



The Summer Confederate

LEGIONNAIRE

The Newsletter of the General William B. Bate Camp No. 34

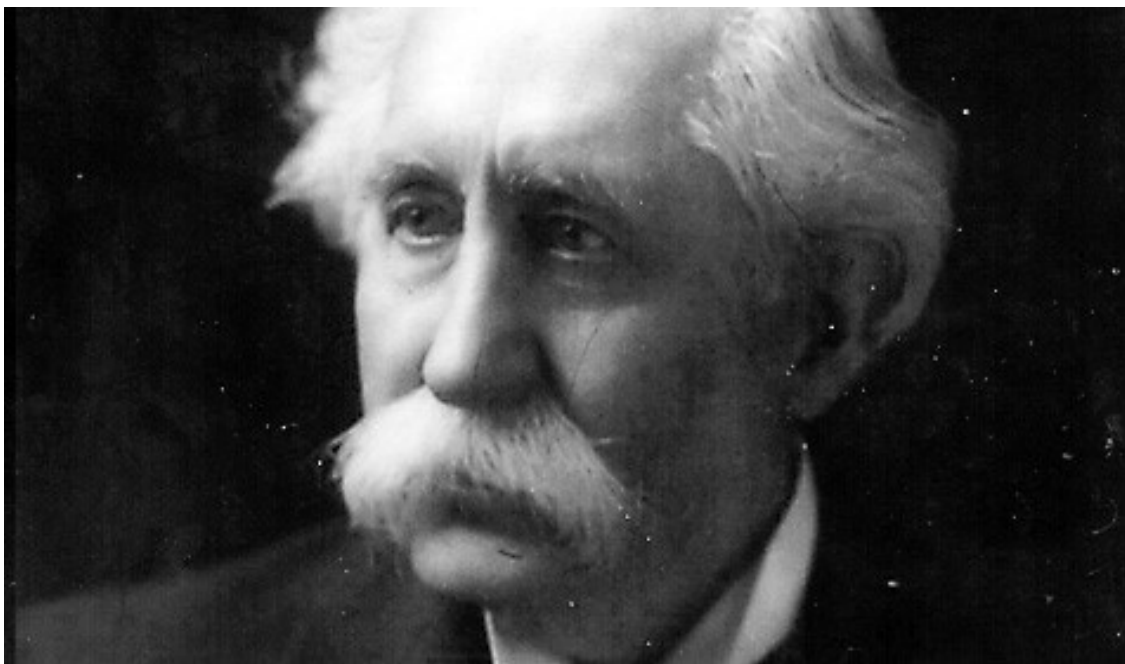
Sons of Confederate Veterans



Volume 6, Issue 9

September 2016

THE OLD CONFEDERATE: WILLIAM BRIMAGE BATE



General William B. Bate shortly before his death in 1905.

By Ray Hill

Just a few years following America's

bloody Civil War, as states were readmitted to the Union, old Confederates began to arrive in Congress. The United States Senate particularly came to be dominated by Southerners, who occupied most of the powerful committee chairmanships. It

has been

frequently said the Senate was the South's revenge for the Civil War.

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE VISITORS' CENTER AT BLEDSOE CREEK STATE PARK, 400 ZIEGLERS FORT ROAD, GALLATIN. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THE OLD CONFEDERATE	1
CAMP NEWS	4
CANADA CHIEF	10
HUMPHREY POLLOCK BATE	11
DR. HUMPHREY HOWELL BATE	12

Our speaker this month is our very own Division 2nd Lieutenant Commander, Frank Heathman who will speak on the 49th Tennessee Infantry.

Tennessee's William Brimage Bate was and was awarded the rank of one of those old Confederates, held in high esteem back home, who landed in the United States Senate. Bate had been a soldier, rising to the rank of Major General in the Confederate Army. Bate was also an attorney, newspaperman, governor of Tennessee and finally, United States senator.

William B. Bate entered the world on October 7, 1826 in Sumner County, Tennessee near the little town of Bledsoe's Lick. Bate was actually one of those politicians who really did receive the first years of his education in a log cabin school house. Bate's education was rudely interrupted by the sudden death of his father when he was only fifteen years old. Needing to help

support his family, William B. Bate found employment as a clerk on a steamboat. Much of the country's commerce was done by boat in those days and Bate traveled on the Saladin from Nashville to New Orleans. Bate was in New Orleans when the Mexican - American War erupted and he quickly joined a regiment comprised of volunteers from Louisiana.

