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**War and Remembrance: Walter Place and Ulysses S. Grant**

Article submission for *Primary Source*

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## War and Remembrance: Walter Place and Ulysses S. Grant

### Introduction

In 1862-1863, General Ulysses S. Grant conducted military operations in the state of Mississippi, culminating in the siege and eventual surrender of the city of Vicksburg. During part of this time, Grant's wife, Julia, took up residence at Walter Place in Holly Springs, Mississippi. In the years after the Civil War, Walter Place became known not just as an antebellum home, but also as a place with a strong connection to Grant and his family during the Civil War. When Mike and Jorja Lynn purchased the property, they began collecting Grant-related items for display in the home, including modern and historic decorative artifacts, cartes-de-visite, and ephemera. In 2013, Jorja Lynn donated this collection to the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University Libraries for display and preservation purposes. This article will address the historical background of the collection, the preservation and access plans in place, and the complexities of Civil War memory that create a more nuanced portrait of how the Civil War is represented in the South.

### Historical Background

In late November of 1862, Union forces under the command of Ulysses S. Grant began advancing through north Mississippi en route to Vicksburg. This advance brought Grant and his troops into the town of Holly Springs, Mississippi, where Grant established his headquarters on November 29, 1862, quickly moving on from there to Oxford, Mississippi, by December 4.<sup>1</sup> As Grant's advance into Mississippi continued, Holly Springs became an important supply and

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<sup>1</sup> John Y. Simon, introduction to *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, Volume 6: September 1-December 8, 1862* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1977), xii-xv; John Y. Simon, introduction to *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, Volume 7: December 9, 1862-March 31, 1863* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1979), xii-xv.

munitions depot.<sup>2</sup> Holly Springs would prove to be a place in Mississippi with lasting connections not only to General Grant and Union forces under his command, but also to the Grant family.

Because of the supplies for Grant's advancing forces stored at Holly Springs, the town became a perfect target for Confederate troops intent on stopping—or at least slowing down—the Union campaign against Vicksburg.<sup>3</sup> Early on the morning of December 20, 1862, Confederate cavalry under the command of General Earl Van Dorn rode into Holly Springs, catching the Union garrison there by surprise and capturing the town with relatively little resistance.<sup>4</sup> The Confederates carried off what supplies they could and destroyed the rest, resulting in a major setback for Grant's ambitions to push his army further into Mississippi and the eventual dismissal from the service of the Union commanding officer at Holly Springs on that day.<sup>5</sup>

This disastrous event for the Union advance would have been enough to establish Holly Springs firmly in General Grant's memory, but the personal connections tied to that event went even deeper. The General's wife, Julia, arrived in Holly Springs from La Grange, Tennessee, in early December of 1862. According to her memoirs, Theodore S. Bowers, an officer on Grant's staff, had arranged for Mrs. Grant, her son Jesse, and her slave Jule to stay at a home in Holly

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<sup>2</sup> Ulysses S. Grant, *Memoirs and Selected Letters*, eds. Mary Drake McFeely and William S. McFeely (New York: Library of America, 1990), 286.

<sup>3</sup> Michael B. Ballard, *Vicksburg: The Campaign that Opened the Mississippi* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004), 121.

<sup>4</sup> J.G. Deupree, "The Capture of Holly Springs, Mississippi, Dec. 20, 1862," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society* 4 (1901): 54-56; *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (4 series, 70 vols. in 128 vols., Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), Series One, 29.1: 515 [hereafter cited as *O.R.*, with all citations referring to Series One].

<sup>5</sup> Ballard, *Vicksburg*, 126; *O.R.* 29.1: 515.

Springs. She refers to this home as “belonging to a Mr. Walker.”<sup>6</sup> However, further investigation indicates that she may have been mistaken in referring to the owner as “Walker.” According to an account published in 1901 by J.G. Deupree, a member of Van Dorn’s raiding party, Mrs. Grant was actually staying in a home in Holly Springs owned by Harvey W. Walter.<sup>7</sup> In addition, a contemporary news account from the *Memphis Daily Appeal* one week after the raid on Holly Springs identifies Mrs. Grant’s place of residence in Holly Springs as the home of “Col. Walter, who is now on the staff of Gen. Bragg.”<sup>8</sup>

As Van Dorn’s troops made their way to Holly Springs, Mrs. Grant received notice from her husband that his men had completed repairs to the railroad between that town and Oxford, and that she could now come to meet him there. Mrs. Grant, her son, her slave, and her close friend Anna Rankin Hillyer (the wife of William S. Hillyer, aide-de-camp to Grant) set out for Oxford on December 19, 1862. After their arrival in Oxford, they learned that just a short time before Colonel T. Lyle Dickey had brought word to Grant that Van Dorn and his men were moving north. By the next morning, the news had arrived in Oxford of Van Dorn’s raid on Holly Springs.<sup>9</sup>

Some accounts—such as the 1862 *Memphis Daily Appeal* article and Deupree’s reminisce—state that Mrs. Grant was present at the Walter home during the raid, but her own memoir and the unpublished account of Mary Hillyer Clarke indicate that she was not in Holly

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<sup>6</sup> Julia Dent Grant, *The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant [Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant]*, ed. John Y. Simon (New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1975), 105.

<sup>7</sup> Deupree, “Capture of Holly Springs,” 58.

<sup>8</sup> “Grenada Correspondence: Result of the Surprise at Holly Springs,” *Memphis Daily Appeal*, December 27, 1862.

<sup>9</sup> John Y. Simon, *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, Volume 7: December 9, 1862-March 31, 1863* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1979), 75, note 1; Julia Dent Grant, *Personal Memoirs*, 107.)

Springs when Van Dorn and his men arrived.<sup>10</sup> Mrs. Grant did lament the loss of certain property: she learned while in Oxford that the carriage she left in Holly Springs had been burned and the horses captured by the Confederate troops. However, she also learned that some Confederate officers had approached the Walter home in search of her during the December 20 raid. When she was not found at the home, the officers sought to take her baggage, but they were prohibited from doing so by “the kind and noble lady” who was in charge of the home.<sup>11</sup> This was likely Mrs. Pugh Govan, who was the caretaker of the Walter home during the war. In addition, a claim filed with the Southern Claims Commission in 1874 by Cato Govan, a former slave of the Govan family, references Mrs. Govan’s actions to preserve two trunks owned by Mrs. Grant during the raid on Holly Springs.<sup>12</sup>

### **The Collection**

Although the Civil War raged on for over two full years after the events of December 1862, Walter Place survived. The home continued to be owned by the family of H.W. Walter, even after his death in a yellow fever epidemic in 1878. One of Walter’s daughters, Irene, and her husband Oscar Johnson used the house as a second home and undertook renovations on the house around 1901. Upon the death of her husband Oscar, Irene sold the home, only to re-purchase it years later. Irene’s heirs oversaw another renovation of the house, including changes made to the grounds. By the 1990s, Mike and Jorja Lynn had purchased the home.<sup>13</sup> The Lynns embraced the rich history that the house represented, including its connection to the Grant family. The Mike and Jorja Lynn Ulysses S. Grant collection consists of over one hundred items

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<sup>10</sup> John Y. Simon, *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, Volume 7: December 9, 1862-March 31, 1863* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1979), 24, unnumbered note.

<sup>11</sup> Julia Dent Grant, *Personal Memoirs*, 107.

<sup>12</sup> John Y. Simon, *Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant*, 117, note 36.

<sup>13</sup> Robert Mottley, “Holly Springs, Mississippi,” *Colonial Homes* 20 (1994): 91.

from the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries, including political cartoons, cartes-de-visite (CDVs), cabinet cards, busts, lithographs, figurines, commemorative plates, political memorabilia, and books. According to Mrs. Lynn, the collection began when a relative gave her husband a framed Grant lithograph for Christmas. The Lynns then began to collect materials relating to Grant to put on display in the drawing room of Walter Place. The collection highlights the life of Grant as a general and president, as well as containing materials relating to the Civil War in general, such as framed lithographs of Confederate generals and Confederate and Union figurines. Many of the lithographs, as well as the *Harper's Weekly* political cartoons, were professionally matted and framed, while the CDVs were placed in antique frames. The collection also includes a number of commemorative plates, issued after Grant's funeral in 1885, in a variety of styles and colors, most decorated with Grant's famous words "Let us have peace."

The collection varies in terms of content, consisting of imagery which conveys Grant positively as the hero of the Civil War, yet the political cartoons provide commentary on scandals in his presidency. Many of the lithographs depict portraits of Grant, conveying the strength of his role as commander of the Union Army or President of the United States. Others depict Grant and his family, either posing in their drawing room or on horseback riding through the streets of Washington, DC. Still others present Grant with his fellow Union officers, such as William T. Sherman, Ely S. Parker, and Orville E. Babcock in a council of war.

Upon its arrival at the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, archivists immediately cataloged this collection. They measured and described items, giving each one a unique identifier. They also undertook conservation efforts to clean and preserve the materials in the collection. When this work was complete, Presidential Library staff placed the materials on

display in the Grant Library Exhibit hall for a reception honoring Mrs. Lynn and for public viewing.

### **Civil War Memory**

The idea that the savior of the Union, Ulysses S. Grant, would become the main focus of an antebellum home in the heart of the old Confederacy seems antithetical to what is known about historical memory. Town squares across the South are adorned with monuments to Confederate soldiers, and annual pilgrimages celebrate the supposed splendor of the Old South. Antebellum homes are open to visitors, and hoop-skirt wearing docents lead tours through the luxurious mansions once owned by some of the wealthiest Americans during the mid-nineteenth century. Often overlooked is the story of the enslaved persons held in bondage on these plantations and the occupation of Union forces in the cities. In these towns, the Civil War is often remembered with pageantry and fondness for the Confederacy; however, towns such as Holly Springs, Natchez, Port Gibson, and others across Mississippi also benefit from their connection to Grant. Rosalie, the antebellum home located atop the bluff in downtown Natchez, Mississippi, is often billed, erroneously, as Ulysses S. Grant's headquarters. Port Gibson, Mississippi, located between Natchez and Vicksburg, bills itself as "The Town Too Pretty to Burn," a statement attributed to Grant.

The unique nature of Walter Place, a home in which the Grant family indeed did reside while in Mississippi, shows that the town of Holly Springs, and the Lynns in particular, were willing to embrace the legacy of the former Union commander. By collecting artifacts and ephemera relating to Grant, the Lynns assembled a collection which sought to memorialize the former general and president in one of the most unlikely areas of the country to do so.



Historians and sociologists have begun to embrace the importance of historical memory and material culture that helps to convey the collective memory of people, places, or institutions. “We can never know what objects mean to individuals;” sociologists Barry Schwartz and Howard Schuman have written, “we can only know how these objects relate to one another and to institutional structures. We thus enter a new age in which archives, statues, and other material objects are no longer the instruments but the embodiments of memory.”<sup>14</sup> Objects have been referred to by sociologists as “Commemorative symbolism.” Schwartz and Schuman note that, “the job of the commemorative agent is to designate moral significance by lifting from the historical record the events that best exemplify contemporary values.”<sup>15</sup>

The commemoration of Ulysses S. Grant began in earnest even before the war had ended. Indeed Grant’s reputation during the nineteenth century made him the most popular American of his day. According to historian Joan Waugh, “Ulysses S. Grant became the embodiment of the American nation in the decades after the Civil War.”<sup>16</sup> Waugh states that Grant’s legacy, in the years immediately after his death, “symbolized national reconciliation as well as embodying the Union victory.”<sup>17</sup> Americans’ desire to heal the wounds of the Civil War often looked to Grant and his legacy as an example of the Union Cause. “When citizens looked at Grant’s Tomb,” Waugh writes, “they saw a legacy preserved. More than that, they desired and expected that legacy to be preserved for future generations as well.”<sup>18</sup> However, that legacy was not to last throughout the twentieth century. Lost Cause historians consciously challenged Grant’s legacy

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<sup>14</sup> Barry Schwartz and Howard Schuman, “History, Commemoration, and Belief: Abraham Lincoln in American Memory, 1945-2001,” *American Sociological Review*, 70, no. 2 (April 2003), 184.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, 185.

