

Private David Ruffin Chandler
Company E – 15th North Carolina Infantry

David Ruffin Chandler was born in 1829

David is shown in the 1860 census as a farmer, in Person County, North Carolina, age 31, married to Betty, and the father of 3 boys (Hense, John and Jesse).

On July 15, 1862 he enlisted in Wake County, North Carolina, along with 26 other men from Person County, in Co. E of the 15th N. Carolina Infantry.

After a short period in Raleigh they marched to Richmond to join the regiment.

On August 12, 1862 in Camp near Richmond David wrote, *“Tell Hense (age 6) I want him to attend to the old sow and feed her & when I come home I will fetch him a cap. Tell John (4 ½) he must attend to the chickens and to have one big enough to make a pie so when I come home I will fetch him a knife. Tell little Jesse (15 months) to kiss his Grandmother and Grandfather for me.”*

The regiment, parts of McLaw’s Division, moved north to Gordonsville, Manassas and then towards Harper’s Ferry.

On September 14, 1862 in fighting at Crampton’s Gap David was wounded in the leg. He was taken to a hospital in Charles Town, Virginia.

In a September 26 letter to his wife and father he notes, *“I am wounded in my left leg between my ankle and knee . . . I am a little poorly . . . I am in the Hospital in the Old Hotel closest to the Court House.”* His condition is evidently worse than he relays to his family. There is no record to indicate if his lower leg was amputated.

In an October 26 letter, Ellen P. Heert, a nurse at the hospital writes Betty, *“I entreat your husband’s request to say he is near his last end. . . . He was wounded very badly in Maryland and for some time we hoped he would recover . . . he has suffered severely.”*

David died on October 27th and is buried in the Edge Hill Cemetery in Charles Town. He had been a Confederate infantryman for three and a half months.

His fourth son, David R. Chandler was born on November 17, 1862. Betty, his wife, died in 1913 at 81 years of age.

(Virginia Cavalcade, Volume 44, Summer 1994, Number 1, Richmond, Virginia. “Your Truly Until Death – The Civil War Letters of Private David Ruffin Chandler”, p.4-12.)