

## The Rutherford Rifles Tennessee 1st Infantry

[image: Captain William Ledbetter]

Written by Mabel Pittard Rutherford County Historical Society 1988

[image: Mary Catherine Lytle Ledbetter (Miss Kit) wife of Captain William Ledbetter]

[image: The Salem Pike Ledbetter Home]

### The Ledbetter Family

The Ledbetters came to Virginia from England in the early 1600's. They settled on the James River near Richmond, Virginia. Isaac Ledbetter and his wife, Nancy King Ledbetter, moved to Rutherford County in the early 1800's. They purchased land on the Salem Pike from Captain William Lytle, and it was near here on what came to be known as Cason Lane that they built their first home.

Their son, William, father of Captain William Ledbetter, was born in 1800, and in 1829 he married Eliza Adaline Welborn. William served as Murfreesboro's first recorder in 1818. In 1825 and again in 1827 he served as the mayor of Murfreesboro. He also served in the Tennessee State Senate. He was publisher, along with G. A. Sublett, of the Rutherford Courier. Another indication of the esteem which Murfreesboro citizens held for William Ledbetter, Sr. was his appointment as President of the Planters Union Bank. This bank was located on the public square at the site formerly occupied by the Murfreesboro Bank and Trust Company.

The Salem Pike Ledbetter home was erected in 1828. This brick building followed the traditional four-chimney type of structure. It was to shelter many generations of the Ledbetter family -- among them was William Ledbetter who was to become Captain of the Rutherford Rifles. It was here that Captain William Ledbetter, born in 1831, grew to manhood, and it was from here that he left to join the Confederate cause.

The Salem Pike house had 18-inch walls of solid brick, and the upstairs walls were held together by iron bars that extended the full length of the building. The rooms had high ceilings, and the doorways were at least 10 feet wide. All of rooms were heated by large fireplaces that burned wood. There were five rooms upstairs and five rooms downstairs with large hallways. It was to this home that Captain William Ledbetter hoped to return following the surrender of the Confederacy in 1865. However, this home-coming was not to be.

When Captain Ledbetter returned home at the end of the war, he found that his father had died and that his Salem Pike home had been confiscated by the Yankees. The Planters Union Bank had also been taken over by Union forces. His mother and his six brothers and sisters had been forced to find living quarters in an unpartitioned room over the Planters Union Bank. They had hung sheets in order to provide some semblance of privacy. Before long the Salem Pike home was sold in bankruptcy proceedings.

When Captain William Ledbetter volunteered for service in the Confederate Army, he was 30 years of age. In May of 1857 he had married Mary Catherine Lytle, grand-daughter of

Captain William Lytle. Four years later on May 2, 1861 he was to leave his bride to fight for the Southern cause. At a meeting held in the Rutherford County Courthouse on April 23, 1861, the men who were to become the Rutherford Rifles elected William Ledbetter as their Captain.

The regiment left Murfreesboro by train on May 2, 1861 enroute for Nashville where they were to become a part of the First Tennessee Volunteers, George Maney commanding. There were about 150 young men in the Rifles, and at the end of the war of those from Murfreesboro only eleven would return. Near the end of the conflict Captain Ledbetter himself would be wounded and captured.

In a letter to family members Spencer Eakin, General Agent with the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway had this to say of Captain William Ledbetter. "He was a glorious man in a glorious cause, a true soldier and an honest gentleman, a steady comrade and friend." Captain Ledbetter said of himself that he was the oldest captain in the First Tennessee Volunteers, that he was the smallest in stature (being only five feet six inches tall), that he had the largest company in the regiment, and more men than any other company that were over six feet tall.

War records reveal that William Ledbetter, Jr. enlisted May 10, 1861 at Camp Harris and was assigned as a Captain of Company I, 1st (Fields) Regiment Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A. He was captured near Versailles, Kentucky on December 3, 1864 and escaped while enroute from Louisville, Kentucky to Fort Delaware, Delaware in January, 1865.

He surrendered at Athens, Georgia May 4, 1865, subscribed to the oath of allegiance, and was released at Nashville, Tennessee in June 16, 1865.

#### The Rutherford Rifles

Six weeks after the 1860 election in which Abraham Lincoln was made President of the United States, South Carolina seceded from the Union. Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi followed. On February 4, 1861 the seceded states met in Alabama and selected Jefferson Davis as President of the Confederacy. On April 12, 1861 Brigadier General Pierre Beauregard commanding the harbor batteries at Charleston, South Carolina ordered the batteries to shell Fort Sumter. The fort surrendered and the war was on.

When President Lincoln called for volunteers to put down the rebellion, Virginia, North Carolina, and Arkansas took steps to join the Confederacy. Although many Tennesseans were opposed to secession, the firing on Fort Sumter had made them realize that their best interests might lie with the Southern states, and in April of 1861 resolutions were adopted by the Tennessee Legislature authorizing Governor Isham G. Harris to enter into a military league with the Confederate States. When the call went out in Tennessee for volunteers, 50,000 young men at once answered the call. Among these Tennesseans were 150 young Rutherford Countians who were to become known as the "Rutherford Rifles".

A meeting was called for the Rifles to come on April 23, 1861 to the Rutherford County Courthouse at which time they took steps to organize. They elected William Ledbetter, Jr. as Captain, Hardy Murfree as 1st Lieutenant, R.F. James as 2nd Lieutenant, C.H. King as 3rd Lieutenant, and A. Loeb as Sergeant. At this meeting they voted to call themselves the

"Rutherford Rifles".

