

Furlow

The next day I was on the road home, loaded down with letters from the boys, wrote to thar loved ones. Marton Dedwilley had lost his coat and in it he had written a letter to his mother. But I found the coat and tuck the letter along with me. This was the first news of him since he had started North.

It was late at night when I got to the Oald Lady Dedwilley's house. After I toald her all the news of the letter, as she could not read, we set down to supper. She was so excited over the news from Marton that she fainted at the supper table. I sean her falling so jumped and caught her before she hit the floor. It scared Molly half to death, but we got her on the bed and worked with her till she come around. Molly did not want me to leave her alone with the oald lady, so I stayed all night.

I could not resist the opportunity telling Molly that I had selected her as the one woman I had in view, if I should outlive the war. So I spoke to her and toald her I had a few questions to ask and I wanted her to answer them in acorden to her sentiments. I then toald her I hoped she would wait far me and if she had any objections to me coming to see her I did not want to go further. I wanted to find out if she would reserve me as a suitor.

She hesitated a little and sed she had no objections but thar would be time a-nuff if we lived to see the war over. She had lost one man in the war and if she ever married again it would be when peace was made.

I toald her that was my sentinments and I had sed all I wanted to on this line. I wanted her to find out all she could about me till the close of the war and we would have another talk along this line. I

thought we understood each other and could be happy together.

It was so good to be home with my family once more. My little girl was growing like a weed and my mother was about worked down trying to do all the work herself. The neighbors helped some but most of them had all they could do at home with thar men folks at war, however they were younger than my mother so wasn't quite so hard far them to do field work.

I got a scythe cradle and ground up wheat. I had never cut a bit of wheat in my life and far twenty days I swing that cradel. If a boy ever got sore, it was me. I would be so sore and stiff at night when I got cold I could hardly move, however I never grunted a tall. I didn't want anyone to know I was that soft. It was a surprise to me to see how cheerful the women was. It seamed to be a pick-nick far them. The children helped the women do the tieing and shocking, so it didn't take us long to get the wheat gathered. (In those days everybody helped each other gather thar crops.)

The fence was down all over the place and jest about everything was falling apart, so I worked early and late.

Of course I went to see Molly as thar is nothing like a courtship and we did plenty of that. I did not want her to expose herself, and to take good care of herself, as I knew I was falling in love with her and wanted her to be thar when I come back. She toald me I had better take that advise myself as I was the one that needed it. Good wishes should be a law, so we parted far the present.

One Joe Head who commanded a company of home gards had come down into our county and brung oald man Osburn who was seventy years oald

and blind. He was a very strong Union man and was appose to the war. He had two sons that was lying out and he would not tell where they were. Jack Childers was a Confederate. He had come home on furlow and overstayed his time. One Ples Garner was in the same company as me. Ples was also home on furlow and was right in the middle of all of this. He never was worth a damd, didn't have a friend he could call on. In case he couldn't lye his way out, if that didn't work, he would try to steal his way out. I didn't like to be around him. Garner bosted he was the one that puled the oald man Osburn up off the ground and as his head went back he hung. He also sed he hung Ned Williams far coming home and overstaying his time. Williams was also Union. Now, Garner had no orders to do this. He was jest damd mean. These men were all good citizens and people thought a heap of them.

My blood was mighty high as I went back to camp. I swore when I got a chance I would train my pistol a little on Garner. I gave the men thar clouse and letters and thar was a great rejoiceing in camp until I toald them what Garner had done. Thar was a lot of friends that thought a heap of the men Garner hung. They made vows that had to be settled. I was in the middle of it. He got the news of me wanting to train my pistol on him, so he swore vengeance on me but never showed up far target practice.

I tried to get the commander to do something about this, but they sed it was not thar business as he was home on leave when it happen. Thats jest what we had to put up with, no justice a tall. Garner was transferred to another company so we didn't get a chance at him at that time. The hanging of these men tore that country all to peaces as we will see futher on.

Our next scout was up in the Cherokee Nation. The Federals held Fort Gibson. We went up to cut off the supply train. Gabbel had taken the whole Brigade. He went into the Nation and hid us, putting out a heavy camp-guard to keep the men from scattering. We stayed three weeks waiting for a train to come, ten days of the time without a bite of bread. We had plenty of good beef but not a particle of salt to go on it.

