RICE UNIVERSITY

THE FIRST REGIMENT OF MISSISSIPPI INFANTRY

IN THE MEXICAN WAR AND

LETTERS OF JEFFERSON DAVIS CONCERNING THE WAR

by

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When the Mexican War was officially declared in May, 1846, President James K. Polk called up a large force of volunteer infantry and cavalry for twelve months' service. Mississippi provided a regiment of infantry, riflemen, under the command of Jefferson Davis, to the service of the United States and it was active June, 1846, to June, 1847, performing notably in the battles of Monterrey (September 21-23, 1846) and Buena Vista (February 22-23, 1847). The narrative portion of this thesis covers the formation and activities of the Mississippi Rifles, as well as some background on the organization of governmental machinery to wage war against Mexico. Jefferson Davis' letters, which follow the narrative, were written to various persons during the time of his service as colonel. They show that Davis was concerned not only with the campaigns of the war, but also with national and Democratic party politics. A selected bibliography of works most often used concludes this paper.
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All errors are mine alone.
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It is the purpose of this thesis to present, in Part I, a narrative of the activities of the first regiment of Mississippi volunteer infantry under the command of Colonel Jefferson Davis in the Mexican War, during their service from June, 1846, until June, 1847. The Mississippi regiment was called up in the first official volunteer act for the war passed by Congress May 13, 1846, and performed with particular distinction in the battles of Monterrey and Buena Vista.

Because of the prominent part his regiment played in the war, Jefferson Davis became a nationally known political figure. His letters written during the time of his service as colonel, which follow the narrative in Part II, are indicative of his continuing concern with Democratic party and national political issues, as well as with the campaigns of the war.
PART I

THE FIRST REGIMENT OF MISSISSIPPI INFANTRY
IN THE MEXICAN WAR
Mississippi did not fail to meet the promise of the young man making his first speech in Congress as he said, "It is as the representative of a high-spirited and patriotic people that I am called on to resist this war clamor. . . . Whenever the honor of the country demands redress, whenever its territory is invaded . . . Mississippi will come."¹ Jefferson Davis had been in Washington only two months when he made his first address to the House in February, 1846, and three months later he was writing to the people of Mississippi offering his services as commander of a regiment of volunteers to serve in the war with Mexico. He had been reluctant to declare that a state of war existed in early May, 1846, but had voted for the war declaration, believing, he said in an open letter to his constituents, that Mexico had committed an act of aggression in crossing the Rio Grande and killing two American dragoons.²

President James K. Polk's war bill passed the House of Representatives May 11, 1846, acknowledged that a state of war existed and provided for a maximum call of 50,000
twelve-month volunteers (to supplement the standing army of 7,200, 3,900 of which were stationed on the Rio Grande in May, 1846) with an initial appropriation of ten million dollars. The volunteers were to furnish their own clothes (if cavalry, their horses, too); they were to be armed and equipped by the United States and were to receive the same pension benefits as the regular army. The Senate passed the war bill May 12, over John C. Calhoun's objections, and amended it so the volunteers would receive the same pay and allowances as regulars. Officers for the individual regiments were to be appointed as deemed proper by the state governors. With the approval of the House May 13, the war was officially underway. 3

President Polk believed the volunteers were the ideal answer to the need for manpower; he had the idea they were cheaper to maintain than the regular army troops since they provided their own clothing and horses and did not have to be trained. But he had no idea of the surge of volunteers who would answer the call.

A suddenly harassed and confused secretary of war, William L. Marcy, in a letter of May 16 to Mississippi Governor Albert G. Brown, authorized the calling of a single regiment of infantry of infantry or riflemen for immediate duty, and Governor Brown issued the official proclamation for the formation of a regiment May 30.
Major General John A. Quitman of the state militia had already written to the Mississippi congressmen that Mississippi was ready for war, and that 5,000 men could be readied immediately. He pointed out that Mississippi was close to the war, and Mississippians were accustomed to the summer sun and had no dread of yellow fever. His point seemed well taken as almost 17,000 Mississippi volunteers began congregating at Vicksburg June 1. By June 10, twenty-five militia companies from everywhere in the state had gathered, hoping to be among the first ten companies organized and complete which could be mustered into service.4

Ten were completed and duly mustered into service June 3-16, numbering either 936 or 938 officers and men.5 At the direction of Governor Brown, the regiment voted to elect their officers Thursday, June 18. Davis, though still in Washington, was supported for colonel by prominent Democratic newspapers, and was elected on the second ballot by a majority of 147 votes over Alexander B. Bradford, a Whig.6 Alexander K. McClung, a dashing young militia captain of the Tombigbee Volunteers, was elected lieutenant colonel on the second ballot by a majority of fifty-three votes. Bradford, the oldest man in the regiment, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the second Seminole War, was elected major on June 21.7 There was
concern over the vacant congressional seat, but Davis did not resign immediately. He shared the President's belief that the war would be short, and perhaps over before the next session of Congress.

Davis' last recorded vote in the House was on July 3 when he voted to pass the controversial "Walker tariff." He and Varina Howell, his wife of fifteen months, left Washington Independence Day and traveled directly to Brierfield, his plantation just below Vicksburg, where he made arrangements to be absent for a year or more. He left his Negro overseer, James Pemberton, in charge of his affairs. Provided with an Arabian horse and a manservant by his brother Joseph, he joined the Mississippians, then encamped at New Orleans, on July 18.

"No new troops were better-officered, and the regiment went to the field as gayly as if they had been called to a dance;" enthusiasm was high as the regiment had left Vicksburg July 12-15, and joined other volunteer regiments camped at New Orleans awaiting further orders. At New Orleans, conditions in the camps were notoriously unsanitary and disease-ridden. A contemporary account noted that "our volunteers were turned out to the open fields, knee deep in mud and water, and compelled to sleep on wet clothes for three or four days." New Orleans was also cited for "rascalities practiced on
the volunteers," in the form of extravagant prices charged for often inferior clothing. Each volunteer, by the provisions of the volunteer bill, was given forty-two dollars a year, in advance, for clothing, and was authorized to wear uniforms similar to those of the regular army.13

Davis, on arriving in New Orleans, fretted over the sickness and especially over delays in transportation and failure to supply the troops with arms and ammunition. Before he left Washington, Davis had ordered 1,000 Whitney rifles from New Haven, Connecticut, to equip his regiment. General-in-Chief Winfield Scott objected to the use of percussion arms because he believed they had not been sufficiently tested for field use, so most Army regulars carried flintlock muskets which could not be relied on for accuracy for more than 100 yards. Many volunteers preferred using personal Colt revolving pistols and rifles, Hall breech-loading rifles, or Jencks carbines. Rifles were superior in performance, though they took longer to reload. Naturally, problems of ammunition supply, maintenance, and repair were complicated by the variety of weapons used in the war. But while it was true that obsolete weapons were often sent to Mexico, the arms were not inferior to those in use by the Mexican army.14
Transportation was scarce all through the summer of 1846, but Congress had authorized the letting of contracts in the May 13 act and the quartermaster general, Thomas S. Jesup, supervised the purchase and charter of a number of vessels for troop and supply transport. There were not many seagoing steamers available, and the ones that were on hand near New Orleans were small and slow. Jesup at first preferred to charter transportation, but by the fall of 1846, he was recommending purchase as it became more difficult to hire vessels, especially for freight. In the course of the war, the quartermaster department acquired thirty-eight sailing ships and thirty-five steamships through purchase and construction.15

It was on two of these government-owned steamers that most of the regiment moved from New Orleans July 22 and 23, 1846. Companies F, G, and I and Lieutenant Colonel McClung left on the privately-owned New York at 11:30 A.M. July 22; Companies A, D, E, and K and Major Bradford sailed on the screw steamer Massachusetts the evening of July 22; and Davis with the remaining companies sailed on the Alabama July 23 at 1:00 P.M.16

Davis and his regiment arrived at Brazos Santiago on July 28, still without their arms, which were en route to New Orleans and were not shipped from there until September 7.17 Fellow Mississippian John Quitman had been ap-
pointed brigadier general of volunteers on July 1, and was in command of the third brigade of volunteers, which included the Mississippi and Tennessee regiments. He arrived at Brazos Santiago on August 8.

Camp at Brazos Santiago was on a sandy neck of land, covered with dunes and bordered with brackish water, so shallow that even ships drawing less than eight feet could not go closer than four miles to the island; lighters had to land most supplies. Point Isabel (renamed Port Isabel by the army) was the primary supply base, and it was on dry ground on the mainland. A port at the mouth of the Rio Grande would have been preferable, but the Rio Grande had deposited a silt bar at its mouth which blocked navigation except for craft of very shallow draft. Major General Zachary Taylor, commanding the army of occupation at Matamoros since May 18, found himself overwhelmed with the flood of volunteers and decided in July to move upstream to Camargo on the San Juan River and use the Rio Grande as much as possible for a supply line. As riverboats were scarce, most troops had to march overland 130 miles from Matamoros to Camargo, a small town which was at the time unhealthy and even more uncomfortable because of a recent flood. Taylor, however, was determined to establish a permanent inland supply depot where he believed breadstuffs and meat to be plentiful. Headquarters were set
at Camargo August 4, and Taylor began to plan his march on La Ciudad de Nuestra Señora de Monterrey. 18

As soon as the Mississippi regiment was assembled in Texas, Davis began a course of strict discipline and training. His brother-in-law, Joseph Davis Howell, a private in Company C, reported that "we are said to be the most orderly, quiet and best drilled regiment that has come here." 19 An officer of the State Fencibles (Company E) wrote home August 24, reporting the arrival of the regiment's rifles and saying that the Mississippi regiment had the best reputation of all the volunteer groups. There was daily battalion and daily company drill, 20 but even that did not seem to impress the regulars who looked on all volunteers as little more than barbarians.

General Taylor was not at all sure the volunteer system would work: "Volunteers were never intended to invade or carry on war out of the limits of their own country, but should be used, as the constitution intended they should be for enforcing the execution of the laws; & repelling invasion, for which they are admirably suited. There is but little doubt in my mind, if this war continues for any length of time, it will completely break down the administration." 21 Most regulars were vehemently opposed to serving with volunteers, and their dislike increased as the war went on. Captain George G. Meade of the United
States Corps of Engineers wrote to his wife from Mexico in letters full of bitter comments on the volunteers — they were ignorant, restive, and filled the guardhouses as a result of their drunken escapades and outrages on the citizens. They would not obey orders and wasted ammunition in idle practice. "This is the miserable economy of our Government," Meade wrote, "six months of this volunteer force will cost as much as 5 years for a regular force of equal size." He was especially upset about the formation of the Mississippi regiment:

What has been our astonishment and mortification to receive by the last mail information from Washington of the nomination by the President, and confirmation by the Senate, of one whole regiment recently added to the army, in which only one officer is taken from the army. . . . We did not expect much better treatment from Colonel Polk, who is known to be prejudiced against West Point and the army, but . . . you may imagine our mortification to hear it confirmed . . . after the news of our services had reached Washington.

What can a government expect of a service that is treated in this manner? Understand me, I have no personal feeling in the matter, for I would not be colonel of the rifles if they offered it to me. But there are many captains who have been twenty years in the service of the Government . . . whose claims to simple promotion are thrown aside . . . .

Meade believed if the outrages on the population continued, the Mexican people might rise against the Americans en masse.

But the President believed in the volunteers, and they were at least enthusiastic. Davis wrote to his wife
August 16, "The future has an aspect as peaceful as you desire, and sorely to the disappointment of the Missi. patriots we can hear nothing of warlike preparations by the Mexicans."23

On August 12, the Mississippi regiment marched from Point Isabel to the mouth of the Rio Grande (Fort Brown) to await transportation to Camargo. Part of the men were on their way by August 24; Davis and the rest of the regiment sailed upriver August 26. The shipment of rifles had arrived August 22, without bayonets as there had been no time to make them. So the Mississippians were armed with sabers, bowie knives, and pistols as well as rifles.24 The volunteers were all anxious to fight; they had only a year to make their names known.

At Camargo, Davis was welcomed by General Taylor, his former father-in-law, and old friends Albert Sidney Johnston and Bennett Riley, who had served with Davis in the army on the western frontier in the 1830's. By late August there were 25,000 Americans at Camargo, but Taylor was "troop poor" because of the mass of twelve-month men. The supply and transportation problems became unbelievably snarled, and everyone complained of delays and inadequate food and equipment.25 The prevalent disease added to everyone's anxiety to move on. A newspaper account quoted a returned volunteer as saying that 300 were discharged
from the Mississippi regiment because of sickness, and Davis mentioned that many were on sick report when he wrote home. They were all forced to stay at Camargo because it was the head of navigation of the Rio Grande at the time. Higher up, the riverbed was filled with rocks, and Camargo was the closest town to Monterrey with a communication line of any dependability. Finally, in September, the orders to march inland came from Washington.

Taylor's force in early September numbered some 16,500 men in three divisions under Brigadier General David E. Twiggs, Major General William J. Worth, and Major General William O. Butler (his was the volunteer division). Worth's second division of regulars had moved from Camargo on August 19, southwest sixty miles to Cerralvo to establish a supply depot. Taylor, Twiggs, and Butler with only 6,000 regulars and volunteers (including the Mississippi regiment) marched toward Cerralvo on September 5. Nearly 10,000 volunteers had to be left behind at Camargo and on the lower Rio Grande because of Taylor's limited transport and supply facilities. The army under Taylor moved in four columns separated by one day each, the first one arriving in Cerralvo September 9, and the last September 12, joining Worth's men who had occupied the town since August 25. Companies A and F of
of the Mississippi regiment were left at Cerralvo to guard
the sick, and the first column resumed its southwesterly
course for Marín on the 13th, the same arrangement being
followed for the second phase of the march. The entire
American force, including Worth's troops, concentrated
near Marín September 17, and they found the town, like
Cerralvo, nearly deserted as the Mexicans fled before the
invaders. From Marín, the army of occupation moved to the
woods of San Domingo (called Walnut Springs by the Americans),
where Taylor encamped September 19, three miles northeast
of Monterrey.

Monterrey, a city of some 12,000-15,000, was a beauti-
ful sight after the long trek down from the sickening camps
on the Rio Grande. The city was set in a niche among the
Sierra Madre, three sides ringed with spectacular mountains,
and looked inviting -- except for the fortifications. Re-
connaissances by the engineers on Saturday, September 19,
brought reports that Monterrey did not offer weak spots for
attack. A contemporary account noted that Monterrey was
"one of the strongest cities of the Western continent. . . .
The walls are of immense thickness, and constructed of a
species of stone very difficult to split; and it has eight
large redoubts, mounting many guns, and provided with loop-
holes for musketry. There are also large stone buildings,
built expressly for defence, and each dwelling house is sur-
mounted in front with a parapet, which in case of assault forms a breastwork . . . . During the siege of General Taylor, each house was also bored for musketry." But Taylor, aiming for the interior of Mexico, and having discovered from scouting reports that the Mexican defence of the Saltillo road on the west was makeshift, decided the main attack was to be on the west by Worth's men. The northern side of the city was defended by the Black Fort (the Citadel), 700 yards north of the city walls; the east and south were bounded by the Santa Catarina River and defended by at least one fort, La Tenería. See map, page 20.

Worth had a difficult task ahead of him as he moved his regulars, Texas Rangers, Albert G. Blanchard's Louisiana volunteers, and two field batteries west across the fields and chapparal from Walnut Springs. He was to turn the Mexican forces stationed at the dilapidated Obispado (Bishop's Palace) and the Loma de Independencia (Independence Hill), then capture and hold the works defending the Saltillo road. All afternoon Sunday was spent reaching his attacking position just before Independence Hill, a distance of under seven miles. Nightfall and torrents of rain forced the Americans to halt, but not before Mexican infantry and cavalry outposts on the Saltillo road had opened up on them. Worth captured Independence and Federation Hills on Monday,

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- route of Mississippi Rifles, September 21
- route of Mississippi Rifles, September 23
September 21, with difficulty, and drove the Mexican commander, Pedro de Ampudia, and his forces from the Bishop's Palace by four o'clock that afternoon.

Meanwhile, as a diversion for Worth, the rest of the available infantry at Walnut Springs were drawn out at 7:00 A.M. Monday to the eastern side of Monterrey. Because General Twiggs was indisposed, Lieutenant Colonel John Garland took the first division toward Monterrey. Quitman's brigade, including the Mississippi regiment, and Thomas L. Hamer's Ohio regiment joined them as the column moved on El Tortín de Tenería and El Rincón del Diablo (Devil's Corner), called El Diablo by the attackers. Mortar and howitzers opened on the Americans from the walls of the city and from the Black Fort at their rear with little effect. Garland's division was in the advance and was soon turned away to its right by fire from the Black Fort. Davis' regiment was detached to the left under cover of a low ridge, then moved up by a flanking march to the left, filing in with the Tennessee regiment at the head of the Ohio volunteers. The brigade marched obliquely, firing on La Tenería until they came within 180 yards of the fort, a round work with a low wide embrasure immediately in front of the eight Mississippi companies.31

Firing carefully, the Mississippians advanced, and the accuracy of their rifles seemed to diminish the enemy's
fire. Davis and his command had become separated from all support except the Tennessee men, and were without direct orders from Quitman. Believing the best policy was to charge, Davis gave the order. Lieutenant Colonel McClung suddenly leaped onto the breastwork and called his former company, K, to follow. They and the entire regiment rushed forward with the flanks converging into the embrasure. Davis and Lieutenant William H. H. Patterson were close behind McClung, and the enemy fled in disorder from the rear of the sallyport to a stone building and across a small stream which led from the center of town to the Santa Catarina. Before the gates of the stone building could be closed, the Americans were inside and forced surrender of the Mexicans there. Company K was left at the building to receive arms and prisoners, and pursuit was continued.\textsuperscript{32}

Davis with twenty or thirty men crossed the stream under cover of the fortress walls which made it difficult for the enemy to fire on them. The Mississippians were ready to attack El Diablo which had no artillery on it, but were ordered to rejoin their division by Quitman's aide. Davis obeyed reluctantly as he believed the Mexicans to be panic-stricken and vulnerable, but he and his men recrossed the stream and fell in with the Ohio regiment which had gathered near the walls of La Teneria. In the
confusion, Davis' command had been reduced to twenty of Captain Douglas H. Cooper's company and about ten others. Captain George P. Field and one other man of the third infantry joined the Rifles and all moved upstream toward the tête-de-pont of the Purisima bridge, driving about 100 of the enemy before them. Captain Cooper and his command were posted in a building near the tête-de-pont to draw fire while Davis met with Major Joseph K. F. Mansfield and part of his command. They had decided on a plan of attack when they were ordered by General Hamer to withdraw to give protection to an artillery battery threatened by Mexican lancers. Davis tried to convince Hamer of the importance of their position -- Davis' men advancing on one side of the street near El Diablo and Mansfield's on the other. But Hamer, aware of the weak American support for such an action, ordered them to retire. Again, reluctantly, Davis and Mansfield obeyed. 33

On the march back to Walnut Springs, the Rifles were in the rear behind Hamer's column and were attacked by Mexican lancers from the Citadel, who began killing the wounded and the exhausted stragglers. Davis halted his regiment, formed a line and advanced firing; the lancers were driven away. Major Bradford's command rejoined Davis and took a definite position against further attack. But Quitman's orders came to return to camp immediately and re-
form the brigade. The Mississippians found they had lost seven killed and forty-seven wounded in the action of September 21.  

Early on the morning of September 22, Quitman's brigade was formed in camp and marched through the cornfields (concealed from the Citadel) to relieve Lieutenant Colonel Garland's men who had stayed in the Tenería overnight, along with the Kentucky regiment and First Lieutenant Samuel Ridgeley's battery. The Tennessee regiment, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richard Anderson, took post in the round fort; the Mississippi regiment held the stone building in the rear. Frequent observations were made of the city while engineers worked to strengthen the breastwork during the day. It was learned that Worth's division had taken the Bishop's Palace on the west and advanced into the city a short distance, with terrible loss of life. Without further orders from Quitman, the volunteers in the Tenería spent a miserable night in rain with a norther, close enough to the enemy to hear his movements. The Rifles had gone from camp with light clothing and without food, and the quartermaster was unable to get an escort for his wagons from Walnut Springs.

It was obvious by morning of the 23rd that El Diablo had been evacuated. After reconnaissances led by Davis and First Lieutenant Jeremiah M. Scarritt of the corps of engi-
heers, the fort was found to be untenable without the addition of artillery. Two companies, H and G, of the Mississippi regiment and two companies of the Tennessee under Lieutenant Colonel Anderson moved toward the suburbs of Monterrey, with the enemy fleeing before them, and took thirty prisoners near El Diablo.

Davis returned to the Tenería and had Company G relieved by B Company and substituted Company D for one of the Tennessee companies before he moved out again, this time to his left toward a redoubt near the main plaza. Lieutenant Colonel Anderson remained in command at El Diablo. Exposed to fire from a large building on their left, the four companies under Davis withdrew to a street barricade to await support. The remainder of the Mississippi regiment save one company, and Colonel George T. Woods' dismounted Texas Rangers joined Davis and began moving into the city, house by house, driving Mexican forces before them. After five hours of street fighting, the troops came within two blocks of the main plaza, where the streets were heavily barricaded and swept by severe artillery and small arms fire. Forced to halt, the Americans began constructing their own barricade from baggage and pack saddles found in nearby houses and were more than half finished when they were ordered to retire. Quitman evidently had no idea of how close his men were to the main plaza,
where the largest body of Mexican forces were concentrated in the cathedral.\textsuperscript{36}

Worth had begun advancing into Monterrey about 10 o'clock the morning of the 23rd; he had had no orders from Taylor since the day before, but had heard the noise of battle from the lower city. By dark, after fighting house to house, Worth’s men were only one block from the cathedral on the western side, unknown to Davis and Henderson on the east side, and certainly unknown to Taylor who was not in Monterrey. The city could have been taken that night -- virtually all the defending troops were in and around the cathedral plaza, and the Americans had artillery placed high on buildings west of the church. All the defenses outside the heart of the city were in American hands. Ampudia did not permit reoccupation of the houses abandoned by the attackers because he did not want to risk replacing the Mexican artillery.\textsuperscript{37}

At 5 P.M. Davis rejoined the rest of his regiment at the Tenería and marched back to camp. The evening found two more in the Mississippi regiment killed and five more wounded, a total loss of fourteen killed and forty-seven wounded.\textsuperscript{38}

Ampudia, the Mexican commander, sent a flag of truce to Taylor September 24. A conference was called, of which Davis was a member, and an armistice was agreed on. The
lenient terms -- surrender of the town, transfer of all public property therein to the Americans, retirement of all Mexican forces, and an eight-week cease fire -- caused a long and caustic political debate in the United States. Defenders of the terms believed a siege would have been impossible for Taylor's limited forces and more limited supplies and that the cathedral with its large cache of ammunition was of great value to the Americans. Davis' comment to his brother in a letter of September 25 was probably typical of the feelings of the armistice defenders: "They were whipped and we could afford to be generous." 39 Officials in Washington, notably President Polk, were generally dissatisfied with the result, which they thought only allowed the Mexican army to escape and gather strength. 40 Lieutenant Ulysses S. Grant recorded the appearance of the Mexican forces as they left Monterrey: "My pity was aroused by the sight of the Mexican garrison of Monterrey ... Many of the prisoners were cavalry, armed with lances, and mounted on miserable little half-starved horses ... the men looked in but little condition." 41

By September 28 all the Mexican army had withdrawn, and the exhausted Americans settled in Monterrey as Taylor awaited comment from Washington on his plan to move further inland. He had lost 561 of his force of less than 7,000, but the sacrifice was believed to be equal to the importance
of the city. It seemed impossible that the Americans could have taken Monterrey, but the victory gave them a supply and communications base inside Mexico and inspired martial fervor at home; the moral effect the defeat had on Ampudia's army was as important as the military. *Niles' Weekly Register*, a national newspaper-magazine published in Baltimore, did not receive word of the capture of Monterrey until October 17 and the first reports carried notices of the bravery of the Mississippians and of the death of McClung, which was not true.

Many of the Mississippi regiment at Monterrey took advantage of the hiatus in action to make requests for furlough. Davis left Camp Allen near Monterrey October 19, on a sixty-day leave. He was accompanied to Camargo by a corporal's guard, boarded the *Galveston* and arrived in New Orleans November 1, where he took the river steamer *Sultana* for the trip upriver to Brierfield. Varina Davis had called him home — she and his brother Joseph were not getting along, and he was called to conciliate. In the two weeks he was home, Davis attended a meeting in Vicksburg celebrating the return of some volunteers and attended to business affairs. He wrote several letters from Brierfield, giving some details of his regiment's actions at Monterrey, defending the capitulation agreement, and speculating on the difficulty of accomplishing Taylor's proposed march
inland. By December 10, Davis was back in Camargo and on his way to rejoin his men.

