

UNDATED, POST-WAR MANUSCRIPT OF NORBORNE BERKELEY, 8<sup>TH</sup> VIRGINIA INFANTRY, RECOVERED BY MEMBERS OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION AT MOUNT ATLAS, FEBRUARY 24, 2001

Something about 1<sup>st</sup> Manassas and some people, who went to War with a Daguerrean Car

We had a good time when we were assembling the 8<sup>th</sup> Va. Regiment at Leesburg. Tho' the Yankees were pretty close all the time, they on the north side, we on the south side of the Potomac. Presently, Gen. Beauregard sent for us and we started in a hurry. A gentleman fearful that our fine equipment would fall in hands of the enemy, burned our tents which left us out in the frost. Someone suggested that a daguerrean car that stood in the stable yard of one of the hotels, would answer for Head Quarters and it proved a good idea. I had a stout team put to and started it in the van followed by about 35 other wagons, - little and big. Oh! It was a sight. A friend said to me "Major if that thing breaks down and blocks the road Gen. Beauregard will have you shot." No he won't, I replied. Look in the drawer where that fellow kept his chemicals. You'll find a good supply of matches. This thing will burn like tinder. But, we got through alright except the sky light was swept off by the limb of a tree. However a large gum cloth repaired that damage.

We were up early the next morning, for we knew they were coming. That gallant little Private of Comp. D - Charles Linthicum offered a fervent prayer for our sin & ers, - Well, Who knows.

We were advanced to the edge of a wood, and held in reserve. Now! I don't like to be held in reserve, for you are very apt to be reserved for a very hot place, and I will give you an instance. When McClellan was moving down on the north side of the North Anna towards Cold Harbor, we moved parallel with him on the south side, to keep between he and Richmond. Once, when it was thought he would attack, we found a gap in our line, which Gen. Hunton was ordered to fill. Adjutant Linthicum directed Green to put in the 56<sup>th</sup>, but Col. Green thought his regiment too large for the vacancy. - Turning to me, Linthicum said, Col. Berkeley you can get the 8<sup>th</sup> in. 'It will fit us as if we had been measured for it,' I replied and thereby, we escaped a terrible place where the gallant Linthicum was killed within two hours. But, "retanous a nos moutons," Well, we stood in reserve until Gen. Beauregard, going over the field, looking for help, encountered Gen. Smith (Extra Billy) who said, "Why yonder is Hunton anxious to be in the fight," and Gen. Beauregard, coming to our left flank, moved us off in that direction, hence, I was by his side for a time.

When we reached the spot where Bartow fell - or was it Bee - I forget, we were faced to the front, and charged up to the Henry house driving the enemy across the road. Firing soon ceased, and we were left - at rest - a short distance to the right, and overlooking the Yankees on the opposite hill, forming hollow square, and moving off in good order. It looked as if they meant to turn our right flank but - whether to deceive us, or to settle their own men who had become rattled, I don't know. An order soon came for us to move promptly to Manassas. We started at once. President Davis and Gen. Beauregard passing us on the road at a quick pace, directed me to keep the men well closed up.

Our Surgeon (Edwards) had been permitted to go to his son, who had been badly wounded at Blackburn's Ford on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and Dr. J. Conway Brown, Comp. D, had been put in his place, and I had mounted him on a very fine Arabian mare, handsomely equipped. As we passed Brown at work with our wounded in the rear, I advised him to hurry up as it seemed

likely we would require his services further on. He replied that "as soon as I do up this stump I will join you, there is my horse." - pointing to the mare a few paces away. He came in some time in the night - pretty well used up and said, "When I went for the mare, she was not there." Nor did I ever see her again.

Awaking quite early the next morning, I heard Col. Tebbs darky Charles say, I'm very sorry gentlemen, that we can't take your pictures today, but; we got our instrument broken last night and as soon as it is mended I will let you know.

I looked out on the other side, and saw "Long Tom" and other trophies coming in fast.

