

3

June 23^d 1908

I, A. J. Williams was born July the 29th 1846, 2 miles north East of Benton Tennessee, and lived on a farm and attended the free schools of the District until the breaking out of the Civil War.

My Father died in April 1860 and left my Mother, two sisters and myself. Abraham Harrison a cousin of mine set in with me to make a crop in the latter part of the winter 1861, when the war commenced in the Spring he volunteered in John S. Harrison's Company the first Company that was raised in Polk County and went to the front and left me to make the crop.

I remained at home until in the winter of 1863-1864. Although I longed to be in the Confederate army the Federals took possession of the County after the Battle of Missionary Ridge or at least formed a picket

along the north bank of the
 Mississippi river and sent foraging
 parties across the river.

Vicksburg had been surrendered
 in July 1863 and there was several
 companies from Polk County that
 had been surrendered at Vicksburg
 and was still at home when the
 Federals began to come into the
 County and among them was
 W. L. Harbison a First Lieutenant in
 in Captain B. S. Coakley 62nd
 Tennessee Infantry and he collected
 some of the soldiers that had been
 surrendered at Vicksburg and began
 to harass the foraging parties sent
 out by the Federals and he with
 others run on a party of four
 Federals at the widow Harbison and
 captured all of them shooting one
 of them this happened in sight of
 my home and excited me considera-
 bly and I decided to join Harbison's
 company. I went on scouts and
 raids with them, on one occasion
 we followed a Squad

of Yankees to Boyds mill on Ocoee
 river and captured six or seven
 Federal soldiers and one commissioned
 officer, there being only two shots
 fired one by a Yankee and one by
 Abe Harbison these soldiers had
 come along as a guard for Newton
 Taylor who went to the mill with
 wagon and team to get grinding
 done. We got the horses and
 arms of the soldiers and some of
 the boys took the muskets of Taylor.
 I got a sorrel pony and saddle.
 I afterwards swapped the saddle for a
 Navy pistol and sold the pony to
 Joe Whipple for two hundred dollars
 Confederate money.

Harbisons Company got
 separated into small squads and
 most of them had left the state but
 a few of us got together and started
 to leave the county in the night
 and among the crowd was
 little Sam Reid Job. Ramsey and
 Bill Smith and myself. We
 crossed Ocoee river and started

the Bull Play road. We noticed we noticed that we could hear dogs barking along the road in front of us and it was decided for Sam Reid and me to go in front on foot and see if we could find out what caused the dogs to bark we had went but a little way when we heard horses coming and we stepped out to the side of the road and there was several cavalrymen passed. These we had left behind down the same way, and I don't know until this day whether they was was Federals or Confederates,

Path cavity was between the lines on that part of it south of Keowee river, and scout from both armies often passed through both in the day time and in the night, directly after this scout passed we got together and went into the woods and lay down and went to sleep next morning Sam Reid and I went to

Dutch weavers to get breakfast
and after breakfast I bought a
horse from weaver at the price of
\$200⁰⁰ paid \$100⁰⁰ down and
the balance was not paid until
after the war we went on down
into Georgia, and spent a few
days, and I and Sam Reid
swapped horses I got a black
mare from him that had swelling
and was in fold I thought I could
ride her home, and swap her
for one that was alright, and
that the Yankees would not take
her she being lame and in fold,
but that was the most unfortunate
horse trade that I ever made
I had a good Sharps rifle, and
many pistol, and after I had
made this horse trade I got in
company with Jack O'Neil
and he wanted to come back
to Tennessee for some purpose
and we came up to a friend of
ours to sell? Bob Shields, and tied
our horses out in the woods and

after supper went to a cotton gin to sleep and here we disagreed about how we should come home, there was an old man that lived near there that had two or three grown daughters that was large young women, Jack O'Neal suggested that we go there next morning and borrow a suit of cloths for each of us and a side saddle for each of us and dress in female garb and ride through in that way I objected to this young as I was I knew that if we was caught in the Yankee lines in disguise we would be shot on the spot, and I suggested that we get on our horses and ride through in the night but O'Neal could not give up the idea of coming through in disguise. So it was finally agreed that he should get him a suit of female a suit of attire and a side saddle, and ride up the big

road and I was to ride along the top of a ridge that runs nearly parallel with the road and that we would meet near where the Conasauga Lumber Companies mill is now located, it was agreed between us that the one that got there first was to wait for the other when I reached the point agreed upon I tied my mare in the woods and went near the road to see if O'Neal came along and watched the road for some time and he not coming I saw a barn at a little distance and went to it and found some corn in the barn and thought I would get some corn and feed my mare while waiting on O'Neal and about the time I got the corn and started with it to my mare there was two men road up and told them what I was getting the corn for they did not tarry but a few minutes and road off toward the mill on Conasauga.

