

Pee Dee Wildcats

The Story of Company K 26th North Carolina Infantry

Transcribed from the NC Argus Newspaper by

David M. Edwards

Military Order of the Stars & Bars

Captain Henry C. Grady Chapter 296

Wadesboro, NC

Secession Meeting at Ansonville

North Carolina Argus

Thursday December 6, 1860

We find in a *South Carolina* paper, the following account of a secession meeting and pole raising at Ansonville:

MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OF ANSONVILLE, N.C.

A large concourse of citizens of all parties assembled at Ansonville, on the evening of the 15th Inst., to assist in raising a secession flag, and to express their determination not to submit to Black Republican rule. The flag was erected upon the summit of Lemuel Carpenter's large and elegant store house, and bore upon its ample folds that sentiment dear to every true American heart - "resistance to oppression is obedience to God." The ceremonies connected with the raising of the flag, were conducted in the most enthusiastic manner, and its appearance in mid air, was the signal for one loud and hearty outburst of applause. Several salutes were then fired by the Ansonville Minute Men, after which the crowd was invited in front of the stand, to listen to addresses. Several speeches were delivered, in the highest strain of patriotism, and the utmost unanimity and enthusiasm prevailed.

After the conclusion of the addresses, Maj. Kirby introduced the following preamble and resolutions, which was adopted with only one dissenting voice:

"WHEREAS, the recent elections in the non-slave holding States of this Confederacy, have clearly demonstrated the undying hostility of their people to the South and her institutions. Therefore,

Resolved, That we, the people of Anson, do hereby express our determination to resist Black Republican rule, and pledge ourselves to wear the Blue Cockade, as expressive of our intention, and in honor of our Revolutionary sires of '76."

We understand the "crowd" was ambrotyped, and that the "Picture" has about twenty persons represented in it, at least five of whom do not approve of the object of the meeting nor of the above preamble and resolution. If, then, that "large crowd" that passed the preamble and resolution consisted of only fifteen individuals, it had no right to speak for "the people of Anson," (we do not object to their speaking for themselves,) and in the name of "the people of Anson" we protest against their action. "The people of Anson" have not yet passed upon

affairs that are agitating and distracting the people of the country, but design doing so at an early day. In the meantime we would ask the distant public and all interested in the position of the "people of Anson" to "wait and see."

NOTICE

June 13, 1861

It having been reported that the military company, known as the "Pee Dee Wild Cats," had split up and disorganized, I take this method of informing the public that the report is false in every particular. A proposition was made to the company on Tuesday last, that it should "go for the war," instead of for twelve months. Many were in favor of the proposition, inasmuch as it has been decided by the State that no more twelve months men will be received - others wished time to consult their friends before deciding upon so important a step. By Saturday next they will have determined, and will report their decision. It is believed that all, or near all, will go for the war. The organization will be kept up, in either event. If the company decide for the war, I am with them.

J.C. Caraway

For the Purpose of Organization

North Carolina Argus

Thursday June 13, 1861

The Wild Cats of the Pee Dee meet in Wadesboro on Saturday, the 15th inst., for the purpose of organization.

On Wednesday, 19th they meet at Burnsville for parade and drill, and to afford an opportunity to those disposed to do so, to volunteer. By-the-by, we see it announced in the papers that the ladies of Columbus, Ga., have organized a Home Guard, for the purpose of *protecting* the young men who have determined to stay "at home" during the war. Fact is, that those young men who are disinclined to volunteer, will be most certainly subjected to a draft, and those who do wait to be compelled to go, will find out the difference between volunteering and drafting. The only way to speedily end this war and prevent the shedding of rivers of blood, is to present to the foe such an imposing front - such an array of numbers - such readiness and determination to do or die, as will satisfy our invaders that at least a hundred thousand of their carcasses will rot and fester beneath the scorching rays of a Southern sun, and their bones bleach and whiten upon Southern soil - wrecked by Southern ball and steele - if they persist in prosecuting this unholy war. Let every man then - every young man - step forward at once, and soon our President will have such a force in the field as will enable him to satisfy the North of the impossibility of conquest, and the certainty that thousands, tens, twenties, thirties, aye, a hundred thousand of their citizens will be slain in this fratricidal war, and, peradventure, they will take the second sober thought, and decide on peace. In either event troops will be needed - must be had - and if

young men will not volunteer, they must submit to a draft - for *that* they cannot escape. Make up your minds, then, young men, quickly and whatever you decide to do - do quickly.

Volunteer Meeting

North Carolina Argus

Thursday June 27, 1861

Burnsville, June 19th 1861

Mr. Editor: The anxiety with which papers are sought, and the "latest war item: devoured, and your desire to devote as much of your paper as practicable to furnishing them, may probably, commit this hasty and imperfect sketch of the meeting at Burnsville, to your box of waste paper. However this may be, those who were present, can never forget it.

On Tuesday evening, a number of the Wild Cats, met at this place, with their camp 'essentials' and :pitched their tents." They were in no way discouraged, by the foretaste of their future upon the tented field, gained by the experience of that night in camp.

At 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning, a large number of the citizens, especially ladies, had assembled. At the tap of the drum, the Wild Cats "fell in," and after drilling awhile, were marched to a beautiful shade where necessary arrangements had been made for speaking.

Lieut. J.C. McLaughlin made the opening speech. Just here, Mr. Editor, were I skilled in the art of stenography, I might commence and pen a speech of the man, scholar, orator, patriot and soldier. There was no studied and polished gesticulation - no gorgeous or superfluous display of flowery language, exhibited by the speaker, to aid him in riveting upon the minds of his attentive audiences, the stern truths he so forcibly presented to them. He asserted and proved conclusively, "that the character of the brutal war that is now being waged, and controlled by a maddened fanaticism at the North, against the South, could find a parallel only in the barbarous ages of antiquity." That the social and moral interests, the honor, the liberties of ourselves and of our children to the latest generation, depended on the issue of the great struggle before us. The old Constitution, bequeathed us by our fathers, as a shield to our liberties, is ruthlessly torn and trampled upon, and its sacred provisions violated, not only without the disapprobation of the people of the North, but encouraged by wild shouts of applause from one extreme of free soil territory to the other. After touching many other important points, he alluded to the victories gained by our men, and said we should not be elated and boast of it, but rather humbled, for in it we recognize the hand of the God of our fathers. After speaking for three fourths of an hour, he concluded, when Lieut. L.R. Liles was called for, and came forward. The enquiry was in the minds of many, "can he tell us any more than we've heard," but at the conclusion of his speech, they were satisfied "that half had not been told."

It was nothing short of a genuine, stirring, war speech. And just here, your writer is brought again, to a dead halt. He wishes you could have heard him, as he spoke of the threatened downfall of liberty, - the old "Stars and Stripes" that were once the emblem of peace and liberty to thirty millions of freemen, - is now to us the emblem of oppression, and waves over slaves - slaves to a wild and furious fanaticism. He appealed in stirring strains to the men, to nerve their arms for the conflict, and to the ladies to send them forward to meet the enemy, and drive them from our soil, if we would remain a free and happy people. The surest way for me to give him

justice is to cease attempting a synopsis of his speech, and say that it was a splendid one, and would have done honor to an older head. The Wild Cats were ordered into line, and as they marched out, four of the young men fell in with them, two of whom were the only children living with an aged and widowed mother. The company halted to receive them, when that good old Christian mother was seen to approach from the crowd, with feeble yet steady step. Placing her hand upon the shoulder of the oldest of them, she remarked in tones that would have melted the heart of a tyrant, or inspired the basest coward with a feeling of independence "*My sons, you have done right and may God bless you.*" Upon hearing it, Capt. Caraway stepped out in front of the company and ordered "three cheers for Mrs. Parker,; with a countenance and voice that showed he had a heart susceptible of the softer feelings of our nature, as well as to encounter the stern duties of the soldier. It was responded to by three loud, hearty, and prolonged cheers, which made the hills resound.

Scenes of this character were almost constantly transpiring, which caused many a manly tear to flow freely. Dinner was announced - and such a dinner! Enough for three or four times the number present. The ladies administered it with a grace and generosity that can never be forgotten by the Wild Cats. About two o'clock, the crowd again assembled and called for Mr. L.L. Polk. He came forward and made a speech. The writer has not space to scarcely give the outlines - he was a partisan when there were parties, but thanked God there was but *one* party in the South in their her hour of peril. The war was forced upon us and we must meet it. The soil and tomb of Washington must be defended; the depredations of Lincoln's minions's must be checked, for the yells of these fiends and the shrieks of outraged innocent women, are today re-echoing through the once peaceful valleys of the Potomac, and piercing the very vaults which contain the dust of her noble dead. He concluded by appealing to the ladies to stir up their sons and brothers to meet the enemy and keep them from North Carolina soil. He expressed his determination never to permit it, but at the cost of his life, if necessary. After the Wild Cats were again formed into line, two more young men came forward and volunteered. It was then proposed by a citizen, that all the ladies present who were friendly to the cause in which the Wild Cats were engaged, should come forward and bid them "good-bye." All the ladies in rapid succession extended their hand, which met a hearty shake. Capt. Caraway, in behalf of the company stepped out in front of the ladies, and in a calm, graceful and dignified manner, returned his sincere acknowledgments for the kindness they had received from them. When amid the carnage of the battle field, or with weary limbs and drooping spirits they reposed in their tents, a recurrence to the scenes enacted this day would nerve their arms and inspire in their bosoms a more unyielding determination to defend the honor of the ladies of Anson. Already had members of his company adopted a resolution that Lincoln's fanatical hordes could never reach North Carolina soil, but over their dead bodies. They would make good that declaration. If they were so fortunate as to return they should drill regularly and preserve their organization, for they expected to live, fight and die together. If they were permitted to return they would not be so ungrateful as to forget those at whose hands they had this day been so kindly treated, but they would notify the ladies of Burnsville and gladly pay them a visit. [Numerous voices, "you must be sure to do so."]

The ladies requested Mr. Polk to respond in their behalf to Capt. C. He appeared, and felt authorized by the ladies to say to him that they appreciated fully the force of his remarks. They entertained a lively hope, and their earnest prayers would be, that they might all safely return, covered all over with glory, to the extended arms of mothers, sisters, wives, brothers and friends - that you may come with your noble brows covered with laurels of victory and honor. But should you be so hapless as to fall upon the battle field, they bid me say to you to fall with your

faces to the foe, and they will all drop a tear to your memories. After they marched awhile and, after being told by many of the most substantial citizens that they were welcome to anything and everything, if necessary, they possessed, the crowd dispersed, many of them felling that they had lost nothing by going to Burnsville. It may be proper to add that it was the busiest season of the year with them, and many of the young men were confined at home harvesting their grain, or doubtless more would have been added to the list. BEAU-REGARD.

P.S. Eight volunteers were received.

26th NC Company K Enlistment Record for July 1, 1861

1. James C. Caraway - Captain
2. James S. Kendall - 1st Lieutenant
3. J.C. McLauchlin - 2nd Lieutenant
4. William W. Boggan - 3rd Lieutenant
5. Benjamin McLauchlin - 1st Sergeant
6. Jesse. L. Henry - Sergeant
7. William S. Ingram - Sergeant
8. Edmund J. DeBerry - Sergeant
9. Thomas Lilly - Corporal
10. Charles E. Braswell - Corporal
11. Edmond C. Braswell - Corporal
12. Joel T. Gaddy - Corporal
13. Thomas C. Knotts - Corporal

Musicians -

1. Calvin Boyd

Privates -

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. John A. Polk | 9. John B. Briley |
| 2. Robert B. Allen | 10. William H. Broadway |
| 3. John Atkinson | 11. Thomas Brownan |
| 4. Sidney Barber | 12. John A. Buchanan |
| 5. Thomas Bowman | 13. William H. Burns |
| 6. William C. Boylin | 14. Isaac Carpenter |
| 7. Benjamin F. Braswell | 15. Julius M. Cox |
| 8. Daniel Braswell | 16. Nathan Crepps |

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 17. Henry Harrison Crowson | 43. Montford Stokes McRae |
| 18. Elijah T. Curtis | 44. Thomas May |
| 19. David S. Dabbs | 45. John Q. Neal |
| 20. B.G. DeBerry | 46. Hugh D. Pinkston |
| 21. Allen R. Edwards | 47. John M. Pope |
| 22. John Flake | 48. Elisha B. Privett |
| 23. James E. Gadd | 49. Alexander Ricketts |
| 24. Sherwood F. Gathings | 50. Samuel T. Sanders |
| 25. Fleming M. George | 51. Bolin D. Sellers |
| 26. Thomas Green | 52. Robin R. Sellers |
| 27. Sidney R. Griffin | 53. Alexander P. Short |
| 28. William M. Gullede | 54. Jesse Short |
| 29. Robert A. Hanna | 55. Jesse D. Short |
| 30. Benjamin Hinds | 56. John B. Short |
| 31. Edmund P. Huntley | 57. Samuel Short |
| 32. William W. Ingram | 58. William D. Smart |
| 33. Charles H. Jarman | 59. Wellington D. Smith |
| 34. Elijah C. Jarman | 60. William H. Smith |
| 35. John R. Jarman | 61. Samuel P. Spencer |
| 36. Thomas D. Jarman | 62. Jesse D. Sullivan |
| 37. Samuel S. Kendall | 63. William H. Teal |
| 38. Benjamin F. Knotts | 64. Green T. Thomas |
| 39. Joseph I. Lee | 65. Luke Turnage |
| 40. Daniel S. Liles | 66. James F. Wadsworth |
| 41. Asa Little | 67. John J. Wiggins |
| 42. Martin McDiarmid | 68. Hiram Willoughby |

Meeting of Wild Cats at Gould's Fork Academy

North Carolina Argus - Thursday July 11, 1861

On the 3d inst., Capt. Caraway's company, the Pee Dee Wild Cats, met, as per invitation of the ladies of that locality, at the School House, situated in a beautiful grove a few hundred yards from the Charlotte road. The day was delightfully pleasant - the oppressive heat of the previous week having been dissipated by copious rains, which gladdened the hearts of husbandmen,

refreshed the thirsty and parched earth - gave vigor to vegetation, and inspired all hearts with gratitude to the Giver of all good.

On such a day and such an occasion, it was to have been expected that the invitation of the ladies to the people of the county to unite with them in honoring the brave volunteers who are preparing to meet the invaders of their country and drive them back or perish in the effort, would be largely complied with. Nor was the expectation vain. According to our estimate there were five hundred people present, half, if not a majority of whom were ladies.

Could Abe Lincoln, or a representative of that August personage, have been present of this occasion or upon any similar occasion, we think the minds of the people of the North would soon be disabused of the opinion that there are to be found in the South, men, (or women either,) who believe that there is in existence any other union than that known as the Confederate union of the Southern States. Such a person would have heard but one voice expressing one sentiment, and that sentiment eternal hostility to Abe Lincoln's government - war to the bitter end - war to extermination - war until every man, woman and child lie bleeding or blackened corpses around their homesteads and their hearths. Such an one would have heard ardent aspirations for peace, as he listened to appeals to a throne of grace, that this unrighteous and fratricidal war might be brought to a speedy termination without further effusion of blood - but he would have heard and seen demonstrated the fact that peace could only be had by the withdrawal of Lincoln's forces from Southern soil and an acknowledgment of the independence of the Southern Confederacy. He would have heard the plain and simple truth - which, if the Northern Government knew, it would see the utter hopelessness of further prosecuting this hell-inspired war - and that truth is that the Southern people are a unit - there are no divisions among them - the withdrawal of the Northern troops and the acknowledgment, within a reasonable time, of their independence - or men, women and children will fight the unyielding fight which knows no cessation until their arms are stiffened in death, or victory gives them time to breathe. They want to be "let alone." That's all they want. Is there no way of disabusing the Northern mind in this respect. We firmly believe that were the people of the North convinced that the people of the South were a unit - that there is no diversity of sentiment - but one opinion - that there is a union of hearts so complete that each heart pulsates as one - that there is throughout the South but one hear, whose mighty pulsation gives life, energy and will to the nation, and that this tremendous influence - this almighty will - this indis severable union is all directed to one object, and that object life, liberty, independence - we believe that they would refuse to fight against a cause so holy, just and right - that they would disband - leave Lincoln "alone in his glory," and send the Abolition party to the hell which gave it birth.

These are the truths that such an one would have learned upon this occasion.

