

Brothers Richard H. Koonce and Elijah B. Koonce mustered into the CSA from Jones Co. NC on April 1, 1862, they were the sons of James Wiley Benjamin Koonce and Mary Jane Hawkins of Jones Co. NC.



Corporal Richard H. Koonce
CSA, Army of Virginia
April 11, 1862 to June 30, 1865

Both Richard and his brother were assigned to the 27th Infantry Regiment. This Regiment was formed at New Bern, N.C. June 1861, as the 9th Regiment, then reorganized in September of 1861 as the 17th Regiment and later designated as the 27th Infantry Regiment of North Carolina.

In the battle of Sharpsburg, PA on 17 September 1862 with 325 men, of which 205 were lost in that battle, Private Richard H. Koonce was wounded in his left knee. He was sent to the military hospital in Richmond, VA for treatment and rehabilitation.

He was appointed Corporal on October 1, 1862 and was discharged on April 17, 1863 after providing a substitute.

In November of 1863 he re-enlisted in Company I of the 27th Regiment and on November 5, 1863, he was transferred to Company C, 2nd Regiment, N.C. State Infantry Troops. Corporal R. H. Koonce fought in many battles with 2nd Regiment – and during the battle of Mechanicsville, VA he was wounded a second time, this time in the head above his left ear, taking off the top part of his ear and flesh from his skull. He was taken prisoner and held at Point Lookout, Maryland. On July 8, 1864 he was transported to Elmira, New York and imprisoned, where he remained till 3 months after the war ended on April 10, 1865. He did not take the Oath of Allegiance but was released to walk all the way back to Trenton, NC.

Richard H. Koonce returned to what remained of his family farm in the Trenton area, County Seat of Jones County, NC. Four years later at the age of 24, he married Eliza King of Kinston, NC. She was 22 years of age. Richard and Eliza had five children, one son and four daughters, one of which was my Grandmother, Addie Bertha Koonce. As a result of his enduring war wounds, Richard succumbed at the early age of 39 on March 1, 1883. Richard was buried on the family farm in Jones County, NC.

Elijah, Richard's brother, paid the ultimate sacrifice on the bloody battlefield of Gettysburg, PA, July 2-3, 1863 as a result of a bullet wound to his shoulder. Elijah died 7 July 1863. After the war his family was awarded the Southern Cross by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. His grave site is unknown.