

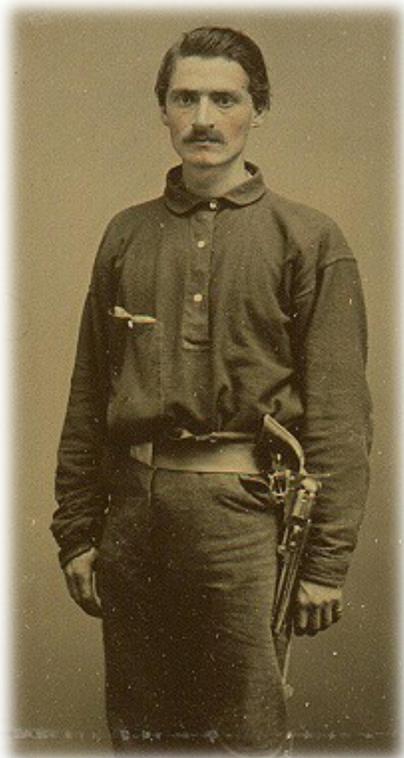
Uniforms of the 1st Tennessee Infantry

Written by Mike Hoover

There is no official record detailing what type of uniform the 1st Tennessee was issued during their four years at war. All we have is photographic and very little written evidence. Another problem arises in the fact that there are several pictures or first hand accounts from one company and little to none on the others. Using photographs, memoirs, and Quartermaster requisitions, I have tried to piece together everything.

Clothing

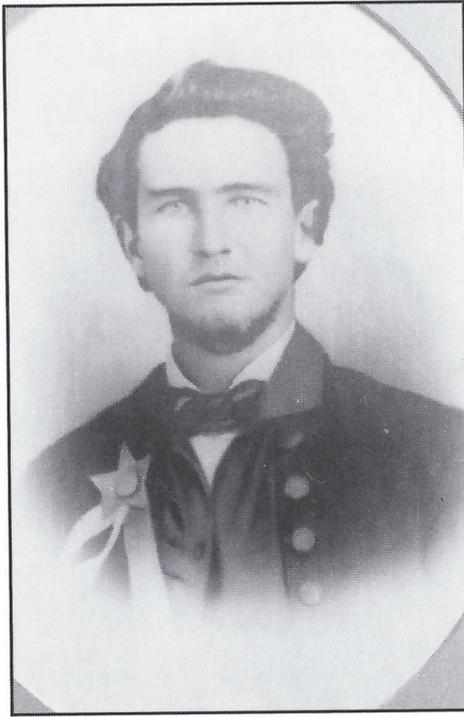
Homemade Uniforms 1861



Private James Clay March
Company A "Rock City Guards"
Transferred to Engineers 1863
Courtesy of the Tennessee Division of the SCV



Captain James Park Hanner
Company D "Williamson Grays"
Resigned 1861
Courtesy of the Tennessee Division of the SCV



James Moore King Jr.
(1833-1900)

Private James M. King

Company I "Rutherford Rifles"

Surrendered at Greensboro 1865

Courtesy of "The Rutherford Rifles and the Struggle for
Southern Independence by Barry Lamb

The companies of the 1st Tennessee did not assemble at Camp Cheatham with uniforms matching the other companies. Each company was outfitted by the local towns people before leaving for Camp of Instruction. The uniform of the Williamson Grays, later Company D, was made by the ladies of Franklin as told by Adelia McEwen, a young woman from Franklin, TN. She recounts that the women of the town turned the Masonic Lodge into a clothing factory. They brought in sewing machines and began making uniforms while the younger girls made housewives for the soldiers. The uniforms created for the Williamson Grays were described as: "Black pants with gilt [gold] side stripes, grey coats trimmed with gilt braid and brass buttons, a grey cap setting off their uniforms."

A similar scene was repeated in Pulaski, TN by Captain Hume R. Feild's company. A local man named Thomas Martin paid for the material and the ladies of Pulaski and Giles county brought sewing machines to the Court House. The women turned the material into gray suits for the men. The company named themselves the Martin Guards in appreciation. This company would eventually become Company K. The ladies of Nashville formed the Centre Female Military Aide Society, later renaming it the Ladies Soldiers Friends Society. They made 100 coats, 100 pantaloons, and 200 checked and hickory shirts for the Railroad Boys, later Company F. This same organization also donated items to the Browns Guards which later became Company G.

In the picture of Clay March (above), he appears to be wearing a thick undershirt, with the buttons only coming halfway down the shirt. He has only one breast pocket. It is possible this was an undershirt issued to the regiment or his company. The Rock City Guards (Companies A-C) were a militia unit formed before 1860. Their original pre-war uniform consisted of a blue uniform with shoulder scales. In October 1860 they were issued Chasseur Uniforms with a red cap and pants. They marched in a parade through Nashville on January 20, 1861 wearing these uniforms.

Captain Hanner is wearing what is commonly called a "Battle Shirt." Which is usually a thin wool shirt worn over the undershirt as a uniform. Captain Hanner's shirt is buttoned all the way down as a jacket would be. This would give it a more a more military uniform appearance. Hanner's shirt also has pockets on each side and brass buttons. Noticeable, is the U.S. Military Officer's bars on his shoulders. His officer's bars are that of a Lieutenant, so this most likely a pre-war militia photograph.

The photograph of James King looks like it has a light blue collar and dark blue body. It maybe assumed that his is a Memphis Depot Tennessee Frock but the collar folds down whereas all other Memphis Depot jackets have a stand up collar. This is mostly likely the early uniform of the Rutherford Rifles and the jacket is based off something similar to the Memphis Jacket.

Rock City Guards Uniforms 1861

Companies A, B, and C of the 1st Tennessee were called the "Rock City Guards." Nashville's nickname at the time was Rock City. All photographs of men from this company have matching uniforms. Each is has a kepi with a brass letter for their designated company on the front. Marcus Toney states in his book, "I left Edgefield, clad in my uniform of gray with a big brass B on my cap." Toney's statement lets us know the jackets are gray and the photographs of the Rock City Guards show the kepis matched the jacket, so the hats are gray as well. The collar is a light color, possibly light blue, and is high standing since the collar almost comes up to the chin on most of the men photographed. The jackets for Companies A and B have a piece of trim running down the center of their jacket parallel to the buttons. The photos of the three Company C members do not have this trim. Company C was formed a few weeks after the other two Rock City Guard companies and it would seem the trim was left off the jackets issued to them. The trim is the same color as the collar. In the pictures of Rutland and Berry you can see wide cuffs that match the collar. The Jacket would be considered a "Sack Coat" by most standards. Meaning it didn't stop at the waist line like a shell jacket or just above the knee like a frock coat. Each jacket has brass buttons but the number of buttons is hard to tell. Everyone's photo is either cut off or has something covering some of them up. The best guess is eight buttons. Martin's photo has at least eight colored in. Berry's photo shows the jacket fastens almost to the bottom, but his photo makes it hard to tell the exact number since his gear is covering up most of them.

Berry is the only member of the Rock City Guards with a full length photograph. From his photo we see the pants seem to be a similar color to the trim of the jacket. There is a dark colored stripe running down his pant legs. The stripe does not match any other color on the uniform. Most likely these are the first uniforms issued to the Rock City Guards following recruitment for the pending war. All three companies would have been in Nashville near the photographers before leaving for Camp of Instruction and probably had their photos made just after enlisting to give to their families. They would have received the Camp Cheatham uniform a few months later.



