

# COMPANY FRONT



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THE SOCIETAL MAGAZINE OF THE TWENTY SIXTH NORTH CAROLINA

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JUNE 2001

**North  
Carolina  
Uniforms &  
Equipment  
In  
1862**

**A Brother's  
Death And A  
Soldier's  
Tearful Letter**

**A Georgia  
Soldier's  
Letters Home**

**PLUS**

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**Book Reviews AND  
The Interesting Story  
of Pvt William Thompson**



# COMPANY FRONT

THE SOCIETAL MAGAZINE OF THE TWENTY SIXTH NORTH CAROLINA

**JUNE 2001**

***Company Front*** is the newsletter of  
The Society for the Preservation of  
the 26th Regiment North Carolina  
Troops, Inc.

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## **Front Cover**

**Francis Marion McRary**  
Co. I, 26th NCT

Resided in Caldwell County. Enlisted as Pvt.

Age 26, on July 26, 1861

Promoted to Cpl. Oct 1863

Promoted to Sgt. Jan-Feb 1864

Promoted to 1st Sgt. July-Oct 1864

Present or accounted for through Feb. 1865

Above: Phillip Jefferson Johnson  
Pvt. Co. G 1st NC Volunteers, The Bethel Regiment,  
Capt. Co. K, 35th NCT, Burke and Catawba Sampsons.  
Wounded at Petersburg, Paroled at Appomattox Court  
House

Photos Courtesy Skip Smith



# 3

**Book Review:** Jay Winik's April 1865: The  
Month That Saved America

# 5

**The Interesting Story of Pvt. William R.  
Thompson.**

Jeff Stepp

# 7

**With Tears In My Eyes:** A Caldwell Coun-  
ty Soldier Writes Home On His Brother's  
Death

John Hawkins

# 9

**I Am Writing On My Canteen:** The War-  
time Letters of J.W. Parks 7th Georgia  
Infantry.

Letters Provided By: Francis Parks

Article Provided By: Gregory Parks  
Steve Baker

# 23

**Only What Was On Our Backs:**  
The Uniforms and Equipment Of The 35th  
North Carolina State Troops

Dave Hunter & Christopher Graham  
Article Provided By: Bob Williams

# From The Editor's Desk

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Dear Friends and Readers,

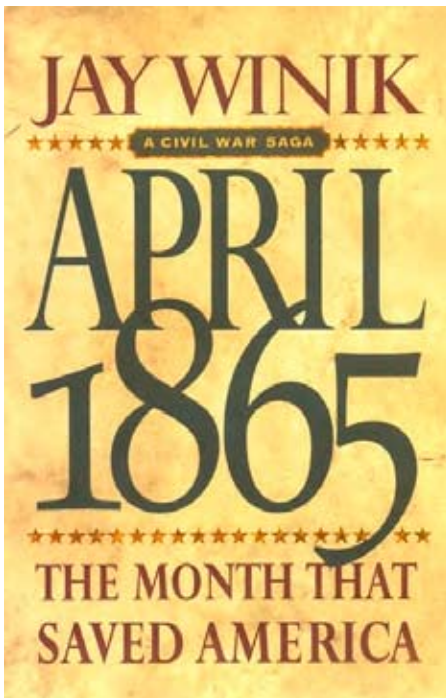
I just wanted to take the time to welcome and introduce you to the new look of the *Company Front*. Hopefully, we have generated a more enjoyable and visual layout that is more in line with mainstream news stand magazines. However, when looks and visual appeal are set aside, a publication is only as good as its content. So far this year has been outstanding. We have received some excellent articles and I just wanted to praise everyone and tell them to keep up the good work. I also want to urge everyone to send more in. Remember, you do not have to be a noted historian to submit an article. There are letters and diaries out there that have never before been seen, and one should never underestimate the amateur historian's knowledge on everything from bullets and buttons to cards and games played by the soldiers we are pledged to remember. So, keep up the good work, send those articles in, and enjoy the new look of the *Company Front*.

Sincerely,

Jason E. Goodnite  
Assistant Editor / Layout  
*Company Front*

# New Book Takes An Unapproached Look At The End Of The War, and The Re-Birth Of The Nation

Harper Collins Press Release



**APRIL 1865**

**The Month That Saved America**  
Jay Winik

1492, 1776, April 1865. We recognize the first two dates, marking Columbus's voyage to the Americas and the Declaration of Independence, as moments that have forever shaped our nation. But April 1865, which saw the end of our bloody and bitter Civil War, is a vital third - and is among the most moving and decisive months not simply of the Civil War, but in the life of the United States. Now, for the

first time, Jay Winik gives us a stunning reappraisal of this month, of its place in American and world history, and shows us why April 1865 is still shaping us today. Hailed by seven top historians and by Publishers Weekly ("This book is a triumph."), *APRIL, 1865: The Month That Saved America* (HarperCollins Publishers; April 2, 2001; \$32.50) unlocks the pivotal decisions and events in this one tumultuous month that determined the future of our country.

"It was not inevitable that the American Civil War would end as it did, or for that matter, that it would end at all well," Winik writes. And, indeed, from Bosnia to Belfast to Beirut, the world is littered with wreckage of other civil wars; far too many civil wars end quite badly—and ours almost did too. Winik shows us why America's story is different. And, as we grapple now with political divisions and discord at home, *APRIL 1865* also provides a powerful assessment of the elements of national reconciliation and healing that we seek today. "April 1865 is a month that could have unraveled the American nation," Winik writes. "Instead, it saved it."

In a sweeping, elegantly written chronicle, Winik puts the epic

images and extraordinary events together—from Richmond's dramatic fall, Lee's harrowing retreat, and a daring rebel plan for guerrilla war, to Appomattox, followed by Lincoln's assassination just five days later, and the turmoil that ensued (including Union fears of chaos and a coup and the first-ever shaky transfer of presidential power in a crisis, amid widespread rage and the threat of more ruinous war). He shows how the nation's future rested on a few crucial decisions and twists of fate, and brilliantly evaluates each turning point from a fresh perspective, reminding us that these events could quite easily have followed a different path.

The war would have ended quite differently, Winik demonstrates, if Lee, in his frenzied retreat, had been able to resupply and link up with Joe Johnston's army to the south, or if the great Confederate general had followed his aides' advice and organized a guerilla warfare campaign—which could have led to "the Vietnamization of America." Or, if both Lee and Grant had not responded with dignity and honor at the Appomattox surrender, and violence and vengeance had instead followed. Or if at that fateful moment of 10:15, April 14,



Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State Seward (who was stabbed five times) had been successfully assassinated along with Lincoln, as the conspirators intended, and the tentative process of reconciliation had collapsed. These are but a few of the historical questions Winik unearths from this too long neglected drama of the Civil War's last days.

Threaded throughout *APRIL 1865* is Winik's conviction that the greatest legacy of the Civil War, as determined by the events of that final month, is the United States' identity as a nation—and how it avoided the terrible and tragic fate that has beset so many other countries engaged in civil war. Before the war, America was a tenuous confederation of states, each clinging to state sovereignty as first imagined by the Founding Fathers. But “the war's end--and how it ended, both manner and means--had, in fact, marked a decisive break with the past, the great chasm between the era of contingent republics and permanent nations,” Winik writes. “The states alone were no longer America, and America was no longer simply states...That was the meaning of April 1865.”

Replete with penetrating portraits of outsized figures who shaped the war's outcome, and informed by vigorous, iconoclastic scholarship, *APRIL 1865*, has earned the praise of some of our most distinguished historians including Pulitzer Prize winner James McPherson: “In no other month of American history did the nation experience such momentous events as in April 1865. Jay Winik's *APRIL 1865* captures all the drama and significance in a fast-paced narrative full of larger-than-life characters. Here is a book that fully

measures up to the importance of its subject.”

*APRIL 1865* will be featured in Parade magazine; with this magnificent book, Jay Winik takes his place as one of the most gifted, exciting historians in the nation today.

#### About the Author

Jay Winik is the author of the critically acclaimed *On the Brink*, a chronicle of the Cold War's end. His articles and reviews have been widely published, including in The New York Times, the Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal, to which he contributes regularly, and he has appeared on “The Charlie Rose Show,” C-Span, NPR, Fox News, and numerous other programs. After a government career that put him in the thick of several civil wars abroad, from the former Yugoslavia to Cambodia, Winik is currently a senior scholar at the University of Maryland's School of Public Affairs. A graduate of Yale (B.A., Ph.D.), he also has a Masters from the London School of Economics. He lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland with his wife, Lyric, the writer and columnist.

“*APRIL 1865* is a superb piece of history. Jay Winik is a master storyteller with a remarkable tale to tell—full of tragedy, treachery, ambition, nobility, defiance, and courage. He carries the reader with him from beginning to end through one of the most monumental months in American history.”

--Doris Kearns Goodwin,

author of the Pulitzer Prize winning *No Ordinary Time*

“Masterful Popular history at its best”

Publishers Weekly  
(starred review)

*APRIL 1865: The Month That Saved America*

By Jay Winik

HarperCollins Publishers

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Book Cover photo Courtesy [www.harpercollins.com](http://www.harpercollins.com)

# Interesting Facts

## The Unusual Story of Private William R Thompson Co.B “The Bladen Light Infantry” 18th Regiment North Carolina Troops

By J.H. Stepp

Tales of the Civil War military service of women have in recent years gained much attention.

Oftentimes difficult to document, the fact that a goodly number of women, of both the North and South, did in fact actively take up arms for their respective causes is indisputable if not atypical. While we in the reactivated 26th NCT are quite familiar with our own woman in the ranks, Malinda

“Sam” Blalock of Company F. “Sam” apparently never fought in a battle. Despite undocumented allusions that she fought in the March 1862 battle of New Bern, NC, the compiled service records of both Malinda and her husband Keith indicate that they both enlisted and arrived for service with the 26th NCT after that battle. While doing research on a film documentary being made on the last surviving

Tarheel Confederates, I ran across the story of Private Thompson of the 18th NCT. It is highly probable this woman soldier saw active combat service, and her superiors either never discovered her true identity or it did not matter to them. Furthermore what is even more striking is that she was 43 years old when she enlisted, and possibly was the only Civil War “soldier” to give birth to a child while on the regimental rolls of a combat unit!

Lucy Matilda Thompson was born near Bladensboro, North Carolina on November 21st 1812. Her father, Duncan Thompson was a half Waccama Indian,

and Lucy was of dark complexion. At age 17 she had grown into a tall, lanky young girl with long black hair. It is said that she could “ride like a cowboy, hunt all day tirelessly, shoot expertly, and while masculine in appearance, she was not without feminine charm.” (1)

On the eve of the war, Lucy married Bryant B. Gause, a Brunswick county farmer. (2) On May 3rd, 1861 Captain Robert Tait, a Scottish native and Bladen County merchant, enlisted Gause

into the company he had raised, The Bladen Light Infantry. This unit would become Company B of the 18th Regiment North Carolina Troops. (3) Leaving Lucy behind, Gause and his regiment would eventually be assigned to one of North Carolina’s hardest fighting outfits - the Branch/Lane brigade. During the December 1862 battle of Fredericksburg, Va., Gause was seriously wounded during the vicious counterattack Lane’s brigade participated in when the Federals briefly pierced the far right of the Confederate lines. (4) Gause was eventually transferred to a Confederate military hospital situated in southern Virginia at Scottsville, south of Charlottesville. There on January 1st, 1863 he died of his wounds. (5) Upon



“Pvt. William R. Thompson” (Mrs. Lucy Matilda Gause Kenny at age 108)

learning of her husband's wounding, Lucy traveled to Virginia to be with him. Apparently she arrived prior to his death as she would give birth to her first child in January of 1864. With a grieving heart she endured a return trip home with her husband's body determined he would not lie in an unmarked and forgotten grave in Virginia. Bryant was buried in the Benevolence Cemetery on present day NC Highway 131 in Bladen County.

Devoted to her husband and the cause for which he gave his life, Lucy became discontented with the notion of allowing his death going unavenged. She then determined to take his place in the ranks, and cut her long thick hair close, took up the seams in one of Bryant's suits, oiled her squirrel rifle and traveled to Raleigh to enlist. There, on July 15, 1863 she enlisted into her husband's old company.(6)

Mustered in as a Private, under the name William R Thompson, Lucy was present or accounted for until her pregnancy threatened to reveal her true identity. In January of 1864 Private William R. Thompson is reported as absent without leave on the rolls of Co B of the 18th NCT.(7) By July of 1864, Private Thompson is reported to have returned to duty. (8) During this unauthorized absence, Lucy had given birth to her daughter, Mary Carolina Gause.

