

1st Battalion Georgia Infantry, US Army

From the early days of the Civil War, there had always been a feeling among Union leaders that a reservoir of Unionist sentiment in parts of the South could be tapped and converted into practical support for the Union cause.

With this idea in mind, on 18 Nov 1863, Major Dewitt C. Howard of the 103rd Ohio Infantry was ordered to form Georgia units for the Union Army. Howard had been born in Georgia, and judging from the streams of refugees he witnessed daily coming into Federal camps in Chattanooga, he was convinced that he could raise an entire brigade. After several months of detached duty however, he failed to enlist more than a handful of men.

The attempt to recruit a Georgia unit for the Federal forces was revived in 1864 by James G. Brown, civilian chief of scouts for Union General George H. Thomas and, on 9 Aug 1864, Brown was ordered by General James B. Steedman to enlist as many men as possible for use in protecting General Sherman's supply Lines in north Georgia. In response, Brown arranged for six companies of north Georgians to gather near their homes on about 1 Jul. They included men brought to Cleveland, Tennessee on 10 Jul by Dr. John A. Ashworth of Dawson County and a Union Home Guard company organized in Pickens County by Federal troops.

By the end of August 1864, James G. Brown had approximately 300 men enlisted but far from the 800 to 1,000 men he needed for a regiment. As a result, the company raised by Ashworth's brother-in-law, Iley T Stewart went to Tennessee, and became Company C of the 5th Tennessee Mounted Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army, on 23 Sep 1864. Another company raised in Fannin County by William A. Twiggs became Company H of the 5th Tennessee on 1 Feb 1865.

Brown organized his remaining four companies as the 1st Georgia State Troops Volunteers, with himself as Colonel, Ashworth as Lieutenant Colonel, and Henry L. Carroll of Union County as acting Major. The men were promised a bounty of \$300.00, army pay, and clothing in exchange for enlisting for three years to serve exclusively as guards for the railroads in Georgia. They were provided food, ammunition, and probably weapons, but apparently were compelled to take horses and mules from pro-Confederate families.

However, Brown's unit was never actually accepted into the U.S. Army, officially since it was established to serve only in Georgia. The decision may also have been influenced by the dubious reputation that the unit gained during its service.

Col. L. Johnston, commanding the largely black garrison at Dalton, later blamed his surrender to General Hood's Confederate Army on 13 Oct 1864, upon the men of Brown's 1st Georgia State Troops. Johnston claimed that they had failed to do their duty as scouts, and that, when Hood's army approached, they fled to the mountains, as they had done upon the approach of Wheeler's Confederate cavalry on 2 Oct.

On 5 Nov, while on a raid to obtain remounts, Lt. Col Ashworth, Capt. McCrary, and nineteen other members of Brown's command were captured by Col. James J. Findley and his 1st Georgia State Cavalry Home Guards at Bucktown in Gilmer County. Three others of Brown's command were wounded and four were killed.

Col. John Azor Kellogg, a union escapee from a Confederate prison in South Carolina, had a more positive experience with Brown's men. A group of the 1st Georgia found Kellogg and his companions in Pickens County and, under Capt. McCrary, escorted them safely to the Union lines. Kellogg would remember these men as "generous, hospitable, brave, and Union men to the core." He described

Appendix 1

1st Battalion GA Infantry (Union)

Muster Roll qv 1860 census and qv previous Confederate service

In the following table:

- The column of numbers under the 1860 census indicates net worth per the census. Numbers in parentheses indicate that the soldier was not the household head in 1860
- The column "Bn" = year of birth. Thus for example William Adams was born in 1828
- I think the abbreviations are self-explanatory but, for the avoidance of doubt, dis = discharged, des = deserted, PoW = Prisoner of War, cap = captured.

