

TENNESSEANS
IN
THE CIVIL WAR

*A Military History
of Confederate and Union Units
with
Available Rosters of Personnel*

In Two Parts

Part I

Published by the
CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
Nashville, Tennessee

1964

CAPTAIN F. J. WELLER'S, TENNESSEE LIGHT ARTILLERY COMPANY
"Rock City Artillery"

Formerly Captain Jesse Taylor's Battery—
Captain Peter Stankiewicz's Battery. Served
in Tennessee Artillery Corps; as Company
"B", First Tennessee Heavy Artillery Bat-
talion; as Company "B", First Tennessee Light
Artillery Battalion; as Company "B", First
Artillery Regiment.

This company was enlisted at Nashville in
the summer of 1861. Jesse Taylor was ap-
pointed captain by Governor Isham G. Harris
on July 20, 1861. The company was mustered
into Confederate service at Fort Henry Sep-
tember 2, 1861. Captain Taylor was captured
at Fort Henry, and assigned to post duty
when exchanged. Lieutenant Stankiewicz was
captured at Fort Donelson, where he had
been appointed captain by General Pillow.
After being exchanged, he tendered his resig-
nation on account of his age on November
19, 1862, but it was not accepted until Feb-
ruary 10, 1863. Lieutenant Weller then became
captain and served until he was killed at
Port Hudson in June, 1863.

On October 18, 1861, Colonel A. Heiman,
10th Tennessee Infantry, at Fort Henry, re-
ported: "I have at present for the defense of
this fort my own regiment, 820 men, and
Captain Taylor's Company of Artillery, aggre-
gate 50 men. I have repeatedly requested this
company to be recruited to its full strength.
In its present condition there are not enough
men to work all the guns at the same time
and to properly arm the fort."

Colonel Milton A. Haynes, reporting on
the surrender of Fort Henry on February 6,
1862, stated: "Its defense was made by one
small company of artillery commanded by
Captain Jesse Taylor, General Tipton and
other officers taking part in the action. The
whole force numbered, rank and file, less
than 70, not enough to man all the guns.

"Captain Jesse Taylor, Second Lieutenant
J. F. Weller, and 50 non coms and privates,
of whom ten or 12 were wounded, were taken
prisoner."

Prior to the beginning of the bombardment,
First Lieutenant Stankiewicz and some of the
men were detached to man a light battery at
Fort Heiman, across the river. These forces
were evacuated, and along with all the other
forces at Fort Henry, were withdrawn in time
to prevent capture, as it was apparent that the

CAPTAIN B. F. WHITE JR.'S HORSE ARTILLERY BATTERY

Date and place of organization not known.
This is listed as a Tennessee Battery in the
Official Records, but no muster roll of the
company was found in the Tennessee files.
There are records on innumerable B. F.
Whites in the Confederate service, but only
one B. F. White, Jr.

Benjamin F. White, Jr., was the first captain
of Company "H", 4th (Neely's) Tennessee
Infantry Regiment, which was organized in
Shelby County in May, 1861. He resigned
September 28, 1861, and his resignation was
accepted October 8, 1861. A note on the
records of the company said Captain White
transferred to the artillery, and this was
probably his battery.

The battery first appeared in the *Official
Records* on November 25, 1862, when White's
section of artillery, six-pounders, was listed
in Brigadier General John A. Wharton's Cav-
alry Brigade of Major General Joseph
Wheeler's Corps. On December 30, 1862, it
reported 63 effectives.

At the same time, another section of the
battery was with Brigadier General John Hunt
Morgan on his "Christmas Raid" into Ken-
tucky in December, 1862. A Federal report
of this raid in listing the forces involved,
included White's Battery of eight guns, the
largest a 12-pounder. The report stated,
"White's name is supposed to be Robinson,
formerly a Kentuckian."

Meanwhile, the other section, in Wharton's
Brigade, was reported in a skirmish near
Trinne, Tennessee, on the Nolensville Road
on December 27, 1862. General Wharton, in
his report of the activities of his brigade
during the Battle of Murfreesboro, December
31, 1862 to January 3, 1863, spoke several
times of the part White's battery played.

On January 14, 1863, at Shelbyville, still
in Wharton's Brigade, White's Battery re-
ported two officers, 52 men present for duty,
59 present, 73 present and absent, with 35
horses. It continued to be reported in War-
ton's Brigade until he was given command of
a division, and on August 15, 1863 was re-
ported attached to Colonel Thomas Harrison's
Brigade of Wharton's Division, and with six
pieces of artillery took part in the Battle of
Chickamauga, September 19-20, 1863.

It then went with Major General Joseph
Wheeler on his raid around the rear of the

Federal Army beginning September 30. Gen-
eral Wheeler, in his report of that expedition,
said one of the lumberers of White's Battery
blew up, which caused it to be abandoned.

On November 30, 1863, Freeman's and
White's Tennessee Batteries, and Wiggins'
Arkansas Battery were attached to Major
General William T. Martin's Cavalry Corps
which went with Lieutenant General James
Longstreet on his invasion of East Tennessee.
General Martin, in reporting the action at
Bean's Station, on December 10, 1863, said:
"It was necessary to dislodge a brigade of
cavalry guarding May's Ford. This was done
by the rapid fire of artillery from White's and
Wiggins' Batteries." At this time Lieutenant
Arthur Pae, Jr., was in command of the
battery, and he was commended by General
Martin for his conduct of the battery. On
December 31, Whites and Wiggins' Batteries
were reported attached to Brigadier General
John T. Morgan's Brigade of Martin's Corps.

On January 31, 1864, still in the same brigade,
White's Battery reported three officers, 74
men present for duty, 85 present, 157 present
and absent, with four pieces of artillery.

On April 30, 1864, the battery was back
with the Army of Tennessee, with Lieutenant
Colonel Felix H. Robertson as Chief of Ar-
tillery of the Cavalry Corps. Huwald's and
White's Tennessee Batteries, Wiggins' Arkan-
sas and one section of Ferrill's Georgia Bat-
tery, were reported as forming his command.
Later Huggins' Tennessee Battery was added
to the battalion. On September 20, Major
James Hamilton was reported in command of
the battalion, in General Wheeler's Cavalry
Corps, and it continued to be known as
Hamilton's Artillery Battalion from that time.

No further record of the specific activity
of the battery was found, but on January
31, 1865, it was still reported in Hamilton's
Battalion, along with Huggins' and Ramsey's
Tennessee Batteries, and Wiggins' Arkansas
Battery. Huggins' Battery was formerly Free-
man's; and Ramsey's formerly Huwald's. This
was the last mention found of the battery,
but Wheeler's Cavalry Corps formed part
of the forces under General Joseph E. John-
ston in the final struggle in North Carolina,
and presumably the battery was surrendered
and paroled along with the rest of Johnston's
Army in May, 1865 at Greensboro.