

Sketch of General Anderson's life

Written by himself.

I was born in Winchester, Franklin Co. Tennessee, on the 16th day of February 1822. My father, William Preston Anderson, was a native of Bolletont [Botetourt?] County, Virginia, and was born about the year 1775. During the second term of Genl. Washington's administration, he received from the President a commission of Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. About this time or soon after he removed to Tennessee and at one time was U.S. District Attorney for that judicial District and was subsequently surveyor General of the District of Tennessee. In the war of 1812 he was Colonel of the 24th U.S. infantry, and was accidentally with Col. Cragan in his defence of Fort Harrison. During this war he married my mother (Margaret L. Adair) who was the fifth daughter of Maj. Genl. John Adair of Mercer County Kentucky. He had previously been married to Mrs. Nancy Belle, by whom he had three children, Musadora, Rufus King, and Caroline. In the second marriage there were born Nancy Belle, Catherine Adair, John Adair, (who died in infancy) James Patton, John Adair (who died in 1858), Thomas Scott, and Butler Preston. When I was an infant my father removed from the town of Winchester to his farm Craggy Hope, about six miles distant where he resided till his death in April 1831. When about eight years old, I was sent for a short time to a country school near home, where I learned the alphabet and began to spell and read. Soon after my father's death, my mother returned with her six children to her father's in Mercer County, KY. My brother John Adair and myself were soon after sent to the house of Charles Buford (who married my mother's youngest sister) in Scott County, KY, and remained there about a year, attending a county school taught by Mr. Phillips. This was in 1831. In 1835, I returned to my grandfather's and went to school to a young man named Van Dyke who taught in the neighborhood. Afterward to Mr. Tyler, and still later to a Mr. Boutwell, who were successively principals of Cave Run Academy in Mercer County. I was then sent to the house of Judge Thomas B. Monroe in Frankfort. Mrs. Monroe was also a sister of my mother. Here I remained about a year, or perhaps more, attending a select school taught by B.B. Sayre. About this time my mother was married to Dr. J.N.[?] Bybee [Dr. Joseph Bybee] of Harrodsburg, KY. I was taken to his house and went to school in the village to a Mr. Roice, and afterward to a Mr. Smith. In Oct. 1836 I was sent to Jefferson College at Cannonsburg [Canonsburg] Penn. I remained there a year, when pecuniary misfortunes compelled my stepfather to withdraw me. In the winter of 1838, I kept up my studies with a young man named Terry then teaching in Harrodsburg. During this winter I boarded at the house of my uncle John Adair three miles in the country. In the spring, I was sent up to the Three Forks of Kentucky River, in Estill County, where my stepfather had established a saw mill and had opened a coal mine. During this year too, I made a trip with my mother, to Winchester Tennessee, on horseback where she went to close up some of the unsettled business of my father's estate. In the fall of 1838 my stepfather determined to remove to North Mississippi; then being rapidly settled, the Indians having been removed west of the Miss. River. I accompanied him on horseback from Harrodsburg KY to Hernando in De Soto County, Miss. I remained here during the winter of 1838-9 assisting in building cabins, clearing land, etc. for the comfort of the family. In April 1839, I was sent back to Jefferson College; I entered the junior class, and graduated in Oct. 1840. I returned to De Soto County Miss., and began the study of law in the office of Buckner & Delafield, and was