The Rifles spent one week in daily drills in and around Murfreesboro, Tennessee. On May 2, 1861 they met at the depot at Murfreesboro to depart for the battlefield. T.J. Wade, one of the members of the company, in an article which appeared in the Murfreesboro Free Press on April 23, 1880 described the scene at the depot as these young men were separated from their loved ones. Wade said, "Devoted sons received the parting kiss from broken-hearted mothers; wayward boys submitted to the last benedictions from indulgent fathers; noble brothers bid a long farewell to tender sisters, and husbands committed their all to God."

The company left Murfreesboro by rail and arrived in Nashville, Tennessee at 11 a.m. They marched to the public square to the music of "Annie Laurie". At the square the company was dispersed to meet at the Commercial Hotel for their first meal away from home. Arriving in Nashville at the same time were young volunteers from Pulaski, Columbia, Franklin, and the Rock City Battalion [sic].

At the tap of drums the Rutherford Rifles reassembled and marched to Sulphur Dell where they became a part of the First Tennessee Volunteers, George Maney commanding. The company then returned to the Davidson County Courthouse where they were assigned quarters and where they spent their first night away from home.

On the evening of May 3, 1861 the Rifles marched to the Fair Grounds in Nashville, Tennessee where they pitched their tents and built their first campfire. On May 7, 1861 the company left Nashville by rail and went to Camp Harris on the Elk River near Allisonia in Franklin County. This camp was named in honor of Governor Isham G. Harris. There the Rifles, joined by the Garman Yagers, remained at Camp Harris for one week, and on May 15, they left by rail and again passing through Nashville they stopped for lunch at the Female Academy grounds. Continuing by rail they reached Camp Cheatham in Robertson County. Here they stayed for several weeks engaging in all types of preparation for warfare. At Camp Cheatham the Rutherford Rifles were brigaded with the 3rd and 11th Tennessee under Gen. Robert Foster. While at Camp Cheatham the company received its regimental flag which was presented to them by a daughter of Ex-Governor Campbell. Also, at Camp Cheatham Dr. Baldwin joined the company and was elected by the Rifles as their chaplain. T.J. Wade in the Free Press on April 23, 1880 had this to say of Baldwin after his election as chaplain, "Dr. Baldwin preached a notable sermon taking his text from Hosea, the 9th chapter and 6th verse."

After many weeks at Camp Cheatham the Rifles once again passed through Nashville by rail on their way to Knoxville where they encamped at Camp Haynes, arriving there on Sunday July 14, 1861. Here they were joined by the 14th Tennessee under Col. Forbes, and after spending about ten days at Camp Haynes, they left by rail for Lynchburg, Virginia. They rested here, and as T.J. Wade said, "They took in the town". Leaving Lynchburg the same day and moving by rail they arrived at Charlottesville, Virginia about the 26th of July. While in Charlottesville, some of the members of the Rifles visited the renowned University of Virginia.

Instead of moving toward Manassas as they had expected, they moved westward to Staunton, Virginia, arriving there on Sunday July 28, 1861. Here some of the members of

the company visited the Insane Asylum.

On July, 29 the Rutherford Rifles moved by rail to Millboro in the Valley of Virginia. At Valley Mountain, Virginia they, along with the 7th and 14th Tennessee Infantry, were formed into Brigadier General Samuel R. Anderson's Brigade of Brigadier General William W. Loring's Division, Army of the Northwest. By now they were no longer moving by rail. T. J. Wade described it in this way, "With knapsacks on their backs and rifles on their shoulders they began their march - a mode of life hitherto unknown to most of them."

Marching under the parching rays of a July sun, they reached Warm Springs, Virginia on July 31, 1861 where they spent the night. It was here that the Rifles suffered their first casualty -- the death of John D. Smith. Leaving Warm Springs on August 1, 1861 they halted at the Jackson River and cast their vote for Isham G. Harris for Governor of Tennessee and W.F. Cooper for Supreme Court Judge. Forging the Jackson River they continued their march and on August 2 reached Huntersville (now in West Virginia near the Greenbrier River). Here they spent a few days waiting for supplies. Then they continued their march toward their objective - Cheat Pass. Here they took part in the abortive Cheat Mountain Campaign in what is now West Virginia. Although this was a minor action, it was Robert E. Lee's first campaign of the Civil War -- a campaign that ended ingloriously.

This march to Cheat Pass proved to be very eventful for the Rifles. While passing through Edray, they buried a noble pair of brothers -- Brown and Battie Smith. When they reached the foot of Valley Mountain, they camped for some time and here another of their comrades died -- Sammy Davis. On the 25th of August they marched to the summit of Valley Mountain where they pitched their tents and sent out scouts. Here, the Rifles were detached and assigned out-post duty. After rejoining their regiment on the 2nd of September they marched farther north to Mingo Flat. Here, the entire regiment remained while preparations were completed for their march against the enemy at Cheat Pass.

Reaching the vicinity of the Pass on September 11, 1861, they made camp and waited for the dawn to begin their attack. The rain fell in torrents, and one of the Rifles, finding the earth too damp for a bed, perched himself on a log with a knapsack over his head and a blanket over that, and there he remained until morning.

