

Selected Entries from the Civil War Diary of Dr. James Richmond Boulware

(Part Four)

James Richmond Boulware (1835-1869) was the son of Benjamin James Boulware and Sarah Barber Richmond. He was a brother of my great-great-grandmother, Nancy Ann (Boulware) Hall.

Graduated from South Carolina Medical College.

Enlisted in the 6th South Carolina Volunteer Regiment on April 11, 1861, in Winnsboro, SC, and served throughout the war as Assistant Surgeon until the surrender in April 1865.

Copy of diary transcription provided by Wes Phinney.

Thursday, 25th: [1862]

This is Christmas morning. Everything is quiet. I have not had a Christmas Dram. It is a beautiful day. Late in the afternoon several members of our Regt. came in camp pretty much "how come you so ", but nothing was known, or least done about it. I have just received several letters from home all expecting to see me home on furlough, but as yet I see no chance of getting off. I have sold my filly to Dr. Thompson for two hundred dollars.

Sunday, 28th:

Our Brigade has been transferred from Genl. Pickett's Division to Genl. Hood's and we may be found moving on Sunday again, going about five miles - near Hamiltons Crossing on the R. Road. The day is pleasant. Our present camp is near where Genl. A. P. Hill fought on the 13th. The trees are torn up at a terrible rate. We can look out and see dead horses & a number of graves of Yankees. There is nothing to see but the positions of both forces. It is really a treat to sit and look and imagine how the enemy looked when they occupied such & such places. All the relics that are worth picking up or preserving are gone - picked up by others before us - (Yet we do not preserve any for we can not carry our clothes, far less any such things as are of no use to us in camp).

Saturday, 3d: [January 1863]

[“Jimmy Richmond” is James Law Richmond, J. R. Boulware’s first cousin]

Jimmy Richmond was sent to Hosp. sick this morning with fever. All quiet in camp. We hear good news from the West of Bragg's success &c. I hope he may be victorious to the last.

8th: I was summoned to appear before the Med. Board and answered this summons by my presence. After a pretty hard but plain, practical examination, I was pleased to see that my examination was entirely satisfactory. I am considerably relieved. I found the Board to be composed of kind and courteous gentlemen. Dr. J. P. Smith, President of Board, the others are Drs. Heindon, Breckinridge & Wingfield.

Dr. Thompson went to Richmond on furlough of four days.

9th: This morning is pleasant - rather cold however - yet dry. This afternoon we had a Division Inspection. Genl. Hood presented a fine appearance. I like his look very much. Got back to camp a little before night.

Friday, 16th:

Jimmy Richmond came back from Hosp. He looks much better than I expected, in fact I was surprised to see him from the letter I received from him from Lynchburg. We have orders to be in readiness to move at a moment's warning. I dislike to get such orders for we are comfortably fixed. It is reported that the enemy are stirring around over the river. It may be to begin an advance, I hope not, however, for I would like to rest in quiet this winter.

Tuesday, 10th: [February 1863]

A quiet day - nothing going on worth mentioning. Our theater opened for the first time tonight. It was a complete success. The place was filled to overflowing. The acting was pretty well executed.

13th: Another pretty day. I went to out theater again, had an intolerable crowd - too much so for pleasure. There were seven or eight ladies. Genl. Longstreet & wife were there. The ladies were as much a show as the actors. Dr. Jordan is ordered to report for duty to the Med. Director in Genl. Jackson's Corps. I wanted him to come here but I suppose there was an obstacle in the way.

Sunday, 15th: [February 1863]

We arose this morning and immediately heard that marching orders were out for us. Early today we sent off to the R. Road all those who could not stand the march. Dr. Jordan was assigned as Surgeon to the 6th Regt. S.C.V. and took command of the Brig. he being senior surgeon. At two o'clock, P.M. we began our march. As it had been raining all morning we of course found the road quite slippery.

Friday, 20th:

I got permission (since we were not to move today) and went to Richmond. I passed a tiresome day, having no particular business. Got a mess of Shad & Oysters, &c. I was somewhat surprised to find regular bar rooms open - retailing at 50¢ a drink. My not having had much Christmas, it may be taken for granted that I was in them a few times. Got back to camp about sun set.