<sup>16</sup> Joan Waugh, *U. S. Grant: American Hero, American Myth* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009), 2.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid*, 3.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid*, 303.

in an effort to downplay the successes of the Union Army and to salvage the legacy of Grant's principal antagonist, Confederate General Robert E. Lee. To this day, Vicksburg residents decry Grant and the damage he inflicted upon the Gibraltar of the Mississippi in the summer of 1863. Yet his visit to the city in 1880 was warmly received by the populace of Warren County, as the town's black and white citizens alike cheered the former President's arrival in the city.<sup>19</sup> "No living person in the postwar era symbolized both the hopes and the lost dreams of the war more fully than Grant," Waugh writes.<sup>20</sup>

The presence of a collection of commemorative ephemera and artifacts as was compiled by the Lynns and displayed in Walter Place represents both the unique nature in which Grant has been remembered in the century since his death, as well as the unique position the Walter home has held in Holly Springs. It is an antebellum mansion owned by slave-owners which has become most well-known for its association with the conquering Union General.

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<sup>19</sup> "Grant in Vicksburg," *Salt Lake Herald*, April 14, 1880; "Gleanings from the Mails: Gen. Grant in the South," *New York Times*, April 29, 1880.

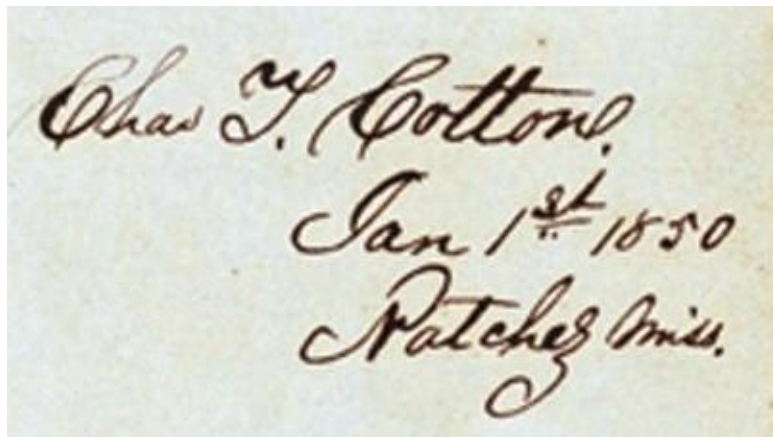
<sup>20</sup> Waugh, 307-308.

**Charles T. Cotton's Civil War: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do,  
do it with thy might"**

**Christopher M. Laico, Archivist at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University**

**Abstract**

In 2008, the Columbia University Libraries EAD Working Group developed workflows for creating EAD finding aids for newly processed collections. These work flows utilized a robust technical infrastructure for managing the EAD files and designed an attractive web presentation for the finding aids. These goals were achieved in 2009. In 2010, the archives unit at the [Rare Book and Manuscript Library \(RBML\), Columbia University](#) decided to apply these workflows to the conversion of all paper based and scanned finding aids into EAD. The RBML project addressed inconsistent descriptive practices, corrected outdated information, ensured DACS compliance and provided enhanced search tools for researchers.<sup>1</sup> Converted in 2012, the "[Charles T. Cotton Diaries, 1850-1877](#)" finding aid represents a fine example from this program. Charles Cotton (1824-1877), a diarist and Washington, D.C. based federal clerk was born in Natchez, Mississippi. Although Cotton's 15 pocket diaries cover his experiences from 1850 to 1877, the most interesting entries concern the Civil War years, for example his description of the U.S. Capital's fear of Confederate invasion. Cotton also writes about his personal visit with President Abraham Lincoln, his presence at Lincoln's second inauguration, and the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation. He also portrays the District of Columbia's joy at Richmond's fall and the gloom over President Lincoln's assassination. Finally, Cotton depicts his attendance at the Lincoln Assassination Conspiracy Trial and communicates his thoughts about the accused plotters.



**1 January 1850, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), RBML, Columbia University**

It was 1850, a cold March morning – raw by Natchez standards.<sup>2</sup> As was his custom, Charles T. Cotton (1825-1877) a dedicated teacher, who lived by the exhortation from Ecclesiastes 9:10: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;" arrived early, entered the Pine Ridge school house, laid his satchel down on his bureau, and cautiously kindled the wood stove.<sup>3</sup> Charles returned to his desk, carefully unpacked

his bag filled with classical volumes and began leafing through the back of his pocket dairy. There, laid out in a precise hand were the names of his scholars each with a corresponding gift, books denoting the pursuit of a traditional antebellum education – Smyth’s Algebra, Folsom’s Cicero, and Felton’s Greek.<sup>4</sup> Charles knew these works well.<sup>5</sup> Through the beneficence of his beloved father Samuel, a merchant and by dint of hard work, Charles a Natchez native, had headed north, attended Bowdoin College and later graduated with honors from Yale College.<sup>6</sup> After graduating in 1848, he had returned an educated gentleman devoted to teaching.<sup>7</sup>

Teaching, however, did not absorb all of Charles’ time. He maintained an active social life. Interspersed throughout the diaries are mentions of courtly social calls to young ladies and gracious visits with friends. Further, 1851 entries allude to Charles’ following the newspaper reports of a possible concert in Natchez by the world-renowned Jenny Lind the “Swedish Nightingale.” Throughout February 1851, the newspapers described the delicate diplomatic machinations of the Committee of Natchez Gentlemen with the tour’s hard bargaining manager the notorious P.T. Barnum.<sup>8</sup> Finally, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Committee provided the exciting details. The fair songstress would perform on March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Methodist Church. Ticket prices would range from \$3 to \$12 and would be offered for noon sale at Isaac H. Macmichael’s Main Street store. Although the Methodist Church could accommodate as many as nine hundred concert goers, Charles’ March 1<sup>st</sup> notation indicated that he left nothing to chance: “Bought a Jenny Lind concert ticket. Paid \$4.00 for it. no. 637.”<sup>9</sup>

After a one day postponement due to unforeseen circumstances in New Orleans, Jenny Lind performed to an enthusiastic audience.<sup>10</sup> Miss Lind opened the sold out concert with a deeply personal interpretation of George Frideric Handel’s “I Know That

My Redeemer Liveth". As was Miss Lind's custom, she always stressed the "know," attesting to the audience her own strong, personal declaration of faith.<sup>11</sup> Other crowd favorites included the "Bird Song" and the simple balled "Home Sweet Home".<sup>12</sup> Press accounts deemed the concert a great artistic and financial success. Charles Cotton echoed these sentiments: "Heard Jenny Lind sing last night in the Methodist Church. Many people disappointed. But not I. She is much prettier looking lady than I had thought."<sup>13</sup> In the ensuing days, Miss Lind's innate beauty only rose in esteem when later reports indicated that her delayed arrival in Natchez was caused by a steadfast refusal to depart New Orleans and by travelling, break the Lord's Commandment to "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."<sup>14</sup>

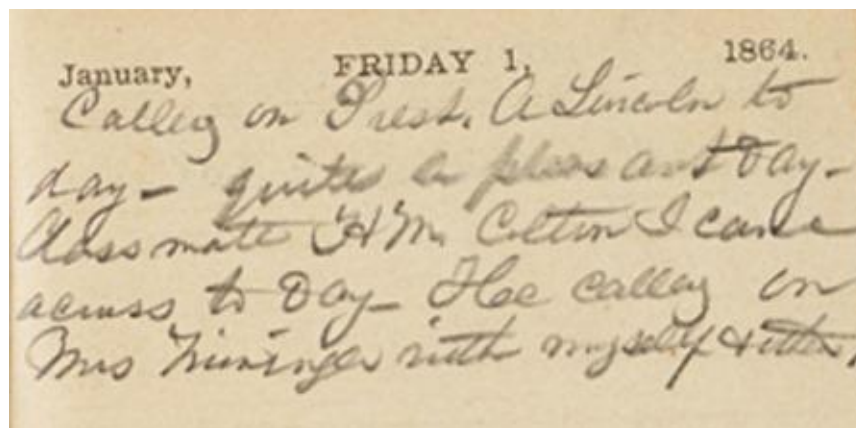
Although Charles did not record his motives, he also left Natchez and settled in Massachusetts. In 1852, he matriculated at Harvard Law School and withdrew the following year.<sup>15</sup> Diaries pick up Charles' trail again as a legal apprentice in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he earned admission to the bar.<sup>16</sup> Always politically active, by 1863 Charles Cotton had made his way to Washington, D.C. and secured employment at the U.S. Bureau of Pensions (Bureau) located in the Old Patent Office Building.



**Patent Office, Washington, D.C. (circa, 1865), Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division**

On June 19th, Charles T. Cotton reported to the Bureau, which hired him as an Assistant Examiner at the handsome sum of \$98.50 per month.<sup>17</sup> Charles' personnel records no longer exist.<sup>18</sup> Other surviving historical reports, however, provide a glimpse into his appointment. The Bureau's Chief Clerk, a position first authorized by Congress in 1853, was given full authority over all personnel matters.<sup>19</sup> However, a gentleman's tenure at the Bureau depended greatly upon political connections and the expansion of the Bureau's scope after 1862. In Charles Cotton's case, perhaps his political acquaintance with U.S. Senator Morton Wilkinson (1819-1894) (R., MN), opened the door to the Bureau. Charles, therefore, was fortunate to count himself among those gentlemen, who through their political contacts and top shelf educations had gained prized positions within the federal bureaucracy.<sup>20</sup>

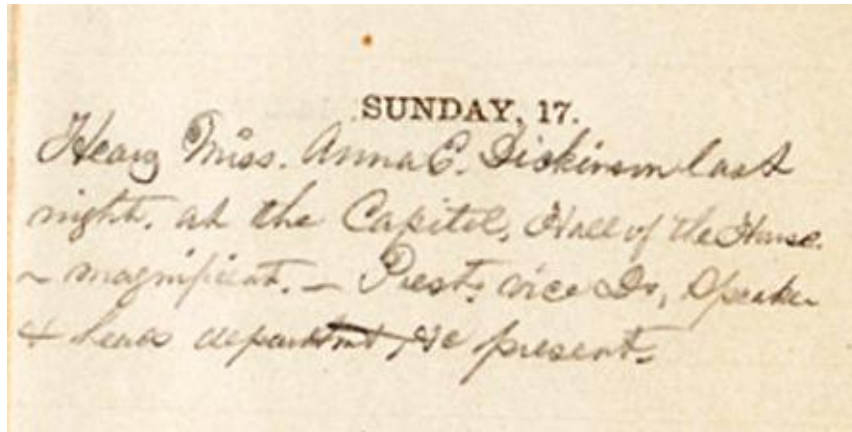
Although the nation was engaged in a bloody civil war, Charles ran his life pretty much as he had in Natchez, Mississippi. Throughout 1863-1864 diary entries not only record the emotional ups and downs of the conflict, but make full mention of attended public lectures and theatre performances at such cultural institutions as the Smithsonian and Ford's Theatre.<sup>21</sup> Throughout the summer of 1863 however, Charles' mind remained preoccupied with the war. On June 30, 1863, he wrote: "... – rebels invading free states things dark & dreary – but there must be light ahead."<sup>22</sup> This depressing entry is followed in succession by two celebratory accounts from July 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> indicating Lee's defeat at Gettysburg and the surrender of Vicksburg, Mississippi.<sup>23</sup>



January, FRIDAY 1, 1864.  
Called on Pres. A. Lincoln to  
day - quite a pleasant day -  
classmate Wm. Cotton I came  
across to day - He called on  
Mrs. Fingers with myself & others.

