

### **Lewis Benjamin Adie, 43<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry**

Lewis Benjamin Adie was one of two of Mosby's Rangers killed on August 13, 1864 in the attack on a 500 wagon train entering Berryville, Virginia. Adie was killed in the initial charge on the wagons.<sup>i</sup> George Perkins, a member of the 149th Ohio Infantry, wrote of finding Adie after the raid follows: "I saw lying on his face the body of a handsome young lieutenant, who was shot by one of our company. The ball entered his forehead and scattered his brains. He was Lieut. Eddy of Mosby's men, a member of one of the good families of Richmond, Va. Gen. Mosby lamented his loss greatly, he being one of his most trusted men."<sup>ii</sup>

Ranger John Munson would remember that Adie "was one of the gamest and best boys in Montjoy's company of all good ones." He also noted that Adie had served in Montjoy's "first set of fours" between Ned Gibson and Charlie Dear.<sup>iii</sup> John Scott wrote in his book "Partisan Life with Col. John S. Mosby," that Adie was "a young soldier of the highest promise."<sup>iv</sup>

Lewis Adie's uncle, Charles L. Powell, wrote a biography of his nephew in 1875 which was published in the book "Biographical Sketches of the Graduates and Elèves of the Virginia Military Institute Who Fell During the War Between the States." It reads as follows:

"No one of the youthful martyr-heroes in our struggle for liberty was animated by a purer purpose and nobler patriotism, or, in a career so brief, better maintained the honor of the Virginia Military Institute, than Louis B. Adie.

"He was born at Leesburg, Loudon County, Virginia, on the 21st of July, 1844. His father, the Rev. George Adie, was a devoted and highly-esteemed clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and for many years Rector of St. James's Church at that place. His mother was the daughter of the Hon. Cuthbert Powell, who, very acceptably to his constituents, represented the Loudon District in the Congress of 1841-42, which was remarkable for the number of men distinguished for their integrity and ability who were comprised among its members. His great-grandfathers were Colonel Levin Powell, of Loudoun County, and Colonel Charles Simms, of Alexandria, Virginia. They were both officers of good repute in the Revolutionary War, and both members of the Virginia Convention which ratified that Federal Constitution which in the purer days of the Republic had rapidly advanced its prosperity and greatness, and which, in corrupt times, by usurpation, and the perversion and abuse of its powers, was employed to involve their State and their posterity in a calamitous war. Colonel Powell was also a highly-respected member of the Congress of the United States in about the year 1800. It may be mentioned in illustration of the character of the political principles and love of liberty which he transmitted to his posterity, that forty-eight of his descendants were in the military service of the Confederate States, nine of whom proved their devotion to the cause by the sacrifice of their lives. Thus nurtured, young Adie was ready for the crisis of 1861. He was then, at the age of sixteen, quietly engaged in the pursuit of his studies at the Leesburg Academy, -an intelligent, calm, resolute, affectionate, dutiful boy. He threw aside his books to find an outlet for his eager desire for active usefulness in the position of courier to General D. H. Hill, then in command at that place. When his widowed mother objected to his entering the ranks because of his youth, he met the objection by characteristic argument, that he was old enough for military service, and if he were killed, a boy's life would be a less loss to the State than a man's. By the persuasion of his friends, he was induced to defer the gratification of his eager desire for military service until prepared for it by the training of the Virginia Military Institute. He accordingly, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1863, became a cadet of the institution. While there, by his correct deportment and studious habits, he secured the approval of his teachers; and by his amiable and affectionate disposition, and his manly and honorable bearing, he won the confidence and attachment of his companions. But the quiet of his academic studies was invaded by the clash of arms, and his spirit chafed under a sense of his own inaction. He heard of the battles in which the brave and patriotic young men of the country were struggling to drive back the invaders of Virginia, and became impatient to participate. He therefore left the Institute, and returned home to make immediate preparations for active

