Appendix #2

Washington, D. C. May 18, 1907.

Dear Sir:-

A recent number of the Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser copies an account from the Fredericksburg Star of May 3rd, of the erection of a "Monument to Commemorate the Services of the 23rd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry in the Battle of Salem Church, Virginia, May 3rd, 1863," and I have noted with unmixed pleasure that while on one of the plates upon the monument are inscribed the words:

> "To the memory of our heroic dead comrades who gave their lives for their country's honor on the battle-field, this tablet is dedicated,"

upon another plate is this inscription:

> "To the brave Alabama boys, our opponents on this field of battle, whose memory we honor, this tablet is dedicated."

I was with my regiment, the 8th Alabama, and was its Lieutenant Colonel in the bloody fight which you and your brave soldiers have so fitly commemorated. Indeed, the 8th Alabama was on the south side of the plank road, and therefore almost immediately confronted your gallant regiment. Being the oldest surviving field officer of the five Alabama regiments that participated in that memorable struggle, I feel that I amy appropriately assume, on behalf of the Alabama boys whose memory you and your brave soldiers so chivalrously extol, to extend to you and the other survivors of the 23rd New Jersey, as I do hereby, the heartfelt thanks of the living Alabamians who participated in that battle.

When you and I recall the forty-four years that have passed since Salem Church, and congratulate ourselves as all patriots do

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upon the wonderful changes that time has wrought in public sentiment, North and South, it is but natural that we should recur to the words of Daniel Webster, at the dedication of the monument on Bunker's Hill - "Heaven has bounteously lengthened out your lives that you ~~may~~ might behold this glorious day." That sentence has thrilled the hearts of generation after generation, but to me the simple words inscribed by your regiment on the monument to their heroic dead at Salem Church, are more eloquent than any uttered by the immortal orator at Bunker's Hill. Webster was addressing the survivors of one army, the American army of the Revolution; your monument speaks to all the survivors of the two great armies that fought against each other in the civil war. It is a fitting last word in the lessons of that great war. It is plain now that it was not lust of power that herved the hearts of Jerseymen at Salem Church, and also that it was not any wicked desire to destroy American liberties that prompted Alabamians to do battle that day. Both armies were fighting for American institutions as they understood them. Since the smoke of battle has lifted, all this, in the sunlight of peace, has become clear, and the tablets on your monument at Salem Church now remind the survivors of both armies that it is among the choisest of Heaven's bounties that their lives have been lengthened out until they behold this glorious day in which American liberties are safer than ever before, for disunion is no longer thinkable; the people of the United States are more united to-day than they have ever been at any time since the gun was discharged at Lexington, the sound of which echoed around the world.

The brave soldiers of the 23rd New Jersey are not the first, either Federal or Confederate, that have done honor to those who were their opponents in the civil war. Many an orator, thank God, both Northern and Southern, has delighted his audience by patriotic sentiments along this line. But so far as I know, the gallant regiment which you had the honor to command at Salem Church, is the first to inscribe upon an enduring monument erected to the memory of its own dead so noble a special tribute to those who were its antagonists in the particular field marked by the monument.

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In conclusion, permit me to personally testify, as I well may, to the superb courage of the gallant boys whom you so nobly led in that bloody battle at Salem Church.

Expressing the hope that at some time in the future I may have the gratification of meeting you in person, I am, sir, with the sincerest admiration and respect,

Yours very truly,

Hilary A. Herbert,

last Colonel 8th Ala. Vols.

General E. Burd Grubb,

Edgewater Park,

N. J.

Edgewater Park, N. J.,

May 23rd, 1907.

Col. the Honorable Hilary A. Herbert,

Washington, D. C.

ALA. DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY MRD

Dear Colonel Herbert:-

It has surely fallen to the lot of but very few men in this world, ever to have received, from a brave and gallant foeman, forty-four years after a battle, such a splendid letter as I have the honour to acknowledge from you, and moreover, to have received it unawares from one, who, after the war was over, served a re-united country in one of its highest offices with such signal ability and distinction.

I beg, sir, on behalf of myself, and my comrades, the survivors of the Twenty-third New Jersey Volunteers, their descendants, relations, and friends, whose name is legion in this State, to tender our most sincere thanks for your letter, to reciprocate most heartily all the noble sentiments contained therein, and to assure you that we congratulate ourselves, that by good fortune, we happened to be the first to mark in enduring bronze, the sentiments which we are sure are uppermost in the hearts of every Northern soldier, for the men who evinced the courage of their convictions by such heroic bravery in the days gone by.

I may add that while we knew that Gen. Cadmus Wilcox had noted in his report of the Battle of Salem Church how gallantly Lieut. Colonel Hilary A. Herbert had rallied and fought the 8th Alabama after a disabling wound to Colonel Royston, we certainly did not know that our country was indebted for distinguished ser-

vices as Secretary of the Navy to the officer whose final line of battle we could not break through.

I hope, sir, I may have the pleasure of meeting you personally, and I shall have the honorr of calling upon you when I am in your vicinity. With great respect, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

E. Burd Grubb.

ARCHIVES & HISTORY ALA. DEPT. MRD

[Willis Brewer]

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EIGHTH ALABAMA—(INFANTRY).

This was the first Alabama command that enlisted "for the war." It was organized by the appointment of its field officers by the war department. The regiment lay at Yorktown, Virginia, the first eleven months of its service, and a detachment of it was engaged in a skirmish near Wynn's Mill. Placed in Gen. Pryor's brigade, the regiment fell back with the army till the enemy overtook it at Williamsburg. It won its first laurels on that fiercely-contested field, losing about 100 men. At Seven Pines it was again under the most deadly fire, and its loss was 32 killed, 80 wounded, and 32 missing. Now in the brigade of Gen. Wilcox,—with the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, and Fourteenth Alabama regiments—the Eighth was under fire at Mechanicsville, and took part in the desperate assault of Longstreet's division on the enemy's position at Gaines' Mill, and emerged victoriously from the bloody combat with the loss of half of the 350 men it had engaged. Three days later, the regiment was in the line of assault at Frazier's Farm, where it met Meagher's Irish brigade, and of 180 effective men, only 90 were at regimental muster the next morning. Its ranks soon began to fill up, and the Eighth marched with the army towards the Potomac. At the second battle of Manassas it was under a destructive fire, and lost about 60 men, but was held in reserve. The regiment took part in the capture of Harper's Ferry, then crossed the river and fought obstinately at Sharpsburg, where it lost 67 killed and wounded. It wintered on the Rappahannock, and lost slightly at Fredericksburg. At Salem Church, Wilcox's brigade of Alabamians, of which it was part, bore the brunt of the federal assault, and drove them back in confusion, capturing 1500 prisoners; the Eighth losing 58 men killed and wounded. It was in the exultant army that Lee led into Maryland the second time, and its colors were flouted in the face of death at Gettysburg; where, of 420 engaged, 260 were left on the bloody field. With the army it re-crossed the Potomac, and wintered in the vicinity of Orange C. H. The regiment was again hotly engaged at the Wilderness, losing heavily, and at Spottsylvania suffered considerably. It was under fire nearly every day as the federal army pressed up to Richmond, and its loss was severe at the second Cold Harbor. At Petersburg the Eighth again suffered largely. It fought the cavalry raid on the Weldon Railroad, and participated in the capture of the "Crater." At Deep Bottom the regiment participated with some loss, and lost heavily in the attempt to dislodge the enemy from their position on the Weldon Railroad. The regiment assisted at the repulse of the foe on the plank road below Petersburg, and fought cheerfully on the retreat up the James. At Appomattox the remnant indignantly denied the first rumors of the contemplated surrender, many wept like children at the announcement, and the survivors tore their battle-rent banner into shreds to retain as a memento. Of 1377 men on its roll, the Eighth had 300 killed or mortally wounded, over 170 died of disease, and 236 were discharged or transferred.

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MRD

FIELD AND STAFF.

COLONELS.—John A. Winston of Sumter; resigned. Young L. Royston of Perry; wounded at Frazier's Farm and Salem Church; retired. Hillary A. Herbert of Butler.

LIEUTENANT COLONELS.—John W. Frazier of Tennessee; resigned. Thomas E. Irby of Dallas; killed at Williamsburg. Y. L. Royston; promoted. H. A. Herbert; wounded at Sharpsburg and Wilderness; promoted. John P. Emerich of Mobile; wounded at Petersburg.

MAJORS.—Thomas E. Irby; promoted. Y. L. Royston; promoted. H. A. Herbert; wounded and captured at Seven Pines; promoted. John P. Emerich; wounded at Gaines' Mill; promoted. Duke Nall of Perry; died of wounds received at Wilderness.

ADJUTANTS.—Thomas Phelan of Perry; transferred to line. Dan Jones of Dallas; wounded at Frazier's Farm; transferred and promoted. Morgan S. Cleveland of Dallas; wounded at Petersburg.

CAPTAINS, AND COUNTIES FROM WHICH THE COMPANIES CAME.

