

Josiah Newman Rainey's memories of his service in the Civil War.

JN Rainey was the youngest of three brothers who served in the Milton Blues. This was a company raised in Caswell County, NC. Sometime during or after 1923, "Uncle Joe" wrote some sketchy notes in pencil about his brothers' and his own experience in the war. He also wrote a statement about his great-grandfather's death at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse during the American Revolution. I have seven detached notebook pages in his hand. I have transcribed them here with only a couple of spelling corrections. There may have been more pages that are now lost, or these may have been notes for a more complete account. I do not know of such an account and feel that if it existed it must be lost as both Uncle Joe and Uncle Johnny died without issue and their effects went to my Grandmother, Josephine Smith Rainey Smith, through her mother, Bessie Taylor Rainey, wife of their youngest brother, Nathaniel Thomas Rainey. I have prefaced the transcription with some handy references.

John Douglas Storey, December 12, 2007

The three Rainey brothers who served in the Milton Blues were:

William Wirt Rainey	born: July 6, 1838 died: July 9, 1863	Caswell County, NC Gettysburg, PA
John Parish Rainey	born: August 18, 1842 died: March 14 1903	Caswell County, NC Caswell County, NC
Josiah Newman Rainey	born: September 8, 1847 Died: March 23, 1930	Caswell County, NC Caswell County, NC

A little background on the Milton Blues follows:

from <http://www.13ncmiltonblues.com/history.html> (unfortunately this web site seems to be defunct, *sic transit gloria*)

History

In April of 1861 captain A. M. Scales from Lawsonville succeeded in organizing a crack company of men that were received by the Governor and commissioned as company "H". This company was sent to a camp of "instruction" under the command of W. D. Pender.

At the same time a company known only as the "Milton Blues" enlisted at Milton N. C. (Caswell County) on or about April 24th 1861. (the Milton Blues were a pre-war militia unit located in Caswell County, probably located in Milton N. C.). James T. Mitchell a Mechanic from Caswell County was elected the Captain of the "Milton Blues". The Blues left Milton on April 26, 1861 under orders to proceed to Fort Macon. The Company later moved to Raleigh and then to Garysburg in May of 1861.

In May of 1861 while at Garysburg N. C. ten companies including the "Milton Blues" organized themselves into the Third Regiment North Carolina Volunteers (for 12 months service). The "Milton Blues" were assigned to the regiment as Company "C", nicknamed the "Milton Blues". The regiment constituted about 1050 men, approximately 100 men per company. On May 16th 1861 they elected W. D. Pender, Colonel, W. S. Guy Lieutenant Colonel and D. H. Hamilton, Major.

During the summer of 1861 company "C" of the Third North Carolina Regiment moved between Fort Des Londe and Benn's Church before wintering at Benn's Church in November.

In September of 1861, Colonel Pender resigned his commission of the Third Regiment to join the Sixth N. C. at Manassas. Captain A. M. Scales of Company "H" was given the designation of "Third North Carolina Infantry" to another organization. To avoid further confusion, in November of 1861 the Adjutant & Inspector Generals Office re-designated the original North Carolina "Third Regiment" to the "Thirteenth Regiment" North Carolina troops.

In April of 1862 the Thirteenth Regiment recognized for the war and held an election of officers. In company "C" 1st Lieutenant Leonard Hunt, a Druggist before the war, was elected Captain over James Mitchell. The strength of the Thirteenth Regiment at that time was reported at 575 men.

Company "C" of the Thirteenth N. C. Regiment participated in many battles in 1862. Most notably the Maryland campaign, the Battle of South Mountains and the Battle of Sharpsburg as part of Garland's Brigade, D. H. Hill's Division, Jackson Corps, Army of Northern Virginia (ANV).

By 1863, General Lee had transferred the Thirteenth N. C. Regiment to Pender's Brigade under A. P. Hill's division of the ANV. In June Captain Hunt of Company "C" was appointed a Major in General Pender's staff. 2nd Lieutenant William W. Rainey was promoted to Captain of Company "C", to take his place in time for the Gettysburg campaign. In July Rainey died of wounds received at the battle of Gettysburg, and was replaced by Thomas C. Evans. Evans was a Lawyer before the war.

