

A photograph of a cannon in a field with mountains in the background. The cannon is in the foreground, pointing towards the right. The background shows a green field, a road, and distant mountains under a cloudy sky. A tree is visible in the upper left corner.

JULY-DECEMBER  
1861

**THE DIARY OF  
JOHN F.  
LOCKE**

14TH TENNESSEE  
INFANTRY  
COMPANY D

**EDITED BY DERRICK LINDOW**

1861

# Enlistment and the Cheat Mountain Campaign

## JULY 1861

16- Started from home, got boat at Itri(?) about midnight, landed at Dover after sunrise.

17- Leave here on train in P.M., pass Clarksville, arrive at Camp Boone<sup>1</sup>, stay all night.

18- I go back to Clarksville and in P.M., (4:00) take train for Nashville, arrive there at dark. It rains desperately.

19- Was sworn in at war department and left on 4:00 train<sup>2</sup>. Arrive at Chattanooga early the 20th (Sunday), change cars and st\*\* arrive at Knoxville at 12:00. Stay here the 20th and start for Haynesville, arrive there at 4:00. Find the boys in fine spirits.

21- Rainy Day

22- The regiment was paid off today. Drew gun and accoutrements.

23- Fine day. The regiment get on the train, and arrive at Bristol and stopped there. We lived on the luxuries of the town until the 25th.

25- We start on the cars and arrive at Lynchburg on the 26th. Here the boys nearly all take a spree/spred

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<sup>1</sup> Camp Boone was one of the main Confederate recruiting and training camps for Kentuckians who supported the south. It sat just across the state line in Montgomery County, Tennessee.

<sup>2</sup> According to John's service record, he is sworn in by General Felix Zollicoffer, but his service record for July/August 1863 states that it was General Daniel S. Donelson.

27- Leave here and arrive at Stanton<sup>3</sup> on the 28th.

28- Here we cook rations<sup>4</sup> and take train and arrive at Millboro in the P.M. Pitch tents and stay there until the 30th<sup>5</sup>.

30-We start on march and camp at Cow Pasture Ricer.

31- March and camp at Warm Springs. Here the boys have a fine time bathing in warm water.

## **August**

1- We marched at camped at Jackson's River.

2- We marched and camp at Huntersville (Pohokahontas County).

3- We take quarters here at Huntersville and remain here. I guard the first prisoners. We have fine weather.

6- We march and camp at Edray.

7- Very rainy. We march and camp at Big Springs in the mountains. Here we have a great deal of rain and disagreeable duty. There was a man accidentally shot in the 7th Tennessee Regiment at this place.

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<sup>3</sup> Staunton, Virginia. Apparently John spelled the city the way it is pronounced.

<sup>4</sup> According to the Regulations for the army of the Confederate States, 1862, the ration was to consist of three-fourths of a pound of pork or bacon, or one and a fourth pounds of fresh or salt beef; eighteen ounces of bread or flour, or twelve ounces of hard bread (hardtack), or one and a fourth pounds of corn meal; and at the rate to one hundred rations of eight quarts of peas or beans or, in lieu thereof, ten pounds of rice; six pounds coffee; twelve pounds sugar; four quarts of vinegar; one and a half pounds of tallow, or one and a fourth pounds adamantine, or one pound sperm candles; four pounds of soap, and two quarts of salt.

Rarely did the Confederate soldiers receive all of the above mentioned. Logistical and transportation problems plagued the Confederacy's ability to feed its soldiers.

<sup>5</sup> When Locke arrived, the 14th was camped at Haynesville, Virginia on the Northern Neck of the Virginia peninsulas. They are then transferred by rail toward the western part of the state for future campaigns.

24- We move camp about half a mile.

25- Sunday. Heard Parson Armstrong preach first and tenth chapters of Hebrews.

26- I was detailed and worked on road.

29- Rained very hard.

