

1st Wisconsin Cavalry U.S.

Being a Narrative of Varied Service with the 1st Wis. Cav.
By J. M. WATERMAN, Adjutant.

Raiding with Wilson

Jan. 24.-After a week of hard marching, are now camped at Gravelly Springs, Ala., where Gen. Wilson has Headquarters. Have had rheumatism in my left shoulder since my experience at Duck River, and my face is swelling again.

Jan 25. Are now at Waterloo, Ala., where we go into Winter quarters, recruit our horses and drill, preparatory to a vigorous campaign in the Spring. I have just been to Surgeon Garrison, had my face lanced, and feel some better now. The boys are all busy building log huts quarters.

Jan. 27. The recent heavy rains have raised the Tennessee and thrown it out of its banks until the water covers nearly all the space between our camp and the river proper. Supply boats are not allowed to run, for fear, I suppose, they might get left out of the wet in some neighboring cornfield, and we are on short rations. The beef cattle kept here to supply us have got so poor that the butchers have to prop them up with rails in order to knock them down.

March 10.-The 8th was very warm, but pleasant, and the 9th the reverse, very cold and snowing. We received orders to be ready to move across the river in an hour, and hardly had time to pack the regimental desks, which were ordered to be left here. After packing up we moved to Waterloo, about a mile from camp, and boarded the Swallow, which was tied up on Main street. When loaded she steamed out through corn and cotton fields for about two miles, and crossed the river proper to Chickasaw Landing, where we unloaded, and she went back for another detachment of the regiment, while the first one went into camp about three miles back from the river. I was directed to superintend the landing of and directing the rest of the regiment to camp.

March 16.-The 11th was pleasant, but cold. Received my commission as First Lieutenant, Co. L, dated Feb. 25, on the 14th, and was passed by the board of examiners as qualified for office the 15th. Was today mustered, and immediately detailed as Adjutant. Today I saw Dr. Salter, who was Medical Director at Chattanooga when I was stationed there. He is now Chief Surgeon of the Cavalry Corps, Military Division of the Mississippi, now our corps.

PREPARATIONS FOR INVASION. Preparations were being carefully made for a rapid and vigorous invasion of a portion of the South that had heretofore been practically unmolested by our forces. Everything was to be in the lightest possible marching order, so that we could move rapidly enough to confuse the enemy by hitting them in one place one day and another far distant the next, making them think the Yankees were omnipresent. Only one wagon to a brigade, except ammunition and supply wagons, in train.