

Chapter VII

Grenada During Civil War Years

The twenty eight years elapsing between the beginning of the Indian land sales in the the area, which was later to become Grenada County and the outbreak of the Civil War had been fruitful ones for the inhabitants of the area. Destructive fires and a devastating tornado had not broken the spirit of the people of the town of Grenada. Financial hardship brought on by the financial panic, beginning in 1837 and continuing for almost seven years, had been hard on the people, and the purchase by many people of the area of stock in the Mississippi Union bank brought about many foreclosures of property in the area. In 1861 the people had overcome these circumstances and had established a prosperous economy, built for the most part, on Negro slavery and cotton production. Large plantations had been carved out of the rich lands; a number of fine plantation homes erected; schools and churches provided; and railroad connection established with the important trade centers of Memphis and New Orleans. Those small farmers who did not aspire to become great plantation owners had, by the application of their own labor with perhaps the help of a small number of slaves, established small self-sufficient farms which, because of their rich, new soil, returned a comfortable living to those who worked the soil. Among the people there also existed a number of independent individuals who had no desire to own slaves to help them in their farming operations. These various classes of people were typical of the people of Mississippi who, by the time of the outbreak of the war, had so prospered on the new lands that the per capita income of Mississippi ranked fifth in the nation. Grenada and vicinity, from the date of first settlement to the outbreak of the war, had shared in the heyday of the influence and the prosperity of the so-called "Cotton Kingdom."

Although no major battles were fought in Grenada or vicinity, the town was destined, because of railroad facilities and geographic location, to become a strategic point about which hinged many military movements. When Mississippi seceded from the Union on January 9, 1861, no one knew if there would be peace or war. Governor Pettus was uncertain relative to organization of state military forces. As yet, there was no Confederate Government. Mississippi claimed to be an independent state with both the responsibility and the right to organize such a force. At the suggestion of the Secession Convention the Governor called for eight thousand volunteers to serve in state forces for a period of twelve months. These forces were to compose four brigades. Jefferson Davis was made Major General of the forces, with Brigadier Generals Alcorn, Van Dorn, Clark and West commanding the different brigades. Over one hundred companies had been organized throughout the states, and these companies were divided among the several brigades. Soon after the organization of this state Military force Jefferson Davis was selected as the Provisional President of the newly organized Confederate Government and left Mississippi to report to that government at Montgomery, Alabama. Ruben Davis was appointed Major General in his stead. Shortly after this state force was organized, Governor Pettus received an urgent appeal from the Confederate authorities to turn over the state military force to the Confederate army authorities.

Among the companies organized in Grenada and vicinity for this first state military force were the Grenada Rifles, Yalobousha Rifles, The Carroll County Rifles and The Carroll Guards. Major General Davis ordered the four brigades to report to Corinth, Mississippi, where he turned them over to Confederate authorities. The Grenada Rifles, having been a part of that first state force, reported to Corinth and became Company G of the Fifteenth Mississippi Regiment, called by many observers, "The Fighting Fifteenth." As organized the company had the following named officers: W. S. Statham, Captain; E. R. Armistead, Lst. Lieutenant; I. H. Ayres, 2nd Lieutenant; and W. L. Grim,

3rd Lieutenant. There were eighty two privates and several non-commissioned officers in the company. The Confederate concentration at Corinth was for the purpose of providing additional soldiers for General Albert Sidney Johnston, who was in charge of the Confederate defenses extending from Columbus, Kentucky to the Cumberland Gap near the border of Virginia and Tennessee. Some of the other companies organized near Grenada were included in the troops sent to Corinth, and became a part of the 15th Regiment. This regiment was sent from Corinth to Union City, Tennessee. After the regiment went into Confederate service, Captain Statham was elected Colonel of the regiment, and Dr. John J. Gage was made Captain of Company G. Colonel Statham wrote, before being made Colonel of the Regiment, a letter to W. H. Brown, Mississippi Adjutant General relative to the condition of Company G. "With a full complement of non-commissioned officers and eighty seven privates. We have ninety six Mississippi rifles, Sabre Bayonets with Cartridge Boxes, Knapsacks, Belts, Cap Boxes, Canteens, and Haversacks, all of which the company furnished themselves. The state furnished us with four tents, the company furnishing themselves with thirteen additional tents, making in all seventeen tents. I further state that I will furnish to this office a true list of the names of all the members of the company at an early day. I further report that we will be ready by Monday next to march." Since this report was made to the Mississippi official, it would seem that this letter was written before the unit was turned over to the Confederate Army, and before it became a part of the Fifteenth Mississippi Regiment. It indicates the very serious shortage of military supplies available to State Forces, since most of the men armed and equipped themselves. We wonder about the term: "Mississippi Rifles." There had been a bill proposed in the Mississippi Legislature by which State troops would be armed with double-barrel shotguns. It is conceivable that all members of the Grenada Company could have supplied themselves with shotguns, but for them all to have provided themselves with rifles would have been more difficult, although there were rifles in use at the time, and the original name of the company Grenada Rifles indicates that the company intended to be a rifle unit.

