

## **Civil War References to Johnson's Depot, TN**

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Following are the contexts in which Daniel Ellis mentions Johnson's Depot in his ***Thrilling Adventures of Daniel Ellis*** (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1867, and numerous reprints):

Pg. 29 – After the bridge burnings of November 8, 1861, Unionists gathered around Elizabethton to await the arrival of Federal troops (which, unbeknownst to them, were not coming). “Colonel Ledbetter, than whom a more bloodthirsty and infamous scoundrel never set his foot upon the soil of East Tennessee, arrived at Johnson's Depot with a considerable force under his command, and, learning where our party was stationed, started in pursuit of us.”

Pg. 65 – “On the night of 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 1862, I started on my first trip to Kentucky as a pilot with Col. James Grayson, of Johnson County, and a number of men from the Counties of Johnson and Carter. We met in the ridges near Elizabethton, and went straight forward toward Johnson's Depot, in Washington County. When we arrived at the railroad we stopped, and I went to the house of John Murray, who was a good Union man, and lived near the depot. I inquired of him if he thought there was any danger to be apprehended from the rebels. He told me that he did not believe that the rebel soldiers were stirring about on that night. We had to cross the railroad within two miles. of the depot, where there was a rebel company stationed. We crossed the railroad without being discovered ... ”

Pg. 91 – On his January 9, 1863 trip through the lines to Kentucky, Ellis was to escort Robert Lyles, late a Confederate Deputy Provost Marshal for Elizabethton, who was changing sides. “It had been arranged for him to meet me at Murray's, near Johnson's Depot, in Washington County, and I must confess that I had some misgivings when I was getting near the place of our meeting. I thought it probable that I had taken a very rash step when I agreed to pilot him through the lines, and could not help fearing that, instead of meeting with Lyles at Murray's, I might possibly meet with a company of rebel soldiers. I resolved, however, to be prepared for any unexpected emergency, and we moved forward to the place appointed for our meeting, where I found Lyles in considerable trepidation, anxiously awaiting my arrival.”

Pg. 208 – Among the men in Ellis’ January 25, 1864 trip to the Union forces in Knoxville were “John and Edward Johnson, from Johnson’s Depot.” Note: John and Edward were sons of Johnson City’s founder, Henry Johnson.

Pg. 220- A reference from Ellis’ February 2, 1864, trip to Knoxville: “About 11 o’clock the rain ceased, but the snow continued to fall; but we pushed on and reached the Greasy Cove, 10 miles south of Johnson’s Depot, about 2 o’clock. We left the Cove to the right of us and went up on the spurs of Unaka Mountain, where I considered we would be safe.”

Pg. 390 – “While we were in this section of country, a portion of Stoneman’s men marched through the mountains of Carter and Johnson Counties on their way to North Carolina. This was the first Federal force that had ever passed through the mountains of these two Counties, and one of my men facetiously remarked that they could not have passed through on this occasion, had it not been for our company, who had run the rebels away before them. I remarked to the men that if that were the case, we had better go down the country to Elizabethton and Johnson’s Depot, in order to protect the dispatch-bearers and stragglers, for I thought the rebels might be watching the roads to capture them.”

Pg. 403 – In April, 1865, Ellis was in command of a squad of soldiers ordered to round up Confederates in the upper East Tennessee counties. On the evening of April 28, “we arrived at Johnson’s Depot, in Washington County. The next day we went to the residence of Jacob Brown, and on the following day we went on to Greeneville...”

Also of possible interest, Samuel W. Scott and Samuel P. Angel, in their ***History of the Thirteenth Regiment, Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry, U.S.A.*** (Philadelphia: P.W. Ziegler, 1904, and numerous reprints), mention Johnson’s Depot as cited:

Pg. 111 – Early September, 1863. “When the Federal forces reached Johnson’s Depot, (now Johnson City) hundreds of Union men from Johnson and Carter Counties saw the ‘Yankees’ for the first time.”

Pg. 113 – Late September, 1863. The men who had been recruited for the 12<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry (afterwards changed to the Thirteenth) joined the retreating Federal forces at Johnson’s Depot and Jonesboro and fell back with them to Greeneville, Tenn.”

Pg. 194 – Late September, 1864. “The rebels made a stand at Maglin Sherfy’s brick house, about 2 ½ miles east of Johnson’s Depot (City).”

Pg. 286 – “When Gen. Burnside came into East Tennessee, September, 1863, [Patrick F.] Dyer and [Alex D.] Frasier with a number of recruits joined the Federal forces under Gen. S.P. Carter, at Johnsons Depot, and went from there to Greeneville, Tenn., the beginning place of the history of the regiment.”

Pg. 308 – On July 23 1863 a party of men “started to Kentucky under the well-known pilot, Daniel Ellis. The rebels finding their trail headed them off near Johnson’s Depot, Tenn., and the company was compelled to turn back.”

Scott and Angel also mention Johnson City on pages 84, 92, 193, 271, 301, 418, 452, and 484-491.

