

**Portraits of Conflict: A
Photographic History of
Mississippi in the Civil
War**

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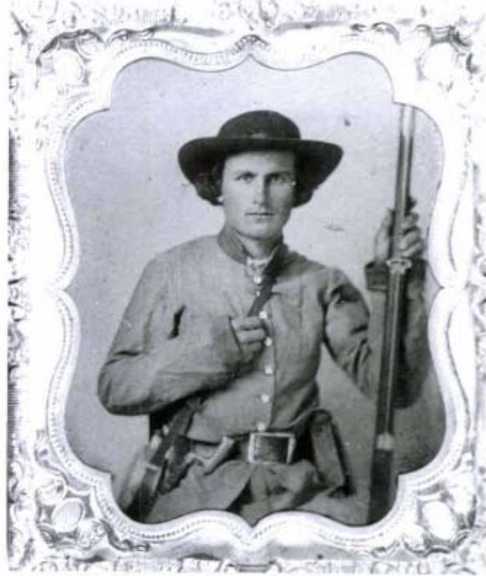
Twenty-one-year-old John C. Lowe was farming in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, when the Civil War began. He enlisted on March 23, 1861, in the Alumutcha Infantry, which mustered into the Confederate service as Co. E, 13th Mississippi Infantry.

A week before the Battle of Antietam, Lee detached McLaws' Division, which included the 13th Mississippi, to help Stonewall Jackson capture Harpers Ferry. On September 15, 1862, the 13th Mississippi took light casualties when Jackson forced the surrender of the Union garrison. The next day McLaws received orders for the division to move rapidly to support Lee's outnumbered army at Antietam Creek. McLaws' men were fatigued and had had no sleep for twenty-four hours, but they took up the march. The division reached Lee's beleaguered forces on the morning of September 17, 1862. McLaws' Division had been so weakened by stragglers that he did not have enough men to make "a continuous line." Nevertheless, they stood their ground against "lines of the enemy apparently double and treble" with supporting artillery. McLaws held his ground, but the division suffered 1,119 casualties.¹⁹ Lowe's left arm was shattered during the fighting, and he was left behind when Lee retreated on the evening of September 18, 1862. The arm had to be amputated, and Lowe was discharged from service on April 12, 1863. *Photo courtesy of Richard F. Carlile*

66



JOHN C. LOWE
sixth-plate tintype



WILLIAM D. LOWE
sixth-plate tintype

Twenty-three-year-old William Lowe, like his younger brother, John, was farming in Lauderdale County when the war began. He, too, mustered into Co. E, 13th Mississippi Infantry, on March 23, 1861. Prior to Antietam, William had seen action at First Bull Run, Ball's Bluff, Frayser's Farm, and Malvern Hill. His regiment suffered 148 casualties in the four battles.

Hundreds of exhausted soldiers dropped out of the ranks of the 13th Mississippi as it marched from Harpers Ferry to Antietam. On September 17, 1862, the regiment took only 202 men into battle. William Lowe was not hurt during the fight, but his regiment lost 62 men. He survived five major battles, only to die of dysentery in a Richmond hospital on December 7, 1862.

A third Lowe brother, George W., enrolled in Co. E, 13th Mississippi Infantry, on November 5, 1862. The eighteen-year-old farmer served with the regiment until his capture near Petersburg on April 6, 1865. The youngest Lowe was described by his commander as "a splendid soldier."²⁰ *Photo courtesy of Richard F. Carlile*

67

09 13 1863 George W. Lowe, Co. E, Pvt. - Pvt., enlisted at Enterprise, Clarke Co., born in Miss., lived near Alamutcha, Lauderdale Co., farmer, 18 years old, single, light complexion, light hair, light blue eyes, 5'10" tall. [John C., William D. and George W. Low were brothers.]

09 08 1915 George W. Low, Co. E, Pvt. - Pvt., record file contains the following letter "To Chairman, Oklahoma Board of Pension Commissioners; The Confederate records show that George Lowe, also shown as George Low and G.W. Low but not George W. Low, private, corporal, Company E, 13th Miss. Infantry C.S.A. enlisted November 15, 1862 [also shown September 13 and May 14], and on the company roll date October 31, 1864 [last on file], he was reported present. The Union records of prisoners of war show one George W. Lowe, private of Co. E, 13th Miss, C.S.A. captured at Harpers Farm April 6, 1865 and released on oath at Point Lookout, Md. June 28, 1865.