

Private Charles T. Shelton Botetourt Light Artillery

Born April 9, 1839 in Louisa County, Virginia.

Graduated from the University of Virginia in 1860.

A schoolteacher in 1861 in the town of Columbia on the James River in Botetourt Cty.

Enlisted as a private on May 31, 1861 at Manassas Junction, Virginia in Company I of the 28th Virginia Infantry.

Re-enlisted on December 24, 1861 when the unit was reorganized as the Botetourt Light Artillery.

On the Mississippi river, south of Vicksburg, on January 24, 1863 Charles wrote his father, *“I do hope some change will soon take place in order that we may get out of Miss. I never saw such a climate in my life and am afraid that it will go hard with us Virginians to remain here during the summer. It rains here almost incessantly, and the mud . . . is knee deep. . . . This portion of the army is a great deal worse fed than any I suppose in the confederacy. One of the butchers told me that frequently that had to lift up the cattle brought here for beef. . . . I am very much afraid of the fever and ague”*

Wounded in the hand at Port Gibson on May 1, 1863 but was not captured.

In a May 5, 1863 letter from Vicksburg he writes, *“Our battery suffered severely at the battle of Bayou Pierre – we lost four of our guns. . . . I was slightly wounded in right hand & therefore have to write with my left. I thank God that I escaped with my life.”*

May to July, 1863 in the hospital in Vicksburg recovering from his wound.

When Vicksburg fell on July 4, 1863 he became a POW but was left in the sick ward of the Vicksburg hospital.

Died on July 25, 1863 in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Cause of death shown as a high fever.

Burial site not recorded.

(Swank, Col. Walbrook D., editor, *Confederate Letters and Diaries 1861-1865*, Shippensburg, 1992, p. 78-82.)