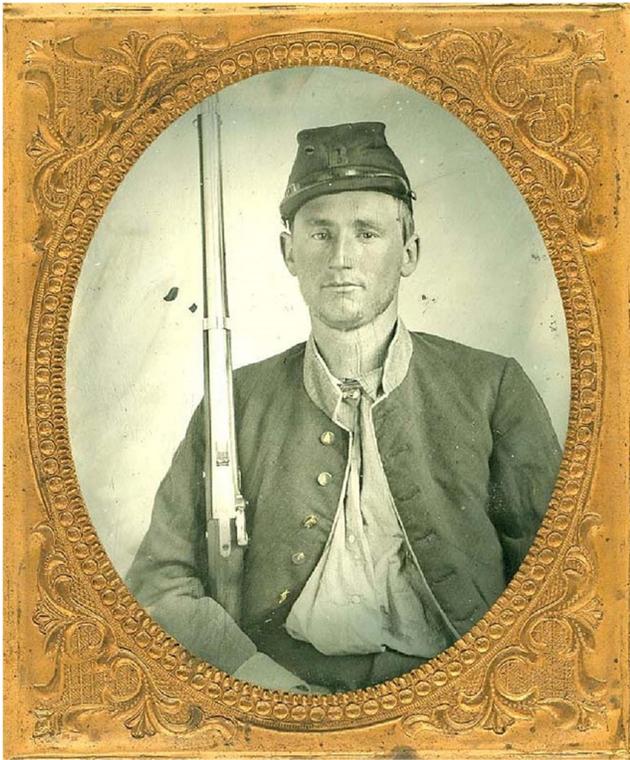
Private Martin N. Brown
Company A "Rock City Guards"
Surrendered at Greensboro 1865
Courtesy of the Les Porter Collection



Private Martin N. Brown
Company A "Rock City Guards"
Surrendered at Greensboro 1865
Courtesy of the Matt Oswalt Collection



Both left and right photos
Ferdinand Berry
Company B
Died of Disease in Knoxville 1862
Tennessee State Library and Archives



William Rutland?
Company B

Left as a nurse at Perryville then joined Cavalry
Matt Oswalt Collection-this photo was originally labeled as Edmond Rutland when sold, a MS soldier. After posting this image online the new owner was told he was wearing a 1st TN uniform. William was the only Rutland in the 1st TN.

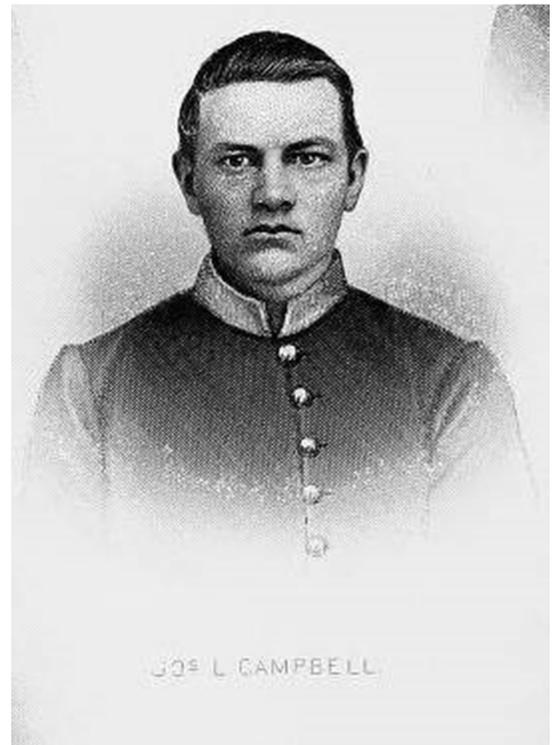


Joseph McBride Halfacre
Company B

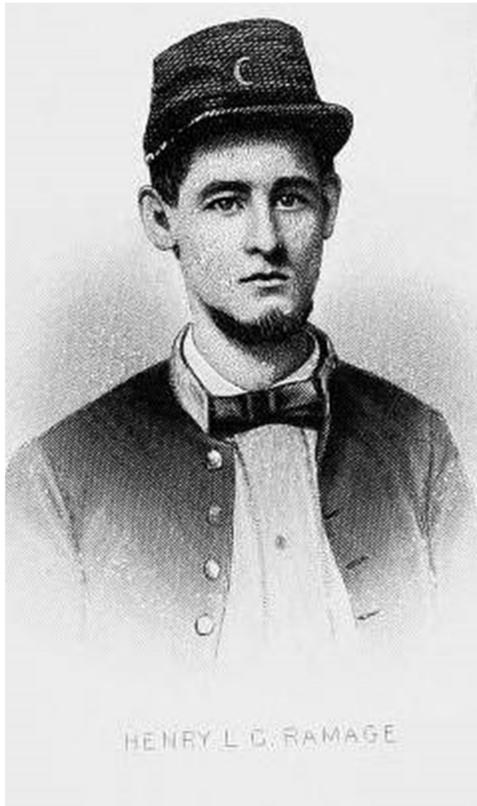
Killed while serving with the Signal Corps in 1864
Williamson County Heritage Foundation



Private George E. Wharton
Company B
Killed at Perryville
Military Annals of Tennessee



Private Joseph L. Campbell
Company C
Killed as Color Bearer Chickamauga
Military Annals of Tennessee



Private Henry Ramage
Company C
Killed at Kennesaw Mountain June 23, 1864
Military Annals of Tennessee



Private Robert Cheatham
Company C
Surrendered 1865
Tennessee State Library and Archives

Camp Cheatham Uniforms 1861

Marcus B. Toney, 1st Tennessee Infantry Company B, wrote of the march to Warm Springs Mountain in August 1861:

"This was our first march fully equipped. Besides our gun, knapsack, haversack, and cartridge box, nearly all our boys had on one side a six-shooter Colt's revolver buckled around them, and on the other side was a large Damascus blade (made at a blacksmith's shop). This too had a scabbard and belt. The accompanying picture of Private Henry H. Cook, of Franklin, Tenn, [Picture is Below] will give my readers a full knowledge of the uniform and accouterments, as Henry (now judge Cook) had it taken just before leaving home, and his Company (D, Williamson Grays) was next to mine on the march. In Henry Cook's hand can be seen a small book. This is the pocket edition of the New Testament, which, when through with the picture, he placed in his knapsack. Each one of us was given a New Testament by our chaplain, Dr. Quintard, and on the fly leaf was written: 'God is our sun and shield.' We thought that 'thrice armed is he who is armed with the word of truth.'"

Toney was originally in the Rock City Guards but uses a photo of Henry Cook from Company D to show his readers what the 1st Tennessee uniform looked like. This implies that the uniform the Rock City Guards wore was only temporary until they were issued uniforms by the State of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Military and Financial Board was founded on May 6, 1861. They purchased 30,000 yards of gray satinette and 25,000 yards of red, gray, and blue flannel, metal coat buttons from Louisville, KY. They purchased \$50,000 worth of uniform items from Baltimore, MD. They also purchased knapsacks, oil cloth blankets, and hats. The 1st Tennessee received some of the first Tennessee State Frock Coats and are unique in the fact they were one of the few to be issued with a dark collar and plain cuffs (later versions had pointed cuffs). Only a photo of a soldier from the 8th Tennessee shows a similar jacket. There is some debate on what color the collar/cuffs on Tennessee state frocks were. They are either black or a dark blue color as a general rule, even though some other regiments are believed to

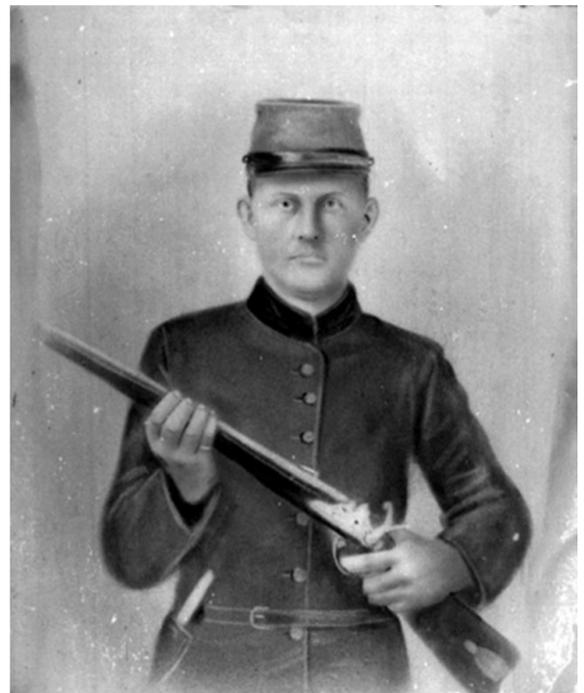
have received other colors as well. Surprisingly there is no written description of what the Tennessee uniforms looked like. Union soldiers describe Confederate Prisoners from Fort Donelson as wearing pants with a black stripe down the side. These prisoners would have been captured in February 1862 so the uniforms could be different from ones issued several months before. On the other hand there is no written documentation that the State of Tennessee ever ordered black material though their records are by no means complete. A book could be written on what color the trim could be so no further mention of it will be brought up here, other to say the 1st Tennessee's collars were probably dark blue or black.