What is new Howard's Wall.
I fed my mare, but became
uneasy the way these men had
acted and I decided to mount
and risk getting through alone.
I went on to the mill and just
after I had passed the mill house
one called to me to know if I
would trade the mare for a good
mule and I stopped which was
a mistake for armed as I was
I doubt if they would have
undertaken to arrest me had I
not give them the advantage of me
but they had me surrounded in
a minute and drew their pistols
and ordered me to surrender
they disarmed me and then
I dismounted and Cal. Vest
and Tom Firestone started with
me as they said to Columbus to
the Yankee's. Cal. Vest riding
my mare, and he had my gun
and Firestone and I on foot.
Firestone had my pistol and one
of his own after covering me

for a considerable distance Cal
 Vest said it was necessary for him
 to turn and that Firestone would take
 me on to where a man by the name
 of Henry lived and Henry would
 go with him. I had tried hard to
 make Vest and Firestone believe
 that I was going in to give up
 to the Spaniards and I think I had
 at least partially succeeded, after
 Vest turned back I began to
 plan to make my escape I had
 but little doubt that I could
 escape that night for I knew
 that we could not get to Columbus
 before night and I believed they
 would stop somewhere to stay
 all night but Firestone had
 my pistol and I disliked to give
 up all my arms so I began to
 meditate knocking Firestone in
 the head with a rock and
 take my pistol and his and
 leave him the more I studied
 about it the more I thought
 this was the thing to do.

Although I was satisfied that if I commenced the fight, it would result in the death of one of us, so I watch my chance to pick up a rock so that Firestone would not see me and the first rock I aimed to pick up I simply turned it over. It was necessary for me to pick up the rock I intended to pick up. When I got to it then keep my eyes on Firestone and reach for the rock. We was going down a rocky ridge and rocks was plenty so the next rock that I aimed at I got it in my hand and I hit Firestone in the back of the head with all the power I had and knocked him the longest fall I ever saw a man fall. I walked on after him and when he started to get up I hit him again the rock burst in my hand and that lick did not seem to hurt him much he jumped up beside me and grabbed the brim of my

hat and tore the rim off all
 round & then knocked him down
 with my fist and set my right
 knee on his breast reaching over
 his head and picked up a rock and
 hit him five or six times in the
 head, I happened to notice and he
 was trying to get the pistol out
 he had taken from out of the
 scabbard, I jumped up set my
 foot on his face and took hold
 of the pistol with both hands
 and tore it loose from the belt
 I then thought I would shoot him
 and cocked the pistol and snapped
 it but the hammer caught the
 lapel of my overcoat and did
 not fire I straightened up and
 cocked cocked the pistol and
 pulled the trigger again Firestone
 grabbed the pistol and run his
 hand up the barrel and when
 I pulled the trigger the hammer
 of the pistol caught his thumb
 and knocked a blood blister
 on his thumb nail and did not

failed to fire, I then thought I would step backward have a fair chance for a shot. I stepped back about ten feet and cocked the pistol and Fireston began to beg me to spare his life I hesitated and he continued to beg and pray the poor fellow was covered with blood, and I could not shoot him and him begging, I then asked him for the other pistol, and he said he did not have it, I believed he was telling me a lie and that if I turned my back he would shoot me with it and I kept my eyes on him and my pistol cocked, after a time I became satisfied that he did not have the pistol, and began to look around for it and found it where he had first been as he had no scabbard for this pistol and had it stuck under his belt when he fell the pistol had slid out on the ground.

I picked up this pistol and then
 started back the way we had come
 and went on until I passed the first
 house, (where I was told that Gen.
 Thomas lived) - I followed the road
 on until I got out of sight of
 the house and then took to the
 woods, and began to make my way
 towards home, this was a mistake
 for I then had no cause to go
 home, only that I had started to
 go home, I was still well armed
 and could have made my way
 to the Confederate army at
 Tunnel Hill or Dalton Georgia,
 but I followed the top of a
 ridge until after dark a while
 and not knowing where I was
 exactly I lay down and went to
 sleep, I had a blanket with me
 and found I sunk in the top of
 the ridge although it was cold
 enough for a big frost to fall
 during the night I slept sound
 until just before day light and
 got up and started. I came to

to O'Connell river at George O'Connell's and although they had breakfast nearly ready and they insisted on me to stay for breakfast, and I had had nothing to eat since the morning before I was afraid to stay and Jim Morrow who was staying there went and set me across the river in a canoe.

When I got across the river I struck out for the top of the little mountain and when I got on top of the mountain I followed the top of the mountain until I came to the gap above Ben's and was near the road watching for a chance to cross without being seen when old man Evan Campbell came along and I called his attention and he left the road and came up to where I was. I told him I had nothing to eat since the morning before and he went to his house and brought me out some bread and meat. After eating some

Campbell went into the road at the point of the little mountain and looked to see if the road was clear so that I could go across without being seen after looking he motioned me to come a head and I went across the road and to the top of the little mountain and on home.

Jack O'Neal was captured the same day. I have never learned the particulars of his capture as we have never met yet, although we parted expecting to meet in a few hours. However, he made his escape the same night I have heard that he was taken to Columbus and that the Yankees held a drum head court martial that night and sentenced him to death but when morning came O'Neal was not there.