21st: We set out again on the march for Chester Station on the R.R. midway between Richmond & Petersburg. As we passed within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of Drury's Bluff, to see Dr. Richmond and also to see the fortifications. I found them to be quite impregnable, or at least I thought so. It is a pretty place, all are fixed up neatly in houses and ought to feel quite at home. There was a contrast between our accommodations and theirs. We would be content for the war to continue if we could have such times as they enjoy. About sunset I put out for camp, Johnny accompanying me several miles. I found it after some difficulty, and helping pitch a tent passed a pleasant night.

["Dr. Richmond" is John M. Richmond, bro. of James Law Richmond, and first cousin of J. R. Boulware]

26th: Still sitting quiet. The weather is warm, yet the snow remains on the ground. Late in afternoon I went to see Johnnie Richmond at Drury's Bluff, and spent the night with him. We talked over old times, spoke of the contrast between then & now, told each other our secrets and while one sympathized with the other the other rejoiced with him. Jimmy came and spent the night with us and started early this morning for Petersburg.

Tuesday, 17th: [March 1863]

Everything was going on smoothly until about 9 o'clock A.M. when the roar of cannon began near Franklin, about three miles distant. We were instantly called to arms and in a short time we were marching for the scene of action. I was seated at the time making envelopes, and had to leave off my employment and go too. We proceeded to Franklin and found that the Yankee cavalry from Suffolk had come and drove in our cavalry pickets and our infantry. The P.S. Shooters had repulsed them. They reformed and made a second charge, we repulsed them again and they retired leaving two men and six horses killed & eight prisoners in our hands. Our cowardly cavalry refused to charge them after they (the Yankees) had been thrown into confusion the second time or we might have taken the whole of them. We followed them on five miles to Carrsville. The citizens told us they had four ambulances full of killed & wounded - numbering about 40 or 50 loss in the attack. We had one man slightly touched, but the skin not broken. Our cavalry is the 54th Regt. No. Ca. we put no confidence in them. We arrived back in camp about dark. having had a tiresome day of it.

April 9th, Thursday:

Everything was seemingly quiet when we saw Davis' (Miss.) Brigade marching towards Franklin and soon afterwards we drew five days' rations with orders to cook it up immediately. We were too old soldiers not to know that something was out. We also heard that Longstreet came to Franklin today \*\* the cars - that Picketts Division was in \*\* vicinity and Hoods' Division not far away. Considering all these movements we were satisfied that something was to be done we knew not what but have long since learned to wait and see. The Band came back today from home on furlough.

Friday, 10th:

We lay down last night feeling like we would be aroused before morning but were agreeably surprised to learn that no orders had come to march. A little before noon orders came to move at 1 o'clock precisely. We went to Franklin - passed Genl. Hood on the roadside - the boys heartily gave him cheer after cheer for we all took a great liking to him while we were in his Division.

Sunday, 12th: [April 1863]

We were under arms at 4 o'clock A.M. but did not move until an hour by Sun. We then moved a few hundred yards and formed in line of battle, lay all day & camped in a short distance of the place we camped last night. Nothing doing except occasional cannon firing from the enemy on our pickets. In afternoon it rained pretty hard.

Wednesday, 15th:

For the last three days firing has been going on on the picket lines. It has been raining very hard all day and in the midst of a heavy shower we were ordered to go on picket. Oh how I did hate to go but there was no other alternative. It soon faired off and we did not have such a bad time as we were led to suppose. We can see the steeples of churches &c. in the city. Our pickets are a short distance from the Yankee breastworks, and whenever a yankee shows his head he is fired at immediately. No one hurt on our side as yet.

Sunday, 19th:

Same old tune, lots of firing along the lines. We go on picket every three days. Late in the afternoon as we were going back to camp, having been relieved from picket, a considerable firing began from Gun Boats on the Nansemon River below Suffolk which resulted in the Yankees taking from us five pieces of the best artillery we had (Striblings Battery) Forty artillerists and two companies of infantry belonging to an Ala. Regt. It was unfortunate in us. I will describe it on the margin. They did not fire at the Fort but fired at the neck of land and kept us from sending in reenforcements while they sent three Regts. and captured them.



