Otis Smith Owens

13th Alabama Infantry Regiment

Enlisted as a Private "K" Co. 13th Alabama Infantry



This P-1853 Enfield Rifle Musket is one of the five known surviving James Kerr furnished rifle muskets. The rarity of the Kerr furnishers' mark makes the gun extremely desirable, and even more so since it is also identified to Otis Smith Owens, who served in Company K of the 13th Alabama Infantry.

Owens carved his initials, **O S O** on the reverse of the butt stock of the musket, and what appears to be a "**K**" for his company lightly carved on the obverse of the butt. Both sets of marks are somewhat light, but still legible. There are only three Confederate soldiers with these initials; two of which served in the cavalry; however only one in the infantry; Otis Smith Owens. He served in "K" Company, 13th Alabama Infantry regiment, and fought at **Battle of Seven Pines**; **Battle of Mechanicsville**; **First Battle of Cold Harbor**, or **Gaines' Mill**; **Battle of Malvern Hill**; **Battle of South Mountain**; **Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam)**; **Battle of Fredericksburg**; **Battle of Chancellorsville**; **Battle of Gettysburg**; **Mine Run**; and the **Battle of the Wilderness**. He was wounded at the Wilderness, but returned to serve during the **Siege of Petersburg** until the wars end.

Confederate Numbered P-1853 Enfield 13th Alabama Infantry Identified



The most iconic of the imported arms to see service with the Confederacy during the American Civil War is the **British P-1853 Enfield Rifle Musket**, marked with the Confederate **J S / Anchor** viewer's mark of John Southgate, combined with an engraved Confederate inventory control number on the tang of the brass buttplate. If a collector were to have only one true Confederate imported weapon in their collection, the Confederate marked Enfields would be the perfect addition. The only feature more desirable in a P-1853 Enfield than the Confederate inspection and inventory markings is an identification to a specific Confederate soldier.

During the early days of the American Civil War, Confederate purchasing agents obtained contracts for the British P-1853 Enfield Rifle Musket, and according to Confederate Chief of Ordnance, Josiah Gorgas's February 3, 1863 summary of imported arms, some 70,980 "Long Enfield Rifles" were purchased from the beginning of the war through the end of 1862. These numbers only account for Confederate central government purchases, and do not include those P-1853s purchased by the individual Confederate states or by speculators seeking to sell them within the Confederacy.

The majority of these arms were purchased from the firms of S. Isaac, Campbell & Company (who relied on John Edward Barnett & Sons to deliver many of those guns) or Sinclair, Hamilton & Company, who often routed their sales through S. Isaac, Campbell & Co as well. Additional P-1853s were purchased from William Grazebrook of Liverpool, who made his first sales to Confederate purchasing agent Caleb Huse within 30 days of the opening of the war. Sinclair, Hamilton & Company entered into several large contracts with the Confederacy to deliver P-1853 Enfield Rifle Muskets, with the typical contract terms requiring 30,000 stands of arms to be delivered over a six-month period.

During the course of the war, Sinclair, Hamilton & Company appear to have received as many as five Confederate central government contracts for P-1853 Enfield Rifle Muskets. The second of these contracts for 30,000 P-1853 "Long Enfields' is the one represented by the guns with the JS / (ANCHOR) inspection mark, along with the engraved buttplate tang inventory control numbers. These inventory numbers ran from 1-10,000 in three series (to date no gun with a 10,000 number is known, although theoretically they existed). The first series had no suffix after the number, while the second series of 10,000 had an "A" suffix under the inventory number and the third series of 10,000 had a "B" suffix. These numbered guns represent the October 1861 contract with Sinclair, Hamilton & Company that is referred to in Confederate documents as the "Second Contract". This contract required the 30,000 Enfields to be delivered between October of 1861 and April of 1862. At least two identified "B" suffix numbered guns have been determined to have been issued in Corinth, MS immediately prior to the battle of Shiloh on April 6-7 of 1862. Thus, is it clear that the contract time line for production and delivery was closely followed.

Sinclair, Hamilton & Company acquired their arms through "Five Furnishers" and these companies were able to fill the large Sinclair, Hamilton & Company orders in a reasonable period of time. The "five furnishers' were three London firms and two from Birmingham. The London furnishers were the longtime gunmakers EP Bond and Parker, Field & Co, with James Kerr receiving a tiny portion of the contract (only 500 guns) due to his position at the London Armoury Company, which was managed by Archibald Hamilton of Sinclair, Hamilton & Company. The balance of the guns delivered by the Birmingham based firms of CW James and W.C. Scott & Son. The furnishers often marked the guns delivered under the contract with a large single letter on the upper comb of the stock. The guns were marked with a B for Bond, an F for Parker, Field & Co, a J for James, a K for Kerr and an S for Scott & Son. An October 31, 1861 dated letter from Sinclair, Hamilton & Co. notes that the contract was divided between the furnishers as follows:

CW James: 10,000 Scott & Sons: 8,000 E.P. Bond: 6,000 Parker, Field & Co: 5,500 James Kerr: 500

This indicates that the guns delivered by CW James represented 1/3 of the total delivery under this contract, while those delivered by Kerr represent slightly less than 2% of the total deliveries. An extensive database comprised of more than two decades of collected information related to Confederate purchased Enfields contains approximately 250 numbered P-1853 Enfield rifle muskets (not counting state purchased guns). Of those guns, the large majority (well more than half) are numbered guns with no suffix, representing about 74% of the recorded samples. A-suffix guns represent about 19% of the recorded examples, while B-suffix guns represent about 7% of surviving examples that are recorded. To date, less than 50 A-suffix and less than 20 B-suffix P-1853 Enfields are known to exist.

With B-suffix guns, the lack of examples appears to be an indication of the early successes experienced by the Union's Atlantic Blockading Squadron. Recorded numbers show a good distribution of engraved numbers from two digits through the mid 2XXX range. Then there is nearly 4,000 number gap in the database that seems to indicate that a large number of the "B-guns' in the 25XX to 62XX range may well be on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. "A suffix" guns, although uncommon and with few examples to study, shows a nice even distribution through the entire numbering sequence. This suggests that their scarcity today is the result of hard use, rather than having been dumped overboard while a Confederate blockade runner tried to elude a pursuing US Naval vessel.

