

## LYNCHBURG MEN OF THE CONFEDERACY

by

Arthur H. Jennings

At the time of the War between the States Lynchburg had about ten thousand people, one half of whom were negro slaves, and yet the town raised, from among her own citizens four companies of infantry, six batteries of artillery, and the Second Regiment of Cavalry. Moreover, the city council appropriated one thousand dollars for each company organized here and the citizens raised twenty thousand dollars to equip the Lynchburg troops.

It was announced at this time that each soldier would need two blankets, two pairs of drawers, three flannel shirts, a pair of boots, towels, comb and brush, needles, thread, and soap. These articles, with the new uniforms, made by Nathaniel Guggenheimer, were thought sufficient for the duration of the war ( ! ! What faith!), which was then estimated to last several months!

When, four years later, the starving, barefooted, ragged, almost unarmed remnants of the Army of Northern Virginia staggered to the last scene at Appomattox, what would they have thought of a Confederate soldier with a pair of boots, three shirts, a comb and brush, towels, and a cake of soap!

The first three companies to leave Lynchburg were The Home Guard Capt. Samuel Garland, Jr., The Rifle Grays, Capt. Maurice S. Langhorne, and Latham's Battery of Artillery, Capt. H. Gray Latham. Their armories were located: Home Guard on Mail Street -- Rifle Grays, on Eighth St-- Latham's Battery on Clay St, between 6th, and 7th., where the reservoir is now located (cf marker there)

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The fourth company to leave Lynchburg was the Bureaugard Rifles, for Capt. Marcellus N. Moorman, which left Richmond May 20, 1861

Early in the summer the troops at Richmond began to move towards Manassas. In the memoirs of a survivor of the Eleventh Va. Infantry, of which the Lynchburg companies were a part, this regiment is stated to have been the first to reach Manassas.

On June 3, 1861, the Wise Troop, Capt, Jno S. Langhorne, left Lynchburg for Manassas.

~~The city here~~ By that time Lynchburg was an armed camp, with about six thousand troops here from all over the South. Their camps were located mostly at the old fairgrounds (Miller Park ?). Among these troops were many Lynchburg men who had returned here with units formed elsewhere -- among them were Capt ~~A~~ Eugene Blackford, with a company he had organized at Clayton, Ala; Capt Samuel aV. Reid, with a company of forty Kentuckians; Col. Robert McKinney of North Carolina; and Col. Robt E. Rodes of Alabama.

In May there was organized here the famous Second Virginia Cavalry, which was in fact the first cavalry regiment organized in Virginia. Late in the war, when the first moves against Lynchburg started, which culminated in the battle of Lynchburg, June 17-20, 1864, this regiment, with Lynchburg's own Gen. Thomas T. Munford with it, was an important part of the ~~f~~ cavalry forces which Wade Hampton threw against Sheridan and Custer at Trevillian's Station (June 11-12, 1864, thus saving Lynchburg from immediate capture.

The Second Va. Cavalry was mustered into service at the spot in Miller Park (the Old Fair Grounds) which is now marked by a cannon and a tablet. Col., later General, Jubal A. Early was the mustering-in officer. This regiment, four years later, was mustered out at the same spot, \_\_\_\_\_, ~~1864~~ 1865.

~~Col Kirkwood Kirby was in command of the Second Va Cavalry~~

Of special interest to Lynchburg is the famous Eleventh Va. Infantry for it included four of her companies: The Home Guard, or Company G; The Rifle Grays, of Company A; The Lynchburg Rifles, or Company E; and The Jefferson Davis Rifles, or Company H.

The 11th. Va. Inft. was a distinguished record. It was never driven from the field of battle. At Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863, when it reached the top of Cemetery Hill, only a few of them were left but they retreated down the hill only when they saw that they would not be reinforced and that the position was untenable.

Col. Kirkwood Otey of Lynchburg was in command of the 11th Va. when the charge of Picketts Division started up the hill. He was soon wounded, and Maj. J. Risque Hutter of Lynchburg assumed command, but he was quickly shot down, and the command devolved upon Lieut John Holmes Smith of the Lynchburg Home Guard, and he led the regiment up the hill and over the "Stone Wall."

Incidentally, Col. Otey was barely able to drag himself off the field and back to the Confederate lines, and he stated that when he got back behind the lines (the charge up the hill was still going on, he saw Gen. Pickett and his staff around a sutler's wagon located in the rear. which settles the question as to whether Pickett led the charge up the hill.

