

James A. Cundiff



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James A. Cundiff was born in the Union Hall area of Franklin County, Virginia 7 October 1833. He was the fifth of twelve children born to Wilson and Rhodie (Hale) Cundiff.

James married first on 17 December 1857 to Eliza Robertson, daughter of Littleberry and Mildred (Dudley) Robertson. James was listed as a planter on the marriage record. He and Eliza had nine children. Eliza died 22 July 1882 and, at the age of 58, James married Rosa Virginia (Johnson) Martin in Bedford County 11 October 1884. She was the widow of L.N. Martin. James and Rosa had four children

On 24 July 1861 James, along with two of his brothers, John and Giles enlisted as privates in the 58th Virginia Regiment, Company D. John died of measles 11 December 1861 at Camp McCulloch. He is buried in Monterey, Virginia in an unmarked grave. He left a wife, three small children and an unborn child.

Giles Cundiff was wounded and captured at Spotsylvania Court House on 18 May 1864. He was sent to Elmira Prison in New York and was released 30 June 1865. After the war, Giles married Mary Elizabeth Hutts 29 November 1866. They had no children and lived in the Roanoke area. Giles died 3 June 1909 and Mary died 16 October 1925. Both are buried in the Old Bethel Cemetery in Franklin County.

The 58th Virginia Infantry, Co. D, was organized at Staunton, Virginia on 13 October 1861. They saw action at McDowell, Winchester, Harrisonburg, Cross Keys and Port Republic. Ordered eastward, the regiment served gallantly in the battles of Gaines Mill and Malvern Hill during the Seven Days Campaign. Following "Stonewall" Jackson, the 58th saw hard fighting at Cedar Run, Second Manassas, Chantilly, Harpers Ferry and Sharpsburg.

In 1863 the regiment helped defend the heights at Fredericksburg during the Chancellorsville campaign and helped drive Gen. Robert H. Milroy's Union army from Winchester. Though not a participant in the battle of Gettysburg, the 58th did return, however, to Lee's Army in time to defend its wagon train at Williamsport. They also participated in the Bristoe Station and Mine Run Campaigns.

Military records indicate that James was on a "list of detached and detailed men of Early's Division" as a Teamster on the "reserve ordinance train."

James died 11 October 1914 and is buried on his farm in Union Hall.

James A. Cundiff is the great-great-grandfather of Jubal Early Chapter members, Nellis Milam and Linda Nezbeth.

