

Executive Department,

Chief of Ordnance General,

Columbia, S. C. June 20th 1862

Mr. Waring M. McKell
Charleston, S. C.

Dear Sir

Yours, immediately

To Yorkville, S. C., reached me here -
Your impression is correct. My
Brigade did belong to Longstreet's
Corps but was not with it at
Gettysburg. Longstreet's Corps was
operating against Suffolk, Va. when
the Battle of Chancellorsville precipitated
his ^{instant} recall to that point or to the Army of
N. Virginia. My Brigade was left to
watch the enemy at Suffolk & guard
the approaches to Petersburg & Richmond,
and remained on detached service until

After the Gettysburg Campaign - In a
word, when the Army moved upon
Pennsylvania, my Brigade was not allowed
to go with the Corps, but was detached
for the defence of Richmond & its R.R. con-
ditions -

I am truly sorry that I cannot give you
the information desired -
Genl Kershaw belonged to Longstreet's Corps
& was at Gettysburg - He may be able to
give satisfactory information -

Yours truly
Geo. B. Gordon

B

The fate of the University, which was the same - sum of our system, or, to be more explicit, the establishment of which was the planting of a State educational system, is a great grief to me and clouds any all other regrets that I might have felt over last summer's work.

3000

My Post Office is
"White Oak" not
Winnabow -

Farmington April 11th 1891

Dear Weber

Your flattering little note reached me, at least, "forwarded" from Winnabow - I send you two copies of photographs of your humble servant - One, that of the complacent looking old gentleman, my son had taken ^{rather} two years ago when I paid him a visit on the Pacific coast - The other, a sun burnt rather piratical looking cap, was taken shortly after my promotion from the ranks to 1st Lieut: in Co. C, 68th So. Cal. Regt. I. S. A. -

These are the only pictures of myself that are on hand - There was another that my children thought ~~was~~ the best but it is not in reach - (copy destroyed)
For neither of these or in any of them do I recognize myself, but send them both for you to take your choice - You need not

return them - I present them to you -
I would remark that the "Complacent
looking old gentleman" was more interested
in the educational interests of the State
than the "Practical looking Cuss", for about
about the time of the taking of the
picture that what was called my
"Speech on the University Bill that nobody
read" was published in N.Y.C. -
The copies sent to me were called for some
time after, and I have in vain asked
Hemphill to send me one & I wanted it
last summer but could not get it -
May I trouble you to look through the
files of the Paper (N.Y.C.) during the session of
Legislature that passed the University Bill for
it (Article headed (by Dawson) "System
or no System" & with my signature -
and should there be an extra copy of the
Paper, send it to me - While I was not
the framer of the Bill, I was the instigator of
it and am, perhaps, more responsible for
that "iniquity" than any other one man -
Chief Justice Simpson, who opposed my
motion in the Board of Trustees, formed the Bill.
and in no work of his life did he evince less
ability, or illustrate more strongly the special

[11 Apr. 1891]

form of his character - that of freedom from
personal bias and real, actual fairness to others.
He grasped with even appreciative comprehension
the full idea of his opponent and bestowed
special labor & pains on his effort to give
it fair and full expression - And after making
his draft, was not satisfied until it was
subjected to the test of criticism, which he invited
and we went over ^{a committee for} it line by line. I recall with
feelings of the highest respect & admiration for
him, our various positions - every aspect
that could be brought against ^{it} by its enemies.
(that we could conceive) was made but found
him thoroughly prepared at all points and his
embodiment of the idea which he had opposed
was adopted with dotting an i or changing a t -
It went through the Legislature without attention
except one made by its enemy friends, and that
was, an amendment involving it in all the
political entanglements of the Agri. Bureau -
instigated by purely political considerations. And

without thought or regard for our educational
interests — We are now reaping the fruits,
so far as our educational system is concerned,
not so much of revolution as of legitimate
evolution from that petty germ of error —
Of all of our resources for regaining our rank
and wanted place among the states of this Union,
a wise educational "System" is the chief
if not our only hope — No more educational
Institutions, however, complete or efficient in
its appointment or its work, is equal to the
task — Its product can never be more than
enlightened individuals, who might and fully
would, with few exceptions, be as much Georgian
or Apakun or even Chinese in their sentiments
as the Caucasian — It is the System to which
we must look for enlightened Citizens and
devoted Patriots —

But pardon this tirade, the more I think
on the subject the more confirmed my views
are — The article that I want you to find & send
me, was, of course, merely suggestive of the
importance of System over isolated institutions,
for individual institutions, in State educational
interests — And I would like to see it again, only
to find out how far I developed my idea on the subject.