30- Commenced waiting in hospital. FMK<sup>6</sup> is quite low. DLB<sup>7</sup> and ATS<sup>8</sup>, JB and JB<sup>9</sup> are sick.

## September

1, 2, & 3- Fine weather. The 7th Tennessee starts for Cheat Mountain.

4- Rained quite hard in the AM.

5- Rainy. Our regiment started to Cheat Mountain Tennessee (I think he was in error here)

6 and 7- Fine weather. We move hospital tent. I am waiting on Knight, Boyle and Brandon.

8 and 9- Fine weather. Remove some of the sick to general Hospital over the mountain.

10- Fair

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<sup>6</sup> Possibly Marian Knight of Company D. Knight would be discharged in February 1862 for disability.

<sup>7</sup> Possibly Duke Brandon of Company D. It appears Duke Brandon may have travelled with Locke from their home of Stewart County as they enlisted on the same day in Nashville and ended up in the same company. In early 1862, Brandon will be discharged for fever and chronic sickness

<sup>8</sup> Possibly Allen T. Suddarth of Company D. Suddarth would be wounded at Fredericksburg and die of his wounds on January 12, 1863

<sup>9</sup> One of these JB's could be John Boyle of Company D, but according to his service record, he died while the regiment was at Warm Springs in July. It is possible that this was wrong and whoever filled out the form remembered incorrectly, but cannot be 100% verified as the service record was dated 1864. Later, Locke will mention a John B that passed away from sickness in December in 1861.

11- Rainy. WH Thompson<sup>10</sup> is here with me. I went to General Hospital and back.

12- Fine Day. It was said that Colonel Washington<sup>11</sup> was killed and his plans thereby discovered from papers found on his person.

13- Donelson's brigade taken, 67 prisoners.

14- Fine day. The prisoners pass up today for Richmond.

15- Fine day. Sunday. Mrs. Norris visits today. She came expressly from home in Tennessee to wait on sick and wounded soldiers.

16- Cols. Fulton's 8th and Savage's 16th Reg. Tennessee volunteers came today from the front. Our brigade under General Anderson sent back 8 prisoners today.

17- Quite rainy. DLB<sup>12</sup> took measles, I went to General Hospital and back. Caught an old horse.

19- Gloomy. They begin to move the sick to The Springs in Bath County.

21- Rainy.

22- Fine Day. We started for Edray with our sick. Stalled in the mud.

23- Fine day. Got stalled three times and prized up the wagons. Phil Nolin was with us. We got to Edray at dark.

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<sup>10</sup> William H. Thompson was a sergeant in Company D. He would be captured at Gettysburg in 1863, and be with Locke for the duration of the war.

<sup>11</sup> Colonel John A. Washington was a part of General Robert E. Lee's staff, and was scouting the Union right before the Battle of Cheat Mountain when he was killed. He was also the great-grand nephew of George Washington.

<http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/john-augustine-washington-iii/>

<sup>12</sup> Possibly Duke Brandon, Company D.

24- Fine day. Fixed tent and moved the boys from the wagon.

26- Rained at night. A great many sick---Average about three deaths per day.

27- Rainy. RE Fakes dies in AM<sup>13</sup>. Storm in PM.

28- Cool. Great loss in the retreat of our men from Big Springs. Some commissaries burnt and wagons, trunks, etc.

29 and 30- Fine weather. They are removing the sick from here to The Springs.

## October

1- Fine day.

2- Rainy.

3- Pretty day. General Jackson had an engagement today with the enemy. We keep out a strong picket- Expect an attack.<sup>14</sup>

4 and 5- Fine weather. 5th. Started with the sick to The Springs after dark; got stalled near (4-½ mile) of Huntsville. Had to stay all night without food for man or horses. I have seven sick in my charge. It's raining.

6- Fine day. We started out on horse; give out before we get to Huntsville. Get to town about 8:00. Get a room and move the boys in it. DLB<sup>15</sup> quite bad off. It rained that night.

