

## Lt. Colonel David Pierson 3<sup>rd</sup> Louisiana Infantry

Born August 30, 1837 in Stewart County, Georgia. Attended Mt. Lebanon University, studied law, and passed the Louisiana bar exam in 1859. Enlisted on May 17, 1861 in New Orleans, LA at age 23.

Elected Captain of Company C (Winn Rifles) of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Louisiana Infantry. The unit was baptized in battle at Oak Hills (Wilson's Creek) and saw action at Pea Ridge, Corinth, Farmington and then the Regiment took 40% casualties at Iuka.

Wounded in the head by shrapnel and captured on September 19, 1862 at battle of Iuka. On October 18, 1862 he was onboard the steamer *Dacotah* awaiting exchange near Vicksburg. Granted 60 day convalescent leave after exchange.

November 5, 1862 promoted to Major. December 20 rejoined Co. C at Vicksburg. On January 20, 1863 from a Camp near Snyder's Mill, MS he wrote his father; "*We are still encamped on the Yazoo River about 14 miles from Vicksburg and decidedly in the muddiest place I have ever lived in. We have some few tents, but the majority of the Regiment are living as best they can under trees, board shelters, or in the ground . . . it is so cold as to freeze one away from the fire. . . . We get pork, potatoes, butter and chickens from the farmers in the country at reasonable prices. . . .*"

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Louisiana held the Louisiana Redan (Fort Hill) section of the Vicksburg trenches. They were undermined and blown up twice (6/25 and 7/1). Both Union assaults repulsed. David was wounded in the chest in the 6/25 explosion. Captured July 4, 1863 at the surrender of Vicksburg, paroled July 8, 1863 and sent to Natchitoches for exchange which occurred in late 1864. August 22, 1863 promoted to Lt. Colonel

A March 25, 1865 letter to his father written from Shreveport, LA: "*Dear Pa – An inferior article of Cotton Cards are in the State Store at seventy-five dollars. The Quartermasters Dep has received a large amt of money lately, and I suppose we will be paid soon, I have only drawn one month's wages since I came here . . . I now begin to doubt the Govnm' will ever send money enough to this side of the river to pay off all . . . the soldiers. The best we can expect will be to draw one or two months . . . (They owe) me over fifteen hundred dollars which . . . would pay all my debts.*"

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Louisiana "disbanded, largely spontaneously on May 19/20, 1865." David was paroled on June 15, 1865. Postwar David practiced law in Winnfield, LA and then in 1868 he moved to Natchitoches. Served as District Judge from 1876 to 1892. Retired 1892. David Pearson passed away from heart failure on September 28, 1900.

[Compiled Service Records CSA Soldiers, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, VA., Micro Copy 320, Roll 121; *Brothers in Gray*, Thomas Cutrer, Baton Rouge, 1997, by date & p. 1-12]