



21 March 2003

Historic Sandtown
House 1852
Mr. Jim Lewis, Historian,
Stones River National Battlefield Park
3501 Old Nashville Highway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Enjoyed the chat with you a few minutes ago. My purpose in contacting you is to tell you of the May publication by Mercer University Press of my new book entitled Sherman's 1864 Trail of Battle to Atlanta. Former superintendent of the Kennesaw Mtn. National Battlefield Park, John Cissel, and Tom Watson Brown (long time member of the Atlanta Civil War Roundtable and past president of the organization), both read the manuscript with favorable comments before I sent it on to Mercer Press. Enclosed is a copy of the publisher's announcement concerning this forth-coming product.

The book includes dozens of photographs and wartime/modern maps accompanying the narrative as we follow the main battle route of Sherman's marching armies from Chattanooga to Atlanta in this 120 day series of hard fought battles. Of special note is the attention given to lost battlefields, family homesteads, and related historical sites along the way; including an evaluation of their state of preservation today.

I hope Sherman's 1864 Trail of Battle to Atlanta can be offered to the public in your book store. I think Mercer Press will be contacting you also about an author's book signing session at you visitor's center at your convenience. I look forward to working out something with you folks.

Best regards,

Philip Lee Secrist
Philip Lee Secrist, Kennesaw State University faculty (ret.)

Enclosures: 3

Should be
HENRY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hiram Melton Kimsey, 1st Lt., 17th Tenn. Regt., Army of Tennessee
Born: Nov. 19, 1833

Enlisted in May 1861 (as 3rd Lt)

Military Action:

Battle of Shiloh, TN (April 6 & 7, 1862)

Battle of Fishing Creek & Perryville, Ky. (Bragg's KY invasion, Fall 1862).

Battle of Murfreesboro, TN. (Dec. 31, '62- Jan. 1 63)

wounded by art. shell & captured. Listed on Confederate Role of Honor for heroism (**Official Records**). POW @ Camp Chase, OH., exchanged as POW from City Point, VA, April '63.

Returned to roll of 17th Tenn., Cleburne's Division, Confederate Army of Tenn.

Battle of Chickamauga (Sept. 1863. Saw heavy action. Again, wounded in action (bullet wound near left ear).

Battles around Petersburg, 1864 & 1865 (served on skirmish line 1864 to 1865). Also leading foraging parties searching for mules and horses for Lee's Army of Northern VA.

Battle of Hatcher's Run (Five Forks) VA (Apr. 2, 1865) on Lee's retreat to Appomattox at end of the War. Wounded in heel by rifle bullet at Hatcher's Run and captured. Registered POW April 9th at Johnson's Island. Released from prison after taking of oath of allegiance to U.S. on June 18, 1865. Listed as 1st Lt. upon discharge. Returned home to Normandy, TN.

Application for Confederate veteran Tenn. pension approved July 31, 1905.

Home: Tullahoma, TN. Living with one son and two daughters.

H.M. Kimsey was the father of six sons and three daughters. (James Oattie Kimsey, your father), was the third oldest child of H.M. Kimsey.

H.M. Kimsey listed his occupation as a "brickmaker" in Tullahoma. He claimed ownership to a house and lot valued for taxing purposes of \$5.40 (but see corrected statement from county tax commissioner). He was 72 at the time of this application.

MEDICAL STATEMENT OF PHYSICAL CONDITION

(at time of 1905 Pension Application & nature of battle wounds)

Reports shows:

**#1 One bullet wound (minie ball) scar in front of left ear
(Battle of Chickamauga ?)**

**#2 One bullet wound (minie ball) scar and swelling near heel on
left foot. (Battle of Hatcher's Run, VA , near Five
Forks), captured and POW at Johnson's Ill., Ohio Apr.
9, 1865. Released as POW June 18, 1865. Physical
description by prison authorities: "5 ft. 8 in. tall*, light
hair, fair complexion, age 28. Signature of allegiance
to U.S., released from prison to go home (Normandy,
TN) on June 18, 1865. End of War.**

**#3 Shell Fragment wound near hip at Battle of Murfreesboro,
TN, Dec. 31, 1862. Captured, POW, sent to Camp
Chase, OH. Physical description by prison authorities:
5 ft. 10 in tall, dark hair, blue eyes, sandy complexion.
Transferred to Ft. Delaware prison (Apr. 10, 1863).
Forwarded to City Point, VA for exchange as POW on
Apr. 29, '63. Returned to 17th TN Regt. near
Tullahoma, TN.**

**NAMED TO "ROLL OF HONOR" for heroic action at Murfreesboro.
General Order #130 dated Oct. 3, 1864. (Official Records, Series I, Vol
XX, Pt. 1, p. 779).**

***Note difference in physical description of Kimsey by prison authorities
in 1865 compared to previous description by a different set of authorities
in 1863! Carelessness by authorities, or an "ageing" of Kimsey after two
additional years under stress of combat?**

HAND WRITTEN NOTE BY H.M. KIMSEY (July 1905):

"Tullahoma, July 1905"

(To) Capt. Wilson (commander of the Confederate Vet. unit)

"Dear Commander,

Please find enclosed my claim and presence in person to Examination Board. I do this somewhat with reluctance and embarrassment. Still I served (in) this grade and (it) had a lot to do with my engagements from Rock Castle, Barboursville, Beans Station, and Perryville, Ky. (Also) Fishing Creek, Chickamauga, Shiloh, Knoxville, and Druwy's Bluff, with all the skirmishing and fighting around Petersburg, VA from April '61 to April '64 ('65 ?)

I feel I am justifiable (sic) in asking for a little help. My back down years ago has gotten me lacking and my wound tells on me so I can not get round. Now a little help will be greatly appreciated.

Please see the Examining Board considers by claim, throw any lite (sic) on my case they may ask (for) -- and inform me of any information ques (questions) there desired.

I am Capt, your obed (ient) Servt (servant)

H. M. Kimsey (signed)