To date only 5 of the 500 P-1853s delivered by James Kerr under this contract have been noted, thought there maybe more. As Kerr was employed full time as the manager of the London Armoury Company, and had no available means to produce Enfield rifle muskets, he apparently acquired his guns on the open market and then delivered them to Sinclair, Hamilton & Company for viewing and delivery to the Confederacy. Of the 5 known specimens, 2 are marked CARR / LONDON on the lock, two have blank, unmarked locks, and one is marked 1861 / TOWER. Two of the guns are the obsolete "Type II" P-1853 Enfield rifle musket with solid barrel bands retained by springs. The other three are the typical "Type III" guns that predominated the Enfield pattern arms that were imported by both sides. It appears likely that the guns Kerr purchased for resale were of questionable quality and condition, and the presence of "Type II" guns suggests that at least some may have been used. Due to the very small delivery total and extremely low survival rate, James Kerr furnished, second contract P-1853 Enfields are the hardest examples of a Confederate import marked P-1853 Enfield to locate, and are missing from even the most advanced collections of Confederate imported Enfield rifles.

This **P-1853 Enfield Rifle Musket** is one of the five known surviving James Kerr furnished rifle muskets, and if the rarity of the Kerr furnishers' mark were not enough to make the gun extremely desirable, it is also identified to Otis Smith Owens, who served in Company K of the 13th Alabama Infantry.



Owens carved his initials, **O S O** on the reverse of the butt of the musket, and what appears to be a "K" is lightly carved on the obverse of the butt. Both sets of marks are somewhat faint due to an old sanding of the stock, but they are still legible. Otis Smith Owens was born sometime around 1843, with one genealogical database and a church burial directory providing a birth date of August 25, 1843, but at least one source

suggesting 1844. Owens was born in Troup County Georgia, in the town of LaGrange. LaGrange is about 40 miles due north of Columbus, GA. Troup County boarders the state of Alabama, and is only about 90 miles north west of Montgomery, AL and about 35 miles south west of Wedowee, AL (Randolph County), where Owens would live after the war, until his death on May 20, 1917.

According to the US Census of 1860, Otis Smith Owens was 16 years of age and lived with his parents J.J. Owens (father, age 47) and F.E. Owens (mother, age 36). His father was listed as a **Drayman** (a carter or deliveryman), with real estate valued at \$1,500.00 and a personal estate valued at \$1,600.00. Otis was the oldest of five children, with two sisters (12 years & 14 years) and two brothers (1 year & 7 years) living at home as well. A 51-year-old man named C.M. Wilson lived with the family as well, and may have been an employee working for Otis's father in his delivery and carting business. Wilson is not listed as "colored", so he was not a slave.

With the coming of the Civil War young Otis struck out to the nearest large city, Montgomery, Alabama where he enlisted in the Confederate Army, on July 26, 1861. He was mustered into Captain Smith's company of the 13th Alabama Infantry, which was eventually designated as Company K. The men of company K were mostly from Montgomery County, AL and were known as the "Tom Watts Rebels". The 13th Alabama Infantry could well be the poster child for a Confederate infantry regiment that saw continuous service during the Civil War from the very beginning to the very end.

On July 22, 1861 the regiment was ordered to Richmond, VA. Upon its arrival it was assigned to the 5th Brigade of the Army of the Peninsula, and remained with the Army of the Peninsula in and around Yorktown, where it participated in the siege and battles around that city in April and early May of 1862. The Army of the Peninsula was subsequently absorbed into the Army of Northern Virginia, and at that time the 13th Alabama was assigned to Rains' Brigade. Over the next 3 years the 13th would serve in a variety of Army of Northern Virginia commands, with their most illustrious days spent in Archer's Brigade of Heth's Division, during the summer campaign of 1863. The battle honors of the 13th Alabama read like a list of the most famous battles in the Eastern Theater of the Civil War. After the evacuation of Yorktown, the 13th Alabama fought at Seven Pines, Fair Oaks, the Seven Days Battles, Malvern Hill, the Maryland Campaign, including South Mountain, Antietam and Shepherdstown. The regiment lost its flag at Antietam, and ended the year 1862 at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

The regiment opened the 1863 campaign season with the **Chancellorsville** campaign, where the regiment is noted to have lost roughly half of the 460 men engaged that day killed, wounded or missing. The regiment followed that up by being in the thick of the fight at **Gettysburg** during the Pennsylvania Campaign. The 13th Alabama was in the leading elements of Archer's Brigade of Heth's Corp, marching from Cashtown towards Gettysburg, when they encountered the lead elements of Buford's cavalry.

The 13th Alabama was there for the opening shots of the battle of Gettysburg and was heavily engaged in the fighting on July 1st, nearly losing its flag during their withdrawal from McPherson's Ridge. On July 3rd the regiment took part in Pickett's Charge and reached the high-water mark of the assault on Cemetery Ridge, only to be beaten back and have their colors captured by the men of Company C, 1st Delaware Infantry. It is recorded that 3 flag bearers were "shot down" during Pickett's Charge, and the last man was "shot down at the works" just prior to the colors being lost.

The 13th Alabama received no respite and after retreating to Virginia, participated in the **Bristoe Campaign** in the fall of 1863, the **Battle of Bristoe Station**, the **Mine Run Campaign** during the winter of 1863 with fighting along Mine Run and at new Hope Church. The spring of 1864 saw a renewed campaign season with more action for the 13th Alabama, including the **Battle of the Wilderness**, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor and White Oak Swamp. By June of 1864 the regiment was in the trenches of **Petersburg**, where they fought at the battles of Weldon Railroad, Ream's Station, Hatcher's Run and Peeble's Farm. After the loss of the Petersburg defensive lines in April of 1865, the remnants of the regiment participated in the Appomattox Campaign and officially surrendered on April 9, 1865 at Appomattox Court House. Of the 1,245 men that served with the regiment during the course of the war, approximately 150 were killed in battle, 275 died of disease, many more were wounded, captured or missing, and only 85 were surrendered at Appomattox.