**1 January 1864, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), RBML, Columbia University**

By New Year's 1864, Charles was in fine spirits. He enjoyed quite a pleasant day and even made a personal call upon President Lincoln at the White House.<sup>24</sup> By the middle of January, in turn, he would witness history through the graces of one of America's most famous Abolitionist orators Anna E. Dickinson (1842-1932).



SUNDAY, 17.  
Heard Miss. Anna E. Dickinson last  
night at the Capitol, Hall of the House.  
- magnificent. - Pres. vice Pres, Speaker  
& Senate department &c present.

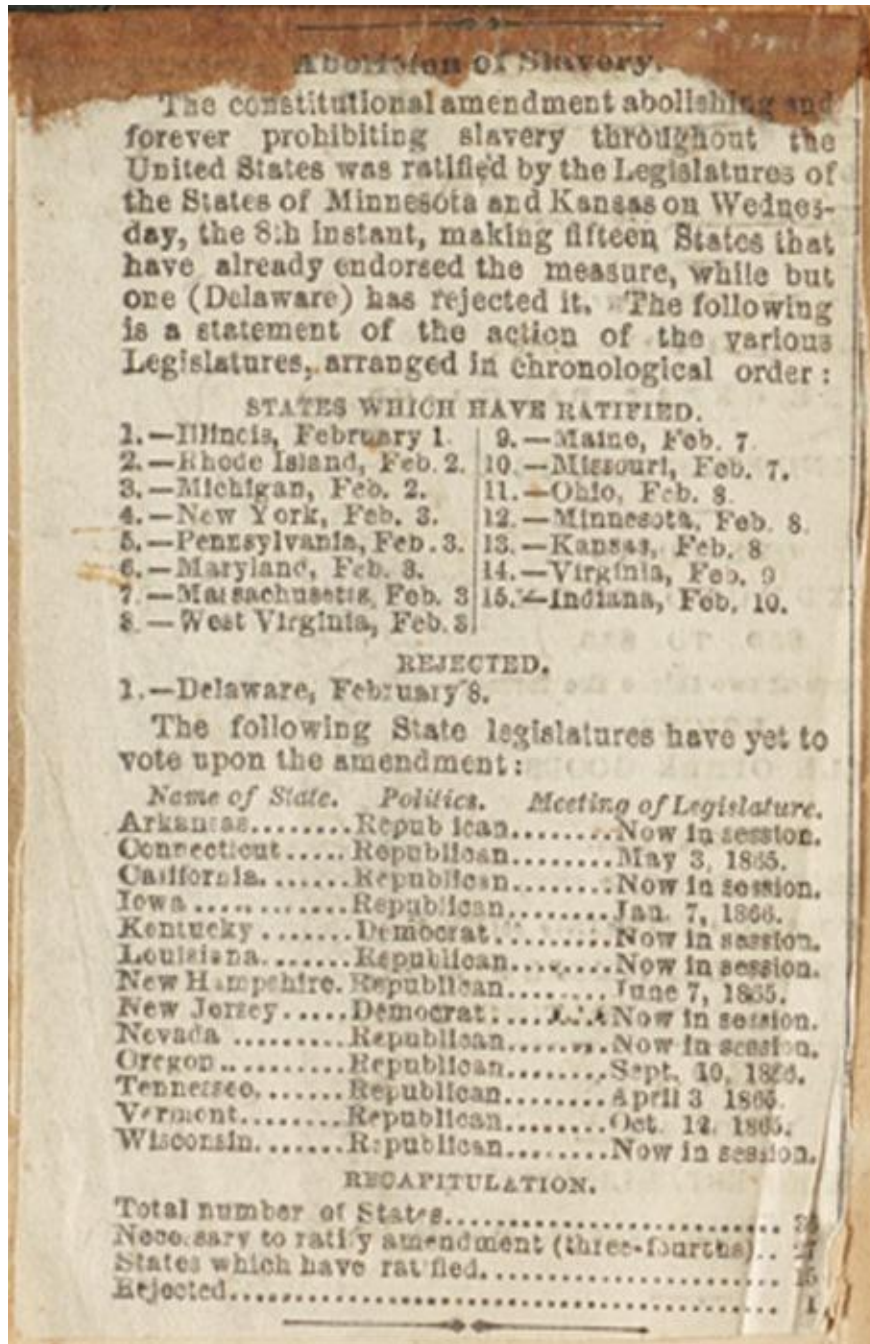
17 January 1864, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), RBML, Columbia University

In December 1863, as a reward for her valuable campaigning on behalf of the party, the Republicans invited Miss Anna E. Dickinson a leading Abolitionist speaker, to become the first woman to speak before the Hall of the House of Representatives. Miss Dickinson accepted Vice-President Hannibal Hamlin's (1809-1891) invitation with the proviso that all proceeds from her lecture be given to the needs of the Freedmen's Relief Association.<sup>25</sup> As Dickinson entered the chamber, she was met with loud cheers and proceeded to mesmerize all the attendees. In fact, Miss Dickinson lost neither the audience nor her composure even as the President and Mrs. Lincoln joined the audience halfway through the speech, just as she was sharply criticizing the President for his recently issued Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction. This proclamation offered generous terms to the southern states that rejoined the Union, but provided absolutely no protective provisions to the African American populace.<sup>26</sup> Echoing the glowing press reports, Charles wrote: "Heard Miss Anna E. Dickinson last night at the Capital, Hall of the House was magnificent."<sup>27</sup>

By the summer 1864, Charles Cotton's thoughts returned to the war. In June, he made brief mention of his return by train from the Republican National Convention in Baltimore, where President Lincoln and Andrew Johnson gained the party's



nomination.<sup>28</sup> July entries, however, reveal the war's immediacy. On July 11<sup>th</sup>: "Rebels said to everywhere & destroy R.R. [railroad] between Baltimore & Phila. & capture two trains – troops arriving from below the 6<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Army corpses [sic]."<sup>29</sup> On July 16<sup>th</sup>, Charles surveyed the handiwork of General Jubal Early's (1816-1894) Confederate Raiders, the smoldering ruins of U.S. Postmaster General Montgomery Blair's (1813-1883) home, the Falklands and the still glowing embers of their rebel encampment.<sup>30</sup> July would end with "rumors of a fight at Leesburg [Virginia] and the coming again in large numbers of rebel troops."<sup>31</sup> As September arrived, tensions reached their zenith for Charles. On September 9<sup>th</sup>, Washington, D.C. residents awoke to the following newspaper headlines: "Cotton Not King" and "A Political Muss." Newspaper reports reveal that he had gotten into a heated argument with two Union officers in front of the National Hotel and had been arrested for disorderly conduct. After refusing to pay a fine, the court ordered Charles confined to the workhouse, where after an evening's accommodation; he changed his mind, paid the fine, and was released from custody.<sup>32</sup> These published accounts and Charles' diary do not give a clear indication about the true subject of the argument. By December 1864, however, Charles Cotton, President Lincoln and most of Washington, D.C. would rejoice in receiving General William T. Sherman's (1820-1891) Christmas gift – the capture of Savannah, Georgia.<sup>33</sup>



“Abolition of Slavery,” Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), RBML, Columbia University

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1865, Charles Cotton wrote: “Clear fine day – To day [sic] the House of Rep. passed amendment to [the U.S.] Constitution which [abolished slavery and] will make us a free nation. Thank God for liberty and justice.”<sup>34</sup> Charles was moved so deeply by this act of congressional courage that he affixed a report of the amendment’s

ratification to the flyleaf of his 1865 diary. Throughout the spring, Charles' diary continued to flow with good feelings and beautiful days. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, for example, Charles would exclaim: "News recd of Capture of Charleston, S.C. Glory! Beautiful day."<sup>35</sup> After attending President Lincoln's March 4<sup>th</sup> inauguration, he remarked: "... ceremony – very moving, but better half of day, clear & sun shining – auspicious skies!"<sup>36</sup> Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Charles announced the: "Glorious news of [the] capture of Richmond. All hands out of office – all the U.S. intoxicated – most wonderful excitement."<sup>37</sup> On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Charles Cotton mentioned what was to be President Lincoln's last public address of the previous evening. In it, Lincoln called for the preparation of a national day of thanksgiving upon the surrender of the principal insurgent army.<sup>38</sup> A scant two days later, the skies would darken for Charles Cotton: "our beloved President A. Lincoln assassinated at Ford's Theatre last night at 10 P.M. & died this morning at 7. o'clock & 22 minutes – A most gloomy dismal day – rainy – everybody weeping – houses hung in mourning."<sup>39</sup> Charles Cotton's personal sorrow over President Lincoln's assassination would seep into June. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, he remarked: "visit[ed] the Military Court trying the assassins of the Presdt. Very bad looking set of felons."<sup>40</sup> Ten days later, he noted a second visit to the Military Tribunal, but withheld comment about the defendants.<sup>41</sup>

After the Civil War, Charles Cotton's diary entries became less dramatic and more common place. To illustrate, Charles recorded the everyday benchmarks of his household such as monies owed and paid. He also entered mundane accounts of workplace openings, closings and requested leaves of absences. By the early 1870s, Charles Cotton's position at the Bureau would be reduced to 1<sup>st</sup> Class Clerk.<sup>42</sup> However, newspaper accounts report that his engagement in politics continued unabated. Charles,

for example, would be elected secretary of the Southern Republican Association. These newspaper reports identify Charles as a proud son of Mississippi. However, he had been driven out of Mississippi after a visit to Natchez at the onset of the Civil War by a vigilance committee, because of his loyalty to the U.S. Government.<sup>43</sup> Charles left this discrepancy without proper resolution. On March 15, 1877, Charles died after a long battle with consumption. He was buried two days later in an unmarked plot overlooking the beautiful expanse of The Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, D.C.<sup>44</sup>

And here rests the professional difficulty for archivists, who must contend everyday with what remains. In the case of the Charles T. Cotton, for example, the critical years 1860-1862 are missing from his diaries. Therefore, we learn nothing from Charles about his alleged flight from the Natchez vigilance committee, the 1861 Mississippi secession debate, and the unconfirmed death of his brother James B. Cotton (1829?-1862), who fought for the Confederate 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Mississippi Infantry.<sup>45</sup> Although Charles left these and many other questions unanswered, the retrospective conversion of paper finding aids into EAD by the archives unit of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library now enable researchers better access to his diaries and the opportunity to discover fuller answers to these unresolved queries by diligently doing “whatsoever our hands findeth to do and do it with all our might.”

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<sup>1</sup> Carrie E. Hintz, Head of Archives Processing, “Retrospective Conversion of Paper and Scanned Finding Aids into EAD” memorandum to Rare Book and Manuscript Library Staff, Columbia University, January 8, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> 28 March 1850, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 14 May 1850; 6 May 1851; 31 December 1855; Statistics of the Class of Yale, 1848 (New Haven, CT: J.H. Benham, 1852), 23; Miscellaneous Pamphlets, Yale College (1718-1887), Class of 1848, 264.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 22 March 1850.

<sup>5</sup> *Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Bowdoin College, and the Medical School of Maine 1845* (Boston: Samuel N. Dickinson Co., Printers, 1845), 3.

<sup>6</sup> *General Catalogue of Bowdoin College and the Medical School of Maine: A Biographical Record of Alumni and Officers 1794-1950, Sesquicentennial Edition* (Brunswick, ME: 1950), 93; Office of Student

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Records/Registrar, Transcripts (Official), Rankings and Academic Records, 1840-, Catalog Number: 2.1.3, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library, Brunswick, ME.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.; 3 June 1851, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University; United States Seventh Census (1850), Natchez (North), Adams County, Mississippi, Schedule 1 (Free Inhabitants), Record Group 29 (National Archives, Washington, D.C.).

