

## Captain Taylor Beatty Diary

BEATTY, TAYLOR

Series 5. Volume 14

Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina

[undated]

We will stay here several days

October 25

Snowing nearly all day

October 26

Lt. Kibbe who had joined us just the day we entered Ky—having been wounded at Shiloh—left-sick. Capt. Taylor joined us—he having offered his resignation just the day we started from Chattanooga—it was refused.

October 31

Left camp and marched to Knoxville—we leave immediately on cars for Chattanooga.

November 1st 1862

Did not get off till this morning—cold and disagreeable—all day on cars.

November 2

Got to Chattanooga early and left almost immediately for Bridgeport—camped on South side of river.

November 3

Crossed the river on steamer—the railroad bridge was burned last summer by our troops—they are rebuilding it.

November 4

Marched 13 miles on way to Tullahoma—camped at Sweden Hole—a fine spring—good bath.

November 5

Crossed the mountains—suffered for water a long march of 20 miles—Cevas unwell at night—camped at foot of mountains.

November 6th

Reached Tullahoma—and went into camp.

November 22nd

Regiment left on march to Murfreesboro—I on cars on a 20 days leave. Capt. Taylor with me—he goes to Hospital in Chattanooga. Missed connection at Bridgeport—the bridge not yet finished—Spent night with Brig. Genl. Tom Taylor of Ky. a pleasant man.

November 23rd

Got off this evening and reached Chattanooga about dark.

November 24

Spent day in Chattanooga—in evening went down to Dalton Ga. to take cars for Richmond.

November 25

Got to Bristol Virginia about midnight. Have to stay till tomorrow night as we missed the connection.

November 26

Off for Lynchburg.

November 27

Reached Lynchburg at about 5 P.M. and started for Richmond.

November 28

Got to Richmond about 4 A.M.—Met W.M. Starke this morning—since his father's death he has been on duty on a Court Martial. He went around the place with me and I ordered a new uniform. I am stopping at the Spotswood Hotel. Room No. 1.

December 7 1862

Attended Episcopal Church on Capitol square with Cpt. W.M. Starke and after he and Capt. H.S. Bereth dined with me at a restaurant.

December 8th

Dined with Capt. Bereth—I leave this evening have had a very pleasant time—having met a great many acquaintances—among them Capts. [sic] Van Benthuyzen, Holmes, Glenn and Turner of the Marines—all of whom I knew at Pensacola. Lt. Col. Whitfield of 9th Miss. Dr. Henly who used to live in Houma, Parish of Terrebonne, off at 5 P.M. on cars.

December 9th

All day on cars—very cold.

December 10th

Passed through Knoxville and reached Chattanooga—find that my trunk is lost. Hope to find it by going to Dalton.

December 11

To Dalton in afternoon—cant [sic] find my trunk—must get back to army—as we have heard of Hartsville affair—where we took 2900 prisoners—and there seems to be a prospect of a fight.

December 12

Left Dalton at 2 A.M.--and reached Murfreesboro at 9 P.M.—had to stay at dirty hotel as I dont [sic] know where our regiment is.

December 13

Found that the regiment is doing duty in town—Glad to meet all again—comfortably fixed with a chimney to our tent.

December 16

Lt. Louis West detached on Ordnance Duty.

December 24

A ball given in town tonight by the officers of the 1st La. and 2nd Ky—I did not go as I did not like the programme [sic] and managers—Have been getting my meals for past week in town and shall continue.

December 26

Enemy reported as advancing—suppose we shall have a fight soon.

December 29

Struck our tents and ready for a fight—stayed all night in camp.

December 30

Marched out to the field—just as we got out of town—a shot from one of the enemy's rifled cannon took off the right arm of a man named Pat Burke of my company. In evening about 4 P.M. or a little sooner my company detailed to assist our skirmishers who were being driven back. Hard fight for a short time. I lost Privates Barelli and Henry killed and privates Hearne and Trabold wounded—fell back to the regiment as night closed and lay waiting for enemy till 8 P.M. were not allowed any fire. Cevas, Guirot and myself arranged us a spot of extempore bed—very very cold—spent our time in wondering about what would be result of next day's fight—a bloody and desperate one it will be certain.

