

Widow's Pension Claim: Mrs. Nannie S. Rice, Widow of Ranger James Rice

Widow's Pension Claim, State of Florida, A10345.

12 December, 1932. The Vice President of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Florida Division wrote the State Comptroller requesting a pension for Mrs. Nannie S. Rice: "Widow of J.W. Rice – who was born in Fauquier, Virginia. Enlisted with Mosby's men – the 43rd Virginia Battalion Cavalry at 14 years of age, last year of the war – served one year."

13 December, 1932. The Department of Florida Pensions asked the Adjutant-General, US Army, Washington for the military service record of James W. Rice, 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry.

17 December, 1932. The Adjutant-General responded: "The name of James W. Rice has not been found on the muster rolls on file in this office of any company of Mosby's Regiment Virginia Cavalry, (43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry), CSA. John S. Mosby was Colonel of the regiment."

31 March, 1933. Nannie Strother Rice, widow of James Wilson Rice, filed an application for a Confederate Veteran's widow's pension. She stated her husband enlisted in April 1864 at Paris, Virginia with Col. John Mosby's command, and was discharged at Paris on 10 April 1865 following General Lee's surrender. She stated she was married on 27 December 1882, and that her husband died on 17 May 1923. She enclosed certificates for both her marriage and her husband's death. She further stated her husband had never applied for a pension or received one since they moved to Florida on 24 October 1917. She certified she was receiving no pension from another state.

10 April, 1933. The county commissioners for Palm Beach County, Florida reported Nannie Strother Rice was a resident of Florida for at least eight years and that the applicant should be granted a pension.

9 May, 1933. Replying to the Pension Board's request for information about James W. Rice's wartime service, John P. Sneed, his long time friend wrote: "Although I cannot furnish any official data to his service in the Army, I do know that he served with Colonel Mosby. I witnessed his marching with the Mosby Veterans in the Reunion Parade in Washington, D.C. in 1917, wearing the medals that were issued only to the survivors of that command, and knowing how particular those Old Veterans were, about not allowing any but comrades to march with them, or to be presented with the Cross of Honor, (which medal was presented to Mr. Rice and which is now in the possession of Mrs. Rice), I feel that this should be taken as sufficient proof of his service."

7 July, 1933. Asked for further information about her husband's service, Nannie wrote the Pension Board: "I am sending you the Southern Cross of Honor that was presented to my husband, James W. Rice. I am also enclosing badges from several of the Reunions of Mosby's Men that he attended. I have his pistol and several other relics but did not think it necessary to send them. P.S. I value the badges I am sending very highly and trust that you will not allow them to become displaced."

13 July, 1933. Again Nannie wrote: "As further information I might say that I have a picture taken at Fairfax Court House, VA., at the reunion of 1909. There are 42 of Mosby's men in this picture, my husband among them, and not one of the members is now living."

27 July, 1933. A pension was approved with pay from 12 April 1933 at \$480 per annum and continued until Mrs. Rice's death in 1937.

Mrs. Rice is buried in Bethel Cemetery at Alexandria, Virginia. Her small plain tombstone reads, "Nannie Carter Rice, 1854-1937". Her husband and brother are buried beside her and share a common tombstone reading, "In Memory of M.T. Carter, J.W. Rice, Two Southern Soldiers."