

First Cherokee Regiment day book

Section 4, Pages 91 - 99

A semi-official journal covering the period Nov. 10, 1862-Mar. 31, 1863, during which time the author served with the 1st Cherokee Regiment (Confederate) in the Indian Territory under Colonel Stand Watie. It contains copies of general & local orders, movements of the unit, and events. Portions of the first few pages are missing. During the Civil War, most of the members of the Cherokee Nation who had been removed from Georgia to Oklahoma under the treaty of 1835 allied themselves with the Confederacy. The 1st Cherokee Regiment was organized in 1861. Robert Calvin Parks was a captain in Company B at the time he kept this day book. The regiment played an important role in several battles along the border of Indian Territory. References are made to Clara, Robert's wife; Sterling Price Parks, their son; Thomas J. (Jeff) Parks, Robert's brother; Aunt Susan Taylor, the wife of Richard Taylor, Robert's uncle & his mother's brother; the Riders & Albertys, relatives of Clara; and James Butler, husband of Robert's cousin and the man who shot & killed Robert.

Creator: Parks, Robert Calvin, d. 1864

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Cherokee Regt, and wanted to distinctly
know what Col Stand Watie might
understand, whether he ^{thought} ^{any}
^{considered himself} subject to any orders issued
by him or not. Signed ^{W. P. Adair, Col 1st Chk}
I hardly knew what to say more
and felt myself considerably puzzled
to know what a commanding look-
duty was and how long from in to
regimental affairs a ^{commanding}
of Regiments might wish to dip.
I felt disposed in this case to
try and see, then came to me
for passes - I referred them to Col
Adair, they came back and showed
me their passes, in this I thought
I could detect the game on mine.

Friday March 13th

One or two men came to me before I
had gotten up for passes I send them
over also. return with passes, after
breakfast they begin to crowd him
he refuses passes and sends them
back, with a short note, assure
us that he give no passes and did
not wish to interfere with my
immediate command.

Signed W. P. Adair Col 1st Chk

12 O'clock P. M. Difficulties,

You told W. P. Adair defining
mutual lines, he has no right to
interfere with my immediate command
of the 1st Cherokee Regt, and says, you
have the right to govern your subordinate
officers and men, and I came only give
orders to you as command 1st Chk Regt.
He does not wish to be contrary and
wishes to make no illegitimate power
and has no objection to my going, but
will if I desire it refer this matter
to Genl Steele, and ask me to write
and asking Genl Steele's decision on this
matter, he proposes cheerfully to sign
it with me, and goes on telling me
all about giving passes, signing returns



Native Regiments & Subject as if I had been
doing hereto fore in the 1st Che Regt
and to please let him hear from me
upon the subject, I distinctly under-
stand that he did not wish to interfere
with the immediate order of the 1st Che
Regt. Signed Very respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
Wm P Adams Col 2nd
Che Regt & Comd 1st & 2nd
Che Regts

Will refer the matter to gent Steele
whom I am to refer to gent
Steele. What I have done out-
side the immediate command of
the 1st Che Regt that creates matter
to refer to gent Steele, I must let
him hear from me immediately upon
the subject, (What shall I say,
something he wishes to hear)
Col Adams

Sir I wish to assume no further
business until Col Water returns
Signed R P Davis Lt Col
1st Che Regt

Saturday Morning 14th March
Adjutant gives me a pass allowing
me to pass & return to Ft Smith -
Signed J. H. Thompson
Approved Wm P Adams
Col 2nd Comd
1st & 2nd Che Regts

Now all laugh at me and my pass -
I have been easily cheated and
the grasping desire to rob me was
too plainly shown and approved of
by the Col 2nd & Comd 1st & 2nd Che Regt
Sits letter from gent Steele after
examining the original notes giving
the legality of Col Adams' order
of the 2nd & 1st & 2nd Che Regt which
we were had been disputing but
been set - The letter was just as I
expected and all I wished to do was to



Order, He may have issued orders to the men. Wagonmaster &c I was aware of his issuing orders to A. G. in 1st Che Regt. to do something contrary to Brig. Genl. Steele's orders. What I am told was not complied with.

