Edward Epinetus Knight, son of John Knight and Martha Ann Kimball, was born the 16th day of Nov. 1838 in Edgecombe Co., N.C. He was the eldest of seven children, the others being named Kimball, Laura, Willis, Joe Lawrence, and Larrie.

He volunteered as a private soldier in the Confederate Guards and entered the Second company of Edgecombe which was organized about 8 miles from Rye Mount in March 1861. His character and ability gained for him at once the appointment of 2nd Corporal of his Company, of which Turner Battle was Captain. The company was carried to Gaynors N.C. and mustered into what was known as the 5th N.C. volunteers.

In April they were ordered to Yorktown, Va. where they remained until Feb. 1862; at which time they were ordered to Kingston N.C. and in April they were sent back to Yorktown, where on the 28th of April 1862, they were engaged in their 1st battle at Plain Va.

At the reorganization of this Company, on account of his services and bravery, he was elected 2nd Lieut. of Capt. Foxhall's Company, which was Lt. J. B. 7th Regiment of N.C. and that Regiment was part of the Army of Northern Va. This Regiment was engaged in the battles from
Williamsburg to Malvern Hill. From here they went north over in Maryland where he was promoted to have and gallant conduct over superior officers, by brevet major of the 10th R.I. Regiment, to adjt. of same Regt., the adjt. then being absent on account of sickness. On Sept. 14, 1862, he was dangerously wounded at Battle of South Mountain, Md. (also called Battle of Boonsborough) by a ball passing through right shoulder which necessitated the loss of part of bone of upper arm. He was taken from the field to a private house in the country and from there, carried to Hospital at Chester Pa., where he remained for nine mos., in the hands of Dr. Schmeidt, who afterwards became quite a noted surgeon of Phil. During these months his life hung a slender thread which was saved only by the skillful nursing of a kind "Sister of Charity," (whom he always spoke feelingly as his "little Yankee doctor") and the skillful attention of Dr. Ashurst, whose memory was very dear to him. During this long illness it was necessary to give him 3 fls. of stimulants daily to sustain life, this being prolonged gave him a habit that in latter years gave many
Of his friends cause for regret. Beyond this one fault there was never a word against him. Upon his recovery he was sent to Ft. Delaware where he was paroled + exchanged, reaching home just before the war closed. Many incidents related by him show us that through suffering during his stay in the hospital + prison his presence was always cheering and his bright words of comfort were ever encouraging to other sufferers. Capt. Knights was not only a brave soldier but as modest as have in camp or on battlefield, he was the same genial comrade, leading in fun or a solemn hope as if either or both were the routine business of a soldier + not worth mentioning.

Capt. Ed Knights, as he was familiarly known, returned to his home weak in body but strong in love + mind and rich in energy. He soon had gathered together by his uniting energy such property as to place him among the best families of his county. He was a fine intellect, far above the average, and was known for his big heart + charitable hand. While others looked in the social circles of life he visited the needy cheering those in despair. He liberally filled the coffers of the poor.
No charity call was ever left unheeded, no deed of kindness ever left undone. As a brother, friend and neighbor, he was loyal, generous, your friend to his own injury which he never sought.

He lived alone, his heart too big and his love too great to concentrate upon one companion in life.

He died on the 22nd of July, 1908, amidst friends and loved ones, mourned by all who knew him, and is slay his memory bears but one fault to his life but one self-inflicted stain. Let us pray that He who has all power has washed away this one fault and has pardoned him to enter the gates of heaven.

He was buried in the family burying ground to sleep until the great resurrection morn.