

# COMPANY FRONT

THE HISTORICAL MAGAZINE OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH NORTH CAROLINA

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1

2016





## **Front Cover**

Ellerson's Mill on Beaver Dam Creek near Mechanicsville, Hanover County, Virginia. Here the Confederate brigades of Pender and Ripley suffered frightful losses while assaulting the strongly fortified Union left flank on June 26, 1862. Traces of Federal earthworks are distinctly visible in left center background of photograph. [Library of Congress]

## **Inside Front Cover**

The site of Ellerson's Mill as it appears today taken from approximately the same position and angle as front cover photograph. The appearance of this site has changed remarkably over just the last fifty years due to extensive residential encroachment and road construction. The foundations of Ellerson's Mill still remain.[Photo by Robert Williams]

## **Back Cover**

The tombstone of Major Tristem L. Skinner and wife located in the churchyard of Saint Paul's Episcopal in Edenton, NC. Skinner was killed in the futile charge of the 1<sup>st</sup> NCST at Mechanicsville only weeks after predicting his fate in a letter to his wife. [Photo by Robert Williams]

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## STAFF

### LAYOUT EDITOR

Jason Goodnite

### HISTORICAL EDITOR

Jason Goodnite

### CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Robert Williams

### COPY EDITOR

Alan Leonard

### PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Skip Smith

## FEATURES



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**FEATURE ARTICLE**



**Corporal Patrick H. Jenkins, Company F. (Hertford Grays), 1st NCST, killed at Mechanicsville, VA, June 1862. Jenkins's uniform is typical of those issued to the regiment while encamped near Goldsboro in May 1862.**

# Lavish BLOOD

## The 1st North Carolina State Troops at the Battle of Mechanicsville

By Robert A. Williams

The last week in May 1862 set in motion a chain of events which would ever alter the lives of both officers and enlisted men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment North Carolina State Troops. Since late March the regiment had been encamped at various locations along railroads in the vicinity of Goldsboro, positioned to thwart any advance by Federal forces under Major General Ambrose Burnside from the direction of New Bern. Yet, no one could ignore the more ominous threat looming over the Confederate capital of Richmond, 150 odd miles to the north. Major George B. McClellan's massive Union Army of the Potomac stood poised at the gates of the city. A major battle was imminent. The newly formed brigade of General James G. Walker, comprising not only the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina, but also the 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina, 3<sup>rd</sup> Arkansas, and 44th Georgia regiments, awaited orders that might at any moment summon it to the "seat of war."<sup>(1)</sup>

At about this time Captain Tristim L. Skinner of Company A, the Albemarle Guards, penned a letter to his wife that probably captured the sentiment of many of his comrades: "I am confident of the success of our troops – but I cannot feel either confident or very hopeful of my being spared, for I deserve it as little as anyone . . . I will go into the action however with as brave a heart as I can command, determined cheerfully to come up to the mark . . ." Skinner's words would prove to be grimly prophetic.<sup>(2)</sup>

To be sure, the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina at this time was not a totally inexperienced unit but it had not seen actual combat other than dodging a few shells from Union gunboats in the war's early months. Made up of eager volunteers mustered from eleven different counties, the regiment was officially organized at Warrenton, N.C. on June 3, 1861. It was one of ten regiments of "State Troops" authorized by law whose term of service was to be three years or the duration of the war. <sup>(3)</sup>

Appointed as Colonel was the 51-year old former captain of Company B, Montfort



Officers of Company A (the Albemarle Guards) 1<sup>st</sup> NCST. From left to right: First Lieutenant John A. Benbury, Captain Tristim L. Skinner, and Second Lieutenant Lemuel C. Benbury. Skinner, promoted to major, was shot down while charging the Federal defenses along Beaver Dam Creek and died on the field while exhorting his men to rally. Image: NCDAAH



**Colonel Montfort Sydney Stokes of the 1<sup>st</sup> NCST, mortally wounded in the forlorn Confederate assault. His sage admonition to flank the Union position went unheeded by his haughty superior. Image: NC Regiments**

Sydney Stokes. A native of Wilkes Co., N.C. and son of a former governor, Stokes had served as a midshipman in the United States Navy from 1832 to 1839. His numerous voyages included ports of call in the Mediterranean, Scandinavia, Russia, and South America. He later gained infantry experience as a major in the First North Carolina Foot Volunteers during the Mexican War before returning to farming in Wilkes County. (4)

One member of Company C, the Lillington Rifle Guards, who observed Stokes at Warrenton judged him to be “a splendid officer, well prepared to drill in regimental or brigade maneuvers.” (5) Assisted by a German drillmaster named Marcks, the new colonel applied his vast experience and rigorously trained the regiment in “regular army fashion.” Inspections of arms and equipment were frequent. Neither was physical conditioning neglected. One private wryly noted “we were frequently ordered to march in double quick-time around a nearby race track which was approximately a mile in circumference. Many of the soldiers, however, exhausted by the rapidity of the march, were unable to circumscribe it.” (6)

Following the Confederate victory at Manassas in July, Stokes and his new command were ordered to Northern Virginia where they spent an initial sojourn digging fortifications and manning river batteries in the so-named Aquia District. Viewed retrospectively, it was a period of seasoning but comparative ease which one soldier in the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina later described as “eating our white bread.” (7) The unit’s return to their native state in March 1862 was welcomed nearly as much for “the abundance of rich pine” for firewood after their cold, wet journey as for the homecoming. (8)

Special requisition No 40  
 Company A. 1<sup>st</sup> Reg: N C Troops

- ✓ 65 Grey round jackets. If not grey none wanted
- ✓ 67 " pants (length of leg -  $\frac{3}{34} \frac{12}{33} \frac{27}{32} \frac{16}{31} \frac{5}{30} \frac{4}{29} = 67$ ). If not grey only
- ✓ 16 Cotton shirts (3 pair wanted)
- ✓ 4 pr. " drawers
- ✓ 24 " " socks
- ✓ 30 " Shoes of sizes  $\frac{1}{10} \frac{4}{9} \frac{11}{8} \frac{8}{7} \frac{3}{6} \frac{2}{5} = 30$
- ✓ 12 Haversacks I certify that the above requisition is correct
- ✓ 8 Knapsacks For recruits
- ✓ 12 Canteens For recruits

I certify that the above requisition is correct, and that the articles specified are absolutely requisite for the public service. The soldiers needing them

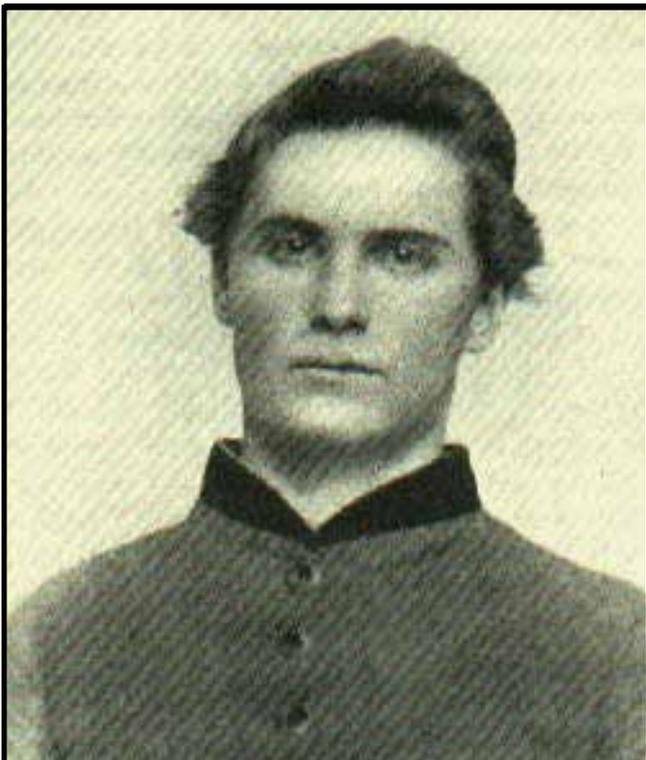
J. L. Skinner Capt.  
 Co: A. 1<sup>st</sup> Reg: N C T.

Capt. W. W. Peirce A. S. M. will issue the articles specified in the above requisition.

Received at Raleigh the 12 of May 1862 of W. W. Peirce Capt. A. S. M. 65 jackets, 16 shirts, 4 drawers, 24 pr. socks, 30 pr. shoes, 12 haversacks, 8 knapsacks, 12 canteens & straps  
 in of the above requisition

J. L. Skinner Capt.  
 Co: A. 1<sup>st</sup> N C T.

Clothing and equipment requisition and receipt signed by Captain Tristram Skinner of Co. A while the regiment was encamped near Goldsboro. Note that no jackets were wanted unless they were grey in color. Most companies were resupplied at this time from state stocks in Raleigh. Image: fold3



**Private Marcus Herring, Company C (Lillington Rifle Guards), 1<sup>st</sup> NCST. Herring's post-war letters to Confederate Veteran magazine are a rich source of information on the regiment's many actions. [Confederate Veteran]**

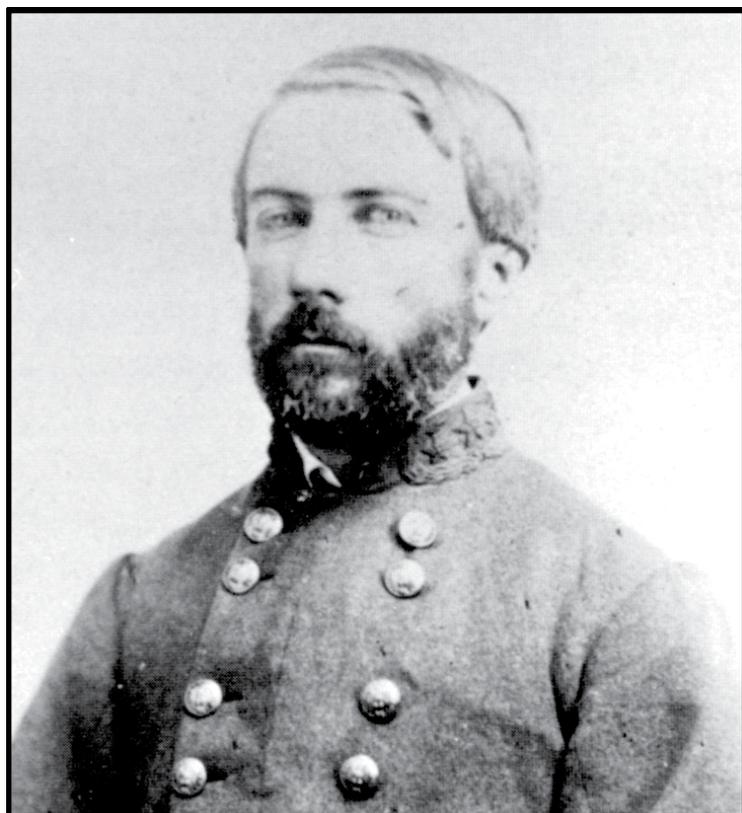
While stationed near Goldsboro the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina received substantial quantities of new clothing and equipment. These much-needed issues included grey jackets and pants, shirts, shoes, haversacks and canteen straps. (9) Several companies, at least, received excellent Enfield rifled muskets. (10) Yet these improvements did not help alleviate the discomfort of the return trip to Virginia when, on May 28<sup>th</sup>, their brigade received the anticipated orders to repair to Richmond. (11) Pvt. Finley Curtis of Company B from Wilkes County recollected “a memorably rough march, for we were forced to travel through continual rain, with hunger-cramped stomachs, in jolting box cars on rocking, roaring flats [and] our crackers became soaked with water and rendered thus unpalatable.” (12)

Even as the brigade traveled, a great but inconclusive battle was taking place at Seven Pines, five miles east of Richmond. Marcus Herring of the 1st noted “we did not get there] in time to take part in the battle, but in time to learn from the condition of the field strewn with the paraphernalia of war and wounded men in [the] hospital what war meant. We were ordered to the front line immediately, and had to go hungry for a day or two, for owing to rapid concentrations of large bodies of men it was impossible .