At ten o'clock the drums beat - the Wild Cats fell in, and for an hour or more, the spectators looked upon their evolutions with pleasure saddened by the recollection that soon these movements would be made in the presence of a fierce and vindictive enemy, thirsting for their blood, ambitions only of reveling in the possession of their property, their wives and daughters - yet looked upon with pleasure, because the noble fellows were thus fitting themselves to fight successfully the battle of liberty - to defend their homes from the rapacity, and their loved ones from the foul embraces of a hired, licentious, and brutal soldiery. Speeches were delivered by Mr. R. Gaddy and E.R. Liles, Esq., who were forced out by the persistent calls of the multitude. These speeches were short pertinent and eloquent.

About this time dinner was announced. It was a beautiful sight - that long table, fairly burdened with its weight of good things, surrounded by the beauty of Anson. Had the good, but mistaken,

Fillmore, stood by our side, and with us looked down the long line of mothers and daughters, wives and sisters, who had cheerfully given up their husbands, brothers, and sons, and whose hands were and still are busy in preparing them for the field, whose voices encourage and whose prayers will support them in the struggle - had he looked and noted, as we did, the sorrowful yet determined countenances of these noble women, and known their Spartan firmness, he too would have been satisfied, of the folly of further prosecuting a struggle which must end in victory or annihilation and he would have hastened to that now pestilent rendezvous of Abolition traitors to liberty, Washington city, and standing upon the steps of the Capitol, he would have proclaimed to the despot, Lincoln, the entire hopelessness of the war he is now waging - advise him to withdraw his forces and let the South alone; for I have seen the women of that land, and I tell you that after you have killed all the men, you will have to fight the battles over again, and, as surely as time exists, if the men of the South cannot defeat, conquer and drive you from their soil - the women can and will.

Dinner over, (we say over, not ended, for if the supply of good things had all to be eaten before it could end, it might not be ended yet) a new and beautiful feature was presented. At the sound of the bell, some sixty children presented themselves, bell in hand, and accompanied by the melodeon, made the air vocal with sweet sounds. We were much gratified at the earnest attention manifested during the singing, by all present. It was a tribute of childhood to manhood - a compliment, especially, to the membership of the Pee Dee Wild Cats, and as such, was we are sure, duly appreciated. Aye, gentlemen, when, in your moments of leisure, on the tented field, your minds wander away from present scenes to the homes you love so well, and fancy pictures the forms and faces you have left behind you, and the pleasant scenes in which you and they participated, will not the recollection of this day at Gould's Fork Academy, and the sweet faces and sweeter voices of the young songsters, be remembered with delight, assuring you that at home you are remembered? And more, gentlemen, it may be the lot of some you, on the field of battle, to be wounded. You may lie many hours exposed to the heat of the sun, suffering, dying, from thirst and loss of blood. You may linger weary weeks in the hospital, and though you may have around your beds those who love you, and are ministering unto you - moistening your parched lips and having your fevered brows - yet will the memory of this scene be present to your minds, and not only the persons and voices of the songsters be remembered, but the words they so sweetly sung, and you may, perchance, be reminded, that there is a "Rest for the Weary" beyond the confines of this mortal life, and that you may attain to that rest - for it is expressly declared - there is a rest for the people of God.

After another spirited drill, the Rev. S. H. Browne, being loudly called for, came forward, and addressed the assemblage, making one of those sort of speeches which nobody but himself can make, and which are always listened to with such marked attention and respect.

The children then sang a few more of their beautiful songs, after which, several of the adults united in singing "Sambo's farewell to the Union," and "Dixie's Land", led by S.W. Neal, Esq.

Twelve young men volunteered in Capt. Caraway's company of Wild Cats, which we understood made the desired number complete.

The company dispersed about five o'clock, well pleased with themselves and each other.

We tender our thanks and the thanks of the children to Capt. Caraway, Maj. J. Boggan and C.H. Sturdivant, for their kindness in sending vehicles to transport the children from and to this place, assuring them that they were - transported.

Camp Plunkett

North Carolina Argus August 8th, 1862

The Pee Dee Wild Cats, Capt. J.C. Caraway, are encamped at this place. His company is not yet full. Orders have been received by the proper officers to muster the militia of the State. Jeff. Davis wants soldiers. The Governor is receiving twelve months volunteers. All who choose can volunteer for twelve months. Those who do not will certainly be drafted. Two companies only have gone from Anson, numbering about two hundred men. Five hundred in Anson's complement. Here is a company organized, uniformed, equipped, but not yet full. Young men, what are you thinking about? Do you expect a better opportunity. Come and fill up the ranks of the Wild Cats. and march to meet the enemy. When you meet him, *fight* him - fight and conquer or bravely die on the field. The company left for Burnsville on Tuesday, to which place they were invited by the ladies. The hearts of the ladies of Burnsville burn with patriotic fire - the Wild Cats have cause to remember them. On Friday they design visiting Cross Roads. They return their heartfelt thanks to the ladies and citizens generally, of Wadesboro, for their kindness in furnishing them with the good things of this life.

They will return to camp Plunkett on Saturday, where they will be pleased to welcome their friends, ladies especially, during the ensuing week.

Young men, you will not have - you can not have, a better opportunity to serve your country and distinguish yourselves, than is presented in the ranks of the Wild Cats of Pee Dee.

Ladies Anson Soldier's Relief Society

North Carolina Argus

Thursday Dec. 12, 1861

According to promise we publish today a statement of the doings of the "Ladies' Anson Relief Society" up to date. It will be seen that the ladies have not been idle but have done all their limited means would permit.

In August last, the following articles were forwarded to the Anson Guard.

12 pr pants	31 pr socks
28 pr drawers	35 sheets
21 coarse shirts	20 pillow cases
24 shirts for the sick	15 pillows
8 flannel shirts	14 blankets
35 handkerchiefs	
17 towels	

16 lbs rice
18 bottles of tomato catsup
7 bottles blackberry wine
5 bottles blackberry cordial
2 jar preserves
2 jars pickles

3 fly brushes
2 fans
3 packages corn starch
Roll of lint
Bundle of sage salve and slippery elm.

On the 3rd of October, three boxes were despatched to Capt. Harlee, of the "Ellis Anson Rifles," containing the following articles, viz:

25 blankets
12 pr pants
32 pr socks
28 pr drawers
6 pr shoes
24 hospital shirts
24 coarse shirts
7 flannel shirts
35 handkerchiefs
17 towels
2 wooden cravats
5 bottles blackberry wine
.

4 bottles blackberry cordial
6 bottles tomato catsup
3 bottles brandy
1 bottle honey
3 bottles painkiller
3 bottles Radway's Relief
1 bottle camphor
1 package camphor gum
1 package lint and rags
1 package pepper, slippery elm and sage

Also, on the same day, three boxes were despatched to Capt. Caraway, of the "Pee Dee Wild Cats" containing the following articles:

17 coarse shirts
15 hospital shirts
19 blankets
31 pr socks
12 pr pants
25 sheets
17 towels
12 pillows

24 pillow-cases
40 handkerchiefs
1 bottle blackberry wine
4 jars pickles
8 bottles tomato catsup
1 package old cloth
1 package pepper, slippery elm and sage.

On the 3rd of December, a barrel was sent to Lieut. Redfearn of the “Ellis Rifles,” containing 8 pr pants, 21 pr socks, and 10 blankets.

The ladies are busy preparing a box of clothing, &c, for the “Pee Dee Wild Cats,” which will be sent as soon as possible. In consequence of the high price and scarcity of cloth of all kinds, and the low state of the treasury, the Society is enabled to do very little towards supplying the wants of our soldiers. If our means only equalled our desires, every one of the brave men who have gone forth to meet the invaders of our soil, should be well provided with everything to make them comfortable.

The members of the Society gratefully acknowledge donations of various kinds, from persons in all parts of the county. Persons of every age, sex and station have aided us in the good works.

Our thanks are especially due to Mr. C. W. Fenton and the children of his Sunday School, for several timely contributions, making in all ... being the proceeds of Concerts given by them

Mrs. A. E. Edwards, President

Mrs. E.G. Darley, Vice President

Mrs. Jas A. Leak, Treasurer

Mrs. K. Shepherd, Secretary

From the Pee Dee Wild Cats

North Carolina Argus

Thursday, February 6, 1862

Fort Thompson, Jan. 29, 1862

Mr. Editor: All the noise, hurry, bustle and confusion that usually attends the removal of a body of troops, having subsided into something like a calm, I will now endeavor to give your readers an inkling to our whereabouts, situation, etc. on the 26th inst, whilst all were enjoying the rest that the hallowed Sabbath affords to man and beast, a lengthy train of box-cars and banistered flats came thundering down the road, its length affording a sure index to its mission. All was bustle and confusion. Marching orders had come for the 26th. Where are we to go? Was a question asked on all sides. None knew. Proceed up the road until you are stopped, being all that was contained in the order. After bidding an affectionate farewell to our comfortable houses, we embarked and were soon being borne rapidly along towards our unknown destination. Some time in the night, we hauled up at this place, and after getting tents pitched, and all other et ceteras arranged, find that the swap is about “six for one and a half dozen for the other.” Our encampment is situated on an elevated level, surrounded on all sides by “Monarchs of the forest,” whose meanings forcibly remind us of our own loved woodland scenes, and, judging from the “signs” we can have rare sport after squirrels, and place on record some “bloody fights” with “Ringtailed coons.” About half a mile of us flows the Neuse River, a noble stream, and at this point about two miles in width and widening as it approaches the Sound. The fortification from which our camp takes the name, is on its banks, and is in proper train to give

the Hessians fits, though the general belief now is that there will be no fighting down here - on one thing you may be assured, and that is they can never take Newbern. But they have got us here at any rate, and us I indimated, all are pleased at the change, and it is currently reported that we will be kept a going now we have once started. All are pleased with the idea, for we have been resting a good long time from our labors, which consisted principally in doing nothing and anything that breaks the old monotony of camp life, proves acceptable. The health of the company is very good at present; the principle diseases being coughs, colds, incidentals to camp life, and a few cases of mumps. The weather has been remarkably mild during January. And now while I am writing everything is at calm and still it seems as if we are ...Spring coming in to shroud things in her floral gifts. We will fare some better here than we have been doing, as we are within four mile of Newbern, and our palates will be tickled once and awhile with a little something extra in the shape of eatables.

The boxes of articles sent by the Society, came safely to hand, and in behalf of our Captain, we return our sincere thanks to the ladies composing it, and they may be assured that their kind efforts to amehorate the condition of those who have gone forth to fight in their country's cause, will never be forgotten as long as life endures, and let us fall on the battle field or return to our homes unhurt, our voices shall always be raised in blessings on them and theirs.

From the Muster Rolls of Company K (at the North Carolina State Archives) the following information is extracted for the period of 30 April 1862 to 30 June 1862 -

This company left North Carolina June 19, 1862 and reached Petersburg, VA on the 21st. Left Petersburg on June 24th and reached Richmond, VA, June 25th and went on picket duty six miles below Richmond on the same day and during the night had two heavy skirmishes with the enemy in which one man was killed (George Bowman) and four wounded, repulsing the enemy each time from that date. It has been almost constantly engaged in skirmishing with and pursuing the enemy. We tell the present date, but has sustained no further casualties, in and at the date of this muster and the march to Malvern Hill, VA.

J. Wadsworth was detailed out on detached service as a teamster. J. DeBerry transferred to the 52nd North Carolina. W.D. Smith, George Flemin, Samuel Spencer, and Rolin Sellers were discharged - most because of expiration of service. Fifty six individuals enlisted during this time.

Deaths of Wildcats

North Carolina Argus

Thursday, April 24, 1862

At Kinston, on Tuesday, the 11th inst, First Sergeant BENJAMIN McLAUCHLIN, of Cumberland City.

We have no reason, whatever, to doubt, that our youthful hero has exchanged a world of wars and hardships for an eternity of bliss. He was both devoted to his county and to his God. During his illness he became delirious, and it is said the last thing he did was to call the roll, form his company, and march it off, then instantly breathed his last. His comrades deeply mourn his loss, and fear they have no other in the company that can fill his place as well as he did. All his friends in Anson sympathize with his bereaved parents and relatives; for his gentle virtues had won a deep place in the hearts of all who knew him.

He is gone - he is gone-

The chivalrous and brave -

The young and ardent soldier

is dreaming in his grave,

He is gone - he is gone -

With glory on his name,

In the budding of his laurels

And the morning of his fame

He has gone- he has gone -

The reward of the just to reap,

Too pure for earth's marshalled hosts,

Jesus has call'd him to glory.

Yes, he is resting - he is now resting

'Neath a sky that's ever blue.

And Heaven never smiled on one

More noble, patriotic, true.

Marie.

DEATHS IN THE PEE DEE WILD CATS.

March 31st 1862, Private Luke Turnage

April 1st, Serg't John Q. Neal.

“ 1st, Private E.P. Huntly

“ 24, Corpl. Thomas C. Knotts.

“ 9th, Private W.H. Teal.

“ 9th, Private S.T. Sanders.

“ 9th, Private Alexander Ricketts, also Serg’t Alexander Short. All of Anson. Their deaths supposed to have been caused from that awful retreat from Newbern.

DIED

At Goldsboro, April 24, 1862, of typhoid fever, E.P. Huntly, son of W.H. and M.M. Huntly, aged 18 years and 6 months, a member of the Pee Dee Wild Cats, Capt. McLauchlin’s company. Though young, he was one among the first to volunteer and go in defense of his country and to stand by the side of his comrades, in defense of loved ones at home; but like many others he was cut down in the bloom of life and his spirit has changed a world of trouble for one of happiness and peace. During his illness he suffered much excruciating pain, but bore it with meekness and resignation, only desiring to see home and then die and be with Jesus, where wars and tribulations would not molest him. He died far from home without father, mother, brother, or sister to speak a word of comfort or sooth his fevered brow in the trying hour of death. - but we give him up, hoping soon to meet him in that celestial city above. His remains were brought home and interned near by the place of his childhood, where many happy hours have been spent with him in days, like himself, gone, never more to return.

Dear brother we they presence miss,

And none so lovely call me Sis;

But, reconciled to God we’ll be,

Hoping to meet thee in eternity.

SIS

Wild Cats at New Bern

North Carolina Argus

Thursday, May 15, 1862

Camped Near Kinston, NC May 1st, 1862

Mr. Editor: It has been a considerable time since this company has troubled you with a communication; yet I presume you appreciate the cause of our long silence, being pretty well acquainted with our condition during the last month and a half. Even if we had been able and willing to have sent you communications regularly, it appeared to us, to be an entirely useless and unprofitable tack, to attempt to keep the people of Anson informed as to our movements and condition, for they always kept so far ahead of us, in this respect, that we had to get our information, as to ourselves, from that source so great has been the facility with which certain

individuals have been enabled to procure or rather manufacture news. In fact, I suppose, that, between one thousand and ten thousand items of news respecting ourselves, have come to us through our correspondents in Anson, and through persons coming immediately from Anson, all about things accredited to us, of which this was the first information we had had. "They Say," has been very busy during the last two months. I am not at all surprised that that gentleman should tell lies, but I am very much surprised that honest, intelligent, people should believe them; and I am happy to see that none of them have found a place in the Argus - I did not expect to find them there, and I am pleased to state that some and they not a few, of our friends, have maintained their fidelity, and taken the advice we gave them, concerning news, before we left home.

All these things do not disturb our equanimity in the least degree, or produce the slightest effect upon us; but we go steadily forward in the path which duty points out to us regardless, alike, of the schemes of open enemies, and the slanders of secret foes: but we wish it to be known that we know that there are some, who, with badly concealed delight, rejoice at our misfortunes who have devoted themselves to the cause of Abe Lincoln and the devil, and who think the best way to promote that cause, is by trying to injure the characters of the soldiers of our country. Mark all such – they are traitors in disguise, and if opportunity offers, they will be openly so.

