

BRADFORD, Joseph H. Capt., Co. B, 12th Alabama Inf.

The National Archives files for Officers contain three documents for Joseph H. Bradford. Two documents are found for Bradford in the Miscellaneous files, and sixteen documents are found in the files for the State of Alabama, Twelfth Infantry. The Treasury note endorsement consists only of Bradford's signature with no date, rank, or title. Interest was paid on this Treasury note on January 1st, 1863 and 1864 at Montgomery, Alabama, and on January 1st, 1865 at Richmond, Virginia. The endorsement on the Treasury note is a reasonable match to the signatures of Joseph H. Bradford on National Archives documents with one exception: Bradford signed with his first initial "J" on the Treasury note, while on all other National Archives documents he signed with his abbreviated first name "Jos."

Joseph H. Bradford enlisted on June 17th, 1861, as Captain of Company B, "Coosa Independents," 12th Alabama Infantry, for the duration of the war. He was enlisted by Jos. H. Bradford at Camp Bradford, Coosa, Alabama. A National Archives summary card stated that Bradford received Special Orders to report to "Gen'l Widner" (sic, probably Gen'l John H. Winder, Assistant Inspector General of the Camps of Instruction, Richmond, Virginia) at Richmond at an unspecified date, and noted that the Special Orders were in file number 1818 of R. E. Lee.

The unit organized in Richmond, moved to Manassas Junction attached to Ewell's Brigade, later transferred to Rodes' Brigade, and overwintered at Manassas, Virginia. A regimental return of the 12th Alabama Infantry noted that Bradford was stationed

at Union Mills (a few miles north of Manassas, Virginia) in October, 1861. Bradford appeared on a "Detail for the Court" dated November 10th, 1861, at the Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac. A regimental return at Davis Ford (a few miles southeast of Manassas, Virginia) for the year 1861 noted that Bradford resigned on December 31st, 1861.

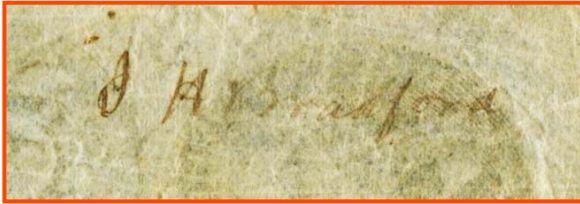
The backing of a document dated April 16th, 1862, reads: "Recom(mende)d by the Ala Delegation in Congress for Brigade Qr. Master, of one of the new Brigades of Ala troops." No further records were found to indicate that he received a commission.

National Archives summary cards noted that Bradford received pay through the month of November, 1861. Bradford's endorsement lacks a rank or title, the Treasury note was dated on the front December 15th, 1862, and this Treasury note may represent back pay for the month of December, 1861.

It is also possible that the endorsement on the Treasury note represents the father or a relative of Captain Bradford, perhaps the officer who enlisted him in Coosa, Alabama. The Confederate Citizens files contain documents for Jos. H. Bradford, who applied for a commission of "Commanding General" and who was also a subscriber to the Produce Loan in Montgomery, Alabama, the location of the Interest Paid stamps for 1863 and 1864 on the Treasury note. A voucher in that file for the services of teamsters ("boy Charles" and "boy Aleck") at Union Mills displayed a signature identical to that of the Captain; it was dated November 9th, 1861, signed by Bradford as the recipient, and signed by the quartermaster of the 12th Alabama Infantry as the payer. This voucher, signed by Captain Bradford on the same day he signed his pay voucher as a Captain, displayed no rank or title. Captain Bradford independently contracted slaves for services with his military unit. It is interesting to speculate that his court detail on the following day may have been related to this action. McNeil

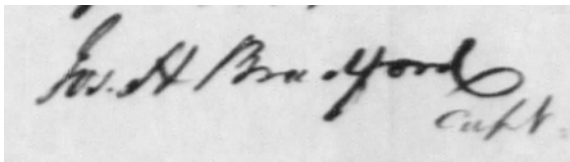


Johnston_Harvey
113042 W
15 Dec 1862
images: MasonE

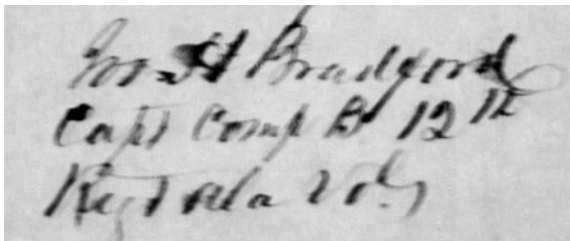


T. E. Sherwood's signatures from the National Archives.

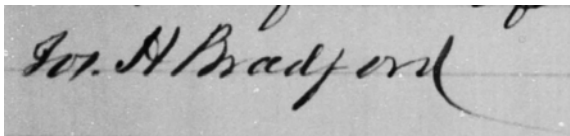
The earliest known example, signed on July 10th, 1861, on a fuel voucher, as "Capt."



