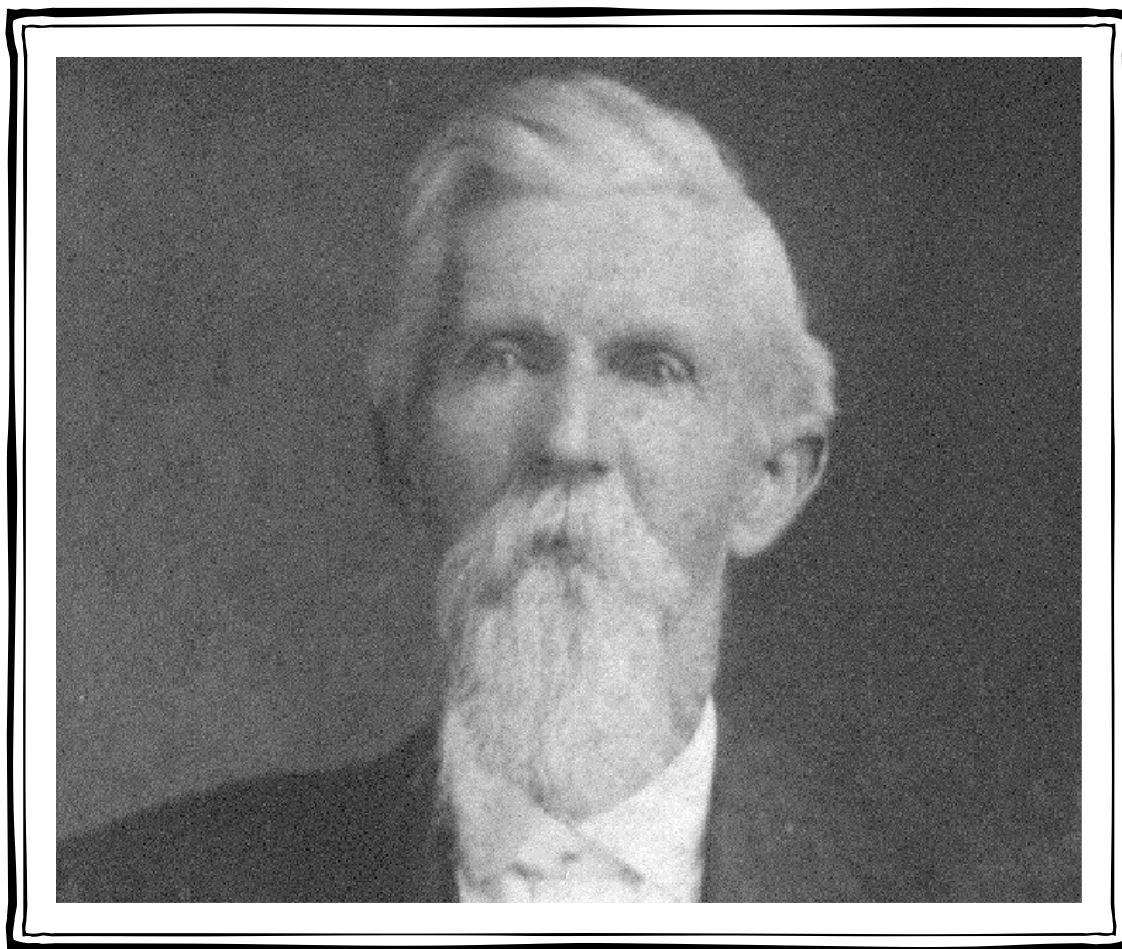


LAST CHARGE

William Hezekiah Mitchell

Maury County, Tennessee

1839-1920



Introduction

This booklet is a collection of articles published in books and newspapers that describe conditions and actions during the late unpleasantness between the United States of America (USA) and the Confederate States of America. (CSA).

The total casualties during this four-year period exceed all the casualties combined in all other wars fought by these states. As a percentage of the total populations of the two countries, the casualty rates rival those experienced by Germany or Russia in WWII.

The articles chronicle the service of William Hezekiah Mitchell of Maury County, Tennessee and his fellow cavalymen.