<sup>8</sup> “Jenny Lind,” *Natchez Courier* (Natchez, MS), February 18, 1851, Issue 16, col. A; “Jenny Lind Concert! at Natchez, Monday, March 10, 1851, at 7 P.M.,” *Natchez Courier* (Natchez, MS), February 28, 1851, Issue 19, col. B.

<sup>9</sup> “Jenny Lind’s Concert in Natchez,” *Mississippi Free Trader and Natchez Gazette* (Natchez, MS) March 1, 1851, Issue 6, col. A; “Jenny Lind,” *Natchez Courier* (Natchez, MS), February 18, 1851, Issue 16, col. A; “Jenny Lind Concert! at Natchez, Monday, March 10, 1851, at 7 P.M.,” *Natchez Courier* (Natchez, MS), February 28, 1851, Issue 19, col. B; 1 March 1851, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University.

<sup>10</sup> “The Lind Concert,” *Natchez Courier* (Natchez, MS), March 11, 1851, Issue 22, col. A, “The Lind Concert,” *Natchez Courier* (Natchez, MS), March 14, 1851, Issue 23, col. A.

<sup>11</sup> Ella, “Jenny Lind,” *Natchez Courier* (Natchez, MS), March 14, 1851, Issue 23, col. D.; Gladys Denny Shultz, *Jenny Lind: The Swedish Nightingale* (Philadelphia and New York: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1962), 161.

<sup>12</sup> Ella, “Jenny Lind,” *Natchez Courier* (Natchez, MS), March 14, 1851, Issue 23, col. D.

<sup>13</sup> 12 March 1851, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University.

<sup>14</sup> “The Observance of the Sabbath,” *Mississippi Free Trader* (Natchez, MS), March 19, 1851, 1.

<sup>15</sup> *Quinquennial Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the Law School of Harvard University, 1817-1889* (Cambridge, MA: Charles W. Sever, 1888), 157.

<sup>16</sup> “Supreme Court of Minnesota,” *The Daily Pioneer and Democrat* (St. Paul, MN), January 17, 1856, 2.

<sup>17</sup> 19 June 1863, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University; Ibid., Cash Accounts (1863).

<sup>18</sup> National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), telephone message to author, August 16, 2013.

<sup>19</sup> Thayer M. Boardman, Myra R. Trever, and Louise W. Southwick, compilers, *Preliminary Inventory of the Administrative Records of the Bureau of Pensions and the Pension Service: (Record group 15)* (Washington, DC: National Archives, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1953), 1.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 9; 26 March 1863, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University; Elizabeth D. Leonard, *Lincoln’s Avengers: Justice, Revenge, and Reunion after the Civil War* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2004), 232; Thomas A. Broadus, “The South and the Pension Bureau,” *American Monthly Review of Reviews*, vol. 23, January-June, 1901, 204.

<sup>21</sup> 16 January 1864, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University; Ibid., 10 March 1864.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 30 June 1863.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., 4 July 1863; 7 July 1863.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., 1 January 1864.

<sup>25</sup> J. Matthew Gallman, *America’s Joan of Arc: the life of Anna Elizabeth Dickinson* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), 36; Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Matilda Joslyn Gage, *History of Woman Suffrage, vol. II (1861-1876)* (Rochester, NY: Charles Mann, 1887), 47-48; “Words of the Hour,” *Daily National Intelligencer* (Washington, DC), January 15, 1864, 3.

<sup>26</sup> J. Matthew Gallman, *America’s Joan of Arc: the life of Anna Elizabeth Dickinson* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), 3, 36; “Miss Anna Dickinson’s Lecture in Washington,” *The Liberator* (Boston, MA), January 29, 1864, 20.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., 4; 17 January 1864, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University; “Miss Anna Dickinson’s Lecture in Washington,” *The Liberator* (Boston, MA), January 29, 1864, 20.

<sup>28</sup> 8 June 1864, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., 11 July 1864.

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- <sup>30</sup> Ibid., 16 July 1864.
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid., 22 July 1864.
- <sup>32</sup> “Cotton Not King,” *Daily National Republican* (Washington, DC), September 9, 1864, 2; “A Political Muss,” *Evening Star* (Washington, DC), September 9, 1864, 2.
- <sup>33</sup> 26 December 1864, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University; Abraham Lincoln, *The Writings of Abraham Lincoln, vol. 7 (1863-1865)* (New York and London, G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1906), 273-74.
- <sup>34</sup> 31 January 1865, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University.
- <sup>35</sup> Ibid., 20 February 1865.
- <sup>36</sup> Ibid., 4 March 1865.
- <sup>37</sup> Ibid., 3 April 1865.
- <sup>38</sup> Ibid., 12 April 1865; Abraham Lincoln, *The Writings of Abraham Lincoln, vol. 7 (1863-1865)* (New York and London: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1906), 362.
- <sup>39</sup> 15 April 1865, Charles T. Cotton Diaries (1850-1877), Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University.
- <sup>40</sup> Ibid., 3 June 1865.
- <sup>41</sup> Ibid., 13 June 1865.
- <sup>42</sup> Ibid., 5 May 1873.
- <sup>43</sup> “Letter from Washington: Southern Republican Association,” *The Baltimore Sun*, September 7, 1871, 4; “Southern Republicans,” *The Daily State Journal* (Alexandria, VA), March 14, 1872; Miscellaneous Pamphlets, Yale College (1718-1887), Class of 1848, 265.
- <sup>44</sup> Ibid., 264; Burial Order: Lot 619, site 9, March 16, 1877 (The Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, D.C.); Burial Order: Lot 619, site 9, March 17, 1877 (The Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, D.C.).
- <sup>45</sup> United States Seventh Census (1850), Natchez (North), Adams County, Mississippi, Schedule 1 (Free Inhabitants), Record Group 29 (National Archives, Washington, D.C.); *National Park Service. U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865* [database on-line, Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2007].

## Southern Cross of Honor Records at the Mississippi Department of Archives & History

Jeff T. Giambrone, Historic Resources Specialist at the Mississippi Department of Archives & History in Jackson, Mississippi.

Some of the most widely requested records at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History are those related to the State's participation in the American Civil War. The service records of Mississippians who served in the Confederate army, their postwar pension applications, and the list of veteran grave registrations are all frequently used by researchers. In addition to the above mentioned records, there is an often overlooked resource at the archive that might be helpful to someone researching a relative that fought for the Confederacy: the United Daughters of the Confederacy (Mississippi Division) Southern Cross of Honor Records.<sup>1</sup>

The Southern Cross of Honor was a bronze Maltese cross suspended from a bar to which the recipients name could be engraved. The decoration was awarded by the United Daughters of the Confederacy to any Confederate veteran that served honorably as a soldier or sailor. The idea for the cross came from Mary Cobb Erwin, who was a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy chapter in Athens, Georgia. The United Daughters of the Confederacy authorized the crosses in 1899, and the first medals were awarded on Confederate Memorial Day, April 26, 1900.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United Daughters of the Confederacy (Mississippi Division), Southern Cross of Honor Records, 1900 – 1918. Located at the Mississippi Department of Archives & History, Jackson, MS. Catalog # Z/1907.000. Cited hereafter as Cross of Honor Records.

<sup>2</sup> Gregg S. Clemmer, *Valor in Gray* (Staunton, VA, 1998), 433-434.

When the United Daughters of the Confederacy authorized the Cross of Honor, they selected three dates on which they could be bestowed. The first was Confederate Memorial Day, celebrated in Mississippi on April 26.<sup>3</sup> The others were Jefferson Davis' birthday, June 3, and Robert E. Lee's birthday, January 19. In addition, each state chapter of the organization could choose one date between July 1 and January 19 to award crosses. Mississippi picked October 20, the birthday of "The Great Commoner," Senator J.Z. George.<sup>4</sup>

The Cross of Honor was a very powerful symbol to the veterans that received it, and they wore it with pride. Mrs. S.E.F. Rose, historian of the Mississippi Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, explained what the medal meant to the old soldiers that had earned the right to wear it:

It stands not for one deed of courage, but many. Not once, but often, these heroes in Gray faced death before the blazing cannon's mouth. Through the storm of hissing minnies, in the lonely watch of the midnight picket with no companion but the stars, and endured every form of hardship, peril and privation, and suffered the bitterness of cold, weariness and hunger. Yes, the Southern Cross of Honor has a deep significance – and 'this little bronze cross' that rests over the hearts of veterans tells its own story... To the veteran, it is a badge of merit – justly won, for he has paid the price and earned the right to wear it on many a bloody battlefield.<sup>5</sup>

The Southern Cross of Honor records at the Mississippi Department of Archives & History are contained in two bound volumes, and cover the years from 1900 – 1918; however the majority of the records date from 1907 – 1918. Each volume contains a wealth of information about the individual recipient of a Cross of Honor: the name of the soldier, his rank, the company and regiment that he served in during the war, his period

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<sup>3</sup> *The Mississippi Code of 1906* (Nashville, TN, 1906), 1104.

<sup>4</sup> "History of the Southern Cross of Honor," *Confederate Veteran Magazine*, Volume XVIII (January 1910), No. 1, 234 – 235. "Crosses of Honor," *Daily Herald* (Biloxi, MS), 20 September 1904.



of service, the United Confederate Veterans camp he belonged to, the United Daughters of the Confederacy camp bestowing the cross, and the name of the soldier's next of kin is among the information included.<sup>6</sup>

Unfortunately, the Southern Cross of Honor Records have never been widely utilized by Civil War researchers, as the information is not easy to access. The first book alone has 1,043 individual veterans listed, and the second book is of a similar size. Neither book is indexed, requiring a researcher to look through each book name by name to try and find the person they are seeking. In addition, both books are extremely fragile, and can not withstand repeated handling by patrons.

To make these documents more user friendly, a project is currently underway at the archives to transcribe these records into a computer database that will eventually be available to patrons. This will be a boon to those doing Civil War research, as the Cross of Honor records have information in them that may be available nowhere else. For example, one veteran listed in the records is Charles B.N. Rice of Copiah County. He was presented his medal on April 26, 1914, by the Charles E. Hooker Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. Rice listed his unit on the application as "Member of the home guard," a group which has little or no official documentation at the archives. He does not have a service record, did not file for a veteran's pension, and does not show up on the Mississippi Confederate grave

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<sup>5</sup> Mrs. S.E.F. Rose, "Southern Cross of Honor," *Our Heritage*, Volume IV, No. 12, (October 1910). Located in the Southern Cross of Honor Subject File, Mississippi Department of Archives & History, Jackson, MS.

