

Corporal Tally Simpson

Company A – 3rd South Carolina Infantry

Tally Simpson enlisted April 14, 1861. His unit was officially mustered in on June 6, 1861 in Columbia, South Carolina for an initial term of 12 months. Tally is 22 years old.

September 17 to October 12, 1861 in Charlottesville General Hospital.

Wounded slightly in action before Fredericksburg, Va on December 18, 1862.

Tally is promoted to 1st Corporal on January 1, 1863.

On January 15, 1863 from Fredericksburg he wrote his folks, “*We have been living finely since we received the box. We have had several blackberry pies and lots of crab lanterns. . . . The peach and apple butter is very fine indeed, and you can’t imagine how we enjoy it. . . .*”

A February 26 letter contained the line, “*A morsel of old cow would taste as good as “ginger bread.” We bought two gallons of buttermilk today (\$1.50 per gal) and made our dinner upon milk and bread and bacon gravy.*”

Revivals are prevalent and Tally writes from Fredericksburg on April 10, “*The revival still continues and several hundred of Barksdale’s men [Mississippi troops] have been converted, and many more are still anxious about their soul’s salvation. I saw, the other day, about twelve young men baptized in Baptist faith.*”

Near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania on June the 28th Tally writes, “. . . *the most of the soldiers seem to harbor a terrific spirit of revenge and steal and pillage in the most sinful manner. They take poultry, hogs, vegetables, fruit, honey, and any and every thing they can lay their hands upon. Last night Wofford’s Brigade of this div[ision] stole so much that they could not carry what rations they drew from the commissary . . . I have not nor will I take one thing in such a manner . . . my conscience will not permit me to take that which is necessary for the sustenance of women and children.*”

On September 20, 1863 Talley is killed during Longstreet’s assault on the Union lines at Snodgrass Hill during the battle of Chickamauga.

(Compiled Service Records – Confederate, Micro Copy 267, Roll 177; United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. Everson, Guy R. & Simpson, Edward V., editors – *Far, far from home – The Wartime Letters of Dick and Tally Simpson, 3rd South Carolina Volunteers*, New York, 1994, by date.)