William B. Bate became an increasingly partisan Democrat and worked hard for the election of Andrew Johnson to be governor of Tennessee. Bate was chosen to be an elector for presidential candidate John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky in 1860



reenlisted in a volunteer unit from Tennessee and was awarded the rank of lieutenant. Bate was among those soldiers serving under General Joseph Lane who pursued the Mexican dictator Santa Anna at the end of the war. Bate was also an attorney, newspaperman, governor of Tennessee and finally, United States senator. Eventually, William Brimage Bate made his way home to Tennessee and started a newspaper he curiously named the Tenth Legion in Sumner County. Bate's newspaper assumed a staunchly pro-Democrat stance and he strongly supported most democratic candidates and policies. Bate won his first office in 1849 when he was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives from Gallatin and Sumner County. Bate also attended the Cumberland School of Law and earned a law



when the Democratic Party was deeply divided over the question of slavery. The Democratic Party nationally had splintered with Illinois Senator Stephen Douglas representing northern Democrats, while Breckinridge, a former vice president, was more representative of Southern Democrats. Bate turned down the opportunity to go to Congress in 1859 and became one of the leading voices for secession in his area.

Unlike many of his contemporaries who were more political officers than soldiers, William Brimage Bate was a fighting man. When the cannons fired at Fort Sumpter, Bate hurriedly helped to form a company from Sumner County and was elected its Captain. Bate was later elected Colonel for the Second Tennessee Infantry Company when Tennessee became part of the Confederacy. Colonel



Bate saw action at the Battle of Shiloh, where he was gravely wounded the very first day of the conflict. Wounded in the leg, a doctor told Bate he would have to remove the leg, otherwise the Colonel would die. Unmoved by the devastating diagnosis, Bate whipped out his pistol, pointed it squarely at the physician and calmly told the astonished doctor his leg was not about to be amputated. While he survived the injury, the wound left Bate with a pronounced limp until

Bate's brother Humphrey was not so lucky, as he was slain during the fighting at the Battle of Shiloh.

Following his recovery, William Bate was promoted to Brigadier General, but he complained bitterly when he was kept away from the fighting. Bate was given a command in the Army of Tennessee and when Volunteer State Democrats offered him the gubernatorial nomination in 1863, he turned it down, preferring to fight.

Bate got his wish and was in the thick of the fighting at the Battle of Chickamauga. General Bate had no fewer than three horses shot out from under him during one day. Bate fought in the Battle of Missionary Ridge and due to his service to the Confederacy during the bloody Chattanooga campaign, he earned a promotion to Major General.

General Bate fought in the Atlanta campaign where he was wounded yet again in the leg, which confined him to bed for weeks. Bate recovered enough to General John B. Hood for the invasion of Tennessee by the Confederate Army. By the end of the war, General Bate was in North Carolina and surrendered with his men near





Compatriots,

This month we are meeting on the 8th at the Visitors' Center at Bledsoe State Park, 400 Zieglers Fort Road, Gallatin. We are indebted to Compatriot Charlie Bryant for working with Rick Brooks, the Park Manager. I went out and looked at the facility and it is really a very nice location. A new conference room with access to a laptop and a large screen television so that video presentations can be easily seen by all. As always, we are meeting at 7:00 p.m. Go out east on Highway 25/Hartsville Pike about 5 miles east from Gallatin to Zieglers Fort Road. Turn right on Zieglers Fort Road and go south to 400 Zieglers Fort Road, the Park's entrance which is clearly marked. Turn into the Park entrance and the Visitors'

Center is on the right.

Division 2nd Lt. Commander Frank Heathman will be this month's speaker. He will be giving his presentation on the 49th Tennessee Infantry. It is a great presentation and I think you will enjoy it.

