

EXCELSIOR.



TABLET.

The 44th U.S. Regt -
after being in the
Service two years &
two month Veteran
at Stranberg Plains
Tenn about the 7th
of Jan 1864 and
come home or Vet.
Tenn long, while
home the Regt received
the old companies &
two new Companies
was added to the Regt
about the first of

April. when the
Regt reported at
Camp-Bennison
after our Furlough
had expired.

At-Camp-Bennison
the Regt-remained
until about the 18th
of May. ^{when it was no more} When a part
of the Regt-broke camp
went to Cincinnati
Went on Board Steam
boats, which took us
up the Ohio River

as far as Point-Plais^{ant}
there we went on Boat
up the Kanawha river
to Charleston West Va
Here we remained.
Some two weeks when
the remainder of
the Regt. joined us.
Here the Regt. was
fitted out with horses
and armed as Cavalry.
The Regt. drilled and
done guard duty
until about the 1st
of June.

When we started
on the march to
Join Gen Hunter's
Command, which
was making a
raid on Lynchburg
Gen H. got with in
a few miles of Lynch-
burg and had an
engagement with
the enemy on the
afternoon of the
17th and soon the
enemy bore their

works. This ended
the Battle for the day
here we remained
all night, during
the night trains
came in to Lynchburg
from Richmond
bringing troops to
reinforce the enemy.
So that by the after
noon of the next
day June the 18th
after an engagement
of several hours
with the enemy

Gen Hunter was
defeated and he
prudently retreated
to west Va. The 8th
overgoing to Green
River River. Here
the Regt - was divided
part - going to the
Shenandoah Valley
and the remainder
going to Beverly with
which place it reached
about the 25th of June.

at B

And went in to camp
and remained as
an out-post of our
Army.

After being in camp
a short time, the Com-
manding Officer sent
Co. K. early in July to
Huttons Hill, some
twelve miles from
Beverly, where it went
in to camp and to
be a guard at

that From
the Company was
only in camp but
a short time, when
a party of Rebs one
morning charged
on them, capturing
the entire Company
taking their arms
from them, Paroled
the Co. and retreated.

Company K, reported
to Head quarters
Same day, with out-
fesses or arms.

Some time in October
a Party of Rebels
Commanded by Hill,
attacked our Command
in the morning
just as the Company
was forming for Roll
Call. as our custom
was to take our guns

With us at morning
Roll Call. The Rebels
found that we was
too well prepared to
receive them, and
after bringing on
an engagement,
they captured some
of our command,
but finely their Com-
mander was wounded
and was unable to
take command, they
retreated after losing

Several killed and
wounded. besides
a number of Prisoners
the Reb Command
er was taken Prisoner
and a guard kept over
him. during the stay at a
firm.

While in camp
at Beverly as winter
approched quite a nu.
mber of the soldiers
got axes and went
to the woods & fell
trees, cut of logs brought

them to camp and
Build-log houses
with them and when
Completed. and having
ing a door fireplace
Bunks gun racks
it made quite com-
fort winter quarters
for the soldiers.

Who enjoyed them
very much until
the morning of Jan

the 11th 1865.

On the evening of
Jan the 10th The Boys
retired little thinking
that there was any
armed Rebels much
nearer than sixty miles
of camp. Yet while
we were sleeping Gen
Cowan was marching
to our camp to surprise
our troops. and capture
them the next
Jan 11th morning.

So silently did He
march to our camp
during the night that
neither ^{our} officer or
soldiers knew any
thing of it until
about five o'clock
in the morning.
When his Troops charged
our camp and cap-
tured us. ⁴
our Troops making little
resistance.

Many of the soldiers
was in bed and asleep
when the attack was
made, and by the time
they woke up the Rebs
were at the door of their
tent or cabin. Telling
us to surrender and
come out or they would
shoot through the
door. I remember
of being the first one
to turn out of the

Cabin that I was
in. When stepping out
of the door, some three
or four Rebs confront-
ed me with Revolver
and gun. one of the
Rebs asked me for
my Fine Tooth Comb.
I replied I did not
have any. Then
he asked for my
Money purse. Then
I was taken out-

where some other
Prisoners was, and
kept there until they
had gathered up all
the Prisoners, and
plundered our quarters.
Then we were all
marched about a
mile or more from
Bevay, where we went
in camp, and having
guards put around
our camp remained
until the following
morning.

When we started
for Richmond
as Prisoners of war
we marched on foot
from Beverly to
Staunton. on this
march the Prisoners
were compelled to wade
rivers and streams
of water, which seem^{ed}
as cold as ice.
The soldiers would
march for days
with their clothing

Wet and frozen.
and having scarce
ly any thing more
than a spoonful
or two of flour to
eat all day.

at night the guards
would search us
for money, and
what ever valuables
we might chance to
have. and even
take our over Coats
and Government Blankets

We arrived at
Stamton one after
noon and camped
for the night.

The next morning
went aboard the
Cars and went to
Richmond arriving
there the following
morning. We were
marched through
the streets to Libby's
Prison.

at the Street Corner
there would be
assembled small
Boys who would
cry out to us fresh
fish. Arriving at
Libby Prison two men
stood at the Prison
door, one on each
side of the entrance,
and as the prisoners
passed in in single
file they took

Took from the
Prisoners all Gov
Coats and Blankets
that they had
with them.

After we were all
in the Prison we
were put in a room
to our selves.

When Major Turner
and The Turn Key
Come up the room