The 26th Regiment, forming part of the first brigade of the Army of the Pamlico, is now encamped five miles below Kinston, on the south side of Neuse River. Our camp is in a very pleasant location, bountifully supplied with good water – a luxury which we now enjoy for the first time since leaving Anson. Our camp is rapidly recovering from the effects of our disastrous retreat, and its healing is very much improved; yet we have now fifteen on the sick list, all of whom, as far as we can learn, are convalescent. Eleven are in the hospitals at Kinston and Goldsboro and at home, and four in camp; they are only slightly indisposed. Up to the time of the battle of Newbern, we devoted our personal attention to the sick, having most of them under the care of our estimable and heroic physician, Dr. A.L. Jackson, to whom we are all under lasting obligations for his unwearied attentions to the sick, and we all admire the heroism with which he shouldered his musket, pocketed his surgical appurtenances and endured with the company, all the dangers and exposure of the battle field, and the hardships of the retreat and we regret very much the combination of circumstances, which made it necessary for him to return home. The sick were then as well cared for as they could be under the circumstances. But when the enemy approached, we were compelled to give up our sick to the surgeons at the different hospitals, and since that time, we have had no control over the sick, when they get too unwell to endure the drudgery of the camp and the fatigue of marches. We have been so closely confined to camp that we could bestow scarcely any attention upon them, but we detailed the best nurses, as many as we were allowed by law, and as many more as we could persuade the authorities to accept, to wait on the sick and the friends of the dead and the sick may be assured that everything in our power was done to make them comfortable and relieve their sufferings. Notwithstanding all our efforts we have lost nine of our best soldiers since the battle. All of these lough, at the time of the battle and died there. So rapidly did the deaths of our comrades succeed each other, that we could scarcely realize that one of our number was no more, and we could not give expression to the feelings of our hearts, before we had to mourn the loss of two or three others of our much loved companions. It is really saddening to me to hear the roll of our company called, so many lips that, a short time ago, merrily answered in the ranks, are now silent and motionless in the tomb; but it is the Lord" will, and we humbly submit to Him saying "Thy will be done." The hand of Death seems now to be stayed, and for this we humbly thank our merciful heavenly

Parent, and we hope and pray that those of us who remain, may be permitted to return to the loved ones at home, when, by the help of God, we shall have driven our cruel enemies from the Sunny South.

Although it has been a long time since the battle of Newbern, it may not be amiss to state a few particulars respecting it, as there seems to be some misapprehension as to the action of this company on that occasion. The battle was fought on Friday, March 14th. On Wednesday night previous, the enemy's gun boats being in sight, a detachment of the company was sent out on picket duty, and at 1 o'clock the same night, another detachment was sent out to destroy some bridges and throw up a breast work for some pieces artillery. They worked until day light, when they and the picket rejoined the company. Early on Thursday morning the whole regiment was called out, and carried by Railroad about six miles below the battle field, to a breast work which we were to hold; but a few minutes after we had taken our positions, we learned that the enemy had landed in our rear, and we were ordered back and assigned a position behind the breast-works at Wood's brick yard. The enemy took possession of the railroad opposite their place of landing in thirty minutes after we had passed up. We held the position assigned to us, which was on the right of the railroad, all day, awaiting the advance of the enemy. A little before dark some of the men were allowed to go to camp, which was about a mile from us, to get some blankets to protect us from the rain, which had been falling nearly all day, and which was then falling very fast. We made shelters with our blankets, put out guard, and lay down to take a little rest, but there was no rest for us – about 9 o'clock, we were told that the enemy were trying to turn our right flank, and we received orders to move farther to the right. We then left our shelters and were stationed about a quarter of a mile further to the right, where there was no fortification at all, and we had nothing to protect us from the rain, which fell very fast all night. Lieut. Col. Burgwyn commanded the right wing of the 26th, of which ours is the second company; the companies were stationed at intervals of from twenty to forty yards from each other. About daylight, Col. Burgwyn received orders to hold his position at all hazard. Very soon the engagement commenced on the left, and Col. Burgwyn gave Capt. Caraway command of the ridge on which his company were stationed, and ordered him to hold it at all hazards. We then, while the fight was going on, made a temporary breastwork of logs, which would have afforded some little protection, but we were very soon ordered to deploy as skirmishers about fifty yards in front of our log piles. This we did as rapidly as the nature of the ground would permit. This placed us in view of the enemy who were in the woods on our left, concealed from us by the woods and the smoke. Then the balls began to whistle about our ears, but we could not return the fire, having orders not to do so, unless we could see the object distinctly at good range for our muskets. This continued until our line of battle was broken at the railroad, when the enemy moved back in that direction. This was a situation to try the mettle of a soldier – to be in an exposed position, with balls whistling around him from an unseen foe, at whom he cannot fire in return; but our boys stood without flinching, and no one gave any evidence of fear, but every eye was turned in the direction of the enemy, eagerly watching for an opportunity to get a fire. None of us were struck, but as W. says, "By Dick! They liked to have got several..."

...the 26th, and a portion of the 33d, and all the captains of the right companies asked leave of their commander, to march their companies to reinforce the left; but he could not grant it under the order he had received, but told them to be as, they would have the hottest of this fight yet. We thought all was well until orders came for us to fall back to our breastwork. We were then informed that they enemy had taken our ammunition, which was in the rear on the railroad, and we understood that we were ordered to retake it, and we commenced marching in that direction, expecting to drive off the rogues at the point of the bayonet; but we were soon met by Col.

Burgwyn, who ordered us to retreat. The men obeyed reluctantly and sullenly, for it was very repugnant to our feeling to leave the field without firing a gun. We marched off the field in perfect order and as steadily as we ever did to dress parade, leaving behind a rear guard to watch the movements of the enemy, and when we had proceeded a few hundred yards, we were halted, and the troops on that part of the field were formed into a battalion, consisting of four companies of the 26th and one of dismounted cavalry, the column was headed by two pieces of artillery, the whole commanded by Lieut. Col. Burgwyn.

We then marched, double quick, about a hundred yards, hoping that we would be able to reach the Trent Bridge before the enemy could get possession of it, but learning that they were too far in advance of us to accomplish that object, we turned to the left, and made our way across Brice's Creek, the best way we could; but no company in that command, broke ranks until they were halted on the bank of the creek and ordered to stack their arms and proceed to construct rafts to cross on. This experiment failed; but after a great deal of trouble, we succeeded in getting all across safe, except a few who were drowned in swimming – those who swam across brought a boat from the Neuse on their shoulders; this assisted us very much. I have not the heart to give the details of our retreat from that point, and the sufferings we endured until we reached Kinston, and for some time afterward. Suffice it to say we are not anxious to experience the same again. I must hear state that the company are under many obligations to the members of the Soldier's Aid Society of Anson, and to other citizens and friends, for their timely efforts, in supplying us with clothing. We will not soon forget their kindness. I understand that certain persons not only insinuate, but openly say, that we ought to have acted differently in that engagement; and they speak in terms not very complimentary to the company, especially of the officers, saying that if certain other persons, for instance, themselves, had been there, they would have acted differently, and the result would have been very different. We care nothing for this, as far as it relates to ourselves, not one iota; but we do ask, in the name of our country, why do these heroes not come out and display their gallantry on the field, instead of boasting of it at home. Our country demands that all her military skill and courage be now brought into service, and we ask them, in the name of liberty, to come out of their dens, and show their hands. We are not so hardhearted as some of them. We cannot rejoice at their misfortunes. On the other hand we regret the circumstances that make it necessary for them to come out; but we do rejoice that the country will get the benefit of their boasted prowess. The Conscript Law produces very little effect here. All cheerfully submit to it as a military necessity, and are more determined than ever, by the help of God, to make short work with old Abe. Our company was reorganized on the 21st of April, by order of Brig. Gen. Ransom. The following officers were elected: John C. McLaughlin, Captain; Thomas Lilly, 1st Lieutenant, W.S. Ingram, 2d, and J.L. Henry, 3rd. On recommendation of the Captain, the following were appointed non-commissioned officers: John A. Polk, 1st Serg't; M.S. McRae, 2d; John H. Jarman, 3d; W.H. Smith, 4th; John Briley, 5th; W.H. Broadway.....Henry H. Crowson, 4th. Capt. Caraway, deeming his services more needed at home than in camp, declined a reelection, and would not allow the boys to run him for any office. We all miss him very much: the boys are constantly remarking how much they miss the Captain. They were all very much attached to him. In fact we miss all our comrades, who have left us, very much, and we hope that if they cannot remain with us, they will visit us very often.

On the 22d of April we held an election for field officers, when our present Colonel – Z.B. Vance – was unanimously reelected; the whole Regiment, both officers and privates, are very much attached to Col. Zeb. – As they call him – and would not be separated from him for any consideration; our Lieut. Col. H.K. Burgwyn was also reelected; the election for Major is still undecided. Yours truly, K, 26th.

Additional News

May 3, 1862

Not being able to finish my communication at the date placed at its head (referencing above letter), I will now add a few lines and close, as it is already too long. Lieut. Lilly has just returned from a scouting expedition on which he had been about ten days: he reports that the Yankees had fallen back towards Newbern. Serg't W.H. Smith went down to take his place. We learn to-day that he has had the good luck to kill one Yankee already: they had a little skirmish yesterday, about six miles from Newbern in which Mr. Smith killed one; another of the party wounded another - shot him off his horse. Everything is quiet in this part of the country. The Major's election was decided this evening - J.S. Kendall, formerly 1st Lieut. In this Company was elected Maj. We are happy to announce the promotion of Lieut. Kendall, for he richly deserves it, and we were very loth to lose him from the 26th Regt. We hope he will rejoin in a few days, prepared to take the field. Col. L. L. Polk is here to day, trying to get an Anson company, of which he is a member, into Vance's Legion. Col. Vance has authorized him to raise a company for his Legion, and has given him every assurance that the company will be received, even if it be necessary for him to reject other companies, tendered to him, that he may receive it. Lieut. Benton was here this week, also, tendering a cavalry company; he also received every assurance necessary, that his company would be received. I sincerely hope that these two companies will get here with us, and they undoubtedly will if the people of Anson are prompt in volunteering to fill them up; and they will certainly do this in preference to being enrolled as conscripts. If we get these companies, there will then be three companies from Anson associated together, containing, when full, 330 men. We can then have a very pleasant time together, making camp life much less wearisome.

K. 26th

From the 'Pee Dee Wild Cats'

Camp MaGruder, June 5th, 1862

Mr. Editor: Nothing of interest has occurred at or near our camp since the date of my last communication. We are now encamped near Kinston, NC, in an open field, which forms an excellent parade ground, but there is nothing on it to protect us from the rays of the burning sun, which is now extremely hot, except shelters of brush which the boys have thrown up before nearly every tent door.

Appearances do not indicate that an attack will be made by the enemy in this direction soon. They hold themselves in close proximity to their gunboats. We have been under marching orders

about two weeks, holding ourselves in readiness to march to the scene of conflict wherever our services may be needed. Gen. Ransom left us last week, and went to Virginia. He took with him one Regt. Of this Brigade, the 27th N.C. Col. Cook. We are now under command of Gen. J.G. Martin whose head-quarters are at Kinston. The 17th N.C. Regt. Came here last week to take the place of the 27th.

I feel proud of the gallant manner in which the good old county of Anson has responded to my call for volunteer recruits. I have had fifty-five recruits mustered into my company recently - all from Anson, except one, and a noble looking set of fellows they are, and they are not only good-looking, but they also possess, in an eminent degree those other good qualities which fit them. ... uniformed except in caps. They are also armed and equipped, except knapsacks, haversacks and canteens - they will be furnished with these as soon as they can be procured. They are progressing finely in drill, and would, in a short time, be efficient soldiers. If the weather would permit regular drill. We have rain almost constantly. The health of this company is pretty good, we have only three men in hospital. One of them is a recruit with mumps, the others are not seriously sick. We received orders this evening to march at 7 ½ o'clock to-morrow morning to the vicinity of Moseley Hall; but the orders were countermanded about dark, on account of the creeks being swollen by the rains between here and there; also a number of our wagons being absent getting forage. I suppose we will march in a few days and should not be disappointed if to Virginia.

No more at present.

Yours &c K, 26th.

According to the muster rolls of 30 June 1862 through 31 August 1862 (from North Carolina State archives) - The Pee Dee Wildcats were assigned to the right of Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862. Four men were wounded, none killed. From thence they marched to Shirley. Shirley was the girlhood home of Robert E. Lee's mother. Lee dispatched a few troops there to assist Colonel T.R.R. Cobb's cavalry to cut off the Federal's rear wagon train.¹ The troops did not establish contact and went back to Richmond, then to Drewry's Bluff. For the remainder of the time reported in this muster, Company K moved to Petersburg, James River, Richmond, then back to Petersburg.

Only one man was discharged during this period. Marshall Hildreth was discharged on August 21 because he had provided a substitute. Disease killed more men than the fighting. Typhoid killed Sergeant William McLauchlin in Richmond. In the Petersburg hospital typhoid struck down Sergeant John H. Jarman, Joel Curlee, John Sanders, George Sinclair, Isaiah Livingston, and Elisha Hanna. Pleasant McGugan (McGowan on the muster roll) died of wounds received at Malvern Hill.

First News of Wild Cats at Seven Pines

North Carolina Argus

¹Source - R.E. Lee Volume II by Douglas Southall Freeman on page 226.

Thursday, July 10, 1862

We have been kindly furnished with a letter from Capt. J. C. Caraway, to his family, from which we learn the following:

RICHMOND July 3, 1862

Private L.L. Polk has just arrived from the battle field. He brings good news. But one member of Co. K 26th NC Regiment has been killed, as far as known, but several are missing and several wounded. Capt. McLauchlin had his hat shot off his head. I have been to nearly all the hospitals in the City and have assisted in helping and moving the wounded. The ladies at Richmond are doing their whole duty - they are present in the hospitals, dressing with their own hands the wounds of the soldiers. Wm. McLauchlin is sick in the hospital.

CASUALTIES IN PEE DEE WILDCATS

Killed Geo. Bowman

S.F. Gathings, slightly wounded in the breast.

J.P. Winfield, in arm severely. H. Willoughby, in head severely. Corporal W.H. Dabbs, in arm, severely. P.W. McGugan, arm, severely. J.T. Henly, bruised in the side by a limb cut from a tree by a shell. E. Hildreth is missing, but it is thought will come up yet.

The 26th was in some of the hottest of the fights. In Company K Cap. McLauchlin, was wounded in the head, while gallantly leading his men against the foe, but still remains with his company.

Wild Cats at Seven Pines

North Carolina Argus

Thursday, July 10, 1862

Banks Chickahominy, July 4, 1862

Mr. Editor: Thinking that a few lines from some of the Anson boys, while the public mind is in such anxiety, would relieve it to some extent, I avail myself of a few moments leisure, to pen a few lines. We left Camp Johnson, near Kinston, 20th June, arrived at Petersburg, 22nd - left 23rd, and arrived at Richmond 24th, at two o'clock a.m. - Bivouacked in Capitol Square; at 7 o'clock took up line of march for our position on the line, near Seven Pines. We were placed where we were exposed to the shell of the enemy for two hours, but with out any loss. At dark we were

ordered to support two of our regiments who were fiercely engaged with a largely superior force of the enemy one mile on our right. We repaired to the scene but were held back, as our boys had repulsed the enemy gallantly at the point of the bayonet. We were then posted as pickets, and, it being after dark, it took considerable time. We had been posted about an hour, when suddenly a tremendous volley from the enemy was poured up in our boys. One of our company was killed instantly, George Bowman. J.P. Winfield and H. Willoughby, were wounded slightly. Our Regiment quickly returned to the line, and after a few moments of rapid firing, the Yankees gave way and fled. Another heavy skirmish took place that night between us and the enemy after he had been reinforced to about 4000 strong. They were again repulsed. We learned from some prisoners, the next day, that we killed sixty that night. Such work as this kept us continually employed until Sunday morning, when we received orders to advance upon the enemy. We advanced steadily until we emerged from the woods, in plain view of their entrenchments and encampment. To our surprise, the Yankees were gone, all but six, who were left to burn the tents, &c, &c, and the black columns of smoke ascending in front of us for miles, plainly told that the Yankees had smelt the mouse. They had left their tents, and such a quantity of clothing, ammunition, implements of various kinds, wagons, blankets, provisions, &c, &c, as to add considerably to our stores.

It was intensely hot, and we were ordered to lay off our knapsacks, that we might make the more rapid speed in pursuit of them. Our army struck out down the Chickahominy; we traveled all day, bivouacked in the woods, on Monday we began to touch the outskirts of our army which had preceded us. That evening a hard battle was fought in which we took a battery of 12 pieces after charging across an open field under their fire for 700 yards. The incidents of that battle I have no time to pen, except that the 44th New York hoisted a white flag and surrendered to a Mississippi Reg't, they marched up within 50 yards of the Mississippians and were ordered to stack arms, when they deliberately raised their guns and fired into the Mississippians. They repeated this rascally trick before an hour had lapsed, for they raised their white flag twice afterward, but the only attention given to it by the outraged Mississippians was to pour volley upon volley into the unprincipled wretches. The enemy's loss in this engagement was tremendous, as the putrifying bodies of hundreds of their men now lying all over the ground for a mile and a half will testify. We captured hundreds of prisoners and many of them were delighted at the idea of "getting to Richmond in advance of McClellan," as they said. In marching along the road where the battle raged most furiously, I found several wounded Yankees who had been lying in the position for fifty hours with out any attention whatever, notwithstanding we captured three surgeons, and they were free to visit their wounded whenever they pleased.

