

YOUTHFUL INNOCENCE SHATTERED: The Diary of Private George T. Anderson

recovered and edited by Charles Rice

On January 11, 1861, Alabama seceded from the Federal Union and proclaimed her place among the independent nations of the world. Within weeks the state would surrender that sovereignty and become a member of the Confederate States of America, whose capital was proudly placed at Montgomery. It is perhaps difficult for us now to understand the confidence then felt in the Confederacy's future. Yet even after the fighting began at Fort Sumter in April 1861, most southern citizens sincerely believed the war could be won with a single glorious victory. Patriotic southerners rushed to volunteer, fearing they might otherwise be too late to share in the honors.

Among those hastening to volunteer in Huntsville were George and Stephen Anderson, sons of a

prosperous Madison County farmer named George Anderson. George Tannehill Jones Anderson, 18, and Stephen Jones Anderson, 16, were both students when Governor A. B. Moore issued his call for troops to defend the state. Nevertheless, the brothers managed to enlist in Captain Edward D. Tracy's company--the "North Alabamians"--just three days before the company left Huntsville for Virginia and the war.¹

The Anderson family in 1861 was headed by George senior (b. 1806), a native of Virginia who apparently had come to Alabama as a young man. On April 12, 1838, Anderson had married Nancy Ann Jones (1820-1866), a daughter of wealthy New Market landowner George Tannehill Jones (1790-1871).² Anderson's fortunes had steadily

improved over the years. In 1850, when he was worth some \$3,300, he listed his occupation as a school teacher.³ During the prosperous decade that followed, Anderson became increasingly comfortable. By 1860, he could count his wealth at \$38,000,⁴ while his 24 slaves entitled him to be called a planter.⁵ The 1860 U.S. Agricultural Census shows him owning 570 acres of improved land and another 200 unimproved acres, for a total value of \$8,000. Anderson also owned livestock worth \$2,200 and farm machinery adding another \$500. His crops that year included wheat, rye, oats, peas, potatoes, hay, and tobacco, while the animals butchered came to about \$460.⁶ Clearly, he had much to be thankful for.

The Anderson children in 1861 numbered six.⁷ Pauline A., the eldest, was about 20 when the war began; young George seemed especially fond of her. Pauline would marry Williams. House later that year and move with him to

Texas when the war was over. Martha Jane ("Matt"), 19, would marry a man named McMullen. George T., just 18, would not live to see another birthday. Stephen, 16, evidently looked even younger; one of his fellow soldiers mistook him for 14. Sarah Elizabeth, 12, would one day marry Zimeria Spelce, 32 years her senior. Marie Virginia, the baby, was 6. She would marry an Owen and move with him to Coolidge, Texas.⁸

George T. Anderson commenced his diary the day his company left Huntsville by rail for Dalton, Georgia. Over the next three months he would record his adventures, ending with his own tragic death at the Battle of Manassas on July 21, 1861. Nine days later, grieving young Stephen Anderson was discharged as under-aged and sent home to Huntsville.⁹ Not until April 1, 1863, would he go to war again--this time as a private in Captain Frank B. Gurley's Company C, 4th Alabama Cavalry. On October 16, 1863, Stephen

Anderson was captured by Union raiders at Maysville, Alabama. Sent to Camp Morton Prison at Indianapolis, Indiana, he was exchanged in poor health in March 1865, just weeks before the final surrender.¹⁰ After his mother died in 1866--his father having preceded her--Stephen Anderson, too, would join in the exodus to Texas.¹¹

George Anderson's diary has come to us largely by chance. After he was killed at Manassas, his diary was found on his body by a Union soldier named Cash, a member of the 71st New York Regiment. Cash took the diary back to New York and turned it over to the New York Herald, which printed it verbatim--though perhaps with some additions of punctuation. Editor J. Withers Clay of the Huntsville Democrat read the diary and reprinted it "with mournful pleasure" for the benefit of those who knew Anderson and other members of the famed 4th Alabama Infantry Regiment.¹² It seems likely

that Clay had obtained the New York paper from Meredith Calhoun, who had just returned to Huntsville from Europe by way of Canada, traveling across the north pretending to be a Frenchman who spoke no English!¹³ Anderson's diary appears here as it did in the Huntsville Democrat on September 11, 1861. Regrettably, some entries in the diary are noted as damaged. This is because whoever microfilmed the original newspaper could not be troubled to unfold the creases in the pages, thus making some lines unreadable.

APRIL 29. Left home with a company of volunteers, bid farewell to home, parents and friends, and departed on a twelve month tour, for the defense of my country; hated to leave most awfully, but our country being in danger, and no one to defend her, did not suit us.

