for legitimate reasons.

I am here reminded by Captain L. Harrill that at Fredericksburg, in the spring of 1862, we were complemented with a company of recruits from the county of Rutherford, making the Sixteenth temporarily to consist of thirteen companies. This company, which was eventually transferred to the Fifty-sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops, was officered as follows: W. J. Kirkpatrick, Captain; L. Harrill, First Lieutenant; J. H. Sweezy, Second Lieutenant; H. L. Sweezy, Third Lieutenant.

Participating in the arduous campaigns of Yorktown and Seven Pines, in which it lost (killed) its Captain, J. W. Kirkpatrick, and four men, on the 19th of June it was ordered to Raleigh, where it was organized with the Fifty-sixth.

No more appropriate account of the character of Company N could be given here than the simple statement that it was a temporary component of the Sixteenth, and it is to be hoped that it will have a deserving place in the narrative of its regiment.

Now, if my comrades, the historians of the Thirty-ninth and Sixty-ninth, will pardon, I will return to Bunker Hill, where we were transferred from the Sixteenth to the Thirty-ninth, for a brief statement of our separate experiences.

Companies A and L left the Sixteenth on the 5th day of October, 1862. From Bunker Hill we marched by way of Staunton and Lynchburg to East Tennessee, where Company L stopped with the Sixty-ninth North Carolina Regiment (Thomas' Legion). Company A, to which the writer belonged, proceeded to Middle

Tennessee, where we were formally organized with the Thirty-ninth, till then a battalion under Colonel David Coleman. From Middle Tennessee we were transported, in the spring of 1863, to Mississippi. The company had comparatively an easy experience until the 1st of July, when we took up the line of march, heading for Vicksburg. Our object was the relief of General John C. Pemberton, who was being severely besieged, but before reaching the city we learned that he had surrendered. Thereafter our faces were turned in the direction of Chickamauga, where, in the battle of the 19th and 20th of September, the Thirty-ninth took part as follows: Transported from Mississippi as fast as freight trains could carry us, we reached Ringold, Ga., about noon of the 18th. Sweeping up the muddy little Chickamauga, we drove the blue coats before us until they were forced to take refuge within their main lines. At this juncture night came and with it a cessation of arms. Day-break on the 19th saw hostilities recommence with increased earnestness. Company A was placed behind and in support of a Georgia regiment. The latter heroically maintained its stand and poured a hot and steady fire into the enemy until, re-inforcements finally coming to the relief of the enemy, he was making "proper smash" of the brave Georgians, when the Thirty-ninth North Carolina and the Twenty-fifth Arkansas moved forward, passed over the Georgians and, changing tactics, raised the yell and charged. The Indians stubbornly disputed our right to their stronghold, but at last, preferring to keep out of the way of the bayonet, they fell back. At the most critical moment of this charge the color-bearer of the Thirty-ninth, William Breedon, of Cherokee county, was shot down. As he fell the writer caught the flag before it touched the ground and bore it until Joseph Sutton, of Company A, took it from his hands and carried it during the remainder of the engagement. At night Sutton turned over the colors to Colonel Coleman, saying he preferred to carry his gun. J. Wesley Shelton, of Jackson county, then voluntarily took the flag, carried it until the close of the war and now has it in his possession. The preservation of this old relic after the surrender is due to

Lieutenant R. H. Brown, of Jackson county, who, on leaving Spanish Fort after the surrender, took the flag, and concealing it about his person, carried it safely home. Such is the correct history of the worn old battle-flag of the Thirty-ninth, so often exhibited at our late reunions in Western North Carolina.

Company A went through the entire two days' struggle for the mastery at Chickamauga, every inch of which ground was bitterly contested, and on Sunday evening, when the last charge was made and the Ninth Indiana Battery of nine pieces was captured in a life-and-death struggle and at the bayonet's point, members of Company A were among the first half dozen men to lay their hands on a Federal field-piece.

This ended the struggle and the enemy fled toward Chattanooga. Company A's loss was heavy. It took part in all the fighting, marching and starving under Johnston and Hood from Dalton to Spanish Fort. Kennesaw and Altoona, doubtless, still bear marks of her dogged skill. Until Nashville, Company A never met what was indeed a defeat. In fact the defeat of our army at Nashville was partly traceable to the fact that it had been rudely deprived of its beloved and able commander, Joseph E. Johnston, and partly because we clashed with Western men, led by a Southern-born Union general. Throughout the war the best men we met were the Western men; the next best were bounty-paid foreigners, Irishmen and the like; the next best were men from the Middle States, and the last and very least were the Down-easters.

I desire to say before closing this sketch that I have not yet changed, nor do I expect to change, my mind as to the principles which prompted and the circumstances which actuated me to espouse the cause of my State in the war for Southern independence.

I lived a quarter of a century before the war; by the blessing of Providence I went through the entire four years of that awful struggle and have lived more than a quarter of a century since, and I say in all the candor of my nature to the future historian and to posterity that the actors in that war from the South were

patriots, and that the rights for which they strove were those then guaranteed by the Constitution of the country and then recognized by the nations of the earth.