When the Federals did come, they come thirty thousand strong. We could not possibly hold them, so we got up and left in a hurry for Ft. Smith. When we got to the settlements, the boys wanted me to drop out and see if I could get some bread. I had a good horse and I rode him hard but there was always someone ahead of me at every house, so I got into camp tired down with no bread.

I spread my blanket down and fell down on it to rest. Isom asked if I had got any bread. I said no.

He then said, "Jones, you have give it up and have fell down to die. The last man I was a-looking fur to jest lie down, roale up your eyes and try to die."

I toald him I would get up and roast me a peace of beef.

"No," he ses, "I will attend to that." So in a short time he come and stuck a peace of roast beef down in front of me.

I got up for coffee. He asked what I would give for a good bisquit. I ses, "I don't know how to price it," and he threw it in front of me. He had the luck to get a dozen and saved me some. Well, to say it was good would not tell it all.

When we got to the Fort, I went to see the Lady that I stayed with when I was sick. I toald her I had stayed with the Confederate Army as long as I could stand it. I thought the chance to git out was close.

Thar was a good force of Federals at Ft. Gibson and I was shore they were at Ft. Smith. When they come, Gabbel did not have men to hold his place and when he left I was going to stay. I mite want her to befriend me. She promised to do all she could.

We stayed but one day at Ft. Smith then taken the road far Ft. Gibson again. Cooper and Watts was camped up near Gibson and the Federals come out and attacked them. We could hear the cannons and prety soon we commence meeting the Indians. When we met Cooper's force, we marched back to the battleground. Cooper had one regiment of white men, boys from Texas. They lost one third of thar men killed and wounded. The Indians run when the cannons commence, so it left the white men to do all the fighting. They did not have a chance. We buried them where they were killed. This was the best cannon practice I had ever sean. The timber was tore all to peaces from waist-high up.

We stayed here a few days, then fell back to Fort Smith. A part of our command was left on the Poteau River. The rest dun gard duty at the Fort. I was at the Fort and felt sure here I would stay, but when the Federals come in forse we were ordered out on the Poteau River. Thar was a few shots fired across the river and both sides went into camp. Our regiment was dismounted and we marched in between the two commands and was ordered to lye down.

We lay till the Infantry and the Artillery moved off. It was somewhere near mid-night. The order was past down the line in a whisper to get up and get to our horses. We then taken down the road south in the direction of Waldron. At Jenny Lind we stopped far breakfast and killed beavers and had some of them skined. We was jest getting ready to eat when

Col. Cloud of the Federals drove in our pickets. We had to leave in a hurry, as hungry as wolves.

Our company was traveling in the advance. I was riding a-long with the Lieutenant. He was in command of the company. The Capt. was in Texas at the time, had gone to move his slaves. I toald the Lieutenant the South was whipped and it was a sin to go on having men killed when thar was no chance of the South ever gaining her indipendance. The men had ought to desert and go home. "The South can make a better comprimise now than she will get if she goes on till she is subjugated."

The Lieutenant sed it looked a little that way to him but he would advise evry man to stay and not desert, but, "If I beleaved like you, I guess I would be in favor of the army packing and going home." He then sed, "I have watched you and I know you are honest in your viewes and I honor you far them. You have kept the Captain from doing many things that would have been wrong. He knows you would expose him. Jones, you are the damdest man he ever tried to handle. He never knows what you are going to do till it's dun."

He went on, "Ordely, if you was to desert, I am the last man that would try to ketch you. I know you have thought differant, but I respect you far speaking out your thoughts. Your brother Joe is also a fine boy, bravery and sympathy is his leading trades."

The Lieutenant's name was Chastens. He was a man of few words, had accepted the office when he knew the majority was aposed to him. He had bin deceived many times by the Capt. He sed the Capt. was not the man he thought he was. I toald the Lut. I never would be in another fight with him. I had exposed myself the last time to the Federal bullets.

We come up with the command in line of battle at Backbone Mountain. The artellery was up on the side of the mountain. We were orderd to dismount and counter march back the lane about three hundred yards and lie down along the fence. The fence had grew up in bushes till it completely con-celed us from view. It was a rail fence. The lane was about forty yrards wide.