I stayed about home for some time, thinking some of the Confederate soldiers would come in to the country and and I would

go out with them and in about
a month after my first capture
I was captured by the Yankees
and taken to Calhoun Tennessee
All the while that I was a prisoner
I was looking for a chance to
escape, so after being with them
about 3 days and nights I made
my escape about 4 O'clock one
morning in march, it had been
raining for about a day and night
and had quit raining and turned
very cold the Yankees had 3 of
their own men under guard and
was punishing them, they would
make them walk around a telegraph
pole for 2 hours and then let them
rest for 2 hours day and night at
the same time they kept a guard
up in the guard house at about
4 O'clock in the morning the
guard took the prisoners out to
make them march three around
the telegraph pole and at the
same time they woke up a new
man and put him on guard

in the house, he had not been set
 down by the stove but a few
 minutes until I noticed he was
 snoring I got up and walked to
 the stove and he seemed to be found
 a sleep, while I was by the stove
 another prisoner came to the stove
 and stood there, I thought for a
 minute whether I would try to
 take this boy out with me, but
 I did not know him and thought
 best to take care of my self, so
 I started and walked through the
 house the way the guards had
 went and found the door open
 and walked out it was dark
 out of doors and the guards that
 was guarding the prisoners out
 of doors and making them around
 the telegraph pole did not notice
 me so I walked out through the
 camp and directed my course
 so as to hit Creek
 above the bridge for I knew
 the Yankees had a picket there
 I struck the Creek which was up

from the recent rains and
 Went up the Creek to a shoal in
 a field. Somewhat like a mile
 above the bridge I decided that
 I could wade the creek here and
 set down and pulled off my shoes
 and socks and stuck them in
 the bosom of my coat and got
 me a pole in my hand and
 waded across. About fifteen steps
 from the Creek bank was a pile
 of rails and I waded out to them
 and got down to put on my shoes
 and found that my cloths was froze on
 me. it was now day light and I
 struck out through the fields as
 I have said before it was very cold
 but the way I traveled I soon got
 warm I did not follow the roads
 instead I avoided them as much
 as possible when I struck the
 road from the mouth of Deer
 to Athens it was in a lane I
 looked up the road towards
 Athens and I saw two persons
 coming and I went up the

road and met them and went an
out of sight of them and took to
the woods, I learned afterwards
that that was all the time the
Yankees heard of me that day.
When I came to Chestnut Creek
it was just below the pickers
bridge and I knew where the
bridge was but was afraid to go
to it for fear I might meet the
Yankees. So I decided to try the
Creek again and took off my
shoes and sacks again and put
them in my bosom as before and
started in to wade across, but
did not go far until I had
to swim but the Creek was
not wide and I soon got across
the sun was now high up and
clear and I stripped off my
cloths and wrung the water out
of them and rested a little then
started on I struck Conasauga
Creek just below the bridge at
Cog Hill, but I was tired of
wading and swimming the Creek

and decided to risk crossing on the bridge and went up the Creek to the bridge crossed and went the road for a short distance and took through the fields towards the mountain and soon reached the mountain and went straight up across the mountain and into the Spring - town road just below Peter Brown's house. When I came in sight of the house there 2 Cavalry horses hitched up and a Yankee soldier standing in the yard talking to one of Brown's girls. I walked on up the road and they paid no attention to me if they saw me they never suspected me. I went to Spring - town and to Tempie Smith's widow of I Isaac Smith died she had a good supper and it is not necessary to say that I did it justice, I had not eat anything since the night before. She gave me some bed clothes

and I went out and slept in the woods, I felt a little sore and stiff after my hard days travel and exposure, but was all right in a few days Dick Johnson a retired Confederate Soldier lived near there and I went to his house and stayed until the next Saturday morning and during the week I stayed there, a big snow fell and while the snow was on the ground I lay on a trundle bed under a big bed in day time and old man Johnson Father of Dick Johnson made me a pair of shoes. On Saturday morning I started home Johnson with me we come down to where Vaughn's mill is now, (it belonged to Jackson then and crossed the River in a canoe just below the mill, we went down the road until out of sight and then took up the mountain side, and come through the mountains home. I lay out in the field Saturday

Night I considered it safer in the fields than in the woods, there is one thing that I forgot to mention during the weeks that I stayed at Johnson's, Johnson's wife got a horse and road to my home and let my mother know that I had got away from the Yankees, and during the weeks that I stayed at Spring town the Yankees watched the house day and night for me and my folks could see them and did not know why they was watching the house. On Sunday night it was agreed by my mother Johnson and me that I should start to Georgia at midnight I took some bed clothes and went down into the field and slept until midnight. When my mother came and waked me up and said it was time for me to start. I got up went to the house. I think mother had my clothes already packed and I

took the road, and went to
 Uncle Valentine Barbisan's and
 reached there before day light
 Waked up the family and got
 breakfast before daylight, the
 Yankees had took Uncle Valen-
 tine prisoner before this and he
 was gone and in prison, I then
 went to the woods and lay out
 all day. Dick Johnson he came
 us during the day and after
 night we started to cross the
 River he on horse back and I
 on foot the animal he was riding
 was a filly only three years old
 and was not able to carry both
 of us across the river we went
 to Bryant Corey's and I went in
 and got Taylor Corey to let me
 a cross the River on a horse,
 we went from there to Mary
 Langley's a widow and a
 cousin of mine and on the way
 up there there fell a hard rain
 and it was very dark went up
 from Creek the creek got up

and it was so dark I could not find the foot logs, and I waded the creek, where ever I came to it. Mrs. Longley was a very timid woman and was very uneasy for fear the Yankees, or home guards would find out that I had been there.