Otis Smith Owens appears to have spent the entire war with his regiment. The personnel records for the 13th Alabama Infantry are very incomplete from the end of June 1863 until the fall of 1864. One of the last muster roll notations for Company K notes "Near Cashtown, Penn" and is dated June 30, 1863. The next entry is for September & October 1864 and simply reads "Near Petersburg, VA". The 13 months between June 30, 1863 and September of 1864 had to have been hell on earth for the regiment. Owens records note that sometime between July 26 and October 31, 1861, he spent time in a hospital in Williamsburg, VA, but the reason and time of stay is not noted. His muster roll notes him "present" in November and December of that year. He is noted "present" in all muster rolls from his return to the regiment in October of 1861 through June of 1863, indicating that he took part in the entire peninsula Campaign, Maryland Campaign, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and the march into Pennsylvania. As noted, there are no Company K records (nor practically any 13th Alabama records) from the entry into Pennsylvania until the regiment was well situated in the trenches of Petersburg in the fall of 1864. Owens is noted to have visited Chimborazo Hospital #2 in Richmond on April 30, 1862 for pneumonia, but there is no indication that he was admitted or stayed there for any length of time. The Alabama Department of Archives and History document he was wounded: at the Wilderness, Virginia 05 May, 1864. He was admitted to the Receiving and Wayside General Hospital #9 in Richmond, VA on May 7, 1864 and transferred to the Chimborazo Hospital #1 on May 8, 1864. He was subsequently transferred out on May 19, 1864 to the Huguenot Springs Hospital in Midlothian. It appears that Owens returned to his regiment in the trenches of Petersburg at some point in time, but was apparently cut off from the regiment during the frantic evacuation and retreat from the trenches and the subsequent Appomattox Campaign.

Ownes' name is not on the list of Confederate soldiers paroled at Appomattox, but is listed along with the names of 1,614 Confederate soldiers who were captured and subsequently paroled between April 14th and April 17th, 1865 at Burkesville Junction, Virginia where the Richmond & Danville and Southside Railroads come together. This suggests that Owens may have been one of the many Army of Northern Virginia soldiers captured at the Battle of Sayler's Creek on April 6. After the war, Otis Smith Owens moved to Wedowee, AL in Randolph County, about 35 miles North West of his birthplace in Georgia and spent the rest of his days as farmer.

As many of the men in 13th Alabama hailed from Randolph County, it is likely he chose that place to settle to be among his comrades that he had served with through the entire war. Otis Owens lived to the ripe of old age of 73 and died on May 20, 1917. He is buried at the Rock Springs Congregational Christian Church Cemetery in Randolph County, AL.



Otis Smith Owens' P-1853 Enfield Rifle Musket is a classic example of a Confederate imported musket that clearly saw use in the field. The gun is in about NEAR VERY GOOD condition. The buttplate tang is engraved with the inventory number 5996, indicating that this gun was in the first group of 10,000 muskets to be delivered under the 2nd Sinclair, Hamilton & Company contract.

A very faint **J S / (ANCHOR)** inspection mark is present behind the trigger guard, but the sanding of the stock has made this very weak, with only the shadow of the anchor being easily seen. The gun is marked with a large **K** on the upper comb of the stock, indicating that James Kerr of London was the furnisher of the gun. As noted earlier, Kerr was the manager of the London Armoury Company at the time and was in no position to manufacture arms to fill his small part of the contract, so he apparently purchased the guns from commercial sources.



The lock of the gun is unmarked, and one other known example of a Kerr furnished P-1853 is known that is also unmarked. The interior of the lock provides very few additionally clues, but is marked with a large capital **B** over the mainspring, suggesting that is may have been produced by either Barnett

or EP Bond, both major gun making firms in London. The top edge of the lock bears the assembly mating marl \(\lambda \| \rackslash \| \racksl

The Rose Brothers were one of the preeminent barrel makers in Birmingham from 1860 to 1870, manufacturing their "*Patent Twist Gun, Rifle and Pistol Barrels*". They operated at 13 Newton Street, and produced very high-quality cast steel barrels under their patented process.

The overall condition of the gun is about **NEAR VERY GOOD**, and for a Confederate used and carried rifle musket that probably arrived in the south sometime prior to the spring of 1862, and is in very nice shape. The exposed metal of the gun has a mostly smooth chocolate brown patina with some areas of mottled gray undertones. Much of the metal is smooth, with some light to moderate surface oxidation, and some scattered peppering and minor pinpricking forward of the rear sight. As would be expected, the breech and bolster area do show light to moderate flash pitting, which is expected from a combat used percussion rifle musket. There is also some light to moderate pitting around the muzzle of the musket. The bore of the gun is in about **GOOD** condition. It is very dark and dirty with barely visible rifling and moderate pitting along its entire length. The action of the gun is mechanically fine and functions crisply on all positions. The brass furniture has a dark, uncleaned ochre patina, which is quite attractive. The original long-range rear sight is present, and is complete and fully functional. The front sight/bayonet lug is present near the muzzle as well, and both original sling swivels remain with the gun as well.

The three original Palmer pattern clamping barrel bands all retain their tension screws, but only the upper band retains the original doughnut-like keeper at the screw end. The original ramrod, which was numbered to the gun, is missing in action. This is typical with numbered Enfields, as less than 10% of existing examples retain a numbered ramrod (let alone the original matching one). The gun has a period replaced ramrod.

The stock is in about *GOOD+ to NEAR VERY GOOD* condition, and is quite interesting in that it has round-eared lock screw escutcheons. This may seem like a minor feature, but only those Enfields made on the process of interchangeable parts with machine made stocks received the round-eared washers. All other Enfields received square-eared lock escutcheons. Only the guns manufactured by the Royal Small Arms Manufactory (RSAF) at Enfield Lock and those produced by the London Armory Company had these round-eared escutcheons. This suggests that somehow Kerr managed to obtain some stocks from the London Armoury Company to fulfill his small part of the 2nd Sinclair, Hamilton & Company contract.

Overall, this is good, solid example of a completely authentic Confederate imported and used Enfield Rifle Musket that not only saw field service, but is identified to a soldier in one of the most storied regiments to serve in the Army of Northern Virginia. Additionally, it is one of only 5 Kerr furnished P-1853 numbered guns known to exist today.

The gun has the very desirable Confederate engraved inventory numbers on the buttstock, and visible JS / (ANCHOR) mark behind the trigger guard. This gun was clearly an early arrival in the Confederacy that was likely on the field before the beginning of the 1862 spring campaign seasons. The condition shows that this gun saw service and fought hard for Southern independence during the course of the war. Somehow, through all of that use and combat, the gun managed to survive in fairly nice, relatively complete condition. This was not a gun that went home as a war trophy during the early days, or that was captured on a blockade-runner and later sold as surplus. This gun fought the war for the Confederate cause and is one of those weapons that you wish could tell you it's story, as it was likely at both the opening and closing shots of the Battle of Gettysburg, not to mention all of the significant actions before and after that bloody battle.