.. to supply rations promptly. We did picket duty in force, and were so near the enemy we could not make fires, and it rained almost continuously . . .” Over the next few weeks Stokes’s regiment performed similarly monotonous duty along the Williamsburg Road, “hungry and having to take the rain like a cow.” (13)

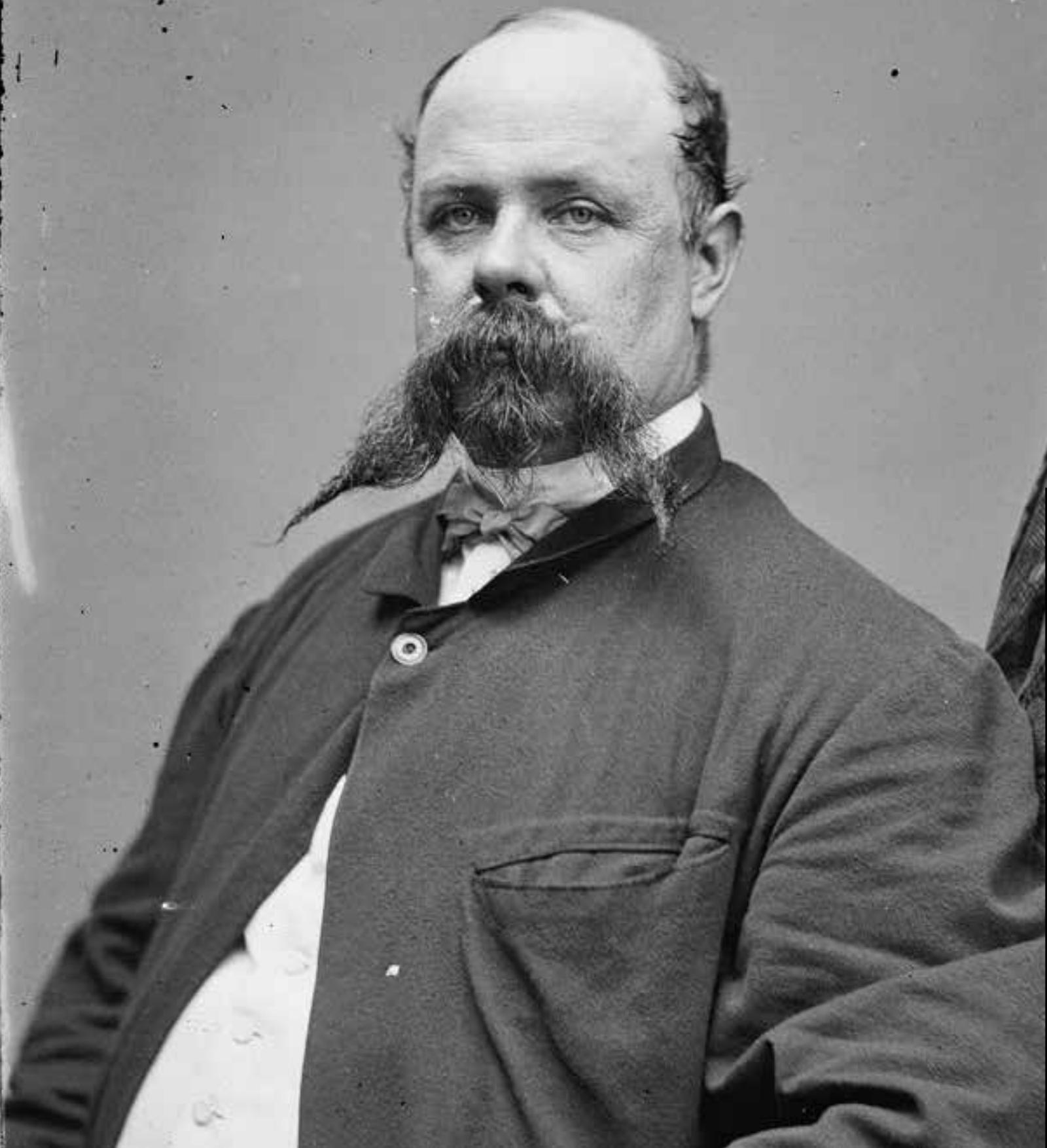
While serving in the lines east of Richmond, the brigade was reorganized as part of Major General D. H. Hill’s division. The 48<sup>th</sup> Georgia replaced the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arkansas, and Brigadier General Roswell S. Ripley assumed overall command. The Ohio-born officer boasted a rich resume of military experience in both the Mexican and Second Seminole Wars. With that, unfortunately, came a very strong sense of self-approbation that bordered on downright arrogance. One historian has described Ripley as “an opinionated man . . . even more contumacious than D. H. Hill: where Hill respected some superiors, Ripley was against them all.” Unbeknownst to Colonel Stokes and the soldiers of the 1st, this command change would soon produce grave consequences.

(14)  
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**The 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina was assigned to the division of Major General D. H. Hill upon its arrival in Richmond. Hill was both capable and irascible. Image: University of Alabama.**

Brigadier General Roswell S. Ripley led his combined Georgia/North Carolina brigade throughout the Seven Days Battles around Richmond. Despite a strong military resume, his performance was less than stellar. One soldier described him as 'a fat, whiskey-drinking loving man.' [Library of Congress]

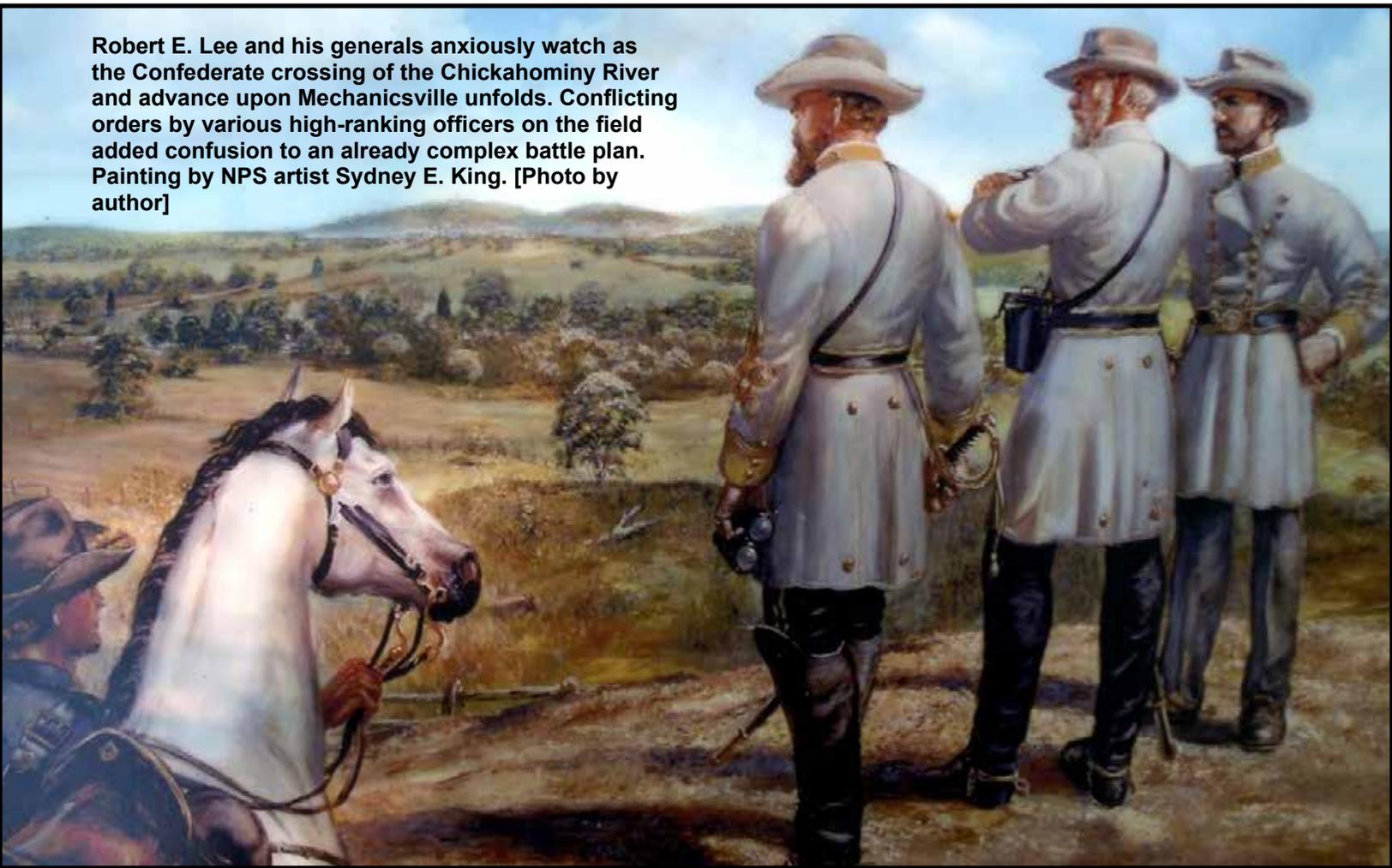


One fact that all knew with certainty, however, was that the bloody two-day Battle of Seven Pines did nothing to alter Federal dispositions or relieve the Confederate capital. McClellan's army still remained in line generally east of the city, with roughly two-thirds of his force on the south side of the Chickahominy River and one-third on the north, protecting the Union supply line. The heavy rains in early June that so galled the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina while on picket and in camp had also rendered those Federals to the north of the swollen stream extremely vulnerable to isolation. While D. H. Hill fretted that McClellan was "approaching Richmond with spade and shovel to bombard it over our head with his long range guns," (15) newly appointed Confederate Army commander Robert E. Lee was already in the early stages of devising a combined assault on the divided Federal forces.

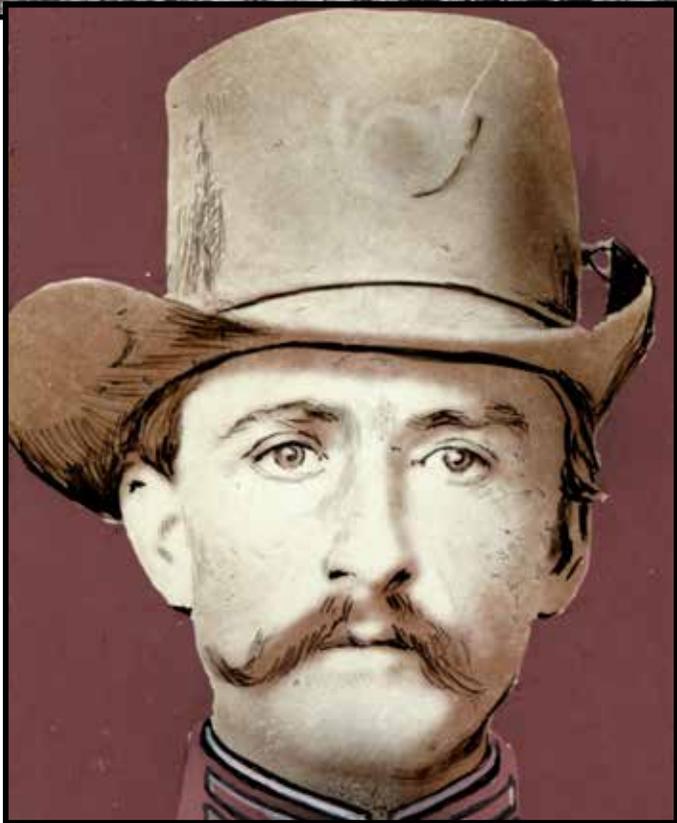
Following extensive planning and troop concentration, Lee chose to launch on June 26 a bold strike against that portion of McClellan's army north of the Chickahominy River: 30,000 Federals under the command of Brigadier General Fitz-John Porter. Although Porter was known to be strongly ensconced behind Beaver Dam Creek, east of the village of Mechanicsville, his right flank did not rest on any natural obstacle. Lee hoped to keep the larger portion of "Little Mac's" army occupied along the Williamsburg and Nine Mile Roads while turning Porter's right flank with echelon assaults progressing from north to south by the divisions of "Stonewall" Jackson, A. P. Hill, D. H. Hill, and James Longstreet, respectively. (16)

For Colonel Stokes and the men of the First, as with the rest of D. H. Hill's division, June 26<sup>th</sup> began shortly after midnight. Leaving bright fires burning in their encampments to deceive the enemy, Hill's troops commenced a "circuitous and fatiguing" night march that by 7 a.m. had carried them northeast of Richmond to the commanding bluffs overlooking the Mechanicsville Turnpike bridge crossing of the Chickahominy. (17) Also gathered there awaiting the battle to unfold were a number of famous personages. They included President Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War George Randolph, and General Robert E. Lee. While Stokes and his company officers used this opportunity to find high ground from which to reconnoiter the Federal positions, many of the

**Robert E. Lee and his generals anxiously watch as the Confederate crossing of the Chickahominy River and advance upon Mechanicsville unfolds. Conflicting orders by various high-ranking officers on the field added confusion to an already complex battle plan. Painting by NPS artist Sydney E. King. [Photo by author]**



After crossing the Chickahominy River on this hastily repaired structure along the Mechanicsville Pike, the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina smoothly deployed in line of battle under the experienced eye of Adjutant J. S. R. Miller. [Library of Congress]



**John Starke Ravenscroft Miller, Adjutant of the 1<sup>st</sup> NCST. A fellow soldier described the regular army veteran as “not only not only theatrical but practical, and all the minutiae of his office seemed perfectly at his command.” Miller was seriously wounded at Mechanicsville. Image: NCDH**

enlisted men of the First sought to gain some much needed rest from the night’s exertions. Marcus Herring recalled: “We lay all the morning and until late in the afternoon in the broiling June sun, and hot as it was, the boys slept. I saw one young fellow lying on his back, the scorching sun just beaming down on his face. Our beloved President, passing down the line, stopped and, picking up the boy’s hat, placed it over his face.”(18)

As the sultry afternoon wore on everyone from President Davis to the lowliest Confederate private waited anxiously for any sign that Jackson’s division, the lead domino in the flanking movement, had begun toppling the Union right. Ripley, at the fore of D. H. Hill’s column, even sent one company from each of his four regiment cautiously forward as skirmishers to insure that the Chickahominy bridge had not been mined by the Federals. (19) Finally, at around 3 p.m., gunfire erupted upstream on A. P. Hill’s front at Meadow Bridge, two miles to the north. Realizing that further delay would “hazard the failure of the whole plan,” the aggressive Powell Hill pushed the six brigades of his “Light Division” across Meadow Bridge and against Porter’s flank, Jackson’s whereabouts be damned! (20)

Probably few sights of the war were as stirring as that presented to soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina and their brethren