When we counter marched this throwed me the last man down the lane. Here we poked our guns through the cracks in the fence to wait for the Federals. Our orders was to kill the first Feds that come along. I had put my gun so low in the fence I could not elevate the musel high a-nuff to have more than break a man's leg. I did not ame to shoot, but when ordered to cock our guns I cocked mine. When the advance gard passed up, I counted them. Thar was twenty five. I could hear them talking. The man next to me sed the man we seen galloping up the lane was Cabell's rear gard.

I thought, "Poor fellows, your time has come at the crack of our guns."

Thar was but one went back down the lane. On looking over the fence, I sean one poor fellow trying to pull his self from under his horse. I thought I would help him, so I got over the fence and as I dun this I heard the command from the Federals.

"Charge through that fiencie!"

On looking around, our men was a hundred and fifty yards, running far thar horses. I sean my chance to get my horse was prity slim, so I cut across the corner of the field far the woods. I sean one man running far the same place. I was not long in catching up with him. Jest as I crossed the fence, they fired at me. I never looked back. About 200 yards I come to a little field that had grew up in hay

and weeds, was about six foot high, so me and Helton went into it. Here we lay till night. The Federals got most of our men. I guess we were jest lucky. We talked of going out and surrendering but the thought of the Indians changed our minds. (Part of the Cherokee was fighting far the Fed's.) We were afraid of falling into thar hands. The fight lasted all day. This was August 6, 1863. It was so hot I thought we would die. I would have given a dollar a pint far water.

After dark we struck out, having the mountain to climb and it was a ledge of rock after rock, makeing it vary hard to find a foot hold. We would fall down jest to get up and fall again. We had not sleap nun the night before, so jest before day we got so tired and sleepy we lay down to take a nap. We soon got so cold we had to move on.

It had been thirty six hours sence we had any thing to eat and I was about caved in. We called on a house where a Dutchman lived, asked him to give us something to eat. He sed he did not have anything but I knew he was lyeing, so I toald him if he didn't find us something prity quick thar would be a dead dutchman. At this Helton steped in between us saying, "Let me kill him. I haven't killed a man in sometime."

At this the Dutchman yelled out that he had some dry beef. I toald him we wasn't choos'ie. He found it in a hurry.

We pulled on and began to hunt the Waldron road. Jest as we hit the road, I toald Helton I was going home and did not want to find the boys. He sed he wanted to go with me. I knew we had a good chance as we would be reported killed or missing and if we were not sean by the command, we could make it. We could hide out fur sometime in peace.

We could rest up and get a clear mind and think this thing out. We should not have taken that road, because we found our boys on picket and they sean us first and hollowed at us, so this idea was all nocked in the head.

I was surprised to hear thar was vary few of our men hurt in the fight. The principal part had bin artillery. The Confederts could not use thar position to any advantage. The Federals was Caveraly.

The Army went through Waldron and Mount Ida on the Caddo Gap. Thar was a good many got furlows. I applied but failed. The Col. toald me if I would go on the Missouri Mills he would give me a pass if the General did not give me a furlow. I had lost my horse in the fight, so I was playing Infantry again fur the 60th. time it seamed.

When we got to the mill, I went to the Col. I guess my tiredness showed, as he asked if I ever drank whisky. I sed that I had never drank without a chance. He then poured out a glass of peach brandy and toald me to drink it, he would love to see my eyes sparkle. He then sed he would tolk to the General fur me about the furlow, fur me to come back the next morning.

I went that night and stayd with my Uncle Jolly Jones. I enjoyed the visit with him and his family, but nothing was the same with anybody. Thar was no joy or happiness to be found.

The army was on the move. I went back to the Col. He sed the General would give me no furlow and it would be foolish fur him to give me a pass as it would only last me until I met the rear gard. O'Neal was in command of it and he heard the General tell him to let no man pass without orders from him.

I then sed, "Colonel, give me a pass and make your word good and I will go back and see if I can out

talk Major O'Neal."

The Col. ses, "We can try." Then he wrote the pass. He was riding in a hack. I steped up and he tuck me within about 30 ft. of the rear gard.

I jumpted down and ses, "Goodbey Colonel."

He then spoke and sed, "Ordley Jones, if Major O'Neal lets you pass I will then say goodbey, cause I never expect to see you again."

The Col. was a good man. He knew my sentiments and had often befriended me. He was brave and honest. He was sent to Mexico and was killed bey a mexican. Such was the end of the gallant Col. Monroe.

