

Henry Martyn Stringfellow Obituary, Confederate Veteran Magazine, Vol. 20

CAPT. HENRY MARTIN STRINGFELLOW.

Henry M. Stringfellow answered the last roll call on the 17th of June, 1912, in the seventy-fourth year of a well-spent life, at his home in Fayetteville, Ark. He was born at Winchester, Va., in 1839, the son of Rev. Horace Stringfellow and Harriet Strothers, attended the Episcopal High School, and graduated from William and Mary College in 1858. He later attended the Virginia Theological Seminary, at Alexandria, from 1859 to 1861, receiving his degree from this institution about the beginning of the War of the States. He immediately entered the Confederate service as a private, afterwards becoming a captain and serving in the ordnance department. He was under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston in the Peninsula Campaign and around Richmond in 1862. He went to Texas with General Magruder and was in the battle of Galveston. On December 16, 1863, while still in the service, he was married to Miss Alice, daughter of Dr. J. R. Johnston, of Seguin, Tex.

After the war he studied law for several years, but never practiced. He was inclined toward horticulture, and in this he was eminently successful, having been a pioneer in this department of science, demonstrating its possibilities on the Gulf Coast. He planted the first pear orchard in 1882 and the first Satsuma orange orchard two years later at Hitchcock. To visit these he invited the members of the American Pomological Society in session at Austin in 1890, and the members attended in a body. He was a member of the Texas Farmers' Congress and all of the State horticultural societies. In the latter organizations he became quite prominent, having published a book on the subject. His "The New Horticulture" was published in several languages and became widely circulated. Mr. Stringfellow generously gave away the copyrights, both foreign and domestic, never having received a dollar of royalty for them.

In 1899 Captain Stringfellow went to Lampasas, Tex., where he lived for ten years, contributing largely to the horticultural interests of that section. On account of his wife's health he removed to Fayetteville, Ark., in 1909, but his own health failed, which put an end to his horticultural pursuits. He built an elegant home there, spending his last days surrounded by every comfort and attended by his affectionate wife and daughter.

Discarding the garb of the clergy, for which he was educated, Captain Stringfellow buckled on the sword in defense of his native land, and as a captain of ordnance he played a creditable part in the service of the Confederacy. Being a fine draftsman, he drew the plan for the Merrimac's construction into an iron-clad after she was raised, for which he received honorable mention and many compliments. Wherever he lived he was known as one of the most public-spirited, generous, progressive, and enterprising citizens, contributing largely to every effort at civic betterment and public welfare. In charity there are hundreds that can call him blessed. A kind and indulgent husband and father, a generous friend, he deserves to live in the memory of those who knew him. Besides his wife, he is survived by his daughter (Mrs. James J. Read, of Fayetteville), a sister (Mrs. Gilliam, of St. Louis, Mo.), and relatives in Virginia.

General Magruder in his report of the battle of Galveston states that Lieutenants Stringfellow, Jones, and Hill behaved with remarkable gallantry during the engagement, each of them volunteering to take charge of guns after the officers originally in charge had been wounded, and he designated Lieutenant Stringfellow to be promoted to captain.