

Thomas F. Mallory, 43rd Virginia Cavalry

Thomas F. Mallory was born about 1846 in Culpeper or Rappahannock County, Virginia. He was the only child of Albert Dabney Mallory and Ruth Ann Settle. His father was listed in the 1850 census of Rappahannock County as a miller.ⁱ By 1860, the Mallory family had moved to the Markham area of Fauquier County, Virginia. They were enumerated between the households of Dr. R. C. Ambler and Henry M. Marshall at Fiery Run Mill, south of Markham, in Fauquier County.ⁱⁱ The Amblers and Marshalls jointly operated Fiery Run Mill. It is, therefore, believed that Albert D. Mallory, along with his father-in-law, Henry Settle, was employed at that time as millers at Fiery Run Mill.ⁱⁱⁱ

Thomas F. Mallory was enlisted into Company B, 43rd Virginia Cavalry Battalion on October 1, 1863 at Scuffleburg, Fauquier County, by Captain William R. Smith. He was noted as being present on a company B muster roll for the period Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 1863.^{iv} There is no record of scouts, engagements, etc. in which Thomas F. Mallory participated before September 4, 1864. It was on this date that a detachment of Mosby's men commanded by Lieutenant Joseph H. Nelson, was surprised by Captain Richard Blazer's Independent Scouts near Myer's Ford on the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County, Virginia (now West Virginia). In the ensuing fight, the Confederates were overwhelmed by the Union Cavalrymen, the result being Thomas F. Mallory was mortally wounded. Nelson lost one other man killed and several others wounded and captured.^v

It is not known how long Thomas F. Mallory lived after the fight with Blazer's Scouts. His final resting place is also unknown. His parents either left Fauquier County or both died as there are no records of their existence by 1870.^{vi}

Editor's Comments: Post-war chroniclers of Mosby's Rangers identified the mortally wounded man in the Myer's Ford engagement only as "Mallory."^{vii} It should be noted that no direct or primary evidence has been found that positively identifies Thomas F. Mallory as the Mallory identified by authors, Scott and Williamson, in the September 4, 1864 fight with Blazer's Scouts. The following is evidence that will build a circumstantial case for Thomas F. Mallory being the Mallory mortally wounded at Myer's Ford.

First, it is a known fact that Company B was well represented in Nelson's detachment including Resin S. Farr, James M. Johnson, Sgt. Horace Johnson, Benjamin F. McQueen, and J. Emory Pitts. Thomas F. Mallory, also of Company B, could have easily been included in Nelson's detachment.

Second, Thomas F. Mallory is the only surname of Mallory for which there are original documents (compiled military service records) to show enrollment in the 43rd Virginia Cavalry Battalion.^{viii}

Third, it was not uncommon for men from other organizations to be serving with the rangers while home on furlough or on scouting detail. Some even lost their lives in such endeavors. A review of the principle organizations that furnished men on an 'ad-hoc' basis to the Ranger Battalion identified only five men with the surname Mallory. All of these men survived the war. The organizations reviewed included: 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 15th, and 35th Cavalry Regiments and the 2nd, 8th, 17th and 49th Infantry Regiments.^{ix}

Fourth, there is no evidence in the U.S. census records after 1860 that Thomas F. Mallory and his parents were still living. They did not appear in the 1870, 1880 and 1900 Federal Census Indexes.^x

Further complicating the matter, Virgil Carrington "Pat" Jones entered on page 325 of his ledger book, *Mosby's Roster by Virgil Carrington "Pat" Jones*, that it was James H. Mallory who was involved in the Myer's Ford engagement. Jones wrote in his roster: "Mallory, James H. – Co. B. Joined Oct. 15, 1863. Killed at Myer's Ford by Blazer, Sept. 4, 1864."^{xi} The original source of this name is not mentioned or known.