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## Williamsburg

The regiment (8<sup>th</sup>) at the head of the column, was halted in the college grounds, in close proximity to the statue of my illustrious namesake the Baron de Botetourt (Norborne Berkeley). And, from Gen Pickett, - Gen Longstreet standing by, I received the following order, "Conduct your regiment to that point - indicating a distant object. Enter the woods, face to the left, and sweep forward until you think you have arrived, opposite the right of the 18<sup>th</sup>, halt and await orders."

I was happy in the knowledge that I had three brothers with me, who had hunted in these woods, when students at William & Mary, and delighted when Gen Pickett directed his A.A.G. Tom Cropton, to go with me. When we reached what we supposed to be the distance indicated, We came upon Gen Pryor but I could not tell him his troops were disposed, for he at once moved off.

We could do nothing very brilliant that day. We were awaiting orders, and none came. We suffered some loss, but did not inflict great damage to the enemy. Night came on, and then we determined to get out of it.

We had to cross a very ugly and difficult ditch. I took full ground for the entire regiment, and went back to the ditch to hurry up the crossing of the men. After the last man was across I went forward and to my horror four companies were gone, with every one of the before mentioned guides.

Well we were in a bad fix but moved off toward Fort McGruder, which furnished some little light for our guidance, and after awhile one of Longstreet's couriers found us, and led us back to town. When we reached the college I was told, Longstreet was raging. It was some little time before we found the four companies lost, or rather, the four companies that were not lost. Well, we got started at last and such a time, We 8<sup>th</sup> at the head of the column and I at the head of the 8<sup>th</sup>. Mud up to my knees and dark as pitch. When it grew light - Hummer brought me my horse, and then the regiment would have left a queer trail behind it, if it had followed me closely. My horse almost famished, would turn out to secure any bit of forage he might see, and I fast asleep, until a shout would arouse me, and bring us back again to the road, and strange too that I could sleep, for when we got far enough ahead of the regiment to stop for a short time, our Surgeon lanced the only boil I ever had in my life - just in the arm pit - but, that one was enough for a life time.

The day before the fight, I was at our wagon train, and the wagon master told me he was much embarrassed by my extra horse. Just then a man (refugee) drove up, and announced that he wished "to trade a very fine mare for anything that would carry her gear." Very well, I said, take this horse, and turn the mare over to that young man, - and the next morning Monty Tucker was the owner of two horses, which proved most fortunate for the Yankees had no use for a man with a young colt, but very useful to many people, for the mill was miles away, and very few animals left in town.

I am no strategist, but why McClellan did not throw a larger force behind us - when we lay in the malarious swamp below Williamsburg, I think was the greatest mistake of his life. I know he attempted it, days too late, and was driven back by Hood or Whiting.

**BELT, GEORGE A.:** Pvt., Co. C. b. 1826. enl. 5/8/61 at Haymarket. Absent sick 1-3/62. d. 1904, bur. Union Cemetery, Leesburg, Va.

**BELT, GREENBERRY J. P.:** Pvt., Co. C. enl. 5/8/61 at Haymarket by Capt. E. Berkeley. Absent with rheumatism for 6 months 4/30/62. Discharged on disability 4/4/63.

**BELT, JAMES P.:** Pvt., Co. C. enl. 5/8/61 at Haymarket by Capt. E. Berkeley. AWOL for eight months 12/62. Dropped from roll, last heard from at home.

**BENEDUM, JOHN E.:** Pvt., Co. H. b. 1844. enl. 7/13/61 at Leesburg by Col. Hunton. AWOL 9/5/62 to 10/7/62. Forfeit 1 month's pay. Sick in hospital 4/63 to 8/63. Present 9/63. Detailed to hospital and promoted to private 10/64. Present 12/64. d. 1924, bur. Lakeview Cemetery, Hamilton, Va.