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<sup>13</sup> Robert E. Fakes was a private in Company D and was 18 years old when he died. His service record states that he died on the 25th.

<sup>14</sup> The Federal army under General Joseph Reynolds attempted to turn the flank of "Stonewall" Jackson at Greenbrier River. The attack failed and was called off.

<https://www.civilwar.org/learn/maps/greenbrier-river-october-3-1861>

<sup>15</sup> Duke Brandon, Company D.

7-Rained all day. PN<sup>16</sup> came from the company (which was then at Green Brier) to assist me.

8 and 9- Fine weather. Begin to move the sick to The Springs expecting a fight at Green Brier.

10- Fine day. We started for Springs with the sick. Camp at Col. Gatewood's<sup>17</sup>. I lay on wet ground, had a chill at night.

11- Fine day. Get DLB in ambulance and start. Get to Hot Springs at dark. DLB is taken on to Healing Springs. Rained that night. I have another chill.

12- Fine weather--Got a room in hotel with GWL<sup>18</sup> find him quite low. I take a bath.

15- Fine cool weather. Sunday- I feel quite well. Some leaving for Regiment. GWL died at half past three PM.

16- Fine day. Got him buried decently about 5:00 in the PM.

17- Gloomy rainy. I had a hard chill. The boys seem to be mending.

18- Gloomy.

19- Fine day. I walked out and got dinner (2 miles).

20- Fine day.

21- Rainy-My eye is very sore today.

22 and 23- Fine weather.

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<sup>16</sup> Pinckney Nellums, Company D was 17 years old.

<sup>17</sup> Home of an early settler of Pocahontas County, Virginia.  
<http://okielegacy.net/journal/tabloid/?ID=7367&iss=27&vol=16>

<sup>18</sup> I have not been able to find anyone in the 14th with the initials GWL.

24- Colonel Gatewood was shot and killed by his men.

25- I went to healing Springs and saw DLB and bathed my eye in the water.

27- Cool. Heard the Rev. Quintard<sup>19</sup> of the 1st Regiment<sup>20</sup> preach (9th verse, 3rd chapter Ephesians) at 3:00. Sunday.

28- I am quite unwell.

29- Fine day. GTD<sup>21</sup> and I went to Healing. Got dinner at Kinkead's.

30- Lancaster taken sick with mumps<sup>22</sup>.

31- Fine day. I went to the mill got at GWH's. Got back and found Major Harrol, who paid us one month's pay \$11.

## November

1 and 2- Cloudy and rainy---(Sunday) Cool and cloudy- The men are dying quite fast.

4 and 5- Fair and cool. Dr. Carrington visits the sick and examines them today.

6- Have a hail storm. MFK<sup>23</sup> moved upstairs.

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<sup>19</sup> Reverend C.T. Quintard was the chaplain of the 1st Tennessee Infantry.

<sup>20</sup> The First Tennessee Infantry would later return to the Western Theater where they would participate in the Battle of Shiloh, and then ever major engagement of the Army of Mississippi/Tennessee was engaged in. For further reading on the 1st Tennessee, read *Co. Aytch: A Side Show of the Big Show* by Sam Watkins who was an enlisted man in the regiment.

<sup>21</sup> A soldier in the 14<sup>th</sup> Tennessee with the initials GTD was not found.

<sup>22</sup> Mumps is a contagious viral disease that causes puffy cheeks and swollen jaws. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, tiredness, and headache.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mumps/about/signs-symptoms.html>

<sup>23</sup> Possibly Marian Knight.



7 and 8- Fine weather. JB seems better.

9- J. Free<sup>24</sup> came to assist in the hospital. I took supper at Mr. Wilkinson's.

10- Sunday

11- Fine day. Went to Healing and back.

12- Pinney Boyd<sup>25</sup> died.

15- Snowed in the PM. I dined at Mr. Wilkinson's.