APRIL 30. Arrived at Chattanooga before daylight, and had to lay

over eight hours; never was so bored by a place in my life; was very glad to leave it at two o'clock for Dalton, Georgia; we were boxed up in freight cars to travel over a long railroad, through a poor pine country; arrived at Dalton before night, and found other companies there; laid over two days and a half, during which time we organized a regiment, and E[lgbert]. J. Jones, of Huntsville, Colonel, and E. M. Law, Lieutenant Colonel; we received our arms at Dalton, smooth bored muskets, at which the boys grunted.

MAY 3. Left Dalton for Lynchburg, Virginia, in old box cars, forty-one in a car; travelled over some rich, some poor, and some beautiful country; crossed two large rivers; the Tennessee is the most beautiful river at this point that I ever saw, and afforded the most beautiful views from the bridge that our country furnishes. About sunset we stopped and picked a quantity of hay from a rick near by to sleep on. Slept

all night in the cars, such sleeping as it was.

MAY 4. Woke up in Jonesborough, Tn., about sunrise; saw lots of beautiful women; received a bouquet from a very nice girl, with a soul stirring inscription fastened to it. Left there for Bristol, in the land of Virginia; arrived about ten o'clock, and was delayed until four; left with an advance guard of our company and several other companies for Lynchburg; slept all night in the mail car.

SUNDAY, MAY 5. Woke up in the morning eight miles from Lynchburg; took breakfast at Liberty, where, as usual, the ladies turned out to do us honor; reached Lynchburg about ten, and we were marched to our camp, two miles from the depot and on a hill, with two springs at the foot of it. It rained all night, and I had to stand guard from eleven to one.

MAY 6. It rained all day; had to stand guard again at night, but missed standing on

picket guard sometime by it.

MAY 7. Wrote home for the seventh or eighth time, and was mustered into the service of the Confederate States; felt homesick, because I could not hear from home.

MAY 8. Drilled half the day.

MAY 9. Was excused from drill on account of a felon on my thumb; sent two letters home by Mr. Murphy, of Huntsville.

MAY 10. Excused from drill; was glad to see Uncle Washington [George w. Jones, his mother's brother), who is now our Quartermaster; got leave to go to town tomorrow with a pass; intend to look round and ace the place; wrote part of a letter to a young friend at home; have never heard from him yet; getting very anxious to hear from home; answered at tattoo; went to bed after, and slept soundly until midnight, when we were aroused by an order to march for Harper's Ferry at five

o'clock, and have to cook provisions for two days; we have to foot it for eighteen miles in order to shun Washington; don't like it a bit; we are willing to go; expect a fight with the Northerners there; but few of us ever expect to get back; did not get off at five; we were delayed until ten, and probably longer; got as mad as thunderation at First Lieutenant [Isaac A. Lanier] for refusing to let us have flour; we have to make out for two days on bread and meat that a dog would refuse; it seems that the whole North has turned against us; but we can whip them; if we get to Harper's Ferry safely without an encounter with the Yankees, we can whip as many of them as they can send against us; Old Abe is the greatest fool that I have ever heard of; if he had good sense, he could see that the South could not be coerced; we are all united as one man, and can whip any lot of Yankees on equal terms; it is

useless for them to wage war on us, for we can defy the world if they invade us. I am very sleepy from being wakened at midnight, and then to be disappointed. I am getting very tired of this camp and suspense; I had rather go on and pelt it right through; we are waiting here very impatiently for orders to leave, and cannot get them; one of the companies will not go without ammunition, and I do not blame them; we cannot get rifles, and I, for one, am not willing to fight with these old muskets; I had rather have a pair of good pistols; why on earth can't a fellow hear from home? They seem to have forgotten that we are in the world; I have a notion not to write any more until I receive a letter from home; formed a line and marched to the depot; the clouds had been lowering for some time, they now turned loose on us with a vengeance; we, however,

got on board of the cars, or tumbled pell-mell into a lot of stock cars, crowded together like so many hogs, and travelled all night for the third night in the cars, slept on the floor and got cold as thunder; waked up half froze to death, travelled half the day, and was delayed waiting on another train at a place called Manassas station; one regiment of Virginia troops are stationed here; one company of artillery and one of cavalry; they are in this place to keep Lincoln's troops from passing through the direct route to Washington; some dread he will attempt to take this place; all the Harper's Ferry machinery is here; I fear that we will fare badly so far as eating is concerned.

SUNDAY, MAY 12.
Pitched off for Strassburg about four; passed another miserable night in the cars; arrived at Strassburg at daybreak.

