



George W. Gordon, Brigadier General, In Command of Brigade, CS

- 1836 October 5: Born to Andrew and Eliza Gordon in Pulaski, TN.
- 1850 December 11: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Tippah County, MS showed 14-year-old George W. living with his parents and siblings. His father was a farmer who owned 17 slaves
- 1859 Graduated from Western Military Institute in Nashville, TN.
- 1861 May 1: Commissioned as a Captain in Co. I, 11th TN Infantry, CS.
September 25: Brothers, William Henry and David Martin Gordon enlisted in the CS Army and mustered into Co. A, 8 Regiment Texas Rangers [Terrys Texas Rangers.]
- 1862 January 30: Brother David died.
May 1: Promoted to Full Lt. Colonel.
- 1864 July: Gordon's brother William Henry Gordon was mortally wounded while on picket duty, Gordon was with him when he died.. *"...on picket near New Hope Church, the Eleventh Regiment had six noble soldiers killed outright within the space of an hour by the fatal fire of the enemy's sharp-shooters. Among these were private Sterling Capps, of Company K, and Jasper Rochelle and **Harry Gordon**, of Company H. The latter had been recently transferred to this regiment of the Eighth Texas Cavalry, and when shot said to his brother, [Gen. Gordon] "Tell father that I died in a glorious cause."*²

¹ Photo from ancestry.com user/Betty0616 (accessed online 13 Jan 2020)

² Lindsley, John Berrien, The Military Annals of Tennessee. Confederate. V. 1 pg. 298

August 14: Request from Gen. J.B. Hood for promotion.

Copy.
Atlanta, Aug 14/64.
Hon. J. A. Seddon.
Have already asked that G.W. Gordon 11th Tenn. Regt. be given temporary rank to command Vaughn's Brigade. Can it be done?
(signed) J.B. Hood
Genl.
Resp. submitted for the information of the President. After conference with Genl. Bragg, I add my recommendation.
James A. Garfield
Secretary of War
Aug. 15/64.

August 15: Promoted to Full Brigadier General.

November 30: Captured at the Battle of Franklin. He was sent to Johnson's Island, OH and then forwarded to Fort Warren, MA.

1865 July 24: Released from Fort Warren after signing the Oath Of Allegiance.

December 24: The Ku-Klux Klan was founded in Pulaski, TN in the law offices of Judge Thomas M. Jones. The founders were Calvin E. Jones, John B. Kennedy, Frank O. McCord, John C. Lester, Richard R. Reed and James R. Crowe. Gordon was an early member of the group, writing the organization's first prescript in 1866. This document was adopted by the KKK at a convention of members in 1867 in Nashville, TN.

1867 March 29:

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?—The following mysterious "Take Notice" was found under our door early yesterday morning, having doubtless been slipped there the night previous. Will any one venture to tell us what it means, if it means anything at all? What is a "Kuklux Klan," and who is this "Grand Cyclops" that issues his mysterious and imperative orders? Can any one give us a little light on this subject? Here is the order:

"TAKE NOTICE.—The Kuklux Klan will assemble at their usual place of rendezvous, "The Den," on Tuesday night next, exactly at the hour of midnight, in costume and bearing the arms of the Klan.

"By or of the Grand Cyclops.
G. T."

3

April 26:

RENDEZVOUS IN THE FOREST, }
APRIL 24th, 1867. }

The officers and members of the "Kuklux Klan" will assemble at an earlier hour, Saturday night, as business of more than usual interest will be transacted which will consume some time, and the Grand Cyclops is unwilling to encroach on the Holy Sabbath, by transacting business after 12 o'clock. The members of the "Klan" having become so numerous, our former place of holding meetings will have to be abandoned and a place selected that will afford more accommodation, and, as the weather is becoming more pleasant, the "Klan" will assemble at the above named rendezvous until further orders.

The members will be prompt in attending all meetings, at the hour that may be designated by the Grand Turk.

By order of the Grand Cyclops,
G. S.

4

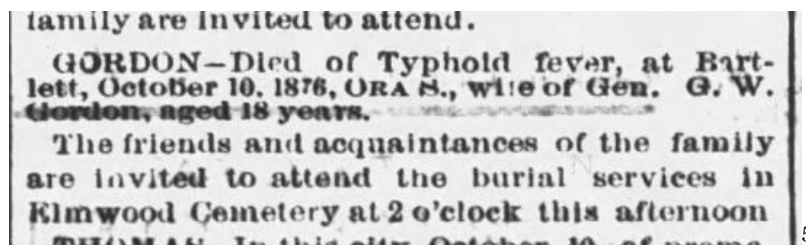
³ The Pulaski Citizen, Pulaski TN, Friday, 29 Mar 1867, pg. 3

⁴ The Pulaski Citizen, Pulaski, TN, Friday, 26 Apr 1867, pg. 3

1869 September 9: Attended a meeting in Memphis with other delegates of the Life Association of America, an insurance firm. A fellow delegate being General John B. Hood.

1876 September 5: Married Ora Susan Paine.

October 10: Ora died of typhoid fever. She was buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Shelby County.



1880 June 8: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Memphis, Shelby, TN showed George W., a lawyer, living on Poplar St.