They fled before us, and took their position about two miles below, immediately on the margin of a great swamp..... position was a very strong one. On Tuesday evening the great battle of all battles was fought. I can give you none of the particulars but Jackson's, Hill's, Magruder's, Huger's, Longstreet's, and other divisions were engaged. The fight raged for six or eight hours with terrible fury. The earth shook under the heavy thunderings of the artillery. The enemy's breastworks bristled with fifty heavy pieces, and they were charged four different times, with a daring and bravery unparalleled in the history of warfare. In one instance, our boys locked their hands over the cannon which were dealing death to our advancing columns, to aid them in scaling their works. Their gunboats threw shell also, but without much effect. Some of these were 23 inches long and six inches through. Both armies fought bravely. Our Brigade made the last charge. The firing ceased about 10 o'clock at night, and the wearied hosts of the contending armies lay down, within gun shot of each other and slept.

On Wednesday morning the rain poured down heavily, and continued nearly all day, which prevented us from attacking them again, and gave them a chance which they readily seized to strike again for some other region. They are retreating and have been for 8 days, but the southern army, like some huge ghost is ever on their heels. Up to this time we have taken about 12000 prisoners and a dispatch received today, says that 50000 of them are cut off with no possible means of escape. God grant that it may be so. They are now 20 or 25 miles from Richmond and getting further as fast as their heels can carry them. For the last 3 months, McClellan and Seward have been promising the north and their army that they would celebrate this day in Richmond. The eyes of all Europe are turned to Richmond, to witness the issue of the great battle. McClellan came here, chose his own ground and means of defense, went to work and prepared himself, and now after eight days hard fighting. Instead of being in Richmond with his 100,000 men, he finds himself in the swamps of the Chickahominy and James Rivers, followed by about half of his original number, and they completely demoralized without means to sustain themselves for 10 days. This is "on to Richmond" with a vengeance. The track of their retreat for 15 miles is strewn with immense amounts of clothing of every description, knapsacks, canteens, guns, ammunition, provisions, &c &c. Were I to describe the roads with the destruction, I would hardly be believed. The Yankees are daily coming in, by scores and hundreds, to our men, saying that they will not fight any longer. One of them told me that his officers shot four of his regiment on Monday before the regiment would offer to fight. They collect in squads, and convey word to our men where they are, and ask them to come and get them. A more complete rout never was effected. The ladies of Richmond, with rustling silks, will go into the hospitals, night and day, and kneel down over our poor wounded boys, dress their wounds, and attend to their wants with the kindness, sincerity, and devotion of fond mothers. I have seen the delicate maiden of sixteen, whose every feature indicated that she was the child of affluence, kneeling down beside the rough, uncouth, but noble soldier, with bandage in hand, tenderly dressing his wounds. There is no mock modesty to embarrass her in her heavenly mission, but with unflinching devotion to the noble work, the ladies go into the rooms and the first they find the first they serve. They deserve all praise, and are receiving the thanks of thousands throughout the Confederacy. May God bless them [Argus]. The hospitals are very much crowded, but the citizens are doing all in their power to relieve the sufferers.

When this bloody war will end, is for our enemies to say. We will, by the help of God, contend for our rights and maintain them. As a good old lady said the other day, until our enemies let us alone, we must "Trust in Goad and our Southern boys."

LEP

PS - Capt J.C. Caraway, J.J. Liles, T.A. Gaddy, W.C. Smith, J.P. Billingsley, Dr. W. L. Ledbetter, and W. Tillman are in Richmond devoting their time and energies to the relief of our Anson boys. They watch the ambulances, and when they find one of our boys they attend him with the care and kindness of parents. Some of these gentlemen will probably stay several days, for, as some of them remark, they are perfectly at home attending to the wants of the boys. Their parents may feel assured that all is being done that can be in making them comfortable. In the charge on Tuesday night Capt. McLauchlin got his Confederate cap split open by a piece of shell. But no other damage done him.

List of Casualties in 26th NC Regt in the Battles near Richmond, Va, from 25th June to 4th July

North Carolina Argus July 31, 1862

Com K - Private George Bowman killed; Capt. J.C. McLauchlin, Corpl W.H. Cabbs and privates S.F. Gathings, J.F. Hienly, W.J. Horn, P.W. McGougan, H. Willoughby, and J.D. Windfield wounded.

The regiment suffered 8 killed, 61 wounded, 5 missing, 3 wounded have since died.

Drury Bluff July 15, 1862

Mr. Editor: I will not attempt to give you an account of our doings since we left North Carolina, on the 19th of June; but reference to the above list of killed and wounded of our regiment, which you will please publish, will show that we have witnessed bloody scenes, and have not been idle spectators. Although we have been actively engaged with the enemy only three times on Virginia soil, yet we were almost constantly exposed to their fire during the whole of the progress of the great battle, which has relieved, from a state of siege, the capital of our glorious Confederacy. The casualties of this affair have thrown gloom over many a Southern home; but its results have caused millions to rejoice, and raise their hearts in humble thankfulness to the God of Battle, who has given us the victory. We can not now reasonably doubt that the Lord is on our side, but the whole country, preferably grateful for past blessings, should not cease to pray for a continuance of divine favor. It is not necessary for me to state that our boys behaved well in the fight. They dashed on towards the enemy with shouts, amid storms of minnie balls, shells, grape, canister, and every other instrument of destruction an infuriated enemy could hurl against us; but they flinched not, and, in no instance did they leave the field until the last gun had been fired. We are now getting some rest near the battery at Drurys' Bluff, and today we are getting ... and changes of clothing from our camp at Petersburg, consequently our personal appearance, and our feelings are beginning to improve considerably. I presume the most of our wounded have gone home to recover.

Our sick are scattered from Raleigh, NC to Richmond, Va, and several are sick in camp. We have 69 for duty out of 126, the others are either sick or wounded. As far as my information extends, none of the company are dangerously ill. One of our company Wm. A. McLauchlin of Cumberland county, died in Richmond on the 9th inst, of typhoid fever. He joined the Co. About the 1st May and remained with until June 27th, when his constitution, naturally fo-... privations, which we had to undergo, but we mourn his loss, not as those who have no hope for we feel

assured that he has exchanged this world of strife and sorrow, for one of perfect bliss where his gentle spirit will find scenes more congenial than the warring elements of this world.

We also have to mourn the loss of another of our brave companions, George Bowman, who was killed instantly by a ball from the enemy, in an engagement on the old battlefield of Seven Pines on the night of June 26th. He fell while in the act of loading his gun and his remains now sleep near the consecrated ground of that famous field. He joined the company about the middle of May, but he was with us long enough to give us ample evidence of his worth. As a soldier he was brave, generous and faithful, he devoted his life to his country and died a glorious death. In the engagement of Tuesday July 1st, some of our boys got lost from the company, but it was not because they tried to evade danger; we advanced into the fight at a run, over a distance of about two miles, consequently some were left behind through exhaustion but they advanced as fast as they could, and went into the fray with the first regiment they came to, some with Louisianians, some with Georgians and some with other North Carolina regiments, not being able to find the 26th in the thick darkness. Now since we have rested a little, we are ready to give McClellan a reception at any point, where he may presume to honor us with his presence.

We would be very happy to hear from our friends at home occasionally, a letter is a considerable curiosity in camp now, we see one so seldom. Our friends should now direct their letters as before to Co. K, 26th Regt. N.C. Troops, Petersburg, Va, and we would like to see the Argus too, we have not received one since we left North Carolina.

Yours &c, K, 26th

Camp French, near Petersburg Sep. 1st, 1862

We are now near Petersburg. We obtained a transfer from Gen. R. Ransom's Brigade to Gen. J. Johnston Pettigrew's. He is one of the best officers in the Southern Army. The health of the company is improving, though we have several in the Hospitals yet. We are pained to think that in all of our letters to you we have to record the death of some of our comrades. Another one has left us, and his place in the ranks, as well as in the affections of his companions will be hard to fill, for few companies have in their ranks a better or more upright man than Elisha J. Horne. He died the 21st August. We are now settled down about three miles from Petersburg, but cannot tell how long we will stay.

Lee has achieved a glorious and "signal victory" over the combined forces of McClellan and Pope. Loss reported to be immense on both sides.

In haste

LEDDO

NC Argus September 11, 1862

sells at from \$2 to \$4; cider pretty well dashed with water at the rate of from \$60 to \$70 per bbl, &c, &c. they sometimes made money and sometimes didn't for if a crabbed fellow drove up and began to hand out at his long prices, a soldier's knife would cut his "hame string" while others engaged his attention at the back of his wagon, then they would begin a regular "passing in" of his "goodies" and to relieve himself he would crack his whip and see his horse walk out and leave him and his load to the mercy of the hungry boys.

This morning we received orders to prepare three day's rations and be ready at 7 o'clock to march. All fully expected to go to Stonewall, but this evening we find ourselves in a clover field six miles below Richmond. Our tents (only four) were soon pitched and the boys off to the River to have a time. And while I had a good chance I seated myself with pencil and brown paper, by a little pine box about two feet square, which contains the dry goods of three officers, and the only piece of furniture to adorn our spacious apartment, to write to the Argus. At this moment the Argus arrived and you must excuse me until I take a peep at it.

Well I have read it. No deaths - nobody married, your leading article on "Selfishness" contains some valuable suggestions and some hard hits at somebody. We suffer for fruit and vegetables and our friends could do us no greater favor than by drying all the fruit they can possible. The next in interest is election returns. We are all proud to see the majority for our Colonel swelling so handsomely. Wonder if all Lincolndom is "shouting at the result." Every patriot in the South should be proud of it for it is "loud preaching" in favor of crushing out part spirit. He made a speech for us the night before he left. The officers presented him a sword and selected L.L. Polk to present it. The proceedings and speeches will be published. I presume, as the committee requested copies of the speeches. I expect they will first appear in the Standard. The "Anson Troopers" came with us to Richmond but were ordered back to Petersburg, and I learn they have gone to Prince George Court House, below City Point. They are now attached to Col. D.D. Ferebee's Ranger Regiment. There is some talk of our coming back to North Carolina, but we cannot tell where we will go from here. If we are not kept continually on the tramp you may hear from me again soon. I must close as the time for inspection has arrived and I must attend to that.

LEDDO

PS - While at *tea* indulging in our usual social chit chat we were reminded that the "Big August Meeting" is in progress at Brown Creek. "Boys," says one "I wish I could be there tomorrow. I'd make the turkey 'drum sticks' rattle, and the way I'd make way with the jelly cakes, cheese cakes, pound cakes, and all their little goodies, would be a caution to the civilized portion of mankind. Then I'd go by with uncle _____, cat water unclous, drink cider, talk to the girls, and have a nice time *ginerally*." Now you may smile when I give our little snack the sabriquet of "tea," and for the edification and information of our lady friends, whose exquisite tastes in the culinary department, we always admire. I will give you an idea of what it consisted and how prepared. Our excellent cook, H.D. Pinkston, whose genius for invention is rarely excelled in emergencies, built his fire of three little poles; put on his frying pan, - the only vessel allowed us - sliced off six small pieces of fat juicy meat and fried it, the meat is then laid out on a canteen to cool, while he proceeds to cook the bread. After mixing water with his gravy he puts in his flour and puts it to baking; this done, he laid it out on the lid to cool, until we could ditch around and

fasten down our tent. We then assemble in the tent, seated on the ground, something after the fashion of the Turks and call for supper. Pinkston carefully piles his meat on the hoe cake and places it on the ground between us. What next? Why it is devoured in half the time it takes me to tell it. There are numbers of little things I would like to tell your about, but the boys are snoozing so soundly on the first wheat straw bed that we have had in some time that I can't stand it any longer, Old Proclamation Pope, Gens. Lee and Stonewall, are all running in the same direction - Pope slightly in advance. Good night, I shall do doubt dream of beautiful fields of wheat -large flouring mills- and "hog killing time: to night. LEDDO

From the Pee Dee Wild Cats

Camp French, Near Petersburg, Va

September 11th, 1862

Mr. Fenton - Three communications have been sent from my Company to the Argus recently, neither of which we have seen published, for we have not seen the Argus; consequently we do not know whether you received them or not. We are all anxious to see the Argus, that we may read the news from home, but from some cause, it comes to us very irregularly. We have not seen an Argus now in nearly a month. We know the fault does not rest with you, for we know you send it from the office punctually, but it lodges somewhere before it reaches us. The 26th Regiment now in Gen. Pettigrew's Brigade, is comfortably encamped three miles below Petersburg, Va., in a pleasant locality, where it has now rested about two weeks - the longest and about the only rest we have had since we left the "Good Old North State." The health of the boys is improving, but death is still thinning our ranks: we again have to record the sad intelligence of the death of two more of our comrades, Private William H. Burns of my company, after a long illness, died at Ransom's Brigade hospital near Drewry's Bluff, last Thursday, September 4th, also at the same place, Musician Calvin R. Boyd died, last Monday, Sept. 8th. Thus have left us, two more of our companions, who have endeared themselves to us, by long service together, and by their noble qualities. Although they died not amid the clash of resounding arms, yet they died in the service of their country, to which they had devoted their lives and their graves are as consecrated as if they had poured out their life's blood on the battle field. Though their places in our ranks are vacant, and we do not hear their cheerful voices and music among us around our camp fires, yet their memory will long be fresh in our hearts; we mourn their loss, and tender our heart felt sympathies, to their "loved ones at home."

In our former correspondence, we gave accounts of the deaths of nine others of my men, thus you see that my company has lost by death eleven members since we landed on the soil of Virginia. I still have 98hospitals..... dangerously ill, as far as my information extends and I have made diligent enquiry, except John A. Tyson, who has been for a long time very sick at Ransom's Brigade hospital. To the last letter to the Argus, J.M. Pope was reported as not heard from since July 9th. I received a letter from him last week, dated Danville, VA August 15th, he

was then recovering from a long spell of sickness. Hiram Willoughy has not been heard from yet.

Our hearts were all made glad last week by the appearance of Capt. J. C. Caraway with two wagon loads of boxes, barrels, &c, for the boys. It would have done you good to have seen the fellow's eyes brighten and to have observed the indications of coming appetite, as the sounds of busy axes preluded the appearance of the feast of good things. We are always glad to see our old captain, and especially so, when he come at us in that style. We are under many obligations to the Captain for his kindness in bring these most desirable articles to us, and to him and all our true friends who have manifested their fidelity to us and their interest in us by contributing these luxuries to add to our comfort. We will not soon forget these acts of kindness, and we will endeavor to prove our gratitude by our fidelity to the cause in which we are enlisted. We are, generally amply supplied with bread and bacon - always so, when in camp, as we are now, but anything from home, whatever it may be, is better to us than anything we can get here. Our friends may be sure that we will remember these things while out in the field, and we will be sure not to forget them when we return home, if we are ever permitted to do so. Speaking of returning home reminds me of the bright prospect which now smiles upon our Sunny South, and causes us to indulge in a cheerful hope that peace and independence will soon be the reward of all our toils and trials. Victory after victory has crowned the arms of our infant nation, until now our enemies, in every quarter, are in full retreat, skedaddling to their dens in their own polluted land. Our brigade is now inactive, but appearances seem to indicate that we, too, will soon be engaged in active campaigning again, in what direction I do not know, and if I did know, it would not be prudent to make it public. A good many circumstances have combined to make our stay at this place quite pleasant, the principle of which is that a good many of our Anson friends have been on visits to us here. I have mentioned the visit of Capt. Caraway. There have been here recently, besides him, Mr. B. Sanders, John Tyson, T. J. Polk, W.K. Briley, R. Allen, R. Crump, John Knotts, W. T. Williams and Wm. Parker, also Mrs. W. B. Jurns and Dr. T. Beeman. We are always glad to see our friends here, and we hope those who have not come to see us will do so when they can make it convenient and that those who have come will repeat their visits.

While our friends are doing everthing in their power to make us comfortable and happy, there are a kind of beings at home, exerting themselves in their utmost capacity, which is very small, to make us unhappy. I do not know by what name to distinguish this species of the animal creation; they are not men and I am very sure they are not women. I think Socrate's definition of a man will apply to them, they are two legged animals without feathers, and Diogene's rooster, with all his feather pecked off, comes as near being a man as one of this non-descript species of bipeds to which I allude. One thing is certain, the poor unfortunate denuded chicken has as much soul, as one of these creatures, and by far a great deal more nerve, for the rooster would not crow over his own disgrace, but they virtually rejoice at the misfortunes of others, and crow loudly at their own rejoicing. They, that in these bipeds, say that "They say, that it is the talk in camp that John M. Boyet and William T. Horne shot themselves purposely that they might get themselves discharged from the army." And I say that they say a lie; such is not and never has been the talk in camp, but the talk in camp about this matter is, and has been all the time, a universal expression of regret that these men should have been so unfortunate. Every soldier in this camp has the soul of a man within him, and consequently all sympathize with the unfortunate wherever they find them, whether among their comrades or the bereaved and helpless at home; but these soulless animals cannot appreciate this feeling for they never experience it themselves. I know J. M. Boyet and W.T. Horne, and I testify that they have been honorable and faithful soldiers, altogether above suspicion of being guilty of any such baseness.

