

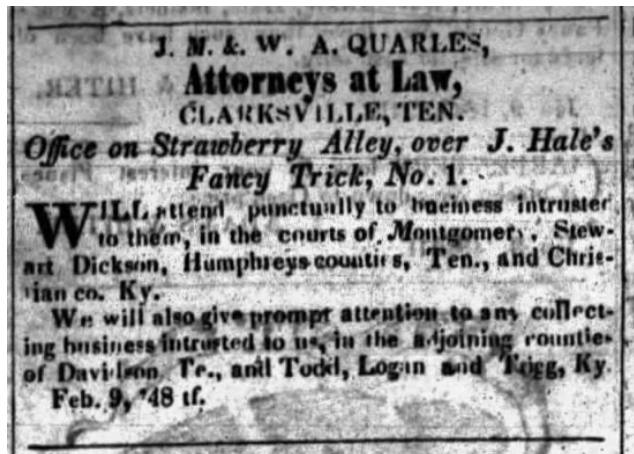


William A. Quarles, Brigadier General, Army of Tennessee, CS

1825 July 4: Born to Garrett and Mary Quarles in Louisa County, VA.

1848 January 8: Married Lucy Porterfield in Kentucky.

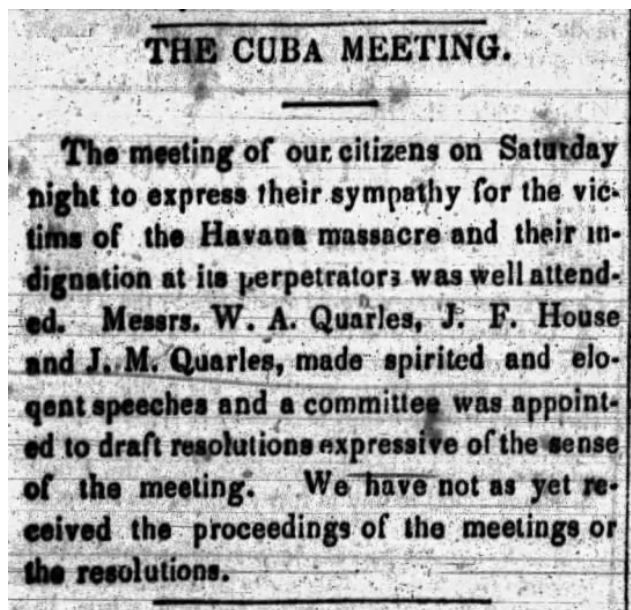
1849 Advertisement for Law Office.



2

1850 September 21: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Montgomery County, TN showed A. W. and Lucy living with his mother and siblings in Montgomery County, TN.

1851

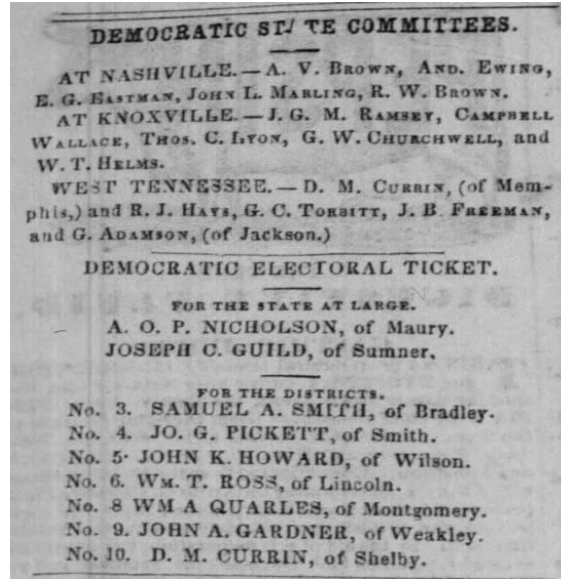


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1852

² Clarksville Jeffersonian, Clarksville, TN, Tuesday 6 Feb 1849, pg. 4 (accessed newspapers.com)

³ Clarksville Jeffersonian, Clarksville, TN, Wednesday, 3 Sep 1851, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)



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1860 September 8: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Montgomery County, TN showed W.A., a lawyer and Lucy living with their two young children.

1861 August 20: Lucy Poindexter Quarles died.

November 28: Commissioned into the C.S. Army as a Colonel for the 42nd TN Infantry.

1862 February 16: Captured at the Battle of Fort Donelson. After the Battle Lieut. T. McGinnis, acting adjutant in his official report stated:

*"Before closing my report, I will call your attention to the cool and gallant conduct of Colonel Quarles. He was always at the head of his regiment, and set a gallant example for his officers and men."*⁵

Quarles was taken to an officer's prison, Johnson's Island, OH. His health was poor when he was captured and continued to grow worse prompting a U.S. officer, a friend to write a letter for his release.

⁴ Nashville Union and American, Nashville, TN, Thursday, 24 Jun 1852, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

⁵ Confederate Military History, Vol. 8, Quarles, William
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Columbus Kentucky.

June 13th 1862.

