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July 2, 1967

Dear Julie:

I thought that you might like the enclosed photostat of a copy of my grandfather's account of his service in the Confederate Army. He was John Walton Barber + my childhood hero! He was one of 15 men (as I understand it) to escort Pres. Davis. The battle of Resaca is very well accounted in history - and I recognized it when reading a history as that in which my grandfather fought.

One thing he told me - not in this brief account - was an incident which I recall so vividly: a red-headed Irishman got into a controversy with my grandfather (about shelter, I think). My grandfather had a body-servant - equipped with about the same gear as my grandfather, and when the fight appeared to be getting the better of him his negro servant said "Let me set them Merse John, let me at him!"

My great-grandfather (his father) gave 100,000 to the Confederate cause but, strangely, he was not "broke". He had another 100,000 in the Bank of England, untouched for over 20 years; 5,000 acres here in Southern Ky. and some other assets. (Where it went was gone before my generation however!) Part of his eleven children he left each over \$40,000 plus a generous amount to his widow - the richest man in Christian Co. in his day. He died

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just before "the turn of the century" into the 20th.

Quite a sage gentleman was he. I was said that some rather inquisitive lady asked him a personal question to which he responded: "Madam, if you'll pardon me for not answering I'll pardon you for asking".

I'm sorry the 1st page turned out so dark. I tried another and it turned out the same. Maybe that's because time had yellowed it more than the next two.

My grandfather, at age 17, learned Latin so well that he read "Horace" seven times and almost knew it backwards. Does any student today - at 17 - know Horace?

Surely, I think, while we know so much, we have so little of what they had - and I rather envy those days. They learned so much that was worthwhile - those who sought to do so. Evidently he did! And I am quite proud to have him as my grandfather!

Sincerely

Marjorie Barker Lawson

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WAR RECORD OF JOHN W. BARKER

Born in Louisa County, Virginia, October 26th, 1843.

I was at Dr. Gessner Harrison's preparatory School in Nelson County, Va. when the war started. We organized a Company of which John W. Daniel of Lynchburg, Va. was elected Captain, he was afterwards U. S. Senator from Virginia; shot all to pieces at Manassas and spent the rest of his life on crutches. We offered our services to Governor Letcher of Virginia, who refused to accept us, telling us to go to our respective homes and join the army with our neighbors and friends.

From Benjamin Helm

U.S. Came home in May and joined with Capt. Henry Leavelle's Company, was sworn into the service of the U. S. A. on October 8th, 1861, ordered to Bowling Green, Ky. where we were enrolled as Company H. of 1st, Reg. of Kentucky Cavalry under Colonel B. H. Helm, afterwards killed at Chicamauga. Scouted around Glasgow with *Lewis's* Texas Rangers until the fall of Fort Donelson, when we went back to Nashville, Tenn. and on down to Tusculum, Ala. Stayed there until the battle of Shiloh, from there to Chattanooga, Tenn. where we were put under General Joe Wheeler as the advance guard of General Bragg's Army in the march up into Kentucky. Fought the battle of Perryville on October 8th, one year after being sworn into the service of the U. S. A. went out of Kentucky through Cumberland Gap to Clinton, Tenn. where we were discharged from service November 1st, the time for which we had enlisted having expired.

after the battle of Chicamauga

Then in February 1863 I joined Captain Joe William's Company, which was Company G. in 2nd Kentucky Cavalry, which with 1st Tennessee, 3rd Arkansas and McDonald's battalion constituted General Frank Armstrong's brigade. Made the second raid into Kentucky, fought the battle of Farmington on October 8th, the second anniversary of our joining the U. S. A. Wintered at Villanow, Ga. in front of Dalton. Suffered terribly this winter, weather very cold, snow and rain, no tents, open faced shacks, few blankets and little to eat. Whipped Hooker's Corps at Dug Gap to open the campaign of 1864. Generals Hardee, Stewart and Claiborn watched the fight. Very uneasy for fear Hooker would force the Gap. Claiborn's Division of Infantry relieved us about sundown. Fought every mile or two from Resaca to Atlanta. Fought two hard battles on July 21st, and July 28th, filling in gaps in the infantry line close in to Atlanta. General McPherson was killed in front of our brigade. Captured General Stoneman's command of cavalry at Eatonton, Ga., and his equipment and horses furnished mounts for the Kentucky Infantry Brigade, "The Orphans".

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From there we went into Kentucky again under General Wheeler. On this raid I went home with Bob Lloyd. Saw my folks, got a fresh horse, clothes and money. Went out across Cumberland River above Clarksville, swam Tennessee River at Danville round to Courtland, Ala. where we met General Hood's army coming in to Tennessee. Then under General Forrest we were in the advance of the army to Franklin which was the bloodiest battle of the whole war. Sent with three men to report what troops were coming up to Nashville.

After the fight at Nashville we were ordered to report to our command, which at that time was at Savannah, Ga. We joined the brigade at Robertsville, S. C. Fought Sherman all the way to Columbia. Captured General Kilpatrick's Headquarters including his cook. Picked up scouting parties every day until within six miles of Columbia, when the darn Yankees got good and mad and killed about thirty men out of our regiment in this one day's fighting. This one day's fighting for six miles was the hardest fighting we did during the whole war and we lost more men. The Yankees knew who they were fighting.

From Columbia we went on up to Greensboro, N. C. and fought the battle of Smithville, the last fight of the war with us. At Greensboro we were detailed as an escort to President Davis to take him across the Mississippi River. We took him and all the archives of the Confederate Government to Washington, Ga. where he left us. Here we were paid off, and paid in silver and gold. I got twenty-three dollars all in three cent pieces. The other boys did not want this kind. I did not even count it.

From Washington we moved out one day's march and camped. Next morning we gave up our arms to the General William's brigade that we had whipped at Saltville, Va. Both sides knew the facts and there was a lot of good natured chaffing and "gussin", nobody got mad.

Rode on to Chattanooga where we gave up our horses, were put on freight train and sent to Nashville where they camped us in the Penitentiary yard. Mighty few sober men in the brigade, and as we marched out next morning they gave us a piece of salt codfish and two hardtacks, mighty fine feed on such stomachs as we had. We took the oath of allegiance to U. S. and then went back to Chattanooga to get our horses. At Chattanooga we were furnished an escort to protect us

from Bushwhackers, over Waldens ridge to Gallatin and on home.

I got home on June 28th, 1863 ragged, dirty, lousy, whipped and demoralized but not scattered. I had done my best was hard as nails, had never been sick, (Our kind-hearted Surgeon Dr. Spalding gave me a dose of quinine in a glass of water when I went to him with a raging headache), answered every roll call and ready for anything that I was called to do, and that was thinning corn.

*Exege monumentum
aere perennius*

*I have reared a monument
more enduring than bronze*

In early life he went to Charlottesville to attend the University of Virginia, and at the age of 17, sailed leave to join the Confederate Army. He belonged to Forrest's Cavalry.
Only a few years ago after Gen. Halleck's death, he was offered the brigadier generalship of the Confederate Army, but refused the honor saying he had fought as a private and preferred only that.

John Walton Barker
Barker's Mill,
Christian County, Ky.

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