Meanwhile in Monterrey, the volunteers had not been making themselves popular. General Juan Morales sent a note of protest to General Taylor September 29 about excesses committed on persons and property, including six cases of murder. Taylor replied that it was very difficult to maintain order over men elated with success and unused to camp discipline, but many of the volunteers were soon moved to camps outside town. One volunteer's complaints of the Mexican camps included inadequate government rations, cold nights -- no fires, not even candles, were allowed -- scanty clothing, and too much drill. But, he admitted, the surroundings were at least pleasant to look at. There were few amusements and little contact with the outside world. General Worth, in charge of Monterrey, refused to permit publication of camp newspapers because of the unsavory, anti-administration ones that had arisen in Corpus Christi and Matamoros, and it was not until February that one was allowed. Accounts in Niles' Register seem to indicate that the volunteers turned to violence to amuse themselves -- fights with the regulars and among themselves, and crimes against the native population.
In the autumn of 1846, the administration in Washington realized that the war would not be short, that only a sharp blow would bring Mexico to negotiate. Of course, there was no stable government to approach. There had been a military overthrow of the peace-seeking Herrera regime in January, 1846, and a coup led by General Mariano Salas in August against the semi-friendly Paredes government had led to the return of General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna from his exile in Cuba. Squabbles over seniority in the army resulted in Santa Anna's domination of the government on his arrival August 16. Polk had allowed him to pass through the American blockade at Vera Cruz in the hope that he would bring unity to Mexico, then peace. Santa Anna reached Mexico City on September 15, called for unity and money, then set out for San Luis Potosí in central Mexico to meet Taylor's forces, while Ampudia made his last bid for personal glory at Monterrey.

In the war, Polk had the advantages of having widespread popular support, power to run the war himself, definite war aims, and money. Santa Anna had none of these advantages, and was especially plagued by financial problems. The blockade had shut off the all-important customs duties, and many Mexican states unsympathetic to his administration refused to participate in the war at all. The deprivations showed in the condition of the army:
"These are the troops from Mexico . . . they are the best clothed of any you will see, but they are in raggs [sic], many are without hats and many are even without sandals; how slow they move, what an awful spectacle of human misery, their vivacity has fled for want of the necessaries of life; a little further on are hundreds of poor females, following their husbands barefooted with their children upon their backs -- still further on you may see in the way they come a continual Hospital of dead and dying . . . do they not remind you of the Philistians [sic] going to take Sampson."

In November, since the eight-week armistice was almost at an end, Taylor ordered Worth to occupy Saltillo, the unfortified capital of the state of Coahuila, a supply base located in a chief pass through the Sierra Madre. The official order was received November 8 by General Worth, who moved on November 12 from Monterrey; Taylor followed on the 13th, having with him an order from Marcy dated October 22 telling him not to attempt to hold any territory beyond the mountains. The Mississippi regiment under the command of Major Bradford remained with Taylor on the short march to Saltillo. Worth was left in command at Saltillo after it was occupied peacefully November 15, and Taylor with the Mississippians returned to Monterrey to wait for further orders.
President Polk, at the insistence of Senator Thomas Hart Benton and Secretary Marcy, had started making preparation for his telling blow against Mexico, now that it was obvious to everyone that Santa Anna was not going to negotiate at once. Winfield Scott was appointed commander of an expedition to Vera Cruz and thence to the national capital. Scott wrote to Taylor November 25 from New York advising him of the plan, in which Taylor would be largely ignored and his troop strength substantially depleted. Appointing Scott was a political as well as a military move by the President, who hoped not only that Taylor's national popularity would be diminished, but also that the two Whig generals would quarrel and split the party. Polk called up 17,000 more volunteers November 30, including another Mississippi regiment. 52

Taylor, unaware of the expedition, began a 200-mile march inland to Victoria, with the first division and a volunteer brigade under Quitman, on December 14. The Mexican army was concentrated at San Luis Potosí under Santa Anna and Taylor anticipated meeting them at Victoria, where a small American force was garrisoned. On a pleasant march, the Americans moved without resistance to Montemorelos, a tiny town set in a valley, where they met the second Tennessee regiment and the United States second infantry who had moved down from the temporary field division headquarters
at Camargo. On the 17th, Taylor received an urgent plea from Worth for help against what he thought was an imminent attack on Saltillo and Monterrey by Santa Anna with 13,000 infantry and cavalry. At dawn on December 18, Taylor and Twiggs set out for Saltillo with the best-rested troops of the first division and Captain Braxton Bragg's artillery.53

Quitman and the volunteers marched on to Victoria; there were two brigades, the second Tennessee under Colonel William H. Campbell and the Mississippi, Georgia, and Baltimore regiments under Colonel T. J. (not Stonewall) Jackson, as Davis had not yet returned from furlough—he was reported absent without leave on December 20. Saturday, December 19, Quitman was on the march at sunrise, gathering the brigades from various camps around Montemorelos. The army moved along the spurs of the Sierra Madre, encountering hostile-looking Mexicans and very cold weather. Water was scarce, and the men moved rapidly, covering about forty miles in three days. From a camp near Linares, forty leagues from Victoria, the command marched with loaded arms in close order, expecting an attack of lancers. Mexicans the Americans met were indifferent, and seemed to know nothing of the army movements on either side. A cold drizzle and hard march over rocky ground, plus difficulty with the heavily-loaded mules
and wagons did not seem to ruin Christmas Eve for the volunteers: "We had one satisfaction . . . that if we did not know where we were, we were certain that the enemy would never find us."^2 Some enterprising privates found a bottle of mescal and a dozen eggs, and the Maryland volunteers, at least, had eggnog Christmas Eve in the rain near Villa Gran. After a soggy march, the Americans received the surrender of Hidalgos on Christmas Day and slogged on with arms loaded on the 26th and 27th, believing General José Urrea was nearby with his cavalry. But there was no action. The Americans arrived at a sugar plantation which Mexican lancers had just left on the afternoon of December 27. Ten miles from Victoria, the division halted while Quitman went into town to scout; Urrea retreated as the Americans entered quietly at noon on the 29th. Quitman's brigades had marched approximately 200 miles through hostile territory without the loss of a single man or mule, a spectacular achievement, Quitman thought.^5

The forces at Victoria daily expected attack and would have been relieved to have met some resistance from the sullen natives. They were understandably jumpy, with only one light battery, and about 3,500 men (two-thirds volunteers) facing the entire Mexican army, and they had heard nothing from Taylor since he left them at Montemorelos ten days before. On January 4, Taylor and Twiggs arrived,
along with Colonel Davis whom they had encountered on the march from Monterrey. Santa Anna had changed his plans for attack as he learned of the movements of Taylor and of General John E. Wool's volunteers toward Monterrey. 56

Taylor came to Victoria with General Scott's November 25 letter which told of the definite transfer of 4,700 of his men. He was to retain only Lieutenant Colonel C. A. May's dragoons, Bragg's and Captain John Washington's batteries, and the Mississippi regiment of his original command. Worth's entire division was ordered to meet Scott immediately at Tampico, and Taylor was to remain in Monterrey—with a Mexican force of some 20,000 men under Santa Anna facing him. Taylor was personally outraged and hurt, but carried out the orders and returned with his shadow army to Monterrey January 24. 57 He wrote to his son-in-law, Robert Wood, later: "I am satisfied that Scott, Marcy & Co. have been more anxious to break me down, than they have been to break down Santa Anna & the Mexicans, for never was an officer left so completely bound hand and foot . . . at the mercy of the enemy." 58

There was some truth to that remark, but Taylor disobeyed Scott's orders and unexpectedly appeared at Agua Nueva February 5 with 700 men to support General Wool and his 4,000 volunteers. An Ohio regiment and the Louisville
Legion (first Kentucky regiment) were left to guard Monterrey. Wool's men had moved from Saltillo when Worth's forces were withdrawn from northern Mexico. Santa Anna was nearby with a large force — Major John P. Gaines, sixty-seven of the Kentucky cavalry, and some Arkansas cavalry had been captured by General J. J. Minón January 22 while on a scouting mission from Agua Nueva; a detachment of Kentucky cavalry under Captain William H. Heady and sixteen men were taken prisoner by Minón's forces a few days later.59

On the 28th of January, Santa Anna had started his march north from San Luis Potosí, in stages by brigades, with a total force of between 15,000-20,000 infantry, and lancers, and some twenty pieces of field artillery. The Mexicans were suffering from sickness and the desertion rate was phenomenal, but this was the march for which Santa Anna had been planning since October. A 250-mile march across the Mexican desert to Saltillo would be hard on the best-trained and best-equipped army; for Santa Anna's demoralized ragamuffins, it was almost unbearable. From the seizures of the scouting parties, Taylor had thought the advance of Santa Anna's force was only a predatory band, but Major Ben McCulloch with a detachment of Texas Rangers made a reconnaissance February 20 and found a Mexican deserter who told them of Santa Anna's large force assembled at La Encarnación, just south of Agua Nueva.60
With the news, Taylor and Wool moved at the double-quick to La Angostura (the Narrows), a valley south of Saltillo on the road to San Luis Potosí. Their defensive position, three miles from the tiny hacienda of Buena Vista, was eight miles from Saltillo and twelve miles from Agua Nueva, inaccessible from the west and almost so from the east because of the mountains. The road was guarded by Captain John Washington's battery, with the mass of the American army in position on the mountain sides and on the plateau near the eastern range. Wool camped on the field the night of the 21st, and Taylor with May's dragoons and Mississippi Rifles went into Saltillo to check its defenses. Santa Anna had planned to take Taylor by surprise at Agua Nueva, then turn south to meet Scott. He was amazed to find the Americans in position at La Angostura when he arrived there on the 22nd; he demanded, and was refused, surrender.

Action on Washington's birthday was light, mostly among cavalry forces, and the Mississippians remained with Taylor, in reserve and out of action. There was skirmishing as the Mexican infantry tried to turn the American left and open the road to Saltillo, but they were driven back effectively by Colonel Humphrey Marshall's Kentucky regiment. There were no American losses on the 22nd, and the numerically superior Mexican infantry found themselves fairly
ineffective on the rough ground, in an attacker's role. Taylor, after having scouted the valley and believing the Mexicans would not attack at night, returned to Saltillo with the Rifles and a body of the Second Dragoons. Wool and the rest of the Americans spent a cold rainy night in the valley listening to the triumphant music from the enemy camp. 61

As was the case with the battle of Monterrey, there are, it seems, an infinite number of reports on the battle February 23 at Buena Vista, called "another Thermopylae" by some of the reporters. There were no war correspondents from American newspapers with Taylor anymore since his work was thought to have been finished when Scott began the Vera Cruz expedition in January; the resulting accounts were written by participants and historians. The most complete and detailed accounts for the purpose of this paper are the regimental reports of Davis and ten of his officers, Taylor's official report, a book written by James Henry Carleton, a participating dragoon officer, and Justin Smith's description in The War with Mexico. The following narrative is a compilation of several sources, including those mentioned above. 62 See also map of battlefield, page 39.
The War with Mexico

La Angostura, Washington's Battery until two companies 1st Illinois Vols.
B Six companies 1st Illinois Vols.
C 3rd Indiana Regt.
D 1st Kentucky Regt. and Sherman's Battery (later position)
E 2nd Illinois Regt. and 1st Section Bragg's Battery
F 2nd Indiana Regt. and three pieces Washington's Battery
G Kentucky Horse Regt. and one squadron 2nd Dragoons
H Arkansas Horse Regt. and one squadron 1st Dragoons
I Dismounted Cavalry, etc.
L 2nd Kentucky Regt., Bragg's Artillery and detachment of Horse (early position)

BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA
Scale of Feet

The Americans are shown as placed on the morning of the 23rd.

M 2nd Indiana partly rallied here after retiring
N Heaviest Mexican cannon
O Blenco's Column
P Column to form American left
Q Battery
R Light Troops
S Reserve
T Column turning American left
V Mexican Battery
X Cavalry from head of Column T, attacking Buena Vista
Y Taylor and Staff

— route of Mississippi Rifles, February 23
Davis and eight companies of the regiment left
Saltillo early on the morning of the 23rd, leaving com-
panies D and K under Captain William P. Rogers and Lieu-
tenant Daniel R. Russell to guard the town. Within two
miles of the field, they heard the sounds of artillery
fire which had begun before sunrise. Excited by the noise
of battle, they moved more rapidly, stopping only briefly
to fill their canteens at the hacienda. They arrived on
the field before noon, and their first view was a spectacle
of American cavalry and the second Indiana regiment running
from the fight. Turning off the road to their left, the
Mississippians moved immediately to the position the re-
treating men had abandoned. Davis rode among the refugees,
pleading with them to return and fight with his regiment;
with a few exceptions, his plea was in vain. General Wool
was also trying to rally the Indianians, and Davis ap-
proached him asking if another regiment could be sent to
aid the Rifles in an attack; Wool went in person to find
support.

The Mississippi troops ascended a slope intersected
by a deep ravine which united with another ravine on their
right, affording the enemy easy access to the center of
the American position, already under attack. Ampudia's
light infantry flanked by cavalry, the Tampico Guards,
several lines deep, was advancing, having driven back a
feeble American defense. Davis formed his regiment rapidly and advanced in double-quick time, firing. The Mexicans were arrested by this sudden surprise defense, and the Mississippi regiment crossed the ravine and faced the enemy where they stood on the eastern side. Ampudia retreated and was driven back on his reserves.

Mexican cavalry had begun to form on the plain behind the Mississippi men and the Americans had no support. Davis ordered his regiment to retire about 200 yards and went to find the cavalry's exact position which had been concealed by the rough land. He found them descending a ravine behind the Rifles, called the nearest company to form and fire, and the enemy was once again dispersed. Lieutenant Colonel C. L. Kilburn with a piece of light artillery and Colonel Joseph Lane's third Indiana sent by Wool now joined the Mississippi regiment which was reforming behind the first ravine they had crossed. The piece of artillery drove the enemy back to the foot of the mountains. A heavy fire was opened up on the center of the regiments from a concealed Mexican battery in the hills at the head of the plateau. Because they were the most exposed, the Indiana troops withdrew into the ravine on their left.

Some of Davis' men who had been sent to care for the wounded returned at this time and the regiment retired by its left flank along the bank of the ravine. They had gone
but a short distance when a large body of cavalry, the main attacking column, came from its cover on the left of the position from which the Americans had just come, advancing rapidly. "The Mississippi regiment was filed to the right, and fronted in line across the plain; the Indiana regiment was formed on the bank of the ravine, in advance of our right flank, by which a re-entering angle was presented to the enemy." The Indians were formed along the ravine which ran north-south, the Mississippians at right angles to them. While the formation was prepared, Davis' sergeant major was sent to Captain Thomas W. Sherman to ask for more artillery support. The enemy, now seen to be a richly garbed reserve cavalry force of some 200, with shining lances and tricolored streamers, came up rapidly and in perfect order. Davis warned his men repeatedly not to shoot, realizing that ammunition was short, that every shot had to count. His troops were in two ranks, one to fire while the other reloaded. "Nearer and nearer drew the Mexican steeds, until each rifle man trembled with excitement and impatience. Colonel Davis was silent. Now their dresses could be distinguished, and the next moment their faces and features. High hopes and unbreathed fears were centered upon that little volunteer band. . . . All around them was clamor, and uproar . . . Colonel Davis was silent. Would he retreat
like the Indianians, or permit the enemy to crush him without resistance? Not long was the suspense." The enemy approached with diminishing speed, unsure why the Americans were not firing or forming in a square to repulse them and unsure how many, if any, American forces lay in the ravine behind Davis and his men. The lancers finally halted about seventy yards from the Americans, in the focus of the angle. "A few files fired without orders, and both lines then instantly poured in a volley so destructive that the mass yielded to the blow and the survivors fled. Captain Sherman having come up on the left with a howitzer from his battery, followed their retreat with a very effective fire until they had fled beyond the range of his gun."55

This was the famous "V" formation mentioned in almost every account, and studied as a great new military tactic for years after. Samuel E. Chamberlain of the first dragoons, gives a colorful, if slightly inaccurate, account of the formation:

This gallant regiment passed by us with the light swinging step peculiar to Indians and hunters, their uniform a red shirt worn outside of their white duck pants, and black slouch hats, armed with Windsor Rifles, and eighteen-inch Bowie Knives. Their Colonel — Jefferson Davis, was ... a brave able officer, one of the best on the field. He formed his men on the upper part of the plateau, in the shape of a letter V opening toward the foe, the flanks resting on the banks of the gulches.
General Taylor now rode up to us with his staff and watched the movements with great interest. Down the plateau advanced toward Davis' "Red Shirts" General Torrejon's splendid brigade of Mexican Cavalry; their gaily caparisoned horses seemed to fly over the ground, and it looked as if they would ride down the thin line of riflemen, who stood without bayonets disputing their passage. I heard General Taylor say, "Steady boys! Steady for the honor of old Mississippi!" and as the sharp crack of their rifles rang out and the leading horsemen went down, the General swung his old glazed cap and cried out, "Well done Jeff! Hurrah for Mississippi!" and raised a cheer in which we all joined.

Davis' men, profiting by the confusion caused by their terrible fire, threw down their rifles, and with frightful cries dashed on the astonished horsemen, who seemed helpless now their charge had failed. Catching the horses by the bits they backed them onto their haunches and knifed the stupefied riders, who as soon as they could turned and fled with shouts of "Diablos -- Camisa colorados!" (Devils -- Red Shirts!) 66

With the remains of the beautiful cavalry in disorder, Davis was directed by Taylor to move with the American cavalry and artillery on the American left. The Mississippians were exposed to constant artillery fire, and advanced as far as possible under cover of the ravines and gullies. Santa Anna was directing an attack on the right of the American position and Davis was ordered to advance at a run to the right to aid Bragg's battery which was entirely unprotected; they took the enemy in flank and reverse when he was about 100 yards from the battery. 67 The Mexican right gave way and fled in confusion. This was the last contest of the day for the Rifles. It was now 5 P.M. and
Bragg and Davis were withdrawn to the foot of the plateau, having failed to dislodge the San Patricio company, American deserters who served Santa Anna as expert artillerymen.

Davis had been wounded in the right foot in the first action of the afternoon, and retired to a medical tent on the field. He and what was left of his command returned to Saltillo after dark, and he ordered the two companies there to go to the field and await a renewal of the conflict. Saltillo had been threatened seriously during the day by General Miñón's cavalry, but the forces there repulsed the enemy. The Rifles lost forty-two killed and fifty-one wounded in the action of the 23rd.

On the morning of February 24, it was discovered that Santa Anna had withdrawn. He had suffered a loss of about 6,200 men in battle and by desertion, and was short of provisions. He had also heard of Scott's landing in Vera Cruz and the revolt of a National Guard unit in Mexico City which was supposed to be the defense against Scott. "Had that [the battle of Buena Vista] not been fought and won," Taylor wrote later, "Santa Anna would have swept the whole country we had conquered in this portion of Mexico. If Scott had left me five thousand regular Infy. the Mexican army would have been completely broken down, & the whole of their artillery and baggage taken or destroyed; as it was we were barely able to maintain ourselves. The volun-
teers behaved nobly. Buena Vista would have been a crucial victory for Santa Anna and would have helped boost morale, open paths to Vera Cruz and the Rio Grande, and cut off Colonel A. W. Doniphan's march from New Mexico.

Taylor and Davis were hailed as national heroes a month later in newspapers which had been fearful for their safety. Most editors blamed President Polk for cutting off Taylor and leaving him at the mercy of Santa Anna, and, as Lieutenant U. S. Grant remarked, Buena Vista made Taylor's nomination as the 1848 Whig presidential nominee a foregone conclusion. On April Fool's Day, Polk wrote bitterly in his diary that Taylor won at Buena Vista only because of the bravery of his men and because the Mexicans were out of food. If he had not disobeyed orders in leaving Monterrey, he would not have lost so many men — "he has been constantly blundering into difficulties." The first official report of the battle was published in Niles' Register April 3, and for three months after, almost every issue carried a story on the bravery of Davis and the Mississippi Rifles.

As soon as Davis was able to be on crutches, he and the Rifles were moved to Monterrey, where he served as military governor until the expiration of the twelve-month service. At a report of General Urrea's cavalry attack on Camargo, Taylor set out after him with 150 of
the Mississippi regiment, Bragg's battery, and the Kentucky cavalry to escort a wagon train from Cerralvo. Four companies of the Mississippians passed through Camargo on April 11 as a wagon train escort, the others remained at Monterrey. On April 20, the regiment left Monterrey for Cerralvo where three companies under Captain John Willis -- the Vicksburg Southrons, Marshall Guards, and Yazoo Volunteers -- escorted another train to Camargo, reaching the river city on May 1. Willis' command returned to Cerralvo with a supply train and were relieved by three other companies -- the Vicksburg Volunteers, Tombigbee Volunteers, and Jackson Fencibles -- who marched with the same train to Monterrey.

The entire regiment left Camargo for the mouth of the Rio Grande May 20, reached Reynosa May 24, and were waiting for transportation to New Orleans on May 27. Companies F, I, and K left on the schooner P. B. Savory May 30, and arrived in New Orleans June 5. Davis and Companies A, B, C, E, and H, some 180 men, arrived on the brig Forest at New Orleans June 6. Major Bradford and the two remaining companies did not arrive until June 11, too late to attend the gala celebration which took place on June 8. Governor Isaac Johnson of Louisiana, city authorities, and Seargent S. Prentiss, a noted orator, were among the throng at New Orleans; there were speeches, a parade and banquet. The
regiment was mustered out of service at a strength of 426 on June 12. Boarding a river steamer, the Rifles made their last trip together up the Mississippi, stopping at every landing to let some disembark and finally arriving at Natchez on June 14, where Davis met his wife and drove with her to Warren and Vicksburg for more celebrations on June 15.77

Contrary to present practice, all troops who signed up for service with the United States Army did not enlist for the duration of the war. The Mississippians, having served the twelve-month term, disbanded, and for the most part, returned to their normal lives as the war went on. Winfield Scott's capture of Mexico City in September, 1847, ended the fighting in the Mexican War, Stephen W. Kearney and John C. Frémont having established American rule over California in January, 1847. With Senate approval of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on March 10, 1848, the war was over.

For his part, Davis was appointed brigadier general of volunteers by President Polk in May, 1847. He refused because he believed volunteers were militia, and therefore not subject to the command of federally-appointed officers. Governor Brown appointed Davis to fill the unexpired Senate term of Jesse Speight in August, a post Davis accepted, and assumed in December, 1847.
NOTES

1 Congressional Globe, 29th Cong., 1st Sess., 319.


5 Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, June 18, 1846; Roger Jones to William L. Marcy, January 13, 1847, in House Documents, 29th Cong., 2nd Sess., No. 42, p. 4; William L. Marcy to James K. Polk, April 10, 1848, in Senate Executive Documents, 30th Cong., 1st Sess., No. 36, p. 66.

6 New Orleans Jeffersonian, quoted in Vicksburg Sentinel & Expositor, June 9, 1846; Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, June 3, 1846; Port-Gibson Correspondent, June 24, 1846.

7 Port-Gibson Correspondent, June 24, 1846; Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, June 23, 1846.
Jefferson Davis to Fellow-Citizens, July 13, 1846, in Jackson Mississippian, July 22, 1846, and in Rowland (ed.), Davis, Constitutionalist, I, 52-58. Davis did not resign his congressional seat until September 21, 1846; see Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, October 22, 1846 and Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, September 27, 1846.

Congressional Globe, 29th Cong., 1st Sess., 1053; Varina Davis, Jefferson Davis, Ex-President of the Confederate States of America: A Memoir (2 vols., New York: Belford's, 1890), I, 284-85. The regimental return of August 1 states Davis joined the regiment July 11, but the Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette of July 16 noted that Davis was in Vicksburg July 12, scheduled to leave there July 14 -- see Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, July 14. The return of July 11 does not record Davis as being present; July 18 is provided as the date of his arrival in New Orleans on the September 1 return (National Archives Record Group [hereafter NA RG 94]. Records of the Office of the Adjutant General, Muster Rolls of Volunteer Organizations: Mexican War, Mississippi Volunteers).

Reuben Davis, Recollections of Mississippi and Mississippians (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin, 1891), 212.

Vicksburg Sentinel & Expositor, July 14, 1846.

Ibid., July 25, 1846.


New Orleans Jeffersonian, July 23, quoted in Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, July 29, 1846;
Vicksburg Sentinel & Expositor, July 28, 1846; New Orleans Picayune, July 28, quoted in Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, August 1, 1846. The Massachusetts was bought by the Quartermaster Department for $85,000, and was a 700-ton sailing ship with auxiliary steam power (Risch, Quartermaster Support, 255, 263); the Alabama was chartered by the government at $16,500 a month to convey troops to Brazos Santiago (Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, May 19, 1846).

17 James Roach to Thomas S. Jesup, August 8, 1846, in NA RG 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Letters Received, File R-29 (1846); New Orleans Delta, quoted in Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, August 11, 1846. Because the government vessels were taken up, Roach put the fifty-four boxes of rifles on the privately-owned Ewing (Vicksburg Sentinel & Expositor, August 18, 1846).

18 Huston, Sinews of War, 139-42.


20 Jackson Mississippian, September 16, 1846.

21 Zachary Taylor to Robert C. Wood, September 3, 1846, in William K. Bixby (ed.), Letters of Zachary Taylor from the Battlefields of the Mexican War (Rochester, N. Y.: Genesee, 1908), 51; also [Zachary Taylor], Old Rough and Ready Speaks His Mind (Hartford, Conn.: Yale, 1960), 7-8.


24 Jackson Mississippian, September 16, 1846; Matamoros Flag, quoted in Vicksburg Daily Whig, April 15, 1847; Smith, War with Mexico, I, 392; Frederick P. Todd and Fritz Kredel, Soldiers of the American Army, 1775-1954 (Chicago:


26 Davis to V. Davis, August 16, 1846, in Davis Collection, Emory University and in Strode (ed.), Private Letters, 41-42; Vicksburg Sentinel & Expositor, August 25, September 1, 1846; Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, August 20, 1846. At the end of two months' service, 290 had been discharged from the regiment for illness -- see Roger Jones to William L. Marcy, January 18, 1847, in House Documents, 29th Cong., 2nd Sess., No. 48, p. 7.

