

Oliver L. Spaulding, Colonel, F&S, 23 MI Infantry, USA

1833 August 2: Spaulding was born in Jaffrey, New Hampshire to Lyman and Susan Marshall Spaulding.

“Oliver Lyman Spaulding was born at Jaffrey, N.H., Aug. 2, 1833. He prepared for college at Melville Academy, in Jaffrey, working on the farm during the time. In 1851 he entered Oberlin College, from which he graduated in 1855.”

1855 Graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio.

“He then spent three years in teaching, devoting his leisure to the study of law. He taught successively in the union schools at Medina, Ohio, and Hillsdale, Mich., and in the academy at Medina, Mich. In 1858 he was admitted to the bar, and settled at St. Johns, where he has since continued to practice his profession, with the exception of the time spent in the civil war. In 1858 he was elected a regent of the State University, and held the office until 1864.”

1860 June 18: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Bingham, Clinton County, MI showed O.L., an attorney, living with Minerva.

1862 July 15: Enlisted in the U.S. Army as a 2nd Lieutenant. He mustered in to Co. A, 23 MI Infantry.

“In 1862 he began military service as a captain in the Twenty-third Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and was appointed, successively, major, lieutenant-colonel, and colonel, having been senior officer in command of the regiment from the time of receiving his commission as major in 1863. At the close of the war he was in command of the Second Division, Twenty-third Army Corps, and was brevetted brigadier-general of United States volunteers, June 25, 1865, ‘for faithful and meritorious services during the war.’”

August 1: Promoted to Captain.

August 12: Married Mary Cecilia Swegles.

“Mrs Spaulding was the daughter of the Hon. John Swegles, who was the founder of the village of St. Johns”

1863 February 12: Promoted to Major.

April 6: Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

1865 June 25: Promoted to Brevet Brigadier General.

June 28: Mustered out of the U.S. Army in Salisbury, NC.

December 20: Accepted a promotion to Brevet Brig. Gen.

St. Louis Mich. Dec 21 65

Sir. I have the honor to acknowledge
 the receipt of my appointment as Bureau
 Chief. Gen. of Volunteers & of my
 acceptance of the same
 My age is thirty two years was
 born in Jaffrey New Hampshire
 and am a permanent resident
 of Michigan
 Very Respy
 Yours Obedtly
 O. L. Spaulding
 Sec. Col. 23 Mich. Inf.

Ad. H. H. H. H.
 Washington D. C.

“In 1866 he was elected Secretary of State, and was re-elected in 1868. In 1875 he was appointed by President Grant Special Agent of the Treasury Department, which office he still holds.

Gen. Spaulding has for a number of years been actively connected with the Masonic Fraternity. In 1869 he was Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters; in 1872, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar; in 1877, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter; and for several years has been chairman of the standing committee on appeals in the Grand Lodge. He is at present Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Michigan.

Gen. Spaulding was named a Congregationalist, but in 1866 became connected with the Episcopal Church and since that time as been senior warden.

Politically he has been an active member of the Republican party since its organization, and an ardent member of the State Central Committee since 1870. In the Republican Convention held at Owosso, he was nominated by acclamation, Aug. 5, 1880, for member of Congress from the Sixth District.”¹

¹ Ellis, Franklin, History of Shiawassee and Clinton Counties, Michigan: With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches, pg. 377

- 1870 July 21: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Bingham, Clinton County, MI showed Olive, a lawyer, living with M. Cecilia.
- 1880 June 18: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Saint Johns, Clinton County, MI showed O.L., a lawyer, and M. living with their children, ages 1-18.
- 1897 Appointed by President McKinley as acting Secretary of the Treasury.

One of the first things the president did this morning was to sign the commission of Gen. O. L. Spaulding as assistant secretary of the treasury. Gen. Spaulding will be sworn in to-morrow morning and take up his quarters in the handsome room heretofore occupied by Assistant Secretary Curtis. When he was in the treasury department Gen. Spaulding had the room recently occupied by Mr. Hamlin, which will be used hereafter by Assistant Secretary Howell. There will be a redistribution of duties as soon as Assistant Secretary Wilkes' successor is appointed, as Mr. Gage desires to divide the custom and navigation matters between Gen. Spaulding and Mr. Howell and to assign matters of a strictly financial character to the third assistant. This arrangement will lighten the labors of all the secretaries, as it will consolidate the topics that come under their supervision.

TWO MORE FAT PLUMS

O. L. Spaulding and W. B. Howell to be Assistant Secretaries of the Treasury.

By Telegraph to the Press-Visitor.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—It is officially announced that O. L. Spaulding, of Michigan, and W B Howell, of New Jersey, are decided upon for assistant secretaries of the treasury department. The nominations will probably be sent to the senate today. Both are experts in custom matters.

- 1900 June 9: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Bingham, Clinton County, MI showed Oliver, Assistant U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, and M. Cecilia living with their three adult children: Edna, John and Thomas.
- 1910 April 20: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Washington, D.C., showed Oliver, a U.S. Treasury Customs Agent, and Cecilia living with their daughter Edna.
- 1920 January 2: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Washington, D.C., showed a retired Oliver living with Mary and their daughter Edna.

² Detroit Free Press, Detroit MI, Wednesday, 7 Apr 1897, pg. 1

³ The Press-Visitor, Raleigh, NC, Thursday, 1 Apr 1897, pg. 1

1922 July 30: Oliver Lyman Spaulding died in Washington, D.C. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

**GEN. SPAULDING, VET
OF CIVIL WAR, DEAD**
WASHINGTON, July 31. (A. P.) —
Brigadier General Oliver Lyman
Spaulding, former assistant secretary
of the treasury and for many years
prominent in public affairs in Mich-
igan, died yesterday at his home
here, aged 89 years. Gen. Spaulding,
who served throughout the Civil War,
served as assistant secretary of the
treasury from 1890 to 1893 and agin
from 1897 to 1903.



FUNERAL TODAY OF GEN. SPAULDING

Services for Gen. Oliver Lyman Spaulding, member of the forty-seventh Congress from Michigan, and former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, who died at his home, 3021 Q street northwest, Sunday, will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church today at 2:30 p. m.

Gen. Spaulding, who was 89 years old, was employed in the Treasury Department in various capacities for forty-five years. He was born in Jaffry, N. H., August 2, 1833, and educated at Oberlin University, graduating in 1855.

He is survived by his widow and four sons, Frank M., Col. Oliver Lyman, jr., John C., Maj. M., and one daughter, Edna C.

Gen. Spaulding had a remarkable civil war record and was decorated for "meritorious" service.

⁴ The Buffalo Commercial, Buffalo, NY, Monday, 31 Jul 1922, pg. 2

⁵ The Washington Herald, Washington, D.C., Tuesday, 1 Aug 1922, pg. 9