Since every mounted officer was shot down, and every divisional, brigade, and regimental officer was also shot down and a great many captains and company officers likewise wounded, it seems reasonable to believe that the Division was led by its brigade commanders, Armistead, Kemper, and Garner, all of whom were shot during the advance to the rock wall, Armistead falling inside the wall, with his hands of a Federal cannon/ Close by him fell Dr. Rawley Martin, who, however, survived and later became one of Lynchburg's foremost physicians and citizens.

The Eleventh Va., being the first regiment at Manassas, went through the whole war and some of its survivors surrendered with Lee at Appo.

Other survivors escaped and started to North Carolina, hoping to join \_\_\_\_\_ Johnston there.

~~Thaxixkxkxkx~~ After the evacuation of Richmond and the retreat towards Appomattox began, Lee's army was attacked at Sailor's Creek, (Deatonsville), Apr. 6, 1865, and at Five Forks, Dinwiddie Co., April 1-2, 1865, Picketts Division, including the 11th. Va., was surprised by Sheridan's Cavalry and Grant's Fifth Army Corps and a;; but destroyed and the retreat continued towards Appo., with Pickett under arrest.

The 11th. Va. served in Va., Md., and Pa., and N. C., for the full four years of the war. It largely equipped itself with materiel captured from the enemy and frequently subsisted on provisions abandoned by the retreating enemy. Of its fifteen regimental officers, all were at one time or another wounded and five were killed.

The 11th. Virginia's regimental officers were:

First Colonel, Samuel Garland, Jr., afterward's Brig. Gen., and killed at ~~Boonsboro, Md.~~, South Mountain (Boonsboro, Md.), Sep. 14, 1862.

Second Colonel: \_\_\_\_\_ Funston, disabled and elected to Congress later.

Third Colonel, Maurice S. Langhorne, disabled and retired

Fourth Colonel: Wounded in four battles

Major: Adam Clement, commanded in Maryland, wounded and retired

Major: J. Risque Hutter, commanded a few moments at Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863, but ~~was wounded at command~~ and was wounded

Lt. Colonels: Funsten, Langhorne, and Otey

Majors: \_\_\_\_\_ Harrison, killed at First Manassas, July 21, 1861; Langhorne, Otey, Clement, and Hutter

Adjutants: \_\_\_\_\_ Meem, killed at \_\_\_\_\_ Tyree, killed at \_\_\_\_\_; Jno W. Daniel. wounded at \_\_\_\_\_; Harris, killed at \_\_\_\_\_;

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Jennings, Sergeant Major and acting as Adjutant 1864, wounded at Second Manassas, Aug. 29-30, 1862, and Sharpsburg, (or Antietam), western Maryland, Sep. 17, 1862

After Second Manassas, Aug 29-30, 1862 and Sharpsburg (Antietam, Sep. 17, 1862, the Home Guard had only three men left, viz., Lieut Doc. Hawkins and two privates. All others were killed or wounded, but the wounded returned eventually, many of them, and the company participated in the battle of Fredericksburg, Dec. 13, 1862.

And while Lynchburg men were fighting and dying on various battle fronts, other Lynchburgers were doing their bit, Dean's foundery made amunitions. Numerous hospitals were established in the city, and physicians and volunteer nurses had their hands full, and it is interesting to note how many famous generals were here in hospitals, etc when Hunter attacked the city, June 18th., 1864

After Seven Pines, or Seven Oaks, 7 miles east of Richmond, May 31 1862, six of the Home Guard, killed there, were brought home and their funerals were held in the First Presbyterian Church, at Court and Ninth Sts., two North Carolina Regiments acting as military escort.

Off and on committees were sent from Lynchburg to the battle fronts to seek and succor wounded Lynchburg boys/

Lynchburg, with its strategic location, its supplies, shops, factories, medical stores, finally came to the attention of Gen. Grant, and in 1864 he determined to capture the town, and this effort is locally called The Battle of Lynchburg, June 18-19, 1864, though the general histories do not mention it. The battles of Cowpens, Kings Mountain, and Guilford Court House, in the Am. Revolution, were fought with fewer men than was the battle of Lynchburg and with less loss of life and yet the general histories have all but ignored the Battle of Lynchburg. One reason for this is, perhaps, because it was fought immediately after the great Wilderness campaign, May 6 and 7, 1864.