How are your Games getting on — I blame
a young fellow here with a neck like a pea cock —
To J. D. Wilson
Charles W. Wilson
J. D. Wilson

White Oak, D.C. May 10th 1875

M^r Robert Foster

New York

Dear Sir

Your letter received
months ago, which wonned an interest
so earnest as to be accepted by me
as a compliment, desired a prompt
answer - Although it has been so
long without acknowledgment, it
do not plead guilty to the charge of
then neglect - About the time of
its reception we "cottonists" were
discovering the full extent of the
disaster to our business, cotton production
and this with some other business com-
-plications rendered my personal attention
here on my plantation necessary, and
I have been here since - I can only
send you such Photographs as I have -

Do May 1895

I found a somewhat enlarged copy of that of the Lieutenant, and one of those taken in San Francisco at the request of friends there -

I have one letter from Genl R. H. Anderson (Fighting Dick) written during the War, and one from Genl Lee written in pencil on the Battle field. They are the only war relics of that kind that I have, and in fact, they are not in my possession now. My son holds them -

As you seem interested in such matters I may send you a copy of a report of the part taken by the 6th S. C. Regt in the Seven Pines Battle, which does not appear in the War records -

I enclose the only Photographs that are on hand.

Yours truly
Geo Bratton

Winnabow S.C. May 21st 1897

W. P. Atge

Hope Ark

Dear sir

Yours of 12th reached me here, "forwarded" from White Oak. In reply I beg to say that I have never seen a complete roster of Confederate Generals, but am of the opinion that perhaps the most reliable, if not the only authoritative, roster might be obtained from the Office of "Official records of the War of Rebellion" Washington, D.C. - Genl Wright was and, perhaps, is still in charge of it. J. B. Erwin of this State is employed in that office. It is possible that they

have such a roster as you wish at
the Hd Qtrs of United Confederate Veterans.
Genl Gordon is at the head of that Asso-
-ciation, its Hd Qtrs are located in
New Orleans but I cannot remember
the name of the Sec: or rather Adj. Genl
in charge -

These are the only sources that I know of
from which you can hope to get reliable
information on the subject of your letter.
 Hoping that this may enable you to
procure what you want I am

Yours Truly
Geo Bostton

Minnetonka Nov 20th 1845

Dear Sir,

While in Columbia, Tresselt the Agent of the State went to Washington to look after Abandoned Lands and Pardons, handed me a Pardon which he had procured for me as a Member of the Convention - I did not, until sometime after (and then only from curiosity as to the form and language used in the document), examine it, when I found it made out for Geo. S. Beaton, York District, S.C. - I mentioned the discovery to Tresselt, and he said that they frequently made mistakes as to the name and P.O. and that this was taken up from a room full of Applications on the special reason being given that I was a member of the Convention - I told him that I like others whose papers had been misdirected, would hold this but for the fact that there happened to be a man with in existence with that exact address and that I would be holding another man's Pardon - He then asked if you had applied for a pardon and I was unable to answer - I therefore, determined to hold this until I learned if you had applied - If you have applied, I have your Pardon and will forward it to you by the first safe opportunity. If you have not applied, it is intended for me and I will keep it for my own benefit -

intended to communicate with you on the
subject before leaving Columbia. but it escaped
my memory until I saw the Pardon in my trunk on
unpacking it at home -

How are you standing disfiguration? Some poor
short sighted creature asked me or rather supposed to
me last summer that I was enjoying the rest from
war and toil - I could only say to him that ~~there~~ would
be a delightful gulf to this sort of life - And
I can see no prospect of improvement - I do not
mean to say that there is no reasonable hope of improve-
-ment, I only mean that we have not yet travelled
far enough through the fog to see what is ahead -
It may be a clear field or an almost impenetrable wilderness
but no man can as yet see what lies to overcome -

Remember me to all the family -

I was shocked and grieved to hear of Rufus' mis-
fortune, the burning of his cotton - It seems to be
fated that we all should have nothing - Those who
happened to save something from the general wreck
and actual storm of war, are having it drifted
away from them in the setting of the angry elements -
Tell Rufus, if you see him, that I will answer his
letter long

yours truly
Ans Bratton

Bratton and Kearny: Brave and True Men Both.