Though not reflected in the compiled service record for William R. Thompson, family tradition relates that Lucy was wounded upon her return to the 18th NC during the siege of Richmond and Petersburg. Mrs. J.A. Matthews, of Cordele, Ga., a great granddaughter of Lucy relates, "She {Lucy} was wounded by a piece of a shell tearing her scalp from her

forehead to her crown, which required protection by a surgically emplaced silver plate in her later years." (9)

The service record of William R. Thompson reflects that "he" was present or accounted for with the 18th NC through February of 1865 after which there are no extant rolls for Co.B. Apparently "he" deserted to the enemy along the Petersburg lines subsequent to February of '65, or more likely was captured on the retreat from Petersburg in April of 1865 as "his" compiled service record concludes with the entry "Took Oath of Allegiance at Point Lookout, Md. June 21st, 1865 " (10)

In 1866, Lucy moved to Savannah Georgia where she was not known, and from then until 1914 kept her military exploits secret. Oddly, while in Savannah, she married an ex Union soldier, Joseph P. Kenny, and by him had six more children - twins Martha and James Kenny in 1868 when she was 55; Kattie in 1873 when she was 60, Victoria in 1876 when 63, John in 1879 when 66, and Joseph in 1881 at an incredible age of 69.(11)

Only at age 102 in 1914, when stricken with a serious infirmity, did she confess anything about her military service and then only to her pastor. Typical to her life's story, this tough Tarheel lived another 11 years before passing away in, Douglas Georgia on June 22, 1925, at the age of 112 years 7 months and 2 days. She was buried there in the Meeks Cemetery. Her amazing story was shared with the people of Coffee County Georgia by her confessor-pastor in her obituary which appeared on the front page of The Coffee County Progress on June 25th, 1925. (12)

While one has to accept certain matters of this saga on faith; the fact

that much of the story is confirmed by available military records and that Lucy Thompson herself never tried to capitalize upon her amazing life, as so many alleged women soldiers of the war did in fact do, lends a high level of credibility to this story. Surely it is a unique testament to the devotion of a woman from the Old North State, like her 120,000 male counterparts, who gave their all to North Carolina and the Confederacy.

Notes:

- (1) Obituary of Lucy Matilda Thompson Gause Kenny, June 25th, 1925 edition of The Coffee County Progress
- (2) Letter from Mr. Perry Streat in author's possession
- (3) North Carolina Troops 1861-1865 A Roster, Vol.VI pg.322 edited by Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr. NC Division of Archives & History, 1977.
- (4) Ibid pg 325
- (5) Ibid
- (6) Ibid pg.331
- (7) Ibid
- (8) Ibid
- (9) The South's Last Boy's In Gray, Jay Hoar University of Maine Press, 1978
- (10) NC Troops 1861-1865 A Roster, Vol VI pg.331
- (11) Letter from Mrs. J.A. Matthews in author's possession
- (12) Obituary of Mrs. Lucy Matilda Thompson Gause Kenny, June 25th 1925 edition of The Coffee County Progress



# Letters Home

## With My Eyes Filled With Tears

### A Brother's Death Forces a Caldwell County Soldier To Write Home.

**John Hawkins**  
**Lenoir News Topic**

Can you imagine what it would be like if you had to write to your parents and inform them of the death of your brother? Two sons of McCaleb Coffey performed that difficult task in a letter dated August 17, 1862, from Petersburg, Virginia. The letter is reprinted just as he wrote it, except for the addition of paragraphing to make it more readable.

I take my seat this morning to tell you the sad and awful news. James F. Coffey is dead and buried. He was taken sick. I don't think he has been very well for some time, but he did not complain any until Wednesday morning. He got up in the morning complaining of his throat being sore. He went to the doctor that morning and was excused from duty. His throat commenced swelling and next morning he was sent to the hospital about 10 or 11 o'clock. It was Thursday when he was sent to the hospital. On Friday evening Henry went up to see him. He was still getting worse but was able to go about. Then he gave Henry his money that day and told Henry he wanted Henry or myself to come back next day.

So I went up early next morning and was very much surprised to find him dead. I went in the room where he was laid out and looked at him. He looked

very natural. I left then and went back to camp to see if there was any chance of sending him home.

The Captain wrote out a furlough for some of us to come with him. He took the furlough to the General. He would not sign it. So the prospect of getting him home was a failure. As soon as I came from Petersburg, we went with Harrison Coffey to Petersburg to try to get a metallic coffin to put him in which he would of kept sound for years and could have been took home at any time. We sent \$100 to pay for the coffin, but there was none to found so Harrison returned. Then we come to the conclusion to let him be buried in a government coffin which was dressed and painted.

He was buried according to the military discipline. Henry Harrison, William, George Morgan, George Powell, John Weaver, Joshua Curtis, Simeon Philpaw, George Sherrill went to the burying. I did not feel able to go and I was just getting over the mumps and had just walked to Petersburg and back. He died at 11 o'clock Friday night. The nurse said he died in his right mind and without a struggle. The nurse said that he died the easiest of any person he ever saw. He got so he could not talk a few minutes before he died without saying anything about dying the whole time of his sickness.

We have gotten his clothes in our tent. I wish they were at home. Henry has got what money he had. He had \$66.85 which we will send home the first safe chance. I would like for father to come and see us if he has the chance and get his things. He was buried 11 miles of Petersburg. Henry said that it is the largest grave yard he ever saw.

The boys said that James looks the most natural of any of the boys they ever saw. Poor fellow I hope he is in a better

world than this where there is no more sickness. He has been a very sivil boy since he came to the army. He seemed to be liked by all who knew him. He has never made any fuss or quarrel since he came into the army.

James has read his testament almost daily and with delight apparently and died with it in his pocket. When he would leave camp to go out on any duty he would carry his book in his pocket.

This is the first letter that I have ever written with my eyes fill with tears. I have never before had anything to hurt me so but it is a debt which we all have to pay. I would have written yesterday evening but you will get the letter as soon as if I had wrote yesterday. When he gave Henry his money he told him that he was afraid somebody would steal it. I regret very much that we was not with him when he died.

Father, Mother, do not think hard of us for anything for which we have done for we did the best we could do. I suppose you are very well aware of what tight rules we are under and cannot do as we would wish to do. We would like very well to see you all but the only chance for you to come see us. I wrote to you on Friday but I suppose you will get this letter nearly as soon as you will get this. Write to me on the receipt of this letter so I know that you have got this letter. So no more at present.

From your affectionate Son,  
W.C. Coffey and H.C. Coffey

P.S. I received a letter from Charlie Friday. He was well. We are both as well as could be expected.

James told Henry on Friday evening that his nurse was very good to him. Father please come to see us and get James's things if you can possibly spare the time. Read this letter to all his

relatives and friends. Money could not of stopped me from sending him home if I would have had the opportunity. He was buried in his gray pants which he brought from home and white drawers and the worsted shirt which he brought from home and socks Henry got. A white handkerchief was tied around his jaws. He was wrapped in a blanket also.

Article courtesy Lenoir News Topic and John O. Hawkins.  
Letter provided by Frances Coffey Farthing  
Photos courtesy Skip Smith

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The Coffey Family was a very large family that lived mainly in the northern sections (Patterson, Yadkin Valley, Globe, John's River, and Buffalo) of Caldwell County. These areas are still inhabited by members of this family. There were 46 members of this family that served the Old North State and the Confederacy. Most joined the Caldwell County Companies while some did go to neighboring Counties to enlist.

McCaleb Coffey - Was the father to four sons who enlisted in Caldwell County. His large family was living in the Patterson District of the County in 1860. The four sons were; Thomas Jefferson Coffey, William Columbus Coffey, Henry C. Coffey and James F. Coffey. Thomas and Columbus Coffey were both living in eastern Tennessee and working as Merchants in 1860 but they returned home at the outbreak of the war and enlisted in Company E , 58th NCT. Thomas J. became 1st Lt. and Columbus, who was originally in Co. F 26th NCT, rose to the rank of 2nd Lt having enlisted in Co. E 58th NCT on January 15, 1863.

Mentioned in the Letter

#### **Henry Coffey**

Henry Coffey enlisted in the Hibriten Guards at the age of 18 on July 15, 1861. He was promoted to Sergeant on April 12, 1862 and was wounded and captured at Gettysburg. He was exchanged and returned to duty on March 1, 1864 but was reduced to Private between March-June 1864. He was present or accounted for through February 1865.

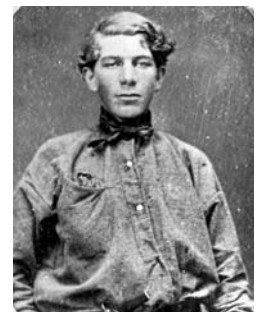
#### **James Coffey**

James Coffey enlisted in the Hibriten Guards at the age of 17 on March 20, 1862. He died at a hospital in Petersburg, Virginia on August 15, 1862 of "diphtheria."



#### **Simeon Philyaw (LEFT)**

Simeon Philyaw was 21 years old when was mustered in as a Corporal of the Hibriten Guards on July 15, 1861. He was wounded and captured at Gettysburg and was exchanged on October 28, 1863. He was reported absent without leave in September 1864 and finally listed as a deserter in October of the same year. (He was a twin brother to Gideon Philyaw also of Company F)



#### **George L. Powell (RIGHT)**

George L. Powell was 24 years old when he was mustered in as a Corporal of the Hibriten Guards on July 15, 1861. He was present or accounted for until he died at a Hospital in Staunton, Virginia on May 12, 1864 of gunshot wounds that were probably received at the Battle of the Wilderness.

were probably received at the Battle

#### **George Morgan**

George Morgan, who was living with the McCaleb Coffey family in 1860, enlisted at the age of 24 years old in the Hibriten Guards on July 15, 1861. He was wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863 and died in a Raleigh, North Carolina hospital on July 31, 1863 of wounds.

#### **Joshua Curtis**

Joshua Curtis enlisted at the age of 21 in the Hibriten Guards on July 15, 1861. He was captured at Williamsport, Maryland on July 14, 1863 and was confined at Point Lookout Prison. He was released on January 1, 1864 after taking the Oath of Allegiance and joining the US Army, Company C, 1st Regular U. S. Volunteer Infantry.

#### **George Sherrill**

George Sherrill enlisted in the Hibriten Guards at the age of 24 on July 15m 1861. He was originally mustered in as a Musician but was later reduced to the ranks subsequent to February 28, 1865. He was captured at Hatcher's Run (near Petersburg, Virginia) on April New York Harbor. He was released on June 19-20, 1865 after taking the Oath of Allegiance.

# I am Writing On My Canteen

**A Georgia Soldier's Letters Home  
Provides A Unique and Interesting  
Glimpse Into the Average Soldier's Life**

Letters Provided By: Francis Parks  
Article Provided By: Gregory Parks  
Steve Baker



Joseph W. Parks At the Time of His Enlistment in the 7th Georgia Infantry. Photo Courtesy Francis Parks

The first dated letter from Joseph is from Oxford, Ga. Jan. 17, 1861 where he had gone with two cousins to enroll as a student at Emory. On May 10, 1861 he received a letter from home discouraging him from joining the Confederate forces. His first letter from the Army is dated Jan. 10, 1862-but when he joined I do not know. His last dated letter was written June 24, 1862. He died in a Richmond hospital on July 11, 1862. He was a member of Company A, Seventh Regiment Georgia Volunteer Infantry which was organized May 31, 1861 and surrendered at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. Many first cousins and neighbors from the 6th District of Coweta Co. were enrolled in this unit. Further research in Confederate records might give more details of the actions in which he participated.

Even so, we get an excellent picture of army life-and death. Joseph, though younger than his brother Thomas and not the head of the family, seems to have had a deep sense of responsibility for conditions at home (his father had died in 1852), as evidenced by his many enquiries regarding the health and welfare of those at home. The poignancy of his life, and death, is very moving. *(Ed. Note: Spelling has been left unchanged. However, for readability some punctuation has been added).*

Dear Sister,

We are all well and getting on pretty well, I believe. Sis has gone back to school and I am going to Mr. Daniel. We think a great deal of him he is boarding with us and expects one of his cousins to come to board with him

the first of March. Thomy and Bobbie caught 27 partridges last Saturday. They also caught a good many during the snow. That was a lively time with us. I wish I just could have been in La Grange, then I guess we would have had some snow banking with Marty and Cousin Mary, Miss Mollie and all of you. We have between 30 and 40 scholars. Uncle Bird is a great deal better. Uncle Frank has the Rheumatism very bad. I want to see you all very bad, should like to visit your great city and will I reckon before you leave it. Mrs Scoggins is here, came home with Mama yesterday, will stay a week. Aunt Jane says tell Marty she could not send the things she wrote for so she sent 5 dollars by Mrs Ellis hopes that will last a while as she only sent for 1 dollar. She also sent a nice pair of shoes. Wishes she had sent her bread

pin but she forgot it, will send it soon. You all must be breaking up, both the Mr. Montgomerys gone They are all here very much pestered about it. Good by for the present. Write soon to your brother.

J. W. Parks

(On the back of this letter)

Tell Lou Ellis please ask Mr. Montgomery I say will the same bargain stand with Mr. Connor until July that I made with him.

R. J. Bailey

**Oxford Ga. Jan. 17, 1861**

Dear Mother

We arrived here on Tuesday at twelve o'clock. We met with Cousin W. P. in Atlanta. We have all three been examined and were admitted to the Sophomore class this morning (Joseph, was seventeen and a half years old: ed.). We had to undergo a very

rigid examination. We are all boarding at Prof. Jones. They are very clever people and treat us very kindly though we are not certain that we shall continue to board here. They had some boarders last term and if they return we shall have to hunt another house. We are very well pleased so far and think we shall continue so although expenses are greater than expected, including everything, we have to pay about seventeen dollars per month. Oxford is a beautiful little village far more so than I had imagined. The college building is very large and situated in a beautiful grove. It seems as though nature herself had set it apart for a college building.