**BENJAMIN, JAMES H.:** Pvt., Co. I. enl. 7/29/61. d. 5/12/62.

**BENNETT, JAMES:** Pvt., Co. E. enl. 9/20/63.

**BENTON, THOMAS H.:** Pvt., Co. F. enl. 6/19/61 at Broomfield by Capt. Grayson. Detailed to Pioneer Corps 6/63. AWOL 7/9/63 to 8/18/63. Pardon by President's Proclamation. Present 12/64. Wded. right forearm 4/5/65 at Jetersville. Richmond hospital 4/18/65. Deserted Richmond hospital 4/25/65.

**BERKELEY, CHARLES FENTON:** Capt., Co. D. b. 11/13/32. enl. 5/13/61 at Aldie by N. Berkeley. Promoted to 1st Lt. 12/1/62. Captured 7/3/63 at Gettysburg, Pa. Transferred from Ft. Delaware to Johnson's Island 7/18/63. Exchanged 3/17/64. Promoted to Capt. 3/31/64. Captured Saylor's Creek 5/6/65. Sent to Johnson's Island 4/17/65. Released on oath 6/19/65. 5' 9", red hair, blue eyes. d. 10/22/77, bur. Middleburg, Va.

**BERKELEY, EDMUND:** Lt. Col. b. 2/29/24. enl. 5/8/61 at Haymarket by Edmund Berkeley. Sick with typhoid 1/62 at home. Rank of Capt. from 5/11/61. Major 8/9/63. Lt. Col. 11/12/63. Present 1/28/65 trenches near Howlett House. Surrendered and paroled Fairfax C.H. 4/29/65. d. 12/1/15, bur. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Haymarket, Va.

**BERKELEY, NORBORNE:** Col. b. 3/31/28. Elected Lt. Col. 4/27/62. Promoted to Col. 8/9/63. Captured Gettysburg, Pa. 7/3/63. Wded. in foot. Point Lookout Prison Hospital 10/4/63. Johnson's Island 2/14/64. Exchanged 3/18/64. Sick Chester hospital 10/4/64. Present Howlett Line 1/28/65. Resigned 3/2/65. Richmond hospital 3/5 to 3/18/65 chronic rheumatism. Paroled 4/24/65 Richmond. d. 1911, bur. Episcopal Church, Haymarket, Va.

**BERKELEY, WILLIAM NOLAND:** Maj. b. 1826. enl. 5/12/61 at Aldie by himself. Re-elected Capt. 4/16/62. Promoted Maj. 8/9/63. Wded. thigh and captured Gettysburg, Pa. 7/3/63. Johnson's Island 2/14/63. Exchanged 3/3/64. Present Clay House 12/31/64. Captured Saylor's Creek. Sent to Johnson's Island. Paroled 6/27/65 on oath. d. 1907, bur. Middleburg, Va.

**BERRY, J. OWENS:** Capt., Co. G. b. Washington, D.C. enl. 6/22/61 at Dranesville by Capt. Thrift. Sick in hospital 8/64. Present 9/64. Elected Capt. 4/26/62. Captured 4/20/65 Fairfax C.H. Sent to Johnson's Island. Released on oath 6/15/65. In Va. House of Delegates. d. Fairfax Co.

**BICKSLER, HENRY B.:** Capt., Co. G & I. enl. 6/22/61 at Dranesville by Capt. Thrift. 1/63 detailed to recruit for 35 days. Elected 1st Lt. 4/26/62. Captured 3/5/63 Loudoun Co. Promoted Capt. Co. 1/3/64. Captured 4/6/65 Saylor's Creek. Sent to Johnson's Island 4/19/65. Released on oath 6/18/65. Age 28, blue eyes, dark hair. 6' 3".