Of the five known James Kerr "K" marked furnished guns, three are in private collections, one is in a museum, and this one is the fifth. There may be others, but only time will tell, and for most advance collectors of Confederate imported Enfields, it is almost certain they do not have a James Kerr furnished gun. Add the fact that this gun is identified to a famous Alabama regiment that lost its flag during Pickett's charge, and you have a really wonderful Confederate musket that you will be very proud to display.

Otis Smith Owens

Alabama Civil War Service Records Database

Name: Owen, Otis S.

Birth Information: USA, Georgia

Occupation: Farmer

Marital Status: Single

Enlistment Date: 1861/07/26

Enlistment Information: Age 18, Alabama, Montgomery, Private

Engagements:

Present at: Siege of Yorktown 1862/04/05 to 1862/05/03 to Gaines Cross

Roads, VA 1863/07/25, inclusive.

Absent Furlough: Bristoe Station 1863/10/14

Present at: **Mine Run** 1863/11/27

Wounded: Wilderness, Virginia 1864/05/05

Absent Wounded: Wilderness 1864/05/06 to Cold Harbor, Virginia 1864/06/03,

inclusive.

Present at: Davis Farm, Virginia 1864/08/18 to Squirrel Level Road 1864/10/01,

inclusive.

Branch: Infantry

Regiment: 13th Alabama Regiment

Company: K

Comments: P.O.: Corn House, Alabama

Source: Record Roll at Petersburg, Virginia 1864/12/31

Original data: Civil War Soldiers. Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.



13th Alabama Infantry

The 13th Alabama Infantry Regiment was organized in Alabama July of 1861. It moved to Virginia in the spring of 1862 and fought in the battles of the Army of Northern Virginia until it was surrendered at Appomattox Court House. The regiment mustered 1,245 men during the Civil War, of whom nearly 150 died in battle and about 275 of disease.

1861 Organized at Montgomery under Colonel Birkett D. Fry. July 19 Colonel Birkett Fry November 27 Captain Reginald H. Dawson of Company A was promoted to major. 1862 January 10 Major Dawson was promoted to lieutenant colonel and Captain William H. Betts of Company B was promoted to major. Moved to Virginia, attached to Rains' Brigade at Yorktown May 31-**Battle of Seven Pines** June 1 The regiment lost 7 killed and 45 wounded. Colonel Fry and Lieutenant Colonel Dawson were wounded. June 11 Lieutenant Colonel Dawson resigned due to typhoid and dysentery. Major Betts was promoted

	to lieutenant colonel and Captain James Aiken of Company D to major .
June 26	Battle of Mechanicsville
	Captain John D. Clarke was killed
June 27 – 28	First Battle of Cold Harbor, or Gaines' Mill
	The regiment lost 4 killed and 40 wounded
July 1-5	Battle of Malvern Hill
	The regiment lost 10 killed and 47 wounded
September 14	Battle of South Mountain
	The regiment was lightly engaged
September 17	Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam)
	The regiment lost heavily in fighting around the Sunken Road. Colonel Fry was wounded and Adjutant John Rentz killed. The regiment lost its battle flag, captured by Private John Murphy of the 5th Ohio Infantry. After Colonel Fry was wounded Lt. Colonel Betts commanded a small group of 30 men of the regiment in a skirmish line at Pipers Farm and was commended for his boldness by General D.H. Hill, but Betts was then wounded before the end of the day. Captain Algernon S. Reaves of Company D took command of the regiment then, although himself wounded.
December 13	Battle of Fredericksburg
	1863
January 14	Lt. Colonel Betts resigned due to disability from his wound at Sharpsburg. Major Aiken was promoted to lieutenant colonel.
	The regiment joined General Archer's Brigade
May 1-4	Battle of Chancellorsville
	The regiment lost 13 killed and 127 wounded out of major. 460 men, including Colonel Fry and Lt. Colonel Aiken, who were wounded, and Major John T. Smith, Adjutant T. W. S. Hendon and Lieutenant John J. Pendergrass, who were killed
June 1	Assigned to Archer's Brigade of <u>Heth's Division in the newly-created Third Corps</u> under A.P. Hill.

July 1-3	Battle of Gettysburg
	The regiment loss of the 308 men engaged, including Colonel Fry, who was wounded and captured, but later exchanged. Major Reaves took over the regiment, leading them in Pickett's Charge on July 3, when about 80% of the regiment became casualties.
	From the <u>brigade monument at Gettysburg</u>
	July 1. The Brigade moved from Cashtown early in the morning towards Gettysburg. After a march of six miles came in view of the Union forces. The Brigade was deployed on the west side of Willoughby Run and about 10 A. M. advanced encountered 1st Brigade First Division beyond the run. The firing continued for a short time when a large force appearing on the right flank and opening a cross fire the position became untenable the Brigade was forced back across the run but advanced with the Division later in the day. The advance in the morning reached this position.
	July 2. Not engaged.
	July 3. Formed part of the column of Longstreet's assault.
	July 4. The Brigade took up the line of march during the night to Hagerstown.
October 14	Battle of Bristoe Station
	The regiment lost 2 killed and 4 wounded, including Lieutenants Colonel Aiken, who was wounded, and David R. Staggers, who was killed
	1864
May 5-7	Battle of the Wilderness
	Adjutant L. P. Broughton was killed and Major Reaves was captured.
May 24	Colonel Fry (still a prisoner) was promoted to brigadier general; Lt. Colonel James Aiken was promoted to colonel.
May 8-18	Battle of Spotsylvania Court House
June 3	Second Battle of Cold Harbor
	Capt. John D.Clarke was killed
June	Brigadier General Fry was released in a special prisoner exchange and returned to the army.
June-April	Siege of Petersburg