admitted to the bar by Judge Howry in 1843. In the summers of 1844 and 1845, I spent three months of each year at the law school of Judge Thomas B. Monroe at Montroe [Montrose] over Frankfort KY. I have always regarded these years as more profitably spent than any others of my life. Having no money with which to support myself and the bar being crowded with the best talent of Tennessee, Alabama, and other states which had been attracted to this new country by its great prosperity and promise, I accepted the position of Deputy Sheriff of Desoto County, under my brother-in-law Col. James H. Murray, who had been elected to that office in the fall of 1843. I held this position, from which a comfortable support was derrived [*sic*], till 1846, when the prospect seemed favorable to commence the practice of law. In 1847 I formed a partnership with R.B. Mayes, a young lawyer of the state about my own age. (During the time that I discharged the functions of Deputy Seriff [*sic*], I also practiced law in partnership with my former preceptor, E.F. Buckner - whenever I could do so consistently with the duties of the office.) In Oct. 1847, I received an earnest appeal from Gov. A.G. Brown of Miss. to organize a company in response to a call from the President of the U. States for service in Mexico. (I had previously made several efforts to enter the military service during the war with Mexico, but all the organizations from Desoto County had failed to be received by the Governor – their distance from the capitol making them too late in reporting.) In a few days I organized a company of volunteers from the regiment of militia in the county which I was then colonel. I was elected captain of the company without opposition. H. Car Forrest was elected 1st Lieutenant. My brother John Adair was elected 2nd Lieutenant and my brother Thomas Scott, orderly sergeant. The company repaired hurriedly to Vicksburg, the place of rendezvous. Two other companies had already reached the encampment. After waiting a fortnight or more for the other two companies of the Battalion called for by the President to report, the fine companies were sent to New Orleans for equipment and organization. Having rec'd arms, clothing, etc. they embarked about 2nd, Jan. 1848, for Tampico, Mexico. On 22nd Feb. 1848, I was elected, at Tampico, Lieutenant Colonel to command the Battalion. I remained at Tampico till the close of the war, when I was mustered out of the service, along with the battalion at Vicksburg, Miss. and reached my home at Hernando on the 4th of July 1848. I resumed the practice of law in partnership with R.B. Mayes. Our prospects were flattering as the business of the firm was gradually increasing. In the fall of 1849 I was elected one of the members to the Legislature from De Soto County, after a very heated and closely contested canvass. In January 1850 I took my seat in the Legislature. Genl. Jno. A. Quitman was at the same time inaugrated [*sic*]Govenor [*sic*] of the State. The celebrated compromise measures were then pending in the Congress of the United States, and the country much excited on the topics then being discussed. Jefferson Davis and H.S. Foote were then the U.S. Senators from Miss. I took the same view of the question with Davis and Quitman – voted for a resolution in the H. of Reps of Miss, requesting Senator Foote to resign his seat, as much as he did not reflect the will of the state in voting for the Compromise Bill. I sustained cordially and sincerely all the prominent measures of Gov. Quitman's administration, and believed great injustice and wrong was done the South in the passage of the Compromise Bill by the Congress of the U. States. In 1851, I was renominated by the Democratic Party of De Soto County, for a seat in the Legislature. My health (from my service in Mexico) at this time was very bad, which precluded me from making a thorough canvassing of the County. The contest was an exceedingly

warm one and in many portions of the state was even bitter. It has passed into history. Mr. Davis was defeated for Governor, by Genl. Foote. The whole Democratic Party was left in a minority: with the rest I was defeated by over a hundred majority, in an aggregate vote of about eighteen hundred. Resumed practice of law. Succeeded as well as could be hoped. With health still so bad from continued fever & ague. In 1853 Jefferson Davis was tendered the position of Secretary of War in Mr. Pierce's cabinet. In answer to a letter of mine in Feb. of this year he advised me to proceed to Washington City, where he would use his influence to procure me a commission in the new rifle regiment then about to be raised by Congress for frontier defense. My health by this time was so completely gone from the effects of sedentary habits and the agues engendered in a [micromatic?] climate, that friends and physicians advised me to remove from Miss to a colder & dryer climate. I accepted Mr. Davis's proposition and repaired to Washington City, where I acquired on the night of the 4th March 1853, in time to learn that the bill to raise a rifle regiment had failed for want of time, to receive Prest. Fillmore's signature. I remained however, a fortnight without making any effort or application to receive any other position. The Bill to organize the Territory of Washington had become a law on the 3rd March. My uncle John Adair who had removed to Astoria, Oregon, in 1848 was now in Washington City and extremely anxious for me to remove to that distant region, where my brothers John and Butler had gone in 1850. Through his instrumentality and the kindness of Mr. Davis (now Sec. of War) I was appointed U.S. Marshal for the Territory of Washington. I accepted it and set about making preparations for the journey. Two difficulties were in the way. 1st the want of money and 2nd I was engaged to be married to my cousin Henrietta Buford Adair and I doubted the policy of taking her into such a wild and new country with no other help or dependence for a support than my own exertions. I returned to Memphis where she was, consulted her, and we agreed to try our fortunes on this unknown sea. Her father gave her eight hundred dollars, and by borrowing six hundred dollars from Stephen D. Johnston of De Soto County, I raised about the same amount. (On account of his health he had been forced to give up business, almost entirely & was too weak to attempt to collect what was owing to him.) We were married in Memphis on the 30th of April 1853 and in an hour afterwards were on our way to the Pacific Coast aboard a Mississippi steamer bound for New Orleans. We embarked at New Orleans on the 7th of May onboard a steamer bound for Grey Town [Greytown] in Nicaragua. The first day at sea my wife was taken very ill of fever. For several days her life seemed to be suspended by a thread. These were the most anxious days of my life. Happily she was better by the time we reached Greytown. Taking a small river steamer there, we commenced the ascent of the San Juan River. After several days of toil we reached Virgin Bay, only to learn that the steamer from San Francisco, on which we had expected to reach that city on her return trip, had sprung a leak and was compelled to go on down the coast to Panama for repairs, and that she would probably not return for a month. This was a great disappointment to the eight hundred passengers at Virgin Bay, who were eager to reach the gold fields of California, but to me it was a matter of rejoicing, since a few weeks rest in Nicaragua would probably restore my wife to health before undertaking another long sea voyage. We remained at Virgin Bay nearly a month. My wife entirely recovered, and we embarked at San Juan del Sud [San Juan del Sur] the first week in June. Reached San Francisco in fourteen days, where we had to stay near a fortnight in waiting for the steamer which was to take us to the Columbia

