

John William Zellner

From THE CONFEDERATE MILITARY HISTORY

John W. Zellner of Arlington [Tennessee] was a veteran of General A.J. Vaughn's old regiment. He was born in De Soto County Mississippi, December 22, 1843, but from the age of two years was reared in Fayette County Tennessee.

He enlisted in Company H. Thirteenth regiment, Tennessee Infantry, in May 1861, and at the re-organization was transferred to Company E of the same command, and elected Sergeant, the rank in which he served thereafter, on one occasion declining a Lieutenancy. During his service he was in most of the great battles of the Western Army, and was wounded a remarkable number of times. Another curious fact in relation to his wounds will appear in the course of this sketch. At the battle of Belmont the first in this region, he received his first wound, in the left leg, and was in the hospital thirty days as a consequence.

At Shiloh, he fought both days without injury, but on the day after the battle while he was on the skirmish line a ball passed through his left leg sending him again to the hospital at Corinth. But he was able to march into Kentucky next summer with Kirby Smith and at the battle of Richmond, August 30th was a third time wounded in the same leg. The ball this time shattering his thigh bone. He was left in the Academy Hospital at Richmond. When the Army retreated fell into the hands of the enemy, and was cared for with great kindness at the home of W. B. Detheridge, from October 27, 1862 to the next May. Subsequently he was taken to Camp Chase, Ohio and sent for exchange to City Point, Virginia. Returning to Tennessee he was give a sixty days furlough at the expiration of which he joined his command and fought at the battle of Chickamagua and received still another wound in the left leg, which kept him in the hospital at Marietta until Christmas 1864. He went through the Georgia campaign of 1864, and was wounded at Kenesaw Mountain and Atlanta but nevertheless took part in all the battle around Atlanta and Jonesboro.

At Lovejoy's Station he was wounded for the last time after which he was in hospital sixty days at Forsythe, Georgia but recovered in time to join the regiment at Tuscumbia, Alabama and fight at Franklin and Nashville. During his four years service he was home but 28 days that being upon general furloughing of the Army under Hood in February 1865.

Mr. Zellner has been engaged in farming in Shelby County since 1872, and since 1894 has been a resident of Arlington, where he is a member of John C. Carter

Camp and Bivouac. He has been twice married to Willie Ewing Patton in 1866, who died in 1870, and to Jennie A. Cherry in 1870. He has nine children living.