The Fifteenth Mississippi Regiment became one of the crack regiments of the Western Army. It fought in most of the major battles of the Western Theater of the war. Some of those battles were: Fishing Creek, Laurel Bridge, Bakers Creek, Corinth, Peach Tree Creek, Franklin and battles taking place as General Sherman drove the Confederate Army from Northern Georgia to Atlanta. During the battle of Fishers Creek Brigade Commander General Zollicoffer was killed, and Colonel Statham assumed command of the Brigade. Later he was given a commission as a Brigadier General. He lost his life in a battle near Vicksburg, Mississippi. In the Battle of Shiloh the 15th Mississippi lost, killed, wounded or took prisoner 234 out of 500 men engaged. In the fierce battle of Franklin during the Nashville Campaign the Regiment lost about half its number. The most severe loss of life sustained by soldiers from Grenada and vicinity came from the Grenada Company serving with the 15th Mississippi.

After the shifting of the original state forces to the Confederate army Governor Pettus became alarmed at the undefended state of Mississippi and western Tennessee, and the southern Part of Western Kentucky. With all state forces from Mississippi engaged with The Army of Tennessee under General Albert Sidney Johnston, it was feared that General Johnston's very much extended defense line from the Mississippi River to the Cumberland Gap might give way on the western part of the line, and open up Western Tennessee and Mississippi to Federal invasion. The Legislature authorized the enlistment of ten thousand volunteers in a state force, which would be enlisted for sixty days service in the State of Kentucky. Corinth and Grenada were selected as the points of rendezvous for these troops earmarked for service in Kentucky. General Alcorn at Grenada organized a force of 2,500 men, while General Davis had about the same number at Corinth. General Johnston, in dire straits for re-enforcements, requested that these Mississippi State troops be sent to aid him. He

ordered General Alcorn to send his Grenada assembly of soldiers to join General Polk at Union City, Kentucky, while Davis was directed to take his troops from Corinth to General Johnston at Bowling Green, Kentucky. This second contingent of Mississippi State troops diverted to the Confederate Army took place in early Fall of 1861.

It is probable that it was with this second contingent of State troops that a second Grenada Company went into action. This unit which we know to have been inducted into Federal Service on November 6, 1861, was Stanford's Battery. The commissioned officers were Captain T. J. Stanford, First Lieutenant Hugh McSwine, Second Lieutenant Dr. J. Harden, Third Lieutenant Dr. T. R. Trotter, who later became surgeon of the 15th Mississippi. This artillery unit of eleven officers and 70 privates was sent to General Polk (probably with the other soldiers sent by Alcorn to Polk) and was stationed at Columbus, Kentucky, the extreme western point of General Johnston's defensive line. The fact that this unit fought pretty much in the same battles as the 15th Mississippi, and the further fact that this unit fought pretty much in the same battles as the 15th Mississippi, and the further fact that one of their officers was made surgeon for the 15th, inclines us to believe that, at some point in its service, this artillery unit became connected with the 15th Regiment. In its original makeup after going into Federal service the 15th was composed of the following units which while in state service were enlisted under these company names: Water Valley Rifles, Grenada Rifles, Wigfall Rifles, Choctaw Grays, McClung Rifles, Winona Stars, Longstreet Rifles, and Quitman Rifles. It will be seen that the regiment was largely composed of soldiers from the North Central part of Mississippi. With Colonel Statham from Grenada and Lt. Colonel Walthall from Coffeeville, the Regiment had both ranking officers from Yalobusha County. Stanford's Battery participated in the Battle of Shiloh, and General Polk had this commendation for the conduct of the battery in that battle: "One company artillery-that of Captain Stanford, from Mississippi, from the scarcity of ammunition had never before heard the fire of their guns, yet from that facility which distinguishes our Southern people under the inspiration of the cause which animates them, they fought with steadiness and gallantry of well trained troops." Captain Stanford was to die in the battles around Northern Georgia, and Second Lieutenant Harden on some other hard fought field. In a diary kept by George W. Jones much of the activity is related by the writer who was a member of the battery. Just before his death Stanford had been promoted, and his death cast a pall of gloom over the detachment. Many citizens of Grenada and vicinity had enlisted in other companies, and rendered distinguished service to the Confederacy, but since they were distributed through so many different units we have only fragmentary information relative to them. Later we shall list some of these men.