When I met the rear gard, O'Neal asked me if I had a furlow from the General.

I ses, "No, a pass from the Colonel."

He ses, "It is not worth a damd."

I toald him I had lost my horse and I wanted to go home to get one. We was only 30 milds of my home and my mother would have a horse as I sent word to her bey one of the boy's that had bin furlowed and I was a vary poor soldier in a Cavalry Regiment.

He ses, "Ordley Jones, thar is not another damd man can pass, but go a-head and get your horse."

So this was the last sight I ever had of Major O'Neal.

I had not got a half mild till I met my horse. I mounted him and heded fur home with a ten day pass. I got thar a little before sundown and found them all well. I toald Mother my service was ended in the Southern Army. Little Rock would soon give up and the next stand would be Red River and I thought I would stay close to home a few days to think things out.

Hiding Out

Three days later I got a note from the Col. to gather all the men that had bin furlowed, giving a list of names, take charge of them and meet him at Little Rock with all possible speed.

I went around and toold some of the boys if they wanted to go to go a-head and not wait fur me, I had some business I was going to attend to before I went back.

In a few days the Rock was taken and the Army was on its way to Red River, the whole country full of soldiers, picking up evry man they could find, but I was one they failed to find. I went to my friend bey the name of Small and toald him the time had come that I needed a friend. I wanted to hide out and I was sure it would not be safe fur me to stay at home.

He sed, "John, if it had not a-bin fur you I would never have got a discharge. I got to come home and make a crop and help my family. If you will promise me you won't let anyone know you are in the country, only your mother, as long as thar is a bite to eat on my place you shall have a part of it."

Thar was a thick patch of bresh at the back of his field and into it I went. Here I stayed 5 weeks. My friend Small come once evry twenty four hours and brought me something to eat, but wheather would soon get cold and I could not stay here always, so I spent my time thinking and planing on what I should do.

The Army had settled down at Washington in Hemstrad County and Major Wetherspoon was sent in that part of the country fur the express purpous of cathcing up Union men and deserters. He was camped about six milds of where my mother lived. He had her house garded day and night to catch me.

He toald her he would have me if he had to turn over evry leaf in the woods. Sometimes I would get out at the edge of my thicket and see them hunting me, to pass off the time.

The Federals was at Little Rock about a hundred milds away, something had to be dun. I decided to go to Little Rock or loose my life on the way. My brother Joe was home on furlow, but his leave was almost over and I hadn had a chance to talk to him. I needed to know what his feelings was about the war, so I got Small to go see him and to meet me in the woods. He come and jest as I fugured he wanted to go North jest as I did but did not know how to go about it. We decided to go to the Rock. Joe knew some more boys that wanted to go with us. I was against it, but Joe thought it would be all right and we could make it so I give in.

The crowd was Momgomery, Campbell, two Carpenter boys and two of the Brown boys, Joe and myself, makeing eight in all. We set the day we was to leave, then Joe went back home, leaveing me to myself again.

I had stayed in that thicket five weeks and in less than three milds of me was the only woman in the world that I was willing to take as a pardner fur life and I couldn't even see her, so I thought I would take a chance and go and tell her I was going to make the start North.

Thar was a spring at the foot of the mountain. I got to the spring about sun-down and hid behind a tree, jeast above the spring and from the big road. Sure enough Molly come after water. To attract her attention I rolled a rock down. She never looked up but jumped and run to the house. So I had to wait till dark then had to slip up like a criminal. When I went in, if I had fell from the moon they would not

have bin more surprised. They had heard storys and yarns about me. I had bin sean in the mountains with a company of men. Some sed I was with the Feds. I toald them I had bin hearing them storys too, but I knew they were lyes fur I had not bin more than three milds from thar house far five weeks.

They wanted to know why I had not come and tould them I was hiding out. I sed I was under promise to Small to let no one know whar I was except my Mother. Molly acted hurt but Small did not know our feelings fur each other. I toald Molly I had come to let her know what I amed to do. I was going to try to go North. If I was caught, I knew my neck was at stake. I then sed I wanted her to take care of herself until I sean her again.

She commenst saying, "You caution me. It is you hoo ought to take that advise. I know I love you and want you to come home. Let me know jest as soon as possible, fur thar will be but little rest fur me til I hear from you."

I ses, "Don't give your self a minut's trouble about me."

