

## ***Diary of Ephraim Shelby Dodd, Co. D of Terry's Texas Rangers***

In his history of "Terry's Texas Rangers," Mr. L. B. Giles narrates the following tragic incident of the East Tennessee campaign:

"It was during this winter that one of the saddest events in all our career happened: the hanging of E. S. Dodd by the enemy. He was a member of Company D. He was of a good family and well educated. For many years he kept a diary, setting down at night the happenings of the day. He was taken prisoner with this diary in his pocket. On that evidence alone he was condemned and executed as a spy."

In January, 1914, the State Librarian received a letter from a resident of New York State, informing him that she had in her possession a diary found on the body of a Texas Ranger hung as a spy. Negotiations for its acquisition by the State Library were opened at once, and terminated successfully. The only information about the diary this person could give was that it "was found by a lieutenant from a N. H. regiment, who for years was a friend of our family, and some time before his death (which occurred six years ago) he gave it to me."

E. S. Dodd came to Texas from Kentucky late in 1860 or early in 1861. After visiting an uncle, James L. L. McCall, at Waco, he made his home with another uncle, Dr. John R. McCall, at Austin. He was teaching school near Austin, and was not yet out of his teens, when he enlisted in Terry's Rangers.

Ernest William Winkler

Texas State Library  
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*Thursday, December 4th, 1862*—I went out from M. to Mr.—, five miles from town. I went from there to Gen'l Morgan's Headquarters, leaving the Knox county filly at Mr. — and riding Walker's horse. I took supper at Lewis Black's, Morgan's Headquarters. The Gen'l was in town but came in just after supper. I went on to Chenault's camp and staid all night with John and Van Benton.

*Friday, 5th*—Snowed all day. I rode to Alexandria and went out to Mr. Bass', seven miles, got there about night. I found all well.

*Saturday, 6th*—I remained quiet to-day. Miss Frances came over. I staid all night and Sunday, 7th, I started on my return to camp. Came to Statesville, got pair of boots, \$25. Came out three or four miles and staid all night.

*Monday, 8th*—I got some cloth and came to town (M.); stopped but a short time. I saw Miss Kate, received a nice present, a sack to carry tobacco, made of red, white and blue. I came out to Mr. House's and staid all night.

*Tuesday, 9th*—Came back to camp. Company on picket. Burke in command at camp. I was put on comm. guard.

*Wednesday, 10th*—Lieut. Ellis went on a scout. I went with him. Ten men detail went down on Wilson pike, turned off to left and staid all night with Mr. Smith, a clever man, nice family, daughters, etc.

*Thursday, 11th*—Crossed the railroad and went down near Franklin. Got a guide and went down country through farms, etc., to near Brentwood, stopped at Miss Mag. McGarrock's. Came back to Mr. Campbell's, two miles from Franklin, and staid all night.

*Friday, 12th*—This morning just at daylight, while in the act of eating breakfast, the fight commenced in town. We put out immediately; found the Yanks in possession of the town when we got there. Their pickets fired on us. We then crossed the creek to go round and get with Smith. Got into Mr. Baugh's lot and while there came near being surrounded by a hundred or two Yanks. Came cross country to Hillsboro, got good dinner and came back to F. by night. Yanks left about 11 o'clock. Found Smith in possession. Came out two miles and staid all night.

*Saturday, 13th*—Came back to Camp. I went on forage.

*Sunday, 14th*—Got a good dinner at Mrs. T.

*Monday, 15th*—I and Jeff Burleson went out and got a good dinner and my clothes. Came back and found the Company in Camp. To-night I, Eslinger and Jessy Johnson went out cross the hills to preaching. Parson Bunting officiated. I went down with Eslinger and the girls to Mr. Page's, got some good apples, set till bed time and came to Camp.

*Tuesday, 16th*—Remained in camp.

*Wednesday, 17th—Saturday, 20th*—During this time had several false alarms amounting to a run down the pike and back to Camp. Also regular turns on picket.