With their able-bodied men away in the Confederate army, and with the war still far away from Grenada, the city and county had to rely on a local organization of old men and young boys for local defense. One man prominent in this local organization was Judge Fairfield. This man was a native of New England who came to the Natchez area of Mississippi and served for a time as a teacher in the town of Woodville a few miles south of Natchez. He studied law, and came to Grenada about 1850. He opposed secession but, when Mississippi seceded from the union, he cast his lot with his adopted state. As the Confederate High Command shifted troops to points of danger such as Baton Rouge, Vicksburg, Jackson, Meridian and other places, Grenada became an important communication center. Located at the junction of the Mississippi & Tennessee and the Mississippi Central Railroads, soldiers could be entrained at Grenada for the defense of Memphis, or by the Mississippi Central could be sent to points of danger as far north as Jackson, Tennessee. Since the Mississippi Central road stretched all the way to New Orleans, troops going south from Grenada on this road could be transferred to the railroad line running to Vicksburg and Meridian. A large supply of rolling stock was kept available in Grenada

for such troop movements. Because of its location as a strategic communication center Grenada was host to many of the dashing leaders of the Confederate military forces. Among those military leaders who were in Grenada from time to time were two of the outstanding cavalry leaders of the Confederacy. General Van Dorn, one of these leaders was a West Point trained officer and General N. B. Forrest, the other outstanding cavalry leader, was a self-trained soldier and probably the most feared cavalry leader operating in the Western Theater of the war. General Pemberton, Commander of Confederate forces in Mississippi, from time to time made Grenada his headquarters. As General Grant attempted to go down the Mississippi Central Railroad to get in the rear of the Vicksburg defenses, Pemberton, after being forced from his defenses along the Tallahatchie River, established his second line of defense along the Yalobusha River. It was from his Grenada headquarters that he planned, with Lt. Colonel Griffith and General Van Dorn, the successful raid against Grant's supply depot at Holly Springs which raid forced Grant to give up his attempt to force his way down the Mississippi Central Railroad. General Loring, who was to defend Fort Pemberton against an attempt of Federal gunboats to get in behind Yazoo City by coming thru Yazoo Pass and then down the Coldwater and Tallahatchie rivers, was frequently operating from Grenada. Generals Chalmers and Fetherstone operated in and out of Grenada. During the early years of the war General Sterling Price had headquarters for his army in Grenada, and Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States visited General Price at his Grenada Headquarters.

After the fall of Vicksburg it became apparent that the concentration of eighty locomotives and about two hundred railroad cars, in and near Grenada, could still be used to transport soldiers and supplies in that part of Mississippi not under Federal control. A drive was soon started by way of Holly Springs, Oxford, Water Valley and Coffeeville to reach, and capture Grenada, in order to make possible the destruction of this railroad rolling stock. Grenada was weakly defended because of lack of sufficient troops and the Federal drive succeeded, resulting in the destruction of most of the rolling stock available to the Mississippi Central and the Mississippi & Tennessee railroads. This phase of operations in and around Grenada had been very adequately covered by J. B. Perry in his paper YANKEE INVADERS CAPTURE GRENADA. At a later date during the closing months of the war, small forces of Federal troops occupied Grenada from time to time.