**BIRCH, F. E.:** Co. H. Listed on postwar roster.

**BIRCH, JOHN L.:** Co. H. Listed on postwar roster.

**BISHOP, ELIJAH E.:** Cpl., Co. F. enl. 6/19/61 at Bloomfield by Capt. Grayson. Captured Harpers Ferry 3/16/62. Exchanged 8/5/62. AWOL 8/5/62 to 1/30/63. Court-martialed, forfeit 1 month's pay. Severe cut over right eye destroying public works at Chambersburg. Home sick 7/12/63. Present 2/64. Appointed Cpl. 7/16/64. Present 12/31/64. AWOL 3/14/65. Paroled 4/25/65 at Winchester. Age 21, 5' 6", brown hair, blue eyes.

**BISHOP, ROBERT A.:** Pvt., Co. A. enl. 6/19/61 at Bloomfield by Capt. Grayson. AWOL 9/62 to 1/30/63. Sick in hospital to 5/17/63 when given 30-day furlough. AWOL 8/63, dropped as deserter 4/30/64. Paroled 4/21/65 at Winchester. Age 24, 5' 7", brown hair, hazel eyes.

**BISSELL, J.:** Co. C. Name appears on list of wounded at 1st Manassas.

**BISSELL, WILLIAM ROMBOUGH:** Capt., Co. A. enl. 4/19/61. Elected Capt. 4/26/62. d. of wds. 7/16/63 received at Gettysburg, Pa., wded. in side.

**BITZER, CONRAD R.:** 1st Lt., Co. A. enl. 4/19/61. Elected 1st Lt. 4/26/62. Resigned 9/30/62, medical discharge.

**BITZER, GEORGE W.:** Pvt., Co. A. enl. 8/31/62 at Gordonsville by Capt. Bissell. Detailed as wagoner 5/63. AWOL 3/14/65. Present 12/31/64. Paroled 5/6/65 at Harpers Ferry.

**BLACKWELL, ROBERT:** Pvt., Co. A. enl. 9/26/63. AWOL 10/63. Absent on sick furlough 4/64, medical discharge, tuberculosis. 6/21/64 Farmville hospital. 6' 1", light hair, blue eyes, farmer, age 39. Paroled 4/23/65 at Nottaway C.H.

**BLEWETT, JOHN:** Pvt. Name appears on paroled prisoners list, Richmond 4/25/65.

**BOGGS, NORMAN:** Pvt. Captured 8/26/62 Webster Co., W.Va. Sent to Vicksburg, Miss. for exchange 11/22/62.

**BOLEN, H.:** KIA Second Manassas 8/30/62.

**BOLEN, JOHN W.:** Pvt., Co. A. enl. 5/1/61 at Hillsboro by Capt. Heaton. Wded. 1st Manassas. Deserted 11/22/62.

**BOLYN, T. M.:** Co. H. Sick at Leesburg 12/61 to 3/62.

**BONNELL, WILLIAM A.:** Cpl., Co. B. enl. 5/17/61 at Rectortown by Capt. Carter. Absent sick 9/3/62 to 9/17/63. Promoted to Cpl. 8/31/64. AWOL 12/31/64. Captured 4/6/65 at Farmville. Sent to Point Lookout Prison. Released on oath 6/23/65. 5' 9", brown hair, blue eyes.

**BOOTH, W. C.:** Pvt., Co. I. Conscript assigned 11/14/63. Medical discharge 1/31/64. 5' 5", blue eyes, light hair.

**BORYER, FREDERICK A.:** Sgt., Co. D. enl. 5/13/61 at Aldie by W. N. Berkeley. Promoted Sgt. 12/3/62. Wded. right shoulder and captured Gettysburg, Pa. Exchanged 11/63. Killed by deserter in Loudoun Co. 7/64.

**BOSS, JAMES P.:** Pvt., Co. H. b. 1842 at Leesburg. enl. 7/13/61 at Leesburg by Col. Hunton. Wded. at Gettysburg, Pa. d. of wd., bur. Union Cemetery, Leesburg, Va.

**BOTT, EDWARD:** Co. K. Postwar roster.

**BOTTS, S. H.:** Co. K. Medical discharge, disability 4/11/62.