MAY 13. Ate a hasty breakfast, and took up

line of march for Winchester, eighteen miles distant, over a hard turnpike and beneath a pelting sun; people gave us refreshments, all along the route; gave us dinner and a first-rate one; arrived at Winchester about six, in a hard rain; marched through the town in the rain, and got wringing wet; just as we got through to the depot the rain stopped and we ate supper, crowded aboard the cars, our feet sore, tired, weary, and sick at heart; arrived at Harper's Ferry about two o'clock, completely exhausted; and took up our quarters in a vacated store, very dirty, and a foul atmosphere, changed clothing and slept in each others arms until 7 o'clock on the 14th; roused up and went out on the Potomac, took a wash and a view of the far famed river; went back to a hotel, ate a tolerable breakfast, and sallied out to see the sights; took a close look at the work done by old

[John] "Brown," and wondered at the old fool as well as the citizens; he, through cowardice, took a secure but out of the way position, and they, through fear, let him imprison them and hold the town in subjection; saw the bullet holes made by him and his men, and one that went through the corner of a house and killed a man named Beckhammer; passed this day in writing, reading the Testament, and viewing the gun works; they are making guns in a hurry--sixty a day; took up a Yankee spy as we supposed, but we were mistaken, for he was a good Southern man; a few of our boys went out fishing, but came back directly, run out of breath, and reported they heard the cannon of the enemy and men who were [page damaged].

MAY 16. Rained all day; nothing new; [damaged] (stood?) on Jefferson's rock, and took a view of the wildest

and most sublime scenery in the State where the great statesmen stood and admired. Saw here a large shelving rock supported by pillars and has a great many names cut in it; left that of my brothers and my name with the others; slept very well all night; woke up feeling a little sick; drilled six hours which we are to do every day; I am very anxious to hear from home; in fact we both are.

MAY 17. Drilled all day, nothing new happened, no letter from home yet; I can't see why on earth we don't hear from home; I am sure that the letters are miscarried; very cold mornings, and days not warm by any means; hope I will get a letter tomorrow.

MAY 18. The long looked for letter came at last, and oh how much joy it gives me, all well at home, and we feared otherwise, and all miss us at home and want to see us, but not worse than we want to see

them; we are all satisfied now; we moved to our encampment this eve, on a hill overlooking the Potomac, cut pine tops for our beds, cooked our supper, cooked the beef splendidly for the first; I hope that we will remain here for some time, on account of home; we will both cry over Pauline's when we get it, which I hope will be soon; we are better satisfied than we have ever been since we left home.

SUNDAY, MAY 19. What a cold day for the 19th of May; everybody is acting as if it were Monday, all firing guns, cooking, playing cards, &c.; had a dress parade; Colonel Jackson¹⁴ inspected us; he is a large, fat old fellow, looks much like an old Virginia farmer; returned to camp, prepared and ate a scanty dinner, had Episcopal service, and then a good, old fashioned sermon from our pastor [William D.] Chadick; oh, how I loved to listen to him; wrote a letter home; had another

dress parade in the evening; rained all night.

MAY 20. still raining a very cold rain; have just finished cleaning up through and around our tent, and we are now waiting very impatiently for our rations, for we are undoubtedly very hungry; I will finish the last chapter of the Acts, and begin at the Romans, and finish to-day when the day close; did nothing to-day but look out and read the Testament; received a letter from a friend at Fort Pickens; got some straw to sleep on; slept soundly until daylight.

MAY 21. Got up, made the fire and cooked some bread, and ate a scanty breakfast of burnt bread and butter; afterwards read several chapter in the Testament; hope to hear from home again to-day; we are both a little homesick; received two letters from sister Pauline, and I was glad, indeed, to get them; drilled six hours under Colonel D[avid]. C. Humphreys,¹⁵ who won't

let us rest at all; one of our company [Peter Binford]¹⁶ died last night at Strassburg, which created no little sorrow in the community.

MAY 22. Started to reply to the letters from sister Pauline; had started on the fifth page when I was ordered to the mountain to get wood for the regiment; it is rather hard work, but we rest often enough; I will finish my letters as soon as possible; three trains of troops have just arrived (ten o'clock) but as they are on the opposite side of the river, I can't find out where they are from; from all indications, I look for hot work soon; troops are coming in every day, and they surely are not coming here just to be coming; everything here has a martial appearance. I guess that we may look for a fight within three weeks, and if I fall, I hope that God will pardon my sins; I want to pray and be saved, but I am too much of a sinner—I fear that I

never will; it is too terrible to think of dying, leaving a world of sorrow and going straight to one worse. From such a fate, O God, in mercy, save me; do, O Lord, deliver me from sin and temptation; I know I am unworthy, but thou. o God, art merciful. This is real hard work; we have to pitch the wood as far as we can down the mountain, and then climb down to it and pitch it again, and continue thus to the foot of the mountain, where it is loaded into a wagon and hauled to camp; (the streets here stink worse than the carrion; I can smell it across the river when the breeze comes from the direction of town;) I have just finished a hearty dinner of cold beef and light bread, (the latter several days old,) and I will now take my Testament until we have to go to work again; finished the day's work and slept soundly all night; woke up at daybreak.