Rather than scan the articles and reproduce them as barely readable pictures, I have retyped them so they can be more easily read and can be searched by computer. In most cases I have tried to use similar layouts and type faces found in the original documents, except where, for emphasis, I made pertinent passages italics or bold type. Rather than either correcting what may have been typographical errors or inserting [sic] I have attempted to let the documents stand as I read them. That is not to say I have not made my own share of errors.

Wherever possible, I have cited the source; but a some articles were xerographic copies from a book or paper that was not identified on the copy.

Baker Mitchell

Wilmington, North Carolina

Fall, 2010

Maury County Braves

Co. F, 1st Tenn. Cavalry Regiment/

Co. B, 6th TN (Gordon's) Cavalry Battalion

This unit was originally mustered in as Company F of the First Tennessee Cavalry Regiment of Confederate Volunteer Soldiers. Company F was organized at the home of Captain Andrew J. Polk of Ashwood July 5th 1861 and sworn into service by Rev. Captain John B. Hamilton.

Officers: Andrew J. Polk, Captain - Left Company in KY
F. B. Turner, 1st LT. - Commanded until discharged prior to reorganization.
T. A. Harris, 2nd LT. - Resigned
William Arnell, 3rd LT. - Killed in action.
Levi King, 1st SGT.
J.A. Cochran 2nd SGT.
Walter Parker 3rd SGT.
W. H. Mitchell, 4th SGT.
R. C. Hardison, 1st CPL.
Henry Graham, 2nd CPL.
? Cook, 3rd CPL.
J. D. Mitchell, 4th CPL. [Father of W. H. Mitchell]
Sam Craig, Bugler

Privates: Alderson, W. H. Aldridge, Jack Anderson, M. P. Anderson, William Bryant, J. B. Bryant, Rolin Branch, R. E. Bradshaw, J. N. Burnett, R. D. Caskey, G. M. Caskey, J. H. Calhoun, J. N. Chapman, Bunk Chapman, William Chapman, James Collier, J. A. Davidson, Andrew Dungan, D. H. Dalay, Martin Dillehay, C.W. Dooley, Leslie Denham, A. E. Edwards, T. M. Freeman, A. G.	Freelan, J. S. Freelan, J. M. Freelan, J. E. Faris, W. H. Fry, Henry Frierson, J. H. Frierson, W. B. Gilliam, J. M. Gilliam, N. C. Gilliam, W. C. Gracey, J. R. Gracey, W. B. Grimes, J. A. Glass, R. W. L. Goodloe, L. K. Grissom, W. R. Gist, W. R. Hardison, W. A. Hardison, W. T. Hill, George Harris, Will Henderson, N. Houser, Alonso Jennings, G. W.	Hurt, Lewis Kerr, Robert Kirkland, John Langford, William Leneave, D. W. Lowery, B. A. Murphy, J. C. Murphy, J. H. Murphy, M. P. McDonald, A. W. Morton, W. T. McRea, D. Park, G. W. Perkins, C. C. Pennington, J. D. Pollard, James Pierson, Waverly Pinkston, J. T. Richardson, E. D. Riddle, Joe Redmond, J. C. Shell, Tobe Stephens, J. A.	Stephens, Tom Sowell, N. B. Sowell, P. H. Smith, W. J. Scribner, L. S. Tate, G. S. Thompson, Jere Thompson, Scipio Turner, Newt Voss, Lucius Warfield, A. W. Watkins, D. F. Watson, Charles Welch, James Westmoreland, R. W. White, J. L. Williams, Host Yates, Charles
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The Company was reorganized after service in Kentucky and became the First Tennessee Cavalry Regiment in Gordon's Battalion. New officers were elected.

Officers

A. G. Freeman, Captain

J. A. Cochran, 1st LT.

W. H. Alderson, 2nd LT.

J. D. Bryant, 3rd LT.

A. W. McDonald, 1st SGT. - Detailed to supervise a saddle factory.

W. H. Mitchell, 1st SGT.

J. R. Gracy, 2nd SGT.

W. R. Gresham, 3rd SGT.

J. A. Collier, 4th SGT.

Scipio Thompson, 5th SGT.

By the end of the fighting only four of the original members were still in active service.

