

## **Excerpts from Notebook of Beverly Whittle, 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry Regiment,**

*This transcription is complete to the extent that it omits nothing in the entries of September 28 through November 28, 1864. Sections of the notebook dated before and after that period were not transcribed.*

Sept 28<sup>th</sup> Moved out of camp + moved towards Waynesborough. We saw the smoke of burning property all along the valley marking the path of the vandals. We then struck into the mountains + by paths + over ridges we reached the tunnel at Rockfish gap just before night + surprised the Yankees, who were coming to blow it up. We charged + routed them + although greatly outnumbered (one brigade against two divisions) we drove them until night put an end to the chase. They ran about ten miles. My company went on Picket that night and got a great deal of plunder.

Sept 29<sup>th</sup> Come off picket + joined the brigade in camp about 5 miles from Waynesborough between that place + Greenville staid there all night. 30<sup>th</sup> moved out of camp + moved toward the pike. My regiment went on picket below Mount Sidney + staid all day; that night we moved back the reserve to the Staunton side of Middle River + camped near the bridge.

Oct 1<sup>st</sup> Laid near the bridge nearly all day nothing but rain saddles on all the time; towards night we joined the brigade camped on Harrison's farm 5 or 6 mls from Staunton. We had just gone into camp + made a fire, when the saddle call sounded + we moved out of camp down the pike to a rock church + turned to the left + moved in the direction of Bridge-water We camped about 4 mls of that place slept well that night in spite of the rain, which poured down.

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> Got permission this morning to go out with Bishop to get something to eat for we were out of rations. Went to a Mr. Whitmore's but he being a Union man, we got nothing, then went to Mr. James Bell's and he treated us well + gave us plenty. We rode to Bridgewater just as my reg. was driven across the river by an overwhelming force but we rallied + drove the enemy away from the river (north fork Shenandoah). Skirmished all day + went back to same camp near Centreville; spent a quite night but it rained towards morning.

Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> Laid in camp until evening then moved to a piece of woods near Bridge-water + staid all night rain poured down, wet and uncomfortable all night.

Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> Here we are in same piece of woods drying off after the drenching of last night, the Yankees on one side of the river + we on the other, we laid still all day + spent a quite night.

Oct 5<sup>th</sup> Saddled up at day break. Yesterday we could see great smoked over in the Yankee lines + last night the sky was lit up with the glare of burning property. Moved out of camp about 7 o'clock + went on picket on the river below Bridge-water. Nothing of interest occurred except that the Yankes came into Mt. Crawford + we are turned out but they went back and we spent a quite night. I went through our pickets, crossed the river + got something to eat during the day.

Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> Still on picket. About 9 o'clock our cavalry began to advance + we were ordered to join our regiment, which we did near a place called Dayton. We then rapidly followed the retreating enemy all day. About 4 o'clock P.M. we came up with their rear-guard near a place called Turley Town, my regiment dismounted + were rapidly driving them, when they attempted a flank movement and the 4<sup>th</sup> came to our assistance + the Yankees broke + ran in confusion. We then went into camp + spent a quite night. All along our rout were burning barns houses +c. The beautiful + fertile valley of Virginia is one vast cloud of smoke, + the very air is impregnated with the smell of burning property. I found a plank left by the Yankees, on which was written – "Remember Chambersburg".

Oct 7<sup>th</sup> Moved out soon in the morning + renewed the pursuit; today my regiment was guarding the artillery + did not get up in time to take part in a fight that Rosser's Brigade had with the enemy in which they whipped the enemy + captured a good many prisoners, wagons, ambulances, cattle, sheep, +c. I have had nothing to eat now for two days, except some mutton that we killed last night + broiled on the coals. Went into camp + spent a quite night. The Yankees have destroyed everything in their \_\_\_\_\_.

Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> Moved out early + renewed the chase. I am fearfully hungry + now chance of getting anything. We have ridden very hard. Lomax's old brigade was in front + caught up with the enemy's rear + drove them several mls, until they reached their infantry. The Yankees then rallied + we all had it pretty hot until night with severe loss on both sides + no advantage gained. My co. lost 1 killed (Dick Oliver) + 2 wounded. We went into Camp that night + spent a quite night.

9<sup>th</sup> The enemy attacked us early this morning with an overwhelming force of infantry, cavalry + artillery + after a stubborn fight, we were driven back with the loss of five pieces of artillery, some wagons, ambulances, +c. The loss of these things was owing to our being flanked + almost surrounded. However we made a stand near a place called Columbia Furnace, + nothing but the cavalry came against us, these we whipped + drove back. My company lost several men wounded in this fight among the number was myself, I was shot through the left arm + breast, inflicting a painful, but not dangerous, wound. After being wounded I came on to a Mrs. Jones' on the back road not far from New Market, where I staid all night. I suffered a great deal, and I never met with meaner people than they were, no kindness about them at all.

10<sup>th</sup> I determined this morning to go home + according started toward Staunton. I rode on all day very slowly, for my wounds pained me greatly, + put up at a Mr. Allemang's near Bridgewater; his wife treated me with great kindness. I rested well that night. Some of his negroes stole my gloves + some brandy that I had, but I could not get them back.

Oct 11<sup>th</sup> Started early + rode, passed through Spring hill + left Staunton to my left. I got into the main Lexington pike near Middlebrook. I came 15 mls from Staunton + put up with a Mr. Bowman who treated me with great kindness. I slept well that night.

Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> Travelled on + through Brownsburg + Lexington to a Mr. Shavers 9 mls from Lexington + staid all night. He treated me with great kindness.

Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> Left Mr. Shaver's + came home.

Staid at home until the 1<sup>st</sup> of Nov. I then went down to Uncle Conway's in Mecklenburg Co. Va + staid there until the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month; I then returned home + staid until the 28<sup>th</sup> of nov. on that day I started from home to go to my reg. I rode on 2 mls beyond Lexington + staid all night in a shed to a black-smith shop.

Source: Notebook of Beverly Whittle, 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry Regiment, Co. C, September – November 1864, Papers of Beverly Kennon Whittle, 1863-79. Accession #7973, Box 3, mss notebook folder: "1864 Sept. 12- 1865 Feb 18" Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.