

2nd Lt. George Harrison Payne
Co. G – 18th Virginia Cavalry

Born February 16, 1835

The 1860 census shows George as a 25 year old ‘grazier.’ A ‘grazier’ is a farm laborer who grazes cattle.

Enlisted at the Bath County Courthouse on June 6, 1861 as a private in Co. G - 25th Virginia Infantry.

Captured at the battle of Rich Hill, Virginia (now West Virginia) on July 13, 1861. Union P.O.W. documents indicated George stood 5’ 9”, had light hair and grey eyes. The men were exchanged July 17 and according to available records George’s parole ended on August 16, 1862.

On December 3, 1862 he re-enlisted at Camp Washington, Virginia and was appointed 2nd Lt. of Co. G – 18th Virginia Cavalry.

George resigned from the service on October 8, 1863 due to health reasons. General Imboden in his endorsement on the medical discharge paperwork noted, *“This officer is unfit for duty & will probably die if kept in the field this winter.”*

Postwar he was a storekeeper and merchant in Covington, Virginia. He married his wife Gussie in 1878 and they had 2 children. A son, Olen J. survived into adulthood.

George died on February 7, 1903 just eight days short of his 68th birthday.

His cavalry saber was given to his favorite sister Sabina Payne Wood, it was then passed to her daughter Jessie Wood Dark, then to her daughter Jessie Dark Toalson and remains in the family in the custody of Jeff Toalson, her son.

(18th Virginia Cavalry, Roger DeLauter, 1989, Lynchburg, roster appendix and 25th Virginia Infantry, R. L. Armstrong, 1989, Lynchburg, roster appendix.)