At the beginning of the Wilderness campaign, Grant determined

to march through the Wilderness, force a battle with Lee at or near Richmond, and take that city. But he did not get through the Wilderness for Lee attacked him in one of the fiercest battles of the war and forced him to abandon a frontal attack on Richmond and to adopt a left flank movement. Then followed in quick succession, Spotsylvania Court House, May 12, 1864, in which Lee defeated Grant; Bloody Angle (part of Spotsylvania C. H. battle); South Anna; and finally Cold Harbor, Hanover Co., nine miles east of Richmond, June 3, 1864, in which Lee defeated Grant

At Bloody Angle, supra, the fight was particularly desperate, the northern and southern soldiers standing almost toe to toe and firing ~~point-blank~~ <sup>but</sup> point-blank into each other's faces.

At Cold Harbor, June 3, 1864, two weeks before Lynchburg, June 18 Grant had launched a desperate attack on the Confederate works <sup>but</sup> ~~and~~ in spite of the gallant efforts of his men he was defeated, losing 20,000 men in a few minutes. Grant's men were brave, but refused to advance when ordered to make another attack

So Grant changed his plans. He abandoned the famous assertion "I will fight it out on this line if it takes all summer," for in a single month he had lost more men than Lee had in his whole army, and yet Lee was still in his path towards Richmond. The entire North was not indignant with horror at Grant's losses. So Grant crossed James River and settled down near Petersburg. He knew he had enough resource to slowly strangle the Army of Northern Virginia and proceeded to do it

And thus we see the state of affairs when the Battle of Lynchburg was fought/ And so that battle has been lost sight of. But Grant knew the value of Lynchburg and determined to capture and perhaps destroy it. Vapt. Charles M. Blackford, in his booklet "The Campaign and Battle of Lynchburg" states "Lynchburg was the depot <sup>of</sup> ~~for~~ the Army of Northern Virginia for all commissary and quartermaster supplies gathered from the

productive territory laying between it and Knoxville, Tenn. and the whole country tributary to the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad (Now N. & W. Here also were stored many of the scant medical supplies of the Confederacy and here ~~also/were~~ many hospitals gave accommodation to the sick and wounded. Lynchburg was the key to the inside lines of communications which enabled the Confederate troops to be moved from the northern to our eastern lines of defense."

In fact Grant knew that the capture of Lynchburg would be all but the end of the sorely exhausted Confederacy, and so he made full preparations ~~for~~ to that end, and the fact that he did not fully succeed is a credit to the defenders of Lynchburg.

Two large bodies of troops were ordered by Grant to attack Lynchburg. General Phil Sheridan, accompanied by ~~the~~ Gen. George Armstrong Custer, later to become famous as an Indian fighter, were ordered to proceed to Charlottesville, Va., there to be joined by some twenty-thousand infantry and artillery under Gen. David Hunter.

General Lee did not know that Grant had written to Hunter that "it would be of great advantage to us to gain possession of Lynchburg for a single day," which has since, in the light of Hunter's conduct during his approach to Lynchburg, been interpreted to have meant that Grant intended to destroy the city; but he, Lee, knew the strategic value of Lynchburg and that it simply must be saved. So he directed General Jubal A. Early to take the Second Corps ~~of the Army~~ (Stonewall Jackson's old command) of the Army of Northern Virginia, just then gaining its breath after the Battle of the Wilderness, where it had been decimated and most of its general officers killed -- Lee directed Early to hasten, with this Second Corps, to the defense of Lynchburg. This Corps consisted of about eight thousand infantry, among them the famous Stonewall Brigade, or at least what was left of it. And here it may be noted that among Lynchburg's defenders were some famous men and organizations -- The Stonewall Brigade -- The V. M. I. Cadets'.

with the laurels of New Market (May 15, 1864) fresh on their brows -- The Botetourt Artillery -- the Spartan band under General John McCausland, who from Staunton to Lynchburg, where he joined with the defenders of Lynchburg on Salem Turnpike near the Quaker Church, disputed every step of Hunter's progress, though his force was too small to risk a general engagement -- And there were ~~generals~~ ~~Generals~~, wounded and in Lynchburg hospitals, Generals James Longstreet, D. H. Hill, Harry Hays, John C. Breckinridge, and Francis T. Nichols.

And all of Lynchburg turned out in its own defense, including aged men and boys. The late Edward C. Hamner, of the firm of Lumsden and Hamner, then fifteen years old, went to the front line, and with him went Mike Connell, eighty years old or more, and stood in line all day firing his old musket at the enemy. The Silver Grays, so called because their hair was white, also were on the firing line and did good service.