In the photographs of Thompson, the Brandons, Cook, and Nicholson the frock coat is fully visible, all have 8 buttons as is common with Tennessee State issued jackets. In most of the pictures of Company H soldiers you can see a stripe runs along the sides of the pant legs. The photograph of Corporal Graham below is unique in the fact that it is the only known 1st Tennessee Photograph where a soldier is pictured with his chevrons. They appear to be a light color and interestingly they are pointed up instead of down as was common during the war.

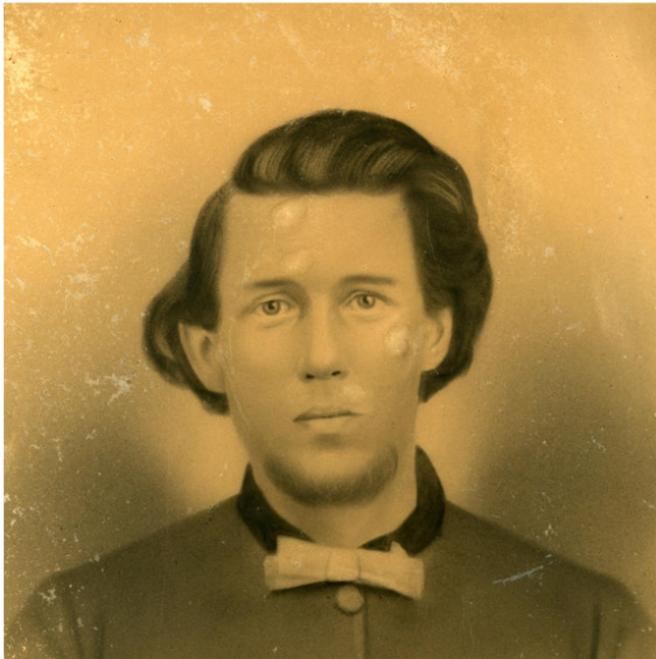
The photographs of Thompson and Nicholson and friend are the only ones photographed with the soldiers wearing a hat. Thompson has a plain gray hat that matches his gray frock. Nicholson and his friend are wearing tall black hats. These could be personal hats they had purchased or brought with them and may not be evidence the entire company was wearing them, though the hat looks to be similar to one that Sam Watkins is wearing in another photograph. Thompson's kepi does not have brass letter insignia and neither does Nicholson's, but in future photographs the insignia shows up again on the hats. Thompson's may have fallen off his hat or members of the company procured them by other means later on.



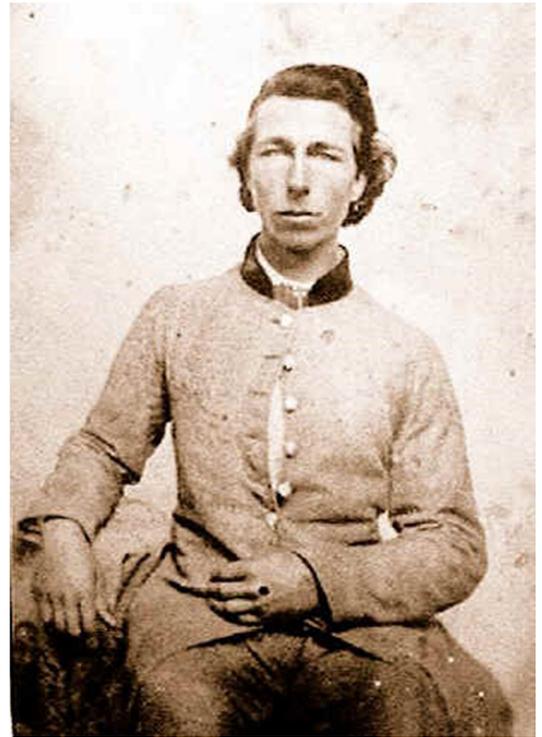
Private Henry Cook
Company D "Williamson Grays"
Discharged 1861
Tennessee State Library and Archives



Private John M. Thompson
Company D "Williamson Grays"
Killed at Perryville 1862
Williamson County Heritage Foundation



Private William H. Hardison
Company H "Maury Grays"
Discharged 1861
Tennessee State Library and Archives



Private Nathaniel G. Reives
Company H "Maury Grays"
Surrendered with Cavalry 1865
Rootsweb



Private A.O.P. Nicholson (right) and unidentified friend
Company H "Maury Grays"
Nicholson discharged 1861
Tennessee Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans



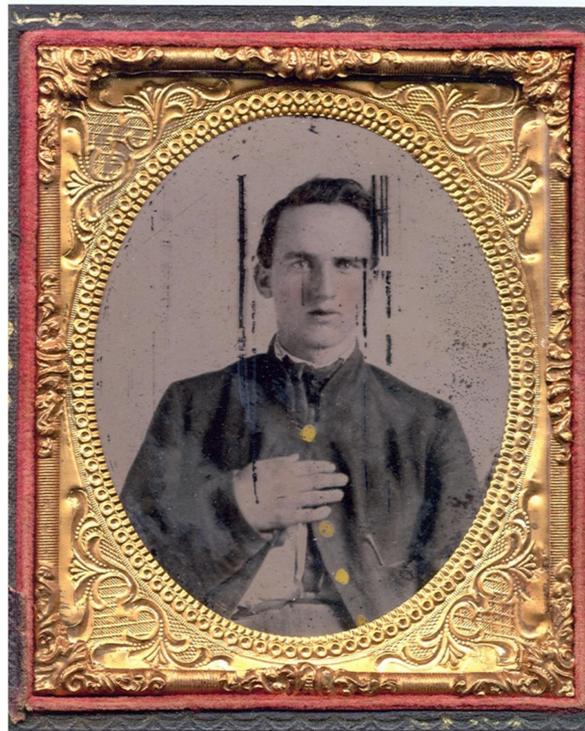
Corporal William Graham and Private Joseph Bynum
Company H "Maury Grays"
Graham killed by sharpshooter July 1864
Bynum died of disease in West Virginia 1861
From "Company Aytch"



Privates James, Edmond, and Alexander
Brandon
Company H "Maury Grays"
James killed at Kennesaw Mountain, Edmond
and Alexander surrendered at Greensboro
*Tennessee Division of the Sons of Confederate
Veterans*

Winter of 1861

Daniel Rouse of the 7th Tennessee, a regiment brigaded and sent to West Virginia with the 1st Tennessee, wrote on August 14, 1861, "Our clothes are beginning to give out and worst of it is we cannot get anymore." Even though the 1st Tennessee and 7th Tennessee probably received their uniforms at different times, they had left for the front and had done the same amount of campaigning. So the quality of their clothes would have been along the same lines as the 1st Tennessee. In the winter of 1861, some commutation clothing, meaning clothing not supplied by the government, started popping up in the 1st Tennessee. The picture of George Nichols was taken in Virginia in December 1861. Though the whole jacket is not visible you can see there is a chest pocket with what looks to be a pipe stem sticking up. This could be a thoughtful gift from home or he could have requested it out of the need for clothing.