Only a few of the surviving personal friends of the late Gen. John Bratton know of a striking episode in his career, unique, perhaps, in the War for Southern Independence and in many respects as remarkable as the celebrated letter of Lord Charles Montagu to Major General Moultrie, another South Carolina rebel, when he was a prisoner of war in the hands of the British.

Reference is made to a letter from Maj. Gen. Philip Kearny, U. S. A., to the then Col. John Bratton, C. S. A., who had been desperately wounded at the battle of Seven Pines, and was a prisoner at Fortress Monroe.

At the earnest request of a fellow collegian and war comrade of General Bratton, the Rev. Theodore D. (now Bishop) Bratton consented to the publication of General Kearny's letter to his father.

On May 31, 1862, Colonel Bratton, on foot, led his regiment, the Sixth South Carolina, in the battle of Seven Pines, or "Fair Oaks," as it is called at the North, though afterward the men scattered and each man fought for himself, as at the battle at El Caney in the Spanish-American war.

Colonel Bratton's leadership and gallantry attracted the attention of his own commanders, as shown in the accompanying letter of Gen. R. H. Anderson, and challenged the admiration of his foes, as proved by the magnanimous letter of the gallant General Kearny.

The Second brigade had four times attacked the Federals and driven them two miles from their first line of battle. In the fourth charge, at about sundown, Colonel Bratton was seriously wounded in the right arm, the ball entering his body. In company with other wounded men, Colonel Bratton attempted to get back to the Confederate lines, but was captured by men of Col. J. H. Hobart Ward's Thirty-eighth New York regiment, a few of the wounded making their escape.

Colonel Bratton's wounds were at first thought to be fatal and he was asked if he had any message to send to his people at home. His reply was: "Tell them the Sixth South Carolina fought as well as any men ever did." But the wounds did not prove so dangerous, and were carefully dressed by Dr. B. Gesner, assistant surgeon of Ward's regiment, in whose hands Colonel Bratton put his watch for safe keeping.

The wounded prisoner was carried to Fortress Monroe, and there confined with a number of wounded Confederates in one of its dark and damp lower casemates.

General Kearny's Letter.

A few days after his confinement, Colonel Bratton received by special

courier the following letter from General Kearny:

Dear Sir:

The fortunes of this unnatural war have made you a prisoner, and as it was in the hands of one of my regiments (Fourth Maine, Colonel Walker) that you fell, I take the liberty, in courtesy and good feeling, of putting myself or friends of the North at your disposal.

I forward by a special messenger your sword, belt and watch, together with a letter from the surgeon, Doctor Gesner, who attended you, and who is an acquaintance of your family at the South.

If, sir, you will permit me the favor, I also place at your call a credit with my bankers, Riggs & Co., Washington, of \$200, which may serve you until your own arrangements are made.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

P. KEARNY,

Major General Commanding Third Division, Third Corps.
Colonel Bratton, Sixth South Carolina Regiment.

The envelope is addressed:

"To Colonel Bratton, Prisoner of War, Sixth South Carolina Regiment.
To the care of and for inspection of General Wadsworth, or Commissary General of Prisoners, Washington."

Surgeon Gesner's Letter.

The inclosed letter from Doctor Gesner reads as follows:

Camp near Fair Oaks, Va., June 2, 1862.

Colonel Bratton, Sixth South Carolina Volunteers.

Sir: On the evening of May 31 the regiment under your command, being one of those opposed to the brigade under command of Col. J. H. Hobart Ward, Thirty-eighth New York Volunteers (to whose command I have the honor to belong), you were, unfortunately for you, severely wounded and came under my charge. On that occasion you placed in my charge for safekeeping your watch, and now, being in a place of safety, I have the honor, through Gen. P. Kearny, commanding this division, to return the same. With the hope that your wounds, though severe, may not prove fatal, I remain, with sincere sympathy, most respectfully your obedient servant.

G. GESNER,

Assistant Surgeon, Thirty-eighth N. Y. V.

Doctor Gesner in his letter to Colonel Bratton claims that he had been captured by a New York regiment (Ward's) and General Kearny, it will be noted, says that it was the Fourth Maine, but this discrepancy is of little consequence, for General Kearny commanded the division which included both regiments.

