

From: “Campaigns & Battles of the 16th Tennessee Regiment CSA

By: Thomas A. Head

There was one peculiar characteristic of many of the men of the two regiments, and that was a harmless insubordination at times when there was no danger. The men would forage, and no guard could be placed so strong, and with instructions so strenuous and rigid, as to withstand the sagacity and cunning of a member of the Eighth or Sixteenth Tennessee Regiment. They acquainted themselves with the country for miles on either side of the line of march, and were always up with their command at night, laden with the fruits of the tramp in the way of chickens, vegetables, and not unfrequently a few canteens of whisky. The men would not pillage or plunder the people, but would pay for what they procured, with here and there a few exceptions. In each regiment there were a few men who could find a still-house if it was within twenty miles of the line of march, and could go to it and be in camp at night against supper time. When any of the boys procured whisky, they would divide with their comrades, and a general jollification would sometimes ensue; but the closest scrutiny of the brigade and regimental officers could seldom, if ever, locate the evil, or ascertain who procured, or was in possession of, the whisky.