I have been to see the two Society halls-the Gern and Phi Gamma though I did not take a satisfactory view of them as I did not have time. They are fine buildings and finely furnished inside. Each society has a large library. I have a preference for Phi Gamma though I have not decided which I shall join. The inhabitants are fine people so far as I have seen. There

was thirty joined the Sophomore class today. I have paid my tuition and have eighteen dollars left. I will try to make out with it until I shall get ready to start home though it seems like a long time before I can come. J. Oliver has not come yet. Give my respects to all. I shall write again next week to someone. Tell Tommy and all the boys to write me

From your affect son

J. W. Parks

Jan. 19, 1861

**May 10th 1861**

Dear Joseph

Rec/d your letter but you say you have written to your Mother to know what you should do. As you cannot follow the advise of but one at a time I decline giving any. Dont think you are 18 and if you are not you are not wanting (much?: ed.) If you are 18 you need not be uneasy, you will be called for soon enough. All cant go at one time & more have offered their services than can be received. So all you have to do is to study and attend to the improvement of your mind. If you were to join any Co., Capt. Orr's is the one. For you must be near the Co. you join in order to drill and without a soldier is well drilled he is utterly useless in service. As to calvary (sic) you have no horse and no chance to get one. It is all I can do if more than I shall be able to do in these times to raise money to pay your expenses and I have undertaken to send you this term; think it is the least you can do to apply yourself and improve the opportunity afforded and not be talking about wanting to go home like a little 10 year old boy and suffering your



mind to be diverted because there is an excitement in the country-Hope you will attend to your proper duties and let the excitement take care of itself. When you are grown then will be your duty to take an active part in the affairs of life

---paper torn off here---

**Jany. 10th 62**

Camp Centreville

Dear Brother

I received your short note today. You said that you wished to know what papers were necessary to draw your money. Capt. Carmical says that a power of attorney is all that is required. So you can send Capt. C. the power of attorney as soon as you receive this. Capt. Holiday is very particular about paying out money, consequently you must have it very correct or else you cannot draw, you said in your letter that pay is due from the first of Oct. I think that you are mistaken. You told me that you drew up to the 30th of Oct. State in your next letter whether you drew up to the first or last of Oct. Bob received a letter from Al today, he has been very sick but is now getting well, he has typhoid pneumonia. Uncle John went up there to see him, he has not been here yet though we are expecting him. I received the clothes, the pants and coat, but unfortunately they are too large but I can wear them. The chief thing that I wanted was a bed quilt. I told you a dozen times before you left to be sure to send me a quilt the first possible chance but it seem that since you have got to lay upon beds of downy lace, that I am no longer thought of. I thought I would get all necessary things after you got home, as you knew what was needed

in camp. You didn't say how much cotton or meat we had. I was glad to hear that you were attending to our farm for I know you will do better than anyone else. Will Sis go to school this year or not? I hope she will not. Tell Mama that I have been waiting for a letter from her but have not received it yet. I heard today that John Ira was gone to the Coast. I have taken the jaundice at last. The Dr. says that it is not necessary to go to the hospital. The jaundice has been very light with the boys. Most of the boys have had them. Ben Lundie went to Culpeper C. H. Johnnie H. went with him, we will go into winter quarters next week, I reckon. Dunwoody has been elected Lt. Colonel. Lt. Anderson Compy C is a major. Wasn't that a choice selection? We will have to elect a Col. soon, Dwoody and Wilson are the candidates. All the boys are mad with the fiery Dunwoody, as universal grief pervades the entire Regt. at the loss of Col. Gartrell. Tell Mama to send me some bed clothes the very first opportunity and some eatables. What do you suppose I heard today? I heard that your Cousin Ginny and Dr. Smith were all to be married soon. Is it true or not? I have nothing more of importance to write. Let Ishy read this too it will be sufficient for an answer to both your letters. If you all dont write oftener I wont write another letter while I am in the War. Give my love to Ma and family, friends and neighbors.

Your Brother

J. W. Parks

Compy A

7th Regt Ga Vols

-If you all dont send me some bed

clothes I never will write for anything else, dont think that I am mad in the least, but I do think you ought to send me some cover.

J.W. Parks

Send your power of attorney the first chance

J.W. Parks

**Jan. 14, 1862**

Camp Centreville

Dear Mother,

I received your very welcome & long expected letter yesterday evening. I was glad to hear that all were well. You asked me when we would be at home and if I had enlisted for the War. If Providence permits we will be at home the first of June. I have not enlisted for the War, neither do I expect to until I return home. I understand that you all have been expecting us home several weeks. If you have you need not look any longer for there is no prospect of our return until the expiration of our time. You said you would want me to attend to the farm after I get back home, but I tell you in turn that other arrangement may be made that I cannot attend to it so long as the War lasts. Were I at home I would not remain one month with the least degree of satisfaction, not that there are no attachments at home for me (for home is as dear to me as any one) but I think that I would be acting very wrong were I to remain at home while an enemy of the most detestable character is dealing destruction throughout our land. I am glad to hear that John Ira has gone to the Coast. He will find it a far more comfortable place than Virginia. Uncle John P. left here yesterday. He has gone back to



the hospital where Al is he will try to get Al a furlough. I hope he succeeds. I wrote to Tomy 3 or 4 days ago and told him to send the power of an attorney and Capt. C. would draw his money. I was very much surprised when I found that you did not send me any quilt. I told T several times before he left to be sure to send me some cover. he said he would be sure to do it but he did not. The snow is shoe mouth deep all over the ground and we are in our old worn out tent. It will be a week before we get our quarters fixed. The wearer is very cold. I got up this morning and found snow in my boots and on my blanket and every where else. 3 of our compy are out on picket now will be out 3 days and no covering over head but some bush. I had the Jaundice about a week but they have been very light. I am getting well of them now. good many of the boys are complaining but it is on account of exposure and cold weather mostly. I hear that Cousin Jimmy H. is married is it true.

Give my love to all the family Write soon to your affectionate son J. W. Parks

**Feby 6, 1862**

Camp Sam Jones

Dear Mother,

As Mr North expects to leave tomorrow I will now reply to yours I received by him. I answered Ishy's letter about three days ago by mail. I have not got my trunk from the Junction yet. The roads are almost impassable. There is no telling when we will get them.

If Col. Gartrell had been here the trunks would have been brought long ago. He was the only stake (?) we ever

had & when he left the 7th Georgia Regt fell almost prostrate to the earth everything depends on the officers, if we dont have good officers we can't have good treatment. I hear that Capt. Moore had resigned, he must have got tired of the war quick I was not blaming you at all about the cover but Tomy was the one I was speaking of in my last letter. Send me the remainder of the things I wrote for in my last letter by Johnie H. Send me some bateman(?) drops & liquerice by him. I am very much obliged to you for the things you sent. Mama, where did you get India rubber coat you sent me by Dennis(family slave: ed.) A fellow in the Echols guards by the name of Abraham came over to see me the other day about it he said it was a coat he lent John Atkinson & John's boy carried it home. I gave it to him but it was injured considerably, he did not like it at all, I offered to pay him for the damage of the coat, but he would not have it. You said that Sis was going to board at Uncle John's again & go to Miss Parks, but I think she could have stayed with Ishy & gone to Cousin Julia & been at less expense & going to a far better teacher & one who needs the money more. I dont blame you at all but Uncle John. It looks like we never will draw any more money I cant send until we draw again. Henry Cate's Negro has the dropsy, he will go home with Mr. North. I am messing with two Upshaws, Strickland, T. A. Persons, O. Wynn & Billie Overby, all nice fellows. I will enclose this in a Beauregard envelope he has gone to Reg. now. I have nothing of importance to write.

Write soon to your affect son

J. W. Parks

Give my love to all the family relatives

& friends

J. W. Parks

**Feby 11th 1862**

Camp Sam Jones

Dear Sister (probably his older sister Martha Bland Parks who would have been 23 yrs old). It is with great pleasure that I seat myself to acknowledge the receptance of your most welcome letter which I received by Mr. North last Saturday. I also recd one from Mama & Cousin Mary, J. H. and one from T by mail. I will answer all of them by Mr. North. Tell T that I have his power of attorney. Capt. Chers(?) been quite unwell several days. He will attend to his business as soon as Capt. Holiday pays off the Regt. I was truly sorry to hear of so many deaths & so much sickness in your neighborhood. I do sympathize with Cousin John's family at the death of Ben. But the recollection that he was a good soldier & consecrated his life for the defense of his country should decrease in some degree at least their sorrow. Our trunks are at the Junction, but the roads are so rough that it will be several days yet before we get them. I went to the Junction the day after Mr. North came. I opened my trunk and found everything fixed very nicely. There was two hams in the trunk. Is not one of them for Johnie & Bob, you should have mentioned what things were for me, so it would not be any trouble in dividing the things. I am very much obliged to you & Mama for the trunk, you didn't send



**Col. L.J. Gartrell ABOVE was elected to the Confederate Congress in Jan. 1862. Col. W.T. Wilson, who replaced him as Commander of the 7th GA, did not command the same respect from the soldiers.**

me some of the things that I wrote for but Mama said she would send them by Johnie. How is A P? The snow is about 4 inches deep though it is not very cold. If it is convenient I would like that Mama would send me a pair of shoes by Johnie, my boots are wearing out under the bottom. I dont want brogans but a pair of high quartered shoes. I have nothing more of importance. My love to all the family, relatives & friends. Write soon to your brother

J. W. Parks

P. S. Mama will you please send me some sugar in a small bag. We cant get a bit at any price.

J.W. Parks

**Wednesday March 19th 1862**

Camp near Orange Court House

Dear Mother,

I reckon you all have become troubled

about us as you have not heard from us in so long a time, you may probably suppose the Yanks have captured us, but if you do you are very much mistaken, for we have been spending the last ten days in getting out of their reach. The Army has fallen back to Orange Court House, about 50 miles from Centreville, we do not know whether we will fall back any further or not, but from the appearance of things I dont think we will retreat very much farther. Manassas Junction the great stronghold of our Army has been evacuated by Genl Johnston It is now in the possession of the Northern Troops. I will now to the best of my ability give you a description of our retreat from Centreville. Friday March 7th Recd orders to prepare for marching, to pack knapsack blankets & be prepared to fall into line at the tap of the drum. We were not permitted to carry any more than we could carry on our backs They only handed 6 sets of cooking utensils for the company. We left a great many things, some of the messes lost as much as twenty or thirty pounds of lard & a great many plates, ovens & such things. In fact we had just begun to live like men ought to when we heard the sad tidings depart from your winter quarters. It is true we had a great deal of sickness in quarters but we hated to leave them in the dead of winter though it was probably the better for us. We didn't leave on Friday, loaded the wagons at 9 o'clock that night was kept up nearly all night. Saturday March 8th the drums began to beat about 3 o'clock this morning, fell in lines but didn't begin our march. Again it began but didn't leave. The third time it beat about day and we started upon our march but to what place we were destined we were entirely ignorant.

Went about 2 miles & stopped for the wagons to pass. Fell in about 5 or 6 times but didn't leave, about dark we built our camp fires stayed all night. Tues. a clear cold day & night, slept tolerably cold during the night. Sunday March 9th we awoke this morning and found our blankets covered with frost. Twas a cold but beautiful day. We have no tents at all, no matter what kind of weather comes, we will have it to take. We commenced our march about 11 o'clock. The mud is nearly half boot leg deep. We stopped to camp about 1/2 hour after dark about 4 miles from Warrenton. Went about 12 miles. Orders were very strict, no one is permitted to break ranks, to every hours march we rest about ten minutes. Monday March 10. Arose this morning in the rain, it rained until about 10. Commenced our march about 1/2 hour by the sun. Stopped about an hour after dark to camp one mile this side of Warrenton Springs. Marched about 12 miles. I got permission to stop at Warrenton a few minutes to see Mr. & Mrs. Watson. They were very much troubled on account of the Army falling back below there. They inquired about Tommie Dr. North. Tuesday March 11th Commenced our march about an hour by sun, the roads are not so muddy as before. Camped about an hour by sun. Went about 8 miles. Wednesday March 12th Commenced our march about 9 o'clock went 8 miles & camped near Culpeper Court House. Thursday & Friday we didn't march but had orders from Gen'l Jones to drill 5 hours per day. which we thought unreasonable after several days march. Saturday it rained all day. The most disagreeable weather I ever saw. Sunday March 16th Commenced marching an hour by sun. Travelled until an hour by sun went 10

miles. the roads very muddy. Monday March 17th Commenced marching 1/2 hour by sun, road very bad, went about 10 miles camped 2 miles from Orange Court House about an hour by sun. Wednesday March 18th (sic) commenced our march about 12. Went 4 miles & camped where we are at present. Thus ends our retreat from Centreville. We are now encamped 2 miles from Ex President Madison's dwellings. Albertus & I have been over there this morning. It is the prettiest residence I ever saw. The building is situated on a high hill. The gentleman of the house showed us the different houses & told us for what purposes he used them. We went to the graveyard where he (President Madison), his wife & two of his sons & daughter were buried. I have not recd a letter from home in a month I hope you all will be more punctual in writing in future than heretofore Will John Hunnicutt return to Camp again. Tell T. that Capt. Carmical lost his power of attorney if he will send me one I

will draw his money for him. We heard that Uncle Jim lost two negroes well I hope it is not true. I dont think that Col. Wilson will be as good to us as Col. Gartrell. Give my love to all the family, relatives, neighbors & negroes. I must close as the drum has beat for drill.

