

# A biography of A.H. Gladden, Fairfield native

(The following article was contributed by Russ Hall, of Memphis, Tennessee. Hall's ancestors were from Fairfield County).

Adley Hogan Gladden was born in 1810 in Gladden's Grove, just north of Winnsboro, son of Minor Gladden and Jane Gladden. He volunteered to go with the Richland Rifle Corps to the Seminole Uprising in Florida in 1836. He came back to Columbia and in 1837 married Mary Elizabeth Gandy in what today is a landmark, Ainsley Hall, but what was then the Columbia Theological Seminary. They had two daughters, Mary Jane (Minge) and Anna Butler who died as a baby.

In 1840 he was Postmaster under President Tyler; Quartermaster of the 22nd S.C. Militia; First President of the Boston Club, which he chartered; and in 1845 volunteered for the Mexican War, leaving as Major of the Palmetto Regiment. He was shot from the 14th arch of the aqueduct around Mexico City after being the first to enter the city. He was honored by the State upon bringing the troops home and addressed the legislature on November 20, 1847. He was captain of the Governor's Guard; 1850

Bursa of South Carolina College; and in 1851 elected Intendant (Mayor) of Columbia. His wife died in 1851. He was re-elected Intendant in 1852. He was a Master Mason.

He left Columbia for New Orleans in 1853, and established himself in business with Purvis, Gladden and Heard (159 Gravier St.) Cotton Factor and Commission Merchants, later of 55 St. Charles St. He was the first president of the Pickwick Club, which organized the first Mardi Gras parade with a theme. It was the first parade to have floats or "roll down" the streets of New Orleans.

In 1860 he was Chairman of South Carolinians in New Orleans for States Rights. He volunteered to return to South Carolina as Lt. Colonel under Maxcy Gregg. He was thrilled to have many of his South Carolina College boys, but the governor asked him to go back to Louisiana and help bring them to the cause. He did, signing the Louisiana secession in the center and took the 1st Louisiana Brigade to Pensacola where he was made Brigadier General under General Braxton Bragg, who called him the Bengal Tiger and his right arm.

General Gladden was shot on April 6 and died April 12, 1862 at the Battle of Shiloh.



A.H. Gladden