MAY 23. Feeling very

bad and unwell. Stephen is out on picket guard for twenty-four hours; very warm day in the sun, but cool in the shade, and very cool nights; Virginia votes on the ordinance of secession to-day; I expect to hear of a great excitement and a good many mobs in the State to-day; received a letter from home to-day, and felt a good deal better on account of it; I wrote away in reply until drill at three o'clock, and wrote at every interval until one o'clock; slept very well at night, considering that I was alone and had a bad cold.

MAY 24. Warm but pleasant; drilled four hours until two o'clock; Stephen got in about nine, and he is now engaged writing home; I wrote three sheets myself; will send it in a short time; drilled all day; heard bad news from the war outside of us; if the reports are true we are completely surrounded; awoke up at daylight feeling anything but comfortable on

account of eating too much supper last night, and partly on account of the bad news; looks very much like rain this morning.

MAY 25. Rained very hard for an hour or so; had a general holiday, and took a bath in the Potomac. We are now quartered in the same tent with the Quartermaster of this regiment; very well fixed, but nearly out of money.

SUNDAY, MAY 26. A weary day; drilled two hours and a half; heard a splendid sermon from the text: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth," &c., from W. D. Chadick, who is now the chaplain of our regiment. Don't like to drill on Sunday one bit; Stephen is sick; I fear he will have the measles; we are expecting a fight in a short time; the North has invaded us, and we will drive back the ruthless vagabonds.

MAY 27. The most pleasant and beautiful morning that the sun ever rose on, or about as

pleasant. It commenced raining about eight o'clock; the wind commenced blowing and scattering the tents far and wide, causing great merriment in the company; turned cold towards twelve, and disappointed me as to a contemplated bath; rather a cold night; Stephen still complaining; slept on uncle's cot, and slept finely until morning.

MAY 28. Woke up and found the weather had moderated; gave our bed up to a lady from Huntsville; drilled all that day; Stephen still sick and growing worse; I suppose he has got the measles at last; I have just wrapped him up with blankets warm, for a good night's sleep, while I wait for the roll call; I am now going to prepare to sleep in here; slept well all night.

MAY 29. I woke up and found it raining; Stephen has fever; cold day; drilled one hour, and I am now waiting for my breakfast; Stephen took

the measles to-day, I moved him to a private house, and stayed with him at night; ate my supper with Mrs. Jordan; I intend to eat there all the time that she stays, if possible. Two companies of Virginians ordered off this evening for a fight somewhere.

MAY 30. Stephen broke out with measles thick as hops; wants to see home; still eating with Mrs. Jordan, and I suppose, permanently, though D. C. Humphreys objects, on account of measles; received two letters from home, with good enough news in them; very warm day; Uncle Wash is very kind, and everyone else is kind to us.

MAY 31. Sent four letters home, per J. M. Venable; Stephen is recovering, but I fear, through imprudence, will get worse, as he recovers; I drilled until twelve o'clock, and was seized with a severe pain in my right chest--strong symptoms of pneumonia. If I take that, I have no other idea but that it will

end my life; I was [damaged] turpentine. [damaged] beautiful day; [damaged] (Stephen) laid up with the measles and as disrespectful as a sore-headed kitten; I with pneumonia; truly we are [damaged] situation; we often think of home, and our hearts yearn to be with them, but our country and duty says not--the latter we will cheerfully obey. I would like to see the home folks about now; I am confident that peace will be made in a few short weeks, maybe months, and we will then return to repose our weary and careworn bodies at a loved home; I hope so, and pray God that it may be so.

JUNE 1. A beautiful day; the scouts brought intelligence that the enemy was near at hand, only fifteen miles off. I am a good deal better and ready for a fight; sent Stephen off to Winchester, in anticipation of a fight; I fear that it will make him worse; it rained soon after

he started, but I suppose he was on cars; took tea with Mr. George Crowles, and had a splendid supper; slept very well, but took cold; I guess I will have to stand as picket to-day.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2. Missed the parade; took a bath; heard a sermon from xiv. Psalm, 1st and 2nd verses. Very warm day; cloudy and threatening; towards night commenced raining; about dark procured a room and bed for three of us.

JUNE 3. All right excepting a night sweat and a wet shirt; a very pleasant morning; stood picket guard twenty-four hours, from eight o'clock Monday; rained part of the time; slept on the ground during the day and part of the night; slept about one hour in the old "Brown" house.