Col. Wm. Pen. Adair will lay before you his complaints and let you know what the subject and another is that he insists I should bring before you.

I inclose his communication to you by Capt. Anderson so you might see that the subject & matter were all upon one side. I wished to assume no further command, at the time for two reasons. One was to see how far Col. Adair would go with me and the other I do not now wish to mention here.

Col. Adair

So you will inclose to Genl. Steele, all charges and complaints against me, respecting your Council & my disobedience.

Otherwise the wrongs and injuries complained of are yet unadjusted.

Yours Abt. Lest

R. C. Porter, 1st Che Regt.

Chesapeake
Hillsboro, March 17/71/83

I inclosed the above letter over to Genl. Steele, ^{but it was over to Col. Adair} and he returns a very nice reply winding up though with every branch of an out break of fresh hostilities, he does not speak of exchanging hot lead but his meaning expresses as much. Major J. Thompson, collect all the men with serviceable horses and move down near Ft. Smith, to appropriate under Genl. Steele's orders.

Adyut. J. Long & Major both go to Genl. Steele's letter to your Rich. Inclosing \$13, one hundred and thirteen dollars to A. R. being due him on his services, collected of 1st Regt. 20 dollars for A. R. B.



and my own happiness, there, I
could ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~able~~ ^{able} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~accomplish~~ ^{accomplish} ~~nothing~~ ^{nothing}
in to ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~able~~ ^{able} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~accomplish~~ ^{accomplish} ~~nothing~~ ^{nothing}
under ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~present~~ ^{present} ~~situation~~ ^{situation}

feeling so I hope you will favor me
all you can to accomplish this end
Truly your obt servant

R. L. PARKS

This makes the third day since our
men has had one mouth full of
beef or meat; Capt. Leggett A.C.
1st Ch. Regt, having spent four or
five days in San Antonio and now
two days in Camps drunk or otherwise
unable to attend business, yesterday
and today he has either confined him-
self to his own tent sick or that
of the doctors

Thursday March 19th

Prisoner reported back in from Dutch Mills
a party of some 50 Confederates attacked
what few State Militia & Pios at that place
capturing 17th with all their effect.
Some are said to be deserters from 1st Regt
of old Regt. Found J. S. Parks five
hundred dollars, taking his receipt for the
same J. S. P. got out on Fort. Smith and
my Duplicates and some of his own
Capt. Thompson brings St. Louis
watch from Shop, I had got it out of
repair, with both houses, I have
had it repaired, was charged 30%.

Friday March 20th

Drew up the proceedings
of the eight-ninth-tenth elements and
12-13-14 from this book and sends it
to Genl. S. H. Cooper, together with
my insubordinate letter to Genl. Steele
and his reply, and a copy of my
letter to Genl. West. Grand Water
I written also to Genl. Cooper respecting
claims held against deserters & others
who have deserted and went over
to the Rebels



Order

Officers Commanding Companies will
Carry ^{the} papers to be their own until after morning
drill The morning drill will commence at 8^o
Clock and close at 11^o Clock R.C. Parks M.D.

St. Shreddy, Co. R, was sent out to watch the horses
that Sargent G. Bee had found tied out in the Corn
St. Shreddy & two others were laying by the horses
when some men came after dark two men came
riding up and was haunted. The parties turned to
run when St. Shreddy & Co fired in to them some
four shots. The parties made good their escape
after dropping a sack of clothing. Leet Adair
took possession of the horses and claimed that
he would try and see who the men were
caught Buford & Alberty think that he pretty
will know the parties who had stole the
horses and had them hid out. The news
of men leaving the 3rd Che Regt - put time enough
to have got out when the report of guns was
heard in the direction of where the horses were
had Ins. 1st Che Regt
camp till

