

Land Troops Attack Gunboats on the Roanoke in 1862

Lieutenant Andrews Harasses the Enemy

Gunboat Is Engaged By Calvary For The First Time In War

Father of Local Man Reports Movement of Boats Up Roanoke River

Martin County has a rich war record from the Revolution on down, but unfortunately there are only broken accounts to throw light on the parts played by the loyal ones who led and followed their leaders in time of war. A unique story, one that records for the first time in any kind of war the engagement of gunboats by a calvary unit, appears in the North Carolina Troops.

Reviewing the work of the Ninth North Carolina Regiment, later known as the First Calvary, Colonel W. H. Cheek, writing in "North Carolina Troops" refers to the account written by Brigadier-General Rufus Barringer who dwelt at length on the part played by the Ninth throughout the war. The regiment was looked upon as one of the bravest in support of the South's Cause. The men were reviewed by Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, and its record includes action in many sections from the beginning of the war until the end.

The Mr. Burroughs referred to in the account was the father of Mr. Hugh M. Burras, of Williamston, even though the name is spelled differently.

The story. General Barringer, in his preceding sketch of the First North Carolina Cavalry, so fully described the organization, instruction and movements of our regiment up to the time of his promotion to Brigadier-General in June, 1864, that it is impossible for me at this late day, with the limited data at my command, to enlarge or to improve upon his narrative. There are, however, several engagements during the time covered by General Barringer's article which I consider so well calculated to illustrate the talent of our officers and the courage and discipline of the enlisted men, and which added so largely to building up the reputation of the regiment, that I desire to go back and bring them forward and place them in a more conspicuous position than he has given them.

And first in order of time comes the attack of Company B upon the gunboats in Roanoke River in the spring of 1862. At that time the preservation of the railroad bridge at Weldon was of the utmost importance to the Confederacy. So, when the regiment was returning from Eastern North Carolina to rejoin the Army of Northern Virginia, Company B, Captain Whitaker, was detached to do picket duty down the Roanoke, and especially to watch the approach of the enemy's gunboats. Captain Whitaker was a large planter on the river, and once when he was home, and the Company was under the command of First Lieutenant A. B. Andrews, the enemy made an effort with three gunboats to ascend the river, his object being the destruction of the railroad bridge at Weldon. Lieutenant Andrews (now Colonel A. B. Andrews, first vice president of the Southern Railway System), very skillfully attacked him from the bluffs and other favorable points, and so harassed and punished him that at Hamilton he abandoned the expedition and returned to Plymouth. This engagement of cavalry with gunboats was a novel proceeding, a new feature in warfare, and the first of the kind that happened in our army. This success of Lieutenant Andrews shows the wonderful capacity of the officers and men of this celebrated command to contend with an enemy on water as well as when mounted on horses or dismounted as infantry. Lieutenant Andrews has kindly furnished me with the following account of his operations:

Attack of Lieutenant Andrews On the Gunboats

"On the morning of July 9, 1862 (I think this date is correct) a courier from Mr. Burroughs came to my camp soon after sunrise with a note stating that three gunboats had passed Jamesville, supposed to be on their way to Weldon to destroy the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad bridge at that point, that bridge being on the main thoroughfare between General Lee's army and the South (as you will recall, that was before the Piedmont Road between Danville and Greensboro was built). On reading the note I at once had sounded 'boots and saddles,' and had my company of 43 men mounted, rode down the river, saw the boats coming up and waited until they had passed the wharf at Williamston, going up towards Weldon. There was great excitement in the town. I asked some of the citizens to pilot me up the river with a view of attacking the gunboats from different points along the river, leaving two couriers at Williamston to report to me in case the boats should turn back and land at Williamston. Mr. S. W. Watts (afterwards Judge Samuel Watts) and a Mr. Williams went up the river with me. At a place called Poplar Point, about ten miles from Williamston, I stationed Second Lieutenant J. W. Peel with ten men dismounted, with instructions to fire upon the first boat, which was commanded by Lieutenant Flusser.