JUNE 4. Commenced raining early, and rained all day, received a letter from Jno. Edwards, and wrote one to him and one to sis; slept in a bed last night finely; waked up on

the 5th with rheumatism in my shoulders, and found it cold and raining; answered to a reveille, read the last twelve chapters of Luke, and am no waiting for my breakfast; it was a very disagreeable day indeed, cold rain all day. Received a letter from Pauline, a good one, too; slept in a house near the camp.

JUNE 6. We waked up and found it still cold, wet and misty; drilled half of the day; turned warm, had a big dance in camp.

JUNE 7. Warm and cloudy; drilled up to twelve o'clock, and am at present engaged in getting dinner; was severely reprimanded by the Captain (Edward D. Tracy) for an act that I was innocent of; I was mad enough to have killed him for it; drilled regularly until night.

JUNE 8. Woke up with a sick headache, and was excused from drill; went in a washing; put on clean clothes and felt all right; Stephen returned today well and hearty;

was glad to see him; received orders to strike tents and be ready to march in a short time, as a fight was on hand, which was obeyed with alacrity as every man seemed anxious for a fight, and reported ready; in fifteen minutes a heavy rain came upon us, and the order was countermanded, to the great indignation of all.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9. Moved one and a half miles into an old wheat field, in a very rough, rocky place, and pitched tent; missed preaching to-day.

JUNE 10. Laid up with the diarrhoea; very hot; I would as lief fight as not. This morning would like to hear from home; wrote a letter home.

JUNE 11. Very warm; drilled 2 hours and a half before noon; sent off extra baggage to Winchester preparatory to a march, fight or something else; drilled and sweated like thunder.

JUNE 12. Very pleasant morning;

pleasant breeze stirring. I have to stand guard day and night; very well pleased; expecting a battle daily, whether here or elsewhere I know not, but we will have a fight certainly, and that shortly.

JUNE 13. Started to write home; was stopped by an order to strike tents; did so, and sent this off with the expectation of marching right away; had to stay in our old encampment beneath the deep blue vault of heaven; rather cold.

JUNE 14. We are going to evacuate this place, and leave for Winchester, on foot; blowed up the bridges, and burned up the public property; going to leave for a place where we can get a fight.

JUNE 15. Finished the work of destruction, and left about ten o'clock; marched thirteen miles over a very hard and dusty road, and through a very fertile country; the best and most wheat that I ever saw, and clover in abundance; camped in a

wood three and a half miles from Charlestown; cooked and ate; slept on the ground, with no protection from the weather; the ladies of Charlestown treated us very well, and hurrahed for old Jeff.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16. Expected a rest to-day, but disappointed, as usual; had to march thirteen miles in quest of the enemy, through a beautiful and fertile valley; camped on each side of a small creek; not near so warm as the night before.

JUNE 17. Was roused up before day, and got ready to march; heard of the Yankees moving South; took a counter march to intercept them in their march on Winchester; they burned Martinsburg to-day, if rumor is true; marched eight and a half miles over a hard turnpike, and camped three and a half miles from Winchester in a wood, which reminds me of a wood-man's house--very much like it; expect to fight in a few

days; in fact we expect it this morning; was sure of a fight; extra cartridges were served out; all the wagons started back, and our captain made us a speech to encourage us; very cool weather; came near freezing last night; cool but pleasant this morning.

JUNE 18. Waiting orders; may stay here two or three days; received three letters from home; responded to them; the boys caught five of six squirrels and two hares; sleep on the ground finely.

JUNE 19. Received a box of cake and a pistol from home, with more letters; glad to get them at any time; beautiful morning, warm day, cool night; it looks like rain this morning; we expect to move to-day nearer Winchester; glad of it; I would like to see some of the ladies of Winchester the best kind.

JUNE 20. Moved our camp within a mile of Winchester, and got out tents; have got them pitched and prepared for

comfort- able soldier living. Received another letter from home; all well. Not much idea of a fight for awhile.

JUNE 21. Very pleasant day; feel sick; excused from drill, and taking a general rest. Wrote home and to several acquaintances. A funeral sermon is being preached in sight of camp; one of the soldiers died yesterday--a member of the light infantry. The ladies will be out here this evening to see us. I intend to try and fix up a little. Expect to remain here until July, when we will know what we have to do.

JUNE 22. Drilled half the day; went to town and bought some clothing. Dined at the Taylor Hotel; very common fare. Rested in the evening. Received orders about ten o'clock to cook provisions and prepare for marching.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23. Beautiful morning, rather cool. Waiting orders to march on to the Yankees; did not march. Heard two sermons from the Rev. W.

