

They Bore Every Burden

History of the 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment

Army of Tennessee, C.S.A.



August 1995

PREFACE

This is the second edition of the history of the 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment, C.S.A. The first edition was published in November 1991 by the 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment, C.S.A., Incorporated, a non-profit organization, primarily for the use of its members in their living history and reenactment activities. This second edition is being published for the August 12-13, 1995, Reunion of Descendents, held in Athens, Alabama. As with the first edition, it is hoped that publication of this expanded history will inspire those who have additional information to contribute it to the further revision and improvement of future editions to come. We see this as a living document dedicated to preserving the memory of the men of the original regiment. Comments or information can be sent to 107 Chadrick Dr., Madison AL 35758, (205) 461-8267.

Several significant improvements have been made in this edition. Chief among these is the inclusion of some 10 photographs of original members and a listing of the muster rolls of all 10 companies of the regiment. As in the first edition, the bulk of the material herein is taken from the letters of the men themselves and contemporary newspaper accounts. Significant contributors to this edition include Mrs. Jan Batts of Bedford, Texas; Mr. Charles Rice, of Huntsville, Alabama; and the descendents of the original men who graciously shared their knowledge. We also recognize Professor (Private) Sam Campbell and Ms. Mary Ann Allen of Athens State College, Athens, Alabama, for the reproduction and binding of this, and the first, edition. Finally, special thanks goes to Mrs. Jenny Bassham, a member of our reenactment group, of Goodspring, Tennessee, who produced the two beautiful pages of photographs inside.

This history is dedicated to the honor, courage, and determination shown by the men of the original 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment who served their country through four years of war (1861-1865). May their example, and the selfless sacrifices of their wives and families, serve as an inspiration to us today. These men and their families were patriots, who fought, suffered, and bled for what they believed in while enduring hardships far beyond our comprehension. By preserving their memory, we enrich and ennoble our own lives.

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HISTORY OF THE 19TH ALABAMA INFANTRY REGIMENT

1861

Background

Our story begins on January 11th, 1861, when Alabama's State Convention votes 61-39 to secede.¹ Events move rapidly, and by February, Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as the first President of the Confederate States of America and Alexander Stephens the first Vice-President. A Congress is formed and a Constitution is adopted at the capital of the new Confederacy in Montgomery, Ala.

War is imminent, and the South must raise an army to defend itself. Even before Ft. Sumter falls on the 13th of April, Governor Moore of Alabama issues a proclamation shown in Figure 1 calling for 3000 volunteers for the army of the Confederacy. On the 6th of May, a state of war is declared between the United States and the Confederate States by the Confederate Congress, and by the 20th a vote is taken to relocate the capital of the new nation to Richmond, VA. Three days later, the people of Virginia vote to secede.

In response to Governor Moore's request, militia companies all over the state gather and prepare themselves for the coming conflict. Spirits and patriotism are high, and many feel that the war will be quickly done once the gallant Southerners take the field against the Unionists.

At this point it might be instructive to examine the composition of the State of Alabama and its people at the beginning of the war. From the 1860 Census, we learn that the white population was 526,271, colored 439,770, and a total of 964,041.² Focussing on the counties of Cherokee, Blount, Jefferson, and Pickens in which the majority of men who eventually made up the 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment lived, we find that all four of these counties had populations of between 10-25,000. These and a number of other statistics are shown in Table I.³ From these data we can conclude that only 5 percent or less of the populations of Blount, Cherokee, and Jefferson counties owned slaves, while in Pickens county it was less than 15 percent. Certainly it seems the boys of the 19th Ala could have uttered the phrase, "Rich man's war, poor man's fight."

Table I. 1860 Statistics for Blount, Cherokee, Jefferson, and Pickens Counties

COUNTY	POPULATION	BLACK POPULATION	# OF SLAVE-HOLDERS	SLAVES PER SLAVE-HOLDER	AVG. VALUE OF FARM	WHITE ILLITERACY
Blount	10-25,000	< 10 %	100-249	5-7.4	< \$1000	40-50 %
Cherokee	10-25,000	10-30 %	250-499	5-7.4	\$1-2000	20-40 %
Jefferson	10-25,000	10-30 %	250-499	7.5-9.9	< \$1000	20-40 %
Pickens	10-25,000	50-75 %	1000-1499	10-14.9	\$1-2000	10-20 %

PROCLAMATION

Executive Department,

Montgomery, Ala., April 9th, 1861.

To Volunteer Companies of the State of Alabama:

Whereas, The President of the Confederate States of America has made a conditional requisition upon the Governor of the State of Alabama for three thousand volunteers, to consist of infantry, with the exception of two companies of artillery, to be drilled, equipped, and ready for immediate service if required by the Confederacy.

Now, I, A.B. Moore, Governor of Said State, in consideration of the premises, do issue this my proclamation, and make known to volunteer companies throughout the State, that their services will be accepted to the number of said requisition for a period not less than twelve months, unless sooner discharged, on condition that said companies will consent to be transferred to the service of the Confederate States of America. Each Company must consist of not less than sixty-four or more than one hundred privates, eight non-commissioned officers, one Captain and three Lieutenants, must provide itself with a plain service uniform and be prepared to march when ordered without the least delay. All companies who may be willing to tender their services on the condition aforesaid, are requested to give me immediate notice, and hold themselves in readiness to be called into actual service, and in the meantime to drill as often as practicable. I deem it unnecessary to make an appeal to the patriotic citizens of Alabama to induce them to respond promptly to this call.

A.B. MOORE.

P. H. Brittan,

Sec'ry. of State

Figure 1. Governor Moore's Call for Volunteers for the Confederacy

The Nineteenth Regiment of Alabama Volunteers Is formed

From these humble beginnings, fate drew over 1000 men from the counties named to the standard of the 19th Alabama.