27 Matamoros American Flag, quoted in Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, July 25, 1846.


30 Nichols, Zach Taylor's Little Army, 141-46; Smith, War with Mexico, I, 239-42; Fulton (ed.), Josiah Gregg, I, 350-59.

31 Jefferson Davis, "Memoranda of events connected with the Mississippi Riflemen during the Siege of Monterey, New Leon, New Mexico," in Rowland (ed.), Davis, Constitu-
tionalist, I, 139-40; Jefferson Davis to John A. Quit-
man, September 26, 1846, in NA RG 94, Adjutant General,
Letters Received, File T-423-1846; Nichols, Zach Taylor's
Little Army, 147-50; Smith, War with Mexico, I, 248-49.

32 Davis, "Memoranda of events," 140-42; Davis to
Quitman, September 26, 1846, in NA RG 94; Smith, War
with Mexico, I, 252-53; Nichols, Zach Taylor's Little
Army, 150; Claiborne, Quitman, I, 248; John Frost,
Pictorial History of Mexico and the Mexican War (Phila-
delphia: Desilver, 1862), 300-303.

33 Davis, "Memoranda of events," 142-43; Davis to
Quitman, September 26, 1846, in NA RG 94.

34 Ibid.; Davis, "Memoranda of events," 143.

35 Ibid., 143-44; Smith, War with Mexico, I, 255.

36 Davis to Quitman, additional report, nd, in NA RG 94,
Adjutant General, Letters Received, File T-212-1847;
Davis, "Memoranda of events," 144-45; Frost, Pictorial
History, 311.

37 Davis to Quitman, additional report, nd, in NA RG 94;
Davis, "Memoranda of events," 145; Smith, War with Mexico,
I, 257-59.

38 "Return of the Killed, Wounded and Missing of the
1st Regiment of Mississippi Riflemen Commanded by Colonel
Jefferson Davis in the Battles of the 21st, 22d and 23d
September, 1846, before the City of Monterey, Mxo.," in
Series E, Governor's Papers, Miss. Archives, and in Row-

39 Jefferson Davis to Joseph E. Davis, September 25,
1846, in Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, October 27, 1846;
Davis, "Memoranda of events," 145-46. For terms of the
armistice agreement and details of the negotiations, see
Jefferson Davis to the editor of the Washington Union,
January 6, 1847, in Washington Union, February 11, 1847,
and Frank A. Burr, "Jefferson Davis, the Ex-Confederate
President at Home," reprinted from Philadelphia Press,
July 10, 1861, in Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Gene-
alogical Magazine, XXXVI (January, 1951), 175-76. Con-
temporary discussions and accounts are found in Niles'
Weekly Register, LXXI (October 17, 1846-January 2, 1847),
100-280 passim; Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette,
October 27, 31, December 3, 1846, February 20, 1847; Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, November 3, 24, 1846, February 24, 1847.


41 Grant, Memoirs, I, 117.

42 Niles' Weekly Register, LXXI (October 17-December 5, 1846), 165, 180, 142-84, 200, 209, 220. For accounts of the battle, see also Jackson Mississippian, October 21, 1846; Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, October 9, 13, 23, 27, November 10, 24, 1846, February 3, May 12, 1847; Vicksburg Daily Whig, October 31, November 3, 4, 7, 10, 14, December 8, 1846, February 5, April 16, 1847; Vicksburg Weekly Whig, October 8, 13, 15, 22, 27, 29, 1846; Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, October 6, 24, 27, 29, November 14, 1846.

43 New Orleans Picayune, October 20, 1846, quoted in Niles' Weekly Register, LXXI (November 28, 1846), 196; V. Davis, Memoir, I, 310-312; Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, November 3, 10, December 15, 1846; Vicksburg Daily Whig, November 6, 10, 12, 1846; Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, November 19, 1846; Jefferson Davis to Robert J. Walker, November 11, 1846, in NA RG 59, Records of the Department of State, Applications and Recommendations for Office, 1845-52, Box 74; Jefferson Davis to Balie Peyton, November 1, 14, 1846, in David Campbell Papers, Duke University, Durham, N. C.; Jefferson Davis to John Jenkins, November 16, 1846, in Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, November 24, 1846; Davis to Walker, November 30, 1846, in Walker Papers.

44 Frost, Pictorial History, 332-33.


Niles' Weekly Register, LXXI (November 17, 1846), 180. For more favorable accounts of the volunteers' activities, see Niles' Weekly Register, LXXI (December 26, 1846, January 2, 1847), 265, 279, 285-87; Fulton (ed.), Josiah Gregg, I, 334-35.


Smith, War with Mexico, I, 347-69 passim, 377; Roger Jones to William L. Marcy, December 5, 1846, in Niles' Weekly Register, LXXI (January 2, 1847), 279-80; Carol Starr, "The Belligerent Response: A Study of Mexican War Involvement with the United States, 1845-1847" (Senior Thesis, Rice University, 1967), 28-48; Calcott, Santa Anna, 243-48.


Smith, War with Mexico, I, 264-70.

Quaife (ed.), Diary of Polk, II, 222-23; McCormac, James K. Polk, 453-55; Smith, War with Mexico, I, 347-56; Lavender, Climax at Buena Vista, 141-44.

Smith, War with Mexico, I, 356-58; Lavender, Climax at Buena Vista, 145-46.

Kenly, Memoirs, 186.

56 Smith, War with Mexico, I, 357-58.


60 Smith, War with Mexico, I, 380-83; Lavender, Climax at Buena Vista, 166-70. For more detailed accounts of Santa Anna's army and its movements, see Ripley, War with Mexico, I, 362; Edward D. Mansfield, The Mexican War (New York and Cincinnati: Barnes, Derby, 1851), 143-62; Callcott, Santa Anna, 250-51.


62 Rowland (ed.), Davis, Constitutionalist, I, 114-78; Niles' Weekly Register, LXXII (April 24, 1847), 115-18; Carleton, The Battle of Buena Vista (New York: Harper, 1848); Smith, War with Mexico, I, 370-400. Also see Francis Baylies, A Narrative of Major General Wool's Campaign in Mexico (Albany, N. Y.: Little, 1851), 30-46;

Jefferson Davis to William W. S. Bliss, March 2, 1847, in NA RG 94, Adjutant General, Letters Received, File T-257-1847.

Rough and Ready Annual, 112.

Davis to Bliss, March 2, 1847, in NA RG 94.

Chamberlain, My Confession, 122-23.

Seitz, Braxton Bragg, 7, says it was Bragg's battery that saved the Mississippi regiment.

"Return of the Killed and wounded of 1st Regiment of Mississippi Riflemen commanded by Col Jefferson Davis in the battle of the 23rd of February 1847 on the plain of Buena Vista Mexico," in Series E, Governor's Papers, Miss. Archives, and in Rowland (ed.), Davis, Constitutionalist, I, 175-77.


Grant, Memoirs, I, 123.
73 Quaife (ed.), Diary of Polk, II, 452.

74 Niles' Weekly Register, LXXII (April 3, 10, 24, May 8, June 12, 19, 26, July 10, 17, 1847), 68, 83-86, 115-18, 146, 232-35, 244, 266, 302, 313.

75 Joseph D. Howell to Mrs. W. B. Howell, March 2-4, 1847, in Howell (William Burr) Papers, Folder 1, Miss. Archives; Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, April 7, 14, 1847; Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, March 27, 1847; Vicksburg Daily Whig, April 14, 20, 1847.

76 Jefferson Davis to George H. Crosman, May 24, 1847, in NA RG 92, Quartermaster General, Letter Book of Major George H. Crosman; Davis to Thomas B. Eastland, May 27, 1847, in NA RG 92, Quartermaster General, Letters Received by Major Eastland; Davis to Varina H. Davis, May 27, 1847, in Jefferson Davis Papers, University of Alabama, University; Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, May 18, June 3, 8, 15, 19, 1847; Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, June 2, 16, 23, 1847; Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, June 1, 8, 15, 1847.

77 Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, June 15, 17, 1847; Natchez Weekly Courier, June 16, 1847; Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, June 23, 1847; Senate Executive Documents, 30th Cong., 1st Sess., No. 36, p. 66.
PART II

LETTERS OF JEFFERSON DAVIS CONCERNING THE WAR
EDITORIAL METHOD

Editorial method used in the following letters is adopted from the "Outline of Procedure and Style" devised by the editorial staff of The Papers of Jefferson Davis, Rice University. The documents are selected from the files of the project, and are letters written by Davis about the Mexican War during the time of his service as colonel of the first volunteer regiment of Mississippi infantry.

The letters appear in chronological order and are printed as much as possible in literal form, with minor stylistic changes, as follows:

Manuscript Headings

Each letter will be titled, centered at the head of the document: To John Smith

Place and Date Line

Regardless of where it occurs in the letter, the place and date line will be placed at the right-hand head of the letter.

Salutation

The inside address will not be included, and the salutation will always be at the top left of the letter.
Paragraph Indentation

Indentation will be standardized to five spaces.

Marginal Notes

When the note is obviously related to the sentence structure within a document, it will be inserted in place in angle brackets.

Capitalization

If the capitalization is uncertain, the writer will be given the benefit of a doubt.

Spelling and Grammar

When a word is unclear in its misspelling, the editor will decipher it to the best of her ability, indicating uncertainty by following it with a question mark and enclosing it in square brackets. Proper names misspelled will be corrected in the explanatory footnote. A completely illegible word will be indicated by a square-bracketed question mark.

Punctuation

The superfluous dash and colon, often used in place of periods, will be eliminated.

Superscript

All superscript will be lowered to text line level.

Abbreviations

Abbreviated proper names and abbreviations not readily apparent will be expanded in the explanatory footnote.
Slips of Pen, Clerical Errors, Repetitions

All will be corrected without comment unless the editor feels they have emotional significance.

Insertions and Corrections

Editorial insertions will be shown in square brackets, including words added for clarity; uncertain editorial additions will be followed by a question mark and square bracketed. When the manuscript is damaged, the type of damage will be indicated in square brackets. Author insertions will be treated as text, unless the editor believes the insertion to have special significance; if so, the insertion will be angle bracketed and noted.

Scored-out Passages

Scored-out passages will be shown as they appear, deciphered if possible, with single line typed through the passage and angle bracketed. If indecipherable, the editor will so indicate by means of a single line enclosed in angle brackets.

Enclosures

Enclosures will be accounted for if possible, and if available, will be printed with the document.

Complimentary Close

The complimentary close will be printed as though it were the last line of the letter. The signature and title, if any, will be separated from the body of the letter.
Endorsements

Endorsements will follow the signature line on the left of the document. The physical description of the endorsement (see list of descriptive symbols below) will precede the endorsement. Clerical file information will not be considered part of the endorsement.

Abstractions

In the case of one document following, the editor has abstracted a large portion which does not deal with the Mexican War. The date and place line and salutation are entered as usual, followed by the abstracted portion, the fully quoted portion dealing with the war, and the closing and signature as usual. The abstracted portion is, in itself, a descriptive footnote. Other abstracts carry only the descriptive note.

Footnotes

Each document will have three types, as follows:

1. Descriptive

This note will always include the physical description of the document (see list of descriptive symbols below) and location of the original manuscript, if known. If a printed version is used, it will be so noted. If applicable, this note will also include: condition of the manuscript if incomplete, damaged or unusual; address; unusual provenance; lack of signature; cross-references to
other documents; postmarks if used to establish date; printed versions of the manuscripts in major sources. If the manuscript is abstracted, this note will indicate the number of pages of the original on which writing occurs.

2. **Explanatory**

Superscript numbers will not be used as primary identification devices; words printed in all capital letters will call the reader's attention to particular parts of the manuscript. This note will be a commentary on the document and will include explanation and identification of: correspondent unless a major political figure; nicknames, pseudonyms and initials; misspelled proper names; official titles when personal names not given; names of places when ambiguous or obscure; and unfamiliar technical and linguistic terms.

3. **Textual**

This note will not always be necessary, but will be keyed to the manuscript text by superscript numbers to record corrections, indicate differences between various versions of the letter, indicate insertions in a different hand from Davis', indicate editorial insertions and corrections, interpret badly-expressed or illegible passages, indicate missing words or damage, and record marginal notes that are not incorporated in the text.
## SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

USED IN THE DESCRIPTIVE FOOTNOTE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AD</strong></td>
<td><strong>AUTOGRAPHED DOCUMENT</strong>: A document in the author's handwriting, but unsigned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADS</strong></td>
<td><strong>AUTOGRAPHED DOCUMENT SIGNED</strong>: A document in the author's handwriting and signed by him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AE</strong></td>
<td><strong>AUTOGRAPHED ENDORSEMENT</strong>: An endorsement in the endorsee's handwriting, but unsigned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AES</strong></td>
<td><strong>AUTOGRAPHED ENDORSEMENT SIGNED</strong>: An endorsement in the endorsee's handwriting, signed by him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AL</strong></td>
<td><strong>AUTOGRAPHED LETTER</strong>: A letter in the author's handwriting, not signed by him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>AUTOGRAPHED LETTER SIGNED</strong>: A letter in the author's handwriting, signed by him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong></td>
<td><strong>DOCUMENT</strong>: Unaddressed items in some form other than the author's handwriting and unsigned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DS</strong></td>
<td><strong>DOCUMENT SIGNED</strong>: A document in some form other than the author's handwriting, signed by him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong></td>
<td><strong>ENDORSEMENT</strong>: A statement added to the end of a manuscript in a hand different from that of the writer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ES</strong></td>
<td><strong>ENDORSEMENT SIGNED</strong>: Endorsement in the endorsee's handwriting, signed by him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>L</strong></td>
<td><strong>LETTER</strong>: A letter in some form other than the author's handwriting, unsigned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LS</strong></td>
<td><strong>LETTER SIGNED</strong>: A letter in some form other than the author's handwriting, signed by him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LbC</strong></td>
<td><strong>LETTER BOOK COPY</strong>: Letter-copied into a letter book by a clerk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To Albert G. Brown

Washington, D. C.

June 20, 1846

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge, and accept the commission of Colonel in the 1st Regiment of Mississippi Volunteers, received last evening from the hands of your aid-de-camp, Col. J. Roach.

For this most gratifying mark of confidence I return my sincerest thanks.

The unfortunate confusion, and conflict of authority exercised in calling out volunteers to maintain the interests, and defend the honor of our common country, have deprived our State of a full opportunity to evince the zeal and patriotism of her citizens; but sir, in accepting the commission tendered to me as above, I entertain the hope, that an opportunity will be afforded to the 1st Regiment of Volunteers, as the representative of Mississippi in the army of operations, to sustain the military reputation of our State, and to give renewed assurance of that which may be expected of Mississippians, whenever the necessities of our country shall further require their aid. With great respect, I am your obedient servant,

JEFF. DAVIS.
To Albert G. Brown, June 20, 1846

L, printed in Jackson Mississippian, July 15, 1846.
Neither the original of this letter nor the commission mentioned in the first sentence has been found.

ALBERT GALLATIN BROWN (May 31, 1813–June 12, 1880) had been governor of Mississippi since 1841, and served two terms, until 1847. He was a native of South Carolina, had served in the Mississippi state legislature 1839–41, and was elected circuit judge in 1841. Brown was elected to Congress before the end of his second term as governor, and served until 1854 when he was elected to the United States Senate. Resigning in January, 1861, he was elected to the Confederate Senate; after the war, he never returned to public life. (Dictionary of American Biography [hereafter, DAB]). Brown's AID-DE-CAMP, COLONEL JAMES ROACH of the Mississippi militia had been sent from the volunteers' camp at Vicksburg soon after the June 18 election of Davis (Record of Commissioned Officers, Mississippi Militia, 1841-48, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson; Port-Gibson Correspondent, June 24, 1846; Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, June 28, 1846). Roach and his wife, Mahalia (née Eggleston), were close friends of the Davises and Mrs. Roach's brother Dick was a private in the Mississippi regiment (Mahalia Eggleston Roach, diary, entry of Christmas, 1846, in Katharine M. Jones, Plantation South
To Albert G. Brown, June 20, 1846

[Indianapolis and New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1957], 302-303; Muster Roll of the regiment, Miss. Archives [hereafter, Muster Roll, Miss. Archives]. THE UNFORTUNATE CONFUSION, AND CONFLICT OF AUTHORITY presumably concerns the rash of legislature acts, army orders and Presidential messages concerning the calling of volunteers and the system by which they were mustered into service. For a discussion of the first calls, see Justin H. Smith, The War with Mexico (2 vols., New York: Macmillan, 1919), I, 190-93 (hereafter, Smith) and Congressional Globe, 29th Cong., 1st Sess., 791-95, 1029-32.

Although the letter is dated June 20, it would have been impossible for Roach to have traveled to Washington from Vicksburg in one day. A note in the Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig of July 11, 1846, mentions receipt of a Davis letter dated June 29 at Washington. It cannot be proved that the letter printed here is the one of June 29, but the June 29 date is at least plausible. The editor believes June 20 to be a typesetter's error.

1Typesetter's error.
To James K. Polk

23d June 1846

Sir,

We the Senators and Representatives of the State of Mississippi respectfully recommend to your consideration for appointments in the staff of the army of operations on the Rio Grande the following citizens of our state viz. William Bobbitt of Yolobusha to be Brigade Qr. Master or Commissary;

Franklin Smith of Madison to be Asst. Qr. Master
Kemp S. Holland of Marshall to be Asst. Com. of Subsistence
Seymour Halsey M. D. of Warren to be surgeon
John Thompson M. D. of La Fayette to be Asst. Surgeon.

Vy. Respectfully yr. mo. obt. svts

Jos. W. Chalmers
S. Adams
R. W. Roberts
Jeffn. Davis
J. Thompson
To James K. Polk, June 23, 1846

ALS, National Archives Record Group 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Consolidated Correspondence File: Mississippi Delegation, File S.145, Book 27.

All the recommendations were evidently honored by the President. WILLIAM BOBBITT was United States Army major and commissary for volunteers from June 26, 1846, until his resignation dated November 13 and accepted December 9, 1846 (Francis B. Heitman [comp.], Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, from Its Organization, September 29, 1789 to March 2, 1903 [2 vols., Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903, reprinted, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1965 (hereafter, Heitman)]; Secretary of War, annual report, January 19, 1847, in House Documents, 29th Cong., 2nd Sess., No. 48, p. 12). FRANKLIN SMITH was United States Army captain and assistant quartermaster for volunteers from June 26, 1846, until his resignation accepted April 14, 1847 (Heitman). KEMP S. HOLLAND, United States Army captain and assistant commissary of Subsistence for the Mississippi regiment was appointed June 26, 1846, and died in Mexico December 4, 1846 (Heitman; Muster Roll, Miss. Archives; Vicksburg Daily Whig, December 25, 1846). SEYMOUR HALSEY, of Company C, Mississippi regiment, was
To James K. Polk, June 23, 1846

surgeon of the regiment from July 7, 1846, until the regiment was discharged from service June 12, 1847 (Heitman; Muster Roll, Miss. Archives). JOHN THOMPSON, of Company F, was assistant surgeon for the Mississippi regiment (Heitman; Muster Roll, Miss. Archives).

Missing from the list of SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MISSISSIPPI is Senator Jesse Speight. The others are: JOSEPH W. CHALMERS (December 20, 1806-June 16, 1853), lawyer and United States Senator from Holly Springs, serving the remainder of Robert J. Walker's unexpired term, November 3, 1845-March 3, 1847; STEPHEN ADAMS (October 17, 1807-May 11, 1857), lawyer and representative to the 29th Congress from Aberdeen, elected in 1852 to United States Senate to fill a vacancy left by Davis' resignation; ROBERT WHYTE ROBERTS (November 28, 1784-January 4, 1865), lawyer, planter and representative to the 28th and 29th Congresses from Hillsboro; DAVIS had been elected as representative to the 29th Congress, had served from March 4, 1845, his previous political experience having been limited to being a presidential elector in 1844; JACOB THOMPSON (May 15, 1810-March 24, 1885), lawyer and representative to six Congresses, 1839-51, from Pontotoc. He later served as Secretary of the Interior for James Buchanan and as inspector general for the Confederate Army (Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1961 [hereafter, Biog. Directory of Congress]).
"or Commissary" in another hand, not Davis'
To Thomas S. Jesup

House of Reps.

29th June 1846

Sir.

Enclosed please find the bond of Asst. Qr. Master R. H. Chilton. As a neighbor & acquaintance of his sureties, as well as by the opinion of others, I can & do unhesitatingly state that I believe Messrs. W. O. Chilton & Jno. M. Chilton or either of them sufficient guaranty for the payment of the sum stated in the bond. Very respectfully, yrs &c

Jeffn Davis

M. C.
ALS, National Archives Record Group 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Letters Received, File D-147 (1846). The bond has not been found.

THOMAS SIDNEY JESUP (December 16, 1788-June 10, 1860) had been appointed Quartermaster General May 8, 1818. He was commissioned major general in 1828, fought in the Creek and Seminole Wars and resumed his duties as Quartermaster General in May, 1838, a post he retained until his death (DAB). ROBERT HALL CHILTON (?-February 18, 1879) was captain and assistant quartermaster May 11-December 6, 1846. He arrived in Vicksburg June 9, and was charged with providing arms, supplies and pay for the Mississippi regiment (Heitman; Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, June 13, 1846; Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, June 13, 1846).
To Lucinda D. Stamps

Steam Boat\textsuperscript{1} July 8, 1846

[Near Cincinnati]\textsuperscript{1}

My dear Sister

I am on my way to Vicksburg as Colonel of the Regiment raised in Mississippi for the Mexican War. This movement was unexpected though I hope not unnecessary, at least it was felt by me as a real compliment to be thus chosen over a field of competitors\textsuperscript{2} when absent, and if occasion offers it may be that I will return with a reputation over which you will rejoice as my Mother would have done. Varina and Mary Jane are with me — Mary Jane in fine health.\textsuperscript{3} Varina far from well. I wished to leave her in the North this summer, but she would not consent. If circumstances warranted it,\textsuperscript{4} I would send her to you. To you, and your family alone of all the world could I entrust\textsuperscript{1} and rest assured that no waywardness would ever lessen kindness. She regrets very much that she can not see you all, and has never ceased to remember the kindnesses of yourself and the girls and Brother Stamps.

She will probably stay with her Mother most of the time during which I will be absent. With Eliza she could not be contented, nor would their residing together increase their good feeling for each other. This distresses me as you will readily imagine, but if you ever have an opportunity
To Lucinda D. Stamps, July 8, 1846

To understand Varina's character you will see the propriety of the conclusion, and I feel that you will love her too much to take heed of the weaknesses which spring from a sensitive and generous temper.

My dear Sister, I do not know how it is that I have not written to you often. God knows and I trust you believe there is nothing which I love better.

I intended and perhaps promised to write to little Netty. Kiss her for me and tell her she must permit her Aunt Varina to become fully acquainted with her, she must judge her uncle's wife by observation and not evade the kindest feeling of a warm heart. Remember me affectionately to Mr. Stamps and Brother Stamps and Jenny and the girls. I will write again. The boat shakes so this is I fear illegible.

Farewell, my beloved Sister. Your brother

Jeffn Davis
L, printed in Hudson Strode, Jefferson Davis:

Davis reached VICKSBURG July 13 on the STEAM BOAT Star Spangled Banner, having been elected COLONEL of the first regiment of Mississippi volunteer infantry June 18 (Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, July 14, 1846; Port-Gibson Correspondent, June 24, 1846). LUCINDA FARRAR DAVIS DAVIS STAMPS (1797/98-December 14, 1873) was Davis' second eldest sister who lived in Woodville, Mississippi, having married WILLIAM STAMPS (1797/98-March 4, 1878), her second husband, in 1820. Jane Cook Davis, their MOTHER (? -October 3, 1845) had lived in Woodville, too, at her plantation, Rosemont (Strode, American Patriot, 107-108, 138, 140). MARY JANE BRADFORD (1825- ? ) was the eldest daughter of Davis' sister Amanda, and had accompanied the Davises to Washington in 1845 to be a companion to VARINA HOWELL DAVIS (March 7, 1826-October 16, 1906), Davis' second wife (Strode, American Patriot, 142, 157). VARINA DAVIS' MOTHER, Margaret Kempe Howell, lived in Natchez at The Briers. Davis' eldest sister ANNA ELIZA (September 1, 1791-August 13, 1870) had married Luther Smith in 1816 and lived at Locust Grove, near St. Fran-
cisville, Louisiana (Strode, American Patriot, 20, 104-105). THE GIRLS are presumably Lucinda's daughters, Jane Davis and Anna Aurelia Stamps. All genealogical data is from Harry A. Davis, The Davis Family (Davis and David) in Wales and America (Limited edition, Washington: Lancaster Press, 1927).

