

Henry Melton Kimsey Document

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hiram [circled, says "should be Henry"] Melton Kimsey, 1st Lt., 17th Tenn. Regt., Army of Tennessee Born: Nov. 19, 1833

Enlisted in Mat 1861 (as 3rd Lt)

Military Action:

Battle of Shiloh, TN (April 6 and 7, 1862)

Battle of Fishing Creek and Perryville, Ky. (Bragg's KY invasion, Fall 1862).

Battle of Murfreesboro, TN. (Dec. 31, '62- Jan 1 '63) wounded by art. shell and captured. Listed on Confederate Role of Honor for heroism (Official Records). POW @ Camp Chase, OH., exchanged as POW from City Point, VA, April '63. Returned to roll of 17th Tenn., Cleburne's Division, Confederate Army of Tenn.

Battle of Chickamauga (Sept. 1863.) Saw heavy action. Again, wounded in action (bullet wound near left ear).

Battles around Petersburg, 1864 and 1865 (served on skirmish line 1864 to 1865). Also leading foraging parties searching for mules and horses for Lee's Army of Northern VA.

Battle of Hatcher's Run (Five Forks) VA (Apr. 2, 1865) on Lee's retreat to Appomattox at end of the War. Wounded in heel by rifle bullet at Hatcher's Run and captured. Registered POW April 9th at Johnson's Island. Released from prison after taking of oath of allegiance to U.S. on June 18, 1865. Listed as 1st Lt. upon discharge. Returned home to Normandy, TN.

Application for Confederate veteran Tenn. pension approved July 31, 1905.

Home: Tullahoma, TN. Living with one son and two daughters.

H.M. Kimsey was the father of six sons and three daughters.

H.M. Kimsey listed his occupation was a "brickmaker" in Tullahoma. He claimed ownership to a house and lot valued for taxing purposes of \$5.40 (but see corrected statement from county tax commissioner). He was 72 at the time of this application.

MEDICAL STATEMENT OF PHYSICAL CONDITION

(at time of 1905 Pension Application and nature of battle wounds)

Report shows:

#1 One bullet wound (minie ball) scar in front of left ear (Battle of Chickamauga?)

#2 One bullet wound (minie ball) scar and swelling near heel on left foot. (Battle of Hatcher's Run, VA, near Five Forks), captured and POW at Johnson's Ill., Ohio, Apr. 9, 1865. Released as POW June 18, 1865. Physical description by prison authorities: "5 ft. 8 in. tall [see footnote below], light hair, fair complexion, age 28. Signature of allegiance to U.S., released from prison to go home (Normandy, TN) on June 18, 1865. End of War.

#3 Shell Fragment wound near hip at Battle of Murfreesboro, TN, Dec. 31, 1862. Captured, POW, sent to Camp Chase, OH. Physical description by prison authorities: 5 ft. 10 in tall, dark hair, blue eyes, sandy complexion. Transferred to Ft. Delaware prison (Apr. 10, 1863). Forwarded to City Point, VA, for exchange as POW on Apr. 29, '63. Returned to 17th TN Regt. near Tullahoma, TN.

NAMED TO "ROLL OF HONOR" for heroic action at Murfreesboro. General Order #130 dated Oct. 3, 1864. (Official Records, Series I, Vol XX, Pt. 1, p. 779).

[footnote: Note difference in physical description of Kimsey by prison authorities in 1865 compared to previous description by a different set of authorities in 1863! Carelessness by authorities, or an "ageing" of Kimsey after two additional years under stress of combat?]

HAND WRITTENNOTE BY H.M. KIMSEY (July 1905):

“Tullahoma, July 1905”

(To) Capt. Wilson (commander of the Confederate Vet. Unit)

“Dear Commander,

Please find enclosed my claim and presence in person to Examination Board. I do this somewhat with reluctance and embarrassment. Still I served (in) this grade and (it) had a lot to do with my engagements from Rock Castle, Barboursville, Beans Station, and Perryville, Ky. (Also) Fishing Creek, Chickamauga, Shiloh, Knoxville, and Druwy's [sic] Bluff, with all the skirmishing and fighting around Petersburg, VA from April '61 to April '64 (65?)

I feel I am justfysble [sic] in asking for a little help. My brake [sic] down a few years ago has gotten me lacking and my wound tells on me so I can not get round. Now a little help will be greatly appreciated.

Please see the Examining Board considers by claim, throw any lite [sic] on my case they may ask (for)—and inform me of any information ques (questions) there desired.

I am Capt [sic], your obed(ient) [sic] Servt [sic] (servant)

H.M. Kimsey (signed)