



**State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

**Confederate States of America
Army of Tennessee Collection
1861-1865**

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

Confederate States of America. Army of Tennessee

Inclusive Dates:

1861-1865

Scope & Content:

The Confederate States of America, Army of Tennessee Collection, containing .75 cubic feet of material, is fragmentary, but reflects some aspects of the Civil War that researchers may find helpful. This collection was originally part of Record Group 4, the Provisional Army of Tennessee, but as it was not under the control of a state agency after July 31, 1861, it has been given its own manuscript collection.

Correspondence is dated mainly from 1861 to 1863, and the general correspondence is arranged alphabetically by the writer's name. Included in the correspondence are letters to Generals S. R. Anderson, Richard G. Fain, Felix K. Zollicoffer, and Adjutant General W. C. Witthorne. Subjects include raising and arming troops, commissary supplies, troop movements, Union sentiment in East Tennessee, the physical condition of the troops, and related matters. Of particular note is a letter from future governor William B. Bate describing the Battle of Bull Run, as well as correspondence to Richard G. Fain from members of his family. There is a hand-copied letter from Robert E. Lee concerning the election and commissioning of officers from the Provisional Army of Tennessee. Also, correspondence from Governor Isham G. Harris; former mayor of Nashville, Lt. Colonel Randal McGavock; and Confederate Secretary of War George W. Randolph is included. Incorporated in the collection is a citizenship certificate issued to a Frederick Wright, born in England, issued September 3, 1844. An unidentified hand-drawn map that appears to be of Fort Anderson, located just

west of Paducah, Kentucky, is also included amongst the materials. Researchers may find the “Roll of Negroes Impressed for Service on the North-West Railroad” valuable. It contains a list of the slaves that were impressed, their names, ages, height, owners, and counties and towns of residence.

Medical records include correspondence; inventories of supplies, medicines, and rations; requisitions; and reports to patients. Particularly interesting to medical historians is a detailed proposal for a field ambulance service, also called a “flying hospital,” in which the justification for the expense was strongly humanitarian. Unfortunately, only samples of quartermaster records were retained. Muster rolls are available for some counties and units.

Physical Description/Extent:

.75 cubic feet
1 oversize folder

Accession/Record Group Number:

2009-074

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

IV-D-6, top

Repository:

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

Administrative/Biographical History

The Army of Tennessee was the Confederacy's primary fighting force on the western front. This group was involved in most of the conflict from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River.

The army was raised in early 1861 by Tennessee's governor, Isham G. Harris. It was one of the most well-organized in the South by the time the Confederate States of America assumed its control in July 1861. Early in the war, the army was stationed in northern Tennessee, and tasked with protecting the border. However, they eventually succumbed to the Union at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in February 1862. Despite Harris's organizational acumen, he incorrectly assumed Kentucky's neutrality throughout the war and did not contribute enough time or money fortifying the Tennessee-Kentucky border from

invasion.

After the successive defeats in northern Tennessee, the army regrouped in Corinth, Mississippi, under General P. G. T. Beauregard, as the Army of Mississippi. On April 6, 1862, it made a surprise attack on the Union's Army of the Tennessee under the command of General Ulysses S. Grant at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee. Later known as the Battle of Shiloh, this was deadliest battle in American history up to that date. The surprise paid off initially, as Union troops were put on the defensive. However, the arrival of Union General Don Carlos Buell proved to be the turning point as the Confederate forces were routed, amassing over ten thousand casualties.

After the battle, General Beauregard was replaced by General Braxton Bragg as the commander of the Army of Mississippi. In November 1862 he renamed the force the Army of Tennessee, as it would remain for the rest of the war.

In late December 1862 the Army of Tennessee, 38,000 strong, took up a defensive position just northwest of Murfreesboro. The Confederate forces faced a newly appointed General William S. Rosecrans leading the Army of the Cumberland, 45,000 strong.

At dawn on December 31, 1862, Confederate forces struck Rosecrans's right flank and drove it back three miles. But, once again, the initial success could not be sustained. On January 3, after a Federal reinforcement, Bragg withdrew his troops south toward Tullahoma. The battle was considered a Union victory despite a roughly equal number of casualties.

In the summer of 1863, Bragg had dug his troops in near Chattanooga. Support arrived in the form of General James Longstreet's First Corps, Army of Northern Virginia, and troops from Mississippi. After careful maneuvering, Rosecrans had forced Bragg to abandon his position in Chattanooga in favor of a location further south, along the banks of Chickamauga Creek in northern Georgia. On September 19 Bragg launched an attack, which ended as one of the bloodiest of the war. Confederate casualties numbered more than eighteen thousand, while the Union forces lost more than sixteen thousand men. Despite their numerous casualties, the Army of Tennessee secured one of its greatest tactical victories at Chickamauga. The Confederates drove the Federal army back to Chattanooga, though Bragg was unable to capitalize on the victory.