While the people living in Grenada were experiencing the raids by Federal soldiers, the able-bodied men of the town and community were scattered over the entire Confederacy. Although some units from the area fought in Virginia, most of the soldiers who went out from Grenada were in the Confederate forces which fought in the western theater of the war. A good account of the activities of these units is given in a series of articles entitled "OLD SOLDIER'S DIARY." This diary was kept by George W. Jones who was a member of Stanford's Battery. Mr. Jones related many details concerning the military service of Stanford's Battery. He writes: "November 6, 1861, Mustered into the Confederate Army by Lt. Lanier of the regular army at the Old Fair Grounds. Marched to the Mississippi Central Railroad and were loaded on flat cars which carried us to Columbus, Kentucky. Arrived at Columbus a day or so after the Battle of Belmont, just across the river from Columbus. Saw the awful toll of that battle in which our boys whipped General Grant. Spent several days clearing a camp and fallen trees. Built snug cabins, there being twenty eight in all." Good things came every day or so from Grenada. Turkey, ham, and all manner of other "goodies." Soon ordered to Union City. Columbus evacuated by the Confederates. At Union City guns loaded on cars of the Mobile & Ohio train and shipped to Shiloh. Battery members march across country to the same point. On arrival at Corinth the guns were delivered to us. April 2, 1862, - ordered to cook three days rations. I am beginning to feel pretty weak about the knees. I can almost smell powder in the air.

April 3- ordered to march with five days rations. April 5 - we are moving in line of battle cautiously and slowly. I have the shakes badly. Well I am not alone-in fact, we all look like shaking quakers. Scared? Oh no, only old fashioned rigor. We have several bow-legged in line, and you ought to see their knees knocking together. Well, when the battle is on I reckon we will be there-in the thickest of the fray, as our battery is looked upon as one of the best in the army. I do pray that our Heavenly Father will shield and protect every one of us. April 6 - by three o'clock this morning we had our horses all harnessed and hitched up. We are waiting orders to take our position in line. Day is now breaking. Volley after volley we can hear all along our front by our skirmishers. At 5:30 A. M. our lines and columns were in motion for our front. We are now with Cheatham's Division and formed in three lines of battle. Our troops in front are advancing steadily, followed in perfect order by us. The Yankees are contesting every inch of ground. They are struggling hard to hold their encampments. At 7 o'clock our battery was brought into action. Bang! Bang! Zip! Zip! go the minnie balls. Down I go-boys dodging the big ones-12 pounds shells are flying thick and fast over us and about us. We were ordered to silence a battery of nine pieces that had our range just in our front. Before we could fire a gun a shell blew up one of our ammunition chests; another cut off the splinter bar of the third detachment; another almost cut our wheel rider (Bewen) into. He was killed instantly. Wm. Jones (nephew of Judge Fisher) had his right arm shot off. Oh, how I wish that I were a dwarf instead of a sixfooter. My hair, good heavens, is standing on end like the quills of a porcupine. Silence that battery is the command from Cheatham, and we did silence it; for we opened with our six guns and an awful artillery duel was kept up for some minutes (seemed like an hour to me). Finally, we succeeded in silencing the battery. Our infantry support made a charge about this time and the battery was taken. With our well directed fire we disabled every piece save one.

I am writing this little sketch in my diary about 6:00 P. M. If my handwriting is not readable you can blame the Yankees, not me-they are lying dead and wounded all around us. Victory! Victory! But, oh, if we could have followed it up. What a pity that Gen. A. S. Johnston was killed. If he had not received that fatal wound, Grant and his army would have been either all killed, drowned in the Tennessee river, or taken prisoners. After our artillery duel we had them on the run - a perfect stampede. We drove them before us until our battery was near the river banks.