<sup>6</sup> Cross of Honor Records.

registration cards. Rice's Cross of Honor application may be the only written record of his wartime service.<sup>7</sup>

The Cross of Honor applications had a space reserved to list the recipient's next of kin, but it was not always filled out. For the veterans that did list a relative, however, this information may prove to be very useful to a researcher. When Joseph H. Askun applied for his cross, he listed his next of kin as "Mrs. Frank C. Owen & Mary A. Owen, daughters." George W. Harris listed his nearest relative as "S.P. Harris, son, Verona, Miss."<sup>8</sup>

Some of the Cross of Honor listings have additional information added that can provide useful insights into the wartime service or postwar life of the veteran. On the application of William J. Byars there is a notation that he "Died Meridian, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1909." E.H. Gregory's listing notes that he was "Honorably discharged Columbus, Miss., on leave of absence caused by wounds, May 1865." A.C. Minter had to apply for a replacement cross, and it was noted that "Mr. Minter lost his first cross when his home burned Jan. 19, 1914."<sup>9</sup>

In addition to the information contained in the Cross of Honor records, staff members at the Mississippi Department of Archives & History are attempting to verify the information in the books by checking it against the veterans service records, pension applications, and grave registration cards. This is necessary because in many instances the veteran only wrote down the name of his commander, or the name of the company he served in, not the regiment he was attached to. For example, C.H. McLeod only listed his unit as "Co. A, Stockdale's Battalion Mississippi Cav. Vols." A quick check of Grady

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

Howell's seminal roster of Mississippi Confederate soldiers indicates that McLeod served in Company A, 4<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Cavalry. Armed with this information, a family genealogist could determine which battles the 4<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Cavalry fought in, and gain a better understanding of the service of C.H. McLeod.<sup>10</sup>

The information in the Cross of Honor records can indicate new sources that a researcher might want to check out. Using the date of bestowal of the cross, a researcher could check the veteran's hometown newspaper to see if the publication wrote an article about the award ceremony. One of the men listed on the Cross of Honor records is James M. Selser, a relative of the author who served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Mississippi Cavalry. He was awarded his cross in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on April 26, 1913.<sup>11</sup> A search of the Hattiesburg newspaper turned up an article about the event, listing every man by name that was awarded a cross. The paper also gave a detailed description of the ceremony:

Mrs. Massengale, the church organist, played a stirring march as the procession filed into the church. Captain J.P. Carter, commandant of the local camp of veterans, called on Dr. E.J. Currie to lead in prayer, at the conclusion of which the audience sang a hymn, which was followed by a presentation of crosses of honor by Mrs. Wm. F. Hewett, who said there are three important events in the life of the soldier, the call to arms, the surrender and the bestowal of the cross of honor.<sup>12</sup>

The project to transcribe the Cross of Honor records is underway: the records from the first book have been entered into a computer database, along with the information found by the staff at the archives when verifying the service of each soldier. Data entry on the second book will begin soon. This is a time consuming process, but eventually the database will be made available to the public. This database will be

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> H. Grady Howell, Jr., *For Dixie Land I'll Take My Stand! A Muster Listing of All Known Mississippi Confederate Soldiers, Sailors and Marines*, Volume 2. (Madison, MS, 1998), 1913.

<sup>11</sup> Cross of Honor Records.

searchable by name or by unit, and will prove a valuable resource to those doing Civil War research on an ancestor that served in a Mississippi unit.

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<sup>12</sup> "Observance of Memorial Day," *The Weekly News* (Hattiesburg, MS), 2 May 1913.

## The growing Digital Civil War Archive at the University of Mississippi

Susan Ivey, Digital Initiatives Librarian and Assistant Professor, University of Mississippi

### Abstract

In 2011, the University of Mississippi's Archives and Special Collections began an ongoing project to digitize a portion of materials related to the Civil War. This started as a means of participating in the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries' (ASERL's) collaborative digitization project, *Civil War in the American South*, which was established to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. ASERL's project provides a single access point for Civil War materials from multiple repositories, and currently includes over 10,000 items from 30 libraries. In addition to providing greater access to the University's materials via the ASERL's portal, the creation of the University of Mississippi's *Digital Civil War Archive* provides a space to present various materials from multiple collections that are all related to the subject of the American Civil War. This provides an opportunity for greater discoverability and scholarship both near to and far from the library. In conjunction with the Civil War subject guide, which links to the *Digital Civil War Archive*, the library provides rich, cross-referencing tools for those interested in Mississippi and the Civil War. In addition to providing a brief history of UM's Civil War Digital Collection, this paper will document the process of identification, selection, and project management of materials to be added in 2014 to the Digital Civil War Archive, completed by Jennifer Ford (Head, Archives and Special Collection at University of Mississippi) and Susan Ivey (Digital Initiatives Librarian, University of Mississippi and author of this paper) in December 2013.

## **Introduction**

The University of Mississippi began a project in 2011 to digitize a portion of its holdings related to Mississippi and the Civil War. This started as a means of participating in the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries' (ASERL's) ongoing collaborative digitization project, *Civil War in the American South*, which was established to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the start of the American Civil War. Participating ASERL members were asked to select materials of interest from their various collections and to digitize and create metadata based on ASERL's specifications. The files are stored on the individual institutions' servers, and the collective digital content is harvested and served through a single public portal managed by a partnership between ASERL and the University of Georgia Libraries. To date, the project includes over 10,000 items from 30 libraries.

### ***Digital Civil War Archive (University of Mississippi)***

In 2011, the University of Mississippi's Archives and Special Collections faculty and staff members identified over 700 items from 23 collections to digitize for inclusion in ASERL's collaborative project. These materials document troop movements, activities on the home front, battles, and social conditions. Additionally, a small portion of the materials shed insight into Antebellum and Reconstruction Mississippi. Types of materials digitized include correspondence, military records, requisitions, diary entries, currency, ration returns, military orders and records, postcards, and telegrams.

The materials chosen in 2011 for inclusion in the ASERL project were far from exhaustive of the University of Mississippi's Archives and Special Collections' holdings relating to Mississippi and the Civil War. With the objective of continuing digitization after the University's participation in the ASERL project in 2011, the *Digital Civil War Archive (University of Mississippi) (DCWAUM)* was created. This digital collection offers an individual space, unique from that of the ASERL project, for the University of Mississippi to highlight archival materials relating to the state and the Civil War from multiple collections. The *DCWAUM* is accessible through the University of Mississippi's Archives and Special Collections Digital Collections webpage, located on the University Libraries' website. While providing a single place for a growing number of digitized University of Mississippi Civil War materials, the *DCWAUM* also creates an additional access point, which provides an opportunity for greater discoverability and scholarship both near to and far from the library.

### **The *DCWAUM* in 2014**

Since its creation in 2011, 100 digital items from 3 collections, including the Richard C. Bridges Collection, the Confederate Currency Collection, the Camp Dick Garnett

Letterbook, have been added to the *DCWAUM*. In December 2013, Head of Archives and Special Collections, Jennifer Ford, and I began identifying items for accretion into the *DCWAUM* in 2014. This was the first planned, large-scale addition to the *CDWAUM* since its inception.

We identified materials from 8 collections that would be valuable for the *DCWAUM* for several reasons. First, the materials we chose shed light on the same topics of social condition, troop movements, and life on the home front as the previous materials. Additionally, similar to the original items added to the *DCWAUM*, these collections contain a wide variety of materials types, including correspondence, government documents, diary writings, postage stamps, broadsides, ephemera, newspapers, lumber mill records, speeches, and portraits. These collections were also identified because of the rareness and uniqueness of one or several of their items, the high amount of requests for these collections, and their strong ties to the state, particularly northern Mississippi.

Of the 8 selected collections, only the Winfield Scott Featherston Collection is scheduled for comprehensive digitization for the *DCWAUM*. This collection, which is approximately 6.5 linear feet, contains correspondence, legal documents, newspapers, currency, reports, rosters, speeches, and pamphlets related to Confederate Brigadier General Featherston during his time in the Confederate army. After the war, he resided in Holly Springs, MS, practicing law and serving in the state legislature.

Other large collections were also identified for inclusion this year, but only portions of these collections were deemed relevant to Mississippi and the Civil War. Ford and I chose a variety of materials from the Brown-Learned Collection, including correspondence, business records, account books and journals, photographs, pamphlets, and reports. These materials to be added, which relate to Andrew Brown's and his decedents' lumber mill in Natchez, Mississippi, are dated immediately prior to, during, and after the War. Additionally, a portion of the James W. Silver Collection will be included. The selected materials from the Silver Collection describe Confederate camp life, the emotional state of soldiers and their families, the organization of the southern military, and personal views on the war. E.M. Davis's Civil War pardon, signed by President Andrew Johnson, selected from the Audubon Mississippi/Strawberry Plains Finley Collection, will be digitized as well.

We plan to re-process the Juanita Brown Collection in order to add the letters written by J. H. Buford to his sisters, dating from the beginning of the war until the winter of 1864. Buford was a member of the 4th Tennessee Infantry Regiment and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Mississippi Infantry Regiment. Letters chosen from the Joseph E. Davis Collection, written from former slave Benjamin Montgomery to his former owner Joseph Davis, will be included, as well.

Additionally, Ford and I have chosen to include the first two boxes from the Edmondson/Bray/Williams/Stidham Collection. These correspondences document Isabella “Belle” Buchanan Edmondson’s spy work in northern Mississippi for the Confederacy during the War, for which a warrant was issued in 1864 for smuggling and spying activities.

A variety of materials from our Small Manuscripts Collection have been selected. Various documents relating to Jefferson Davis will be digitized and added, most notably the 1865 broadside entitled, “Jeff Pettycoats,” and George Arnold’s 1865 text *Life and Adventures of Jeff. Davis*. Also chosen from the Small Manuscripts Collection is the Elizabeth Christie Brown Diary. Elizabeth Christie Brown was the daughter of a Mississippi lumber mill owner. The diary was written in Natchez during 1863, and is unique because it documents a female’s reaction to the War. The William Sylvester Dillon Diary, which details Dillon’s participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry, and the Civil War Commemorative Stamp Collection, including stamps that celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War, were chosen from the Small Manuscripts Collection for digitization, as well.

## **Conclusion**

The creation of the *DCWAUM* provided a way for the University of Mississippi’s Archives and Special Collections faculty and staff to highlight materials across multiple collections that relate to Mississippi and the Civil War. Digital collections that group thematically similar materials allow the opportunity for new links between numerous physical collections to be made without the act of physically removing materials from their original collections, and the *DCWAUM* is no exception. The *DCWAUM* webpage provides three different avenues for information about the University’s Civil War holdings— links to the digital objects within the University’s Content Management System, links to a University-created Civil War subject guide, and a list of the original collections from which the materials originate, which gives information about the individual collections and the materials digitized from each. By including multiple information sources for searching and further research, the library provides rich, cross-referencing tools for those interested in Mississippi and the Civil War.

We realize that the proposed volume of the 2014 addition to the *DCWAUM* is ambitious. We also realize that the amount of growth for the *DCWAUM* will fluctuate annually, depending upon staffing; however, it is our plan that the prioritization of the *DCWAUM* will continue to increase. The University of Mississippi’s Archives and Special Collections’ Civil War materials provide unique perspectives and experiences, and the digitization of the materials will ensure greater preservation and access for current and future users.



*William Harris Hardy and the American Civil War*

Reagan L. Grimsley<sup>1</sup>

Assistant Professor, Auburn University

“Strong men and women, old and young, wept. Many prayed that God in Heaven should accompany us. Mothers of sons took me by the hand and begged me to take care of their boys... Many a noble boy that day received his mother’s last kiss and his wife’s final embrace.”<sup>2</sup>

On Friday, May 31, 1861, a 24 year-old lawyer turned volunteer company commander gathered his unit of eighty men in the small central Mississippi town of Raleigh, the county seat of Smith County. The above quote described the scene that day as the soldiers and their families shared their last moments before the troops left for war. The company, nicknamed the “Smith Defenders,” would march the next day to Brandon, Mississippi and then continue onward via railroad to the state capital at Jackson. In both Brandon and Jackson, citizens greeted them with pomp and circumstance, characteristic of the early days of the war. The unit formed part of the 16<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Regiment, Company H, and would see action in Virginia under Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee. Many of the young soldiers who departed that day did indeed receive their last farewell from family and friends.

The young company commander, elected as Captain of his unit, was William Harris Hardy. He survived the war to become one of the foremost boosters of south Mississippi in the postwar period. A lawyer, politician, and judge, Hardy also made his mark in the post-Civil War era by building two railroad lines and founding the Mississippi cities of Hattiesburg, Laurel and Gulfport. Although his latter career is widely known, Hardy’s participation in the war as a young man is often overlooked, and this special Civil War Sesquicentennial edition of the *Primary Source* offers an opportunity to elaborate on the man and to highlight his archival legacy. This article will serve two purposes. The first is to provide a brief

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<sup>1</sup> The author is currently preparing a book length manuscript which focuses on the lives of William Harris Hardy and Joseph T. Jones.