This on-the-spot sketch by Northern newspaper artist Alfred Waud depicts the strong Union position at Ellerson's Mill. Waud's note to engravers on the back of his drawing reads: 'Knapsacks and blankets unslung and thrown on the ground . . . axes, shovels, etc. . . The rifle pit was of earth revetted with planks and logs. Pennsylvania state colors and Union flag. [Library of Congress]

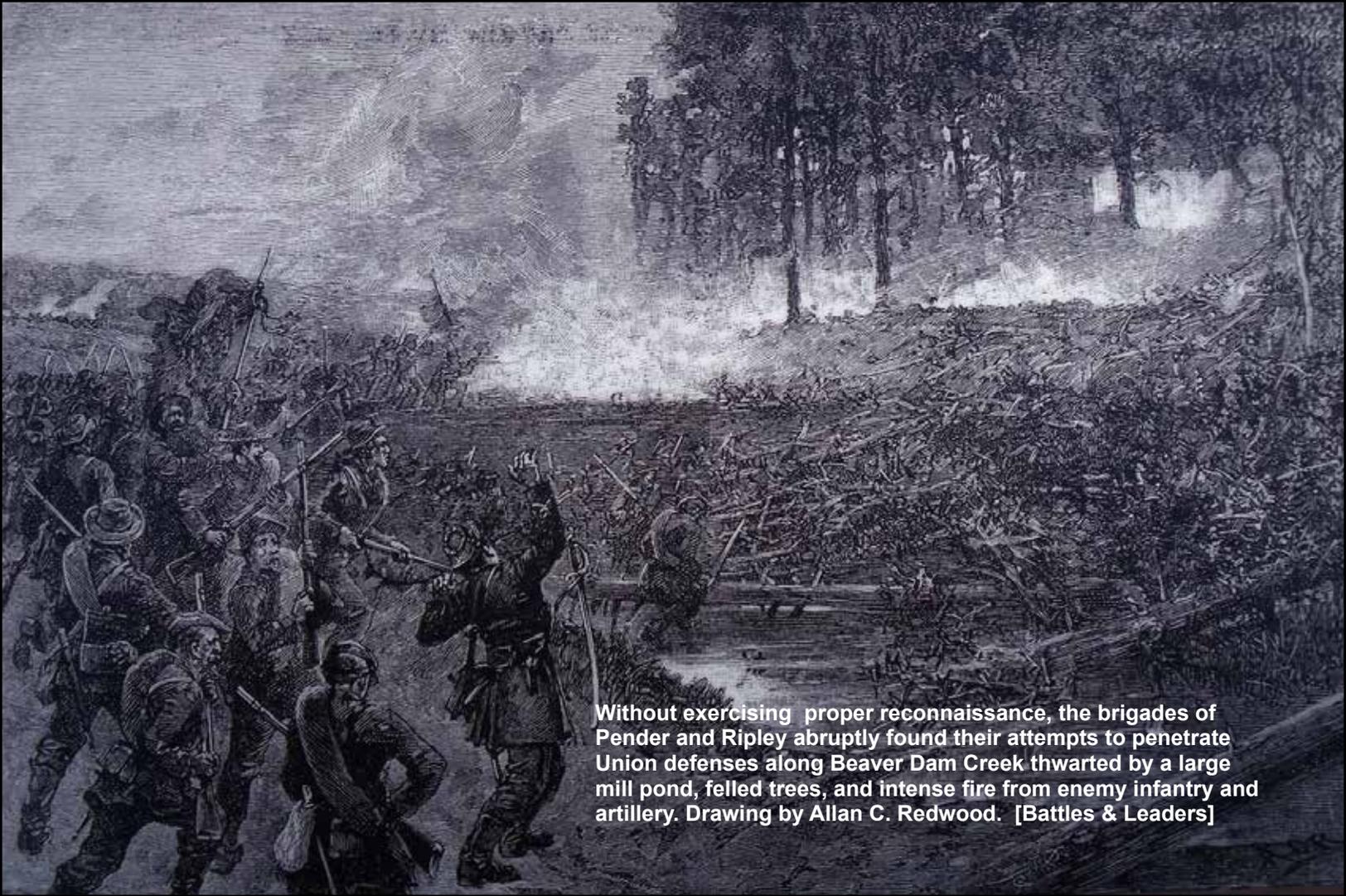


in Ripley's brigade as Powell Hill's divisions advanced irresistibly towards Mechanicsville. From their perch on the high bluffs overlooking the village they could see first one gray brigade and then another deploy across the broad plain. Numerous shell bursts from Federal batteries punctuated the scene. Union skirmishers doggedly gave ground as they fell back to prepared positions behind sluggish Beaver Dam Creek. Yet, their time as mere spectators to the panorama was short lived. Ripley's brigade was soon ordered to lead D. H. Hill's column cross the Chickahominy Bridge and support the assault. (21)

Some delay was initially entailed as pioneers were forced to lay planking on the partially destroyed bridge as Federal shells whizzed overhead. (22) When Stokes hurriedly pushed regiment forward, the omnipresent President Jefferson Davis was again on the scene. He cautioned Stokes in a kind voice: "Colonel, I wouldn't double-quick the boys. You will get there in good time." After crossing the hastily repaired structure, the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina faced the test of performing its first deployment while under enemy fire. Private Herring remembered how "the quick eye of Adjutant John S. R. Miller, who had served in the regular army, "took in the situation and he galloped to the front, with drummer boys following with markers to indicate formation line [while] Ensign Obed Scott promptly placed [the regimental] colors . . . then the regiment double-quickened into position by companies just like on dress parade."(23)

Meanwhile, the attack of A. P. Hill's division, which had begun so auspiciously, started to unravel in the late afternoon as his brigades drove through Mechanicsville and went up against the Federal line beyond. Porter's position at Beaver Dam Creek was indeed a formidable one. Crossed at two points by roads leading to Old Church and New Cold Harbor, the meandering, waist deep stream flowed in a generally north-south direction through a steep banked valley dominated by high hills. Its eastern side overlooked open fields to the west from which any Confederate advance must materialize. Porter's position was further strengthened by means of abatis, rifle pits, and artillery emplacements. Manning these works were no fewer than five Federal batteries and three infantry brigades of Brigadier General George A. McCall's Pennsylvania Reserves. (24) Many of the Reserve regiments carried .69 caliber smoothbore muskets utilizing the lethal buck and ball cartridge. (25)



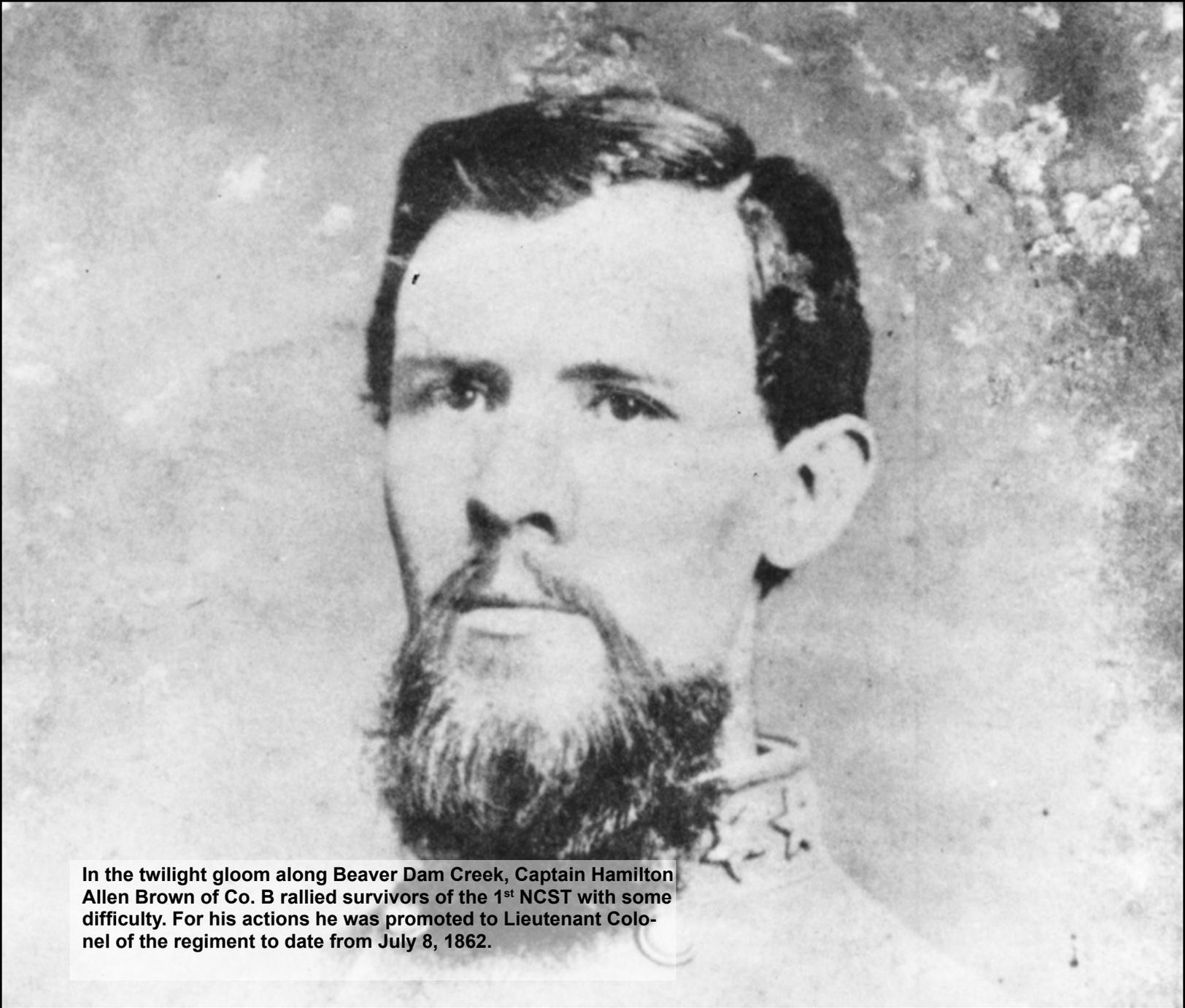


Without exercising proper reconnaissance, the brigades of Pender and Ripley abruptly found their attempts to penetrate Union defenses along Beaver Dam Creek thwarted by a large mill pond, felled trees, and intense fire from enemy infantry and artillery. Drawing by Allan C. Redwood. [Battles & Leaders]

ed: ‘Rise 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina and charge them!’ Then in a regular storm of flying missiles of death the regiment went forward at a run, for we were in direct range of [the enemy] in strong breastworks.” (27) Edgar A. Jackson of Company D then graphically described what happened next: “We proceed half-way down the hill, halt, and exchange shot for shot with the Yankees, who had the very best of covering . . . [their] entrenchments running parallel with our lines behind which about 100 yards [distant] are two batteries, one on the right and one on the left, which are belching forth fire and dealing death to our troops. If Colonel Stokes could have been in charge I think we could have captured the one on the right . . . I have fired once and am now trying to ram down a ball which fits too tight – the men are falling around me continually – I see one of the company rise up and try to get to the rear. He is wounded in the hip. For nearly half an hour our boys load and fire, firing by the light of the enemy’s guns.” (28)

Not only was the abatis in front of the Federal line impenetrable, but a large pond formed by a dam and mill race at Ellerson’s Mill on Beaver Dam Creek blocked much of the way. The assault had been a forlorn hope from the outset, as proper reconnaissance might have revealed. Raked by both frontal and flanking fire from the Pennsylvanians across the stream, casualties in the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina and in the 44<sup>th</sup> Georgia to its left mounted frightfully. (29) Colonel Stokes soon dropped with a grievous wound to his leg. Lieutenant-Colonel John McDowell sustained a severe injury from “a piece of shell striking him on the breast.” And Tristim Skinner, promoted to major of the First, fulfilled his earlier prediction to his wife and died on the field, exhorting his men to “rally around the flag.” (30)

While individual soldiers fought on from the scant protection offered by undulations in the ground, initial commands from the prostrate Stokes to fall back went unheeded in the noise and confusion. Finally, the remnants of the First sought cover in a woods line to their right. Virtually officer-less, they struggled to reform. The battle-