Monday, April 8 Gen. Beauregard took command after Gen. Johnston was killed. We have just heard that Gen. Buell has come up with 30,000 fresh troops. We have none. At early dawn heavy and rapid fire of musketry and the constant booming of cannon told us that the bloody contest of yesterday would be renewed. We fell into position at once. Our boys stood bravely at their post. About noon the battle raged furiously on our part of the line. The loud peals of artillery fairly shook the earth with incessant roar, while the more deadly clang of musketry rolled, in peal after peal, across the woods. Never, never, do I wish to be in such a hot place again, but we are fighting for our homes, our mothers, and our loved ones. In the thickest of the fight, our support gave way, but only for a short time. A most furious and fearful charge was made upon our battery by a Yankee Brigade. On they came. We were pouring it into them by well directed and rapid firing. They were falling thick and fast. Lewis Matlock (no. three at my gun) was shot in the head and killed instantly. He died with a smile on his face. Lee McMillam and myself laid him aside and resumed firing. About the time when the Yankees were in thirty yards of us, having no support, we were ordered to fall back by Gen. Breckenridge, who came dashing up. Our guns being disabled and most of our horses killed or wounded, we were ordered by Captain Stanford to fall back the best way we could. I called to friend Laycock to come on, but poor fellow -the Yankees got him. I do hope that they will not mistreat him; he is one

of my best friends. In about twenty minutes we re-captured our guns and managed, by securing a lot of mules to get them off the field. April 8, we are now falling back to Corinth. The roads are in awful condition, mud in some places being knee-deep. I was so sick today, if it had not been for Ben Duncan and Pitt McCall I would have been left on the wayside for the Yankees or the buzzards. April 9 - back in Corinth. After being forced out of Corinth, Stanford's Battery was with a part of the Confederate Army which marched across central Alabama to join Confederate troops being massed near Chattanooga for the purpose of defending that important rail center from an impending attack by General Grant's Federal Army. Mr. Jones tells us something of that march: "Retreating from Corinth, April 10, 1862, received orders to send away all extra baggage. We are now living on blackberries. June 29, we are now paying \$1.75 a piece for chickens, other things being in proportion. Our battalion made up of Stanford's and Eldridge's batteries. Through Tupelo, Aberdeen, Columbus and Tuscaloosa." The Battery went to North Georgia, and soon to the area in and around Chattanooga. As things developed, the battle for the possession of that city was delayed by a bold attempt by General Bragg, who had succeeded to command of the Confederate Army of the West, to throw the Federals off balance by making a drive thru Tennessee and Kentucky in order to threaten the Ohio River city of Louisville. Stanford's Battery was ordered from the vicinity of Chattanooga to go with the main army as it drove up the invasion route into Kentucky.

Mr. Jones relates some of the events of this invasion: "August 14, 1862, left Chattanooga this morning, crossed Walfon's ridge and came to Pikesville, Tenn." For several days the battery marched and counter-marched, as Bragg endeavored to get his army in position to make a determined push against the forces of General Buell. On Sept. 8, 1862, Mr. Jones related with pride an honor which had come to the battery: "Received orders to have SHILOH inscribed on our flag." Later, he indicates the purpose of the invasion: "Bragg and Buell racing for Louisville. We passed through Bardstown, Kentucky. Large whiskey storehouses at this place, and a large Catholic School." Later Mr. Jones relates the part which his unit played in the battle of Perryville - a battle which should have assured the success of the invasion, but did not do so because of indecision on the part of General Bragg: "Wed. Oct. 8, 1862. Battle of Perryville. Relieved Carnes' Tennessee Battery. The Yankees had perfect range on us. Had one of our ammunition chests to explode. Pitt McCall and Charles Boycoft killed and several wounded before we could fire a gun. We opened fire on a twelve pound battery. We kept up a constant cannonading for two hours and finally silenced the battery. Our infantry at this time made a furious charge and captured the battery. In the afternoon we were ordered still further to the right and opened an enviable fire on the Yankees. They had a strong position behind a stone fence. Our line of support was about two hundred yards from them. Both lines were in full view of us. It was a grand sight. Our boys, it seems, could not go further, Yankees having advantage of position, they were pouring into each other a deadly fire. Oh, how anxious we were to do something to relieve our men. We waved our flags to the front: Gardee's Corps recognized it and we opened a terrific fire with double charges down the Yankee lines. Our well directed shells threw them in great confusion. As we ceased firing our noble boys gave a Confederate Yell and charged the stone fence. What few Yankees that were left stampeded. It was a grand sight to see the flashing of guns and bursting of shells. At this point a solid twelve pounder struck the ground in about two feet of me and knocked me down. I thought I was killed, but soon found that I wasn't - only slightly demoralized. We were greatly out-ranged, but our boys did not hesitate to engage at any odds. Our force, so I am told, captured about twenty pieces of artillery, killed one General and wounded two, and captured nearly one thousand troops, as well as killing about five thousand. If we could only have a few fresh troops to follow up victory we could route Buell and take Louisville." Mr. Jones, as well as other soldiers in the lower rank of the

