

WILSON, James A. Capt., AQM

The National Archives files for Officers contain ten documents for Jas. A. Wilson. Although Wilson is mentioned with the 14th Regiment Arkansas Infantry, a thorough search of Arkansas records produced no further documents. The Treasury note endorsement reads "Issued by Capt J A Wilson ACS, Mch 1st 1862."

Wilson signed a voucher dated November 5th, 1861, for ordnance stores from Lt. M. M. Kimmel, ordnance officer at Fayetteville, Arkansas, and signed the voucher as "Jas. A. Wilson, AQM, 14th Regmt Ark Vol." On May 5th, 1862, at Corinth, Mississippi, Wilson signed a voucher for ordnance stores received from W. H. McMain, MSK. There are two signatures by Wilson on this document, and while both are very similar in style, they use different forms of the letter "A" in his middle initial. This document also mentioned the "14th Ark Regt," but it is not clear which of the two regiments with this title is meant. McCarver's 14th Arkansas Regiment was indeed in Corinth on May 4th, 1862:

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/14th_Arkansas_Infantry_Regiment_\(McCarver's\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/14th_Arkansas_Infantry_Regiment_(McCarver's))

and Powers' 14th Arkansas Regiment was also in Corinth at this time, but most of this regiment melted away during a reorganization there in late May:

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/14th_Arkansas_Infantry_Regiment_\(Powers'\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/14th_Arkansas_Infantry_Regiment_(Powers'))

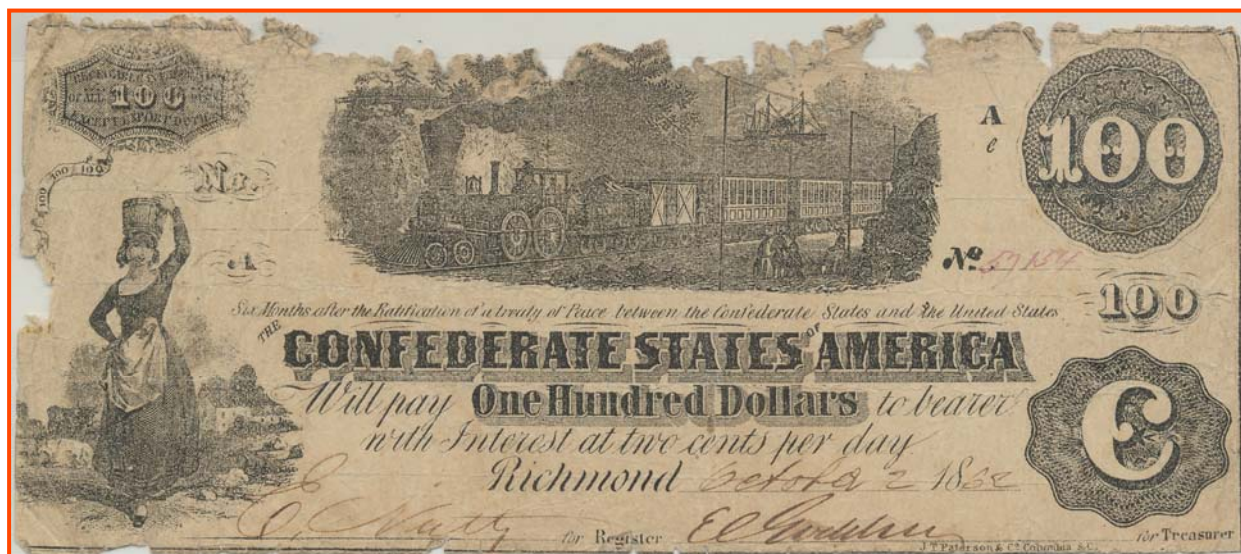
The question is possibly answered by a document in which the President accepted Wilson's resignation on

May 31st, 1862, and countersigned by Gen'l G. T. Beauregard. This strongly suggests that Wilson was an officer in Powers' Regiment. The description of this regiment in the Wikipedia file is interesting:

"The reason for the army-wide reorganization in May 1862 was the Conscription Act.... The reorganization was accomplished among the other Arkansas regiments in and around Corinth, but it basically destroyed the 14th Arkansas Regiment [Powers']. The regimental officers apparently did not make clear to the men just what was happening. Most of the officers declined to stand for re-election, resigned their commissions, and quietly left camp. After the men elected their new officers, they were informed that, by participating in the election, they were agreeing to the extension of their term of service from twelve months to two years or the war. The men reacted poorly and felt that they had been cheated. A large percentage of the regiment up and left camp en masse on June 3rd, 1862. These men were not motivated by cowardice or dereliction of duty. They were deeply aggrieved over, as they saw it, of being lied to and misled by their officers...."