1 Added in the version printed in Strode (ed.), Private Letters.
2 Spelled correctly in Strode (ed.), Private Letters; printer's error.
3 Comma substituted for period in Strode (ed.), Private Letters.
4 Comma deleted in Strode (ed.), Private Letters.
5 Comma added after "character" in Strode (ed.), Private Letters.
6 "My dear Sister, . . . I love better" part of preceding paragraph in Strode (ed.), Private Letters.
7 Period substituted for comma and "she" capitalized in Strode (ed.), Private Letters.
8 "to Mr. Stamps and" and "and Jenny" deleted in Strode (ed.), Private Letters.
To Fellow-Citizens

Steamer Star Spangled Banner
Mississippi River, July 13, 1846

Fellow-Citizens:

Davis describes here, in addition to the extract printed below, the issues with which he was concerned in Congress at the time he left Washington July 4. The most important domestic legislation of the session was the "Walker tariff," a moderately protective measure passed by the House July 3. Framed by Secretary of the Treasury Robert J. Walker, a former Natchez, Mississippi, lawyer, the tariff advocated modified free trade and marked a shift from a specific to an ad valorem tariff (Congressional Globe, 29th Cong., 1st Sess., 1050-53; James P. Shenton, Robert John Walker: A Politician from Jackson to Lincoln [New York and London: Columbia University Press, 1961], 79-85). Davis had voted for passage of the bill, believing it to be advantageous to agricultural states because its highest duties fell on luxuries. He also says he had been working for passage of the Independent Treasury bill -- introduced in the House December 19, 1845, and passed April 2, 1846 -- believing it would pass the Senate, which it did August 1, and was signed by the President seven days later (Congressional Globe, 29th Cong., 1st Sess., 86, 591-95, 1175-76). Jesse Speight, Mississippi senator, introduced a bill which provided for a federal land grant...
to Mississippi to aid in the construction of a railroad through Mississippi to Alabama, which Davis hoped would pass the House in the fall session; the bill was referred to a House committee May 5 and died there (Congressional Globe, 29th Cong., 1st Sess., 751-52, 763, 1197, 29th Cong., 2nd Sess., 218). A bill to reduce and graduate the price of public lands had been introduced in the Senate in December, 1845, and in the House the same month; Davis introduced a resolution of the Mississippi legislature supporting the bill March 5, but the act failed to pass during the session (Congressional Globe, 29th Cong., 1st Sess., 45, 85, 461, 1179-80, 1195-96). Davis supported a bill introduced in the House December 4, 1845, for improvements in rivers and harbors which he believed would pass in the next session; it failed in the Senate July 14, and in the House the same day (Congressional Globe, 29th Cong., 1st Sess., 23, 1090, 1094). The Oregon boundary question had agitated Congressmen since the second day of the session and when Davis left Washington, he believed the problem settled by Congressional acceptance of the British proposal to divide the Oregon territory by the 49th parallel ("The Executive Journal on the Oregon Question," Congressional Globe, 29th Cong., 1st Sess., 1223-24; Eugene I. McCormac, James K. Polk, a Political Biography [New York: Russell & Russell, 1965], 607-609).
To Fellow-Citizens, July 13, 1846

I address you to explain the cause of my present absence from the seat of the federal government.

Those of our fellow-citizens who, in answer to a call of the President, had volunteered to serve the United States in the existing war with Mexico, have elected me for their Colonel, and the Governor has furnished me a commission in accordance with that election. Having received a military education and served a number of years in the line of the army, I felt that my services were due to the country, and believed my experience might be available in promoting the comfort, the safety and efficiency of the Mississippi Regiment in the campaign on which they were about the enter. Such considerations, united to the desire common to our people to engage in the military service of the country, decided me unhesitatingly to accept the command which was offered. The regiment was organized and waiting to be mustered into service preparatory to a departure for the army of operation. Under such circumstances, I could not delay until the close of the Congressional session, though then so proximate that it must occur before a successor could be chosen and reach the city of Washington. . . . The minister sent to Mexico under a previous understanding that diplomatic relations should be renewed, and invested with full powers to treat of all questions in dispute, was rejected, without even being allowed to present his credentials. It could
To Fellow-Citizens, July 13, 1846

not be permitted to our rival claimant thus to decide the question, and though the insult would have justified an immediate declaration of war, in a spirit of forbearance, the administration refrained from recommending this measure, and merely moved forward our troops to take possession of the entire territory claimed as our own, when there was no longer a prospect of adjustment by negotiation. This led to such hostilities as rendered it necessary to recognize the existence of war. Our government made the declaration in the mode provided by the constitution; and proceeded steadily to supply the means for a vigorous prosecution of the war into which we have been so unexpectedly drawn. In this connection it is worthy of remark that before a declaration was made on our part, the President of Mexico had made a similar declaration and the appointments of the Mexican army which crossed the Rio Grande to attack the forces of General Taylor, clearly show that they had advanced on that frontier for the purpose of invading the State of Texas.

The zeal shown in every quarter of the Union to engage in the service of our common country—the masses who have voluntarily come forward in numbers far exceeding the necessities of the occasion—attest the military strength of our Republic, and furnish just cause for patriotic pride and gratulation. I regret the disappointment felt by so many of my fellow-citizens of Mississippi at not being called
into service; and I have not failed to present the case fully to the Executive of the U. States. Your patriotic anxiety is well appreciated; nor is the propriety of your conduct in waiting until regularly called for, forgotten; and if the war should continue, as further supplies of troops be required, there is no doubt but that our State will be among the first looked to for new levies.

There are several subjects connected with the local interests of Mississippi upon which it would have been agreeable to me to have said something; but the great length to which this letter is already extended, induces me with a few remarks bearing more particularly upon myself, to terminate it.

Unless the government of Mexico shall very soon take such steps as to give full assurance of a speedy peace, so that I may resume my duties as your Representative at the beginning of the next session of Congress, my resignation will be offered at an early day, that full time may be allowed to select a successor.

Grateful to the people for their confidence and honor bestowed upon me, I have labored as their representative industriously. Elected on avowed and established principles, the cardinal points to guide my course were always before me. How well that course has accorded with your wishes how far it is approved by your judgment, it is not for me to anticipate; but I confidently rely on your generous al-
To Fellow-Citizens, July 13, 1846

lowance to give credit to my motives, and for the rest, as becomes a representative, I will cheerfully submit to your decision.

Jeff'n Davis
To Fellow-Citizens, July 13, 1846

L., printed in Jackson Mississippian, July 22, 1846 and in Dunbar Rowland (ed.), Jefferson Davis, Constitutionalist: His Letters, Papers and Speeches (10 vols., Jackson: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1923), I, 52-58. The original has not been found.

Davis was elected on June 18 to be Colonel of the 1st Mississippi Regiment of infantry which had been called into service by the volunteer bill passed May 13, 1846 and had been mustered into service June 3-12, 1846 at Vicksburg (Port-Gibson Correspondent, June 24, 1846; Vicksburg Sentinel & Expositor, June 3, 1846; Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, June 18, 1846). Davis' military education and service included his four years at and graduation from West Point in 1828 and his seven years' service in the Army where he rose to the rank of First Lieutenant of Dragoons before resigning June 30, 1835 (Heitman). Davis' successor to his seat in the House of Representatives was not chosen until December, 1846, Davis not having formally resigned until September 21, 1846 (Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, September 27, October 30, 1846; Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, December 24, 31, 1846, January 9, 12, 1847).

In explaining the declaration of war against Mexico, Davis mentions the minister sent to Mexico in December, 1845,
John Slidell, whose mission was to "adjust a permanent boundary between Mexico and the U. States." (Milo M. Quaife [ed.], The Diary of James K. Polk during his Presidency, 1845-1849 [4 vols., Chicago: McClurg, 1910], I, 33). Slidell was not received by the Mexican government, as the Mexican authorities regarded the annexation of Texas as a casus belli (Quaife [ed.], Diary of Polk, I, 319, 322; Castillo y Lanzas to Slidell, March 12, 21, 1846, in House Executive Documents, 30th Cong., 1st Sess., No. 60, pp. 67-72; McCormac, James K. Polk, 385-405). Polk ordered Zachary Taylor, then stationed at Corpus Christi, to move to the Rio Grande. Mexican forces, believing the move to be an invasion of Mexican territory, attacked an American scouting party April 25, which was declared by President Polk to be an act of war (Quaife [ed.], Diary of Polk, I, 384-94; McCormac, James K. Polk, 409-414). The PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, Mariano Paredes, did declare April 23 that a "defensive war" had begun (George L. Rives, The United States and Mexico, 1821-1848 [2 vols., New York: Scribner's, 1913], II, 141-42).

1Added for clarity.
Disability Discharge

To all whom it may concern

Know ye that Jesse Read a private of Captain Sharp's Company "A" 1st Regt of Miss. Volunteers, mustered into service on the 6th day of June 1846 to serve for one year, is hereby discharged from the Army of the United States. By virtue of Surgeons certificate given at New Orleans 22d July 1846 stating that he is incapable of performing the duties of a soldier, because permanently diseased in the bone of the leg; said private Read was born in the State of Alabama, Green County, is 23 years of age five feet nine & ½ inches high, fair complexion, hazel eyes, brown hair, and occupation a farmer

Given at New Orleans this 22nd day of July 1846.

Jeffn Davis

Col Comdg Regt & detachment
Disability Discharge, July 22, 1846

DS, National Archives Record Group 15, Records of the Veterans' Administration, Bounty Land Applications

Printed only as an example, this disability discharge was one of many Davis signed as commanding officer.
To Robert J. Walker

Camp at New Orleans
22d July 1846

Dear friend,

The first detachment of three companies from the Mississippi Rgt. have just sailed. The rifles have not arrived and from a letter sent my by Col. J. Roach it appears that they were not turned over to him but sent in the ordinary way -- may I ask of you to make some inquiry concerning this matter.

This evening and tomorrow I hope to get the balance of the Regt. under way. I have put my own affairs first and in this I have followed certainly a natural order; but the great question upon which I wish to address you concerns others. From all I can discover, the two men of our party who stand first here and hereabouts are Govr. Cass, and Sectry. Walker, the latter would have nothing to fear from the former in a democratic rivalry were it not for the influence exerted by the Custom house officers -- they appear odious to the american population and the Surveyor to have influence no where and I will add from all I can learn he don't deserve it. These men hang a dead weight upon you. The Jeffersonian has been touching the Surveyor quite closely about his connexion with a contract he is recommending the government to make with a Capt. Fullerton to run steamb[cat]s[1] to Brazos Santiago. You
will recollect that I called your attention to his hostility to the "Jeffersonian" it is believed to continue as I am informed by the same authority I gave you at the time I handed a letter to you from the publisher of that paper.

The only democratic paper here could do much good if unembarrassed -- more harm if rendered hostile to us. You will understand much more from this short letter than I have time in the midst of embarking preparations to write. I am (of) decidedly of the opinion that a friend of mine would be benefitted and the party advanced by the removal of surveyor Haysen. Very sincerely your friend.

Jeffn Davis
ROBERT JOHN WALKER (July 19, 1801-November 11, 1869) had resided in Mississippi since 1826 when he was successful Democratic candidate for the United States Senate in 1834 and served until February, 1845 when he became President Polk's Secretary of the Treasury. He worked for the independent treasury system and for tariff revision leading to the moderately protective "Walker tariff" of 1846. He was largely responsible for the creation of the Department of the Interior in 1849; in 1857 he was appointed governor of the turbulent Kansas Territory. During the Civil War he was a Unionist Democrat who undertook a trip to Europe to work in favor of Union bonds and to write pamphlets against Davis, slavery and debt repudiation. His wife, née Mary Blechynden Bache, was a good friend of Davis' wife's mother and the family connections were close (DAB; Shenton, Robert J. Walker, passim; Eron Rowland, Varina Howell: Wife of Jefferson Davis [2 vols., New York: Macmillan, 1927], I, 181; Varina Davis, Jefferson Davis, Ex-President of the Confederate States of America: A Memoir [2 vols., New York: Belford's, 1890], I, 262; Varina Davis to "My very Kind Friend," September 4, 1846, in Miscellaneous Manuscripts D, New-York Historical Society, New York).
To Robert J. Walker, July 22, 1846

THE FIRST DETACHMENT OF THREE COMPANIES, F, G, and I with Lieutenant Colonel Alexander K. McClung sailed on the New York July 22, 11.30 A.M.; Companies A, D, E, and K and Major Alexander B. Bradford followed on the Massachusetts the evening of the 22nd; Davis and THE BALANCE OF THE REGT. sailed on the Alabama July 23 (New Orleans Jeffersonian, July 23, 1846, quoted in Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, July 29, 1847). At the time this letter was written, the Whitney RIFLES which Davis had ordered especially for his regiment were en route from New York to New Orleans in the care of COLONEL JAMES ROACH (for biographical data, see Davis to Albert G. Brown, June 20, 1846). LEWIS CASS (October 9, 1782-June 17, 1866) was governor of the Michigan Territory from October, 1813 until he entered Andrew Jackson's cabinet as Secretary of War in 1835; he was elected to the Senate from Michigan in 1845 and was the unsuccessful Democratic nominee for President in 1848 (DAB). The PUBLISHER OF THE JEFFERSONIAN was John F. H. Claiborne (April 24, 1807-May 17, 1884), former Democratic congressman from Mississippi, 1835-37, longtime supporter of Robert J. Walker, former editor of the Mississippi Free Trader and former editor, with Walker, of the Natchez Statesman in 1833 (DAB; Shenton, Robert J. Walker, 26, 28, 32; Dunbar Rowland, History of Mississippi: The Heart of the South [2 vols., Chicago: S. F. Clarke, 1925], II, 615). DAVID HAYDEN was a United States SURVEYOR for the
Customs House in New Orleans, had served since October 1, 1844, and had not been removed from his post as late as May 21, 1847 (George H. Bibb to House of Representatives, February 20, 1845, in *House Documents*, 28th Cong., 2nd Sess., No. 153, p. 10; James K. Polk Papers, Library of Congress). See also Davis to Walker, November 30, 1846, following, for more on Democratic party politics and the New Orleans newspapers.

¹Manuscript torn, conjectural reading.
To Roger Jones

Camp at New Orleans
23rd July 1846

Sir,

Herewith I have the honor to transmit the resignation of 1st Lieut. Philip J. Burrus of Co. "A" 1st Regt. Miss. Volunteers. He has been granted a leave of absence for ten days, his health rendering him unable to accompany the Regiment.

Any Communication you may think proper to address to him will be directed to the Hot Springs Arkansaw.

Under the circumstances and from no other consideration than his ill health, I recommend that his resignation be accepted as offered. Vy Respectfully Yr Mt Obt Svt.

Jeffn Davis
To His Excellency James K. Polk Prest of the U. S.

Sir,

I was elected on the 13th of last May 1st Lt of the Yazoo County Volunteers State of Mississippi. I had hoped that I would be able to render some service to my country, but my health has declined so rapidly I am now unable to perform the duties of the office, in consequence of which, I herewith tender to you my resignation as 1st Lt of the Yazoo County Volunteers Company "A (Miss)" 1st Miss. Regmt to take effect from the 1st of August next.

Most respectfully your humble servant

Philip J. Burrus
To Roger Jones, July 23, 1846

L, National Archives Record Group 15, Records of the Veterans Administration, Organizational Index, Mexican War, Mississippi Volunteers, 1st Regiment.

ROGER JONES ( ? - July 15, 1852), had been Adjutant General since August 10, 1818 (Heitman). See also Davis to William W. S. Bliss, September 3, 1846, following.
Receipt of Pay for Mileage

[August 1, 1846]

Davis signs a voucher as received in full $3488.00 for 1900 miles at eighty cents per mile and services for 246 days, at eight dollars per day from January 21 to August 1, 1846. 2 pp.

Mouth of Rio Grande
16th Aug. 1846

Dear Wife,

I am here daily expecting boats to ascend the River, much chafed by delay but in good health. Your Brother is in good health though from change of diet and water we have had very many on our sick report. The future has an aspect as peaceful as you desire, and sorely to the disappointment of the Missi patriots we can hear nothing of warlike preparations by the Mexicans.

I have remembered your request on the subject of profanity and have improved. Have you remembered mine on the subject of prayer, and a steady reliance on the justice of one who sees through the veil of conduct to the motives of the heart. Be pious, be calm, be useful, and charitable and temperate in all things.

My love to our family and believe me to think the balance of two sheets at least which I would like to write to my sweet Winnie. Farewell wife

your Husband
To Varina H. Davis, August 16, 1846


Davis and the Mississippi regiment arrived at the mouth of the Rio Grande August 3, and were not to ASCEND THE RIVER until August 24, when they were moved to Camargo, the American army of occupation headquarters (Davis to Robert J. Walker, August 24, 1846, following; Jackson Mississippian, August 24, 1846; Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, August 25, 1846). YOUR BROTHER is Joseph Davis Howell, a private in Company C (Muster Roll, Miss. Archives). The Secretary of War's annual report for 1846 stated that 290 of the Mississippi regiment were discharged for disability after only two months' service, enforcing Davis' statement that VERY MANY [ARE] ON SICK REPORT, a fact also noted in Mississippi newspapers (Senate Executive Documents, 29th Cong., 2nd Sess., No. 48, p. 7; Vicksburg Sentinel & Expositor, September 1, 1846; Port-Gibson Correspondent, September 5, 1846). WINNIE is a nickname for Varina Davis.
Dear Sir,

A part of our Regt. has started to Comargo. I embark in a few hours with another detachment making a total of five Companies. We have met delay and detention at every turn, the quar[ter]masters at New Orleans have behaved either most incompetently or maliciously, and I am now but two days in possession of the Rifle[s] ordered forward before I left Washington.

But don't give the quarter master's Dept. credit for that, my acknowledgements for having them now are due to your Naval Militia. Maj. Roach despairing of the q. M. Dept. applied to Capt. Webster of the revenue service who placed the arms on the cutters "Ewing" and "Legare" and brought them to the Brazos Santiago. The ammunition and accoutrements sent from Baton Rouge to be forwarded by the quarter Master have not arrived and the ordnance stores on the frontier above, have a very insufficient supply of Rifle ammunition. All this arises from having a bundle of papers and prejudices against Volunteers charged with the duties of quarter Master at New Orleans -- viz. Lt. Col. & Asst. Qr. Master Hunt of the U. S. Army.
To Robert J. Walker, August 24, 1846

I must acknowledge the debt due from the Missi. Volunteers for service timely and courteously rendered by Capts. Webster and Moore Comdg. the Cutter "Ewing" and the Captain comdg. the "Legare." If you can notice their conduct, I hope we may so use the rifles as to show the service was not to us alone.

Maj. Roach informs me that the surveyor of the port of New Orleans Mr. Hayden gave him kind assistance and feeling that it was done as a favor to your friends causes me to regret that I heard the statements in New Orleans which were communicated to you.

The mouth of this River has but little to invite one seeking the Land of promise to enter it the banks are low and without trees, but the current meets the sea with such force as to keep the entrance generally smooth, and it has been to me a matter of surprise that goods bound up the river were not brought ashore here, instead of being carried over the breakers at the Brazos in lighters & then brought in other lighters here. The anchorage is said to be equally good and the entrance habitually more quiet, though somewhat more shallow. I have not received the letter you intended to send me but hope always abides and cheering us onward leads to the expected letter from at Army Head Qrs.
"Claiborne" went off on the Louisiana Volunteers, (as I understand it a mere pretext) for the fact is they were sick of the job, and but very of all I have seen wished to remain longer in this country. Our Regt. have suffered much from disease, had transportation been furnished promptly we would gone with a full Regt. and what is more important, with men full of zeal, and vigor; into the Campaign.

Though we pick the mill stone we can't see through it, if ever I find a hole it will give me pleasure to communicate to you the wonders found within.

Present me to Mrs. Walker in the kindest terms and give my remembrances to my young friends, your Children. With great regard I am yrs. &c

Jeffn Davis
To Robert J. Walker, August 24, 1846

ALS, Davis (Jefferson) Papers, Miss. Archives. Photocopy, original not found. Walker's letter to Davis mentioned here has not been found.

For identification of ROBERT JOHN WALKER and MRS. WALKER, see Davis to Walker, July 22, 1846; for identification of COLONEL JAMES ROACH, see Davis to A. G. Brown, June 20, 1846. The Whitney RIFLES were especially ordered for the Mississippi regiment and were not regular army issue (Jefferson Davis, "Autobiography," Belford's Magazine (January, 1890), 256; James A. Huston, The Sinews of War: Army Logistics, 1775-1953 [Washington: Government Printing Office, 1955], 129-31; Smith, I, 450). Roach reported that the rifles were put on board the privately-owned cutter EWING captained by Guy Moore at New Orleans August 6, rather than waiting for a government-owned vessel authorized by LIEUTENANT COLONEL AND DEPUTY QUARTERMASTER GENERAL THOMAS F. HUNT ( ? - December 22, 1856) (Roach to Thomas S. Jesup, August 8, 1846, in NA RG 92, Quartermaster General, Letters Received, File R-29 1846; Heitman; Jackson Mississippian, August 12, 1846; Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, August 11, 1846).

DAVID HAYDEN was SURVEYOR of the port of New Orleans for the Customs House (for identification, see Davis to Walker, July 22, 1846).
A port at the MOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE would have been preferable to the one at BRAZOS SANTIAGO, Texas, as Davis says, but the Rio Grande had deposited a silt bar at its mouth which blocked navigation for most vessels. The LIGHTERS were necessary there and at the Brazos port because ships drawing less than eight feet could not come closer than four miles to land (Huston, *Sinews of War*, 139-40).

The CLAIBORNE Volunteers were organized in May, 1846, failed to be mustered into the regiment at Vicksburg in June, but sailed at their own expense to Point Isabel, Texas, where they were assigned to the First Texas regiment. In August, the Texans voted to disband, being three-month enlistees; some of the Mississippians left, too, but enough stayed to save the company, which was assigned to Brigadier General David E. Twiggs's brigade and saw action at the battle of Monterrey, September 21-23. The company returned to Mississippi in November, 1846 (Dunbar Rowland, *The Official and Statistical Register of the State of Mississippi, 1903* Nashville: Brandon, 1908, 405-406, 414-15; Rowland, *Mississippi*, I, 659).

OUR REGT. HAVE SUFFERED MUCH FROM DISEASE, Davis had reported to his wife in an earlier letter (see Davis to V. Davis, August 16, 1846, above); the official count was 290 discharged due to disability at the end of two months'
service (Senate Executive Documents, 29th Cong., 2nd Sess., No. 48, p. 7). For the illness, Davis partially blames lack of prompt TRANSPORTATION from New Orleans where the volunteer camps were notoriously unsanitary (Vicksburg Sentinel & Expositor, July 25, 1846; Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, July 25, 1846).

1 Edge of manuscript torn; conjectural reading.
2 Maybe Zachary Taylor, whose headquarters were at Camargo.
3 Added for clarity.
4 Word left out; the letter was evidently written in haste.
To William W. S. Bliss

Camp near Camargo
3rd Sept. 1846

Sir

Herewith I enclose to You the resignation of additional 2nd. Liut Hodge and recommend that it be accepted. At the time it was offered I had received no instructions in relation to the Class of Officers to which he belonged, and permitted him to retire as an Officer attached to the Regt. but who was not a part of it, and he is now absent with the understanding that he is no long accountable to me.

I also enclose the resignation (a duplicate) of 1st. Lieut Burrus of Co "A" which was offered at New Orleans. Believing him unfit for service, I gave him ten days leave of absence and forwarded the 1st letter, of which the original enclosed is believed to be a Copy; to the Adjt. Genl. U. S. A. I send a copy of my letter to that Officer herewith.

Lt Burrus' leave expired and he has been absent without leave from the 2nd. August. No communication from the Adjt. Genl. in relation to his case has been received. I should be pleased to have authority to hold elections to supply both Vacancies.

This letter is addressed to Army Hq. Quarters because it refers to events which transpired before the
To William W. S. Bliss, September 3, 1846

Regiment was assigned to a Brigade I have the honor to be Vy Respectfully Your Obt Srt.

Jeffn Davis
Col. Mi. Vols.

[E] Camp near Camargo,
Sept. 3d, 1846.
Jefferson Davis,
Col. Comg Miss Regt.
Relative to the resignation of Lieut. Burrus, &c.
To William W. S. Bliss, September 3, 1846

LS, National Archives Record Group 94, Records of the Office of the Adjutant General, Muster Rolls, Returns, Regimental Papers, Volunteer Organizations, Mexican War, Mississippi Regiment, Box 2141. The enclosures have not been found, though the originals of them are printed above, Davis to Roger Jones, July 23, 1846. Hodge's resignation is dated August 20, 1846, in National Archives Record Group 15, Records of the Veterans' Administration, Organizational Index: Mexican War, Mississippi Volunteers.

WILLIAM WALLACE SMITH BLISS ( ? - August 5, 1853), a graduate of the United States Military Academy in 1833, was brevet major and assistant adjutant general to Major General Zachary Taylor from July 7, 1846 (Heitman). ADDITIONAL SECOND LIEUTENANT BENJAMIN L. HODGE, of Company D, was tendered to Davis August 20 (see above). FIRST LIEUTENANT PHILIP J. BURRUS resigned July 20 at New Orleans; his letter is enclosed in Davis to Roger Jones, the ADJUTANT GENERAL, July 23, 1846 (see above). Davis' regiment had been assigned the day before to the second field BRIGADE under Brigadier General John A. Quitman (NA RG 94, Adjutant General, Records Relating to Wars: Mexican War, Army of Occupation, Orders, Vol. 3, p. 65, order no. 112).
To George H. Crosman

Near Comargo

3d September 1846

Dear Crosman,

I met a "musician" going over to fill the wind instruments, and sent him on without any other credentials than his Mississippi face to appear in court.

The bearer a drummer being a man of resources and anxious to make a noise in the world, has suggested that if he had time and sheep-skins he could make heads, without which you will agree no man should make a noise.

What says the Don about the mule. Let the old soldier come this evening. Very truly I am, as ever yours,

Jeffer. Davis
LbC, National Archives Record Group 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Letters Received by Major George H. Crosman.

