

Coffee Co. Historical Society Quarterly  
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OLIVER P. TUCKER'S NOTEBOOK

[Ed.'s Remarks: A small notebook, marble cover with leather binding strip, was kept by Oliver P. Tucker, Sgt., Co. B, 16th Tennessee Infantry. It is now owned by a great-great-niece, Mrs. Emma Elam of Manchester, who has graciously allowed us to print it here, as transcribed by the Editor.]

The first item in the notebook is a poem "Bury Me on the Battle Field", by John L. Henry, a printer of Lynchburg, Va., being "a reply to some verses entitled 'Bury Me Not on the Battle Field' by Virginia Fairfax." This poem was probably copied (in very neat script) from a newspaper, and is not reproduced here as it is not pertinent to Coffee County. At the end of the notebook (many years ago most likely) many pages were cut out, unfortunately. On the third page is an account which illustrates the very high prices paid for fabrics during the Civil War, and is transcribed exactly, as follows: ]

Jackson Perry to Srontny(?)		
black homested 11 yards at 3.50 per yard		\$38.50
and 2 spool of thread		2.00
To girgham, 8 yds.		32.00
and to muslin, 8 yds. paid James Walker		32.00
D. W. Tucker for Calico Augst 30th 1863		40.00
Rachel Ensey dr to		
D. W. Tucker, balance on calico Augst 1863		\$16.00
James Walker for 1 yard of calico		\$ 4.00
Credit by cash		\$20.00
Dr. for one yd. 1/4 calico		\$ 5.00
balance due by Walker to Tucker Sept. 1st 1863		53
		<u>15</u>
		38

[The fourth page of the notebook follows:]

Apr. the 11th - 63

Grahamville, S. C.

The 16th Regt. of Tenn. Vols. taken the Cars at Grahamville for Charleston. Then changed Cars for Augusta, Then to Atlanta, (Ga.) Then to Dalton, Then back to Atlanta, then taken the West Point Road, ran 49 miles & ran off the track. The next morning made our way to West Point. Thence taken the Montgomery Road for West Point. Then taken aboard a boat for Mobile (500 miles). Then taken the Cars on the Ohio Rail Road for Corinth, which was 436 miles; made our arrival on the 23rd morning of April 1862. Staid there and about until May the 29th. We evacuated Corinth & fell back to Baldwin (Miss.) There a few days, then to Saltville. Thence to Tupelo & remain there up till the 22nd morn. of July. That morning we marched to the Cars, got aboard & left for Mobile (Ala.) Arrived on the 23rd night & got aboard of the Boat & left soon in the morning for Montgomery (Ala.) Arrived Saturday night & staid until 3 o'clock Sunday evening. Then taken the West Point Rail Road & arrived Two oclock Monday Morn.

Stayed until 4 o'clock in the evening. Thence we taken the Atlanta (Ga.) Rail Road, arrived Tuesday Morn (Distant 86 miles). Thence the Chattanooga, Tenn., Rail Road. Made our arrival in the evening, Distant 139 miles. After resting, we marched one mile & a half South of Chattanooga, taken up camp, stayed several days. Then went one mile further, & remained there until August the 15th (Ga.) On this day we marched through Town. Crossed the River & come three miles. Taken up Camp two days & nights. By this time ordered 12 miles up the River. Here we camped one week. Then ordered 7 miles toward Washington, near Walden Ridge. Here we camped several days (Knox). We left camp one morning at two o'clock, marched over Walden Ridge & down Sequachee Valley to Pikeville in Bledsoe County, rested a few hours then went over Comland Mountain through Vanburen County & on to Sparta, White County. Distant (5) 53 miles from Camp near Walden Ridge to Sparta. Camp here a few days; Sept. the 6th we left for (Ky.), went 18 miles, camped that night. Left soon the next morning, traveled 17 miles to Gainsboro, Jackson County, & here we come to Comberland River, camp all night, went up the River four miles to cross. We pulled off our Shoes, Rolled up our pants, then crossed. Went down the Vally 20 miles to the (Ky.) line. We went out of Tenn. at Centerville & in to (Ky.), Monroe County & on through Thompkinsville.

