

A Boy Soldier

During the fall of 1860 this scribe was too young to participate in politics, but during the excitement he attended a torch-light procession at Jalapa. The state seceded in December, 1860, and on the 5th of January, 1861, the

teered that day. I saw men step to the front that day who never were seen in the army. After that time it was drill, drill, with the company until the 13th of April, on which day the company was called upon to go to Charleston, but when we



W. G. Peterson, in his uniform as he entered the Confederate service as a boy of sixteen at the first call for troops. He is now the veteran rural carrier on Route No. 1 from Newberry and has served the patrons of this route faithfully for years.

militia regiments were called upon to meet at their "muster grounds," and a call was made for volunteers. Our battalion met at Jalapa, and Capt. S. N. Davidson's company was organized. This company became Company B of the Third S. C. V. This scribe, although a kid, volun-

reached Columbia Fort Sumter had fallen and we were kept in Columbia. I was told time and again that on account of my age and size I would not be allowed to stay with the company, but I was determined to stay with them, and finally the captain

agreed to let me stay.

We were first put in warehouses near where the Jefferson hotel now stands, and fed on baker's bread and boiled ham.

In a few days we were carried to "Fair grounds." Here it was drill and guard duty. We were then ordered to Lightwood Knot Springs, seven miles from Columbia, on the Charlotte road.

Before leaving Columbia some of the boys got in town without permission and quite a number of them got in the guard house and a court martial was ordered to try them, but Col. James H. Williams reached the camp from Arkansas and the cases were dropped. After remaining for some time at this camp our regiment was transferred to the Confederate service. We were then given a few days at our homes and then we assembled and were carried to Richmond, Va.

At Richmond Col. James H. Williams appointed this scribe his orderly, but after spending one day at regimental headquarters I deserted my post and returned to my company and got Capt. Davidson to get Col. Williams to excuse me.

From Richmond we were carried to Manassas and marched from that place to Fairfax Court House, where we relieved Col. Gregg's six months troops and from this on we were where the fighting was usually the heaviest.

W. G. P.

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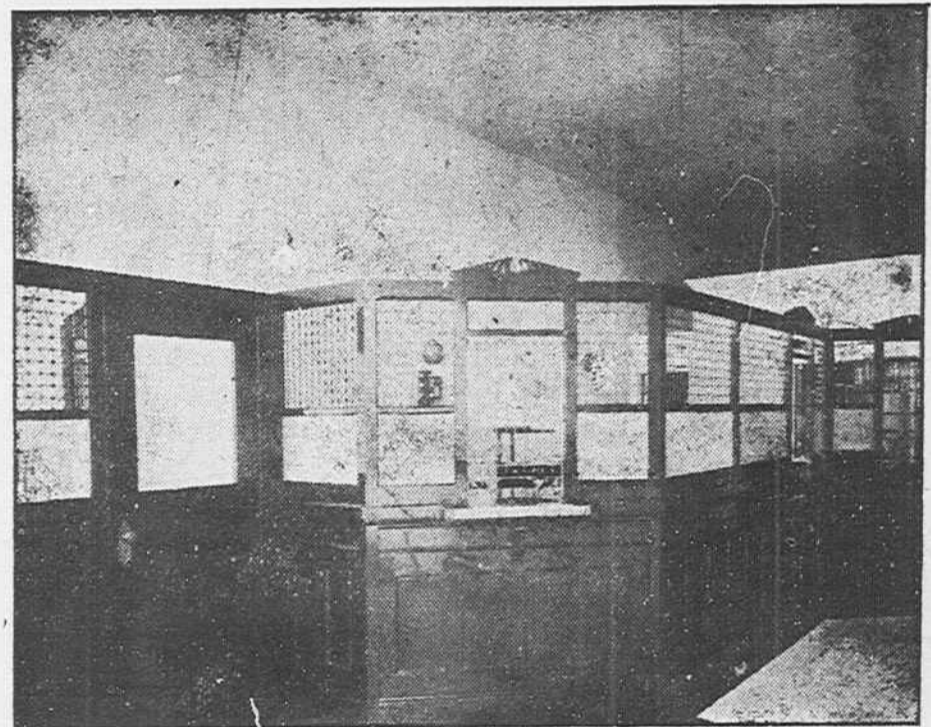
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