



Stones River National Battlefield

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Significant Person's Name: Capt. Edwin Allen

Unit: 26th TN Inf.

List Contents of Donation Below:

Page from Confederate Veteran magazine mentioning
Capt. Allen and inscriptions on artillery pieces.

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Confederate Veteran.



dent (at least those from Georgia were), which was not done in the case of other State line officers. However, on January 31, 1862, an order from the War Department changed the 36th Georgia into the 1st Confederate, the 25th Mississippi into the 2d, and the 18th Arkansas to the 3d, and this possibly might have been the birth of our standing army; but there is nothing further on record to throw any light on the subject.

CABINET OF PRESIDENT DAVIS.

Since the official family of our present chief executive seems to be in a transient condition, it may be of interest to know that there were several changes in the Confederate States Cabinet before the President's term expired, or rather the government. The journal of the Confederate States Congress shows that the following served:

Secretary of State: Robert Toombs, R. M. T. Hunter, William M. Brown (*ad interim*), Judah P. Benjamin.

Attorney-General: Judah P. Benjamin, Thomas Bragg, Thomas H. Watts, Wade Keyes (*ad interim*), George Davis.

Secretary of the Treasury: C. C. Memminger, G. A. Trenholm.

Postmaster-General: H. T. Ellett (refused appointment), J. H. Reagan.

Secretary of Navy: S. R. Mallory.

Secretary of War: L. P. Walker, Judah P. Benjamin, G. W. Randolph, G. W. Smith (assigned temporarily), J. A. Seddon, J. C. Breckinridge.

So it can be seen that the only one that traveled the entire "rocky road" with the President was Mr. Mallory.

Bills were presented in Congress to abolish the offices of Secretary of War and of the Navy on the grounds that the ranking officer in each branch could "carry on" as well as the then incumbent and thereby save the government \$20,000 each year. However, these bills were either tabled or, at any rate, not passed. The President had a salary of \$25,000 and the Vice President and each Cabinet officer \$10,000 yearly, which in the early part of the war was a whale of a sum, even if in Confederate paper, although I presume they had no trouble in getting rid of it, as a bill was introduced to raise this stipend.

In case the President and Vice President were incapacitated in any way from presiding, they were to be succeeded *pro tempore* by the President of the Senate and then the Speaker of the House.

SOME NOTED GUNS.

The February VETERAN has an article on Bledsoe's silver gun which I can confirm, as I find in the "War Records" that in March, 1862, General Rains, of the Missouri State Troops, reported the gun "Sacramento," under the skillful handling of Col. H. M. Bledsoe, as having accomplished wonders; but I certainly doubt that the "Old Girl" was made altogether of silver, as I am sure the Confederacy would never have allowed that much bullion to run around on wheels and risk being captured.

While on this subject it may be of interest to know that General Longstreet had in Fort Powhatan, Va., two guns, "Long Tom" and "Charlie," that he thought considerable of.

The "Jennie" was captured at Crampton's Gap, Md., from the Troup Artillery of Georgia.

"Whitling Dick" enfiladed the line of "Beast" Butler's famous canal at Vicksburg and temporarily put a stop to the proceedings.

"Lady Richardson" was captured at Corinth from Richard-

son's Missouri (Union) Battery of Rust's Confederate Brigade.

Ladies "Buckner" and "Breckinridge" were lost to the Yankees at Missionary Ridge.

But "Lady Davis," which burst at Island No. 10, and "Lady Polk," which burst at Columbus, had the strangest fates of any of the named guns, as they were gathered up by Commodore Davis, U. S. N., and sent to Sister Angela, of the Holy Cross Order (who nursed Union sick and wounded) to be cast into a statue of "Peace"; but as to whether this was ever done, there is nothing further to show.

It may be well also to mention that an order was issued in the Confederate States army to have the names of men who had been killed in an action in which they had distinguished themselves inscribed on guns that had been captured, and I find that on April 20, 1863, General Hardee proposed the following names for the battle of Murfreesboro: Lieut. Col. Don McGregor, 1st Arkansas; Maj. H. C. Ewin, 44th Tennessee; Maj. J. T. McReynolds, 37th Tennessee; Capt. J. T. Armstrong, 6th Arkansas; Capt. E. E. Wright, Wright's Tennessee Battery; Capt. Edwin Allen, 26th Tennessee; Lieut. H. C. Collier, 2d Arkansas; Lieutenant McCurdy, 8th Arkansas.

This is, I think, the only instance on record that gives names, but there is nothing further on record as to whether the inscribing was accomplished or not.

LOUISIANA CONFEDERATE MILITARY RECORDS.

BY A. B. BOOTH, COMMISSIONER MILITARY RECORDS, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

It is reasonably certain that there is not extant a complete and perfect record of the individual members of any Louisiana command in the Confederate army. The nearest approach to such is to be found in the records in the office of the Commissioner of Louisiana Military Records of such organizations as served in the Army of Northern Virginia, where the discipline was perchance best and where the muster rolls were more promptly and regularly made.

These records, however, furnish many thousands of proofs of individual soldiers, complete and perfect, in establishing devoted service to their country to the end of the strife—patriotic men who were either killed in battle, died in camp or in hospital, or languished in Northern prisons until after the fall of the Confederacy or were duly present and paroled at the final surrender of the Confederate States armies.

It is a lamentable fact, however, that a very large number, many of whom had served with honorable records to within a short time of the close of the war, were absent without leave at the final surrender of their respective commands and therefore were not included in the rolls of those actually surrendered and paroled, their orderly sergeants very properly not reporting them for paroles. They are themselves to blame, not the parole records, for not being in the parole lists with their former comrades in arms.

And the plight of such of these as were in the Trans-Mississippi Department is aggravated by the fact that at the surrender of Gen. E. Kirby Smith on May 26, 1865, it is said the Confederate records, including the muster rolls, were burned at Shreveport, La., so that there were no records left to even show their service up to near the time of final surrender.

Thus the whole burden of proof is thrown upon these absentees. This condition of absenteeism is fully established by many official records and papers not only for the Louisi-