Morning came and the regiment was ready for the charge. They waited for the agreed signal -- a gun firing. No signal came. The regiment waited throughout the day, posted behind logs and stumps, on the look-out for the enemy which was encamped about one hundred yards distant. Only one "blue-coat" was seen as he emerged from the bushes, rattling his canteen. At the crack of Bill Beasley's rifle this Federal soldier was wounded and taken prisoner. Since no signal came to attack the enemy, no charge was made and the action was aborted. Thus ended what the Rifles expected to be their first encounter in warfare.

On September 16, 1861, the regiment left the vicinity of the Pass and returned to Valley Mountain. News came of General John Buchanan Floyd's retreat during the West Virginia campaign and the regiment was ordered to march 100 miles to Sewell Mountain to offer assistance. On this march as reported by T. J. Wade the Rutherford Rifles "were enchanted by the most beautiful natural scenery they had ever seen." When they reached Sewell Mountain they found themselves confronting General William S. Rosecrans. The Confederates erected breastworks and encamped behind them until early October at which

time Rosecrans retreated. Finding the roads unfit for travel and the weather bitterly cold, the regiment fell back to the foot of the mountain. It was here that they drew their first two months [sic] pay. Remaining there only a short time they returned to Huntersville. It was now early November, and the Rifles voted for Jefferson Davis for President. They were divided on their votes for Congress. Some of the men voted for Colonel Ready and others voted for Col. Gentry.

Leaving Huntersville in November, they moved to Camp Maney where they were ordered to build winter quarters. However, they did not utilize these quarters since they were ordered to join General Stonewall Jackson on the Potomac. Leaving Camp Maney on December 11, 1861 they marched east for perhaps 200 miles to Winchester, Virginia. Here, they were given winter clothing. On January 1, 1862 they left Winchester marching to Romney. During this march they experienced one of the most difficult of their marches. The weather was extremely cold and bitter. They remained in Romney for several weeks. It was during this time that they lost another of their comrades - Columbus Haynes.

After General Stonewall Jackson's Potomac campaign, the Rifles returned to Winchester where they remained until February of 1862 at which time they were ordered to Corinth, Mississippi. From now on the Rutherford Rifles were to serve in the forces of what later came to be known as the Army of Tennessee. Traveling by rail, the Rifles reached Corinth about March 15, 1862.

During the next two weeks preparations were being made for a trial of strength between General U.S. Grant of the Union Army and General A.S. Johnston. On the 3rd of April 1862, the Rutherford Rifles began their march north arriving in the vicinity of Shiloh on the evening of April 5th. At Shiloh the 1st Tennessee, the 7th Kentucky, the 6th and 9th Tennessee plus a Mississippi battery formed the 2nd Brigade of Major General B. F. Cheatham's Division. Colonel George Maney was assigned to command the brigade, but by order of General A.S. Johnston, Maney's batallion [sic] was detached to the extreme right to guard against a possible attack from that direction.

On the morning of April 6, 1862 the Rutherford Rifles were greeted with rocket fire and the roar of musketry as well as the thunder of artillery. However, these Rifles had been placed on the right flank in reserve and here they remained until about 2:30 that afternoon when Colonel Maney's batallion [sic] joined the main battle. Now, the Rifles found themselves actively engaged in battle, and they lost their first comrade to actual warfare - Andrew Bass. Colonel Maney's brigade led a charge which broke the enemy's lines and caused them to retreat to the river. This action has been described by historians as one of the most brilliant [sic] and decisively successful movements of the 1st days [sic] Battle of Shiloh. On April 7th Colonel Maney led his brigade in a charge which repelled the Federal advance.

The first days [sic] fighting went well for the Confederates, however, General A.S. Johnston was killed during the battle, and on the second day General Grant's counter-attack forced the Confederates to retreat to Corinth. While here the Rutherford Rifles reorganized. William Ledbetter was re-elected Captain; Hardy Murfree, 1st Lieutenant [sic]; G.H. Wilkinson, 2nd Lieutenant [sic]; H.A. Ransom, 3rd Lieutenant [sic], and J. Jarrett, Sergeant. At Corinth the Rifles buried another of their comrades -- Lewis Dickson.

On the night of May 29, the Army of Tennessee marched south to Tupelo, Mississippi where

they remained until July 24, 1862 at which time they moved by rail to Chattanooga. Here the Rutherford Rifles remained until the corps of Generals Leonidas Polk and William Hardee had arrived at which time the army crossed the Tennessee River on flat boats and marched to Sale Creek. They rested here until about September 1, at which time they crossed the Cumberland Mountains and reached Sparta, Tennessee. From there the army moved forward. Forging the Cumberland River near Gainesboro, Tennessee, they reached Glasgow, Kentucky. Here, they rested for several days. About the 15th of September the Army of Tennessee flanked Bowling Green, Kentucky and reached Munsfordsville [sic] about noon. The next day the troops were surprised with the announcement that the Federal forces had withdrawn. Leaving there the Army moved to Perryville, Kentucky where they engaged the enemy in battle.

