

Other Diarists Writing about the Confederate Invasion

From the diary of 12 year old Gettysburg resident Mary Elizabeth Montfort on the departure of her family's household servant, Rebecca Johnson:

*Today we saw Aunt Beckie. She is the colored lady who helps mother with the wash. Jennie and I love Aunt Beckie. She and some other colored people were pulling wagons or pushing wheel barrows and carrying big bundles 'Yo ol' Aunt Beckie is goin' up into de hills. No rebel is gonna catch me and carry me back to be a slave again.'*¹

On Thursday, June 18, 1863, another Gettysburg resident, Reverend Thomas Creigh, reported in his diary

"The rebels have left Chambersburg on their way back through Greencastle, a force estimated at from 800 to 2000, taking with them horses and negroes."

On Friday, June 26, 1863, Reverend Creigh wrote:

"A terrible day. The guerillas passing and repassing, one of the saddest of sights, several of our colored persons with them, to be sold into slavery, John Philkill and Findlay Cuff. The officer with a squad of men has just passed up street making proclamation of something. I have just been to the door to inquire what it is. It is that they intend to search all houses for contrabands and fire arms and that wherever they discover either they will set fire to the house in which they may be found."

That Saturday, Reverend Creigh again noted the capture of African Americans by Confederate forces:

*"This morning the guerilla band which was encamped up the pike took their departure through town toward Greencastle taking with them about a dozen colored persons, mostly contrabands, women and children; a large flock of sheep and horses and barouche. Sad that we can make no resistance and that the Government has sent us no help. Here we are as in a port or a prison, beleaguered on all hands and can receive no reliable intelligence in regard to the movements of our army. Reports we have in abundance, but they are so vague, and so conflicting that we can repose no confidence in them."*²

¹ <http://www.civilwarwomenblog.com/2008/08/african-americans-of-gettysburg.html>

² <http://vshadow.vcdh.virginia.edu/KHS/creigh.html>