From your most affect son  
J.W. Parks

P. S. Please excuse dirty places on the paper for I have been writing on my canteen. I will send you some ivy from President Madison's graveyard.  
J.W. Parks

**April 5th 1862**  
Camp Madison,

Dear Mother,  
I recd your letter by Johnie was sorry to hear of Uncle Jim's loss. I received a letter from Aunt Jane Parks stating that Uncle Jim had just taken

the measles & that the whole family were to have it. Their condition is truly distressing but I hope that the measles will pass through the family very lightly. Charlie Shropshire has got a discharge & Lt. Benton a furlough. I am sorry to hear of the condition of Uncle John P. and his family Bob Perkins returned to camp yesterday, he says that he wrote to Al telling him that he had better return to camp immediately if he didn't want to be courtmartialed. I blamed him for writing such a letter to Al while the family was in such distressing circumstances because it will cause great trouble & uneasiness to Al. William Upshaw, one of my mess, who has been sick at Richmond, came back to camp yesterday & brought the trunk which Johnie brought from home to us & I assure you that we have been feasting most sumptiously since we received them. I received all the articles that you mentioned in your letter. I have been imposing on my stomach unmercifully since they arrived merely to satisfy my





**Gen. G.T. Anderson LEFT was Parks' Brigade commander. He described Him as, "An excellent but strict officer." Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard CENTER was viewed by Parks in a much more favorable light than the General's political foes. However, Parks held similar views to Joshep E. Johnston's enemies. Parks described the General as, "The greatest man that I ever heard of to run his army from one place to another."**

taste. That quince cordial you sent me was excellent to drink with the cakes. My mess received three trunks so you may imagine that we are enjoying ourselves finely. We always invite our friends to share equally with ourselves. Turner Persons is improving very fast. Mama, ask Tomie if he ever received his resignation. Capt. C. received it while we were at Centreville & gave it to me to send him. I sent it to him in a letter & I never heard of it since, he ought to have written back if he did receive it because it is necessary that he should have it to show that he has legally been dismissed from service. I thought he would have sent another power of attorney by Charlie S. but he did not. We have been enjoying fine health since we have been at this camp, but few of the boys have been sick since we left winter quarters. Most of the boys who left us at winter quarters have returned to camp & look finely. All our relatives are well. Johnnie H. has enjoyed fine health since he came. You stated in your last letter that it was

difficult for you to read my letters. You must take into consideration the disadvantages we labor under in camp but so long as you receive letters with my name you may feel confident that I am yet in the land of the living. I will send a twenty (20) dollar bill \$5.00 for Ishy, the remainder for yourself. I have nothing more of importance to write. Give my love to all relatives friends, neighbors & the negroes. My love to Tomie & his Dulcissima especially. I have not received a letter from him since he married, but I received one a short time before in which he wrote as follows. Marriage is the last idea that reaches my mind. He must be very changeable of late.

P. S. I wrote you a long letter a few days after we arrived here giving you a description of our retreat from Centreville. I backed (sic) it with a cedar pencil for there was no ink in camp at that time, did you receive it.

From your affect. son  
J.W.Parks,

Compy A 7th Regt Geo. Vols.

**April 6th 1862**

Camp Madison,

Dear Brother

John Goodwyn & Billie Lynch has just arrived & brings us the sad tiding that Uncle John & Eddie are dead & Pattie is not expected to live. These are truly times of sadness, as regards our relatives. I hold, in fact I know, that you will assist Al in every possible way you can. Recollect that Uncle John was very kind to you when you left home. Tell Al to get a discharge which he can do by sending a duplicate application from two physicians for a discharge he must have the county seal annexed. You know how to proceed with it & will assist him in getting it if he desires it. Bob is not as much affected as I thought he would be but it is probably because he has been expecting it for some time. I received your very short note & power of attorney by John G. The Captain & I have just

been up & drawn your money. Capt. Holliday examined his books & found that you were paid up to the 30th of September. You said in your letter that you drew up to the 6th of Oct. You must be mistaken unless you drew some in Richmond. You must be sure to write me whether or not you drew in Richmond, if you did, your pay roll has been made out wrong, be sure to let me know this for they are very particular about pay rolls. Capt. made out your pay roll from the 30th of Sept. until the 6th of December, which is 2 months & 6 days at the rate of 90 dollars per month or 3 dollars per day. So the Government owed you for 66 days service at 3 dollars per day. Amounting to 198 dollars. I send 200 dollars by Charlie Shropshire. I paid Holliday 2 dollars in order to make the change. I hope this will be satisfactory to you. Capt. would not receive anything for his trouble. You wrote me to keep as much as I wanted. I thank you for this offer, but I have as much as I want & consequently will not keep any. I send Mama 20 dollars, 5 of which is for Ishy. I hope that the measles will be very light in our family, as all of the grown ones have had it I was glad to hear that Aunt Polly & Uncle Jim have recovered. We have to drill about 5 hours per day. Compy & Battalion in the morning & Brigade drill in the evening. Col. Anderson is in command of our Brigade. He is an excellent but strict officer, we have not stood picket since we left Centreville. Nothing more of importance. Where is Week(?). I wish you would get him to come to our house stay with Bud. I know Mama would take an interest in training him in the proper way. am really a sorry for the Orphan little

boy. Give my love to all. I hope I will receive a letter from you & your wife soon. Give her my best respects. From your Brother

J.W. Parks

Comp A 7th Ga.

66 days 3 dollars per day \$198.00

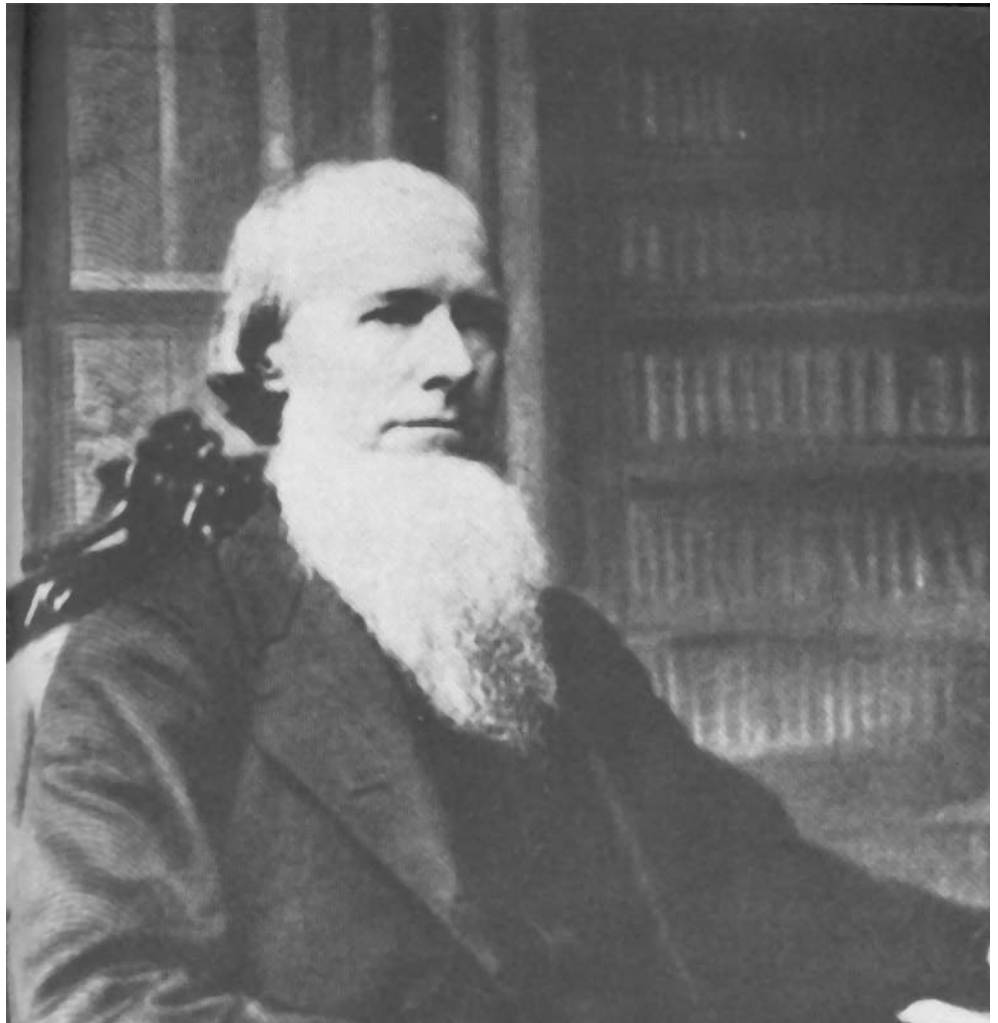
**April 10th**

Camp Madison

Dear Mother ,

As Johnie has been writing to you all & has left some space I concluded I would write you a few lines, as it is my greatest delight to write to & receive letters from you. We have just received marching orders and are to cook 2 days

rations. From appearance I think we are going to march every 3 or 4 days until the expiration of our time. Johnie has just given you a description of our march commencing Sunday night. We marched all night. I didn't shut my eyes that night(except when they shut themselves).We have just heard of our great victory in Mississippi(sic)in which Gen. Albert S. Johnston was killed. Genl Beauregard was there, whose name alone is victory. I have no idea where we are going this time, some say we are going to Yorktown, I dont care where we go, so we get away from here. for Genl Johnston (Joseph E. ed) is the greatest man that



**Joe Brown, the war time governor of Georgia, was praised by Parks for his refusal to recognize the conscription act. "It did the boys a great deal of good. I would rather that Georgia was an independent state than to see her a member of a nation which pays no respect to its most sacred promises.**



I ever heard of to run his army from one place to another. I wrote you & Tomie by John Goodwyn. Gave him 220 dollars, twenty dollars I sent 15 for you & 5 for Ishy, the other was the pay due Tomie. I expect it will take you 3 days to read this, for I am writing on my canteen.

J.W.Parks

Letter from Cousin John Hunnicutt,  
above referred to

**April 10th 1862**

Camp Madison, Va:

To All at Home

Sunday the 6th inst

I wrote 2 or 3 long letters to my friends in Coweta-since then we have encountered hardships such as I cannot describe, but through the tender mercies of God, our health & our lives are still granted unto us, only one member of our Company has been disabled, Abe North sprained his ankle by jumping in a ditch at night, he is at the hotel at Orange C. H. unable to walk, but he is doing well. We received marching orders Sunday night at sunset with only 10 minutes to buckle on our accoutrements & fall into line & start to march for Fredericksburg, consequently we left without supper & with empty haversacks. We slept only 15 minutes Sunday night & continued to march until between 12 & 3 o'clock Monday evening, when we struck camp for the night, in a rain, hail & snow storm (but for a little explanation) we were expecting a great battle near Fredericksburg, but the Yankees retreated in post haste, our services were not needed, the orders were countermanded, & we had to return to our former camping ground.

We spent Monday night in the woods by log fires (bear in mind that it rained, hailed, & snowed alternately from Monday at noon until this morning about sunrise) Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock we started to retrace our steps. We arrived at Camp before night, a 15 miles march without resting. The boys all agree that it was one of the worst & hardest marches we have ever taken. We had nothing to eat until yesterday at 8 but 4 or 5 crackers apiece & a little boiled meat, we had no tents with us. The worst of all we did not accomplish anything by the move. I was quite sick while I was on the way but marched every step & felt very well this morning with the exception of sore feet-but could march now if necessary. A portion of our wagons left this morning for Richmond with our extra baggage. It is said we will leave on the cars for the same place Saturday from thence we expect to be sent to Yorktown Va. or to Goldsborough, N. C. This morning the sun is shining. The snow is melting, but the wind is blowing cold from the North the ground is quite sloppy, but we have a fine fire & are stewing fruit to make pies. We have plenty of flour, lard, butter, sugar & meat etc. recd from home, will live well until we leave. Tom Arnold says tell his Lady he is quite well & not to be uneasy about him if they do not receive a letter from him until our time expires. Joe says he sent \$220.00 dollars home by John Goodwyn, also a long letter, he is quite well. I am messing with Joe, Billie Overby, 2 Upshaws, Dick Smith & Lt. Wynn, Turner Persons also, but he is not here. Charlie Shropshire speaks of leaving this evening. I will send this by him. I sent letters by John B. Goodwyn, I was sorry John could not stay with us longer. Charlie will tell

you all the news & it will be useless to write more. We rejoice to hear of the great victory our forces attained over the enemy near Corinth, hope it is true, some say Sidney Johnston is dead. I hope not. Thousands of soldiers are leaving here on the R.R. for no telling where I have recd no letter except Jim's by Mr. Lynch-Write to me at your convenience. Give my love to all enquiring friends.

Your fond relation.

J.A. Hunnicutt

We leave immediately to take the train.

April 10th 5:05 o'clock.

J.A.H.

