

## Noah Counts



**Noah Counts**  
**Lieutenant Co. E, 21<sup>st</sup> Virginia Cavalry**  
**CSA**  
**26 Apr 1831 Russell Co., Va.**  
**1 Dec 1898 Dickenson Co., VA.**

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/41416728/noah-counts>

Noah's parents were:  
Joshua Counts (1801 - 1883)  
Martha Kiser (1807 - 1839)

Noah was married to Aily Amburgey on March 10, 1853, in Russell Co, VA. Their children were:

Isabel Victoria Counts 1854–1924  
Margaret Counts 1856–1952  
Elisha K Counts 1857–1947  
John "Black" Letcher Counts 1861–1944  
Eliza Jane Counts 1863–1942  
Joshua Washington Clinton Counts 1866–1951

Elijah Shelby Counts 1868–1953  
Nancy Counts 1870–1926  
Martha Violet Counts 1873–1907  
Noah Tilden Counts 1876–1957

They lived with his father until 1855, when he brought his wife and first child to Lick Creek near the mouth of Dog Branch, which was downstream from the home of his older brother, Elijah. Here in the wilderness, with the help of neighbors, mostly kinfolk, their log house was raised in 1854.

His pioneer life was similar to that of his brother-in-law, William Sutherland, except that he was further from the mills and stores of the Clinch settlements.

At the 1964 Counts reunion, Hoge Sutherland, told this panther tale, which had been handed down to him by his mother, the oldest child of Noah.

Soon after the family moved into the new house, Noah returned to the Clinch for urgently needed supplies. A coverlet hung over the opening for the front door of the unfinished house. Late in the afternoon, Aily went to milk. Baby Isabelle started crying up a storm, in the house. A panther heard the noise and decided to investigate, giving a scream as he passed the gap above the barn. Racing to the house ahead of the panther, Aily could not bolt a door she did not have. Standing outside the doorway, the baby yelling within, the black panther advancing without, she recalled hunters' tales that a panther is a cowardly animal and, when not cornered, will not attack a human who shows no fear. Mother instinct gave her courage to jump in the air, scream and shake her apron at the animal. It backed off and ran into the woods.

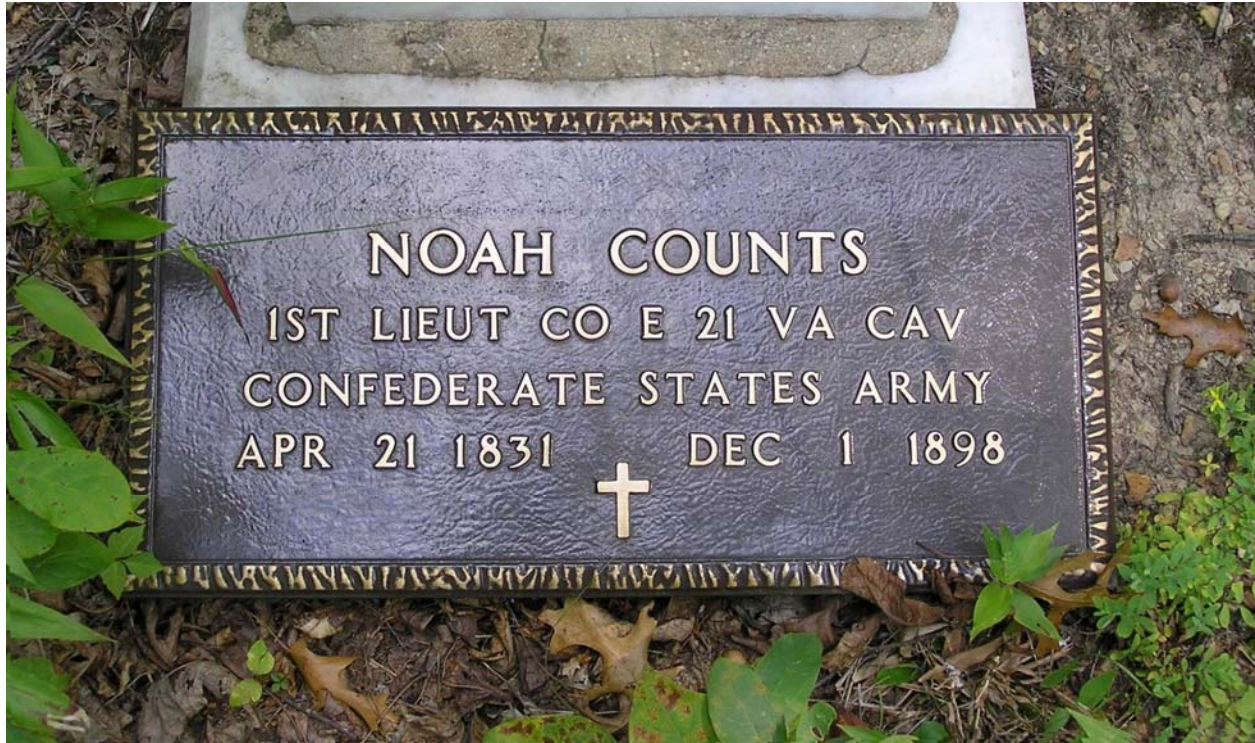
Noah cleared land for farming. As there was much wild game, he became a noted hunter. Their home, being between the county seat of Buchanan and Dickenson counties, was a favorite stopping place for traveling lawyers and litigants, as well as for hunters from a distance.

He was a Democrat prior to the Rea-juster regime in Virginia when he followed General Mahome and Governor Cameron into the Readjuster Party and then went with Mahone and others into the Republican ranks. During the gubernatorial campaign of 1881, he entertained overnight William E. Cameron, Readjuster candidate for Governor, and his party of stump speakers going from Grundy to Gladeville, Wise Co.

Noah enjoyed arguing with the lawyers and stump speakers. He was a great talker and one campaigner commented that, if Mr. Counts had been educated, he would have been a great stump speaker. His son, John, stated that Noah "had a strong voice and good delivery and more common horse sense than all his boys ever had."

During the Civil War, Noah served as Lieutenant of Co. E, 21st Virginia Cavalry, CSA (Confederate States of America). He was a strong advocate for the formation of Dickenson County. After its formation, he was appointed by the county court as one of the commissioners to designate districts and to locate a new road between the county seats of Ervinton and Grundy.

He regularly attended the monthly church meetings and always carried an axe to clear the bridle path. He and Aily were members of Sulphur Spring Primitive Baptist Church. Both are buried on top of a high hill opposite their home.



Source: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/41416728/noah-counts>

“Researched and compiled by Virginia Brown, August 2009

Photos added by Phyllis Counts who sponsored this memorial on January 12, 2017”