

CW/VFM-14: Confederate Signatures in Philomathean Society's Library Book

Confederate signatures in "Patent Office Report, 1847." The book was a part of the Philomethian Society Library in Pennsylvania Hall, numbered 4786, and was originally presented to the society by J. M. Mason. Call number: (C.W.) PN511.P7.1845a2.

The book itself was signed by wounded soldiers after the Battle of Gettysburg as they were cared for in Pennsylvania Hall, and was signed by three Confederate soldiers from the 42nd Mississippi: John A Womack, Co. H.; J.B. Blackwell, Co. E.; and John Rogers, Co. H.

Other signatures on the book include "Rogers Jno." on page 421 and "John" on page 422.

HISTORY OF PENN HALL AS HOSPITAL:

"On the late afternoon of July 1, the 11th Corps having given up its line to the north of the campus, the college grounds came within the Confederate lines and so remained until the night of July 3. The students had all left the building...The Confederates immediately took possession of Pennsylvania Hall – "Old Dorm" – for use as a hospital, but they do not appear to have gone into...Linnaean Hall. Into the hospital the Confederates conveyed wounded of both armies. While Union troops were among the number, it seems, from all evidence that the Confederates predominated. Professor A. R. Wentz in his History of the Gettysburg Theological Seminary is author for the following interesting statement: "Over at the College the library showed more effects of the Battle. As the 11th Corps retreated across the campus on the afternoon of the first day, German soldiers under Carl Schurz kept up a running fire against their Confederate pursuers the southern troops were very indignant at 'the Dutchmen' for having shot down so many of their men. As if to express their indignation, they carried their wounded into the library room of the College building, supported the heads of some of them with volumes of old German theologians, whose pages thus were sealed together by the blood that flowed from the hearts of dying heroes." See *Hefelbower's "The History of Gettysburg College, 1832-1932," Chapter 10 by Professor Robert Fortenbaugh, '13. Pg. 209.*

- Hall cleansed and repaired by September 24 for the start of classes

- August 24, President Baugher reported that the US Government paid the school \$625 for rental and hospital purposes of the building. *See CWVFM-7 for correspondence between Captain Blood, Quartermaster, and Pres. Baugher concerning these payments. Val Merlina '14.*

Keywords: Papers – Other; Confederacy – East; Gettysburg – College; Hospitals - Camps

Location: Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives, Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.

See also: [Civil War Sources in Special Collections](#)

Information about the known signers of the book included in CW/VFM14:

- ***John A. Womack***

Copies of muster, prisoner of war, and hospital rolls. Mixed Ms (typed and written) 8pp.

- Summary of Womack's service:
- 14 May 1862, enlists into Company H of the 42nd Mississippi at Grenada, MS for 3 years or the war. Listed as married. Occupation: Farmer. Nearest Post Office: "Water Vallie". 27 yrs of age.
- 3 July 1863. Wounded in right arm and captured at Gettysburg.
- 19 July 1863. Name appears on list for transfer from College Hospital, Gettysburg, to Baltimore.
- 21 July 1863. Admitted to U.S.A. General Hospital in Chester, PA.
- 17 August 1863. Released from hospital
- Date Unknown. Paroled or Exchanged to Camp Lee near Richmond.
- 10 May 1864. Hospitalized overnight for "colic" C.S.A. General Hospital in Charlottesville, VA.
- 2 April 1864. Captured at Hatchers Run.
- 4 April 1864. Taken to City Point, VA.
- 22 June 1865. Released after taking Oath of Allegiance. Place of Residence: Yellowbushy County, MS. Complexion: Florid. Hair: Auburn. Eyes: Grey. Height: 5' 10 ³/₄ "
- 23 June 1865. Transported to Coffeeville, MS.

Form requesting John A. Womack's record of service with H company of the 42nd Mississippi from the National Archives. Form sent in by Dwight A. Huseman, Serial/Documents librarian for the Gettysburg College Library. Dated 3 January 1973. Tms. 2 pp

- **John Rogers**

Form requesting John Rogers' (misspelled at one point 'Royers') record of service with H company of the 42nd Mississippi from the National Archives. Form sent in by Dwight A. Huseman, Serial/Documents librarian for the Gettysburg College Library. Dated 3 January 1973.