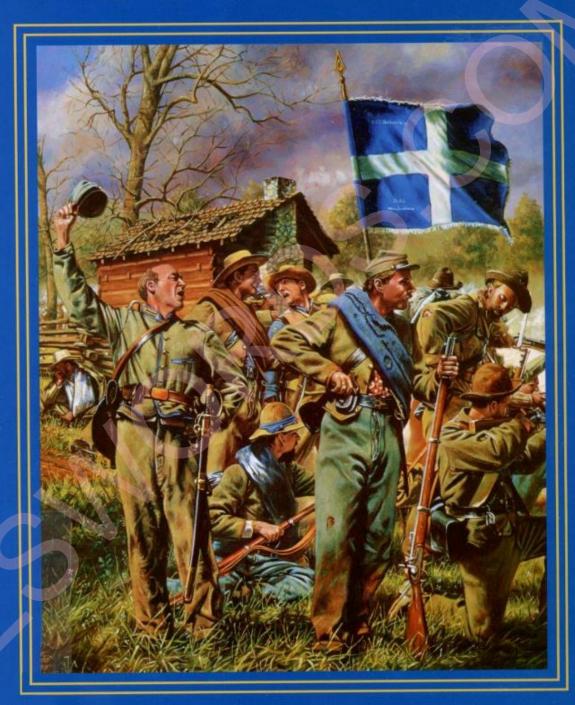
	1865
January 9	Transferred to Sander's Brigade, Mahone's Division
April 6-7	Battle of High Bridge Colonel Aiken was captured
April 9, 1865	Appomattox Court House Surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. The 13th Alabama Infantry Regiment surrendered 6 officers and 85 men.





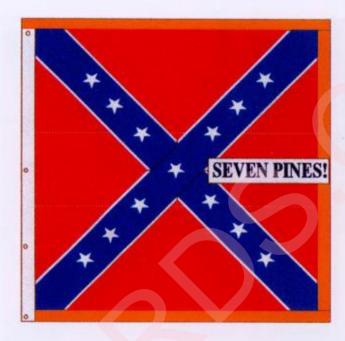


The FLAGS of CIVIL WAR ALABAMA



By Glenn Dedmondt

13th Alabama Infantry



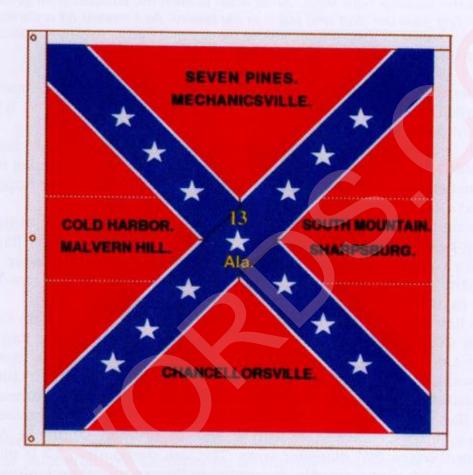
The 13th Regiment was organized in Montgomery on July 19, 1861, and mustered into Confederate service on July 19 and 26, 1861. The regiment first saw action during the siege of Yorktown, Virginia, as part of the Department of the Peninsula. They were at Williamsburg on May 5, 1862, and fought at Seven Pines on May 31-June 1, 1862.

This Army of Northern Virginia battle flag is of the 2nd bunting type and was issued to the regiment, with battle honor, after the battle at Seven Pines. It is 50" (hoist) x $46\frac{1}{2}$ " (fly). The red bunting field is crossed by $5\frac{1}{4}$ " wide blue bars. The blue St. Andrew's cross is edged with $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide cotton fimbriation. There are thirteen $3\frac{1}{2}$ " stars spaced 6" apart. The flag is edged with a $1\frac{1}{4}$ " orange bunting border. There is a battle honor sewn in the fly quadrant with 3" black block letters (with serifs) on a $4\frac{1}{4}$ " x $19\frac{1}{4}$ " cotton patch.

This flag was captured on September 17, 1862, during the battle of Sharpsburg by Private John P. Murphy, Co. K, 5th Ohio Infantry. It was returned to Alabama April 26, 1905.

Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Ala.

13th Alabama Infantry



In January 1863, the 13th Regiment was assigned to Archer's Brigade of General A.P. Hill's Corps. During the spring of this year, sufficient quantities of flags were available so that entire brigades could be re-equipped. In June, the divisions of Hill's Corps were given new 3rd bunting issue flags from the Richmond Clothing Depot. Among the characteristics of this issue were the unit designation in yellow surrounding the center star, the honors painted in blue in the four quadrants, and a white edging.

The above flag was presented to the 13th Regiment in June 1863 and was carried by the regiment on the field at Gettysburg. It was nearly captured on the first day during the retreat from McPherson's Ridge. The color bearer, Pvt. W.A. Castleberry, remembered,

"General Archer was captured at Gettysburg; and as I was then color bearer, he told me to drop the flag, and he broke his sword in the ground, so that the enemy might not get either...While the enemy was marching our officers I thought of what Colonel Akin had told me when he gave me the colors at the battle of Chancellorsville. He said: 'Don't let the Yankees have them.' So in order to keep the Yankees from getting them, I tore the flag from the staff and put it in my bosom. As I started off a Yankee struck me with his sword and cursed me, telling me to come back. I told him I would die if I did not get a drink of water soon, for I claimed to be very sick."

Castleberry truly thought he would die very soon after when he was caught in the middle of Longstreet's charge. The wheat in which he was lying was "being cut down by minie balls."

On July 3rd, Colonel B.D. Fry noticed that the flag bearer had attached "a formidable looking lance head to his staff." In tearing away the flag from the staff, Castleberry ripped away the two top eyelets. The next bearer apparently procured a lance or pike to use as a replacement staff.

After the war, I.T. Miller, wrote to the Confederate Veteran inquiring about the "flag bearer of the 13th Alabama Regiment, who carried the flag in the third day's fight at Gettysburg...I have often thought of a spear he had attached to the end of the flag staff in that famous charge, and saw him use it more than once."

This flag was captured on July 3, 1863, during the assault on Cemetery Ridge by Co. C. 1st Delaware Infantry. During this charge, three flag bearers were shot down, the last one at the Union line. Colonel Fry was captured in this assault, and noticed "a federal soldier with an ugly wound in his shoulder" apparently the victim of the bladed flagstaff of the 13th Regiment.

