

JAMES BARSTOW – Private, Company E, 7th Arkansas Infantry.

James came to this country from Yorkshire, England, and settled in the northeast part of Arkansas, land of opportunity. He signed up with the army in July of '61 at Camp Shaver in Smithville, Arkansas. They marched first into Missouri, then over to Point Pleasant where they took a Mississippi riverboat to Columbus, Kentucky, and marched to Bowling Green where they remained for four months. On February 12, 1862, they began a march in the direction of Nashville. They went on to Murfreesboro, and then on to Corinth, Mississippi, the whole distance being made on foot except for about 100 miles on the railroad. They had their first meeting with the yanks at Shiloh Church in Tennessee. What a bloody, muddy mess that one was. General Hardee nicknamed the regiment "the bloody Seventh" after that fight.

They returned to Corinth and were laid siege to during the month of May in '62. Perryville, Kentucky, was their next encounter with the enemy. His regiment was sent out as skirmishers in the point position late in the day and found the federals' entire force.

Then at Murfreesboro in December of '62, his regiment was consolidated with the 6th Arkansas because they had already lost so many men. That battle was a rough one. He was one of 140 wounded in his regiment and 29 killed. His wounds may have been inflicted by inexperienced artillery from his own side, attempting to fire over their heads to reach the Union lines.

He was shipped here by rail and was making a good recovery from his wounds when typhoid fever got a grip on him. He was very sad when he spoke of his home in Yorkshire. His cousin, who had emigrated with him, had already died in the war, and James was grieved to think he could not let his family know where he was. He expressed this concern to Miss Cumming, and she assured him that she could get a letter through the blockade to his family.

He died of the fever on May 19th, 1863. He left \$100 to his nurse, a Mr. Andrews, and Miss Cumming took some of that and had a nice headboard put to his grave. On it was inscribed his name and date of death, and she had carved: "He sacrificed his life for his adopted country, and fell a martyr for liberty." Only, the fellow who carved the headboard made it so fancy that one could scarcely make sense of it. That is why, on that cast iron tablet over there, his name is misspelled "Barestow." Take a look and see - if you have time.