**May 21st 1862**

Camp near Richmond

Dear Sister,

I received your letter of the 14th inst yesterday & as I have leisure (sic) time & paper enough, I will reply today. We are better situated now than we have been since we left winter quarters. We are about 3 miles from Richmond, in a cool oak woods, have good water & plenty to eat once more. There is quite a contrast between this place & the Yorktown entrenchments. Yorktown is the last place that I ever want to see again. Our boys who left sick at Yorktown are coming in nearly every day. Jimie Shropshire & Billie O. came in yesterday. Billie looks better than I ever saw him before. He says that Johnnie B & H(?) will be in, in a few days. You say that Tomie will not be compelled to go to war unless he wishes to. Tell him if he can keep out to do it by all means. What will we do if he leaves? There will not be enough at home if all stays that can. I think he will be doing very wrong to go if he can keep

out of it honorably. I understand that Mr Daniel had gone to the 44th Ga Regt. I dont know what has become of all the Yanks. When we were on the peninsular any one could hardly move without hearing the report of their guns & promptly the whine of their bullets, but now we have a place where no Yankee bullets ever come, but I don't know how long it will be before they will come down this way. Every paper states that Beauregard is about to come in contact with the Yanks. I hope he will soon meet them & perfectly annihilate them I believe Beauregard has the entire confidence of every soldier in the service, would that all the officers in Richmond were actuated by as pure motives as Genl Beauregard then you would see our country prosper instead of dwindling away as it now is. We received some Georgia papers yesterday stating that Gov. Brown did not intend to regard the conscription Law. It did the boys a great deal of good. I would rather that Georgia was an independent state than to see her a member of a nation which pays no respect to its most sacred promises. They promised to let us go by home when our time expired but they have turned a deaf ear to that promise. Woe be to every Georgian who voted for that bill. It makes me mad to think I am looked upon in the light of a conscript. We were willing to volunteer but we were never granted the privilege. The next time you write tell me about the farm & stock. I think Tomie might keep me informed about the farm, he has never written me whether his account against the Government was correct or not. I wish he would write me whether it was right or not, the account was made according to the paymaster's books, as you say you are the only one that writes to me

regularly. Tell Mama I reckon I'll have to quit writing to her as she does not answer my letters & Tomie too. Bobbie B. looks better than anybody, he drives the ambulance has nothing to do but attend to two horses. You know he can almost live six weeks without eating if you will only give him horses or steers to frolic with. I am considerably heavier than I was when I left the peninsula(sic). I weigh 137 pounds I would like to see your pretty smart & interesting baby very much. Our Regt is going to get a Confederate uniform. We have not got the best field officers in the service by any means. Many of the best officers in the Regt was put out of office at the reorganization. Write soon & fill out all your paper next time. Give my love to all relations & friends.

From your affect Brother  
J.W.Parks

P.S Mr. Griffin has just arrived at our camp. Speaks of leaving in the morning, seems to be lowspirited. Tell Aunt Jane Parks John U & I wrote to her day before yesterday. Tell her that I will send Al's Ring, Hair, money, purse, dictionary etc by him(Mr.Griffin?). I hope they will alleviate her trouble to some extent at least. Mr. Griffin can give you particulars.  
J.W.Parks

**June 24th '62**  
Near Richmond,

Dear Mother,  
I wrote to Ishy only a few days since, but as I have a good opportunity of sending a letter I concluded to write again. My opportunity of sending a letter is by Dick Smith who has got a

discharge from the Secty of War. John Hunnicutt sent me the letters he recd from you & Dr. I was very sorry to learn that Jimie & Lutie were so sic Ishy said that you could not get Jim to eat anything, but your letter stated that he had got to eating, I hope that he will recover since he has begun to eat, how could I bear the thought of returning home & not see my little brother. Ishy said she would write every 3 or 4 days to let me know Jim's condition, but I have not recd but one yet. I began to think very strange of your silence when I would hear through the letters of others that Jim was so sick. We are now on picket. our post is about one hundred yards from the Yankee post, we never shoot at each other on our posts The Yanks & our men meet each other frequently, though it is positively prohibited. They exchange papers nearly every day. I think it wrong, the Yankee pickets say that they are ordered not to shoot at us until we shoot at them. The musquitoes are far more troublesome in the picket post than the Yankees are. It is the truth that we can't sleep as much on picket on account of them. Today is the appointed time for Col. Doyal's Regt to arrive in Richmond. I expected to have gone up there today, but being on picket, I could not get permission. I shall go to see them as soon as I find where they are encamped (if I can get permission), which is quite difficult when ever we want to go any where we have to get the consent of three Generals. Johnie & Bobie B, Billie O. & myself will try to exchange with some of Capt. Hance's Co. I heard that several of his Co. wanted to come to this, if they do they can find several who will exchange with them. I mentioned in

my letter to Ishy what things I wanted but probably she may not receive it. I want 2 pair of drawers 1 or 2 shirts 2 pair of socks & a hat. You can make a cloth sack just large enough to hold them with a strap to go round the neck, for me to carry them in. I prefer a sack to a knapsack. Bob & Johnie has exhausted their patience waiting for a letter from home. They have not received one since Yorktown(except a note in Billie O's letter). I think you all have made an agreement not to write to us at all & we are about to make the same agreement among ourselves. Tell Aunt Jane Parks that I have written to her since I recd her last letter. Ishy wrote as though she wanted me to have a negro-but I can do very well without one & besides it is very troublesome to move estate negroes about I am sorry to hear that wheat & oat crops are so short. I hope we will make enough corn, will we have enough hogs? how much cotton have we planted? Will we have any corn to buy before the present crop gets reaped. I have nothing more to write. Give my love to all the family relatives friends & negroes.

From your affect son  
J.W.Parks Co A  
7th Georgia Conscripts

(This letter was the last dated letter from J.W.Parks.The following two seem to be incomplete. He died 11 July 1862 -18 yrs 8 mos 20 days.)

**NO DATE** (seems to be addressed to his mother)

You said that Uncle John said that I could make a will. I do not think it necessary. There will not be enough

to will any body, if Uncle John doesn't quit sending Sis to school such times as these. The money sent home I intended it as a present for you, use it as you wish. I will send more when we draw again, though we draw so little that we can hardly make out with. I have to buy a good many things & pay about 3 prices for everthing. I will ask you some questions which you must answer in your next letter. did we make enough corn & meat? how much cotton did we make? how much have we sold? where are your negroes & Ishy's? will Sis go to school? Is T. attending to our lands? did John Ira get in that near ground? how much did he clean up? you need not show this to anyone, Mama. Tell Tomy that Dennis bet on Henry' playing cards several times while he was out here & won about 40 dollars. I just found it out a few days ago. he ought to be whipped for it. Show this to no one.

J.W.Parks  
on back in pencil Dear Mama  
I wish you to fix me up a tolerable large box of nice eatables, such as ham, sausages-5 lbs, lard-10 lbs, butter-10 lbs. cakes, jelly & such things, also wine & brandy & send it to me by the first one passing or send it by express & let me know when you start it so that I can go to the Junction after it. send me a heavy quilt also. I believe all the boys have got eatables but me. I have never received the first thing yet, if you will send it let me know if you will not it doesn't make any difference.

Ed. Note: On Feb. 11,1862 Joseph W. wrote a letter to his Sister reporting the arrival of a trunk at the Junction and all the good things in it. It is possible that the above fragment was

written before that time.

## Without Date page No 5

& then laid him upon them, we then put a coat under his head & one over his face & a blanket over him. Such is the winding sheet of anyone who nobly yields himself a sacrifice for his country. After laying him away as decently as possible, in these blankets & covered him up near the spot rendered sacred to his kindred by his fall. We left with overrunning hearts, but I have not told you of the fight. We arrived in the peninsula Monday night, Tuesday we joined our brigade which came the day before we did. Wednesday morning a pretty brisk firing commenced between the pickets. Orders came for us to get ready to march. We marched about 2 miles & Genl Anderson ordered us to throw off our blankets & prepare ourselves for a fight. In the meantime firing had been kept up by the picket line in quick time. About 3 o'clock the enemy commenced shelling us. Genl Anderson said that he never saw such thick shelling in his life. It seemed to me that the enemy had found out our precise position for every shell looked like it fell in our midst. You never saw boys stick their heads so close to trees in your life. Al & I were lying together & a bomb busted & a ball fell in reach of us, but did not touch either of us. I got up on my knees to get a drink of water out of Al's canteen, he told me lie down that the bombs would kill me these were the last words he ever spoke to me. We were then ordered to change our position to the rear. We had not gone 10 steps before Al was killed by a bomb, taking off the top of his head & the same ball killed one of Compy B. it went through his breast, took off

one of his arms except hanging by a little piece of skin. I did not know that Al was killed until we stopped to load. Billy Overby told me that Al was dead, but I did not think he was, so I got up & called Al but he did not answer me, I was going back to see about him but Col. Wilson rode up & said that he was killed instantly. By this time the Yankees had driven the North Carolinians from their entrenchments. Genl Anderson came up & told Col. Wilson to charge upon the enemy & retake our entrenchments.

**Atlanta Georgia Oct.31 62**

Mrs. Hunnicutt,

Your letter of the 25th inst was received a few days since and has been duly considered. It will afford me great pleasure to aid you in getting your son Thos. B. Parks detailed to manage the negroes on the plantation but I fear it will be a difficult matter. The secretary of War has refused to discharge in similar cases. If however you will send me a written statement of the facts verified on oath before a Justice of Peace, I will forward it to the War Department and urge his discharge. I well remember your son Joseph Parks, who died in the service of his country. He was a noble young man and as a member of my old Regiment felt very near and dear to me. Your other son Thos B. is also an acquaintance. I saw him in Richmond several weeks ago. I pray God that he may be spared to return to you. Please present my best regards to your Husband and believe me, Dear Madam, Very Respectfully  
Your obt servt.

Lucius J. Gartrell

The *Company Front* gratefully acknowledges the dedication and work of Francis Parks whose geneological work made this article possible.

We also extend our thanks to Gregory Parks for his help in obtaining these wonderful letters for our publication.

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### **PICTURE CREDITS:**

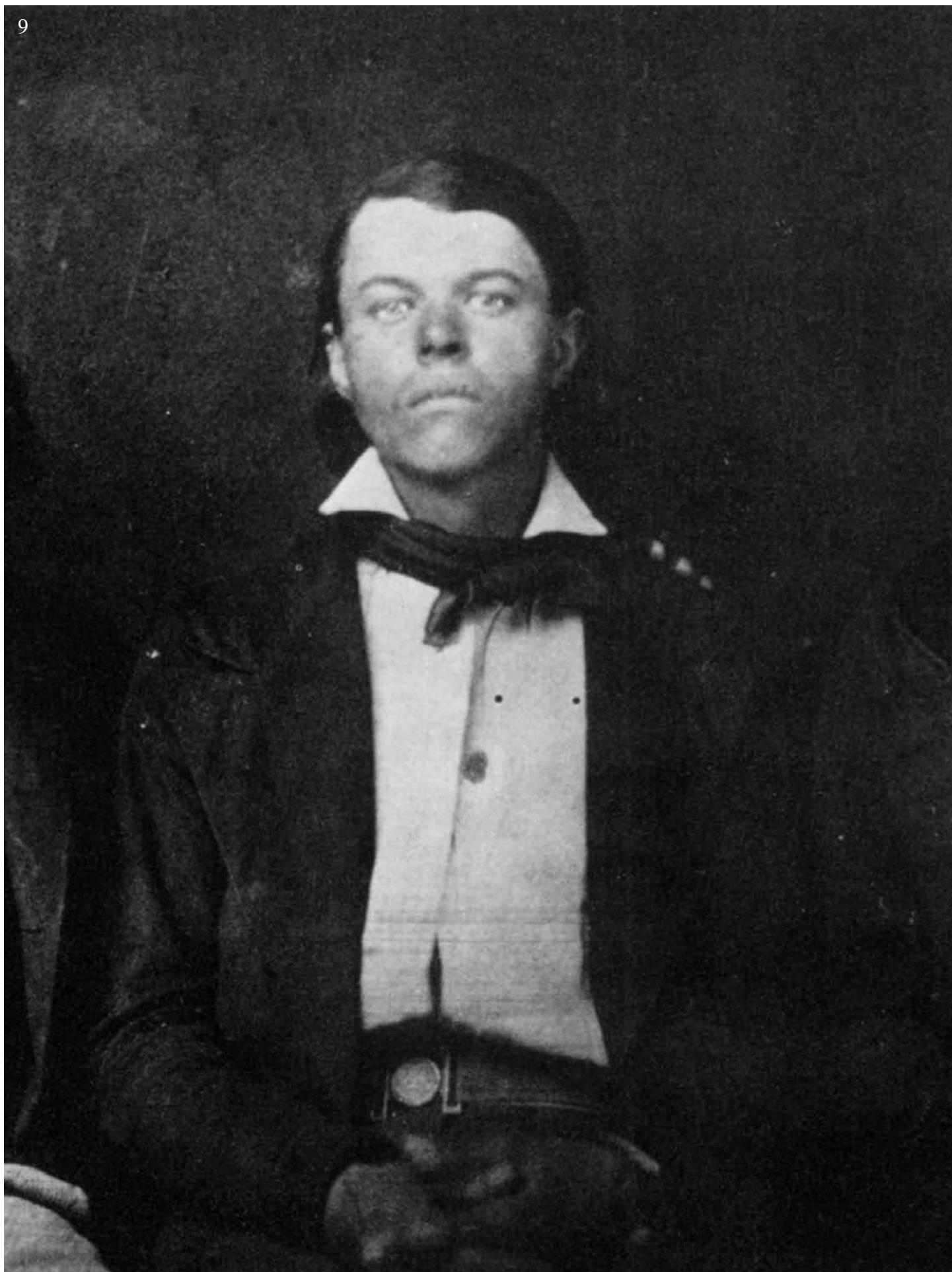
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  2. [www.emory.edu](http://www.emory.edu)
  3. The Photographic History of the Civil War vol V: The Blue and Grey Press: Secaucus NJ: 1987 p.265
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  8. Joe Brown High School website
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### **Editors Notes:**

Jospeh Parks enlisted into Company A “Coweta 2nd District Guards” on July 30, 1861. Prior to his enlistment, the 7th Georgia Infantry, which was organized on May 31, 1861, participated in First Manassas on July 21, 1861. Joseph was present with the 7th GA for the April, 1862 siege of Yorktown VA, as well as Ellison’s Mill (April 16th, 1862), New Bridge and Mechanicsville (May 23-24, 1862), and the Seven Days Battles (June 25-July 1, 1862). Joseph died in a Richmond Hospital on July 11, 1862.

