

The haversack of L. Yancey Dean, Co. B Hampton's Legion



This replica haversack is patterned from the original Dean haversack (pictured above). The original haversack is entirely hand sewn; made from a double layer of cotton drill with a plain weave cotton strap 47" long. There is evidence that a closure was present at some point in the bags history due to the remains of the attachments on the flap and bottom of the bag (as may be seen in picture 3).

Yancey Dean enlisted at Edgefield, SC in Gary's Watson Guards which became Co. B of Hampton's Legion where he was eventually promoted to 4th Sergeant. The Watson Guards were mustered into Confederate service on June 12, 1861. Dean was severely wounded in the arm and thigh at the Battle of Seven Pines, June 1, 1862 and his arm was amputated. After he was discharged, he entered the SC Military Academy (The Arsenal Academy) and was detailed to the QM Dept. after the evacuation of Columbia. Yancey Dean died in 1934.

While no positive provenance exists to the haversacks beginnings, Ron Field's book on Hampton's Legion states that the Watson Guards received 102 haversacks from the Beech Island Ladies Volunteer Society in July 1861. The heavy, durable construction of the bag and what may be blood stains, along with Dean's short service period could mean this bag was one of that issue.

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