GEORGE HAMPTON CROSMAN ( ? - 1882) was brevet major and assistant quartermaster at Camargo, attached to Zachary Taylor's headquarters since July, 1845 (Heitman; Risch, Quartermaster Support, 241).
To Joseph E. Davis

Monterey, Sept. 25th, 1846.

My dear Brother:

The town is ours after a severe conflict. The Mississippians were brought into action on the 21st and performed some brilliant service. On the 22nd preparations were made, and we held an advance post. On the morning of the 23rd we (the Mississippians) opened the action early, and continued firing and advancing into the town until near sunset, when we were ordered to withdraw.

On the 24th propositions having been received to capitulate, Gen. Worth, and Gen. Henderson of Texas, and myself, were appointed commissioners to arrange the terms of capitulation. We agreed, and the papers have been exchanged, as was reported to us, by the Mexican General, that Mexico had received commissioners from the United States. They were whipped, and we could afford to be generous. We hope soon to return as the war is probably over.

With love to all -- I am your brother.
To Joseph E. Davis, September 25, 1846

L, printed in the Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, October 27, 1846. There is another version partially quoted as above, partially paraphrased, in the Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, October 22, 1846. Original not found.

That the addressee is JOSEPH EMORY DAVIS, Davis' oldest brother, is given in an introductory paragraph to the letter. Joseph Davis (December 10, 1784-September 18, 1870) was a native of Georgia and had practiced law in Pinckneyville, Greenville and Natchez, Mississippi from 1812 until his retirement in 1827. He was a wealthy and highly successful planter, owner of Hurricane plantation on the Mississippi River near Vicksburg (James D. Lynch, The Bench and Bar of Mississippi [New York: E. J. Hale, 1881], 72-78). For details of the SEVERE CONFLICT at Monterrey, September 21-23, see Davis to John A. Quitman, September 26, 1846 and additional report, nd, following. For identification of MAJOR GENERAL JAMES PINCKNEY HENDERSON and MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM JENKINS WORTH, see Davis to the Editor of the Washington Union, January 6, 1847, following. See also Davis to V. Davis, October 5, 1846, following, for the story of the UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.

An editorial note in the Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, October 24 stated that Davis must have been "humbugged" if he believed Ampudia's story of the reception of United States commissioners; the same note accused Davis of
being concerned with only his own actions in the battle, "and the safety of himself and [his] relatives." Joseph E. Davis, in a letter to the editors of the Weekly Sentinel dated October 30 and printed November 3, refuted both points; he explained that the original letter was in the hands of T. E. Robins of Vicksburg and that editors of both Vicksburg papers were allowed access to it. Another editorial in the Vicksburg Daily Whig of November 3 condemned Joseph Davis' October 30 letter and reiterated the charge of Davis' vainglorious attitude about the battle.
To John A. Quitman

Monterey, Mexico

26th Sept. 1846

Sir,

In conformity with your instructions I have the honor to report such facts in relation to the conduct of the Regiment of Miss. Riflemen on the 21st and 23d. Insts. as came under my immediate observation, and will add such explanations as may seem necessary. When on the morning of the 21st. the 1st Division was drawn up in order of battle before the City of Monterey, you will remember that the position of the Regt. under my command was thought to be too much exposed, and that it was detached to the left. Separated from the division, I did not hear the orders by which it was put in motion, but seeing the other Regiment of your Brigade (Col. Campbell's) moving towards the enemy, I ordered the Miss. Riflemen to advance by the left of the Battalion and follow it.

(By-this-means) Thus when the Regiments of your Brigade were united their natural order was inverted. In this order under a cross fire of artillery we advanced in front of the Fort upon our left; to a point within the range of the enemy's musketry, but beyond the effective fire of our Rifles. Under your orders to fill an interval which had been created upon my left, I ordered the
<companies-of-my-command>Mississippi Riflemen to advance obliquely by the left of companies to a line which I estimated as effectively near to the enemy, and then ordered the Battalion into line -- the companies being directed, <as-soon-as> when formed, to commence firing as in open order. In a few minutes the fire of the enemy had so far diminished as to indicate the propriety of a charge and being without instructions it was accordingly ordered.

Lieut. Col. McClung sprung before his old company and called on them to follow him. The call was promptly answered. In an instant the whole Regiment rushed forward, the flanks converging to the sally-port which lay nearly before our centre, and it became a contest of speed who first should reach the Fort. The Enemy fled from the rear sally-porte as we entered the front, leaving behind his Artillery, a considerable number of Muskets, his dead and wounded. Passing immediately through the Fort, we found the Enemy flying in disorder -- some to a fortified stone building immediately in rear, others across the stream to the Fort which stands beyond it. Our pursuit was so close that we reached the gate of the stone building before it was secured, and upon forcing it open the men inside fled behind the pilasters of the Portico and held up their hands in token of submission. An Officer offered me his sword and announced the surrender. I received it and retired to select an officer to take charge of the
prisoners, and receive their arms. Lieut. Townsend of Co. "K" was directed to discharge this duty, and the pursuit of the enemy was immediately resumed. Leading those who had come up across the ford, we advanced within Rifle range of the Fort beyond the stream, and opened a fire upon such of the Enemy as showed themselves above the wall. The intention being to storm the Fort as soon as a sufficient number of our Regiment came up. In this position we received no fire from the Enemy's Artillery, and his Musketry had not proved destructive, up to the time when I was ordered to retire.

Until after we withdrew I knew nothing of the position or co-operations of the force on our right. In accordance with my instructions, and expecting to find the main body of my Regiment, I passed up the street to our then right with the force just withdrawn across the stream. We soon became mingled with other troops which we found along the wall, and after rallying my command for a forward movement, I found it much reduced. Capt. Cooper had kept say twenty of his company together; with these and about ten others of our Regiment, I advanced until we met with Capt. Field of the U. S. Army, who led us to a point where he had discovered a considerable body, probably one hundred of the enemy; on our approach they fled beyond a street which was enfiladed by the fire of a strong party sheltered behind the Tete du Pont of the prin-
To John A. Quitman, September 26, 1846

principal bridge. Capt. Cooper with the party accompanying
us was posted in an interior building to act as
sharp shooters against the men of the Tete du pont, until
we should be sufficiently reinforced for more offensive
operations. After a brief period we were joined by Major
Mansfield of the U. S. Engineers with a small party of
the 1st Infantry under his command. Whilst the men were
resting we reconnoitered the position, and decided on
a plan of attack. At this instant we were joined by
Genl. Hamer with a portion of his Brigade, and from him
we received orders to retire; as I was afterwards informed
to give protection to a Battery of Artillery threatened
by Lancers in the rear.

In the mean time a few individuals, but no organized
portion of my Regiment, had joined me, and we followed
in rear of Genl. Hamer's column. After having proceeded
the half of a mile or more, the Enemy's cavalry approached
appeared on our left, and the troops in front began to
close and form on a Chapparel fence in advance of us.
The men under my command had undergone such severe fatigue
that their movements were necessarily slow, and some of
them fell behind, when a party of Lancers dashed forward
to attack the rear. I ordered the Riflemen to face about
and returned to the relief of our comrades. The movement
was rapidly executed, and though the files were in loose
order, their effective fire soon drove the Enemy back,
leaving several dead behind him. Soon after this I was joined by Major Bradford with the portion of our Regiment which had served under his orders a great portion of the day, and for whose conduct during that period, I refer to Major Bradford’s report accompanying this statement. We were now on the ground where for the third time during the day we had been under the cross fire of the Enemy’s Batteries, and where I learned from You the position of another portion of my Regiment, and received your orders to join, and consolidate it. Were I to mention all the instances of gallantry and soldierly firmness which came under my observation, this statement would extend beyond a convenient limit. I saw no exhibition of fear, no want of confidence, but in every side the men who stood around me were prompt and willing to execute my orders. I cannot omit to mention the gallant bearing of Lieut. Col. McClung. At the storming of the Fort, he first mounted the parapet, and turning to the Regiment waved his Sword over his head in token of the triumph of our Arms. Leaving him in that position to cheer the men on to further danger, it was my misfortune soon after to lose his services. At the fortified stone building he was dangerously wounded. I must also mention Lieut. Patterson who sprang into the Sally-porte as Col. McClung mounted the parapet, and fired the first American piece within the work of the enemy.
Capt. Downing is whom is happily combined the qualities of a leader and commander, was severely wounded (whilst among the foremost) cheering his company to the charge, and I have felt severely the loss of his services.

Corporal Grisham of Capt. Taylor's Company "I", fell near me after we had crossed the stream, and were advancing upon the Fort beyond it. He had fired his Rifle several times, and was advancing firing with exemplary intrepidity, when he fell pierced by two wounds and died as he had fought -- calmly, silently, and with his eye upon the foe. Lieut. Calhoun attracted my notice by the gallantry with which he exposed himself, and the efforts he made to shelter others. Pleased with the enthusiasm and dashing spirit of all, I was yet more struck with many instances of coolness which verged upon indifference to danger, but which the limits of this communication will not allow me especially to notice. Subjoined is a list of the killed and wounded, in the action of the 21st of September, 1846.

Killed Seven, viz:

Corpl. Wm. H. Grisham, Co. "I"
Private L. M. Turner, " " "C"
    " Silas Meecham, " " "E"
    " Samuel Potts " " "G"
    " Jos. P. Tennille " "H"
To John A. Quitman, September 26, 1846

"Joseph Heatron " "I"
"Joseph Downing " "I".

Wounded in the same action forty seven, viz:

Four Commissioned Officers, five non-com'd & thirty Eight

privates, as follows,

Lieut. Col. A. K. McClung -- dangerously
Captain R. N. Downing -- severely

and Sergt. W. H. Bell, Co. "K", dangerously

Five privates of Company "B", viz: W. H. Miller
& J. H. Jackson dangerously; A. Lanehart, severely;
J. L. Anderson & G. H. Jones, slightly.

One private of Company "C", viz: H. B. Thompson, slight-
ly.

Seven privates of Company "D", viz: G. W. Ramsey,
mortally and since died; Alpheus Cobb, dangerously; Geo.
Wills, O. W. Jones, and W. Huffman severely; Wm. Orr and
D. Love, slightly.

Nine privates of Company "E", viz: A. P. Burnham,
mortally and since died; H. W. Pierce and Wm. Shadt,
dangerously; Wm. H. Fleming severely; Jacob Fredericks,
John Coleman, W. P. Spencer, M. M. Smith, and James
Kilvey, slightly.
To John A. Quitman, September 26, 1846


Three privates of Company "H", viz: Fredk. Mathers, mortally; B. F. Roberts and Avery Noland, slightly.

Three privates of Company "I", viz: C. F. Cotton and G. Williams, severely; Nat. Massie, slightly.


Very respectfully

Jeffn Davis
Col. Miss. Riflemen

[AE] Col Davis' Report of the 21 Sep
JOHN ANTHONY QUITMAN (September 1, 1798-June 17, 1858) was commander of the second brigade, first division of volunteers under Major General Zachary Taylor and was Davis' immediate superior. Quitman was a Mississippian, a lawyer from Natchez who had served in the state legislature in 1827, was chancellor of the state, 1827-35, and state senator in 1835. He was governor of Monterrey after its capture, was promoted to major general April 14, 1847, and was later governor of Mississippi, 1850-51 (DAB; Heitman). COLONEL WILLIAM B. CAMPBELL was commander of the other regiment in Quitman's brigade, the Tennessee volunteer infantry. The two regiments advanced under the fire from La Tenería redoubt, THE FORT UPON OUR LEFT, and exposed to the CROSS FIRE OF ARTILLERY from La Tenería and from a redoubt on the Marín road to their right and rear. Davis called for the charge on the fort without being so ordered; LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER K. McCLUNG led the way at the head of HIS OLD COMPANY, "K," and it was here that McClung was severely wounded (See also Davis to Balie Peyton, November 14, Davis to John Jenkins, November 16, 1846, and Davis to Joseph E. Davis, January 26,
1847, following, for events involving the taking of La Tenería). The Mexicans inside the fort fled toward
A FORTIFIED STONE BUILDING, the tannery to the rear of the redoubt, and to El Rincón del Diablo, 400 yards
away, the FORT ACROSS THE STREAM which ran from the center of Monterrey to the Santa Catarina River. SECOND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM P. TOWNSEND of Company K took charge of the thirty-
or thirty-five prisoners taken at La Tenería. When Davis found CAPTAIN DOUGLAS H. COOPER, Company B, with his men,
and CAPTAIN GEORGE P. FIELD of the United States Third Infantry, killed in the action of the 21st, they made their
way to the TETE-DE-PONT OF THE PRINCIPAL BRIDGE, La Purísima, over which the road to Marín passed through
the city and which was heavily fortified. MAJOR JOSEPH KING FENNO MANSFIELD (° -September 18, 1862) and
BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS L. HAMER (° -December 2, 1846), commanding the Ohio regiment of HIS BRIGADE joined Davis,
Cooper and Field and ordered them to retire. MAJOR ALEXANDER B. BRADFORD and his command rejoined Davis
on the march back to camp, having remained in and around the tannery building. Davis mentions the bravery of
FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. H. PATTERSON of Company K,
CAPTAIN REUBEN N. DOWNING, Company G, CORPORAL WILLIAM H. GRISHAM, Company I, and SECOND LIEUTENANT JAMES CALHOUN,
Company B (Heitman; Muster Roll, Miss. Archives; Davis,
To John A. Quitman

No Date

Additional Report.

Sir,

Omitting to notice those occurrences which transpired whilst with you holding the Fort on the 22nd, I resume my statement at the point when ordered out to reconnoiter the movements and position of the enemy on the morning of the 23d. My command consisted of Company "H", commanded by 1st. Lieut. Moore; Company "G", commanded by 1st. Lieut. Greaves; and two companies of Col. Campbell's Regiment, under the command of Lieut. Col. Anderson. Having been deprived of the very valuable services of Adjutant Griffith of the Riflemen by an injury received in his shoulder, which compelled him to remain in Camp, Lieut. Cook, at a time when the duty we had to perform was both difficult & perilous, offered me his services and rendered great assistance. As we advanced into the Town, armed bodies of men fled through the streets at our approach. Having turned the flank of the Fort, we found it evacuated -- the Artillery removed, as I suppose, under cover of the night, and we took possession of it; but as it was commanded by the Forts in rear of it, and the terre pleine exposed to their fire, it was necessary to take shelter upon the outer side. At this time I was accompanied by, and received valuable assistance and advice
To John A. Quitman, additional report, nd

from Lieut. Scarrett of the Engineers. After a reconnoissance still further to the left, I received your orders to advance to what my examination induced me to believe a better position; and my command was changed in relieving Company "G", by Capt. Cooper's Company "B" of our Regiment, and by substituting for one of the Companies of Col. Campbell's Regiment, Company "D", of the Mississippi Riflemen, commanded by 1st. Lieut. Russell. Finding no Enemy within our range at the next position, we advanced to a breast-work thrown across the termination of a street to our left. Whilst examining it, I was twice fired at by sharp-shooters. The files of my command nearest to me stepped forward to punish the assailants, and in a few moments we were in action. Our fire was effective upon the right, but the enemy posted upon the top of a large building on our left, continued to fire from his place of security, and killed one of our men, whose gallant conduct had, I remember, attracted your attention -- Private Tyree of Co. "K" whose, his Company being in rear, had voluntarily come up & joined us. We had (I think) done all which we could effect from that position when you directed us to a place of greater safety, to which you had ordered the remaining companies of my Regt. to advance. I regret that Capt. Taylor and his company was not relieved from the duty with which I had charged him; that
of holding a post in the rear which he held was very important in the event of our being compelled to retire. I had found him so efficient on the previous occasion, and his company so prompt and gallant, that I regretted his absence. After we were joined by the Texan Volunteers under Genl. Henderson, I derived great support from them as well from their gallantry as their better knowledge of the construction of Mexican houses.

We continued to advance and drive the enemy by passing through courts, gardens, and houses, taking every favorable position to fire from the house tops, which from their style of architecture furnishes a good defence against Musketry. Until near the Plaza where we found all the street barricaded, and swept by so severe a fire, that to advance from our last position, it became necessary to construct a defence across the street. For this purpose we used the baggage and pack saddles found in the houses; and though under a fire of Artillery as well as Musketry, had more than half finished the work, when we received orders to retire. This was done in good order, though I regret to say that the Enemy, emboldened by the first retrograde movement, followed our retreat by a cross street and wounded several of our party; among others Lieut. Howard of the Miss. Riflemen, who was bringing up the rear. As on the former occasion, to name those whose conduct
equaled my highest expectations and hopes, would be to furnish a list of the Officers and men engaged in the action.

I wish to mention for your notice two gentlemen who joined my Regiment and served in the ranks as Volunteers on the 23rd — Major E. R. Price of Natchez, and Capt. J. R. Smith late of the Louisiana volunteers; they were both conspicuous for their gallantry and energy on every trying occasion — always with the advanced detachment, and as prompt in the observance of orders, as in the encounter of danger.

Whilst I cannot mention all who deserve commendation, and feel that you will bear me out in claiming the highest credit for each, I cannot forbear from naming Capt. Cooper, Lieuts. Moore, Russell and Cook, and Sergeant Major Harlan, who being especially under my observation and generally out of your view, might otherwise pass without that notice which their most soldierly conduct so well merits.

The conduct of Regimental Surgeon, Seymour Halsey, is worthy of the highest credit, and claims especial notice. On the 21st he was on the field of battle, and exposed several times to much personal danger whilst giving early relief to the wounded, and has effected much by his attention since. To his vigilance and skill it is fair to assign the fact that but one case of amputation has occurred in our Regiment up to this date.
To John A. Quitman, additional report, nd

List of the killed and wounded in the action of the 23d.

Killed, one viz:

Private John M. Tyree, of Com. "K".

Wounded, four viz:

   do P. W. Johnson, "C", severely
   do Platt Snedicor, "K", mortally

2d. Lieut. Howard, "D", severely

Killed on the 22d, viz:

Private Danl. D. Dubois, of Com. "H"

Wounded on the 22d viz:


Jeffn Davis
Col. Mi. Riflemen

[Col: Davis' Additional Report of affair 23d. September]
To John A. Quitman, additional report, nd


For identification of JOHN ANTHONY QUITMAN, see Davis to Quitman, September 26, 1846, above. Davis and his men garrisoned THE FORT, La Tenería, the day and night of September 22; the stone tannery building and the redoubt had been taken the day before by COLONEL WILLIAM B. CAMPBELL'S REGIMENT, the Tennessee volunteer infantry and Davis' regiment. HAVING TURNED THE FLANK OF THE FORT, El Rincón del Diablo, 400 yards east of La Tenería and COMMANDED BY THE FORTS IN REAR OF IT, redoubts on the eastern side of Monterrey, Davis advanced to the city streets.

Davis' subordinates mentioned here are: FIRST LIEUTENANT ROBERT MOORE; FIRST LIEUTENANT STEPHEN A. D. GREAVES; FIRST LIEUTENANT HENRY F. COOK who was serving as ADJUTANT in the place of SECOND LIEUTENANT RICHARD GRIFFITH of Company C; CAPTAIN DOUGLAS H. COOPER; FIRST LIEUTENANT DANIEL R. RUSSELL; CAPTAIN JAMES H. R. TAYLOR whose Company I was on duty in the rear and not involved;
SERGEANT MAJOR CHARLES T. HARLAN of Company H; SECOND LIEUTENANT LEWIS T. HOWARD, Company D, and DR. SEYMOUR HALSEY, of Company C (for identification of Halsey, see Davis et al to James K. Polk, June 23, 1846, above). LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD ANDERSON commanded the companies of the Tennessee regiment who served with the Mississippians. MAJOR GENERAL JAMES PINCKNEY HENDERSON, commander of four Texas regiments, was later an American commissioner at the armistice negotiations (for identification, see Davis to Editor of the Washington Union, January 6, 1847, following). FIRST LIEUTENANT JEREMIAH MASON SCARRITT was the engineer who aided Davis in reconnaissance of El Rincón del Diablo. MAJOR EZRA R. PRICE and CAPTAIN JOHN R. SMITH had been discharged as three-month volunteers from the Fourth LOUISIANA VOLUNTEER infantry regiment in August (for more on Price, see Davis to unknown addressee, October 5, 1846, following). The ORDERS TO RETIRE were given by Quitman because of inadequate support to the rear of the Mississippi and Tennessee regiments (Heitman; Muster Roll, Miss. Archives; Rowland, Official Register, 405, 409; Smith, I, 255-56; Davis, "Memoranda of events," 143-46; Davis to Albert G. Brown, September 20, 1847, in Rowland [ed.], Davis, Constitutionalist, I, 109-114; reports of Davis' subordinates, various dates, in Rowland [ed.], Davis, Constitutionalist, I, 109-138).
To Unknown Addressee

Monterey, October 5, 1846.

Before this reaches, you will have heard of the success of our arms at this place. From the bearer (Major Price) you can learn all accurately and in detail; he can say, as did the pious AEneas, cuncta quorum vide, and I will add that which his modesty might prevent him from doing, that he played a conspicuous part in all he saw. After forced marches, a hard press being made on the morning of the action, he joined the Mississippi Regiment, in the hour of engagement and remained with the advance. I had abundant opportunity to observe him and can say to you that a more gallant fellow never stood under fire. He was prompt to enter every scene of useful danger, and was cool as brave in the discharge of his duties.
To Unknown Addressee, October 5, 1846

I, extract, printed in Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, December 1, 1846. Original not found.

That the writer is Davis is given in an introductory sentence to the letter. EZRA R. PRICE, first lieutenant and adjutant of the "Sparrow Volunteers," Company E, fourth regiment of Louisiana volunteer infantry, had been discharged from that regiment in Matamoros in August, 1846, because the three-month term of enlistment had expired. He joined the American army and saw action in the battle of Monterrey, September 21-23. When the second Mississippi regiment was formed in January, 1847, Price was elected MAJOR (Heitman; Rowland, Official Register, 405, 416; David Lavender, Climax at Buena Vista: The American Campaigns in Northeastern Mexico, 1846-47 [Philadelphia and New York: Lippincott, 1966], 66; Davis to John A. Quitman, additional report, nd, above; Vicksburg Weekly Whig, January 13, 1847.
To Varina H. Davis

Monterey

5th Oct. 1846

My dear Wife,

I wrote to you soon after the capitulation of this city, since then the most important event to you and to me which has transpired is the arrival of your letter of Spt. 5th. [manuscript cut here]

My health is very good and my ignorance of our future movements as entire as your own. The Mexican General assured us before the terms of Capitulation were agreed on that commissioners from the United States had been received at Mexico, if this was half true a portion of the forces here must be soon disbanded. Yr. Brother is well. My love to your parents and the young folks. affectionately your husband

Jeffn Davis
To Varina H. Davis, October 5, 1846

ALS, Davis Family Correspondence, 1846-89, Confederate Museum, Richmond. The manuscript is incomplete; approximately half the original text has been cut from the middle of the letter. Neither of the letters mentioned in the first sentence has been found.

The MEXICAN GENERAL, Pedro de Ampudia, commanding at Monterrey told the American commissioners who agreed on the terms of the capitulation that his orders to defend the city were rescinded by virtue of the change in the Mexican government (Davis, "Memoranda of the transactions in connexion with the capitulation of Monterey, capital of Nueva Leon," October 7, 1846, in Davis to the Editor of the Washington Union, January 6, 1847, following). General José Mariano Salas had seized the presidency from General Mariano Paredes in favor of Santa Anna's return to Mexico in August, 1846; Santa Anna had convinced Salas to order the abandonment of Monterrey; Ampudia had refused. There were no COMMISSIONERS FROM THE UNITED STATES in Mexico at this time, although President Polk was pressing Salas and Santa Anna to negotiate. Ampudia told the Mexican people September 29 that he was forced to parley because of scarcity of provisions and ammunition (Lavender, Climax at Buena Vista, 95-97, 100-101; McCormac, James K. Polk, 445; Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette,
November 7, 1846). Varina's younger BROTHER, Joseph Davis Howell, a private in Company C, took part in the battle of Monterrey (Muster Roll, Miss. Archives).
To Balie Peyton

New Orleans 1st Novr 1846

Sir

In the daily Picayune of this city bearing date 23d Oct 1846 I have seen a letter published as yours containing an account of what occurred at the West end of the town during the attack and capture of the city of Montarey, Mexico.

In the letter referred to there is a statement of an occurrence in the East end of the town, to wit, the capture of a fort on the 21st Sept. which is so inaccurate and does so much injustice to the Miss. Regt. as to require me to ask of you in such manner as you may elect to remove the impression created by this statement, bearing as it now does the sanction of your name. Very Respectfully yr. Obt. Sv.t.

Jeffer Davis
To Balie Peyton, November 1, 1846

L, David Campbell Papers, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. Original not found.

BALIE PEYTON was Colonel of the Fifth Regiment of Louisiana infantry, one of the regiments called by Zachary Taylor April 26, 1846, for three months' service; the regiment was discharged August, 1846 (Heitman; Smith, I, 150; Vicksburg Sentinel & Expositor, June 2, 1846). A contemporary account lists Peyton as having been elected lieutenant colonel of a Tennessee regiment after his discharge (Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, August 18, 1846). President Polk believed Peyton to be a political manipulator of Zachary Taylor (Quaife [ed.], Diary of Polk, II, 236).

THE CAPTURE OF A FORT ON THE 21ST SEPT. refers to La Teneria, taken that day by men of the Mississippi regiment under Davis and the Tennessee regiment under Colonel William B. Campbell (see also Davis to John A. Quitman, September 26, 1846, above, and Davis to Peyton, November 14, 1846, following).
To Robert J. Walker

Vicksburg 11th Nov. 1846

Dr. Sir,

Davis recommends Philip A. Roach from New York to be appointed United States consul at Cadiz. Davis mentions he will be going back soon to Mexico.