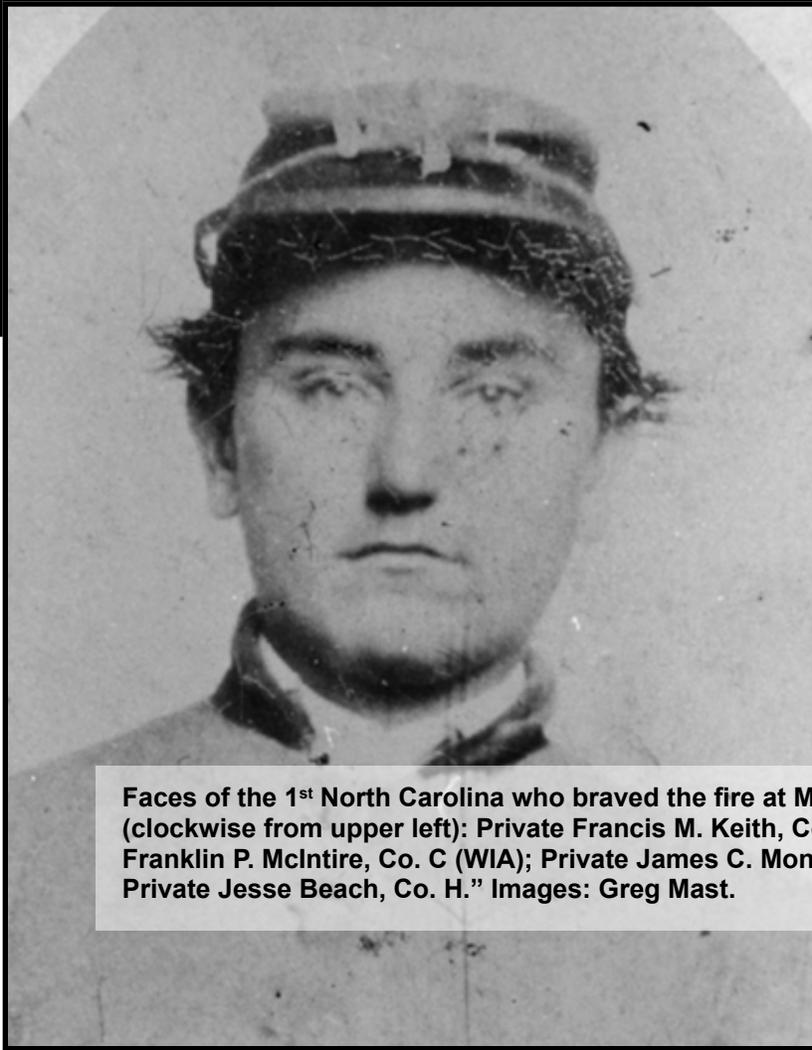
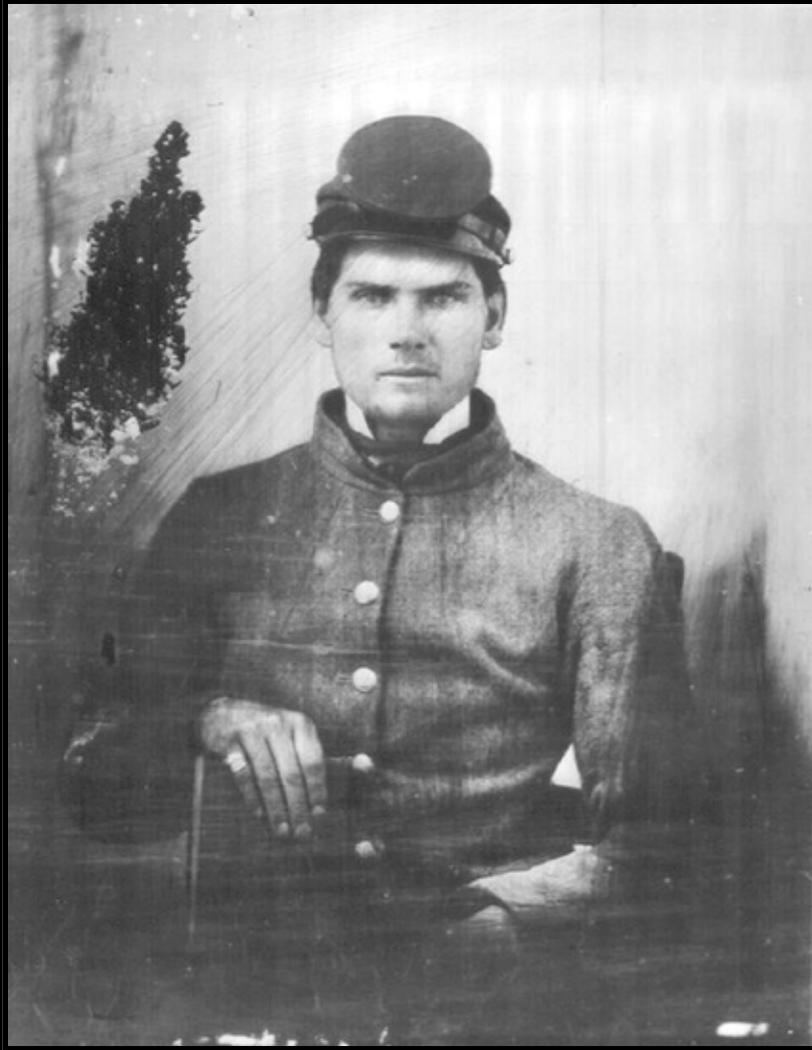


**In the twilight gloom along Beaver Dam Creek, Captain Hamilton Allen Brown of Co. B rallied survivors of the 1<sup>st</sup> NCST with some difficulty. For his actions he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment to date from July 8, 1862.**

field presented a spectacle: the hillside leading down from the Catlin Farm to Beaverdam Creek was covered with windrows of dead and wounded from Ripley's two ill-fated regiments, co-mingled with Pender's earlier casualties. As Colonel Stokes, bleeding heavily, was carried from the field he exclaimed: "My God! What will become of my regiment, but they have shown themselves to be men." (31)

It was a crucible that came with a severe price. Colonel Montfort Stokes' wound would prove mortal when, following amputation of his limb, "mortification" set in. He died in Richmond on July 14<sup>th</sup>. In addition to Lt. Colonel McDowell and Major Skinner, six captains and lieutenants were among the killed and wounded. Included was regular army veteran Adjutant J. S. R. Miller who received an injury that would keep him out for months. All told, the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina lost fifty-four men killed or mortally wounded and more than one hundred wounded. In the 44<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry, losses were even more grievous, totaling 335 including its colonel likewise mortally wounded. Fortunately, Ripley's two remaining regiments suffered only nominally in their support of Pender's brigade. (32)

As the stunned survivors of the 1<sup>st</sup> N. C. regrouped under the temporary command of Captain Hamilton A. Brown of Company B, many passed the night in terror of the battlefield and dread of the morrow. "Our sur-



Faces of the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina who braved the fire at Mechanicsville (clockwise from upper left): Private Francis M. Keith, Co. C; Sergeant Franklin P. McIntire, Co. C (WIA); Private James C. Montague, Co. C; Private Jesse Beach, Co. H." Images: Greg Mast.

roundings were deserts of solitary horror,” recalled one Tar Heel. “The owls, night-hawks and foxes had fled in dismay; not even a snake or frog could be heard to plunge into the lagoons which, crimsoned with the blood of men, lay motionless in our front. Nothing could be heard in the blackness of that night but the ghastly moans of the wounded and dying.” When morning found that the Federals had vacated “the works where the regiment had suffered so dreadfully the evening before,” Private Marcus Herring admitted “we felt disposed to thank [the enemy] for their thoughtfulness for our peace of mind as well as safety of body.” (33)

No sooner had the smoke cleared along Beaver Dam Creek than apologists and critics alike sought a scapegoat for the Confederate debacle of June 26<sup>th</sup>. The candidates were many. Certainly, at this early stage of the war, the well-served Union artillery backed by fortified lines of blue-coated infantry could not be assigned credit! Was it Jackson’s tardiness, Powell Hill’s impetuosity, Ripley’s uncompromising obedience to confusing orders, or the lack of a strong guiding hand by Lee that foredoomed the day’s results? Or was it more likely the work of an inexperienced army wrestling for the first time with a complex battle plan?

Characteristically, it was General D. H. Hill who provided perhaps the most cogent post-mortem on the Battle of Mechanicsville: “It was unfortunate for the Confederates that the crossing [of the Chickahominy] was begun before Jackson got in the rear of Mechanicsville. The loss of that position would have necessitated the abandonment of the line of Beaver Dam Creek as it in fact did the next day. We were lavish of blood in those days, and it was thought to be a great thing to charge a battery of artillery or an earthwork lined with infantry . . . The attacks on the Beaver Dam entrenchments . . . were grand, but exactly the kind of grandeur the South could not afford.”(34)

Indeed, many a Carolina hearthside from Wilkes County in the mountains to Chowan County on the coastal plain would have just personal cause to lament the grandeur of the gallant but futile twilight charge of the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina State Troops at Mechanicsville.

#### **Notes:**

- (1.) Louis H. Manarin and Weymouth C. Jordan, Comp. North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster, (Raleigh: Office of Archives and History 1966- ), 1:136ff, hereinafter cited as Manarin et al., North Carolina Troops. Walter Clark, ed., Comp. Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-'65, 5 vols. (Goldsboro: Nash Brothers, 1901; Wendell: Broadfoot’s Bookmark, 1982), 1:138, hereinafter cited as Clark, North Carolina Regiments.
- (2.) Greg Mast, State Troops and Volunteers: A Photographic Record of North Carolina’s Civil War Soldiers, (Raleigh: Office of Archives and History,1995), 314, hereinafter cited as Mast, ST&V.
- (3.) Clark, North Carolina Regiments, 1: 3-6.
- (4.) Johnson J. Hayes, The Land of Wilkes, (Wilkesboro: Wilkes County Historical Society, 1962), 155.
- (5.) Marcus D. Herring, “Hard Service in Camp and Battle,” Confederate Veteran 22, 1914, 18, hereinafter cited as Herring.
- (6.) Finley P. Curtis., “The Black Shadow of the Sixties,” Confederate Veteran 24, 353, hereinafter cited as Curtis.
- (7.) Manarin et al., North Carolina Troops, 3:136; Herring, CV 22, 18.
- (8.) Curtis, CV 24, 354,
- (9.) Mast, ST&V, 302. See photo 5.3.25 of Corporal Patrick Jenkins, killed June 1862; Compiled Service Records of Confederate of Soldiers Who Served from the State of North Carolina (1st Regiment NCST), Record Group 109, National Archives.
- (10.) Curtis, CV 24:353;

- (11.) Henry W. Thomas, *History of the Doles-Cook Brigade*, (Dayton: Morningside Bookshop, 1981, p. 467
- (12.) Curtis, CV 24:354.
- (13.) Herring, CV 22:19
- (14.) NCT, 3:136; Clifford Dowdey, *Lee Takes Command*, (New York: Barnes & Noble, 1964), 186, hereinafter cited as Dowdey.
- (15.) Hal Bridges, *Lee's Maverick General: Daniel Harvey Hill*, (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1991), 58, hereinafter cited as Bridges
- (16.) Douglas S. Freeman, *R. E. Lee: A Biography*, (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1964), 2:110-113; Bridges, 62-63; Dowdey, 152-154.
- (17.) *War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Washington: GPO, 1884, Vol. 11, 2: 623, 647, hereinafter cited as OR; Clark, 1:180, 181.
- (18.) Clark, *North Carolina Regiments*, 1:138; Herring, CV 22: 19.
- (19.) Clark, *North Carolina Regiments*, 1:138; OR, 11, 2:657.
- (20.) Douglas S. Freeman, *Lee's Lieutenants*, (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1942), 1:510 ff, hereinafter cited as Lee's Lieutenants.
- (21.) Dowdey, 174 ff.; OR, 11, 2: 623, 647.
- (22.) Lee's Lieutenants, 1:513; OR, 11, 2: 623.
- (23.) Herring, CV 22: 19.
- (24.) OR, 11, Pt. 2, pp. 384, 385.
- (25.) Frederick P. Todd, *American Military Equipage: 1851-1872*, Chatham Square Press, Inc., 1983, Vol. II. p. 1139.
- (26.) Dowdey, p. 182 ff; OR, 11, Pt. 2, pp. 835,
- (27.) Dowdey, p. 188; Herring, CV 22, p. 19.
- (28.) Edgar Jackson, *Three Rebels Write Home: Including the Letters of Edgar Allen Jackson* (Franklin, Virginia: The News Publishing Company, 1955), 23-25.
- (29.) Daniel Harvey Hill, "Lee Attacks North of the Chickahominy," *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, New York, Thomas Yoseloff, 1956, Vol. 2, pp. 352, 356, hereinafter cited as *Battles and Leaders*; Dowdey, pp. 188, 189; OR, 11, p. 648.
- (30.) *Confederate Military History: North Carolina*, (Wilmington: Broadfoot Publishing Co., 1987), 77-79; Mast, 314.
- (31.) Manarin et al., *North Carolina Troops* 3:136; Mast, 314.
- (32.) OR, 11, 2: 623, 647-649, 658; Mast, ST&V, 292; 314; Thomas, 468.
- (33.) Marcus D. Herring, "The Second Battle Before Richmond," *Confederate Veteran* 24, 1916, 459; CMH: NC, 78-79.
- (34.) Lee's Lieutenants 1:515; Dowdey, 189-192; *Battles and Leaders* 2: 352.

# North State

## S A C R I F I C E

A Survey of North Carolinians Grey and Blue Who Gave All in Defense of Their Beliefs

By Greg Mast

It has been more than twenty years since our Historical Editor Greg Mast published his monumental *State Troops and Volunteers: A Photographic Record of North Carolina's Civil War Soldiers*. In the interim Greg has amassed enough additional images of the period to produce several more volumes. While future production plans are uncertain, Greg has kindly shared with our readers these remarkable photo vignettes, both old and new, of soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for their respective causes.

# REUBEN GOODSON

PRIVATE, COMPANY G  
THE "DRY POND DIXIES"  
52ND REGIMENT  
N.C. TROOPS

Reuben Goodson (born ca. 1841) farmed with his parents and seven siblings in the Dry Pond community of Lincoln County (now called Denver). He volunteered on March 20, 1862, in a new company called the "Dry Pond Dixies," subsequently Company G, 52nd Regiment N.C. Troops.

With the exception of a brief hospitalization in December 1863, Goodson was reported present on extant muster rolls of Company G through April 1864. He was admitted to Howard's Grove General Hospital in Richmond on May 27, 1864, diagnosed with "acute dysentery," and died of that disease on the following June 6.

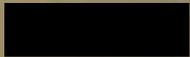
Image: Ninth-plate ambrotype, Liljenquist Collection, Library of Congress.

