

ELY, Robert N. Maj., QM

The National Archives files for Officers contain sixty-six documents for Robert N. Ely; eighty-eight documents are filed in the State of Georgia, 6th Georgia Infantry, under the name Robt. N. Eley. At first glance the endorsement on the discovery note looks illegible, but taken in context with the extreme variability and basic style of the signature by Robert N. Ely it is a good match. The endorsement is difficult, but reads "R N Ely QM, May 1st 1863." Ely did not use a rank, although at this time he was a commissioned Captain.

Robert N. Ely enlisted as a Private in Company E of the 4th Georgia Infantry. He was transferred and appointed Capt. & AQM on May 21st, 1861, reporting to the 6th Georgia Regiment. He accepted the appointment on June 14th, 1861 and it was confirmed on December 24th of that year. Ely was promoted to Maj. & QM on November 11th, 1862. The 6th Regiment Georgia Infantry fought at the battles of Fredericksburg, Sharpsburg (Antietam), Chancellorsville, and later at Battery Wagner, Charleston, South Carolina, and the Battle of Olustee near Ocean Pond, Florida. A short history of the 6th Georgia Infantry may be found at:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6th_Georgia_Volunteer_Infantry

On June 5th, 1861, at Richmond, Virginia, Ely received 15,000 musket cartridges and fifteen muskets from J. H. Sawyer, MSK. Ely received \$32,000.00 from Capt. B. Bloomfield for pay and clothing of the regiment on July 16th, 1861, at Yorktown, Virginia; Benjamin Bloomfield appeared as a supplier to Ely on many documents in this time

frame. Requisitions, vouchers, and other documents located Ely at Yorktown, Virginia, from June 22nd, 1861 to May 1st, 1862. These documents were approved by the unit commander, Col. A. H. Colquitt, who would later become the Governor of Georgia.

A Special Requisition for clothing and ammunition located Ely in Richmond, Virginia, on May 30th, 1862, and "near Richmond" on August 13th, 1862. August and September requisitions for forage for "2 private horses" were signed "on the march." A voucher for clothing was signed by Ely at Shepherdstown, (West) Virginia, on September 14th, 1862. On September 17th Colquitt's Brigade would fight under Gen'l D. H. Hill in Stonewall Jackson's Second Corps at Sharpsburg. See the Wikipedia description of the battle and the battle maps for the locations of Colquitt's Brigade.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Antietam

Ely was appointed Maj. & QM on November 12th, 1862, reporting to Gen'l A. H. Colquitt; Ely accepted the promotion on December 19th, 1862, and it was confirmed on April 30th, 1863. A requisition for forage located Ely "near Paris, Virginia," on November 30th, 1862; he signed this requisition as "Capt. Act. QM" as he had not yet accepted his promotion to Major. His term "Act(ing) QM" at this time may have been a consequence of the Conscription Act and the reorganization of the State units into the Provisional Army Confederate States. Just a day later, December 1st, Ely signed a forage requisition "near Guinea's Station, Va," as "Maj. QM."

On January 17th, 1863, "in camp," Ely received \$1,680.00 in pay for the period from September 30th, 1861 to September 30th, 1862. Records in 1863 are sparse, and in early 1864 Ely made mention of an absence from his command. On



Snead_Watts
118392 Z
18 Dec 1862
images: Smith

January 31st, 1863, at an unnamed location, Ely turned over a significant quantity of stores to Capt. Geo. A. Hill. A receipt for \$2,000.00 in Quartermaster funds on October 27th, 1863, at Charleston, South Carolina, suggests that Ely had resumed his activity by this time.

On January 22nd, 1864, Ely wrote in clear script and prose to the auditor at Richmond from the QM Office of Colquitt's Brigade at James Island, South Carolina:

"Sir, I am in receipt of yours from the fifteenth instant informing me that my acts for Disbursement at Yorktown Va for 1861 & 1862 having been adjusted by the accounting officer of the Treasury are found to result in a balance due from me to the Confederate States \$1170.00. Absence from my command has prevented earlier attention to this communication.

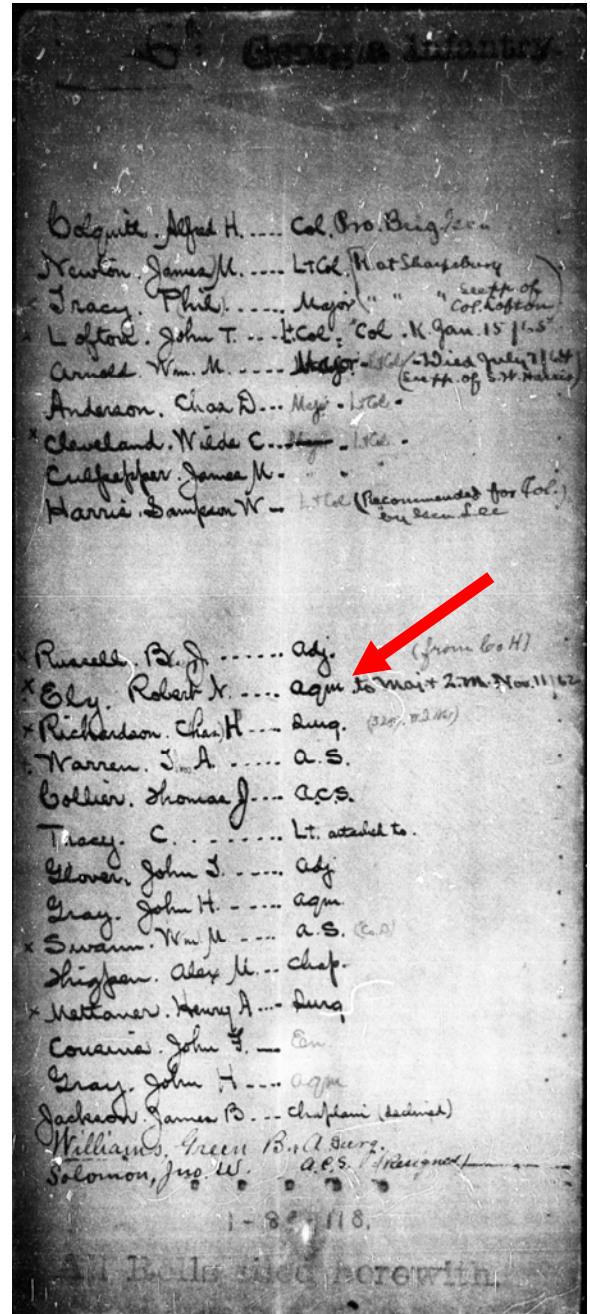
"May I trouble you to furnish me with the items of the indebtedness. What disbursements are disallowed? How should there be such a difference between my statement & yours? Please give me all the information necessary so that I can examine every voucher."

