

Civil War Soldiers from Ashe County, North Carolina

Some explanations seem in order, as to the abbreviations used in this compilation:

1st Lt - First Lieutenant	HH# Household number
2nd Lt - Second Lieutenant	Hosp - Hospitalized
ALCC - Alleghany County Census	KIA - Killed in Action
AsCC Ashe County Census.	Lt.Col. - Lieutenant Colonel
AWOL - Absent without leave	MAJ - Major
B. - Born	NFR - No further record.
BN - Battalion	Ord. - Ordnance
Bro. - Brother	POW - Captured/Prisoner of War
Cem. - Cemetery	Prom. - Promoted
Co. - Company or County	PWR - Post War Roster or Record
COL - Colonel	Regt. - Regiment
Corp. - corporal	Res. - Resident of
Capt. - Captain	rlsd - released
CSA - Confederate States Army	SCC - Smyth County Census
D. - Died	SGT - Sergeant
DFR - Dropped from the Roll	V.S. - gunshot wound
disch - Discharged	USA - United States Army (or of America), note context.
Enl. - Enlisted	WIA - Wounded in Action
GCC - Grayson County Census	

UNION SOLDIERS ARE ITALICIZED

A note on how this work was compiled. The 1860 Ashe and Alleghany County, North Carolina Census records were gleaned for all men between the age of 12 and 45 (Born between 1815 and 1848) as being the most likely candidates to have served in the military during this period of upheaval. Additional men were listed who were discovered, in thier military papers, to have lived in either county. Some others were added, if their surname and their unit of service indicated they **might** be residents of either of the two counties.

It has not been possible to scour every military record for the period to find records for everyone. There are some men listed in the following compilation which no doubt served, but for whom I have not yet discovered a military record. If you are aware of such service, please make me aware of it.

HARDIN, FRANKLIN: 21, 1860 AsCC HH#128. 3rd Sgt., Co. A, 9th NC Cav. He was a Res. of Ashe Co. and Enl. there on 5/21/61. Pres. thru 12/64. B. 2/9/1839 D. 1/2/1919, buried in Ashe Co. Cem. S14.

HARDIN, HENRY H, 16, 1860 AsCC HH#128. 1st Sgt., Co. A, 9th NC Cav. He was a Res. of Ashe Co. and Enl. there on 5/25/61, age 36. Pres. until he was transferred to **Co. D, 5th NC Cav. Battn.** on 6/6/63. Pres. thru 8/3/63, then pres. in **Co. B, 65th NC Cav. thru 11/64.** B. 2/13/1843 D. 5/27/1921, buried in Ashe Co. Cem N03.

HARDIN, JOHN, 24, 1860 AsCC HH#160.

HARDIN, JOSEPH W., 25, 1860 AsCC HH#159. Capt., Old Fields Dist., 97th NC Militia. Commissioned on 5/1/62. Volunteered for regular service. Captain, Co. D, 5th NC Battn. Cav. only. Native Res. of Ashe Co., where he Enl. on 7/8/62, age 28. Resigned 5/30/63 due to ill health, accepted 7/10/63.

HARDIN, MARK, 32, 1860 AsCC HH#145. Co. D, 5th Battn. NC Cav./Co. B, 65th NC Cav., Native Res. of Ashe Co., where he Enl. on 7/8/62, aged 33, Pres. thru 11/64. B. 12/5/1828 D. 9/20/1885, buried in Ashe Co. Cem. S04.

HARDIN, MARTIN: Co. A, 9th NC Cav. He was a Res. of Ashe Co. and Enl. there on 6/8/61, age 23. Pres. until he was transferred to Co. D, 5th NC Cav. Battn. on 6/6/63. Pres. thru 10/64. B. 7/13/1838 D. 8/6/1905, buried in Ashe Co. Cem. P06.

HARDIN, WILLIAM B.: 15, 1860 AsCC HH#158. Co. B, 65th NC Cav. 97th NC Militia. Received medical examination on 10/20/64, diagnosed as suffering from varicose veins. Age 20. Enl. on 11/1/64 at ?. Paroled at Statesville, NC on 5/20/65.

HARDIN, WILLIAM P.: 23, 1860 AsCC HH#128. Capt./Lt. Col., Old Fields Dist./F&S, 97th NC Militia. Commissioned on 4/12/62. Later served as 1st Lt., Co. D, 5th Battn. NC Cav./Co. B, 65th NC Cav., Native Res. of Ashe Co., where he Enl. on 7/8/62, aged 26. Pres. until taken POW at Big Hill, KY 7/30/63, confined at Louisville, KY. Died at Johnson's Island, OH on 12/1/63 of dysentery.