Source Note: 1860 U. S. Census, Lincoln County, North Carolina, population schedule, page 52, Henry Goodson household; Manarin et. al., NCT 12:480; service record files of Reuben Goodson, 52nd Regiment N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.



**FEATURE**

**ARTICLE**



# CHARLES C. TEW

## COLONEL, 2ND REGIMENT N.C. STATE TROOPS

**C**harles Courtenay Tew (born October 17, 1827), a native of Charleston, South Carolina, was an 1846 graduate of the South Carolina Military Academy (the Citadel) and served as a professor at that institution for eleven years. In 1858 he helped establish the Hillsborough Military Academy and became commandant of cadets. On April 20, 1861, Governor John W. Ellis ordered Tew to take command of Fort Macon and “all points and places in its vicinity.” Tew’s tenure at the fort was brief, however, and on June 20 the governor appointed him colonel of the 2nd Regiment N.C. State Troops (to rank from May 8.)

At the Battle of Sharpsburg, September 17, 1862, Tew led the 2nd North Carolina in the early fighting at Bloody Lane, but succeeded General George B. Anderson as brigade commander after Anderson was mortally wounded. Shortly thereafter, Tew walked to his left to converse with Colonel (later major general) John B. Gordon of the 6th Alabama. As the two colonels stood together, a hail of bullets struck them down: Gordon was hit in the leg, and Tew was shot through the brain. Tew was carried into Bloody Lane and placed with his back against the bank closest to the enemy. Later, when the 8th Ohio overran the position, a Federal soldier found Tew “apparently unconscious, the blood streaming from a wound in the head, with his sword held by both hands across the knees.” The soldier attempted to take the sword but Tew “drew it toward his body with the last of his remaining strength , and then his grasp relaxed and he fell forward, dead.” Major General D. H. Hill, in his Sharpsburg battle report, praised the “gallant and accomplished” Tew as “one of the most finished scholars on the continent, and [a man who] had no superior as a soldier in the field.”

Although some of Tew’s personal items were taken by Federal soldiers, three members of the 2nd North Carolina buried him with his sword at an unknown location on the Sharpsburg battlefield.

Image: Copy print in author’s possession.

Source Note: Mast, STV, 1:359; DNCB, 6:18.



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**COLONEL,**  
**2ND REGIMENT**  
**N.C. STATE TROOPS**

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Image: Copy print in author’s possession.

Source Note: Mast, STV, 1:359; DNCB, 6:18.

**DAVID WILLIAMS**  
**CAPTAIN, COMPANY K**  
**THE “HOLLY SHELTER**  
**VOLUNTEERS”**

**3RD REGIMENT**  
**N.C. STATE TROOPS**

**D**avid Williams (born January 6, 1821) farmed with his wife and five small children in the Washington (South) District of New Hanover County in the Holly Shelter community (present-day Pender County). He was appointed captain of a local company, the “Holly Shelter Volunteers, (subsequently Company K, 3rd Regiment N.C. State Troops) that organized at Dogwood Grove on June 1, 1861.

At the Battle of Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862, the left wing of the 3rd North Carolina “engaged the enemy, making several charges upon him, led by Captain David Williams, of Company K, and causing the battery in front to move back. To Captain Williams and his men great praise should be accorded for their gallantry.”

Williams, who was known to his men as “Pap,” survived the astonishing carnage inflicted upon the 3rd North Carolina during the early part of the Battle of Sharpsburg, September 17, 1862 (303 casualties, including 114 men killed or mortally wounded in action). Later in the day, however, as he saw to the resupply of ammunition to his company, a bolt from an enemy rifled cannon struck and disemboweled him. He was buried in the front yard of a house in the village of Sharpsburg.

Upon hearing of the death of her husband, Sara H. Williams took to her bed and died of grief on October 25, 1862. Five children were orphaned.

Image: Copy print in author’s possession.

Source Note: 1860 U. S. Census, Washington (South) District, New Hanover County, North Carolina, population schedule, page 158, dwelling 1309, family 1309, David Williams household; John Cowan and James I. Metts, “Third Regiment,” and William L. DeRosset, “Additional Sketch Third Regiment,” in Clark, Histories, 1:182, 228; Manarin et. al., NCT 3:589; Mast, “North Carolina Casualties”; service record files of John W. Bright, 28th Regiment N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.



**FRANKLIN H. WEAVER  
2ND LT., COMPANY H  
THE “IREDELL  
INDEPENDENT GRAYS”**

**4TH REGIMENT  
N.C. STATE TROOPS**

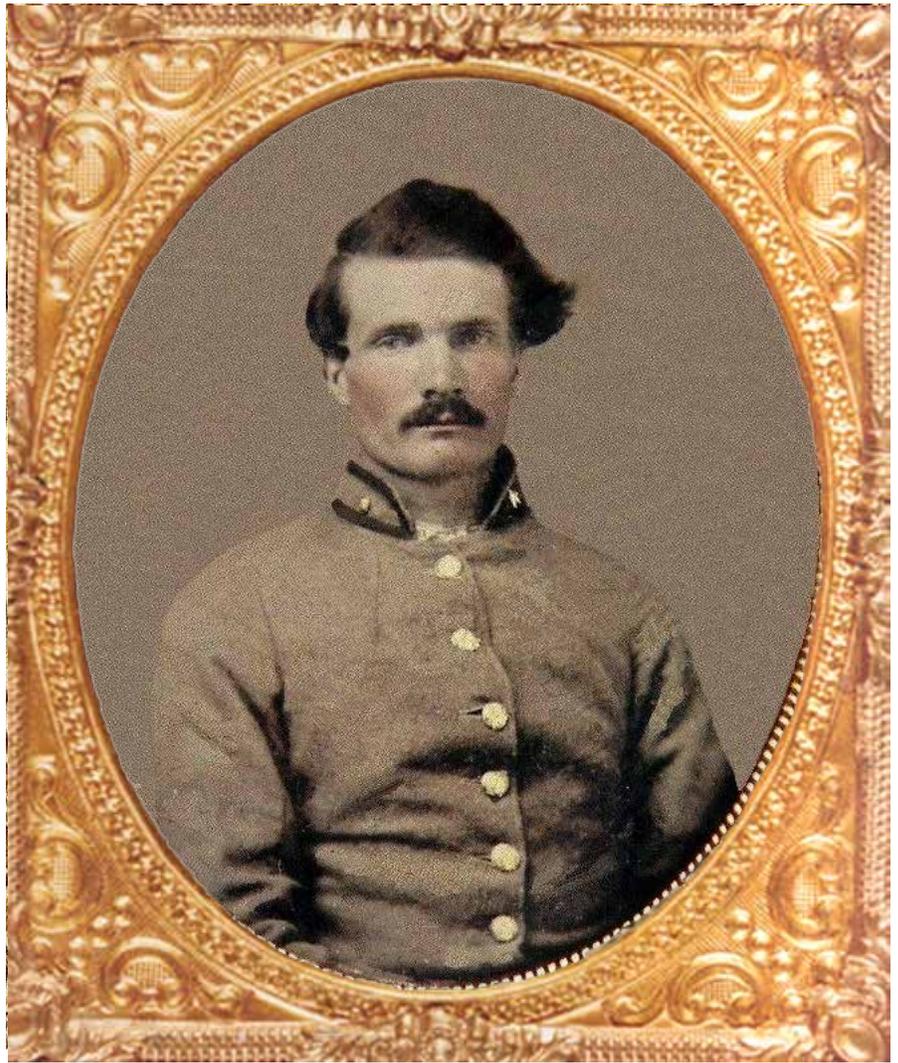
**W**hen the men of the 4th Regiment N.C. State Troops filed into Bloody Lane on the morning of September 17, 1862, taking position between the 14th North Carolina on their left and 30th North Carolina on their right, they numbered no more than 150 men, commanded by a handful of officers. Nearly five hundred of their comrades had fallen in the summer battles from Seven Pines to South Mountain, and hundreds more were absent because of sickness and exhaustion.

The appearance of the enemy to their front offered a glimpse of war’s glory: “mounted officers in full uniform, swords gleaming, banners, plumes and sashes waving, and bayonets glistening in the sun.” Advancing with “stead tramp and confident mien,” the Federals marched straight at the waiting Tar Heels, who rose and volleyed with “terrible effect.” Nevertheless, the enemy returned again and again, and the ranks of the 4th North Carolina rapidly dwindled. Captain William Marsh of Company I, temporarily commanding the regiment, fell mortally wounded. Command passed briefly to Captain Edwin A. Osborne of Company H before he too was shot down. One by one the other officers were killed or wounded, until only Second Lieutenant Franklin Harrison Weaver remained. Bravely grasping the regimental colors, Weaver tried to rally the remaining handful, but he was killed. Casualties in the 4th North Carolina at Sharpsburg amounted to fifteen men killed or mortally wounded, more than twenty wounded, and thirty-two captured: no extraordinary number for that day’s butchery but nearly half the little regiment’s strength.

Weaver (born ca. 1840) resided in the Olin community of Iredell County, and was probably a harness maker by trade. He enlisted at Statesville on June 13, 1861, as a sergeant in a company known as the “Iredell Independent Grays,” possibly an already existing volunteer militia company. The “Grays” volunteered for a term of three years or the duration of the war and were subsequently designated Company H, 4th Regiment N.C. State Troops. Weaver was promoted to third lieutenant in July-August 1861 and to second lieutenant in November-December. He was granted a thirty-day furlough in January 1862 and was otherwise present or accounted for until his death at Sharpsburg.

Image: Courtesy of Paul Weaver.

Source Note: 1860 U. S. Census, Olin, Iredell, North Carolina, population schedule, page 69-70, D.W.F. Weaver household; Manarin et. al., NCT 4 (second printing with addenda) 35, 746; Mast, “North Carolina Casualties”; Mast, STV, 1:360; Edwin A. Osborne, “Fourth Regiment,” in Clark, Histories, 1:246-248; service record files of Franklin H. Weaver, 4th Regiment N.C. State Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.



# JOHN R. LANGSTON PRIVATE, COMPANY B THE “GATES GUARDS”

## 5TH REGIMENT N.C. STATE TROOPS

**A**ccording to the 1860 Federal census only 1005 white men of military age (15 to 49) resided in Gates County. Nevertheless, by early June 1861 the county had provided two companies (the “Gates Guards” and the “Gates Minute Men”), numbering more than 230 men. Unlike most early war companies, whose terms were usually for twelve months, both Gates commands were raised as state troops, with a commitment of three years or the duration of the war. Both the “Guards” and the “Minute Men” were assigned to the 5th Regiment N.C. State Troops, as Companies B and H, respectively.

John Robert Langston (born ca. 1841) resided with his parents and five younger siblings in the Reynoldson District of Gates County.

His father, Thomas B. Langston was a prosperous farmer who owned eight slaves, and John was a student at nearby Reynoldson Institute, a private school founded in 1856.

On June 12, 1861, John enlisted as a private in the “Gates Guards.” Muster rolls are extant from the date of John’s enlistment through April 1862, and he was always present, except for a brief hospitalization for pneumonia in January 1862.

The 5th North Carolina participated in the Battle of Williamsburg, May 5, 1862, a rear guard action that covered the withdrawal of General Joseph Johnston’s army up the Virginia Peninsula toward Richmond. In the bloodiest action of the war to that date involving Tar Heel troops, the 5th North Carolina suffered more than sixty percent casualties. The regiment numbered about 420 men on the day of battle, and lost 87 men or killed or mortally wounded in action, 43 wounded in action, and 120 captured (62 of whom were also wounded). Deaths among the two Gates County companies amounted to twenty-three men, one of whom was Private John R. Langston.

Langston is depicted with a Colt M1849 pocket revolver and a long bowie knife. The image is notable for the letters “G G” on Langston’s light-colored kepi, to denote his company’s name.

Image: Copy print in author’s possession.

Source Note: 1860 U. S. Census, Reynoldson District, Gates County, North Carolina, population schedule, page 5, Thomas B. Langston household; Manarin et. al., NCT 4:144, 151; Mast, “North Carolina Casualties”; Mast, STV, 1:310; service record files of John R. Langston, 5th Regiment N.C. State Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.



**HARRISON MOORE**  
**PRIVATE, COMPANY K**  
**6TH REGIMENT**  
**N.C. STATE TROOPS**

**H**arrison Moore (born May 20, 1841) resided with his parents, prosperous farmers, in eastern Alamance County. He enlisted with his brother Solomon Moore for three years service or the duration of the war on June 20, 1861, in a local company subsequently designated Company K, 6th Regiment N.C. State Troops.

Surviving muster rolls report Harrison as present or on furlough through the summer of 1862. On September 20, however, he was hospitalized at Winchester, Virginia, “by authority Brig[ade] Surgeon.” The reason for the hospitalization is not specified, but the 6th North Carolina had suffered more than 150 casualties during the Maryland Campaign, including twenty-seven men killed or mortally wounded in action. One of the latter was brother Solomon Moore, mortally wounded at Sharpsburg. Harrison returned to duty, probably in October, but was hospitalized for a week in November, this time for “rheumatism acute.”