Name	Bn	1860	1 st Battn GA Inf (Union)										Previous Confed								
Adams	William	28	-	-	-	-	1	65	1	Pr	B	dis	7	65	-	-	-	-			
Anderson	Jas P	39	Dawson	lab	(4240)	Y	10	64	1	Sgt	A	dis	7	65	Pr	N	38	GA	Des		
Anderson	Reuben	43	Dawson	lab	(4240)	Y	10	64	1	Cor	A	dis	7	65	-	-	-	-			
Andrews	Wiley C	45	Dawson	-	(625)	Y	3	64	-	Sgt	A	dis	7	65	-	-	-	-			
Arnold	Jas A	36	Henry	farm	3000	Y	10	64	3	Cor	B	dis	7	65	Lt	E	30	GA	Des		
Arthur ¹	Felix	36	White	farm	331	N	1	65	-	Pr	B	died	5	65	Lt	D	9	Bn	GA	SG	
Bankston	Andrew	19	Rhea TN	-	-	-	10	64	1	Pr	A	dis	7	65	Pr	-	-	-	TN	Cav	SG
Belcher	Henry C	43	Clayton	-	(2000)	Y	10	64	3	Cor	B	dis	7	65	Pr	I	30	GA	-		
Bevins ²	Saml H	35	Lincoln	lab	-	Y	10	64	3	Pr	B	dis	7	65	Pr	B	30	GA	PoW		
Biddy	Thos F	44	Cass	far	(2500)	Y	10	64	3	Pr	B	des	12	64	-	-	-	-			
Bishop	Jefferson	43	Gr'nville SC	-	(40)	Y	10	64	3	Pr	A	des	12	64	-	-	-	-			
Brown	Geo W	37	Hen'son NC	lab	(2230)	Y	10	64	3	Pr	B	des	11	64	-	-	-	-			
Brown	Wm T	49	Whitfield	-	(100)	Y	1	65	-	Pr	B	des	3	65	-	-	-	-			
Burch	Harrison	47	Marion AR	-	(2600)	Y	10	64	3	Pr	B	dis	7	65	-	-	-	-			
Burlison	Wm W	45	Pickens	f'and	(1500)	Y	10	64	3	Pr	A	dis ³	7	65	Pr	D	23	GA	PoW		
Cannon	Thos H	40	Jeff'son AL	far	275	Y	10	64	3	Sgt	B	dis	7	65	Pr	C	20	AL	PoW		
Cantrill	Peter	46	Gilmer	-	-	Y	10	64	3	Pr	A	dis ⁴	7	65	-	-	-	-	PoW		
Carroll	Henry L	31	Ch'kee NC	mech	450	Y	1	64	-	Lt	B	dis	7	65	-	-	-	-			
Carver	Saml	46	Pickens	-	(100)	Y	10	64	3	Pr	A	dis	7	65	-	-	-	-			
Clark ⁵	Jas R	27	L ⁶	-	-	-	10	64	3	Pr	A	dis	7	65	-	-	-	exempt?			
Chastain	John W	43	Union	farm	(1200)	Y	3	65	3	Pr	A	dis	7	65	-	-	-	-			
Chumbbay	Wm H	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Pr	L ⁷	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Cole	Lundly	22	-	-	-	N	10	64	3	Pr	A	dis	7	65	Pr	G	23	GA	dis		
Conner	Jas H	44	-	-	-	-	10	64	3	Pr	A	dis	7	65	-	-	-	-			
Cook	Thos N	48	Marshall AL	-	(195)	Y	10	64	3	Pr	A	des	1	65	-	-	-	-			

¹ Aka Auther

² Aka Bivins

³ Had deserted Dec 64. Was recaptured and rejoined unit

⁴ PoW unassigned to unit.

⁵ Aka Chark

⁶ Born NC, AL 1870 and pre-war. Possibly Pickens GA 1864

⁷ Probably never mustered. Rejected by surgeon

Appendix 2
State & County of Origin

Appendix 3
Enlistment, discharge and absence

Appendix 4
Age on enlistment and previous confederate service

Appendix 5
Confederate regiments previously served

Appendix 6
Outcome of Union service by rank

Appendix 7
Occupation in 1860 census

Appendix 8
Literacy qv 1860 net worth