The flag is 45¾" (hoist) x 47" (fly). The red bunting field is crossed by 5" wide blue bars which are edged with ⅓s" wide fimbriation. On the St. Andrew's cross are thirteen 3½" diameter stars. The unit designation 13 is painted in yellow ½" high numerals. Ala. is painted in Roman uncial and miniscule letters, ½" and ½" high respectively. The honors are painted in dark blue block letters, ½" - ½" high on the obverse only. The flag is edged on three sides with a 2" white bunting border. Along the hoist is a 2" wide canvas heading with three whipped evelets.

After its capture this flag was forwarded to the War Department and given Capture No. 60. It was returned to the State of Alabama on March 25, 1905.

Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Ala.

13th Regiment, Alabama Infantry

The 13th Infantry Regiment completed its organization in July, 1861, at Montgomery, Alabama. Men of this unit were from the counties of Coosa, Wilcox, Macon, Butler, Talladega, Montgomery, Randolph, Elmore, and Tallapoosa. Ordered to Virginia, it served under General Rains at Yorktown, and in April, 1862, contained 474 effectives. Later the 13th was assigned to General Colquitt's, Archer's, Sanders', and W.H. Forney's Brigade, Army of the Northern Virginia.

It participated in many conflicts from **Williamsburg** to **Cold Harbor**, then fought in the long **Petersburg** siege south of the James River and the campaign that ended at **Appomattox**. This regiment reported 52 casualties at **Seven Pines**, 101 during the Seven Days' Battles, and 140 at **Chancellorsville**. Of the 308 engaged at **Gettysburg**, over half were disabled. It surrendered with 6 officers and 85 men on April 9, 1865.

The 13th Alabama Infantry Regiment was organized at Montgomery, 19 July 1861, with men from Butler, Coosa, Elmore, Macon, Montgomery, Randolph, Talladega, Tallapoosa, and Wilcox counties. It at once proceeded to Virginia. Ordered to Yorktown, it was there brigaded under Gen'l Gabriel J. Rains. It lay at that place until the army fell back on Richmond the following spring. At Seven Pines, the regiment was engaged warmly and suffered 7 k and 45 w. Held in reserve during the battles in front of Richmond, it was nevertheless subjected there to a destructive fire from which it suffered severely (101 k and w). As part of Gen'l James J. Archer's Brigade, under Gen'l Alfred H. Colquitt of Georgia, the regiment took part in the first Maryland campaign, losing lightly at Boonsboro and then heavily at Sharpsburg. The winter was passed on the Rappahannock, and its monotony was relieved by the repulse of the Union Gen'l Ambrose Burnside at Fredericksburg, of which the 13th was a witness; and where it suffered lightly. Col. B. D. Fry led the brigade in the assault on Union Gen'l Joseph Hooker at Chancellorsville, and there the 13th lost 140 of the 460 men with which it went into the battle. It was in the Pennsylvania campaign, and at Gettysburg, the regiment suffered over 50% casualties of the 308 engaged. Retiring to Virginia, the 13th passed the winter of 1863-1864 mostly in camp. At The Wilderness, the regiment actively participated, and their loss was comparatively heavy. It took part in the subsequent operations around Petersburg, being now in the brigade of Gen'l John C. C. Sanders of Greene (8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 14th Alabama regiments) -- subsequently commanded by Gen'l W. H. Forney of Calhoun. Under Col. James Aiken, the remnant of 6 officers and 85 men surrendered at Appomattox. Of the 1245 men on the rolls, about 150 were killed in battle, or died of wounds; 275 died of disease; 64 were transferred; and 202 were discharged. BATTLES: Yorktown, Seven Pines, Mechanicsville, Cold Harbor, Malvern Hill, South Mountain, Sharpsburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Petersburg, Appomattox Court House.



History of the 13th Alabama Infantry, C.S.A.

The Thirteenth Alabama Infantry was organized at Montgomery, Alabama during July, 1861. It was mustered into Confederate service there in mid-July. More detailed information has been found on seven of the regiment's companies.

This material is shown below.

"C" men from Talladega County, AL

"D" men from Montgomery County; also contained a small number of men from DeKalb County, Georgia

"E" nicknamed the Randolph Rangers; men from Randolph County, AL

"F" men from Elmore County, AL

"G" nicknamed the Yancey Guards

"I" nicknamed the Roanoke Mitchell Invincibles; men from Randolph Co., AL

"K" nicknamed the Tom Watts Rebels' men from Montgomery County, AL

("A" Camden Rifles)

("B" Southern Stars)

("H" Coosa Mountaineers)

Like almost all Civil War units the Thirteenth Alabama Infantry was often known by an alternate designation derived from the name of its commanding officer. Names of this type used by or for the regiment are shown below.

James Aiken's Infantry
Birkett D. Fry's Infantry
John T. Smith's Infantry
Julian C.B. Mitchell's Infantry
Samuel B. Marks' Infantry
William H. Betts Infantry
Reginald H. Dawson's Infantry
John D. Clarke's Infantry
Richard M. Cook's Infantry

Birkett Davenport Fry was a veteran of the Mexican War and had been one of Walker's Filibusters in Nicaragua in 1858-1859. Upon organization of the Thirteenth Alabama Infantry, Fry was elected its Colonel. He led his regiment with distinction and was captured at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863. A special exchange returned him to duty in Virginia in early June 1864. He had, in the meantime, been promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General to date from May 24, 1864. In the closing days of the war Fry commanded a district in South Carolina.

On July 22, 1861 the unit was ordered to report for duty at Richmond, Virgina. From there it was moved to Yorktown and assigned to the Army of the Peninsula. It also served in the Department of the Peninsula. This command was subsequently absorbed by the Army of Northern Virginia. The regiment served in that Army for the duration of its career. Listed below are the specific higher command assignments of the regiment.