Source: *History of Maury County Tennessee*, William Bruce Turner

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Wm. Hezekiah Mitchell, Born 7 Feb. 1838, on Fountain Creek, Maury County, right where his father Josiah Dabbs Mitchell was born 11 Feb. 1815. Enlisted (April or May) 1861 in Capt. A. J. Polk's Co. B (?), Lt. Col. Sam Jones of Battalion, 2nd Batt. Tenn. Cavalry. Sworn in at Ashwood, 5 July 1861, by Capt. John B. Hamilton.

In April 1862, just after Shiloh battle, 2nd Batt. consolidated with Lt. Col. Wallace Gordon's Batt. and made 1st Regt. Tenn. Cavalry. We elected Capt. James T. Wheeler (of a co. of Gordon's Batt. Of Giles Co.) our colonel.

Before that, when Lt. Col. Sam Jones resigned in Ky., we elected Jacob Biffle our Lt. Col., of Wayne Co. N. N. Cox was our Major.

Alfred Gardner, born 22 March 1841, in Hickman County, moved to Maury County when three years old; married at enlistment at McGaw's Stable, North Main Street 1861, in John B. Hamilton's company in 2nd Battation Cavalry. Thrown from mule in service bursting left leg at Spring Hill (in 1863?); never prisoner, except whn leg broke. Took oath at Columbia then, but despite this left home 1 Sept. 1864 and rejoined command at below Corinth, going across Tenn. River with 9th Battalion. "Myself and several young recruits went out with J. Goodwin in 9th Battalion, Sept. 1864." (This sketch correct, 26 Feb. 1910, living Snow Creek, Santa Fe post office.)

In North Carolina, in April 1865, W. H. Mitchell then Ord. Sergt., Co. F, 1st Tenn. Cav., was detailed to take a scouting party of three men (Aydelotte, Parks and Gardner were selected) and go to our left to ascertain the movements of Sherman's army. We had not then heard that Johnston had surrendered to Sherman. We went as ordered. We struck a creek, probably about 3 miles from Chapel Hill, N. C., crossed creek and struck a lane leading to a main road, leading in the direction in which Sherman's army was supposed to be marching.

We saw a company of Federals coming down the road towards us. There were only four of us, but we saw we could not run, so we tried a bluff game, and we raised a yell and charged them.

They ran. As we hoped they would do, and we ran them back down the road to an old man's house that they had plundered. The old man told us which way Sherman's army was moving.

We went back to report the information we had received, and were ordered with our whole squadron, to return and hold the ford of the creek. As we returned, we found the Fed. Infantry had crossed the road, and built a "Kilpatrick fence" across the creek. (Built of rails, set sloping. Built across the road says Aydelotte.)

Fed. Infantry fired a volley, knocked down Col. Baxter Smith's horse; he fell or jumped off horse, took the bushes, and Feds ceased firing. Gardner was right by Smith's side. He says horse was not killed and horse ran back to our command.

We fell back to Sugar Creek Church. 2 May 1865 we stacked our guns in the church yard surrendering. Paroled 3 May. Left for home 4 May. Mitchell has diary beginning 4 May, giving itinerary to Columbia.

Monday, 6 April 1908 was the first time these four boy soldiers (Aydelotte, Mitchell, Parks, and Gardner) had all met at the same time, since 1865, They met on Square Columbia and had picture taken together. Pictured filed with Historical Society 11 April 1908.

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Geo. W. Park was born 1 Oct. 1840 in Maury County, Tenn., where he is still living. He was a member of Capt. Asa Freeman's company at the close of the war in the 1<sup>st</sup> Tenn. Cavalry, C. S. A.

After Jo Johnson had surrendered in N. Carolina 1865, a sergeant and three men were called for by Gen. Wheeler to go out on a scout to ascertain the whereabouts of the Federal Forces. This detail did not know that the Army had surrendered. The sergeant in command of the detail was Will H. Mitchell and the three men selected to go with him were Geo. W. Park, Alfred Gardner, and William C. (Frank) Aydelotte, all four of them being from Maury County. They left on this expedition and found a squad or company of Federal cavalry, who like themselves did not know that Jo Johnson had surrendered and that the war was practically over.

The four were vastly out-numbered, but putting up a bluff they made the charge. The Yankees did not wait until the four reached them, but broke and ran and the four made their way safely back to the Confederate line unharmed.

