

Excerpts From R.A. Spainhour's Diary During the War Between the States

(Note: The following is a continuation of an article published some time ago and was prepared by Mr. R. A. Spainhour's daughter, Mrs. F. G. Holman. Interested readers are asked to watch this newspaper for the next installment.)

Another year has passed and no peace yet. On New Year's morning our regiment came off picket duty and moved camp a half mile and all the forces began fortifying Fredericksburg and it was well done. During this time a good many of our forces were sent to North Carolina. Around the 24th of January we were transferred to Tallferro's brigade, Jackson's Division.

February was a month of perfect quietude except for the sham battles, with snow, which were quite interesting. During this month we have had revival services, with interest among the boys. Rev. W. R. Gwaltney is the chaplain and a fine man. I am tenting with him this winter.

March, 1863. This has been another March of snow, rain and wind. Fitz Hugh Lee whipped the Yankees on the upper Rappahannock River. The health of our troops is good and religious interest very high.

April, 1863. On 5th inst a heavy snow fell. Religious interest still increasing. On 18th of April Brother William Spainhour joined our Regiment. Father came out with him. William was just 18 years of age.

On 23rd April our regiment went to Port Royal but enemies were gone, so we returned and on 29th moved our troops up to Fredericksburg. April 30th troops remained in line all day. On May 1st our troops moved up the river in direction of Chancellorsville.

May 2nd. The troops under Gen. Jackson moved to the left of the U. S. forces and by a flank movement struck the enemy in the flank and by night had driven many miles and captured many prisoners. On the

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next day a general engagement occurred which was quite a bloody affair. We lost many from our county. Killed on the field, viz., T. J. Eller, John and Samuel Pennel, Wm. Picketon and several others beside Clark, Willington and others died of their wounds. Brother William was wounded in hand and wrist and lost use of hand for life. During the engagement Gen. Jackson was wounded and died of his wounds. The Yankees were driven back across the river.

(Here are 2 verses from almost 2 pages of verse my father wrote here).
"Ah Chancellorsville, thy bloody field
Who tells the sorrow you can yield?
The bloodiest scenes that earth can claim
Were there, among those many slain."

The noted hero of our land
Fell there among that noble band
He led them on to victories door
But fell before he could do more.

The battle of Chancellorsville was May 2nd and the rest of the month was spent quietly at Hamilton's Crossings.

June. Early in June we moved in direction of the Valley of Virginia. After several days hard marching we landed near Winchester, Va. and before Melroy, who was in command of a Yankee force could move we surrounded him and nearly all his forces were captured. Capt. John Miller of our Regiment was killed. We immediately moved forward entering Maryland, camped one night on the Sharpsburg battlefields. We went through Hagerstown and then entered Pennsylvania.

On 1st 2nd and 3rd of July our troops engaged the enemy at Gettysburg. The enemy was so situated on a mountain in the rear of Gettysburg that after many attempts to drive them, our troops were compelled to desert—though not 'til the hardest fighting I ever heard, had taken place. On the 3rd of July there was a continuous roar of artillery and small arms. More than two hundred pieces of artillery were in use at some time and slaughter was terrific on both sides. On the 4th we remained on the field and at night commenced retreat but mud was so deep that we made very little progress but at last we reached Williamsport and found the river so swollen we remained here in line of battle til pontoons were constructed and we crossed and moved up the valley and crossed the Blue Ridge without molestation.

August. We moved near Orange court house where we rested. Bro. William came back to the regiment but was unfit for service and in September he was given his discharge and he began his journey home.

October. This month was noted for the hard marches. We left camp and marched by way of Madison Courthouse to Culpeper but failed to cut off the Yankees. Some mistake on part of officers, cause of failure. We then moved on toward Rappahannock bridge near Brandy Station.

November, 1863. Stayed but a short time at Brandy Station when the Yankees made some demonstrations near the Rappahannock bridge. Hayes' and Hokes brigade were sent over the river to meet them but the Yankees came with such overpowering force that both brigades were nearly destroyed—some were killed, some drowned and many captured. Our army then moved south of the Rappahannock river and remained quiet to the close of month.

December, 1863. The month began cold and found our men in a bad condition to endure being unprotected in line of battle. The Yankees soon moved to the north side of river and we, to our former camp where we had nothing to disturb our quietude during the closing month of 1863. A bloody year has closed bloodiest our country has ever witnessed and has furnished the historian with a large store of material for future history.