Private George Searight Nichols
Company D "Williamson Grays"
Joined Cavalry 1863
Tennessee State Library and Archives

Below is the only known photo of a 1st Tennessee soldier wearing a "Great Coat" or winter jacket. There is no date for the photo but 1861 or early 1862 would be the most logical conclusion. William Butler was only in the service from 1861 to 1863 and appears as present on all rosters until he become inflicted with some unknown illness that took him out of the rest of the war in the winter of 1862/1863. Going off of rationale only, he probably would not have wanted his photo made if he was sick so it is doubtful that it is from that winter. The photo was reproduced by S.K. Terry, photographer in Franklin. Terry did not set up shop in Franklin until after the war ended so this is definitely a post war reprint. For all practical purposes, this photo was taken while the regiment was in Virginia.

The jacket is a light gray color, with six buttons on the cape, and an unknown amount of buttons underneath. There is a fold down collar and folded up sleeves. Notice that Butler is wearing what appears to be a dark blue forage cap. There is another photo of a soldier in the 1st Tennessee wearing a similar hat, which will be discussed later.



Private William Thomas Butler
Company K "Martin Guards"
Became sick in 1863 and never returned to service
Picture from Ebay Auction

Second Issue Tennessee Frock Coat 1862

The second issue of Tennessee frocks start showing up in January 1862. By the end of 1861, the State of Tennessee had stopped adding trim to their jackets. All jackets were plain with the eight buttons. James Neely is documented as having his photo made in January 1862 in Staunton, VA. There is no date for Cheatham's or Lunn's photo but 1862 would seem to be a logical guess. The full jacket is not visible on either man so there is a possibility these are not frock coats. Lunn was discharged in 1862 so this was probably made shortly before his discharge. Nichols got a severe case of poison ivy in August 1862 and subsequently missed the Kentucky Campaign while he recuperated in Chattanooga. In October 1862 he had his picture below made in Chattanooga, the last documented photo of a 1st Tennessee soldier during the war. He has on his eight button second issue Tennessee frock. He is wearing window pane patterned civilian pants and what looks to be a dark blue Federal Forage Cap similar to the one that William Butler is wearing in his photo (see above). Nichols has added brass insignia to his hat, the letter 'D' for his company and cross cannon insignia. Cross cannon insignia is usually a symbol of being in the Artillery. In 1862, the 1st Tennessee overran a battery during the Romney Campaign, and this made a souvenir from that day. Nichols never served in the Artillery so this is the next best guess. There is documentation on "Southern Forage Caps" that were available to soldiers. They were navy blue and usually private purchase/not issued by the government. The fact that Nichols, Butler, and possibly June Tucker are all wearing one does not necessarily mean everyone in the regiment had one, but it does show they were definitely available. June Tucker is wearing a second issue frock in his photo in the band section.



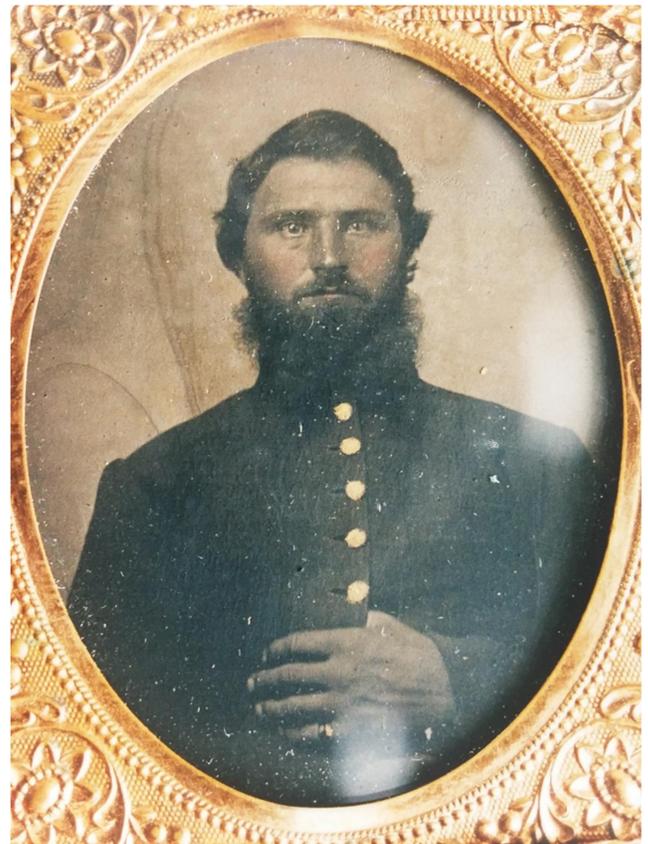
Private Robert Cheatham
Company C "Rock City Guards"
Surrendered 1865
Tennessee State Library and Archives



Private James R. Neely
Company D "Williamson Grays"
Lost his leg at Perryville and served on Invalid Corps
Tennessee Division Sons of Confederate Veterans



Private George Searight Nichols
Company D "Williamson Grays"
Joined Cavalry 1863
Tennessee State Library and Archives



Private Felix Lunn
Company H "Maury Grays"
Discharged 1862, later joined the Cavalry
David Fraley Collection

Unknown Early War Jacket

Below is the only early war jacket that the time frame is unknown on and that is of the famous Sam Watkins, writer of "Company Aytch." There is some debate of when this photograph was taken. It is either a uniform he received before the Camp Cheatham Uniform or one he received from home just after the Camp Cheatham Uniforms wore out. He has five buttons running along the cuff of his sleeves. He is wearing a tie and his uniform looks fairly clean. His black hat seems to be a similar design to the black hats worn by Nicholson and his friend (see Camp Cheatham uniform section) who were both in Sam's company. He has also added a brass 'H' to his hat. His uniform as a whole looks more stylish and well kept compared to what it probably would have been later in the war. I talked to his granddaughter Ruth Hill McAllister who informed me the family is not aware of when the photo was taken but they assumed it was early in the war. Some people have speculated that Sam looks like his hair is going gray in the photo, but according to his prisoner of war record his hair was described as "sandy." So, his hair would appear lighter anyway in a black and white photo. It is probably a 1861 jacket, but the exact time frame is uncertain.



Private Samuel Rush Watkins
Company H "Maury Grays"
Surrendered in Memphis April 1865
From his book "Company Aytch"

Commutation Jackets/Government Issue Clothing/Non Uniformity-1862 till End of war

At least by the end of 1862 the 1st Tennessee no longer wore matching clothing. George Nichols photograph (under the 2nd issue frock section) shows him wearing civilian pants. James T. Mitchel of Company F of the 1st Tennessee was the color bearer of the regiment at the Battle of Perryville and was killed carrying the flag. The jacket he was wearing at the time of his death is in the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. There is a blood stain on the inside of the jacket. His father patched the bullet hole in his jacket and joined Forrest's Cavalry following his son's death. He wore his jacket as a tribute to his fallen son. The jacket has one exterior slash pocket and is made of gray wool and cotton twill. There is no information on how Mitchel acquired the jacket, but the fabric of the patch matches the jacket perfectly so it is safe to say it was sent from home. We have Mitchel's and Nichols' jackets documented as both being worn in October 1862 and they are not similar. It can be assumed this was the same throughout the regiment.



Color Bearer James T. Mitchel
Originally a member of Company F
Killed at Perryville

*Jacket is in the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA
The square patch near left shoulder shows where he received his fatal wound*

Other incidents would help rid the regiment of uniformity. At Shelbyville in June 27, 1863, 4th Corporal William M. Pollard of Company D remembers:

"Co. D remained at the depot to load trains, until the enemy began firing on our picket in the edge of town. We were then ordered to leave. The boys then at once began to break open boxes stored in the depot, and loaded themselves with clothing, and abundance of good things, that had been sent to various ones from their homes."

