

tions at the different fords in the Rappahannock which the enemy might occupy to prevent our crossing. The Yankee spy intercepted the courier in a lonely spot, killed him, took his dispatch and dressed himself in the dead man's brown suit of clothes. Hastening on to Gen. Longstreet he, instead of presenting the orders, announced verbally that the Gen. should march in an almost totally different direction from that commanded. Longstreet was perplexed, the courier is detained. An officer on the General's Staff (formerly of the Hampton's Legion) does not recognize the courier, the body of the murdered courier is found, and the spy is tried, condemned, and executed. . . .

#### LONGSTREET CONTINUES THE PURSUIT

We are now in Rappahannock County<sup>17</sup> and are pressing on after the enemy, and have taken this circuitous route<sup>18</sup> purposely I think in order not to drive him straight before us but to press him gradually into the old position of Bull Run and Manassas Junction.

Our Lieut. Col. (Skinner) is an old Baltimorean and lives in this county. The Col. has always been noted in the army for his good natured blustering manner, slashing his sword in a most terrible way when a near combat with the enemy is spoken of. He is very well educated, having spent many years in Paris, and speaks French fluently.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>17</sup> On August 23 the 'battle of Rappahannock' was fought by the 1st Va. It was principally an artillery engagement, the infantry, apparently, not being involved. Dooley makes no mention of this incident. See also p. 8, note.

<sup>18</sup> Longstreet, following Jackson, kept bearing to the west slightly, in the general direction of Warrenton and Thoroughfare Gap, instead of moving in a straight line against Pope.

<sup>19</sup> Frederick Gustavus Skinner was one of the most romantic and gallant characters of the war. As a boy he had been sent to Paris by his father, a warm friend of the Marquis de Lafayette, to be educated in

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