River. At the expiration of this time we set sail in the steamer "Columbia" bound for Astoria, Oregon. Among the passengers were my uncle John Adair and his oldest daughter, Capt. George B. McClellain, U.S.A. Major Larnard U.S.A., and several other officers of the army besides two companies of infantry. After passing the bar at the mouth of the Columbia, a reckoning was taken between myself and wife, of the state of the finances [*sic*]. It was ascertained that the sum total on hand was exactly one dollar! (It was paper and of no value on that coast at that time.) It would not pay for landing our trunks at Astoria, which place was then in sight and was our present destination. I threw the dollar into the raging Columbia and began to whistle to keep my courage up! My health had not improved. An officer came on deck whom I had not seen at table or elsewhere during the voyage. He enquired if Col. Anderson was in the crowd. I replied and introduced myself to him. He made himself known as Lieutenant Rufus Saxon U.S.A. and said he had left New York on the steamer that came out a fortnight after I had left New Orleans, and that he had an official communication for me from the Secretary of the Interior, at the same time handing me a paper in a large official envelope. Taking it in my hand, I began depositing it in my coat pocket without breaking the seal, when he requested that I would open it and see whether he had brought it and contents safely to hand. On opening it, I found it contained instructions for me as U.S. Marshal to proceed at once to take a census of the inhabitants of the new Territory of Washington, and also a treasury draft for a thousand dollars to defray my expenses in the work!!! This was a piece of good fortune, in the nick of time, for in two minutes more the steamer dropped her anchor off the city of Astoria, and soon we disembarked. My wife remained at the house of our uncle near Astoria and I started in a few days to Puget Sound, to commence official labors assigned me. I reached Olympia on the 4th of July and on the 5th started through the territory to take the census. The only mode of travel then known in the country was by canoe with Indians as watermen, or on foot. For two months I was constantly engaged in this way, frequently walking as much as 25 miles per day and carrying my blankets, provisions, and papers on my back. My health already robust, and the work was a pleasure. On completing the census my wife accompanied me by steamer up the Columbia to [the] mouth of Cowlitz River, in canoe, etc. Up Cowlitz River to landing across a portage of sixty miles on ponies to Olympia, where the capital of the territory was likely to be established, and where I had determined to settle. At first we rented a little house, and then bought one in which we lived very happily and pleasantly during our stay in the territory. In addition to the discharge of my duties as U.S. Marshal, I practiced law in the territorial courts, whenever the two duties did not conflict. In 1855 I was nominated by the Democratic Party of the territory for the position of Delegate in the U.S. Congress. My competition was Judge Strong, formerly U.S. District Judge in Oregon. We began a thorough canvass of the whole territory as soon as appointments for public speaking could be distributed among the people. I was successful in the election which came off in June. Soon thereafter the report of gold discoveries near Fort Calville on the upper Columbia reached the settlements on Puget Sound and several persons began preparations for a trip into that region. Not desiring to start for Washington City before Oct. in order to be at Washington on the 1st Monday of December, the meeting of the 34th Congress to which I had been elected. I determined to go to Fort Calville to inform myself about the gold deposits of that & other unexplored regions of the territory, the better to be able to lay its wants and resources before Congress and the people of the

