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November 8, 1954

Mr. Click Relander  
1212 N. 32nd Avenue  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

Typed material on General George Wright and Robert S. Garnett is enclosed with this letter.

We are not equipped to make microfilm reproductions but photostats can be made if wanted of the articles listed on General Wright. The charge is sixty cents a negative or \$1.25 a positive print which includes the negative.

A duplicate of the Overland for October 1884 may be borrowed from us through your local library.

You may be able to obtain a copy of the California Blue Book from the Documents Section, Division of Printing, Department of Finance, Sacramento 14, if you do not receive one from Holmes Book Store. If unsuccessful, an illustration of the great seal appears in the 1903 Blue Book which has been made available for circulation under the title of History of the seat of state government, by the Secretary of State.

No references appear in our indexes to James J. Archer.

The only view of the Wright monument that we have is that in the newspaper cited on the bibliography. It is possible that the McCurry Foto Co., 8th and I Sts., Sacramento, may have a print in its files.

Thank you for your articles on the restoration of Fort Simcoe. We appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending them to us.

Very truly yours,

Carma R. Zimmerman  
State Librarian

by *Allan R. Ottley*  
Allan R. Ottley  
California Section Librarian

C:D  
encs

[Enclosure. 8 Nov 54]

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ROBERT SELDEN GARNETT

Brigadier-General Robert Selden Garnett, born in Essex county, Va., December 16, 1819, was graduated at the United States military academy in 1841, and promoted second lieutenant of artillery. He served at the West Point academy from July, 1843, to October, 1844, as assistant instructor of infantry tactics. In 1845 he was assigned to duty as aide-de-camp to General Wool, and in this capacity rendered conspicuous service in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, winning promotion to the rank of first lieutenant of the Fourth artillery. He subsequently served as aide-de-camp to General Taylor, and participated in the battles of Monterey and Buena Vista, where he won the brevets of captain and major. After peace was declared he was transferred to the infantry and promoted captain. In 1852-54 he was commandant corps of cadets and instructor in infantry tactics at West Point. Receiving promotion to major in March, 1855, he commanded the troops sent against the Indians on Puget sound in the far northwest, and remaining there was in charge of the Yakima expedition in 1858. Subsequently he traveled in Europe on leave of absence until the year 1861, when he returned, resigned his commission, and entered the Confederate army. He was commissioned lieutenant-colonel, C.S.A., to date from March 16th, and served as adjutant-general under Gen. R.E. Lee, in command of the Virginia forces. Early in June he was commissioned brigadier-general and ordered to proceed to Staunton and assume command of the troops to operate in northwestern Virginia. In a few days he was engaged in the unfortunate campaign in West Virginia, where his life was sacrificed. It was very early in the war; he found difficulty in obtaining supplies, clothing and shelter for his men; the sentiment in that vicinity was against the Confederacy, and he was confronted by overwhelming odds. Without a trace of faintheartedness, he established his headquarters at Laurel hill, and there and at Rich mountain intrenched his troops. On June 10th, Pegram was dislodged from Rich mountain, and a superior force compelled Garnett to abandon Laurel hill and fall back. He was pursued by the Federals, and a brisk action occurred on the Cheat river, at Carrick's ford, July 13th. At the next ford on the same day, while with his rear guard, he was instantly killed by a volley of the enemy, falling, as President Davis wrote, in exemplification of the "highest quality of man, self-sacrifice for others." His body, kindly cared for by General McClellan, was subsequently transferred with tokens of respect to the hands of his friends.

From: Evans, Gen. Clement A., editor  
Confederate Military History. Atlanta, Ga., Confederate  
Publishing Co., 1899. vol.3, pp.598-600.

[Enclature. 8 Nov 54]

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ROBERT SELDEN GARNETT

GENERAL ROBERT A. GARNETT.--The San Francisco Mirror says that this rebel General, who was lately killed in Western Virginia, came to California in 1849, with T. Butler King, sent by President Tyler to urge the people to form a State Government. When the Constitutional Convention was about to be held, a Government steamer was sent under charge of the then Major Garnett, to San Diego and Los Angeles to bring to Monterey the members of those counties, but, unfortunately, the steamer went ashore or was wrecked near Point Conception, and while lying in his tent on the sand beach, waiting for relief by another vessel, he conceived the design of our present State Seal. On the assembling of the Convention at Monterey, Garnett had reached there and remained during the entire session, entering fully into the discussion of all practical matters for the future welfare of the embryo State, and to him alone is due the main design of our present Seal of State. He was Aid, and the confidential friend of General Taylor, and after the adjournment of the Convention he returned to Washington, and in the course of two or three years afterwards, he joined his command in Oregon, where he remained until a year since, when he was ordered to this State. Some three or four months ago, and when Virginia, his native State, seceded, he resigned, left and joined the military forces of Virginia, and his fall is received in the last Pony news.

The above is correct except in the particular that Garnett took part in the Monterey Convention. This is a mistake.

From: The Sacramento Daily Union August 3, 1861. p.2. col.3.

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