

First Visit of the Yankees to Somerset 13
Place, Lake Superior, N. Carolina.
July 21st 1862.

On Monday, July 21st 1862, about 10 P. M., Capt. Woodward a Federal Officer with twelve of his men came to Somerset Place. As soon as I could dress myself, I went out and met the Captain, who introduced himself, & advised me that I should not be annoyed in any way, & that none of the servants or the property on the Plantation should be troubled. He then said he wished to examine the house to see if there were any arms, or ammunition; I showed him into the Office where we found one Gun wh. he did not take; after this, I carried him into the Parlor, Library, & Dining Room, and offered to take him up stairs which he said was unnecessary, as my word that there were neither arms nor ammunition was sufficient. I remarked that I had two bags of shot in my room wh. I was using as weights to press my garments, & asked him if he wished to see them, he said that he did not.

After this conversation & searching, I sent Alice Hillier over to Mr. Chas. L. Pettigrew's to let him know that the Federal man wh. the boy, however, was stopped by one of the Federal soldiers, who was acting as a guard on the bridge near the house, & brought back to the Capt., but at my request was allowed by him to carry my message over to Mr. P. I then went down to the Brewer's house in company with Capt. Woodward, and a soldier, to let Mrs. Spurrill know, (the Overseer being absent in Plymouth on business concerning the Mills, wh. had been made a public Mills by the order of Capt. Hussey, a Federal Officer,) that she would

not be troubled in any way. When I arrived there, I found that the house was guarded by soldiers, but as we returned the Capt. kindly took away the guard from the Overseer's house, & brought them up to Mr Collins' residence, where they remained all night, sleeping, when not on guard, by my permission, on the lower kitchen piazza. ~~The John Giles, who came in with the Yankees, also staid with the soldiers on the Piazza,~~ as I had previously told Capt. Woodward that I would not allow either his men, or Mr. Giles to enter our house for any purpose whatsoever; so they did not go into the House or the Colony. Having reached the house, the Capt. & I sat down in the Dining-room, when he informed me that he had orders from his Government to take away a lot of Corn & Wheat; I asked him if the U.S. Government intended to pay for the grain, he said No, but that it was to be taken to Plymouth, to be distributed among the poor. We then conversed about the War, I asked him when he thought it would end, he said before a great while, & then inquired of me when I thought there would be peace. I told him I was in his favor, & therefore, perhaps it would be better for me to be silent, he replied, "Oh, No, when do you think it will end?" I answered there would be Peace, either when the Federal Government gave up, or in the next case; when every man, woman, & child in the Confederacy had been killed. We sat & talked until about 12 M. when we packed for the night. I had the room usually known as "Miss Methea's" prepared for the Capt., to which he retired.

In the morning of Tuesday July 22nd about 1/2 past 4, I went down to the Mills, where I found the Captain, & two of his men acting as

guard. While there the Capt. was either talking to me, or attending to the business then on hand. The Overseer returned from Plymouth this morning, and was able to in person to attend to the business; As the Yankee Capt. had told me the night previous that our hands were to prepare the grain & to get it ready, & to put it on board the Yankee Schooner, they remained in by my orders, & were all busily engaged when I reached the Mill. There being Corn & Wheat enough in the Mill to satisfy the order of the robbers, it was as speedily put on board the flat as possible, and covered down to the Schooner by our force. Altho Capt. Woodward had assured me that the Federal Govt. did not wish our negroes, that they were not allowed to go within their lines, & that our servants should not be carried off in his vessel, while I shot it best, & was strengthened in my belief by the advice of my friends, Mr. Fettingers, & so down to the Coppernong river with the Capt, his men, and our people, & saw for myself that our negroes neither ran away, nor were carried away. They remained either on board the Schooner, or in the neighbourhood until the vessel was loaded, & all our servants were on their way back to the lake.

The whole amt. of grain taken by the Yankees is as follows - Wh. is the statement given to me by the Overseer -

Corn _____ 1.080 bushels

Wheat _____ 238 " "

While we were at the Mill, a man by the name of Joshua Cassiter, a resident of Washington County, came into the Lake, & took away with Capt. Woodward's permission, & from the lot of

Even. Wh the Capt. had already freely taken away
from us Two (2.) Barrels of Corn. Also another man
by the name of John Rinsley carried off Two hundred
(200.) pounds of Flour wh he paid for.

Mr. Phos. de Tulligrew came over to Somerset
Place, & went down to the Mill, where he met with
~~Capt. Woodman, & I, & we had a long conversation~~
on the subjects of the day.

I am happy to say that all our ser-
vants behaved with great propriety. None were carried
away by the Yankees, & not one of them so far as I
could learn was at all desirous to run away. The
Capt. treated me kindly, & regretted to me that he had
been sent on such an unpleasant mission. I replied
that it was most unpleasant to me, & that I hoped the
like would not occur again.

While the Yankees were here, I gave orders that
breakfast should be prepared in the Wash-house for
the men, the Capt., however, I of course invited to eat
with me in the kitchen. I endeavoured to treat him
politely, tho' not cordially while he was at the place,
& when I went on board of his vessel, he showed
me marked civility.

