

The Loving Life of Charles T. Shaft  
By Mikayla Shade

Charles T. Shaft was a loving husband and a father to two girls. He was a very nice and handsome man that everyone loved, always laughing, telling stories, and very active. It was the year of 1864 and the Civil War was taking place. Shaft knew he would have to enter the war and on January 4, 1864, only 43 years young, Shaft was entered in the 24<sup>th</sup> regiment in the cavalry of the Civil War. He kissed his wife and girl's goodbye then went on his way. A little over a year later with nothing but a scratch on his body, he surprised his family by returning home on June 26, 1865. He ran up to his family and took them in his arms, hugging and kissing them. Everything at home was still the same, but one thing that wasn't was himself. He was still the same nice, handsome man as he was before but he was very quiet. Never laughing a lot, being active, and never told stories about the war. All they could think of was from seeing all the killings in the war and all the friends he lost, he was stuck in a slight depression. Shaft's wife knew not to ask questions about it and it didn't bother her because he was still the same loving man she married at 22. The night of December 23, 1899, Shaft and his wife had just gotten into bed and talked about how they couldn't wait to see their grandchildren on Christmas. Mrs. Shaft woke up the next morning still holding her husband's hand that slightly cold and pale. Charles T. Shaft was pronounced dead on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1899, only 81 years young.



**SHAFT, CHARLES T.—Age, 43 years. Enlisted, January 4, 1864, at Marathon; mustered in as private, Co. B, January 4, 1864, to serve three years; appointed corporal, date not stated; mustered out as a supernumerary, June 26, 1865, at Clouds Mills, Va.**

\* Shaft's listing in the 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment Cavalry roster  
[http://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/rosters/cavalry/24thCavCW\\_Roster.pdf](http://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/rosters/cavalry/24thCavCW_Roster.pdf)