

**Lt. Colonel John C. Timberlake**  
**Co. E – 53<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Infantry**

John was born in 1829 in New Kent County, Va., the son of John and Frances Timberlake. By 1850 he was living with his widowed mother on the family farm near the Courthouse in New Kent. In the 1860 census he is listed as a merchant, living in the same area.

John enlisted in Company E of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Infantry on July 8, 1861 at West Point. He was elected Captain of Company E. John stood 5' 8", had a fair complexion, dark hair and blue eyes.

He was sick at home on medical furlough from November, 1861 through February, 1862. In June, 1862 he was absent sick again but was present on the muster roll at the end of August.

Promoted to Major in March, 1863. In April he was admitted to Chimborazo Genl. Hospital #4 with dysentery and was transferred to Huguenot Springs Hospital in May. He was back with his regiment for the invasion of Pennsylvania and was captured at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863.

As a POW he was sent to Fort McHenry in Baltimore, on July 7 he was transferred to Fort Delaware and on July 18 he was transferred to Johnson's Island, Ohio. He escaped from Johnson's Island but was quickly recaptured. On April 22, 1864 he was sent to Point Lookout, Maryland. On April 26 he was admitted to Hammond Genl. Hospital with chronic diarrhea. He was exchanged at Aiken's Landing, Virginia on May 8, 1864.

John immediately was sent to Chimborazo #4 with chronic diarrhea and dibility. August 17, 1864 records show John at Chimborazo #4 with the same ailments.

He was promoted to Lt. Colonel in October, 1864. Captured at Sailor's Creek on April 6, 1865 and sent to Old Capital Prison in D. C., and then to Johnson's Island, Ohio on April 21, 1865. He took the oath and was released on July 25, 1865.

Postwar John married Missouri Florida Blassingham on July 21, 1869. The 1870 census shows John as 43 and Missouri as 18. They had 8 children. John was both a lumberman and a farmer. He died April 19, 1888 and is buried in the Cedar Grove Cemetery in Williamsburg, Virginia.

**(‘Confederate Gravesite’ – James City Cavalry Picket Lines, Sep., 2011, article by Fred Boelt; Micro Copy 324, Roll 952, Compiled Service Records – Confederate, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia.)**