18- Cool. I taken mumps. JB seems better.

20- Rain and hail.

24- Sunday- snow.

26- Quite cold. Three inches of snow on the ground.

27 and 28- Sleet and rain. WJH<sup>26</sup> and others start to regiment.

## December

1- Gloomy Sunday. We hear of bombarding at Ft. Donelson. JB Seems worse.

2- Jno. B<sup>27</sup>. dies this morning at 5:00. Snows today.

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<sup>24</sup> Private John Free of Company D. Free would be killed at the Battle of Cedar Mountain in August 1862.

<sup>25</sup> Private Pinkny W. Boyd, Company E was 23 years old. His service record states that he died in November 1861.

<sup>26</sup> Private William J. Hagler of Company D. Hagler would later be promoted to Lieutenant.

<sup>27</sup> Cannot locate a John B in the 14th that died during this time.

3- Very cold. Got John buried late in the PM. I and Lane<sup>28</sup> went to Warm Springs. It is very muddy.

4, 5, and 6- Weather moderate. Lt. Lizenby<sup>29</sup> passed with 8 prisoners for Richmond.

7- Hart<sup>30</sup> Wofford<sup>31</sup> and others got her[e] from Gold Sulphur.

8- Sunday. Wen to church, heard a sermon from the 35th Psalms, 6th verse. Captain Buckner<sup>32</sup> and Lowe<sup>33</sup> got here this evening. Received \$47.00 pay.

9- We started to Milboro. Capt. B. and L. sent RH, JL and I to Rockbridge to carry the boys their money. We stop at hotel at M. and have nice time.

10- Fine day. We went to Rockbridge, Alum Springs. Dock, Troy<sup>34</sup>, and John with me. We stay all night.

11- Fine day. We come back to Milboro and got on a little spree.

12- Very cold. Went to Staunton on the cars, stop Va. Hotel.

13- Got board with Mr. Supee, a dutchman.

15- Sunday. Heard a sermon from 116th Psalms in AME at night.

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<sup>28</sup> Possibly Private Harvey Lane of Company F.

<sup>29</sup> Lieutenant Redmond B. Lisenby of Company E was 35 years old. He was not reelected to the position when the regiment was reorganized in 1862.

<sup>30</sup> Private William Henry Hart of Company D was 20 years old. His service record states that he deserted on July 3, 1863.

<sup>31</sup> Private Charles W. Wofford of Company D. He would be killed on July 1, 1863 at Gettysburg.

<sup>32</sup> Captain Hiram C. Buckner was the commanding officer of Company D. He would die in just a few weeks while on furlough near Dover, Tennessee.

<sup>33</sup> Captain W. Lowe was commander of Company C. He was 57 years old and was not reelected to the position when the regiment was reorganized in 1862.

<sup>34</sup> Possibly Private Troy McAskell of Company F.

17- Seven of us took stage to Harrisonburg (2,000) had some (2 bottles) Schnapps, FC<sup>35</sup> with us. Got there about 9. Put up at Hill's Hotel. Had very good time.

18 or 19- Fine day. The 7th Regiment passes here this morn.

20. Our regiment comes on, we join it, go on 3 miles and camp. Very cold. I take very bad cold living out without a tent.

21- March on. Pass New Market one half mile and camp.

22. Marched on, passed Mr. Jackson, Hawkinstown and Edinburg, and camp mile from the latter (at Taylortown).

23- Marched through Woodstock (1500) and came to Maurertown. Here I stopped; the day being wet and cold, I take a chill and stop with Mr. Rosenberger.

24- Feel better and pursue on and caught up with the regiment, and after passing Strausburg (800) 1 mile, I hire a boy to let me ride with him on a horse 1 ½ mile.

25- Very cold. I and ATS were quite unwell and L. and Col. B. gave a pass back to S. (Strausburg?) to remain until next evening to take stage. We get board with old Mr. Hern in town. I was taken down with pneumonia called in Dr. Brown of S. and Dr. P of the 7th Tennessee. I was insensible several days, write no more until Jan. 2.