In late November 1863 Grant was given command of Union forces in the Western Theater. He withstood the Siege of Chattanooga and subsequent battles, nullified the strategic gains made by Bragg at Chickamauga and opened the "Gateway to the South." After the Chattanooga Campaign, Jefferson Davis appointed General Joseph E. Johnston to lead the Army of Tennessee, while General William T. Sherman was appointed commander of the Union Army of Tennessee

Sherman, with some 100,000 troops, was tasked with defeating Johnston's force and capturing Atlanta.

A series of skirmishes saw Johnston continually retreating toward Atlanta. General John Bell Hood led a number of these Confederate counterattacks and earned a reputation as for aggressiveness.

Jefferson Davis eventually replaced Johnston with Hood, who complained to Davis about Johnston's frequent retreats. Hood's audacious style resulted in major casualties for the Army of Tennessee, which could not compete in terms of manpower with the Union. Sherman arrived at Atlanta on July 22, 1864, and after a battle and subsequent siege, Atlanta fell to the Union on September 2.

Hood decided to maneuver around Sherman's army northward in an attempt to cut off the supply and communication lines between Atlanta and Chattanooga. Hood marched through Alabama and turned north, hoping to draw Sherman away from Atlanta. The plan was mildly successful, causing Sherman to spread out his forces to protect his supply lines north of Atlanta; however, he led the main strength of his army toward Savannah, Georgia, in what is known as "Sherman's March to the Sea." General Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry brigade won some minor skirmishes throughout this march north, using speed and maneuverability to their advantage. Continuing north into Middle Tennessee, Hood attacked Federal troops at Franklin late in the afternoon of November 30, 1864. The Confederates took Franklin, but at great cost, incurring over six thousand casualties including 14 generals.

Hood pursued General Schofield to Nashville, where Schofield was able to rendezvous with General George Thomas, their combined forces totaling roughly 55,000. The remaining thirty thousand troops entrenched south of the city, but after unwisely splitting his forces in an attempt to draw General Thomas out, Hood was soundly defeated on December 15-16, 1864, before the Army of Tennessee limped southeast toward the Carolinas. Johnston was reinstated to lead the army for the Carolina Campaign at Bentonville and Durham, where he surrendered the Army of Tennessee to Sherman on April 17, 1865. The Army of Tennessee fought in most of the pivotal battles in the Western Theater, often against superior numbers. While it suffered from many disastrous decisions due to an unstable command, it managed to maintain its reputation as a tenacious unit throughout its long service from formation in 1861 until the Confederate surrender in 1865.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Contents are arranged alphabetically by document type.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:

No restrictions

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

While the Tennessee State Library and Archives houses an item, it does not necessarily hold the copyright on the item, nor may it be able to determine if the item is still protected under current copyright law. Users are solely responsible for determining the existence of such instances and for obtaining any other permissions and paying associated fees that may be necessary for the intended use

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Anderson, Samuel Read, 1804-1883
Bate, William Brimage, 1826-1905
Carroll, William Henry, 1810-1868
Fain, Richard Gammon, 1811-1878
Harris, Isham Green, 1818-1897
Lee, Robert Edward, 1807-1870
McGavock, Randal William, 1826-1863
Moore, Samuel Preston, 1813-1889
Rains, James Edwards, 1833-1862
Randolph, George Whyth, 1818-1867
Zollicoffer, Felix Kirk, 1812-1862

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

Confederate States of America.
Confederate States of America. Army of Tennessee.
Confederate States of America. Army. Tennessee Infantry Regiment,
11th. Company C
Confederate States of America. Army. Tennessee Infantry Regiment,
32nd
Confederate States of America – Army Medical Board

Subjects:

Forced labor

Geographic Names:

Chattanooga (Tenn.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Clarksville (Tenn.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Camp Trenton (Tenn.) -- History --Civil War, 1861-1865
Camp Trousdale (Tenn.) -- History-- Civil War, 1861-1865
Camp Zollicoffer (Tenn.) -- History --Civil War, 1861-1865
Cumberland Gap (Tenn.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Fort Donelson (Tenn.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Knoxville (Tenn.) -- History-- Civil War, 1861-1865
Manassas (Virginia) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Memphis (Tenn.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Shelbyville (Tenn.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Tennessee -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Conscript labor

Document Types:

Account Books
Correspondence
Record Books

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

This collection was originally part of Record Group 4, but is not under the scope of a state agency after July 31, 1861, therefore was transferred to manuscripts.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

Confederate States of America. Army of Tennessee Collection, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:

Processing begun by Gregory Poole in 2008 and completed by Zachary Keith, February 2015.