Mid-1863 was probably the last time anyone from the regiment received anything from home until the Tennessee Campaign of 1864. Following Bragg's retreat from the Tullahoma area all towns that the 1st Tennessee called home came under Federal Occupation. Nashville was captured in February 1862, Franklin and Murfreesboro immediately following the Battle of Murfreesboro in 1863, and Pulaski and Columbia captured following the end of the Tullahoma Campaign in 1863. A Federal soldier from the 14th Michigan Infantry had been stationed in Franklin in 1863 and moved to Sherman's army in 1864. He states during the truce following the assaults on Kennesaw Mountain he ran into some soldiers from Franklin, TN who had not received a letter from home in over a year. The 14th Michigan did not oppose the 1st Tennessee but the members of the regiment were in the same predicament. Unless they had relatives living in an unoccupied area they would need to rely solely on the Government for their clothing needs.

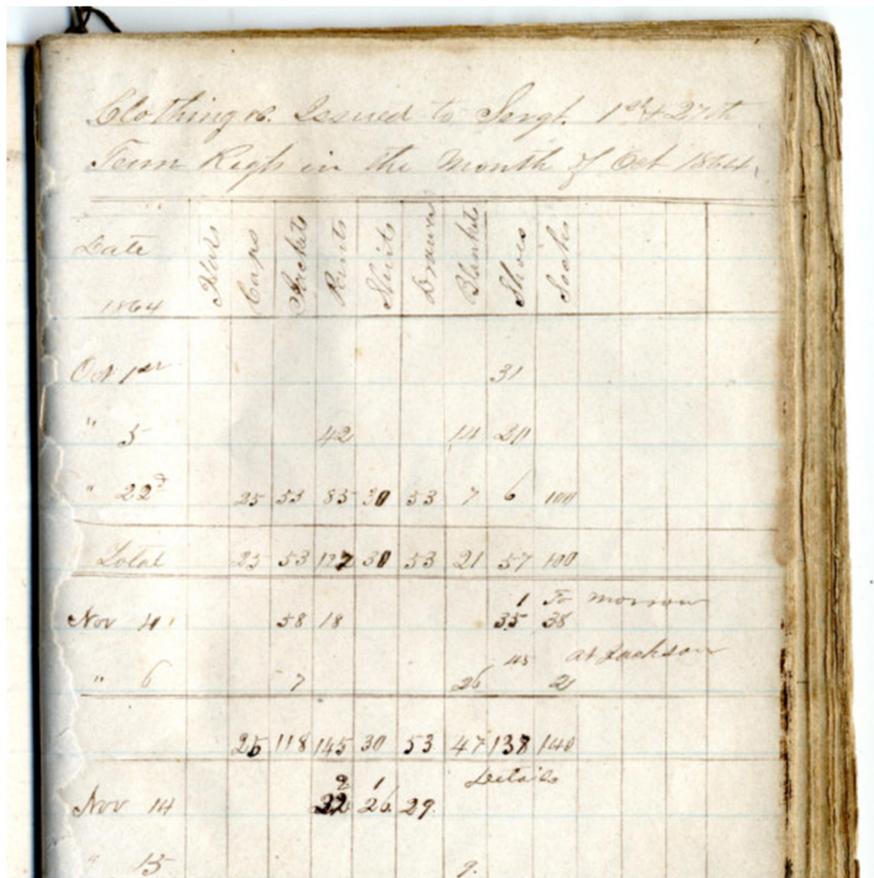
Sam Watkins states when Joe Johnston took over command of the army in 1864 he issued new clothing to every soldier he could. Columbus, Atlanta, Mobile, and other deep south depots would have to fill their clothing orders and slouch hats would start taking over kepis as the dominate headgear. Chaplin Charles Quintard makes reference in his memoirs that he always purchased fabric to make winter clothing for the 1st Tennessee. At least at winter time the regiment would have some common uniformity.

On July 5, 1864, Private William M. Moss of Company D was captured with another unnamed companion. He later described his clothing the day he was captured:

"I had on a pair of cotton pants, an old shirt, a pair of old shoes, no socks, and an old coon skin cap with a tail behind. The other fellow was dressed about like me. The Federals had all gathered around, and were looking at us like a show."

If this is true it definitely would not have been a common uniform that he was wearing (especially the coon skin cap). The cotton pants and no jacket was perhaps due to the Georgia summer heat. This clothing would have been cooler than wearing wool. From October 1 to December 5, 1864, the Quartermaster issued the following items to the 1st/27th Tennessee:

| Date | Hats | Caps | Jackets | Pants | Shirts | Drawers | Blankets | Shoes | Socks |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Oct. 1 | | | | | | | | 31 | |
| Oct. 5 | | | | 42 | | | 14 | 20 | |
| Oct. 22 | | 25 | 53 | 85 | 30 | 53 | 7 | 6 | 100 |
| Nov. 1 | | | 58 | 18 | | | | 36 | 38 |
| Nov. 6 | | | 7 | | | | 26 | 45 | 2 |
| Nov. 14 | | | | 34 | 27 | 29 | | | |
| Nov. 20 | | | | 15 | | | 25 | 5 | 45 |
| Nov. 20 | | | | | | | 9 | 18 | |
| Dec. 5 | 1 | | | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | |
| Subtotal | 1 | 25 | 118 | 195 | 60 | 85 | 84 | 162 | 185 |

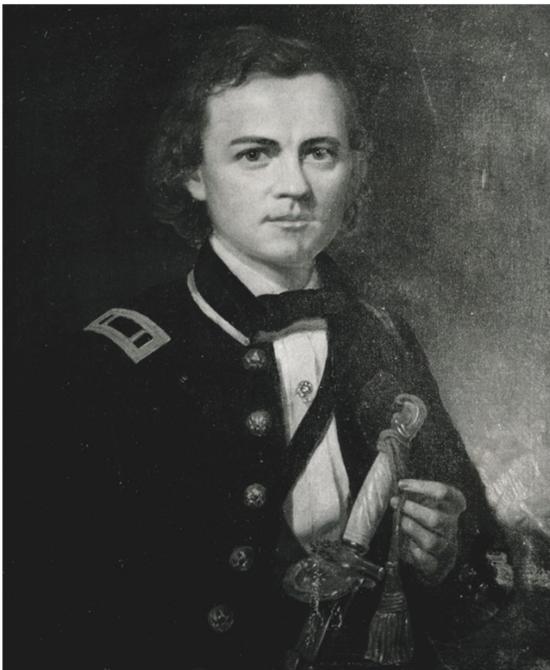


The 1st/27th Tennessee combined following the Atlanta campaign and into the Tennessee campaign numbered at most 200 men. This would mean that almost the entire regiment received a new pair of pants and shoes before the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. Half of them would have received a new jacket before the battle too. Even late in the war the 1st Tennessee would have made a presentable appearance.

There is no documentation stating any were issued to the 1st Tennessee, but when the Army of Tennessee was sent to North Carolina in 1865 some Richmond Depot Jackets Type III were issued to the army. One belonging to James Cooper of the 20th Tennessee is at the Carter House Museum and one belonging to Thomas Flippin of the 3rd Tennessee is at the Sam Davis home. Both jackets have 8 US Staff Officer/Muffin Buttons and are made out of Blue Gray Kersey. While some were issued Richmond Depot Jackets others probably were wearing Mobile and Georgia Depot jackets. Hopefully the preceding paragraphs will give readers a good understanding of what clothing the enlisted men of the 1st Tennessee were wearing throughout the war.

Officers

1861 Tennessee Regulations called for officers to wear a dark blue frock, with gold trim along the base of the collar. Below are three examples of the original uniform most officers in the 1st Tennessee would have had on in 1861. A special note, the drawing of Patterson is his head from an original photo drawn on to another officer's body. It is merely on here to give more insight into these original uniforms. Malone was a member of the Freemasons as evidenced by his sword. Harris has a dark blue kepi with black trim along the base.



