

Private Richard Brown – Stafford Light Artillery
Private Elijah Brown – Co. A – 47th Virginia Infantry
Private Alexander Henry Brown – Co. A – 47th Virginia Infantry

Richard Brown, the youngest brother, enlisted in the Stafford Light Artillery on August 9, 1861. He is shown as 26 years of age. He was absent sick on November 5, 1861. Richard died of typhoid fever March 28, 1862 at Brooke Station, Virginia. Mary, his widow, applied for a pension in 1888 and received \$90 per year.

Elijah Brown, the middle brother, was born in 1830. He enlisted, at age 32, in Company A of the 47th Virginia Infantry on April 10, 1862. Records show him detailed as a nurse in the Richmond hospitals on January 1, 1863. Elijah was wounded in the neck at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. Records show him present on the December 31, 1864 muster roll. Elijah deserted at Bermuda Hundred on February 12, 1865. He took the Oath of Allegiance on February 17th and transportation was provided to Alexandria, Virginia. He married Harriet Graves on March 28, 1868. In 1888 he was applied and granted a military pension of \$15 a year. Elijah died on June 6, 1902.

Alexander Brown, the oldest brother, was born in 1825. He and his brothers were the sons of William and Lucinda Brown of Stafford, Virginia. Alexander married Catharine Dunnington on 2-28-1856. Alexander was over 35 when the Confederate draft was instituted and was exempt from the service. However, the upper draft age went to 45 in 1864 and the 39 year old Alexander was conscripted into the service. He joined Co. A of the 47th Virginia Infantry (the same unit as his brother) on October 19, 1864. He joined his unit in the Petersburg line at Bermuda Hundred. In company with Elijah he deserted on February 12, 1865 and took the Oath of Allegiance on February 17th. He was provided transportation to Alexandria, Virginia. He will pass away on March 2, 1892.

If a Confederate soldier came from a state or area that was within Union lines, as was Stafford County, Virginia to the north of Fredericksburg, that soldier could take the Oath of Allegiance and return home to resume his prewar occupation. There are no documents to provide a clue for their reason for a dual desertion. Elijah had served for almost 3 years and had been wounded in battle at Gettysburg. It could have been family hardships on the farm with older parents and younger siblings.

(Compiled Service Records Confederate – Brewer Library, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia; Census Reports – Ancestry.com: 1850 – M432-978; 1860-M653-1375; 1880- Roll 1391, p527; Roster listings in Virginia Regimental Series both 'The Stafford Light Artillery' and '47th Virginia Infantry'.)