PERRY.—Young L. Royston; promoted. Thomas Phelan; killed at Gaines' Mill. Thos. Heard; wounded at Wilderness.

DALLAS.—James Kent; resigned. Robert T. McCrary; killed at Salem. W. R. Knox; wounded at Petersburg.

PERRY.—Duke Nall; wounded at Sharpsburg; promoted. W. L. Fagan.

BUTLER.—Hillary A. Herbert; promoted. Lewis A. Livingston; wounded at Gettysburg, and died in the hands of the enemy. Ira W. Stott.

MOBILE.—Thomas Smith; resigned. C. E. Blackwood; wounded at Frazier's Farm; resigned. A. H. Ravesies; wounded at Sharpsburg.

MOBILE.—Charles Ketchum; resigned. Leonard F. Summers; killed at Seven Pines. Benj. Briggs; resigned. Henry McHugh; killed at Petersburg Crater.

MOBILE.—J. P. Emerich; promoted. A. Kohler; wounded and captured at Gettysburg.

MOBILE.—William Cleveland; resigned. W. W. Mordecai; wounded at Petersburg.

MOBILE.—Patrick Loughry; killed at Seven Pines. C. P. Brannegan; killed at Gettysburg. John McGrath; wounded at Wilderness and Spottsylvania.

COOSA.—T. W. W. Davies; resigned. G. W. Hannon; killed at Gaines' Mill. M. E. McWilliams; died in the service. J. T. L. Robinson; wounded at Petersburg.

[Source & date unknown] May 1989 America's Civil War

COMMANDS

A patchwork outfit from all walks of life, the 8th Alabama became a cohesive fighting unit.

By Thomas G. Rodgers

Diverse is a good word to describe the hodgepodge of volunteers who formed the 8th Alabama Infantry Regiment, the first from that state to be enlisted in the Southern army "for the war." Yet, out of that diversity would come one of the Confederacy's best combat units.

The companies of the 8th Alabama came from various parts of the state. Five companies came from Mobile, Alabama's oldest city and major seaport; another hailed from Selma, a thriving commercial center. The rest of the volunteers came from small towns and rural counties in central Alabama.

Bedded in the snow in early 1865, men of the 8th Alabama apprehensively await the dawn. One of the proudest fighting records in the Confederate Army is nearing its final entry.

Three of the companies, the Selma Blues, Greenville Guards, and German Fusiliers, had existed before the war and in fact had already seen some garrison duty early in 1861 in Pensacola and on Mobile Bay. The others were new companies, all raised in April and May of 1861. Enthusiasm was high, but military experience and discipline were lacking.

Socially, the 8th Alabama covered the spectrum from sons of rich planters to hard-scrabble farmers and middle-class townsmen. Slave owners were a minority in the regiment, comprising no more than 25 percent. Most of these soldiers were not fighting for slavery but for Southern independence.

More than 20 percent of the regiment was foreign-born. The German Fusiliers, a pre-war company from Mobile, mustered in as Company G; except for one officer, its membership was entirely German. The green-coated Emerald Guards (Company I) was formed by the Irish members of the Mechanics Fire Company in Mobile.

The task of welding this patchwork outfit into a disciplined fighting force fell to the regiment's colonel, John A. Winston. A former governor of Alabama, who earned the nickname "Veto" Winston for his stubborn refusal to compromise, the colonel was an ardent secessionist. He lacked combat experience and had little use for drill and tactics, but he was a stern disciplinarian and was determined to show no favoritism in his command.

Captain Hilary A. Herbert, who was supervising the unloading of baggage from his company, called out to one of his soldiers, a lawyer from Herbert's home town, "Mr. Ross, move that box over here."

Winston corrected him immediately, pointing out curtly, "There are no Misters in this regiment. They are all officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates. Call him Private Ross."

High-strung and easily provoked, Winston often unleashed streams of profanity at his subordinates. He was unpopular with the men, and soon a petition was being circulated among the officers calling for his resignation. Winston got wind of it and decided to put a stop to it. Summoning the regiment's captains to his tent, Winston told them, "Gentlemen, I understand there is a seditious petition in circulation in this regiment. If I hear anything more of it, I will court-martial the last one of you."

The petition was dropped; the men decided they would have to learn to live with "Veto" Winston.

The regiment spent its first few months in Virginia training and drilling. Few of the officers, including the colonel, were experienced in drilling troops, so Winston gave the task to the much younger Lt. Col. John W. Frazier, a West Pointer who unfortunately did not get along well with the Colonel.

The rank and file saw little sense in learning drill, and it would be many months before its usefulness would become obvious to them. Frazier was exasperated at the ignorance of the captains, and his composure quickly gave out. Noticing one of the companies out of line during battalion drill, he promptly tore into the hapless Captain Herbert: "Captain Herbert, why in the hell don't you dress your company on the left?" He next lashed out at Captain John P. Emerich of the German Fusiliers: "Captain Emerich, why in the hell don't you dress your company to the right?"

The men in the ranks chuckled as Emerich shot back, in faltering English, "I did done it, sir, by damn, I did done it!"

Personality clashes and problems of adjusting to camp life consumed much of the regiment's early service. Finally, however, the 8th Alabama went into the trenches at Yorktown, Va., under siege by Union General George B. McClellan, in the spring of 1862. Many soldiers quickly died of sickness.

The Southern army broke the siege and made a temporary stand at Williamsburg on May 5, 1862. With Winston ailing and Frazier having left for a command of his own, leadership of the 8th Alabama fell to Lt. Col. Thomas E. Irby, a veteran of the Mexican War and a planter from Dallas County, near Selma.

Irby's command was short-lived. In the misty rain and smoke of battle, the Alabamians mistook soldiers moving out of the thick woods in front of them for

their own and held their fire. A withering volley rang out from the advancing line, and Irby fell dead. Though the Alabamians rallied and charged, routing the enemy, they lost about 100 men.

The 8th Alabama learned much about fighting during the following month and also much about the enemy they faced. In action on June 1 at Seven Pines, east of Richmond, the regiment lost 144 men killed, wounded and missing. The battle was a nightmare of confusion, with the Alabamians being fired on by the enemy from the rear. In the disorder, Hilary Herbert, his horse wounded in the cross fire, stumbled among the enemy and was taken prisoner.

After spending only two months at Fort Delaware Prison, Herbert was exchanged and returned to the 8th Alabama in August 1862. He found quite a few changes in the regiment. The 8th Alabama had seen heavy combat during the Seven Days' Battles around Richmond. After the Battle of Frazier's Farm, the regiment had been whittled down to 90 able-bodied soldiers.

Winston had retired, his poor health having gotten the best of him; Colonel Young A. Royston of Marion, Alabama, was now in command. The 8th Alabama was now part of Brig. Gen. Cadmus M. Wilcox's brigade (including the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 14th Alabama Regiments) and was being filled up again by new recruitment.

The "Selma Independent Blues" enlisted as Company D, 8th Alabama Infantry. They were photographed in January 1861 in their pre-war militia uniforms.

The 8th Alabama saw more action as the summer of 1862 wore on. The outfit was becoming a seasoned regiment; its part in the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, was typical. Reduced to 120 men and fighting in the apple orchards and cornfields north of that Maryland town, the Alabamians showed courage and determination. Driven back again and again, they rallied and continued to fight. But their bravery could not gain Confederate General Robert E. Lee the clear-cut victory he needed; the Southern invasion force withdrew into Virginia, with the 8th Alabama missing half their original number.

In the Battle of Salem Church, part of Lee's brilliant action at Chancellorsville,

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Va., on May 3, 1863, Wilcox's brigade received the full impact of Union Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick's attack and repulsed it with bravery.

Sedgwick's troops were fresh from their victory at Marye's Heights, where they had overrun Confederate Maj. Gen. Jubal Early's infantry, and their attitude was bold as they marched westward to link up with Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker's main Union army. Sedgwick incorrectly assumed Hooker had been successful in his action against Lee's left and expected the Southern army was in retreat. Boasting to the occupants of a farmhouse where he made his headquarters that his men were "after Cadmus and we're going to pick him up," he prepared to attack Wilcox's brigade at Salem Church.

Salem Church was a modest, red-brick building on a ridge surrounded with dense woods, and Wilcox's troops were waiting there, drawn up in battle line. In the brisk little action that followed, the Federals moved forward, then were pushed back by the stubborn Alabamians, who held their ground and halted the attack, taking 1,500 prisoners.

Colonel Royston was badly wounded in the fighting and was put out of action for the remainder of the war. Now Herbert, the 29-year-old lawyer from Greenville, Ala., assumed command of the 8th Alabama. Following his return from prison in the North, Herbert had been promoted to lieutenant colonel.

July 1863 found Lee's buoyant Southern army on Northern soil again, hoping for a victory that might end the war. In the monumental struggle at Gettysburg, the 8th Alabama once again was in the thick of action. On the second day of the battle, Wilcox's brigade was in the vanguard of Maj. Gen. R.H. Anderson's division in a savage attack against Union troops drawn up north of a peach orchard to prevent Lee from turning the Union left flank.