CAMPS OF INSTRUCTION. -- Gov. Moore has established two camps of instruction for the three ... [line missing from damaged page] ... stationed, one at Auburn, where twenty companies will be stationed; and the other at Huntsville, where the remaining ten companies will be placed. They will remain at those points, perfecting themselves in drill, until called into active service.⁴

CAMP OF INSTRUCTION AT HUNTSVILLE. -- Two companies of the Regiment ordered by Gov. Moore to rendezvous at this place, for military instruction, before going into active service, arrived yesterday evening by the Eastern train, viz: the Cherokee Guards, Capt. Kirkpatrick, 93 men, and the Cherokee Rangers, Captain Savage, 107 men. They are fine looking corps., and honor the county whence they hail and derive their name. We understand that four more companies from the same gallant county are to rendezvous here.

We are informed that the camp is to be located at the late ADAM HALL's place, about half a mile from town.⁵

The regiment was organized at Huntsville, Ala., August 14th, 1861, with the following Field and Staff Officers:

Colonels - Joseph Wheeler of Georgia, promoted; Samuel K. McSpadden of Cherokee, captured at Resaca.

Lieutenant Colonels - Edward D. Tracy of Madison, promoted to Brigadier General; Samuel K. McSpadden, promoted; George R. Kimbrough of Pickens; Nicholas Davis, Temporary command.

Majors - Samuel K. McSpadden, promoted; George R. Kimbrough, promoted; Solomon Palmer of Blount; James A. Savage.

Adjutants - Clifton Walker of Madison, wounded at Shiloh and transferred to General Tracy's staff; C.G. Hale, wounded at Murfreesborough; William T. Bell.

Others of staff not known.

The regiment was composed of companies from the counties named:

Co. A, "Picken's Rough and Ready's," Pickens. Captain George E. Kimbrough, promoted; Robert J. Healey, killed at Murfreesborough; Dyer C. Hado, wounded at Atlanta.

Co. B, "Blount Continentals" (also called "Continentals" of Blount), Blount. Captain William R. D. McKenzie, killed at Corinth; H. L. Houston, killed at Atlanta; William Trice, wounded at Shiloh and resigned.

Co. C, "Jefferson Warriors," Jefferson. Captain William F. Hanby, wounded at Shiloh; R. H. Haygood; Lieutenant Rouse commanded for some time.

Co. D, "Curry Guards" (also called "Jake Curry Guards"), Cherokee. Captain William P. Hollingsworth, transferred to General Tracy's staff; Edward Thornton, killed at Jonesborough; B.F. Archer.

Co. E, "Cherokee Guards," Cherokee. Captain W. E. Kirkpatrick, resigned; Captain M. M. Israel, wounded at Chickamauga and retired; T. J. Williamson, promoted from Co. H and wounded near Atlanta.

Co. F, "Davis Guards," Cherokee. Captain Rufus B. Rhea, wounded at Chickamauga; H.L. Houston, transferred from Co. B.

Co. G, "Cherokee Mountaineers," Cherokee. Captain Jackson Millsaps, resigned; John M. Barry, retired; James H. Leath, wounded at Atlanta.

Co. H, "Cherokees," Cherokee. Captain Joseph L. Cunningham, transferred to General Tracy's staff; Samuel B. Echols; William B. Trippe.

Co. I, "Cherokee Rangers," Cherokee. Captain James H. Savage.

Co. K, "Blount Guards," Blount. Captain James H. Skinner, resigned; Solomon Palmer, promoted; J.W. Montgomery; Nathan J. Marable, killed at Marietta; James K. Duffie.

CAMP JONES. -- Gen. [Jeremiah] Clemens informs us that, by the direction of Gov. Moore, he has named the Camp of Instruction at this place "CAMP JONES," in honor of the noble Colonel of the 4th Ala. Regiment, EGBERT J. JONES.

The camp is located in the beautiful grove, belonging to the estate of the late Martin Miller. The alternate sunlight and shade, level expanse for parade ground, and convenience to excellent water and supplies, render the location very appropriate. There are eleven companies of the sturdiest, most athletic, civil, well-behaved men, the very bone and sinew of the land. With proper discipline and instruction, they will make one of the finest regiments in the service....⁶ (This camp evidently was located near the present day location of the Von Braun Civic Center in Huntsville.)

Camp Jones August 22, 1861

To Mr. Thomas Anderson

*"Dear Friend I drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and well Satisfied with a camp life. we had a pleasant trip from Gadsden here and we have a Butifull place for our camp. we are close to plenty of good water, and close to a Butifull Town And plenty of fine Ladies who cheer us up as we pop along the Streets with there Smiles and charms, But I expect to Marry in old Cherokee. we are vary well fixed. we have good Tents, and we have plenty to Eat, we have a vary agreeable company, and good officers who treat us kindly: we had Preaching in our camp Sunday Morning and Evening. we are drilling and learn vary fast. we were Mustered in to the Service last Saturday Evening and will draw our arms in a few days. I Saw a Regiment from Misippi last Saturday on there way to Richmond. I do not know how long we will stay here perhaps a good while. the Ladies of Huntsville visit us Every Day and Seem to take a deep interest in our wellfare I remain, yours truly. Robert J. Moore"*⁷

Sept. 5, 1861
Huntsville, Camp Jones, Ala

Mrs. E. W. Treadwell

"Dear Mattie ... This leaves me tolerable well and I hope it will find you and our darling babe well. I was rite sick yesterday. I took my blanket and went out and taken an Eruetic (diuretic?). I believe it done me good as my appetite has returned and I hope by tomorrow I will be all right, though I cannot tell for I may have a chill and fever tomorrow. Mr. Martin Hail arrived here yesterday with five recruits from our Co. - which makes us about 100 men of as good material as Cherokee affords. I understand that Sloan of Rome, Georgia rote Mrs. M- Hail that we were the finest Co. in every respect that had passed through Rome and I understand that the citizens of Huntsville say the same in respect to morrale and everthing else pertaining to conduct, size, uniform -