Major Gen Halleck.

I beg leave to make the following statement in reference to Col Wm A Swarth a prisoner of war now confined at Sandusky Ohio.

Col Swarth was taken at Ft Donelson and is a citizen of Clarksville Tennessee.

I have learned from him and others that at the time of his capture he was in very poor health and that since his confinement he has grown worse continually so much so that he has not much hope of regaining his health at all.

I have known Col Swarth intimately for many years and a more modest, accomplished and upright gentleman I never met with. I would be willing to give any pledge that he would most scrupulously keep the terms of any parole which he may give.

His friends of whom he has many living at Bloomington Illinois are anxious that he should be permitted to remain at Bloomington and vicinity until his health shall be restored or his case be otherwise disposed of.

Col Quarles has for many years been eminent
in the councils of the State of Tennessee.
At this time when the Union men are struggling
to reclaim the State I cannot but believe that
some leniency shown to a man of Col Quarles'
position would have a happy influence
upon public opinion in that State.
Whatever may be thought of considerations
of that character humanity seems to dictate
that the rigors of close confinement wearing
away the health of a sick man should be
removed.
I would most respectfully request that
Col Quarles be permitted to remain at
Bloomington Illinois with such bounds &
such terms as may be deemed proper.
I have the honor to be
Respectfully
Your obt Servt,
Harvey Hogg
Lt Col 2nd Ills Cav.

1863 August 25: Promoted to Brigadier General.

1864 November 30: Led his men at the Battle of Franklin.

"Report of Maj. Gen. Edward C. Walthall, C. S. Army, commanding division and rear guard of infantry, of operations November 20, 1864-January 8, 1865.

Brigadier-General Quarles was severely wounded at the head of his brigade within a short distance of the enemy's inner line, and all his staff officers with him on the field were killed; and so heavy were the losses in his command that when the battle ended its

⁶ Confederate Records, Miscellaneous, (accessed Fold3.com)
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*officer highest in rank was a captain. I regret that I cannot here so present the details of this desperate conflict as to show how severely the courage and manhood of my troops were tested, and to give to the living and the dead the full measure of their honors well earned, though in defeat. Unequal to this, I am content to say that a bolder and steadier assault, or one more likely to prevail without greater numbers, could not have been made upon those formidable works than was made by the gallant and skillful brigade commanders of my division with the brave and faithful troops under their command.”*⁷

1865 April: After spending five months at Carnton recovering from his wounds, a U.S. soldier had a clear memory of the day he was discharged to pick Quarles and other officers up from Carnton and transport them to prison.

“General William A. Quarles, of Tennessee, was one of the Confederate generals who were wounded in this battle, and after incurring his wound was taken to the house of a Tennessee planter, Col. McGavock, about a mile from Franklin, near the Harpeth river. Two or three other wounded Confederate officers of less rank were taken to the same place. When the Confederates retreated from Nashville, Gen. Quarles and these other wounded officers were unable to accompany the army. They remained at the McGavock’s, and were taken prisoners by our forces. They were put under a sort of parole of honor, and allowed to remain where they were, without being guarded. They had substantially recovered from their wounds at the time our regiment arrived at Franklin, and not long thereafter Capt. Keely came to me one day, and handed me an order from Maj. Nulton, which directed me to take a detail of four men, with two ambulances, and go to McGavock’s and get Gen. Quarles and the other Confederate officers who were there, and bring them into Franklin, for the purpose of being sent to Nashville, and thence to the north to some military prison. I thereupon detailed Bill Banfield and three other boys, told them what our business was, and instructed them to brush up nicely, and to have their arms and accouterments in first class condition, and in general, to be looking their best. Having obtained the ambulances, with drives, we climbed aboard, and soon arrived at the fine residence of old Col. McGavock. [Carnton] I went into the house, met the lady of the establishment, and inquired of her for Gen. Quarles, and was informed that he was in an upper room. I requested the lady to give the general my compliments, and tell him that I desired to see him. She disappeared, and soon the general walked into the room where I was awaiting him. He was a man slightly below medium stature, heavy set, black hair, piercing black eyes, and looked to be about thirty years old. He was a splendid looking soldier. I stepped forward and saluted him, and briefly and courteously told him my business. ‘All right, sergeant,’ he answered ‘we’ll be ready in a few minutes.’ Their preparations were soon completed, and we left