She ses, "How can I help it?"

I ses, "Molly, I promis to let you know at the earliest chance and I hope the time will come when we can set down and express our views. I am not myself in your presents, but a-nuff on this subject.

We make the start at dark, stuck Trap Mountain and followed it to the Washitow River. John Brown sed he was a-quanted with the mountain so he taken the lead. He was a vary self-important man. If in doubt, jest ask him. He had vary little regard fur the truth. I soon sean he was going wrong. I toald him he was bairing two much south. He thought not. We come in full view of Rock Port where there was a Regiment of Southern troops. While looken at the

town I seane the dust riseing down the road, so I toald the boys to get back over the hill out of sight. Joe and I would go thar and see the scouts pass.

I then toald Joe I was not going to follow Brown any further. Joe and me was the only ones a-foot. We thought we had a better chance getting through the woods a-foot, so we left our horses at home. I had no objection to any of them taking horses but the chances was better a-foot. When we got back to the boys, I toald them the better plan was fur us to devide up, the men that had horses to go bey themselves, fur this was no child's game. They insisted on us all sticking together. I toald Brown I was not going to be led bey him any farther. He had come vary near leading us into a trap and me telling him all the time he was wrong.

All of them wanted to go with me. If I would take the lead, they would obey evry order. So I finally consented to this. I then toald them we would strike North far four or five milds then bair into the river and wait fur night before crossing it.

A darker night I have never seane. We had trouble finding a place to cross but we finally got over it, getting wet from hed to toe.

It was not long till we got into a rough and it was so dark the men that had horses could not travel, so we all lay down to rest but I, fur one, did not sleep. I toald the boys it all depended on the next day's travel and if the Federals was at Benton, and that I was a-goin thar before night. It was a big day's travel, twenty five milds, all through the woods. Thar would be no time to eat or rest after daylight.

When I sean the morning star I had them up and redy as soon as we could see how to git out of thar. We were traveling, dodgeing all of the houses. Late in the evening I commenst to bair in toward the road. I wanted to strike it on the Saline River, fur thar is where we would find thar pickets. So we struck the road at the edge bottom and did not go three hundred yards till I sean thar vedette siting on his horse. I stopped the boys and went ahead till he halted me. He ask me hoo I was. I replied a deserter from the Rebel Army. Then he sed he would have to call the Leut. When he come, he asked me several questions then past us in. When we got to thar camp, the men commenst to ask us a lot of questions. I toald them in my country we never questioned a man till we give him something to eat. At this the Leut. asked if we were hungry.

I ses, "If you ever sean a hungry set of men, you're looking at them."

He then toald his men to divide thar chuck. Brown let his toung run like a phonograph about the Confedrat Army, telling where they were, how strong they were, where they were located. I toald the Lutenant I did not know anything, I had bin in the woods hiding out. The Leut. sed he would have to send a gard with us to the provost marshal.

On the way I toald Brown I wanted him not to let his toung run so free. Joe toald him plane that if he commenst telling his lyes, he would expose him on the spot, so he shut up far a change. When we got thar the Marshal toald us we would have to report every morning at ten o'clock. I then toald him that we were out of money and would have to do something to git something to eat. He sed we would have to report to Major Jones, he was taking care of all the men that was coming in, so I struck out to hunt Major Jones headquarters.

When I found him, to my surprise it was Uncle Willis Jones and thar is no words that can describe that meeting. We jest stood thar trying to keep our eyes dry. To think, this was the same man I curst myself into the southern service and had caused the commity to wate on me and tell me I had to go into the army or to a limb. Well, he got control first and sed he had got word that I had bean killed at least three times.

I then sed, "Uncle Willis, you know better than to lisen to yards like that. I out run them every time."

So after we had a good laugh about every thing that had happen and how come both of us to be in the Northern Army, he asked me to go with him to headquarters. I tried to excuse myself on account of my clothes, but he would not hear to this, so I went.

I was introduce as his nephew and Uncle toald the General, "Anything J.N. tells I will vouch far." So that put me in purty good standings with the General, but the questions started to come my way from the General, in regard to the army. I toald him I knew vary little, I had bin lying in the bresh fur a month or more.

Uncle then spoke and sed, "Tell him about Wetherspoon."

I then toald him all I knew. He then asked Uncle if he thought he could capture him if he had a regiment of men.

