



Elijah Rasnake (Rasnick)

Enlisted 28 Mar 1863 as a Private. Mustered into Company E of the 21st Virginia Cavalry. On a muster roll dated 31 Aug 1863, he is noted as being sick and at home. He is identified as Elijah S. Rasnake, son of Jacob Rasnake, Jr. and Judith Finney, and was the father of James Harvey Rasnake, who was also a Confederate Soldier in the Civil War.

Memories of Jasper Sutherland 15 Jan 1930
"Pioneer Recollections" by E. J. Sutherland
p. 383

The only Confederates left between Burbridge and the Kentucky line were some irregulars. The first of these irregular bands was the Counts' Battalion in Buchanan County. One of the Counts' four companies, commanded by Captain Jasper Colley, took the lead.

Jasper Sutherland recalled:

About sixty of us went to Levisa River below Grundy, at Rock Lick and waited for them (Burbridge's Federals) to come back. We lay by the road one night and cut trees across the road to block the Yankees. We didn't have any provisions with us, so next morning we strung out in the neighborhood to get some breakfast. Then Major Zeke, William Grizzle, Mack Owens and I went to see the blockade. The Yanks were there in full force. We darted back into the woods, but they saw us and followed and nearly surrounded us. We went further into the wooded hills and got away. Major Zeke, Bart Yates, and I went up the river and saw more Yankees. They got after us again and we had to run and scatter. Lige Rasake was in my company. It was awful hot

and we had run and scrambled over the rough hills so much that we were tired out. William Grizzle suggested that we hide for a while but I said “no”.

Major Zeke came up just then and said the Yanks had caught Lige Rasnake and maybe had killed him. We got closer to the road and hid behind some big rocks and saw about 4,000 Yanks go by. Some of them were Negroes; a Company or two of them. We fired at them and they fired back. The bullets flew awful thick and glanced off the rocks and made dirt fly all around us. Mack Owens was behind a tree but the bullets came behind the rocks. We heard the Yankee officer say, “Go up that hollow and surround them”.

We saw a big Company coming, so we scattered up the hill and went down the other side to the bend of the river again. Here we saw them with Lige Rasnake, a prisoner. Major Zeke and some of us fired on them again, and they fired back. This drew the attention of the Yankees, and Lige jumped over the river bank and down a slip fifty yards or more to the river. He jumped in and swam across and got away. The Yankees didn't shoot at him until he got nearly to the river. None of our men were hurt.