



## Remember Me: Omer Rose Weaver

**Born:** Kentucky, February 15, 1837

**Military Service:** First Lieutenant in Totten's Artillery / Woodruff's Artillery Company, 3rd Arkansas Infantry, State Troops

**Death:** Mortally wounded during the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri, August 10, 1861.

**Age when killed:** 24

### Omer Weaver

Born in Kentucky in 1837, Omer Rose Weaver and his parents came to Little Rock the following year. The Weavers were one of the most socially prominent families in the city. His father, Samuel Weaver, built one of the largest homes in Little Rock and served as Arkansas Secretary of State. Omer graduated from the University of Nashville in 1856 at the age of 19, and by 1860 was working as his father's secretary.

Omer became a lieutenant in the Pulaski Light Artillery, a militia unit organized in Little Rock, in late 1860. The battery was originally known as the Totten Light Artillery, named for William Totten, a prominent physician in Little Rock, and his son Captain James Totten, the commander of the U. S. Arsenal there.



## Remember Me: Omer Rose Weaver

**Born:** Kentucky, February 15, 1837

**Military Service:** First Lieutenant in Totten's Artillery / Woodruff's Artillery Company, 3rd Arkansas Infantry, State Troops

**Death:** Mortally wounded during the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri, August 10, 1861.

**Age when killed:** 24

### Omer Weaver

Omer Weaver was a First Lieutenant in the Woodruff Battery, a Confederate artillery unit. Before the Civil War, Omer Weaver was taught how to be an artillery soldier by Captain James Totten, a Federal officer who had surrendered the Little Rock Arsenal in February 1861.

On the morning of August 10, 1861, First Lieutenant Weaver was with the Woodruff Battery at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri – the first large battle west of the Mississippi River during the Civil War. Ironically, Weaver and the Woodruff Battery faced the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. artillery, commanded by Captain Totten. The battle put student against teacher.

During the battle, Weaver was struck in the chest by a solid cannon ball fired by the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. artillery. Weaver lived for a few moments before dying on the battlefield in the arms of his friend William Woodruff, Jr. Weaver was 24 years old when he was killed, and is believed to be the first Arkansan to die in battle during the Civil War. In honor of his death, the Woodruff Battery changed its name to the Weaver Battery.



## Remember Me: Omer Rose Weaver

**Born:** Kentucky, February 15, 1837

**Military Service:** First Lieutenant in Totten's Artillery / Woodruff's Artillery Company, 3rd Arkansas Infantry, State Troops

**Death:** Mortally wounded during the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri, August 10, 1861.

**Age when killed:** 24

### Pulaski Light Artillery

The Pulaski Light Artillery was organized at Little Rock in December 1860. The company was first called the Totten Light Artillery, in honor of the popular commander of the United States Arsenal at Little Rock from 1839 to 1860, William Totten. When Totten's son, Captain James Totten, then commanding a U.S. Army artillery battery at the arsenal, decided to side with the Union, the battery changed its name to the Pulaski Light Artillery.

From the official reports for the Battle of Wilson's Creek, the Pulaski Light Artillery performed like veterans – coolly and professionally. At least one regimental commander remarked that Woodruff's battery was key to the Confederate victory. When the Union batteries opened on Confederate forces, the Pulaski Light Artillery was the first Confederate battery to open fire. The Pulaski Light Artillery suffered two killed and one seriously wounded in the battle. First Lieutenant Omer Weaver was hit in the chest while commanding his section of the battery and soon died.



## Remember Me: Omer Rose Weaver

**Born:** Kentucky, February 15, 1837

**Military Service:** First Lieutenant in Totten's Artillery / Woodruff's Artillery Company, 3rd Arkansas Infantry, State Troops

**Death:** Mortally wounded during the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri, August 10, 1861.

**Age when killed:** 24

### Summary of Weaver's death during the Battle of Wilson's Creek

“Weaver was struck within the first hour. He had just been relieved by his gunner, Sergeant Blocher, I believe, and, was struck a moment after with a solid shot, which broke his right arm and crushed his breast. Someone told me Weaver was wounded and wanted to see me. I went to him immediately, and he said, lying on the ground, his wounded arm across his breast: ‘I am done for; can't you have me moved?’ . . . His grave is still bare of any memorial stone. This ought not to be, as Arkansas sent no more promising young soldier to the field.” - *William Woodruff, Jr.*

**Source:** *With The Light Guns In '61-'65: Reminiscences of Eleven Arkansas, Missouri and Texas Light Batteries, in the Civil War, Pages 37-52*