A THRILLING STORY OF THE WAR—GENERAL STONEMAN'S MARCH

The following story was written by Rev. Dr. W. R. Gwaltney, of Alexander county, and printed in the Raleigh News and Observer Sunday, May 17, 1902. Mrs S. J. Jennings, widow of the late S. J. Jennings, veteran of Wilkesboro, furnished the copy to the North Wilkesboro Hustler containing the story, which is as follows:

In March, 1865, General Stoneman left East Tennessee, moving on from Taylorsville, Va., through Watauga county to Deep Gap on the Blue Ridge. On the 29th of March he entered Boone, N. C., and on the day following the column was divided, one division under General Stoneman marching towards Wilkesboro while the other under General William Lowell crossed the Blue Ridge at Blowing Rock and went to Patterson in Caldwell county, then joined General Stoneman at Wilkesboro. On the 6th of April Stoneman's command moved over into Surry county, going toward Mt Airy. During Stoneman's march through the section of the state he had commandeered much disposable property belonging to the Confederate army, which he had with him when he came to Wilkesboro without forage for his army. It is claimed to have been his intention to commandeer provisions in Wilkes county, but he was informed that the country was already stripped by the Confederate army and that there was no more left for his army. Accordingly Wilkesboro was surrounded by a picket line and all who were found attempting to leave town were arrested and held as prisoners. Among those thus arrested was a Confederate army surgeon who had been sent home on furlough for the purpose of recruiting a company of men for service in the army. He claimed to have a pass signed by Gen. Lee, which he had carried with him when he came home without forage for his way home. He claimed to have been detained against his will and desired to return to his command. He was kept a prisoner in the hands of the Federal army, and was with Stoneman's army when it came into Wilkes county. After leaving Wilkesboro Stoneman's army moved up the river to Ferguson's Bridge, on Warrior creek, where two bridges operated by the Confederate army were burned. Then the army moved over into Surry county, going toward Mt Airy. During Stoneman's march through the section of the state he commandeered much disposable property belonging to the Confederate army, which he had with him when he came to Wilkesboro