A year or two ago, about 45 years after this incident these four, who are now old men, met for the first time in the square at Columbia, Tennessee, and had their pictures made, a copy of which is filed herewith. The four had to swim a creek before they regained the Confederate line, and were in the last fight of the Eastern army, and after the war was over the victory rested with the Confederates, this being the last scout that was ever sent from Jo Johnson's Army.

Geo. W. Park is now living at Parks Station, Tennessee. Will H. Mitchell is living four miles east of Columbia, Alfred Gardner is now living about 14 miles North West of Columbia, and Frank Aydelotte is a printer in Columbia.

7 Sept. 1911.

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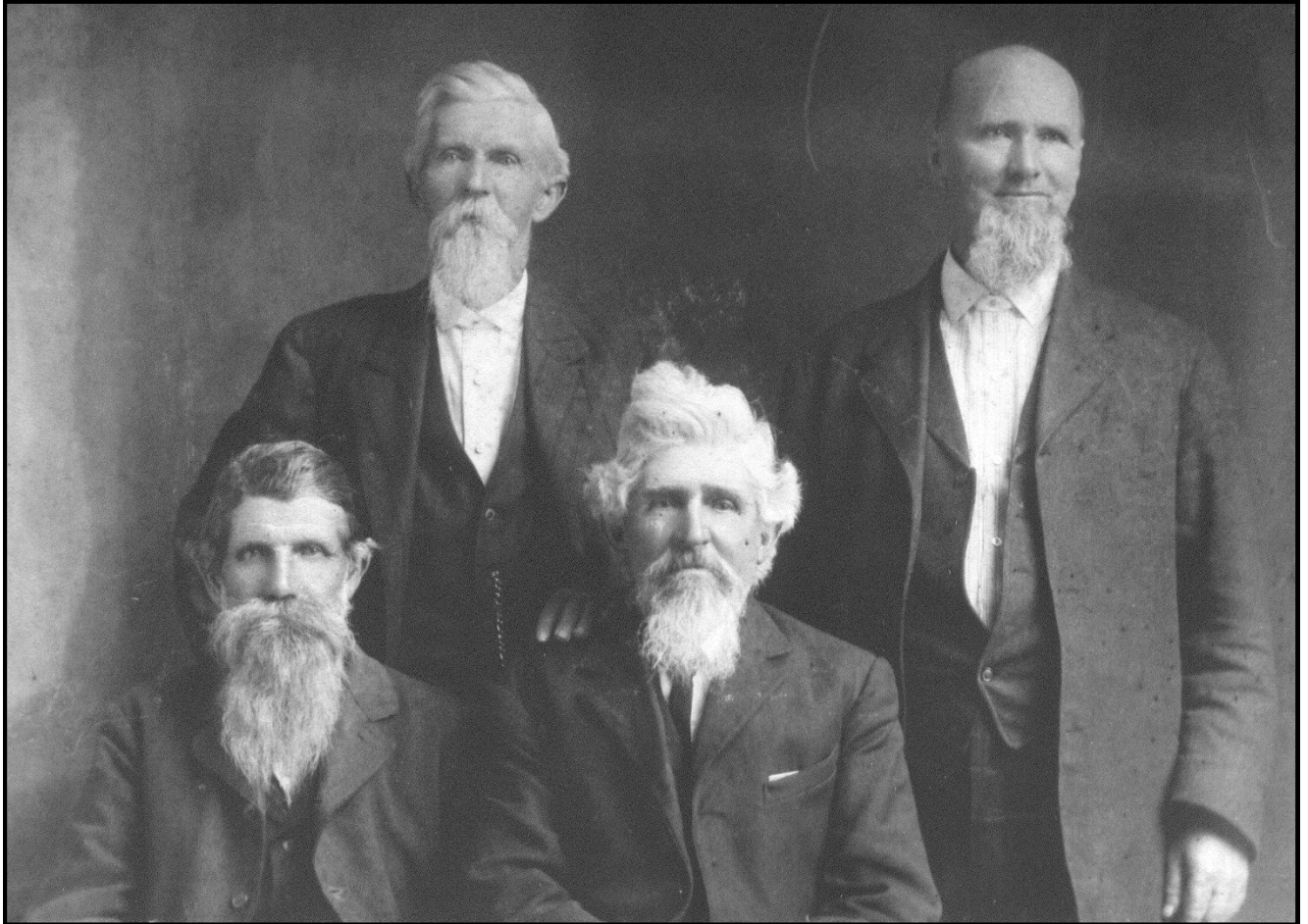
William Clement Aydelotte ("Frank"), born near McCains, Maury County, 14 March 1843, just one day before the big snow. Enlisted April 1861, in Co. B, 2nd Tenn. Inf., Bates, Maury Rifles. Sworn in 1 or 2 May 1861 at Nashville. Wounded in abdomen, minie ball, cut out, Shiloh, 6 April.