army must have understood the purpose and importance of the battle. Mr. Jones writes: "Oct. 9, 1862, well the Battle of Perryville has been fought and won by us-can we follow up the victory? I am afraid not! The Yankees have the world to draw from. We have none." Having failed to take Louisville, the Confederate Army began to march in the general direction of Chattanooga. On October 27, 1862, Mr. Jones writes: "Thru the Cumberland Gap; no rations." This gap had been the eastern terminus of the defense line which Albert Sidney Johnston had tried to establish before the fall of Forts Henry and Donaldson. It was also the gap through which Daniel Boone had guided settlers into Kentucky. It seems that rations were not the only necessities in short supply for Mr. Jones writes: "Oct. 29th, Captain Stanford, W. B. May, Charles Roberts, and William Brooks detailed to go home after clothing, some of the boys being nearly naked. Hurrah for me-I was lucky to draw an overcoat this evening-well boys I am willing to divide these cold nights when on duty. Marched five and one half miles this afternoon and passed through Knoxville on our march." East Tennessee was the center of a great deal of Union support, and the soldiers of the Confederacy didn't get much consideration from most of the people of that area. This may have been one of the causes of the first real complaint which the diarist entered into his diary: "We have been resting our poor old worn-out bones today. I am sick enough to go to bed. Oh, My God, how long will this war last? It is alright when I am at myself, but when a fellow feels as I feel now it is enough to make him wish he were dead." Mr. Jones seems to have been sick enough for the medical officer in charge to decide that he needed rest. We find that a medical furlough was given the diarist, and he returned home by a very circuitous route: "To Chattanooga, Atlanta, Mobile, Meridian, Jackson, Jackson to Canton and from Canton to Grenada."

The Bragg invasion having failed, the Confederate Army which had attempted the invasion took position to defend Chattanooga. Stanford's Battery took part in the battles in and around that key city. On October 6, 1863, Mr. Jones writes: "We are now on Lookout Mountain, fired a few shells into Chattanooga." Federal forces had occupied the city and soon heavy battles would be fought for its possession. Mr. Jones continues: "We had orders to throw a few shells into a log house occupied by some Yankee sharpshooters. Our first shell blew up the house and stampeded the Yanks; killing some of them. We had the exact range. Oct., 10th, President Jefferson Davis passed our lines at eleven - short rations but plenty of good water. Our Battery is now complete with new guns, caissons, and harness. It's now dark. Look out boys! Lie down! Here comes a lamppost. It exploded just over our heads, here they come thick and fast. Dodge the big ones boys so says General Cheatham." It seems that Stanford's Battery was not the only battery having the enemy range. On Jan. 23, 1864, Mr. Jones records the enlistment of a young recruit: "Little Ben Adams, son of Col. B. C. Adams, is now with us and has enlisted for the balance of the war. He helps us eat our grub and divides his blanket with us." A little later, Feb. 26, 1864, the diarist records the visit of another Grenadian to the camp of the battery-then at Kingston, Georgia. "Uncle Levin Lake arrived in camp this morning. He found us sitting around the campfire, some eating, others smoking etc.. How delighted we were to see him. He is now giving us the news from home (my adopted home), had just handed me a long letter from the girl I left behind me. The Yanks made an attack on our works this afternoon. They fell back after a few of them were killed." In reference to Mr. Jones using the term "my adopted home" to Grenada, it may be well to explain that Mr. Levin Lake and older brothers came to Grenada from Maryland very early in the period when the first settlers were entering the area. As early as 1835 the brothers were in business in Tullahoma. Mr. Jones came to Grenada from Maryland a few years before the outbreak of the war, and made his home with his uncle Levin Lake. He had a brother who became Colonel of a South Carolina Regiment, but gave up that command in order that he might become a member of General N. B. Forrest's fabulous Cavalry Command. It was during the campaign around north Georgia that the diarist saw his brother for the

first time since leaving home. The older brother visited the younger one as a detachment of Forrest's cavalry passed the camp of Stanford's Battery.

