

Sgt. John Henry Williams

Sgt. John Henry Williams of Co. B., 15th South Carolina Infantry Regiment, Confederate States of America, was wounded in the arm at the Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) and later in the same arm at Chancellorsville. Because of these injuries he became incapacitated for service in the ranks as a soldier. He was therefore made a courier to serve directly under Colonel Corley. Holding this position it became his duty to post General Lee's Terms of surrender or Order No. 9, at Appomattox for all the soldiers in his regiment to read. After this order was posted for the required length of time. Sgt. Williams asked his commanding officer if he might have it. He wanted it not only for its contents but also because it was signed by General Lee himself.

Since no further use was made of it he was given permission to keep it. It is now one of the most cherished possessions of Sgt. Williams son, Jesse Broadus Williams and his family namely John Franklin Williams, Ellen Eugenia (Jeanne) Williams Knight, Anne Sutton Williams Pierce, Ophelia (Felicie) Williams Adams, Ruth Elizabeth Williams Bailey. The four daughters are members of the Williams Wallace Chapter U. D. C. of Union, South Carolina, where John Henry Williams and Jesse Broadus Williams were born.

Berty Clyde Sutton Williams, wife of Jesse Broadus Williams and the mother of the above children is also a member of the William Wallace Chapter U.D.C.

Captain Milton McWhorter, Sgt. John Henry Williams' superior officer said of Sgt. Williams: "He is a good soldier and always at his post, and will do his duty."

John Henry Williams was wounded in the elbow, of his right arm at the Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) and later, in the same arm at Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863.

A copy of "Orders for duty with Colonel Corley" for John Henry Williams follows:

We certify that we have carefully examined Sgt. J. H. Williams, Co. B 15th S.C. Regt Connors Brigade and find him incapable of performing the duties of a soldier in the ranks because of gunshot wound of the right elbow. We, therefore, recommend that he he (he was written twice in the original order) remain as at present detailed with Lt. Col. Corley, Chf QM. A N Va. (Chief Quartermaster, Army of Northern Virginia.)

T. A. Wingfield

Medical Examining

I. C. Herndon

Board

William de Post

Copy:

New Quarters Army of Northern Virginia
22nd Dec. '64

Pickets & Guards pass Sgt. J. H. Williams Courier for Lieut. Col. Corley Chief Quartermaster, within the lines of the army until further orders.

By order of Genl. R. E. Lee

W. G. Taylor

Act. Gen.