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**THE HISTORY OF A CAMPAIGN**

by Peter B. Akers & John L. Henry

Enclosed is a diary account "compiled from copious notes taken on the field as the incidents occurred." Both compilers were members of the Lynchburg Rifle Greys, which was commanded by Capt. Langhorne. The account covers part of 1861 only.

**PETER B. AKERS (c.1841-aft.1898)**

Peter B. Akers was born in Virginia about 1841, the son of Bryan Akers and Martha Morton Moon. He enlisted as a sergeant in Co. A of the 11th Virginia Infantry on 22 April 1861 and was elected 2nd lieutenant one year later. At Milford Station he was captured and held in several prison camps; he was among the "immortal 600." His release came on 14 June 1865, from Fort Delaware, where he had been held along with his brother, Maj. Albert Akers. In later years, he moved to Hamblen Co., TN where he was an auctioneer. He was living in Morristown, TN in 1898.

In a letter of 18 April 1892, A. Fulkerson, of Bristol, VA, wrote concerning life in the prison camp at Fort Delaware, "Lieutenant Peter Akers, of Lynchburg, VA, was the star of the company, and his ceaseless flow of spirit, his wit, humor, and inexhaustible fund of anecdotes added immensely to the character and enjoyment of the exhibitions, and he did more, probably, to give life, spirit, and success to the laudable enterprise than any man in the prison, and for his noble efforts in this behalf, Pete has and deserves the gratitude of his fellow sufferers."

SOURCES: Brock, R.A., ed. *Southern Historical Papers*, Vol. XXII. Richmond, VA: The Society, 1894; Morris, George & Susan Foutz. *Lynchburg in the Civil War*, Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1984; Murray, J. Ogden. *The Immortal Six Hundred*, Winchester, VA: The Eddy Press Corp., 1905; Shearer, J.W. *The Shearer-Akers Family Combined with "The Bryan Line" Through the Seventh Generation* Somerville, NJ: The Somerset Messenger, 1915.

**JOHN L. HENRY (c.1839-1861)**

John L. Henry was born the son of William and Leomyra W. Lee Henry about 1840. The 1860 U.S. Census lists him as a printer and living in Chesterfield County in the household of the Rev. Mr. Robert M. Lee. He enlisted in the 11th VA Infantry as a private the same day as Peter B. Akers, on 22 April 1861. Pvt. John Henry was killed in action at Dranesville, VA, on 20 December 1861.

SOURCES: 1850 U.S. Census, Campbell Co., VA, p. 77, household #51, National Archives Microfilm M-432, Roll 938; 1860 U.S. Census, Campbell Co., VA, p. 231, line #2, National Archives Microfilm M-653, Roll #1340; Morris, George & Susan Foutz. *Lynchburg in the Civil War*. Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1984.

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