We built a fire and I dried my cloths and went to bed and slept well until about 4 o'clock in the morning when they woke me to eat breakfast I got up, eat breakfast and started for George Johnson went with me and to the Ball play road and there we parted and I did not see him again until the year was over I then crossed the road and took the woods in the direction of Ladds Springs, as luck would have it I struck Canasoga river just below Ladds Springs and found a canoe on my side of the river I invited the canoe got in and paddled across and went to my friend

Robert Shields for dinner and a
dinner I went on down the old
Federal road to just below the
summersour place and stopped
and stayed all night, ~~in the~~
there was a Confederate soldier
there that belonged to Lee's
Army in Virginia, we did not
talk much that night, and he
had diarrhea, and had to be up
and down during the night and
I slept very little, I was suspicious
of him and I think he was of me,
but next morning we got to talking
and I got satisfied with him and
I think he did with me, he tried
to get me to go with him and join
Lee's army, but I thought I would
rather join the Cavalry of Johnston's
Army so after I got breakfast
I went on down the Old Federal
road to the McMahau place and
there I learned that John Tucker
who belonged to the 2nd Tennessee
Cavalry was at home just across
the Creek from the McMahau place
So I went over there, Tucker was at

home on furlough and said if
 I would remain there a few days
 he would go with me over to
 Tunnel Hill to where his command
 was so I remained there for several
 days and it rained considerably
 while I was there, we finally started
 one morning, he on horse back
 and I on foot when we got to
 Conasauga river the river was up
 and we talked of turning back
 but finally we decided to try the
 river and I got up behind Tucker
 on his horse and started in and
 in a short distance from the
 bank the horse was swimming but
 we made it across all right and
 went on to Tunnel Hill and got
 there in the evening, in a day or
 so Tucker furnished me a horse and
 I joined Company "A" 2nd Tennessee
 Cavalry I was mustered on the
 6th day of April 1864 by Captain
 Lou Clark of Monroe County,
 Tennessee, and I went to do
 duty at once.

The Regiment was camped

just west of the Tavern of Turnwell
 Hill and was picketing along the
 Chickamauga creek, one picket base
 was west of the creek and the Yankees
 charged this picket post several times
 and would capture some one
 nearly every time, they were in
 the post it always has seemed to
 me that picket post was located
 at the wrong place, while at Turnwell
 Hill Captain Turner, who had
 been serving on General Wheeler's
 Staff was assigned to duty in our
 Regiment and took command of
 Company "A" and Company "F" these
 two companies forming a Squadron.
 General Wheeler decided to retaliate
 by capturing the picket post of the
 Federals that stood opposite our post
 west of the creek so he sent for
 Captain Turner and he went to
 Gen. Wheeler's head quarters and
 they laid the plan Captain Turner
 took our company and we rode
 outside of our picket line we was
 their order to dismount and tie up
 our horses, after tying up our

horses there; was three men left
 with them to watch them and we
 started out on foot it was by this
 time 9 or 10 o'clock in the night.
 We had two Georgians with us that
 was well acquainted with the country
 and they piloted us through between
 the Federal picket posts and took us
 in rear of the picket post that was
 posted in "Nicko Jacks" Gap in Taylors
 ridge. We struck the big road between
 midnight and daylight and went
 up the big road towards the Federal
 picket post until we came to a lane
 and there was a good fence on both
 sides of the road. We then took rails
 off of the fence from towards the
 Mauckee Camp and built a fence
 across the big road as high as we
 could reach and then Captain Turner
 formed the company of men in each
 fence corner from the fence across
 the road towards the Mauckee picket
 post. This was all done before daylight
 just when we could see that it was
 beginning to get light in the East
 Captain Swininger charged the Mauckee
 camp.

picket post in the Gap and finally
 drove them Swininger and his men
 knew we was over there somewhere
 ambushed awaiting for them and
 when they got the Yankees started
 they pressed them hard and it was
 not a great while until we could
 hear the sound of the horses feet
 coming down the road Captain
 Turner give us orders to fire when
 he fired his pistol, there was one
 little fellow that was riding a
 pretty little horse that came 40 or 50
 yards a head of the balance his
 horse was running as fast as he
 could run and run against the
 fence we had built across the road
 and the rider was thrown clear over
 the fence and lit in the big road
 and was killed dead by the fall
 the balance of the Company was all
 run down against the fence and
 Turner fired his pistol and the balance
 of the Company fired their guns
 and crossed the fence right in
 among the Yankees, my recollection

22
is that there was 17 of the Yankees
shot killed and wounded. and all
the rest was captured, about the
time we got this company dismounted
and disarmed we discovered a
company of Yankees drawn up
in line in the field just behind
us. Swingers Company and
those of our company that got
horses threwed down the fence and
took after this company and
captured 4 or 5 of them there was
40 or 50 of the company that was
run into the ambush, I missed
getting a very fine horse by not
looking to see where he was shot
he was shot just behind the ears
through the top of the neck and
had fell and caught the riders
leg under him and took sprigs
and I pulled the Yankee from
under the horse. The horse was
lying on his side kicking and
I thought he was dying.