Mr. Horne will return to duty as soon as he can, but I procured a discharge for Mr. Boyet yesterday. I am very loth to speak harshly of any man or any set of men, but when the character of any of those under my command is so unjustly and ungenerously assailed, as in the present instance, I feel it my duty to speak, and speak plainly, and I only wish that I could discover the individualsothers of a similar character, has been originated under the misty garb of – “they say” – which is a very convenient form of expression. There are men (?) In every section, who, being conscious of having acted the dastardbut they may rest assured that this will not help their cause any. These are doubtlessthat made thediscovery that the sixty recruits that came to my company in May inst, were sold to Col. Vance for fifty cents a piece and that who sold them would take nothing in payment, but gold and silver. Cute chaps they! But they were not cute enough to get that money in their own pockets and that’s what made them so wrathly that they were about to hurt somebody, but they soon discovered that nobody was scared so they dried up on that score. I guess they have found out by this time who were sold in that operation, whether those for whom fifty cents was paid, or those who were afterwards disposed of for nothing. I do not wish to be understood as speaking disparagingly of the conscripts, this I disclaim entirely, for they, as a class, are as respectable and I respect them as much as any soldiers but I allude entirely to those, both conscripts and exempts who ... themselves to keep out of the service and to keep others out, at the same time trying to injure those who had patriotically enlisted a large number of volunteers, and had gone themselves, by promulgating such lies as that they ingloriously ran from the battle field and shot off their own arms that they might be discharged. I hope that I will be called on no more to returncharacters that all the discontented may outlive their discontent and become good citizens of this new Republic and soon enjoy the blessings of peace and happiness under the glorious flag.

Our regiment has not yet been supplied with field officers; our former Lieut. Col. H. K. Burgwyn has been promoted to the Colonelcy, but the positions of Lieut. Colonel and of Major, the last made vacant by the resignation of Maj. J.S. Kendall have yet to be filled; I have no idea who will occupy these positions.

Yours most respectfully,

J.C. McLauchlin - Capt. Co. K, 26th N.C.T.

The company muster rolls for 31 October 1862 through 31 December 1862 contain the following information. Company K was transferred on November 2nd to North Carolina. They were ordered to Tarboro and stayed there until November 10th when they moved to Camp French near Petersburg. Moving around quite a bit during the month of December, they travelled to White Hall and stayed there until December 10th, then to Goldsboro until December 17th, then back to Camp French in Petersburg on December 24.

J.B. Griffin, D.J. Liles, Daniel Braswell, and the Corporal of the Color Guard W.W. Ingram were placed under arrest and held in confinement. Liles was fined \$22 for the loss of a Richmond rifle and bayonet. Ingram was fined \$18 dollars for the loss of a smoothbore musket and bayonet. Other men who were fined also - Isaac Carpenter \$22 for the loss of a smoothbore musket and two bayonets, M.L. McRae was fined \$5 for the loss of a bayonet as was Robert Hildreth.

Eight men had been wounded in action. These were W.J. Ingram, Thomas Bowman, Daniel Braswell, W. Harrington, J.B. Short, Samuel Short, J.P. Teal, and J.D. Carpenter.

John P. Winfield was killed.

Killed

At Rawls Mill, Martin County, N.C., 2d November, 1862, JOHN P. WINFIELD of Anson county, aged 32 years 2 months and 29 days. He was a private in Capt. J.C. McLauchlin's Co. K, 26th Regiment of N.C. Troops. In May last he bid adieu to friends and relatives to go forth in defense of his country and loved ones at home. After spending a few weeks in peace and quietude on the tented field, the company had an engagement with the enemy, when he received a flesh wound in the right arm. He then returned home. His arm having convalesced, he again returned to camp. Not long after his arrival, the company was again engaged with the enemy in which engagement he was instantly killed by a shell. He left a wife and four children besides many other friends and relations to mourn his untimely loss. I would say to them, weep not; believe that he has changed a world of wars, for one of eternal bliss. In August 1836 he made a public profession of religion, joined the Church and was baptized. He lived a consistent member up to the day on which he was killed. We have all reasons to believe that he was as nearly a pure Christian as this earth affords. And I doubt not but he is to-day on the peaceful shores of eternal happiness, singing praises to God, with those who have gone before him. May those left behind prepare to meet him.

A FRIEND

From 31 December 1862 through 28 February 1863 Company K left Petersburg on January 4th and travelled by rail to Garysburg and stayed there for two weeks. Then on January 19th the Wildcats travelled by rail to Magnolia and remained there until February 13th. On that day, the company marched to Goldsboro, then ten miles east of Goldsboro and back. Captain McLauchlin was on recruiting service, the company needed eighteen replacements. Josiah Allen had transferred to the 43rd NC. Three men were AWOL. T.W. Mitchum was hospitalized in Richmond, yet he was fined \$22 for a missing rifle. G.W. Allen was also fined \$22 for a past loss of a gun.

From the Pee Dee Wild Cats

Bivouac Near Magnolia, NC

Jan. 26, 1863

Mr. Editor: After various ramifications too tedious to mention both in the State and out of it, we find ourselves here, snugly quartered in the pine woods. Our quarters are well ventilated, and highly promotive of health, being nothing more than the vast tabernacle of nature, under which all the armies of the world take shelter. This has been our manner of life during the greater

portion of the time since October 1st - thus we have taken nearly all the snows and rains of the Fall and Winter, and our experience is, that troops thus situated, enjoy better health than they do in tents and cabins. The health of our army is generally very good. Company "K" is in better health than it has been for twelve months. We are bountifully supplied at moderate prices, with sweet potatoes and gauders, which are considered great luxuries among soldiers.

All quiet in the East - no Yankees near to molest us or make us afraid. There seems to be a general lull in the storm of war throughout the whole country. What does it portend? Peace - come are ready to say - but indulge not the idea. I would rather say that it is the lull which precedes the final and most terrible blast in which the storm wastes its fury, and leaves the atmosphere serene - the sky smiling on may a prostrate stem and broken branch. We should be prepared to breast a more furious onset than the Yankee Vandals have ever yet made, and we doing our duty, and kind Providence smiling upon us. I feel assured that we will hurl back the Hessians in confusion. Then I think the storm will have wasted its fury, and we may expect the Goddess of Peace to smile upon us, though here eyes may be dimmed with tears at the prostration and mutilation of many a manly form.

This Brigade was called out yesterday, in witness the execution of a member of the 26th Regiment, Company B, who was condemned to be shot to death for desertion. The condemned was brought out before the brigade, and reprieved by the Commanding General in consideration of orders issued by Maj. Gen. G.W. Smith, granting pardon to all deserters who may return to their respective commands by the 10th day of February. This is an act of leniency which should touch the heart of every truant and induce him to return to his post of duty, and stand by his country's flag as a true and patriotic soldier. I hope that all deserters will avail themselves of the benefit of this order, and return to duty immediately.

The members of this company have been the recipients of a great many favors from the good people of Anson, who, at every opportunity that offers, send large supplies of clothing, and good things to eat, to the boys. For these we are very thankful, as we always are, and while on this subject, I deem it proper to particularize a little. About the middle of December last, Capt. J.C. Caraway, who has ever proved himself to be the soldier's friend, brought a large lot of boxes to the boys from their friends at home. Among contributions from himself, we received eight pairs of splendid shoes which are now keeping the feet of eight good soldiers off the frozen ground, who, but for this timely contribution, would now have been bare footed. I take great pleasure in particularly noting this valuable contribution, from the fact that some ill disposed persons have busied themselves to originate and circulate the falsehood that Capt. Caraway boxed up shoes at home - marked the box provisions for soldiers - carried it over the roads free of charge, and sold the shoes to the Company at \$15 per pair. The boys were perfectly indignant when they heard of the promulgation of this falsehood, and a man that would insinuate any such thing in our camp would be in a very unsafe position. Capt. C. Has made a great many contributions to the Company, but he has not received and could not be induced to receive remuneration for any thing he has brought to the Company. We have seen all the articles that he ever brought and know that he has not sold any either to this Company or any body else. I also note, with pleasure, the handsome contribution of \$10, by the Hon. Thos. S. Ashe. The company is very much gratified at this token of the interest that he feels in us and we hope that he will accept our thanks and best wishes for his success and happiness now and hereafter. Mr. Ashe has proved himself the soldier's friend both at home and in Richmond, where many a poor sick and wounded soldier has been caused to experience gratitude for his kind attentions.

To Procure Pay, Bounty, &c Due the Dead Friends and Relatives**March 26, 1863**

The friends and relatives of deceased soldiers late members of Co. K, 26th Regiment, N.C.T, can obtain of Patrick J. Coppedge, the dates of their deaths, amounts due, and other information useful in procuring pay, bounty, &c, due them.

Bivouac 27th NCT, Hookerton, NC**April 27, 1863**

Sir: - The Argus of the 23rd inst., has just come to hand; we are always glad to receive this journal, and th contents of its columns are always perused with eagerness; but this issue of the Argus has stirred up such a *stew* in Co. K, as I have not witnessed for many months. The cause of this excitement is the appearance, in this paper, of a highly objectionable letter, dated, Greenville, N.C., April 10th 1863, and signed W.J. Leaird, Co. K, 26th N.C. Reg't. My whole company, officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates, except the writer of that letter, and possibly two or three other despondent souls, (so through ignorance) are perfectly indignant that such a communication should emanate from this company. The papers had been given out to the men but a few minutes, when they could be seen, coming up from every quarter of my camp to my bivouac fire, their eyes flashing indignation, and their lips pouring forth profuse abuses upon the head of W.J. Leaird, for writing such a letter, and, Mr. Editor, you did not fail to come in for your proportionate share of their complaints, for publishing such a letter. This communication of Mr. Leaird is a combination of false representations, and unfounded complaints. We have not "come to one quarter of a pound of meat per day and three crackers." Our meat is not so rotten that we can't eat it, and there has never yet appeared the lightest indications of starvation in our camp. It is unnecessary for me to state how we have been supplied with provisions, any farther back than the marching of our brigade from Goldsboro', N.C., 9th of March last, for, previous to that time, there was neither complaint or cause of complaint, and since that time, there has been no cause of complaint. I have been with the company every day, and I know precisely how my men have been faring in this respect and in every other. They have drawn every day, without exception, on half a pound of meat, generally bacon, (occasionally pork.) One or two days they drew part of their rations in beef; then the quantity was increased. On one or two occasions, the meat was so damaged as to be unfit for use - then the commissary received it back, and issued sound meat in its stead. With the exception of a few days, the men received, every day, just as much cornmeal as they could devour. When it was impossible for them to cook meal (which constitutes the few days excepted) rations of hard bread were issued at the rate of one pound per day to each man. When operating a long distance from our base of supplies, with bad roads intervening, as was the case at Washington, the issuing of rations was sometimes delayed a few hours necessarily, but they were sure to come before there was any suffering. The men have

been getting their regular rations of salt all the time, which proves to be enough. They have not been receiving peas and molasses, for situated as we are, these article cannot be obtained.

Since Mr. Leaird has troubled himself to have such a letter published, I will take the trouble upon myself to make known to the people of Anson some interesting circumstances connected with this matter. For at least half of the time that Mr. Leaird has been in service, he has been on the sick list, and has done no duty. While we were on the march to Newbern last March, when we came to Kinston, we were ordered to halt, unslung knapsacks, and store them and our other baggage in a house, and leave one man from each company to guard them. Mr. Leaird most earnestly solicited the privilege of being left as guard, alleging that he was not able to march on account of rheumatism. Accordingly he was left, and he remained there about two weeks, having a comfortable house for quarters. The baggage was then ordered to Greenville, and stored there. Mr. Leaird still remaining with it, in good quarters, until the siege of Washington, when he and the baggage were ordered to the Regiment. Thus it appears that he was housed up for six weeks having absolutely nothing to do, while all the rest of us were out with scarcely the vestige of a shelter, almost constantly marching as hard as soldiers ever marched, often exposed to the shells from the enemy's gunboats, and occasionally fighting the enemy. But it appears, from his own communication, that instead of guarding our baggage, as he was ordered to do, he was, notwithstanding his rheumatic limbs, running down hares, and straggling through the country foraging, and some of our knapsacks and clothing were lost, perhaps, from his neglect. While thus employed he very properly drew the same ration of meat as the sick who were left behind, namely; one quarter of a pound of meat and as much meal or bread as the men on duty, (only while he was at Greenville.) Any other member of the company would have considered his lot a most favored and easy one, while his regiment was doing such hard service; but he must slander the company, by raising such a howl of complaint as will cause our friends at home, to believe that we are at the point of starvation, and that disaffection and mutiny must ensue, if our condition be not soon remedied. Our fare is coarse, it is true, but we have plenty, and all my me, except two or three croakers, who are always trying to lag behind, and shun every duty they can, are as contented and happy as soldiers can be - and they are in excellent health and spirits. If any one wants further confirmation of these facts, let him come and see for himself - he will see the men on the march, laughing, talking, jesting, in the most amusing, merry and boisterous manner, when not ordered to march in silence. He will find the camp, when the men are off duty, especially in the evening, vocal with music, the men singing the songs of Zion and sometimes a camp ditty or love song. He could hear all this, even if the rain were falling in torrents, and deluging with water the brush-huts of the songsters, and the hoarse thunders mingling their fearful voices with theirs. All seem cheerful as if they had never experienced the privations of war. To us, who are familiar with Mr. Leaird's character as a soldier, it was altogether unnecessary for him to say that "he had not obtained his own consent to suffer much here" - that has been very apparent for some time, and it is unnecessary for me to say to the people of Anson, that no man is a faithful soldier of his country, who did not make up his mind, before leaving home, to suffer, if necessary, to the full extent of his physical capacity, for the sake of his country. The Yankees confess that they cannot whip us into subjugation, but boast that they can soon starve us to death, and the publication of such letters as that of Mr. Leaird is the very thing to give them aid and comfort and confirm them in this conviction. No such things should be published, especially such false representations.

There is nothing new transpiring in this quarter. Every thing is perfectly quiet. We have now rested at this place five days. Hookerton is a small village in Green county, on big Contentna Creek, 20 miles from Greenville, 14 miles from Kinston, and 28 miles from Goldsboro. There is

some fine productive country in the vicinity, and large quantities of grain will be raised here, unless disaster prevent. From all that I see and from all the information I can obtain from different quarters fo the Confederacy, I have made up mind that we need not fear that we will see starvation staring us in the face soon, and if Abe Lincoln has made starvation his base of operation against us, he will soon find it as impracticable as the Chickahominy or the Rappahannock. We would find this a pleasant country, if it were not so far from Railroad communication. We can't get our papers and letters, often, until they are about two weeks old.

A good many persons are disappointed, and dissatisfied, at the result of Gen. Hill's operations against Washington, but they should not be, for they do not know what was the object of that expedition, neither does any one except Gen. Hill himself. My individual opinion is, that if the taking of Washington was an object at all, it was merely a secondary object. Whatever was the object, we had six weeks of very hard service, marched several hundred miles, lost very few men, and demonstrated satisfactorily, to what extent we can use our legs with safety. The army of North Carolina is in fine condition, and ready for anything that may turn up.

Yours &c., J.C. McLauchlin
 Capt. Co. K 26th N.C.T.

From 30 April 1863 to 30 June 1863, the Wildcats left Kinston on May 1st and traveled by rail to Goldsboro. From there they went to Richmond where they arrived on the night of May 3rd. The company immediately took the train to Hanover Junction and remained there guarding the North Anna River bridge. On June 7th the Wildcats rode the railcars to Hamilton Crossing and remained there until June 8th when they marched eight miles down the Rappahannock and performed picket duty until June 12th. Then the company marched to Fredericksburg where they departed on the 15th for Culpeper Court House. Marching from thence they went through Front Royal and Berryville, then crossed the Potomac on the 25th. Continuing the march through Hagerstown, the Wildcats entered Pennsylvania on the 26th. On to Haynesford they marched, then New Salem. On June 30th the Wildcats arrived at Gettysburg.