Anyone who wants to meet for supper before the meeting, there will be a group of us who are meeting at Shady Cove Restaurant, 1115 Shady Cove Rd, Castalian Springs, TN 37031 at 5:30 p.m. Shady Cove is famous for their catfish and Frank says they have a great buffet. It will be a great opportunity to fellowship and enjoy a good meal before our meeting. It's about 8 miles east of Gallatin. Go out Highway 25/Harstville Pike East to Harsh Lane. Turn right on Harsh Lane and it takes you right to Shady Cove.

Randy P. Lucas
Commander



GET A TAG ~ SAVE A FLAG

SEVEN PINES.
MECHANICSVILLE.
GOLD HARBOR.
★ **HELP US PRESERVE**
TENNESSEE'S HISTORIC FLAGS
~**CONFEDERATE HISTORY IS AMERICAN HISTORY.**~

FRAZIER'S FARM.
CEDAR RUN.
MANASSAS.
**GET YOUR TAG AT
YOUR LOCAL
COUNTY CLERK'S
OFFICE**



**NO
MEMBERSHIP
REQUIRED
TNSCV.ORG**

1800MYSOUTH

Greensboro.

Returning home to Tennessee after the war, Bate resumed his law practice. General Bate was still very much a partisan Democrat and was popular enough to be nominated for the United States Senate in the Tennessee General Assembly on several occasions, although he was never elected.

Tennessee was suffering through an acute financial crisis after the Civil War and a depression helped to plunge the state into outright financial despair. Tennessee defaulted on its bonded indebtedness in 1875, an issue which became the focal point of a serious division inside Tennessee's Democratic Party. Some wished to pay the

state's debt in full and were promptly labeled "High Tax" Democrats, while those who professed to believe it was impossible for Tennessee to repay all she owed and should only pay a portion of that debt were known as "Low Tax" Democrats. The squabbling between Democrats caused the unthinkable and Republican Alvin Hawkins was elected governor in 1880.

Governor Hawkins was a candidate to succeed himself in 1882 and Senator Isham G. Harris helped to engineer the nomination of General William Brimage Bate as the Democratic candidate. General Bate had a little something in his platform for both High Tax and Low Tax Democrats, proposing Tennessee only pay 50% of the debt on bonds



(Continued from page 5)

held by the railroads. Bate and many other Democrats claimed much of the money owed the railroads was little more than ill-gotten gains made possible by the administration of Governor William G. Brownlow, a figure positively loathed by most Tennessee Democrats. Bate did propose to pay off some creditors fully, not the least of which was Sarah Polk, widow of the late President James K. Polk. Yet some High Tax Democrats did not believe Bate's plan went far enough and they nominated a candidate to run in the general election.

Even with the Democratic Party divided, General Bate proved to be so popular a candidate, he defeated Governor Hawkins and won the general election. The candidate of the "High Tax" Democrats drew fewer than 5,000 votes compared to Bate's winning margin of 132,201 votes.

Governor Bate further angered the railroads by submitting legislation to create the Tennessee Railroad Commission, which had the responsibility of regulating the railroads. It is difficult to imagine in today's world, but railroads were the primary means of travel throughout much of the United States at the time. Many of America's wealthiest citizens had ties to railroad companies and those same companies exercised considerable influence in the political affairs of many states.

Bate's actions were especially popular with farmers, who were largely dependent upon the railroads to transport their goods to market and not surprisingly most farmers felt the rates they were being charged were quite high. The act was later repealed by a

different legislature and angry farmers took out their frustration on Democratic candidates.

William B. Bate was reelected governor in 1884 and he was elected to the United States Senate for the first time in 1886 at the conclusion of his gubernatorial term. Senator Bate was reelected in 1892, 1898, and 1904.

Bate had been easily reelected by the Tennessee General Assembly every six years until his final term in 1904. Two highly popular former governors very much wanted to go to the Senate; Benton McMillin and Robert Love Taylor each held senatorial aspirations and moved to oppose the old war horse for reelection.

Kenneth D. McKellar, in his book on Tennessee senators, recalled General Bate coming to Memphis to confer with McKellar's law partner that year. He recalled Bate being "greatly depressed" and his wounds were aggravating the general. Bate's political woes were complicated by the fact the city administration in Memphis, which McKellar remembered as being highly popular, was against Bate's reelection. The old general wondered if he should bother to run again and McKellar's law partner, Colonel William Carroll, urged him to make another campaign. Despite the opposition of the city administration, McKellar wrote that Bate enjoyed the full support of the Memphis delegation.