Oct. 3, 1861	Fifth Brigade, Army of the Peninsula
Jan 31, 1862	Attached, First Division, Department of the Peninsula
April 30, 1862	Rains' Brigade, Rains' Division, Left of Position, Army of Northern Virginia.
May 21, 1862	Rains' Brigade, Fourth Division, Army of Northern Virginia
July 23, 1862	Second Brigade, D.H. Hill's Division, Longstreet's Command, Army of Northern Virginia
Sept. 20, 1862	Colquitt's Brigade, Hill's Division, Jackson's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia
Dec. 10, 1862	Third Brigade, D.H. Hill's Division, Second Corps, Army of Northern Virginia.
May 1, 1863	Archer's (Fifth Brigade), Hill's Division, Second Corps, Army of Northern Virginia
July 1, 1863	Third Brigade, Heth's Division, Third Corps, Army of Northern Virginia (The Thirteenth Alabama was part of the brigade marching toward Gettysburg at dawn on July 1st 1863 when fired upon by Union soldiers. This was the beginning of the Battle of Gettysburg and the fighting on McPherson's Ridge & Farm).
Aug. 31, 1863	Archer's Brigade, Heth's Division, Third Corps, Army of Northern Virginia
Jan. 31, 1865	Sander's Brigade, Mahone's Division, Third Corps, Army of Northern Virginia
Feb. 28, 1865	Forney's Brigade, Mahone's Division, Third Corps, Army of Northern Virginia.
The Thirteenth	Nahama Infantry participated in a number of various type engagements during its

The Thirteenth Alabama Infantry participated in a number of various type engagements during its career.

These are identified below.

Siege, Yorktown, VA	April 5-May 4, 1862
Evacuation, Yorktown, VA	May 4, 1862
Battle, Seven Pines, Fair Oaks, VA	May 31-June 1, 1862
Seven Days Battles, VA	June 25-July 1, 1862
Battle, Mechanicsville, Beaver Dam Creek, Ellison's Mills, VA	June 26, 1862
Battle, Gaines Mill, Cold Harbor, Chickahominy, VA	June 27, 1862
Battle, Glendale, Nelson's Farm, Frazier's Farm, Charles City Cross Roads, New Market Cross Roads and Willis Church, VA	June 30, 1862
Battle, Malvern Hill, Crew's Farm, Poindexter's Farm, VA	July 1, 1862
Maryland Campaign	Sept. 6-22, 1862

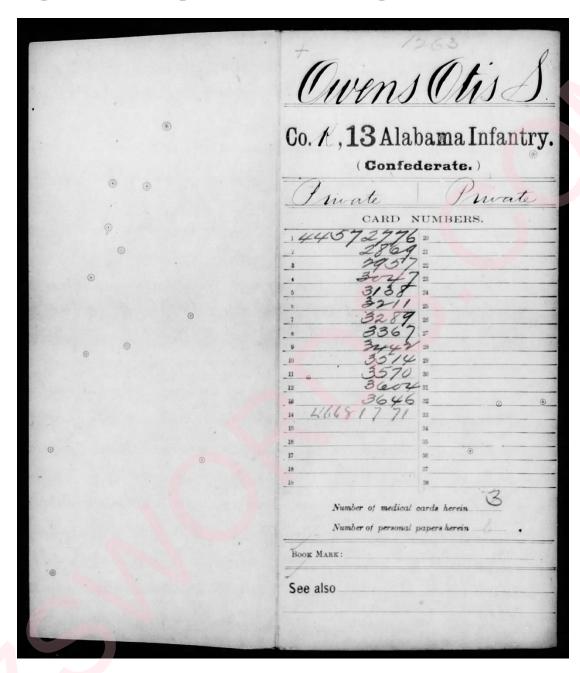
Battle, South Mountain, MD	Sept. 14, 1862
Battle, Antietam, Sharpsburg, MD	Sept. 16-17, 1862
Action, Shepherdstown Ford, WV	Sept. 20, 1862
Operations in Loudon, Faquier, and Rappahannock Counties, VA	Oct. 26-Nov 10, 1862
Battle, Fredericksburg, VA	Dec. 12-15, 1862
Chancellorsville Campaign	April 27-May 6, 1863
Gettysburg Campaign	June 3-Aug. 1, 1863
Battle, Gettysburg, PA	July 1-3, 1863
Retreat to near Manassas Gap, VA	July 5-24, 1863
Skirmish, Funkstown, MD	July 12, 1863
Bristoe Campaign	Oct 9-22, 1863
Battle, Bristoe Station, VA	Oct. 14, 1863
Mine Run Campaign	Nov. 26,-Dec. 2, 1863
Action, New Hope Church, VA	Nov. 27, 1863
Skirmishes along Mine Run, VA	Nov. 28-30, 1863
Wilderness Campaign	May 4-June 12, 1864
Combat, Parker's Store, VA	May 5, 1864
Battle, Wilderness, VA	May 5-7, 1864
Combat, Laurel Hill, VA	May 8, 1864
Battles, Spottsylvania Court House, Laurel Hill, Ny River, Fredericksburg Road, VA	May 8-21, 1864
Combat, Po River, VA	May 10, 1864
Operations on the line of the North Anna River, VA	May 22-26, 1864
Operations on the line of the Pamunkey River, VA	May 26-28, 1864
Operations on the line of the Totopotomoy River, VA	May 28-31, 1864
Battle, Bethesda Church, VA	June 1-3, 1864

Battles about Cold Harbor, VA	June 1-12, 1864
Action, White Oak Swamp, White Oak Swamp Bridge, Charles City Cross Roads, VA	June 13, 1864
Action, Riddell's Shop, VA	June 13, 1864
Siege Operations against Petersburg and Richmond, VA	June 16, 1864-April 2, 1865
Engagement, Jerusalem Plank Road, Weldon R.R., VA	June 22, 1864
Explosion, Petersburg Mine and Assault on the Crater, VA	July 30, 186 <mark>4</mark>
Battle, Weldon R.R., Globe Tavern, Yellow House, Black's Station, Six Mile House, VA	Aug. 18-21, 1864
Battle, Ream's Station, VA	Aug. 25, 1864
Battle, Popular Springs Church, Peeble's Farm, Pegram's Farm, Chappell House & Laurel Hill, VA	Sept. 29 - Oct 2, 1864
Engagement, Boydton Plank Road, Hatcher's Run, VA	Oct. 27-28, 1864
Battle, Dabney's Mills, Hatcher's Run, Armstrong's Mills, Creek & Vaughan Road, VA	Feb. 5-7, 1865
Appomattox Campaign	March 28, April 9, 1865
Assault and Capture of Petersburg lines, VA	April 2, 1865
Surrender, Appomattox Court House, VA	April 9, 1865

An examination of the paroles granted at Appomattox Court House shows that slightly more than eighty-five officers and enlisted men of the Thirteenth Alabama Infantry surrendered there. Those surrendering included two Captains, four Lieutenants, one Hospital Steward, one Quartermaster Sergeant, one Commissary Sergeant, thirteen Sergeants, eight Corporals, and sixty-one Privates.