Taken the Glassgow Road 27 miles to Glasgown, here we stayed two days & nights. Taken up the line of march & went down the Frankfort Pike 16 miles, camp that night; left soon in the morn, traveled all that day, come to Green River, pulled off & waded it & went on. When night came we was tired, but differ bitterance [a slang expression?] did it make. We had Yakees to eat for Breakfast. So travel on Boys. Distant of 25 miles.

(6) The night of the 16th as we was flanking of the Yankees, about ten o'clock Capt. W. E. Low, A.A. Gen. was shot ded by the rear guard of Gen. Gardner's Brig. This rather alarmed us, as we was in an Enemies land, though we march onward. We went through Monfordsville & formed a line of battle. Soon on the morning of the 17th the Yanks surrendered their Fort to Gen. Polk. Their forces were 4,602. This evening we left for Bacon Creek, which was 8 miles; got near there & were ordered back to the Fort. On the 18th we went to Bacon Creek. Stayed all night & was ordered back to Monfordsville. We remained all night here & the next day until two o'clock in the eve. Then we taken up the line of march, taken the Louisville Pike, travel on that eve & night about 22 miles. Soon in the morn, we turned to the East & went to Hodgsville about 12 miles. Stayed that night. Next Morning we went to New Haven 10 miles. & on near Bards-Town, 14 miles; here we stayed all night (7) & day until Eve, Then we marched through Bards Town, & five miles down the Springfield Pike. Here we taken up camp until the 4th day of Oct.

On this day in the evening we were ordered to march. We left & went 5 miles to Fredric Burg, left soon in the morn, went through Springfield. Here we taken the Perryville Pike 27 miles to the town. We went through on Sunday & taken the Danville Pike 10 miles to town. Here we taken Harrods Burg Pike 10 miles to Harrods Burg. Here we had taken Camp. Stayed all night &

[Here this page ended; it may have been a beginning of the account which he decided to rewrite, as several pages following have been torn out. Then he begins his main narrative, page numbers of which will be indicated thus (1).]

1862

Travels of the 16th Regt. in 1862

Left Charleston, S. C., went to Pocotaligo which was seventy miles, Remained there a few days; then went to Port Royal Ferry Thirteen Miles. This was after Jones had the Battle with the Yanks. We would stay ten days & then Fulton's Reg. the 8th Tenn. would relieve us ten days after & on until March the 13th. This day it was raining very hard. We was ordered to march down by Coosawhatchie & on to King's Point 15 miles from Pocotaligo & here we taken up Camp for several days. The Yakees landed at Bluffton down near Savannah River. We was ordered to march at two o'clock in the morning for Bluffton 30 miles; when we got in six miles of the Town, New come, that they had retreated back to water, & we were ordered back to Grahamville which was 25 miles from Bluffton on the Savannah & Charlston Rail Road.

We remained here in Camp until April the 11th. Then ordered to the depot, stayed all night, & off to Charlston on the 12th which was 90 miles. Viewed the city, at 4 o'clock taken the cars (2) for Augusta, Ga. 137 miles & raining very fast all the while. Arrived in Augusta Sunday the 13th & as we passed through the City Ladies mostly cheered us. Then taken the Atlanta Ga. Rail Road to Atlanta 175 miles. Arrived in Atlanta Monday Morn, & then taken the Chattanooga Road, went to Jasper & was ordered back to Atlanta. Then ordered back to Dalton, Ga., which was 90 miles. Thence back to Atlanta. Then taken the West Point Road, ran 43 miles & the cars ran off the track, killed one man of the 8th Reg. & wounded several of the 16th Reg. Early next morn. left for West Point, Ala. 44 miles. Here we changed cars, took the Montgomery, Ala. Rail Road, which was 87 miles. We got off & taken the Boat on the Ala. River. The name of the Boat was "Southern Republic". We went down the River 500 miles to Mobile, Ala. Here we stayed two days & night. Taken the Mobile & Ohio Rail Road & it to Corrinth, Miss., which were 336 miles. Arrived on the 23rd, morning.