Saturday, 2d: [May 1863]

I assisted in amputating a leg of a soldier of the 55th No. Ca. Regt. this morning. All seemed quiet as usual. We have made staunch breastworks in front of where we were camped and if we could get the yankees to come out to them we think we could show them a trick or two.

Sunday, 10th: [May 1863 - Last entry in diary fragment]

A pretty day - had a good sermon from the Chaplain. Everything was quiet until dark when the Regt. was ordered to fall in immediately. I could not imagine where we were going or what for. There was a No. Ca. Regt. of Cavalry camping not more than a mile from us and we soon learned that they were in-subordinate and we were going to arrest them. They somewhat mutinied against their Col. (Baker). He had placed all the officers under arrest and the men were fussy - shooting about camp, &c. We arrested the entire Regt. Their Col. said to them- "that all who would say they would do better should be let out" - by midnight all were released except two companies, a guard was kept around them until daybreak when all gave in and our Regt. came back to camp.

(Confederate.)  
B. | 6 | S.C.  
Per *J. R. Boulware*  
(2d) Company  
6 Reg't South Carolina Vols.  
Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
of the organization named above,  
for *May & June*, 186*2*.  
Enlisted:  
When *Apr. 11*, 186*1*.  
Where *Winchester, S.C.*  
By whom *Capt. Braxton*  
Period *2 yrs. or the war*  
Last paid:  
By whom *Capt. Gaillard*  
To what time *Dec. 31*, 186*1*.  
Present or absent *Present*  
Remarks: *Transferred to Co. B. 19 May 62  
Detained in Medical since 19 May*  
The 6th Regiment South Carolina Infantry entered the State service on April 11, 1861, for twelve months and was mustered into the Confederate States service during June and July, 1861. Subsequently it was broken up and a number of men re-enlisted in the Palmetto Regiment South Carolina Sharp Shooters, the 5th Regiment South Carolina Infantry, the 13th Battalion South Carolina Infantry and the 17th Regiment South Carolina Infantry. In February, 1862, the remainder re-enlisted for two years or the war and were re-organized into six companies which were joined on March 27, 1862, by a company of re-enlisted men from the 9th Regiment South Carolina Infantry. These seven companies formed the 1st South Carolina Battalion of Re-enlisted Volunteers, which was increased to a regiment April 22, 1862, by the addition of three more companies of re-enlisted men from the 9th Regiment South Carolina Infantry and designated the 6th Regiment South Carolina Infantry. A number of re-enlisted men from the old 5th Regiment South Carolina Infantry and a few recruits were also assigned to the various companies.  
Book mark: *Apr 11 1861*  
(648) Copyist

(Confederate.)  
B. | 6 | S.C.  
*J. R. Boulware*  
*Asst. Surgeon 6 Regt. S.C. Inf.*  
Appears on a register of  
Prisoners of War  
at Knoxville, Tenn.  
When confined *Jan. 26*, 1864.  
When released *Jan. 27*, 1864.  
How disposed of *Parole of honor at  
Reb. Hospital by Order Gen. Carter*  
Remarks: *Returned to prison Feb.  
11/64. turned over to Medical  
Director Dept. by order Col.  
Keith, Feb. 12/64.*  
Knoxville, Tenn., Register No. 2; page *85*  
*H. L. Taylor*  
(639) Copyist

(Confederate.)

B | 6 | S.C.

J. R. Boulware  
 Asst Surg 6<sup>th</sup> S.C. V.

Name appears as a signature to a

**Parole of Prisoners of War,**

belonging to the Army of Northern Virginia, this day surrendered by General Robert E. Lee, C. S. A, commanding said Army, to Lieut. Genl. U. S. Grant, commanding Armies of United States.

Done at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, April 9, 1865.

[From Footnote.com]

Number of roll: 209  
 (689c) Saml J. Armstrong Copyist.



Dr. James Richmond Boulware's gravestone at Salem Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Salem Crossroads, Fairfield County, SC



Gravestones of James R. Boulware & his first wife, Eliza Frances (Martin) Boulware (1838-1865)



Gravestone of Benjamin Franklin Boulware & wife, Mary (McMaster) Boulware at Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Cemetery, Fairfield County, SC. Brother of James Richmond Boulware.



Gravestone of James Law Richmond & wife, Sarah E. (Milling) Boulware at Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Fairfield County, SC. James Law was J. R. Boulware's first cousin