In 1864 and 1865 Company "C" continued to participate in almost every major battle as part of the ANV, under General Robert E. Lee. What remained of Company "C", two officers and eighteen infantrymen, surrendered and were granted their paroles with General Lee at Appomattox Court House in Northern Virginia.

from <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nccaswel/military/cwar/milton-blues.htm> (this web site was constructed by Martha Spencer who is very active in Caswell County NC genealogy/history)

1st Lt. John P. Rainey One of three brothers in Milton Blues. Farmer, enlisted in Caswell Co. at age 18, 24 Apr 1861. Mustered in as Private. POAF until wounded at Sharpsburg, MD, 17 Sept 1862. Returned to duty prior to 1 Nov 1862 and he was promoted to Corporal on 1 Apr 1863. POAF until wounded in the forearm and captured at Chancellorsville, VA, 3 May 1863.

Hospitalized at Washington DC until transferred to Old Capitol Prison Washington 25 June 1863. Paroled and transferred to City Point VA where he was received 30 Jun 1863 for exchange. Rejoined the company in July-August 1863 and was appointed 1st Lt. 24 Oct 1863. POAF until paroled at Appomattox Ctse Va 9 Apr 1865. Returned to his home at Semora and spent the rest of his life there.

JN Rainey's notes:

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Milton Blues Company, 13 Regiment NC Volunteers, Scales Brigade, Wilcox Division, A.P. Hill's Corps, Army Northern VA

J P Rainey was 1st Lieutenant & received several wounds, one in his wrist & one in head with shot; and was in prison at Chancellorsville. Dr. McAden consented for JN Rainey to go home and put him in an army ambulance & drove over rough frozen army roads to Petersburg Depot. At night after returning to war Lieutenant Williams came to me and told me to go out as picket - I told him I had just recovered from typhoid fever & was very weak. He said he would like to excuse me but he was obliged to put a man there that he could depend on so I

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went and stood till midnight when someone came and relieved me. On marching home everyone fell out by wayside except myself & 4 or 5 others. We marched thru swamp & I could feel the water and mud coming up between my toes. Shoes worn out...

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1864. 13 NC Regiment - Scales Brigade, commanded by Col. Harmon (?). JN Rainey left home to join the army Civil War 30 of May 1864 as a junior reserve from NC. Raleigh on train in Co. E 4th Battalion Junior reserves commanded by TL Lea. Battalion commanded by Waller Clark now Chief Justice 1923. Located at Raleigh, Goldsboro & Weldon. When I reached the age of 18 I was transferred to the regular Army of Northern VA stationed at Petersburg VA.

The following Christmas I was taken down with Typhoid fever and stayed in a field hospital, a little log cabin with a hole cut for door & pine poles with leaves on it for bed, with one blanket. A Lady, Miss Jones of Petersburg, sent a pillow & something to eat. All so near starved another fellow claimed he was Rainey & got the

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food that was meant for me.

Bro. John Rainey telegraphed for father to come for me but I was too sick to move and did not go until Feb & remained on furlough till middle March. On retreat from Petersburg to Appomattox until surrender April 9 1864. Scales Brigade was on line of battle when Lee surrendered. Marched back to a field & went into camp. The Northern Army issued a very small amt of rations. My portion was 2 or 3 spoonfuls sugar which I ate & picked up corn of off ground which

cavalry horses had left. We parched it & lived on it till we got far enough battle line to get something from other people. Walked home via Brooke-neal thru Charlotte Co.

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Crossed Dan at Barksdale & on home at Red House Saturday night 17 May.

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Captain William Wirt Rainey & 1st Lieutenant John P Rainey belonged to Milton Blues with Capt Mitchell in command.

William W. Rainey was wounded at Gettysburg, 3rd day July & died in a few days. Flag man was shot down & W Rainey ran back picked up flag & carried it on & was shot while carrying flag. Was rewarded for his bravery & given a silver mounted pistol by Major Hunt & it was sent home after his death by a man named Bossham (?). Family never received it. Brasham (?) Said some men stole it from him. Major Hunt said he (WW Rainey) was one of the bravest soldiers in war. He was promoted Captain but died before he served in Captain as his promotion came after his mortal wound at Gettysburg.

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Great-Grandfather Robert Durham killed at Guilford Battleground 1777 Revolution war. Was buried at Guilford Battleground. He was detailed to get water from spring & was killed on his way back.