

Dunnsville, Essex Co., Va.
Dec. 5, 1951.

The Yakima Daily Republic
Yakima Morning Herald
Yakima, Washington.

Mr. Chick Rebander;
Dear Sir;

Your letter of inquiry with regard to General
Garnett received and in reply will give you
notes from the "Genealogy of the Garrison-Mercer
Family" of Essex Co. Va. By James Mercer Garnett.
"Robert Selden Garnett, son of Robert Selden Garnett
and his wife Olympia Charlotte DeGouger, was
born Dec. 14, 1819. Major 9th Infantry U. S. A.,
Brigadier General C. S. A.; killed at Carrick's Ford,
Virginia, on Cheat River, July 13, 1861;
Married Mary Neilson, of New York (see Lamb's Bi-
ographical Dictionary).

Notes from "The Virginia Magazine of History and
Biography; Vol. XLII - No. 4 October, 1934
Published by Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va.
"Robert Selden Garnett born Dec. 14, 1819,
was graduated from the United States Military
Academy in 1841. After service with 1st Artillery
on Canadian border, he was commissioned

Mr. Click Relander.

as second lieutenant and appointed assistant instructor in infantry tactics at West Point. As aid-de-camp to General Wool in 1845 and to General Zachary Taylor 1846-49, Garnett participated in the military occupation of Texas and fought throughout the Mexican War.

He was promoted to first lieutenant and brevetted captain, then major for gallantry in the battles of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Monterrey and Buena Vista. After the cessation of hostilities he was transferred to the infantry, advanced to captain and served another year in Texas.

In 1852-54 he was commandant of cadets and instructor of infantry tactics at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was promoted to major in March, 1855, and placed in command of the Puget Sound expedition against the Indians and in 1858 was in charge of the Yakima Expedition.

He is said to have suggested the design for the official seal of the newly organized state of California. In 1858 he obtained leave and went to Europe, but returned when the Civil War broke out, resigned from the United States Army and offered his sword to his native

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Mr. Chick Relander

State of Virginia. He was appointed Adjutant General of the State forces and assigned the difficult task of organizing undisciplined troops into efficient fighting units.

Early in June, 1861, he was commissioned Brigadier-General and given command of the Confederate forces in ~~the~~ the western Virginia.

The campaign was doomed to failure from the beginning; the Union Army was ^{of} greatly superior strength; Garnett lacked cavalry and guns, and experienced difficulty obtaining supplies in a territory where sentiment was hostile to the Confederacy. He entrenched his 12,000 troops at Laurel Hill and Rich Mountain, but when the Federal force, under McClellan consisting of 40,000 men, dislodged the Confederates from Rich Mountain, General Garnett was compelled to withdraw his small number from Laurel Hill.

He saved his army, however, by a ~~so~~ orderly retreat but was himself killed while directing the movement of his rear guard, after a sharp engagement at Carrick's Ford on Cheat River, July 13, 1861.

He was the first officer of general rank to be killed in the war.

In 1857 he married Marianne Nelson, daughter

Mr. Chick Relander,

of George L. Neilson, of New York, by whom
He had an only son, Arthur Garnett."

A picture of Gen. Garnett is in the Court
House of Essex Co. at Tappanhamock and
I will try to have a picture taken from
same and send it to you.

I hope you will please keep me
in touch with the work at Ft. Sumner
and send me your paper with full
account of same -

Sincerely

(Wm) Bay Garnett Jewell

The Yakima Daily Republic
Click Relander
Yakima
Washington.