

RE: Capt. Bob Duncan
6th VA Cavalry
Civil War Hero

Jack Miller.
Culpeper Va
Supplied by:
Robt. Beckett Jr

Brother of Margaret Duncan and Michael Duncan
Lillard.

Robert Russell Duncan was born April 23, 1832 in Culpeper County, Virginia, the second son of Eldridge Duncan and Margaret, his wife. Almost in his childhood he went to Missouri and in 1849, when sixteen years of age, he went from Missouri to California with an immigrant wagon train. He contracted typhoid fever on the journey and was by the train with which he was then traveling left alone on the prairie. However, a second wagon train came along and in the meantime he had gotten somewhat better and was taken by the second train to California. He stayed there for some years having the varied fortunes of the California gold seekers. He came back to his home in Virginia when he was about twenty years old. After remaining here a short while he went again to Missouri and from there to Kansas where he took up a considerable tract of land and was engaged in the cultivation and development of it when the Civil War began. Upon his hearing of the secession of Virginia he abandoned his farm with all property and with another Virginian, who was in his employ, started for Virginia to enter the army. He was engaged in at least one encounter serving with Price's army in Missouri. Leaving there he reached Virginia in the latter part of the fall of 1861. He at once enlisted in Company B, 6th Virginia Cavalry. In the spring of 1862 he was made 1st Lieutenant of this Company. He served with Jackson during his Valley Campaign, being present at the battles of Winchester, Cross Keys and Port Republic. He remained in the Valley during the seven days fight around Richmond, and participated in the raid of the Confederate Cavalry in West Virginia. He was engaged in the battles of Cedar Mountain in Culpeper County and the great cavalry battle at Brandy Station in June '63. He also participated in the second battle of Manassas, the Antietam campaign and the raid of Stuart's cavalry into Pennsylvania in '62. At the second battle of Manassas he received a wound in his left hand. He participated in the battles of the Wilderness, Chancellorsville,

and was wounded in the breast at Trevilians. He was with Earley in his Valley and Maryland Campaigns. In the meantime he had been promoted from First Lieutenant to Captain. He was badly wounded at Tom's Brook in the fall of 1864, having the bone of his left arm shattered almost at the shoulder, which resulted in its amputation. He was left on the battle field at Tom's Brook and fell into the hands of the enemy and remained in prison at Fort Delaware until after the conclusion of hostilities.

The writer is a nephew by marriage of Capt. Duncan. This is a brief statement of Capt. Duncan's military career, and the writer has heard from Capt. Duncan and from his own father - who served in the same regiment with Capt. Duncan - the above statement.

Capt. Duncan had the reputation of being one of the most gallant soldiers the state of Virginia produced. He was an expert pistol shot and swordsman, he engaged in a number of personal encounters with Federal soldiers with both pistol and saber, always coming out victorious. He killed a man who wounded him at Trevilians. His record as a soldier is an enviable one and one of which his descendants should be proud.

NOTE: This was written by the late T. E. Grimsley, a member of the Bar of Culpeper County prior to his death. Captain Grimsley's father, referred to in this sketch, was Major Daniel A. Grimsley of the Confederate Army and for many years Judge of the Circuit Court here.

Note: 1982

Capt. Robert Duncan was the brother of Mildred Duncan Lillard - wife of
Silas Browning Lillard. He was Senator Robert Y. Burton's
grandfather. Silas and Mildred Duncan Lillard were my great
grand parents. Their daughter Lucy E. Lillard married
John James Miller of Rappahannock Co. Va.

of John L. Miller