The 7th Georgia, early in the war, served under four different brigade commanders before finally being assigned to Gen. George T. Anderson’s Brigade prior to the Seven Days Battles. The regiment stayed with Anderson’s Brigade, Hoods (Field’s) Divison, Longstreet’s Corp for the balance of the war.





# Only What Was On Our Backs

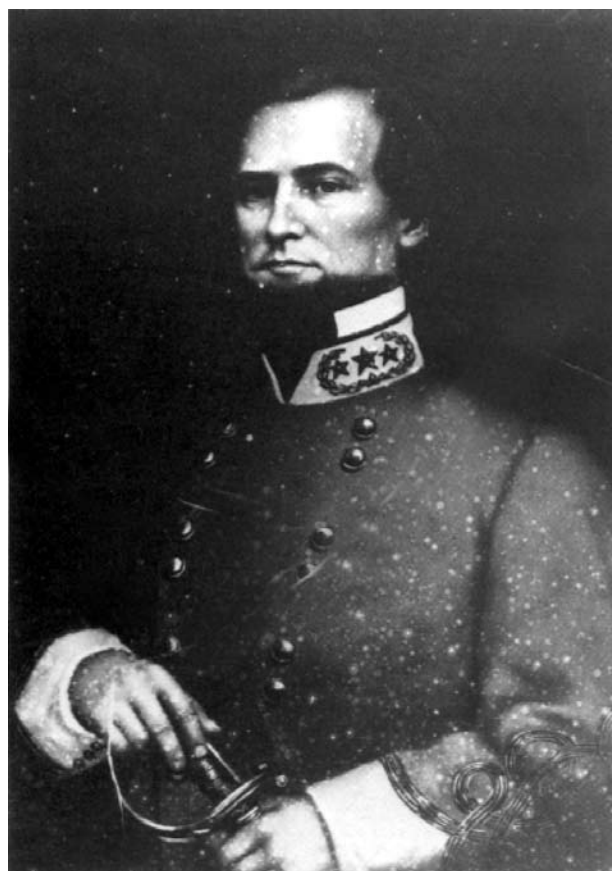
**The 35th NCT Provides An Excellent Example of the Arms and Equipment Supplied to North Carolina Troops In Lee's Army While It Was At Its Most Threadbare.**

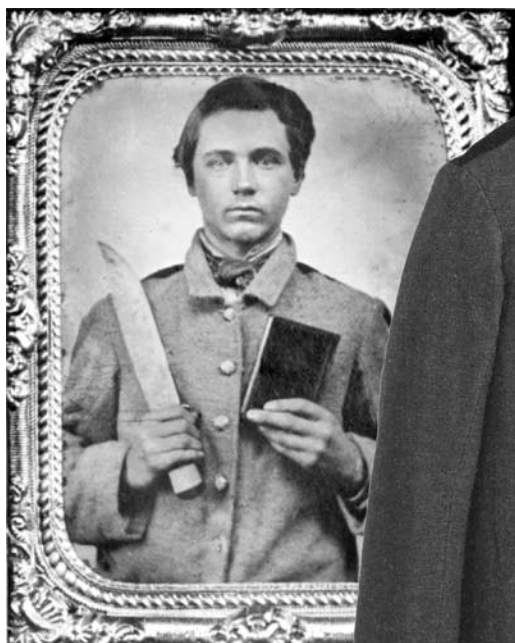
Dave Hunter & Christopher Graham  
Article Provided By: Bob Williams

The 35th NCT organized at Camp Mangum in Raleigh on November 8, 1861. The companies represented every region of the state and "...there were few officers or men in the regiment of distinguished political position. The rank and file were chiefly farmers and small merchants, comparatively few were owners of slaves."

In January 1862, the regiment joined the State forces under Lawrence O'B. Branch resisting Burnside's advance into eastern North Carolina. The 35th NC received its baptism of fire at the Battle of New Bern on March 14. The regiment occupied a position near the center of the Confederate line, with a battalion of local militia on their right flank. The Federals attacked the militia, which promptly broke ranks and fled. This disaster permitted the Federals to flank the 35th and forced the regiment into a disorderly retreat. The Confederates could not hold the Federals back and lost New Bern. Branch's force then withdrew west to Kinston. At Kinston on April 21, the regiment reorganized "for the

war". The soldiers voted out the officers found lacking in leadership at New Bern and selected new officers who had demonstrated talent. The men also selected a new regimental commander, Matt W. Ransom. The regiment was assigned to Robert Ransom's brigade while at Kinston. On June 19, the brigade, composed of the 24th, 25th, 26th, 35th and 49th NCT, moved to Virginia where it joined Huger's division outside Richmond. Between June 25 and June 28, the 35th NC "was involved in some sharp minor engagements with General Philip Kearny's division" near King's School House. It saw no further combat until Malvern Hill on July 1, where it attacked with the brigade and suffered heavy losses. Despite the





11, 12



**ABOVE:** The 1861 NC Regulation sack coat that was initially issued to the 35th NC as illustrated by Pvt. Levi D. Bedingfield of Co. G 35th NCT.

**BELOW:** Chart showing clothing issues for the 35th NC in April, 1862.

repulse, the brigade commander stated that the 35th acted with “admirable gallantry” during this attack.

### The Maryland Campaign

While Lee’s army marched west to defeat Banks at Cedar Mountain and Pope at Second Manassas, Ransom’s

Brigade remained in the Richmond-Petersburg defenses, digging trenches and defending Drewry’s Bluff against the approach of Federal gunboats up the James River.

On August 26, the brigade moved by rail to rejoin the main body of Lee’s army. The brigade, less the 26th NCT, was now assigned to a new division commanded by Brig Gen. John G. Walker. The division rejoined the Army of Northern Virginia near Leesburg on September 3 and crossed the Potomac the following day. After an unsuccessful attempt to destroy the C&O canal aqueduct near Monocacy Junction, Walker’s Division moved to Loudon Heights on September 14, to intercept Federals trying to escape Jackson’s envelopment of Harper’s Ferry. The division remained on the right bank of the Potomac during the siege and the surrender of the Federal garrison, then marched on towards Sharpsburg without obtaining any of the supplies captured with the town. Walker’s Division arrived at Sharpsburg on September 16, and Lee placed it on the extreme right flank of the army.

The 35th NC awoke at 3:00 a.m. on September 17 and took its position with the remainder of the brigade. The Federals launched strong attacks on Stonewall Jackson’s forces near the Dunker Church and the West Woods, which Jackson’s men were hard-pressed to halt. As the situation worsened in the West Woods, Lee directed Walker’s Division at 9:00 a.m. to reinforce Jackson’s beleaguered command. Ransom’s Brigade led this move arriving there an hour later. The brigade immediately attacked into the right flank of the Federal division and routed them. Ransom’s Brigade remained in position for the rest of the

ARTICLE	COMPANY									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K
Jackets	75	81	83	85	98	80	83	84	67	15
Pants	75	81	83	85	98	80	83	84	67	50
Shirts	75	81	83	85	98	80	83	84	67	35
Draw-	75	81	83	85	98	80	83	84	67	36
Shoes	75	81	83	85	98	80	83	84	67	45
Caps	75	81	83	85	98	80	83	84	67	50



**Pvt. John Exum Smith, Co. F 35th NCT ABOVE is wearing an example of the NC Depot jacket which was probably issued to the 35th NC in April, 1862**

day and repelled “three determined infantry attacks.” Along with the brigade, the 35th NCT remained under “a most persistent and terrific artillery fire” during this period. (While in this position, Private William Hood of Company H, climbed a tree under fire to act as an observer for Stonewall Jackson).

Ransom’s Brigade recrossed the Potomac late on September 18, marching through Martinsburg to a bivouac “north of Winchester.” It remained in this camp until October 23 and occasionally sent details to destroy portions of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad.

The 35th NCT departed this bivouac on October 23 as the army consolidated east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Lieutenant William H.S. Burgwyn, of Company H, detailed the movements

and events in his diary during the last week of October.

### **Clothing and Equipment, 1862**

The uniforms, weapons, and equipment of the regiment typified that of North Carolina regiments raised in late 1861. The State of North Carolina armed, clothed, and equipped its troops prior to transfer to Confederate service. Several early-war images of soldiers in the 35th NCT show them wearing the 1861 N.C. regulation coats.

The regiment lost much of its personal and organizational baggage during the retreat after New Bern. At Kinston in late April, the companies of the regiment received new uniforms, issued out of North Carolina supplies. The Special Requisition forms (Form 40) show that while the company commanders requested “coats” or

“uniform coats”, they received only “jackets” from W.W. Peirce, a state quartermaster. The number of jackets issued equaled the number of coats requested. These officers generally stated that their men required new clothing because “all of the clothing with the exception of one suit was lost in the retreat from Newbern.”

This chart (previous page) shows that the companies received an ample amount of clothing for their soldiers. Company K appears to have not been issued sufficient clothing, but the requisition was filled at the amounts requested. One item requested, but not provided, to Company K was “fifty fatigue jackets”. The quartermaster issued the 15 “jackets” in lieu of the “uniform coats” requested. Several companies received other small issues of clothing and equipment between March 14 and June 1:

Company D: March 29 - 5 overcoats, 24 haversacks, 1 shirt

Company E: March 17 - 1 coat, 25 pr pants, 25 pr shoes, 2 pr drawers, 2 shirts

March 29 – 5 overcoats, 15 haversacks

May 17 – 20 jackets, 20 pants, 20 pr drawers, 20 shirts, 20 pr shoes, 20 caps (this issue was “for recruits”)

Company G: March 14 – 15 pr shoes, 25 pr drawers, 25 shirts, 1 coat (issued one day before the Battle of New Bern)

Company H: May 29 – 5 overcoats, 15 haversacks

The only quartermaster items missing from these issues were blankets, which the company commanders did not request on the Form 40s. The soldiers must have retained their blankets during the retreat to Kinston.

On April 7, several companies were issued “Bell Tents”- Company C, 10

tents; Company D, 10 tents; Company E, 10 tents; Company F, 10 tents; Company H, 10 tents, and Company K, 9 tents. There were also other issues of small numbers of pans, shovels, axes, picks, and spades to some of the companies.

The 35th NCT moved to Virginia on June 21 relatively well-clothed and shod in North Carolina-issue items. There are no records of any other issues of clothing during the period June 21 to October 31. The regiment's assistant quartermaster, Nicholas M. Long, signed for the following equipment at Raleigh on June 28, 1862: 750 knapsacks, 250 haversacks, 30 wall tents, 6 fives, 3 hospital tents, and 463 canteens and straps. When the regiment moved to rejoin the ANV, Lieutenant William Burgwyn recorded on August 27 that they were "... allowed to take no baggage with us on the trains but what we could carry on our backs." The wagons carrying only tent flies and the regulation's amount of baggage" indicating that the bell and wall tents were left in Richmond. These wagons did not rejoin the brigade until late on September 1. Lieutenant Walter Clark, the Adjutant of the 35th NCT, wrote later: "Our men have not had a tent since we left Richmond in August." Garland Ferguson of the 25th NCT wrote of this move: "Camping equipments had been left behind at Richmond and frequently on the march the men had to resort to ramrods for baking purposes and forked sticks for the roast."

During the rapid movement to their new position in the West Woods, some in the regiments of Ransom's Brigade dropped their knapsacks and blankets and were later unable to retrieve them. Corporal W.N. Rose of the 24th NCT wrote that prior to this move: "Here

we were ordered to lay off knapsacks which we never saw again." Another regiment in the division, the 27th NCT, also lost their blankets and knapsacks, "having piled them up by companies as we entered the fight and being unable, on account of the change of position, to get them, as we intended on 18 September." Walter Clark in a letter to his mother stated that "...when we got in two miles of our position (now the extreme left) [the West Woods]...Our men were ordered to throw off their knapsacks and we pushed forward." It is unknown how many soldiers dropped off knapsacks and blankets at that point, but it is clear that many soldiers lost these items during or immediately after the battle. While in bivouac near Martinsburg on September 21, Lieutenant Burgwyn noted that his men were "...suffering very much in the night from want of bed clothes,

baggage and clothing being lost." He wrote his brother two days later: "We retreated or fell back after the battle of Sharpsburg across the river and in our haste lost all our baggage and bed clothing but no regiment but ours [35th NCT] lost the officers' baggage or bed clothing." Later, while spending a cold night on the picket line near Upperville, Walter Clark observed: "Not one in twenty of our men have blankets." William Day of the 49th NCT, recalled that his regiment "crossed the Potomac into Virginia again, and lost all our knapsacks and blankets on the march." Garland Ferguson, 25th NCT, also remembered "...blankets and change of clothing had been left at Sharpsburg, and when the men recrossed the Potomac they were without blankets and bare of clothing."