D. Chadick; very good ones. H. C. Wortham starts for home to-day; he has the consumption. I have a few letters to send by him. Don't I wish that I could go for a few days, to eat watermelons, apples, peaches, &c.? It would be glorious. Rained in the night; turned cool.

JUNE 24. Cool and clear. A beautiful morning; no prospect of leaving here yet. I think we will stay one or two weeks longer. It is only ten days until Congress meets, and that decides what we will have to do. Stood guard from eight tonight.

JUNE 25. Went to town and took a bath; came back at twelve, and slept until late, then proceeded to write a letter to Matt and one to Pauline. Stephen is on guard to-day and comes off at one o'clock to-morrow.

JUNE 16. Pleasant, but cloudy morning. Evening, moved our camp to one of the hottest places in the country. Took a severe cold and violent headache, sick as a

horse. It rained, as usual, about the time some of us got off [guard?] [page damaged]

JUNE 27. [damaged] acquaintances; [damaged] we don't get any [damaged]; still a very bad cold. [damaged] a flaw in the postal arrangements; [damaged] from Pauline. Felt sick all day; slept soundly at night.

JUNE 28. Wake up in the morning feeling considerably better. Went out on drill, and returned feeling worse. Feel very sick; would as soon go home with C. W. as not. Very hot day; a little breeze stirring. Moved our camp to a beautiful grove, and have a very nice encampment; hope we will stay here as long as possible, at least until we can take active part in the war movements.

JUNE 29. Just two months since we left home; hope to be there before two months more; very sick with the asthma, and have a bad cough yet.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30.

Nothing new.

JULY 1. Very cool; rained in the morning and all night.

JULY 2. Really cold; received orders to march in a hurry, for the fight was now close at hand; marched all the evening at a quick step; met some prisoners on the route--sad looking cases, 46 in number; stopped a little after dark, and slept until half past one o'clock; was roused up and ordered to march, which was not very cheerfully obeyed, owing to sleepiness; Colonel [Thomas] Hewlett and Doctor [William R. ?] Patton, of Huntsville, came in the morning before we started, bringing our letters; when the order was received Colonel H[ewlett] seized a gun and marched with us; Dr. Patton procured a horse and was along as surgeon.

JULY 3. We marched all night until daylight and stopped to get breakfast; we are now in the woods, seven miles from Manassas, the

reported headquarters of the army; large reinforcements have come up, and we expect to give them a good fight; in fact we will be sure to whip them; I think, I hope so; would like to send some letters home, if possible. I was very glad to hear from home by one who has seen the folks, and glad that they are all well. A man, one of our regiment, was shot and will die, by the careless handling of a pistol; we left, as we thought, for Manassas Junction, about twelve o'clock, Col. H[e]wlett in the ranks as a private, and marched about three miles; filed to the left and stopped behind a stone wall and rested in the wood all day; was roused up in the night, and moved three hundred yards to another stone wall, and slept until day, expecting a fight there all the time, but the enemy seemed inclined to stay where he is, and so do we.

JULY 4. The memorable day of all days for the American people; we

could hear the sound of the enemy's guns, I suppose in celebration of the day; we did not celebrate it; I do not know why; I think it ought to have been done; slept a good part of the day; would like to know how the home folks spent it. I would like to know what we are going to do; we slept about in the woods all day, and went to sleep expecting to be roused for a battle before morning; was roused about three o'clock, and expected a fight right away, but never moved out of the camp; we will probably fight today, July 5th, as old P[at]terson¹⁷ seems anxious to fight us; lay secreted in the woods all day; nothing new; went on guard at 7 o'clock, P.M.; stood four hours during the night; rained this morning, and looks as though it would rain hard before night; would like to see Old Abe's message; do not know when we will fight; can hear very little from which to form an opinion; news came that the enemy was

advancing; we were again drawn up in battle array, and waited impatiently two hours, but nary fight; Nich. Davis, Clint Davis, and Mr. Erskine came in from Huntsville, and took their place in our ranks as privates, also Colonel Hewlett and Captain [Arthur C.] Beard, [regimental commissary] who had ninety men ready and willing for a fight; I am beginning to believe that we will not have any, I have been fooled so often.

SUNDAY, JULY 7. We were ordered to fall back to our old position near Winchester; some of the men thought it was a retreat and began to grumble; the general ordered a note to be read to his command, in explanation of his conduct; we started in an awful hot day; I fell out of the ranks, went off the road some distance, and got a splendid dinner from an old lady and two young ones--splendid milk, butter and bread--and I did ample justice to it; she upbraided us for

leaving her to the mercy of the Yankees; I straggled into camp at sunset, completely exhausted, and went to sleep without supper.