On October 8, 1862 the constant movement of mounted men told the Rutherford Rifles that a real battle was in the making. The Battle of Perryville proved to be a sad occasion for the Rifles. Many of their company were lost on that field of battle. Around noon, the Rifles were ordered to the right, and passing near a spring, they stopped to refill their canteens. Soon they reached the brow of a hill. To their front Cheatham's Artillery was engaging General James S. Jackson's infantry. During this battle the Union general, Jackson, was killed. The Rifles continued their movement to the right to go to General Daniel S. Donelson's support. Climbing over rock fences, running up hills, the Rifles soon formed a line to the rear of the Confederate General Donelson's troops. It was at this time that the Rifles lost several of their comrades when they clashed with the Union reserves of General Lovell Rousseau. The Rifles lost Sam Ransom, Len Smith, J. T. Jarrett, J. P. Seward, Joe Cates, George Clark, Will Searcy, and M. Boring. Livingston Pierce was wounded and later died. Night brought the battle at Perryville to a close, and under the light of a full moon the Rifles buried their dead. That night the Rutherford Rifles slept on the battlefield. Early the morning of October 9, 1862 they retreated to Bryantsville where they remained until the 12th of October after which they marched through the Cumberland Gap and on to Knoxville. The Army of Tennessee reached Knoxville on October 25, 1862 during a severe snow storm. They were forced to sleep outside during the bitter weather. The next day the Rifles left Knoxville by rail and arrived in Tullahoma, Tennessee where they remained until November 22, 1862. From Tullahoma the Rifles marched home, arriving in Murfreesboro about November 24. They encamped near Stones River. The elation shared by members of the company and their loved ones upon the arrival of the Rutherford Rifles in their home town was indescribable. The Rifles rested near their home town until December 26 when the approach from Nashville, Tennessee of General William Starke Rosecrans and his Union troops forced the Rifles into picket duty near LaVergne, Tennessee. However, as the Federal troops drew near, the Rifles were forced to retreat and were pushed back near Stewart's Creek. They continued their retreat and on the night of December 27 they camped on the Thomas Hord farm near Stones River. The next morning the Rifles rejoined the Confederate forces near Murfreesboro. On December 29, 1862 the Rutherford Rifles took up their assigned position in reserve near Franklin, Tennessee.

On December 31, 1861 the opposing armies of Union and Confederate troops faced each other ready for battle. It was a coincident [sic] that both generals had devised concurrent battle plans – that of attacking the right wing of the enemy. However, General Braxton Bragg began his attack at daybreak, taking the Union troops by surprise. The Rutherford Rifles were ordered to move forward and support General Jones Withers whose troops were forcing stiff resistance near the Wilkinson Pike. It was at this point that two members of the

Rifles fell -- Fred James while attempting to unmask a battery and F. M. Snell upon whose body no wounds were found. The Rutherford Rifles continued to give their assistance as the Confederate troops forced the Union right back towards the Nashville Pike. By noon the Federal line had been forced back until it was in right angles to the original line of battle. However, at this point Rosecrans brought up reinforcements along the Nashville Pike and the Confederate drive began to slow down. Bragg called for Breckinridge to come to the support; however, Breckinridge informed Bragg that he was threatened with attack and could not move his troops. At length the twilight came and then darkness, putting an end to the first days [sic] fighting.

The Confederates felt the day was theirs and General Bragg sent a victory telegram to Jefferson Davis, "God has granted us a happy New Year". On January [sic] 1, 1863 both armies rested, buried their dead, replenished their supplies, and made plans for a second days battle. After suffering the devastating loss at McFadden's Ford on January 2, General Bragg and his Army of Tennessee retreated. The Rutherford Rifles found themselves in winter quarters near Shelbyville, Tennessee. They remained there until April 22, 1863 guarding the army stores and acting provost guard. During their stay at Shelbyville two other members of their company died -- G. B. Wilson and J. H. White.

Leaving Shelbyville about June 1, 1863 the Rifles found themselves near Morgan's Mill near Murfreesboro. In a skirmish here another of their company fell -- Thomas Kinney. On the 25th of June the Rutherford Rifles marched to Tullahoma to rejoin the main force of the Army of Tennessee. Tullahoma had been fortified by the Confederates, but word came of a flanking movement of Rosecran's army which had been in winter quarters at Murfreesboro, and the Rifles along with the rest of the Army of Tennessee began a march to Chattanooga.

The Rifles went into camp south of Chattanooga. There was little activity until September 18 to 20 when the Rifles performed valiant service at the Battle of Chickamauga where the Union troops suffered a devastating defeat. Following this battle the Rutherford Rifles went on an expedition into East Tennessee but returned in time to take part in the Battles of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain.

The Rifles were positioned at the eastern base of Missionary Ridge on the evening of September 21. They awoke the next morning to find Wilders' mounted infantry occupying the crest. The Confederates charged and after taking the ridge they fortified their position. While they were occupying this position, they were visited by Jefferson Davis who inspected the line of battle.

Just prior to the Battle of Lookout Mountain the Rifles were assigned to outpost duty at the eastern base of Lookout Mountain. They were at this time separated from the enemy lines by a 20 yard stream. By mutual agreement both sides agreed to cease firing, and the men of both armies passed the time trading tobacco and newspapers. This truce lasted only a short while since General Grant was preparing to storm the ridge. On the 24th of November, 1863 the Rifles took up position under General William J. Hardee's Corps. The Federals stormed the ridge and the Confederates fled down the other side of the mountain. The next day on November 25, the Confederates were routed at the Battle of Missionary Ridge, and Bragg's Army retreated into Georgia. The Battle of Missionary Ridge proved to be the most destructive of all for the Rifles. They lost five of their company in the Federal assault -- Dock Butler, George Johnson, Thomas Crockett, John Haynes, and Johnny Jones.

