

Joshua Warfield Riggs

Born March 4, 1844 at the family home of "Rockland" near Tridelphia, Montgomery County, Maryland, Joshua enlisted as a private in Company K of the 1st Virginia Cavalry on May 14, 1861. He served with Company K until he transferred to Company A of the 1st Maryland Cavalry on May 15, 1862, where he was promoted to 4th Sergeant. The Muster Rolls show him admitted to the General Hospital in Richmond on May 9, 1862 and returned to duty on May 15, 1862.

An article written by Frank Bond, Captain of Company A, for the Confederate Veteran Magazine in 1898, tells the story of the 1st Maryland Cavalry during the Gettysburg Campaign. Captain Bond relates that 'A' Company was selected and attached to General Richard Ewell's headquarters for special service on important occasions. The article relates that on June 28 and 29, Captain Bond and ten men were sent on a scout around Carlisle, Pennsylvania. One of the ten troopers mentioned was Joshua Riggs. On July 1 when the great Battle of Gettysburg started, Captain Bond and Company A were assigned as provost-marshal of Gettysburg, a post they held the entire three days of battle. After the battle Company A assisted in the protection of General Lee's retreating army.

Joshua enlisted with Company D of the 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry, Mosby's Command, date unknown. He would end his military career with Mosby and was paroled in Winchester, Virginia on April 21, 1865. He was 5'11", fair complexion, dark hair and grey eyes according to his parole. Joshua took the oath at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia on May 19, 1865. After the War he became a merchant in Baltimore, Maryland and in Indianapolis, Indiana. He lived in Baltimore until his death on January 10, 1898. He is buried with his comrades in the Confederate Section of Loudon Park Cemetery in Baltimore.

© Samuel L. Riggs; SMHS member; great-great nephew of Joshua Warfield Riggs.



Seated, left to right: J. Monroe Heiskell, Henry Slater, Daniel Murray Mason, Lt. Charles E. Grogan, Joshua Riggs, Gresham Hough; standing, left to right: Claiborne Robinson, John S. Mosby, Harris C. Blanchard, D. Giraud Wright, J. Henley Smith, Alexander G. Carey.