

large warehouse, which we were using then as a Government Building. (14th & Carey Sts.) That voice has long since responded to the call of the Recording Angel - but as long as memory lasts, the echo of her sweet strains, which cheered us in those hours of deep interest & anxiety, will reverberate through the minds & hearts of the few of us who are left. We could not have forgotten, if we would have done so, that we were filling the places properly belonging to our brave men, who were in the field for we were often reminded of this stern necessity, by the orders that would come from head-quarters to be read to the "detailed soldiers," in the Medical Purveyors' office.

They were always read with an apology by our chief who ever remembered that these "detailed soldiers" were still the weaker looking for protection from the stronger. A Bill was passed "to increase the salaries of clerks." Somehow our office did not get the benefit of this bill, perhaps the bill was passed before these appointments were made, for it was the last Department to assign & trust its duties to ladies. Be that as it may, for a long time we did not profit by the increase & the red tape system of army regulations knew us only as "detailed soldiers." Some of our duties were light & some arduous. To one

of us was assigned the "Rendering of Quarterly Re-
turns of the Army of Northern Virginia in the Medical
Purveyor's Department" & it was a great source of pride
to the chief, ^{Mr. Dr. Williams} that this work was accomplished by a lady
clerk, notwithstanding the Surgeon-General's opposition,
but only she knew how the compound fractions of Troy
& Avoirdupois ranging from grains & scruples to ounces
& pounds of "Supplies, Requisitions and Deficit" played
hide & seek in the weary brain in the silent land of dreams
& more difficult still at times, was it to chase the Latin
names through the labyrinth of figures. A petition was
sent from the office to Congress asking for a special bill to
entitle us to increase of pay. It passed the House but some-
how it did not get through the Senate - other bills engrossing
attention. It was said that Senator Hunter of Va did not
favor this bill, but providentially an opportunity came by
which we got the better of the Senator. There was what was
called a "Peace Conference" in Hampton Roads. Vice Pres.
Stephens, Judge Campbell, & Sen Hunter representing
the Confederacy & President Lincoln and Sec Seward repre-
senting the Federal government. Then came a kind sugges-
tion from the Senate and as golden opportunities were cry-
ing we eagerly took advantage of this one, to renew our peti-

tion which was promptly acted upon and in law the "detailed soldiers" women, all the same, became entitled to the increase of pay. Some of us got as much as a thousand dollars (\$1000.⁰⁰) Remember we counted more than sixteen to one (16 to 1) in those days and the writer's last month's salary from the Confederate Government is now safely stored away, having been brought to her by the chief clerk of the Medical Purveyor's Office, on his return to Richmond, after he had followed the Government & stood by it in its itineracy as long as a vestige of it remained. When we live over the "Past" & come to the tomb of our "Lost Cause" whether it be thought, word or deed & leave there our garlands, we find that the clusters of memory have been nurtured by the dew of silent tears, for they have not all been spent. —

— At the request of our Historian I have given this little sketch, perhaps the example may encourage others of our Chapter to contribute something. Some lived almost in the midst of battle-fields & could relate much of interest. Write & weave in with the facts & reminiscences as many love stories as you please, & when the romances recited prove to be reality instead of fiction & the heroes & heroines the loved ones of their own firesides & households, they will

meet with keenest interest. I have only to open my sweetheart's diary to learn many little things of interest his lavish expenditure - the first item to attract attention & which reads as follows.

"Lunch at Gordonsville _____ \$7.50
 In Richmond - "Room-rent \$10.-per day
 Meals \$13.50 " "
 A plate of oysters \$20.00
 1 Newspaper \$2.00
 1 copy of Richmond Examiner \$3.00

This was on the monthly pay of one hundred & seventy-five dollars, & all to see his lady-love, but as the expense-roll was so great, the visits were very short to Richmond, as you can well understand.

(Miss Cora Pritchard) - Cora Williams, ^{renderer of} returns - }

Miss Tate Pres, Shenandoah Chapter

" Sue Dougherty U. D. C.

" Sallie Lambert (Miss Packard) Woodstock,

" Matorca Gay - }
 " Lena Brooke (Miss Judge Lucas) }
 " Miss Heath }

" Johnson

" Howard

" Williams (wife of chief of Dep.)

Workers in Medical
 Insurer's Department -
 Chief Clerk Williams
 Med. Insurer,
 Dr. Johns -

The Following miscription & poem accompa-
nied the presentation of a perfect copy of the

"Translation of the Iliad of Homer, into Spenserian
Stanza" by Phillip Stanhope Worsley, Fellow of Corpus
Christi College, Oxford - a scholar & poet whose untimely
death, noticed with deepest regret throughout the literary
world in England, has cut short a career of brightest
promise: "Go Gen Robt E. Lee - the most stainless
of living commanders, & except in fortune - the greatest
- this volume is presented with the writer's earnest
sympathy, and respectful admiration: Iliad, VI, 403.

