

Lt. James H. Wentworth
Co. D – 5th Florida Infantry

James enlisted, as a private, on April 24, 1862 in Madison, Jefferson County, Florida for a term of 3 years. He was 5' 8", had light hair, grey eyes and a ruddy complexion.

Promoted to 2nd Sergeant on November 16, 1862 and 13 days later he was promoted to 1st Sergeant. Elected 2nd Lieutenant on January 17, 1863. The 5th Florida served in Perry's Brigade, Anderson's Division, of A. P. Hill's 3rd Corp.

Captured at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. Arrived at Ft. Delaware from Baltimore on July 8, 1863. On July 9th he penned, "*We only get 2 meals a day consisting of one slice of dingy bread and a small slice of fresh beef boiled in dirty water . . . The island is about two feet below the surface of the bay around which is a levy thrown up to keep the water off and there is a moat about 30 ft. wide on the inside of the levy in which the men wash their clothes and bodies . . . [the water has] a green scum . . . and innumerable maggots working in it and that is the place they get the water to make our bread and boil our meat. Such filth is enough to kill us all.*"

He is transferred to Johnson's Island, Ohio on 7-18-1863. On July 20, 1863 he boarded the *Island Queen* in Sandusky, Ohio for final transit to Johnson's Island. James will spend 8 months in confinement on the shores of Lake Erie. On September 22nd, after being a resident for two months, he noted that "*this is a much better prison than Fort Delaware. It is a large enclosure of about 16 acres fenced in with plank about 20 feet high, around the top of which is a parapet for the sentinels . . . There is 13 large two story frame houses inside the pen for our quarters and we get tolerable good rations here, but not quite enough of bread . . .*"

He is transferred from Johnson's Island to Point Lookout, Maryland on 3-21-1865 purportedly to be exchanged.

April 28, 1865 received at Fort Delaware. Took the Oath of Allegiance and released on June 12, 1865. Forwarded to General Hospital #18 in Richmond with tonsillitis. Still in Hospital #18 on August 15, 1865.

(Micro Copy 251, Roll 68, Compiled Service Records – Confederate, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. *The Diary of James H. Wentworth, Co. D, 5th Florida, Brewer Library, UDC, Richmond, Virginia.*)