



## **Curtis Confederates – 9th Virginia Cavalry**

George Curtis and Art Hutchinson

I was doing an internet search on Isaac Curtis of Maine when I stumbled across a different, but very interesting Isaac Curtis. This gentleman was not of Maine but born in Stafford County, Virginia on September 25, 1842 and was a scout under the command of General W.H.F. Lee, General Robert E. Lee's second son, in the 9th Virginia Cavalry. I initially found reference to Isaac S. Curtis in *Butler and His Cavalry in the War of Secession, 1861-1865* (1909) by Ulysses Robert Brooks. The book recounts the bravery of Curtis on three occasions which are included below. After the war, Isaac and one of his brothers settled in Texas.

“One dark night in the early part of 1863, Isaac Curtis, General Lee's famous scout, and Bolick, one of General Butler's scouts, dressed themselves up each in a Yankee officer's uniform. They rode by the Federal pickets right into the camp of the 8th Illinois Cavalry Regiment, within 150 yards of General Meade's headquarters. There they woke five men from their slumber in this gallant old regiment and ordered them to be very quiet while saddling their horses as they were needed for a special purpose. The order was promptly obeyed and after they had passed the Yankee pickets going back to the rebel camp with their Yanks, one of them said to Curtis: “Ain't we prisoners!” and just as he said it, put spurs to his horse and away he went into the darkness. The other Yankees were told if they ran, they would be killed. So the two Rebel scouts brought in four Yankee men in blue, four nice horses with the usual U.S. brand on the left shoulder of each, four army saddles, bridles, blankets, carbines, army pistols, and four oil cloths. Not a shot was fired. This was simply a display of nerve and will-power.”

“In about June 1864 when General W.H.F. Lee was captured, Captain Stringfellow, along with eight or ten scouts, raided the camp of Union General Crawford, who was absent. Stringfellow wanted to capture Crawford and exchange him for Lee. One of the volunteer scouts was a cross-eyed man named Bolick, who was with the First South Carolina Cavalry. Poor Bolick was bushwhacked and killed by Yankees a short time after

the raid while riding at the side of Isaac Curtis, one of the most noted of General Lee's scouts."

The third occasion was in December 1864 during Warren's Raid when a detachment of cavalry —and Isaac Curtis of General W.H.F. Lee's command, rode through the enemy's column in order to harass and destroy Warren's rear echelon.

The following Curtis Confederate soldiers from Virginia were listed on the roster of the 9th Virginia Cavalry in the *History of the Ninth Virginia Cavalry*. The Curtis/s Family Society database shows that Alexander Mason Curtis and Isaac Stone Curtis were probably first cousins tracing back to Thomas Curtis of Northumberland County, VA in 1699. Alexander's father was Fielding Curtis (1793-1844). W. G. R. Curtis is probably William G. R. Curtis who was a distant cousin of Alexander and Isaac.

#### **The Ninth Virginia Cavalry - Company A Stafford Rangers - Stafford County**

CURTIS, ALEXANDER MASON: b. 1/10/1838 in Stafford Co. Enl. 4/21/61 in Co. A. Promoted to Lt., 12/20/62. Wounded. 5/12/64; returned to duty in July. Present thru 10/6/64 final roll. d. 6/7/1900 in Warrenton.

CURTIS, ISAAC S.: Enl. 7/20/61 in Co. A, age 19. Absent sick, May-June 1862. Absent on detached service as scout for W.H.F. Lee, Nov. 1863 thru 10/6/64 last roll. Alive in 1912 in Sherman, Texas, engaged in the lumber business. He is mentioned often in the William Campbell memoir in the *William & Mary Quarterly*. Curtis killed a member of the 18th New York near White Chimneys who was attempting to rape a Caroline Co. woman.

CURTIS, JOHN F.: Enl. 4/21/61 in Co. A, age 27. Farmer. Discharged by order of Genl. Holmes, 10/31/61. d. Hartwood, 8/22/1908, age 75.

#### **The Ninth Virginia Cavalry – Company E Mercer Cavalry - Spotsylvania County**

CURTIS, BENJAMIN F.: b. 9/24/1837. Served in 13th Va. Inf. in 1861. Enl. 3/5/62 in Co. E. Promoted to Cpl. by Sept. 1862 and to Sgt. on 4/15/63. Absent sick, Nov. 1863 thru Feb. 1864. Present at 10/1/64 final roll. Living in Winchester, Ky., in 1907. [Note: Benj. was living in Winchester, KY as of 1880 with wife Nannie P. \_\_\_, according to the 1880 Federal Census.]

#### **The Ninth Virginia Cavalry – Company I Potomac Cavalry - King George County**

CURTIS, W. G. R.: b. Stafford Co. 1817 Enl. 10/12/61 in Co. I, from 25th Militia. d. King George Co. Sept. 3, 1885.