JULY 8. A beautiful morning, rested all day, with the exception of a dress parade; wrote a letter home.

JULY 9. Spent the morning writing and drilling; it rained in the evening affording ample time for writing and a great deal of it was done.

JULY 10. Received a letter from home, all well; have struck our tents and are lying around here waiting for orders; don't know what it means; a huge columbiad came up a few moments since to be placed upon this hill; that looks as if we are going to fight here; the militia and prisoners are engaged in throwing up breastworks and planting cannon for the defense of this place; the Yankees are advancing and seem determined to at least make an effort to drive us out from here,

but I think they will fail; they outnumber us, can't outfight us; received orders to strike tents this evening, which we did, but a rain coming up, we pitched them again for shelter; expected all day for the enemy to advance upon us.

JULY 11. Struck tents again this morning at daylight. I supposed, to deceive the enemy as to our force, &c.; drilled two and a half hours on battalion drill.

JULY 12. Drilled four hours; received a letter from home; rained in the evening, and very hard all night.

JULY 13. Cleared off finely, and a beautiful morning; very cold weather for July; went to town in the forenoon and made the ice cream and cakes fly; several citizens of Huntsville arrived and brought us our letters; slept very cool in the night.

SUNDAY, JULY 14. Read twenty psalms; helped draw provisions; cleaned up my pistol, loaded it and looked over

a newspaper; have now just completed writing a letter for home; I wonder why "Chadick" did not preach.

JULY 15. Cool and clear--had a brigade drill in the morning; went through some of the evolutions badly; our regiment was sharply reproved by the Colonel [E. J. Jones]; received orders to cook up all the provisions on our return from drill; have nothing to cook; report says that the Yankees are coming on us; I do not believe it; I think that we will have to march on them if we ever fight them.

JULY 16. Had another brigade drill; went through it better; Colonel Stewart's¹⁸ cavalry went to sleep and suffered themselves to be surrounded, and came galloping in without hats, saddles, pistols, guns, &c.--raised the alarm and had us drawn up in battle array to await the enemy; we slept on our arms all night.

JULY 17. Warm but pleasant; we are lying

around our guns, looking out for Yankees over our breastworks; I feel confident that we will whip them when they come; I am beginning to believe they are not coming.

JULY 18. Received orders to strike tents and cook two days provisions preparatory for a march; this was done, and we lay around until evening before receiving orders; received them at last and went through Winchester; stop in the town until late, and bid farewell, I suppose for the last time, to Winchester, about 5 o'clock; marched nearly all night; slept about two hours; found ourselves on the road at daylight, the 19th, weary indeed; rested there about five hours, waded the stream and pitched out again to the relief of Beauregard, who they said was pressed by overwhelming odds; arrived at Piedmont Station about one hour after dark, completely worn out; went to sleep, but was aroused by a

rain in a few minutes; crept under a shelter of wheat, but got wet, having left my coat in the wagon; dried myself, procured a shawl from Uncle Washington, and slept until after midnight; was roused by orders to "fall in;" did so, and crowded on board the cars for Manassas, where we arrived about 10 o'clock a.m. of the 20th; rested awhile, bought some butter and prepared to eat, having done without for two days; received orders to march again, and said we were going right into the fight; heard a good deal of bragging about the fight of the 17th though it was not much of a fight; moved about two miles and bivouacked in the woods, where some bread and meat soon reached us, and we walked right into it like starved hounds eat, now and then all day; slept a little, and slept well at night; got up a little after sunrise on the 21st, broiled my meat and eat it with some old crackers

full of bugs; expecting orders to march at any moment; will get them, I think, for it is Sunday; we will fight, I suppose, before another week.

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Shortly after George Anderson wrote this last entry, the 4th Alabama received its orders to march. As related in the company's Record of Events, "on the morning of the 21st heavy firing having commenced upon the extreme right of our regiment, we were marched at double quick time some 8 miles to a point upon our extreme left & where the enemy in great force awaited us[.] Taking our position 100 yards distant from their lines we commenced our fire & there in conjunction with our regiment routed in great confusion 4 different regiments of the enemy as they were consecutively led against us[.] we maintained this position for 2 hours losing 6 killed & 17 wounded by an overwhelming force. Reforming Genl. [Barnard B.] Bee placed himself at

the regiments head and leading us in the charge upon Sherman's battery was shot from his horse mortally wounded. We now fell back to a position near Head Quarters, when at about 5 1/2 o'clock P.M. the battle terminated in a glorious victory for our flag."¹⁹