service. Sheridan was then pressing his devastating march up the beautiful valley of the Shenandoah. There was devolved upon Colonel Mosby and his command the important duty to obstruct his progress by hanging upon the rear of his forces and cutting off his supplies. The character of the leader and of the service, inciting to dashing and brilliant enterprise, was peculiarly fitted to fire the imagination and stir the hearts of the brave young men of the land. Young Adie felt and yielded to their influence, and early in the winter of 1864 attached himself to Colonel Mosby's command as a member of company of Captain Alfred Glasscock, of Fauquier. He threw all the energies of his nature into its duties. In its dashing and dangerous enterprises he was an active participant. It was in one of these, in the middle of August, that his brilliant and brief career was brought to its fatal close. A plan was laid for the capture of a supply-train, which, under an infantry and cavalry escort, was making its way to Sheridan's army. Young Adie was not among those detailed to accomplish it. But with his friend, A. H. Nott, now of Alexandria, and Captain Glasscock, he volunteered for the service. The infantry and cavalry escort was scattered before the charge of our men; but the success was won by the sacrifice of some of the most gallant young men of the command. Among them was Louis B. Adie. It is difficult to learn with perfect accuracy, even from those engaged, the details of a battle of a skirmish. In the account which has been furnished by Captain Glasscock of the circumstances of Louis Adie's death, he states that "he fell while charging at the head of the company near Berryville, Virginia. Before receiving the fatal shot he killed two of the enemy with his revolver, and pressing the third one hard, he fell under the fire of an infantry company, which arose from behind a stone wall." Whatever uncertainty there may be of the details of the action, and of his participation in it, it is certain they were such as to secure from his comrades their high admiration of his conduct and their profound regret for his death. His captain declares of him, "I always regarded Adie as the very type of chivalry, the soul of courage, and the embodiment of all the characteristics which make a true soldier." To that, Colonel Mosby adds this testimony: "I esteemed him very highly as a very high-toned, virtuous youth, as well as a brave soldier." His remains repose in the quiet cemetery of his native town."

"How sleep the brave who sink to rest  
By all their country's wishes blest!  
When Spring, with dewy fingers cold,  
Returns to deck their hallow'd mould,  
She there shall dress a sweeter sod  
Than Fancy's feet have ever trod."

Charles L. Powell, A. M.<sup>v</sup>

The remains of Lewis Benjamin Adie are believed to lie adjacent to his father in the Old Episcopal Cemetery, Leesburg, Virginia. No headstone exists.

**Editor's Comments:** George Perkins, of the 149th Ohio Infantry, was incorrect about information concerning Adie, and Mosby's rank, but was most likely accurate about what he found after the raid.

Two corrections to Charles L. Powell's biography should be noted. First, most all accounts, including census records, spell Adie's given name as "Lewis," not "Louis." Secondly, Adie joined and served in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry Battalion under Captain Richard P. Montjoy, not Alfred Glascock. Glascock was "elected" captain of Company D on November 27, 1864 after Montjoy's death. Let us never forget the sacrifice of Lewis Benjamin Adie.

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<sup>i</sup> Keen, Hugh C. and Mewborn, Horace, *43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Virginia Cavalry Mosby's Command*. Lynchburg, VA: H. E. Howard, Inc., 1993, page 158.

<sup>ii</sup> Perkins, George. *A Summer in Maryland and Virginia, or Campaigning with the 149th Ohio Volunteer Infantry*. Salem, Ms.: Higginson Book Company, n.d., page 35.

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<sup>iii</sup> Munson, John W. *Reminiscences of a Mosby Guerilla*. New York, N.Y.: Moffat, Yard and Company, 1906, page 136.

<sup>iv</sup> Scott, John. *Partisan Life with Col. John S. Mosby*. New York, N.Y.: Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1867, page 278.

<sup>v</sup> Walker, Charles D. Memorial, *Virginia Military Institute – Biographical Sketches of the Graduates and Elves of the Virginia Military Institute who fell during the War Between the States*. Philadelphia, Pa.: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1875, pages 17-20.