

CIVIL WAR REMINISCENCES

Capture of Colonel Alexander and His Recruits on Blackwater in 1861.

**FROM THE BOONVILLE WEEKLY ADVERTISER
(Boonville, Missouri)
March 7, 1919:**

Butler, Missouri Feb 24, 1919 Editor Advertiser: This appeared in the February issue of the Confederate Veteran published at Nashville, Tenn. PRISONERS OF WAR. The following interesting list of prisoners of war at Fort Warre, Massachusetts during 1861-62 was compiled by Miss Susie Gentry, of Franklin, Tennessee, from an autograph album which had belonged to W.J. Sowell, Lieutenant Colonel of the 48th Tennessee Regiment, Columbia, Tenn. There were ninety-four autographs in this book and many of them were of the sons of Tennessee, but these States were also represented: Maryland, Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Texas, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Alabama, Kentucky and Missouri. This list was selected from those showing the most interesting reasons for being held in durance vile:

Among the fifty names appears the following: C. B. Alexander, Colonel 2nd Regiment Cavalry, 6th Division, M.S.G. (Missouri State Guard) Fought in the battles of Boonville, Carthage, Oakhill, Drywood and Lexington. Was Captured by General Pope's command at Milford, Johnson County, Missouri, on the 19th of December, 1861, returning to the army of General Price with recruits. Imprisoned first in McDowell's College, St. Louis; thence Alton, Ill., thence to Camp Chase, Ohio; and finally landed at Fort Warren April 9. Residence, Pilot Grove, Cooper County, Missouri."

In 1861 I lived within eight miles of Pilot Grove. I don't remember Colonel Alexander but recollect the capture of several hundred confederates in Johnson County, Missouri as they were going from Cooper and Saline Counties to Price's army. My Uncle was captured with them. They were confined in a Military prison in St. Louis known as "Mc Dowell's College." Colonel Alexander was doubtless a prominent man and will be remembered by old citizens of Cooper County. Yours Truly, William E. Walton

The editor of this paper had two brothers captured with this same bunch of recruits: Robert and James Walden who went from Howard County and were encamped on Blackwater in Johnson County. A greater part of them were unarmed and were attempting to reach the army of General Price which was encamped on the border of the State.

Colonel Charles B. Alexander

**County of Christian, Kentucky
Historical and Biographical**

Edited by William Henry Perrin
F. A. Battey Publishing Company
1884

Colonel Charles B. Alexander is a native of Breckinridge County, KY., and a son of Charles B. and Elizabeth (Wilson) Alexander, the former a native of Loudoun County, Va., and the latter from the vicinity of Wheeling, Va. His father's family were: John, who died at Uniontown, Ky.; Elizabeth (Mrs. William Hoffman), Lake County, Cal.; Mary (Mrs. John D. Stevens), Yolo County, Cal.; Armstead M., who died in Breckinridge County; Ann, who was drowned in the Sacramento River, California; Charles B., the subject; Julia, who died in Breckinridge County. The family moved to Breckinridge County in 1818, and to Boonville, Cooper County, Missouri, in 1848. Colonel Alexander was educated at a Catholic School in Breckinridge County; he left school at the age of fourteen years, and escorted his three sisters to Cooper County, Missouri, where his father had already moved. When the gold fever broke out in 1849, Colonel Alexander, in company with others, crossed the plains with an ox team, being four and a half months on the road. Their route was very nearly that afterward of the Union Pacific Railroad. He remained in California a little more than three years, and in 1853 returned home from San Francisco, via the Isthmus of Panama, thence to New York. En route home he passed through Cincinnati, and there for the first time in his life heard "Woman's Rights" discussed by Lucy Stone and Mrs. Jenkins. In 1854 Colonel Alexander made another trip to California, and took with him a drove of 350 head of cattle, proceeding by the same route of his first trip. Arriving in the Sacramento Valley he sold his cattle to the miners to good advantage. This was among the earliest ventures in the cattle trade of the West, now grown to gigantic proportions. He continued in the cattle trade for three years, selling mostly to the miners, and doing a large business. After his return from California the second time, he bought a farm in Cooper County, Missouri, and under the firm of Majors, Russell & Waddill, took a freight contract during the Mormon difficulties, when Albert Sidney Johnston was Governor of Utah, and the Government was sending large amounts of military stores overland to Salt Lake City.

When the war broke out in 1861 Colonel Alexander joined the Confederate Army, under General Sterling Price. He served as Captain at the battles of Booneville and Springfield, Missouri and at Lexington was promoted to Colonel of a regiment of troops from Cooper, Pettis and Saline Counties. He was captured with 600 raw recruits, mostly unarmed, at Blackwater, Missouri, and kept a prisoner of war at various places; finally at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor, until after the seven days' fighting before Richmond, when he was exchanged. He was then sent to the Trans-Mississippi Department, where he remained until the close of the war. The war left him, like thousands of others, with few earthly possessions, but his untiring energy is rapidly bringing him out of the poverty in which the war left him.

Colonel Alexander was married, June 14, 1866, to Mrs. Mary F. Jackson, daughter of Mrs. S. B. Lewis, who was a daughter of Charles Brent, a merchant of Paris, Bourbon Co., Ky. Mrs. Alexander's family were among the pioneers of

Kentucky; her grandparents, the Lewises, came from Delaware, and settled in the central part of the State when it was only a district. Colonel Isaac Baker, a cousin of her father, was in the Regular Army, and senior Colonel at the battle of New Orleans; Judge Joshua Baker, also a cousin, and still living in Louisiana, is the oldest living graduate of West Point.

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