

Sgt. William S. Eakes & Private John S. Eakes
Company B 'Townsville Guards' – 12th N. Carolina Infantry

William Spencer Eakes enlisted as a private in Company B on April 26, 1861 in Granville County, North Carolina. He was promoted to Sergeant on November 7, 1862. William was a regular user of the Confederate hospital system. He was absent sick in August, 1861; on July 7, 1862 he was admitted at Chimborazo #4 with debilities and was furloughed home for 20 days to recover; he was wounded July 1 at Gettysburg and returned to duty September 1; he was wounded again at Cedar Creek on Oct. 19, 1864 with a gunshot wound in the left foot and returned to duty December 28th. There is no further record of William after December 28, 1864.

John S. Eakes enlisted as a private, in the same company as his brother, on April 24, 1864. He joined the regiment and mustered in on April 26, 1864. He is recorded as present on muster rolls of May 1, 1864 and December 31, 1864. John surrendered at Appomattox with 16 other soldiers from Company B of the 12th N. Carolina Infantry on April 9, 1865.

It should be noted that the 12th North Carolina provided 1400 men to the service of the Confederacy. 475 of those men (34%) were killed in battle or died of wounds and disease.

John S. Eakes was born in Granville County, NC in 1845. He was the son of Zachariah and Jane Eakes.

Postwar John married Alice (Allis/Allie) H. Elixson. They had 11 children: Lula, Lidia, Sarah, James, Ottis (?), Bessie, Augustus, John S., Bernard, Allis, and Annie. The census report of 1910 notes that 3 of these children are no longer living.

John farmed his entire life and passed in the years following the 1910 census. He is buried in Granville County, North Carolina.

Tonight we are honored to have Mary Eakes Brewer lighting the candle in memory of her great grandfather John Eakes and her great great uncle William Eakes.

(Micro Copy 270, Roll 208, Compiled Service Records – Confederate, United Daughters of the Confederacy Brewer Library, Richmond, Virginia; Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah microfilm records of U. S. census reports from 1860, 1880, 1900, 1910 & 1920.)