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HISTORY
of
BLACKMAN- SALEM- Windrow Communities

By
Robert W. Baskin Sr.

1973

of Gen. Tom Smith and Dee Jobe. He was at home about a year, in 1863-1864. He was quiet and inoffensive, and it is strange that he took such a course. I'll not attempt to write more of him here. (note by transcriber: For a fuller description of these two men-Dee Jobe and Dee Smith--see "Battles and Sketches Army of Tennessee" by B.L. Ridley, 1906, Missouri Printing and Publishing Co. Mexico, Missouri)

In 1864, we made a fairly good crop. . . On Sept. 3rd, was the fight along the Franklin Road with the Yankees and Gen. Williams (Cerro Gordo) of Kentucky. He and Gen. Wheeler missed connection, and Gen. Williams was several days behind. This was the fight in which "the Unknown soldier" was killed who is buried in the southwest corner of Brother Charley's field on the Franklin Road. I am glad to learn that his grave is marked by a white marble slab. Do you suppose an inquiry, giving a description as best you can of him personally, the time, place, and circumstances as far known as of him, to the papers in Mayfield, Ky., Lexington, and other cities in Kentucky, in that territory where the 9th Kentucky Regiment was made up, and ask the papers to publish the notice in several issues, would give any information about this Unknown Soldier? Col. W.C. Breckenridge of Lexington, Ky., was the Colonel of the 9th Ky. cavalry, this soldier was killed in a running fight on a raid through the country in possession of the enemy, and he was left there. The Company was making its way out through a meandering way to avoid contact with the enemy. Their ammunition had nearly given out. This was one reason they did not want to meet the enemy to fight them. The two cannon of the Confederates were captured on the rise of the land in the road, about 100 yards west of Capt. John Lytle's front gate, at Franklin Road. They had more artillery supplies than for rifles, and

... were used as their guide.

(Note: for the rest of the description of this battle see details in the paper written for me by Uncle Will on "The Unknown Soldier" in 1932. J.K.)

... left the dead and wounded, and made their way out of Shelbyville that night, and then went on to meet Gen. Wheeler at McMinnville. . . Nothing eventful occurred until Hood's raid in Tennessee and the Battle of Slaughter, Nov. 30th, 1864, and Hood's thick-headed recklessness in advancing on Nashville, well fortified and garrisoned with nearly double the number of his ragged and shattered remnant left from the Battle of Franklin, and, then on the 17th of December, the Battle around Nashville with its disastrous results and forced retreat back to the Tennessee River when the men were straggling through snow, mud and slush as best they could, was the saddest sight or scene of the War. The Yankees at their heels were pressing them close. If it had not been for Gen. Forrest's strategy in decoying the Yankees into a trap of ambush and slaughter, and his ingenious maneuvers, the remnant of a spirited army would have been captured at the River before they could cross on the pontoons. They barely crossed, but when the cattle were being driven across, many of them were pushed off, and floated down stream.

Nov. 30, 1864--The Battle of Franklin-- All my brothers came home, except Brother Jim who stayed with Billy Wilkerson, who was wounded, and at Mr. Jim Johnson's, five miles out on the Columbia Pike, to wait upon him. But as the Hood Army retreated, he left and went with the straggling army. So he did not come home at all. Gen. Bates' Division came from Franklin to the vicinity of Murfreesboro, and camped on the Manson Pike, on Overall's Creek. Unfortunately for Gen. Bate he had some shy Florida and Alabama regiments in his Division