A receipt dated June 1st, 1864, listing one pound of white lead and a marking brush located Ely at Richmond, Virginia.

On August 4th, 1864, at Petersburg, Virginia, Ely wrote A. R. Lawton, QM General, stating that the discrepancies alluded to in the previous letter were the result of not carrying forward losses at Yorktown. He included a certificate from Gen'l Colquitt to this effect. Two other letters to Lawton on this issue were also dated in early August at Petersburg. A voucher for telegram expenses located Ely at Tallahassee, Florida, on August 17th, 1864.

Ely appeared on a list of Quartermasters dated March 5th, 1865, on duty with the Army of Northern Virginia as the Brigade Quartermaster for Colquitt's Brigade. The Wikipedia link states that the remnants of the 6th Georgia Infantry surrendered at Greensboro, North Carolina, on April 26th, 1865. Maj. Ely appeared on a list of those paroled on May 1st, 1865. No parole document was found.

McNeil



Unit card for the 6th Georgia Infantry with an annotation for Robert N. Ely, AQM.
image: Fold3.com

Received, at Charleston, State of South Carolina, this 27th day
of October 1861 of Major HUTSON LEE, Chief Quartermaster, So. Ca., Ga. & Fla.,
Five Thousands Dollars,
being the amount of my estimate of Quartermaster Funds
at James Island, S. C. Regiment of
for which I am responsible to the Confederate States of America.

(SIGNED DUPLICATES.)

James
 Evans & Cogswell, Printers

R. N. Ely
 May 2nd 1864
 Colquitt's Brigade

Prepared by msh, Examined by pub.

ELY, ROBERT N., Capt., A.Q.M., & Major, Q.M.

6TH GA. REGIMENT.

- ✓ May 21, 1861. Appointed from Ga. as Capt., A.Q.M., to report to 6th Ga. Regt.; accepted June 14, 1861. (Report A. O.)
- ✓ June 5, 1861. Capt., A. Q. M., 6th Ga. Vols., ordered to Yorktown and report for duty. (S.O. 64 (5) A. & I.G.O.)

COLQUITT'S BRIGADE, A. N. VA.

- ✓ Nov. 12, 1862. Appointed Major, Q. M., to rank Nov. 11, 1862; to report to Gen. A. H. Colquitt. (Report A. O.)

COLQUITT'S BRIGADE, DEPTS S. C., GA. & FLA. ~~N.C.~~ S. Va.

- ✓ Sept. 30, 1863, to Aug., 1864. All records show him as Major, Q.M., Colquitt's Brigade, Dept. S.C., Ga. & Fla.
- ✓ Sept. 10 1864. Major & Q.M., reports under G.O. #71. (Report A. O.)
- ✓ Sept. 20, 1864. Major, Q.M., reassigned to duty as Brigade Q.M., Colquitt's Brigade. (S.O. 223 (4) A. & I.G.O.)
- ✓ April 26, 1865. Paroled as Major, Q.M., Colquitt's Brigade, Hoke's Div., Hardee's Corps. (N.C. Parole List.)

(Aug 8, + Sept 25, 1864. Signs from Petersburg, Va. (Report A.O.))

Robert N. Ely's
signatures from the
National Archives.

4

The earliest known
example, signed on
June 22nd, 1861, at
Yorktown, Virginia,
as "Capt & Asst Qr
Master, 6 Regiment
Ga Vol."

Robert N. Ely, Capt &
Asst Qr Master
6 Regiment Ga Vol.

Signed on January
1st, 1862, at
Yorktown, Virginia,
as "Capt & AQM, 6
Ga Regt."

Robert N. Ely, Capt & AQM
6 Ga Regt.

Signed on
September 14th,
1862, at
Shepherdstown,
(West) Virginia, as
"Capt & AQM," just
prior to the Battle of
Sharpsburg,
Maryland, on the
17th.

Robert N. Ely
Capt & AQM

Signed on
November 30th,
1862, near Paris,
Virginia, as "Capt
Act QM, Colquitts
Brigade."

Robert N. Ely, Capt Act QM
Colquitts Brigade

Signed on
December 1st, 1862,
at Guinea's Station,
Virginia, as "Maj QM
Colquitts Brigade."

Robert N. Ely, Maj QM
Colquitts Brigade

Signed on October
27th, 1863, at
Charleston, South
Carolina, as "Maj
QM, Colquitts
Brigade."

Robert N. Ely, Maj QM
Colquitts Brigade

Signed on August
17th, 1864, at
Tallahassie, Florida,
as "Maj QM."

C. S. Army, _____
pnt. Robert N. Ely, Maj QM



images: Fold3.com