states. I started with seven other citizens in Olympia the latter part of June, on horseback, with pack animals to carry our provisions. Our route lay over the Cascade Mountains through what was then called the Na-chess pass, across the Yakama [Yakima] River and valley, striking the Columbia River at the Priests Rapids, where we crossed it taking the Grande Couleé [*sic*] to the mouth of the Spokan [Spokane] River thence up the left bank of the Columbia by Fort Calville to the mouth of Clark's Fork, where gold was reported to have been found, which we proved by experiment to be true. The trip from Olympia to the mouth of Clark's Fork as thus described occupied us about 24 days. Other parties followed us soon after. The Indians on the route became alarmed, lest their country would be overrun with whites in search of gold and commenced hostilities, by killing a man named Mattise who was on his way to the mines from Olympia. A general Indian war was threatened. I had not been at the mines a week till Angus McDonald of Fort Calville sent an express to inform me of the condition of affairs between me and home. We were unarmed, except with two guns and one or two pistols in the party. Our provisions were being exhausted, and the appointed time for my return had arrived. So the miners concluded to return with me to avoid the most hostile tribe led by the Chief Owhi. We made a detour to the East in returning, crossed the Spokan [Spokane] about forty miles above its mouth, passed by the old Whitman Mission – crossed Snake River about ten or twenty miles above its mouth, took down the Pelouse to Walla Walla thence across the Umatilla near the Mission & "Billy McKey's" crossing the Deo Shuttes at its mouth, then down to the Dalles, the Cascades, Fort Van Couver [Vancouver], and up the Cowlitz back to Olympia – which we reached in safety about 1st October. During that month my wife and self took steamer to San Francisco, thence to Panama, Aspinwall, and on to New York. We reached Washington City a few days before the meeting of Congress. This (24th) Congress will be long remembered as the one which gave rise to such a protracted and heated contest for speaker – to which position Mr. N.P. Banks of Mass. was finally elected. This was the first triumph of importance for that fanatical party (now called the Republican) which led to the disruption of the Union four years later. Before this struggle for speaker had been decided, and during the Christmas holidays my wife and I repaired to Casa Bianca Florida by invitation of our Aunt Mrs. E.A. Beatty. While there I entered into an agreement with her for the conduct of her plantation under my supervision, etc. My wife remained at Casa Bianca and I returned to my duties at Washington City: only coming out to Florida during the vacation. My term of service in Congress expired the 4th March 1857, the same day Mr. Buchanan was inaugurated President for four years. He appointed me Governor and Supt. of Indian Affairs of Washington Territory. (The same position had been tendered him by President Pierce, but declined) but I did not accept, wishing to take my wife's advice on the subject. On consultation with her I determined not to return to Washington Territory, believing firmly that the days of the Union were already numbered, and not wishing to be absent from the land of my birth when her hour of trial came, I resigned the position tendered me by Mr. Buchanan and devoted myself exclusively to planting at Casa Bianca. In 1860 when it became certain the Mr. Lincoln was elected President of the United States, the people of Florida feeling alarmed for the safety, of their rights, and institutions, began to hold primary meetings to a general convention of the state. In December 1860 I was elected a Delegate from Jefferson County to a General Convention of the state which assembled at Tallahassee the 1st of January 1861 and passed the