The Alabamians pressed onward like an unstoppable wave, driving the enemy before them and capturing several cannon. Herbert later wrote, "We felt that the supreme moment of the war had come—that victory was with our army and we ourselves were the victors."

But the flush of success was short-lived. In a desperate delaying action, courageous soldiers of the 1st Minnesota Infantry poured out of their hilltop position and threw themselves against the Southerners, stopping their assault with terrific loss.

The final day at Gettysburg, July 3, saw the end of Lee's offensive. Wilcox's Alabamians were part of the Confederate force selected by Lee for the big assault on Union-held Cemetery Ridge. When Maj. Gen. George Pickett's magnificent division, decimated by Union ar-

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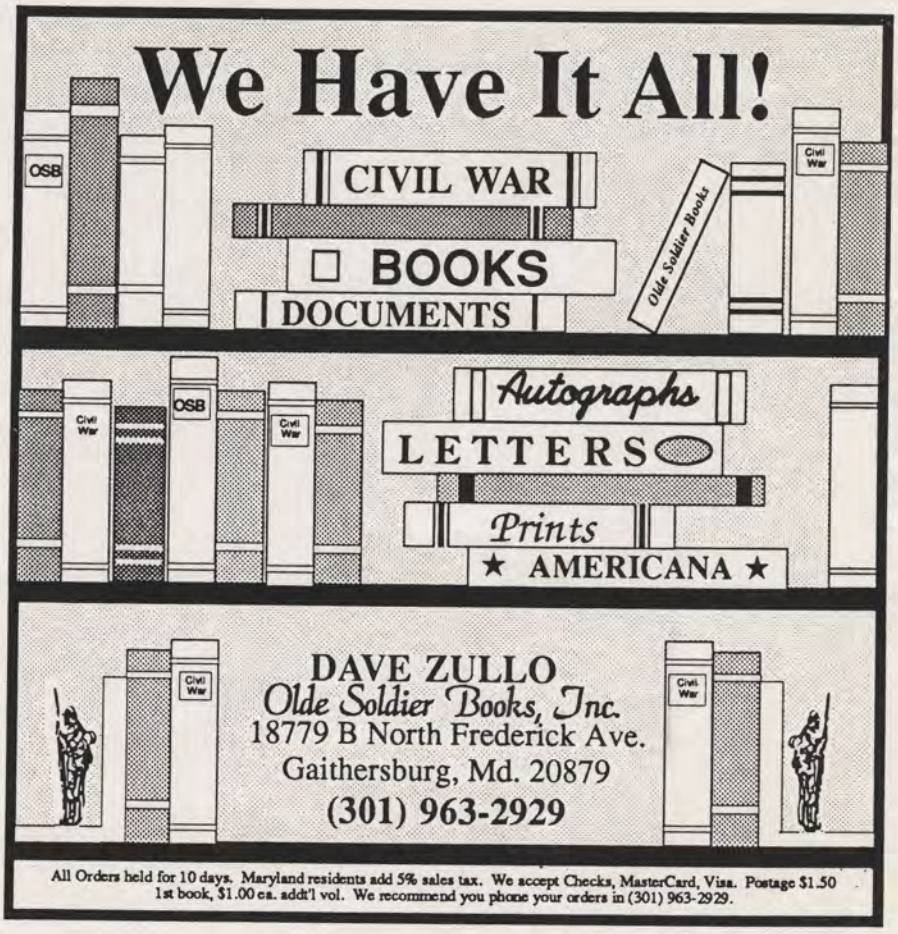

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Captain William L. Fagan of the "Southern Guards," Company K, 8th Alabama Infantry, described its bitter last days.

tillery fire, came hobbling back, Wilcox's brigade was ordered forward in a final tragic and pathetic gesture of tenacity.

Unsupported by artillery and exposed to a vicious fire, the Alabamians knew they could accomplish nothing, but went forward anyway. Confederate General E.P. Alexander wrote: "Just then, Wilcox's brigade passed by us, moving to Pickett's support. There was no longer anything to support. . . .The men, as they passed us, looked bewildered, as if they wondered what they were expected to do, or why they were there."

Wilcox realized this was needless slaughter. (Indeed, through a mix-up in orders, his brigade was being ordered forward to certain destruction, when it really should have gone in with Pickett's troops.) He quickly ordered his men back. Still, the 8th Alabama lost 260 men out of 420 engaged at Gettysburg.

Herbert commanded the regiment until May 3, 1864, when he was seriously wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness and was sent home. The 8th Alabama continued its service with the Army of Northern Virginia through the difficult days of 1864 and 1865.

While at Petersburg, the regiment played a key part in one of the strangest engagements of the war, the Battle of the Crater, on July 30, 1864. In an attempt to breach the Southern lines at Petersburg and end the siege, Union soldiers constructed an underground mine laden with several tons of gunpowder under the Confederate position. The explosion tore a huge hole, 30 feet deep, 150 feet long, and 97 feet wide, in the Confederate line; Federal soldiers poured through the gap.

In a desperate attempt to retake the Crater and seal the breach, Wilcox's brigade was ordered in, and the Alabamians threw themselves into the gap knowing that there were no reserves and that they would have to keep charging until they retook the captured works. As savage hand-to-hand fighting raged between Northerners and Southerners in the Crater, an Alabama officer yelled to his Federal counterpart, "Why in the hell don't you fellows surrender?"

"Why in the hell don't you let us?", the Yankee officer shouted back sincerely.

When the Federals withdrew to their own lines, hundreds lay dead in the crater.

Lee's army abandoned their trenches at Petersburg on April 2, 1865. Captain William L. Fagan described the last few days of the 8th Alabama, as the now completely exhausted soldiers of the little army, without food and rest, made their final march westward: "Today's march was dreadful—the men slept as they walked, and when a temporary halt was made, they fell down. Nobody laughs, and nobody comments. Officers ask no questions about their companies—each man seems absorbed in his individual suffering."

By dark on April 8, what was left of the 8th Alabama camped in the woods; exhausted men collapsed without a word among the trees, while Fagan, Emerich, and a few other officers smoked silently around a small campfire. It was the last night of the war for them. The next day, a soldier came in and reported that Lee had surrendered.

The men were outraged and threatened the messenger with a beating, but brigade surgeon Dr. Robert Royston soon arrived and, choking back tears, confirmed the news. As the shocked soldiers wept in disbelief, the regiment's color sergeant ripped the 8th Alabama's battle flag from its staff, crying, "You have never run in a battle, and you don't surrender." The flag was soon torn into pieces and divided among the men.

The 8th Alabama surrendered with the rest of Lee's army on the following dreary April morning. There were 153 men and 16 officers who marched to the field and stacked arms for the last time—the 8th Alabama was actually one of the largest Confederate regiments left. On their last day at Appomattox, the men of the 8th Alabama ate a meal of parched corn and prepared to go home.

One of the customs of the 8th Alabama called for the non-commissioned officers and men of each company to choose from among themselves soldiers who had been especially distinguished in battle. This "roll of honor" was a long one. The regiment had 1,377 men during the war; of that number 300 were killed in battle, 170 more died from disease.

After the war, veterans of the 8th Alabama continued to serve their state and their communities. Hilary A. Herbert resumed his law practice and was elected to Congress. He was later appointed Secretary of the Navy by President Grover Cleveland in 1893 and played a key role in modernizing and strengthening the U.S. Navy, a factor that contributed greatly to the United States' recognition as a world power. □

Eighth Alabama Regiment.

ALA. DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY MRD

Organization. — Organized at Yorktown, Va., June 9th, 1861. The first regiment for three years.

Garrison Duty. — Was on post duty at Yorktown; post commanded by Col. J. A. Winston.

Pryor's Brigade. — Was assigned to Roger A. Pryor's brigade October 3d, 1861; commanded by General Pryor to June 12th 1862

Wilcox's Brigade. — Was in Wilcox's brigade June 26th, 1862; commanded by Cadmus M. Wilcox; commanded about June 30th 1862 by Col. J. A. Winston; commanded by Col. Alfred Cumming in September, during Maryland campaign; commanded in May 1864 by General Abner Perrin until killed on the 12th of May; commanded by Col. Sanders, and called Sander's brigade part of time from May, 1864; commanded in October 1864 by Col. J. Horace King; commanded by Col. W. H. Forney Nov. 30 to ~~December~~ Jany. 31st, 1865.

Surrendered. — Was surrendered April 9th, 1865 at Appomattox, Va., by General R. E. Lee.

EIGHTH ALABAMA REGIMENT INFANTRY.

ARCHIVES & HISTORY ALA. DEPT. MRD

No troops engaged in the Confederate cause had a more arduous and bloody participancy of our struggle for liberty than the eighth. Indeed, to detail at length all the battles, skirmishes and marches in which it was enagaged, would be little less than to write a history of the war in Virginia.