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"Our Daily Bread" is one of the outstanding human dramas on the screen today. King Vidor, who has made repeated hits for the screen has again outdone himself in his latest picture, "Our Daily Bread," at the Liberty Theatre today and Tuesday. Blonde Barbara Pepper, Tom Keene and Karen Morley are the principal leads in the story

of city folks who have returned to the soil to make their living in the world. Expecting to find peace and happiness, they are surprised to encounter the conflicts of farm life.

This is probably the most stirring and emotional picture of the day and gives the insight to what our present day farmer has to encounter to endure the hardships of "back to the farm" movement.

OBITUARY OF LOWERY DULA

Who Died At His Home in the Ferguson Community February 28th

Lowery Dula, son of Jefferson and Allie McGee Dula, was born near Elkinville, Wilkes county, on June 6, 1842, and passed away at his home in Ferguson, N. C., on February 28, 1935. The end came peacefully as he had lived. Mr. Dula was a Roman Catholic, having lived 92 years, 8 months and 22 days. He was a grandson of Bennett Dula, who with two brothers, William and John Dula, came from the state of Virginia sometime about the close of the Revolutionary war and settled in the valley of the Yadkin river which has for several generations been known as "Happy Valley" in Wilkes and Caldwell counties. At that time, of course, it was known as Wilkes county. A wide and influential connection in the civic and social life of this section of the state sprang from these sturdy pioneers to which Mr. Dula belonged.

When the clouds of the Civil war appeared in 1861, Mr. Dula volunteered in defense of his country, although but a youth of 19 summers. He gladly offered his services for the cause he thought was right, having volunteered at Wilkesboro in a company organized by Captain William Barber, who later was promoted to colonel, and who was fatally wounded in service. Mr. Dula served in a number of major engagements throughout the four years he was in the Confederate army. He was with General Jackson at Manassas, was also in the Battle of Fredericksburg, Cedar Mountain, Seven Days, Spottsylvania Court House and the New Bern skirmishes. During the Battle of Fredericksburg he was wounded, captured and carried as a prisoner to the federal hospital in Washington, D. C., where he received treatment and was later exchanged and allowed to go back into the service of the southland. A wounded and disfigured hand, a memorial of those dark and fearful days, lies now in a grave at Beaver Creek church, Wilkes county. The throbbing heart of this patriotic son of the Confederacy is still forever.

When Mr. Dula returned from the great war he met the girl of his choice in Wilkesboro, who was Miss Martha Jane Harris, and they were united in marriage shortly following the war, and for more than 60 years they voyaged together over the matrimonial sea in a most happy and congenial manner. To this union were born nine children, seven boys and two girls, seven of which survive, namely: J. W. Dula and Q. E. Dula, of Danville, Va.; C. R. Dula, John Dula, S. H. Dula and L. C. Dula, of Winston-Salem, and Mrs. W. V. Williams, of North Wilkesboro. Two children, Hackett Dula, a son, and Mrs. Kiter Dula Harris preceded him to the grave. Mr. Dula's faithful companion also preceded him to the grave about five years ago. He is also survived by a large number of grandchildren and also before he died he had the privilege of holding in his arms a great, great grandchild, which is an unusual experience for anyone.

In 1879 when the Beaver Creek Advent Christian church, which is located near Ferguson, was organized, now almost fifty-six years ago, Mr. Dula entered the

organization as a charter member and throughout the years the tenets of the church were near and dear to his heart. He cherished the resurrection hope and looked forward to the day when the graves shall surrender their dead and he would be privileged to again mingle with his loved ones.

Industry, honesty, temperance and simplicity characterized his life of this good man. He was a gentleman of the old school, a most pleasant host and one who greatly enjoyed his friends and their visits. He maintained a

family altar throughout all the years of his married life, and could boast of the proud record of never having been under the influence of strong drink, nor having used tobacco, nor allowed to fall from his lips profane language or slang of any kind.

Elkin, March 8.—Homer Allen, 32, young farmer of Hamptonville, lost four fingers from his left hand yesterday while operating an electric feed machine at his farm. After receiving first aid from a physician he was taken to a Winston-Salem hospital.

Vote On Hill's Liquor Bill Is Postponed For Week

Raleigh, March 8.—Trust in the senate's liquor war came shortly afterwards yesterday when the opponents of the Hill bill, lacking what they thought was a few votes of a majority, hung up the white flag and backed down from further presentation of their case. So opponents of the bill who said they could have mustered 77 votes, one more than necessary, this morning have to have defended the retail liquor store act, were not

so confident of that majority, that they readily agreed to a cessation of further arguments until next Thursday.

Then it will be a battle to look until the roll call. Senator Hester, chairman of the committee that reported the bill out without prejudice, who actually made the motion to postpone further argument from Senator Teague promising that even if a night session is necessary on that day the vote will be taken before an adjournment.

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