Ordinance of Secession on the 10th day of the same month – which received my hearty approval. While the Convention was yet in session, the Governor deemed it prudent to seize such Forts ordinance and ordinance staves as he could belonging to the United States, within the limits of the State. For this purpose a force was sent to Pensacola to seize the Navy Yard, Forts Barrancas, McRee, and Pickens. A volunteer company of young men of Jefferson County of which I was captain, came through the Tallahassee en route for Pensacola to assist in taking Fort Pickens to which all the U.S. troops then at Pensacola had now retired. At the request of the company, signified to me in Tallahassee while they were awaiting transportation to St. Marks, to St. Marks, I agreed to command them in this expedition. Another company under Captain Amaker from Tallahassee was also going on the same errand. We failed at St. Marks to get steamboat transportation, returned to Tallahassee and started over land by Quincy, Chattahoochie [Chattahoochee], etc. Capt. Amaker's [Amaker] commission as captain was older than mine (by one day) but at his urgent request and that of Governor Perry I consented to assume the command of the two companies. Having marched to Chattahoochie [Chattahoochee] arsenal we were stopped by a dispatch from Gov. Perry directing us to remain there till further orders. In about a week it was decided by the officer in command of the Florida troops at Pensacola not to attack Fort Pickens, and he accordingly dispatched Governor Perry to disband my detachment. In the meantime the Convention of Florida had determined to send Delegates to a convention of such Southern states as had seceded from the Union, which was to meet in February at Montgomery, Alabama. These delegates from Florida were to be appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the convention Governor Perry despatched [dispatched] me at Chattahoochie [Chattahoochee] arsenal that he had appointed me one of the three Delegates to this General Convention and directed me to return to Tallahassee with my two companies, where they would be disbanded – which was done. In February I repaired to Montgomery and took part in the proceedings of the Convention which formed a Provisional Government for the seceded states. All the principle measures of that body, passed or proposed during its first session, and while I was a member met my support. I was on the committee of military affairs, and favored the raising of troops, etc. I also proposed to have the cooks, nurses, teamsters, and pioneers of our army to consent of slaves. After having adapted a Provisional Constitution and inaugurated a provisional President, the Convention or Congress adjourned about the first of March. (We reached home on the morning of the 26th, 4 A.M. having been detained in Mont. [Montgomery] to finish committee work or something of the kind. While we were at breakfast the message came by one of the Gov. staff, to him, he left on first train that morning for Tallahassee – about 9 A.M. E.A.A.) On the 26th March, while at my home near Monticello, the Governor wrote me that he wished to send a Regiment of Infantry to Pensacola for Confederate service. My old company was immediately reorganized and on the 28th March started for Chattahoochie [Chattahoochee] arsenal, the place appointed for all the companies to rendezvous and elect field officers. On the 9th of April I was elected Colonel of the 1st Florida Regiment (infantry) without opposition, and that night started with the regiment to report to General Braxton Bragg at Pensacola. We reached Pensacola on the 11th and 12th of April, went into camp and commenced drilling and exercising the troops. On the night of the 7th, 8th October I commanded one of the detachments which made a decent [descent] upon the camp of Billy Wilson's Zouaves