ALS, National Archives Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State, Applications and Recommendations for Office 1845-52, Box 74. 1 p.
To Balie Peyton

Warren County Miss 14 Novr. 1846

Sir

Your letter of the third inst, in answer to mine of the first was received through the Post office three days since. You regret that I did not more distinctly point out the inaccuracy and injustice to which I alluded as contained in your published letter.

Capt Willis who bore my [ ? ] was competent & authorized to have given any additional information which you required; or had you stated to me your difficulty at one interview it would have been done by myself.

As you say I was aware that you "knew nothing personally" of what occurred at the "east end of the town".

But your published letter contains a paragraph in reference to an event which occurred in that locality & in which the Tenn & Missi. Regt. were the sole actors. The relative position of these regts. in that event (the storming of a fort) was a controverted point, your statement covered the whole ground of controversy. It was stated as upon your own authority and as no exception was made of this from the body of your letter, no commander named no place designated one less informed than ourselves would necessarily include this among those events to which in the latter part of your letter you say your narration was confined.
I could not expect less or desire more than that you would correct such impression, so far as produced by your published statement by an equally public disclaimer of all knowledge of this transaction. For this purpose it was unnecessary that I should specifically present the points in dispute, they could only be settled by others.

The Mississippians claim, first to have reached the parapet, first to have entered the fort. This claim will be substantiated. In the mean time it was only for you to withdraw from the position of a voucher in a controversy about the events of which you were not informed, & to relieve the question from the weight of your authority. Commendation of the Tennesseans, our comrades in battle, could only give pleasure to me, & surely neither their gallantry, nor the character of their Colonel are issues which I have made I have not brought this question before the public & was willing that our commanders should assign to each that "distributive share" of the "laurels won" which might be due.

Should I not be disappointed I will be in New Orleans by 20th inst & will be glad to hear from you at the St Charles Hotel. Vy. respectfully yr Obt. Svt.

Jeffn Davis
L, David Campbell Papers, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. Neither the original of this manuscript nor the November 3 letter from Peyton to Davis has been found.

MINE OF THE FIRST (Davis to Peyton, above) was written as Davis and CAPTAIN JOHN WILLIS, Company C, Mississippi regiment, passed through New Orleans on their way to Vicksburg on furlough (Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, November 10, 1846; Vicksburg Daily Whig, November 6, 1846). The TENNESSEE REGIMENT under COLONEL William B. Campbell and Davis' regiment were alone in THE STORMING OF A FORT, La Tenería, at the battle of Monterrey, September 21, 1846; there was a dispute as to which regiment was first inside the fort. See Davis to John A. Quitman, September 26, 1846, above, for details of the action. BALIE PEYTON (for identification, see Davis to Peyton, November 1, above) had written a PUBLISHED LETTER in the New Orleans Picayune of October 23 describing the action of the two regiments; Davis had asked in the earlier letter that Peyton correct his statements. For further references to the dispute, see Davis to John Jenkins, November 16, 1846, and Davis to Joseph E. Davis, January 26, 1847, following.
To John Jenkins

Brierfield, Nov. 16, 1846.

Sir.

My ideas of military propriety prevented me from publishing any statement of the conduct of the Mississippi Regiment in the siege at Monterey. ¹

Secure in the consciousness of its gallant and valuable services, even without such restraint, I should probably have remained silent and allowed the official reports of commanders to reach an unbiased public.

But by the publications of others a question has been prematurely raised as to the capture of the first Fort at the east end of the city on the 21st Sept. Deferring to some subsequent period a full account, I will now only present some of the main facts bearing upon this event.

In the forenoon of the 21st Sept., a part of Gen. Twiggs division made a demonstration upon the advanced work at the east end of Monterey -- Gen. Butler's division from the position occupied heard the firing of small arms, but were not in sight of the combattants, when three Regiments, to-wit, the Tennesse, the Mississippi and the Ohio, were put en route in the direction of the firing, which was obliquely to our left and front.

After we had proceeded a short distance, the Ohio Regiment was diverged to the front, and the Tennessee and
Mississippi Regiments continued their line of march in the order named, and moving by a flank.

During the whole march we were exposed to a cross fire of artillery. A round shot raking the Tennessee Regiment made great havoc, but did not check the advance.

The firing of small arms which had attracted us, ceased, and when we halted before the Fort and fronted to it, a small body of troops in the undress of our "regulars" was standing in such a position as to mask the right companies of the Mississippi Regiment. I pointed out the fact to Brig. Gen. Quitman commanding in person, and the closing or other movement of the Tennessee Regiment having created an interval on our left, it was agreed that I should occupy it. We were within the effective range of the enemy's fire but beyond that of Rifles. I therefore executed a movement which gained ground to the front and left and when the Regiment was again formed into line, the troops who had stood upon my right were gone.

The attacking force now consisted of the Tennessee and Mississippi Regiments. The latter on the right, was directly in front of the Fort.

A deep, wide embrasure (which seems to have been used as a sally port) was immediately before our fifth company, numbering from the right; the piece of artillery which belonged to this embrasure was run behind the parapet.
We commenced firing, advancing; the men were directed to select their objects and aim as sharp shooters. Their fine rifles told upon the enemy so that in a short time, say ten minutes, his fire was so reduced as to indicate the propriety of a charge. I had no instructions, no information as to the plan, no knowledge of any sustaining troops except the Tennesseans on our left, and seeing nothing to justify delay, gave the order to charge.

Lieutenant Col. McClung led the company before the embrasure at full speed upon it, the flanks ran, converging to this line of approach, which was over a smooth piece of ground from which the corn had been lately cut. When the movement commenced, I saw Col. Campbell directing his Regiment in some flank manoeure; thereafter I do not recollect to have looked back, and did not see him; but I have been informed that he led his Regiment by a flank.

When I crossed the ditch our Lieutenant Col. was the only man upon the parapet. I sprang into the embrasure beside Lieutenant Patterson of our Regiment. The defence of the place was abandoned; the last of its garrison were crowding out of the sally port at the other extremity; we pursued them, firing upon them as they fled to a fortified stone building in rear of the Fort and across a stream to a fort still further to the rear.

When I saw Col. Campbell's letter (recently published) claiming for his Regiment the credit of storming this fort,
carrying it at the point of the bayonet, and giving to
the Mississippi Regiment the merit of only having sus-
tained him, my suprise at such an arrangement of the
Regiments, was only equalled by that which I felt at
learning that the bayonet had been put in requisition.
No one could go upon the ground, examine the position of
the Regiments and the condition of the parapet and ditch
of the fort, and the surface over which it was necessary
to approach, without coming at once to the conclusion,
that our Regiment must have entered the fort first, or
faltered in the charge. Why this claim has been put forth
it is not for me to determine. It is improbable, unjust,
injurious to us, and unnecessary to our comrades in that
attack, when the conduct of the whole was the property
of each. As a duty to my Regiment, I will follow this
question, raised by others, until a mass of concurrent
testimony from a variety of witnesses shall incontestably
established our claim to whatever credit attaches to the
storming party on that occasion. Your friend, &c.,
Jefferson Davis
To John Jenkins, November 16, 1846


Davis, writing here to JOHN JENKINS, editor of the Weekly Sentinel, presumably alludes to Balie Peyton's article in the New Orleans Picayune of October 23, 1846, when he mentions THE PUBLICATIONS OF OTHERS (see Davis to Peyton, November 1, November 14, 1846, above). THE FIRST FORT AT THE EAST END OF THE CITY ON THE 21ST SEPT. is La Tenería, a fortified stone building taken in the battle of Monterrey that date. Others mentioned here are: BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID E. TWIGGS (for identification, see Davis to Joseph Davis, January 26, 1847); MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM ORLANDO BUTLER ( ? -August 6, 1880), major general of volunteers since June 26, 1846 (Heitman); BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN A. QUITMAN (for identification, see Davis to Quitman, September 26, 1846, above), commander of the brigade of which the Mississippi regiment was a part; COLONEL WILLIAM B. CAMPBELL, commander of the Tennessee regiment; LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER K. McCLUNG and FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. H. PATTERSON, Company K, Mississippi regiment. See Davis to Quitman, September 26, 1846, above. An undated manuscript fragment in Davis' hand states without question that the
Mississippians entered the fort first (Davis Collection Given by Mrs. Jefferson Davis, Confederate Museum, Richmond). See also Davis to Joseph E. Davis, January 26, 1847, following.
To Robert J. Walker

New Orleans

30th Novr. 1846

Dr. Sir,

I wrote to you some time since in relation to the position of our government towards Mexico, and also to ask of you such information as you might be pleased to communicate on that subject. You will in view of the anxiety I feel, upon every account, excuse me for again approaching you on this subject. Though others may be more clamorous probably none are so truly anxious to obtain an early and cheap peace, as the free trade Democrats. If our state Dept. were filled with the trophies of war, and we left free to extend our boundary wherever we chose, I should think the acquisitions dearly purchased if it cost us what we have gained in the progress of to free trade.

To the Mexicans there can be but two motives to continue the war, viz. to arouse the resentment of the people and by hostility to invaders to create a national feeling -- the other, to raise and maintain an Army sufficiently large to secure the political objects of those who command it. Invasion or the prospect of invasion is necessary to excite such resentment or to maintain such an Army. The people of Southern Mexico care little for the
country we have conquered, if relieved from the apprehension of our further advance into the interior, they would become quiet and all efforts to increase and provide their Army would probably fail, whilst those who looked to war to regenerate a national feeling, deprived of their compensation for the evils of invasion must become recruits to the peace party of their country. And as heretofore I believe that the establishment of a line of posts along the Sierra Madre, resting on the Gulf of Mexico at Tampico, and the Pacific at any favorable point, with operations to seize and occupy the entrepots of their commerce, would immediately bring us offers of negotiation. If it did not, as a military movement, I would still believe it the best which the nature of the country and the character of the government of Mexico present. I have been waiting here eight days for transportation to the Brazos Santiago expect to leave this evening or in the morning for Army head quarters. Our Mississippians at the siege of Monterey did much more than they have received credit for, had we been under the immediate command of an experienced Soldier our services would have been noticed not as part of a Brigade but as the fact was, a Regiment often acting independently, and seizing advantages which the Genl. of Brigade saw after they had been taken.
To Robert J. Walker, November 30, 1846

We have too many new generals, seeking a reputation for other (political) spheres, as must have seen by the puffs direct which have filled the newspapers in the form of correspondence, & which bear on every feature the impress of a Mexican atmosphere.

There have been rumors here which have been reported to me to the effect that the custom house officers at this place were about to start a new paper to be edited by W. M. Smyth, and that the enterprise was sanctioned by yourself. I regretted to hear these things not the less because I knew the designs of the proprietor of the "Jeffersonian" were so friendly towards you, that even the writer of this, cautioned him to wait a while and let us see. To be plain he wished to commence the presentation of your name for the next presidency, and whilst I thought it advisable to defer action, I did not wish to see him cooled in his ardor, or weakened by the defection of any part of the Democracy. I know him to be so far superior to the rival class who control the great body of newspapers, to be so reliable in any case requiring confidential correspondence, that I gave him a letter of introduction to you and hoped he would have made your personal acquaintance.

Present my kindest remembrances to Mrs. Walker — and accept assurance of the regard of your friend

Jeffn Davis
To Robert J. Walker, November 30, 1846

Jefferson Davis
relative to Mexican affairs -- certain paper in New Orleans
November 30th 1846
To Robert J. Walker, November 30, 1846

ALS, Robert J. Walker Papers, Folder 1, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. The Davis to Walker letter mentioned in the first sentence has not been found; the letter of introduction written for the proprietor of the Jeffersonian has not been found.

For identification of ROBERT JOHN WALKER and MRS. WALKER, see Davis to Walker, July 22, 1846, above. For ideas on MEXICAN NATIONAL FEELING, see Smith, I, 102-16; Carol Starr, "The Belligerent Response: A Study of the Mexican War Involvement with the United States, 1845-1847 (Senior Thesis, Rice University, 1967), 18-33; Charles A. Hale, Mexican Liberalism in the Age of Mora, 1821-1853 (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1968), 11-12, 207-09). The LINE OF POSTS ALONG THE SIERRA MADRE proposed by Davis was not established; by November 30, 1846, the American FURTHER ADVANCE INTO THE INTERIOR, Winfield Scott's expedition to capture Vera Cruz and Mexico City, was underway, President Polk having decided on it two weeks earlier (Quaife[edr], Diary of Polk, II, 226-30, 232-38). OUR MISSISSIPPITANS AT THE SIEGE OF MONTEREY is a reference to a dispute over which regiment, the Tennessee or the Mississippi, was first to enter La Teneria, a fortified stone building and redoubt taken September 21. Brigadier General John A. Quitman was GENL. OF THE BRIGADE (for further details of the dispute, see Davis to Quitman,
To Robert J. Walker, November 30, 1846

September 26, Davis to Balie Peyton, November 14, Davis to John Jenkins, November 16, 1846, above, and Davis to Joseph E. Davis, January 26, 1847, following). William van Benthuysen was PROPRIETOR OF THE New Orleans JEFFERSONIAN, having succeeded John F.H. Claiborne, a longtime friend of Walker. The JEFFERSONIAN was the Democratic party newspaper in New Orleans; van Benthuysen wrote to President Polk December 31, 1846, proclaiming his loyalties to the party and informing Polk of political machinations by Democrats in New Orleans against the administration (Davis to Walker, July 22, 1846, above; Natchez Courier quoted in Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, October 1, 1846; James K. Polk Papers, Library of Congress).
To William L. Marcy

Brazos Santiago
6th Dec 1846

Sir,

Davis recommends Clinton B. Lear for a commission in the army. Lear had served at the battle of Monterrey, September 21-23, 1846, and was the son of the late Major William W. Lear of the United States Infantry who was mortally wounded at Monterrey.

ALS, National Archives Record Group 107, Records of the Office of the Secretary of War, Applications for Office. 2 pp.
To Editor of the Washington Union

Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico

January 6, 1847.

Dear Sir:

After much speculation and no little misrepresentation about the capitulation of Monterey, I perceive by our recent newspapers, that a discussion has arisen as to who is responsible for that transaction. As one of the commissioners who were entrusted by General Taylor with the arrangement of the terms upon which the city of Monterey and its fortifications should be delivered to our forces, I have had frequent occasion to recur to the course then adopted, and the considerations which led to it. My judgment after the fact has fully sustained my decisions at the date of the occurrence; and feeling myself responsible for the instrument as we prepared and presented it to our commanding general, I have the satisfaction, after all subsequent events, to believe that the terms we offered were expedient, and honorable, and wise. A distinguished gentleman with whom I acted on that commission, Governor Henderson, says in a recently published letter, "I did not at the time, nor do I still like the terms, but acted as one of the commissioners, together with General Worth and Colonel Davis, to carry out General Taylor's instructions. We ought and could have made them surrender at discretion," &c. &c.
From each position taken in the above paragraph I dissent. The instructions given by General Taylor only presented his object, and fixed a limit to the powers of the commissioners; hence, when points were raised which exceeded our discretion, they were referred to the commander; but minor points were acted on, and finally submitted as a part of our negotiation. We fixed the time within which the Mexican forces should retire from Monterey. We agreed upon the time we would wait for the decision of the respective governments, which I recollect was less by thirty-four days than the Mexican commissioners asked -- the period adopted being that which, according to our estimate, was required to bring up the rear of our army with the ordnance and supplies necessary for further operations.

I did not then, nor do I now, believe we could have made the enemy surrender at discretion. Had I entertained the opinion it would have been given to the commission, and to the commanding general, and would have precluded me from signing an agreement which permitted the garrison to retire with the honors of war. It is demonstrable, from the position and known prowess of the two armies, that we could drive the enemy from the town; but the town was untenable whilst the main fort (called the new citadel) remained in the hands of the enemy. Being without siege artillery or entrenching tools, we could only hope to carry this fort by storm, after a heavy loss from our army;
which, isolated in a hostile country, now numbered less than half the forces of the enemy. When all this had been achieved, what more would we have gained than by the capitulation?

General Taylor's force was too small to invest the town. It was, therefore, always in the power of the enemy to retreat, bearing his light arms. Our army -- poorly provided, and with very insufficient transportation -- could not have overtaken, if they had pursued the flying enemy. Hence the conclusion that, as it was not in our power to capture the main body of the Mexican army, it is unreasonable to suppose their general would have surrendered at discretion. The moral effect of retiring under the capitulation was certainly greater than if the enemy had retreated without our consent. By this course we secured the large supply of ammunition he had collected in Monterey -- which, had the assault been continued, must have been exploded by our shells, as it was principally stored in "the Cathedral," which, being supposed to be filled with troops, was the especial aim of our pieces. The destruction which this explosion would have produced must have involved the advance of both divisions of our troops; and I commend this to the contemplation of those whose arguments have been drawn from facts learned since the commissioners closed their negotiations. With these introductory remarks, I send a copy of a manuscript in my possession, which was prepared
To Editor of the Washington Union, January 6, 1847

To meet such necessity as now exists for an explanation of the views which governed the commissioners in arranging the terms of capitulation, to justify the commanding general, should misrepresentation and calumny attempt to tarnish his well-earned reputation, and, for all time to come, to fix the truth of the transaction. Please publish this in your paper, and believe me your friend, &c.

Jefferson Davis

Memoranda of the transactions, in connexion with the capitulation of Monterey, capital of Nueva Leon, Mexico

By invitation of General Ampudia, commanding the Mexican army, General Taylor accompanied by a number of his officers, proceeded on the 24th September, 1846, to a house designated as the place at which General Ampudia requested an interview. The parties being convened, General Ampudia announced, as official information, that commissioners from the United States had been received by the government of Mexico and that the orders under which he had prepared to defend the city of Monterey, had lost their force by the subsequent change of his own government, therefore he asked the conference. A brief conversation between the commanding generals, showed their views to be so opposite, as to have little reason to expect an amicable arrangement between them.

General Taylor said he would not delay to receive such propositions as General Ampudia indicated. One of
General Ampudia's party, I think, the governor of the city, suggested the appointment of a mixed commission; this was acceded to, and General W. G. Worth of the United States army, General J. Pinckney Henderson, of the Texas volunteers, and Colonel Jefferson Davis, of the Mississippi riflemen on the part of General Taylor; and General J. Ma. Ortega, General P. Requena, and Senor the Governor M. Ma. Llano on the part of Gen. Ampudia, were appointed.

General Taylor gave instructions to his commissioners which, as understood, for they were brief and verbal, will be best shown by the copy of the demand which the United States commissioners prepared in the conference room here incorporated:

Copy of demand by United States Commissioners.

"I. As the legitimate result of the operations before this place, and the present position of the contending armies, we demand the surrender of the town, the arms and munitions of war, and all other public property within the place.

"II. That the Mexican armed force retire beyond the Rinconada, Linares, and San Fernando, on the coast.

"III. The commanding general of the army of the United States agrees that the Mexican officers reserve their side arms and private baggage; and the troops be allowed to retire under their officers without parole, a reasonable time being allowed to withdraw the forces."
To Editor of the Washington Union, January 6, 1847

"IV. The immediate delivery of the main work, now occupied, to the army of the United States.

"V. To avoid collisions, and for mutual convenience, that the troops of the United States shall not occupy the town until the Mexican forces have been withdrawn, except for hospital purposes, storehouses, &c.

"VI. The commanding general of the United States agrees not to advance beyond the line specified in the second section before the expiration of eight weeks, or until the respective governments can be heard from."

The terms of the demand were refused by the Mexican commissioners, who drew up a counter proposition, of which I only recollect that it contained a permission to the Mexican forces to retire with their arms. This was urged as a matter of soldierly pride, and as an ordinary courtesy. We had reached the limit of our instructions, and the commission rose to report the disagreement.

Upon returning to the reception room, after the fact had been announced that the commissioners could not agree upon terms, General Ampudia entered at length upon the question, treating the point of disagreement as one which involved the honor of his country, spoke of his desire for a settlement without further bloodshed, and said he did not care about the pieces of artillery which he had at the place. General Taylor responded to the wish to avoid unnecessary bloodshed. It was agreed the commission should reassemble,
and we were instructed to concede the small arms; and I supposed there would be no question about the artillery. The Mexican commissioners now urged that, as all other arms had been recognised, it would be discreditable to the artillery if required to march out without anything to represent their arm, and stated, in answer to an inquiry, that they had a battery of light artillery, manoeuvred and equipped as such. The commission again rose, and reported the disagreement on the point of artillery.

Gen. Taylor hearing that more was demanded than the middle ground, upon which, in a spirit of generosity, he had agreed to place the capitulation, announced the conference at an end; and rose in a manner which showed his determination to talk no more. As he crossed the room to leave it, one of the Mexican commissioners addressed him, and some conversation, which I did not hear, ensued. Gen. Worth asked permission of Gen. Taylor, and addressed some remarks to Gen. Ampudia, the spirit of which was that which he manifested throughout the negotiation, viz: generosity and leniency; and a desire to spare the further effusion of blood. The commission reassembled, and the points of capitulation were agreed upon. After a short recess we again repaired to the room in which we had parted from the Mexican commissioners; they were tardy in joining us, and slow in executing the instrument of capitulation.
To Editor of the Washington Union, January 6, 1847

The 7th, 8th, and 9th articles were added during this session. At a late hour the English original was handed to Gen. Taylor for his examination; the Spanish original having been sent to General Ampudia. Gen. Taylor signed and delivered to me the instrument as it was submitted to him, and I returned to receive the Spanish copy with the signature of General Ampudia, and send that having Gen. Taylor's signature, that each general might countersign the original to be retained by the other. Gen. Ampudia did not sign the instrument as was expected, but came himself to meet the commissioners. He raised many points which had been settled, and evinced a disposition to make the Spanish differ in essential points from the English instrument. Gen. Worth was absent. Finally he was required to sign the instrument prepared for his own commissioners, and the English original was left with him that he might have it translated, (which he promised to do that night,) and be ready the next morning with a Spanish duplicate of the English instrument left with him. By this means the two instruments would be made to correspond, and he be compelled to admit his knowledge of the contents of the English original before he signed it.

The next morning the commission again met; again the attempt was made, as had been often done before by solicitation, to gain some grant in addition to the compact. Thus we had, at their request, adopted the word capitulation in
To Editor of the Washington Union, January 6, 1847

lieu of surrender; they now wished to substitute stipulation for capitulation. It finally became necessary to make a peremptory demand for the immediate signing of the English instrument by General Ampudia, and the literal translation (now perfected) by the commissioners and their general. The Spanish instrument first signed by Gen. Ampudia was destroyed in presence of his commissioners; the translation of our own instrument was countersigned by Gen. Taylor, and delivered. The agreement was complete, and it only remained to execute the terms.

Much has been said about the construction of article 2 of the capitulation, a copy of which is hereto appended. Whatever ambiguity there may be in the language used, there was a perfect understanding by the commissioners upon both sides, as to the intent of the parties. The distinction was made between light artillery equipped and manoeuvred as such, designed for and used in the field, and pieces being the armament of a fort, was clearly stated on our side; and that it was comprehended on their's, appeared in the fact, that repeatedly they asserted their possession of light artillery, and said they had one battery of light pieces. Such conformity of opinion existed among our commissioners upon every measure which was finally adopted, that I consider them, in their sphere, jointly and severally responsible for each and every article of the capitulation. If, as originally viewed by Gen. Worth, our
conduct has been in accordance with the peaceful policy of our government, and shall in any degree tend to consummate that policy, we may congratulate ourselves upon the part we have taken. If otherwise, it will remain to me as a deliberate opinion, that the terms of the capitulation gave all which could have followed, of desirable result, from a further assault. It was in the power of the enemy to retreat, and to bear with him his small arms, and such a battery as was contemplated in the capitulation. The other grants were such as it was honorable in a conquering army to bestow, and which it cost magnanimity nothing to give.

The above recollections are submitted to Generals Henderson and Worth for correction and addition that the misrepresentation of this transaction may be presented by a statement made whilst the events are recent and the memory fresh.

Jefferson Davis
Colonel Mississippi Riflemen
Camp Near Monterey, October 7th, 1846.

The above is a correct statement of the leading facts connected with the transactions referred to, according to my recollection. It is, however, proper, that I should further state, that my first impression was, that no better terms than those first proposed, on the part of Gen. Taylor, ought to have been given, and I so said to General Taylor
To Editor of the Washington Union, January 6, 1847

when I found him disposed to yield to the request of General Ampudia; and, at the same time, gave it as my opinion that they would be accepted by him before we left the town. General Taylor replied, that he would run no risk where it could be avoided — that he wished to avoid the further shedding of blood, and that he was satisfied that our government would be pleased with the terms given by the capitulation; and being myself persuaded of that fact, I yielded my individual views and wishes; and, under that conviction, I shall ever be ready to defend the terms of the capitulation.

J. Pinckney Henderson
Major General Commanding the Texan Volunteers.

I not only counselled and advised, the opportunity being offered the general-in-chief, the first proposition; but cordially assented and approved the decision taken by General Taylor in respect to the latter, as did every member of the commission, and for good and sufficient military and national reasons — and stand ready, at all times and proper places, to defend and sustain the action of the commanding general, and participation of the commissioners. Knowing that malignants, the tremor being off, are at work to discredit and misrepresent the case, (as I had anticipated,) I feel obliged to Col. Davis for having thrown together the material and facts.
To Editor of the Washington Union, January 6, 1847

W. J. Worth
Brig. Gen. commanding 2d division

Monterey, Oct. 12th, 1846.

