

Seven pages torn out of a bound notebook apparently belonging to Norborne Berkeley of the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry. Written sometime after the Civil War probably in the late 1870's or early 1880's

(Page 1) Something about 1<sup>st</sup> Manassas and some people, who went to War with a Daguerrean Car

We had a good time when we were assembling the 8<sup>th</sup> Va. Regiment at Leesburg. Tho' the Yankees were pretty close all the time, they on the north side, we on the south side of the Potomac. Presently, Gen. Beauregard sent for us and we started in a hurry. A gentleman fearful that our fine equipment would fall in hands of the enemy, burned our tents which left us out in the frost. Someone suggested that a daguerrean car that stood in the stable yard of one of the hotels, would answer for Head Quarters (Page 2) and it proved a good idea. I had a stout team put to and started it in the van followed by about 35 other wagons, - little and big. Oh! It was a sight; a friend said to me, "Major if that thing breaks down and blocks the road Gen. Beauregard will have you shot." No he won't, I replied. Look in the drawer where that fellow kept his chemicals. You'll find a good supply of matches. This thing will burn like tinder. But, we got through alright except the sky light was swept off by the limb of a tree; however a large gun cloth repaired that damage.

(Page 3) We were up early the next morning, for we knew they were coming. That gallant little Private of Comp. D. Charles Linthicum offered a fervent prayer for our sin & ews, well, who knows.

We were advanced to the edge of a wood, and held in reserve. Now! I don't like to be held in reserve, for you are very apt to be reserved for a very hot place, and I will give you an instance. When McClellan was moving down on the north side of the North Anna towards Cold Harbor we moved parallel with him on the south side, to keep between he and Richmond. Once, when it was thought he would attack, we found a gap (Page 4) in our line, which Gen. Hunton was ordered to fill. Adjutant Linthicum directed Green to put in the 56<sup>th</sup>, but Col. Green thought his regiment too large for the vacancy. - turning to me, Linthicum said, Col. Berkeley you can get the 8<sup>th</sup> in. "It will fit us as if we had been measured for it, I replied and thereby, we escaped a terrible place, where the gallant Linthicum was killed within two hours. But, "revenue a nos moutons," Well, we stood in reserve until Gen. Beauregard going over the field, looking for help, encountered Gen. Smith (Extra Billy) who said, "Why yonder is Hunton anxious to be in the fight; and (Page 5) Gen. Beauregard, coming to our left flank, moved us off in that direction, hence, I was by his side for a time.

When we reached the spot where Bartow fell, or was it Bee- I forget, we were faced to the front, and charged up to the Henry house driving the enemy across the road. Firing soon ceased, and we were left at rest a short distance to the right, and overlooking the Yankees on the opposite hill, forming hollow square, and moving off in good order. It looked as if they meant to turn our right flank but, whether to deceive us, or to settle their own men who had become rattled, I don't know. (Page 6) An order soon came for us to move promptly to Manassas. We started at once. President Davis and Gen. Beauregard passing us on the road at a quick pace, directed me to keep the men well closed up.

Our surgeon (Edwards) had been permitted to go to his son, who had been badly wounded at Blackburn's Ford on the 18<sup>th</sup> and Dr. J. Conway Brown Comp. D had been put in his place, and I had mounted him on a very fine Arabian mare, handsomely equipped. As we passed Brown at work with our wounded in the rear. I advised him to hurry up as it seemed likely we would require his services further on. He replied that "as soon (Page 7) as I do up this stump I will join you, there is my horse." Pointing to the mare a few paces away. He came in some time in the night - pretty well used up and said, "When I went for the mare, she was not there." Nor did I ever see her again.

Awaking quite early the next morning, I heard Col. Tebbs darky Charles say, I/m very sorry gentlemen, that we can't take your pictures today, but; we got our instrument broken last night and as soon as it is mended I will let you know.

I looked out on the other side, and saw "Long Tom" and other trophies coming in fast.