

## **Captain Richard H. Watkins** **Company K “Prince Edward Dragoons” – 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry**

Richard was born June 4, 1825 in Prince Edward County.  
The 1850 census lists as a lawyer with \$200 worth of real estate.  
On August 24, 1858 Richard married Mary P. Dupuy of Prince Edward County.  
The 1860 census lists Richard as a lawyer/farmer with real estate of \$10,000 and personal property (mostly slaves) (27) of \$25,000. Richard is 35, Mary is 21 and their daughter Emily is 1.

On June 24, 1861 Richard enlists in the Prince Edward Dragoons as a private.  
On July 4, 1861 he is detached to the Commissary Dept. for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry.  
Elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. on 4.25/62 during the re-organization of the Confederate armies.  
Promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. on 4/27/62.  
Promoted to Captain, following the battle of Sharpsburg, on 10/23/62.

*Oct. 28, 1862 – “My Precious Mary - . . . Darling what sort of a Captain do you think I will make . . . I am about as fit for the Captaincy of a Cavalry Company as I am for a Dancing Master . . . my mistake was in allowing myself to be elected Lieutenant . . . now like a bear who thrust his head into a bee hive, having eaten to my satisfaction, I stand with my head so swollen that I unable to extricate it . . .”*

Wounded in the head in a skirmish near Aldie on 10/31/62.

Horse killed during battle of Kelly’s Ford 3/17/63.

In Farmville General Hospital with debilities 8/25/63 to 9/4/63.

Horse wounded 9/19/64 at Winchester.

Wounded in left wrist at battle of Tom’s Brook 10/9/64. Hospitalized 10/64 to 2/65 at Gordonsville Cavalry Hospital and Farmville General. 3/31/65 transferred to the Invalid Corps.

Paroled 5/25/65 in Danville, Virginia.

Returned to Prince Edward County and farmed near Merherrin and later on a farm near Hampden College. Practiced law and was the senior partner in the firm of Watkins, Watkins and Brock of Farmville. Richard and Mary had 5 children; 4 girls (Emily, Mildred, Mary P., and Virginia) and 1 son (Asa).

Richard passed away 7/8/1905 (80 years of age) and is buried at Westview Cemetery, Farmville, Virginia.

*(Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls – The Civil War Letters of Richard & Mary Watkins, 1861-1865; Jeff Toalson, editor, Bloomington, 2009, p. x, 153, 360, 363.)*