

4th Corporal Stephen B. Sweeney Company B – 53rd Virginia Infantry

The 1860 Census for James City County shows Stephen age 22, farmer, married to Elizabeth age 20.

Stephen enlisted May 11, 1861, at West Point by H. B. Tomlin for 1 year. On April 30, 1862 he re-enlists for three years and receives a \$50 bounty.

August 28 to September 22, 1862 he is in Chimborazo Hosp. #3 with Remittant Fever. Shown on the June, August, October and December, 1862 muster reports. Shown absent without leave from 21 December 62 to 7 January 63.

February, 1863 muster report notes the deduction of 2 months pay as the sentence of the court martial. This is per Court Martial G. O. #16 HQ Dept. Northern Virginia 2/9/63. Also sentenced “to cut wood and bring water to his company & regiment till 4-1-63.”

Stephen listed as a 4th Corporal on the August 31, 1864 muster report.

May 30, 1864 to September 5, 1864 he is in Chimborazo Hospital #5 and Howards Grove Hospital, Richmond, VA. with dibility. S. B. Sweeney receives clothing allowances 6-30 at Chimborazo and 7-13-1864 at Howards Grove Hospital.

December 31, 1864 he receives a clothing issue in Chester, Virginia.

Captured April 1, 1865 at Five Forks.

Received at Point Lookout Prison on April 6, 1865

Oath of Allegiance at Point Lookout Prison, Maryland on June 20, 1865. Stephen is recorded as a Corporal, fair complexion, brown hair, 5' 7" from James City County.

The 1870 census in James City County shows Stephen as a carpenter, age 32. He and Elizabeth have a 2 yr. old boy and a 4 yr. old girl. In the 1880 census they have 5 children; 3 girls and 2 boys.

Stephen dies on/about September 27, 1919 at the age of 84 at his home near Toano, VA.

[Compiled Service Records – Confederate; United Daughters of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia – Micro Copy 324, Roll 951; Information provided by Fred Boelt from his upcoming book on James City County cemeteries; Gregory G., 53rd Virginia Infantry, Lynchburg, 1999, p. 194]