I believe that General Nicholson is one of our worst boys so far. The very first night he came here he got a company of our boys and went to Huntsville and taken the finest bar room and drinking saloon that is in the place. Taken it with Bowie knives and pistols, so they say, and then marched something like a hundred men in by fours - Make them drink and fall back so as to gave room for others - they got a negro hemmed up behind the bar and made him lite cigars for the Co. - the police of the city were soon present and they had I am told a general row, but as good luck would have it none of them were hurt at all and Lump Davis was also in the crowd and it is a pity for him and our company and those that he is connected with that he was in the frolic. Nicholson lost his watch and it was found in Davis' possession. A Court Martial was held and he proved guilty of the charge. Davis then acknowledged that he was guilty - and he then wore a ball and chain everything about 40 lbs for 4 days and was marched across the encampment once every day and the rogue's march played by all the old drums in the camp following just behind him and was drummed out of the camp this morning - I am sorry I ever new one of his name. ... We have some exciting news at this time from Virginia, it is said that Lee has crossed the Potomac with 40 thousand soldiers to attack Washington City at a weak point and Beuregard has gotten possession of a hill commanding Arlington hights so we may look out for startling hews from that point soon. The yankees have taken 2 forts in North Carolina and several thousand priseners. Yankees had about 5 to one and our ammunition give out so then our boys had to surrender. Marylanders are gathering to the eastern shore by thousands and Misoura is overrun with yankees and they have nothing to fight with but I trust we will soon be able to help them." ⁸

LIEUT. W. E. HILL. -- This gentleman, a member of the graduating class of the Virginia Military Institute, who has been acting, with great efficiency, as drill-master and in several other capacities, at Camp Jones, in this vicinity, has been appointed 2nd Lieut. of Infantry, C.S.A., and ordered to report for duty to the commanding officer at Camp Jones. We are gratified at the promotion of one whose qualifications, patent to an observing public, so well entitle him to it.⁹

The following poem was written by Private (PVT) Joseph B. High of Captain (CPT) Joseph L. Cunningham's Company H while at camp Camp Jones and was printed in the local paper.¹⁰ "Captain JOE" and "Lieutenant JIM" were CPT Cunningham and Lieutenant (LT) James Bradford, respectively. PVT J. B. High enlisted in Co. H at Huntsville on September 12, 1861. High would rise through the ranks to become First Lieutenant (1LT) of the "Cherokees." He was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863.

THE CHEROKEES

Air. -- The Dying Youth.

At home.

The "CHEROKEES" is our name,
We ask for neither wealth nor fame,
But "Freedom" shall our motto be,
And we'll shout "DEATH or LIBERTY!"

Our Captain, JOE, you all well know,
He's not the man that has said "Go!"
But he has said "Come on, Boys!"
We'll go and stop that Yankee noise.

Lieutenant JIM, he's tall and slim,
But we well know he's not a whim,
He'll lead us on to victory;
May I be there that sight to see!

All of the crew I think will do,
Each Cherokee Boy will prove true blue,
They're Cherokee boys, and that's enough,
Each one will say, "lay on, McDuff!"

"Freedom or Death," our song shall be,
 From land to land, from sea to sea,
 And when you hear from us again,
 You'll hear of lots of Yankees slain.

Walk in the ranks, you Cherokee Boys,
 Come, go with us and share our joys;
 A jolly crowd will be with you,
 Then, to the rest, we bid adieu.

 At Huntsville.

At Camp Jones, we in our tents be,
 As fine a crowd as you can see,
 A pretty girl has said as much,
 That, in her life, she's seen none such.

The people of the Huntsville town,
 Shall in the world have great renown;
 They to the soldiers have been kind,
 As any people you can find.

The ladies -- bless their little souls --
 Amongst us take their evening strolls;
 They bring us cakes and pretty flowers,
 To while away the lonesome hours.

The ladies, all, are kind to me,
 But there is one in Cherokee,
 With whom I did so lately part,
 That lies much nearer to my heart.

J. B. High; Capt. Cunningham's Co.

The 19th Alabama Regiment was made part of Brig. General L. P. Walker's brigade, who, by Special Orders No. 157, issued September 19, 1861, was placed in command of a brigade to be composed of the 14th, 17th, 18th, and 19th Alabama Regiments.¹¹

Life and Death in the training camps

THE 19TH ALABAMA REGIMENT. -- This Regiment now at Camp Jones, has its organization nearly completed. Its Colonel, Joseph Wheeler, a graduate of West Point, has arrived. We understand that he is a Georgian by birth, served in the U.S. Army several years, was recently on the staff of Brig. Gen. Wm. H. T. Walker, at Pensacola, and is an accomplished officer. Nich. Davis is Lieut. Col. and S. K. McSpadden, of Cherokee, Major. 1st Lieut. Jno. R. Scurry, Capt. Hollingsworth's Company is appointed Surgeon, and Private B. P. White, Capt. Kirkpatrick's Company, Assistant Surgeon, both of Cherokee county.

Col. Wheeler has taken command at Camp Jones and proceeds, today, to remove the troops to the old Blue Spring Camp Ground, about three miles North of Huntsville -- a better locality for securing proper discipline of the troops than their present proximity to our city.¹² (The Blue Spring area is now (1991) a residential area in Northwest Huntsville. The spring itself was filled in with rocks by the church which now owns the property.)