Uncle ses, "I could try as hard as any-body."

The General sed he would think the matter over that night, to report back the next morning far orders.

Uncle then tuck me bey the store and bought me a nice suit of clothes. I then went to the barber shop and got a shave and haircut. I had to stop and think a while before I knew that I was one of the boys that

had crawled in out of the bresh.

About dusk Uncle come to me and ses, "We start tomorrow to gobble up Wetherspoon. Be redy to start at four o'clock in the morning."

I slep like a babe that night, with the good feeling that nobody was trying to catch me and I didn't have to hide. I knew now that I was doing what I thought to be right to bring this terrible war to a end.

The next morning at four o'clock the 3rd. Missouri Regiment was ordered out. We taken the road far Rockport. We changed our course after we passed then Salen and crossed the Washitaw where we camped far the night. The Col. sent far me to come with all possible speed. When I reported to him, he sed he wanted me to take ten men and go a-head and keep him posted in regard to Wetherspoon. After I had learned all I could about him, to pass around Wetherspoon and go as near to Murfreesboro as possible, learn the force and report back to him at the CaddoGap as soon as I could.

Uncle picked the men to go with me and except fur myself thar never was a braver set of men sent on a mission. I knew every Union man in that part of the country, so I struck out ahead, shunning all houses and keeping on the north side of the Trap Mountains till I got opposite the widow Dedwilley's, then I crosst over on the south side of the mountain. The oald lady was in the yard as I rode up. I spoke but sean she did not recognize me, so I got down and went in. With a new suit of clothes and all cleaned up and shaved, I looked quit different. They could hardly beleave it was me.

Molly spoke first and ses, "Why, John, you're quite handsome."

She looked mity good to me too, and her pretty eyes toald me she was glad to see me. I toald Molly

I was thar to make my report according to promise, I had bin to the Feds and was back.

The oald lady sed she was sorry she had nothing to give us to eat, but had a churn of buttermilk she would like to give the boys. I stept to the door and ask the boys how they would like a drink of fresh buttermilk. They all sed, fine, with one yelling out, "I'm as dry as a bone," so I toald them to get down and come in.

They were soon thar and the churn soon empty, giving me a chance to talk to Molly alone. I toald her what our mission was and I would let her hear from me every time I could.

We mounted our horses and left in a brisk trot. We stopped at John Wright's. Here I got all the information that I wanted in regard to Wetherspoon. Wright had jest come from his camp that day, so I got him to go and meet the command. I wrote a note to the Capt. stating I would vouch far anything Wright toald him. I also stated in my note that Wright knew every foot of the ground.

With this dun, we went on, taken supper with Mother. She was glad to see me, saying her prayers had bin answered. We then crossed the Caddo River going south till we crossed the Cossatot Mountain and struck the road leading to Murfreesboro. At daylight we stopped at the oald man Spark's far breakfast. He was known to me as a Union man. I toald him that Wetherspoon was captured or running like the devel. He seemed to doubt it. I toald him to get up all the Union men he could find and go to Caddo Gap, he would meet the Federals and they could tell him what had become of Wetherspoon. He dun as I sed.

We went ahead until we got in about eight milds of Murfreesboro, then we seperated, Joe and me

keeping in the road till we got to town. The other men crossing the little Missouri, went up muddy fork till they learned that the force was at Center Point, then they reported to the Gap. Before we knew it, Joe and me run onto the picket.

I asked if he knew where the sixth Missouri Regiment was at. Sed he did not. I toald him we belonged to it and had bin home on furlow. I then asked him how many troops was at Murfreesboro. He toald me that, and this was all the information we wanted, but I thought I would try him fur one more question, so I ses how fur it was to his picket camp. He answered it was jest over the next hill. I replied, "Thanks," as this one really counted, we had to get out of thar. We pulled on and as soon as we were out of his sight, we taken to the woods in a hurry. We had run onto the picket unexpected, had fooled him and got all the news we wanted. I toald Joe, "That was a close one." We rode till Joe's horse began to fag. We stopped to let him rest and boath of us lay down and went to sleep. We slept till near night.

We started on and sean a light at a house. I proposed we stop and get something to eat. As we past around the barn, we come in full view of the house. I heard the sweet notes of a fiddle and sean quite a lot of men standing at the gate.