We then returned to where
we had left our horses and

went to camp.

There was nothing of importance happened then until Sherman made his advance on Dalton about the 3rd of May 1864 from that time on until the Yankees captured Atlanta it was almost a continual battle.

When Sherman advanced, Wheeler with his Cavalry fell back inside the Infantry lines and moved up on Johnsons right wing near Vannells Station there he fought the Federal Cavalry for 3 days in succession and gained some advantage each day. one of these days the Yankees was advancing in line and the Texas Brigade under Col. Harrison charged their line in column and run clear through the Yankee line and captured quite a number of the Yankees including a Colonel. The last day that we fought the Yankees on this line, General Batts Division of Infantry was sent up there to exploit

the Cavalry and nearly all of
 Wheeler's Corps of Cavalry was
 dismounted and charged the
 the Yankees on foot and drove
 them back something like a
 mile that night we fell back
 to just below Dalton and went in
 to camp. Sherman had sent
 General Thomas down the valley
 west of John's Mountain and had
 attacked Resaca Georgia, which is
 some 12 miles south of Dalton.
 Johnston already had Resaca
 fortified and so we had his army
 concentrated at Resaca here Sherman
 made desperate efforts to break Johnston's
 lines, and while they was fighting at
 at Resaca, Sherman sent a flanking
 party on to Calhoun and they was
 fight at Calhoun and Resaca at the
 same time and Johnston fell
 back again, I don't remember that
 now that the Cavalry done much
 heavy fighting until we got to
 New Hope Church, but the Cavalry
 was in the rear and covered the
 retreat all the time, and we had

one considerable fight just below
 Calhoun nearly or all the Cavalry
 Corps. was dismounted and formed a
 line across a valley and held it
 until they was flanked out.

On the day before the Battle at
 New Hope Church I with several
 others was detailed to go to Marietta.
 After rations we went to Marietta
 with wagons and got our rations
 and part of the way back.

Camped for the night, next morning
 we went on to camp and we had
 not been in camp long until
 we was order to saddle up and out
 to the front. our Company and
 Company "H" was put on the
 skirmish line and with the
 balance of the Skirmish line
 brought on the Battle, and was
 separated from the balance of our
 Regiment during the Battle it fought
 Federal infantry that was in our
 front and when they was ordered
 they drove us back to our main
 line in front of us and for some
 distance to our left and right.

rough ground, our main line was on top of a steep ridge but something like $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile to our left the line through open ground, and on this part of the line the Federals advanced faster and drove our line back. This caused our part of the line to have to fall back, we fell back to the foot of the ridge on the east side and formed in line again. General Wheeler and his staff were near our part of the line and he commenced sending staff officers and carriers in both directions and directly he ordered our part of the line back to the temporary breastworks, we moved back to the breastworks and the Yankees had not yet come to the breast works on our part of the line we halted at the breastworks and our line in the field had hard fighting to reestablish on our left. Captain Turner and I and a few others crossed our breastworks and went down on

the side of the ridge where we
 could see the fight and our men
 was driving the Yankees Captain
 order our line to advance and
 the men crossed the breast works
 and charged the Yankees down
 the ridge in our front was
 timber and we could not see
 the enemy in our front until
 we had went some distance
 down the ridge, when we was
 some 75 or 100 yards from the
 breast works they fired a volley into
 us that killed and wounded
 quite a number of our men
 Captain Turner was slightly
 wounded in the hip and he
 was standing near me he started
 over towards me and I thought
 he was going to fall I put my
 hand and caught him but he
 soon said he was not bad hurt
 and I turned him loose, at
 about that time Lieutenant Tate
 Spull was shot down one of
 his thighs broke Cook Webb hurt

Ike Barnett had started to take him off the field when Captain Turner saw them and ordered me to help them carry him off. They each one had him by the shoulder, and I took him by the pant legs and we carried him back up the ridge about the time we started to carry Skull back the command was ordered to fall back to the breast works and they went back faster up the ridge than we could go with Skull and after we had carried him for some distance we laid him down to rest and I suppose he thought we was going to leave him and he asked us for God sake not to leave him and we assured him we would rest after resting for a minute we picked him up and carried him on across the breast works and to the temporary hospital which was about half a mile in the

war of our time, I went on
 through the war to the surrender
 but this was the worst Battle I
 was in the bullets fairly rained
 all round me for a time and
 I got behind a small post oak
 tree and I have thought that
 tree saved my life and yet I
 do not think it was more
 than a few feet through. (I just
 happened to think of it, that
 Battle was fought on the 27th
 day of May and this is the 27th
 day of May 1909 - 45 years ago
 today!) our Company and
 Company F. being separated
 from the balance of the Regiment
 is why I was detailed to help
 carry Lieutenant Skull off of
 the Battle field we had a regular
 infantry Corps but they was
 with the balance of the Regiment.
 before we could get back to the
 line the Infantry had relieved
 the Cavalry, but Wheeler's Corps
 of Cavalry had fought a Corps.

of Federal Infantry from about
12 o'clock M. to near sunset
in the evening and I got three
quarters over until relieved by the
Infantry.