It is the proud boast of the 8th that it never turned its back to the enemy on the battlefield, nor failed to advance when ordered. The regiment was organized on the 12th June, 1861, and was the first regiment in the State organized for the war. John A.Winston was made Colonel; John Frazer, Lieut. Colonel; Thos. E.Irby, Major; Thos.Phelan, Adjutant; and J.A.Robbins, Quartermaster.

Col.Winston, was a strict disciplinarian, and exacted a full discharge of duty from all under his command. He commanded in but one important battle, and deported himself there in a very soldierly manner. He resignedhis command soon after the battle of Seven Pines.

Major Irby, was born in South Carolina, but for many years preceding the war was a citizen of Dallas county, in this State. He was a brave and noble spirited man. Like many of our officers, he had but little military experience. He was however, rapidly acquiring the requisite knowledge and was on the road to preferment. He was most enthusiastically devoted to the cause for which he fought and died. As hereafter detailed, he fell in the battle of Williamsburg.

Tom Phelan the Adjutant, who was son of the Hon. J.D.Phelan, of our Supreme Bench, was raised in Perry county. He was a young man of pure morals, and intellectual endowments far above mediocrity. A brilliant future of honor and usefulness was in store for him if he had been spared. He fell at Gaines' Mill.

After its organization, the 8th lay in encampments many months around Yorktown in Virginia. During this time much skirmishing took place with the Yankee forces, whose headquarters were at Fortress Monroe. Our

troops made strong fortifications at Yorktown, and worked to a great extent on the same ground that had been fortified and fought upon by Gen. Washington in our revolutionary war. It is known to all that this was the scene of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, and virtually of the termination of the struggle which resulted in bursting the fetters of British rule, which has been so tyrannically exercised over us. From Yorktown the 8th marched to Camp Prudence, six miles down the river, thence to Big Bethel, fifteen miles. This place was the scene of an important defeat of the Federals. Our troops, under Generals Hill and Macgruder, met the Yankee forces commanded by Butler and Pierce, and most signally defeated them. Pierce seems to have been lost sight of since that battle, and Gen. Butler has at no time been present in an engagement. From Bethel the 8th marched to Harwood's Mill, eight miles. Here the enemy in strong force, under Gen. Heintzelman, was first seen by the regiment, which, after a skirmish, fell back to Wynn's Mill, on Warwick river a distance of eight miles. This was a point in our line of fortifications which extended from Yorktown to James river.

During the three weeks the command remained in position here, Lieut. Colonel Frazer having resigned, Major Irby was promoted to the vacant position, and Capt. Royston, of Company A, was made Major, and Thomas Phelan, the Adjutant, was elected Captain of Company A. The brigade was here assailed in front by a heavy mass of McClellan's troops, a large force of whom had secured positions not more than three hundred and fifty yards distant. Here Capt. Royston (before his promotion) with his own company and Captain Cleveland's of the 8th, and three companies from a Georgia regiment, was ordered to move to the front and reconnoitre the position of the enemy, a part of whose lines and works were masked by a dense forest and undergrowth of pine. In discharge of the assigned duty, the Captain, with the gallant companies under his command, marched a mile down the enemy's line within range of their fire, drove in their pickets and captured a part of their camps, with much provision, and other stores. This dangerous

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service was most unsuccessfully performed, and was the means of making known to our Generals the chara cter and extent of the enemy's fortifications, and the number of batteries in our front.

On the 1st of May, 1862, Gen. Johnston ordered a retrograde movement to Williamsburg, twelve miles distant, The superior number of the enemy had enabled them to send troops up the York river, and thus to threaten both our flank and rear. At the same time that the 8th fell back from Wynn's Mill, the labor was commenced of sending all the baggage, artillery, ammunition and army stores back to Richmond and the whole army began a movement to the same point.

On the morning of May 5th, the army of General Johnston was slowly wending its way to Richmond over the most despicable road in the Confederacy; a light clay soil fully saturated with rain and then cut up by the hundred thousand feet, hoofs and wheels of a large army, is no small impediment to a march.

In the vicinity of Williamsburg, General Longstreet, who commanded the rear guard, was apprised early in the morning, that the enemy were pursuing in force, and he determined to give them a reception worthy of the cause he defended. Here was fought one of the most warmly contested actions of the war. Infantry, artillery and cavalry were engaged, and never did Southern military prowress shine more conspicuously. The proportionate loss ofthe enemy has, perhaps, in no battle been greater than it was here. The 8th was then in Pryor's bridge. Lieut. Colonel Irby was the ranking officer present in command. At the commencement of the action, General Prior ordered the regiment to be divided: The first battalion, under Lieut. Colonel Irby, was placed in a redoubt of much strength near the centre of our line of battle; the second battalion, under Major Royston, was ordered to hold a strong field work on our right.

By 10 o'clock the battle was raging furiously on our centre and right

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wing. The general direction of our movements during the battle was intended to turn the enemy's left flank and throw it upon his right. The 1st Battalion, and also the 2d, were intended to hold the strong points to which they had been assigned, and were also held as a corps de reserve. After the battle had been for some time progressing, Lieut. Colonel Irby becoming impatient at the inactive duty assigned him, led three of the five companies under his command out of the fortification he had been ordered to hold, and boldly dashed forward towards the lines of the enemy. He was soon met by overwhelming numbers, and as he had no support on the right, left or rear, he was compelled to fall back. Never did Spartan band make more heroic resistance than these three companies. As slowly they fell back, their narrow front sent forth an almost continued sheet of well-directed fire, shattering the front of the advancing foe. Here Lieut.Colonel Irby was killed.

The 2d Battalion continued to occupy the fortified position on the right until 1 o'clock, when, in obedience to orders, Major Royston took three of the five companies under his command and double-quicked to our extreme left, to reinforce our troops in Fort Magruder, who were then under attack. Soon after their arrival the enemy were repulsed. By 4 o'clock the bloody contest was over, and the Yankees everywhere defeated. The loss of the enemy in this battle was immense, our own not light. I am unable to give the number of casualties, further than to say the 8th lost 100 men.

After this battle our troops received but little molestation on their march to Richmond. The 8th was posted in the neighborhood of the Capital, where it remained until the 1st of June, when was fought the battle of Seven Pines.

In this battle the 8th was commanded by Colonel John A.Winston, Lieut. Col. Y.L.Royston,(promoted vice Irby, deceased,) and Major H.A.Herbert, (senior Captain, promoted.) In this action the 8th at one time, led on by their impetuous officers, had advanced too far into the enemy's position,

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and nothing but the coolest bravery and the most perfect discipline enabled them to fall back in order and form upon the general line of battle. I fought in Pryor's brigade, Wilcox commanding the division. The conduct of the Regiment was warmly lauded upon the battle field by Lieut.General Hill. In this action Major Herbert was taken prisoner, and Captains Lockey, Summers, Lieut. Kennedy, and many other gallant officers were killed. The loss of the Regiment was 150 men.

After this conflict the 8th returned to camp near Richmond, and remained there until the inauguration of General Lee's brilliant operations on the Chickahominy. The command was now transferred to Wilcox's brigade and still continued in Longstreet's division, where it had been since the 15th of April. On the 16th of June Colonel Winston resigned his command, and Lieut. Colonel Royston was promoted to the vacant position.

On the 26th June, Wilcox's brigade, with the rest of Longstreet's division, marched to the vicinity of Mechanicsville, at night crossing the Chickahominy at Meadow's bridge. Here the troops lay upon their arms until daylight of the next morning.

At a very early hour the enemy, who were in easy range, commenced firing upon Wilcox's command. The participancy of the 8th in this struggle was only one of endurance; it never returned the fire it endured, for at an early hour the Yanks, under Fitz John Porter, were defeated by other brigades of the division, and commenced a rapid retreat down the river. The 8th, which was the regiment on the extreme right of Lee's army, then took part in pursuit of the enemy. Wilcox's brigade rapidly sweeping along the eastern bank of the Chickahominy, pressed upon their rear. Frequently were passed deserted camps, immense piles of clothing, provisions and every species of army stores which the enemy had abandoned and committed to the flames. At 1 o'clock we approached the Yankee army and found them in immense force at Gaines' Mill.

It is a point very strong from its natural formation, and had received much additional strength from the skill and the labor of the engineers who had superintended the arrangement of its defenses. Soon after Longstreet's

division arrived in view of the enemy, the plan of attack was settled, and at 3 o'clock the assault was ordered. The 10th and 11th Alabama regiments were the first ordered to the attack, and gallantly they rushed forward; but assailed in front and flank, and Colonel S.F.Hale, of the 10th, and Woodward, of the 11th, being killed, the assault was repulsed. The 8th and 9th were then ordered forward. Truly this was a hazardous service; no place for fancy drilled, holiday soldiers. The much celebarted charge of McDonald at Wagram was not opposed by greater difficulties and dangers than had here to be overcome. The two regiments were exposed to a fire of twenty-seven pieces of artillery, most of which was in front, but a few pieces were in the rear on an elevation on the opposite bank of the river, all within exact range.