The Nineteenth Alabama Regiment has moved from Camp Jones to the Blue Spring Camp Ground, three or four miles north of Huntsville, as we intimated last week, and the new camp is designated by Col. WHEELER as CAMP BRADFORD, in compliment to Mrs. JOS. B. BRADFORD, who has been assiduous in her attentions to the sick soldiers. They number, we regret to say, over 100, the diseases being chiefly mumps and measles. Only one, however, has died, Private W. W. ROWE, of Capt. Hanby's Company, from Jefferson.

We understand NICH. DAVIS, Esq., has declined the Lieutenant Colonelcy, with a view of raising another regiment for GEN. WALKER's Brigade.¹³ (Nicholas Davis of Huntsville organized a battalion which later became part of the 26th Alabama Regiment. However, Davis resigned in early 1862 and took no active part in the war.)

*Camp Bradford four miles North of
Huntsville this Oct 1st 1861
Madison County, Ala*

*"Dear Companion and family ... Their is a grate deal of sickness in camps they generally have the measels and mumps their is about 35 of our men in the hospital the Regiment is about half unable for duty ... I want you to tell Mrs. Rowe that I bored seven dollars from William and I will send it to her as soon as I make a draw it is said that we well draw money the last of this month"*¹⁴

"A. Doss to Sarah Doss and children"

CAMP BRADFORD. -- There are now two regiments encamped here, the 14th Ala. Regiment, COL. THOS. J. JUDGE, having arrived during the past week. We regret to say that the mumps and measles still prevail extensively, and the number unfit for duty amounts to 3 or 400. -- Most of these cases, however, are light and many are convalescent. The latter class of patients generally leave the Hospitals and are taken in to

private homes until well enough to return to camp. Several hundred in both regiments are, strange to say, still subject to measles and mumps. there are a few cases of pneumonia and typhoid fever, but none are, we believe, regarded as very bad, and some are getting well. Dr. ANTHONY's treatment must have been distinguished by unusual care and skill, as only one patient has died and he, we understand, refused to follow prescriptions.

In addition to the 14th and 19th Regiments, two fine Limestone [county] companies, Capt. Jas. H. Malone and Capt. Gilbert, the nucleus of another regiment, are under instruction at Camp Bradford.¹⁵ (The companies of Captains Malone and Gilbert went into the 26th Ala. Regiment, later renumbered the 50th. The 26th served with the 19th in Deas' brigade.)

Camp Bradford
Huntsville Ala Oct 15 1861

"Dear wife ... four has died out of this Regiment and a great many sick mostly with measles and mumps" "Amb'rs Doss" ¹⁶

CAMP BRADFORD. -- We regret to learn that three soldiers of this Camp have died in the past week. John Wesley Brooks, of the Pickens Rough and Readies is the only one who has been reported to us. We are glad to hear, however, that the general health of the Camp is improving, and the number reported fit for duty daily increases. Sad to relate, in an affray, yesterday, between two soldiers, (whose names and to what company attached we are not informed) one was killed. Pity that all our soldiers cannot learn forbearance toward each other, as brethren in a common cause, and combine their strength against the common foe!¹⁷

*Camp Bradford
Near Huntsville Ala October 21st 1861*

"Mrs. Sarah Doss Dear Wife and children ... the times is tolerable tight on us the boys or some of them gits somewhat mad at the way we are treated and in fact the Boys has a right to complain at some of the treatment for our company has been imposed on by the head Officer But we in general submit without Ceramony. ... I hope for Better things tho some of our Regt dies nearly every day Tho I think it possible that the sickners will stope in a short time the measles and mumps is passing by us and I hope that the health of the Regt will Improve. ...I have got clothing enough to do me this winter Mr. Landrum Brought a load of Blankets and clothing up from Jefferson the ladies has all furnished us plenty very kindly All praise to the Jefferson Ladys."

"Nothing more but Remains
your looving husband and
father until Death
Ambrose Doss
to Sarah Doss and
children " 18

A typical duty day for the 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment under Colonel Wheeler was as follows: ¹⁹

6 - 7 a.m.	Officers' Drill
8 - 9 a.m.	Regimental Drill
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Officers' Recitation & Lecture in Tactics
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Sergeants' and Corporals' Recitation in Tactics
11:30 a.m - 12:30 p.m.	Company Drill
1 - 3 p.m.	Camp was Policed
4 - 5:20 p.m.	Regimental Drill
Sunset	Dress Parade
Sunset	Mounting of the Guard

ASSAULT ON A FEMALE. -- We regret to state that, on Wednesday, Oct. 23, about dark, while Mr. WM. C. MULLENS and his wife, of this city, were walking from the Railroad Depot to their residence, a private, named C. C. STERLING, in the Company of Continentals, Capt. McKenzie, of Blount

county, made a remark that Mr. and Mrs. M. understood to be addressed to Mrs. M. and intended to insult her. Mr. M. offered to resent the real or supposed insult, when Sterling threw a large stone at him, which missed him and struck Mrs. M. on one arm and side, in the region of the liver, producing a sever contusion of the arm, and so injuring the liver that she continues in a very critical condition. Sterling was taken before Justice WILTON for examination yesterday, but was remanded to jail, to await the result of Mrs. M's injuries. ²⁰

HEALTH OF THE 19TH ALABAMA REGIMENT. -- From an unofficial source, we learn that, on Saturday last, only 74 soldiers of this Regiment were reported on the sick list and unfit for duty; and, also, that the total number of Hospital cases, since the Regiment reached here, is 1900, (an average of nearly two cases to each man,) of which 800 were measles -- and only 10 deaths have occurred. The few fatal cases are rather inconsistent with the carelessness and negligence imputed, in certain quarters, to the surgeons, and other Officers of the Regiment. Facts seem to show both care and skill.²¹

