

Captain Edwin Allen Confederate Veteran Article

SOME NOTED GUNS.

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

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

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

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

"Lady Richardson" was captured at Corinth from Richardson's Missouri (Union) Battery by Rust's Confederate Brigade.

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

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

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

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