In the front and on the right flank was an immense force of the enemy's infantry protected by breastworks and ditches of much depth and width; the 8th on the extreme right was much exposed to a flank fire, as we were outflanked in that direction by a quarter of a mile. At the command forward, the 8th promptly advanced, as did the brave 9th. Firmly, steadily and in good order they moved on. Bombs, canisters, grapeshot and minnie balls rained destruction on their ranks, but boldly and defiantly they moved onward, and still onward, nearer, and still nearer, to the enemy's works. Comrades were falling on the right and left, precipices were to be climbed, deep ditches to be crossed, and breastworks bristling with bayonets were to be overcome, and all to be achieved under a heavy fire from front, flank and rear, yet undismayed the 8th steadily advanced, every officer and private seemed inspired by the desperate duty in which they were engaged; the gallant Colohel was everywhere in the hottest of the fire, stimulating, urging and leading forward his command. At length the goal is reached, the position is carried, the enemy suffering immense slaughter rapidly retreat. This was a glorious victory, but alas! it was dearly bought. One half of the 8th was killed and wounded, but fourteen commissioned officers were left unhurt. Many gallant officers fell here who

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deserve, and it is hoped will receive an honorable notice of their services. The writer feels constrained to deplore the loss of Phelan of Perry, and Henson, of Coosa, than whom two more chivalrous spirits have not fallen during the war. Both fell in the hottest of the fight leading their commands to the assault.

This battle was fought on Friday, 27th June, 1862. After the retreat of the enemy the 8th with the rest of the brigade encamped upon the battle-field and remained there until Sunday morning.

It was now ascertained that McClellan was retreating to the protection of his gunboats on James river. Longstreet's division re-crossed the Chickamauga at New Bridge, and passing near Richmond, took the Darbytown road and on Sunday night camped near the ground where, June 30th, was fought the battle of Frazier's Farm. The enemy had selected his position with much judgment as one calculated to arrest our pursuit of their retreating columns.

They did not have such strong defenses as at Gaines' Mill, but they had a high ridge and had availed themselves of all the advantages of their strong position by establishing batteries and ambuscades. Our line of battle was formed about 3 o'clock in an old field. The whole brigade advanced in line of battle--the 8th, upon this occasion, was upon the extreme left. To reach the enemy's position, it was necessary to advance through an open space of four hundred yards. On our left was a body of uncleared land, abounding in thickets of brush and undergrowth, in which a heavy force of the enemy had concealed themselves. For some cause this woods had been overlooked by our Generals in forming the plan of attack. The result was, the concealed foe continued a most deadly fire upon our brigade during the contest, and the 8th, being nearest to the ambuscade, seffered more than any other regiment. The fire from the front was from six pieces of artillery and a heavy force of infantry. Here was met the celebrated Irish brigade of Tom F.Meagher.

This battle was long and furious--each side, in its turn, was compell-

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ed to give ground. At one time the 8th was left almost alone in front of the enemy. They were ordered to fall back in order. They were soon reinforced and returned to the attack, and drove the enemy from the position which he had so stubbornly defended. In this battle the 8th lost 90 of the 180 men who were engaged. Col.Royston was dangerously wounded in the head and hip. On the next day (Tuesday, the 31st) was fought the battle of Malvern Hill.

The 8th was present at this battle and held as part of the reserve, but it did not actively participate in the conflict. Indeed, so severe had been its losses in the previous battles, that its number of effective men barely equaled a company. After this battle, the 8th, with the rest of the brigade, were marched to camps near Richmond. Lieut. Colonel Herbert, in the meantime, having been exchanged, took command. They remained here until the 10th of August, by which time the ranks had been much strengthened by new recruits and the return of the slightly wounded and discharged from hospitals.

The regiment was now marched northward to meet the threatened attack of Pope from the Rappahannock. On this service much heavy and destructive skirmishing took place. On the _____day of August occurred the second battle of Manassas.

On this field the 8th fully sustained its dearly earned reputation for invincibility. Its numbers again being respectable, it delivered its destructive fire into the Yankee invaders, covering the ground with their gay and tinseled uniforms. They charged--the enemy fled, and their bullet-torn flag again floated in victory! In this action the regiment lost 60 men.

The next duty it performed was to assist in the capture of Harper's Ferry. The 8th then marched into Maryland and took part in the desperate battle of Sharpsburg.

Here again the metal of the regiment was fully tested. Outnumbered three to one on the part of the field where it fought--a heavy force of

infantry and whole batteries of artillery firing upon their ranks--firmly they held their ground and steadily they delivered a destructive fire upon the heavy lines of the foe. Like the old French guard, every man seemed to know "how to die, but not to surrender." It was only when ordered that these veterans, black with powder and wearied with the labor of slaughter, fell back from the point they defended.-- Heaps of slaughtered Yankees in their front attested the accuracy and efficiency of their fire. Its loss in this engagement was 67.

After this engagement, Longstreet's corps fell back into Virginia. After many marches and counter-marches, his headquarters were on the 20th November, near Fredericksburg; and here, on the 13th December, 1862, was fought the battle of Fredericksburg.

Colonel Royston, recovered of his wounds, was now in command. Our position here was a strong one--the lofty hills which surround Fredericksburg being very difficult to be carried.

Burnside, relying upon his numerical strength and his powerful artillery, boldly crossed the river and threw an immense force of infantry upon Lee's right and centre. Bodly the enemy approached our line, until in exact and certain range of musket fire, when all our elements of destruction seemed to open on them. Ranks upon ranks fell in quick succession--thousands of killed and wounded, horrible heaps of mangled humanity, were in view! Staggered, dismayed and demoralized, the survivors fled to safety--leaving us a cheap victory. In this action the 8th was upon the extreme left of the line and lost very few, as theattack was not heavy at this point. After this battle, the 8th remained on the Rappahannock, chiefly engaged in picket duty, until 30th April, 1863.

The "Battle of Chancellorsville" may be said to have commenced on the 30th of April and ended the 3d of May. The battles of Mary's Heights, Salem Church and Chancellorsville, though each a separate conflict and at different times, are all known as the battle of Chancellorsville.

On the morning of the 3d of May, General Sedgwick, in command of the enemy's forces on this part of the line, succeeded in crossing the river below Fredericksburg, and, making an attack with a heavy force; he drove Gen. Barksdale, after a stubborn resistance, from the strong position of Mary' Heights. This success compelled Gen. Wilcox to fall back from his position to a point six miles east, known as Salem Church. Here were united the brigades of Wilcox, Mahone, Sims and Kershaw. Wilcox's brigade was posted on the road by which the enemy advanced, and, for this reason, was the force chiefly engaged in the battle. The Yankees came forward rapidly with a force of twenty-five thousand men, in pursuit as they supposed, of a fleeing enemy. Never was an army more confident of victory. One regiment of ours manifested a little want of discipline; but when the enemy were within forty yards, the brigade fired and the advance line of the foe was annihilated. The 8th, 9th and 11th regiments charged, as did all the brigade, and the enemy commenced a precipitate retreat, which they continued until across the river.

The killed and wounded of the enemy were very numerous. Wilcox's brigade captured 1,500 prisoners. In this action the 8th lost 58 men. Colonel Royston was dangerously wounded, and the gallant Captain McCrary, was killed.

On the other fields of deadly conflict--amidst booming cannon and sulphurous smoke--the battle browned 8th, with their muskets, discussed Southern Rights.

(Perry & Smith's Montgomery Directory, 1866, pp.87-91.)

[Joseph Wheeler]

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THE EIGHTH ALABAMA INFANTRY.

The Eighth Alabama infantry regiment deserves special mention. It was the first Confederate regiment to be enlisted for the war. Its first service was at Yorktown. It fought in the battle of Williamsburg, May 5th, and at Fair Oaks, May 31 and June 1, 1862, in both of which engagements it took an important part and its losses were very severe. It was then transferred to the brigade of Gen. Cadmus M. Wilcox and was greatly distinguished at Mechanicsville, June 26th. Two days later it was prominent in the assault upon the enemy at Gaines' Mill and on June 30th was again in the midst of the conflict at Frayser's Farm. It was present, though not severely engaged, at Manassas and Harper's Ferry, and was in the thickest of the fight at Antietam, September 17th. It fought with its usual bravery at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863; the Wilderness, May 5, 6, and 7, 1864; Spottsylvania, May 8th to 18th; Salem Church, Cold Harbor, June 1 to 12, 1864. It formed a portion of the troops engaged at the Weldon railroad, June 22 and 23, 1864; was distinguished at the capture of the Crater, July 30th, and was also warmly engaged in the battle on the plank road below Petersburg.

Upon its organization, its colonel was John A. Winston, who was succeeded by Young L. Royston, and he by Hilary A. Herbert, who commanded in many hard-fought battles, being severely wounded at Sharpsburg and the Wilderness. Colonel Herbert has since achieved eminence at the bar of Alabama and in legislative halls, having served 16 years in the Congress of the United States, and as secretary of the navy under Cleveland's second administration. Other field officers were Lieutenant-Colonel Frazier, Thomas E. Irby, killed at the Wilderness, John P. Emrich, wounded at Petersburg and at Gaines'

Mill, and Duke Nall, who was mortally wounded at the Wilderness.