I sincerely trust that my comrades of the Sixteenth will generously pardon me for whatever errors of misstatement or omission that I necessarily may have made, owing to meagre facilities for data and the treacherousness of memory, from which I have almost entirely written. Thirty-six years have elapsed since the last of the events transpired which I have related. I have purposely refrained from mentioning many instances where individuals distinguished themselves, for the reason that to have begun the task would have been to notice almost every man in the regiment first and last, for no better soldiers ever shouldered a musket or wielded a sword than the soldiers of the Sixteenth Regiment North Carolina Troops.

Finally, my comrades, I have obeyed this order and performed this, doubtless, my last duty to you, as I did those of the Sixties, in behalf of my children and yours, my conscience and my country, to the best of my ability.

BENJAMIN H. CATHEY.

MURPHY, N. C.,

9 April, 1901.

ADDITIONAL SKETCH SIXTEENTH REGIMENT.

BY CAPTAIN L. HARRILL, COMPANY N.

In his history of the Sixteenth North Carolina Regiment, Lieutenant B. H. Cathey has mentioned the camp at Valley Mountain during August and September, 1861, but its horrors have never been half told.

Imagine a cold, chilly rain almost daily for weeks, the ground soaked with water, no other shelter except thin cloth tents, with wet blankets for bedding, an epidemic of measles, terminating in many cases, on account of the unavoidable exposure, in rapid pneumonia or followed by typhoid fever, with only such poor medical treatment as could be given under such circumstances. There were no experienced nurses, no suitable food for nourishment and no competent cook to prepare anything for the sick. The Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon both being sick and unable for duty, young doctors, J. L. Rucker and myself, privates in the ranks, detailed for medical services, did all we could with the very scant supply of medicines on hand, but the great number of the sick, at one time amounting to several hundred, overwhelmed them. Strong, robust mountaineers, who had scarcely ever had a day's sickness, were stricken down to die in a few days. The disease contracted at this camp caused a greater mortality than any two battles the old Sixteenth fought during the war.

In leaving camp the sick had to be transported in rough baggage wagons. At one time the writer had charge of a train of wagons and in this way conveyed more than fifty patients, sick with typhoid fever, across the mountains, fifty or sixty miles, to Rockbridge Alum Springs, where a hospital had been established.

Lieutenant Cathey omitted to mention that there was at one

time thirteen companies instead of twelve, as given by him. In February, 1862, details of two or more men were sent out from the companies to enlist recruits. From Company D, Sixteenth Regiment, First Lieutenant J. W. Kilpatrick and the writer, a private, were ordered to Rutherford county, and while there enlisted about seventy-six men, organizing a new company with J. W. Kilpatrick, Captain; L. Harrill, First Lieutenant; J. H. Sweezy, Second Lieutenant, and H. A. L. Sweezy, Third Lieutenant. This company joined the Sixteenth Regiment at Fredericksburg, Va., April, 1862, and was on the long march from there to Yorktown. It tramped through rain and mud in the famous retreat of General Johnston to the Chickahominy. This march was made from Yorktown to near Richmond almost without food or rest. After two days' marching and starving, the attached company, through the generosity of one of its members, who had been detailed as teamster, had a feast of parched corn for supper. The poor mules did not fare so well.


The attached company was a part of the Sixteenth Regiment at the battle of Seven Pines, May 31, 1862, and lost in killed Captain J. W. Kilpatrick, W. N. Brooks, A. K. Lynth, A. R. Sorrels and Fifer O. D. Price, belonging to the drum corps of the regiment, who went voluntarily into the battle and was killed. We went into the battle under the command of the dauntless old hero, General Wade Hampton, who rode quietly along the line of the Sixteenth and said to the men: "Do not fire a shot until you can feel the enemy on your bayonets." He gave the command "Forward!" and five of the attached company went to their death, besides a number wounded.

After the battle of Seven Pines the company remained with the Sixteenth until June 19, 1862, only one week before the battle of Mechanicsville and the seven days fighting that followed, when we received orders to report at Camp Mangum, Raleigh, N. C., where we became Company I of the Fifty-sixth Regiment, and its history thenceforward becomes a part of the Fifty-sixth, written by Major John W. Graham and Captain R. D. Graham.

This imperfect sketch is offered as a tribute to the memory of my comrades left dead upon the bloody field of Seven Pines, and that they may have their proper place in the true history of the war.

L. HARRILL.

STATESVILLE N. C.,
9 April, 1901.



MITZI PRESNELL

Historic Properties Recorded

Yancey County and the North Carolina Division of Archives and History will be cosponsoring a comprehensive inventory of the architectural and historic resources in Yancey County, and Mitzi Presnell has been engaged as principal investigator for the project, which is scheduled for completion by September of 1983.

The project will involve the evaluation and documentation of dwellings, outbuildings, schools, churches, and other historic properties in this county. Emphasis will be placed on pre-1930 historic structures. Those properties deemed historic and/or architecturally significant will be documented by written description, photographed, and mapped.

During the project, Ms. Presnell will be visiting such structures within the county to research, document, and photograph them. The success of the project will depend on the participation and interest of the citizens of Yancey County whose shared knowledge and support will aid in the recording of Yancey County's valuable historic resources.

Anyone who would like to offer assistance, or who has questions, may contact Mitzi Presnell at the Yancey County Courthouse, Room 6, Burnsville, N.C. 28714.

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