Camp Bradford Near Hunstville Ala this Nov the 8th 1861

"Mrs Sarah Doss

Dear Wife and Children ... We will leave this place in the Morning for Pensacola thair is fifty thousands yankees Scatered Between Mobile and Pensacola fifteen hundred of Which is Cavalry its a large fleet and well prepared With all kinds of Artillery They Will make a Brake SomeWhere thair is Moore fears felt in (regard) to Mobile than any other point down in thair I Would knot Be Astonished is our Regt Will Sit to try thair Skill in the Battle field With the yankees in a little time But if We git into A fight at pensacola it Will Be A Artillery fight of the most of it unless they try to Charge our Baterns or We Are Brought to Charge thair Works Which Would Require Great Collness and Bravery Both of Which I hope We posess I hope if it is Brought to A test you Will hear A good Account of the 19th Regt So be composed I Will Write When I stop yours truly till death" "Ambrose Doss to Sarah Doss"²²

The regiment is ordered to its first duty assignment

The 18th Alabama Regiment, Col. BULLOCK, left here for Mobile on Friday night last, and the 19th, Col. WHEELER, left for the same destination on Monday night. When and where the remaining battalion will move, is not decided yet. The health of the troops has greatly improved. Only forty of the 19th were sick enough to leave behind. How many of the 18th, we have not learned. Some of Col. JUDGE's regiment, the 14th, are still in the hospitals. The prevailing complaints are measles and mumps. By the last Surgeon's report, total sick in the hospitals were 200, of which 132 were convalescent, and 68 still confined -- expected to leave for their commands in a day or two, 120. By the way, a work of philanthropy and patriotism may be performed by sending sweet or buttermilk, and well baked bread, to the hospitals.²³ (The 18th Alabama had arrived about a week previously.)

Camp Moore 11 Miles South of
Mobile on Dog River this Nov the 21st 1861

"Mrs Sarah Doss"

"Dear Wife and Children ... We left Huntsville on the 11th of Nov inst and Landed in Mobile the 16th following Without any ocurance of Any note We lay over in Corrinth in Miss 2 days we left Mobile on the 17th and had a plesant trip down the Bay of 12 Miles and Run up Dog River 3 Miles and Landed We are preparing to go into Winter Quarters at this place But I do knot think We will Stay here all the Winter the orders for us to go to pensacola Was Contramanded Before We Reached Mobile in consaquence of other troops filling our place We are expecting the Northern troops to Atakt (attack) fort Gains and fort Morgan continually We are 25 Miles from the yankees and Still unarmed thair is Some Bad feeling Among the Boys in consaquence of Still Being Without Arms thair is 4 or 5 thousand troops here and here Abouts Mostley unarmed But fort Morgan is A Strong place and Will Be hard for the yankees to git over But if fort Morgan is caried Mobile is Doomed in the presant State of things if the troops that is here were all Well [illegible word] (armed?) We Could keep them

But I hope that they Will Never press that poiint But one thing these is the hottest times that We have had Since the first of our trouble With the North

We have knot Recd A dime yet We Was to have Bin paid off yesterday But it has knot come yet But they Say that We Will Be paid in A day or Two if they Ever pay me anything I Will Send A Barel of Molases to you I Can Set them at 28 cints per Galon ... thair is No use in talking About Coffee for it is one Dollar and 25 cts per pound and We Will Soon have to do Without here for its A article that can Not Be had in the South at presant (tell) all the old Wiman (women) of that country to Bind up thair heads and Sit about making tea

this Country is as hot as Midsummer today and the Country looks Green the cotten Blossoms looks fresh and Blooming and the Snakes is plenty Sliding throught Grass thair has one Man Bin Bit With A Snake Since We have Bin hear We are Situated in a Nice pleasant high looking place and Good Water it is A poor pineywoods Country and tolerable level the Entire Country or the highest part of it is A perfect Sand Bank and I think that this portion of the Country is very healthy thair plenty of fish and oysters here and almost anything you Could Call for in that Line We are knot faring as Well in Regard to provision as We did at Huntsville tho we are Sitting [illegible word] tolerable Well ... the prospect for A Battle is knot as Good as We thought for When We left Huntsville tho We think that it is more then posable that when We Sit arms We Will Sit into it Right ... and Now Dear and Afectionate Wife I must conclude this letter and you may Rest Asured that Nothing But my Being Seperated from you

and my Children that Makes the Service of my Country any Burden to me and if I See you nomore my loves the Same ... Ambross Doss to Mrs Sarah Doss and Childrn " 24

Mobile alas Camp Moore November the 29 1861

"Dear Companion ... we have [illegible word] (not?) as yet drawn my money nor guns I [illegible word] (intend?) to Send you a barrel of Molasses if we could draw any money but they ceep putting us off it looks like they are not going to pay us anything for our Services if you have any chance to Sene (send?) me any little guns [illegible word] I want them if Henry linton coms you can Send them by him or any Boddy else ...

it is a bad chance for me to come home to [illegible word] it is a hard matter to get a furlow it is thought that we will Stay here this winter we have cut Some of our house logs to [four illegible words] into winter quarters [three illegible words] had no cold weather as yet we are twelve Miles South of Mobile close to dog River Rite in the piney woods whare the ground is So pore that it will not make [illegible word] any thing ... A. Doss to Sarah Doss " 25

General Walker reached Pensacola December 1, 1861, and was assigned to General Withers at Mobile.²⁶ The 19th Ala had present for duty on December 2, 1861, 35 officers, 625 men, with an aggregate present of 940.²⁷