This regiment was fortunate in that its roll of honor found in the War Records is more complete than that of any other of the Alabama troops; and in the extracts below are the names of those conspicuous for bravery and courage, many of whom are still living, though the roll of immortal heroes is a long one. Capts. L. F. Summers and P. Loughry, and Lieut. Joshua Kennedy were killed at Seven Pines; Capt. Thomas Phelan, Lieuts. C. M. Maynard, Lane, Augustus Jansen, at Gaines' Mill and Frayser's Farm, and Capt. R. A. McCrary at Chancellorsville. Lieut. John D. McLaughlin died of wounds received in the battles before Richmond.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE OFFICIAL RECORDS.

Vol. IV—(668,669) In general orders, No. 89, October 3, 1861, assigned to Fifth brigade, army of the Peninsula, Colonel Winston commanding post at Yorktown.

Vol. IX—(37) Assigned to Second division, Gen. Lafayette McLaws commanding; General Magruder's department, January 31, 1862.

Vol. XI, Part 1—(267) E. J. Allen, March 29, 1862, reports "Eighth Alabama, 1,000 strong." (586) Mentioned in Gen. George E. Pickett's report of battle of Williamsburg, Va., May 5, 1862. (588,589) Roger A. Pryor's report of battle of Williamsburg, says: "The gallant and lamented Col. Thomas E. Irby, with 4 companies of the Eighth Alabama, reported to me for duty." (822) Mentioned in Gen. Daniel E. Sickles' report of battle of Seven Pines. (987,988) Mentioned in Gen. C. M. Wilcox's report of same battle. (1076) Capts. Leonard F. Summers and P. Loughry, and Lieut. Joshua Kennedy killed at Seven Pines.

Vol. XI, Part 2—(486, 503, 508) Wilcox's brigade, Longstreet's division, Jackson's corps, engagements around Richmond. Loss, 51 killed and 181 wounded. (508) June 30th, 1 reported killed. (771-775) Mentioned in Gen. C. M. Wilcox's report of Gaines' Mill and Frayser's Farm. Capt. Thomas Phelan, Lieuts. C. M. Maynard, W. H. Lane and Augustus Jansen, killed. Captain Hannon,

Lieuts. M. Hugh and McGrath, severely wounded. (775) General Wilcox's report of battle of June 29th. Lieutenant-Colonel Royston sustained a severe wound. Surgeon Royston commended. (776-779) General Wilcox's report of battle of June 30th. (980) 31 killed, 132 wounded (10 mortally), battle of Gaines' Mill; 16 killed, 57 wounded at Glendale. (985) Lieut. John D. McLaughlin died of wounds received June 30th. (993) Roll of honor, battle of Williamsburg: Private William H. Duke*, Company A; Private J. R. Philips, Company C; Corp. William H. Powell*, Company D; Private James Ganavan, Company I. No selections from other companies. Battle of Seven Pines: Sergt. Frank Williams*, Company A; Private W. A. Hall, Company B; Private J. B. Tallen, Company C; Corp. Eli Shortridge*, Company D; Private John H. Deaton, Company E; Private Geo. W. Lee, Company F; Private Charles Hippler, Jr.*, Company G; Private John Caney, Company I; Private J. D. Garrison*, Company K. Battle of Gaines' Mill: Corp. Samuel L. Cochran*, Company A; Private R. T. Bush, Company B; Private John G. Shields, Company C; Private W. E. Donoho*, Company D; Sergt. J. B. Milner, Company F; Third Sergt. C. F. Walker, Company G; Sergt. W. H. McGraw*, Company H; Private Hugh McKewn, Company I; Private John W. Griffin, Company K. Battle of Frayser's Farm: Sergt. Joseph Jackson*, Company A; Corp. H. M. Howard, Company B; Private Robert Geddes, Company C; Private J. P. Wheelan, Company D; Fourth Sergt. G. Schwartz, Company G; Private J. Smith, Company G; Private John Lynch, Company I.

Vol. XI, Part 3—(390) Mentioned in General Magruder's report. (482) Col. J. A. Winston, commanding Pryor's brigade, 800 strong. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's army on the peninsula about April 30, 1862. (532) Assignment as above, May 21st. (649) Wilcox's brigade, Longstreet's division, army of Northern Virginia, July 23d.

Vol. XII, Part 2—(547) Assignment as above, August, 1862. (815) Roll of honor, second battle of Manassas: Corp. R. Murphy, Company A; Private James Jennings, Company I.

Vol. XIX, Part 1—(804) In Wilcox's brigade, commanded by Col. Alfred Cumming, army of Northern Virginia, Maryland campaign. (812) 12 killed and 63

* Killed in action.

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wounded, Maryland campaign. (1056) Roll of honor, battle of Sharpsburg, September 17th: Corp. Davis Tucker, Company A; Private John Curry, Company C; Sergt. T. S. Ryan, Company E; Fifth Sergt. James Castello*, Company G; Private J. Herbert*, Company H; Private O. M. Harris*, Company K; Sergt. G. T. L. Robinson, Company B; Sergt. C. F. Brown, Company D; Corp. J. R. Searcy, Company F; Private James Ryan, Company I.

Vol. XXI—(539, 610, 1070) In Wilcox's brigade, First corps, 1 wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg.

No. 39—(790) Assignment as above, Col. Y. L. Royston; Lieut.-Col. H. A. Herbert, Chancellorsville campaign. (806, 854) Report of casualties, 7 killed, 45 wounded, at battle of Chancellorsville. Capt. Robert A. McCrary among the killed. (858-860) Gen. Wilcox's report of the battle of Chancellorsville: "I cannot call to your notice all officers that are deserving of special praise, for the conduct of all was excellent. Colonel Royston, Eighth Alabama, and after his severe wound, Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert, were intelligent, energetic and gallant in commanding, directing, and leading their men." He also speaks of the lamented Captain McCrary. (1056) Roll of honor, battle of Chancellorsville, May 1-4, 1863: Private Allen Bolling, Company A; Private J. N. Howard, Company B; Sergt. Robert Gaddes, Company C; Sergt. P. H. Mays, Company D; Sergt. T. A. Kelly, Company F; Private Patrick Leary, Company I; Private James Reynolds (killed), Company K.

No. 44—(288) In Wilcox's brigade, Anderson's division, Third corps, army of Northern Virginia, at the battle of Gettysburg, July 1st to 3d. (332, 343) Casualties, 22 killed, 139 wounded. (620, 621) Mentioned in Gen. C. M. Wilcox's report. (775) Roll of honor, battle of Gettysburg: Sergts. Edmund Clark, Company A; Robert Gaddes, Company C; L. L. McCurdy, Company D; James R. Strickland, Company E; C. P. Ragsdale (color-bearer), Company F; Privates Z. Haynes, Company B; C. G. Bush, Company G; J. Sprowl, Company H; Michael Duff, Company I; Michael Kane, Company I.

No. 45—(1061) Assignment as above, July 31, 1863, Col. Y. L. Royston commanding.

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*Killed in action.

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No. 48—(400, 412, 819) Assignment as above; casualties, 1 killed, 6 wounded, October 10-21, 1863.

No. 49—(685, 900) Assignment as above to December, 1863.

No. 60—(1145) Commended by Gen. R. E. Lee in general orders, No. 14, February 3, 1864.

No. 67—(1025) In Perrin's brigade, Third corps, army of Northern Virginia, May, 1864.

No. 80—(754) Sergt. John H. Deaton, Company E, captured colors of two Michigan regiments at Petersburg, Va., July 30th. (810) Roll of honor, battles near Petersburg: Sergt. John H. Deaton, Company E.

No. 89—(1190) In Sanders' brigade, Mahone's division, General Lee's army, October 31, 1864, Maj. John P. Emrich in command of regiment. (1239, 1367) Assignment as above to December 31st.

No. 95—(1273) Forney's brigade, Mahone's division, Appomattox campaign.

No. 96—(1174, 1272) Same assignment, Col. J. L. Royston in command of regiment, January 31, 1865. Lieut.-Col. J. P. Emrich commanding regiment, February 28, 1865.

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Eighth Regiment, Infantry.

Organized at Mobile, June, 1861.

The papers on file consist of a recapitulation of the strength and casualties of the regiment during the war, and the following muster rolls *with historical memoranda.* Field and Staff, and companies A, B, C, E, H and I, the others being missing. All of these muster rolls, by reason of bad usage and age, are almost illegible. They are as follows:

John A. Winston ..... Colonel.
J. W. Frazer ..... Lieutenant Colonel.
Thomas Irby ..... Major.
R. T. Royston ..... Surgeon.
Daniel Parker ..... Asst. Surgeon.
J. A. Robbins ..... A. Q. M.
George T. Shorter ..... A. C. S.
Thomas Phelan ..... Adjutant.
Wm. M. Byrd, Jr. ..... Sgt. Major.
M. S. Cleveland ..... Qr. M. Sgt.

