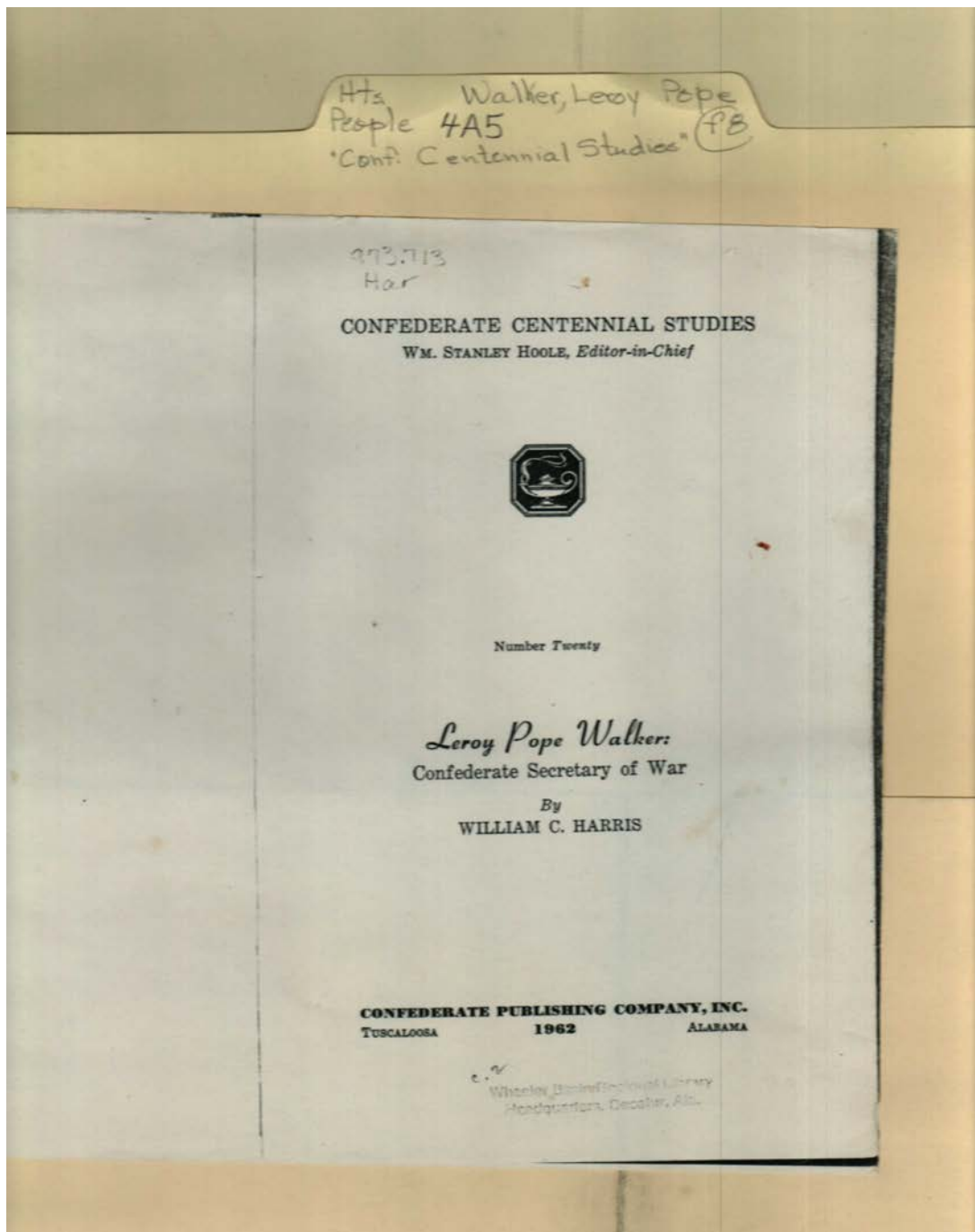


Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 1 r04a05-08-000-0160 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Confederate  
Centennial Studies

Harris, William C.