This letter from General Kearny, one of the most eminent cavalry leaders of the Federal army, to a Confederate colonel whom he did not know personally, is at once a beautiful tribute to Colonel Bratton's gallantry and an evidence that General Kearny, like Sir Philip Sidney, was "the impersonation of high thought, seated in a heart of courtesy."

But General Kearny's kind offices did not end with the return of the sword, belt and watch to the wounded Confederate. Colonel Bratton was removed to the upper tier of casemates of Fortress Monroe, where he was comfortably lodged and received courteous attentions from the surgeon and other officials, and he learned that the commander of the prison had received

question that every consideration be shown him. When he concealed and was allowed to take a rest and go out fishing, he would frequently be in sight, and sometimes within earshot, of the Confederate pickets. One of General Bratton's pleasant recollections of prison life was that the soldier's wife who had charge of his mess took the fish that he would bring in and credited him with their value. When the happy day of his exchange arrived, and he was about to leave the fort, the good woman handed him a sum of money as the surplus of his fish account, and was most urgent that he receive it.

How happy would General Bratton have been had the fortunes of war permitted him to reciprocate the courtesies of his "friend, the enemy"; how earnestly would he have worked for Kearny's exchange or release on parole; how warmly, after the dreadful war was over, would he have welcomed him to hospitable "Farming-ton," his country home in Fairfield county!

But such was not to be. General Kearny, the soldier of France, in Algiers and Italy, a hero of Contreras and Cherubusco, and major general of the United States army in the Confederate war, was to fall three months later, the same year, while reconnoitering at Ox Hill, near Chantilly, Va.

As a fitting conclusion to this interesting episode in General Bratton's brilliant career, and as evidence that this estimate of his courage and ability is not colored by personal friendship, the following letter of Major General (afterward Lieutenant General) Richard H. Anderson is here presented:

Camp, near Fredericksburg, Va., January 24, 1863.

General: I beg to recommend Col. John Bratton, commanding the Sixth regiment, South Carolina troops, for promotion to the rank of brigadier general. His superior capacity and constancy in the discharge of his ordinary duties as a colonel would strongly recommend him for advancement, but he merits it more particularly for his gallant conduct in battle.

At Seven Pines he was one of the leaders in the intrepid and irresistible charge of the Second division, Longstreet's division, which encountered and bent a greatly superior force of the enemy in four successive combats, driving them two miles from their fresh line of battle.

Throughout the whole action he was conspicuous for skill and courage, coolness and good management.

At the close of the fourth and last encounter he received a very severe wound through the arm and shoulder. His conduct excited my admiration, and I am happy to perform this rather tardy act of justice. I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant.

R. H. ANDERSON,

Major General Provisional Army.
To Gen. S. Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond, Va.

On May 6, 1864, Colonel Bratton was appointed a brigadier general of the Confederate army, and June 9 following the appointment was confirmed and he was ordered to report to Gen. R. E. Lee. His brigade was composed of the First regiment, South Carolina Volunteers

STATE
Dec. 11, 1935

General Bratton's Comment.
William Woodward Dixon, in some Fairfield reminiscences for The News and Herald, Winnsboro, says that he can find no record that Gen. John Bratton, Confederate States army, was ever a member of any church. "I do remember that he was very much interested in his son's ordination into the ministry. That son is now bishop of the Mississippi diocese. Going to hear Theodore preach for the first time he came out of the church and remarked at the door to Col. Henry Gaillard: 'The damned little rescal did pretty well! Don't you think so, Henry?'"

STATE
Dec. 4, 1935

"First to Go Overseas."
W. H. Flenniken, Winnsboro, in News and Herald, Winnsboro.
Do you know that the first man to go overseas from South Carolina in the World war was from Fairfield county? He was Randolph Bratton, son of Bishop Bratton, an eminent divine, and a grandson of Gen. John Bratton, a large planter. When men were called to join the Confederate army General Bratton was among the first to enlist as a private in the ranks, with a musket on his shoulder. When the war ended he was a brigadier general, rising to that rank by sheer merit. Randolph Bratton received four citations for bravery in the World war. He never refers to them and they are kept in a vault in the bank. His record is enviable and I fear very few are aware of it. Should we not publish these meritorious deeds lest they may be forgotten?