

## Cemetery note

**Peter Hickman** (1818-1863) was a victim of “friendly fire” during the Civil War, in what was called “one of the many unfortunate and deplorable instances of the war” by Loudoun Ranger chronicler Briscoe Goodhart.

Peter was the great-grandson of Hans Conrad Heckmann, who came to the American colonies from Germany as an indentured servant, was naturalized in Frederick in 1760, and was in Loudoun by 1775.

On Sept. 1, 1863, a Union Army detachment under Lt. Joseph Thasher of Cole’s Cavalry from Maryland, with about a dozen Loudoun Rangers, was ordered to shut down a rebel picket post near Lovettsville. Camped for the night, Ranger Charles Spring (a member of New Jerusalem), heard a rider approaching in the dark around midnight, and challenged him. Spring then summoned Lt. Thrasher, who challenged the approaching rider three times. When the rider continued to advance, he was shot, fatally, by Lt. Thrasher.

Sadly, the rider, who had not responded to the challenge because he was hard of hearing, was Peter Hickman, a 45-year old farmer, and a respected Union man. It was reported that his death was “greatly regretted by the Rangers and their friends.” His funeral was preached by Rev. Xenophon Richardson, who recorded the cause of death as “Shot by a Picket in Lovettsville, Sept. 2, 1863.” Hickman’s wife, Mary Elizabeth Kalb, had died a year earlier; they had six children, most of whom are buried either in the New Jerusalem Cemetery or in adjoining Lovettsville Union Cemetery.



IN MEMORY OF  
PETER NICKMAN  
BORN AUG. 17, 1916  
DIED SEPT. 9, 1963  
AGED 46 YEARS 0  
15 DAYS