

## **Cpl. Channing E. Redford**

### **Co. G – 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry**

Channing Redford was the third child of Frederick W. and Isabella Redford. He was born in 1841 in Manchester, Virginia. His father was a clerk by profession. The 1860 census shows that Channing is also a clerk employed by S. McGruder's Sons and living in Manchester.

On April 19, 1861, Channing enlists in Company A of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Infantry. The company is reassigned and becomes Company G of the 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry in September, 1861.

Private Redford is shown present on the muster reports of October, 1861; December, 1861; February, 1862 and April, 1862. On all of those reports it shows he was paid 60 day's pay at the time of the previous muster report.

In May, 1862, Channing was 'promoted from the ranks' to the rank of Corporal.

Channing is shown on the December, 1862, muster report as having been paid through October 31, 1862. On November 2, 1862, a Private Samuel Warrick was accepted by the Captain of Company G as a substitute for Channing. Channing's service with Co. G is over and he returned to civilian life.

In late 1864 he was mustered in to the Richmond Militia (exact unit unknown). On November 1, 1864 he wrote to his sister Julia from camp on the New Market Road, ". . . *rained very hard all day and night and is raining a little this morning . . . I am as wet as water . . . and have an awful headache, we are about two miles from where the fighting has been going on for three days . . .*" In the following paragraph he relates information about the battle to her and notes, "*there are any number of dead and wound negroes laying in our front. they have done most of the fighting for the last two days, and I think they fight equally, if not as well as the Yankees . . . it is raining so hard it is impossible for me to write any more.*"

There is no surrender or parole information.

Post-war Channing served as manager of the Gallego Mills; was employed by Thomas Branch & Co.; served as a commission merchant and in 1878 became the private secretary to Mr. Joseph Bryan. Channing was a member of the Lee Camp of the U. C. V. and the Knights Templar. As the Commanderie of the Knights Templar he was a key participant in the laying of the cornerstone of the Lee Monument in Richmond.

He died on Sunday, March 17, 1901, at his Manchester residence at 837 West Grace Street. He was survived by his widow Ophelia and five children – Horace, Oscar, Blanche, Ethel and Julia. His second son, Charlie, predeceased Channing. Channing is buried in the Shockoe Hill Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia.

(Obituary from the *Richmond Times* of Tuesday, March 19, 1901; Compiled Service Records Confederate, Brewer Library, UDC, Richmond, Va., Microcopy 324, Roll 529; *The Anderson Intellegencier*, Anderson Courthouse, SC.; family letters & information provided by Jim Redford.)