

Musicians of the 13th, 154th Tennessee, and the 2nd Tennessee Consolidated Infantry

By Sean D. Smith

Research of the regimental rosters of the 13th and 154th Tennessee shows how many musicians were in each unit. Musicians can be fifers, drummers, buglers, or brass band players.

The 13th Tennessee had 14 effective musicians. One of them came from Company C, his name was, H.W. Richmond. He would have joined with the Session Guards at the beginning of the war. There are two people listed as Chief Musicians. John R. Millen (could be the same as S.R. Millen) and Thomas Firth. Chief Musicians were usually fifers or drummers, but occasionally you may find a bugler. These men would lead the regimental musicians; they would be equal to the rank of Sergeant Major and were paid more than regular musicians. The complete roster is as follows:

Daily, Thomas (also listed as Daley, T.E. and Daly, Thomas E.)

Firth, Thomas- Chief Musician

Gowan, W.F. (also listed as Gowen, W.F.)

Herndon, W.A.

William M. Herndon

(the two above could be one person, but is listed separately because of middle initial)

Hewlett, J.C. (also listed as Hewlit, J.C.)

Leach, Joshua G.

Lipscome, W.C. (possibly also listed as Lipscombe, W.P.)

Lockhart, S.H.

John R. Millen (also possible listed as S.R. Millen)- Chief Musician

Richmond, H.W.

White, R.P. (also listed as Whyte, Robert P.)

Winsett, James E.

Yancey, James E.

The 154th Tennessee has a much higher number of musicians; they total about 19. Some interesting information with this would arise. There is someone listed as bandleader and another listed as drum major. This would mean that the 154th Tennessee possible had a regimental brass band. They have two Chief Musicians also. The roll of musicians in the 154th is as follows:

Bedford, George

Bedford, John F.

Carter, William

Davis, Charles B.

Dillon, James

Doughertry, John

Foley, James

Fowler, William P.
Leslie, John
Lynch, Michael- Chief Musician
Murdock, W.Q.- Drum Major
Nagle, Pierce (listed as a drummer)
O'Brein, Thomas (also listed as O'Bryan, T.)
O'Donnell, James
Puckett, M.R.
Rungnon, F.
Turner, George W. - Chief Musician
Wall, E.R.
Warrington, W.H.- Band leader

The roster of musicians of the 2nd Consolidated Tennessee Infantry is short, containing six musicians, not one of them is listed as a principal musician. And none of the names correspond with that of the two previous regiments, meaning that the musicians were transferred, killed, sick, picked up a rifle, or went home. The roster is as follows:

Adcock, M.V.
Hunt, A.W.
Capps, Hollery
Neblet, R.P.
Moss, T.J.
Fugua, W.

As the war went on you would find less and less fifers and drummers and basically no brass bands. But nonetheless throughout the war the instruments were used on the battlefield to communicate and inspire the troops and raise morale.