December 1, 1863 found the Confederates in Dalton, Georgia. Here they constructed winter quarters and rested from the recent battles. The Rifles spent their time in snow-fights, sham-battles, and restocking supplies. Up to this time the Rifles had been considered Volunteers [sic], but here at Dalton, Georgia they were enlisted for the duration of the war. Some of the members of the company protested this action but they were soon silenced. It was at Dalton, Georgia that news came to the Rifles of the death of Sam Davis. This news grieved the hearts of every member.

In February of 1864 the Rifles, as part of Cheatham's Division, were ordered to Mississippi to reinforce Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk, but after reaching Demopolis, Alabama they were returned to Dalton, Georgia. The Rifles spent the next two months in quietude.

May of 1864 found the Federal Army in motion with General Sherman moving rapidly against the Confederate lines. The Rifles took part in felling trees and setting up fortifications. On the 9th of May the Confederates occupied Rocky Face Ridge and skirmished with Sherman's center. Then the Southern Army retreated south and on May 15th, the Confederates took their position in Adairsville, Georgia. There they formed a line against the Federal forces, and it was here that Lieutenant Ransom met his death and Lieutenant Murfree was so wounded that he became disabled. At New Hope Church on May 26 Maney's Brigade was sent with General Bate's Division to engage the enemy near Dallas, Georgia. This order was counter-manded [sic] and they marched all night in the rain, arriving the next day at Pine Mountain.

By June 27, the Confederates had heavily fortified Kennesaw Mountain. Their position was atop a bold ridge that fell abruptly about 60 yards to their front. They had sharpened to a point logs from trees and had placed these logs in a position projecting over the abrupt drop to their front. The works were well built, and when the Union Army prepared to assault [sic] the ridge they were unable to penetrate the works. The Federals lost about 3,000 men while General Johnston's loss was only 800 men. The wounded Union soldiers lay mangled and dying in front of the breastworks. During the battle some dry leaves caught fire and burned rapidly around the wounded Federals. The Confederates suspended hostilities until the wounded could be removed.

Leaving Kennesaw Mountain on July 2, 1864, the Confederates retreated to Marietta, Georgia. After a few days of rest they crossed the Chattahoochie [sic] River and laid fortifications near Peachtree Creek. Just as they had completed their fortifications, they were ordered to storm the enemy line. The Rifles suffered no losses in this attack.

On July 17, 1864 General John B. Hood assumed the command of the Army of Tennessee. Following his appointment, the Confederates moved nearer Atlanta and began fortifications. The Rifles were assigned picket duty. Near the close of August the regiment to which the Rifles belonged moved to Jonesboro where they attacked the Union troops under General Oliver Howard. At Jonesboro, the Rifles elected T. A. Snell 3rd Lieutenant to replace Lt. Ransom.

On August 31, 1864 Atlanta fell, and the Confederates under General Hood marched to Lovejoy's Station below Jonesboro. Gen. Maney had relinquished command of the regiment to which the Rifles were attached, and Col. Hume R. Field was placed in charge.



As soon as General Hood realized that Atlanta was doomed, he felt the necessity of trying to save the remnant of his army. From Jonesboro he marched to Palmetto, Georgia where Jefferson Davis met him for consultation. Upon Davis' arrival it was the band of the regiment to which the Rifles belonged that serenaded the despondent Confederate President. Following the consultation with Davis the decision was made to march the troops to Tennessee.

The route followed by the Rifles as well as the rest of the army on this march included crossing the Chattahoochee [sic] River, marching northeast and crossing the Coosa River just west of Rome, Georgia. The Army of Tennessee moved on to Dalton, Georgia where General Hood stormed the Union fort there, capturing the U.S. 44th Colored Infantry. The Rifles were assigned the duty of guarding these prisoners for a time. From Dalton the Confederate troops marched to Gadsden, Alabama, arriving there the 23rd of October, 1864. They crossed Sand Mountain and arrived in Decatur, Alabama on the October 28. From there they marched to Tusculumbia, Alabama where they rested for a few days. Then they crossed the Tennessee River on pontoon boats and occupied and fortified Florence, Alabama.

On the 21st of November the Army of Tennessee left their camp at Florence, Alabama and marched into Tennessee. They passed through Waynesboro, Tennessee, making camp as they neared Columbia, Tennessee. Flanking the Union General John McAllister Schofield who had been directed to oppose Hood's invasion of Tennessee, The [sic] Confederate troops crossed Duck River and reached Spring Hill, Tennessee on the evening of November 29, 1864. Here they rested for the night, and during the dark hours they could hear the enemy marching past their camping area. On the morning of November 30, General Hood's army followed Schofield and formed a line just to the front of the Union troops in Franklin, Tennessee. Hood's army made a last grand charge against the Federals, and it was during this charge that the last Rifle to be killed in action met his fate – William L. North, a man whom his comrades had described "as never having an enemy and who was an enemy to no living soul".

After being defeated in the Franklin battle, General Hood pushed forward to Nashville, Tennessee and took up a position on Overton's Hill. There he met the strong arm of General George H. Thomas of the Union army. Hood and his men were forced to retreat. By now Captain William Ledbetter of the Rutherford Rifles had been taken prisoner, and only a handful of the original Rutherford Rifles followed Hood to Tupelo, Mississippi as he retreated.

The army of Tennessee in early 1865 after a tedious journey through Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina joined General Joseph E. Johnston at Bentonville, North Carolina. By now the Army of Tennessee was so decimated that a reorganization and consolidation of troops took place. The Rifles became a part of General Joseph B. Palmer's Brigade. The Army made one last desperate effort when they engaged the enemy at Bentonville.