General Bee was not the only casualty in the attack on the *battery*. Private George Anderson also fell in this charge. According to the New York Herald. Anderson met his death bravely. The 2nd Rhode Island Battery, wrote the Herald. "was attacking a body of rebels who were entrenched in a wood, when most of the men who served it were shot down, after which the last two ran away. One of the gunners called out, 'For God's sake, five or six come and help me.' Cash and five others of the Seventy-first ran to his aid and served the guns. At this juncture a body of the enemy, amongst who was young Anderson, emerged from a corner of the wood to attack the battery, and

a grapeshot struck Anderson in the cheek, killing him instantly."²⁰

Private A. B. Shelby of the 4th Alabama also wrote of Anderson's death in a letter home. "When the gallant Anderson fell," he said, "pierced with a Minnie ball through his head, his little brother,



During the last two years of the Civil War, this building was used as the Quartermaster Headquarters of the occupying Federal forces, and is referred to numerous times in Mrs. Chadick's diary.

only fourteen years of age, fell upon the body and wept bitterly. Capt. T[racy] sympathizing with him, encouraged him to get up and avenge the death of his brother. He could not move. Oh, I shall never forget that scene."²¹

Nine days after the battle, Private Stephen Jones Anderson was discharged as underage and sent home to Alabama²² His kindly "Uncle Washington," the quartermaster, might well have had something to do with this compassionate act.



¹ Compiled Military Service Records of George and Stephen Anderson, Company I, 4th Alabama Infantry, Microfilm Copy 311, Roll 118 (A-B1), available in the Heritage Room of the Huntsville Public Library.

² Bible Records of George Tannehill Jones, in Alabama Records, vol 60, page97.

³ U.S. Census, Madison County, Alabama, 1850.

⁴ U.S. Census, Madison County, Alabama, 1860.

⁵ U.S. Census (Slaves), Madison County, Alabama, 1860.

⁶ U.S. Agricultural Census, Alabama, 1860.

⁷ U.S. Census, Madison County, Alabama, 1860. The ages in 1861 have been determined simply

by adding one year.

⁸ Will of Mrs. Martha J. (Anderson) McMullen, May 30, 1883. Will Book 3, page 739, Madison County, Alabama. Alabama Records. vol. 197, page 33. Probate Record 42, page 536, Martha J. McMullen, "who died the 15th of March, 1899." Alabama Records, vol. 197, page 33.

⁹ Compiled Military Service Record of Stephen Anderson, 4th Alabama Infantry Regiment.

¹⁰ Compiled Military Service Record of s. J. Anderson, 4th Alabama cavalry Regiment, Microfilm Copy 311, Roll 15 (A-D), available in the Heritage Room of the Huntsville Public Library. On February 26, 1865, Anderson was sent from Camp Morton to City Point, Va., for exchange. It would have taken him several days to reach City Point, thus placing the date of his exchange in early March.

¹¹ See note eight.

¹² Huntsville Democrat. September 11, 1861.

¹³ Huntsville Democrat. September 11, 1861.

¹⁴ Colonel Jackson may well have been Thomas Jonathon Jackson, soon to become the immortal "Stonewall."

¹⁵ A prominent Huntsville lawyer, Private David C. Humphreys soon left the 4th Alabama Infantry to raise a regiment of his own. However, Alabama could not provide arms for his men and the regiment disbanded. Thereafter, Humphreys took no active part in the war. Compiled Military Service Record, D. C. Humphreys, Col. I, 4th Alabama Infantry Regiment; Huntsville Democrat. July 17, 1861. See also the Huntsville Democrat, issues of September through November 1861, for numerous references to Col. Humphreys' regiment forming at Decatur. Most of Humphreys' companies would eventually join Tennessee infantry regiments.

¹⁶ Private Peter Binford died of pneumonia at Strassburg, Va., on May 20, 1861. A Huntsville lawyer, Binford had volunteered for the infantry despite being almost 44 years old. "I shall always believe he died the victim of too high a sense of duty," the Huntsville Democrat of May 29, 1861, quoted Dr. L. W. Shepherd as saying. "He would not ask to be excused from standing guard at Lynchburg, when he felt he was too sick to stand it." Binford apparently was the first man from Huntsville to die in the war. His remains were brought home and buried with Masonic honors.

¹⁷ Gen. Robert Patterson commanded the Union troops then occupying Harper's Ferry.

¹⁸ "Colonel Stewart" was none other than James Ewell Brown (Jeb") Stuart, later the dashing leader of Lee's cavalry.

¹⁹ Compiled Service Records, 4th Alabama Infantry, Microfilm Copy 311, Roll 118 (A-B1), available in the Heritage Room of the Huntsville Public Library.

²⁰ Quoted in the Huntsville Democrat. September 11, 1861.

²¹ Huntsville Democrat, August 7 1861. Stephen Anderson was actually sixteen.

²² Compiled Military Service Record of Stephen Anderson.