

Lieutenant Colonel, WILLIAM HENRY CHAPMAN

William Henry Chapman was 21 years of age the very day the Ordinance of Secession was adopted in Richmond. At the time, he was a student at the *University of Virginia*, and belonged to a company of students which was ordered to **Harpers Ferry** for active duty, but was soon disbanded by Virginia Governor John Letcher so that they could return to their homes and there recruit, drill and officer troops for the Southern Army. Chapman was elected lieutenant in the **Dixie Battery**, which went from **Page**, his native county, then promoted to Captain until the consolidation of batteries in January, 1863. Still holding his artillery commission, he was assigned to duty as enrolling officer for **Fauquier County**. His official duties were often interrupted by the incursions of the enemy. This, however, afforded him an opportunity for mingling in more congenial scenes, and he often volunteered to go with Mosby on his raids.

- Hello, Robert,

I am researching William H. Chapman, who I believe fought as a ranger with Mosby during the Civil War. I believe that Chapman was the man who shot and killed the real subject of my research, J. Sewall Reed of the Cal Hundred who was killed during a fight with Mosby near Dranesville, Virginia.

I note from your blog that you have written about Chapman. On that blog appears a tintype of a Confederate officer who I presume to be Chapman. Do you know where I might receive a copy of that scan?

Thanks for your help!
Mike Sorenson
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[Reply](#)

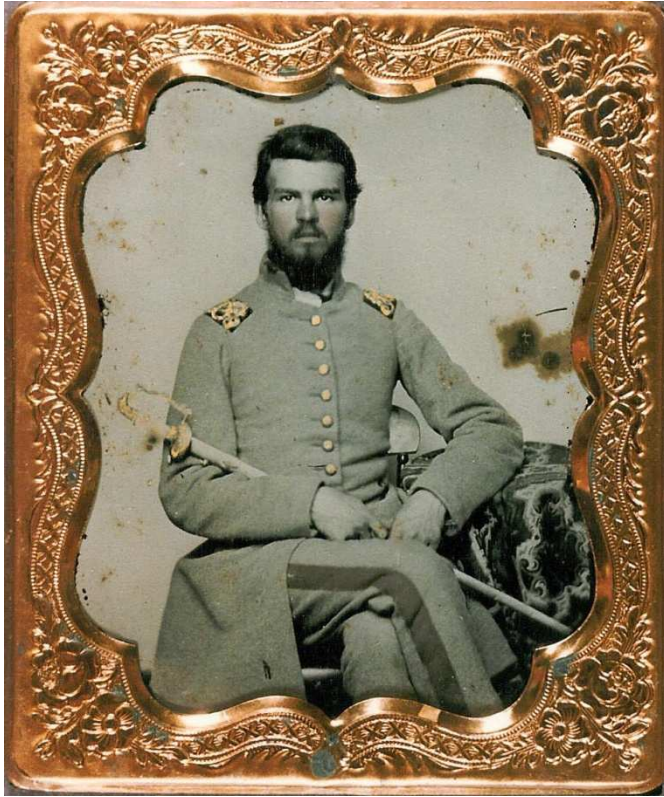


[Robert Moore](#)

January 24, 2010

Hi Mike,

Yes, indeed... Chapman was not only with Mosby but was also his second in command. Also, yes, Chapman killed Reed in the fight at Anker's shop. In the heat of the fight, Reed indicated that he was surrendering... this while von Massow was bearing down on him by horse. Seeing that Reed was offering surrender, von Massow passed by Reed (he



was at such a speed that he could not take Reed as a prisoner). As von Massow passed him, Reed turned and fired his pistol at von Massow. Having witnessed his friend's fall (von Massow was severely wounded, but survived), Chapman rode up and fired at Reed, the bullet finding its mark. Reed fell near von Massow, and attempted to return fire, but slumped over dead.

I was granted permission to use the photo of Chapman by one of his granddaughters (who also sent me a copy of the image). She passed several years ago. It is likely an image of him while he was with the Dixie Artillery, not while he served with Mosby.