RAY, GEORGE W., 36, 1860 AsCC HH#133. Co ?, 26th Pennsylvania Infantry, served from 3/31/64 to 9/25/65. Mentioned on the 1890 Ashe County Union Veterans Census, resident of Old Fields Township.

RAY, GEORGE W.: 33, 1860 AsCC HH#129. Saddler, Co. A, 9th NC Cav. He was a Res. of Ashe Co. and Enl. there on 5/27/61 age 33, as a private. Appointed saddler on 9/1/63. Deserted 3/20/64, surrendered to Federal troops, took oath and sent north.

RAY, GEORGE W.: Lt. Col./Col., 97th NC Militia. Commissioned Lt. Col. on 9/16/62. Promoted to Col. after Gentry's resignation. Commanding Ashe County Militia (Home Guard) on 10/20/64.

RAY, GEORGE W.: 1st Lt., Jefferson Dist., 97th NC Militia. Commissioned on 4/1/62.

RAY, GEORGE W.: Co. D, 5th Battn. NC Cav./Co. B, 65th NC Cav., Native Res. of Ashe Co., where he Enl. on 7/8/62, aged 19. Pres. thru 8/3/63. Pres. thru 11/64. Deserted and took the oath at Washington, DC on 3/10/65, furnished transportation to Cincinnati, Ohio.

RAY, HAMILTON: 37, 1860 AsCC HH#129. 97th NC Militia. Received medical examination on 10/20/64, diagnosed as suffering from paralysis. Discharged. Age 41.

RAY, HARRISON C.: 2nd Lt., Old Fields Dist., 97th NC Militia. Commissioned on 2/17/62.

RAY, HENRY H.: 22, 1860 AsCC HH#23. Co. A, 9th NC Cav. He was a Res. of Ashe Co. and Enl. there on 5/27/61, age 24. Pres. thru 12/64. B. 4/27/1837 D. 9/19/1912, buried in Ashe Co. Cem. S13.

RAY, HENRY: 22, 1860 AsCC HH#1337. Co. D, 5th Battn. NC Cav./Co. B, 65th NC Cav., Native Res. of Ashe Co., where he Enl. on 7/8/62, aged 23. Pres. thru 8/3/63. KIA or died of wounds or disease, while in service, but no date, circumstance or place given.

RAY, HILTON H.: 29, 1860 AsCC HH#140. 1st Lt., Co. D, 5th Battn. NC Cav./Co. B, 65th NC Cav., Native Res. of Ashe, where he Enl. on 7/8/62, aged 33, 3rd Lt. Promoted to 3rd Lt. by 6/30/63. Promoted to 1st Lt. on 9/30/63. Pres. thru 10/64. Deserted 2/24/65.

RAY, HIRAM, 36, 1860 AsCC HH#3.

RAY, JAMES J.: Co. D, 5th Battn. NC Cav./Co. B, 65th NC Cav., Native Res. of Ashe Co., where he Enl. on 7/8/62, aged 27. Pres. thru 8/3/63. Pres. thru 11/64. Deserted and took the oath at Washington, DC on 3/10/65, furnished transportation to Cincinnati, Ohio. B. 9/16/1835 D. 12/1/1881, buried in Ashe Co. Cem. N24.

RAY, JAMES M.: 18, 1860 AsCC HH#148. Co. D, 5th Battn. NC Cav./Co. B, 65th NC Cav., Native Res. of Ashe Co., where he Enl. on 7/8/62, aged 21. Pres. thru 8/3/63. Pres. thru 11/64. Deserted and took the oath at Washington, DC on 3/10/65, furnished transportation to Cincinnati, Ohio.

RAY, JAMES: Co. A, 9th NC Cav. He was a Res. of Ashe Co. and Enl. there on 5/24/61, age 30. Taken POW at Williamsport, MD on 10/29/62, exchanged by 12/31/62. WIA in leg 5/12/64, furloughed from hospital for 60 days from 7/11/64, never returned to duty. Listed as AWOL by 9/30/64. B. 4/2/1842 D. 2/27/1876 (murdered), buried in Ashe Co. Cem. S04.

RAY, JESSE, 16, 1860 AsCC HH#42. Co. A, 9th NC Cav. He was a Res. of Ashe Co. and Enl. there on 5/25/61, age 18. Pres. thru 12/64.

RAY, JESSE, 37, 1860 AsCC HH#9.

RAY, JOHN A.: 15, 1860 AsCC HH#23. Co. A, 9th NC Cav. He was a Res. of Ashe Co. and Enl. there on 4/9/63, age 18. Pres. thru 12/64.