*Camp Near Mobile Ala
Decr 9th 1861*

"Dear wife ... Our Company is in Tolable (tolerable) good health at present We are at present working at Our Winter Quarters we will Stay here This Winter if not Longer I dont See any prospect of us leaving here Soon Times are Verry Light here about money we have not drawn any yet nor do we know when we will draw I am Hewing our Timber for Our houses There is at presant 6 Regiments and 4 Companys of Artillery Camped close about here we are in hearing of The Enemy we Can hear The guns There was a Small fight on The Bay the Other day between one gun Boat of the Enemy and Tow of Ours There was about one Hundred guns fired when The Enemy retired it was all in hearing of us To W. R. Henderson if you Should get [illegible] atter (after?) this winter if you cant get 100 per bbl for your Coal Come on to mobile I want all of you to write for I have not Recd any

word from any of you Since I left Huntsville and I would be glad to hear from home Tell Zeak I saw John Smith he is down here and also Tell him not to Volunteer under no Excitement Tell Joel not to volunteer for I am Sertin he could not Stand the Campaign his brotherinlaw Bartey Dayne is here in [illegible] Regt 22nd if he does volunteer at all I Would rather he would Come down and go In our Regt

We have not had any winter here yet But Two Little frosts here They plant Cabage Eovy Time it rains it is as warm here as it Ever is up there in May I do not Know when I will be at home But as Soon as I can get a furlough I will ... Yours Respectfully

A. Doss

P.S.

If you have any chance Send my Bullet Moles (molds?) Love A.D." ²⁸

Camp Near Mobile

December 22nd 1861

"To Mrs Sarah Doss

Dear Wife ... we are Still working on Our Quarters we will be able to Moove in to them In two or 3 weeks the Weather is Still warm we have not had any frost of any Conciquence yet the winter has been verry dry it is raining Some to day We have at last Drawn our Money we drewed it on the 20th of this Inst and I have bought you Some Molasses and Sent Them to Montevallo and also I Send you Some Money By David Hanby He will attend to getting the Molasses to you. When the Money reaches you if you think you will Need any Cane (?) you had better By it as Soon as you Can get it Buy 20 bushels if you think you Need that Mutch and get it as near as possible to you and about Meat Do what you think Best you Can do better than I can Tell you I thought I Would Send you Some Coffee But it was So high that I did not get any it is worth 75 per lb I am in hopes I will be with you all By the 1st of March if nothing hapens ... be Sure to Keep the Rust Out of my Gun if you posibly Can and not Loan it to any Body atall." A. Doss ²⁹

As 1861 ends, the men of the 19th Ala settle into winter quarters. After four months of instruction by Col Wheeler and his staff, they have learned how to drill and act like garrison soldiers. They have suffered from disease and seen some of their friends die without ever having seen a Yankee or fired a shot in anger. They have not yet tasted the fury and horror of battle, but it won't be long now.

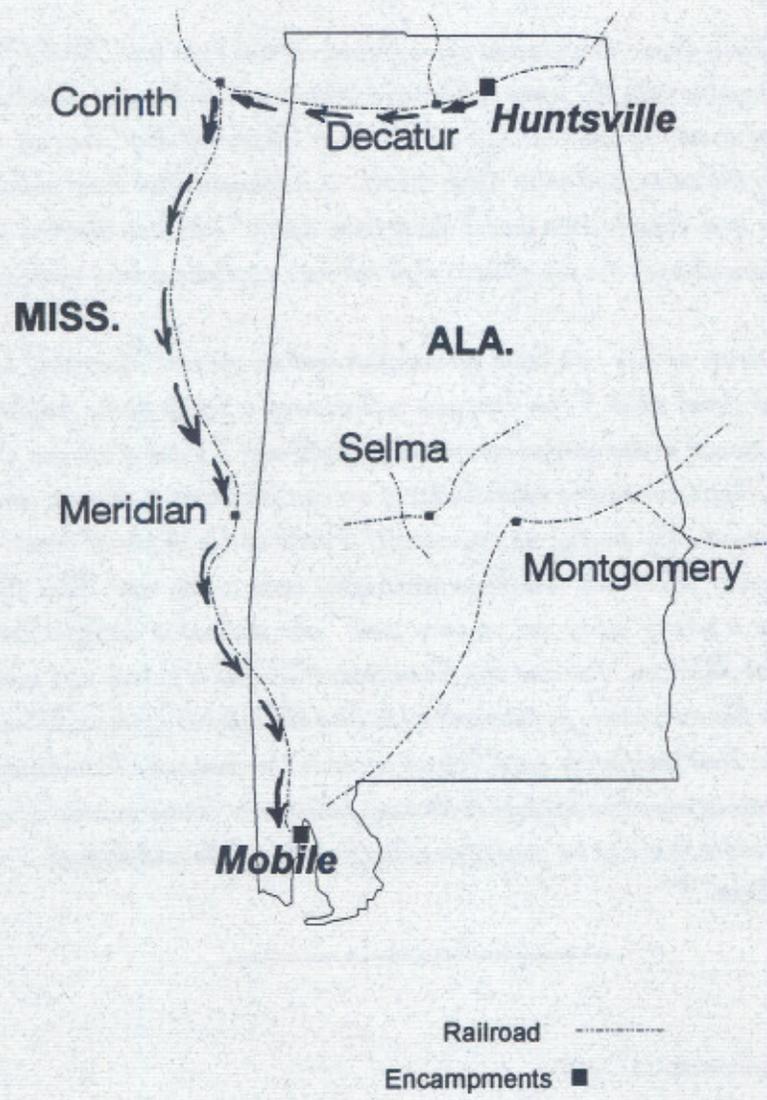


Figure 2. 1861 Movements and Encampments of the 19th Alabama

1862

Head Quarters Jan the 2 1862
Near Mobile
Alabama

Mr W. E. Minter

"Dear Sir ... we have Some Sickness in our company at this time and Buck (?) Hanby is in the hospital a lying very low with the fever ... there is 2 Regiments at this place and one battallion and another Regiment a moving here at this time It is Reported that there is Six Thousand of yankeys landed on the main land near Ship island it is thought that there will be a battle Some where about here in a Shorte time and I think from what I can lern there is Something of the kind (kind) a brewing though the big officers dont tell ours anything a bout what is a going on Turn over