PETTIGREW'S BRIGADE

General Hill requests the papers of the State to publish the following report:

HEADQUARTER'S PETTIGREW'S BRIGADE, May 17, 1863

Major Archer Anderson, A.A.G.:

Sir: In obedience to General Orders No. 110, Adjutant and Inspector's General's Office, I have the honor to mention to you the names of the following officers and soldiers whose good conduct in the operations around Washington, has been officially brought to my notice by the Colonels of their respective regiments:

11th Reg. (Col. Levethorpe) - At the rout of the enemy at Blount's Creek, 9th April - Capt. Young, Co. K, Lieutenant Outlaw and Sergeant Triplett, Company C.

26th Reg. (Col. Burgwin) - Rout at Blount's Creek, April 9th, - Sergeant L.L. Polk, and Sergt. Hudspeth, Company F. For officer-like conduct on several occasions, Lieut. Breese, Co. B, and Lieut. Emerson, Co. E.

47th Reg. (Col. Ferribault) - Fight on the causeway, on the afternoon of 30th March, on Rodman's farm the night of the same, and repelling the attempted landing on the morning of the 31st instant - Capt. Faucette, Co. K, Privates May, Pleasants and Wilder, Co. G - Captain Brown and Lieut. Rogers, Co. I - Lieut. Westray, Co. A - Rout at Blount's Creek, 9th April, Sergt. Blake, Co. I, and the Pioneer Corps.

52nd (Col. Marshall) - For good conduct at Fort Hill, and in the night operations on the river, Lieut. J.C. Warren, Co. C. Privates Vanderford, Bolan, Callicott, Co. B.

Graham's Battery - Rout at Blount's Creek, Lieut. Britton.

In addition to the above, I would mention with honor, Cap. Cummings and Lieut. Gallowaway, though they do not belong to my brigade.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J.J. Pettigrew, Brig. Gen.

From Richmond

July 9, 1863

RICHMOND, July 9 - A special dispatch to the Richmond Enquirer, dated Martinsburg, 9th inst., says: "The enemy burnt the Potomac bridges at Falling Waters last Sunday. The Potomac is past fording and it is still raining. A force of Yankee cavalry, infantry and artillery attacked our trains at Williamsport yesterday evening, and were repulsed after two hours hard fighting. General's Jones, Heth, Pender, Hood, Anderson, Scales, Pettigrew and Semmes were certainly wounded in the recent battles. Gen. Armistead was killed. At least fifty field officers were wounded. General Graham is a prisoner in our hands.

The people of Pennsylvania are now clamorous for peace."

News from General Lee's Army - The Whole Army at Hagerstown, MD - General Lee Waiting for Ordnance

July 10, 1863

RICHMOND, July 10 - All our papers this morning give more cheering accounts from our army in Maryland. The uneasiness prevailing yesterday has given place to a feeling of confidence to the ability of Gen. Lee to resume the offensive. The Martinsburg correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch, writing under date of the 5th inst says: - "All information of the battle of Gettysburg received here was brought by Major Hawkes of Ewell's Corps, who left Gettysburg Saturday morning. He says our loss on the first two days was not very great. On Friday it was heavy especially it Pickett's Division. Gen. Trimble lost a leg and Gen. Hood an arm."

BLOODY BATTLE IN PENNSYLVANIA FORTY THOUSAND PRISONERS CAPTURED

A terrible battle has been fought in Pennsylvania. Vast numbers of prisoners taken who refused to be paroled, and were sent on to Richmond. This battle is regarded as the bloodiest of the war. Our loss is very great - that of the enemy immense. A dispatch dated Martinsburg, July 6, says our center in yesterday's battle fell back drawing the enemy on until we gained the heights. A general fight then ensued, resulting in the rout of the Yankees. According to all accounts, Lee captured forty thousand prisoners.

Another telegram dated Martinsburg, July 6, says: "The latest news, which seems to be reliable, is that the fight on Sunday was the bloodiest of the war. Gen Hill fell back to the center, drawing the enemy on, causing him to believe that Hill was retreating. As the enemy advance, Ewell and Longstreet advanced their right and left wing, thus surrounding the enemy. We took the heights for, which we have been contending, and captured, forty thousand prisoners. The latter refused to be paroled.

The Baltimore Sun of July 6 says: "Stuart captured twelve hundred mules and four hundred prisoners in Montgomery County, Md. At Westminster he captured the Delaware cavalry. The wildest alarm prevails. The streets of Baltimore have been barricaded, and the secessionists of that city are threatening to act on the offensive.

Gen. Dix's troops are believed to be leaving the Peninsula and evacuating Virginia, ca route to Maryland. Rail Road and telegraphic communication with the Valley of Virginia has been resumed.

The New York Tribune 4th inst - A telegram from Hanover's July 3d, says: "The fight was most terrific and the loss on both sides tremendous. We have Longstreet a prisoner, sure. H. Couch arrives to night: the victory is ours beyond a chance. Another Yankee dispatch states that Longstreet is killed.

PETERSBURG, July 7 - The flag of truce boat to City Point arrived this morning. No papers were allowed to come ashore. The Yankee officers on board were a dejected appearance. Paroled prisoners state that they overheard one Federal officer at Fortress Monroe say that the

loss of General Meade's army could not be less than sixty thousand killed, wounded and missing. Captain Mulford, of the flag of truce steamer, reports General Sickles killed in the late battle.

RICHMOND, July 8 - A special dispatch to the Richmond Enquirer, dated Winchester, July 7, says: "There has been four days fighting, commencing on the 1st inst., and ending with the night of the 4th. Our men captured the immense fortifications of the enemy. Our loss estimated at ten thousand. Between three and four thousand of our wounded, including Generals Scales and Pender, arrived here to night. The hills around Gettysburg are covered with the dead and wounded of the Army of the Potomac. No confirmation of the news received yesterday from Martinsburg.

OUR ARMY - GEN. LEE

North Carolina Argus July 16, 1863

The country has been flooded with Yankee and Confederate sensation despatches in relation to the battles in Pennsylvania, all giving color to rumors of disaster and defeat. It is a pity that people cannot possess themselves in patience, waiting cheerfully for authentic accounts of these battles, without going into hysterics over Yankee bombast and their Southern echoers. There are certain people who appear to be never so happy as when they are relating disastrous news, who never inquire into the truth, and who, we verily believe, had rather talk of disaster and defeat to our arms, than of success and victory. Such people are a nuisance. They are what the cob is to the corn - good for nothing but manure. We imagine the following, from the Richmond Examiner of the 10th, is truthful and therefore to be relied upon. Alluding to the sensation despatches and extras issued at Richmond, and thence scattered over the country, that paper says:

"Those, however, who know well the army of Virginia, and at the same time had studied attentively since the beginning of the war, the Yankee newspaper style of getting up victories for themselves and defeats for us, experienced not a moment's uneasiness or despondency. Like the Dutch corps at Gettysburg, we "remembered Chancellorsville" - we recollected and were comforted thereby, that after Hooker's army had barely escaped annihilation upon that field. Hooker manufactured upon paper a glorious victory, and had medals struck in commemoration of the same and presented to the broken-winded soldiers who, it was asserted, had achieved the imaginary triumph. Still the extras were abroad, and we had nothing wherewith to stamp their contents as falsehoods. Thus they were flying, if not on the wings of the wind, what was really equivalent, on the heels of fifty ragged urchins, permitting every public and private place in the city, uncontradicted. This was very disagreeable. And it was only at a late hour of the evening that anything could be obtained, giving the lie to the monstrous romance of the Baltimore American. The Central train from Staunton arrived at five o'clock, P.M., bringing several soldiers who were wounded at Gettysburg. One of these, who says he left Gettysburg on Saturday at noon, reports up to that time our army had met with no defeat. There was no demoralization existing in our ranks, but on the contrary, the men were as confident as ever; nor was there any evidence of a hasty retreat being about to be made. Our trains were in motion towards Hagerstown, but at a leisurely pace. We had taken thirteen thousand prisoners who were being escorted towards Williamsport.

Late in the evening it became publicly known that there had been received at the war office an official dispatch from the commandant of the post at Martinsburg, stating that General Lee was at Hagerstown with his army in fine order and condition. This dissipated the gloom of the general public, but there were many who still persisted in believing the worst, and being miserable. They insisted that General Lee had exhausted his ammunition, and the Potomac being too might to be forded, he must inevitably be hemmed in and cut to pieces or captured, that even though he had ammunition and could keep the enemy at bay, he must perish, &c., &c.

Last night, the President received a dispatch from the commandant of the post at Martinsburg which was to the highest degree cheering. It stated that General Lee had been victorious in every engagement with the enemy and had fallen back to Hagerstown simply that he might put across the Potomac his wounded and prisoners, both of whom were numerous.

A gentleman reached here last night who left Washington city on Sunday night. He says the Yankees were much dejected and the secessionists jubilant, in consequence of the result of the battles at Gettysburg, the former admitting that Lee had beaten Meade in every fight.

In addition to all that has been mentioned, we may add that the movements fo the late army of the Pamunkey leave no doubt as to the light in which the Yankee Government views the recent military events in Pennsylvania. Keyes and every mother's son of his marauders have been recalled from Eastern Virginia to Washington. Had Meade been successful in his operations against General Lee, the army of the Pamunkey would now be thundering at the gates of Richmond in earnest."

We decline publishing any of the accounts we have yet seen of the battles in Pennsylvania. They are mostly Federal. We prefer to await more truthful and reliable narratives from some of our men, witnesses and participants in the danger, and sharers of the glory of the campaign.

Casualties Among Ansonians at the Battle of Gettysburg

North Carolina Argus July 23, 1863

From different private letters received in this county, we are enabled to collate the following list of casualties among Ansonians at the battle of Gettysburg:

Killed - Lt. W.W. Boggan, Sgtr. Dabbs, Wiggs, Wm Bowman, Joe Lee, Billy Boylin, John Flake, ---- Gathings, ----- Hyatt, Sidney Sriffin, Asa Little, Green Thomas, Jas. Briley, Elie Ratcliff, Thos. Sykes, Duncan Woodburn

WOUNDED

Col. R. T. Bennett, in hip, severely, but not dangerously.

Capt. McLauchlin, in hand, thumb amputated,

Lt. L.L. Polk, in hip

Lt. Jno. Polk, in hand

Lt. Henry, in thigh,
S.A. Benton, E. Jarman, W. Ingram, and A.R. Edwards, severely, each a leg amputated.
Lt. Moore, slightly in leg.
Lt. Flake, do
Lt. Shepherd, do
Lt. Thos. Lilly, badly, in hip.
Stokes M. McRae, mortally.
Segt. Curtis, severely, if not mortally.
Corp B.F. Gullledge, severely in arm.
Sidney Dean, severely in arm.
A. McQuaige, in foot.
W.M. Liles, severely in neck.
W.M. Allen, in head
---Dabbs in foot.
Sergt. Wm. Eason, badly bruised in arm.
David Tillman, in hand.
John Covington, slightly.
Lem Capel, in leg.
Booker Smith, in foot.
Wesley Jowers, in back.
Alex Treadaway, in leg.
L.L. Treadaway, slightly.
J. West, in head
Wm. Short, breast and side
I.T. Biles, Co. K, 28th N.C. Troops.
C. Coyer, Co. C. 14th Reg't (from Stanly, in arm)

The 23d Regiment were literally demolished. Cols. Christie and Johnston, Maj. Blacknall are wounded, and missing.

Lt. L.L. Polk, writing to a friend, which letter includes many of the killed and wounded given in the above says:

“It is enough to make the heart bleed, to think of the mournful, though noble fate of those dear boys. All the officers were wounded in company K, 26th Regiment, on the 1st, except Lt. Lilly. One the 1st, the company went in, 92 strong, and came out with 45. On the 3d, Lt. Lilly took in 45, and came out none unhurt. Lilly is unable to say who is killed, as only two reached the

breastworks with him, when he was shot down. The Regiment went in with 40 officers, and only two came out unhurt. Col. Burgwyn was killed. Lt. Col. Lane, badly wounded. The Regiment went in nearly 900 strong and came out with 73. The Colors were shot down in the hands of 14 different men. Pettigrew's brigade went in with about 3,600 and came out with about 300. Maj. Jones commands the brigade. A 1st Lieutenant commands the 52nd Regiment. Our brigade (Daniel's) lost about 1000 in all. I am sorry to announce the death of Lt. W.W. Boggan. His leg was shattered in a charge on the 1st and he died next morning at 7 ½ o'clock. I was struck down about the same time by a shell and lay by him until he died.

Never, perhaps, in the annals of the world, was a battle fought with so much daring, stubbornness, and desperation. The slaughter on both sides was fearful. For three days the fight raged with unabated and increased fury.

List of Killed, Wounded, Missing of Co. K 26th Regt NC Troops

North Carolina Argus July 30, 1863

Killed - O. Sergt. S Dobb, Privates W.C. Burns, Jn. Bowman, Jno. Lake, Thos. Griffin, S.R. Griffin, Asa Little, Jos. J. Lee, Jno. J Wiggs, P.H. Flake, Green Thomas

Wounded - Capt. J.C. McLauchlin, hand; 1. Lieut. Jesse Henry, in thigh; Jas. Polk, finger; Corpls J.T. Gaddy, H.C. Dumas; Privates G.W. Allen; W.C. Allen; S.C. Benton, leg amputated; Thos. Brewer; Dan'l Braswell, face; Jas. Carpenter; A.A. Caudel; A.R. Edwards; J.R. Eadnys; Jos. Gadd, arm amputated; Elisha Gaddy; Thos. Gullege; R.A. Hanna; E. Hildreth; J.T. Howard; W.W. Ingram; E.C. Jarman; S.D. Jarman; Wm. H. Jarman; S.S. Kendall; D.S. Liles; M. McDarim; Giles Moore; Jno. Poplin; J.M. Pope; J.B. Short; Wm. Short; Alex Teal; Pest Teal; Jno Tyson; J.F. Wadsworth; Lt. Thos. Lilly; Sergts W. Broadway, finger; J.J. Liles (since died); Corp. H.H. Crawson; privates M. Johnson; S. Johnson.

Missing - Sergt. Wm. H. Smith; Privates T. Briley; A.B. Edwards; J.O. Edwards; Jno.T. Edwards; S.F. Gatlins; Jesse Mitchum; Calvin Thomas; Albert Tyson; A. Myers; W.T. Phillips; J.P. Scarboro; M.N. Teal.

Killed, 12 Wounded, 42. Missing 13. Total, 67.

A Tribute to a Brave North Carolinian Who Fell at the Late Battle of Gettysburg

North Carolina Argus July 30, 1863

It is taken from a private letter, one written without the most remote idea of its being published.

“On the 1st of July, in the terrible battle of that day, the 26th Regiment behaved heroically, and no one more so than its youthful Colonel: (Burgwin). Ten times had its colors fallen, only to be immediately raised again. Ten color bearers had been killed or wounded. The eleventh man was Harry Burgwin, who, with his sword in one hand, and the standard of his Regt. In the other, fell, shot through both lungs, urging his men on. He suffered no pain, died quietly, sent messages of love to his parents and family: and his last words were, “How are my men fighting. I know they will never disgrace me.”

He was buried the same evening. Deep grief bows down the hearts of all his family; but they seem to derive comfort from his hero death. I knew and loved him well, a noble, manly youth, full of high impulses and chivalric honor, endowed with a capacious mind, in who knowledge soon became wisdom. He was as gentle as a child and as brave as a lion. His heart was full of filial love and all pure and noble affections. Tell my mother he was worthy of being offered as a sacrifice with his two noble kinsmen, who had gone before him.*

* Capt. Burgwin, who was killed in the Mexican war, and Gen. Anderson, killed at Sharpsburg.

PRISONERS

August 20, 1863

We learn from a letter written by D. Woodburn, who is a prisoner at Baltimore, that W.W. Ingram, S.A. Benton, and A.R. Edwards are prisoners at that place, that they are all doing well and are treated with as much care and kindness as they would be at home. M.S. McRae was left at Gettysburg, the Doctor thing it not safe to move him. S.S. Kendall was left there with him.

From 31 October 1863 to 31 December 1863, near Orange Court House, the following informatin is extracted from the muster rolls. On November 1st, the Wildcats were in camp near Brandy Station on the Rappahannock River. They marched in the direction of Culpeper Court House on December 8th and there formed a line of battle. At night they marched cross the Robron (sp) River and went into camp. On the 27th the company marched towards Fredericksburg where again they formed a line of battle and remained in front of the enemy until December 3rd. On that day they returned to Orange Court House.