Wounded, Richmond, Ky., 31 Aug. 1862, in the meadow just before reaching the haystacks, in right leg, flesh, just above knee, not at hospital.

Wounded Perryville, Ky., 8 Oct 1862, left side, piece of shell, not at hospital, but went in wagon, then drove wagon.

Wounded left arm, Chickamauga, 21 Sept. 1863, about 10 a.m., minie ball, disabled him several months hospital at Rome, Ga.

"...they made the charge."



1st Sgt. William Hezekiah Mitchell

Pvt. Alfred Gardner

Pvt. W. C. "Frank" Aydelotte

Pvt. Geo. W. Park

Company "F" of Wheeler's 1st Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, C.S.A.

Photo Columbia, Tennessee, April 6, 1908

The bridge and the approach to it were thickly strewn with the enemy's dead and wounded. Lieut. Dobbins, a most gallant officer of Company E, and others, were badly wounded in this affair the bridge.

The battle of Bentonville was the last of the war in which the Army of Tennessee was engaged. It was fought on the 19th and 20th of March, 1865. Sherman having reached Goldsboro, united his force with that of Gen. Schofield. The regiment moved with the brigade to a point near Nahunta Swamp, and took position on the Weldon railroad. On the 10th of April Sherman advanced in the direction of Raleigh. The regiment, with the brigade, assisted in bringing up the rear of Johnston's army, passing through Raleigh, and by way of Morrisville to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, having frequent combats with the advance of Sherman's army. ***The last collision with the enemy occurred at a creek on the road leading from Chapel Hill to Raleigh, about two miles from the first-named place.*** This was the last conflict of the war except Henry Court-house. That night Judge Battle informed us of the assignment of Mr. Lincoln, he having received the information from ex-Gov. Swain, and Swain from Gen. Sherman, to whom he had gone to ask for protection for the college property. The next day's march on the road to Greensboro brought us to Haw River where we first heard of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia by Gen. Lee. An hour later, we heard that Gen. Johnston was negotiating with Gen. Sherman for the surrender of the Army of Tennessee. Johnston's headquarters were at Greensboro, about twenty miles away. There was little sleep in our camp that night. Brave men wept freely. Gloom and despondency settled down over the camp. The end had come to that long, terrible struggle which had cost the country, North and South, nearly a million lives and immense sums of money and property. The loss to the South alone was immense. It was the land of "ashes and sorrow."

On the 26th of April the battle-flag of the Confederacy was furled, so far as the Army of Tennessee was concerned. What a history it had for the world! and what a host of brave, true, gallant men's hearts had ceased to beat forever under its folds!

The above is from a regimental history contained in the Military Annals of Tennessee titled "THE FIRST TENNESSEE CAVALRY" pages 883—898 and written by Lt. Col. Jas. H. Lewis from his home in Lewisburg, Tennessee. Lt. Col. Lewis' fifteen page account is one of the most detailed descriptions of the regiment's roll in the war at the company and battalion level ending with "the last collision with the enemy" by Sgt. Mitchell's patrol.

General Wheeler placed troops on the Pittsboro and other roads, by which he expected Sherman would attempt, by making a short cut, to turn Johnston's flank, and with the remainder of his force skirmished with Kilpatrick's command, which pressed on to Morrisville station where, after a severe engagement, they retreated to Sherman's main body. The following telegrams were sent on the 14th by Wheeler:

...

MORRISVILLE, April 14th, 1865, 1:25 P.M.

