

Private Jasper Newton Cowger

Company K – 3rd Arkansas Cavalry

Jasper was born on November 1, 1843 to Ira and Eliza Proctor Cowger. They were living in Mississippi but moved to Dardanelle, Yell County, Arkansas soon after his birth.

Jasper, age 18, enlisted on May 8, 1862 in Yell County, Arkansas for 3 years. Muster rolls dated June & August, 1862 show him present. The October, 1862 report shows him at the General Hospital sick since September 7th.

From May till November of 1862 the unit served dismounted as infantry. They were serving as Williamson's Infantry Battalion under Sterling Price in the Army of Western Tennessee.

The unit was remounted in November, 1862 and the December muster report shows that Simon has been paid from May 8 to June 30. He is owed six months wages. From May, 1863 through August, 1863 they will serve under General N. B. Forrest in the Army of Tennessee. In June, 1863, Jasper is owed monies from 10/31/62. It also noted that he has never been paid his \$50 enlistment bounty. On June 31 he was paid 8 months of pay and the bounty.

From August to December of 1863 the 3rd Arkansas Cavalry will serve under General Joe Wheeler in the Army of Tennessee. In January and February of 1864 Jasper will be serving in Eastern Tennessee with General Martin. In late 1864 and 1865 he will serve under the command of General Wade Hampton.

The command will serve with the Army of Tennessee in 1864-65 (no 1864 records after February) and Jasper will surrender at Camp Chesterville, Chester, South Carolina on May 4, 1865. He is paroled on May 4, 1865 and given a pass home to Dardanelle, Yell County, Arkansas.

Zezealda C. Jones becomes his wife on December 12, 1867. The 1870 census shows them with \$200 worth of farm land and \$350 of personal property. They have a son James who is 1 year old. The 1900 census reports shows his wife's name as Comma Cowger. The children are listed as Mary (29), Thomas (24), Margarette (22), and Sofronia (19). We can guess that James and Mary were borne by Zezealda and that she passed and he remarried before the final three children. The 1920 census noted that he owned his home, could read but could not write.

Jasper died on January 3, 1929 and is buried in Dardanelle, Yell County, Arkansas.

(Compiled Service Record Confederate, Brewer Library, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia, Microcopy 317, Roll 22; Compendium of Confederate Armies – Arkansas, Siskafus, ; Census Reports – Ancestry.com: 1860 – M563-52; 1870 – Roll M593-67; 1900 – Roll 66, p7A; 1920 – Roll T625-86.)