1st Lieutenant Thomas Malone
Company A
Promoted to Maney's Staff
Tennessee State Library and Archives



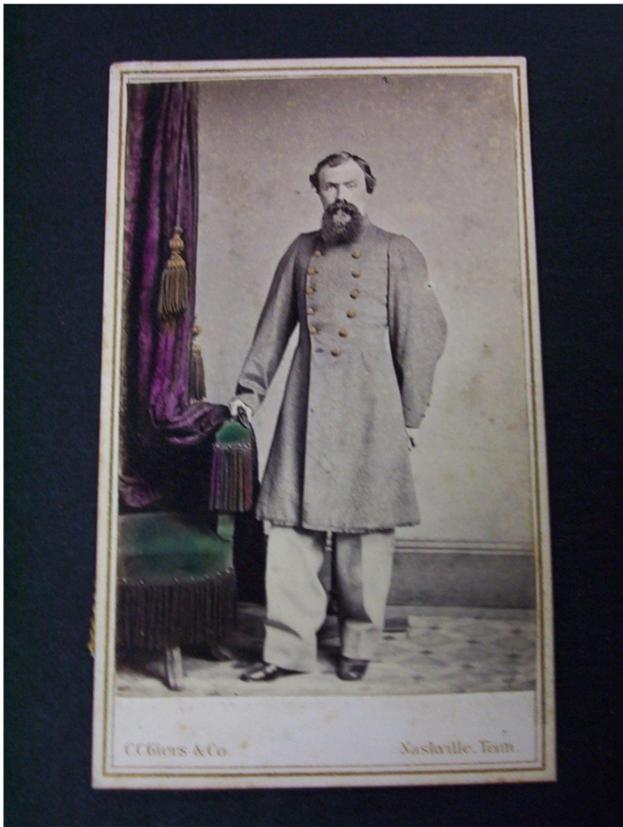
1st Lieutenant John Patterson
Company B
Promoted to Lt. Col. and killed at Perryville
Patterson family collection



3rd Lieutenant Carey Harris
Company D
Resigned in 1862
Ronnie Townes Collection

Officers are expected to supply their own clothing, this is part of the reason they are paid so much more than enlisted men. Below are some more photos of 1st TN officers. The picture of Feild was taken at an unknown time. His collar is covered so his rank is not visible. The bottom right button on his jacket is missing so it has some wear to it. It does not really match most early war Tennessee frocks so it was probably taken in late 1861 or after. The pictures of Steele and Wheless show Captain insignia on both collars. Both were promoted to Captain on April 16, 1862, so they had their photos made after their promotions. Wheless is also wearing a dark overcoat

Also pictured below is the original jacket belonging to Captain Matthew Pilcher of the 1st TN. The jacket is at the Sam Davis home in Smyrna, TN and was donated by his wife. He was said to be wearing it when wounded at the Battle of Franklin though there is no damage to the jacket corresponding to his wounds. According to the Sam Davis staff there is no blood stains on the jacket. Captain Pilcher was the quartermaster and payroll clerk for the 1st Tennessee Infantry Regiment, though he originally enlisted in Company B. His frock coat has light blue cuffs and collar and is cadet gray in color (look under the armpits for original color). There is light blue piping that runs the center of the jacket parallel to the coat buttons. It has two columns of Federal Eagle Officer Buttons, seven in each column. The insignia on his collar is gold trim, with three rows (insignia for Captain) cut at different lengths so that they are tiered. 'Pilcher' is handwritten on the inside of the jacket visible just above the mannequin. His officer belt is shown below as well. Pilcher has a second jacket (not pictured) at the Museum of the Confederacy that he was supposedly wearing when wounded at Perryville. Again there are no bloodstains on the jacket and there is no damage where he was wounded at the battle. Both jackets were donated by his wife after his death and she probably got some of the facts wrong. The jacket is brown in color now but was originally gray. It is made out of wool and has two rows of Federal Eagle Officer Buttons with seven buttons in each row. Each sleeve has three cuff buttons.



Captain and later Colonel Hume R. Feild, Company K
Promoted to Colonel in 1862 and commanded a brigade
at war's end
Ronnie Townes Collection



Captain Bailey P. Steele, Company B
Disabled by wound at Perryville
Tennessee State Library and Archives



Captain Joseph Wheless, Company C
Disabled at Perryville and became CS Navy Paymaster
Ronnie Townes Collection



CAPT. PILCHER IN 60'S.

Captain Matthew B. Pilcher, Company B
Promoted to Quartermaster



Pilcher's Belt is on the bottom

Band

Below are two photos of June Tucker. One photo features an unidentified friend. While it is hard to say, it appears their uniforms are blue or black. The unidentified soldier on the right side of the photo is wearing a double breasted (two rows of buttons) civilian jacket with light trim running along the base of the collar and alongside the buttons. Tucker's jacket appears to be single breasted, but it is hard to tell if it is civilian or a military pattern based on the quality of the photograph. The amount of hat brass is extremely noticeable as well. Both soldiers are wearing boots and the finger strap is visible on the tops of the boots that assist in pulling the boot on your foot. Both were original members of Company H "Maury Grays." June Tucker was originally a bugler for the regiment and later was leader of the 1st TN band. The second photo is of June Tucker taken a little later in the war. He appears to have on the second issue frock coat and is holding a saxhorn. It looks like his belt is being held together with a piece of string or a hook. I would place this photo

as being taken in early 1862 probably while the regiment was encamped in Winchester, VA or Chattanooga, TN.



Musician Junius Tucker
Originally in Company H "Maury Grays"
Captured during Battle of Nashville 1864
Ronnie Townes Collection

Equipment

Ferdinand Berry is the only known 1st Tennessee soldier photographed with the soldier wearing his gear. He has on an oval US Belt Buckle and all black leathers. The photographs of Thompson, Cook, and March were each photographed wearing their belt. In Thompson's photograph, the belt has 'U' shaped roller buckle. Cook has on a thicker belt but the buckle is not visible. Private March, pictured above, has a regular black leather belt with a rectangular brass belt buckle. All the belts appear a little different so the regiment may have had a variety of belts and buckles. Both Thompson and Cook are equipped with a knife as Marcus Toney of Company B said in his earlier quote that most of the regiment was carrying. The following requisition and ordnance reports from different periods in the war will shed some light on what the gear and equipment of the 1st Tennessee had during the war.

Lieutenant John L. House took over Company D as soon as they left Camp Cheatham because Captain Hanner fell ill. Hanner would never return to the company. He resigned in December 1861 and House was promoted to Captain. Immediately following his promotion his war record contains several Quartermaster Special Requests for the beginning winter of 1862.

| Date | Qty. | Station | Item |
|-------------------|------|-----------------|-------------------|
| January 31, 1862 | 9 | Romney, VA | Shoes |
| (Clothing) | 4 | | Pants |
| | 3 | | Overcoats |
| | 2 | | Shirts |
| | 13 | | Drawers |
| February 14, 1862 | 9 | Winchester, VA | Tents |
| (Equipment) | 2 | | Wall Tents |
| | 6 | | Haversacks |
| | 5 | | Camp Kettles |
| (Clothing) | 11 | | Shirts |
| March 18, 1862 | 20 | Chattanooga, TN | Shoes |
| (Clothing) | 4 | | Pairs of Drawers |
| | 2 | | Pants |
| March 20, 1862 | 6 | Chattanooga, TN | Cartridge Boxes |
| (Equipment) | 6 | | Waist Belts |
| | 6 | | Cap Boxes |
| | 6 | | Bayonet Scabbards |
| March 22, 1862 | 14 | Chattanooga, TN | Pants |
| (Clothing) | 1 | | Shoes |
| March 28, 1862 | 8 | Chattanooga, TN | Wall Tent |
| (Equipment) | 2 | | Shelter? Halves |
| April 17, 1862 | 1 | Corinth, MS | Pants |
| (Clothing) | 25 | | Shoes |