GENERAL J. E. JOHNSTON, *Greensboro* :

Enemy have ceased to advance in my front. Scouts sent to see if they are advancing on any other roads.

J. Wheeler, *Lieut.-Gen.*

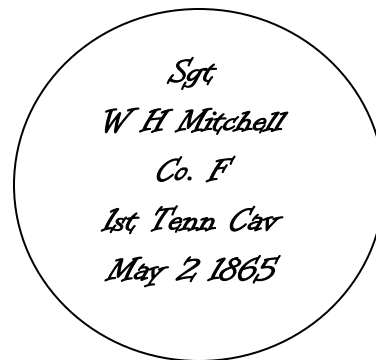
On the following day General Wheeler moved his main force to near Chapel Hill, with pickets extended to cover the roads south for thirty miles. ***A Federal force followed a short distance, but were met and checked at a swollen creek with a single regiment which composed Wheeler's rear-guard.***

The news of Gen. Lee's surrender now reached us; a truce with Sherman took place, and thus ended the campaign, the war, and the military power of the Confederacy.

From this account, we may place the date of Mitchell's last charge as the morning of April 15, 1865 thereafter they returned with the regiment to block the creek as accounted by Garrett: "We went back to report the information we had received, and were ordered with our whole squadron, to return and hold the ford of the creek."

The above is from "Campaigns of Wheeler and His Cavalry 1862-1865" edited by W. C. Dodson, 431 pages, reprinted by The Guild Bindery Press, Jackson, Tennessee

In this volume, it is estimated that Gen. Sherman had approximately one-hundred thousand infantry and cavalry under his command and Gen. Johnston had about nineteen thousand men combined infantry and cavalry.



Engraving on back of
"Johnston's coin."

Mr. Mitchell kept the silver Mexican 8 Reales piece that Johnston paid to each of the men. He had the back engraved and wore it on his watch chain from 1865 until his death in 1920.

408 JOHNSTON'S NARRATIVE [April 1865] DISTRIBUTION OF TREASURY FUNDS.

...

I arrived in Greensboro', near which the Confederate troops were in bivouac, before daybreak on the 19th. Colonel Archer Anderson, adjutant-general of the army, gave me two papers addressed to me by the President. The first directed me to obtain from Mr. J. N. Hendren, treasury agent, thirty-nine thousand dollars in silver, which was in his hands, subject to my order, and to use it as the military chest of the army. The second, received subsequently by Colonel Anderson, directed me to send this money to the President in Charlotte. This order was not obeyed, however. As only the military part of our government had then any existence, I thought that a fair share of the fund still left should be appropriated to the benefit of the army, especially as the troops had received no pay for many months. This sum (except for twelve hundred dollars which Mr. Hendren said that the Commissary-General had taken) was divided among the troops irrespective of rank, each individual receiving the same share.

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The preparation and signature of the necessary papers [for the armistice] occupied the officers of the two armies intrusted with that business until the 2d of May. On that day the three corps and three little bodies of cavalry were ordered to march to their destinations, each under its own commander. And my military connection with those matchless soldiers was terminated..."

Johnston, J. E., "Narrative of Military Operations" Appleton, New York, 1874, 602 pages.

The Southern Cross of Honor

Southern Crosses of Honor were bestowed upon Confederate veterans for “loyal, honorable service to the South and were given in recognition of this devotion.” This medal could not be purchased, the first being awarded to Captain Alexander S. Erwin on April 26, 1900, by the Athens Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy on April 26, 1900. Some 12,500 Southern Crosses of Honor awarded during the first 18 months after its inception.



W. H. Mitchell

left: United

top: Daughters

right: Confederacy

bottom: To the U.C.V.

(United Confederate Veterans)



left: Southern

top: Cross

right: Of

bottom: Honor

center: DEO VINDICEO 1861 1865

(God our vindicator)

From the Columbia Daily Herald ... June 14, 1905

TOOK THEIR MASCOT ALONG

Columbia—Members of Company F of the First Tennessee Cavalry took with them to Louisville Tuesday night Felix Goodrum...who followed them through the Civil War as mascot. He entertained the company during the war through the long hours of the night with whistling, singing and dancing. For several years Felix lived at the home of Mr. W. H. Mitchell on Bear Creek Pike, but for the last two years has been living on the Pulaski pike nine miles from Columbia.