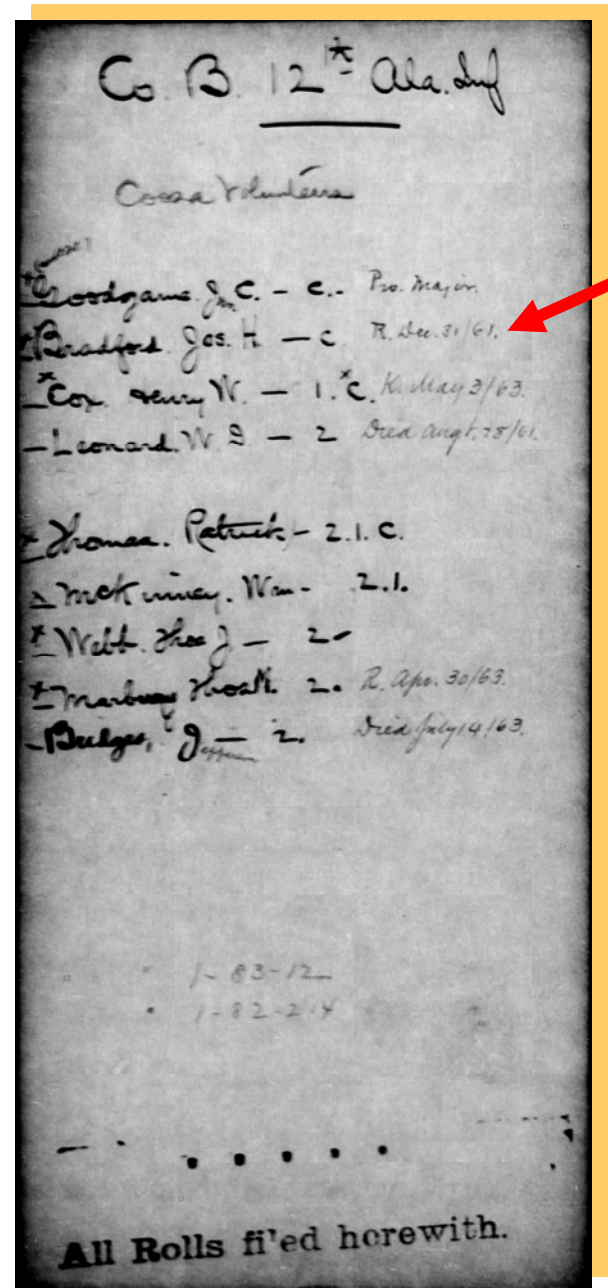
Signed on November 9th, 1861, on a pay voucher, as "Capt Comp B 12th Regt Ala Vols."



Signed on November 9th, 1861, the same day as the signature above, on a receipt for payment of services by teamsters "boy Charles" and "boy Aleck", at Union Mills, Virginia, with no rank or title.



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Co. B. 12th Ala. Inf

Crossed Volunteers

Goodgame, J. C. - c. Pro. Major.

Bradford, Jos. H. - c. R. Dec. 31/61.

* Cox, Henry W. - 1. c. R. May 3/63.

* Leonard, W. S. - 2. Died Aug. 7/61.

* Thomas, Patrick - 2. 1. c.

* McKimsey, Wm - 2. 1.

* Webb, Thos J - 2.

* Marbury, Thos. 2. R. Apr. 30/63.

* Bulger, J. - 2. Died July 14/63.

1-83-12

1-82-214

All Rolls filed herewith.

Unit card for Company B, 12th Alabama Infantry, with an annotation for Jos. H. Bradford, Capt., "R(esigned) Dec 31/61."

image: Fold3.com

The Confederate States

To Joseph H Bradford Dr.

1861

Wrote 8 For services of boy Charles
as a teamster from the 6th day
of October 1861 to the 8th day of
November 1861 being one month
and 2 days at 20 dollars
per month \$ 24.33

Wrote 8 For services of boy Aleck as
a teamster from the 6th day of
October 1861 to the 8th day of
November 1861 being one month
and 2 days at 20 dollars per month \$ 24.33

\$ 42.66

I certify that the above account is cor-
rect; that the services were rendered
as above charged and at the prices
above charged. David Clopton
Asst Quartermaster
12 Reg Ala Vol

Received November 9 1861 at Union
 Mills of David Clopton Assistant Quar-
termaster of 12 Reg Ala Vol Party Two
dollar and sixty six cents in full of
the above account. J. H. Bradford

Joseph H. Bradford's voucher for receipt of payment to him for the services of teamsters "boy Charles" and "boy Aleck," paid by David Clopton, AQM of the 12th Alabama Regiment. Bradford's signature is identical to the pay voucher he signed on the same date as Captain of Company B, 12th Alabama Regiment. Note that he signed this document with no rank or title. This document was found in the Confederate Citizens File, with the implication that he was acting as an independent contractor to the AQM for slave labor at the same time he was the Commander of Company B. image: Fold3.com