Wilson's letter of resignation to the Secretary of War was dated May 16th, 1862, at Camp Churchill, Clark, Mississippi. He invoked poor health as the reason for his resignation and listed his place of residence as Rolling Prairie, Carroll County, Arkansas. The surgeon for the regiment backed up Wilson and claimed that he was suffering from "Billious fever," an affliction which was rampant in Corinth at the time.

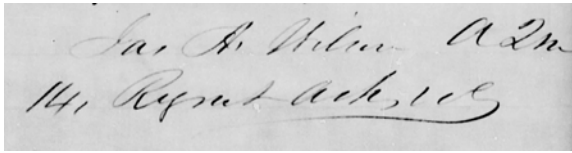
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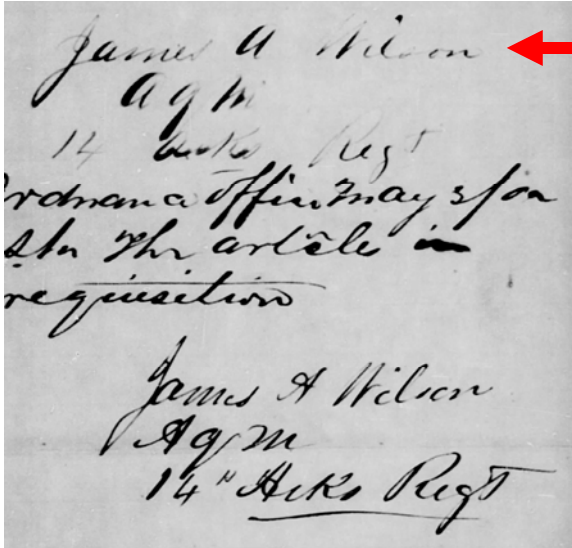
J. A. Wilson's signatures from the National Archives.

An early example, signed on November 5th, 1861, at Fayetteville, Arkansas, as "AQM, 14th Regmt Ark Vols."

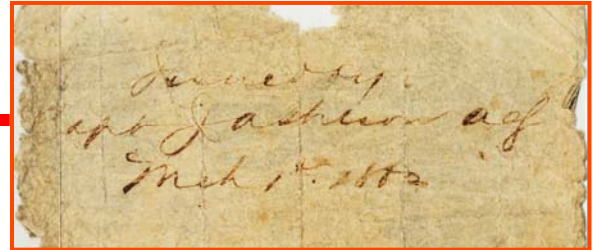


Handwritten signature: J. A. Wilson AQM
14th Regmt Ark, 10/5/61

Signed on May 5th, 1862, at Corinth, Mississippi, as "AQM, 14th Ark Regt." Note the different form of his middle initial, the first letter of his title, and the first letter of 'Ark' in the two examples.

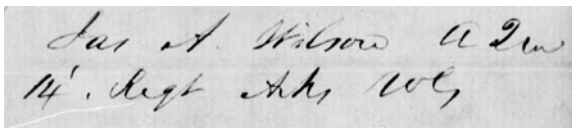


Handwritten signature: James A. Wilson
AQM
14th Ark Regt
ordnance officer may 3/62
In the article in
regimentation
James A. Wilson
AQM
14th Ark Regt



Handwritten signature: J. A. Wilson
AQM
14th Ark Regt

Signed on May 16th, 1862, at Camp Churchill, Clark, Mississippi, as "AQM, 14th Regt Ark Vols." This is his resignation letter.



Handwritten signature: J. A. Wilson AQM
14th Regt Ark, 10/5/62

images: Fold3.com

[Extract.]

Adjutant and Inspector General's Office,

*Richmond, May 21st 1862.*SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. *175.* }

I. The Resignations of the following named Officers have been accepted by the President, to take effect to-day :

1. *Captain J. A. Wilson, A. G. M., 14th Ark. Vols.*

By command of the Secretary of War.

Geo. Wither,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Genl G. T. Beauregard
Cornith