"I waited until they started down the river again and then proceeded down the river to undertake to harass them again at Rainbow Banks, but they placed a boat in position and shelled the banks until the other two had passed, and then commenced shelling the banks upon the river so as to enable the first boat to pass. I attempted at other places to fire upon them, but they were shelling the banks on the river all the way down, and it was impossible for us to get another opportunity to attack them. I followed them until about nine o'clock, several miles below Williamston, then returned to Williamston.

"I did not get a man hurt, and lost no property, except one relay horse which I had left in a stable at Hamilton, and which they took. Lieutenant Peel and all the men displayed great coolness and bravery.

FIRST TAVERN

Back in the Revolutionary Period what is believed to be the first tavern in Martin County was opened and operated by a man named Hudson. Little or nothing is known about the tavern, but the keeper had a daughter who was the belle of the then important Roanoke River port. His daughter, Marina Hudson, it has been told, possessed great beauty and she numbered her admirers by the dozens. Strange as it may seem, Marina never married. The years took their toll, and in her old age she was believed to have been akin to a witch.

Miss Bell Whitaker, a native of this county, recently recalled the story at her home in Enfield. "I can see the old woman quite vividly now smoking her pipe and begging from house to house for something to eat."

Minister Conserves Soil To Save Souls In Country Parish

Succeeding in His Important Task Where Many Had Failed Before Him

Twenty-six years ago, a young preacher, Paul Doran, went to a rural parish on Calkkiller River in White County, Tenn. Twenty-eight different pastors had served here during the previous 25 years. Each one left as soon as he could get away. But Doran has been here 26 years. And hopes to stay much longer. When he came, there were 4 churches on the circuit with memberships of 20, 40, 12 and 12. Now there are 11 churches with a total membership of 800. The church budget is now 30 times what it was when he came. There are now 110 miles of improved roads in the parish, where there were none before. The average yield of corn per acre has increased from 18 bushels to 42. A stranger driving through this county today can tell when he reaches this parish by the painted houses and landscaped grounds. Religion has found expression in the total life of the community.

And how was this change brought about? Mainly by a program begun and led by this unusual country pastor. From an article in The Progressive Farmer we learn that his first decision was that he must lift the economic level of his people. So he bought a farm and set apart some demonstration plots to show them the value of soil conservation and soil

ser, of the United States Navy, and as soon as he delivered his volley to at once remount his horses and report to me at Rainbow Banks, which was two miles below or east of Hamilton. Rainbow Banks was a bluff on the river, afterward fortified and called Fort Branch. I dismounted the men I had and arranged them along this bluff, taking position on the right of the company myself, and ordered the men not to fire until I had commenced firing my pistol, and then to fire and reload as rapidly as possible. I waited until the front boat, on which Lieutenant Flusser was, had gotten opposite me and then commenced firing my pistol, and the 41 men began firing and reloading and firing again as rapidly as possible. Lieutenant Flusser was on deck, and I have never seen a man display more bravery than he did in command of this fleet. Finally the front boat passed us and opened its stern gun upon us, shelling the banks so that I was compelled to retreat, mount my horses and go to another point higher up the river. The men had had no breakfast and it was nearly 1 o'clock in the day. I went to a farm house nearby, secured what provisions they had, giving the men something to eat, and then proceeded to Hamilton. On the outskirts of the town I was met by a good many citizens who were very much excited, and begged me not to go in the town and asking me to go around it, as Lieutenant Flusser had landed one hundred and twenty-five marines and two pieces of artillery, and they were satisfied that if I made an attack on them in the town of Hamilton that they would destroy the town.