On our way down to the River, Mr. B. Da-
benport desired to ride with me as far as Dan & C.
Phelps house, in order that he might have a
private conversation with the Capt. What Mr. Da-
benport said to the Capt. I, of course, do not know.
So we were delayed at the Mill in getting the Drain
off until 11 O'clock A.M., & as it would be quite
late before it could be put on board the Schooner
& as we had no provisions with us, the Capt. & I
accepted an invitation to eat dinner with Mr. Da-

tempt. Mr D, was evidently very much alarmed,
but did nothing so far as I know against our Govern-
ment.

When I parted from the Capt, he thanked
me for the kindness he had rec^d, & said that he
would mention it to his Superior officers. I replied
that I trusted I should not freely speak of it, as an
assurance that Mr Pettigrew & myself were as
likely to speak the truth as the "Buffalo Yankees,"
for we were gentlemen, & that if any reports were
circulated against us, I hoped we might be allow-
ed an opportunity of speaking for ourselves.

I am sorry to say, that the Capt W, did
his best, I am sure, to prevent any disorder among
his men, yet one of them went into one Cooks house, &
shamefully wounded one St. Lacey, threatening her
that she should be shot, if she resisted or made any
noise, he also drove away some servants who went to
her assistance, by threats. The Capt promised me
that the men should be severely punished for his
disgraceful misconduct.

While I was on board the Federal Schoon-
er, Mr John Giles apologized to me for the taking away
of our Corn & Meat, and said that he did all he
could to prevent it. He also regretted the War & its
consequences upon us & the people of our neighbour-
hood. I asked him if Mr Lassiter had paid for
the Corn wh he had taken, he said no! that Mr
L., was a poor man & unable to work. I remem-
ber nothing else in regard to this visit of the
Yankees to our plantation, that is worthy of re-
cord.

Second Visit of the Yankees to Somerset
Place, Lake Scuppernon, -
July 27th 1862.

On Sunday July 27th, Capt. Woodward
with about thirty of his men, Mr. Giles, & a young
man by the name of William Alexander, a resi-
dent of Currituck County, who had been with the
Yankees, & ignorant of his own name, arrived
here, paid a 2nd visit to this plantation, for the
purpose of pressing twelve (12) horses into the
Federal service, & he used in this County in case
the Yankees were attacked by the Confederate Caval-
ry.

That morning Mr. C. L. Fetters, and
Geo. C. Newberry who had come here on an errand
from his father, were sitting with me in my room,
when we were all surprised by the firing of a gun,
that "the Yankees is here." I went out immedi-
ately, & found two soldiers stationed as a guard
on the bridge near the house; I asked them where
their officer was? - learning that he was down at
the Mill, I went there at once, & found him in
company with Geo. M. Spruill, one Overseeer, & John
Giles, examining our horses. Capt. W., after sa-
tisfying me told me his business, & showed me
his order to take twelve horses, which order is
now in the possession of the Overseeer. The Capt.
regretted the cause of his visiting us a 2nd time,
& said that it was not his fault. I begged him
to leave us some horses, particularly our carriage
horses, & Conrad, as the last named was a
favorite horse which belonged to a deceased
member of our family; but it was all in vain,
the Capt. feared that he would be compelled to

take such horses as would be of use to his Government. I think; however, that he would have left no those horses just named, & I am almost sure that he would not have taken Concord, had it not been for Giles, who seemed most anxious to take those that were most valued by the family.

When Capt. Woodrow had examined & selected our horses, & found only seven (7.) that suited his purposes, he went over to Bonarra, & took five (5.) horses belonging to Mr Pettigrew, which were carried down to our Mill by Mr T.'s servants, & after dinner the whole Twelve (12.) were taken away by the Federals. I asked Capt. W., & the Master's Mate, a man by the name of Williams, to dine with me, at the same time I had dinner provided in the Wash house for the Soldiers; Mr Pettigrew ate at the Overseer's house. Just before dinner Mr Pettigrew came over to see the Capt. at his request; it could have been easily perceived by any person with two grains of sense, that the visit of the Yankees was not at all relished by Mr T., & in a proper manner, he showed them very plainly that it was not, at the same time remarking, that no Government could prosper which took away the property of the people against all law & order, & that whilst he did not blame Capt. W., for obeying the orders of his Superior Officers, yet he did very much blame any Government that resorted to any such means to establish itself. After some conversation neither very agreeable, nor of much importance, the Yankees left us, & we returned to the Colony in no very pleasant frame of mind.

The soldiers, so far as I know, during this visit behaved very well; this from what I can learn they talked to some of the servants about freedom, & asked some of them if they would not like to go away with them, where they could work, & receive wages for their work.

I am sorry to say that Fred [?] did not behave properly; I ordered him to remain in the Garden, in order that he might take care of the fruit, & report to me if the slaves stole any; instead of remaining where I had placed him, & where he belonged, he went down to the Mill, & as William Penning said was the 1st to bridge the horses for the Yankees. It is my opinion that he should be severely punished, not only for his disobedience, but also because he was very impudent to me when I remonstrated with him about his conduct. He has since apologized to me for his misconduct, & as I then hoped, sincerely, but his conduct afterwards has been extremely wicked, & tho' I forgive him fully for his 1st offence, yet now I fear he is worthy of punishment.

It is due Mr Collins Overseer, Geo. W. Spruille Esq, that before, during & since the two visits of the Yankees to this plantation, he has behaved with great propriety, & is I believe & hope true to the Southern Confederacy.

This is a copy of my 1st rough ~~draft~~ description of the Yankees two visits here. -

Geo. Taberzon!

How I wish I could see you & talk with you.