December 31

Day dawned, misty and cold—about 8 A.M. as enemy showed no disposition for an attack, orders were given for us to retreat by brigade to right—and charge the enemy—this was done in gallant style driving the enemy who occupied a skirt of woods in front of us. We had a cross an open field and were of course exposed to a galling fire—but we carried the point. As we were pursuing the enemy an order came for us to fall back—and was repeated along the line—the men commenced to break. Capt. West seized our colors and tried to stop it, but it was of no use as the troops on our right and left had already fallen back. the enemy had also rallied and were advancing to attack us. We fell back in some disorder to our original position, and then I rallied the men and found then. I saw Col Jaquess—he seemed to be doing nothing. Capt. West soon joined me and I turned the command over to him. Just before we fell back Lt. B.C. Cevas of my company came up to me and told me he was wounded. I asked him where—he said “In the shoulder” at same time pointing to the wound—I looked and saw it was near the region of the heart and knew it was mortal. I ordered him to the rear with a man. When we fell back I saw this man and he told me that poor Cevas fell dead the moment I left him. We now were ordered foward [sic] again and passed over the same ground—in going I got Capt. West’s leave and looked for and found Cevas’ body. Lt. Olivier had gotten his watch and pocket book. Olivier was on a horse and I told him to get rid of it and join his regiment which he failed to do during the day. In this first fight we lost Lt. Cevas, Kent, Bartrain and Trist. The first and last died on the field—the other two are living—but mortally wounded. Lt. W.K. Huger has lost his leg—Sergt. [sic] Logan of my company will also lose his leg—Capt. West leading the regiment we advanced with our brigade to near a hospital of the enemy. Lt. Col. Jaquess rode up on a horse exclaiming “now I have a horse I can lead you.” The brigade was ordered foward [sic]—but our regiment remaind [sic] behind--and advanced and fell back several times by Co. Jaquess’ order. A battery of the enemy to our right was playing on us all the time and killed and wounded several of our men. It was thought for a while that the battery was one of our own--and Lt. Quick of ours climbed on the top of a house in the open field and displayed our division flag—he was fired at several times but was not hit. Again we were ordered foward [sic] but a little to the right, and got behind a fence by an old cotton gin. We soon went foward [sic] from here and the enemy’s battery fell back. We saw some troops advancing and I finding myself in command advanced with them—but they soon fell back. I also fell back with our regiment but not to our old position—and soon after finding where our brigade was I joined it. I found myself without sixty men and 7 or 8 officers—they were as I now remember—Capt. Cooper, Lts. [sic] Reid, Guirot, Golding, Kennedy (who had joined us that morning) Quick—Lt. Cooper soon joined us. We soon after advanced with our brigade and made several attempts to dislodge the enemy from the position he had been driven to and where he [sic] whole force was masse [sic]. The enemy overwhelmed us with artillery. About dark our division which had been in front all day—was ordered to second line and we bivouacked. Capt. West joined us and took command. He had been ordered on some duty by Col. Jaquess. We employed ourselves talking over the events of the day—and deploring the loss of our comrades—and speaking perhaps harshly of these who were absent—and as we thought unjustifiably—viz, Col. Jacquess, Capt. Trezevant and Lt. Olivier. The night is bitter cold.

January 1st, 1863

At daylight we were ordered into line and reoccupied the front line of our forces. As we marched along horrible sights met our eyes—bodies frozen stiff and stark in every direction. Last night was certainly one of the coldest I have ever known. Capts. [sic] Sparks and Stringfellow joined us—they had been ordered by Col. Jaquess to Maney's brigade which was on our right yesterday—they brought Lt. Olivier along—whom they had found riding about. Col. Jaquess it seems has attached himself to Genl. Withers' staff and deserted his regiment and colors. Under a scattering fire all day but not much hard firing—occasionally a sharp artillery duel—we are reorganizing.

January 2nd

Capt. Kent who left about 20 days ago—got back—his son Adolph, an adjutant—died last night of his wound—poor fellow, he was much liked by us all—and was as gallant a man as ever lived—a grand attack was made on our right this evening by the Division of Maj. Genl. Breckinridge—but was unsuccessful—we were also under a severe fire of artillery. About dark we were marched over to the right to support our old Pensacola comrades of the 9 and 10 Miss—Rained all night—a bad time of it.