(3) We marched over on the left wing of the Army. Here we stayed & through up Breast Works. On the 28th of May we was engaged in Piquett [picket] fighting. Our loss was Two killed & a few wounded. On the 29th Inst. We evacuated Corrinth & fell back to Balden, Miss., Distant of 30 miles. Here we remained several days. Thence taken up the line of march & went to Saltillo, distance of 10 miles. Then ordered to march soon one morning; marched to Tupelo. The way we was ordered amounted to 16 miles. We stayed here & about until July the 22nd. We was ordered to the Depot, rested two hours or more. Mounted the cars & left for Mobile, Ala. distant 276 miles. Arrived at Mobile the night of the 23rd. Got off of the cars & marched to the landing. Here we got aboard on the Boat. (Her name was "Virginia".) & soon in the morning we started for Montgomery, (Ala.), Distant being 500 miles. The water was very shallow & the Boat run agrown, so we traveled very slow. We arrived at Montgomery Saturday night & Stayed until 3 o'clock Sunday Eve. (4) We taken the West Point Rail Road & made our arrival at West Point Monday: Distant 87 miles. (Ala.)

day. This was the 7th & this Evening we were ordered back to Perryville. We left after Sundown & traveled to the Battle field. We lay on our guns until 11 o'clock the next day. Knew the final test had come. We fought the Yankees until night came. We left the Battle field on the morning of the 9th, fell back to Harrods Burg, then to Bryantville 7 miles further. On the morning of the 13th we left for Comland Gapp, 110 miles.

(8) We taken the Lancister Pike 13th mile & here we taken the Craborchard Pike 12 miles to Craborchard. We traveled the Londen Pike on through Comland Gapp & then taken the Noxville Road 13 miles to [blank] & then 47 miles to Knoxville. Here it Snowed, a very large Snow on the 26 night & we left Knoxville on the 29th of Oct. & got to Chattanooga on the 30th, taken the Nashville Rail Road & got to Tulahoma the 31st of Oct. 1862. And remained there until Nov. the 16th day, went to Manchester. Stayed all night then marched to Beech Grove, camped all night. Early next morning taken up the line of march, went to Murfreesboro. Taken up camp one half mile on the Nashville Pike from town. On the 5th of Dec. went to Lavergne 15 miles of Nashville. Stayed one week then came back to the former camping place. Here we stayed until the 27th of Dec. 1862.

(9) Then ordered to march out one mile in front & form a line of Battle, which we did and stayed under heavy cannonading until Wednesday morning the 31st. We was ordered to move on the Yanks. Hardee's Corps open heavy firing on the Yankees right wing, while Fulks on the right senter near Stones River. Wistner's Div., open fire while Cheatham relievd him at Ten o'clock A.M. and fought until relievd by Breckenridge's Div. &c &c &c 1863

On the 4th day of January 1863 we fell back towards Shelbyville and stayed all night, next day moved on the South East Side of Duck River and taken Camps. Here we stayed until Feb. the 28th, which we was ordered to Tullahoma & reached there March the 1st day. Camped in the former camping place before going to Murfreesboro two nights and one day. Then (10) was ordered down the Rail Road one mile from Tullahoma towards Normandee, where we taken winter quarters until April the 21st. Then taken up the line of march and went in three miles of Shelbyville. Camped two nights and one day. Thence went six miles South West of Shelbyville and camped at Holt's Camp Ground on the Fayetteville Pike. On the 18th of May was ordered to Shelbyville, camped in the bent of the River South East of Town until June the 8th day was ordered three miles down on the Fair Field Pike, leading from Shelbyville to Fair Field. Then I was permitted to go home on an 8 days permit. 1863

O P T

[Two pages of scribbling, etc., follow, and Mrs. Elam's grandmother, who was Oliver's niece, Sarah Ann Tucker, as a child wrote her name and birthdate, 9 Jan. 1867. A couple of comments found were: "potatoes bed the 22 of March 1865" and "May the 12 1865 a larg frost". The last item in the book is a poem:]

Coffee County

- (1) Come all my friends & dear relations  
Come listen & the truth I'll tell  
How my heart beats at the contemplation  
To think of bidding you all fare well.