On April 26, 1865 the Army of Tennessee laid down the arms which they had carried so long in defense of their homeland. With about 38 members of the Rutherford Rifles killed in action, many seriously wounded and in hospitals, some in detached service, some in the

hands of the enemy, and some having died in prison camps, there were actually only eleven members remaining at the time of surrender. They were B. F. Anderson, B. B. Batey, J. M. Beasley, T. J. Beasley, William Beasley, James M. King, Thomas M. King, S. S. Hollowell, Pleasant Rutledge, Lieutenant T. A. Snell, and T. J. Wade. According to T. J. Wade writing in the Free Press, April 23, 1880, the Rifles had marched across nine states, traveled thousands of miles, and crossed the Tennessee River ten times.

From North Carolina the Rutherford Rifles, as prisoners of the Union Army, marched to East Tennessee where being furnished transportation they left for Murfreesboro, Tennessee. They arrived in their hometown on May 2, 1865 on the anniversary of the day when they first left home.

The Murfreesboro Free Press on April 23, 1880 published a list of the members of the Rutherford Rifles and what happened to each of them. The list as compiled by T. M. King, B. B. Batey and T. A. Snell follows:

1. Captain William Ledbetter, elected Captain at organization in 1861; reelected at re-organization in 1862; wounded at Atlanta, at Franklin, and was captured and imprisoned; made his escape and surrendered in 1865.
2. 1st Lieutenant Hardy Murfree; elected 1st Lieutenant at organization in 1861; reelected at re-organization in 1862; wounded and disabled at Adairsville, Ga. May 17, 1864; surrendered in 1865.
3. 2nd Lieutenant R. F. James; elected 2nd Lieutenant at organization in 1861; volunteered after the reorganization in 1862 as staff officer and killed at Battle of Murfreesboro, 1862.
4. 3rd Lieutenant C. H. King; elected 3rd Lieutenant at organization in April 1861; volunteered as a private in same company at reorganization in 1862; wounded at Perryville, Ky.; detailed in 1863 in Signal Corps Service; surrendered in North Carolina in 1865.
5. Ord. Serg't [sic] A. Loeb; elected O.S. at organization in April 1861.

#### Privates

6. Anderson, B. F.; enlisted April 1861; surrendered with command in North Carolina in 1865.
7. Anderson, E. W. enlisted April 1861; appointed Corporal; went to cavalry in 1864; died after surrender.
8. Anderson, J. L. wounded at Adairsville, Ga. 1864.
9. Avent, B. W. enlisted in April 1861; detailed on special duty in medical department.
10. Bass, A. J. enlisted April 1861; killed at Shiloh in 1862.
11. Batey, B. B. enlisted April 1861; appointed O.S. in 1862; wounded at Marietta, Ga. 1864; surrendered with command in North Carolina in 1865.
12. Batey, J. B. enlisted April 1861; captured in 1862 and remained a prisoner.
13. Batey, W. O. went to cavalry in 1863
14. Becton, J. W. enlisted in April 1861; appointed Sergeant, discharged in 1863; captured and died in prison.
15. Beasley, James M. wounded near Marietta, Ga. in 1864; surrendered with command in North Carolina in 1865.
16. Beasley, John enlisted April 1861; appointed Corporal; wounded at Murfreesboro 1862; detailed special duty.
17. Beasley, T. J. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Murfreesboro and disabled; afterwards discharged and died since surrender.
18. Beasley, [missing] enlisted April 1861; wounded at Adairsville, Ga; surrendered with

command in North Carolina in 1865.

19. Beesley, William enlisted April 1861; wounded at Chickamauga, Ga; Adairsville, Ga.; Franklin, Tenn. and surrendered with command in North Carolina in 1865.

20. Blair, A. H. enlisted April 1861; sutler.

21. Blair, J. L. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Perryville, Ky.; captured and remained a prisoner.

22. Beachboard, William died 1863.

23. Baird, John L. enlisted April 1861; appointed Surgeon, transferred to medical department and died during the war.

24. Bock, Adam enlisted April 1861; detached on special duty.

25. Boring, T. M. enlisted April 1861; killed at Perryville, Ky.

26. Brooks, C. C. enlisted April 1861; wounded and disabled at Perryville; Ky. and discharged.

27. Brothers, A. W. transferred from 7th Tennessee 1861; captured 1863 and remained a prisoner.

28. Burrows, T. W. wounded and disabled at Adairsville, Ga.

29. Butler, I. W. enlisted April 1861; mortally wounded and died at Missionary Ridge, Ga. 1863.

30. Carney, L. V. enlisted April 1861; discharged in Virginia 1861.

31. Cates, Joe D. enlisted April 1861; killed at Perryville, Ky.

32. Clark, George W. enlisted April 1861; killed at Perryville, Ky.

33. Clay, D. D. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Perryville, Ky.; lost an arm at Lovejoy, Ga. afterwards discharged.

34. Collier, F. W. enlisted April 1861; captured in 1864 and remained a prisoner; died April 24, 1880.

35. Cooper, T. C. furnished Thomas Kinney as a substitute in 1863.

36. Crass, F. H. enlisted April 1861; detached on special duty.

37. Crichlow, Sam enlisted April 1861; wounded at Chest Mountain 1861; discharged and died since surrender.

38. Crockett, T.O. enlisted April 1861; Killed at Missionary Ridge 1863.

39. Davis, Samuel enlisted April 1861; detailed as a special scout 1863; captured and executed by hanging at Pulaski, Tenn. by the enemy as a spy Nov. 25, 1863.