*Sunday, 21st*—Go on the famous detail to M. after guns which cost me three days' roots. I went to see Miss Kate, spent about three minutes; had to make flying visits. Called to see Mr. Lane's family. Coming back to Camp, stopped to get supper and did not get to Camp till after night.

*Monday 22nd*—Put on three days. A false alarm caused us to go to the front.

*Tuesday, 23rd*—Went on picket. I was put on at the Widow —.

*Wednesday, 24th*—Was transferred to Black's picket at Holt's and stood to-night.

*Thursday, 25th*—This morning just after being relieved the Yanks made a break on us. We were fired on just as we reached the Com., fought them all day, falling back about four miles (Christmas Day). Returned to Camp.

*Friday, 26th*—Were aroused early this morning with the word the Yankees are in Nolensville. Went up at double quick and found them there. Fought them there all day until night, falling back to our old Camp at Mr. Page's. Staid there tonight. Our loss, one piece of cannon and a few men—McClure of Company E killed.

*Saturday, 27th*—Commenced skirmishing early, falling back slowly; fought through Triune and beyond Mr. Perkins. Rained on us all day. After passing Mr. P's, we took up line of march, came up three miles and turned off for Murfreesboro. I stopped and spent the night in a kitchen; came on Sunday 28th and overtook the Regiment. We came in five miles of M. Met the wagons, unloaded them and prepared to cook three days' rations, but were ordered to saddle up and get out to meet the Yankees. A false alarm. Staid out until near midnight. Came back to where we left the wagons but they were not there.

*Monday, 29th*—Went out this morning to the end of the Wilkerson pike. Met the Yankees and skirmished with them all day, falling back gradually. Their cavalry charged us once but paid dear for it. A number of prisoners were taken. We fell back to our infantry this evening.

*Tuesday, 30th*—Rained to-day; all quiet till evening; fight then opened between the infantry and continued until dark.

*Wednesday, 31st*—The great day of battle commenced at daylight and raged heavily all along the line until 3 o'clock. Yanks drove back four miles. Our Boys took in prisoners by the hundreds. Captured twelve cannon and during the day about 2000 prisoners, 160 odd beeves, some wagons, etc.

*Thursday, 1st January, 1863*—Went to La Vergne and pitched into their wagon train, captured and burned a good many wagons, 200 prisoners.

*Friday, 2nd*—Transferred to the right wing. Saw the fight this eve. Breckinridge had to fall back. Raining all the time.

*Saturday, 3rd*—Raining all day; sent out on a scout last night beyond Stone River to Mr. Black's. All quiet.

*Sunday, 4th*—This morn before day our Army commenced to retreat. I left the Regiment on the Plaza in M. and went out to the end of the Wilkerson pike. Got my clothing and came across to the Salem pike, found a number of unparoled Yanks on my way. I met Gen'l Buford but he would not send back to parole them. I went on to town, went to see Miss Kate, took a bite to eat and bid them goodbye. Went up to Mr. Lane's and from there out to Col. Smith's Regiment and back to Col. Cox in town. He promised to attend the Yanks. I then started for the Command. Came out to Col. Lytle's, stopped, found Morton of the Battery there. I took supper there but did not know where I was until the young ladies came down. Miss Mollie came in glad to see me, was then introduced to Miss Mollie Turner and Miss Alice Hord, staid till 11 o'clock, time passed very pleasantly. Came on to Camp.

*Monday, 5th*—Fell back to Old Fosterville, remained 6th-10th.

*Sunday, 11th*—Came out on a reconnoitering expedition, past Col. Lytle's. I stopped on return and saw Misses Mollie and Alice. Miss Molly T. had returned home. From this time until the 27th we did nothing but picketing. I piruted a little on Duck River, spent a night or two with Mr. Stewart, took dinner twice at Mr. Wilhoit's and thus the time passed. On 27th came in to Camp and on 29th we were relieved by Wheeler's Brigade and with three days' rations started on a scout down on Cumberland, passed through S. and out on Eaglesville pike to E. Camped near the place.