McKellar said that General Bate was not really a "learned man" and certainly was not a philosopher, but rather a plain, forthright man, devoted to his friends, state and country.





Mr. B. Bate





General Bate as Governor seated at his desk. 1883-1887



SENATOR WM. B. BATE

By the time Bate was elected to his fourth term in the United States Senate, he was seventy-eight years old and increasingly feeble. There were stories about the old general's fondness for the bottle, but he was still elected to yet another term. Bate was sworn into office on March 4, 1905 and that same day the elderly senator watched President Theodore Roosevelt take his own oath of office. Evidently Bate caught a cold, which soon developed into pneumonia. The senator was too feeble to withstand the pneumonia and died on March 9, 1905.

A train was chartered to bring the old warrior's body back home and as the former general's coffin was lowered into the ground, fellow Confederate veterans fired the twenty-

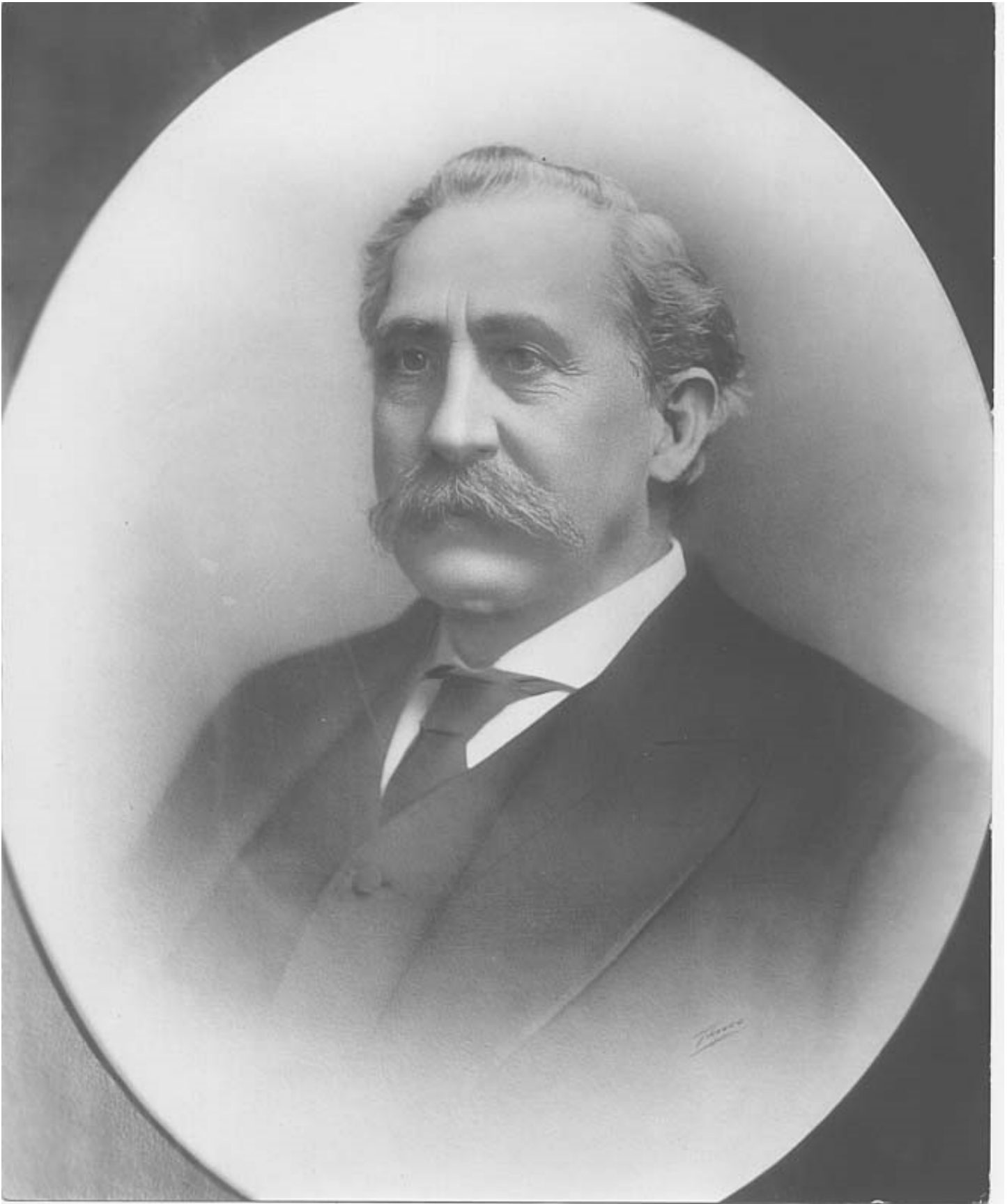
one gun salute.

