

May 17, 1865 - Observations made by an ex-Confederate soldier from the Army of Tennessee while on his way home to the Dyersburgh environs; conditions in Greeneville



. . . By 6 oclk. everything was ready to move but no order was given until about 7 oclk. when everything was put in motion for Greeneville. We soon crossed the Nollichucky River a tolerable wide shallow stream. The road runs through a pretty hilly country though we passed several fine farms with splendid residences-when within half a mile of town we come to where the yanky troops were encamped said to be about 2000 about one half of whom were negroes sort who were nearly all in line clos on the side of the road where we passed and some of them cursed us as we passed along though we generally said nothing to them. The white and black Yankees mixed freely and conversed together hail fellows well met. We passed through Greeneville where white and black of both sexes were mixing freely-The town ins rather in bottom being surrounded by hills on every side and is a place of some size especially when the sourrounding Country is taken into consideration here is the home of Andy Johnston President of the U. S. we passed through town about one mile and encamped until further orders., Among the yankies here there are several deserters from the Confederate Army among them I spoke to.-Evening Clouded up but awhile after dark Cleared off-We set up until 10 oclk. T. W. Jones and myself slept together.

Fielder Diaries.