

**CIVIL WAR RECORD
OF BROWN
UNIVERSITY**

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Civil war record of Brown University by Henry Sweetser Burrage

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HENRY SWEETSER BURRAGE

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BROWN UNIVERSITY

COMPILED BY

BREVET MAJOR HENRY S. BURRAGE, D. D.,

CLASS OF 1861.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

1920.

FOREWORD.

The compiler of this Record, early in 1868, published a volume of three hundred and eighty pages entitled *Brown University in the Civil War*. In it were included biographies of twenty-one of the graduates and non-graduates of the University who died in that war, and also the record of the two hundred and ninety-four of the graduates and non-graduates who served in the Union army or navy in the Civil War period.

In the *Brown Alumni Monthly* for April, 1915, attention was called to a noteworthy gift received by the Library of the University from Mr. Bertram Smith, of Berkeley, California (class of 1910). It was a typewritten compilation, covering one hundred pages, containing references to Brown University graduates and non-graduates in the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* in the Civil War—that monumental work comprising one hundred and thirty volumes, published under the direction of successive Secretaries of War until its completion under Secretary Elihu Root in 1901. It was a happy thought that led Mr. Smith (even with the aid of the invaluable index volume of 1242 pages, recording every name in these one hundred and thirty volumes) to make the extended search which his plan required. As Mr. Smith remarked in his introduction, the material thus secured added little to what was already known concerning the services of Brown University graduates and non-graduates in the Civil War. Its great value was in calling attention to quite a large number of

Brown men who had a part in that war on the Union or Confederate side, but whose services had not found mention in our University war records.

The list thus compiled contained one hundred and ninety-seven names. Of these, seventeen had no other connection with the University than as the recipients of honorary degrees. Major General Burnside was one of the seventeen; but of course such recognition of honorable service was not sufficient to give him a place among Brown University graduates or non-graduates in the Civil War. Of the one hundred and eighty other persons mentioned by Mr. Smith thirty had no military service in that war, and accordingly their names had no place in a record of such service. One of the thirty was Francis Wayland, who, in the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Volume IV, Series III, page 1246), is mentioned as one of the incorporators of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers; but mention of a call to such honorable service even would not entitle the venerable ex-president of the University to a place in a record among those who were enrolled in the military service during the Civil War.

Then, in this list taken from the *Official Records*, there were eighty-three names of graduates and non-graduates of Brown who were mentioned in the memorial volume, *Brown University in the Civil War*, published in 1868; so that these eighty-three names were not a new contribution to the roll of Brown University graduates and non-graduates who were in the military service, on one side or the other, in the battle years 1861-1865. But even with the elimination of these names there were still left sixty-seven names, taken from the *Official Records*, which are not recorded in the roll prepared at the close of the Civil War.

Other names also, not appearing in that roll, but belonging to it, the writer of these lines had obtained from various sources since the publication of *Brown University in the Civil War*; and Mr. Smith's discovery became now the suggestion of bringing together the names of these men preparatory to a search for the record of their military service. Such a list was made with the assistance of the keeper of the Graduate Records of the University; and the seventy-three names thus secured, added to Mr. Smith's sixty-seven, made a total of one hundred and forty names.

The task of obtaining the Civil War record of these men was divided between Mr. Smith and myself, he to make an effort to obtain the war service of the men whose names he had secured, and I to make an effort to ascertain the war service of those whose names were on my list. After some time, because of the difficulties encountered in obtaining the information desired, Mr. Smith relinquished his endeavor, and I took upon myself the whole of the work.

The task was not an easy one. Many whose names were in the two lists had died, not a few long ago, indeed so long ago that little information concerning their part in the war could be secured, while of some no evidence was ascertainable that at any time they had a part in the war on either side. This difficulty was greatest in case of those graduates or non-graduates who resided in the South.

Accordingly, I have not found it possible to make the Civil War service of the graduates and non-graduates of the University as complete as I desired. In the limit that has been reached, however, sufficient information was discovered to increase the roll of Brown University men in the Civil War from two hundred and ninety-four, as recorded in 1868, to four hundred and seventeen,

and the number of those who died in the service from twenty-one to thirty-nine.

In the new Record are included the names of the graduates and non-graduates of the University who served in the Confederate army. The roll in *Brown University in the Civil War* was the record of the men of the University whose service in that war had been *pro libertate et pro Reipublicæ integritate*.¹ But a great change had been manifested in the intervening years. The bitterness of the war-period, also of the period following the war for some time, had now given place to a spirit of love and devotion to the one common country, which happily the war left to us. Especially was this change made to appear at the time of the Spanish-American War, and more recently in the great World War. General E. P. Alexander, who fired the guns at Gettysburg which opened upon the Union lines preceding what is commonly known as Pickett's Charge, used the following words in the introduction to his *Military Memories of a Confederate*, published in 1902: "The world has not stood still in the years since we took up arms for what we deemed our most invaluable right—that of self government. We now enjoy the rare privilege of seeing what we fought for in the retrospect. It no longer seems desirable. It would now prove only a curse. We have good cause to thank God for our escape from it, not alone for ourselves, but for that of the whole country and even of the world." With such words on record, and many others from a similar source that have long been familiar, the time certainly had come for a recognition of the change which the years had wrought since the Civil War. Accordingly, it seemed desirable that search should be made for the record of our graduates and non-graduates who served in the

¹ From the inscription on the tablet in Manning Hall by Professor John L. Lincoln.

Confederate army or navy. The Civil War records in the Southern States have not been as carefully preserved as were those in the Union States. Such as remain are now in the War Department at Washington, and these, as required, have been used; but I am especially indebted to many willing helpers in the South, who have rendered valuable service when search was requested.

At a meeting of the corporation of the University, October 15, 1919, the writer of these lines had the pleasure of reporting to his associates the results of these later labors. In so doing he stated that this new Civil War Record is still incomplete because of the difficulty of obtaining any information concerning Civil War service at a date so remote from that great crisis in our national history. But the number of missing names must be small; and with an expression of gratitude that his years had been lengthened out so as to make it possible for him to record the memory of the services of these other sons of his alma mater, he presented his manuscript Record to the corporation, closing his remarks with the mention of the noteworthy fact that there were still in the membership of the corporation, and present on that day, four other graduates of Brown, also survivors of the Civil War, namely, Messrs Keen and Porter of the Board of Fellows, and Messrs. Douglas and Lapham of the Board of Trustees. In the action that followed with reference to the publication of the Record, it was the happy suggestion of one of the Trustees that these four survivors should be associated with the compiler in the work of publication, and it was so ordered. Such assistance has been helpfully rendered.

At the dedication of the Civil War Memorial Tablet in Manning Hall, September 4, 1866, Professor J. L. Diman made mention of the significance of such a memorial in such a place, incul-