Co. A. Young L. Royston ..... Captain.
Co. B. T. W. W. Davies ..... Captain.
Co. C. Chas. T. Ketchum ..... Captain.
Co. E. W. T. Smith ..... Captain.
Co. H. W. F. Cleveland, Jr. ..... Captain.
Co. I. Patrick Loughry ..... Captain.

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Companies

Co.A, "Alabama Rangers"- from Perry county. Captains: Young L. Royston, promoted; Thomas Phelan, killed at Gaines' Mill; Thomas R. Heard, wounded at Wilderness; Robert W/ Sanders.

Co.B, "Governor's Guards"- from Coosa county. Captains: T. W. W. Davies, resigned; G. W. Hannon, killed at Gaines' Mill; M. G. McWilliams, died in the service; G. T. L. Robeson, wounded at Petersburg.

Co.C, "Alex Stephens Guards" (also called "Stephens Guards")- from Mobile county. Captains: Charles T. Ketchum, resigned; Leonard F. Summers, killed at Seven Pines; Ben W. Briggs, resigned; Henry C. Lea; Henry McHugh, killed at Petersburg Crater.

Co.D, Ind. Blues "- from Dallas county. Captains: James Kent, resigned; Robert T. McCrary, killed at Salem; W. R. Knox, wounded at Petersburg.

Co.E, "Hamp Smith Rifles"- from Mobile county. Captains: William T. Smith, resigned; Crawford E. Blackwood, wounded at Frazier's Farm and resigned; A. H. Ravisies, wounded at Sharpsburg.

Co.F, "Greenville Guards"- from Butler county. Captains: Hillary A. Herbert, promoted; Lewis A. Livingston, wounded at Gettysburg and died in the hands of the enemy; Ira W. Stott,

Co.G, "German Fusileers"- from Mobile county. Captains: J. P. Emerich, promoted; A. Kohler, wounded and captured at Gettysburg.

Co.H, "Independent Scouts"- from Mobile county. Captains: William F. Cleveland, Jr., resigned; W. W. Mordecai, wounded at Petersburg.

Co.I, "Emerald Guards"- from Mobile county. Captains: Patrick Loughry, killed at Seven Pines; C. P. B. Branagan, killed at Gettysburg; John McGrath, wounded at Wilderness and Spottsylvania; Andrew Quinn.

Co.K, "Southern Guards"; from Perry county. Captains: Duke Nall, wounded at Sharpsburg and promoted; W.L. Fagan.

EIGHTH ALABAMA-(Infantry).

ALA. DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY MPD

This was the first Alabama command that enlisted "for the war." It was organized by the appointment of its field officers by the war department. The regiment lay at Yorktown, Virginia, the first eleven months of its service, and a detachment of it was engaged in a skirmish near Wynn's Mill. Placed in Gen. Pryor's brigade, the regiment fell back with the army till the enemy overtook it at Williamsburg. It won its first laurels on that fiercely-contested field, losing about 100 men. At Seven Pines it was again under the most deadly fire, and its loss was 32 killed, 80 wounded, and 32 missing. Now in the brigade of Gen. Wilcox,-with the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, and Fourteenth Alabama regiments-the Eighth was under fire at Mechanicsville, and took part in the desperate assault of Longstreet's division on the enemy's position at Gaines' Mill, and emerged victoriously from the bloody combat with the loss of half of the 350 men it had engaged. Three days later, the regiment was in the line of assault at Frazier's Farm, where it met Meagher's Irish brigade, and of 180 effective men, only 90 were at regimental muster the next morning. Its ranks soon began to fill up, and the Eighth marched with the army towards the Potomac. At the second battle of Manassas it was under a destructive fire, and lost about 60 men, but was held in reserve. The regiment took part in the capture of Harper's Ferry, then crossed the river and fought obstinately at Sharpsburg, where it lost 67 killed and wounded. It wintered on the Rappahannock, and lost slightly at Fredericksburg. At Salem Church, Wilcox's brigade of Alabamians, of which it was part, bore the brunt of the federal assault, and drove them back in confusion, capturing 1500 prisoners; the Eighth losing 58 men killed and wounded. It was in the exultant army that Lee led into Maryland the second time, and its colors were flouted in the face of death at Gettysburg; where, of 420 engaged, 260 were left on the bloody field. With the army it re-crossed the Potomac, and wintered in the vicinity of Orange C.H. The regiment was again hotly engaged at the Wilderness, losing heavily, and at Spottsylvania suffered considerably. It was under fire nearly every day as the federal army pressed up to Richmond, and its loss was severe at the second Cold Harbor. At Petersburg, the Eighth again suffered largely. It fought the cavalry raid on the Weldon Railroad, and participated in the capture of the "Crater." At Deep Bottom the regiment

ALA. DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY MRD

participated with some loss, and lost heavily in the attempt to dislodge the enemy from their position on the Weldon Railroad. The regiment assisted at the repulse of the foe on the plank road below Petersburg,and fought cheerfully on the retreat up the James. At Appomattox the remnant indignantly denied the first rumors of the contemplated surrender, many wept like children at the announcement,and the survivors tore their battle-rent banner into shreds to retain as a memento. Of 1377 men on its roll, the Eighth had 300 killed or mortally wounded, over 170 died of disease, and 236 were discharged or transferred.

FIELD AND STAFF.

Colonels.-John A.Winston of Sumter; resigned. Young L.Royston of Perry; wounded at Frazier's Farm and Salem Church; retired. Hillary A.Herbert of Butler

Lieutenant Colonels.-John W.Fazier of Tennessee;resigned. Thomas E.Irby of Dallas; killed at Williamsburg. Y.L.Royston; promoted. H.A.Herbert;wounded at Sharpsburg and Wilderness; promoted. John P.Emerich of Mobile; wounded at Petersburg.

Majors.-Thomas E.Irby; promoted. Y.L.Royston; promoted. H.A.Herbert; wounded and captured at Seven Pines; promoted. John P.Emerich;wounded at Gaines' Mill; promoted. Duke Nall of Perry; died of wounds received at Wilderness.

Adjutants.-Thomas Phelan of Perry; transferred to line. Dan Jones of Dallas; wounded at Frazier's Farm; transferred and promoted. Morgan S.Cleveland of Dallas, wounded at Pertersburg.

CAPTAINS,AND COUNTIES FROM WHICH THE COMPANIES CAME.

Perry.-Young L.Royston;promoted. Thomas Phelan; killed at Gaines'Mill. Thos.Heard; wounded at Wilderness.

Dallas.-James Kent; resigned. Robert T.McCrary; killed at Salem. W.R. Knox; wounded at Petersburg.

Perry.-Duke Nall; wounded at Sharpsburg;promoted. W.L.Fagan.

Butler.-Hillary A.Herbert;promoted. Lewis A.Livingston; wounded at Gettysburg,and died in the hands of the enemy. Ira W.Scott.

Mobile.-Thomas Smith; resigned. C.E.Blackwood; wounded at Frazier's Farm; resigned. A.H.Ravesies; wounded at Sharpsburg.

Mobile.-Charles Ketchum; resigned. Leonard F.Summers; killed at Seven Pines. Benj.Briggs; resigned. Henry McHugh; killed at Petersburg Crater.

DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY MRD

Mobile.-J.P.Emerich; promoted. A.Kohler; wounded and captured at Gettysburg.

Mobile.-William Cleveland; resigned. W.W.Mordecai; wounded at Petersburg.

Mobile.-Patrick Loughry; killed at Seven Pines. C.P.Brannegan; killed at Gettysburg. John McGrath; wounded at Widerness and Spottsylvania.

Coosa.-T.W.W.Davies; resigned. G.W.Hannon; killed at Gaines' Mill. M.E. McWilliams; died in the service. J.T.L.Robinson; wounded at Petersburg.

[Brewer's Alabama, pp.600-602.]

THE EIGHTH ALABAMA INFANTRY.

DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY MRD

The Eighth Alabama Infantry regiment deserves special mention. It was the first Confederate regiment to be enlisted for the war. Its first service was at Yorktown. It fought in the battle of Williamsburg, May 5th, and at Fair Oaks, May 31 and June 1, 1862, in both of which engagements it took an important part and its losses were very severe. It was then transferred to the brigade of Gen. Cadmus M. Wilcox and was greatly distinguished at Mechanicsville, June 26th. Two days later it was prominent in the assault upon the enemy at Gaines' Mill and on June 30th was again in the midst of the conflict at Frayser's (sic) Farm. It was present, though not severely engaged, at Manassas and Harper's Ferry, and was in the thickest of the fight at Antietam, September 17th. It fought with its usual bravery at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863; the Wilderness, May 5, 6 and 7, 1864; Spottsylvania, May 8th to 18th; Salem Church, Cold Harbor, June 1 to 12, 1864. It formed a portion of the troops engaged at the Weldon railroad, June 22 and 23, 1864; was distinguished at the capture of the Crater, July 30th, and was also warmly engaged in the battle on the plank road below Petersburg.