<sup>2</sup> Toney A. Hardy, *No Compromise with Principle: Autobiography and Biography of William Harris Hardy* (New York: American Book-Stratford Press, Inc., 1942) p. 59.

biography of Hardy and his Civil War career. The second will be to identify and highlight special collections materials either created by Hardy or which support the study of his life during the Civil War Era. Quotations from primary source materials in this article serve to illuminate the primary source materials and to illustrate Hardy's eloquent prose.

At the outbreak of the war, Hardy was in his mid-twenties, full of vigor and ambition. Born in Lowndes County, Alabama in 1837, Hardy studied at the local Town Creek schools and for a short time at Cumberland University in Tennessee. Moving to Jasper County, Mississippi in 1856, he taught school at Montrose for one year and then at Sylvarena Academy in Smith County for one term. He began studying law under the tutelage of the Shannon and Street Firm in Paulding during 1856 and gained admission to the bar in 1858. He moved to nearby Raleigh, Mississippi and set up shop, and by 1860 his law practice was thriving. In the 1860 census, Hardy owned real estate worth \$2000 and a personal estate worth another \$500.<sup>3</sup> He married Sallie Ann Johnson on October 10 of the same year, and by the outbreak of the Civil War, the couple was expecting their first child. A local Democratic Party leader, Hardy was in an advantageous position to encourage other young men to join the war effort, and it was in part his influence which raised the eighty-man company of Smith Countians which comprised the Smith Defenders.

Although he was only in his mid-twenties, Hardy received the nod as Captain of Company H. As was common with many units which volunteered early in the war, he found himself among friends and family. His brother, Thomas Hardy, eventually rose to the rank of first lieutenant in the company. A cousin, Snowden Hardy, and a brother-in-law, Henry W. Evans, also served in the unit. Smith County was predominantly rural in 1860, and the majority of the soldiers of Company H were yeoman farmers. As described by Robert G. Evans, whose 2002 work *The 16<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry: Civil War Letters and*

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<sup>3</sup> *1860 Census of the United States*. Washington, DC. Manuscript Census returns for Smith County, Mississippi.

*Reminiscences* is the seminal monograph on the unit: “The Sixteenth Mississippi was an average Confederate unit, made up of ordinary Southern men.”<sup>4</sup>

After a review by Governor John Jones Pettus in Jackson in early June, the company traveled by train to Corinth, Mississippi to await orders. While at Corinth they drilled in anticipation of future military action. News of a Confederate victory at First Manassas, the initial engagement of the war, “sent a thrill of joy and a shout throughout our camp...”<sup>5</sup> By the first week of August, 1861, Hardy found himself in Manassas, Virginia. The 16<sup>th</sup> Mississippi would spend the remainder of the year in Johnston’s Army of Virginia, mainly conducting picket duty. Sickness set in almost immediately after the regiment left Jackson. Hardy himself remarked in a letter dated October 17, 1861 that he suffered from dysentery for three weeks. The cold weather placed further hardships on the Mississippi troops, as many were ill prepared for the cold weather and fell ill with colds and pneumonia.<sup>6</sup> Sickness continued to vex Hardy. While the 16<sup>th</sup> fought with Jackson in his Valley Campaign, Hardy instead spent much of the spring and early summer furloughed on sick leave. When he rejoined the regiment in August of 1862, the unit was assigned to Longstreet’s Corps and preparing for a large-scale battle at Manassas Junction. The Second Battle of Manassas was trial by fire for Hardy. He performed superbly, and Company H proved its mettle during the engagement, charging the enemy and forcing them back some four miles. While proud of the unit’s performance, in a letter to his wife Sallie, Hardy wrote of the horrors of war:

“We slept in the line of battle on our arms on the bloody field, and oh, the heart sickens at the thought. All the firing had ceased, everything was calm and still after the awful storm save the awful shrieks of the dying and wounded, which were great from every quarter in every direction. Cries for help, for water, brother calling for brother, comrade for companions, some

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<sup>4</sup> Robert G. Evans, *The 16<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry: Civil War Letters and Reminiscences* (Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2002) p. xviii.

<sup>5</sup> William Harris Hardy to Sallie Johnson Hardy, 22 July 1861. William H. and Sallie J. Hardy Papers, McCain Library and Archives, University of Southern Mississippi.

<sup>6</sup> William Harris Hardy to Sallie Johnson Hardy, 17 October 1861. William H. and Sallie J. Hardy Papers, McCain Library and Archives, University of Southern Mississippi; William Harris Hardy to Sallie Johnson Hardy, 9 January 1862. William H and Sallie J. Hardy Papers, McCain Library and Archives, University of Southern Mississippi.

calling on God to take their dying souls to heaven, other praying him to take care of their wives and children.”<sup>7</sup>

Hardy actively led Company H until September of 1862 and saw his last action with the company at the siege of Harpers Ferry. On October 14, 1862, he resigned his command in the 16<sup>th</sup> Mississippi, having been absent on furlough sick for six of the prior eight months. While Hardy listed his ailment as chronic gastritis, Confederate surgeons described his condition as chronic dysentery. According to his memoir, his poor physical condition led to a more than six-month stay in a sick bed in Charleston, West Virginia during the fall of 1862 and spring of 1863. After the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, Hardy returned to Mississippi, and his stint with the 16<sup>th</sup> Mississippi ended.<sup>8</sup>

Back home in Mississippi, Hardy reunited with his wife Sallie and met his daughter Mattie for the first time. Hardy had faithfully corresponded with Sallie throughout the first two years of the war, often lamenting over his inability to procure a leave to visit her and his young child. Back home in Raleigh, Hardy spent a year working to regain his health. On April 1, 1864, Hardy rejoined the Confederate Army as an Aide de Camp to General Argyle Smith. The appointment was at the rank of Lieutenant, and Hardy joined Smith during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain in the summer of 1864.<sup>9</sup> As a member of Smith’s staff, Hardy participated in the Battle of Atlanta, where the general received a grave wound. Hardy traveled with Smith as he was removed to Macon, Georgia and then to Brandon, Mississippi to recover from his injuries. The two returned to post in Cleburne’s Division of Hood’s Army of Tennessee in the late fall of 1864 and participated in the Battle of Nashville. During the Battle of Franklin, Smith’s brigade did not take part in the action. This battle essentially destroyed the Army of

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<sup>7</sup> William Harris Hardy to Sallie Johnson Hardy, 7 September 1862. William H. and Sallie J. Hardy Papers, McCain Library and Archives, University of Southern Mississippi.

<sup>8</sup> Resignation documents located in *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Mississippi*, National Archives and Records Association, Publication Number M269, Record Group 109, Roll 242. Hardy, *No Compromise with Principle*, p. 68-71.

<sup>9</sup> Argyle Smith to Samuel Cooper, located in *Compiled Service Records of Confederate General and Staff Officers, and Nonregimental Enlisted Men*, National Archives and Record Administration, Publication Number M331, Record Group 109, Roll 0118.

Tennessee as an effective fighting force and Smith and Hardy retreated with the army to Corinth. After a brief furlough the two were ordered to the eastern seaboard, where they eventually joined the army of Joseph E. Johnston in anticipation of participating in the Carolinas Campaign. Shortly after their arrival, Johnston's Army surrendered to William T. Sherman on April 26, 1865, and after parole Hardy began the long journey back to Mississippi. He arrived back in Mississippi on June 1, 1865, a veteran of two different commands, spending in total two and half years in the service of the Confederate States of America.<sup>10</sup>

After the war, Hardy moved to Paulding, Mississippi and continued the practice of law. Reconstruction did not inhibit his economic advancement, and by 1870 his estate was valued at \$11,000.<sup>11</sup> During the next two decades he would rise to prominence as a behind the scenes Democratic party leader and a railroad builder of the New South. He correctly foresaw that building railroads to tap the natural resources of the piney woods region of Mississippi would bring economic opportunity the area. This development required outside capital, much of which came either from England or from Northern businessmen or financiers. Hardy was also a noted public speaker and several of his speeches drew upon and shaped the memory of the war. Most notable among these are a eulogy of Confederate General Mark Lowery in 1885, which both praises the man and his accomplishments, but also pointedly memorializes the soldiers who fell under his command. A second eulogy delivered in New York City on the occasion of Jefferson Davis's Death in December, 1889 honors Davis's life and calls for the reconciliation of North and South.<sup>12</sup> A quote from Hardy's 1889 speech is poignant, and summarized his approach to the events surrounding the war:

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<sup>10</sup> Hardy, *No Compromise with Principle*, 76-83.

<sup>11</sup> *1870 Census of the United States*. Washington, DC. Manuscript Census returns for Jasper County, Mississippi.

<sup>12</sup> Address delivered by William Harris Hardy at Blue Mountain, Mississippi, 17 June, 1885, reprinted in *No Compromise With Principle*, p. 318-341; *New York Herald*, 8 December 1889, reprinted in *No Compromise with Principle*, 223-228.

“God speed the day when all the asperities engendered by the late war shall be forever buried in the deep sea of oblivion, and we shall all cherish as one glorious, common heritage, the courage, valor, and patriotism displayed by both sections.”<sup>13</sup>

Hardy was not unique in his dual purposes of seeking to remember the Confederate dead and their cause while also calling for an end to sectional differences in an effort to put the war to rest. As historian David Blight suggests, ordering Civil War memory around the shared values of manliness, valor, sacrifice, and a mutual sense of honor created a language which veterans of both sides of the conflict could embrace with pride. It provided the additional benefit of engendering commercial reconciliation and promoting northern investment in southern business enterprises.<sup>14</sup> By 1900, northern financiers controlled a majority of southern railroads.<sup>15</sup>

Fortunately for researchers, William Harris Hardy left behind a copious cache of letters and an autobiography which document his life. He also penned a series of articles about reconstruction in Mississippi which appeared in the *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, Volumes IV and VII*. Curiously, historians who study the Civil War and Reconstruction often overlook these documents. A closer examination of these sources can provide possible leads for historians seeking source material on the Civil War in Mississippi.

The primary archival material which documents Hardy’s war experience is located at the McCain Library and Archives on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi. There are two collections which contain Hardy letters, photographs, and other memorabilia. The first collection, cited often in the above biographical piece, is the William H. and Sallie J. Hardy Papers, comprised of 1.6 cubic feet of material. Sallie Johnson, as mentioned above, was the first wife of William Harris Hardy. She died of malaria on September 16, 1872. As noted in the finding aid, the heart of the collection is a series of 66

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<sup>13</sup> *New York Herald*, 8 December 1889, reprinted in *No Compromise with Principle*, 228.

<sup>14</sup> David Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2001) p. 199—200.

<sup>15</sup> John F. Stover, *The Railroads of the South: A Study in Finance and Control* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1955) p. 254, 281.

original letters written between 1860 and 1881. Many of these letters focus specifically on the Civil War and give field reports about camp conditions and a handful contain descriptions of battles. Many also focus on the concern Hardy had for the family he left behind in Mississippi, and he queried Sallie about finances, the family, and happenings on the homefront. A second archival collection at the University of Southern Mississippi, the William H. and Hattie L. Hardy Papers, consists of .9 cubic feet and focus on the time period after 1873. After the death of Sallie Johnson, Hardy met and married Hattie Lott on December 1, 1874. While the 127 letters in this collection do not specifically deal with the Civil War, they do serve to document Hardy's later life. In particular, they are of note to those studying Mississippi during the latter half of the nineteenth century, and are important to placing Hardy's life in context with that of his Confederate peers.<sup>16</sup>

In 1911, William H. Hardy's son Lamar requested that he "chronicle the principal events of his own stirring life."<sup>17</sup> Hardy agreed, and this autobiography became the basis for the 1946 monograph *No Compromise with Principle: Autobiography and Biography of William Harris Hardy*, written by Hardy's son Toney. This volume combines Hardy's 1911 autobiographical piece with a biographical examination of his life by two of his children, Toney Hardy and Mattie Hardy Lott. Also included are reprints of some portions of family letters, speeches, and newspaper articles which illuminate the life of William Harris Hardy. This is the currently the only biography of William Harris Hardy, and as it is written by family members the text often avoids painting an unfavorable picture of Hardy. Still, the family stories by the two Hardy children add insight into the subject's character and personal life.