Tms. 2 pp

Also, a copy of that record, including copies of muster rolls, prisoner of war rolls, and hospital rolls. Mixed Ms (typed and written) 11pp. CW/VFM 14.

Summary of Rogers' Service

- 8 May 1862—Enlisted for 3 years or war in Coffeerville, MS. He is married, a farmer, 24 years old, and was born in Alabama. Nearest Post Office listed as Coffeerville.
- 10 December 1863—left at Camp Liddell near Richmond for illness.
- July 1863—Wounded in the right side at Gettysburg.
- 25 July 1863—Held in USA General Hospital, West's Building, Baltimore, MD. Sent to the "G.H." on 22 August. Listed as paroled.
- 24 August 1863—At Episcopal Church Hospital in Williamsburg, VA. Transferred to CSA General Hospital at Farmville.
- 28 August 1863—At CSA General Hospital in Farmville, listed as having "vulnus sclopeticum" or bullet wound.
- 11 September 1863—Paroled but retained for treatment in Air Mount, MS in "Yallowbusha County"
- 15 September 1863—Furloughed 20 Days
- Nov. 1863—returned to unit.
- 26 October 1864—At Stuart Hospital in Richmond, VA. Transferred to CSA General in Richmond at Howard's Grove. Listed with vulnus sclopeticum.
- 19 December 1864—At Stuart's hospital
- 24 December 1864—At Howard's Grove. Release 28 January.
- 3 April 1865—Prisoner at Point Lookout, MD. Captured 2 April at Hatcher's Run
- 30 June 1865—Release. Takes Oath of Allegiance. Place of Residence: Carroll County, MS. Complexion: Light. Hair: Dark. Eyes: Grey. Height: 5'9".
- 1 July 1865—Transported to Grenada, MS.

Also included in Roger's records is a form indicating his status at all of the major engagements in which his unit participated.

- 1 July 1863 Gettysburg: Present.
- 2 July 1863 Gettysburg: Blank
- 3 July 1863 Gettysburg: Captured

- 14 July 1863 Falling Water: Absent Captured
- 14 October 1863 Bristoe Station: Absent Captured
- 5 May 1864 Wilderness: Present
- 6 May 1864 Wilderness: Present
- 10 May 1864 "Spottsylvania": Absent Sick
- 12 May 1864 "Spottsylvania": Absent Sick
- 23 May 1864 Hanover Junction: Absent Sick
- 2 June 1864 Cold Harbor: Present
- 3 June 1864 Cold Harbor: Present
- 18 August 1864 Weldon Railroad: Absent Sick
- 19 August 1864 Weldon Railroad: Absent Sick
- 1 October 1864 Fort McCray: Blank
- 1 October Fort Bratton: Absent Sick
- 27 October 1864 Hatcher's Run: Absent Sick

● **Joshua B. Blackwell**

Copies of muster rolls, prisoner of war rolls, and hospital rolls. Mixed Ms (typed and written) 13pp.

Summary of Blackwell's Service.

- 14 May 1862. Enlists at "Booneville (misspelled Boonsville at one point) into Company E of 42nd Mississippi for three years or the war. Is listed as Single. Occupation: Farmer. Nearest Post Office: Jacinto, MS.
- 30 August 1862. Captured at Danville, MS.
- 23 November 1862. Sent from Alton Military Prison Camp to Cairo to be exchanged.
- 3 July 1863. Wounded in the back of left leg from grapeshot and captured at Gettysburg.
- **22 July 1863. Signed Philomethian Library Book**
- 25 July 1863. Admitted to another hospital.
- 25 September 1863. Paroled from the U.S.A. General Hospital in Baltimore to hospital care in C.S.A. General Hospital at Howard's Grove in Richmond.
- 7 October 1863. Furloughed for 40 days. Age listed as 23 yrs. Records indicate he may have overstayed his furlough.
- 28 June 1864. Medical Exam board declares him permanently disabled from the wound received at Gettysburg.
- August 1864. Listed as a stock minder in Kienzi, MS.

[Back to Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts](#)