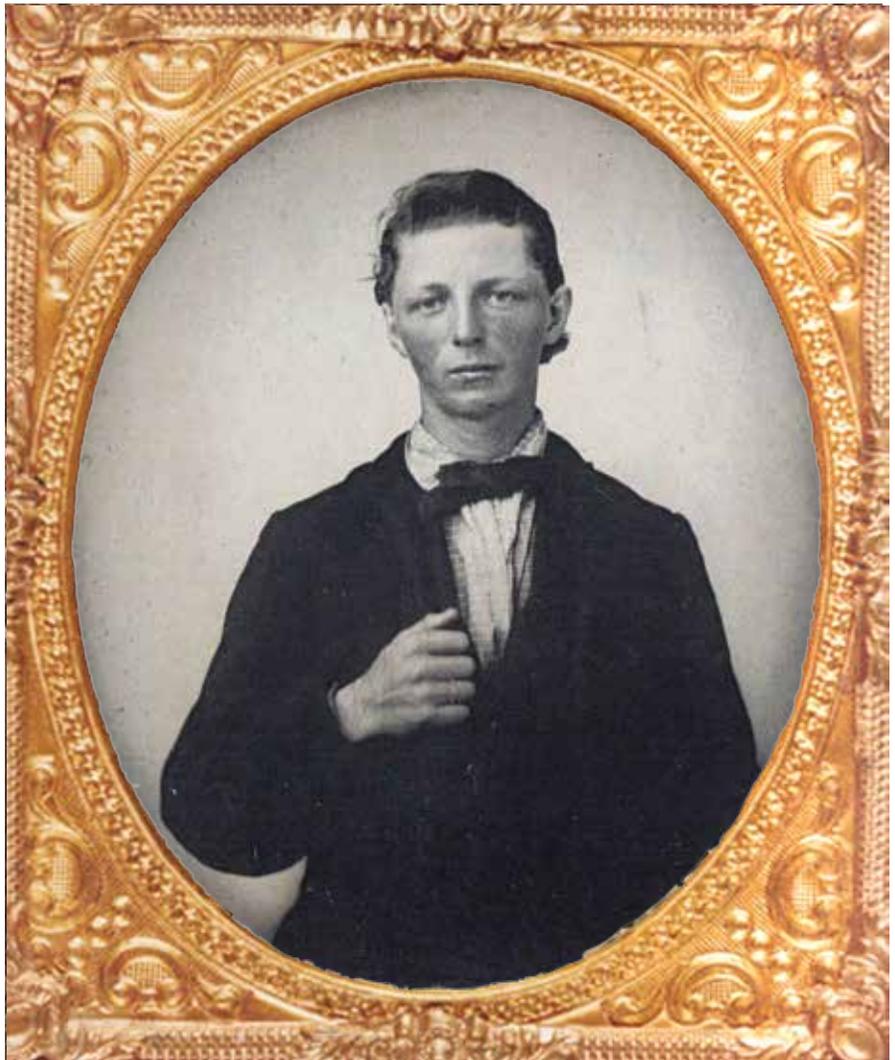
At the Battle of Fredericksburg the 6th North Carolina supported an artillery position and were not directly engaged with the enemy. The regiment suffered artillery fire however, and six men were killed. One of them was Harrison Moore.

In May 1863, Harrison’s father, Thomas Moore, filed a claim for any back pay due his son. Confederate bureaucracy moved slowly, and the claim, \$81.56, was not settled until February 6, 1865.

Harrison’s remains were returned to North Carolina, and he is buried at Stony Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery, plot K-3, Burlington, Alamance County. His tombstone bears this inscription: “A Good Citizen, A True Friend and a Brave Soldier.”

Image: Sixth-plate ambrotype, Brian Boeve Collection.

Source Note: 1860 U. S. Census, Alamance County, North Carolina, population schedule, Thomas Moore household; Manarin et. al., NCT 4:388; Mast, “North Carolina Casualties”; service record files of Harrison Moore, 6th Regiment N.C. State Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.



# **ROBERT T. NETHERY**

## **SERGEANT, COMPANY K**

### **3RD REGIMENT**

### **N.C. STATE TROOPS**

**R**obert Taylor Nethery (born February 1, 1821) was a native of Mecklenburg County, Virginia, but lived near Graham in Alamance County. Although forty years old and by occupation a miller, Nethery enlisted with his eighteen-year-old son, James D. Nethery, on July 5, 1861, in an Alamance County company subsequently designated Company I, 8th Regiment N.C. State Troops. The men of Company I enlisted for a term of three years or the duration of the war. Robert mustered in as a sergeant.

Father and son served together until the 8th North Carolina, numbering nearly 700 men, was captured at the Battle of Roanoke Island, February 8, 1862. The prisoners remained on Roanoke Island until February 21, when they were transferred to Elizabeth City, paroled, and returned to their homes.

In August 1862 the men of the 8th North Carolina were declared exchanged, and in September the regiment reassembled at Camp Mangum, near Raleigh. James was promoted to corporal in January 1863, and Robert was absent on sick furlough the following month. Otherwise, the father and son were present or accounted for until the Battle of Plymouth, April 17-20, 1864.

In that action the 8th North Carolina suffered more than 120 casualties, including forty-two men killed or mortally wounded in action. One of them was James D. Nethery, who died on May 4.

Less than a month later, at the Battle of Cold Harbor (June 1), a Federal force took advantage of the unprotected left flank of the 8th North Carolina and attacked the regiment from three directions. Casualties amounted to 235 men, and Robert Nethery was one of the 187 who were captured.

Robert was imprisoned at Point Lookout until July 9, when he was transferred to the Federal prison at Elmira, New York. He died there of chronic diarrhea on October 12, 1864.

Robert is buried at Woodlawn National Cemetery, Elmira, Chemung County, New York, plot 570.

Image: N.C. Office of Archives and History.

#### Source Note:

1860 U. S. Census, Alamance County, North Carolina, population schedule, page 47, Robert T. Nethery household; Manarin et. al., NCT 4:611; Mast, "North Carolina Casualties"; service record files of Robert T. Nethery and James D. Nethery, Regiment N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.



**LUCIUS W. GASH**  
**3RD LT., COMPANY K**

**11TH REGIMENT**  
**N.C. TROOPS**

**L**ucius Weaver Gash and his parents were prosperous farmers of the Swannanoa area of Buncombe County. He enlisted at Asheville on May 17, 1861, in the company raised by former U.S. Congressman Zebulon Baird Vance, known as the “Rough and Ready Guards,” subsequently Company F, 14th Regiment N.C. Troops (4th Regiment N.C. Volunteers) Lucius (born October 16, 1844) was sixteen years and seven months old at the time.

Lucius’s service was short. He was hospitalized at Suffolk, Virginia, in June 1861 and discharged from service on the following September 16. The reason, though not specified, was probably because he was underage.

Lucius enlisted again (for a term of three years) on April 20, 1862, in another Buncombe County command, Company K, 11th Regiment N.C. Troops. He was promoted to corporal in November 1862. The 11th North Carolina sustained the third highest casualties of any Confederate regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg, behind only the 26th North Carolina and 55th North Carolina, respectively. The killed and mortally wounded in action amounted to 113 men, and the number of wounded exceeded two hundred. One of the latter was Lucius, who was wounded in the foot on July 1. Despite that wound, he was able to accompany the Army of Northern Virginia in its retreat and was reported sick in a Lynchburg, Virginia, hospital in August.

Lucius returned to duty by year’s end and was promoted to fourth sergeant. In early 1864 he was promoted to third lieutenant.

The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, May 12-21, 1864, was not the bloodbath for the 11th North Carolina that it was for so many Tar Heel regiments. Casualties totaled twenty-four men. Four of the men were mortally wounded, however, and one them was Lucius. He was shot on May 12 and died at Spotsylvania Court House on May 14.

Image: Copy print in author’s possession.

Source Note: 1860 U. S. Census, Buncombe County, North Carolina, population schedule, page 45, Burditt S. Gash household; Manarin et. al., NCT 5:96, 447; Mast, “North Carolina Casualties”; Mast, STV, 1:277; Pearl M. Weaver, *The Tribe of Jacob: The Descendants of the Reverend Jacob Weaver, 1786-1868* (Weaverville: [n.s.], 1962), 77; service record files of Lucius W. Gash, 11th and 14th Regiments N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.



**URIAH F. SHERRILL**  
**1ST LT., COMPANY A**  
**THE “CATAWBA RIFLES”**

**12TH REGIMENT**  
**N.C. TROOPS**  
**(2ND REGIMENT N.C. VOLUNTEERS)**

**W**hen the “Catawba Rifles,” subsequently Company A, 12th Regiment N.C. Troops (2nd Regiment N.C. Volunteers), elected officers on May 12, 1861, the men chose Uriah Franklin Sherrill as first lieutenant. Sherrill was a merchant but had previously been a schoolteacher; some of the men were his former students.

After less than three months service, Sherrill died on September 3, 1861, of “fever contracted in camp at Norfolk.” He was among the first of more than six hundred Catawba County soldiers who died in Confederate service. A former pupil remembered Sherrill as a “splendid” teacher and man of “commanding appearance.”



Sherrill is buried at Catawba United Methodist Church Cemetery, Catawba, Catawba County.

Image: The Catawba Soldier in the Civil War.

Source Note:

“Civil War Death Study”; Hahn, *The Catawba Soldier in the Civil War*, 91-92; Manarin et. al., NCT 5:119; service record files of Uriah F. Sherrill, 12th Regiment N.C. Troops, *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina* (M270), RG109, NA.

**JAMES TURPIN**  
**PRIVATE, COMPANY A**  
**THE “JACKSON**  
**VOLUNTEERS”**

**16TH REGIMENT**  
**N.C. TROOPS**  
**(6TH REGIMENT N.C. VOLUNTEERS)**

**J**ames Turpin (born ca. 1839) resided in Jackson County and enlisted at Webster on April 27, 1861, in the “Jackson Volunteers,” subsequently Company A, 16th Regiment N.C. Troops. James was seemingly present throughout his first year of service, and enjoyed a furlough home in early 1862.

At the Battle of Mechanicsville, June 26, 1862, the 16th North Carolina sustained “murderous” artillery and small arms fire (some of which was friendly fire) and lost forty men killed or mortally wounded in action and eighty-one men wounded. One of the slain was James, who was described on a company muster roll compiled shortly after his death, as a “brave soldier.”

One of James’s comrades recalled that at Mechanicsville “Company A had eight brothers, representing four different families. These eight brothers were messing together in pairs. When the battle was over and the roll was called only four of these brothers answered, and each of the survivors had lost a brother killed on the field of battle.” James’s surviving brother was Henry A. Turpin, whose image can be seen elsewhere in this article.

On January 15, 1864, J.H. Turpin, the father of James, filed a claim with the Confederate government for any back pay and bounty money due his son. In January 1865 the claim was reported still pending and apparently was never settled.

Image: N.C. Office of Archives and History.

Source Note: Clark, Histories, 1:756; Manarin et. al., NCT 6:2, 20; Mast, “North Carolina Casualties”; service record files of James Turpin, 16th Regiment N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.



**ADAM M. ROBERTS  
1ST LT., COMPANY M  
THE “KINGS MOUNTAIN  
GRAYS”**

**16TH REGIMENT  
N.C. TROOPS  
(6TH REGIMENT N.C. VOLUNTEERS)**

**A**dam Miller Roberts (born ca. 1839) resided in Gaston County and enlisted at Dallas as a sergeant in the “King’s Mountain Grays” (subsequently Company M, 16th Regiment N.C. Troops) on May 1, 1861. Roberts was elected second lieutenant on July 4, 1861. He was promoted to first lieutenant on April 26, 1862, and served until he was hospitalized at Richmond for “debility” in May. He returned to duty and was wounded in action in an unspecified battle during the Seven Days Campaign, June 25-July 1, 1862. Roberts received a twenty-day furlough from July 7 and returned to duty by October 1.

Roberts was granted another furlough in February 1863 and while at home asked one of his family’s slaves, Adam Moore, to return to the army with him. Moore agreed and worked on fortifications and helped care for the 16th North Carolina’s horses. On the eve of the Battle of Chancellorsville Roberts entrusted Moore with his pistol.

Roberts was shot through the head and instantly killed at Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863, while standing next to Brigadier General William Dorsey Pender. The spent bullet then struck General Pender, slightly wounding him. Roberts is buried at the Confederate Cemetery at Fredericksburg, Virginia, Section 13, Row 2, Grave 53. The small stone that marks his grave is marked simply with his initials “A M R” and beneath them “N C.”

An Act of the Confederate Congress of October 13, 1862, authorized the granting of military honors after “every signal victory” achieved by the Confederate army. In each company an officer “conspicuous for courage and good conduct on the field of battle” was to be granted a medal, and one enlisted man or non-commissioned officer (chosen by the men themselves) would be granted a “badge of distinction.” It appears that no medals or badges were ever actually issued, but the recipients of them were chosen for two battles: Murfreesboro, Tennessee (December 31, 1862-January 2, 1863) and Chancellorsville, and the soldier’s names published in general orders and newspapers. First Lieutenant Adam M. Roberts was the nominee for a medal for Company M, 16th Regiment N.C. Troops.

Adam Moore remained with the Army of Northern Virginia until Appomattox Court House, when he walked back to his home in Lincoln County. He lived to a great old age (April 15, 1832-August 25, 1941).

Image: Library of Congress.

Source Note: 1860 U. S. Census, Gaston County, North Carolina, population schedule, page 11., Moses M. Roberts household; Manarin et. al., NCT 6:108; Official Records, 25, pt. 1, 1051-1056; service record files of Adam M. Roberts, 16th Regiment N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA; [http://articles.baltimoresun.com/1993-09-27/news/1993270008\\_1\\_black-confederates-adam-moore-confederate-army](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/1993-09-27/news/1993270008_1_black-confederates-adam-moore-confederate-army).