We have got our arms at last we have got muskets and we got one Barrel of Cataridges to the company I think from what I can lern you will here of a battle being fought down here in a Shorte time we moved in our winter quarters last night and I think if we can Stay in them that the health of our Regiment will be muth better if we can Remaim in houses we have a plinty to eat Sicne we came dow(n) her(e) we have kep(t) Poark and a plenty of bread stuff a bout half and half of flour and Meal and Molasses and coffey once a day and Rise (Rice) a plinty as pouissions we have a plenty make out on very well our colonel is ver(y) Strict over his men though he is a grate Military man and our Luieutenant Colonel is a very nise man I donte think that he is as lite on his men acor_ng (according) to his [illegible] as Colonel Wheeler (Wheeler) is I have Studiyed a bout my family until I have come to the concusion (conclusion) to try to get a Sustitute (substitute) in my plase saying (?) that my family dos Stand in need of my assistance I want ya and all to write to me as we cant here often from our folks and friends ...
your friend A Doss "30

Headquarters
Mobile Alabama January 15/ 1862

"Dear Companion ... I have nothing of grate intrist to write only we are at this time a living in our winter quarters our house is 80 feet long & 12 feet wide they are covered with Shingles we have potitions (partitions?) ten feat long and Six men Stays in a rume (room) it is mutch confortabler than living in tents I think the health of our company is prety mutch as it has ben for Some time

... their has ben seven died in this company their has ben five discharged and three more a looking for a discharge Captin Hanby has had very bad luck with his men their is a grateal (great deal?) of Sickness in camps their is a grate many a dying her(e) with the typhoyed fever ... I have ben at worke on extra duty for days I get forth cents extra which the full amount that I draw is \$27 Dollars and fifty cents per month and they hve (have) got worke a plenty to ceep me at worke a month longer their is a grate many Soldiers Stationed close to whare we are their is Seven Regiments and one or two battalions and two companys of artilyery they are all close a nuf to urs (ours) to her (hear) ther drums it is though (thought) that their will be a battle down here but I think it very dubtful for I think the yankeys is a fraid to venture out on land to urs (us) its thought that England will Reccognise us as a full and independant nation and when She dose that the blocade will be bursted up and then I think that we will have pease on our land once more it is Said that England and France has boath acnolledge our independance thauth it is not confirmed as yet it may be flying (lying) reports it is a very hard mater to here the truth in camps I donte no when I will get a chance to come home thogh if I donte before I will try to get a furlow and come home in March it is a bad chance to get off at this time I would like to see you all very muth I Still live in hops that we will havepease on our land in a Shorte time so that we can come home and live in pease and enjoy our Selos as we have hertofore as I now (know) by experience a man with a family donte See mutch pleasure in war whar he it tide down under a master though we have a plenty to eat and our officers is tolerble good to urs (us) A Doss to Sarah Doss and family " 31

General Walker on January 27, 1862, by order of General Bragg, was relieved from duty at Mobile and assigned to the command of troops around Montgomery.³² On February 1, 1862, the 19th Ala is reported as under General Withers at Mobile.³³

Camp in navy yard

Eight Miles South of Pensacola Florida this February the 17th 1862

"Mrs Sarah Doss ... We left Camp Hemminger the 13th inst and reached this place the next day We traveled all Night in the rain on plat form cars We got Very Wet and our Clothing is not dry yet thing(s) got tharably Soaked But we ar(e) doing tolerable Well at present ... I have just Returned from the Battle Ground Where the Shells and Cannon Balls fell hot and thick Around our Boys in November last the Eath (earth) is torn and Dug in holes in Every Direction the Beautiful town of Warenton is Nearly Destroyed By the Shell and Shot of the Enemy the citizens have all left Warenton We Send and com(e) to that place as picket(s) Beside this we have pickets all Along the Beach for Miles up and Down the East Coast We ar(e) camped in two Miles and A half of the yankees and our pickets is But little over A mile

*Apart We See them Everyday We Can hear them talk and fire off thair Samll arms thair is Seven Larg(e) Vesels in Sight this Morning thair Will No doubt Be A powerful Battle fought at this place Some time not (illegible word) distant We ar(e) Well prepared on Both Sides We ar(e) Willing and Waiting for them ... thair is more fleas here than any place that I have Ever Bin at We can not Sleep for them they ar(e) all through the Sand I got a nich of polk Sald (poke salad?) for Diner I have Never Seen as Warm A Winter Before" Ambrose Doss to Sarah Doss "*³⁴

The 19th Ala served at Mobile and Pensacola until February 1862, when it joined the Army at Corinth.³⁵ On March 9, 1862, the 19th Ala was under General A. H. Gladden at Corinth, and was brigaded with the 1st Alabama Battalion and the 25th Alabama Regiment.³⁶

*Advance Camp McNay Conty Tennessee
March 30th 1862*

*"Dear Companion ... I aim to try to come hame the last of may or sooner if I can git off but I dont (know) how it will be if I should live til that time we are a looking for a fight here every day but I dont no when it wil be the yankees is in 8 miles of us we went out on picket gard and they got in 1/4 of a mile of us and we had to git back to camps there was about 3 thousand of them an only 100 hundred of us and since that time we have bin clost enough to them to here there drums a beating ... we have lost another man out of our camps it was James Boyd he died with the neumonia fever Ambres Doss To his wife and family"*³⁷

On April 6-7, 1862, the 19th Ala is found to be in the Army of the Mississippi, in 2nd Corps (General Bragg commanding), 2nd Division (General Withers commanding), 3rd Brigade (Gen J.K. Jackson, commanding).³⁸ Its associate commands were the 17th and 18th Ala Regts, an Alabama Battalion, an Arkansas Battalion, the 2nd Texas, and Girardy's Battery.