Hunter and Sheridan never met, for before Sheridan could get to Charlottesville he was stopped by Wade Hampton's cavalry at Trevilian Station, on the C & O Ry, in Louisa County, about twenty miles east of Charlottesville, and in the Green Springs area (of Christopher Clark etc June 11, 1864, and badly defeated, the battle lasting two days. In this battle Custer lost his headquarters outfit. The Second Va. Cavalry participated in this fight. It, this fight, saved Lynchburg, for had Sheridan and Hunter joined forces it would seem that we could not have stopped them. Gen Thomas L. Munford of Lynchburg was in command of the Second Va. Cavalry at this time.

Hunter proceeded up the Valley from Staunton towards Lynchburg, opposed only by McCausland's small force, burning and pillaging all the way. McCausland had only about 1,600 men. With him were William E. Peters (who was he?) and Capt E. E. Bouldin of ~~Partida~~ Danville. Some of the Lynchburgers with him were Maj. Stephen P. Halsey, Col. Auguste Forsberg, Capt Stephen Adams. ~~Maj. Halsey~~ Near the Quaker Church Halsey was



struck by a piece of shrapnel, but it hit his sword belt and while he was knowked from his horse and received severe bruises he was not seriously hurt.

With Hunter were Col. Rutherford B. Hays, later, 1877-1881, President of the United States, and Maj. William McKinley, President of United States, 1897-1901.

At Lexington Hunter burned the V. M. I. barracks, but the cadets were not captured and hastened to Lynchburg, where they camped in the old Methodist Cemetery. One of them, Frank T. Lee, later a Captain, that he slept between two graves that were close together and that he had a good night's rest.

Hunter approacher Lynchburg by way of Liberty (Bedford), with McCausland still disputing the way, and there was a sharp engagement ~~at New London~~ just west of the Quaker Church. There is a legend that some of the New London ladies tried to "vamp" Hunder and thus delay him and that they did delay him for about half an hour. Lynchburg's innder defense line ran along the brow of College Hill along a line that would not run through the Memorial Methodist Church and the College Hill Baptist Church. It is related that when Early say how near these defenses were to the town, he exclaimed, "Why in Hell didn't you erect your breastworks down on Main Street!"

Early came in from Charlottesville on the afternoon of June 17, 1864, with about half (4,000 men) of the Second Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. They had entrained at Charlottesville after an eighty mile forced march in four days. Early's troops hastened out fifth Street towards the new line of works which had been erected two miles from the city (Fort Early?). At their heand was Bugler Tinsley of the Stonewall Brigade, sounding the advance; but he was soon shot dead on the left of the main drive in the Presbyterian Cemetery. He lived in Louisiana. Characteristically, for half a century or more, so far as we can ~~see~~

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ascertain, no Lynchburger ever took the trouble or thought to lay a flower on his grave, he who led the troop that saved Lynchburg! The author never knew but one citizen, in twenty years, to do this. (That citizen was probably the autor himself)

There was not much fighting the afternoon of the 17th. -- some soeties and a few cavalry skirmishes.

The other half of the Second Corps ~~had/been~~ left at Charlottesville marched along the railroad until the returning train met them, and they did not reach Lynchburg until the 18th., when the fighting was over Gen. Robert Emmett Rodes, a native of Lynchburg, wished to come here with the first detachment of the Second Corps, to defend his native town and was very much distressed when he was ordered to stay with the detachment that got here too late.

Douthat, not knowing of the way out by way of ~~fifth~~ seventh street etc., dragged his artillery, helped by cavalry horses, up the bluff at eighth and Church Streets, where the Medical Arts bldg (Allied Arts) now stands.

The real fighting was done on the 18th. A cavalry demonstration was made near Barksdale's Field, near where the Forest (old) Road turns left after passing the overhead bridge of the N. & W Ry west of the town. Averill had troops there to make a demonstration and to burn the bridge (the old Tin Bridge. Col. Auguste Forsberg commanded out troops there; and in the redoubt on top of the hill overlooking the ford of Blackwater Creek, ~~where~~ <sup>were</sup> the old Forest Road passed, there four guns of the Rock-bridge Artillery? The Lynchburg photographer, A. H. Plecker was one on the gunners in this battery. The cavalry demonstration and the attempt to burn the rbridge were easily frustrated. Then a battery of artillery came to the same location and there was a display of fighting between the Federal guns and those of Douthat in the redoubt on top of the hill. Apparently there was no attempt to break through at this point, and later Hunter blamed his officers, and they blamed him.

