

## W. T. White Questionnaire

[stamp: CONFEDERATE May 12 1922]

### Questionnaire

The chief purpose of the following questions is to bring out facts that will be of service in writing a true history of the Old South. Such a history has not yet been written. By answering these questions you will make a valuable contribution to the history of your state.

In case the space following any question is not sufficient for your answer, you may write your answer on a separate piece of paper. But when this is done, be sure to put the number of the question on the paper on which the answer is written, and number the pages of the paper on which you write your answer.

Read all questions before you answer any of them. After answering the questions here given, if you desire to make additional statements, I would be glad for you to add just as much as you desire.

1. State your full name and present post office address W. T. White, Waverly, Tenn.
2. State your age now 90 years old past
3. In what State and county were you born? Humphreys Co. Tenn.
4. In what State and county were you living when you enlisted in the service of the Confederacy, or of the Federal Government? Humphreys Co. Tenn.
5. What was your occupation before the war? Merchandising
6. What was the occupation of your father? Farmer
7. If you owned land or other property at the opening of the war, state what kind of property you owned, and state the value of your property as near as you can \$4000.00 to \$6000.00 stock of merchandise stock owned in common with two others
8. Did you or your parents own slaves? If so, how many? 7 slaves
9. If your parents owned land, state about how many acres 200 acres
10. State as near as you can the value of all the property owned by your parents, including land, when the war opened \$10,000 to \$12,000
11. What kind of a house did your parents occupy? State whether it was a log house or frame house or built of other material, and state the number of rooms Framed house 6 rooms
12. As a boy and young man, state what kind of work you did. If you worked on a farm, state to what extent you plowed, worked with a hoe and did other kinds of similar work.

(Certain historians claim that white men wouldn't do work of this sort before the war.) I did general farm work.

13. State clearly what kind of work your father did, and what the duties of your mother were. State all the kinds of work done in the house as well as you can remember – that is, cooking, spinning, weaving, etc. Father was a farmer and mother did house work or had it done

14. Did your parents keep servants? If so, how many? Yes 6 slaves that was able to work

15. How was honest toil – as plowing, hauling and other sorts of honest work of this class – regarded in your community? Was such work considered respectable and honorable? It was in my day.

16. Did the white men in your community generally engage in such work? They did

17. To what extent were there white men in your community leading lives of idleness and having others do their work for them ? They worked – all worked.

18. Did the men who owned slaves mingle freely with those who did not own slaves, or did slaveholders in any way show by their actions that they felt themselves better than respectable, honorable men who did not own slaves? The [sic] were fre [sic] to mingle with the latter class

19. At the churches, at the schools, at public gatherings in general, did slaveholders and non-slaveholders mingle on a footing of equality? They did

20. Was there a friendly feeling between slaveholders and non-slaveholders in your community, or were they antagonistic to each other? Friendly feeling

21. In a political contest in which one candidate owned slaves and the other did not, did the fact that one candidate owned slaves help him any in winning the contest? Did not

22. Were the opportunities good in your community for a poor young man, honest and industrious, to save up enough to buy a small farm or go in business for himself? Much better than they are now

23. Were poor, honest, industrious young men, who were ambitious to make something of themselves, encouraged or discouraged by slaveholders? They were encouraged

24. What kind of school or schools did you attend? Public school

25. About how long did you go to school altogether? About one year in public school and then 15 months under Col. Robt. G. Ingersoll, aho [sic] taught here at Waverly before war

26. How far was it to the nearest school? About 2 miles

27. What school or schools were in operation in your neighborhood? Mostly public schools

28. Was the school in your community private or public? Public

29. About how many months in the year did it run? about 3 months

30. Did the boys and girls in your community attend school pretty regularly? yes

31. Was the teacher of the school you attended a man or a woman? man

32. In what year and month and at what place did you enlist in the service of the Confederacy or of the Federal Government? Waverly Tenn., April 1861

33. State the name of your regiment, and state the names of as many members of your company as you remember 11th Tenn., Inf. [sic] Cap Joe Pitts, Jas. Pitts 1st, Lieut. W. T. White 2nd Lieut. Billy Bowen 3rd Lieut. G. M. Jones, H.C. Crim, Jno. [sic] Rogers, Frank Beasley, Rube Beasley, Wm. Johnson, Joe Hale, Chas. Hale, Rufus Hale, Jno. [sic] Plant, W. C. Pullen Robt. Sanders, Wm Sanders, Wm. Emry, Geo. Coleman, Thos. Winstead, Jas. Long, Geo. Simpson, Pat Cronan, Tom Porter, Lum Porter, Chas. Porter, Wm. Bullard, Wm. Brown, John Cathey, Sam Cathey, Joe Shelton, Wm. McKelvey, Frank Alexander, Robt. Alexander, Dick Morrisett, Chas. Stewart, Thos. Moss, Harris Wyly, W. B. Foster, B. F. McCollum, Lafayett Priestly, Johnson Bruce, Thos. Bruce, John McGill, John McGee, Jake Young, Joe McCrary, T. B. Traylor, Robt. Cooley, John Choate, Shelt Holland, John Bolton, A. W. Trogden, Dan Oneil, Wm. Smith, W. C. Smith, John Carnell, Pleas Matlock, Wm. Story, Bud Dobbins, Frank Gray, W. T. Fuqua, Geo. Ferguson, Gus Jamison, Walter Smith, Calvin McGill, A. W. Hunt, W. M. Slayden, Geo. Marble, Lindsey Mcllyea, Wm. Corbett, Dr. Dillion Ridings (1st L) Elisha Ridings, Wm. Roy, Dick Marberry, Wm Spencer, Jas. Pullen,