**JAMES W. KILPATRIK  
CAPTAIN, COMPANY N  
THE “RUTHERFORD  
RIFLES”**

**16TH REGIMENT  
N.C. TROOPS  
(6TH REGIMENT N.C. VOLUNTEERS)**

**J**ames W. Kilpatrick (born December 3, 1833), a Rutherfordton dentist, enlisted in the “Rutherford Rifles,” the first company from that county, on May 1, 1861, and was elected first lieutenant. The “Rifles” subsequently joined the 6th Regiment N.C. Volunteers as Company D; that regiment was redesignated 16th Regiment N.C. Troops in November 1861.

The 16th North Carolina campaigned in western Virginia during the summer and autumn of 1861, often under the command of General Robert E. Lee. By November, however, the regiment was ordered east to the Manassas area and entered winter quarters. In March 1862 Kilpatrick and a private in Company D, Lawson Harrill, were detailed home to Rutherford County on recruiting duty. Their efforts were successful, and a new company was organized, with Kilpatrick as captain and Harrill as first lieutenant. The new command (also known as the “Rutherford Rifles”) became Company N of the 16th North Carolina.

Despite its extensive campaigning during 1861, the 16th North Carolina did not participate in a major battle until Seven Pines on May 31, 1861. Losses amounted to nearly one hundred men wounded in action and twenty-four men killed or mortally wounded in action. One of the latter was Captain Kilpatrick, who died on May 31.

When Company N joined the 16th North Carolina in March 1862 it brought the number of companies to thirteen. Confederate policy was that infantry regiments have no more than ten companies (There were a handful of exceptions). On June 19, 1862, Company N was ordered to Camp Mangum, Raleigh, where it was attached to the newly organized 56th Regiment N.C. Troops as Company I. Companies A and L of the 16th North Carolina transferred to the Infantry Regiment, Thomas’s Legion, in October 1862 and became 1st Company A and Company E, respectively, of that command.

Image: Copy print in author’s possession.

Source Note: Lawson Harrill, *Reminiscences 1861-1865* (Statesville: Brady, the Printer, 1910), 9-10; Manarin et al., *NCT*, 6:38, 116, 715, 13:682; Mast, “North Carolina Casualties”; service record files of James W. Kilpatrick, 16th Regiment N.C. Troops, *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina* (M270), RG109, NA.



**ARCHIBALD D. COUNCIL  
PRIVATE, COMPANY K  
THE “BLADEN  
GUARDS”**

**18TH REGIMENT  
N.C. TROOPS  
(8TH REGIMENT N.C. VOLUNTEERS)**

**A**rchibald Daniel Council farmed in the North West District of Brunswick County, but enlisted on May 20, 1861, in the “Bladen Guards,” from adjacent Bladen County.

The “Guards” had organized at Elizabethtown on April 26, and by June were at Confederate Point at the mouth of the Cape Fear River (the future site of Fort Fisher). When the 18th North Carolina (then known as the 8th Regiment N.C. Volunteers) organized in July, the “Bladen Guards” were designated Company K of the new regiment. However, it did not join the other nine companies at the regimental camp of instruction at Camp Wyatt, near Wilmington, but remained at Confederate Point. In October, the “Guards” were ordered to occupy a battery on Zeke’s Island in the Cape Fear River and were attached to the 36th Regiment N.C. Troops (also known as the 2nd Regiment N.C. Artillery) as Company B. In March 1862, however, the “Bladen Guards” transferred back to the 18th North Carolina and served as infantry for the remainder of the war. (Because later there were two more companies later assigned to the 36th North Carolina as Company B, historical records refer to the “Bladen Guards” as 1st Company B of that regiment.)

Council (born ca. 1822) was absent sick for much of 1862, including a hospitalization for diarrhea from June 22 to August 6, but returned to duty by year’s end. He was wounded in action at Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863. Although the nature of Council’s wounds are not specified, the trauma may have left him susceptible to other infections. He died of pneumonia at Camp Winder hospital, Richmond, on May 25, 1863.

Council’s image is unusual in that he posed while wrapped in a blanket. The blanket is seemingly secured with a pin in the form of caduceus, a common medical symbol. The crossed cannon emblem on the crown of his forage cap suggests that the image dates from the period his company was in artillery service (October 1861-March 1862).

Council’s remains were returned home and he is buried in the Council Family Cemetery, Bladen County.

Council’s image is accompanied by a slip of paper that reads: “Ambrotype of A D Council who was wounded at Chancellorsville [sic] and moved to Richmond winder hospital where he died. In 1864 his remains were brought home and deposited in the Old family grave yard in Friar swamp Bladen County N.C. Sleep Soldier though many regret thee.”

Image: Ninth-plate ambrotype, Liljenquist Collection, Library of Congress.

Source Note: 1860 U. S. Census, North West District, Brunswick County, North Carolina, population schedule, p. 159, Archibald D. Council household; Manarin et. al., NCT, 6:412, 415; service record files Archibald D. Council, 18th Regiment N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.



**JOHN W. MILLER**  
**CAPTAIN, COMPANY D**  
**THE “FORSYTH**  
**RIFLES”**

**21ST REGIMENT**  
**N.C. TROOPS**  
**(11TH REGIMENT N.C. VOLUNTEERS)**

**J**ohn W. Miller (born April 19, 1842) resided with his parents and four siblings in the town of Salem, Forsyth County. His father listed no occupation in the 1860 census, but nevertheless owned eight slaves, two slave dwellings and substantial other real estate. Miller enlisted as corporal in the “Forsyth Rifles,” subsequently Company D, 21st Regiment N.C. Troops. He was promoted to sergeant in December 1861, and was elected second lieutenant when the “Rifles” reorganized for the duration of the war in April 1862.

Miller was wounded in action at the Battle of Second Manassas, August 28, 1862. He was hospitalized at the Confederate General Hospital at Danville, Virginia, and convalesced until he received a thirty day furlough on September 23.

Miller returned to duty on an unknown date, and received promotions to first lieutenant (dated to his wounding on August 28) and to captain on March 12, 1863. He was killed in action at the Battle of Chancellorsville, probably on May 4, 1863. An obituary in the People’s Press of Salem, dated May 15, 1863, remembered that he was “noble, generous, and brave, and knew no fear.”

Miller’s remains were returned home and he is buried in Salem Cemetery, Winston-Salem.

Image: Copy print in author’s possession.

Source Note: 1860 U. S. Census, Salem District, Forsyth County, North Carolina, population schedule, p. 154, Harmon Miller household; Manarin et. al., NCT, 6:564; service record files of John W. Miller, 21st Regiment N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.

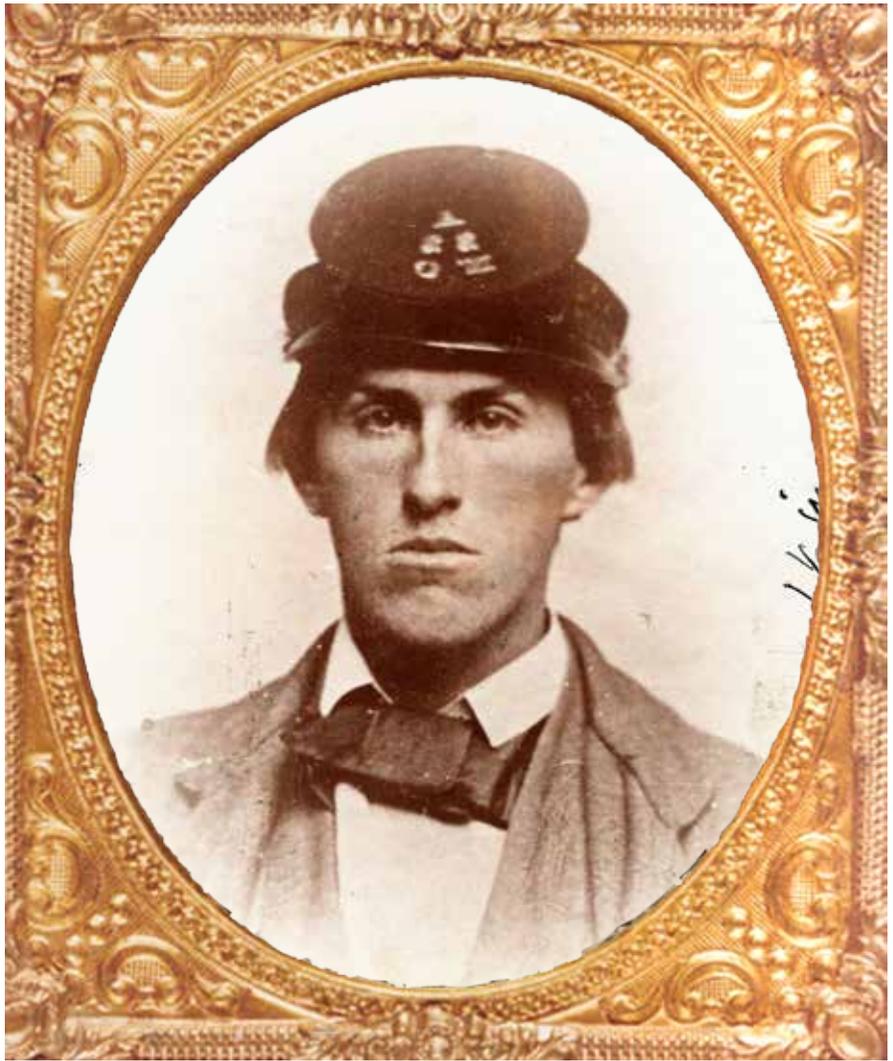


**WILLIAM T.R. ABERNATHY  
PRIVATE, COMPANY A  
THE “CALDWELL  
ROUGH AND READY  
BOYS”**

**22ND REGIMENT  
N.C. TROOPS**

**W**illiam T. R. Abernathy (born ca. 1839) lived in the John’s River District of Caldwell County, and enlisted at Lenoir on April 30, 1861, in that county’s first company, the “Caldwell Rough and Ready Boys,” subsequently Company A, 22nd Regiment N.C. Troops.

Abernathy was present during the summer of 1861 and in November was reported on extra duty as a hospital nurse. He was killed in action at the Battle of Frayser’s Farm, Virginia, June 30, 1862. In that fight the 22nd North Carolina suffered nearly seventy casualties, including twenty-six men killed or mortally wounded in action.



On April 30, 1863, Abernathy’s mother filed a claim with the Confederate government for her son’s back pay and bounty. There is no evidence the claim was ever settled.

Image: N.C. Museum of History.

Source Note:

Manarin et. al., NCT 24:521; Mast, “North Carolina Casualties”; service record files of William T. R. Abernathy, 22nd Regiment N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.

**ROBERT JONES**  
**PRIVATE, COMPANY I**  
**THE “GRANVILLE**  
**STARS”**

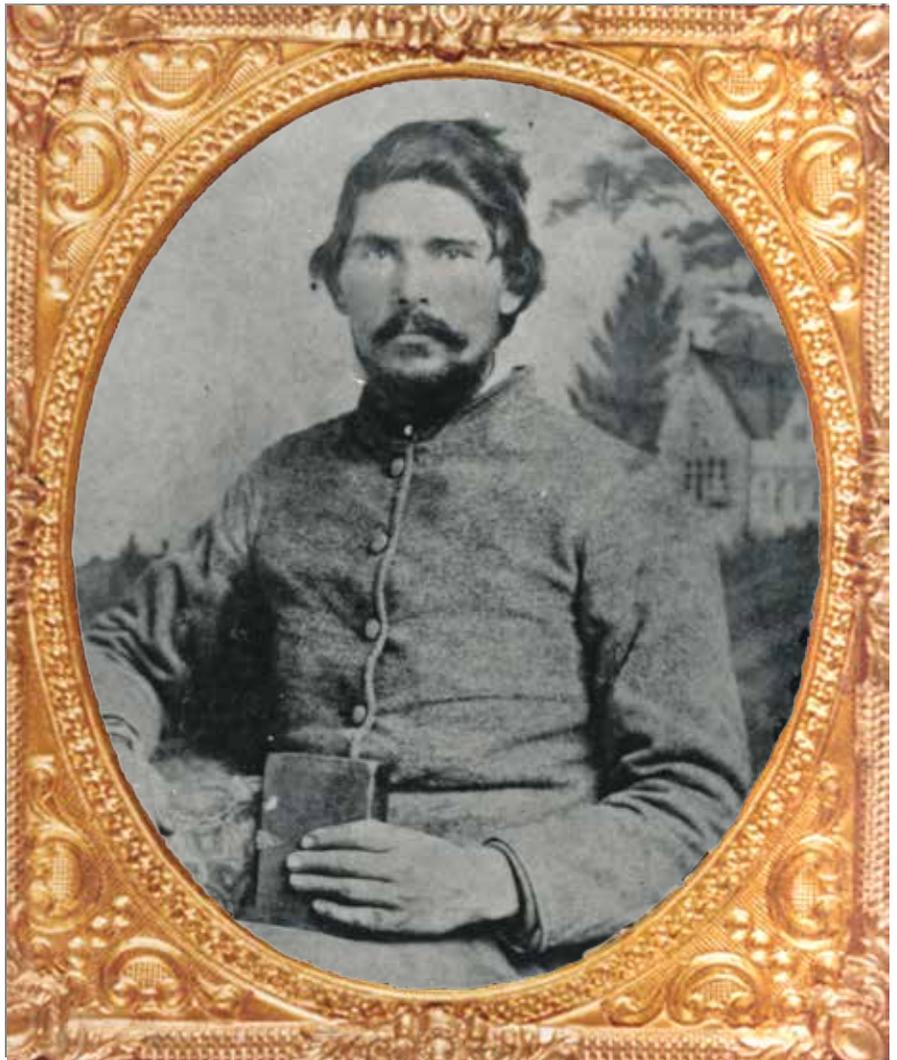
**23RD REGIMENT**  
**N.C. TROOPS**  
**(13TH REGIMENT N.C. VOLUNTEERS)**

**R**obert Jones of Granville County was conscripted into service and enlisted at Oxford on July 8, 1862, in Company I (the “Granville Stars”), 23rd Regiment N.C. Troops. On the following September 6 he entered a hospital at Danville, Virginia, suffering from “debilitas,” and was granted a sixty-day furlough on October 11. No muster rolls for Company I are extant from the date of Jones’s enlistment through 1863, but he returned to duty and was captured at the Battle of Gettysburg.

