

Private James M. Hudson
Co. B – 1st North Carolina Infantry

James M. Hudson was born in 1834.

James is shown in the 1860 census as a hired laborer on a farm. He is 26 years old, is unmarried, and owns no property real or personal.

In the spring of 1861 he enlisted in Co. B – “The Hornet’s Nest Rifles” in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Company was transferred to Raleigh on April 23, 1861.

James reported sick to the yet unnamed Pettigrew Hospital with pneumonia.

He died on May 11, 1861.

The Hornet Nest Rifles are officially mustered in to the Confederate service on May 13.

A fellow patient, Private Robert H. Bradley, of the 1st North Carolina Infantry, recalled the struggles of James at “*Horse Stall #56*” . . . his nickname for the hospital . . . and the fact that he had “*no mother or sister to bathe his feverish brow.*”

Private Hudson’s death notice in the *Raleigh Register* calls him a “*highly esteemed member of the Hornet’s Nest Rifles of Charlotte.*”

The *Raleigh Register* further noted, “*The remains of the deceased were escorted to the Central depot on Saturday afternoon, when after depositing them on board of the train bound for Charlotte, the company fired a salute in honor of his memory.*”

James is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Charlotte.

Private James M. Hudson was honored in dual ceremonies at Elmwood Cemetery in Charlotte and at Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh on May 11, 2011 by the State of North Carolina and local Camps of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He had perished on May 11, 1861 nine days before a reluctant North Carolina seceded from the Union.

James was North Carolina’s first soldier to perish in the war and he represents the tens of thousands of Confederate soldiers who did not die in battle but instead died of dysentery, typhoid fever, pneumonia, measles, smallpox, typhus, malaria, gangrene and other disease.