The severest fighting was between the redoubt, now called Fort Early, on Fort Avenue, and the Quaker Meeting House on Salem Turnpike, now the Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The field of the Battle of Lynchburg is clearly marked. It extends from the Fort Hill Redoubt (Fort Early), which was the left flank of the line almost due west, or slightly northwest, through the (then) farm of Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ Owen, John B. Lee, Seth Halsey, H. S. Barksdale, and Charles Moorman, and ended at the redoubt, mentioned above, on the farm Maj. John W. Daniel, located where the old Forest Road began the winding descent towards Blackwater Creek/ There was some skirmishing to the right of that point, and on the left flank some movement of troops extending almost to Fishing Creek, but the two redoubts and the line between them was the line of battle.

In front of the Fort Hill Redoubt (Fort Early) the enemy advanced in considerable force in a line which extended <sup>north</sup> westward almost to the present Lynchburg College. They were repulsed and the considerable artillery fire seems to have been to the advantage of the Confederates. The defended sent their wounded in to the hospitals as fast as they could be gathered up and the dead were buried in the cemeteries.

As the night of the 18th (June) came on and the firing died down. Early ~~he~~ began to arrange for a decisive drive on the following morning, the remainder of his Second Corps having arrived late in the afternoon.

About midnight sounds from the enemy camps seemed to indicate a retreat, but Early assumed that it was a mere transfer and rearrangement of troops, and so waited until daylight in order to determine what was going on, and at daylight he saw that the enemy had retreated.

The Federal dead were left for ~~them to bury and some~~ for burial by the Confederates and some of their wounded were also left on the field.

In the June 21 issue of the Lynchburg Virginian Mr. Charles Button

described the scene as follows:

"We rode over the battlefield on Sunday (June 19), observing the results of the previous days' work. On the farms of Dr. Owen and Mr. John B. Lee we counted some forty-off dead Yankees, who lay stiff and stark and nude, a spectacle of horror. They had been dismantled, it is said, by their particular friends, gentlemen of African descent. Most of them were supposed to be sharpshooters who fell in advance of their lines and quite near our rifle pits and entrenchments. Threefourths of them were shot through the head and others through the heart, showing the accuracy of the aim which sent them to their account. Near the Quaker meeting house we saw five graves with slabs at their heads, which told that their occupants were members of the 91st. Vol. Ohio Infantry. They had all been killed in the skirmishing on Friday the 17th. On the other side of the road a man was laid out on a blanket with a white paper pinned to his breast marked "R. J. Simpson, Company I, First Virginia Light Infantry.

Hunter had made his headquarters across from this point, at Sandusky, the home of Maj. Risque Hutter, the building being in plain view of the road passing the Quaker Church site. It is also marked by an appropriate bronze tablet.

There were large numbers of Federal dead all about these fields. A gentleman told the writer that he had found, while hunting, the bodies of two Federal soldiers, identified by belt-buckles and scraps of clothing, lying in a thicket near the present Lynchburg College. This was four years ~~of the~~ after the battle and meantime the Northern Government had sent men here to search the fields carefully for bodies for burial at the various National Cemeteries.

Hunter retreated through Liberty and on up ~~the town xxx Valley~~ up the Valley -- he was urged to retreat in the direction of Washington in order to place his troops between his pursuers and Washington. But his flight had become a rout and he took to the mountains of West Va. and disappeared in the direction of Ohio River.

With Hunter forced into the mountains of W. Va., Early pressed on and actually ~~threat~~ threatened Washington. And thus the Battle of Lynchburg included Sheridan's defeat at Trevillian's Station, Hunter's utter rout, and a threat which sent Washington and ~~the/Federa~~ all the north into a panic.

On June 24 and 25 the city council voted thanks to General McCausland and presented him with a sword and spurs. Early also was thanked, and the soldiers were given the run of the city.)

In the closing days of the war, in a fight at High Bridge, near Farmville, General James Dearing, of Lynchburg, was mortally wounded and was brought back here to the hospital, located on Main and Sixth streets, where he died. When the ~~Federal~~ victorious Federal troops entered the city a few days later, their ~~offi~~ commanding officer, a Westpointer, ~~the~~ friend of Dearing, and, hearing that Dearing was in the hospital, dismounted and called on him, and it is said that shortly thereafter he left the city in tears

When Lee reached Appomattox, with his starving men, he found that four trains of supplies sent there from Lynchburg had been captured by Sheridan's cavalry. He surrendered April 9, 1864.