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The Following letter was written by Captain Higgins of the 8th Tennessee Infantry and highlights the campaign in western Virginia in 1861. Higgins also enclosed a letter written by their colonel, Alfred S. Fulton, and submitted the whole document to the Fayetteville Observer newspaper. The

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<sup>35</sup> This man could be Private Franklin Crasman of Company A, or Private Francis Carden of Company J.

8th Tennessee would not stay in Virginia, but would return to the Western Theater in 1862. The 8th was often times near the 14th.

*To give you a minute detail of all that occurred on that day, or the seven consecutive days, would take more time and paper than I have to spare. Permit me to say, however, that Napoleon's trip across the Alps must sink into insignificance when the faithful historian describes the trip that Gen Donelson's brigade made across the Alleghenies.*

*Napoleon's men looked upon him with reverential awe, with a degree of confidence never equaled; besides, they were clothed and fed. and had all the stimulating drinks the vineyards of France afforded, pressing forward in the hope of glory and of wealth; while we, unacquainted with the military skill of our general, knowing he had no experience; without food, and our bare feet making crimson the rough pebbles over which they trod, clinging now to some shrub till we could secure our footing in some crevice below, which if you missed, would tumble you headlong down unless some huge rock or tree should present an obstacle sufficient to check the double quick step movement; or, 'scalping this, would fall from rock to rock till you would be but a disfigured corpse, or living, a mangled object of pity - with no hope of reward save to free our country from the Goths and Vandals. Yet with a determination rarely equaled, never surpassed, pushing forward without a murmur, till the madly rushing stream below cooled our parching tongues, then casting our eyes heavenward (for the steepness of the mountain so directed them), we commence our slow and wearisome march upward, upward, until nature's self refuses longer to perform her functions, and we sink down into forgetfulness. Thus we traveled on the first day without being relieved by the sight of the enemy.*

*Resting as best we could, without fire, with unsalted beef for rations, without bread; with no covering but the lowering clouds, which, ever and anon, let loose upon our devoted heads their torrents of water, we slept as only exhausted men can sleep.*

*At daylight next morning we lifted our weary limbs from mother earth and again struck out across the mountains. I will not give you the names of the different peaks over which we passed. They are all spurs of the Alleghenies. We were now in the enemy's country, and had to keep a sharp lookout to prevent a surprise. At 12 m., the advance guard discovered the enemy's pickets. We were ordered to flank them, which we could only do by a double quick movement up the side of the mountain. It had been raining all day, and it was not only the most tiresome trip I ever underwent, but it was with the greatest difficulty we could keep our feet. Our Colonel, than whom there is not a braver or more magnanimous man in the army, abandoned his horse, led the way, and rushing upon them (there were four), ordered them to surrender or die. They surrendered without hesitation.*

*They had first rate muskets and minnie ball cartridges. The men were fine looking fellows, and did not seem dissatisfied with their position as prisoners. This was our first bloodless victory. We again pushed forward, went about half a mile, when we again came upon four more of their pickets, who were not so ready to surrender as the first. Two*

*of them broke at full speed down the valley, but a shot from a musket in the hands of one of our men and a ball from the rifle of our guide brought them down. They paid dearly for their folly. The others surrendered.*

*Again we advanced, and again came upon their pickets. taking them prisoners, securing their guns, etc. We finally came upon the whole company from the Sixth Ohio regiment, who were quartered in a house from which they had driven the family. We took them completely by surprise and they surrendered without firing a gun. Two of the company were up on the side of the mountain, and ran at the top of their speed, but a couple of shots brought them to; they could not escape the unerring aim of our boys. We got some fine swords. guns, etc. The captain (Bruce) had a beautiful sword, a present from the citizens of Cincinnati, for his "noble efforts in defense of his country." He was a very intelligent man; said his company was sworn in for three years, but that the war was an unnatural one and could not last long.*