Electronic Location and Access:

<http://www.tn.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/2009-074.pdf>

DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Box	Folder/Volume
Accounts -- Overdue Accounts -- R.G. Fain	August 1861	1	1
Account Books -- 11 th Tennessee Infantry -- Company C -- Pages 1-80	1861-1862	1	2
Account Books -- 11 th Tennessee Infantry -- Company C -- Pages 81-175	1861-1862	1	3
Certificates of Disability -- Requests for Medical Leave and Discharge	1863-1864	1	4
Checks -- Cancelled Checks	1861	1	5
Correspondence -- Bate, William B.- Coldwell, Thomas	1861-1863	1	6
Correspondence -- Fain, Hiram--Gordon, Jennie	1861-1864	1	7
Correspondence -- Hill, S.V.D. -- Lewell, F.	1862-1863	1	8
Correspondence -- McGavock, R.W.-Ramsey, Frank A.	1861-1863	1	9
Correspondence -- Randolph, George W.- Whitthorne, W. C.	1861-1863	1	10
Correspondence -- Unknown	1861-1864	1	11
Deferment Requests -- Memphis Gas and Light Co.	1862	1	12
Election Records -- 5 th Regiment Tennessee Infantry	1864	1	13
Inventory -- Hospital Inventory	1863	1	14
Lists -- Guns Received and Forwarded -- Bolivar Line	March 5, 1862	1	15
Lists -- List of Men, Weapons, and Price of Weapons -- Bledsoe County	undated	1	16
Lists -- Militia and Muster Rolls -- 13 Regiment -- Company C	October- November 1863	1	17
Lists -- Militia and Muster Rolls -- Fayette County	undated	1	18
Lists -- Militia and Muster Rolls -- Gibson County	March 1862	1	19
Lists -- Militia and Muster Rolls -- Hamilton County	1862	1	19
Lists -- Militia and Muster Rolls -- Hardeman County	1862	1	20
Lists -- Militia and Muster Rolls -- Haywood	April 1862	1	21

County			
Lists -- Militia and Muster Rolls -- Henderson County	April 1862	1	22
Lists -- Militia and Muster Rolls -- McMinn County	April 1862	1	23
Lists -- Militia and Muster Rolls -- Shelby County	March 31, 1862	1	24
Lists -- Militia and Muster Rolls -- Van Buren County	April 12, 1862	1	25
Lists -- Militia and Muster Rolls -- Washington County	1862	1	26
Lists -- Militia and Muster Rolls -- Weakley County	April 14, 1862	1	27
Lists -- Rank and File present at Fort Donelson -- 32 nd Regiment	March 1862	1	28
Maps -- Hand-drawn Map of Fort Anderson (Paducah, Ky.)	undated	1	29
Payrolls -- Extra Duty and Teamsters	1862-1863	1	30
Printed Materials -- Booklets -- Surgeon General's Office	1863	1	31
Proposal for Ambulance Service	undated	1	32
Receipts -- Condemned Mules and Horses	1862-1863	1	33
Receipts -- Naval Receipts	1864	1	34
Receipts -- Rations Receipts	August 1861	1	35
Reports -- Army Medical Board -- Applicants Examined	May 1863	2	1
Reports -- Provisions Returned	August-September 1861	2	2
Reports -- Quartermaster's Stores Reports	1861-May 1863	2	3
Reports -- Quartermaster's Stores Reports	June 1863-1864	2	4
Reports -- Ration Statements -- Newsome Hospital (Chattanooga)	1862-1863	2	5
Reports -- Sick and Wounded -- Cumberland Gap	September 1861	2	6
Reports -- Sick Registers -- 1 st Battalion Tennessee Cavalry -- Camp Zollicoffer (Overton County)	1861	2	7
Requisitions--Clothing	1862	2	8
Requisitions -- Requisition for Forage of Private Animals	1863	2	9
Requisitions -- Requisition for Medical Supplies	August-October 1861	2	10
Requisitions -- Requisition for Camp Equipage	1862-1863	2	11
Lists -- Negroes Impressed for Service on the	1863		Oversize folder

North-West Railroad			
---------------------	--	--	--