

### **Profile: James William Waddell**

James William Waddell was born in 1842 near Half Way, Fauquier County, Virginia, to James Waddell (Waddle, Waddel), son of James Waddell of Fauquier County, Virginia, and Elizabeth Crouch, daughter of John Crouch and Mary Groves. He was enlisted as a private by Captain Smith in Col. Mosby's Company "B", 43d Battalion, Virginia Cavalry (Partisan Rangers) on or about October 10, 1862. Private Waddell married Mary Marshall Kearns (Kearnes, Kerns, Kernes), daughter of Marshall J. Kearns and Mary Cathy Gill, of Warrenton, Virginia, on May 21, 1863, when Mary was eighteen years old.

After his wedding, Private Waddell returned to his unit and to the War. According to his file in the National Archives, he contracted some form of liver disease as well as a febrile malady which may have been related to his liver problem. Private Waddell remained in C.S. General Hospital No. 13 in Richmond, Virginia, throughout much of the summer of 1864.

In a story which reminds me of a similar escapade in the beginning of Guenther Gras' novel, *The Tin Drum*, my grandmother reports that during the siege of Warrenton by the Yankees, Private Waddell hid under his wife Mary's large skirt to evade detection and capture by a band of marauding Union troops.

Private Waddell and his wife Mary Kearns Waddell raised a family of ten children who were born from 1864 to 1885. James lived near Warrenton until his death on September 6, 1911, and he is buried in the Sharon Cemetery in Middleburg, Virginia. Mary survived her husband until August 4, 1932, and is buried beside him.

Profile by James William Waddell's great great grandson, Thomas Katheder, Esq., and first appeared in *Southern Cavalry Review*, November 1985.