under the guns of Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island. The expedition consisted of about a thousand men – divided into three detachments, respectively under Col. J.K. Jackson 5th Ga. Regt., Col. Jos. R Chalmers 9th Miss. Regt. and myself. Chalmers had the right – Jackson the center, and I the left, the whole under command of Brig. Genl. R.H. Anderson of S. Carolina. My command consisted of 100 men from the 1st Flor. [Florida], 100 men from the 1st La. and about 150 from the 1st Ala. [Alabama], and other commands. My loss in this fight was eleven killed, twenty-four wounded, and twelve captured. (I speak from memory.) On the 10th February 1862, I was appointed a Brigadier General in the Provisional army of the Confederate States, and in March was ordered to report to Genl. Bragg then at Jackson in West Tennessee. Soon after reporting, I was assigned to the command of the Brigade of Infantry in the Division of Brig. Genl. Ruggles (of La.) then at Corinth, Miss. This brigade consisted principally of Louisiana troops to which the 1st Florida and 9th Texas regiments were soon after added. I was immediately ordered to the front of Corinth in the direction of Monterey and Pittsburg Landing. At the Battle of Shiloh my brigade consisted of the 17th, 19th, and 20th La. Regiments, the 9th Texas, 1st Florida, and Clack's La. Battalion, with the 5th company of Washington Artillery from New Orleans. Soon after the Battle of Shiloh Hindman was assigned to the command of Ruggles Division but only exercised it a few days, when he was ordered to Arkansas, and the command devolved upon me as Senior Brigadier. I commanded the Division in the retreat from Corinth till we reached Clear Creek near Baldwin, where I was taken ill with fever, and Maj. Genl. Sam Jones was assigned to the Division. I rejoined the Division at Tupelo, Miss., where the Army was reorganized, and commanded a Brigade in Sam Jones Division till we reached Chattanooga, Tenn. in August of that year, preparatory to the Kentucky Campaign. In August 1862, while encamped near Chattanooga the Division was reorganized, and was composed of Walker's, Adams's, Anderson's, and Reichard's Brigades. About the middle of August Maj. Genl. Sam Jones was assigned to the command of the Department of East Tennessee, and the command of the Division devolved upon me. On the 1st of September I crossed Walden's Ridge with my Division, following Buckner's Division– the two composing Hardee's Corps, Army of Tennessee. Throughout this campaign I continued in command of the Division, having Brigadier General Preston Smith's Brigade of Cheatham's Division added to it in the afternoon of the day of the battle of Perryville. We returned from Kentucky through Cumberland Gap, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Bridgeport to Allisonia in Franklin County Tennessee, where my Division was halted for a fortnight. During this time I visited for the first time in many years the grave of my father at Craggy Hope (The Old Farm.) From Allisonia, the army proceeded to Shelbyville, where we halted ten days and thence to Eagleville, where, in December, my Division was broken up, and I was assigned to the command a Brigade in Withers Division of Polk's Corps. This Brigade was the one formerly commanded by Brig. Genl. Frank Gardiner. I was only in command of it a few days when Rozecrans [Rosecrans] advanced upon Murfreesboro where Genl. Bragg determined to give him battle; and for this purpose took his line of battle on the 27th December, about a mile and a half from Murfreesboro [Murfreesboro] on the Nashville and Wilkerson Pikes. The morning of the day on which the line was taken up, I was transferred to the command temporarily of Walthall's Brigade of Mississippians. This was in consequence of Walthall's sickness, and because the Brigade was composed entirely of troops (Mississippians) who had been

under my command, either as Brigade or Division Commander since 1862. This Brigade won many laurels in the battle of the 31st of December, and on the 2nd January 1863, was sent to reinforce Breckenridge on the right who had been roughly handled that afternoon by superior numbers. We reached the scene of conflict about sundown and after the heaviest fighting was over – in time however to have several officers and men of our skirmish line severely wounded; and by interposing a fresh line between, the victorious enemy and Breckenridge’s shattered columns, gave time for the latter to rally and resume a line they had held in the morning. (This affair gave rise to much bitter feeling between Genl. Bragg and Maj. Genl. Breckenridge. Bragg in his official report having animadversed [animadverted] very sincerely upon Breckenridge’s conduct and having attributed more (I think) to my Brigade than it was entitled to (see Genl. Robertson chief of Artillery’s official report E.A.A.) On the other hand, Breckenridge hardly did us justice, or rather his friends who discussed the matter in the public prints, did not give me due credit for our conduct on operations on that occasion. They rather contended that I reached the ground after the fight was over, and although we came with good intentions, and doubtless would have rendered efficient services, if it had been necessary, yet there was nothing to be done after our arrival, etc. The facts are, however as I have stated them here, and as I stated them in my official report on that occasion, a copy of which I sent to Genl. Breckenridge, whereupon he wrote me a very complimentary note characterizing the report as one “that was truthful and manly.” I think Genl. Bragg founded his report upon exaggerated statements of some partial friend of mine, and hence attributed to me more than I deserved. I allude to it here because both Bragg’s and Breckenridge’s statements may become matter of controversy and dispute hereafter. After the battle of Murfreesboro [Murfreesboro], during the illness and absence of Maj. Genl. Withers I was in command of the Division for over a month. In the meantime Brigd. Genl. Chalmers who commanded a Brigade of Mississippians in the Division was transferred to the cavalry service in Mississippi, and upon Withers, resuming command of the Division, I was assigned permanently to the command of Chalmers Brigade, which I exercised without interruption while the army was at Shelbyville Tenn., and during our retreat from that place to Chattanooga in June-July 1863. In July 1863, I was sent with my Brigade to hold the Tennessee River at Bridgeport and vicinity while the balance of the army was at Chattanooga and above there on the River. This duty was performed to the entire satisfaction of Genl. Bragg. In August Withers was transferred to duty in Alabama and Hindman was assigned to the command of the Division. Shortly before evacuating Chattanooga my Brigade was drawn from Bridgeport by orders of Genl. Bragg, and rejoined the Division in the neighborhood of Chattanooga. I commanded the Division in the McLemore’s core expedition in Sept. for which Hindman who commanded the whole expedition, has received much censure. He certainly missed capturing eight or ten thousand of the enemy which would have left the balance of Rozecrans [Rosecrans] army at Bragg’s mercy – soon after this or rather, while in McLemore’s core, Hindman was taken sick and the command of the Division again devolved upon me. On the night of the 19th of September, after the Division had crossed the Chicamauga [Chickamauga] Creek, and while it was getting in position for next day’s fight, Hindman resumed command and continued in command of the Division till the close of the battle, after dark on the night of the 20th. So I commanded my Brigade in the battle of Chicmauga [Chickamauga], in the advance to Missionary Ridge, began on the 21st. I was in command of the Division

