

Profile: Fountain Beattie

Lt. Fountain Beattie was born at Chilhowie, Smyth County, Virginia, on November 10, 1840. He enlisted in the First Virginia Cavalry in Abingdon, Virginia in 1861. The commanding officer was Colonel (later General) 'Grumble' W.E. Jones and another member of the command was John Singleton Mosby. All three men were to later become associated with General Stuart and Fount Beattie became one of Mosby's closest friends as well as one of the most trusted men after Mosby became Commander of the 43rd Battalion of Virginia, Confederate States of America.

During the War Between the States both Mosby and Beattie stayed at the Hathaway House near The Plains in Fauquier County, Virginia. This was the house where Mosby escaped capture by the Yankees by climbing out of the bedroom window and taking refuge on the limb of a large tree while the Yankees vainly searched the house for him. It was here that Beattie met Anne Hathaway whom he married in 1865. At their wedding, this toast was given: "Here's to Capt. Beattie, so gallant and gay, A rival with Shakespeare for Anne Hathaway."

They lived for awhile in Fauquier County. In June of 1878 he bought Green Springs Farm, a 339 acre tract on the Little River Turnpike, Fairfax County, Virginia. Beattie was appointed Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue for the Sixth District of Virginia and served from 1875 until 1914. He sold the farm in 1917 and moved to the City of Alexandria, Virginia, where he engaged in real estate business until his death on March 25, 1923. He was survived by four daughters and six sons. He is buried in St. James Cemetery in Falls Church, Virginia.

Profile by Fountain Beattie's granddaughter, Marian Beattie Ralph, and first appeared in *Southern Cavalry Review*, September 1984. Mrs. Ralph was a charter member of the Society.