

Private Elijah Thompson Hassell
Co. B – 50th Tennessee Infantry

Elijah was born in Williamson County, Tennessee on May 3, 1840. The 1860 census shows him as a farm laborer. In Elijah's words he worked a 'one horse farm.' He owned 1 horse, 1 cow, 1 calf and a few hogs. He owned no slaves and worked on his father's 175 acre farm.

Elijah is shown in the records as enlisting as a private in the 50th Tennessee Infantry at Fort Donelson on September 19, 1861 for 1 year and on December 12, 1861 for 2 years.

August 1, 1862 Elijah is shown as sick at home on furlough.

Both the February and June, 1863 muster reports note that Elijah has 'never drawn any pay.'

In May, 1863 he was at Port Hudson, Louisiana and recorded, "*While we were at Port Hudson we fared well. The Yanks attacked with gun boats and we set one on fire with hot shot, and she went down. when went from Hudson to Jackson Miss there I went to the hospittle . . . with stone in my bladder and I was sent from there to old Marion Miss and there I staid about four months and past stones from my bladder as rough as cucklbur.*"

July and August, 1863 muster reports show Elijah at the Jackson Hospital in Old Marion, Mississippi.

October, 1863 in the hospital in Macon, Georgia. In November, 1863 he was back in the hospital in Old Marion, Mississippi.

Surrendered at Center, North Carolina in May, 1865. Got home to Greenville in eastern Tennessee on May 22nd. When Co. B surrendered Elijah was the only remaining man of the original 100 who enlisted at Fort Donelson in 1861.

With a borrowed mule, from his father, he farmed 7 acres of potatoes and corn in 1865 and share cropped an acre of tobacco for 50% of the crop sale price. From those monies he was able to rent 10 acres and begin his own farm.

(MicroCopy 268, Roll 320, Compiled Service Records – Confederate, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. Tennessee Veterans Civil War Questionnaire, Easley, S.C., 1985, p. 1040.)