On Captain Oscar F. Atkeison's war record is included several orders for items made during the summer of 1862 after he took over the company after House's promotion to Major:

| Date | Qty. | Station | Item |
|-----------------|------|-------------|------------------|
| May 11, 1862 | 1 | Tupelo, MS | Jacket |
| (Clothing) | 1 | | Pair of Shoes |
| | 10 | | Shirts |
| | 2 | | Pairs of Socks |
| (Equipment) | 16 | | Knapsacks |
| | 2 | | Haversacks |
| | 8 | | Camp Kettles |
| | 11 | | Canteens |
| | 11 | | Tin Cups |
| July 7, 1862 | 5 | Jackson, MS | Shoes |
| | 12 | | Pairs of Drawers |
| August 29, 1862 | 35 | Kentucky | Shoes |
| | 7 | | Pairs of Drawers |
| | 6 | | Shirts |

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|----------|-----------------|
| September 6, 1862 | 1 | Kentucky | Officer's Sword |
| September 25, 1862 | 16 | Kentucky | Pairs of Socks |
| | 6 | | Pairs of Shoes |
| | 2 | | Pants |
| | 1 | | Coat |
| | 1 | | Plain Hat |
| | 1 | | Shirt |

Total for 1862

| Item | Quantity |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Pairs of Shoes | 102 |
| Socks | 18 |
| Pairs of Drawers | 36 |
| Pants | 23 |
| Overcoats | 3 |
| Jackets/Coats | 2 |
| Hats | 1 |
| Shirts | 30 |
| Wall Tents | 10 |
| Tents | 9 |
| Shelter Halves | 2 |
| Cartridge Box | 6 |
| Waist Belt | 6 |
| Cap Box | 6 |
| Bayonet Scabbard | 6 |
| Haversack | 8 |
| Canteens | 11 |
| Knapsacks | 16 |
| Officer's Sword | 1 |
| Camp Kettles | 13 |

This illustrates how easy it became for the regiment's gear to become inconsistent. In the course of one year they drew clothing and equipment from four different states. Most of the items ordered are only basic clothing necessities. In other words they are ordering things like socks and shoes but not very much in the way of jackets or pants. This would suggest that the regiment could still have access to clothing items from home for this part of the war. The gradual requisition of equipment shows the soldiers gear wore out at different rates.

To further the study of equipment worn by the 1st Tennessee in 1862, we can look at the equipment worn by J. Mitchel, color bearer of the 1st Tennessee killed at Perryville whose Jacket was mentioned earlier. His equipment was returned to his family as well as his jacket. His father joined the Cavalry after his son was killed and supposedly wore the equipment in his son's memory. All of these items are at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA.



The cartridge box is of unknown origin as well as the cap box. Mitchel was the color bearer and not a rifleman. The cartridge box seems too small to have been something that an infantryman would carry but since he was carrying the flag they may have given him something lighter, or this actually was issued to his father in the Cavalry and it is a case of mistaken identity by his family after the war. The cap box is of unknown origin but looks similar to many cap boxes issued during the war. Both are marked "J. Mitchel 1st TN" on the inside.



Mitchel's haversack is made of white canvas and has a two metal button closure. The sling is not original to the haversack according to the Museum's records. "J.M. 1st TN" is marked on the inside.



Mitchel's canteen has one flat side and one convex side. The canteen is made of tin. Unknown origin.

The following list comes from Col. Hume R. Feild's service record. It is the ordnance and ordnance stores report for the 1st & 27th Tennessee regiments dated June 30, 1864 near Marietta, GA. The report was filled out while the 1st Tennessee was still in the Dead Angle at Kennesaw Mountain. This report does not state how many men he actually had present at the time. It would safe to assume somewhere in the neighborhood of 300 men. The excess gear would have been stored in the ordnance wagons for the regiment.

| Item | Qty. |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Enfield Rifles | 114 |
| .58 Rifles (most likely Springfields) | 215 |
| Bayonets | 319 |
| Cartridge Boxes | 363 |
| Cap Pouches | 353 |
| Bayonet Scabbards | 323 |
| Cartridge Box Belts | 300 |
| Waist Belts | 330 |
| Gun Slings | 209 |
| Ball Screw | 1 |
| Wipers | 62 |
| Screw Drivers | 141 |
| Knapsacks | 306 |
| Haversacks | 550 |
| Canteens | 500 |
| Canteen Straps | 475 |
| Waist belt Plates | 47 |
| Caps | 16,620 |
| Rifle Cartridges | 15,462 |

From the 1862 and 1864 reports we can see that knapsacks were carried by almost every man in the regiment. The 1864 report shows everyone still had a bayonet for their rifle. Canteens and haversacks were an abundant item and could easily be replaced if lost or damaged. Interestingly, there are only 47 waist belt plates. Does this mean the regiment predominantly had roller buckles or maybe even Georgia Frame buckles? This report along with the previous report showing issues for October to December of 1864 shows that the regiment was well supplied in 1864. Unfortunately no documentation has been found regarding equipment in 1865 for the regiment.

Weapons

1855 Springfield Rifle

The 1st Tennessee was issued 1855 Springfield Rifles at the beginning of the war. 701 1855 Springfields and 368 1855 Cadet Springfields (a slightly shorter version of the Musket) were issued to the State of Tennessee in 1860. It appears these rifles were given to the 1st Tennessee as Ferdinand Berry and John Thompson pictured above each have a model 1855 U.S. Springfield. A soldier in Company H of the 1st Tennessee wrote in the Columbia Daily Herald on October 5, 1900 "The regiment all voted to go [to Virginia], and they carried their guns, the comparable Springfield Rifle until they surrendered them to Sherman on the 26th of April 1865." On a report by the State of Tennessee in July 1861, it is listed that Colonel George Maney had 944 men with rifle muskets. An article from the Nashville Republican Banner stated the Tennessee Government had purchased several crates of rifles from New Orleans that were expected to be issued to Maney's Regiment in 1861. Since it appears there were enough rifles in the arsenal already, these New Orleans rifles may have been given to the 11th TN which was the only other Tennessee regiment issued percussion rifled muskets by the state of TN as of the July 1861 report.

Berry's photo above shows his rifle has no patchbox near the butt of the rifle, therefore making it the Type I 1855 Springfield that was manufactured between 1855 and 1858. In 1859 the Type II began production which included a patchbox near the butt of the rifle. The Type II is seen in the hands of Thompson's photo above. Both types of the 1855 Springfield appear to have been in the ranks of the 1st Tennessee.



Close up of the Maynard Priming System on the 1855 Springfield



Above is a photo of a Type II 1855 Springfield Rifle which featured a patchbox and is in the photograph of John Thompson in the Camp Cheatham Uniform Section

1853 Enfield Rifle

On the June 30, 1864 report mentioned earlier, Col. Feild states he has 215 .58 caliber rifles and 114 Enfields in the regiment. This report is for the 1st and 27th Tennessee so the Enfield Rifles probably belong to the members of the 27th Tennessee. We have two sources from the 1st Tennessee showing they carried Enfields. Sam Watkins of Company H states at Rocky Face Ridge, "Our Enfields crack, keen and sharp; and ha ha ha, look yonder! The Yankees are running away." An Enfield belonging to Martin Brown of Company A is in the private collection of Les Porter. It is an 1862 Tower Rifle. In the book "Soldiering in the Army of Tennessee" by Larry J. Daniel, he quotes a Sergeant in the 1st Tennessee as stating on March 29, 1862, "We have drew the finest arms in the Confederate States, they were made last year, they are Enfields." I have tried to trace his source on this quote and cannot find that it was written by anyone in Maney's 1st Tennessee. It is safe to conclude that the when a soldier in the 1st Tennessee lost their Springfield Musket, it was replaced with an Enfield.