Upon its organization, its colonel was John W. Winston, who was succeeded by Young L. Royston, and he by Hilary A. Herbert, who commanded in many hard-fought battles, being severely wounded at Sharpsburg and the Wilderness. Colonel Herbert has since achieved eminence at the bar of Alabama and in legislative halls, having served 16 years in the Congress of the United States, and as secretary of the navy under Cleveland's second administration. Other field officers were Lieutenant-Colonel Frazier, Thomas E. Irby, killed at the Wilderness, John P. Emrich, wounded at Petersburg and at Gaines' Mill, and Duke Nall, who was mortally wounded at the Wilderness.

This regiment was fortunate in that its roll of honor found in the War Records is more complete than that of any other of the Alabama troops; and in the extracts below are the names of those conspicuous for bravery and courage, many of whom are still living, though the roll of immortal heroes is a long one. Capts. L. F. Summers and P. Loughry, and Lieut. Joshua Kennedy were killed at Seven Pines; Capt. Thomas Phelan, Lieuts. C. M. Maynard, Lane, Augustus Jansen, at Gaines' Mill and Frayser's Farm, and Capt. R. A. McCrary at Chancellorsville. Lieut. John D. McLaughlin died of wounds received in the battles before Richmond.

EXTRACTS FROM THE OFFICIAL RECORDS.

Vol.IV-(668,669) In general orders,No.89,October 3,1861,assigned to Fifth brigade,army of the Peninsula, Colonel Winston commanding post at Yorktown.

Vol.IX-(37) Assigned to Second division,Gen.Lafayette McLaws commanding; General Magruder's department,January 31,1862.

Vol.XI,Part I-(267) E.J.Allen, March 29,1862,reports "Eighth Alabama,1,000 strong." (586) Mentioned in Gen.George E.Pickett's report of battle of Williamsburg,Va.,May 5,1862. (588,589)Roger A.Pryor's report of battle of Williamsburg, says: "The gallant and lamented Col.Thomas E.Irby, with 4 companies of the Eighth Alabama, reported to me for duty." (822) Mentioned in Gen.Daniel E. Sickles' report of battle of Seven Pines. (987,988) Mentioned in Gen.C.M.Wilcox's report of same battle. (1076) Capts.Leonard F.Summers and P.Loughry,and Lieut.Joshua Kennedy killed at Seven Pines.

Vol.XI,Part 2-(486,503,508) Wilcox's brigade,Longstreet's division,Jackson's corps,engagements around Richmond. Loss, 51 killed and 181 wounded. (508) June 30th, 1 reported killed. (771,775)Mentioned in Gen.C.M.Wilcox's report of Gaines' Mill and Frayser's Farm. Capt.Thomas Phelan,Lieuts.C.M.Maynard, W.H.Lane and Augustus Jansen,killed. Captain Hannon,Lieuts.M.Hugh and McGrath, severely wounded. (775) General Wilcox's report of battle of June 29th. Lieutenant-Colonel Royston sustained a severe wound. Surgeon Royston commended. (776-779) General Wilcox's report of battle of June 30th. (980) 31 killed, 132 wounded (10 mortally), battle of Gaines' Mill; 16 killed, 57 wounded at Glendale. (985) Lieut.John D.McLaughlin died of wounds received June 30th. (993) Roll of honor, battle of Williamsburg; Private William H.Duke*, Company A; Private J.R.Philips,Company C; Corp.William H.Powell*,Company D;Private James Ganavan,Company I. No selections from other companies. Battle of Seven Pines: Sergt.Frank Williams*,Company A; Private W.A.Hall,Company B; Private J.B.Tallen, Company C;Corp.Eli Shortridge*, Company D;Private John H.Deaton,Company E;Private Geo.W.Lee,Company F; Private Charles Hippler,Jr.*, Company G; Private John Caney, Company I; Private J.D.Garrison*,Company K. Battle of Gaines' Mill: Corp. Samuel L.Cochran*,Company A; Private R.T.Bush,Company B; Private John G.Shields, Company C;Private W.E.Donoho*,Company D; Sergt.J.B.Milner,Company F;Third Sergt. C.F.Walker,Company G;Sergt.W.H.McGraw*,Company H;Private Hugh McKown,Company I; Private John W.Griffin,Company K. Battle of Frayser's Farm: Sergt.Joseph Jackson*, Company A; Corp.H.M.Howard,Company B;Private Robert Geddes,Company C;Private J.P.Wheelan,

*Killed in action.

Company D; Fourth Sergt.G.Schwartz,Company G;Private J.Smith,Company G; Private John Lynch,Company I.

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Vol.XI,Part 3,-(390) Mentioned in General Magruder's report. (482) Col. J.A.Winston,commanding Pryor's brigade,800 strong. Gen.Joseph E.Johnston's army on the peninsula about April 30,1862. (532) Assignment as above,May 21st. (649) Wilcox's brigade,Longstreet's division,army of Northern Virginia,July 23d.

Vol.XII,Part 2-(547) Assignment as above,August,1862. (815) Roll of honor, second battle of Manassas: Corp.R.Murphy,Company A; Private James Jennings, Company I.

Vol.XIX,Part I-(804) In Wilcox's brigade,commanded by Col.Alfred Cumming, army of Northern Virginia,Maryland campaign. (812) 12 killed and 63 wounded, Maryland campaign. (1056) Roll of honor, battle of Sharpsburg,September 17th; Corp.Davis Tucker,Company A; Private John Curry,Company C; Sergt.T.S.Ryan,Company E;Fifth Sergt.James Castello*, Company G;Private J.Herbert*,Company H; Private O.M.Harris*, Company K; Sergt.G.T.L.Robinson,Company B; Sergt.C.F.Brown,Company D; Corp.J.R.Searcy,Company F;Private James Ryan, Company I.

Vol.XXI-(539, 610, 1070) In Wilcox's brigade, First corps,1 wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg.

No.39-(790) Assignment as above, Col.Y.L.Royston; Lieut.Col.H.A.Herbert, Chancellorsville, campaign. (806, 854) Report of casualties,7 killed, 45 wounded, at battle of Chancellorsville. Capt.Robert A.McCrary among the killed. (858,860) Gen.Wilcox's report of the battle of Chancellorsville: "I cannot call to your notice all officers that are deserving of special praise, for the conduct of all was excellent. Colonel Royston, Eighth Alabama, and after his severe wound, Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert, were intelligent,energetic and gallant in commanding, directing,and leading their men." He also speaks of the lamented Captain McCrary. (1056) Roll of honor, battle of Chancellorsville, May 1-14, 1863: Private Allen Bolling,Company A; Private J.N.Howard,Company B; Sergt.Robert Gaddes,Company C; Sergt. P.H.Mays, Company D; Sergt.T.A.Kelly, Company F; Private Patrick Leary, Company I; Private James Reynolds (killed), Company K.

No.44-(288) In Wilcox's brigade, Anderson's division, Third corps, army of Northern Virginia, at the battle of Gettysburg,July 1st to 3d. (332, 343) Casualties,22 killed,139 wounded. (620, 621) Mentioned in Gen.C.M.Wilcox's report. (775) Roll of honor,battle of Gettysburg: Sergts. Edmund Clark,Company A; Robert Gaddes,Company C; L.L.McCurdy, Company D; James R.Strickland,Company E; C.P.

* Killed in action.

Ragsdale)color-bearer), Company F; Privates Z.Haynes,Company B; C.G.Bush,Company G; J.Sprowl, Company H; Michael Duff, Company I; Michael Kane,Company I.

No.45-(1061) Assignment as above,July 31,1863,Col.Y.L.Royston commanding.

No.48-(400, 412, 819) Assignment as above; casualties, 1 killed, 6 wounded, October 10-21, 1863.

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No.49- (685, 900) Assignment as above to December, 1863.

No.60-(1145) Commended by Gen.R.E.Lee in general orders,No.14, February 3, 1864.

No.67-(1025) In Perrin's brigade, Third corps, army of Northern Virginia, ~~May~~ May,1864.

No.80-(754) Sergt.John H.Deaton, Company E, captured colors of two Michigan regiments at Petersburg, Va.,July 30th. (810) Roll of honor, battles near Petersburg: Sergt.John H.Deaton,Cmpany E.

No.89-(1190) In Sanders' brigade, Mahone's division, General Lee's army, October 31,1864,Maj.John P.Emrich in command of regiment. (1239, 1367) Assignment as above to December 31st.

No.95 - (1273) Forney's brigade,Mahone's division,Appomattox campaign.

No.96-(1174, 1272) Same assignment , Col.J.L.Royston in command of regiment, January 31, 1865. Lieut.Col.J.P.Emrich commanding regiment, February 28,1865.

[Confederate Military History, Val. iii, pp. 79-83.]