Furloughs were a welcome break in camp life. Mr. Jones indicates his pleasure at the granting of a furlough to him: "March 27, 1864, received a furlough today, all properly signed; came very near jumping out of my old brogans. Left on 7:30 train for Grenada. Got to Atlanta at 4 P. M. Went to a restaurant and paid \$5.50 for two sausages, one small cup of coffee and a piece of bread. Arrived at Montgomery at 10 o'clock this evening. Put up at the Campbell House; paid for a single bed \$5.00. Left Montgomery at 6 this afternoon on steamer SOUTHERN REPUBLIC. March 11th, reached Selma, Alabama about 6 this morning; left at 7 o'clock on railroad for Demopolis, Ala. Left on steamer ROBERT WILSON, for Columbus, Miss.; here met conveyance sent by our friends in Grenada." That notation indicates the demoralization of transportation facilities in the Confederacy; the depreciating value of Confederate currency, and also the probability of Mr. Jones having other Yazobousha county boys with him. His expression "our friends in Grenada" in connection with the conveyance sent to Columbus, would seem to give rise to the assumption that the conveyance was not sent that distance for a single soldier.

By May 15th of the same year, gun-sergeant Jones was back with his unit at Resaca, Georgia. Joseph Johnson, supposed to be a defensive specialist, was now in charge of the Confederate army. General Sherman and his Federal Army were slowly driving toward Atlanta. Johnson would select a strong defensive position and wait for Sherman to make a frontal attack. But, instead of doing this, Sherman, having a numerical superiority of troops, kept outflanking the defensive positions, forcing Johnson to make another retreat and select another defensive position. It was into the growing dispute between President Davis and General Johnson, relative to the conduct of the campaign, that Jones came back to his unit which had been taking part in the defensive battles waged by Johnson. Soon after rejoining his company he writes: "Resaca, Georgia, May 14th, in line of battle at 4 o'clock this afternoon we advanced and drove the Yanks over a rough, hilly country for about two miles—we surely had them on the run, but what can we do with only about 40,000 half-starved, ragged soldiers against 100,000 well equipped, well fed ones? We can get them on the run every time, but cannot follow up victory." The soldiers of the Confederacy were beginning to realize that they were, henceforth, to always face overwhelming forces of Federal soldiers in almost every engagement. They were beginning to become troubled relative to the outcome of the conflict. Then came a heavy blow to the company, which is related by Mr. Jones in these words: "Sunday, May 15th. It is now 4:30 P. M. Our dear Captain had just been killed by one of the sharpshooters; was shot in the head and died instantly. His place cannot be filled. Oh, what a brave, daring officer, and with it all a perfect gentleman. We loved him. We have laid away our Captain on the mountain side near Resaca." Lieutenant McCall assumed command of the battery and the unit soon engaged other battles. Mr. Jones writes: "May 25th, here they come. On, on, and on, they come with their banners flying and re-enforced with fresh troops. Quit yourselves like men says McCall, every man at his post. Down goes poor Dollar, shot in the head just as I was handing him a shell to put in the gun, and George McMillian shot in the leg poor fellow. Sergeant Jones he cries, I am shot what must I do? Go to the rear at once and get out of this hot place I said in an instant. Our number one, Ben Hill, is struck on the head. What shall we do, only two men at the gun, but Hill, brave fellow is he, will not leave his post. With blood running down his face he stands his ground, also Albert Lake, shot in the arm, stays until the Yankees are repulsed for the fifth time, and when a minnie ball struck me on the shoulder. I yelled at the top of my voice like a Commanchie Indian, charge boys, charge them and give them the grape."

