

COLONEL JAMES HENRY RION

(April 17, 1828 - Dec. 12, 1886)

Distinguished Lawyer and Soldier

Graduated from South Carolina College in 1850 as first honor graduate. He was appointed by the faculty to deliver a eulogy in May, 1850 on John C. Calhoun.

1851 - Instructor in Mathematics at Mt. Zion Institute, Winnsboro.

Admitted to the bar in 1854.

In 1859 made President of the Planters Bank of Fairfield.

Major of the 6th South Carolina Volunteers Infantry Regiment. Became Colonel in 1864. Promoted for gallantry on June 18, 1864, by recommendation of President Jefferson Davis, confirmed by the Confederate Senate. He made his reputation as a skirmish leader. He also excelled as an engineer. Fought courageously in 22 battles during the war, being wounded twice.

Returned to law practice in Winnsboro after the War. Delegate to Constitutional Convention in 1865. Member of Hampton Committee in 1877. For a long time while Chairman of Board of Trustees of M.Z.I., was a trustee of S. C. College.

Served as counselor for several railroad companies. Solicitor of the National Bank of Winnsboro, and attorney for the Town of Winnsboro.

Donated by  
James Wallace Rion, His grandson