

John Berry Porterfield, Sergeant, Co. C, 1st AL Infantry, CSA

- 1836 October 29: Porterfield born to Willis and Susan Porterfield in Greenville, Butler County, AL.
- 1850 December 2: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Lowndes County, AL showed fourteen-year-old John living with his parents and siblings. His father, Willis, was a planter.
- 1861 February 28: Marries Flora Ann Turner in Butler County, AL.
February 28: Enlisted in the CS Army at Fort Deposit, AL in Co. C, 1st AL Infantry as a private.
- 1862 April 8: Porterfield and brother William were captured at Island No. 10 and sent to Camp Butler, Springfield, IL.
September 23: Sent to Vicksburg, MS to be exchanged.
- 1863 July 9: Captured again, along with his brother William, at Port Hudson, LA and released three days later on parole.
- 1864 November 30: Porterfield and his brother William were both wounded at the Battle of Franklin.
December 17: Captured along with his brother again in Franklin, TN and transferred to Louisville, KY.
- 1865 January 23: Porterfield transferred to Louisville, KY and then on to a prison in Ohio, Camp Chase.
June 13: Released from prison at Camp Chase after taking the oath of allegiance. His place of residence was listed as Lowndes, AL. He was 28 years old.

J. B. Porterfield
Sgt Co. C, 1 Regt Ala. Inf

Name appears as signature to an
Oath of Allegiance
to the United States, subscribed and sworn to at
Camp Chase, Ohio, June 13, 1865.*

Place of residence *Lowndes Ala.*
Complexion *Fld* ; hair *DK*
Eyes *Blue* ; height *6* ft. - in.
Age *28* years.
Where captured *Franklin Tenn.*
When captured *Dec. 17*, 186*4*.
Remarks:

- 1868 Birth of first child, a daughter named Flora.
- 1870 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Butler County, Alabama showed John living with his wife Flora and their daughter Flora. He is listed as a Railroad laborer.
- 1880 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Butler County, AL showed John living with his wife Flora, one daughter Flora, and two sons Harry and Turner. He is listed as a railroad section master.
- 1881 Porterfield promoted to supervisor of Selma, Rome, and Dalton railroad.¹
- 1885 Porterfield was the President of the Blue Mountain Telegraph Co. His son Harry also worked as a director there.²
- 1888 Porterfield was promoted to the position of roadmaster for the Memphis and Charleston railroad.³
- 1897 Porterfield elected Alderman in the city of Tuscumbia.⁴
Porterfield was part of the establishment of the Merchants' Bank in Florence, AL.⁵
- 1900 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Colbert County, AL showed John, railroad superintendent, living in Tuscumbia, AL with his wife Flora, their daughter Flora, John's two grandchildren, and another daughter named Edna.
October 4: Porterfield's wife Flora passed away.⁶
- 1909 Porterfield was thrown off a wagon and injured his back.⁷
- 1910 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Colbert County, AL showed John residing with his second wife Martha and their twin children , Bessie and Jessie. It also showed John's daughter Edna living there as well. His occupation is listed as a watchman on the railroad.
- 1915 November 6: John Berry Porterfield died in Tuscumbia, AL.
- 1917 John's widow, Martha, committed suicide by jumping off of the railroad bridge where she was employed as a watchman after John's death.⁸

¹ The Greenville Advocate, Greenville, AL, Thursday, 17 February 1881, pg 3.

² The Piedmont Post, Piedmont, AL, Friday, 20 March 1885, pg. 3.

³ The Piedmont Post, Piedmont, AL, Saturday, 04 Aug 1888, pg 1.

⁴ The Birmingham News, Birmingham, AL, Saturday, 10 April 1897, pg. 7.

⁵ The Birmingham News, Birmingham, AL, Friday, 03 September, 1897, pg. 3.

⁶ The Weekly Advertiser, Montgomery, AL, Friday, 05 October, 1900, pg 9.

⁷ The Leighton News, Leighton, AL, Friday, 02 April 1909, pg 8.

⁸ The Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, AL, Sunday 23 Dec 1917, pg. 10.