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"Yours truly,
"A. B. Andrews."

improvement. Then he put on some livestock projects. The first purebred Jersey cow in his parish belonged to the church. He also started a night school which during the winter months met five evenings a week. This night school is still one of his leading activities and has trained his men alike in techniques of farming and methods of church work. He organized a consumer-producer cooperative. He offered prizes for the best home gardens. He made himself a sort of local health officer. He helped young men buy farms. His personal library of 7,000 books became a community library. His efforts brought results in enriched lives, improved farms, and increased church income. The first year Mr. Doran was in his parish the main church gave only \$20.10. Last year their contribution was \$1,100. His circuit of 11 preaching places now has over 800 communicant members and on an ordinary Sunday the attendance is about 1,200 people. As The Progressive Farmer points out: "This rural parish in the Cumberland Plateau illustrates rural reconstruction through the church. The program here was not handed down but it grew up from within. It was indigenous. It began where the people were. It was built around the needs of the people. Individual conflicts were changed to cooperative living. Religion was expressed in total life. First there was a leader, then knowledge, then vision, then planning. The church led, but cooperated with other agencies. The Gospel was clearly preached. And the whole program rested on a program of economic improvement."

Strong Organization Is Needed By the Farmer

Farming Is Not All Pleasure, Secretary Claud Wickard Says

Learned First Hand That Farm Prices Went Down While Others Went Up

One of my childhood memories helped me see the need for farmer organization. Our old family physician was a grand man, but he had a habit of giving me orations on the joys of being a farmer. Maybe I had run a nail in my foot, or maybe I was suspected of having the measles or the whooping cough. It didn't matter what I had, because he gave me castor oil for everything. After giving me the standard dose he would always give me his lecture on the advantages of the farm.

"Why, Claude," he would say, "you folks on the farm are the luckiest people there are. Just think of it; you can work when you please, and if you don't feel like working you can knock off. If you want to go fishing, you go fishing, and you always have Sunday off to go to

VITAMINS

A new hope for mankind's health has been announced. What we did not have time to get in the hurried snack at the way-side eating joint is now being offered in a newly patented cigarette. The cigarette has Vitamin B in it, meaning that men, women and children won't have to stop smoking to eat.

The question is, Will we smoke a cigarette that will aid rather than injure our health? One has reason to wonder.

church and visit around with your friends. And all the time the corn keeps on growing and the hogs are getting fat. I tell you there's nothing like it. You're-a lucky boy, my boy."

Well, after our home farm came under my management, I began to find out about the joys of farming. I found out that the hogs could suddenly stop getting fat and die of cholera, and that if they didn't die they could sell so cheap that there would be no profit in it. I found out that the prices for some things I had to sell were set in the world markets, while I had to pay whatever price

Rules of the Road . . .

RECKLESS DRIVING

Sec. 102, Motor Vehicle Laws of North Carolina—"Any person who drives any vehicle upon a highway carelessly and heedlessly in willful or wanton disregard of the rights or safety of others, or without due caution and circumspection and at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property, shall be guilty of reckless driving . . ."

This means that, regardless of speed laws, every driver is required to drive with caution and with regard for the rights of other individuals at all times. You can be guilty of reckless driving when going only 30 miles per hour on an open highway where the maximum speed limit is 60 miles per hour.

was asked for the things I had to buy. And I found that farm prices were going down while the prices of things we bought were going up, so that my neighbors and I were being economically whip-sawed.

I realized that if we expected to get equality for agriculture we had to have some way of getting the facts across to people like our family doctor. To do this, farmers had to organize. Organization gave us a sort of megaphone which carried the farm story to the ear of the public. Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard

Older Farm Boys Been Neglected

A group which has been more or less neglected by the government-aid programs of recent years is in for some special attention, according to plans now underway by the Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service. This is the older rural youth group, 18 to 25, most of whom are too mature to have interests common to 4-H club members but do not yet have all the interests of adult farmers.

Recently a committee of Tennessee farm aid home-agents and 4-H club specialists outlined a program for this farm youth group. A major objective of the new program is to develop desirable ideals and right attitudes toward the farm and home, community life, citizenship and democracy in America. Director C. E. Brehm said it is planned to teach, by demonstration, improved farming and home-making practices; to develop habits of healthful living; provide instruction and guidance in the use of leisure time; give training in cooperative activities, and other instruction designed to further conveniences and contentment on the farm.

The plan is worked out by the committee calls for the organization of county farm young people's club. Traditional activities, such as annual banquets, folk games and other recreational parties, educational trips, etc., will be fostered in addition to work with individuals.

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