A close of the 1862 Tower Lockplate on Martin Brown's Enfield Rifle



Full length photo of Martin Brown's Enfield, in the Les Porter Collection

1861 Springfield Rifle

There were at least a few 1861 Model Springfields present in the ranks of the 1st Tennessee as early as 1863. As seen in this story related by a soldier who only acknowledges himself as "Private Rock City Guards" (probably Samuel Seay of Company B who was wounded in the battle) in the Southern Bivouac Newspaper in 1884. He writes about his conversion rifle during his memoirs of the Battle of Graysville (Cat's Creek), GA:

"The writer in trying to stop a bullet, found that he could not succeed. The position was exposed - no particle of shelter, a plain, open field, with the enemy under cover of the woods. In the meantime, the order was given to fall back into the woods behind. This was done in reasonably good order. The moon, which had now risen, displayed the glistening bayonets of a still unbroken front. Every wagon was for the present in safety, and the only capture the enemy had made from us was the gun of the writer, and those of several others who had been wounded or killed. Ah, my old gun! I well knew where I got it. It was on another moonlight night, of the 20th of September, 1863, the second day's battle of Chickamauga. It lay inside the Federal works, near their extreme left. It was bright, and perfectly new from the factory. "Bridesburg" was stamped on the lock-plate. It was like a foreign country to me, but I knew it was a suburb of Philadelphia. Though twenty years younger than I now am, I was still too old a soldier to give up a trusted friend, without knowing more of the merits of my new one. So I strung both muskets over my shoulder, and, at the first opportunity, in the firelight of the night, proceeded to examine my new friend. The lock was perfect - bright as a new-coined silver dollar. I drew the rammer, and running it down the barrel, found that it stopped within a foot of the muzzle. I got a ball-screw and drew out ball after ball, with great labor, and found that its previous owner, doubtless a gallant Federal soldier, had simply been snapping caps at us. The job was hopeless. I gave it up, and taking off the barrel of my old musket, made at Springfield, Massachusetts, soon had as fine a weapon as any Confederate possessed. The parts were interchangeable - our arms were rifle muskets. Just as its brightness attracted me then - it now formed (November 26th), 1863, the last object of my solicitude -

I 'own a kindly debt of old remembrance' for it. Some Federal, perhaps more worthy, may have the same feeling for parts of the same gun. A kind of love for your engine grows with its use.

A good workman comes to like - shall I say love - the machine which seems to share his labor. It is thus I feel toward the "Bridesburg" musket. I was not a loser, but simply the gainer by its two months use. Long before this I had another gun, which I recollect with a feeling of grim satisfaction. While useful in sending bullets at the battle of Murfreesboro, it did me the service to stop one. The ball passed between the two lower bands, taking off half the stock between them, springing the rammer as it passed between it and the barrel. At many a regimental and brigade inspection, I "fessed out," as the West Point boys say, on that gun. "What's the matter with that gun, sir," would say the inspector. "Shot in battle, sir," would be the answer, and it saved me, for many months, a deal of rubbing and scrubbing. Oledowski, or whatever his name was, the Prussian Inspector of Hardee's corps, passed that gun a dozen times. It was still a serviceable weapon, but Captain Kelly, of the Rock City Guards, just before the battle of Chickamauga, got tired of my usual excuse, and a summary order was issued to turn it over to the quartermaster and get a good one. The privates were at times on a par with their officers, in shrewd devices to escape duty, and their humor at times smacked of Irish flavor. Thus said an inspector to J.W. Branch, or the same company who kept a clean gun, but which needed oiling, "Why do you not grease that gun?" "I can't afford it, sir, I can't grease my throat." Under the highest system of tariff taxation, grease in the Confederacy would have been admitted free. I have endeavored in the foregoing to depict the experiences of a private soldier, in connection with the operations of his regiment and brigade, in A notable battle. I am well aware that from the ranks, the field of observation is extremely limited. It extends only to the front and a few companies or regiments, to the right or left. Generally he finds enough to do in front. "



Close up view of a 1862 Bridesburg Springfield

1861 Springfield Rifle

Some officers in the regiment carried a Colt Revolving Rifle with them. George Nichols recalls Lieutenant Loving Woldridge of Company D carrying his own rifle at the Battle of Chickamauga:

"At Chickamauga I tried to get him to get behind a tree, but he told me there were too many behind trees now doing no good. He had a Colt rifle that shot six times, he emptied his rifle and killed five Yankees, he had no more cartridges, and threw his rifle down and got him a minnie musket. I picked up his rifle and carried it off the battle field and gave it to him."

Lieutenant Woldridge probably had an 1855 Colt Repeating Rifle. Most of these rifles had five shot cylinders that were .56 caliber. There were some produced that were .36 or .44 versions that did have six round cylinders. This rifle would have available to the south before the war and was a common firearm during the conflict on both sides. It fired regular pistol rounds so ammunition for the rifle would have been available to him. We have a few sources stating Colonel Feild carried the same weapon. Sam Watkins states in his original version of "Company Aytch" that in Virginia in 1861 he spotted 25-30 Federals approaching his position. It had been raining and Sam's rifle misfired due to the powder being wet. The Federals tried to return fire but their powder was wet also. That was when Sam states, "Captain Feild [later Colonel] came running up with his seven-shooting rifle." In his revised edition, he changed "seven-shooting rifle" to "repeating needle gun." Sam Watkins is the only one who describes Feild's rifle this way. Three sources written during the war state he carried a Colt Revolving Rifle. First comes from the Nashville Patriot Newspaper on September 7, 1861 referring to the same incident that Sam Watkins describes:

"A detachment of the 1st Regiment went out under Maj. Looney. They found a party of the enemy and Capt. Feild with his Colt's rifle enjoyed the luxury of bringing down three of the scoundrels."

The newspaper article is quoting a letter from the 1st Tennessee Regiment dated August 30, 1861. Joseph O'Bryan of Company B wrote a letter to his sister in August 1861 regarding the same engagement saying, "Captain Feild himself had a Colt's Rifle (6 shooter) and commenced firing when the Yankees fled." Sometime in 1864 there was a report published in a Northern Newspaper stating Colonel Feild had deserted and taken the Oath of Allegiance. Chaplin Charles Quintard published an article stating "Colonel Feild is at present at the front, in command of his regiment, ready now, as he at all times has been, to shoot not five, but five hundred Yankees with his Colt's Revolving Rifle."



1855 Colt Revolving Rifle

Pistols

Most men from the 1st Tennessee had pistols at the beginning of the war. Marcus Toney of Company B wrote that many were thrown away after their first hard marches, including his own. However, some did keep their pistols through the whole war. At the Carnton Museum in Franklin is the five-shot Navy Colt revolver belonging to Sergeant James R. Hughes of Company D. It is a model 1849 Colt Pocket Pistol that fired five .31 Cal rounds.



The 1849 Colt Pocket Pistol that belonged to James R. Hughes currently located at Carnton Plantation in Franklin

Conclusion

Hopefully the above mentioned text will assist any readers interested in what the 1st Tennessee was wearing and fighting with during the Civil War. In some cases I have had to use my own rationale to draw conclusions that may turn out to be incorrect in the future. This will be updated as new information is found or comes out.

Written Credits:

"The Confederate Army 1861-65: Tennessee & North Carolina" by Ron Field

"Memorial to Loving Woldridge" by George S. Nichols (Company D)

"Memoirs of William M. Pollard" by William Pollard (Company D)

"The Memoir and Civil War Diary of Charles Todd Quintard" by Charles Todd Quintard (Chaplain of the Regiment)

"Privations of a Private" by Marcus B. Toney (Company B)

"Company Aytch" by Samuel R. Watkins (Company H)

"Maney's Brigade after the Battle of Missionary Ridge" by Samuel Seay

War Records:

Colonel Hume R. Feild (F&S)

Lt. Colonel John L. House (Company D)

Captain Oscar F. Atkeison (Company D)