RAY, JOHN A.: 22, 1860 AsCC HH#148. Co. D, 5th Battn. NC Cav./Co. B, 65th NC Cav. Previously served in Co. A, 9th NC Cav. Native Res. of Ashe Co., where he Enl. on 7/8/62, transf. back to Co. A, 9th NC Cav. on 6/6/63. Pres. thru 11/64. Deserted and took the oath at Washington, DC on 3/10/65, furnished transportation to Cincinnati, Ohio.

RAY, JOHN H.: 20, 1860 AsCC HH#129. 2nd Lt., Co. A, 9th NC Cav. Res. of Ashe Co. Appointed 2nd Lt. on 5/16/61, age 20. Resigned on 10/4/61. ReEnl. in Co. D, 5th NC Cav. Battn. Transf. back to this company on 6/6/63. Pres. thru 12/64.

RAY, JOHN M.: 14, 1860 AsCC HH#1337. Co. D, 5th Battn. NC Cav./Co. B, 65th NC Cav., Transferred from Co. A, 9th NC Cav. on 6/6/63. Pres. thru 8/3/63. Deserted in Clay Co., KY on 8/5/63, took the oath on 9/28/63, *Co. E, 48th Kentucky Infantry, served from 9/21/63 to 12/15/64. Mentioned on the 1890 Ashe County Union Veterans Census, resident of Old Fields Township.*

RAY, JOHN W.: 25, 1860 AsCC HH#43. Co. D, 5th Battn. NC Cav./Co. B, 65th NC Cav., Native Res. of Ashe Co., where he Enl. on 7/8/62, aged 27. Detailed as a wagoner from 2/1-6/30/63. Pres. thru 8/3/63. Pres. thru 11/64.

RAY, JORDAN, 16, 1860 AsCC HH#140.

RAY, MARCUS, 13, 1860 AsCC HH#140.

RAY, PHAROAH J.: 15, 1860 AsCC HH#42. Co. D, 5th Battn. NC Cav., Native Res. of Ashe Co., where he Enl. on 7/8/62, aged 19. Transferred to Co. A, 9th NC Cav. on 6/6/63. AWOL by 10/31/63.

RAY, SAMUEL: Co. A, 26th NC Inf., Enl. 5/17/61 in Ashe Co., NC, age 17. Pres. until transferred to Co. A, 9th NC State Troops 7/31/61. Appointed blacksmith by 12/31/61, ranked as private in 1/62. Detailed as wagoner from 3/25/62-8/31/64. Pres. thru 12/64. Res. Ashe Co., NC.

RAY, THOMAS C.: 27, 1860 AsCC HH#122. 2nd. Lt., Co. D, 5th Battn. NC Cav. only, Native Res. of Ashe, where he Enl. on 7/8/62, aged 29. He died at Big Creek, Gap, TN on 2/22/63.

RAY, WASHINGTON: 17, 1860 AsCC HH#1337. 97th NC Militia. Received medical examination on 10/20/64, diagnosed as suffering from rheumatism. Age 19.

RAY, WELBORN, 29, 1860 AsCC HH#19. 2nd Lt., Jefferson Dist., 97th NC Militia. Commissioned on 4/1/62.

RAY, WILEY: Johnson Co., TN Home Guard.

RAY, WILLIAM, 15, 1860 AsCC HH#148.

RAY, WILLIAM, 17, 1860 AsCC HH#696.

RAY, WILLIAM, 18, 1860 AsCC HH#23. Co. A, 9th NC Cav. He was a Res. of Ashe Co. and Enl. there on 5/24/61. Taken POW at some point in late 1862, exchanged at City Point, VA 11/18/62. Pres. thru 12/64. Taken POW in Watauga Co., NC on 4/18/65, sent to Louisville, KY, released on oath 6/16/65.

Civil War Soldier Records of North Carolina

HARDIN. Doctor Z.	Co A, 6th NC Infantry	Enlisted 5-28-61 at Mecklenburg Co , NC. Private, age 26. Promoted 7-19-62 to Corporal. Promoted 11-7-63 to 2nd Lieutenant. Wounded 10-19-64 at Cedar Creek. POW 4-6-65 at Saylor's Creek, VA. Imprisoned at Johnson's Island, OH where he took the Oath of Allegiance on 6-18-65.
HARDIN, James M.	Co I, 7th NC Infantry	Enlisted 7-22-61. Private, age 28, farmer, resides Iredell Co , NC. Discharged 7-24-62 due to disability.
HARDIN, John J.	Co B, 2nd NC Cavalry	Enlisted 6-18-61 at Iredell Co, NC. Private, age 26. POW 7-28-62 in NC. Exchanged 10-6-62 at Aiken's Landing , NC. POW 9-10-64 near Petersburg, VA. Imprisoned at Point Lookout Prison, MD where he died of pneumonia on 2-19-65.