34. After enlistment, where was your company sent first? Nashville, Camp Cheatham for Instruction, Reg composed 3 Nashville Companys [sic], 3 from Dickson Co. 1 Robertson Co. 1 Hickman Co. and 2 Humphreys County Companys [sic] – Waverly Company was given prize for best drilled co. in Regt.

35. How long after your enlistment before your company engaged in battle? About 6 months

36. What was the first battle you engaged in? Rock Castle

37. State in your own way your experience in the war from this time on to the close. State where you went after the first battle – what you did, what other battles you engaged in, how long they lasted, what the results were; state how you lived in camp, how you were clothed, how you slept, what you had to eat, how you were exposed to cold, hunger and disease. If you were in hospital or in prison, state your experience here. Returned to Cumberland Cap, 11th Regt. left to Guard Gap, was in Zollizoffer's Brigade, we guarded gap and done much skirmishing aroud [sic] the gap, made 2nd trip into Ky. but I was sick and left behind, after this trip the regiment was reorganized and I

was elected Captain of Co. I and remained [sic] in that position during the entire war. Missed Fishing Creek, and Franklin and Nashville, was Guard - Cumberland Gap, when former was fought, and detailed home for clothing and supplies when two latter were fought, but in all other battles of war in which battles of war in which regiment participated. Camp life fine in 1861, 62, 63 but very hard and tough [sic] in 1864, and 1865. Winter quarters [sic] each year up to 1864 from then on we took the weather like dumb brutes without any quarters. Under Cheatham and he was never whipped.

38. When and where were you discharged? In Augusta Ga. May 1st, 1865

39. Tell something of your trip home. After my discharge I was persuaded by 75 cripple soldiers to lead a charge on the quartermaster's headquarters for clothing, and had nothing but their crutches to make the charge with but we won and they got the clothing. I got an overcoat. Received transportation to Atlanta, walked from their [sic] Dalton 100 mi. took 10 days for the cripple soldiers to walk it, got transportation by way of Chatt. [sic] home arrived home May 25th, 1865

40. What kind of work did you take up when you came back home? Clerking for Dry Goods firm, then went to McEwen and stay there 14 months and from their [sic] went to Fowler's Landing on Tenn. River

41. Give a sketch of your life since the close of the Civil War, stating what kind of business you have engaged in, where you have lived, your church relations, etc. If you have held any office or offices, state what it was. You may state here any other facts connected with your life, and experience which has not been brought out by the questions? in and Near Waverly, engaged in farming stockraisin [sic] and mercantile business, I was J. P. and Magistrate, Trustee of County 2 years

42. Give full name of your father Whidbea White born at Burtee Co. N.C. in the county of [blank] state of [blank] He lived at He was Magistrtate [sic] for 40 years Give also any particulars concerning him, as official positions, war services, etc., books written by, etc. [blank]

43. Maiden name in full of your mother Polly Cary Yates She was the daughter of Isme Yates [Full Name] and his wife [Full Name] [blank] who lived at North Carolina

44. Remarks on Ancestry. Give here any and all facts possible in reference to your parents, great-grandparents, etc., not included in the foregoing, as where they lived, offices held, Revolutionary or other war service; what country the family came from to America; where first settled, county and state; always giving full names (if possible), and never referring to an ancestor simply as such without giving the name. It is desirable to include every fact possible, and to that end the full and exact record from old Bibles should be appended on separate sheets of this size, thus preserving the facts from loss [note: the following was written on the line for question 44] Answer to 37. If General Johnston had not been removed in front of Atlanta Sherman would never have marched to the sea, and with Wheeler one flank, Forrest on other and Johnston in his rear, they

would have destroyed his army. (On my being detailed into Humphreys Co. as above stated, I was the only man sent east of Tenn. River and the yankees [sic] heard of me and said they were going to capture me but they had as well tried to capture a red fox.

Letter to Attorney Regarding Questionnaire

J. BEN FUQUA ROY CARTER

FUQUA AND CARTER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

WAVERLY, TENN.

May 11th, 1922,. [sic]

Hon. John Trotwood Moore,

Nashville, Tenn.,. [sic]

Dear Sir:

Complying with your request I herewith enclose the blank filled out giving my war service in the Confederate army. I would have mailed it sooner but you will understand that a man 90 years old is not as active as in former years and will excuse the delay I am sure.

I hope this will be sufficient but should you wish any further information from me along the line I will take pleasure in trying to furnish it.

Yours truly,. [sic]

W T White

W. T. White Letter

J. Ben Fuqua          Roy Carter

Fuqua & Carter

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W. T. White (hand written signature)