

## Joseph C. Coyle, 43<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry

Joseph C. Coyle enlisted in Captain James W. Glenn's Company, 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry Regiment, on August 6, 1861 at Charles Town, Virginia. Glenn's company was transferred to the newly organized 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry Regiment on June 21, 1862, becoming company A of that regiment. Coyle had three brothers; James W., Jerome B, and Julius M. who all enlisted in the 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry the latter part of 1862. Joseph Coyle was re-enlisted in Company A as a Corporal on August 12, 1862 at Charles Town by Captain William H. Morrow.<sup>i</sup>

In an engagement on September 9, 1862 with the 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry near Poolesville, Maryland, Joseph Coyle was captured. He was paroled for exchange on September 27, 1862 at Aiken's Landing, Virginia and exchanged on November 10, 1862. Coyle was paid on October 31, 1862 in the amount of \$73.00 for the period May 1, 1862 to August 31, 1862. This included 6 months clothing at \$25.00 and 4 months service at \$12.00 per month.<sup>ii</sup>

Joseph Coyle was captured April 6, 1863 near Berryville, Clarke County, Virginia and sent to Fort McHenry, Maryland. He was paroled and sent to City Point, Virginia for exchange. There is no record of his exchange date. He appears as "Present" and as a corporal on a September and October, 1863 Company A muster roll. On a November to December, 1863 muster roll, Coyle appears as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sergeant and "absent without leave since Dec. 28, 1863." He again is listed as "absent without leave" on a January to February, 1864 muster roll.<sup>iii</sup>

There is no record of Coyle's service with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry prior to a scout that he and several of Mosby's men were on in the early spring of 1864. On March 27, 1864, a small group of Mosby's men including William H. Trundle, John Russell, John Castleman and Joseph C. Coyle were scouting in the Shenandoah Valley near Bunker Hill. That evening, the group was fired on by a party of Federal soldiers laying in ambush. Trundle and Joseph Coyle were killed, while Russell and Castleman escaped.<sup>iv</sup>

Joseph C. Coyle was born about September 8, 1841 in Berkeley County, Virginia, the son of Edward V. Coyle and Mary Winpyglar. The Coyle family was residing near Mill Creek Post Office in Berkeley County in 1860. After his death, Joseph Coyle's body was taken to his home where he was buried in the family cemetery, located off Leetown Pike (Rt 480) in Jefferson County, now West Virginia. His tombstone reads as follows:<sup>v</sup>

Joseph C. Coyle  
Co. A 12<sup>th</sup> Va. Cav. C.S.A.  
Killed at Bunker Hill  
Berkeley Co., Va.  
Mar. 28, 1864  
Aged 22 years 5 mos  
& 20 days

Let us never forget the sacrifice of Joseph C. Coyle.

© Hugh Keen, December 2006

---

<sup>i</sup> National Archives, Washington D.C., Record Group 109, War Dept. Collection of Confederate Records. Compiled Military Service Records for soldiers serving in the 12th Virginia Cavalry Regiment, Microfilm Series M324, Roll #116, record #398; Wallace, Lee A. *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations 1861-1865*. Lynchburg, Va.: H. E. Howard, Inc., 1986, page 54; Frye, Dennis E. *12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry*. Lynchburg, VA: H. E. Howard, Inc., 1988, page 119.

<sup>ii</sup> National Archives, Record Group 109, Compiled Service Records for the 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, Series M324, Roll #116, record #398; Frye, Dennis E. *12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry*, page 14.

<sup>iii</sup> National Archives, Record Group 109, Compiled Service Records for the 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, Series M324, Roll #116, record #398.

<sup>iv</sup> Williamson, James J. *Mosby's Rangers*. 2nd ed., New York, N.Y.: Sturgis & Welton Company, 1909, page 155.

<sup>v</sup> National Archives, Washington D.C., Record Group 29, Records of the Bureau of the Census. 1840 Federal Census, Berkeley County, VA, Series M704, Roll 551, page 171; 1850 Federal Census, Berkeley County, VA, Series M432,

---

Roll 936, page 414; 1860 Federal Census, Berkeley County, VA, Series M653, Roll 1335, page 881; Cemetery headstone inscriptions, Coyle Family Cemetery, Jefferson Co., W. VA.