HARDIN, Leander	Co A, 4th NC Infantry	Enlisted 6-5-61 at Brunswick Co , NC. Private, age 22, resides Iredell Co, NC. POW 9-22-64 at Fisher's Hill, VA. Held at Harper's Ferry, WV. Transferred 10-1-64 to Point Lookout Prison, MD . Exchanged 3-29-65 at Boulware's Wharf, VA.
HARDIN, Noah	Co K, 42nd NC Infantry	Enlisted 10-10-63 at Camp Vance , NC. Private, resides Mecklenburg Co, NC. Deserted 10-20-63. Returned to duty 12-1-63.
HARDIN, Samuel W.	Co E, 54th NC Infantry	Enlisted 3-20-62 at Iredell Co , NC. Sergeant, age 21, farmer. Promoted 7-1-62 to 1st Sgt. Promoted 4-9-63 to 3rd Lt. Resigned 8-13-63.
HARDIN, Walter R.	Co C, 15th NC Infantry	Enlisted 4-27-61 at Wake Co , NC. Private, age 32. Wounded & POW 9-14-62 at Crampton's Gap, MD. He lost his right leg due to wounds. Imprisoned at Fort McHenry, MD . Exchanged in December 1862. Absent due to wounds on 10-30-64.

Official military records compiled in 1866 counted 40,275 North Carolina soldiers who died in uniform.

Ashe County underwent a remarkable transformation in early 1861 as the Civil War brewed. Early on the county expressed a strong Union sentiment, in February rejecting a NC secession convention 758 to 144 with a lively debate and massive gathering in Jefferson. By March, the tide had turned. Fort Sumter and Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers changed prior opinions. The county, long isolated by geography and custom, was nonetheless influenced by National and State events and politics. Men like Thomas Crumpler, Ashe County Representative in the House of Commons, who in January stated that the county was not likely to support succession, by July rode as a Confederate Calvary Major, and died from wounds at Willis' Church, VA in July 1862.

In 1799, the county was organized with a population of about 3,000 and a handful of slaves. By 1840, the population was 7,500 and 497 slaves. In 1860, there were only 391 slaves, less than 5 percent of the county population, but

the correlation between large landholdings and slave ownership and wealth and political power was foremost in the county. Foremost among county slaveholders was George Bower, whose family gave the land for the county seat at Jefferson, with a thousand acres and 34 slaves. Bower famously drowned in late 1861 while chasing an escaped slave across the swollen Yadkin River in Wilkes County.

By 1860, fourteen men possessed 400 or more improved acres: all were slaveholders. These fourteen prominent county men comprised less than 1% of the county population, but they held 14% of total improved acreage. All slaveholders in Ashe comprised only 6.6% of the population, but they owned 49.8% of the county wealth. Only one person held more than ten thousand dollars in personal property without slaveholdings, and he was a merchant who had moved into the county from Tennessee.

In the 1850's these interests fought against ad valorem taxation which would have taxed all property, including slaves, at market value rather than a fixed rate. Yet by 1857, democratic trends had emerged in the county, and the fifty-acre property requirement to vote in State Senatorial elections was rejected by a majority of 1,415 to 38 in Ashe.

Ashe County land and wealth were distributed in a highly unequal manner in 1860. Most yeoman farmers in the county lived a subsistence existence and would have derived little benefit from slavery.

Overall the basic economic and political pattern of Ashe County in 1860 was little different than the oligarchy of plantation farmers in the deep South. In fact, while absent cotton and tobacco plantations, as a percentage of land control and personal wealth, the disparities were greater in Ashe County by a factor of seven.

Another element in the local consideration was likely racial violence. In 1854 a slave named Isaac murdered his mistress, a Mrs. Mitchell, in Ashe County, while three years earlier several slaves from Ashe and Grayson County, VA, apparently under the influence of Jarvis Bacon, an Ohio abolitionist, were involved in a violent outbreak that resulted in the death of Sam Bartlett, the brother of Ashe County's sheriff. And of course nationally, John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry, W VA, was in October 1859, and after the news of that event a local militia was raised, one of 30 in NC.

Between April and August 1861, Ashe County contributed four full companies of Confederate volunteers. Of the 9 Officers and 154 enlisted men, at least 49 did not survive the war, with 14 dead at Gettysburg. Few local men joined Federal forces: 3,100 in the entire State of North Carolina joined the Union, compared to 31,000 from East Tennessee alone.