January 3rd

Ordered to move to the front to relieve from picket duty the 10th Miss—Capt. Kent in command—bad manner of campaigning, etc Lt. Col. Farrar joined us on what we have called the Round Forest—and relieved the 10 Miss.—Skirmishing all day—and lost 10 or 15 men. Enemy sent in a flag of truce to ask for the body of a Kentucky Captain, as they said—in reality to see our position—their request was refused. We are now on the railroad—near the Nashville Pike. About 6 P.M. the enemy opened on us with 12 pieces of artillery and kept up the fire for about an hour. Lt. Col. Farrar was badly wounded by a shrapnel shot—Capt. Kent is now in command—as the fire of artillery grew less, I asked him to send out and strengthen our pickets and get our men ready for action as I felt sure the enemy would attack us. He ridiculed the idea—he is stupid from the loss of his son and heir. He at last gave us leave to take a company and strengthen our pickets—as I was doing that, the enemy came upon us—discovering me, they opened in a deadly volley—which I returned with my command. Being in the open field, I ordered my men to fall back to the shelter of the woods where I was joined by Lt. Cooper to whom I gave command of the skirmishers ordering him to keep up the fire and fall back slowly, that I would bring our regiment to his aid. Going back to where I had left our regiment, I found Capts. [sic] Kent, Sparks and Stringfeller—the men had fled in all directions. Capt. Kent was unconscious of everything. Sparks called to me that Reid was killed. I ordered two men to carry off the body and went on collecting our men. Capts. [sic] Sparks, Kent and Stringfeller found me. They said it was no use to remain any longer as all of our men were gone. I told them I should remain until ordered back. Capts. [sic] Kent and Sparks then went off to the earthworks from which we had come in the morning. Capt. Stringfeller remained with me. Several regiments had now come to our aid, and I endeavored to get them to push forward [sic] and drive the enemy from the woods but could not—Capt. West now came up and said that he would not take the command away from me of what men I had, but would serve under me. I then ordered my men forward and we recaptured the same position we had been driven from. We

were soon after relieved and I went over to the earthworks and found several of our officers with the colors of the regiment. So it goes—is there to be a report of this or not—it has been raining all day and is still—the mud where we are is six inches deep.

January 4th

At 1 A.M. we were ordered to move. I had been let into the secret before that we would fall back—rain pouring down and almost freezing. I marched 8 miles and then could go no further—but fell down by roadside and slept till 8 A.M.—Capt. Sparks was with me. We then proceeded towards Shelbyville, he riding, I walked all the way except 2 miles. Met Isaac Hyams formerly of ours on the road—he is now serving in the 39 N.C. acting Adjt. Got to Shelbyville about 7 P.M., and being exhausted slept well.

January 5

Spent day in camp.

January 6th

Ordered by Lt. Genl. Polk into town to do guard duty—remained all day and night—got good meals in town. Our division marched yesterday—on way to Alisionia. [sic]

January 7

Started on our march.

January 8th

Got to Tullahoma where we will stop as we hear our division is ordered back to Shelbyville—telegraphed to Genl. Bragg for orders.

January 9th

Got telegraphic orders from Genl. Bragg to remain at Tullahoma.

January 11th

Called on Mrs. Bragg—and then on Genl. Bragg—the latter tells me he has determined to consolidate our regiment into three or four companies—and that I can have one of them or a place on his staff—in Inspector' [sic] General's Department as I please—I take the latter.

January 12

Order published putting me in Inspector General's Department and ordering me to report to Lt. Col. W.K. Beard.

January 13

Order published putting me on Commanding General's Staff—in Judge Advocate's Department.

January 14

Hard at work examining charges and preparing for a Court Martial.

January 16

Off for Huntsville where I am to attend to the case of James Hickman who has been arrested by Military authorities for a spy and who has sued out a writ of Habeas Corpus—Reached Huntsville at 7 P.M. and put up at Hotel near the railroad.

January 19th

Called on Brig. Genl. Bate commanding the fort and informed him of my business—the case comes off on Wednesday.

January 21

Argued the case before Probate Judge—Genl. Bate and Major Clarke on my side—Genl. L.P. Walker previously Secretary of War against us—with his partner a Mr. Brickell. The usual amount of buncombe about tyranny of military power--and eternal conflict between it and civil authority—The case was decided against—Shall I arrest the man and take him away—he is dangerous. Shall wait for action of Grand Jury which is now in session here in Confederate States Court.

January 22

Shall get off tomorrow, as the Grand Jury has indicted the men for treason.

January 23

Off from Huntsville—got to Tullahoma at about 8 P.M. find that two courts martial have been called.

January 24

Court met and adjourned as I was not prepared for a trial of any cases.

January 31st

We have tried Capt. Trezevant and Lt. Olivier of our's for misconduct in the field—the latter was cashiered—the former acquitted—the members of our court are Brig. Genl. Wood—Brown. Col. Sam Adams, 33 Ala—Col. Colquitt, 1st Ala.—Col. Smith, 2nd Tenn.—Col. Lewis, 6th Ky—Lt. Col. Charlton, 45 Miss.—Lt. Col. Henry Maury, 32 Ala.—Lt. Col. Cole, 5th Confed.

February 14

The trial of Col. Jaquess was concluded today—he is discharged—the charge was "Misconduct before the enemy". I was of course one of the principal witnesses against him—and he endeavored to impeach my testimony by enlisted men of the regiment--and by asking me if I was not prejudiced against him. The Court will adjourn in a few days.

February 21

On my way to Atlanta—to hold a Court Martial there—missed connected at Chattanooga—and had to stay all night.

February 22

Reached Atlanta and put up at the Atlanta House as Col. J.P. Ives, Inspector General is there.