

**Private Joseph P. Hoover**  
**Co. D – 45<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry**

The 1860 census shows Joseph as a farm laborer working on his father's farm. He has no slaves, land or personal property. He enlisted as a private on November 8, 1862 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

He is shown AWOL at the December muster and shown under arrest on the February, 1863 muster. The June 30, 1863 muster shows him present and paid \$46 for March, April, May & June. Pay for a private was \$11 per month.

Captured November, 25, 1863 by the Union forces of General Thomas at the Battle of Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Sent to a temporary Union POW Camp in Louisville, Kentucky. On December 8<sup>th</sup> forwarded to Rock Island Prison in Rock Island, Illinois. Rock Island will be his home for the next 18 months.

In January he caught the smallpox and reported, "*treated very well . . . I were appointed nurse for a while . . . taken the small pocks . . . sent out to the pest hospital stayed about a month with some where about one million or more cooties chasing each other up and down my spine and now an then stop to dig into the small pock sores . . . it was awful.*"

In May he wrote, "*got back to prison pen in May . . . I could get plenty to eat at that time coffee loaf bread hominy molasses potatoes rice vinegar pickle beef pickle pork pickle mule . . . orders came to cut rations . . . they cut them off then to 8 oz. of bread and 2 oz. of green beef that you could throw 25 feet against a wall and it would stick. No coffee no potatoes no hominy . . . nothing . . . only bread and beef or mules.*"

The Oath of Allegiance was taken on March 18, 1865. Released from Rock Island on March 24, 1865 and began his journey home to Murfreesboro, Tennessee. At release he is shown on the prison records as 5' 11 ½", 21 years of age, dark hair and black eyes.

In closing Joseph penned, "*while in prison we ate dog rats mice and anything but a blue coat . . . arrived home 7<sup>th</sup> April 1865 . . . found my poor old Father in prison at Murfreesboro held as a hostage for some carpetbaggers . . . he was released 17<sup>th</sup> April . . . I get mad everytime I think of these things.*"

**(MicroCopy 268, Roll 303, Compiled Service Records – Confederate, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. Toalson, Jeff. *No Soap, No Pay, Diarrhea, Dysentery & Desertion*, 2006, Lincoln, p.24, 104 & 374.)**