Mr. Mitchell has never attended a reunion that his comrades did not inquire particularly about Felix...and he decided, with other members of the company living in and near Columbia, to take him with them. Felix walked in from his home early Tuesday morning in order not to miss the midnight train. While he was twenty hours ahead of time, he felt at ease, as he knew the train would not leave him. He will be furnished with a Confederate uniform at Louisville and will be given a good time by members of the company.

LAST CHARGE

by Baker Mitchell, Jr.

When Sherman had finished his 'March to the Sea'
And turned to the North to finish off Lee,
The First Tennessee Cavalry, Company "F,"
Missed many good men; but some were still left.
And saddling their horses while morning was dark,
Were Mitchell and Aydelotte, Gardner and Park.

A bit west of Durham over near Chapel Hill,
Joe Wheeler'd lost Sherman which foreboded ill.
Not wasting a moment, he ordered some scouts
To sniff 'round old Sherman, find his whereabouts.
So out on their horses, to a young puppy's bark,
Rode Mitchell and Aydelotte, Gardner and Park.

Down off of a ridge, cross a stream, round a bend -
Ran smack into Yankees out scouting for them.
Outnumbered, the four stood no chance at all
With wore out mounts, 'bout ready to fall.
So they charged the damned Yankees as if leading the pack,
Bluffed Mitchell and Aydelotte, Gardner and Park.

The Yanks saw these four as if charging from hell
With Wheeler's whole corps attacking pell-mell.
So they fled back to Sherman with coat-tails a-flapping,
Scabbards were clanking, and saddle-skirts slapping.
And reporting to Wheeler with grins before dark,
Were Mitchell and Aydelotte, Gardner and Park.

"Armistice?" was echoed 'cross the next morning's dew
When orders arrived; their job was now through.
Paid off by Johnston from crazy Jeff's chest
With Mexican silver and his prayer for their best.
To Columbia each headed with a war-weary heart,
- Mitchell and Aydelotte, Gardner and Park.

First Sgt. Wm. Hezikah Mitchell, Frank Aydelotte, Alfred Gardner, and George W. Park stacked arms on May 2 in the yard of Sugar Creek Church near Charlotte, were paroled on May 3, and started home to Maury Co. Tennessee with the silver Reales pieces handed out by Joe Johnston on May 4, 1865. Thus ended their four years of war that began with their enlistments at Ashford Hall in Maury County on July 5, 1861.

Their cavalry unit was under Forest for the first several years, then under Wheeler for the remainder of the War. They fought in Kentucky, then at Shiloh, Iuka, Chickamauga, New Hope Church, Dalton, Ringold, and Reseca. Then the company went up to Franklin and Nashville, then down and across to Savannah and finally up to Bentonville and to Chapel Hill.

Davis, escaping to New Mexico, instructed Johnston to send him the war chest with 39,000 silver Mexican 8 Reales pieces so he could use it to raise a new army out West. Instead, Johnston divided the Confederate treasury "among the troops irrespective of rank, each individual receiving the same share" as they "had received no pay for many months." (J. E. Johnston, *Narrative of Military Operations*, Appleton, 1874, p. 408)

INSIDE LOOKING OUT

In Panama

By W. E. S.

Does it occur to you that our ancestors seem to have been made in a rare and special mold and that we are lacking in many of the qualities that distinguished them? ... There was an aura of strength, security, and sufficiency about our elders. This strength was reflected in physical stamina as well as in character and nobility of soul. They seemed to be capable of fulfilling our every yearning and of course inspired our respect and reverence.

Grandfather Mitchell (William Hezekiah) was descended from English stock. His grandfather was William Mitchell, an early English settler in Virginia, one of whose eleven sons was Josiah Dabs Mitchell, father of my grandfather, who formerly lived in what is now the site of the city of Nashville. He later migrated to Maury County where my grandfather was born in 1839 and where he died 82 years later.

Grandfather was in his early twenties when the call was issued for Confederate enlistments. He and his father did not quibble at the call for volunteers, but enrolled in the same Company. After two months of drilling, their Company was formally organized on the morning of July 5, 1861 by Captain Andrew J. Polk on the lawn of his beautiful home at Ashwood near historic St.