⁷ O.R.--SERIES I--VOLUME XLV/1 [S# 93], NOVEMBER 14, 1864-JANUARY 23, 1865.--Campaign in North Alabama and Middle Tennessee.No. 246.--
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*the house. I assigned the general and one of the other officers to a seat near the front in one of the ambulances, and Bill Banfield and I occupied the seat behind them, and the remaining guards and prisoners rode in the other conveyance. There was only one remark made on the entire trip back to Franklin, and I'll mention it presently. We emerged from the woods into the Columbia pike at a point about three-quarters of a mile in front of our main line of works that had been charged repeatedly and desperately by the Confederates in the late battle. The ground sloped gently down towards the works that had been charged repeatedly and desperately by the Confederates in the late battle. The ground sloped gently down towards the works, and for fully half a mile as a level as a house floor. I noticed that at the moment we reached the pike Gen. Quarles began to take an intense interest in the surroundings. He would lean forward, and look to the right, to the front, to the left, and occasionally throw a hasty glance backward, but said nothing. Finally we passed through our works, near the historic 'cotton-gin,' and the general drew a deep breath, leaned back against his seat, and said: 'Well, by God, the next time I fight at Franklin, I want to let the Columbia pike severely alone!' No one made any response, and the remainder of the journey was finished in silence. I duly delivered Gen. Quarles and his fellow prisoners to Maj. Nulton, and never saw any of them again.'*⁸

May 3:

*HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
Nashville, Tenn., May 3, 1865--4 p.m. (Received 7.50 p.m.)
Lieut. Gen. U.S. GRANT:*

Are paroled prisoners of war surrendered by Lee now to be permitted to come to their former homes in Tennessee? Many have come here with orders granting them that privilege made from your headquarters in the field in Virginia. Have I authority to release on parole prisoners' of war in prison and hospitals in this department upon their taking the oath of allegiance? These prisoners were all captured in battle. Among them are Brigadier-General Quarles, of Tennessee, and Brigadier-General Sears, of Louisiana, both severely wounded.

*GEO. H. THOMAS,
Major-General, Commanding.'*⁹

May: Paroled and exchanged at Nashville, TN.

1880 June 25: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Montgomery County, TN showed W.A., a lawyer, living with his wife and son.

⁸ Stillwell, Leander, *The Story of a Common Soldier of Army Life in the Civil War, 1861-1865*, Franklin Hudson Publishing Company, 1920

⁹ O.R.--SERIES I--VOLUME XLIX/2 [S# 104], March 16 To June 30, 1865. --#24
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1893: December 28: Quarles died and was buried in Todd County, KY.

DEATH OF GEN. QUARLES,
An Ex-Confederate Brigadier and a
Noted Criminal Lawyer.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 29.—Gen. W. A. Quarles died at the residence of his daughter in Merriville, Logan County, Ky., last night. He was an ex-Confederate brigadier, a noted criminal lawyer and a politician of some prominence. His record as a soldier was very gallant. He received a wound in the desperate charge on the Federal breast works at Franklin and would have died but for the attention of the chaplain of the regiment, Charles Todd Quintard, now Episcopal Bishop of Tennessee. Since the war Gen. Quarles has resided at Clarksville. In 1885 he declined the appointment of Consul-General at Hong Kong, tendered him by President Cleveland. He served several terms in the State Senate.

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¹⁰ St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, MO, Friday, 29 Dec 1893, pg. 5 (accessed newspapers.com) kF2020

1912 Posthumus: A brilliant lawyer.

William A. and James M. Quarles, members of the Clarksville bar of that day, were the greatest criminal lawyers I have ever known. They practiced both in Clarksville and Nashville. In fact, they were frequently retained to defend criminals in many of the southern states, and they once boasted that they had no client in the penitentiary. James M. Quarles spent most of his time in Nashville, and died there. Gen. W. A. Quarles died there. Gen. W. A. Quarles retained his connection with the Clarksville bar to the end of his life. The greatest criminal case ever tried in the Clarksville courts was that of the Morrows and Dr. Bellamy, charged with wholesale murder in the western end of Montgomery county. They killed their victims and threw their bodies into Bellamy's cave, a bottomless pit near the home of the Morrows. The defendants in this famous case were represented in chief by Gen. William A. Quarles. He had associated with him his brother, Gen. James M. Quarles, and some other noted lawyers. I attended all sessions of court during this trial, heard the arguments, and wrote some articles about it. The Morrows, father and three sons, were all guilty. Dr. Bellamy, a man of refinement and good character, was indicted along with the Morrows. He married a daughter of the elder Morrow, and became entangled through this alliance. "Bill" Morrow, the most stupid member of the family, was hanged. The others finally got out with their lives. Mistrials and reversals on error saved them, and Dr. Bellamy was acquitted. Gen. W. A. Quarles spoke the better part of two days on this case. I recall one incident of the trial that impressed me, and I think that it impressed the jury the same way. The impression I got was that Gen. Quarles had saved his clients, or at least a majority of them. After speaking a couple of hours, in review of the evidence, he made a point that he wanted the jury to weigh carefully. After making the point, he asked the jury to stick a peg right there and think about it while he went out in the hall to smoke his pipe a few minutes. He was out of the courtroom perhaps ten minutes. It seemed much longer. When he returned he expressed the hope that the jury had fully considered the point in favor of his clients, "who were being hounded by a great state and public opinion." Gen. Quarles spoke all of that day and the better part of the next. It was the greatest effort I had ever heard in defense of criminals, and I have heard nothing since to equal it. If Gen. W. A. Quarles missed any material point during his argument, Gen. James M. Quarles caught it and gave it to the jury when his time came.

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