"The grand old bard that never dies,
Receive him in an English tongue!
I send thee, but with weeping eyes
The story that he sung.

"Thy Troy is fallen, thy dear land
Is marred beneath the spoiler's heel
I cannot trust my trembling hand
To write the things I feel.

"Ah, realm of tombs! - but let her bear
This blazon to the last of times

"No nation rose so white and fair,
Or fell so pure of crimes.

"The widow's moan, the orphan's wail
Come round thee, yet in truth be strong!
Eternal right, though all else fail
Can never be made wrong.

"An angel's heart, an angel's mouth,
Not Homer's, could alone for me
Hymn well the great Confederate South,
Virginia first, and Lee. P. S. W."

Prof George Long of England in a note to 2^d Ed. of his
translation of the "Thoughts of the Emperor M. Aurelius An-
toninus" ^{page 2} "this graceful tribute" "If I dedicated this book
to any man, I would dedicate it to him who led the Con-
federate armies against the powerful invader, & retired
from an unequal contest defeated, but not dishonored; to
the noble Virginian soldier, whose talents & virtues place
him by the side of the best & wisest man who sat on the
throne of the imperial Caesars."

Shenandoah Chapter - U. D. C. Woodstock
represents the descendants of the pioneers, who
amid danger and peril opened up this beauti-
ful Shenandoah valley, who felled the trees that
grew by the path of the Red-man over these hills
and mountains which often echoed the war-whoops
of the savage, and sunset sometimes found the
woodman standing by the smouldering ruins
of his little cabin - wife and children scalped
or led into captivity or death. By hardship and
toil these pioneers were well fitted for soldiers of
the Revolution; some went forth from this village
led by the famous Muhlenberg, who threw off his
priestly robes in a little Episcopal church, built
of logs, which stood on the site of the ruins of the
one recently (1900) burnt. Others were known as Mor-
gan's picked Virginia riflemen of the Shenandoah
Valley, who with a company from James river turned
the tide of battle for us at Saratoga, and so great
was the terror the Indians had of these men that
they called them the lightnings of the Great Spirit
as they fell upon the right column of Burgoyne's army.
Is it a wonder that the descendants of these pioneers

as sons should have been among our best Confederate soldiers and their daughters among the noblest women, nursing back to life the wounded & soothing the last hours of the dying who were brought here from the battle fields of Manassas, Winchester, Cedar Creek, and Fisher's Hill. We knew those who wore "the Gray", and our hearts swell with pride and eagerness to honor their memory - and to vindicate the principles for which they died. Principles incorporated in our laws by Thomas Jefferson, - American Principles - principles demanding the defense of the rights of states and homes. Shenandoah (Daughter of the Stars) echoed the roll of musketry and cannon of our brave men under the leadership of the knightly Ashby, the cavalier Stuart, Stonewall Jackson, and our old warrior, Jubal A. Early.

"Though sweetly rolls the Shenandoah

In lucid waters from the West

As when the Indian maiden's oar

Once touched its silver breast" & though its waters are no more crimsoned with life-blood, yet long shall its murmur in memory tell

"Of the heroes who fought, & the martyrs who fell"

Address of Mrs Jas H. Williams - Oct. 1900 -

Shenandoah - formerly Dunmore County (named after Gov. Dunmore) is the Indian for "Laughing Daughter of the Stars". The principal town, now Woodstock, was called at first Miller's Town - Beckford Parish - "Muhlenberg Rifles", Company B. 10th Regiment - Civil War.

The Murder of Getz.

Woodstock, Va - Feb. 10th 1900.

An account of the murder of Davy Getz by the command of Gen Geo. A. Custer, secured from persons who were present & still living in Woodstock. The writer personally knew the small family, consisting of Andrew Getz, Elizabeth, his wife, & their simple minded son, David, who was about 30 yrs of age. The family lived in a small house close to the Methodist church. For the rent of this humble home they acted as sexton of the church. The fact that David was deficient mentally was doubted by none. A single glance at his countenance would convince any one. Of him were required no duties of a civil or military character. He was simple and harmless. The boys loved to tease him & many a Confederate soldier told Davy that he had come to take him back with him. He was in fact nothing but a very timid child. He had no ambition to be a soldier, but on the contrary was always badly frightened when the suggestion was made that he should go in the army. He had in some way become possessed of an old musket, & with it amused himself hunting ground squirrels & small birds. In the summer of 1864 he was engaged in his usual sport in the woods

