

“ . . . went on steamboat from Rockets to Kingsmile . . . ”

Private William Preston Holland, Company G – 11th Virginia Infantry

“We . . . went to Richmond; went on a steamboat from Rockets to Kingsmile [Kingsmill Wharf] and from there went near Yorktown and camped not far from the Warwick River, where we threw up entrenchments. . . .

On the third of May we left Yorktown, and on the 4th we marched toward Williamsburg. It was very muddy, and that night it was raining, and we made such shelters as we could of fence rails and got into fence corners and so passed the night. . . .

. . . [May 6th] we resumed our retreat without any further trouble with the Yankees. As we went back through Williamsburg, we passed near the lunatic asylum. Some of the inmates were out in the yard, and some of our men called out, “We’d like to swap places with you.” “We’ve tried it out there and we like it better in here,” some of them answered. One old man, however, upstairs at a window, replied, “I wish to the Lord I could, but they won’t let me out.”

We kept on the march . . . the roads were very muddy and it rained much of the time. . . . we tried to keep on going as there was no good place to stop. There was a long deep mud hole in the road, and I believe every other man . . . got in it. There was just light enough for the next man to see the one before him had stepped in and to avoid it; then the man next to him would get in it, and so on. I got in it up to the knee. One man declared his hat had got moldy on his head.

After about ten days we got to the camp a few miles from Richmond . . . “ 1

1. *Recollections of a Private- William P. Holland, published 1936, reprinted 2009, Rocky Mount, p. 10 – 12.*