soon after reaching Missionary Ridge. Hindman was placed in arrest by Genl. Bragg, and the command of the Division devolved upon me. I commanded it at the battle of Missionary Ridge, but on that morning protested against the disposition which had been made of the troops (see my official report.) which was the worst I have ever seen. The line was in two ranks – the rank at the foot of the hill and the rear rank on the top!! and the men were over three feet apart in line! Thus the front rank was not strong enough to hold its position, nor could it retire to the top of the ridge so as to be of any device to the line there. The consequence was that the troops made no fight at all, but broke and run as soon as the enemies overwhelming columns advanced. About the last of December Hindman was released from arrest and assumed command of the Corps as senior Major General; and I remained in command of the Division. In Feb. 1864 Maj. Genl. Breckenridge having been transferred to a command in south western Virginia, I was on the 9th day of February appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, a Major General in the Provisional Army and assigned to the command of Breckenridge's Division in the army of Tennessee. Before receiving these orders however, I received a dispatch from the Presidents ordering me to Florida, to assume command of that District. The Army of Tennessee was at this time at Dalton, Georgia, under command of Genl. Jos. E. Johnston. I reached Florida the 1st of March 1864 – ten days after the battle of Olustee, and assumed command of the District, with Headquarters in the field in front of Jacksonville. Remained here operating against the enemy at Jacksonville and on the St. John's River all summer, or till I was ordered back to the Army of Tennessee. We were able to confine the enemy closely to his entrenchments around Jacksonville, and by blowing up two of his armed transports above Jacksonville, and one below, put a complete stop to his navigation of the river above that city and caused him to evacuate Palatka, and to use the river below Jacksonville with the greatest caution. On the night of the 25th July 1864, I received a telegram from Genl. Bragg at Columbus, Georgia, directing me to report to Genl. Hood at Atlanta without delay, for duty in the field. I started to Atlanta on the morning of the 26th July and reached Atlanta on the night of the 28th. On the 29th I was assigned to, and on the 30th assumed command of my old Division composed of Diaz's, Brantley's, Sharp's, and Mangault's [Manigault's] Brigades. I remained in command of these Brigades till the evening of the 31st August when I was seriously wounded in the battle of Jonesboro, Georgia, which compelled me to leave field, and has resulted in my absence from the Army up to the present time. There are many incidents connected with my experience which would interest my children, if I had time to record them, but I have not. I have hurriedly written some of the prominent facts, for their edification hereafter. This is a dark day in the history of the present war, but I believe a brighter will soon dawn upon us. If disention [dissention] and faction does not distract us, we will certainly achieve our independence. The course of some prominent men in Georgia (Tombs [Toombs] & Governor Brown, E.A.A.) just at this time, is much calculated to grieve the spirit of all true Southerners. (I would have been glad to have known they were hung. E.A.A.) It is to be hoped that they will desist from their factious teachings* and practices and soon unite with the patriots of the land to prosecute with unanimity and vigor the war which our enemies are determined to wage against us.

Patton Anderson

Monticello, Fla.