The Regiment, "made a brilliant record at the Battle of Shiloh, where it lost 219 killed and wounded".³⁹ In Colonel Wheeler's report of the Battle of Shiloh⁴⁰, he says,

"The Regiment here exhibited an example of cool, heroic courage which would do credit to soldiers of long experience in battle. Subjected as they were to a deadly fire of artillery and a crossfire of infantry, they stood their ground with firmness and delivered their fire rapidly, but with cool deliberation and good effect. ... Too high praise cannot be accredited to the company officers and men for their conduct during the entire engagement. Exposed as they had been for two nights previous, to drenching rains,

without tents and with little covering, they were, of course, somewhat jaded, but at the first sound of the enemy's guns they moved forward with a cheerful alacrity and good order that showed clearly that it was such music as they loved. Under fire almost incessantly the first day, they moved from one position to another as they were ordered, not only with firmness, but with enthusiasm."

"...The list of casualties herewith presented, amounting to 33 1/3 percent of the aggregate strength of the regiment, both officers and men, on the 6th instant, testifies with sufficient eloquence to the patriotic devotion of the Nineteenth Alabama Regiment. One stand of the enemy's colors was taken by the regiment, which has been previously forwarded."

"The gallant and heroic courage of the field and staff - Lieut. Col. E. D. Tracy, Major S. K. McSpadden, and Adjutant Clifton Walker - were conspicuous. Adjutant Walker was wounded on the 6th and retired from the field. Lieutenant Colonel Tracy had his horse shot under him on Monday, and during the entire two days exhibited marked coolness and noble bearing. He, together with Major McSpadden, remained with the regiment from the beginning of the engagement Sunday morning until its termination Monday evening. Lieuts. Solomon Palmer, R. H. Haygood, J. N. Barry, J.E. Nabers, D. C. Hodo, W. H. Anderson, and B. L. Porter, and Sergt. Maj. P. L. Griffitts also remained with the regiment through the entire two days and displayed commendable fortitude and manly courage."

On April 9th, Gen John C. Breckenridge says Col Wheeler with the remnant of his regiment, about 100 men, is with him at Mickey's.⁴¹

Camp near Corinth, Mississippi, April 21st, 1862

"Dear Friend ... We got here last Thursday Evening. it took us several days to get here, we had to come such a way around before we could get here. We got all our things here safe only we got some of our Eggs Broke and we had to change cars in such a hurry at Kingston that we left our Confederate hats in the cars. I never hated anything as bad in all my life, But it is war times and we can't help it, George is well, and likes the camp life tolerable well... Several of our Boys are sick, and we haven't got but a few men that is able for duty, But we are going to move our camp tomorrow, in about one mile of Corinth, where we will have Good Water. I think then that the health of the Regiment will improve. Well Tom Bob is a prisoner, he was detailed to help carry the wounded men of the Battlefields, and him and seven of our Boys were taken, when our Men fell back the Yankees took them prisoners, But our Colonel says that he will get them back again in a short time, the Yankees are willing to Exchange Prisoners, we will get them back. Twenty nine of our Boys was wounded and Nat Burns is supposed to be killed, the Boys says that he fell Badly wounded. I saw the most of our wounded Boys and there wounds looked vary bad, the most of them are gone home on furloughs. Sam McAlister is in the Hospital in Mobile. I

*saw him as we come through, and he is badly wounded, he was shot through the thigh with a Minnie Ball, and he has got the Measels, poor fellow he is in a bad condition But I hope that he will soon get well, there is nine hundred and fifty yankee prisoners in Mobile I went and saw them, and some of them are a rough looking set, they are throwing up Breastworks here and preparing for another Battle But I don't think that the yankees will ever fight us anymore here, I think they are tiard of it. It is said that we lost twenty five hundred men, and the yankees lost twenty thousand. The yankees lost four Generals and we lost tow, General Johnson and General Gladden was killed. There is several thousand men about here, I never saw so many men together in all my life, there has been a great deal of Rain here, and we have a Muddy time, But we enjoy ourselves toleral well, for it is War times. There is so many men camped about here that the camps looks like a large Town of white Houses. Thomas you had better step over some Saturday Evening and see us, and see us cooking a pot of meat and dumplings, and take Supper with us, and we will have a candy pulling, for it is war times out here.... I think that we can whip the yankees out by fall and come home, and have some more parties.... I Remain yours truly, Wm. J. Moore
To Mr. Thomas Anderson" ⁴²*

On April 28th, the 19th is at Corinth under General Frank Gardner, and the brigade consists of the 19th, 22nd, 25th, and 26th Alabama Regiments, the 1st Louisiana Regiment, and Robertson's Battery. ⁴³

On May 10, 1862, Colonel Wheeler, with a part of the 19th and a part of the 22nd Alabama Regiments, near Farmington, Miss., had a skirmish with a small Federal force, driving them from some ground occupied by them, to the annoyance of Withers' advance forces under command of Col Wheeler. No casualties to Confederates. Two of enemy reported killed, several wounded, one captured, and also four horses captured.

*Camp Near Coranth Miss
May the 20th 1862*

"Dear companion ... I am tierd an sore a walking I got to my company yesterday I had to walk all(1) the way here the cars was not runing to decater (Decatur, AL) as we herd the first night I left home ... I found my company very sick and Lutenant Rawse (Rouse) is very sick ther aint more than 30 men able for duty in the company we have lost several men since the battle (Shiloh?) S.J. Brown an Robert Rogers hath dead they died a few days back ther is a great (d)deal of sickness in our army at this time an a heap of soldirs a (illegible word) here there is picket fighting here every day an we are a looking for a clost engagement every day the enemy is not more than 2 mile from us we take some prisiners every day or two an kill some of them and they kill some of our men some times ... we have herd from Demsey Warren Jack Hickinbottom