Brig Genl Steele - for

Dear Sir This I Parks is now
here and raising a company for the service
and if I can be released here of my position here
in time I wish to join that company and would
be glad to have it arranged so by your order
as not to be connected with nor be under the
Cherokee Regt's but wish to be permitted to act
and range independent, and more upon the
emergencies of circumstances, I can do far more
execution with 50 men in the mountains of the Cherokee
Nation than our two Regts will under their present
management I made application to Leet, Hattie
and Adair before leaving Canadian. for 200
from each Regt. and such as could not mount
themselves that I would ^{assist in} mount them and remaining
in the neighborhood of Tahlequah and Spring
Creek where we could forage and supply
ourselves Now arrangement has been made -
with Genl Steele, and the desirable horses
have been put under Major Jos Thompson
and have been scouting out the country
south of Ark river and the sugar loaf



A Regimental Court Martial are here
by Ordered to convene at the house
Tues. Morning 10 o'clock
for the trial of certain members
of Co H. Charged with robbing the
house of Widow Jones, Citizen of
Nation, and carrying off the meat of
two hogs one beef, 2 Gallons of soap
& 2 Gallons of lard, and such others as
may be brought before the Court

Defendant

Jas Stuart Capt Co K

Dolphus Daniel H Co

Leut Hayes Co S-

Leut W H Sumner Judge Advocate
No other Officers will be permitted
to assemble

W H Parks H Co

1st Ch. Regt

Major J. Thompson gets in from Scout
to wards Sugar Loaf mountain Report
Charging upon one house where some
three or four were who was supposed
to be men. They were fired
in to them, killing two prisoners, prisoners
and shooting one very bad that is reported
by the men. The scout finds a camp
one tent where some four or five persons
Old woman give the two Indians the devil
says you are nice Indians, nice boys
bring down the Christians, to kill and
the butcher up white men send
Indians to force and even in
Citizen of Co K.

Your palates too are men who have left
one boy but a short while ago right on
these hills they fell out with some of our
boys and left our boys camp and are
now leading the Indians down upon
us. Your further before you was a
~~that~~ ~~that~~ Thief who stole horses and
counterfeited money, and has received one
hundred lashes on his bare back.



Wednesday March 25th 1863-

I felt very much, continue with bad cough
Brought down of Capt Hugh Timmers Co
was the man shot yesterday down in the Sugar
loaf Mountain fight
Mrs Salome Spiggle came up from
toward Sugar Loaf when some of our men
had lately been jayhawking and had
got her mare and her son into captivity
She described every thing so well that there
must be no mistake but the thing almost cer-
tainly she was being back this day week

Thursday 26th March 1863

My cough so very bad that I lay in camp all the
day, Jeff returns from up Port. Several more prisoners
were brought from the direction of Sugar Loaf

Friday 27th March 1863-

Thanks given day, we made no show of fasting in our
camps. No news of any importance in 2 boats were
moved to the bank for Overburns Halls loaded with Ariz
river up, boats were all around

(Private)

Mrs Spiggle and her son in law are under the
impression, that they would ^{recognize} the man who entered
her house and robbed her trunk on the night of
the 17th Inst. Mrs Spiggle & her son will be
in Ft Smith on Thursday evening next, and should
the genl wish the matter. He could make no
better bargain than call be fore her one Henry
Humphreys, John Delane and one Benke
all of the 1st Che Regt, and I am told of Capt
Thomson's Company

R C Porter
Sr Col

Saturday 28th March 1863-

I was very sick all day kept my bed, bad taste
in mouth with sick stomach

Sunday 29 March 1863

Still Confined did not get up only as
necessity compelled me to

Monday 30th March

Received letter from Selaw also one from
J W Wells a-aid Genl Cooper
Confined all day

Tuesday 3^d March
Slept better - up some and ate a small supply
sufficient to clear me much better feeling o-
fett Came in to see me,
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z
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