

Lt. Colonel James Harvey Allen
Company H – 5th Virginia Cavalry

James H. Allen was born January 19, 1829. He was the son of Benjamin & Frances M. B. Coke Allen.

The 1860 census shows James as age 30 and a “classical” school teacher.

James enlisted in the James City Cavalry, in Williamsburg, on June 14, 1861. He was elected Captain of the Company and they were initially assigned as Company I of the 3rd Virginia Cavalry. In May of 1862 the CSA Armies were reorganized and James was re-elected as Captain of the company and they became Co. H of the 5th Virginia Cavalry.

At Williamsport, Maryland on July 9, 1863 he signed for one ton of hay and 2 barrels of corn for the company horses. After 30 days of living off the land, to Gettysburg and back, this must have seemed pretty meager but still very welcome.

The February 15, 1864 muster rolls show Company H with 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, and 34 enlisted men. They were a smallish Company by CSA standards with a normal compliment of around 60 but they are without 40% of their compliment.

Wounded near Cold Harbor 6-1-1864, promoted to Major 6-16-1864, and promoted to Lt. Colonel on 7-20-1864.

Present at New Bridge on 2-28-1865 in command of the 5th Virginia Cavalry.

Took the Oath of Allegiance in Williamsburg, Virginia on 4-29-1865.

Shortly after the end of hostilities he became Superintendent of Schools in James City County and held that position till his death in 1898.

The 1870 and 1880 census shows him living in Burnt Ordinary with his sister Fannie.

James was a charter member of the Magruder-Ewell Camp of the U. C. V.

He married Ada Byron Hankins (the widow Tuttle) on 12-19-1883. He was 53 and she was 41. Prior to his death in 1898 they divorced.

The will of James H. Allen directed that all of his property go to his sister Fannie.

James is buried in Peach Park Cemetery where he is honored on a daily basis with a monument marking his grave which was installed by the James City Cavalry – SCV Camp 2095 in 2008.

(Driver, Robert – *The 5th Virginia Cavalry*, Lynchburg, 1997, p. 179; Boelt, Higgs, Hull & Kaufmann, editors – *James City County, Virginia Cemeteries*, Yorktown, 2011, p. 1-3; Toalson, Jeff – editor, *Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls*, Bloomington, 2006, p. 2.)