Terms of the capitulation of the city of Monterey, the capital of Nueva Leon, agreed upon by the undersigned commissioners -- to wit: General Worth, of the United States army; General Henderson, of the Texan volunteers; and Col. Davis, of the Mississippi riflemen, on the part of Major General Taylor, commanding-in-chief the United States forces; and General Requena and General Ortego, 1 of the army of Mexico, and Senor Manual M. Llano, Governor of Nueva Leon, on the part of Senor General Don Pedro Ampudia, commanding-in-chief the Army of the north of Mexico.

Article 1. As the legitimate result of the operations before this place, and the present position of the contending armies, it is agreed that the city, the fortifications, cannon, the munitions of war, and all other public property, with the undermentioned exceptions, be surrendered to the commanding general of the United States forces now at Monterey.

Article 2. That the Mexican forces be allowed to retain the following arms -- to wit: The commissioned officers, their side-arms; the infantry, their arms and accoutrements; the cavalry, their arms and accoutrements; the artillery, one field battery, not to exceed six pieces, with twenty-one rounds of ammunition.
To Editor of the Washington Union, January 6, 1847 168

Article 3. That the Mexican armed forces retire within seven days from this date beyond the line formed by the pass of the Rinconada, the city of Linares, and San Fernando de Pusos.

Article 4. That the citadel of Monterey be evacuated by the Mexican, and occupied by the American forces tomorrow morning, at 10 o'clock.

Article 5. To avoid collisions, and for mutual convenience, that the troops of the United States will not occupy the city until the Mexican forces have withdrawn, except for hospital and storage purposes.

Article 6. That the forces of the United States will not advance beyond the line specified in the 3d article, before the expiration of eight weeks, or until the orders of the respective governments can be received.

Article 7. That the public property to be delivered, shall be turned over and received by officers appointed by the commanding generals of the two armies.

Article 8. That all doubts, as to the meaning of any of the preceding articles, shall be solved by an equitable construction, and on principles of liberality to the retiring army.

Article 9. That the Mexican flag, when struck at the citadel, may be saluted by its own battery.
To Editor of the Washington Union, January 6, 1847

W. J. Worth, Brig. Gen. U. S. A.
J. Pinckney Henderson,
Maj. Gen. commanding the Texan volunteers.
Jefferson Davis,
Colonel Mississippi riflemen.
J. M. Ortega,
T. Requena,
Manuel M. Llano

Approved: Pedro Ampudia,
Z. Taylor,

Done at Monterey, Sept. 24, 1846.
To Editor of the Washington Union, January 6, 1847


An extract of MAJOR GENERAL JAMES PINCKNEY HENDERSON'S RECENTLY PUBLISHED LETTER of November 22 was noted as having been printed in the Galveston Civilian and in the Austin Democrat (Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, December 3, 1846; Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, December 30, 1846). Henderson (March 31, 1808-June 4, 1858) was the first governor of Texas, December, 1845, to April, 1846, a lawyer born in North Carolina, he practiced in Canton, Mississippi and moved to Texas in 1836. He was appointed attorney general and secretary of state to the republic, elected governor upon ratification of the state constitution by the United States Congress and became a brigadier general of volunteers in command of four Texas regiments, April 26-October 30, 1846 (DAB; Heitman). GENERAL PEDRO DE AMPUDIA, the Mexican commander at Monterrey, had proposed to General Zachary Taylor September 23 that the Mexican army be allowed to evacuate the city, taking with them all the materiel of war left; Taylor had refused (Ampudia to Taylor, Taylor to Ampudia, September 24, printed in Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, October 24, 1846). The cache of arms and the LARGE SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION taken by the Americans from the CATHEDRAL included twenty-five pieces of artillery and 416 muskets, bayonets, carbines and lances. In addition,
there was a smaller supply of ordnance taken at the NEW CITADEL, the fortress which guarded the northern side of Monterrey (New Orleans Picayune quoted in Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, November 10, 1846). MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM JENKINS WORTH (March 1, 1794-May 1, 1849) was the third American commissioners. Worth had served as Winfield Scott's aide-de-camp in the War of 1812, had been commandant of the United States Military Academy, 1820-28 (Davis was a cadet at West Point, 1824-28) and was brevetted brigadier general for his services in the Seminole Wars. Worth was transferred with his command to Scott's expeditionary force in January, 1847 (DAB; Heitman).

1Possible typesetter's error.
To John A. Quitman

Camp near Victoria
13th Jany. 1847

Sir,

The accompanying publications will sufficiently explain to you the controversy which has arisen upon a point of Regimental history, and I hope be considered a sufficient justification for my calling upon you, our immediate commander on the occasion when the event occurred, for a full statement of such particulars as came within your observation, and bear upon the question involved. Very Respectfully I am yrs, &c.

Jeffn Davis

note

These are the only copies I have of the enclosed publications please preserve them for me yr. friend

Jeffn Davis

[E] Camp near Victoria
Jany 13th/47.

Col. Davis asks Genl. Quitman to decide between the merits of the Miss & Tenn. Regts. at the battle of Monterey
To John A. Quitman, January 13, 1847

ALS, Autograph File, Dearborn Collection, Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts. The enclosures have not been found.

The POINT OF REGIMENTAL HISTORY is the question of which regiment, the Tennessee or the Mississippi, was first to enter La Tenería, a fortified stone building taken at the battle of Monterrey, September 21, 1846. Brigadier General JOHN ANTHONY QUITMAN (for identification, see Davis to Quitman, September 26, 1846, above) was commander of the brigade which included the two regiments. For details of the dispute, see Davis to Balie Peyton, November 1, November 14, 1846, Davis to John Jenkins, November 16, 1846, above, and Davis to Joseph E. Davis, January 26, 1847, following.
To Joseph E. Davis

Monterey

26th Jany 1847

My dear Brother,

After a march to Victoria and back (near 400 miles) I arrived here yesterday and [returned][manuscript blurred] near to the position we occupied on our first arrival at this place in Sept. last. All this has come to pass in this wise. At Victoria Genl. Taylor was informed by dispatches from Genl. Scott that he had come out to conduct an attack against Vera Cruz and thence the city of Mexico, that he would require a large part of Genl. T's Army indicating parts which he would take, and said he would leave Genl. T. 2000 Regulars and 5000 volunteers; to hold the line of our conquests until reinforced he could advance by the interior line to make a junction of the two columns at the city of Mexico. Genl. T. sent on the force he had with him except Col. May's squadron of Dragoons, two batteries of light artillery; and the Missi. Riflemen with which force as small as was deemed competent he made his way back to this place with his supply train. On our arrival we find that instead of having 2000 Regulars from Genl. T's army Scott has even stripped Genl. Wool of the Regulars who were with his command taken off. the Engineer officers who were constructing defences at Saltillo and made Gen. T. "safe" as his rival in this race.
During my visit to the United States Genl. T. found that by directing his march on the route to Zacatecas instead of San Louis de Potosi he could find sufficient water and soon reach a country so closely cultivated that he could subsist his army upon it. Had he not been ordered to limit his advance to Saltillo he would have taken that route a month since, had Genl. Scott left the force he spoke of and created a diversion at Vera Cruz, Genl. T. would have advanced without delay and this opened to my hopes visions of constant conflict, the campaign of an isolated army, the thing of which American soldiers have never been able to speak as eye witnesses, an invading force pressed by the enemy on every side and bristling to repel approach. But why dwell on a hope which has almost left me. I believe I'll take the other side and reason like old Tarfroley. Such I take for the orthography of the name of the old Choctaw at Greenville.

When I reached Victoria I sent my published letter to Col. Campbell with a note that it was for his perusal and offered to receive a proposition from him for a joint investigation of the question. He asked time, and after three days Maj. Bradford who bore my note reported that Col Campbell was under my letter that he had not yet made up his mind and I might not expect him to do anything.
To Joseph E. Davis, January 26, 1847

I then put inquiries to Genl. Twiggs and his aid Lieut. McDonald and to Maj. J. J. Abercrombie and to Genl. Quitman. The first answered well, the second not much to the purpose but well as far as it went the third did not answer (we were suddenly and unexpectedly separated) the last declined to answer and made paltry excuses and pithy complaints, such as his fear the inquiry might lead to a breach of the peace, and that officers were prohibited from writing about the operations of a campaign and that he had been treated with injustice, how? the members of the Regt. writing accounts of the battle had not mentioned him. I avoided inquiry as to Col. Campbells condemnation of his regiment, which many persons say was loud and violent. To me it seemed unnecessary to notice this and I did not wish unless it became necessary to injure any one.

I can say little of the future. Genl. T. will go in a few days to Saltillo if he can get a force even a small one he will advance at the first opportunity on the enemy, for our Rgt. I expect any honorable service which he can give us. He is deeply chafed by the course of the war department, not only has he been stripped of his command but to this date is without advice from the secty of War even of the intent to send Genl. Scott out here. In selecting our Regiment as an escort he paid us a high compliment. I think unfair means have been used to supplant him. I
have no confidence in Genl. Scott, none in the line from Vera Cruz as an approach.

The desire to be in every battle fought during my term of service is strong, but I could not in the present condition of Genl. Taylor ask to leave him and in other considerations especially the belief that Vera Cruz will not be defended must seek content if I remain before this line.

Before we left Victoria it was reported among the Mexicans that Vera Cruz had been abandoned by the Mexican forces & it is supposed that the Navy, good at taking evacuated Towns, has made a descent upon it. Give my love to all the family which is so far as I can judge from my latest letters now small. God grant that all your hopes in relation to Varina may be realized. If she shall be excited by my absence to such action and self command as to restore her health and spirits it will be a boon cheaply purchased by all the sacrifices and inconveniences it costs me. This letter already long will grow sad if I speak of home and we have Byron's Johnson against mingling those ingredients together. Now that my thoughts have gone home I should do ill to write of other things not thinking of them. Farewell my dear Brother yours

Jeffn Davis
ALS, Davis Collection, Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois. Manuscript is dimmed, several words illegible or questionable. Davis' inquiries to and answers from Twiggs, McDonald and Abercrombie have not been found. Davis' inquiry to Quitman is dated January 13, 1847, above; the answer has not been found.

That the addressee was JOSEPH EMORY DAVIS (for identification, see Davis to Joseph Davis, September 25, 1846, above) may be proved by the reference to VARINA HOWELL DAVIS (for identification, see Davis to Lucinda Stamps, July 8, 1846, above). Joseph E. Davis' letter of December 16, 1846, to Davis refers to Varina's good health and her contented activities with her home and garden. Joseph Davis also mentioned Scott's proposed expedition ("Yr Brother" to "My dear Brother," Davis Family Papers, 1846-86, Confederate Museum). Davis had rejoined his regiment at VICTORIA January 4 after a sixty-day furlough; he had been at MONTERREY from SEPTEMBER 19-October 19, 1846 with MAJOR GENERAL ZACHARY TAYLOR's command (Muster Rolls, October, November, December, 1846, January, February, 1846, in NA RG 94, Adjutant General, Muster Rolls of Volunteer Organizations). Taylor had been informed in at least two letters from WINFIELD SCOTT dated November 20 and November 25, 1846, of the planned expedition to capture VERA CRUZ and Mexico City for which Scott had been appointed
commanding general (Smith, I, 355-62). Taylor retained only LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES AUGUSTUS MAY's dragoons, the batteries of CAPTAIN THOMAS WEST SHERMAN and CAPTAIN BRAXTON BRAGG, and the Mississippi regiment of his original command (NA RG 94, Adjutant General, Records relating to Wars: Mexican War, Army of Occupation--Orders, Volume 4, pp. 11-12). Scott had not asked for BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN ELLIS WOOL's troops then stationed at Saltillo (Smith, I, 370). Wool (February 29, 1784-November 10, 1869) had served in the War of 1812, was made colonel and inspector general in 1816, brigadier general in 1841 and had mustered in 12,000 volunteers in the summer of 1846 (DAB). The RACE with Scott was for the conquest of Mexico. Taylor believed that there was a conspiracy against him in Washington by Scott, William L. Marcy, SECRETARY OF WAR, and President Polk (Taylor to Robert C. Wood, December 13, 1846, January 26, January 30, 1847, in William K. Bixby [ed.], Letters of Zachary Taylor from the Battlefields of the Mexican War[Rochester: Genesee, 1908], 77-85 passim).

Davis' PUBLISHED LETTER given to COLONEL WILLIAM B. CAMPBELL commander of the Tennessee regiment, by MAJOR ALEXANDER B. BRADFORD of Davis' regiment, concerned the question of whether it was the Tennessee or the Mississippi regiment that had first entered La Teneria, a fort taken at Monterey September 21, 1846. See Davis to Peyton, November 14, Davis to Jenkins, November 16, 1846, above. Davis addressed his inquiries to BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID EMANUEL TWIGGS who
had commanded the first division at Monterrey. Twiggs (1790-July 15, 1862) had served in the War of 1812, was promoted to brigadier general in June, 1846, for his part in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma and was withdrawn with his command to Scott's army (DAB). Twiggs' aide was PHILIP W. MCDONALD (? - October 11, 1851), regimental adjutant and brevet first lieutenant of Second Dragoons; JOHN JOSEPH ABERCROMBIE (? - January 3, 1877) was regimental adjutant and brevet lieutenant colonel of the First Infantry (Heitman). For identification of JOHN ANTHONY QUITMAN, see Davis to Quitman, September 26, 1846, above. Taylor and his troops left Monterrey January 30-31 and advanced TO SALTILLO, where they arrived February 2 (Taylor to Wood, January 30, 1847, in Bixby, [ed.], Letters of Taylor, 84; Smith, I, 313; Muster Roll for January, 1847, in NA RG 94, Adjutant General, Muster Rolls of Volunteer Organizations).

1Manuscript dim; conjectural reading.
2Added for clarity.
To Varina H. Davis

[Agua Nueva
[February 8, 1847]

We are here on the table-lands of Mexico, at the foot of the Sierra Madre. We came expecting a host and battle, have found solitude and externally peace. The daily alarms of this frontier have ceased, the enemy I believe has retired to San Luis de Potosi, and we are waiting reinforcements, while General Scott is taking all who can be seized and incorporates them in his division of the army. We have a beautiful and healthy position, and are waiting only action or such excitement as reconciles man to repose.
To Varina H. Davis, [February 8, 1847]


Major General Zachary Taylor, Brigadier John E. Wool (for identification, see Davis to Joseph Davis, January 26, 1847, above) and 4759 Americans were camped in the valley at AGUA NUEVA, approximately ten miles south of the battle field of Buena Vista. Taylor believed that lack of water on the road from SAN LUIS POTOSI would prevent any large Mexican force from moving north; he had heard that a great part of Santa Anna's army had gone toward Vera Cruz to meet MAJOR GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT's (for identification, see Davis to Joseph Davis, January 26, 1847, above) expedition. Taylor and Wool awaited REINFORCEMENTS in vain; 15,000-20,000 Mexican soldiers were on the march toward them from San Luis Potosí (Smith, I, 373-74, 380, 386).

1Date and place given in an introductory paragraph to the letter (V. Davis, Memoir, I, 314).
To Varina H. Davis

Satillo 25th Feby 1847

My dear Wife,

I wrote to you a few days since anticipating a battle. We have had it. The Mississippians did well. I fear you may feel some anxiety about me and write to say that I was wounded in the right foot and remained on the field so long afterwards that the wound has been painful but is by no means dangerous. I hope soon to be up again. My friend Mr. Crittenden will write on this sheet to Brother Joe and give him more particulars. God bless you affectionately

your husband
To Varina H. Davis, February 25, 1847

ALS, Davis Family Correspondence, 1846-86, Confederate Museum, Richmond, Virginia. The letter written to Varina before the battle may be the one of February 8 extracted in V. Davis, Memoir, I, 314-315, above. The original of Crittenden's remarks to Davis' brother has not been found, but is printed, as is the letter of February 25 in V. Davis, Memoir, I, 316-318.

Written in a shaky hand, this brief note was sent from the hospital at SALTILLO where Davis was recovering from wounds received in the BATTLE of Buena Vista, February 23. THOMAS L. CRITTENDEN (May 15, 1819-October 23, 1893) was Zachary Taylor's aide during the Mexican War and was appointed lieutenant colonel of the third Kentucky regiment of infantry October 4, 1847. Crittenden's father and Davis' eldest brother, JOSEPH EMORY DAVIS (for identification, see Davis to Joseph Davis, September 26, 1846, above) were friends. Crittenden had known Jefferson Davis at least since January when they met en route to Salttillo after Davis' furlough (V. Davis, Memoir, I, 312; Crittenden to Joseph Davis, February 25, 1847, in V. Davis, Memoir, I, 318).
To William W. S. Bliss

Saltillo, Mexico
2d March 1847.

Sir,

In compliance with your note of yesterday I have the honor to present the following report of the Service of the Mississippi Riflemen on the 23d. Ultimo.

Early in the morning of that day the Regiment was drawn out from the Head Quarters' Encampment, which stood in advance of and overlooked the Town of Saltillo. Conformably to instructions two companies were detached for the protection of that encampment, and to defend the adjacent Entrance of the Town: the remaining eight companies were put in march to return to the position of the preceding day, now known as the Battle field of Buena Vista. We had approached to within about two miles of that position, when the report of Artillery fireing, which reached us, gave assurance that a battle had commenced. Excited by the Sound, the Regiment pressed rapidly forward, manifesting upon this, as upon other occasions, their more than willingness to meet the enemy. At the first convenient place the column was halted for the purpose of filling the Canteens with water; and, the march being resumed, was directed towards the position which had been indicated to me, on the previous evening, as the post of our Regiment. As we approached the scene of action, Horsemen, recognized
as of our troops, were seen running, dispersed and confusedly from the field; and our first view of the line of battle presented the mortifying spectacle of a Regiment of Infantry flying disorganized from before the enemy. These sights so well calculated to destroy confidence and dispirit troops just coming into action, it is my pride and pleasure to believe only nerved the resolution of the Regiment I have the honor to command.

Our order of march was in column of companies advancing by their centres. The point which had just been abandoned, by the Regiment alluded to, was now taken as our direction. I rode forward to examine the ground upon which we were going to operate, and in passing through the fugitives, appealed to them to return with us and renew the fight; pointing to our Regiment as a mass of men behind which they might securely form.

With a few honorable exceptions the appeal was as unheeded as were the offers which, I am informed, were made by our men to give their canteens of water to those who complained of thirst, on condition that they would go back. Genl. Wool was upon the ground making great efforts to rally the men who had given way. I approached him and asked if he would send another Regiment to sustain me in an attack upon the enemy before us. He was alone, and after promising the support, went in person to send it. Upon further examination I found that the slope we were ascending was intersected
by a deep ravine which, uniting obliquely with a still larger one upon our right, formed between them a point of land difficult of access by us, but which spreading into a plain towards the base of the mountain has easy communication with the main body of the enemy. This position, important from its natural strength, derived a far greater value from the relation it bore to our order of battle, and line of communication with the rear. The enemy, in number many times greater than ourselves, supported by strong reserves, flanked by cavalry, and elated by recent success, was advancing upon it. The moment seemed to me critical, and the occasion to require whatever sacrifice it might cost to check the enemy.

My Regiment having continued to advance was near at hand. I met and formed it rapidly into order of battle; the line then advanced in double quick time until within the estimated range of our rifles, when it was halted and ordered to "fire advancing."

The progress of the enemy was arrested -- we crossed the difficult chasm before us under a galling fire, and in good order renewed the attack upon the other side. The contest was severe; the destruction great upon both sides: we steadily advanced, and as the distance was diminished the ratio of loss increased rapidly against the enemy: he yielded, and was driven back on his reserves. A plain now lay behind us -- the enemy's cavalry had passed
around our right flank, which rested on the main ravine, and gone to our rear: the Support I had expected to join us was no where to be seen; I therefore ordered the Regiment to retire, and went in person to find the cavalry which, after passing round our right, had been concealed by the inequality of the ground. I found them, at the first point where the bank was practicable for Horsem en in the act of descending into the ravine, no doubt for the purpose of charging upon our rear. The nearest of our men ran quickly to my call, attacked this body and dispersed it with some loss. I think their Commander was among the killed.

The Regiment was formed again in line of battle behind the first ravine we had crossed: soon after which we were joined upon our left by Lieut. Kilbourn with a piece of Artillery and Col. Lane's the 3rd. Regiment of Indiana Volunteers.

Lieut. Kilbourn opened a brisk and very effective fire: the enemy immediately receded; we advanced, and he retired to the mountain. No senior officer of Lieut. Kilbourn's corps being present upon this occasion, it gives me pleasure to bear testimony to the valuable services he rendered, and to express my admiration of the professional skill and soldierly qualities he manifested.

We occupied the ground where the Mississippi Regiment first met the enemy, when a heavy fire was opened upon
by a battery which the enemy had established near the
centre of his line. The Indiana Regiment was most exposed,
and passed from the left into the ravine upon our right.
The Artillery retired to the battery from which it had
been drawn. I had sent out some parties to examine the
ground on which we had fought in the morning for the
purpose of bringing in the wounded: when these parties
had returned our Regiment retired by its left flank, and
marched along the bank of the ravine, heretofore noticed
as being on our right. The Indiana Regiment in moving
down the hollow was concealed from the view of the enemy
who was probably thereby encouraged to make an attack.

We had proceeded but a short distance when I saw a
large body of Cavalry debouche from his cover on the left
of the position from which we had retired, and advance
rapidly upon us. The Mississippi Regiment was filed to
the right and fronted in line across the plain, the Indi¬
an Regiment was formed on the bank of the ravine, in
advance of our right flank, by which a re-entering angle
was presented to the Enemy. Whilst this preparation was
being made, Sergt. Major Miller of our Regiment was sent
to Captn. Sherman for one or more pieces of Artillery from
his battery.

The Enemy, who was now seen to be a body of richly
caparisoned Lancers, came forward rapidly and in beautiful
order; the files and ranks so closed as to look like a mass
of men and horses. Perfect silence and the greatest steadiness prevailed in both lines of our troops, as they stood at shouldered arms waiting an attack. Confident of success and anxious to obtain the full advantage of a cross fire at a short distance, I repeatedly called to the men not to shoot.

As the enemy approached his speed regularly diminished until when within eighty or a hundred yards he had drawn up to a walk and seemed about to halt. A few files fired without orders, and both lines then instantly poured in a volley so destructive that the mass yielded to the blow, and the survivors fled. Captn. Sherman having come up with a field piece from this battery, followed their retreat with a very effective fire until they had fled beyond the range of his gun. Soon after this event a detachment of our Artillery and Cavalry moved up on our left, and I was directed to cooperate with it in an attack upon the enemy at the base of the mountain.

We advanced parallel to this detachment until it was halted. I then placed our men under such protection as the ground afforded from the constant fire of the Enemy's Artillery to which we were exposed, to wait the further movement of the force with which we were to act. At this time the Enemy made his last attack upon the right, and I received the General's order to march to that portion of the field.
To William W. S. Bliss, March 2, 1847

The broken character of the intervening ground concealed the scene of action from our view, but the heavy firing of musketry formed a sufficient guide for our course. After marching two or three hundred yards, we saw the Enemy's Infantry advancing in three lines upon Capt. Bragg's Battery, which though entirely unsupported resolutely held its position, and met the attack with a fire worthy of the former achievement of that Battery, and of the reputation of its present meritorious commander. We pressed on, climbed the rocky slope of the plain on which this combat occurred, reached its brow so as to take the enemy in flank and reverse when he was about one hundred yards from the Battery. Our first fire raking each of his lines and opened close upon his flank was eminently destructive, his right gave way and he fled in confusion.

In this the last contest of the day my Regiment equalled -- it was impossible to exceed -- my expectations. Though worn down by many hours of fatigue and thirst; the ranks thinned by our heavy loss in the morning, they yet advanced upon the enemy with the alacrity and eagerness of men fresh to the combat. In every approbatory sense of these remarks, I wish to be included a party of Col. Bowles' Indiana Regiment which served with us during the greater part of the day, under the immediate command of an officer from that Regiment, whose gallantry attracted my
particular attention, but whose name, I regret, is unknown to me. When hostile demonstrations had ceased, I retired to a tent upon the field for Surgical aid, having been wounded by a musket ball when we first went into action.

Our Regiment remained inactive until evening, and was then ordered to the Encampment of the previous night, under the command of Major Bradford.

We had seen the enemy retire, but his numerical superiority over us would scarcely admit the supposition that he had finally retreated. After my arrival at our Encampment, which was some time after dark, I directed Capt. Rogers, with his Company "K", and Lieut. Russell commanding Company "D", to proceed with their commands, to the field of Battle, and report to the Commanding General for orders. These were the two companies which had been left as a guard at Head Quarters' Encampment, as stated in the beginning of this report. They had been threatened during the day by a strong detachment of the enemy's cavalry; had performed all the duties which belonged to their position, as will be seen by the accompanying statement of Capt. Rogers, in a manner creditable to themselves and their Regiment; but they were disappointed because they had not been with us in the battle of the day, and were gratified at the order to march upon night service, and probably to a dangerous post.
To William W. S. Bliss, March 2, 1847

Every part of the battle having been fought under the eye of the Commanding General the importance and manner of any service it was our fortune to render will be best estimated by him. But in view of my own responsibility it may be permitted me to say in relation to our first attack upon the Enemy, that I considered the necessity absolute, and immediate. No one could have failed to perceive the hazard. The enemy, in greatly disproportionate numbers, was rapidly advancing. We saw no friendly troops coming to our Support, and probably none except myself expected reinforcement. Under such circumstances the men cheerfully, ardently entered into the conflict, and though we lost in that single engagement more than thirty killed and forty wounded, the Regiment never faltered, nor moved except as it was ordered. Had the expected reinforcement arrived we could have prevented the enemy's cavalry from passing to our rear, results more decisive might have been obtained, and a part of our loss have been avoided.