The 23rd North Carolina suffered near annihilation on July 1 at Gettysburg, sustaining nearly 300 casualties. Sixty-six men were killed or mortally wounded in action, and more than 175 were captured. By March 1864 another twenty-five members of the 23rd North Carolina captured at Gettysburg had died in Federal prisons of war. One of them was Robert Jones, who died in the smallpox hospital at Fort Delaware, Delaware, on October 20, 1863.

Image: Copy print in author’s possession.

Source Note: Manarin et. al., NCT 7:231; Mast, “North Carolina Casualties”; Mast, STV, 1:261, 281-282; service record files of Robert Jones, 23rd Regiment N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.



**WILLIAM P. GAY**  
**PRIVATE, COMPANY E**  
**THE “MARLBORO**  
**GUARDS”**

**27TH REGIMENT**  
**N.C. TROOPS**

**T**he “Marlboro Guards” organized in Pitt County in April 1861, and on May 18 were ordered to New Bern, where, with several other companies, they drilled at a place called Camp Gatlin. The “Guards” were initially members of a unit known as the 9th Regiment N.C. Volunteers. While most of that unit was comprised of companies that volunteered for twelve months service, some of the other companies had enlisted for a term of three years or the duration of the war. Those companies were transferred to other commands, and the organization of the 9th N.C. Volunteers failed. The remaining companies (including the “Marlboro Guards”) were placed under the command of

Lieutenant Colonel George B. Singletary, and the unit was referred to as Singletary’s Battalion. By September 28, 1861, additional companies had been assigned to the battalion to bring the number to ten, and it was redesignated 27th Regiment N.C. Troops. The “Marlboro Guards” became Company E of the new command.

William Perry Gay enlisted in Company E at Camp Gatlin on September 7, 1861. He is reported present on muster rolls from his enlistment through October 1862, and another document reports him on extra duty as a teamster in November 1862. No muster rolls for Company E survive from November 1862 through August 1864, and the only record of Gay’s service during that period was a brief hospitalization for an abscess at Chimborazo Hospital No. 5, Richmond, in July 1863.

Gay died of a gunshot wound at Winder Hospital, Richmond, on September 9, 1864. The place and date of wounding are unknown, but the 27th North Carolina’s most recent major action had been the Confederate victory at Ream’s Station on August 25. In that battle the regiment suffered more than fifty casualties, including sixteen men killed or mortally wounded in action. (A post-war account states that after Ream’s Station the 27th North Carolina was reduced to fewer than seventy men.)

Image: N.C. Office of Archives and History.

Source Note: Manarin et. al., NCT 8:1, 46, 48; Mast “North Carolina Casualties”; service record files of William R. Gay, 27th Regiment N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.



**JAMES F. TOMS**  
**PRIVATE, COMPANY C**  
**THE “RUTHERFORD**  
**REBELS”**

**34TH REGIMENT**  
**N.C. TROOPS**

**J**ames Francis Toms (born November 1, 1841) resided with his parents and eight siblings in the Flint Hill District of Rutherford County. His father, William Toms, was a prosperous farmer with substantial real estate holdings and also the owner of seven slaves.

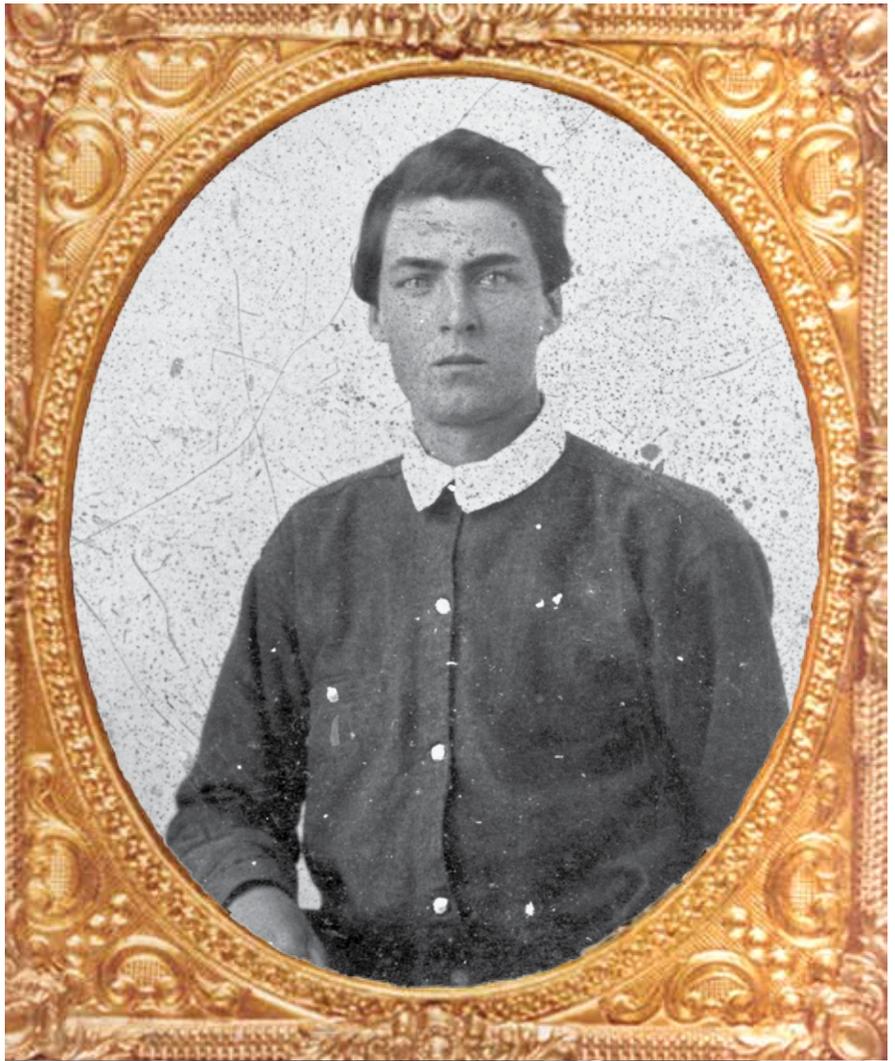
James and his older brother John C. Toms enlisted together in Rutherford County on September 2, 1861, in a company known as the “Rutherford Rebels.” When the “Rebels” mustered into Confederate service at Camp Fisher, High Point, on October 25, 1861, they were designated Company C, 34th Regiment N.C. Troops. The 34th North Carolina spent much of early 1862 in northeastern North Carolina, and James was “left sick at Hamilton” when the regiment moved to Goldsboro on March 23, 1862. It is unclear when he returned to duty. The 34th North Carolina was in Richmond in late April, and participated in the Seven Days Campaign, June 25-July 1, 1862. John C. Toms was mortally wounded in an unspecified battle in the Seven Days and died of his wounds on July 27.

James F. Toms was reported present for duty January-February and March-April 1863 muster rolls of his company. He was killed in action at Chancellorsville, probably during the Confederate attack on the morning of May 3.

James’s remains were returned home and he is buried in the Mount Lebanon Baptist Church Cemetery, Rutherford County.

Image: Copy print in author’s possession.

Source Note: 1860 U. S. Census, Flint Hill District Rutherford County, North Carolina, population schedule, William Toms household; Manarin et. al., NCT 9:283; service record files of James F. Toms, 34th Regiment N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA



**RUFFIN T. BARNES**  
**CAPTAIN, COMPANY C**

**43RD REGIMENT**  
**N.C. TROOPS**

**R**uffin Thomas Barnes, a farmer who owned four slaves, lived with his wife and two small children in Black Creek, Wilson County.

He enlisted in a volunteer company that was raised in January-February 1862 and was appointed third lieutenant when the company mustered into Confederate service in early April and was designated Company D, 43rd Regiment N.C. Troops.

Barnes was promoted to second lieutenant in July 1862 and to captain January 1863. His name appears on a list of officers of General Junius Daniel's Brigade (to which the 43rd North Carolina belonged) who were "present and actually under fire" at the Battle of Gettysburg, with the notation "present during the entire fight."



The 43rd North Carolina participated in Lieutenant General Jubal Early's Shenandoah Campaign of June-December 1864. Barnes was wounded and captured in a day-long skirmish near Charles Town, West Virginia, on August 21, 1864. Regimental documents from February-March 1865 state that Captain Barnes died on December 24, 1864, and that he "died in captivity." However, no Federal documents pertaining to his capture or hospitalization have been found.

Image: N.C. Office of Archives and History.

Source Note: 1860 U. S. Census, Black Creek District, Wilson County, North Carolina, population schedule, page 12, Ruffin Barnes household; Manarin et. al., NCT 10:314; service record files of Ruffin Barnes, 43rd Regiment N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.

**REUBEN GOODSON**  
**PRIVATE, COMPANY G**  
**THE “DRY POND**  
**DIXIES”**

**52ND REGIMENT**  
**N.C. TROOPS**

**R**euben Goodson (born ca. 1841) farmed with his parents and seven siblings in the Dry Pond community of Lincoln County (now called Denver). He volunteered on March 20, 1862, in a new company called the “Dry Pond Dixies,” subsequently Company G, 52nd Regiment N.C. Troops.

With the exception of a brief hospitalization in December 1863, Goodson was reported present on extant muster rolls of Company G through April 1864. He was admitted to Howard’s Grove General Hospital in Richmond on May 27, 1864, diagnosed with “acute dysentery,” and died of that disease on the following June 6.



Image: Ninth-plate ambrotype, Liljenquist Collection, Library of Congress.

Source Note: 1860 U. S. Census, Lincoln County, North Carolina, population schedule, page 52, Henry Goodson household; Manarin et. al., NCT 12:480; service record files of Reuben Goodson, 52nd Regiment N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.

## HENRY A. TURPIN PRIVATE, COMPANY C

### 62ND REGIMENT N.C. TROOPS

**H**enry Allen Turpin enlisted at Webster with his brother James in Company A (the “Jackson Volunteers”), 16th Regiment N.C. Troops, on April 27, 1861. Henry mustered into service as a corporal, but was subsequently reduced to ranks. With the exception of a week-long hospitalization for “intermittent fever” in April 1862, he was reported present through October 1862.

On October 5, 1862 the “Jackson Volunteers” were transferred to the Infantry Regiment, Thomas’s Legion N.C. Troops, and designated Company A of that command. Service with the Legion was brief, however, and within weeks the “Volunteers” were transferred again, this time to the 39th Regiment N.C. Troops, and designated Company K.

Henry was reported absent without leave in late 1862, and the January-February muster roll of Company K reports that he “Deserted the Company at Strawberry Plains, E[a]st Tenn., Jan 15, 1863.” Subsequent muster rolls report him absent without leave or a deserter.

However, the records of Company C, 62nd Regiment N.C. Troops, organized in Haywood County in July 1862, report that Henry transferred from Thomas’s Legion on October 16, 1862. Company C was commanded by John H. Turpin, presumably a brother or other close male relative. However unorthodox the transfer seems to have been, Henry served with Company C until the 62nd North Carolina was surrendered at Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, on September 9, 1863.

The 486 enlisted men from the 62nd North Carolina captured at Cumberland Gap were incarcerated at various Federal prisons, most of them at the notorious Camp Douglas, Chicago, Illinois. Of that number, 221 died by the end of the war, a mortality rate of forty-five per cent (204 died at Camp Douglas). One of them was Henry A. Turpin, who perished on December 26, 1864, of “remit[tent] fever.” He was buried in grave number 337, Block 2, Chicago City Cemetery.

Image: N.C. Office of Archives and History.

Source Note: Manarin et. al., NCT 6:20; 10:186, 15:20, 55, 64; 16:255; “North Carolina Death Study”; service record files of Henry A. Turpin, 16th, 39th, and 62nd Regiments N.C. Troops, and Infantry Regiment, Thomas’s Legion N.C. Troops, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of North Carolina (M270), RG109, NA.



MISS PENELUPE EDEN  
DAUGHTER OF  
JAMES & E. J. SKINNER  
BORN JULY 20 1862  
DIED THE BATTLE OF  
MECHANICSVILLE, VA  
SEPTEMBER 17 1865  
"Be thou faithful unto  
death and I will give thee a  
crown of life."  
PENELUPE EDEN  
Daughter of  
JAMES & E. J. SKINNER  
Born Dec. 31, 1861  
Died Oct. 26, 1865.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for  
they shall be called the children of God."