Two other sets of archival material can reveal important clues about the lives of Civil War soldiers in Mississippi. The first is manuscript census data, which is crucial to placing the pre-civil war lives of the soldiers in perspective, and garnering information about their family and economic status.

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<sup>16</sup> For finding aids of the collections see [www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/archives/m380.htm](http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/archives/m380.htm) and [www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/archives/m182.htm](http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/archives/m182.htm).

<sup>17</sup> Hardy, *No Compromise with Principle*, xv.

*The Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Mississippi* is likewise a useful resource to delve further into the service records of soldiers. In Hardy's case, the official records fill in many of the gaps which are unavailable in his autobiography or the family letters. For instance, Hardy places his resignation in 1863, while official records clearly record it as October 1862 and provide relevant surgeons recommendations of his medical conditions. Other useful information such as muster roles and letters of appointment can lend other clues when developing biographical sketches of combatants.

One last source deserves particular mention, as it uses the William H. and Sallie J. Hardy Papers effectively to tell the story of the 16<sup>th</sup> regiment. After spending the better part of a lifetime researching the Civil War history of the 16<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry, Judge Robert G. Evans authored the edited volume *The 16<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry: Civil War Letters and Reminiscences*. This monograph tells the story of the 16<sup>th</sup> Mississippi through a variety of primary source materials compiled by 18 members of the unit, which include a number of letters from William Harris Hardy to Sallie Johnson Hardy. It is a welcome resource for those researching Civil War history in Mississippi, and can serve as a model for future regimental histories.<sup>18</sup>

As Mississippi marks the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War, there are still many gaps in both the historical and archival record which need to be filled. This brief study of William Harris Hardy is representative of the many stories which are as yet only partially told, both in terms of biography and the collection of the types of sources needed to effectively write about the this tumultuous conflict. Archivists can continue to support the study of the era by continuing to build primary source collections which contribute to our understanding of the war, and should seek to provide greater access to the materials by making archival sources available online when possible. For example, the digitization of *The*

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<sup>18</sup> Evans, *The 16<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry*.



*Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Mississippi* is an important step forward for historians, genealogists, and others who seek searchable, online access to information about soldiers and units from the state. In an era of budget cuts and institutional spending restrictions which often limit funding for such projects, it is crucial that archival institutions invest in projects which capture the public's imagination and promote use. Civil War collections certainly fill this niche.

*Mississippi's Role in the Civil War as Seen through the State's Official Records*

Jim Pitts, Historic Resources Specialist, Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

Mississippi, the second state to secede from the Union, played a major role in the South's bid for independence. The state provided troops to Confederate armies in Virginia and in the Mississippi and Tennessee River valleys. Factories in the state provided military equipment and the farms provided foodstuffs. Much of this is documented in the official records of the state held by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History at the William F. Winter Archives Building, 200 North Street, Jackson. The department was founded in 1902. The first object and purpose of the department, by state law, was "the care and custody of official archives ..."  
[Miss. Code 1906, §1633 and MCA 1972, § 39-5-1]. The law establishing the department also "... charged [it] with the duty of making special effort to collect and publish data in reference to soldiers from Mississippi in ... the war between the United States and the Confederate States ...  
[Miss. Code 1906, §1639]. These records were collected almost from the first day. Some of the earliest collections were Confederate records hidden by state officials in the archives of the Jackson Masonic fraternity in the attic of the Jackson City Hall. Revealed to the first director, Dunbar Rowland, by Colonel E. E. Baldwin, they were added to the department's holdings thirty-nine years after they had been hidden. Over the decades since then, many more Civil War-era state government records have been transferred to the care and control of the State Archives. This article will briefly discuss what is available and will highlight some of the more significant, and sometimes unappreciated, collections.



Governor's Office: Mississippi's three Civil War governors were John J. Pettus, Charles Clark, and William L. Sharkey. Their administrations left the state with a considerable group of records primarily consisting of correspondence and other papers, military telegrams, military orders, and amnesty oaths. The military telegrams are, in my opinion, the most interesting, containing such telegrams as one from a newly raised unit's fervent desire to "draw some Yankee blood" and one from a mother wishing for her son and only support to be released from military service (both from 1861)

South-Western Telegraph Company.

THE PUBLIC are notified, that in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated by being sent back from the station at which it is received to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message, and while this company will, as heretofore, use every precaution to ensure correctness, it will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messages, beyond an amount exceeding one hundred times the amount paid for sending the message; nor will it be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission of unrepeatable messages from whatever cause they may arise, nor for delays arising from interruptions in the working of its Telegraphs, nor for any mistake or omission of any other Company, over whose lines a message is to be sent to reach the place of destination.

All messages will hereafter be received by this Company for transmission, subject to the above conditions.  
N. GREEN, Post, Louisville, Ky.

April 11<sup>th</sup> 1861

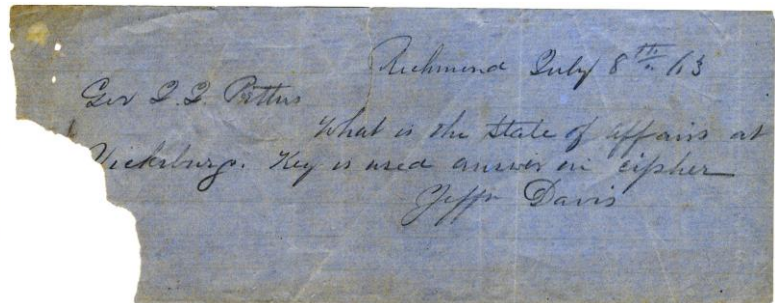
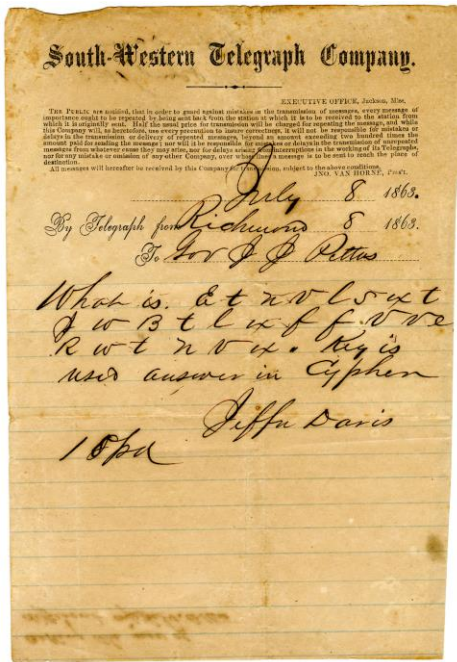
By Telegraph from Holly Springs, N.C.  
To Gov J. J. Pettus, Ark

For Gods sake give my  
company a chance to  
draw yankee blood.  
We are ready for order  
Answer immediately

E. W. Upshaw  
Capt Bradford  
Luard

Paid

to a coded telegram dated July 8, 1863, from President Jefferson Davis to Governor Pettus asking “What is the state of affairs at Vicksburg?”



All of these records yield much information on the governor’s interaction with Confederate authorities, various state agencies, and the state’s militia, especially in the latter years as they tried to raise troops to resist Union incursions into the eastern half of the state from bases in Memphis, Vicksburg, and Natchez and moved the state capital from Jackson to Columbus and then Macon to keep from being overrun by Union troops.

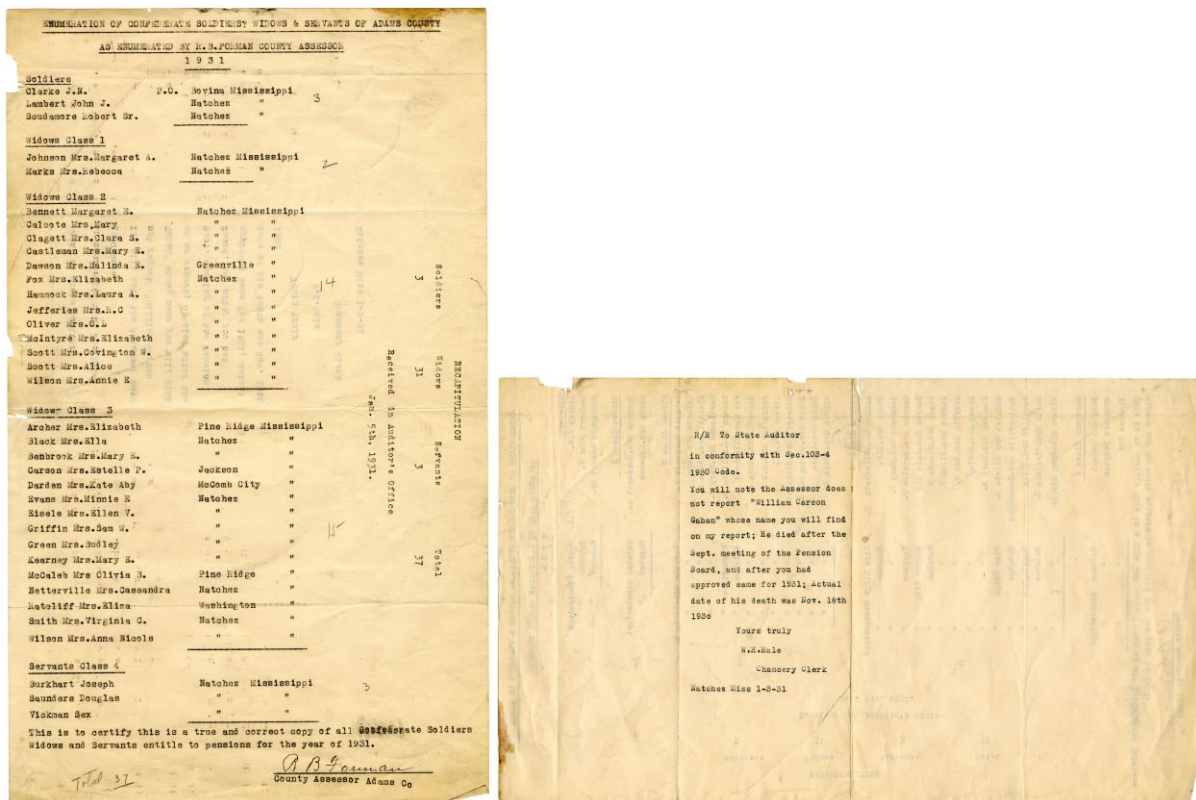
Legislature: The legislative records contain the bills and resolutions that were introduced, debated, and sometimes passed during the legislative sessions. The journals record the daily activities of the two houses while they were in session. There are two memorials passed by the

Legislature that I think are interesting. The first is a 12 page memorial, dated August 3, 1861, sent to the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States professing Mississippi's total support for the Confederate cause. Not all Mississippians were in total support, but the voices that might have been raised against such an action were not represented in the Legislature. The second memorial is a five-page document from the Mississippi legislature to President Andrew Johnson asking that he release Jefferson Davis. It ends with this plea, "Open the prison doors of Jefferson Davis! Let him breathe once more the air of personal freedom! Return him to the state of Mississippi! Make her his bondsman! He will answer as readily to any call here, as when guarded and confined as he now is. Let our fortunes be his; and the halo of honor that surrounds your position and name will become radiant with the true and undimmed glory of official and personal magnanimity." Of course Davis was not released from prison until 1867 so this petition did not seem to do any good.