To enumerate the instances of gallantry and good conduct which I witnessed, would exceed the limits proper to this communication, and yet could not fail to omit very many which occurred. I will therefore attempt no other discrimination than to make an exception of the two privates who were reported as "missing", and who have since been returned by the Enemy, taken prisoners without a wound; and
upon all others, both Officers and men, I have the pleasure to confer my unqualified commendation.

To Major Bradford I offer my thanks for the prompt and creditable manner in which he executed all the orders I gave him, and would especially refer to the delicate duty assigned him of restoring order among the files of another Regiment, when rendered unsteady by the fire of the Enemy's Artillery.

Adjutant Griffith rendered me important aid, as well in his appropriate duties, as by the intelligence and courage with which he reconnoitered the Enemy and gave me valuable information.

I must also notice the good conduct of Sergt. Major Miller, and Qur. Mr. Sergeant White of the Regimental Staff.

1st. Lieut. Mott, A. A. Commissary of subsistence, joined his Company (Capt. Taylor's) and performed good service throughout the day.

2d. Lieut. Slade, A. A. Quarter Master, who was left in charge of his train at our Encampment, it has been reported to me that when the Enemy's cavalry threatened our Encampment, he formed his teamsters and others into a party, mounted them on wagon horses, and joined Lieut. Shover of the Artillery in his brilliant sortie, by which the Enemy was driven from his position on our line of communication.
To William W. S. Bliss, March 2, 1847

Captn. Sharp's Company "A", and Capt. Delay's Company "F" having been on "detached Service" when the battle of Monterey was fought, seemed anxious on this occasion to bring up any arrears in which they might be supposed to stand to the Regiment. They formed the first division and did their duty nobly.

Three of the Companies were by unavoidable causes deprived of the presence of their Captains on this occasion, viz:

Company "C" commanded by Lieut. Cook whose gallantry at the Storming of Monterey received my notice, and whose good conduct on this occasion is worthy of the highest commendation.

Company "E" commanded by Lieut. Fletcher who showed himself equal to all the Emergencies of that eventful day.

Company "H" commanded by Lieut. Moore who so gallantly led it on the 23rd. of Sept. in the storming of Monterey. Cool, brave and well informed he possessed my highest respect and entire confidence. He fell in our first engagement and on our most advanced position. The command of the Company then devolved upon Lieut. Clendenin (Captain Elect) who continued to lead it during the battle.

Capt. Taylor of Company "I" was present with his command throughout the day and, as on former occasions, proved himself worthy to be the leader of that gallant Company.
Capt. Cooper with his Company "B" upon the left flank of the Regiment, seized every opportunity which his position gave him, and rendered distinguished service.

Capt. Downing joined his Company "G" on the 22d. at Buena Vista. He had heard at the Rinconada that we were about to be attacked and though the road was beset by "Rancheros," he hastened forward and took command of his company in the morning. In the first Engagement of the 23d, this company was particularly distinguished, and fulfilled the expectations which its high state of discipline had warranted. 2d. Lieut. McNulty was killed when leading a portion of the company to the charge. 1st. Lieut. Greaves, and 2d. Lieut. Hampton for their gallantry in battle, and uniform good conduct deserve the highest consideration.

There were many instances of both Officers and men, who after being wounded remained upon the field, and continued to discharge their duties, until active operations had ceased. Such was the case with Capt. Sharp, who though shot through both thighs, evinced so great reluctance to leaving the field that he was permitted to remain and follow his company on horseback.

Lieuts. Posey and Corwine and Stockard were wounded, but set the valuable example of maintaining their posts. Such also was the conduct of Sergts. Scott of Company "C",
and Hollingsworth of Company "A"; of pivate Malone of Company "F", and of others whose names have not been reported to me.

In addition to the officers already commended in this report, I would mention as deserving especial consideration for their gallantry and general good conduct, Lieutenants Calhoun, and Dill, and Arthur, and Harrison, & Brown, & Hughes.

It may be proper for me to notice the fact, that early in the action, Col. Bowles of Indiana with a small part from his Regiment, which he stated was all of his men that he could rally, joined us, and expressed a wish to serve with my command. He remained with us throughout the day, and under all circumstances displayed much personal gallantry.

Referring for the casualties in my Regiment to the list which has been furnished, I have the honor to be


Jeffn Davis

[El Saltillo Mex
March 2/47
Jeff. Davis
Col. 1st Miss.
Submits detailed report of the service of his regt. at Buena Vista
To William W. S. Bliss, March 2, 1847

LS, National Archives Record Group 94, Records of the Office of the Adjutant General, Letters Received, File T-257-1847. Printed in Rowland (ed.), Davis, Constitutionalist, I, 149-56. Bliss' note of March 1 has not been found. The statement of Rogers is printed in Rowland (ed.), Davis, Constitutionalist, I, 174-75.

For identification of WILLIAM WALLACE SMITH BLISS, see Davis to Bliss, September 3, 1846, above. The TWO COMPANIES DETACHED were D and K. Marching down the main road from Saltillo, the Mississippi regiment stopped AT THE FIRST CONVENIENT PLACE, the hacienda of Buena Vista, to fill their canteens, then turned diagonally from the road to their left. The HORSEMEN and REGIMENT OF INFANTRY FLYING DISORGANIZED were Captain Thomas F. Marshall's Kentucky cavalry, four companies of Arkansas mounted riflemen and the Second Indiana infantry regiment under COLONEL WILLIAM A. BOWLES. Davis proceeded to the head of the plateau, THE POINT WHICH HAD JUST BEEN ABANDONED, and met Brigadier General John E. Wool (for identification, see Davis to Joseph Davis, January 26, 1847, above) who went personally to call up the Third Indiana regiment from La Angostura. THE MAIN BODY OF THE ENEMY . . . ELATED BY RECENT SUCCESS which the Mississippians first repulsed was General Pedro de Ampudia with a body of light infantry flanked by the Tampico Guards who had driven back the Kentucky
To William W. S. Bliss, March 2, 1847

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cavalry, the Arkansas riflemen, the Second Indiana regiment and Captain John Paul Jones O'Brien's battery of Fourth Artillery earlier that morning. It was about 9 o'clock A.M. when the Mississippi regiment first met the enemy. COLONEL JAMES H. LANE'S THIRD INDIANA regiment which had been in reserve and FIRST LIEUTENANT C. L. KILBURN with a piece of light artillery from MAJOR BRAXTON BRAGG's battery of Third Artillery came up to the plateau and with the Mississippians met and broke the advancing cavalry column of Generals Ramon Pacheco and Manuel M. Lombardini under the fire of a BATTERY WHICH THE ENEMY HAD ESTABLISHED NEAR THE CENTRE OF HIS LINE, the San Patricio battery, manned by American deserters stationed at the head of the broad ravine and commanding the head of the plateau. Lane's regiment passed from the left of Davis into a ravine and Kilburn's ARTILLERY RETIRED TO THE BATTERY FROM WHICH IT HAD BEEN DRAWN, at La Angostura. As the ravines offered a temporary shelter from the Mexican artillery, there was a chance for food to be brought up and the wounded to be taken from the field. The greater part of the Pacheco-Lombardini column moved north to support Ampudia and the rest, including commanding General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, shrank back to the broad ravine to the south. By this time, about midday, a brigade of Mexican cavalry supported by infantry had moved up the road to gain Saltillo and Davis, fearful of envelopment and without
support to his rear, ordered his regiment RETIRED BY ITS LEFT FLANK about 300 yards. The LARGE BODY OF CAVALRY DEBOUCHING FROM HIS COVER was part of the Pacheco-Lombardini column, the main attacking force, and numbered some 2,000 lancers who advanced rapidly, then halted in the focus of the RE-ENTERING ANGLE formed by the Mississippi and Indiana regiments on the bank of a deep north-south ravine. SERGEANT MAJOR HORACE A. MILLER was sent to ask CAPTAIN THOMAS WEST SHERMAN of the Third Artillery for support; Sherman was almost a mile away at La Angostura and came up with a howitzer just as the Mexicans fled. A DETACHMENT OF OUR ARTILLERY AND CAVALRY, Bragg's battery and a body of dragoons, came from near the Saltillo road and with the Mississippi regiment drove the remainder, some 5,000-6,000 horsemen, of the Mexicans to the base of the mountains, where they were under cover of the ENEMY'S ARTILLERY, still the San Patricio battery. The ENEMY MADE HIS LAST ATTACK UPON THE RIGHT, Santa Anna having decided to gather all his troops under General F. Perez, as all the Mexican attempts to gain the American rear had failed. Bragg's and Sherman's batteries came rapidly from the north field, as did the Mississippi and Indiana regiments, at MAJOR GENERAL ZACHARY TAYLOR's command, to try to hold Perez' forces who had driven the Second Illinois, First Illinois and Second Kentucky infantry regiments from the American left and were sweeping the center of the plateau. Bragg's and Sherman's guns held the
center as the Mississippi and Indiana infantry charged the enemy in his right flank and reverse. Perez fell back, and the conflict was over by 5 P.M. Ordered withdrawn from the plateau before dark, the Mississippi regiment was ordered back to Saltillo under the command of Major Alexander B. Bradford. See Heitman; Smith, I, 389-95; James Henry Carleton, The Battle of Buena Vista, with the Operations of the "Army of Occupation" for One Month (New York: Harper, 1848), 72-123. Descriptions of the action of Captain William P. Rogers commanding Company K and First Lieutenant Daniel R. Russell commanding Company D at Saltillo are in Rogers' report to Davis dated March 6, in Rowland (ed.), Davis, Constitutionalist, I, 174-75. A strong detachment of the enemy cavalry under General J. J. Miñón had tried to take the American redoubts at Saltillo, but were unsuccessful (see also Smith, I, 559). The officers and men mentioned by Davis in commendation, in addition to those named above, are: Richard Griffith, adjutant and second lieutenant of Company C; Samuel W. White, formerly of Companies G and A; Christopher H. Mott, first lieutenant of Company I and acting assistant commissary of subsistence; Thomas P. Slade, second lieutenant of Company A and acting assistant quartermaster who assisted Captain William H. Shover of the Third Artillery in repulsing the enemy at Saltillo (see above; Heitman); John M. Sharp;
WILLIAM DELAY; First Lieutenant HENRY F. COOK; First Lieutenant CRAWFORD FLETCHER; First Lieutenant ROBERT L. MOORE; JOHN S. CLEN DENIN, elected Captain January 26 or January 29 and assumed command February 24 (Muster Rolls, February 1 and March 1, NA RG 94, Adjutant General, Muster Rolls of Volunteer Organizations); JAMES H. R. TAYLOR; DOUGLAS H. COOPER; REUBEN N. DOWNING had been on furlough since October 20, 1846, on account of severe wounds received at the battle of Monterrey (Muster Rolls, February 1 and March 1, NA RG 94, Adjutant General, Muster Rolls of Volunteer Organizations); FRANCIS J. McNULTY; STEPHEN A. D. GREAVES; WILLIAM HENRY HAMPTON; CARNOT POSEY, first lieutenant of Company B; AMOS B. CORWINE, first lieutenant of Company A; JOHN P. STOCKARD, second lieutenant of Company F; WILLIAM HENRY SCOTT, first sergeant; DAVID M. HOLLINGSWORTH, musician and first sergeant; J. F. MALONE, second lieutenant; JAMES CALHOUN, second lieutenant, Company B; SAMUEL H. DILL, second lieutenant, Company I; RUFUS K. ARTHUR, second lieutenant, Company B; WILLIAM N. BROWN, first lieutenant, Company F; JAMES H. HUGHES, second lieutenant, Company E. See Muster Roll, Miss. Archives. For complete list of killed and wounded, see Rowland (ed.), David, Constitutionalist, I, 175-77.
To Robert J. Walker

Monterey, Mexico

20th April 1847

Dr. Sir,

Some time since I recommended 1st Lieut. W. H. H. Patterson of the 1st Missi. Riflemen for promotion to any new Rgt. of Dragoon which might be created, if no such appointment has been given to him, I would now ask your friendly aid to procure for him the command of the company of Voltiguers called for from the state of Missi. Mr. Patterson is a gallant and under all circumstances a highly valuable officer. If service constitute a claim for such appointment no one can have higher claims than himself. Always sober, industrious, and attentive to his duties, he has made far greater than ordinary progress in the knowledge of the duties of an officer.

I recommend him to you as one whose appointment will be advantageous to the service, and I will be personally obliged for any service you can render him. An ever yrs.

Jeffn Davis
To Robert J. Walker, April 20, 1847

ALS, National Archives Record Group 315, Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Robert J. Walker Papers. The earlier letter to Walker recommending Patterson has not been found.

WILLIAM H. H. PATTERSON of Company K was noted by Davis for his services in the battle of Monterrey, September 21-23, 1846 (Davis to Quitman, September 26, 1846, above). The VOLTIGUERS were called up by President Polk February 11, 1847 (Smith, II, 363). For identification of ROBERT JOHN WALKER, see Davis to Walker, July 22, 1846, above.
To Colin S. Tarpley et al

Monterey, May 7, 1847

Gentlemen

Your letter of the 5th ult., conveying the resolutions of a public meeting held in the capital of our State, on the 3d of April, 1847, has just been received.

For the approbation thus conferred on the officers and men of the 1st Mississippi Rifles, I feel most sincerely thankful. For myself, and for those whom it has been my honor and good fortune to command, I will say, that in such manifestations of regard and esteem of our brethren at home, is contained the reward for whatever we have borne of toil, privation or loss; for whatever we may have achieved of honorable service in the cause of our country.

The necessary directions will be given, to place your letter on the records, and ensure its reading at the head of each company of our Regiment.

For the very kind and highly complimentary terms in which you, as the organ of the meeting have presented its resolutions, I am truly sensible, and offer my grateful acknowledgements.

Cordially, I am your friend and fellow citizen,

Jeff'n Davis,

Colonel 1st Mississippi Rifles.
L, printed in Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, June 8, 1847, and in Rowland (ed.), Davis, Constitutionalist, I, 71-72. Neither the original of this manuscript nor the May 5 letter from Tarpley et al has been found. Addressed to: Messrs. C. S. Tarpley, Jno. D. Freeman, Jas. J. Deavenport, H. Stuart Foote, C. R. Clifton, Charles Scott, Daniel Mayes, Jno. I. Guion, A. Hutchinson, Jno. Mayrant. -- Committee.

Most of the committee are at least partially identifiable. COLIN S. TARPLEY (1802-1860), was a prominent lawyer of Hinds County. He was appointed chief justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court in 1851, but did not serve, as the governor's right of appointment was questioned (Rowland, Official Register, 149-50; Rowland, Mississippi, I, 447, II, 708, 710, 712; James D. Lynch, The Bench and Bar of Mississippi [New York: E. J. Hale, 1881], 366-68).

JOHN D. FREEMAN ( ? - January 17, 1886) was attorney general of Mississippi, 1841-51, former district attorney at Grand Gulf. He was elected as a Unionist to the Thirty-second Congress (Biog. Directory of Congress). HENRY STUART FOOTE (February 28, 1804-May 19, 1880) was a lawyer and served with Davis as a Democratic presidential elector in 1844. He was elected as a Unionist to the Senate March 4, 1847, and served until 1852, when he was elected governor. During the Civil War, he was a member of the first and second
Confederate Congresses (Biog. Directory of Congress). CASWELL R. CLIFTON was involved in Mississippi politics at the time of the October, 1849, state conventions (Rowland, Mississippi, II, 710, 716). CHARLES SCOTT (November 12, 1811-1861) was a prominent Jackson lawyer and later chancellor of Mississippi (Lynch, Bench and Bar, 175-76). DANIEL MAYES was a successful Jackson lawyer (Lynch, Bench and Bar, 254-57). JOHN ISAAC GUION (November 18, 1802-June 26, 1855) was a Whig and former law partner with Seargent S. Prentiss, a former circuit court judge and served in the state senate 1842-51 (Rowland, Official Register, 143-44). ANDERSON HUTCHINSON ( ? - 1853) was a lawyer who had published, with Volney E. Howard, a digest of the laws of Mississippi in 1840. He later served as a Texas Supreme Court justice, then returned to Mississippi to form a law partnership with Henry S. Foote (Lynch, Bench and Bar, 252-53).
To George H. Crosman

Rhenosa 24th May 1847

Dear friend,

We arrived here this evening and find the 2nd Ky. and part of the Ky. Cavalry waiting transportation. The "Roberts" has just come up and another Boat is in sight.

By taking the Rough and Ready the whole of my Regt can be placed on her, the "Troy" left as a lighter until she returns and the other boats will relieve the immediate press for transportation, such considerations have induced me to require the Rough & ready to continue on to the mouth, and the "Troy" to remain until she returns.

I hope the arrangement will not incommode you or be otherwise unsatisfactory. You will appreciate the reluctance with which I have given any directions which might possibly derange your plans. As ever yours

Jeffer Davis

Colo M1. Rifle.
To George H. Crosman, May 24, 1847

LbC, National Archives Record Group 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Letter Book of Major George H. Crosman.

For identification of GEORGE HAMPTON CROSMAN, see Davis to Crosman, September 3, 1846, above. The 2ND. KENTUCKY infantry under Major Cary H. Fry was reported to be at Brazos Santiago with the Mississippi regiment by May 28 (New Orleans Picayune, June 2, quoted in Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, June 5, 1847). The J. E. ROBERTS and the ROUGH AND READY were government-owned sidewheel river steamboats of 118 and 150 tons, respectively; the TROY was a government-owned sternwheel steamboat of ninety-two tons (Risch, Quartermaster Support, 261) which were evidently used to travel to and from the MOUTH of the Rio Grande, carrying troops and supplies for the American-occupied towns of Camargo and REYNOSA.
To Varina H. Davis

Mouth of Rio Grande
27th May 1847

Dear Wife,

I have just arrived here and have a moment to say that we are on our way to New Orleans and will leave by first conveyance. Early in next month we will probably be in New Orleans and soon thereafter I shall be at home. I cannot walk yet but am steadily recovering. God bless you my dearest and preserve you in all things for the great end of our life substantial, mutual happiness.

Farewell

Your Husband.
ALS, Jefferson Davis Papers, Manuscript Collection, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Addressed: Mrs. Varina Davis, care of W. B. Howell eq Natchez Miss, pr Dallas

I CANNOT WALK YET refers to the wound in his right foot which Davis received at the battle of Buena Vista, February 23, 1847 (see Davis to V. Davis, February 25, 1847, above). NEW ORLEANS was the destination of the volunteers, where they were to be paid and mustered out of service. Davis and Companies A, B, C, E, and H sailed on the brig Forest May 29, and arrived in New Orleans June 6. Companies F, K, and I sailed May 30 on the schooner P. B. Savory, and arrived in New Orleans June 5. Companies D and G arrived in New Orleans June 11, too late for the welcoming festivities. Davis reached HOME, Natchez, June 14. See New Orleans Delta, June 6, quoted in Mississippi Free Trader & Natchez Gazette, June 8, 1847; Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, June 16, 1847; Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig, June 8, 1847; Natchez Weekly Courier, June 16, 1847.
To Thomas B. Eastland

Mouth of R. Grande

27th May 1847

Dear Sir,

I have arrived at this place with eight companies of the Missi. Regt. and anxious to proceed to New Orleans with the least delay.

Can you arrange so as to give us prompt dispatch in a steam vessel. I would have gone over to see you if I had been able to ride on horseback, but as I suppose you have been apprised from Genl. Head Qrs. of our coming and know you will be predisposed to oblige us, I have felt more than ordinarily easy about arrangements at this point.

Very truly yr. friend

Jeffn Davis

Col. Mi. Rifln.

[E] Mo Rio Grande May 27 1847

Col J Davis Miss Regt

advising his arrival at mo River with 8 comps Miss Volls
To Thomas B. Eastland, May 27, 1847

THOMAS B. EASTLAND was major and quartermaster of volunteers since June 26, 1846 (Heitman). Davis and EIGHT COMPANIES, A, B, C, E, F, H, I, and K, sailed from the mouth of the Rio Grande to Brazos Santiago where they embarked May 29-30 for NEW ORLEANS. Davis had been wounded in the battle of Buena Vista, February 23, 1847, was unable to walk without crutches and not ABLE TO RIDE ON HORSEBACK. See Davis to V. Davis, February 25, May 27, 1847, above, for further details.
To Thomas B. Eastland

Mouth of Rio grande
27th May 1847

Dear Maj.

Thank you for your kind letter and think with you that one steamer might have been left to keep up communications between New Orleans and the column above. I will come over in the morning and the next day if you say so the Troops can be ready to embark, or if other things can be prepared the Rgt. will be ready to move to morrow.

Until I see you in the morning Farewell. as ever very truly yours

Jeffn Davis


Col Jef. Davis Miss Regt

That he will proceed to the Brazos immediately
To Thomas B. Eastland, May 27, 1847

ALS, National Archives Record Group 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Letters Received by Major Eastland. Eastland's letter to Davis not found.

See Davis to Eastland, May 27, 1847, above.
To John C. Calhoun

Brazos Sant Iago
28th May 1847

My dear Sir,

Your esteemed favor of the 30th March after unusual delay has reached me, nothing could add to my willingness to serve the young gentleman who was the subject of your communication. His gallantry in battle and soldierly conduct on all occasions has attracted my notice and received my highest commendation. I had very little power to serve the deserving, my recommendations have in no instance been noticed and the Regimental appointments within the power of a Colonel are limited to the non. com. Regt. Staff. Before the battle of Buena Vista, I appointed our your young friend Quarter Master Sergeant. On the day of the battle he shouldered his rifle and took his place in the ranks of his old Company. His conduct as at Monterey was worthy of the highest praise, and had the better fortune to escape from wound. He has entirely recovered from the effects of the wound he received at Monterey and if there be any way in which I can promote his views be assured that it will always be with the greatest pleasure my exertions will be made in his behalf.

He is now with the rear detachment of the Regt. but will join us probably in the early days of June at New
Orleans at which place our Regt. will be mustered out of service.

Please accept my best wishes and most cordial assurances of Regard. as every yr. friend

Jeffn Davis
To John C. Calhoun, May 28, 1847

ALS, John C. Calhoun Papers, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina. Addressed: Hon. J. C. Calhoun of So. Ca. Calhoun's letter of March 30 has not been found.

JOHN CALDWELL CALHOUN (March 18-1782-March 31, 1850) was at home, Fort Hill, South Carolina, in late May, 1847 (Charles M. Wiltse, John C. Calhoun: Sectionalist, 1840-1850 [Indianapolis and New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1951], 208-25; J. Franklin Jameson [ed.], "Correspondence of John C. Calhoun," Annual Report of the American Historical Association for 1899 [2 vols., Washington: Government Printing Office, 1900], II, 728-29). The SUBJECT OF YOUR COMMUNICATION seems to be Samuel Warren White who was quartermaster sergeant, was noted for his good conduct in the battle of Buena Vista and was severely wounded in the battle of Monterrey. White was in Company G, which, with Company D, was THE REAR DETACHMENT and the last of the Mississippi regiment to leave BRAZOS SANTIAGO for mustering out of service at New Orleans in June. See Muster Roll, Miss. Archives; "Return of the Killed, Wounded and Missing . . . in the Battles . . . of Monterrey, Mxo." in Rowland (ed.), Davis, Constitutionalist, I, 147; Davis to Bliss, March 2, 1847, above; Davis to V. Davis, May 27, 1847, above.
To John M. Chilton et al

New Orleans, 11th June, 1847.

Gentlemen

Your letter of the 31st of May, conveying in the most kind and complimentary terms the wish of the citizens of Vicksburg and Warren county to receive the 1st Mississippi Rifles at a Barbecue, was received at this place.

We most sensibly feel your flattering attention to our approach, and hope to have the pleasure of meeting you at Vicksburg on Tuesday morning, the 15th inst.

To you, gentlemen of the committee, for the pleasing manner in which you welcome our coming, I return, on the part of the Regiment, the sincerest thanks. Very truly, yours,

Jeff'n Davis,

Colonel Mississippi Rifles
To John M. Chilton et al., June 11, 1847


ALEXANDER H. ARTHUR was editor of the Vicksburg Tri-Weekly Whig; JOHN JENKINS was editor of the Vicksburg Sentinel. THOMAS E. ROBINS was called by Joseph E. Davis "a near relative" in Davis to Messrs. Jenkins and Radford, October 30, printed in Vicksburg Weekly Sentinel, November 3, 1846. JOHN M. CHILTON may be related to Robert Hall Chilton, army captain and quartermaster (assistant) who was charged with providing arms and supplies to the Mississippi regiment when it was called up in June, 1846 (see Davis to Thomas S. Jesup, June 29, 1846, above).
Receipt of Pay

June 12, 1847

Davis signs a pay voucher in receipt of $1685.22 for pay for himself, September 1, 1846-June 12, 1847, subsistence for himself, July 18, 1846-June 12, 1847, and subsistence for two private servants, September 1, 1846-June 12, 1847. The amount was received in full from Andrew Jackson Coffee, paymaster at New Orleans.

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