When I commenced to
write my recollections of the war
I thought I would give a detailed
account of my experience as a
soldier but I find it would make
a large sized book therefore I
will confine myself to the more
important events. While Johnston's
Army was at Altoona Mountain
Wheeler took his Corps of Cavalry
and went around the Yankee
Army to Cassville Georgia and
Captured a Yankee Wagon train
We had marched all day and
nearly all night, and started out
in the morning our Regiment
was nearly in the rear of the Corps
and we had been stopped in the
road for a while and some of the
men had dismounted a Courier came
back to the head of the Regiment

and spoke to Captain Smith who was commanding the Regiment that day and he ordered the Regiment to mount and we mounted and moved out towards the front, the part of the Corps that was in front of us, opened out and let us pass. We went in a gallop to in sight of Cassville and found General Wheeler and his Staff sitting their horses on a little hill. Captain Smith rode up to the General and our Company was in front of the Regiment and I was in front of the Company and I heard General Wheeler give Captain Smith his orders. He told Captain Smith to take his Regiment and charge in among them and break them up, and be careful not to get his men cut up to bad. I looked across the fields and could see two full Regiments of Yankees advancing towards us in double line and I could not see any body to fight them.

but our Regiment Captain
 Smith, turned and started at
 the Yankees in Column, in
 a gallop when we had got a
 about half way to the Yankees,
 the 8th Texas Cavalry was formed
 in line off to our left and
 immediately in front of the
 Yankees and just after the
 head of our Column had passed
 opposite the Texas line they
 started at the Yankees. Just as
 fast as their horses could carry
 them, when the lines was in
 a few yards of each other the
 Yankee lines broke and fled
 towards the rear. we followed
 them up until we passed all
 the wagons. then they charged
 us up in line and held us
 there until the wagons was
 all turned around and drove
 into our lines. I had no opportunity
 to count the wagons that we captured
 but I was told there was about 400
 of them, it was said at the time

that the confederate brigade had
 charged the yankee wagon guard
 before we got there and had been
 repulsed but I do not know how
 that was but I do know that
 it was the 8th Texas and the 2nd
 Tennessee Cavalry that broke the
 yankee lines and drove them
 beyond their wagons. these
 wagons were loaded with corn
 oats and coffee and many things
 that the confederates needed. after
 the wagons had been well started
 on the road we was withdrawn
 our Regiment was held in line
 strictly with the exception of a few
 that was detailed as a scout to
 follow the yankees and watch
 them these men came back
 loaded with blankets that the
 yankees had thrown away in
 their flight. We passed back through
 the town and in the court yard
 the yankees had beds, bed cloths
 and all kinds of house hold
 furniture. that they had taken

from the citizens. It was here that Henry Sweeney was taken prisoner. Moses Sweeney's father he had served 12 or 15 months in the 3rd Tennessee and was discharged and went to work in the Government shops at Knoxville for the Confederates and when the Yankees took Knoxville he remained with them and when Sherman advanced on Johnston he went along as a blacksmith. He was taken to Andersonville and died there. We returned to the Confederate line by easy marches.

Before a great while Sherman flanked Johnston out of positions at Attorney Mountain and there was no heavy fighting until Johnston's ^{forces} lines are Kenesaw Mountain and here Sherman decided to fight Johnston. The Cavalry covered the retreat of Johnston's army back to Kenesaw Mountain and then moved around in rear of the Mountain.

and went into camp and
rested for about three days
and then was moved down
on the left of the infantry.
Sherman formed his lines in
front of Johnston's and fortified
and commenced extending
his lines to the left and
Johnston still extending his
lines to the left until the
left of Johnston's lines was
clear off of the mountain.

Johnston's army was well
fortified in breast works on
the mountain and the timber
all cut and felled down the
mountain and in front of
the breast works at about
equal distance apart was
three rows of stabs driven
into the ground and the tops
sharpened, and while in this
position Sherman decided to
try and break Johnston's lines
on the mountain he opened
on Johnston's lines with

Artillery just after 12 o'clock
 in the evening and continued
 with the artillery for about 2
 hours and then charged the
 breast works with infantry
 they come through all these
 obstructions and reached the
 breast works and some of the
 federals were fell into the
 breast works but the
 Confederates held them. the
 losses of the federals was
 terrible and that of the
 Confederates was light all of the
 Federals that fell into the ditches was
 captured during the battle. the
 woods caught fire from the burst-
 -ing of shells and hundreds of the
 Federal wounded was burned to
 death finally there was an
 armistice and the wounded was
 carried off. after this failure
 Sherman did not again try to
 break Johnston's lines on the
 Mountain but commenced
 extending his right flank and

kept extending his right flank until Johnston was flanked out of this position and fell back across the Chattahoochee River and fortified in a short time Johnston was relieved of command of the army and General John B. Hood appointed to command the army.