According to Clark, the camp equipment carried on the regimental wagons



**Young Second Lieutenant William H. Burgwyn, younger brother of Henry K. Burgwyn, became the 35th NC's unit historian after the war. After Sharpsburg, Burgwyn was instrumental in obtaining clothing and equipment for his men at a time when the Confederate army was threadbare. He explained their condition during the retreat by saying "Our wagons are very often separated from us three, four, five days or more at a time and I have nothing except what I have on my back or in my pockets**



was rarely seen on the march because “our wagons are very often separated from us three, four, five days or more at a time and I have nothing except what I have on my back or in my pockets.” Lieutenant Burgwyn thought the wagons had been captured, but they were only separated from the brigade during the retreat. He noted in his diary on October 3 that “Warrenton, Virginia had not been captured by the Yankees and consequently our baggage was safe.” This “baggage” would have been officers’ baggage, tent flies and other camp equipment packed on the regiment’s wagons in late August.

Shelter in the Virginia camps was limited to what the soldiers could build themselves. On October 27, a month after the army returned to Virginia, Burgwyn wrote: “Sent one wagon today to bring our tent flies from Warrenton, Virginia.” William Day described the use of tent flies in the 49th NCT bivouac during late October:

“Instead of tents we had what was known as flies. They were cloths about ten feet wide and fifteen feet long and were put up by placing a fork in the ground at each end and with a pole

from one end to the other and fastening one side of the cloth to the pole and the other to the ground.” They made very good shelters unless the wind and rain blew in on the open side. After the return to Virginia, the regiment took steps to obtain replacement clothing and equipment. On September 23, Burgwyn recorded in his diary: “Captain Long, our quartermaster...was sent home to get clothing and cetera for the regiment.” Burgwyn added in a letter that “our quartermaster goes to Raleigh today to get clothing, guns, etc., etc., for the men.” Burgwyn wrote his brother on September 23 that “We are making out here as well as can be expected with no blankets or baggage and hope soon to get supplies from our Quartermaster Captain Long.” Long did not return to the regiment and the mission to bring back clothing was assigned to another officer in October. Burgwyn detailed Corporal William G. Morris “to go to Mecklenburg County, N.C. to get clothes for the company” but noted on October 22 that he sent Corporal Morris “to get blankets for the company.” The situation for the other NC regiments in the division was equally bad. Lt. Col. Samuel H. Walkup, 48th

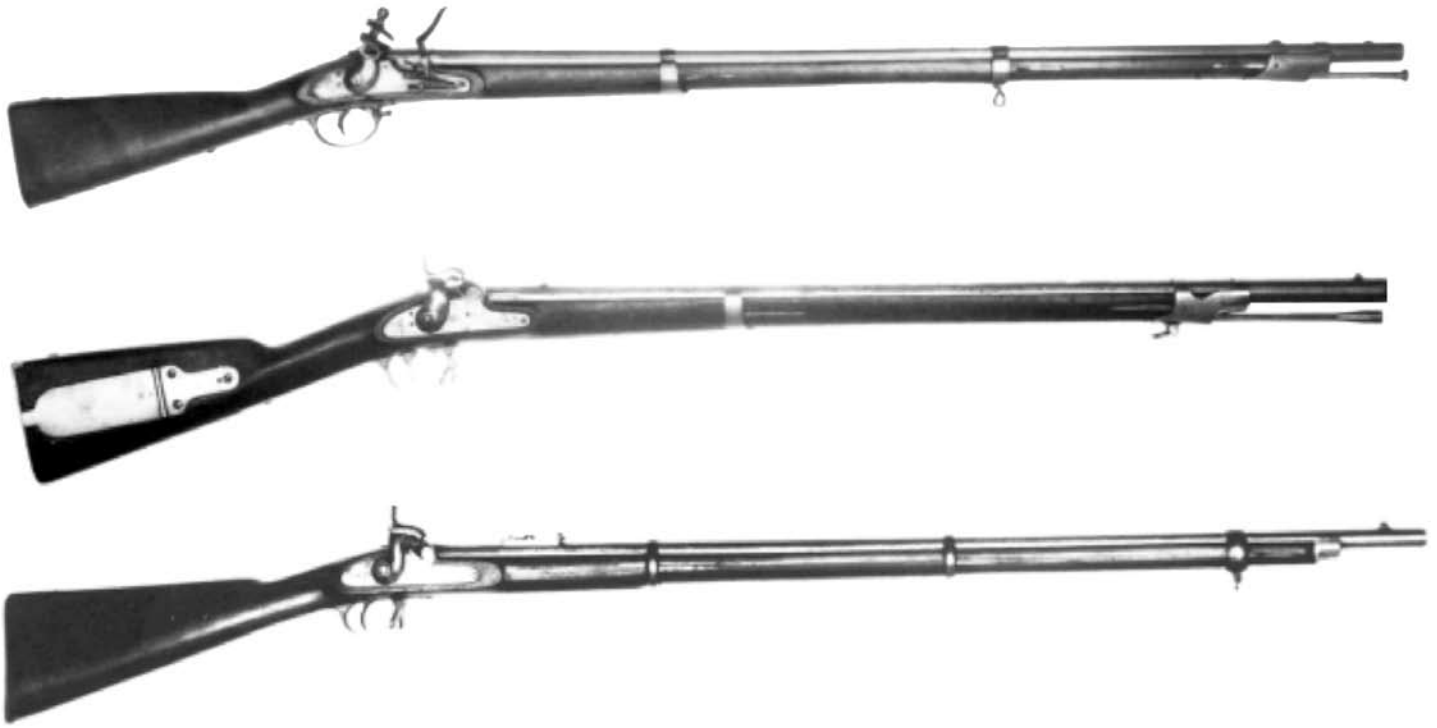
NCT, wrote Governor Zebulon Vance on October 11 about the condition of his men. Walkup’s letter gives a clear, if grim, picture of the condition of his regiment and this was probably representative of other regiments in Walker’s Division. He stated that of 619 men present, 51 were “completely & absolutely Barefooted” and another 194 “nearly as bad off, as Barefooted.” Walkup continued:

“There are but Two hundred and ninety seven blankets in the Regt. among the 619 men present which is less than one blanket to every two men. In truth there is one Compy (I) having 66 men & only Eleven Blankets in the whole company-- The pants are generally ragged & out at the seats & there are less than three cooking utensils to each Company-- This sir is the condition of our Regt. Upon the eve of winter here among the mountains of Va. Cut off from all supplies from home.” What is said of the 48th NCT. is equally true of other Regts in the service from N.C. & from other States too. Walkup described the privations facing his men and implored Governor Vance to come to the aid of the North Carolinians in the army. He stated what was immediately required:

“What we most pressingly need just now is our full supply of Blankets, of Shoes, & of pants and socks. We need very much all our other clothing too. But we are in the greatest need of these indispensable articles & Must have them & have them Now.” These conditions prompted Vance to call on the citizens of North Carolina for aid. He issued an appeal on October 15 for donations of winter clothing to meet the soldiers’ needs. Governor Vance identified what items were in greatest demand:

WEAPON	COMPANY									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K
Fl & St. Conver.			83	85		80	83	84	67	15
Fl. & St.					98					
Miss. rifles	75	81								

ABOVE: Chart showing the type and distribution of weapons initially issued to the 35th NC.



Some examples of the Muskets, rifles and rifled muskets issued to the 35th NC throughout its service. They include **FROM TOP TO BOTTOM** M1816 Flintlock musket (Most of these were converted to percussion locks but a few were issued with their flint and steel ignition system still intact), M1841 "Mississippi" rifle, P1853 Enfield rifled musket. The more modern Enfields were issued by May 1862.

"The articles most needed, and which the State finds it most difficult to supply, are shoes, socks and blankets, though drawers, shirts and pants would be gladly received...A great lot of blankets also might yet be spared from private use, and thousands could be made from the carpets upon our parlor floors."

Murdock McSween, a North Carolina lawyer and "unofficial journalist" with the army in 1862, wrote Governor Vance in mid-November detailing the plight of the North Carolina soldiers:

"Our soldiers in the Army of the Potomac [ANV] need shoes, blankets & clothes very badly—The companies there average probably 30 effective men each. About one third are barefooted or the same as barefooted—I saw many men marching in the snow entirely without shoes or any substitute— there are perhaps 10

men in a company well shod—Very few men are amply supplied with blankets, many have none and others have only one thin blanket apiece. Our soldiers...left or lost their baggage before their trip to Maryland. They are of course ragged and dirty, and itch vermin and disease are very prevalent—Much of the baggage they left when starting on their march has been damaged, stolen or misplaced since they left...The articles I think most necessary are shoes, blankets, pants and coats & should be supplied first."

Through both government and individual efforts, the 35th NCT finally received some new clothing while in camp near Madison Court House on November 12. Lieutenant Burgwyn wrote: "The Quartermaster sent two wagons to Gordonsville today to get the clothing for the regiment just arrived there from Raleigh." Garland

Ferguson, 25th NCT, also remembered that "The regiment marched to Madison Court House where it bivouaced and then drew a supply of clothing and blankets." On November 15, Burgwyn received a bundle of carpet blankets from his uncle. He wrote his mother two days later, "As soon as I receive the blankets you are going to send me I intend to give them out but till then I will need them myself and they are the very sort of blankets my men are now thoroughly supplied with blanket and clothing the man who I detailed to go home and get them has returned and they have as much as they can carry."

The bulk of the clothing would have been from the North Carolina Quartermaster Department and the blankets from the Mecklenburg families of the soldiers, as he refers to Corporal Morris as "[my] man who went home for blankets," Morris probably

bought back some clothing items as well. There are no records of this November issue of clothing that list types and quantities received. As an officer, young Lieutenant Burgwyn did not draw government clothing and his uniform was in poor condition. He described his appearance to his mother: "My pants at the bottom are so ragged that I have to hem them up and all the lining [in] most of my coat is torn out." The Regiment would eventually move to Fredericksburg and later participate in the fighting around Marye's Heights on December 13. Burgwyn recalled that he permitted his men on the field after the battle to salvage clothing and other items.

### **Arms and Accouterments, 1862**

The 35th NCT initially received some flintlock muskets and rifles, but by the end of December 1861, the regiment was armed in accordance with prewar doctrine and the weapons available. The two "flank" companies, A and B, received rifles while the other eight companies were issued muskets. "Fl. & St. muskets" are "flint and steel," or flintlock, muskets; "Miss. rifles" are M1841 "Mississippi" rifles. The "altered muskets" and the flintlock muskets are most probably the various types of M1816 muskets, part of the State's prewar stockpile of militia weapons. North Carolina gunsmiths reworked many of these to percussion muskets, although some unaltered flintlock muskets were issued. Perhaps some of the percussion conversion M1816 muskets came from the stock of weapons confiscated at Fayetteville Arsenal, but this is unlikely as the bulk of these weapons had been issued earlier. Company G's muskets were listed as "bronze" (browned). The State owned a mix of standard M1841

rifles and "long range" M1841 rifles, the improved version of this type introduced in the late 1850's, fitted with adjustable sights, a saber bayonet, and bored out to .58 caliber. The State sent quantities of these "Mississippi Rifles" to arm Virginia regiments and other Confederate units in 1861. The Mississippi rifles seen in an image of North Carolina soldiers appear to be the standard M1841 rifle. However, since Company B reported that it had "sword bayonets" for its rifles in January 1862, it must have received the later model "long range" M1841 rifle.

Full sets of accouterments were issued with each weapon, with the exception of Company H, which received only 87 sets for the 103 weapons issued. A set consisted of a cartridge box, shoulder belt, waist belt, cap pouch, bayonet scabbard, and a "gun sling". Each company received a limited numbers of "spare cones", "screw drivers," "wipers" and "ball screws". Company C reported five "non-commissioned officers swords" on a January 1862 ordnance return, but none of the other companies report having any.

By May 1862, three of the companies of the 35th NCT were armed with "Enfield rifles". Lt. Col. Oliver C. Petway wrote to Walter Clark on May 18: "We have five rifle companies three Enfield & two Miss Rifle companies." He did not specify which companies were armed with the Enfield rifles or when they received them.

There is no information on the types of weapons the regiment carried through the Maryland Campaign. The CS Ordnance Department re-armed some ANV regiments having substandard arms with weapons captured during the Seven Days Battles.

The 35th NCT may or may not have received "improved" arms in the form of captured weapons. However, it is unlikely that Companies A and B, or the three other "rifle" companies would have exchanged weapons as they had M1841 and Enfield rifles, both considered "first-class" weapons at the time.

### **The Appearance of the Soldiers in October, 1862**

The condition of the Army of Northern Virginia during the Maryland Campaign was particularly bad. The soldiers showed the effects of the hard-fought battles around Richmond, Cedar Mountain, and Second Manassas. Every account of the Maryland Campaign chronicles the dilapidated condition of Lee's troops, characterizing them as ragged, dirty, and barefoot. While that was clearly the case in many regiments others were in comparatively better condition, although this is probably comparing degrees of poverty.

The 35th NCT, and the other regiments of Ransom's Brigade, was probably a little better off than many units in the ANV going into the campaign. The regiment received a nearly complete resupply of clothing during the last week of April, 1862. It also received large numbers of knapsacks, canteens, and haversacks in late June-early July. Additionally, they had been spared nearly two months of campaigning while manning the defenses of Richmond and Petersburg. The regiment "assist[ed] in the construction of the fortifications around those cities." Clearly, digging earthworks in midsummer was not easy work, but the soldiers would have been able to remove their coats while working, probably had some time to wash their

clothing, if only with water, and repair torn or frayed garments.