I spoke, saying, "Boys, I hope you are having a good time. I wish it was so I could stop and enjoy it with you fellows tonight, but I am under orders to go to a certain man's house as soon as possible.

They wanted to know what the man's name was. I toald them and one fellow toald me how to get thar. So I rode on, taking care not to go thar, far he was a Capt. in the Rebel army. This was another pretty close call.

We rode on some seven or eight miles and come to a house. Joe's horse was give out and we had better stop and rest. We called and the oald man sed that he would do the best that he could far us. He only had one daughter, she got supper far us while we fed our horses. The oald man thought our business was to catch up men that was lying out, far we had toald him that we was station jest below on the river. He commenst to tell us how the country had come so divided up, sed that Senator Willis Jones was apposed to secession and had made speeches against it and it had divided the whole country. Was a pity that Willis Jones didn't die before he ever made another speech.

We were in ten miles of where Uncle Willis lived, so he was well known and got blamed fur the whole war. I then toald him he had bin bit by the wrong snake, we were nephews of Willis Jones and was Federal Spies. I went to my saddle pocket and got out some coffee, hand it to the girl and toald her to make a good pot of coffee far me and her Father. I then handed him a newspaper and toald him to look at the dates.

At this he changed his tune. He sed, "If the people had all bin far Willis Jones, thar would have bin no war."

We was up early the next morning at daylight ready far a start. I purpose we shoot our pistols off and reload before we started. Thar was a little pine saplin about sixty yards from us. I sed I could put every ball in it. The oald man sed if I put one out of six in it would surprise him. I stuck to my word and put every one in it. Joe got five out of six. We got on our horses and left in a gallop far the Caddo Gap. It was about thirty miles. We tuck through the woods far twenty miles then struck the Chaney

Trace which led to the Gap.

As we pulled out, we saw two men riding toward us. Joe ses, "Don't give them the road."

The men were quite oald and from Missouri. They had started to go see thar boys who was at Center Point. They toald us that we had better turn back, thar was scouts of Federals at the Gap and they had captured Major Wetherspoon and his men. The oald men had hired a man to pilot them around the Gap and had jest struck the road again, it would not be safe far us to go any further. I toald them we would sure be cautious. This was the first news we had of the fight.

It was night when we rode into camp. I made my report and then went to see the prisnors. I shuck hands with all that I knew and that was a good many as I had fought with some of them. When I come to Wetherspoon, I ses, "Major, you failed to turn over the right leaf in the woods to uncover me."

He ses, "Was you with these fellows?"

I remarked, "Yes, quite a-while."

He then ses, "Jones, that spells the whole damd thing out, you was the one man most I wanted to capture."

Thar was two oald men in the bunch that I had known all of my life. I was sorry to see them thar. They were good and honest while their sympathy was with the south. I made up my mind to speak to the Col. about them. He toald me he would have them turned loose.

I did not see them anymore till night. We had marched about twenty milds that day. They were give out and so tired they were shaking all over. I toald them to stay thar and I would be right back, I was going to hunt the Col. to see the reason far this. The Col. toald me he had forgotten all about it and

fur me to go and have them turned loose, so I tuck care of it at once. (I sear these men twenty years after this and they had not forgot this favor.)

The next day while passing near the foot of a little mountain, we was fired on and several of our men wounded. We was the worst confused men out. They had let troops pass and we had the prisoners and the Union men. Thar was not half of them had armes of any kind, was something like 150 Union men. The Col. came dashing back. The men were huddled up like a bunch of sheep. Thar had bin no one put over them. They had bin a-loud to travel at their own will. He asked me why I had not kep them up in order. I toald him I had no authority over the men.

He then sed, "You take charge of them and keep them well ciosed up in order."

So I dun the best I could with them till night. That night the Col. sent fur me asked me if I was acquainted with the road. I toald him I never had traveled it but one time, that had bin some time ago. He gave me a order to go with the advance gard the next day and to keep a sharp look out and in all suspicious places to deploy out skirmishes through the bresh and keep them well a-head.

I then sed to the Col., "I am no officer and the men won't obey me."

"Your uncle, Major Jones, toald me you had bin a Texas Ranger and know how to fight Indians. The Captain that will be with you will understand that you are to be consulted at all times."

Uncle Willis tuck charge of the stragling bunch and I went with the advance gard from thar on.