In a few days Hood attacked Sherman in his fortified position and suffered terrible loss and failed to drive Sherman out of his position; about this time Sherman with a part of the Yankees crossed around Hood's right and started for Andersonville Ga and at the same General McPherson moved around Hood's left and started to join Sherman. The command that I belonged to Koimes Division was with Jackson's Division on the left of the Infantry and General Wheeler was on the right of the Infantry with the balance of the

Corps. Wheeler started after
 Starneman and Jackson
 after Wabooke, Wheeler captured
 Starneman at or near Wacan
 Ga. Jackson came up with
 McBook at Newman Ga. and
 fought a battle there and drove
 McBook back against the river
 there was no way to cross the
 river except there was one small
 ferry boat there and McBook
 and Col. Brownlow and a few
 of the officers got their horses across
 the river the rest of the horses
 was captured many of the Yankees
 stripped off their arms and coats
 and burned the river, but many
 of these was captured after
 several days of wandering.

The next day after the battle
 I was sent to the hospital at
 Newman Ga. I stayed there a
 week or ten days and with
 most of the others that was able
 to make the trip was put on
 the cars and sent to Augusta

59. I had fever and when I got to Augusta, I was nearly dead. I stayed in the hospital at Augusta about six weeks and was then sent to convalescent Camps, four miles out in the Country. While in the hospital at Augusta my shoes was stolen and I went to the camp bare footed while there I met one of my Regiment one day and we went to visit a family that lived near by, we bare footed this family name was Bleakly and the lady of the house told me where I could go in town and get me a pair of shoes and I went next day and got me a good pair I visited this family several times and they treated me very nice. In the meantime Sherman took Atlanta and I was sent to Macon Ga to do Police duty there but as it happened there was a Tennessee

Captain in command and I never went on duty while was there and finally got orders to go to my command. there was a man there that belonged to the same brigade that I did and he got orders at the same time to go to his command. We was order to report to the commander of the post at Palmetto Station where we reported to him he gave us orders to report to the commander of the Post at Blue Mountain in Alabama. We went from Palmetto to Montgomery Ala. and there took the Steam boat for Selma and at Selma we got on the cars on the Selma Rome and Blue Mountain Railroad and went to blue mountain and when we got there, there was no commander of the Post there so after staying there all night we went back to Taladega and reported to the commander of the

Past there we stayed at Talladega
 for several days. and hearing of
 our command in north
 Alabama we started out on foot
 to hunt our command and we
 finally found our wagon
 train that was left behind
 When Wheeler started on his
 raid to Tennessee, and we fell
 in with Woods wagon train
 as he was starting on his
 Tennessee raid and after traveling
 over a good part of north Ala.
 got with our command I found
 my mare all right but my
 saddle was gone and I never
 saw it again. When Sherman
 started from Atlanta for Savannah
 we went on a forced march
 to intercept him and came on
 some of his troops at Griffin
 Ga. and from there to Savannah
 We fought some of his com-
 -mand almost every day. We
 had some hope that the Confeder-
 -ate troops at Savannah would be

Shaw enough to fight Sherman
 in front and wheel fight
 him in the rear and get him
 in a tight place, but there
 was not enough of them
 though they fought a battle
 at a place called Honey Hill
 in which the Confederates
 had the advantage. We remained
 in sight of Savannah
 until after Christmas, the
 Confederate troops having
 evacuated and the Federals
 occupying the city then we
 started out through South
 Carolina and passed into
 North Carolina near a town
 called Macon.

Sometime in February or
 March General Wheeler and
 Houghton surprised General
 Kilpatrick at a place called
 Salem Grove, at day light
 one morning. A Captain
 Shaw who had an independent
 out company of Texas had

Captured the Federal pickets
 with out the fire of a gun
 and left the way open to their
 Camps and if the thing had
 been well-managed General
 Kilpatrick and a good part of
 his Command would have
 been captured there was four
 Divisions of Confederate
 Cavalry went into the Camp
 on horse back in a gallop
 and as soon as the Confederates
 struck the edge of the Camp
 the firing began. General
 Kilpatrick had his head
 quarters in a house, and he
 barely had time to get out
 and mount a horse, and
 make his escape in his Night
 Clothes the Confederates captured
 three of his horses and all
 his arms. Sword and pistol
 the Federal infantry was not
 far away and they formed
 band with the Cavalry of
 Kilpatrick drove the Confederate

out of the camp but the
Confederates had captured
about seven hundred
prisoners. We moved from
there towards Fayetteville, N.C.
The Federals following, they were
advancing on three different
roads our Regiment and the
9th Tenn. Battalion was
covering the retreat on one
road a part of the Regiment and
Battalion would barricade the
road and remain at it and
fight the Federals. While the
other part would go on and
barricade the road in another
place and finally our Company
and a company of the Battalion
was left at a barricade and the
balance of the Regiment and
Battalion went on towards
Fayetteville and we stayed
and defended the barricade
for a time and started toward
Fayetteville and where we got
near enough we could hear

the firing in town, and then we met a man that belonged to some other company in the Regiment he was mounted on a mule and had not been able to keep up with the balance of the Regiment and he reported to us that the balance of the Regiment and Ballaliam had to cut their way through the yankees to get to the bridge to cross Cape Fear River and that they had set the bridge across the river on fire and we could see the smoke rising in that direction there was nothing left for us only to go up the river there was a main big road leading up the river and we took this road and went 21 miles up the river and crossed in a ferry boat the yankees did not perceive us out of town and I never did understand why there was only two companies of us and the town full of