1883 Appointed Railroad Commissioner of Tennessee, for two years.

1900 Married Minnie Hannah.

1910 November 24: Gordon bitterness over the Civil War was quite evident when he wrote his will as follows [in part.]

When this troubled dream that men call life is ended. I desire that my body shall be interred in my lot in Elmwood Cemetery, and on the South side of said lot, beside the remains of my beloved wife Mrs. Ora Paine Gordon.

I desire to be buried in my Confederate Uniform, with military honors and ceremonies by Company "A" Confederate Veterans and the Veteran Chickasaw Guards. From the grave I will thank the officers and men of these companies, at the time of my death, to comply with this request; and I hereby direct that all the expense incurred in complying with my request, be paid out of my estate by my Executor herein after named.

On the south face of the monument which I have erected to the memory of my beloved wife, in Elmwood Cemetery (the side on which I desire to be buried, head resting toward the West, feet toward the monument), I wish the following inscription to be placed:

George W. Gordon

Born October 5th 1836 Died 19 (The date of my death to be inserted when it occurs.)

I bequeath the tattered, bullet-pierced and bloodstained battle flag of the 11th Tennessee Infantry Regiment in the war of Invasion and subjugation waged against

⁵ The Daily Memphis Avalanche, Memphis, TN Wednesday 11 Oct 1876, pg. 1

the South by the commerce, avarice and envy of the North, from 1861 to 1865 (and which regiment I had the honor to command in the Confederate army for more than two years) to "The Tennessee Historical Society" at Nashville, Tennessee to be placed in a cabinet as now are the flags of other Tennessee regiments in the Confederate Army.

The sabre, worn by me in the Confederate Army while resisting the unconstitutional, lawless, mercenary and criminal invasion of the South by the North, I also give to the said Tennessee Historical Society at Nashville, Tennessee.

My Field Glass and Haversack used by me while resenting and resisting northern spoliation and subjugation of the South, I give to the "Confederate Historical Association" of Memphis, Tennessee.....

Given under my hand, this 24th day of November 1910.

Geo W. Gordon

1907 March 4: Elected to congress as a Democrat.

1911 August 9: Died in Memphis, TN. At the time of his death Gordon was National Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans.

General Gordon Dies at Memphis
Memphis, Tenn.—General George W. Gordon, commander in chief of the United Confederate Veterans, and a member of congress, died at his home here. His illness dated from his last political campaign when he was reelected to the national house of representatives, the last general of the confederacy to serve in that body. He was born in Giles county, Tenn., October 5, 1836. He saw much service in the Civil war. In 1885 he was connected with the federal government of the interior, and he was elected a member of the sixtieth congress from the Tenth Tennessee district and re-elected to the sixty-first and sixty-second congresses.

**ANOTHER HERO
OF THE SOUTH**
Gen. George W. Gordon, Com-
mander United Confederate
Veterans, Dies.
FORTITUDE OF A SOLDIER
Death Finds Him Murmuring
Words of Comfort to
His Grief-Stricken
Family.
WAS MEMBER OF CONGRESS

⁶ Coweta Messenger-Democrat, Coweta, OK, Wednesday 16 Aug 1911, pg. 3

⁷ Nashville Banner, Nashville, TN Thursday 10 Aug 1911, pg. 3.

GORDON, George Washington, soldier, lawyer and educator, was born in Giles county, Tenn., Oct. 5, 1836, son of Andrew and Eliza K. Gordon, the former a native of Tennessee and the latter of Virginia. He spent the early years of his life chiefly in Mississippi and Texas. He received a collegiate education at the Western Military Institute in Nashville, receiving there about the same instruction and training as were given at West Point at that time, and was graduated in the class of 1859. He practiced civil engineering until the civil war broke out, and then enlisted in the military service



Geo. Gordon

of the state of Tennessee, in the capacity of drill-master of the 11th infantry regiment. Soon thereafter he was transferred, with the other Tennessee troops, to the military service of the Confederate states, was promoted captain, lieutenant-colonel and colonel of his regiment, and in 1864 was made a brigadier-general, serving with that rank and with enviable distinction until the close of the war. His military career was marked by varying fortunes, thrilling adventures, narrow escapes, and wounds received in battle. Though captured three times—first near Tazewell, East Tenn., again at Murfreesboro, where he was dangerously wounded, and lastly at the bloody battle of Franklin, Tenn., he participated in every engagement fought by

his command with the exception of that at Bentonville, N. C., being at that time a prisoner in Fort Warren in Boston harbor. He was held in confinement until August, 1865, several months after the close of the war, and then returned to Tennessee. He studied law at Lebanon, Tenn., and practiced the profession at Pulaski and Memphis until 1883, when he was appointed one of the railroad commissioners of the state. In 1885 Gen. Gordon received an appointment in the interior department of the U. S. government and served four years in the Indian country in the several states and territories west of the Rocky mountains. This work ended, he continued the practice of his profession at Memphis until 1892, when he was elected superintendent of city schools. He is an eloquent and magnetic public speaker, and is in popular demand, especially at 4th of July celebrations, on memorial and reunion days, and at educational assemblies. Gen. Gordon was married, at Bartlett, Tenn., Sept. 5, 1876, to Ora S., daughter of Constantine and Susan A. Paine, and has no children, Mrs. Gordon having died a few weeks after marriage.

8

⁸ Image from ancestry.com/original poster stated no source except archive.org