

Rec'd 2/24/21

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION AC. NO. 449

The chief purpose of the following questions is to bring out facts that will be of service in writing a true history of the Old South. Such a history has not yet been written. By answering these questions you will make a valuable contribution to the history of your State.

In case the space following any question is not sufficient for your answer, you may write your answer on a separate piece of paper. But when this is done, *be sure* to put the number of the question on the paper on which the answer is written, and number the pages of the paper on which you write your answer.

Read all the questions before you answer any of them. After answering the questions here given, if you desire to make additional statements, I would be glad for you to add just as much as you desire.

1. State your full name and present postoffice address Joab Helton,  
Rutledge, Tennessee.
2. State your age now 75 years.
3. In what State and county were you born? Grainger County, Tennessee.
4. In what State and county were you living when you enlisted in the service of the Confederacy, or of the Federal Government?  
Grainger County, Tennessee, enlisted in Federal Army.
5. What was your occupation before the war? Farmer.
6. What was the occupation of your father? Farmer.
7. If you owned land or other property at the opening of the war, state what kind of property you owned, and state the value of your property as near as you can Nothings as f
8. Did you or your parents own slaves? If so, how many? Father owned two.
9. If your parents owned land, state about how many acres 200 acres.
10. State as near as you can the value of all the property owned by your parents, including land, when the war opened \$3600.00
11. What kind of a house did your parents occupy? State whether it was a log house or frame house or built of other material, and state the number of rooms it had Log House. 6 rooms.
12. As a boy and young man, state what kind of work you did. If you worked on a farm, state to what extent you plowed, worked with a hoe and did other kinds of similar work. (Certain historians claim that white men wouldn't do work of this sort before the war.) I plowed and hoed corn.
13. State clearly what kind of work your father did, and what the duties of your mother were. State all the kinds of work done in the house as well as you can remember—that is, cooking, spinning, weaving, etc. Father plowed, hoed corn and did farm work. Mother cooked, spun and wove.
14. Did your parents keep any servants? If so, how many? 2 negroes.
15. How was honest toil—as plowing, hauling and other sorts of honest work of this class—regarded in your community? Was such work considered respectable and honorable? Yes.
16. Did the white men in your community generally engage in such work? Yes, generally.
17. To what extent were there white men in your community leading lives of idleness and having others do their work for them? Several.

18. Did the men who owned slaves mingle freely with those who did not own slaves, or did slaveholders in any way show by their actions that they felt themselves better than respectable, honorable men who did not own slaves? At the beginning of the war they did. After the war opened faction of differences became so great that they did not until the war was over.
19. At the churches, at the schools, at public gatherings in general, did slave-holders and non-slaveholders mingle on a footing of equality? Yes.
20. Was there a friendly feeling between slaveholders and non-slaveholders in your community, or were they antagonistic to each other? Not very friendly. Some were friendly and some were not.
21. In a political contest in which one candidate owned slaves and the other did not, did the fact that one candidate owned slaves help him any in winning the contest? No.
22. Were the opportunities good in your community for a poor young man, honest and industrious, to save up enough to buy a small farm or go in business for himself? Yes.
23. Were poor, honest, industrious young men, who were ambitious to make something of themselves, encouraged or discouraged by slaveholders? Encouraged.
24. What kind of school or schools did you attend? Free schools lasting about three months.
25. About how long did you go to school altogether? About six months.
26. How far was it to the nearest school? Mile and a half.
27. What school or schools were in operation in your neighborhood? Old time free school and old time subscription school.
28. Was the school in your community private or public? Public.
29. About how many months in the year did it run? About three months. Most of us stopped to pull fodder, etc., wheat, etc.,
30. Did the boys and girls in your community attend school pretty regularly? Not much. Not much interest in schools at that date.
31. Was the teacher of the school you attended a man or a woman? Both.
32. In what year and month and at what place did you enlist in the service of the Confederacy or of the Federal Government? New Market, Tennessee, in 1864.
33. State the name of your regiment, and state the names of as many members of your company as you remember 9th Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry. Company "M". L. Jones, Captain. Lieutenant Gross.

34. After enlistment, where was your company sent first? We were sent to Morristown, Tennessee, and had engagement with Confederate General Baughn. Fought him up to Bull's Gap Tennessee, and was then driven back to Knoxville, Tennessee.

35. How long after your enlistment before your company engaged in battle? About ten days.

36. What was the first battle you engaged in? Battle at Morristown, Tennessee.

37. State in your own way your experience in the war from this time on to the close. State where you went after the first battle—what you did, what other battles you engaged in, how long they lasted, what the results were; state how you lived in camp, how you were clothed, how you slept, what you had to eat, how you were exposed to cold, hunger and disease. If you were in hospital or in prison, state your experience here. We went from Knoxville after having been driven back from Bulls Gap to Virginia on what was called the Stoneman Ridge, then returned to Sweetwater Tennessee. Then back to Knoxville, and was mustered out at Knoxville, Tennessee, in August 1865. We were roughly clad, sometimes plenty to eat and sometimes nothing. We slept on the ground most of the time.

38. When and where were you discharged? Knoxville, Tennessee, August 1865.

39. Tell something of your trip home After being discharged I received my transportation to Morristown, Tennessee. At Morristown I hired a horse and returned to my father's home in Grainger County, Tennessee. The different events that occurred on the trip home were so tame as compared with camp life, and I was so anxious to get home, I did not pay much attention to anything I did see.

40. What kind of work did you take up when you came back home? Farming.

41. Give a sketch of your life since the close of the Civil War, stating what kind of business you have engaged in, where you have lived, your church relations, etc. If you have held any office or offices, state what it was. You may state here any other facts connected with your life and experience which has not been brought out by the questions. Farming ever since at Rutledge, Grainger County, Tennessee. Belong to Baptist Church at New Prospect, Grainger County, Tennessee.

42. Give full name of your father Alexander Helton, born at North Carolina.  
in the county of \_\_\_\_\_ state of North Carolina.  
He lived at \_\_\_\_\_

Give also any particulars concerning him, as official position, war services, etc., books written by, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

43. Maiden name in full of your mother Nancy Boatman,  
She was the daughter of Henry Boatman and his wife Kazih Boatman  
Full Name Full Name  
who lived at near Morristown, Tennessee.

44. Remarks on Ancestry. Give here any and all facts possible in reference to your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc., not included in the foregoing, as where they lived, offices held, Revolutionary or other war service; what country the family came from to America; where first settled, county and state; *always* giving full names (if possible), and *never* referring to an ancestor simply as such without giving the name. It is desirable to include every fact possible, and to that end the full and exact record from old Bibles should be appended on separate sheets of this size, thus preserving the facts from loss \_\_\_\_\_

Joab Helton.

Joab