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CAPTAIN BUTLER PEARSON ALSTON

Rock Hill Public Library
Rock Hill, S. C.

Alston Papers
Kindness of:
Mrs. J. Fred Laurence

ROCK HILL NEWS.

Matters of Local and General Interest
From Saturday's Herald.

We are credibly informed that Colonel J. K. Alston, of the First South Carolina regiment, will make Rock Hill his home after the mustering out of his command. He and his wife, who was Miss Belle McCaw, of Yorkville, will receive an enthusiastic welcome to our little city.

Mr. S. C. Sturgis, who has been

Wednesday, October 5, 1898.

Yorkville
Enquirer

The wife of General John A. Alston was Eliza M. (Davidson) Alston. See York County Wills in Rock Hill Public Library, V.3, p.88, for copy of will of the mother of Eliza M. Davidson Alston

John Agustin Alston - Jan. 1809-
Feb. 1860 - buried Methodist
Cemetery, Winnsboro, S.C.

Copied from notes of
Wm. Boyce White, Jr.

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Captain Butler Pearson Alston.

The page of history that records the memorials of this gallant soldier and cultured Southern gentleman is worthy of preservation on any library shelf. From one of our best families, came this scholarly man. He was the eldest son of General John Augustan and Eliza Alston, and was born in York, S.C., Oct. 24th, 1836. His father was well known as a successful teacher of large schools, among them Mt. Zion Academy in Winnsboro -- that very celebrated institution, which, with St. David's Academy had the moulding of the characters and intellects of most of the better class of young people of the state from its earliest settlement. Capt. Alston often assisted his father and became an interested educator.

The War Between the States claimed his attention. He promptly responded to the call of the Sixth Regiment, S.C.V., as a private. He went from the teacher's desk to the soldier's barracks. He was severely wounded in the battle of Frazier's Farm. This gave him a furlough of three months, the only one he took during the war. He never escaped a battle without a scratch of some kind -- once the skirt of his coat was torn off. Once, he lost his hat. He picked up a Yankee hat and put it on. It hadn't occurred to him that this would call attention to him, until Col. John White of Fort Mill called to him to "get out of that thing; they are making a target of you!" He rose to the position of Captain of Co. "B." He was a brave and efficient officer and much beloved by his men for his attention to their welfare. Faithful throughout the entire war, he was with Gen. Lee at Appomattox and shared with him the ^{woes of that} woeful day. Finding his way back to a ruined home,

Captain Butler Pearson Alston (cont.)

he began again the training of youth for civil occupations. It was not much of a time for letters. The destitution of the country was urging every one to the most strenuous efforts to obtain the common necessities of an existence. Young boys felt the strain that was on their fathers and would often feel like giving up their books to give their assistance elsewhere. At such times, Capt. Alston would argue with them on the importance of an education and even remit their board to get them to stay with him and continue their studies. Leisure and culture were not the inheritance of the youth of that day, but Capt. Alston's vision helped many young men to see through the darkness and prepare for a brighter day.

January 4th, 1866 was the date of a happy marriage between Capt. Alston and Miss Alice M. Davis of Charleston, S.C. Whether fortune smiled or frowned in those dreadful days of Re-Construction, they were one in enjoyment and sympathy, and helpful to each other in the tough experiences that crowded down upon them. Little Alice was their only child. She grew up in beauty, sweetness and intelligence, fairy-like and full of life. She passed away in early motherhood, leaving her little daughters Alston & Constance, & a son, Butler Wroton, as her representatives.

Captain Alston died Jan. 27th, 1886. He was a useful member of the Methodist Church. He lived in Rock Hill, S.C. nine years -- was the Principal of Rock Hill Academy. He was much beloved by the students and highly esteemed by the patrons. He was buried in Laurelwood Cemetery by the "Legion of Honor". Five ministers stood around his grave and joined

Captain Butler Pearson Alston (cont.)

in the funeral rites.

In the pride of the progressive present, we may be inclined to undervalue the arduous steps of our pioneer heroes. This must not be. Let us remember those persevering men who had to fight a terrible war, come back to desolate homes, and start again from the foundation to rebuild the civilization that had been demolished.

J.R.D. Smith, Historian.

Rock Hill, S. C., Sept., 14th 1922