

CALDWELL, J. B. Sgt. Major, 23th Texas Cavalry

The National Archives contains four documents for J. B. Caldwell in the files for the state of Texas, Twenty-third Cavalry (Gould's Regiment, Twenty-seventh Cavalry). This unit is well documented by the Texas State Historical Association website:

tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qkt06

The Treasury note endorsement reads:

"J B Caldwell,
Co A Goulds Reg^t
23rd Texas Cavly"

National Archives documents indicate that Caldwell was a Private and Sgt. Major in Company A of the 23rd Texas Cavalry. The unit card for Company A lists only officers for that company and noted that "Some of the members of this Co. who were enlisted in 1861, previously belonged to Capt. Gould's Co., formerly 1st Co. D, 3 (Forrest's Tenn. Cav., afterwards Co. K of this regiment). The Texas website noted that this unit was captured at Fort Donelson, paroled, and returned to Texas, where it rejoined the war as part of the 23rd Texas Cavalry. A check of Nathan Bedford Forrest's 3rd Tennessee Cavalry showed no records for J. B. Caldwell, nor was he listed in Gould's Co. D of that unit.

The omission of Caldwell's records in Gould's original Tennessee unit is explained by Caldwell's documents in the files for the 23rd Texas Cavalry. He enlisted in this unit for a period of three years, in Company A, as a Private on November 12th, 1863, at Clarksville, Texas (a city in Red River County). A National Archives summary card dated

that same month noted that he had been "Acting Sgt. Major since 30 Sept." He was noted as present in December, and "present and sick in camp" in January and February of 1864.

A note at the bottom of each summary card states: "The 23rd (also known as the 27th) Regiment Texas Cavalry completed its organization about October 25th, 1862, with ten companies, A to K. Company K had previously served as (1st) Company D, 3d (Forrest's) Regiment Tennessee Cavalry. ...The regiment appears to have served as Dismounted Cavalry at the close of the war."

The Texas website sheds more light, stating that in January of 1864 the 23rd Texas Cavalry contained 33 officers and 451 men. "It fought in various conflicts in Louisiana including operations from March to May 1864 against Union Gen. Nathaniel Banks's Red River campaign. The regiment took part in the engagements of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill on April 8-9th, 1864. ...In February 1865 the regiment was dismounted and attached to Robertson's Brigade, Maxey's Division, District of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, Trans-Mississippi Department. On May 26th, 1865, the Twenty-third Texas surrendered along with other forces under the command of Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith to Union forces."

Although no examples of Caldwell's signature are found in the National Archives files, the company and the unit information provided by Caldwell on his endorsement of the Treasury note are unambiguous and match the unique file for this name and Texas unit. The endorsement does not indicate issuance of the note (Caldwell's enlistment as a private in late 1863 would make that unlikely), but it is clearly an endorsement of a military soldier.

McNeil



Johnston_Harvey
80070 X
1 Dec 1862
images: Anon.

*J. B. Caldwell,
Co. A 23rd Reg't
Tex. Cavalry*

The 23d (also known as the 27th) Regiment Texas Cavalry completed its organization about October 25, 1862, with ten companies, A to K. Company K had previously served as (1st) Company D, 2d (Forrest's) Regiment Tennessee Cavalry, another company had served in the 1st (McCulloch's) Regiment Texas Cavalry, and the remaining companies were organized at different dates from April 12 to October 15, 1862. The regiment appears to have served as Dismounted Cavalry at the close of the war.

J. B. Caldwell
644 Copyist.

Description of the history of the 23rd Texas Cavalry found at the bottom of the National Archives summary cards for J. B. Caldwell.

image: Fold3.com

(Confederate.)
6 23 Cav. Texas.

J. B. Caldwell
Co. *A*, 23 Reg't Texas Cavalry.

Appears on
Regimental Return
of the organization named above,
for the month of *Dec.*, 1863.

Commissioned officers present and absent :
Station _____
Remarks : _____

Alterations since last return among the enlisted men :
Date _____, 186
Place _____
Remarks : _____

Enlisted men on Extra or Daily Duty :
acting Sgt. Maj.

Absent enlisted men accounted for :

The 23d (also known as the 27th) Regiment Texas Cavalry completed its organization about October 25, 1862, with ten companies, A to K. Company K had previously served as (1st) Company D, 2d (Forrest's) Regiment Tennessee Cavalry, another company had served in the 1st (McCulloch's) Regiment Texas Cavalry, and the remaining companies were organized at different dates from April 12 to October 15, 1862. The regiment appears to have served as Dismounted Cavalry at the close of the war.

J. B. Caldwell
644 Copyist.

National Archives summary card for J. B. Caldwell, noting his rank of Sgt. Major.

image: Fold3.com