Regardless of the fierce opposition by the out-numbered Confederate forces,

General Sherman was slowly and methodically driving the Confederate forces toward the key city of Atlanta. Mr. Jones relates a tragic occurrence which came about during this withdrawal action by the Confederates. "Monday, June 13th. The enemies of our country are feeling their way slowly. They are skirmishing just to our right. Generals Johnson, Hardee and Polk have just passed us on their way to the outpost on Pine Mountain. While viewing the ground in front of our (Polk's) corps, General Polk was killed by a shot from a Yankee shell." General Johnson was relieved of command. General Hood, looked upon as a "fighting General", engaged the Federal army in a general engagement and lost possession of Atlanta. This defeat convinced Hood that he did not have enough troops to halt General Sherman's proposed "March to the Sea", so the Confederate commander moved most of his soldiers back toward Chattanooga in a vain attempt to so harass Sherman's line of communications that the Federal General would be forced to abandon the proposed movement. This ill-advised action by General Hood was the beginning of the end of Hood's army as an effective force to resist the Federal forces in the west. As Sherman was slowly driving Johnson in front of him, General N. B. Forrest had begged permission to use his force of hard fighting Cavalrymen to cut Sherman's line of communication, but he was refused permission. Now it was too late. The Mobile river was one of the last interior lines of transportation for the Confederate forces in Alabama. In order to keep open this avenue of transportation, Stanford's Battery was detached from General Cheatham's Division and their guns placed in a defensive position on the Mobile river. It was here that they began to hear sad news from Virginia. On April 29, 1865, Mr. Jones writes: "We have been camping here for several weeks. We feel very much discouraged. Have just heard that our noble Gen. R. E. Lee has surrendered with only 20,000 troops to Gen. Grant's tremendous army of 100,000 or more. We have just heard that in the interview between Lee and Grant that Lee remarked well, General Grant, I deem it due and proper, that I should be frank and candid at the very beginning of this interview. I am not willing to discuss any terms of surrender inconsistent with the honor of my brave men, and I am determined to maintain that to the last. How proud we are to learn that Grant accepted surrender on General Lee's terms. Well, of course, we feel that it is useless to continue the war any longer. But still, if our Generals think it best, we are willing to fight on until the last one of us bites the dust. May 1st. Surrender of General Lee and his brave boys confirmed; so notified today. We are now off for Cuba Station, 22 miles from Meridian. At this point we surrendered, not whipped, but over-powered. On the 149 men entered on the battery roster from 1861 to 1865, over one half were killed or wounded in battle." On this note Mr. Jones ends his diary. When the diary was published in the Grenada Sentinel during the years of 1898 and 1899, Mr. Jones stated that, at the time of the publication of the diary, only twenty one members of the battery were still living.

Unfortunately we have no diary to record the activities of the 15th Mississippi Regiment in which so many men of Grenada and of Yalobusha county fought during the war. All military historians are in agreement that it was one of the finest units in the Confederate Army of the West. For many years after the termination of the war this regiment held frequent reunions, most of which were held in Grenada.

Before the Grenada Rifles left Grenada to become a part of the 15th Mississippi Regiment, Miss Mollie Granberry, daughter of the President of Yalobusha Female Institute, acting in behalf of some ladies of Grenada, presented to Captain Statham a flag to be used by the company. At some hard-fought battle in the invasion of Kentucky by the Confederate forces that flag was captured by a Federal unit. A number of years after the war, Mrs. B. S. Dudley, sister of General Statham, learned that the unit which captured the flag was the 10th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. She learned the name of the commanding officer of that unit. After considerable communication between Mrs. Dudley and the former commanding officer of the Federal unit, that officer obtained per-

mission from the surviving members of the unit to return the captured flag to Mrs. Dudley, and through her to the surviving members of the Grenada Rifles. Thus, in 1890, a quarter of century after the end of the civil conflict, hatred engendered by the Civil War had diminished to the extent that the Federal unit could make this gracious and generous gesture toward members of the defeated Southern military force.

Grenada survived the ravages of the war; the inconvenience of occupation by Federal Troops for several years after the end of the war; and the hard years of reconstruction, as well as the ruined economy which faced the returning soldiers. Their slaves had been freed; their livestock impressed by the contending armies; and their farms and plantations greatly neglected for four years. Much property of impoverished people was sold for taxes, and it took a great deal of courage for a war-weary and defeated people to rebuild a new economy and a new way of life on the ruins of the past. To the credit of those people of that day, we may say that they met the test.