

5th Sergeant Roland H. Woodward
Private Robert A. Woodward
Co. B – 53rd Virginia Infantry

Roland Harry Woodward was born in New Kent County on November 10, 1841. His parents were William H. and Mary A. Woodward. He had an older brother, Robert Ammond, who was born on December 15, 1838, and several younger siblings. When the war broke out, Robert and Roland both enlisted into Company B, (Captain James Richardson's Company, Barhamsville Grays), 53rd Virginia Infantry, on May 11, 1861, at West Point.

Robert served as a private until May 1, 1862, when he was discharged for a disability. He was unable to hear commands or the approach of the enemy when on guard duty. Robert Woodward married Sarah Jane Manning in 1878, and farmed in James City County. He died on February 25, 1907, and was buried at Liberty Baptist Church in Lanexa.

Roland Harry Woodward entered the service as a private. He was elected 4th Corporal on May 5, 1862, was sick for most of June through August, but was back on the active roll in October, when he was promoted to 3rd Corporal on the 19th of that month. He was again promoted to 5th Sergeant on December 23, 1862. He was taken prisoner at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, sent to Fort McHenry on the 5th, and then transferred to Fort Delaware between the 7th and 12th of the month. He was later transferred to Point Lookout in October. Apparently, he was released at some point, but was again taken prisoner at White House on March 21, 1865. He was sent first to Fort Monroe, and then back again to Point Lookout on the 27th. He took the oath there, and was released on June 22, 1865.

After the war was over, Roland Harry Woodward returned to New Kent. On January 25, 1866, he married Sarah (Sallie) Clarke Hockaday, daughter of William Thomas Hockaday and Eliza Ann Ratcliffe, his wife. Harry and Sallie Woodward had five children between 1868 and 1877: Marianna, George C., Bettie L., William A., and Mary Eliza. Harry and Sallie Woodward lived and farmed in New Kent for the rest of their lives. Roland Harry Woodward died on April 13, 1916, and was buried in the Hockaday family cemetery on Holly Forks Road in New Kent.

Martin Harcourt, son of Compatriot Sparkie Harcourt, cleaned up this cemetery as his Eagle Scout project, and a new veteran's stone was placed at Woodward's grave. Compatriot George Bridewell is the great grandson of Roland Harry Woodward and great, great nephew of Robert Ammond Woodward.