An imposing man with a bristling moustache, which gave him a rather fierce appearance, William Brimage Bate was an unreconstructed rebel, firm in his convictions and highly respected and popular with his fellow Tennesseans.

The old senator was laid to rest in Mount Olivet cemetery in Nashville where he sleeps today.

This article was originally published in The Knoxville Focus on September 2, 2013. Used by permission of the author, Ray Hill.





General Bate as Governor





CANADA CHIEF (CANADIAN CHIEF, HALL'S BLACK HAWK)

Black, 15% hands; foaled 184; bred by Mr. Connor, Connorsville, Ky; got by Blackburn's Davy Crockett: dam said to be by Blackburn's Whip. Sold to Dr. Herr, Lexington, Ky; H. Spark, Bourbon county, Ky; Thomas Otwell, Scott county, Ky; J. S. Kenney, Bourbon county, Ky; to Simeon Kirtley, near Center-ville, Ky, who took him to Tennessee, about 1855; to Mr. Crittenden, Lebanon, Tenn.; to Dr. j. M. Anderson and Sanford Thompson; to Dr. C. T. Bright; to William Hall, both of Sumner Co., Team; to Gen. William Bate. Killed at the battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862. A very elegant saddle horse, that could either pace or trot in 3 :00. Dr. Charles T. Bright, Nashville, writes: "In form a model; I have never seen his superior in style, action and docility in harness or under saddle. He was awarded 26 premiums"

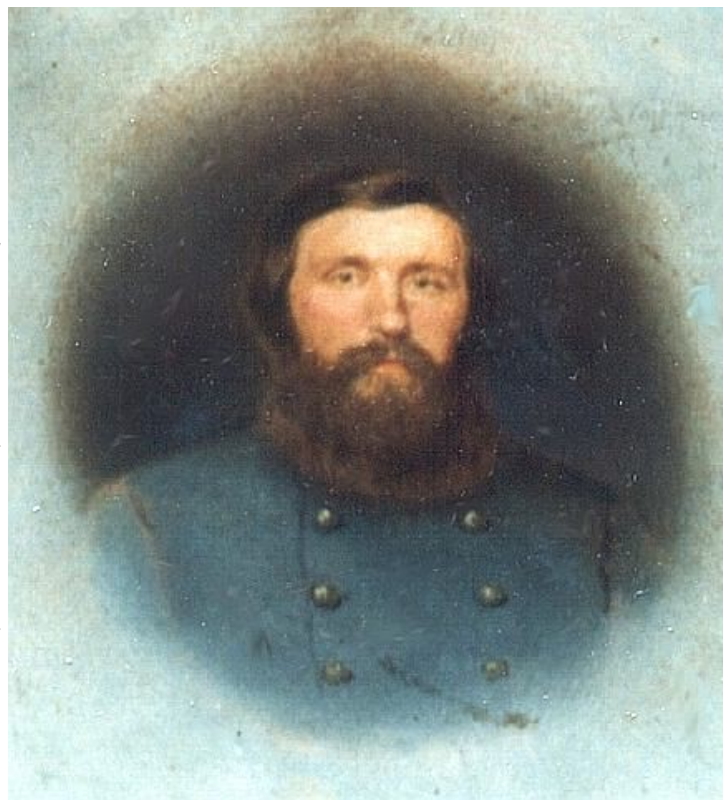
From *The Morgan Horse Register*, 1905.