Feb. 28th 1865 – While he was at home wounded. He returned to the Army in N.C. in March & contened [continued?] to the end.

* They never did, till the dear cause was gone, then they were going to whip the whole North. Patton returned to the Army North Carolina in March, much against the advice & approval of his physicians (as he was still obliged to live on liquids & food was so scarce in the Army & everywhere) where he was assigned to a new command from Charleston, S.C. and was with them surrendered at or near Bentonville, N.C. He did not think the time had come to give up. These noble men, though they had served under him so short a time, told him they would follow him anywhere, and to submit to no terms he thought dishonorable. Those above him knew his sentiments and the sentiments of two other officers with him & signed the terms of surrender before they reached the place, though their rank gave them the right to be present in the caucus. The other two officers were Genl. Walthall of Mississippi & Genl. Featherstone whom I think was from the same state.

Etta Adair Anderson

Palatka 1895

From a clipping from an Olympia paper at the time I see out of 1538 votes cast, Genl. A. received 857! I also came across a scrap of Flor. history the other day, which I had forgotten, if I had ever known, that Genl. A. was one of a committee of three [?] to write the ordinance of secession for the state & that he probably wrote it. Genl. A. had during the entire war one short furlough of 9 days. I was ill in Jan. 1864 in Monticello, Flor. & he came to see me. I grew better and he returned to his command when [?] his furlough repaid [?]. Our home was never in the hands of the enemy, he had sold it in the spring of 1860, these payments became due, during the war, of course he was paid for it in Confederate money & never felt he could conscientiously leave his post to come home to reinvest. The money was in new packages, just as it was paid, when the war closed & of course the slaves being freed, we had nothing, not a cent & his health gone from his wound. I might have said that while he was so well, as long as he remained in Washington Territory, the very first week in Washington City, his malarial symptoms returned & he suffered at intervals form there as long as he lived.

I have written as hard as I could for over two weeks.

[Written on a separate piece of paper, in reference to the dispute between Bragg and Breckenridge]

I was up at the army when this discussion was going on. You heard it everywhere from friends & enemies. All gave the Brigade & Genl. Anderson credit, fir all that Genl. Bragg & Genl. Robertson claimed for them. The later claimed that Genl. A. saved the Artillery of that whole Army. Genl. B. [Breckenridge] would not send in his report & at last Genl. Bragg sent his without it, saying Genl. Breckenridge had declined to send his in. The note Genl. A. refers to – I was in the room when Genl. Breckenridge returned my husband's report with this note. Genl. threw it in my lap saying “you will value that” and

I did, but it was burned two years after the surrender – with most of his official correspondence in his private desk at St. Marks Flor. in a ware house, where it was only one night awaiting shipment to Memphis, where he had moved.

Etta A. Anderson,

I should have said Genl. Breckenridge would not send in his report until he had seen Genl. A.'s. They were intimate friends & distant relations. There is no use talking, Genl. Breckenridge was drunk at that battle & had his men all cut to pieces. Genl. Bragg would not stand drinking in any of his officers.

(To be read last, I only put it in here to keep it.)

The first summer after the war ended, my husband's health was so broken from his wound that he spent it with friends in Tennessee – at Winchester & other points. In the spring of 1866 he, my brother Cromwell Adair, & my sister's husband, Dr. Robert Scott formed a partnership to plant cotton in Bolivar County Mississippi. He managed it. The Yankees had cut the levies which made him late getting in the crop & the cold [?] front killed the top cotton, so while they did not loose [*sic*], they only made expenses. In 1868 he moved to Memphis, where he engaged in Life Insurance & at one time edited an agricultural magazine. He did not like insurance, but the magazine work, he liked. He was never allowed to practice his profession (the law) because he would not take the "iron clad oath" as it was called. His disabilities were only removed by Genl. Act of Congress about three weeks before his death. He made us a comfortable support while he lived, though he was growing weaker day by day from his wounds – until his death 20th of Sept. 1872. As he said when told he could live but a few hours, "The anniversary of the battle of Chickamaug [Chickamauga], how we whipped them there." He was buried in Memphis & his grave is still unmarked. -1914

Transcribed by Christopher A. Baker, University of Florida, 2008.