

### Andrew J. Pierce, 43<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry

Andrew J. Pierce was born about April 1845 in Loudoun County, Virginia. He was the son of John F. and Elizabeth Pierce. The Pierce family was enumerated in the 1860 Federal Census as residing near the Philomont Post Office area of southwestern Loudoun County.<sup>i</sup>

There are no records of Andrew J. Pierce's service in the Confederate Army prior to him joining Mosby's Command. The only record of his service with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry comes from a list of 'Loudoun County's Confederate Dead' published in the Leesburg *Record* newspaper on April 6, 1906. Pierce was listed as follows:

Andrew Pierce, Capt. Chapman's Co., Mosby's Battalion.

Killed near George's Mill, December 1864.<sup>ii</sup>

Pierce's sister, Harriett, later reported to Loudoun County tax assessors that her brother was 'killed in battle' near Lovettsville on December 6, 1864.<sup>iii</sup>

Andrew J. Pierce's final resting place is unknown.

**Editor's Comments:** A review of the activities of Mosby's Command for the first week of December 1864 shows no indication of any engagements in the Lovettsville and George's Mill area of northern Loudoun County.

Pierce could have been with one of Mosby's infamous 'Corn Details' that often raided Quaker farms in northern Loudoun County and were sometimes attacked by Union cavalry detachments. This seems unlikely given that the Federal burning raid of the Loudoun Valley a week earlier would have likely eliminated, for a time, any surplus grain in that part of Loudoun County.<sup>iv</sup>

There is the possibility that Andrew Pierce was killed in a minor engagement between Mosby's men and Union cavalry that went unrecorded.

As mentioned, there are no records of Andrew Pierce's service in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Battalion other than the post-war newspaper listing of Loudoun Confederate Dead. The listing of his name alone would likely be insufficient information to believe Pierce actually served in the 43<sup>rd</sup>. But, the specific information provided in the newspaper listing of his name along with his death confirmed by his sister, gives sufficient credibility to the overall information to believe that Andrew J. Pierce did serve in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Battalion. Let us never forget the sacrifice of Andrew J. Pierce.

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<sup>i</sup> National Archives, Washington D.C., Record Group 29, 1850 Federal Census, Loudoun Co., Va., Series M432, Roll 957, page 170 and 1860 Federal Census, Loudoun Co., Va., Series M653, Roll 1359, page 624.

<sup>ii</sup> Leesburg, Virginia *The Record*, newspaper. April 6, 1906.

<sup>iii</sup> Jewell, Mrs. Walter Towner. "Death Records of Loudoun County, Virginia." N.p. N.d., page 71.

<sup>iv</sup> Keen, Hugh C. and Mewborn, Horace, *43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Virginia Cavalry Mosby's Command*. Lynchburg, VA: H. E. Howard, Inc., 1993, pages 226-230.