*We hid their guns securely, for we could not carry them, and formed again into line. The Orderly Sergeant of the captured company, by request, formed his company into line. We now left the little creek (Stewart's), and took a blind path across the mountain to take our position in the rear of the enemy's fortifications. We had killed four of the enemy and captured fifty, without the loss of a man, and felt proud of our day's work. We had yet three miles to travel to reach our destination. The rain began to descend in torrents, and it was nearly night. We reached it at last, nearly exhausted. We could see from the mountain the tents and camp fires of the enemy in the valley below. I and many others supposed the object was to surround them (we did not then know it was their strongest fortification), surprise and rout them, and take possession of their comfortable tents, provisions, etc., both of which were desirable objects, as we had not eaten anything scarcely for forty-eight hours. and there was a cool, chilling rain falling. We were badly mistaken, however. After marching down the hollow in the direction of their camps we halted. Our guide discovered that we were within gunshot of the most strongly fortified place in West Virginia, which was guarded by from 5,000 to 10,000 choice troops. This fact being reported to Gen. Donelson, he ordered us to ascend the mountain as noiselessly as possible. We could have been surrounded, cut off, butchered or made prisoners of (you should bear in mind that we only had about 1,300 men and all our guns wet) by an alert enemy; but Providence again interposed in our behalf by sending torrents of rain, making night hideous by the howling winds and as black as Erebus. We gained the top without causing any alarm. Here we spent the night more disagreeably than I can describe. Let the curtain fall till morning.*

*At daylight next morning we were ordered to fall back several miles. Gen. Lee came to us in person. and informed us that the other commands had failed to come to time. and we must fight our way out. We started, left in front (Col. Savage's regiment was the left wing), but before proceeding fifty yards they were fired on by about one hundred of the enemy, killing one man and wounding one, both of Col. Savage's regiment. The fire was returned, and for a few moments the rattle of musketry was most musical to the ears of a soldier. Our regiment struck off at full*

*speed, throwing aside blankets, haversacks, in fact everything but guns and cartridge boxes, believing the fight had commenced, and fearing Col. Savage's regiment would be overpowered before we could reach them. They were entirely hid from our view. I flatter myself there never was more cool determination. more eagerness for the conflict, than that manifested by all the troops on that occasion.*

*Our Commissary, Capt. Ewing. on horseback, rushed ahead of the regiment and was in the thickest of the fight. Col. Savage ordered his men to charge. They raised a yell. which was answered by our regiment. now getting nearly upon them. And fixing bayonets, rushed at them. The Yanks could not stand this, but fled in every direction. Eighteen ran into our lines and were captured. Thirteen were killed.*

*It was on Tuesday, the 17th of September. that we got back to Big Springs. Here we remained for a few days. eating gradually what little we could get, and washing our clothing, such as we had, and recuperating generally as best we could. On the 2nd we were ordered to cook four days rations, which we proceeded to do. We had nothing at that time to cook but flour and fresh beef, and that of the most inferior quality. We had no salt, no lard, and the quality of the rations can be fully appreciated. Our ranks were greatly reduced by sickness and death, and the outlook was indeed growing quite gloomy. Yet it is right to say our officers did all they could for us. The mountain roads had by this time gotten in such a condition that it was almost impossible to get anything to us.*