About the Illustration

19th century oil on canvas equine portrait, unsigned, the subject of which is believed to be the horse known as Canada Chief or Hall's Black Hawk. The dark brown horse with black mane and small white blaze on its forehead is depicted in profile against a landscape with trees and hills in the background. Old, but probably not original, molded giltwood and composition frame with bead and floral moldings. 12" x 20-3/8" canvas, 17-1/2" x 25-1/2" frame. Provenance: descended in the family of Dr. Joseph M. Anderson of Lebanon, Tennessee (b. 1815 - d. 1896) and by oral tradition, depicts his horse. While Anderson owned several horses, by far the most notable was Canada (Canadian) Chief, also known as Hall's Black Hawk, said to be a descendant of the Morgan Horse Blackburn's Davy Crockett. Bred by a Mr. Connor of Connorsville, Kentucky, the horse was brought to Tennessee about 1855 and owned for a time by J.M. Anderson and Sanford Thompson. He was then sold to Dr. C.T. Bright and William Hall of Sumner County and finally to Confederate General William Bate. He was described as "a very elegant saddle horse, that could either pace or trot in 3:00." Bright said of him: "In form a model, I have never seen his superior in style, action and docility in harness or under saddle. He was awarded 26 premiums." The horse was shot out from under Bate at the Battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862, and killed; Bate was also wounded but recovered. (Source: Joseph Battell, **THE MORGAN HORSE AND REGISTER**). Condition: Painting in need of restoration and overall cleaning, however, aside from a 1/2" puncture with accompanying small area of paint loss to the mane and a 1/16" area of flaking and

scratch across the chest, the image of the horse itself is in good condition. The damage to the rest of the painting includes: one 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" L-shaped puncture and one 1/3" puncture outside but near horse's rear legs, 1/3" puncture and scratch outside but near front legs, small hole near but outside tail. All punctures have accompanying paint loss. Several significant areas of flaking and losses down to the canvas level starting on left side and extending on across full lower edge and right corner. General craquelure. Painting possibly cut down in the late 1800s to fit into this frame.



Captain Humphrey Pollock Bate

Col. Bate had a younger brother, Capt. Humphrey Bate, to whom he was very much attached. During a lull in the fighting at Shiloh the two brothers met and while they were conversing the colonel asked for a light for his cigar from the cigar which his brother

was smoking, and he was in the act of lighting the cigar, Capt. Humphrey Bate received a mortal wound from the enemy and died in a few hours. Col. Bate was often seen with cigars in his mouth afterwards, but never lighted one as long as he lived.



Dr. Humphrey Howell Bate
February 1, 1844-June 9, 1911

Dr. Humphrey H. Bate, one of the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Sumner County, died Friday at his home near Castalian Springs, where he was born in 1844. Dr. Bate, who several years ago was one of the leading physicians of the county, was educated chiefly at Rural Academy. He was a cousin of Gen. Bate, their mothers being sisters, and Dr. Bate's father was the grandfather of Gen. Bate.

When only seventeen years of age, in April, 1861, he enlisted in the Confederate Army, in Bate's Second Regiment of Tennessee infantry, and was in the battle of Bull Run; he served in the Virginia campaign and the re-enlisted in the Tennessee Army, and in the battle of Shiloh received four severe wounds which incapacitated him from further service and he never fully recovered from the effects of one.

In 1866 he entered the Medical Department of the University of Nashville and graduated in 1868, and after taking another course in lectures commenced practicing medicine in Sumner County, which he continued up to the time his health failed several years ago.

In 1869 he married Miss Martha A. Franklin of Trousdale County, who died in 1871. On November 25, 1873, he married Miss Nannie D. Simpson of Tipton, who with two children, Dr. H. Bate of this county and Mrs. Anne Brown of Nashville, survive. At the time of his death, Dr. Bate was living on the old Bate farm and in the house that Gov. Bate was born in. It having been built when Tennessee was a part of North Carolina, and which is one of the oldest brick residences in the county and still in a good state of preservation. Politically Dr. Bate was a Democrat. He was a Mason and a member of the Christian Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder E. A. Elam Saturday afternoon and the interment, which was in charge of Donelson Bivouac, took place at Gallatin Cemetery.