Three sources were reviewed to try to identify the above James H. Mallory as follows:

1. The Library of Virginia online listing of Virginia Confederate Rosters. There is no listing for a James H. Mallory. A J. H. Mallory listed is Joseph H. Mallory who served in the 4th Virginia Cavalry Regiment and who survived the war. One James Mallory was attached to Company C, 29th Virginia Infantry Regiment that was from the southwest part of the state of Virginia. The Library of Virginia Confederate Rosters are not complete as evidenced by the fact that they do not include Thomas F. Mallory.^{xii}
2. *Roster of Confederate Soldiers 1861-1865*. Janet B. Hewett, Editor. Broadfoot Publishing Co.. These rosters are based on the compiled military service records held by the National Archives in Washington, DC. The results of this review were the same as noted above for the Library of Virginia rosters.^{xiii}
3. The U.S. census records for the state of Virginia for the years 1860 and 1870. There was no James H. Mallory listed in Virginia that was of the age to have served in the Civil War or a James Mallory that was enumerated in the neighboring counties of ‘Mosby’s Confederacy’.^{xiv}

Based on the above information, it can only be concluded that the name James H. Mallory in the Jones ledger book is a mistake. It is a well-known fact that there are numerous mistakes in Jones’ ledger book, several of which were submitted from this editor as a novice researcher some twenty years ago.

It should be noted that the while the roster included with the 43rd *Virginia Battalion – Mosby’s Command*, incorrectly identifies James H. Mallory as the ranger mortally wounded at Myer’s Ford, the narrative correctly identifies Thomas F. Mallory. The source of the James H. Mallory listing in the roster was the Jones ledger book roster.^{xv}

In summary, there is substantial, although circumstantial, evidence that it was Thomas F. Mallory who was mortally wounded September 4, 1864 in an engagement with Blazer’s Scouts at Myer’s Ford. That being the case, let us never forget the sacrifice of Thomas F. Mallory.

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ⁱ Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (CJCLDS), Salt Lake City, Utah. International Genealogical Index, Vol. V. Online ed. (www.familysearch.org). Individual Record #100366675818, “Ruth Ann Settle;” National Archives, Washington D.C., 1850 Federal Census, Rappahannock Co., Va., Series M432, Roll 972, page 147.

ⁱⁱ National Archives, Washington D.C., 1860 Federal Census, Fauquier Co., Va., Series M653, Roll 1344, page 277; Virginia Historical Society. Jeremy Francis Gilmer Collection. Map #37, “Fauquier County, 1863.”

ⁱⁱⁱ Jewell, Aurelia M., Editor. *Fiery Run Mill - W.P.A. Records, Fauquier County, Virginia*. 1955, Book 2, pages 43-4; Moffett, Lee. “Water Powered Mills of Fauquier County, Virginia.” n.p., n.d. pages 72-3.

^{iv} National Archives, Washington D.C., Record Group 109, War Dept. Collection of Confederate Records, Compiled Military Service Records of the Officers and Men who served in Mosby’s Regiment, Cavalry (Partisan Rangers), Microfilm #324, Roll #208, File #894.

^v Keen, Hugh C. and Mewborn, Horace, *43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry Mosby’s Command*. Lynchburg, VA: H. E. Howard, Inc., 1993, pages 170-172.

^{vi} Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census Index. Online edition.

^{vii} Scott, John. “Partisan Life with Col. John S. Mosby.” New York, N.Y.: Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1867, page 290; Williamson, James J. “Mosby’s Rangers.” 2nd ed., New York, N.Y.: Sturgis & Welton Company, 1909, page 228.

^{viii} National Archives, Compiled Military Service Records. Mosby’s Regiment. Microfilm #324, Roll #208.

^{ix} “The Virginia Regimental Histories Series.” Lynchburg, Va.: H. E. Howard Inc.

^x Ancestry.com. 1870, 1880 and 1900 United States Federal Census Indexes. Online editions.

^{xi} Jones, Virgil C. , “Mosby’s Roster by Virgil Carrington “Pat” Jones,” page 325. (Copy in possession of the editor.)

^{xii} Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia. “Virginia Confederate Rosters.” Online edition.

^{xiii} Hewett, Janet B. Editor. *Roster of Confederate Soldiers 1861-1865*. 16 Volumes. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publishing Co., 1995-1996.

^{xiv} Ancestry.com. 1860 and 1870 United States Federal Census Indexes. On-line editions.

^{xv} Keen and Mewborn, pages 172 and 344.