The condition of soldiers of the 35th NCT at the close of the Maryland Campaign was much the same as the rest of Lee's hungry, dirty, and foot-sore troops. Overall, their clothing may have been a little less worn, but it was probably not in significantly better condition. David G. Maxwell, William Burgwyn's company commander at Sharpsburg, described the details of Private William Hood's exploits at Sharpsburg for the regimental history written in 1900. He noted that Hood "...did not 'take off his shoes in a jiffy', [as Burgwyn had described] from the fact that he had no shoes on this feet, they being so sore he could not wear any. He was not only barefooted but ragged, dirty and lousy. His condition, however, was not an exception, as 'there were others.'" In November 1862, Adjutant Clark described the men: "They lost most of their blankets at Sharpsburg they lay out at night by the fire and most of them in ragged clothes and without any covering." On November 26, Clark described the use of rawhide moccasins as substitutes for shoes, estimating that the regiment "would have fifty or seventy stark-barefooted men" without the use of the make-shifts. His comments give some idea of the numbers of barefooted soldiers in the 35th NCT after the Maryland Campaign. Still, it is interesting that at no time during the period of August to December 1862 does Burgwyn record in his diary that his men were barefoot or in rags.

The description of the 48th NCT given by Lt. Col. Walkup would probably apply to the 35th NCT during October 1862. Walkup reminded Vance that the 48th NCT "entered the service

1st of April last [1862]" and that the regiment had "...passed six months in the service & you well know we have seen hard service during that time." Those soldiers received "generally one suit each except socks...one pair of shoes." This clothing issue occurred within a few weeks of the resupply of clothing to the 35th NCT. Walkup's letter indicates that by October the soldiers' trousers were ragged and some of their shoes were either badly worn or missing. He lists blankets, shoes, socks, and pants as the items most needed. In this letter and in other contemporary descriptions of ragged North Carolinians, "coats" are not in great demand. This would indicate that the coats were in relatively better condition than other clothing and were still serviceable. Since the clothing on 35th NCT soldiers was also issued in April and subjected to the same basic level of wear, it was probably in the same shape as that found on the soldiers of the 48th NC.

The 35th NCT did not have access to Federal weapons or equipment captured or salvaged from the 1862 battlefields until Fredericksburg. Unlike many North Carolina regiments, the 35th NC did not participate in many of the Seven Days' Battles, the battle at Cedar Mountain or any of the Second Manassas actions. It was on the east bank of the Potomac near Loudon Heights during the capture of Harper's Ferry, and did not enter the town. As result, the regiment did not share in the supplies captured at Manassas Junction or Harper's Ferry. Additionally, they were not present on any major battlefield after a Confederate victory, so would have had little opportunity to obtain Federal items by capture or salvage. Some individual soldiers could have

salvaged a few items from the Federal casualties within the Confederate lines in the West Woods and along the Hagerstown Pike on the evening of September 17, but this supply would have been limited and the search was probably not a priority for most of the men, who must have been exhausted from the day's fighting.

Once on campaign, the average soldier in the regiment had little opportunity to purchase food, clothing, shoes, or blankets. Lieutenant Clark estimated that the "Valley of Virginia in peace times is I presume the best country (agriculturally) in North America but now it is quite bare. Two Counties having in progress of this war supported two immense Yankee and the same number of Confederate armies...Down here [camp near Culpeper Court House] if anything is worse than the Valley." The local population was probably hoarding what little food, clothing and bedding they had left. While at Upperville on October 25, Lieutenant Burgwyn added to his diary that he "went through the town but could not succeed in buying anything for a protection against the weather such as blankets, etc." Since an officer with cash could not buy what he needed, it is unlikely that the local citizens sold or gave away much, if anything, to the individual soldiers. William England of the 25th NCT, tired of the short rations, lamented in December: "We cant get to go into the country to buy anything and if we could we have no money to buy with." This was no doubt the same situation in the other regiments of Ransom's Brigade. Prices were high for what was available. Walter Clark noted some prices: "...butter is \$1 to 1.25 cts. per pound. Common Apples 50 cts, apiece. Honey \$1.50 per pound.

Chinese sugar cane molasses 4, 5, 8 & 10 dollars a gallon &c. Sugar and coffee is not to be procured. We use wheat coffee and honey." Obviously, there would be some theft from careless citizens, but this was not a reliable source of supply.

Homemade clothing was probably not common in the regiment during October. The April-May clothing issue provided the necessary clothing and the events of the Maryland campaign caused the loss of clothing from home contained in knapsacks or blanket rolls. There is no information indicating that boxes of clothing and food sent from families in North Carolina arrived at the October bivouac sites, so the soldiers would not have new homemade clothing in October. As late as December many boxes from home had not reached the soldiers. William England was disappointed when a soldier returned to camp "...without our things. He stored them away in a North Carolina Depot in Richmond because Gen Lee has ordered for no boxes to be transported." As noted earlier, the arrival of "blankets" and probably some clothing from the families at home did not occur until November.

When the army moved east in late October, the soldiers had time to contemplate concerns other than the Federal army. Many officers and men repeated their calls for pay, which they had gone without for nearly six months. Others, especially officers, took the opportunity to apply for furloughs or think about ways of visiting family or friends outside the army. Indeed, some soldiers found the march east from Winchester enjoyable. William England noted on October 2, that despite the fact that "we are without Blankets or without

a change of clothing..." the light marching order in the cool Autumn weather suited them. "[T]he regiments [have] their guns stacked in line & each company occupys a narrow space on each side of their guns without any shelter. I once would have thought it hard treatment, but now I enjoy it with a relish, My only wish is that we may always fair that well."

By early October, cold weather arrived and dampened some of the enthusiasm for outdoor living. Lt. Col. Walkup of the 48th noted in his diary on October 27 "Last night near Upperville, Va., was an awful night in camp upon soldiers, without tents and blankets, cold, raining & very high winds." When an early snow struck a few weeks later, England lamented the same conditions: "We are seeing hard times in the snow without any shelter only as we make shelter of brush and a hard way to get wood to make fires."

As the days passed without any blankets or clothing, some North Carolinians looked to their governor-elect, Zebulon B. Vance for relief. Prior to his election in July, 1862, Vance had been Colonel of the 26th NCT and campaigned in the army as "the soldier's candidate." He had made speeches to various regiments, and told the men that when elected, he would take measures to ensure their safety and comfort. As Walkup's October 11 letter shows, many were expecting Vance to live up to his campaign rhetoric.

1 William H. S. Burgwyn, "Thirty-Fifth Regiment" in *Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-65*, ed. Walter Clark, (Goldsboro, NC: Nash Brothers, 1901) volume II, pp 591-592. Cited hereafter as NC Regts.

2 This summary of the actions of the regiment through 1862 is taken from information found in NC Regts, II, pp 592-609 and from Weymouth T. Jordan and Louis H. Manarin, *North Carolina Troops: A Roster. Infantry: 32nd-35th and 37th Regiments* (Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1983), Vol. IX, pp 354-356.

3 The information is taken from W.H.S. Burgwyn's wartime diary and letters. See Herbert M. Schiller, ed., *A Captain's War: The Letters and diaries of William H.S. Burgwyn, 1861-1865*, (Shippensburg, PA: White Mane Publishing Co., Inc., 1994), pp 29-30. Cited hereafter as Burgwyn.

4 The images of some enlisted men of the regiment are found in Greg Mast, *State Troops and Volunteers: A Photographic Record of North Carolina's Civil War Soldiers* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1995), volume 1, pp 36, 67, 68, 200, 248. Several other soldiers are wearing plain jackets, perhaps those issued later in April.

5 The data on clothing and equipment issues is taken from the compiled service records of the company commanders of the 35th NCT in 1862. See National Archives, *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, Thirty-Fifth North Carolina Infantry*, 5 rolls. Cited hereafter as 35 NC CSR.. The quote on uniform condition is from the CSR for Captain David G. Maxwell, Company H.

6 See 35 NC CSR, Nicholas H. Long

7 Burgwyn, p. 14

8 Walter Clark, letter to his mother, November 11, 1862. A.L. Brooks and H.T. Lefler, ed., *The Papers of Walter Clark. Volume 1, 1857-1901* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1948), p. 93. Cited hereafter as Clark Papers.

9 Garland Ferguson, "Twenty Fifth Regiment" in NC Regts, II, p. 296.

10 W.N. Rose, "Twenty Fourth Regiment" in NC Regts, II, p. 275.

11 James Graham, "Twenty Seventh Regiment" in NC Regts, II, p. 438.

12 Walter Clark, letter to his mother, September 26, 1862. Clark Papers, I, p. 80.

13 Burgwyn, p 21, p 23

14 Walter Clark, letter to his mother, September 26, 1862. Clark Papers, I, p. 88.

15 William A. Day, *A True History of Company I, 49th Regiment North Carolina Troops* (Newton, NC: Enterprise Job Office, 1893, reprinted Baltimore: Butternut and Blue, 1994), p. 28.

16 NC Regts, II, p. 296

17 Clark Papers, I, p. 85.

18 Burgwyn, p. 27

19 Burgwyn, p 29

20 William A. Day, *A True History of Company I, 49th Regiment North Carolina Troops* (Newton, NC: Enterprise Job Office, 1893, reprinted Baltimore: Butternut and Blue, 1994), p. 29.

21 Burgwyn, p. 20

22 Burgwyn, p. 22

23 Burgwyn, p. 24

24 Burgwyn, p. 28, p. 29

25 See Samuel H. Walkup letter to Governor Vance, October 11, 1862, in Frontis W. Johnston, ed., *The Papers of Zebulon B. Vance, Volume I, 1842-1862*, (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1963), pp 258-260. Cited hereafter as Vance Papers.

26 Vance Papers, I, pp. 266-27

27 See Murdock J. McSweeney letter to Governor Vance, November 17, 1862, in Vance Papers, I, pp. 368.

28 Burgwyn, p. 32. 29 NC Regts, II, p. 297.

30 Burgwyn, p. 34.

31 Burgwyn, p. 34.

32 Burgwyn, p. 34.

33 Burgwyn, p. 42, p. 43

34 See image of the Cathey brothers, in Greg Mast, *State Troops and Volunteers: A Photographic Record of North Carolina's Civil War Soldiers* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1995), p. 167.

35 The summary of the issues of weapons and accouterments is compiled from North Carolina Ordnance Department, *Record of Issues*, October 1861- July 1862, (Raleigh: North Carolina Adjutant General's Office, 1862), North Carolina Division of Archives and History AG-22, pp. 310, 456, 460, 462, 464, 482, 484, 486, 490, 530.

36 Letter, O.C. Petway to Walter Clark, Clark Papers, I, pp 67-68. The editors incorrectly identify Petway as the Major of the 22nd NC; Petway was promoted to Lt. Col. of the 35th NC on April 15, 1862 and was later killed at Malvern Hill.

37 These Enfield rifles probably came from the 1520 "Enfield Rifles" which were part of the cargo of the "Steamer Nashville" obtained by the State. See entry on April 30, 1862, North Carolina Ordnance Department, *Record of Issues*, October 1861- July 1862. (Raleigh: North Carolina Adjutant General's Office, 1862), North Carolina Division of Archives and History AG-22, pp. 179.

38 See Douglas S. Freeman, *Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command*, (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1945) volume II, pp 150-153 and Robert K. Krick, "The Army of Northern Virginia in September 1862: Its Circumstances, Its Opportunities, and Why It Should Not Have Been at Sharpsburg", in Gary W. Gallagher, ed., *Antietam: Essays on the 1862 Maryland Campaign* (Kent, OH: The Kent State University Press, 1989), pp 38-43. For a more detailed examination see Ross H. Kimmel, "Confederate Infantry at Antietam, 1862" in *Military Illustrated Past and Present* (London: Military Illustrated, Ltd.), Number 17, February-March 1989, pp 8-10.

39 NC Regts, II p. 600.

40 NC Regts, II p. 607-608.

41 Walter Clark, letter to his mother, November 11, 1862. Clark Papers, I, p. 93.

42 Walter Clark, letter to his mother, November 26, 1862. Clark Papers, I, p. 98.

43 Vance Papers, I, p. 259.

44 Walter Clark, letter to his mother, November 3, 1862. Clark Papers, I, pp 88-89.

45 Burgwyn, p. 29.

46 William England, in Alexander England Family Papers, December 10, 1862. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC. Cited Hereafter as England Papers.

47 Walter Clark, letter to his mother, November 3, 1862. Clark Papers, I, pp 89.

48 William England, in England Papers, December 10, 1862. North Carolina, like other states, maintained a facility to store boxes sent from home until they could be delivered to the Army. The depot for NC was on "Main [Street] , between 8th and 7th Streets, opposite Spotswood Hotel". See "Depots for the Deposit of Supplies for the Army from the different States", V. & O., *The City Intelligencer: or Stranger's Guide* (Richmond: Macfarlane and Fergusson, Printers, 1862), p. 12.

49 William England, in England Papers, October 2, 1862.

50 Samuel Hoey Walkup Journal, October 27, 1862, Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, NC. 51 William England, in England Papers, December 7, 1862.

## PICTURE CREDITS:

9. Mast Greg. *State Troops and Volunteers: A Photographic Record of North Carolina's Civil War Soldiers*. Vol I. NC Division of Archives and History: Raleigh NC. 1995. p. 67
10. Ibid. p. 229
11. Ibid. p. 67
12. *Echoes of Glory: Arms and Equipment of the Confederacy*. Time Life Publishers: Alexandria VA. 1996. p. 144
13. Mast. p. 68
14. *Echoes of Glory*. p. 144
15. Mast. p. 229
16. Coates, Earl J and Dean Thomas. *An Introduction To Civil War Small Arms*. Thomas Publications: Gettysburg PA. 1990. p. 8, 19, 25