40. Davis, [missing] enlisted April 1861; died in Virginia 1861.

41. Dickson, L. M. enlisted April 1861; died at Corinth, Miss. 1862.

42. Dudley, R. H. enlisted April 1861; went to cavalry 1864.

43. Drumright, W. B. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Murfreesboro, Tenn. 1862; went to cavalry.

44. Edwards, A. M. enlisted April 1861; went to cavalry.

45. Ewing, Joseph W. detached on special duty.

46. Farris, W. enlisted April 1861; discharged 1861.

47. Featherston, W. E. wounded near Marietta, Ga. captured in 1865 and remained a prisoner.

48. Fletcher, James H. transferred from 8th Tenn.; went to cavalry 1865.

49. Fletcher, James S. enlisted April 1861; appointed Surgeon and transferred to medical department; killed since surrender.

50. Grigg, Joe H. enlisted April 1861; discharged at Corinth 1862. .

51. Hall, Josephus enlisted April 1861; detailed on special duty, taken prisoner; died since surrender.

52. Halliburton, B. F. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Cheat Mountain, Va.; went to cavalry

1864; died since the war.

53. Haynes, C. C. enlisted April 1861; died at Winchester, Va. 1861.

54. Haynes, J. E. W. enlisted April 1861; appointed Corporal; wounded at Perryville, Ky. killed at Missionary Ridge 1863.

55. Hicks, William H. enlisted April 1861; transferred to artillery; died since the surrender.

56. Higdon, J. A. enlisted April 1861; wounded near Marietta, Ga. afterwards detailed on special duty.

57. Henry, J. F. enlisted April 1861; appointed Sergeant; went to cavalry 1864.

58. Hirshberg, Simon enlisted April 1861; appointed Corporal; detailed musician.

59. Hodge, S. H. enlisted April 1861; detached as special scout 1863; captured and kept in prison until the surrender.

60. Howse, L. H. enlisted April 1861; discharged and re-enlisted in 1862; detached as special scout and surrendered in 1865.

61. Holloway, Daniel enlisted April 1861; discharged at Camp Cheatham in 1861.

62. Hollowell, S. S. enlisted April 1861; discharged and re-enlisted in 1862; wounded in Atlanta in 1864 and died since the surrender.

63. James, Allen enlisted April 1861; went to cavalry in 1864.

64. Jackson, J. W. enlisted April 1861; captured in 1863 and remained a prisoner.

65. Jamison, M. C. enlisted April 1861; appointed Sergeant; killed at the Battle of Perryville, Ky.

66. Jarratt, J. T. enlisted in April 1861; appointed O. S. in 1862; died at Perryville, Ky.

67. Jetton, J. W. enlisted April 1861; transferred to General Cleburne's staff; died since the surrender.

68. Jetton, Brevard enlisted April 1861; discharged 1862 and died since the surrender.

69. Jenkins, J. F. enlisted April 1861; transferred to 11th Tennessee Cavalry 1862.

70. Johnson, G. W. enlisted April 1861; appointed Corporal; killed at Missionary Ridge 1863.

71. Jones, Robert G. enlisted April 1861; surrendered with command in North Carolina in 1865; died since the surrender.

72. Jones, John substituted by Pat Lishley 1863; killed at Missionary Ridge 1863.

73. Keeble, James M. enlisted April, 1861; transferred to General George Maney's staff.

74. Kerr, J. M. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Perryville, Ky.; went to cavalry.

75. King, John D. enlisted April 1861; captured at Cheat Mountain 1861; exchanged in 1862 and transferred to medical department.

76. King, J. M. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Chickamauga; surrendered with command in North Carolina in 1865.

77. King, T. M. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Adairsville, Ga. surrendered in North Carolina in 1865.

78. Kinney, Thomas substituted by T.C. Cooper 1863; killed near Morgan's Mill, Rutherford County, Tenn. 1863.

79. Lawrence, J. C. enlisted April 1861; captured in 1864 and remained a prisoner.

80. Ledbetter, N. C. enlisted April 1861; went to cavalry; died since the surrender.

81. Leiper, Sam C. enlisted April 1861; went to cavalry 1864.

82. Leiper, William F. enlisted April 1861; transferred to 4th Tennessee Infantry.

83. Levy, Henry wounded and disabled at Resaca, Ga.

84. Lillard, M. enlisted April 1861; discharged 1862.

85. Love, J. R. enlisted April 1861; furnished a substitute (Pat McMan) [sic] in 1863.

86. Lishley, Pat transferred from artillery 1863; furnished a substitute (John Jones) 1863 and joined 1st Tennessee Band.