Secretary of State: The Secretary of State was one of the important state officials. He handled the bonds and oaths for elected officials and the commissions for the officers appointed to lead the various state military units. Additionally, he oversaw the elections just as the office does now. He was also the repository for the official copy of the bills enacted into law by the legislature and the governor.

Auditor: The auditor's files contain information about the his office's role in the Civil War. Included are warrants about payments made to government and private individuals, including those made to move the state government to Columbus and Macon and detailed records about the pensions that were provided beginning in 1888 to indigent Confederate soldiers, their widows,

and the servants who accompanied them into battle. In addition to the actual pension applications, the auditor's files also contain reports from the counties listing who was paid what type of pension. The important thing about these lists is that the county clerks would indicate when a pensioner had died, moved out of or into the county, or other details about the person's eligibility for the pension.



The auditor's records also include the county tax rolls that show what taxes were paid on personal property and on land during the war years. There are two newly discovered records. The first are penitentiary files that record the monthly pay to various artisans who either supervised or worked in the penitentiary when it was a military manufactory. The monthly

returns abruptly end in April 1863. The other is a list of state prisoners who had been sent to Alabama but who were offered clemency if they volunteered for military service.

Treasurer: Not many records remain from the Civil War Treasurer's office. What exists includes monies allocated to the various state agencies and boards for their expenses, monies advanced and sometimes redeemed on cotton bonds, and registers of Treasury notes issued and redeemed.

Five other groups of records are of importance for researching the state government's activities in the Civil War:

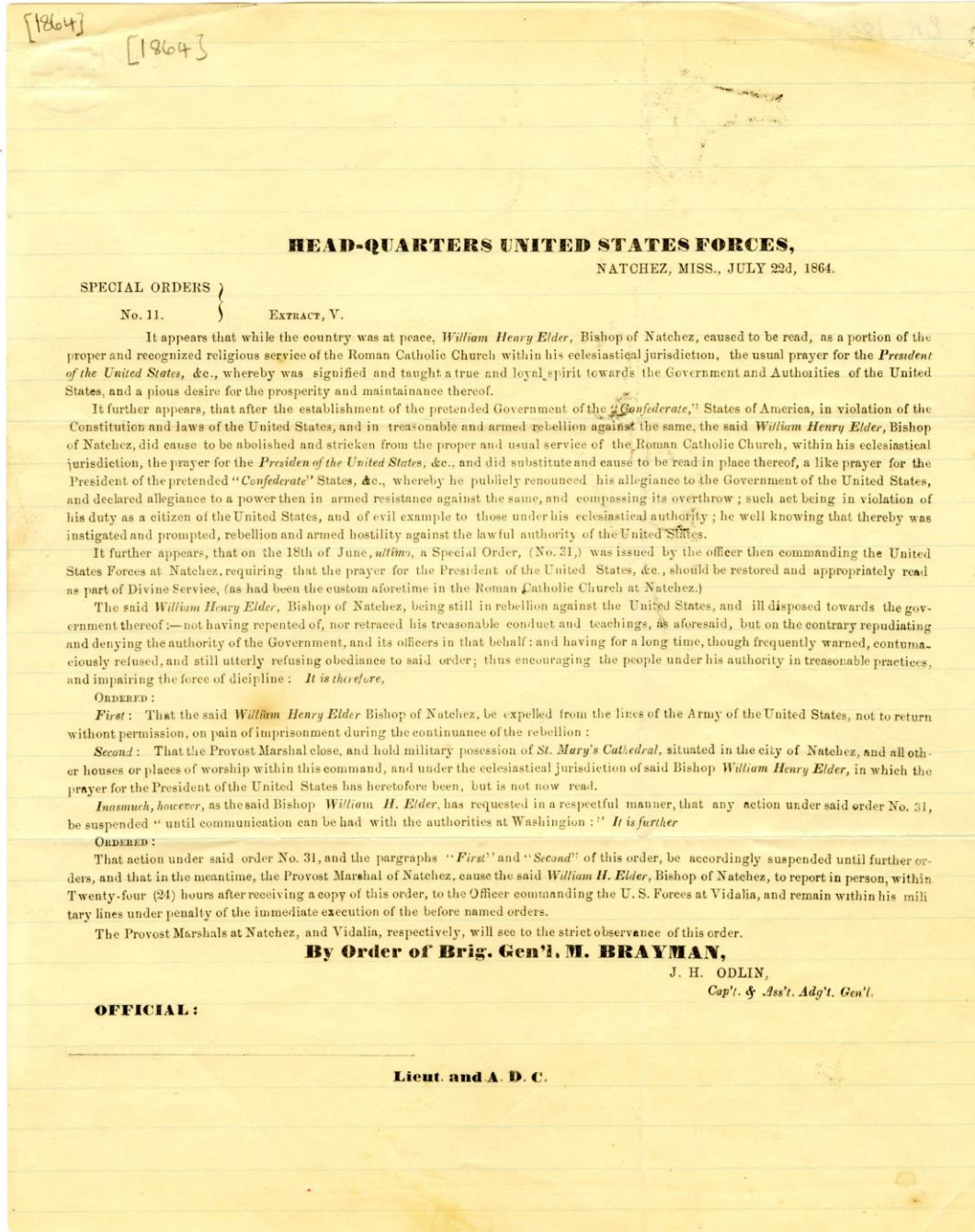
Military Department (Adjutant General's Office): The register of military commissions, although stopping short of the beginning of the war, will list the officers of the state militia in 1860. Additional state military records will be discussed later.

Veterans Affairs Board: Although not established until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the Veterans Affairs Board records contain pension information for widows and indigent children that complements the information contained in the Auditors records.

U.S. Military Records: This is an artificial records group that gathers all of the Mississippi related United States military records in the department's collection. Included are records about several Union Army units that were either raised from or associated with Mississippi: the 1st Mississippi Mounted Rifles, a white unit raised in Memphis and used throughout the state in



various roles; the Mississippi Marine Brigade, raised in St. Louis and named after the river, an Army unit serving with the Union naval forces along the Mississippi River and its tributaries; morning reports for two United States Colored Troop regiments; a number of orders from various Union headquarters; and other documents.



Work Projects (or Works Progress, as it was later known) Administration: The WPA had teams of researchers scouring the county courthouses, cemeteries, and memories of the older residents to gather historical data. Some of that data concerns the Civil War and includes county rosters of military veterans and the records of the military graves registration project.

Memorial, Monument, and Exhibitions Commissions: The Vicksburg National Military Park photographs are some of the oldest extant and many show the fortifications almost as they were during the siege. Other material from the park includes Confederate veterans reunion programs.



County Records: Many county records are available on microfilm at the Archives thanks to the efforts of the Utah Genealogical Society and Family Search. Individual county inventories are accessible through the department's on-line catalog and can include Confederate reunion records; Confederate soldiers and sailors histories and rosters; enumeration of Confederate soldiers and widows; lists of destitute Confederate soldiers, widows, and children; minutes of county Confederate Pension Boards; pension records; and records of Confederate soldiers and sailors.

Finally, and perhaps best known, is Records Group 9, Confederate Records. This artificial grouping contains the largest collection of records about the state's military involvement in the war. Some of the categories are: correspondence and records from state Adjutant General, Quartermaster General, and Ordnance offices; commissions, appointments, resignations, oaths, paroles, etc.; military discharges, furloughs, travel passports; and deceased, indigent, disabled soldier files. Most of these are probably not as well used as the unit records, but there is a tremendous amount of information in them about how Mississippi raised and supported her troops throughout the Confederacy. The department also has original and later-period documents about Mississippi and other Confederate units and organizations, as well as about individuals. These documents range from company muster rolls to 1905 veteran information forms. They may also include letters and reports, such as a letter from S.M. Gassaway of the Anding Hussars (officially Company K of Wirt Adams' Cavalry Regiment) to Lieutenant W.S. Yerger describing his capture and subsequent imprisonment by Union troops near Bowling Green, Kentucky, on February 14, 1862. An interesting document is a copy of a report made by

Colonel McRae to Brigadier General Little, commanding the 1st Brigade, Army of the West, at Rienzi, April 21, 1862. The report describes the condition of the 36th Mississippi Infantry Regiment which had just arrived from mustering in at Meridian. In early 1863, the commander of the Mississippi State troops defending Columbus received a number of slaves who were impressed to build fortifications there. A document lists these 386 slaves by name and includes each one's age and description, his owner's name, and any implements (shovels, axes, etc.) that he brought with him. The list is organized by county.

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*Negroes Received & their Description from Newton County*

Owners Names	Negroes Names	Age	Complexion	Height	Implements
March 6 <sup>th</sup> 1863					
J. D. Finley	Tom	20	Yellow	5-7	Shovel
"	Simon	22	Black	5-6	axe
John W. Kelly	William	22	"	5-9	"
John S. Beale	Tom	35	"	5-7	Spade
of P. Sutton	Subordin	35	"	5-7	"
William Barnett	Mose	44	"	5-5	—
"	Ludley	40	"	5-7	axe
A. W. Glover	Jeff	21	"	5-4	"
George S. Moore	Billy	40	"	5-4	"
"	Levis	30	"	5-4	"
"	Robater	20	"	5-9	Shovel
"	Wright	30	"	5-6	Spade
James L. Hardy	Alfred	35	"	5-7	axe
John Matthews	Sam	25	"	5-6	Shovel
"	Eli	22	"	5-6	axe
Laughlin M. Fisher	Allen	20	"	5-6	"
<i>Clark County</i>					
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>					
W. A. Ward	Lewis	25	"	5-5	"
Reese Price	Anthony	35	"	5-6	"
J. M. Hand	Lewis	38	"	5-6	—
Thomas Westbrook	Sick	28	"	5-4	axe
Jack Green	Hamp	38	"	5-1	"
John Evans	Henry	25	"	5-9	"
J. B. Jones	Moses	28	"	5-4	"
W. F. Bates	George	36	Yellow	5-7	Shovel
J. F. Hicks	Henry	20	Black	5-5	axe
J. Br. Gilmer	Thom	22	"	5-8	"
"	David	20	"	5-7	"
"	John	18	L	5-6	"
"	Henry	18	"	5-7	—
C. M. Barnett	Bob	25	"	5-9	axe
J. M. Swearing	Samuel	23	L	5-9	axe
Bra Cowley	Peter	34	"	5-7	"
S. C. Woodberry	Charles	37	"	5-6	"

As you can see, the activities of the state government during the Civil War are well documented. All of these collections are available for researchers at the Winter Archives Building. Some of the collections, such as the tax rolls and pension records from the Auditor's Office and the Vicksburg National Military Park photographs, have been scanned and the images are available through our online catalog on the department's website: [www.mdah.state.ms.us](http://www.mdah.state.ms.us) .

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Brief biographical sketch of author: Jim Pitts is a state government records archivist with the Archives and Records Services Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, where he has worked for 20 years. He is a retired U.S. Army officer and a graduate of Mississippi State University, where he received a bachelor's degree in history.

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Note: All images must be sub-titled with:  
Credit: Courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History

List of Images, in order of appearance in article:

<u>Image file name</u>	<u>Suggested image title</u>
Ordinance of Secession	Ordinance of Secession
Draw Blood telegram	"Draw Yankee Blood" telegram
Mother's Plea telegram	"A Mother's Plea" telegram
Davis coded telegram	Coded telegram from President Davis
Davis decoded telegram	Decode of Davis telegram
County pension report obverse	County pension report, front
County pension report reverse	County pension report, back
SO 11, expulsion of bishop	Expulsion of Bishop Elder from Natchez
Confederate Railroad Redoubt	Confederate Railroad Redoubt, Vicksburg
Columbus laborers list	List of Slave Laborers at Columbus