

### **William R. Whitescarver, 43<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry**

William R. Whitescarver was born about 1845 in Rappahannock County, Virginia. He was the only son of Winston Pemberton Whitescarver, a schoolteacher, and Susan Frances Bragg.<sup>i</sup> In 1860, the Whitescarver family was residing between Laurel Mills and Woodville in Rappahannock County.<sup>ii</sup>

There is no record of William R. Whitescarver's involvement in the Civil War prior to his enlistment with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry. He was enlisted in Company B on October 1, 1863 by Captain William R. Smith at Scuffleburg, Fauquier County, Virginia. On a company muster roll dated January 22, 1864 that covered the period October 1 to December 31, 1863, William R. Whitescarver is reported to have "died of typhoid fever 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1863."<sup>iii</sup> The final resting place of his remains is unknown.

**Editor's Comments:** William R. Whitescarver is the only known member of Mosby's Command to have died of disease while not being incarcerated in a Union prison. A review of the Rappahannock County, Virginia death records for a period prior to and during the Civil War revealed that typhoid fever was a fairly common cause of death at that time.<sup>iv</sup>

Let us never forget the sacrifice of William R. Whitescarver.

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<sup>i</sup> National Archives, Washington, D.C., 1850 Federal Census, Rappahannock County, Virginia, Series M432, Roll 972, Page 139. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah. International Genealogical Index, Vol. V. On-line ed. ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)). Family Group Record #1472161, Winston Pemberton Whitescarver; Vogt, John & Kethley, T. William, Jr. "Rappahannock County, Virginia Marriages 1833-1850." 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Athen, GA: New Papyrus Publishing, 2004.

<sup>ii</sup> National Archives, Washington, D.C., 1860 Federal Census, Rappahannock County, Virginia, Series M653, Roll 1374, Page 153.

<sup>iii</sup> National Archives, Washington, D.C. Record Group 109, War Dept. Collection of Confederate Records. Compiled Military Service Records for soldiers serving in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Virginia Partisan Rangers, Microfilm 324, Roll 209, Record #1500.

<sup>iv</sup> Baldwin, Wayne F., Rappahannock County, Virginia Court Clerk. "Birth and death registers, 1853-1891." Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints microfilm roll No. 2056953, item #5.