87. Loeb, Maurice musician.

88. Mayberry, W. G. enlisted April 1861; discharged in 1862; died since the war.
89. McLean, A. V. enlisted April 1861; went to cavalry 1864.
90. McLean, C. L. enlisted April 1861; went to cavalry 1864.
91. McFarlin, Marion P. detached on special duty; captured in 1863 and remained a prisoner.
92. McMann, Pat substitute for J. R. Love 1863; wounded and died at Chickamauga, Ga.
93. Miller, Charles enlisted April 1861; appointed Sergeant 1862; went to cavalry 1865.
94. Maney, D. D. transferred to commissary department.
95. Mitchell, William enlisted April 1861; transferred to 4th Tennessee Regiment Infantry.
96. Moore, William enlisted April 1861; discharged in Virginia 1861; died since the war. .
97. Morton, James transferred from 8th tenn. [sic] Infantry 1861; captured in 1865; remained a prisoner; died since the war.
98. Mosbey, James C. enlisted April 1861; captured 1863 and remained a prisoner.
99. Murfree, Hal enlisted April 1861; discharged in Virginia in 1862.
100. Murfree, J. B. enlisted April 1861; promoted to Surgeon and transferred to medical department 1861.
101. Neal, Fount E. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Cheat Mountain; appointed Sergeant; killed at Atlanta July 22, 1864.
102. Neal, John enlisted April 1861; discharged 1861.
103. Nance, I. W. enlisted April 1861; went to cavalry 1863.
104. North, J. M. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Missionary Ridge 1863; went to cavalry 1865.
105. North, W. L. enlisted April 1861; killed at Franklin, Tenn. 1864.
106. Oden, Thomas M. captured 1865 and remained a prisoner.
107. Pierce, E. L. enlisted April 1861; wounded and died at Perryville, Ky. 1862.
108. Poindexter, J. R. enlisted April 1861; captured 1863 and remained a prisoner.
109. Phillips, J. L. wounded at Marietta, Ga. 1863; went to cavalry 1865.
110. Pritchett, Ed enlisted April 1861; detailed musician.
111. Ransom, A. R. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Perryville, Ky. and Adairsville, Ga.; discharged; died since the war.
112. Ransom, H. R. enlisted April 1861; elected 3rd Lieutenant 1862 at re-organization; wounded at Perryville, Ky. 1862; wounded and died at Adairsville, Ga. 1864.
113. Ransom, S. H. enlisted April 1861; transferred to quartermaster's department 1861; rejoined the company 1862; killed at Perryville, Ky. 1862.
114. Ransom, William enlisted April 1861; died at Warm Springs, Va. 1861.
115. Rucker, Robert enlisted April 1861; discharged 1861; died since the war.
116. Rutledge, Pleasant; surrendered with command in North Carolina 1865.
117. Searcy, William enlisted April 1861; killed at Perryville, Ky. 1862.
118. Seward, Z. T. enlisted April 1861; killed at Perryville, Ky. 1862.
119. Shelton, W. D. enlisted April 1861; transferred to cavalry in 1863.
120. Sims, E. B. enlisted April 1861; discharged in 1862.
121. Sims, N. H. enlisted April 1861; transferred to cavalry.
122. Smith, John D. enlisted April 1861; died at Warm Springs, Va. 1861.
123. Smith, L. J. enlisted April 1861; captured in 1864 and remained a prisoner.
124. Smith L. H. enlisted April 1861; killed at Perryville, Ky.
125. Smith, J. Battie enlisted April 1861; died at Edray, Va. 1861.
126. Smith W. B. enlisted April 1861; died at Edray, Va. 1861.
127. Smith, John wounded at Chickamauga, Ga. afterwards died in 1863.
128. Snell, J. T. enlisted April 1861; appointed Sergeant in 1862; wounded at Perryville, Ky.

and Franklin, Tenn.; went to cavalry in 1865.

129. Snell, T. A. enlisted April 1861; appointed 2nd Sergeant in 1861; wounded at Murfreesboro, Tenn. in 1862; elected 3rd Lieutenant in 1864, and surrendered with command in North Carolina 1865.

130. Snell, F. M. killed at Murfreesboro, Tenn. 1862.

131. Sudberry, Henry went to artillery in 1864; died since the war.

132. Sublett, D. D. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Shiloh; captured in 1864 and remained a prisoner; committed suicide since surrender.

133. Tucker, E. R. enlisted April 1861; discharged 1861.

134. Tignor, [missing] enlisted April 1861; detached on special duty 1861.

135. Traylor, J. W. enlisted April 1861; died at Tupelo, Miss. 1862.

136. Tucker, J. T. enlisted April 1861; detailed as hospital steward 1862.

137. Turner, E. L. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Perryville, Ky. and LaVergne, Tenn.; went to cavalry 1864.

138. Turner R. J. enlisted April 1861; promoted to Assistant Surgeon and transferred to medical department 1861.

139. Vaughan, E. R. enlisted April 1861; went to cavalry in 1865.

140. Vaughan, J. F. detailed as special scout 1863.

141. Watts, William enlisted April 1861; wounded at Cheat Mountain and discharged.

142. Wade, T. J. enlisted April 1861; wounded at Peachtree Creek, Ga. and Franklin, Tenn.; captured and remained a prisoner.

143. Walter, George enlisted April 1861; detailed as a musician.

144. White, J. H. enlisted April 1861; died at Shelbyville, Tenn. 1863.

145. Wilkinson, W. A. wounded at Marietta, Ga.; wounded and disabled at Franklin, Tenn. 1864.

146. Wilkinson, George H. enlisted April 1861; elected 2nd Lieutenant at re-organization in 1862; wounded and disabled at Atlanta, Ga. July 22, 1864.

147. Wilson, G. B. died at Shelbyville, Tenn. in 1863.

148. Wilson, T.H. discharged 1863.

149. Wheeling, C. enlisted April 1861; captured at Cheat Mountain in 1861; detached on special duty in quartermaster's department.

150. Wright, John enlisted April 1861; transferred to ordinance department 1861.