John's church. Among other Maury county comrades to whom I often heard grandpa refer with affection was the late David F. Watkins, youngest patriot in the Company. The outfit originally was identified as the "Maury braves." They were eager for a chance at the "damnyankees" as history records that they gave a good account of themselves as members of Company F, First Tennessee Cavalry, C.S.A.

Among the many major engagements in which they participated was the memorable battle of Chickamauga. Overwhelming odds finally overcame their strength and their dwindling resources, but their spirit was never conquered. They limped home, but were soon fighting the greater battle of Reconstruction.

So it was my good fortune to learn at the knee of a living witness of the great struggle that the subsequent battle of reconstruction was an even greater test of courage, fortitude and stamina than the actual conflict of arms. The returned veterans literally had to start from scratch. There was scarcely anything left upon which to build except the scorched earth. Yet I never heard my grandfather complain, condemn, criticize or show signs of bitterness. He and his bride took up their burden philosophically and proceeded to "multiple and replen-

ish the earth." They were married in the autumn of 1865, she a blue-eyed belle of Scotch-Irish parents and was doubtless the source from whom most of us inherited dancing feet and musical talent..." Billy and Sally" established their modest love cottage on a small farm. Furnishings were scanty. That was before the day of kerosene lamps. They made their own candles and were otherwise resourceful and ingenious. Of course they had a spinning wheel and other "conveniences" of the period. They were thrifty, energetic, congenial, temperate in all things and religious. The Bible was their chart and compass. So they prospered. They soon owned one farm, then another, and finally three. Eight children attest to their prosperity. All of them were educated and otherwise fared better or easier than their parents.

From *The Maury Democrat* by Winnie Estes Sowell, Granddaughter of W. H. Mitchell

Mrs. Sowell was a correspondent and wrote a column called "Inside Looking Out." This undated excerpt is from one of her columns, written from Panama where her husband was stationed.



John Tilman Mitchell
(Grandfather of Baker, Jr.)

Joe L. Mitchell

W. H. Mitchell

Ephram Davis Mitchell

At the Knee...

My father Baker A. Mitchell, Sr. was born in 1909 and knew his grandfather William Hezekiah well, until Will's death in 1920 when my father was 11.

Dad recalled to me snippets of stories that his grandfather told of his experiences from four years in the saddle as a young man from 22 to 26 years old. A few stories that I recall follow.

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Early in the war at Shiloh, Will got a graphic lesson in the difference in the weapons that armed the two sides. Shooting at Yankees across the river, Will could see their bullets dropping into the water, not being able to reach their targets on the far bank. The Yankee bullets could be heard zipping through the trees over the Confederate's heads!

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They usually rode quickly to the battle area and dismounted to make the actual attack on foot. When they came to the place to dismount, they would count off, "One, two, three, lucky, one, two, three, lucky,..." Each fourth man who was "lucky" was a horse holder who stayed behind to have the mounts ready for pursuit or withdrawal.

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The regiment lived largely on corn gathered from the fields and other rations that could be foraged. The highlight of any attack was the dividing up among the men of the food and supplies captured after driving off the Yankees. One particularly memorable victory was near Knoxville where mountains of coffee, slabs of bacon, and many other luxuries were captured. Will tied two slabs of bacon together and slung them over his saddle horn. He could take his knife and carve off a piece of bacon while on the move. (Fast food to go, 1860's style.)

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And finally, there was the story of "the last charge" at Chapel Hill which is related earlier in this document by the accounts of Garret, Lewis and Dodson.. Will told my father that they had just emerged from around a blind bend after crossing the creek and both parties were surprised. Will said he looked back over his shoulder and yelled to the imaginary troops behind him, "Come on boys, here they are! Let's get them." The four Maury boys then charged at the Yankees, and the Yankees ran, thinking that Wheeler's whole corps would soon be on their tails.

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Will returned to Columbia to marry and raise his family. He was an elder in his church for many years. His cousin Sam Watkins wrote "Company Aytch" that described his years as an infantryman in this Maury rifle company. I grew up next door to Alice and Al Watkins, great-grandchildren of Sam's.