*On Sunday morning, the 22nd. we folded our tents and silently and gladly bid farewell to Big Springs, in Pocahontas county, in West Virginia. That night we camped at the foot of Rich mountain. On Monday, the 23d. we landed back at Marlin Bottom. on the Greenbrier river. Our sick had been left at camp Edray, and much difficulty was overcome in removing them, but as fast as it could be done, they were transferred to Huntersville. a reference to which has been already given. While camped at Marlin Bottom, on the night of the 27th, there came another flood of rain, known only to that region of country. and such as no other country but that could produce. The water rose rapidly and was soon rushing in among our tents and under our beds of straw and leaves. Many had to move their tents on a hill side near by; and indeed everything was swept away that lay near the river bank but the celebrated "Jim Morton log," as the boys called it. The current and lashing waves, in their wild and mad rush, moved ail before them, save this one gigantic piece, and there it remained up to the hour we left, as a fallen pyramid to mark the one place of our camp in the mountains. On Sunday, the 29th, we moved out of the bottom and stopped one mile further on towards Huntersville. Here we remained for several days, nothing occurring of any interest. However, it should be mentioned that the Georgia regiment. under the command of Col. Blomley, which had been assigned to Donelson's brigade, did not march with us in our campaign over the mountains; and here. at Marlin Bottom, many of them died. Men never died more rapidly, it seemed to us, than did these Georgians in Northwest Virginia. One half of that regiment, no doubt, died while we were in those mountains.*

*On Saturday, the 5th of October, we received orders to move out, and we did locate at new quarters. We took up our camps about one mile northeast of Huntersville. Here we struck a section of country that had not been invaded by any troops before. And for a while we had good living. Our camp equipage was remodeled, our appetites in a great measure satisfied, and the men began to rebuild themselves in ail respects. The boys were learning to become successful forage masters. Here for several days we had an easy time. It was no uncommon thing to see some of the boys come into camps with a sheep or a bee-stand, an armful of cabbage (all bought and paid for, of course.)*

*The familiarity that soon grew up between the troops and many of the citizens was at times alarming in some respects. The widow at the little mille, and the "Crow" family were very kind, and will be remembered by many of us for many days. Here some fortifications were thrown up for practice and exercise, and in the main we had a good time generally,*

*While here, our friends at home, having learned something of our hardships and sufferings, through their benevolent societies and organizations, sent to the Eighth Tennessee Regiment a number of boxes filled with the most substantial and delicate provisions, just such as Tennessee wives and mothers know how to get up. On the receipt of this great blessing, as it was to us, Co!. Fulton wrote the following letter back home, which speaks for itself:*

*Huntersville, Va., Sept. 25th, 1861*

*Mrs. Ross, President of the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society, Lincoln county, Tennessee:*

*I this day received, through your obliging Secretary, a very complimentary note, begging my acceptance of hospital stores for my regiment, with list of articles enclosed. With feelings, no language at my command can express, I accept for and in behalf of the Eighth Tennessee Volunteers the box of stores for their use so kindly tendered by your benevolent and humane Society, and earnestly beg you will accept for your Society the most grateful acknowledgements and heartfelt thanks of my command for the same.*

*Though we may march o'er hill and mountain plain, barefooted and on half rations; though we may expose ourselves by day and by night to ail the vicissitudes of a life in camp and on the field; and though we may meet the enemy in a hand to hand to fight, contend for victory at the cannon's mouth; yet I much doubt if we exhibit so much devotion to our country or our country's cause, in defense of whose honor we have volunteered our services, as have the patriotic ladies of the South, and especially the ladies of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Lincoln county, Tennessee.*

*The minions of "Old Abe," the "Vandals" of the North, may boast their ability to subjugate the South, lay waste our homes, desolate our firesides, and march in triumph over our goodly land, but they never can accomplish their nefarious and unholy designs against a people whose fathers', husbands', sons' and brothers' hearts are strengthened and encouraged, and whose arms are nerved to battle by the sympathy and approbation, as well as the patriotic and self sacrificing devotion of wives, mothers and sisters. Permit me again to thank you for the honor and material aid*

*rendered my regiment; and please accept for your Society the best wishes and prayers of the Eighth Regiment of Tennessee Volunteers. May your Christian mission receive its just reward, both in this and the life to come.*

*Respectfully,*

*Alf. S. Fulton,*

*Col. Commanding Eighth Regiment Tenn. Vol's.*