Otis Smith Owens



Owens, Otis of, Co. L., 13 Alabama Infantry. (Confederate.) Private Private

See also

GENERAL INDEX CARD.

This eard must not be taken from the files.

Co.K., 13 Alabama Infantry. (Confederate.) Private Private REFERENCE SLIP. Cards filed with

Owens Otis

Olms, O.S., co. X, 13 Alabama Infantry.

Confederate.

Private Private

REFERENCE CARD.

Original filed under

Owens, Otis S

GENERAL INDEX CARD.

This card must not be taken from the files.

Olms, O.S. Co. K, 13 Alabama Infantry. (confederate.) Private Reference slip. Cards filed with Owens, Otts &

(Confederate.)
13 ® Ala.
Slis & Owing
Pat, Capt. Smith Company, Regiment Alabame Infantry.*
Appears on
Company Muster Roll
of the organization named above,
for from July 26 6 16 Gug 8, 186/.
Finlisted:
When Aufy 26 , 186/.
Where Rapidolph bo ala
By whom bapt & B. Smith
Period for the war
Last paid:
By whom
To what time , 186 .
To what time , 186 .
To what time , 186 . Present or absent revent
- Part
Present or absent Present
Present or absent Present Remarks:
Present or absent revent Remarks: Note: "Mustered for six months pay for cloth-
Present or absent revent Remarks: Note: "Mustered for six months pay for cloth-
Present or absent Remarks: Note: "Mustered for six months pay for clothing this 8th day of August, 1861."
Present or absent revent Remarks: Note: "Mustered for six months pay for cloth-
Present or absent Remarks: Note: "Mustered for six months pay for clothing this 8th day of August, 1861."
Present or absent Remarks: Note: "Mustered for six months pay for clothing this 8th day of August, 1861." Same appear in Column of range foresent of B. Owens. *This company subsequently became Company K. 13th Regi-
Present or absent Remarks: Note: "Mustered for six months pay for clothing this 8th day of August, 1861." Sameakhear in column of name foreset This company subsequently became Company K, 13th Regiment Alabama Infantry. Book mark:
Present or absent Remarks: Note: "Mustered for six months pay for clothing this 8th day of August, 1861." Same applicant me columns of names foresent or Ole & Olyano *This company subsequently became Company K, 13th Regiment Alabama Infantry.

Ala. Fort, Co. V, 13 Reg't Alabama Infantry. Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, Enlisted: When Where By whom Period Last paid: By whom Oolt ofm adams Moore To what time Present or absent Remarks: Book mark: (642)

Ala. Otis & Owens of , Col, 13 Reg't Alabama Infantry. Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, March o april, 1862. Enlisted: July 26 ,186/. When Moreta ala Where By whom Period Last paid: By whom bapt for adam Moore Febr 28 , 1862. To what time Freunt Present or absent Remarks: Book mark: (642)

(642)

(Confederate.)
0 1 1 da
4 / /
ON Col 13 Por alla Sal
Appears on a
List
of Confederate prisoners who have been paroled not to take up arms against the United States Government until regularly exchanged.*
List dated
, 100
Remarks:
3

*List bears the following indorsement: "Headquarters 9th A. C., Provost Marshal's Office. Total, 1614. At Burkesville Junction, Va., on the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th days of April, 1865."
Number of roll: 20: page / D / D / /
(639b) Copyist.

O. S. Owens,

Co K 13 Ala Re gt.

2 Qr. 1864

Appears on a RECEIPT ROLL

for clothing,

Remarks:

Date of issue 2 gr. , 186 4. Signature

Roll No.

Davenport

Copyist.

	(CONFEDERATE.)	
0	13 .00	Ala
0.S. Owe	ns	
	Co K 13 Regt Ala Inf	
Appear	s on a RECEIPT ROLL	
for cl	othing,	
for	3 Qr , 1	86 4 .
Data of	icana	96
Signatu	re, 1	
Remarks	·	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

	Υ	

	•	
	•	
-		
Roll No	·	
No. of Acres A	Rifenburg	
	Copyist.	

O. S. Owens,
Co K 13 Ala. Regt.
Appears on a RECEIPT ROLL
for clothing,
for 2 Qr. 1864.
Date of issue 2 Qr. , 1864.
Signature Remarks:
Roll No.

Davenport

Copyist.

Owens. O. S. Por H 13 Regt ala.

Confederate.

MEDICAL CARD NUMBERS.

51896449
A manage and measurementation of approper constraints over the constraints
5
T-100-100-100-100-100-100-100-100-100-10
B.
Paradoles de contrata de como parado en constituir contrata de con
10
11
11
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
Si consecuenciamente de la companya del companya de la companya de la companya del companya de la companya de l

Book Mark:

	(CONF	EDERAT	E.)	
0		13	10	la.
		Owe		
	Co. A	6.13	Regt	ala
Appears o	n a Registe	er of		
Chi		Hospital, nd, Virgin		
		umo		
Admitted		apr.	30,18	862.
Returned t			18	
Deserted _			, 18	36 .
Discharge	1		, 18	86 .
			-	
	0			
Confed. Ar	ch., Chap.	6, File No. 5	5, page ∠	101
		100	P	
(635)			Copyi	st.
		3863		

(C	ONFEDERATI	i.)
0	/3	ala.
O. x	8. Owen	5
Priv. Co.	K. 13 Reg	y ala.
Appears on a l	Register of	
	orazo Hospital, chmond, Virgin	
Disease	N.S.	
Admitted	May 8	, 1864:
Returned to du	100	, 186 .
Discharged		, 186 .
Furloughed		, 186 .
Transferred	May 1	9:, 1864.
Died		, 186 .
Deserted		198
Remarks: A	ug: Sprin	95
	0	/
		-
4 3		
Confed. Arch.,	Chap. 6, File No.	20, page 242
	y Caus	
(635)		Copyist

(CONFEDERATE.)
0 kg /3 ala
070000
P. 10 N 13 D. + DI.
Out Co. K. 13 Regt ala
Appears on Register of
Receiving and Wayside Hospital, or General Hospital No. 9, Richmond, Virginia.
Admitted 1 1 186 4.
Disposition Thimborago
Date May 8 ., 1864.
Remarks:
в
·
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Confed. Arch., Chap. 6, File No. 112, page 395
2m Williams
Copyist.