My father, W. C. Patterson, volunteered his services in defense of his country as a detailed man in the year 1863. At this time he was a young man of about seventeen years of age. He joined the 33rd Regiment and was detailed by Col. Hoke to engage in Government work and continued in this position until the close of the war. During this time he was ordered out to the mountains to gather up men who had deserted our army. In emergencies he was out on the Home Guard Duty. The Home Guard Duty consisted in gathering up men who had deserted our Southern army and guarding the Yankee soldiers who had been captured.
When they were out on these trips they were required to go anywhere they could and find some thing to eat. The people to whom these necessities belonged supposed that these men were in need and gave up these things very willingly.

A greater part of the time in service was spent in a government tannery which was located in Statesville, N.C., under Col. R. J. Simonton with Mr. H. O. C. Thompson as Supt. This tannery was carried on to provide our soldiers with shoes and also the women and children at home, some of whom were very much in need. Through Col. Simonton many of these needy ones were provided for.
Todd T. Caldwell and Jeb Vance, who were Governors of our state during this time of the war, came to Mr. Thompson and my father for their shoes. When this tannery was first established, other men were also engaged in the work at this place. One by one these men were ordered out to the front. My father expected at any time to receive orders to do likewise.

Some of these men who were ordered out were related to Mr. Thompson, however, he bestowed on my father a compliment by telling Col. Simonton he could do without any of the others easier than he could Patterson. This faithfulness, I am sure, saved him from the many hardships endured by his brother Joseph Patterson who enlisted the first day of March.
1862 in Co. C, 49th Regiment and was killed at Petersburg, Va, Jan. 2, 1863. He was almost four years in service and endured many hardships during the war.

My father received no wages for his work, but was granted a few leisure hours and then which he devoted to work for himself. In this way he manufactured a few choice pieces of leather which he sold at a good price as such was so much in demand and in this way, provided for himself.

The social life at home during the war was filled with more pleasure than we can imagine. The fact that so many loved ones from the homes were engaged in this common struggle brought them closer in their interests and sympathies for one another than we probably feel for mankind to-day.
My mother could spin, weave and make her own clothes, which were regarded as pretty and becoming. She also could ride horseback and in this way proved her usefulness to the family while her father and brothers were in the war. These were years of bountiful crops. The soldiers at the front did not always have plenty to eat, but at home they had. The Yankees destroyed so much of the provisions for our soldiers is one reason why they did not always have as much as they should. One article of food during this time which was very hard to obtain was salt. The men had to haul it in wagons from Lem. to this section where we live.

The Yankees had a number of cavalry leaders who made raids through our state and other southern states. That of "Stonewall" was considered a very destructive one. In Statesville he burned numbers of cars loaded with
with government supplies for the
Southern army, the office of the county
paper, known as the Iredell Express and
two depots. Quite a good deal of
excitement prevailed among those who
lived in the towns visited by these
Yankee cavalry leaders. Before Stoneman
came to Statesville my father hid a gold
watch for a cousin valued at two hundred
dollars. He dug a hole in a stable and
placed it in a box inside of an old-
time oven. He then hit leather.
A friend of mine whose home
was in Sena - hid a flag
which was much prized. However,
the Yankees succeeded in finding
it and delighted in destroying
it in their presence.
They also demanded that her sister should entertain them by playing on the piano. This she did, but was very careful to give them a good number of rebel pieces.

The fact that my father had a part in this great work during the war and that his life was spared means more to me than words can express.