Obituary from the Gallatin News Examiner

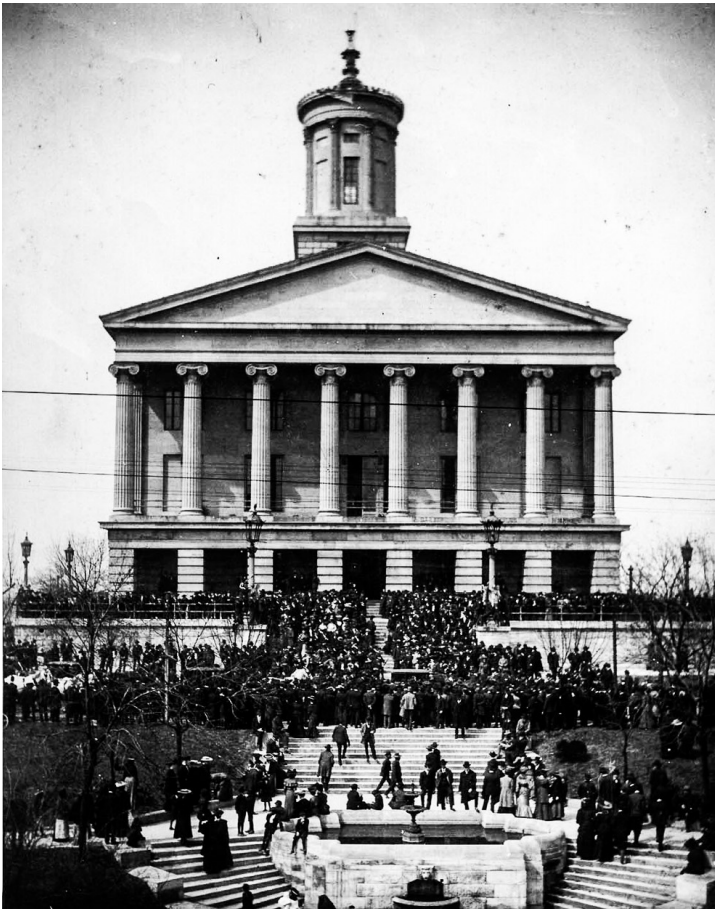




Dr. Humphrey Howell Bate's Headstone in the Gallatin City Cemetery



**Hawthorne Hill
Birthplace of General William B. Bate and of
Dr. Humphrey Howell Bate
Castalian Springs**



General Bate's funeral in Nashville, 1905

**At Right, General William B. Bate,
Headstone in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Nashville**



SUMNER CONFEDERATE LEGIONNAIRE

111 College Street
Gallatin, Tennessee 37066
Phone: 615-451-1013
Fax: 615-230-5722
Email: batecamp34@comcast.net

General William B. Bate Camp 34, Sons of Confederate Veterans

Commander - Randy P. Lucas
1 Lt. Commander - Eddie Felts
2 Lt. Commander - John de Leusomme
Adjutant - Kenneth A. Corum
Quartermaster - Richard Hamblen
Treasurer - Kenneth A. Corum
Chaplain - Johnny Keele
Surgeon - Vacant
Historian - G. Franklin Heathman
Color Sergeant - Michael Bassette
Judge Advocate - William Bryan Roehrig, III
Editor - Randy P. Lucas

Carmack's Pledge to the South

The South is a land that has known sorrows; it is a land that has broken the ashen crust and moistened it with tears; a land scarred and riven by the plowshare of war and billowed with the graves of her dead; but a land of legend, a land of song, a land of hallowed and heroic memories.

To that land every drop of my blood, every fiber of my being, every pulsation of my heart, is consecrated forever. I was born of her womb; I was nurtured at her breast; and when my last hour shall come, I pray God that I may be pillowed upon her bosom and rocked to sleep within her tender and encircling arms.



THE BATTLE OF PITTSBURG, TENN. APRIL 7TH 1862.

This plate represents the moment, when the heroic Genl Grant rode to the left of the field, and placing himself at the head of a column, ordered a charge on the enemy, himself leading, while cannon-balls were falling like hail around him. His men followed with a shout, and in the tremendous shock of arms that ensued, completely routed the Rebels, although they were commanded by their best and bravest Generals Johnston and Beauregard.