From Co. “K,” Twenty-Sixth Reg’t N.C. Troops

Feb. 16, 1864

Mr. Editor: Perhaps some of our friends at home would like to know of our whereabouts, and how we are getting along, therefore I have concluded to inform them, as best I can, if you will allow me a small space in the Argus.

We are now doing picket duty on the Rapidan for forty days, from the 3d inst. All is quiet along the line. I suppose you have all heard of the excitement here about a week ago, therefore I shall not say anything about it. It has been very warm here, until yesterday, when snow fell to the depth of two or three inches. The men are in very good spirits, and our ranks, although so severely thinned at Gettysburg and at Bristol, are fast filling up, which if continued, we will have enough for a very good killing next summer.

The soldiers in this army, especially the North Carolina, are fast re-enlisting for the war. I am proud to inform our friends in Anson that two thirds of this company re-enlisted the 14th and ... yet where who will. So cheer up friends at home though our soldiers have suffered long and hard, yet they are determined to gain the independence of the Confederacy. Let our people at home lay aside their bickering and unnecessary murmurings and give us and the Government a hearty and cheerful support and we promise that all will be well in the end.

I see no good reason why the people in Anson should be so despondent. The garden spot of the Confederacy - you have never heard the roar of cannon there. Anson has never been made a battle-field. The enemy have never marched through Anson and robbed you of your earthly possessions. You have never seen the smoke of your burning homes, and heard from your wives the insults heaped upon them by the northern soldiery.

I must confess that I was surprised to know that the people of Anson were so dispirited. No one will question that the present conditions of our country demands our serious attention. Yet, there is one enemy that I fear and who is lurking in the hearts of some men - not to do their duty. Come to the army! You see no timidity here. The sight of a thousand banners causes no alarm; but rather excites courage. If we do our duty, that is, if all men able to bear arms will take the field, all danger can be averted. Abandon no interest necessary for the successful prosecution of the war. We have plenty of men to defeat all the hosts of Lincoln. When the President call, go - don't look around for a law to test your constitutional rights. Where would the habeas corpus be if we had all looked after these rights at the beginning of the war. Ask the soldiers, they will tell you. All of you recollect when this company left Anson. They were young and old men, and none of them were *forced* to leave! Call upon here honored dead and ask them, and they will answer, they were impelled by patriotism - devotion to their country. Let their spirit rise up and rebuke that spirit which would now refuse to go - if there be any. Ask the refugees what was done with the union man who truckled to the invader to save his property, and they will tell you that he was more cordially despised and more inhumanly treated than any one else. There is no sympathy in my heart for the Yanks, except the justice they do such men. I had rather leave my parents in rags, and I love them as well as any man does his, with liberty than with wealth and subjugation.

There is one other thing that deserves your attention. Go to the solitary but of the soldiers' family, and see that they have tenance. They may not be of your class in society - yet pour the cup of comfort in their hearts. Let it not be written that his family suffered while you had a plenty, who day by day and night by night, walks his sentinel rounds to protect you.

But as I only asked you for a small space in the Argus I will close. I look forward hopefully to the future. There is no room for despondency. But let us trust to that Providence which has given peace to other lands, and that God will speak peace to us.

Respectfully yours

Lt. J.A.P.

Camp 26th Regt., N.C. Troops

March 17, 1864

There is a great difference between the soldiers and the citizens at home. I was sorry that the people at home were so low spirited, and I was afraid the soldiers were so too; but I find them very different. Although his (the soldiers) life is a hard one, he is still willing to stick to it rather than submit to our cruel and unrelenting foe; and if the people at home will do their duty, the Banner of Independence will be unfolded to the breeze and our young Confederacy, instead of being subjugated by the Yankees, will be a free and independent Government.. I say, if the people at home will do their duty - for they certainly have duties as well as we. Some, perhaps, will inquire what their duty is? We can tell them that it is not their duty - nor is it a mark of patriotism, or that of a gentleman, while their country has called from home all men fit for military duty, and while such men are in the field of honor - for those who are left at home to be trying, with all their might to put everything out of the reach of the soldier's family. I mean both something to eat and to wear. There are men in Anson, who complain a great deal about the tithing tax. They say if the tenth is taken of the land that the people will starve, and a great deal of such stuff as that. But when they happen to have anything to sell, they will run it off to some market out of the county and see the soldier's family starve for the sake of getting a big price for their produce. Now and then you will come across a clever fellow, who says he does his duty, but ten chances to one, he will be like a certain *gentleman* in Anson who has the honor of putting *Esq.* After his name, a justice of the peace - the man who is so much concerned about the welfare of the soldier's family that he puts himself to the trouble to pay them the sum of money the county has seen fit to give them monthly - who a few days since, killed a beef and began of a sympathizing nature, was good enough to send a small mess of it to a Volunteer's family. The wife of the soldier, not being in the habit of getting such things free of charge - although the meat was sent without her asking for it - asked the price of it when it was delivered, and was informed that there was no charge for it, and with many thanks to the kind gentleman for his liberality, the wife proceeded to dress it, and she and her children ate it. But when she went to get her monthly dues from this gentleman, which the county had furnished for her, this kind and liberal *gentleman*

had taken out seven dollars of it for his beef, which he had so liberally given her, and which he said he charged nothing for. Everybody knows this is not the way in which the people at home should work to promote the welfare of their country. The above is true, and should it be necessary we can give the names of the parties and produce evidence.

A Soldier

Camp Near Orange C.H.

April 14, 1864

Mr. Editor; As the coming August will determine who shall represent the people of Anson in the next State Legislature of North Carolina, it may not amiss for the people to make up their minds in time to cast their votes in favor of such men as will honestly endeavor to promote the interest and welfare of the State, and the cause in which so many precious lives have been sacrificed since this war was inaugurated. We are aware that some very worthy citizens of Anson have been spoken of as being suitable men to send to the Legislature, but, so far as we are aware, there is no one now serving in the field spoken of in connection with the office. Therefore, we suggest the name of Lieut. J.A. Polk, of Co. K 26th N.C. Troops as a suitable man to represent the people of Anson County in the next State Legislature. Lieut. Polk is well known to many of the people of Anson, and his soldierly qualities and personal courage have been tested on many a well fought battle field.

Nothing very important is transpiring in the immediate locality of Orange C.H. However, all surplus baggage is being rapidly consolidated to be taken to the rear, and the signs of the times seem to indicate a movement in some direction as soon as the grounds become sufficiently dry to admit to it. No doubt the coming campaign is soon to open and will probably be one of the bloodiest of the war, but a confident spirit rests in the bosoms of the veterans' who compose the Army of Northern Va, and with Gen. Lee at their head will ever prove invincible.

MANY FRIENDS

From 30 April 1864 through 30 June 1864, the following has been extracted from company muster records. On May 4th, the company left camp near the Orange Court House and on the 5th was engaged in the Wilderness. One man was killed and ten wounded. The 6th saw continued fighting with a loss of five wounded and one missing in action. The Wildcats remained in entrenchments along the lines from the Wilderness to Spotsylvania Court House from the 7th through the 9th of May. On the 10th the company was engaged by Hancock's Corps on the river and gained a Confederate victory with the loss of one man killed and one wounded. From the 11th of May to the 3rd of June the Wildcats were in the entrenchments. On the 3rd of June they fought the enemy at Cold Harbor with a loss of three men wounded. They remained along the entrenchments for the rest of the month. On the 30th of June they were sent to guard a wagon train.

From the Twenty-Sixth NC Reg't - Battle-field, Spotsylvania, C.H.

May 19, 1864

This is the fifteenth day of the fight, and there is no prospect of its ending soon. Both armies are fortified within a few hundred yards of each other. We have whipped the Yankees in every engagement, but old Grant does not like to give up that he is whipped. We ... stand a very heavy shelling yesterday, and the Yankees (at least their officers did) tried to charge our breast works again, but the soldiers would not come, the first volley from our boys caused them to fly back to their entrenchments, in great confusion, their officers following them and cursing at a terrible rate. We have done some very hard fighting but our loss is very small taking everything into consideration. We have had two as good soldiers killed from our Company as ever pulled trigger on a Yankee - Riley Baker and John Adeason, and about fourteen wounded; the most of them slight. Among the most serious are W.J. Leaird, in foot; W.H. Broadaway, in arm; J.A. Ingram in hand, and A.A. Caudle, in leg. I have been struck twice myself, once with a spent ball on my arm but did not enter, and had a little hole plugged in my right breast, bruising it considerably. I could not carry a gun but returned to the Regiment and am acting as Sergt. Major.

We are looking for a shower of shells over here every minute. I suppose the Yankees think if their men can't charge us out of our breast-works that they will shell us out of them. Well, perhaps, they will, but I do not think so, although they can give us fits.

Frank Braswell had the tip end of his thumb shot off, but is well now and doing duty.

Yours in haste

H.H.C.

Casualties of Company K, 26th N.C. Regt.

In the several engagements with the enemy since the 5th May, 1864, to 21st May

Killed; John Adeason, May 5th; Riley Baker, May 10th

Wounded; May 5th; Lt. J.L. Henry, slightly in hip - still on duty

May 5th; Sergt. W.H. Broadaway, in arm

May 6th; Corp H.H. Crowson, slightly in breast - still on duty

May 10th; Corpl. H.C. Dumas, slightly on head - still on duty

May 5th; Private W.C. Allen, in hand

May 5th, Private B.F. Braswell, slightly, in hand - on duty

May 5th; Private J.W. Burns, in head

May 6th; Private A.A. Caudle, in leg

May 5th, Private L.E. Horne, thumb off

May 5th, Private J.F. Lee, in head

May 5th, Private W.J. Leaird, in foot

Missing; May 5th; Thos. Brewer

J. A. Polk

A. Adj't. 26th N.C. Reg't

List of Wounded in Co. K, 26, on the 3d June, 1864

Wounded - Elijah Hildreth, right arm, severely.

Moreland Johnson, head, severely.

Jno. A. Tyson, slightly, in head.

Head-Q'rs, 26th N. C. Regt

July 29th, 1864

Mr. Fenton: As you and our friends would like to hear how Co. K, (Wild Cats) voted yesterday I will give you the vote cast by the company.

FOR GOVERNOR

Vance 30 Holden 1

FOR THE SENATE

Smith, 11 Walkup, 17

FOR THE COMMONS

Dargan 23; Caraway 18; Burns 6; Liles 9; Harlee 0; Polk 9

FOR SHERIFF

The vote cast for Governor from the Regiment was for Vance 198; Holden 15.

Notwithstanding we had marched all night before from Petersburg to this place, (near Deep Bottom) it reminded me somewhat of old time elections about home, except there was no cider nor whiskey about, and the men enjoyed it finely.

The boys are all in tolerable good health, except Sergt. Braswell, R.B. Allen, and D.S. Liles. Braswell is very unwell and has been for several weeks. There is no news of interest except that Grant seems to be taking the back track. I think there is a probability of your hearing from us again soon.

Respectfully yours &c.

Lieut. J.A. Polk

GOOD NEWS

BATTLE AT REAMS' STATION, NEAR PETERSBURG - THE CONFEDERATES VICTORIOUS.

PETERSBURG, Aug. 26 - The affair on the Weldon railroad, Thursday, was very gallant and successful in its results. While the enemy's cavalry, under Gen. Spears, were engaged tearing up the track several miles beyond Ream's Station, Gen. Hampton attacked and forced them back behind their infantry supports. Hampton dismounted his men and fought their infantry, gradually and steadily pushing them back until they reached their strong works, 1 mile this side of Reams', capturing about 800 prisoners. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon, Gen. Hill attacked the enemy's fortress, and after a short but sharp fight took them, capturing a large number of prisoners, and 9 pieces of artillery. The enemy fled in great confusion. Col. Pegram, of Richmond, turned the captured guns upon the enemy with great effect. The number of prisoners will probably reach 2,500. Brig. Gen. Cutler was captured. The prisoners belong to Hancock's corps and have been brought to town. Our cavalry acted with conspicuous gallantry.

GEN. LEE'S OFFICIAL DISPATCH

Richmond, August 26 - the following dispatch was received tonight:

Headq'es Army of Northern Va.,

August 26, 1864

Hon. James A. Seddon - General A.P. Hill attacked the enemy in his entrenchments at Reams' Station, yesterday evening. At the second assault he carried the entire line. Cook's and McRae's North Carolina brigades under Heth, Lane's N.C. brigade and Wilcox's division under Conner with Pegram's artillery, composed the assaulting column. One line of breastworks was carried by the cavalry, under Gen. Hampton, with great gallantry, who contributed largely to the success.

Seven stand of colors, 2,000 prisoners, and nine pieces of artillery are in our possession. The loss of the enemy in killed and wounded is reported heavy. Ours relatively small.

Our profound gratitude is due to the Giver of all victories, and our thanks to the brave men and officers engaged.

[Signed] R.E. Lee, General

The Battle of the Weldon and Petersburg Railroad on the 26th August

[From the Petersburg Express, Aug. 27, 1864 and North Carolina Argus September 8, 1864]

General Lee having ascertained that the enemy was moving his infantry from the front down the railroad for the purpose of tearing up the track, determined to make counter movements to check them. Accordingly, on Wednesday night Gen. A.P. Hill moved from his position, south of the city, and marching down the county roads, encamped in the vicinity of Reams' Station, ten miles from Peterburg, and on Thursday got his command in position for action, when the proper moment should arrive.

The enemy had erected a strong line of works on the road about one mile this side of Reams's station. A brigade of cavalry under command of the notorious Speer, were found engaged in tearing up the railroad track three or four miles the other side of Reams', with a heavy support of infantry in convenient distance. About eight o'clock a.m., Gen. Hampton swooped down upon this cavalry force, and gallantly charging them, drove them from their work of destruction, and pressed them back behind their infantry support in great confusion.

Dismounting his men, Gen. Hampton formed his line and attacked the infantry. This fighting was sharp, but gradually and steadily he gained ground, and pushed the enemy back, until they reached their breastworks this side of Reams', capturing in the meantime, about 800 prisoners. Having thus accomplished his full share of the work, the fight ceased until our infantry could be brought into action.

About 5 o'clock p.m., Gen. Hill having a position on the enemy's flank, attacked their works, behind which a large force of infantry was massed, and upon which bristled a heavy line of cannon. Our troops moved forward in beautiful order to the attack, but before reaching the works, were checked by the terrible fire of grape, canister, and musketry poured into their ranks. Such was the severity of the firing, that a temporary faltering was visible, but there was no retreat. The assaulting column threw themselves upon the ground until the supports came up, when with a yell they arose and advanced upon the enemy. The cannon and musketry firing from the enemy's works, was, if possible, now increased, but their desperation availed them not. Without check or faltering our men charged up to and over the works. Nearly if not quite two

thousand prisoners, belonging to Hancock's (Second) Corps, were captured, with nine pieces of artillery.

The Yankees who were not captured in the assault fled in great confusion, dropping their guns and many of them throwing away everything, that at all encumbered them. Col. Pegram, of Richmond, commanding a battery of artillery, turned the captured guns upon the enemy with most excellent effect, greatly assisting their speed and terror. The enemy scattered in every direction, but our forces were unable to pursue in consequence of lateness of the hour and the near approach of night.

The battle here ended with the above results, and the enemy in full and disordered retreat towards their main position at the Yellow Tavern. Two or three hours more of daylight might have brought about a still greater change in the aspect of affairs.

Our loss for the fighting done was very small, and one thousand will cover it. Many of the wounded are but slightly hurt. We could hear of the loss of no general officer.

Up to dark last evening, about two thousand prisoners had been brought in, among them about one hundred commissioned officers from Colonel down. Col. Cutler, acting Brigadier-General, is among the captured. The number of prisoners will reach over twenty hundred. The enemy's loss is unknown, but believed to have been severe.

Hancock's corps was engaged in the battle, and probably other infantry troops besides cavalry.

The loss of this corps on Thursday could not have been less than five thousand, and when this is taken into consideration, with the previous losses it has sustained, it may safely be said that it is nearly ruined.

Col. Speer was not captured, as reported. His flight was too rapid to admit of being overtaken.

We still hold the works captured from the enemy, and we predict, that our men will not be so easily driven from them as the Yankees were. From an officer who examined them we learn they are very strong and very favorably situated.

Losses in the Weldon Railroad Fight

A correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch says our losses in the fight on the Weldon Railroad, on Thursday last, will foot up between six and seven hundred killed and wounded. Among the wounded, he mentions Col. Lane of the 26th N.C. Regiment. As the troops engaged in this terrible battle were nearly all North Carolinians, we dread to receive the lists for the casualties, as the six or seven hundred killed and wounded must of necessity be among the N.C. troops. We are glad to learn that the list of killed is very small - and the entire loss is astonishingly small, compared with the enemy's loss of ten thousand.