Yankees Cavalry and as we passed through town they was an ave street and us on another that run parallel and when we woul come to a cross street they rained the lead at us, after we crossed the river we went out into the Country a few miles from the ferry to a government depot where they had been collecting supplies for the army and there we found plenty of flour and bacon and horse feed one of my men bought a fat hen and got a negro woman to clean and cook it and make dumplings there was only three of us in the mess and we eat that hen dumplings and all but that was the first we had eat that day and it was then near night and we had been in the saddle since daylight we remained at this place and rested for one day and two nights then

Started down the river our
 command was surprised to see
 supposing we had been captured
 and the next day after we
 rejoined the command the battle of
 Averborough was fought
 General Handee with a corps of
 infantry and wheelers corps of
 cavalry held a vastly superior
 force of the enemy all day but
 it took hard fighting to do it
 and fell back that night the
 cavalry covering the retreat. I
 stayed all the shirinish live on
 foot that night until just before
 daylight and I thought that one
 of the longest night of the war.
 It had rained in the day time and
 turned bitterly cold that night
 just before daylight our horses
 was brought to us and we
 was ordered to mount and move up
 on the yankees and fire a valley
 into them and then retreat.
 We then followed up the infantry
 and artillery and went in the

direction of Bentonville N. C.
 the remainder of Woods army
 was then arriving from
 Tennessee and General Johnston
 had been restored to command
 he massed up his forces at
 Bentonville and fought there
 for three days and nights
 Johnston fell back and Sherman
 moved East to Goldsborough
 This was the last battle of any
 importance fought by the army
 of Tennessee. There was Scouts
 sent out by both sides and
 Skirmishes almost every day
 and our Cavalry captured many
 prisoners. We was marching
 along one day and some
 Citizens was standing on the
 side of the road and told us
 that General Lee had surrendered
 and in a few day Johnston
 and Sherman entered into an
 armistice and Johnston finally
 surrendered however the first
 terms of surrender was that

at Washington City and they had to make other terms which considering everything was liberal, the soldiers was allowed to keep all private property and side arms, and the officers was granted still more liberal terms. While Johnston and Sherman was under a flag of truce Jeff Davis and the Confederate Cabinet passed down near where we was and they had the Confederate treasury with them and they issued out about one dollar and sixteen and two thirds cents to each man in Mexican silver dollars. Some played cards to see who should have the extra dollar and some drawed straws to see who would get the extra dollar any way I only got one dollar.

We got our paroles on the 3rd day of May 1865 and started immediately, every 5th man was allowed to carry their guns home

and was one of the ones that was allowed to carry my gun home it was a Cavalry Enfield. I don't remember much about the trip home especially the first part of it the best I can recollect now we was nine days coming home on the third night before we got home, we stayed on Tneage River in N.C. We come from there down the river untill that river entered Tennessee River and on down the river to the Hardin ferry this side of the Mountain, there we found a crib of corn and some hogs some of the boys went into the crib and shelled a sack of corn and took it to mill and some one killed a hog and we had plenty of bread and meat that night and next morning, next morning we forded the Tennessee river and came on that day down into

McMinn County near the
 cross roads. and Camped for the
 night. We heard from some of
 the citizens that there was some
 Federal soldiers in the neighbor-
 hood and it was thought best to
 put out a picket, under a white
 flag. I was one of the ones
 detailed to stand picket, but
 was not put on the first relief.
 but sometime between mid-
 night and daylight I was waked
 up and told to go up the road
 and relieve the man on picket
 and started and met him
 coming in and a company of
 the 7th Tennessee Cavalry (Federal)
 following him. We went into
 camp. and awoke the officers
 and men, and some of the
 officers had copies of the terms
 under which we surrendered
 and the terms allowed us our
 horses and side arms and all
 private property. so our officers
 appearantly satisfied the officers

in command of the Federal
Company, and at daylight they
started for their camp and we
started home. We come down
the old Federal road and crossed
the Tennessee river at Columbus
and I and Daniel Brown soon
left the main body and went
home. I got home about 12 O'Clock
on Saturday, and I think it was
the 12th day of May.

After that Company of the
7th Tennessee Cavalry declining
to take our horses and arms I
did not think they would take
them but on Tuesday after I
got home three of the same 7th
Tennessee Cavalry came and
got my horse, bridle, and saddle
and gun.