near his home when a squad of Federal soldiers suddenly came upon him. To their question "are you a bushwhacker" "Why yes", he replied. He had no more intelligent comprehension of the term "bushwhacker" than he had of the doctrine of transcendentalism. He was at once seized by a number of Federal soldiers, dragged down High street to the jail & then tied to a wagon. The poor fellow was almost frightened to death & his heart-rending screams aroused the whole town. Accustomed, as were the people to the brutality of the Federal hordes that prowled thro' this valley, nothing aroused their sympathy & horror not even the burning of their homes & churches by the fore friends of the brutal Sheridan, as did this inhuman outrage. Dick behind a wagon & dragged through the streets his plaintive cries & shrieks brought to the doors the ladies on either side of the street. Helpless they stood & wept for the poor unfortunate. Close behind him walked his aged mother & father clasping each other's hands, while their cries of distress touched the hearts of all, except the inhuman captors. They continued to follow their screaming child until they were driven back by the bayonets of the Federal soldiers. Custer's camp was about one mile south of Woodstock. Here he was visited upon by Mrs J. L. Campbell

Mrs. Murphy and other ladies of the town, who gave him a truthful statement of the character of the man & besought Custer to look at him as one glance would have convinced him of the truth of their statements. He roughly repulsed them. He was afterwards visited by Moses Walton, a distinguished lawyer of Woodstock; by Dr J. S. Iurn, a union man of this town, & by Mr Adolph Heller, a prominent merchant & a strong union man at whose house both Custer and Torbett had occasionally made their headquarters. — While Mr Heller was at heart a union man, he was not one of that kind who would give information that would injure his neighbors, but was always ready to protect the innocent so far as it was in his power. He earnestly besought Gen Custer to release the poor idiot that was in his hands. When Custer intimated that he proposed to have him shot, Mr Heller boldly exclaimed "Gen Custer you will sleep in a bloody grave for this. Surely a just God will not permit such a crime to go unavenged." These gentlemen left his headquarters saddened by the exhibition of brutality upon the part of Custer. The words of Mr Heller proved to be prophetic. Custer was murdered by the Indians. Poor Davy Getz was again tied behind a wagon, compelled to walk to Bridgewater, a distance of 45 miles, there forced

to dig his own grave & was then murdered like a dog. The father, several years later committed suicide. The mother was taken to the home of her son, Mr Levi Getz, of Rockingham County, where she died some years ago. These are facts well established by a number of citizens of Woodstock. It is important that they should be preserved, for the day will come when the impartial historian will write a true history of the war. It will be important for him to have access to a correct & true statement of facts. The one-sided stories that have been imposed, even upon our own children, by careless school boards will be swept aside, & the truth will be given to coming generations.

From the Richmond Dispatch - Capt J. H. Graybill.

The true character of Gen Custer -

From the Staunton News.

The News has always refrained from publishing matter likely to excite sectional prejudice, or to revive the bitter animosities of the civil war. In publishing from the Richmond Dispatch a communication from Capt Jno H. Graybill giving a true account of the murder of the demented young man, Davy Getz of Woodstock, by Custer's men & with Custer's knowledge & under his direction, we may seem to deviate from this practice. But in publishing it, we do

not wish to be considered as drawing an indictment
against all Union generals or against the north as a
section. We feel quite sure that most people in the North
would have felt equal horror at the bloody deed if the
knowledge of it had been brought home to them. We cannot
believe that Gen Custer represented any large section of
country or people when he was practicing his cruelties in the
Valley of Virginia. The murder of Davy Getz is not the only
sin he has to answer for. This crime is so horrifying that
some even among our own people may doubt its reality -
but there are many still living who know all the facts.
Two women, nieces of Mr Heller, who threatened Gen Custer,
with the vengeance of God, reside in Staunton. They were
children then & knew the poor simpliciton, Davy Getz, & saw
him dragged away by the Union soldiers past their home
& turned away in horror. They saw his weeping mother
following & pleading for her son's life. The whole town arose
in indignation & protested. The apologists of Gen Custer cannot
claim ignorance on his part, for he was informed of the
facts by numbers of people who urged him to release the
poor fellow. No man ever had a better opportunity - to avoid
committing a heinous crime. When Gen Custer was massa-
cred by the Senis Indians the people of Woodstock felt

that he was justly rewarded. Instead of being a hero, his name should be execrated wherever true manhood is prized. The true account of his conduct in the South ought not to be allowed to perish from earth. This bloody deed is only one episode. The whole narrative should be written out, so that the cruel wrongs of our people may at least be avenged in the memory of this modern warrior in women & children & poor imbeciles. _____