Casualties in the Anson Company

In an official list of the killed and wounded of the 26th Regiment, in the fight at Ream's Station, on the 25th ult., we perceive the name of but one Ansonian, Sergeant J.T. Gaddy - flesh wound, right arm.

In Line of Battle, near Petersburg, VA

August 24th, 1864

When I wrote you last I was inside the trenches within a very short distance of the Yankee "blow-up." We remained in there ten days from the time we went in. We had three of our Company wounded in there, viz: John Poplin, in hip, Sidney Barber, (on Saturday last) severely in head; Elijah Hildreth, severely, in head. The last named had only a few day's previous returned from home on a wounded furlough, and was still unable for duty on account of it, and received this last wound as we were marching out of the breastworks. The Yankees having taken possession of the Weldon Railroad a few days previous, we were marched from the breastworks down the railroad, (we were relieved on Saturday night at the breastworks) and early the next morning formed line of battle about four miles below Petersburg, and the order being given to advance we moved forward and soon came in contact with the Yankee skirmish line and taken possession of it. The rattle of musketry told us that Mahone's (Anderson's, formerly) Division was at work on our right trying to turn the enemy's flank. For sometime the rattle of small arms was very severe, in the meantime, the artillery joined in and we knew that the ball was fully opened. Our company, (K,) was sent out to reinforce the skirmish line - the enemy's artillery poured a deadly fire of shell into our ranks while at this temporary halt; waiting, I suppose, on Mahone. Our boys had no shelter at all from the shells, but after awhile the order came and we moved forward charging the Yankees out of their breastworks and taking possession, which brought the brigade within a very short distance of the enemy's battery, or batteries for they had any amount of artillery planted on the hill which they used with all their might. We expected to have this battery to charge but Mahone found the enemy works impregnable, consequently, we remained where we were until after dark when we fell back to the old fortifications near Petersburg. We are now throwing up breastworks about a quarter of a mile outside of the original breastworks. Our company lost no men in the charge. The Regiment lost six. Co. B, (Union county) had four killed and several wounded.

C.H.H.

Remember the Soldiers

North Carolina Argus September 29, 1864

We are requested by Mr. J.T. Gaddy, Co. K, 26th N.C.T. to state that he will leave this county on the 5th of October to rejoin his command, and that if anyone wishes to send anything to members of his company - particularly something to eat, and by all means vegetables - they will

have the articles nicely packed in boxes and sent to his house. He will take great pleasure in taking charge of the boxes and delivering them to the parties to whom they may be directed. Recollect, ladies, the duties that the members of Co. K, have been performing the past summer. They have been in the entrenchments nearly all the time, debarred from the opportunities of getting vegetables and fruits that troops in more open fields have had. You can send them onions, potatoes, dried fruits, and anything that will keep and which you know the boys would like. All who intend to send must have the boxes at Mr. Gaddy's house not later than October 4th.

The Fighting at Petersburg

North Carolina Argus October 13, 1864

From the Express of Monday we obtain the following interesting particulars of the recent operations around Petersburg:

The enemy having effectually established himself on the Weldon road, he next advanced and fortified himself in the vicinity of the Vaughan road, one mile westward, making a feint at the time on Richmond. A pause was made for several weeks, or until his army could be reinforced to such an extent as to render it expedient and safe for another effort. Accordingly, having thrown a large body of troops to the north side of the James, and gained some advantage there, a division of cavalry was moved across the Vaughan road on Thursday to feel our position and strength, and if possible to establish themselves. This effort signally failed, thanks to the energy and good behavior of our cavalry, who repulsed the enemy and re-established their lines, temporarily broken.

On Friday, however, a more serious successful movement was executed. An entire corps of infantry, well supplied with artillery, felt upon our works on Mr. William Peeble's farm, Squirrel Level road, a mile and a half west of the enemy's original lines, and by force of numbers, succeeded, after a sharp engagement, in dislodging our troops. Fort McRae and a portion of the line of breastworks adjacent to it, fell into their hands, with one piece of artillery and a few prisoners. A brief halt was made, but flushed with their easily won victory, the Yankees soon advanced again, in the direction of the Boydton Plank Road. They swarmed over Boisseau's, Pegram's, Boswell's, and Jones's farms, but were struck on the latter by our forces and checked in their career. Battle was here joined and the confident enemy, meeting more than his match, was forced back in the direction of the captured works, with severe loss in killed, wounded and prisoners. Darkness ended the engagement which began late in the afternoon with the enemy still in possession of the position gained from us on Peeble's farm and a portion of his column slightly in advance. The enemy's dead and wounded fell into our hands, together with nearly twelve hundred prisoners taken by our infantry and cavalry equjointly. In this battle the Yankee loss is said to have been very large, their dead and wounded have been brought to town and placed in hospitals. A large number of ambulances were engaged in this labor Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday opened gloomily in weather. The heavens were thickly overcast and the rain fell steadily all day. But this did not put a stop to military operations on our right, as it had been determined to dislodge the enemy from his newly gained advantage, if possible. Their advance

was early driven back by our infantry, who during a charge, captured about two hundred and fifty prisoners, and an assault was made upon their fortified positions on Peeble's farm. It was unfortunately repulsed. The enemy had during the night received heavy reinforcements, and had not been idle in strengthening their works. Our loss, we are glad to say was trifling.

During the day, Hampton succeeded in gaining a point on the left flank of the enemy, some seven or eight miles from town, which being discovered, a portion of his command was attacked. This was about four o'clock p.m. and the discharges of artillery and musketry could be distinctly heard here. Our men being somewhat hotly pressed, were compelled to retire slowly, but reinforcements coming up, they reformed and in turn drove the enemy to their works, capturing two hundred prisoners, and otherwise inflicting severe loss.

Saturday closed, with the enemy still in possession of our lost works, but no further advance, and our troops in good spirits.

The number of prisoners captured on Friday and Saturday, will amount in the aggregate, to seventeen hundred.

But little was done yesterday morning, except some heavy skirmishing by the opposign infantry forces. Our troops fell back from the scene of Saturday's fight during the night, and the enemy yesterday afternoon advanced his line some few hundred yards. His pickets at one time occupied the houses of Dr. Boisseau and Mr. Oscar Pegram, one mile distant from Peeble's farm, but were shelled out by our artillery. These houses, we understand, were somewhat damaged by shells from our guns, but it was necessary to dislodge the Yankees.

The Yankees yesterday took a portion of our picket line near W.W. Davis' house three quarters of a mile west of the Weldon railroad, capturing twenty prisoners. In the afternoon they were driven back and our line re-established.

Information was received yesterday, that on Saturday night a train of artillery was crossed on the pontoon bridges from the north to the south side of the James. It is not believed that any infantry troops have as yet been recrossed.

Our losses during the last three days' fight in this vicinity, will not exceed five hundred from all cause. It was surprisingly small. On the other hand, the Yankee loss is known to have been large - but little less, if any, than five thousand, including prisoners.

Casualties in Company K

North Carolina Argus October 13, 1864

Headquarters 26th N.C.T.

October 4, 1864

Dear Argus - For the information of their friends, you will please publish the following list of casualties in Co. "K" 26th N.C.T. on the 30th of Sept. And 1st Oct:

Sept. 30th - Killed: Private B.F. Braswell.

Wounded: Private J.F. Wadsworth, 'severely', right thigh broken.

Oct. 1st - Killed: none. Wounded: Lt. J.A. Polk in neck, slightly.

Very respectfully

J.S. Henry, Lt.

Comd'g Co. "K" 26th N.C.T.

The Late Fight Around Richmond and Petersburg North Carolina Argus November 10, 1864

The Fight Below Richmond

The Richmond Enquirer of the 28th ult. says:

At an early hour yesterday morning a movement in force upon our works was developed by the enemy on the lines below Richmond, and on the right of our line before Petersburg. During the previous night the enemy had made extensive preparatory manouvres and it said, had received heavy reinforcements. Be that as it may, the enemy began below Richmond by making some demonstrations against our right, bringing about a heavy cannonade, which was intermingled some time after with considerable skirmishing. The enemy made no determined attack upon our front, but seemed to be simply feeling the strength of our line. They continued to move out to the right, however, upon a line parallel to our works, skirmishing occasionally along our exterior line, but making no impressions. Upon reaching the vicinity of the junction of the nine mile road with the Williamsburg turnpike, they made several 'serious efforts' to break our line, but were repulsed with considerable loss. The cannonade continued during nearly the entire day. The

principal fighting occurred on the Williamsburg and Nine-mile roads, some seven or eight miles from the city. Our losses were very slight. The firing ceased about six o'clock in the evening.

The Fighting at Petersburg

The Richmond Dispatch of the 29th ult. says:

The enemy, in his attack below Petersburg, seems to have gained no advantage and suffered heavy loss. It appears that the Second, Ninth and a part of the Fifth corps of Grant's army moved around to our right on Wednesday night, and early on Thursday morning drove in our pickets at Armstrong's mill, pressing rapidly forward in strong force in the direction of the Boydton plank road, distant some two miles, striking, in the meantime, that portion of our breastworks occupied by our cavalry, before which he was temporarily checked.

By massing and flanking, however, our lines were broken, and the enemy, pouring in, swept around to the plankroad, striking it at Burgess's mill, seven miles from the city. Such was the rapidity of the enemy's advance that our men were compelled to retire hastily, leaving their camp and all its appurtenances in the hands of the Yankees. A quantity of forage, some horses and wagons, and a few prisoners were captured at the mill.

The enemy at once formed into line of battle across the plankroad, stretching his columns out through Burgess's fields, and planting a heavy battery on the commanding hill which overlooks the mill pond and the road in this direction. Our forces confronted him on the eminence this side of the road, a valley and a bridge lying between them.

The artillery on both sides was mostly engaged until late in the evening when the musketry took part and the fighting was very severe until after dark. At night our men had failed to dislodge the Yankees from their position, and they still held the Boydton plank road and Burgess's mill.

An official dispatch, received yesterday at the War Department, thus describes the enemy's operation in this quarter:

"The enemy crossed Rowanty Creek below Burgess's mill, and forced back the cavalry in the afternoon. Gen. Heth attacked, and at first drove them, but found them in strong force. Afterwards the enemy attacked and were repulsed. They still hold the plankroad at Burgess's mill. Heth took some colors and prisoners."

Our loss in killed, wounded and missing is estimated at three hundred. This flank movement places the enemy still further from the Southside Railroad than when he started.. It was a detour to avoid our strong line of works, with the hope of forcing our troops back into them, and will amount to nothing more than to extend somewhat their foraging limits. Mr. Burgess was taken prisoner by the Yankees.

About dark the enemy made a feint on our skirmish line in the vicinity of Wilcox's farm. Their attack amounted to nothing.

About ten o'clock Thursday night, the enemy made a determined and vigorous onset upon our lines in the vicinity of Rives's farm and to the left of the Southhampton plankroad. They were entirely unsuccessful, however, although they massed three columns almost into phalanxes and endeavored to press us back by the sheer weight of their heavy bodies fo troops but this was only

productive of more terrible slaughter, the artillery mowing great gaps in the squares of men, and the Southern rifles bringing down whole ranks at every volley.

The Federals made a number of distinct assaults, but were repulsed each time with very heavy loss. We took a few prisoners.

Yesterday, the Yankees, satisfied, or rather suffering from the results of the previous day's fight, remained quiet. A report prevailed among the passengers who came by last night's train that they had abandoned the position which they had gained on the Boydton plankroad. Two hundred and fifty Yankees arrived by last night's train from Petersburg.

Gen. Dearing, who was reported killed (and so supposed), was only separated by accident from his command, and eventually returned to it.

The Richmond Dispatch of 31st ult. says:

In the battle of Thursday last, our infantry loss, in killed and wounded, will not exceed one hundred and fifty. In prisoners we lost between three and four hundred. In the cavalry, our loss was not very severe, as Gen. Hampton's main attack was upon the Federal rear.

Immediately after the cessation of hostilities on Thursday night, the enemy commenced to withdraw his forces in the direction of his fortifications on the Vaughan and Squirrel Level roads, and by 2 o'clock Friday morning had entirely disappeared from the plankroad, with the exception of a small force left there to keep up an appearance of his presence in our front. As soon as this was discovered, a brigade of our troops was ordered to advance and feel the enemy's position: and meeting with such slight resistance, they pushed forward, only to ascertain that the enemy had gone. Some 200 additional prisoners were taken here. Some 300 Federal dead were found unburied on Thursday's field, and about 200 of his wounded, too much disabled to be removed. Fifteen hundred stands of small arms were gathered up, with a number of limbers, caissons, wagons, etc., which the enemy had abandoned, showing that his retreat was hurried. It is probable that many wounded were carried in ambulances.

The enemy had fallen back to his original position and we have re-established our former lines.

During the fight of Thursday, three stands of colors were captured by Mahone's old brigade.

About dark on Thursday night, while the fighting was progressing on our right, a small force of the enemy made a bold dash upon our works on the left and succeeded in capturing a portion of them. They also gained possession of one piece of artillery and took prisoners. Lieut. Col. Harrison and 20 or 30 men of the 26th Va. Regt.

The Yankees were driven from our works with the loss of ten or twelve prisoners.

On Friday night, the enemy made a fierce assault upon McRae's lines, south of the plankroad, but were repulsed with heavy loss. Only a small portion of our troops were engaged.

On Saturday, all was quiet along the whole line and all the old lines seem to have been re-established.

The Petersburg Express of the 2d says:

A number of deserters came into our lines yesterday embracing every branch of the Federal service - infantrymen, cavalrymen, and marines. The former report that the Yankee army was exceedingly demoralized on their recent retreat from the Boydton Plankroad, Grant's official statements to the contrary, notwithstanding. They also state that every available team with the army was used to carry away such of the wounded as could not walk, and that many of them were so crowded as to render their condition anything but comfortable.

It was evident that Grant made this advance with the expectation of fighting a great and successful battle, as he came with all his best corps commanders, largely supplied with provisions and conveniences for his wounded. Twenty-five or thirty thousand men are a heavy force to make a single reconnaissance. That they did not fight as well as might be expected from the numbers, is fully substantiated by the fact that two or three small brigades of Confederates broke through the thick lines and pierced beyond the center of their position. An additional attacking force of two more such brigades would have caused the route and capture of half the Yankee army, with Grant in the bargain.

Grant, in his official dispatch, claims the capture of several government teams loaded with supplies from Stony Creek. They happened to be four teams belonging to the Southern railroad company, en route to Stony Creek, and loaded with coal and two thousand pounds of bacon. The coal and bacon were thrown out on the roadside, and wounded Yankees crowded into the wagons and hurried off to the rear. Our soldiers subsequently recovered the bacon, and have no doubt enjoyed many a hearty meal of it since.

Beyond all doubt the Yankees were more whipped and more thoroughly demoralized in this battle than in any other of the war. Every evidence betokens it and a little more vigor on our side, would not only have made it one of the most brilliant victories for us, but would swept half the opposing force from the field.

The North Side

The Sentinel says that the enemy are busily engaged in strengthening battery Harrison, using sand bags for the purposes, and are throwing up fortifications along their entire line. Our troops are not idle. Their lines had been made very strong, the amount of work done being wonderful, considering the short time in which the labor was performed. The pickets are within short range, but do not fire on each other.

List of Casualties

in Co. K, 26th N.C. Troops

Line of Battle Oct. 29, 1864

Mr. Editor: For the information of the friends and relatives of the members of Co. K, 26th N.C.T., you will please publish the following list of casualties in said company, in an engagement with the enemy, on the Boydton plankroad, south of Petersburg, on Thursday, the 27th inst.:

Killed - Lieut. J.L. Henry and Private John F. Lee.

Wounded - Lieut. J.A. Polk, slight, in thigh; Private J.A. Ingram, flesh wound, in shoulder.

Missing, (and supposed to be captured) - Privates Wm. H. Jarman, H.D. Lee, and J.R. Eddings, the latter acting as Ensign.

W.D. Webb, O.S.

Contributions to Troops

North Carolina Argus February 16, 1865

We are requested to state that Private H.D. Pinkston, Co. K, 26th Regiment N.C.T. has come home on a detail for the purpose of taking back any contributions the relatives and friends of the members of Co. K may wish to send them. Mr. P. States that in respect to clothing the men are pretty well off; but they are needing socks and gloves. These articles and provision Mr. P. Has particularly come after.

The articles will be packed in boxes, distinctly marked and left at the store of Mr. H.A. Crawford. Mr. P. Will return on Thursday, the 23d inst, and the packages must be sent in before that day. He will expect the parties interested to help him get the boxes to Concord.