Hoole, William  
Stanley

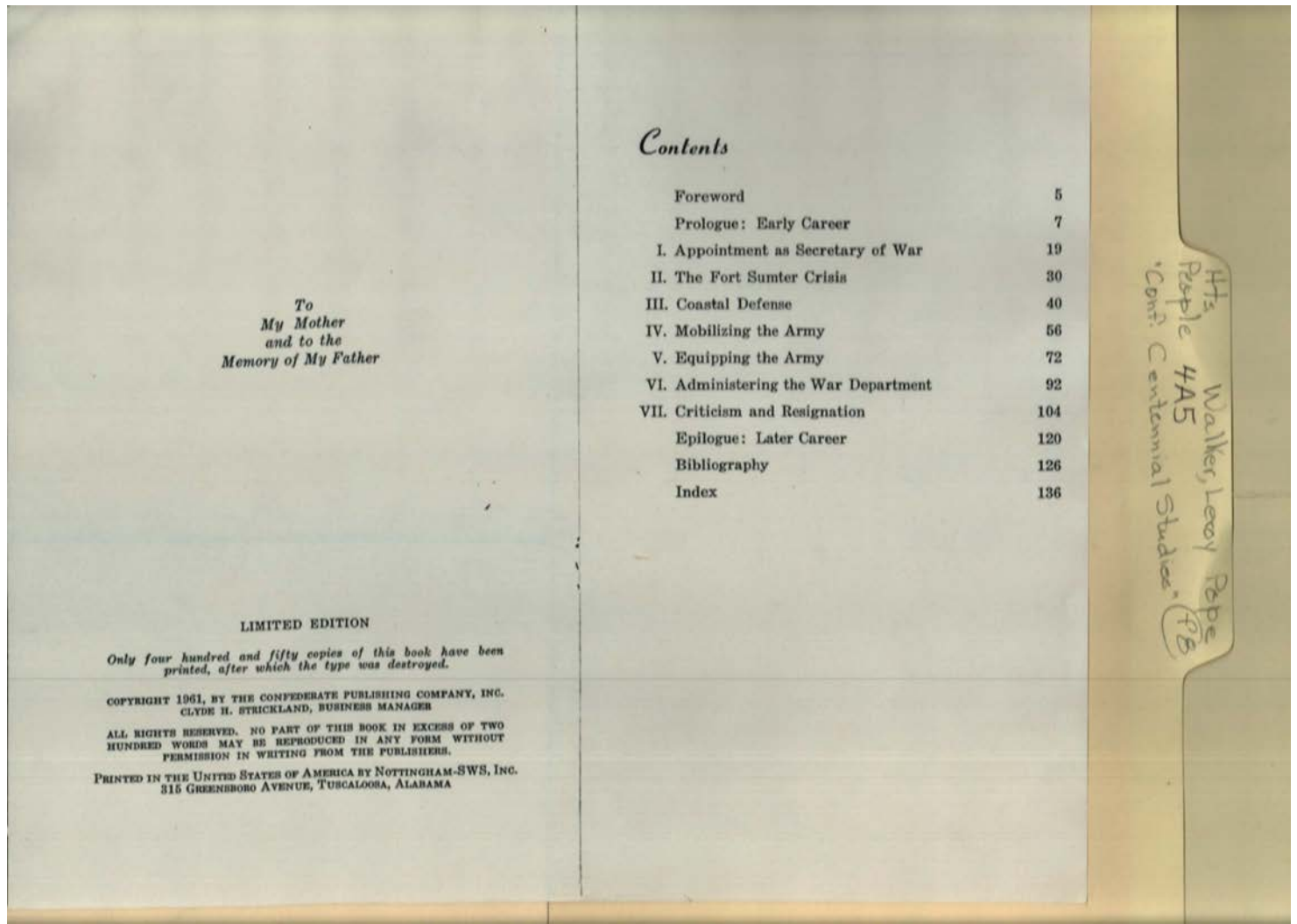
Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book

**Dates:**

1962



**Names:**

Confederate  
Publishing Co.

**Places:**

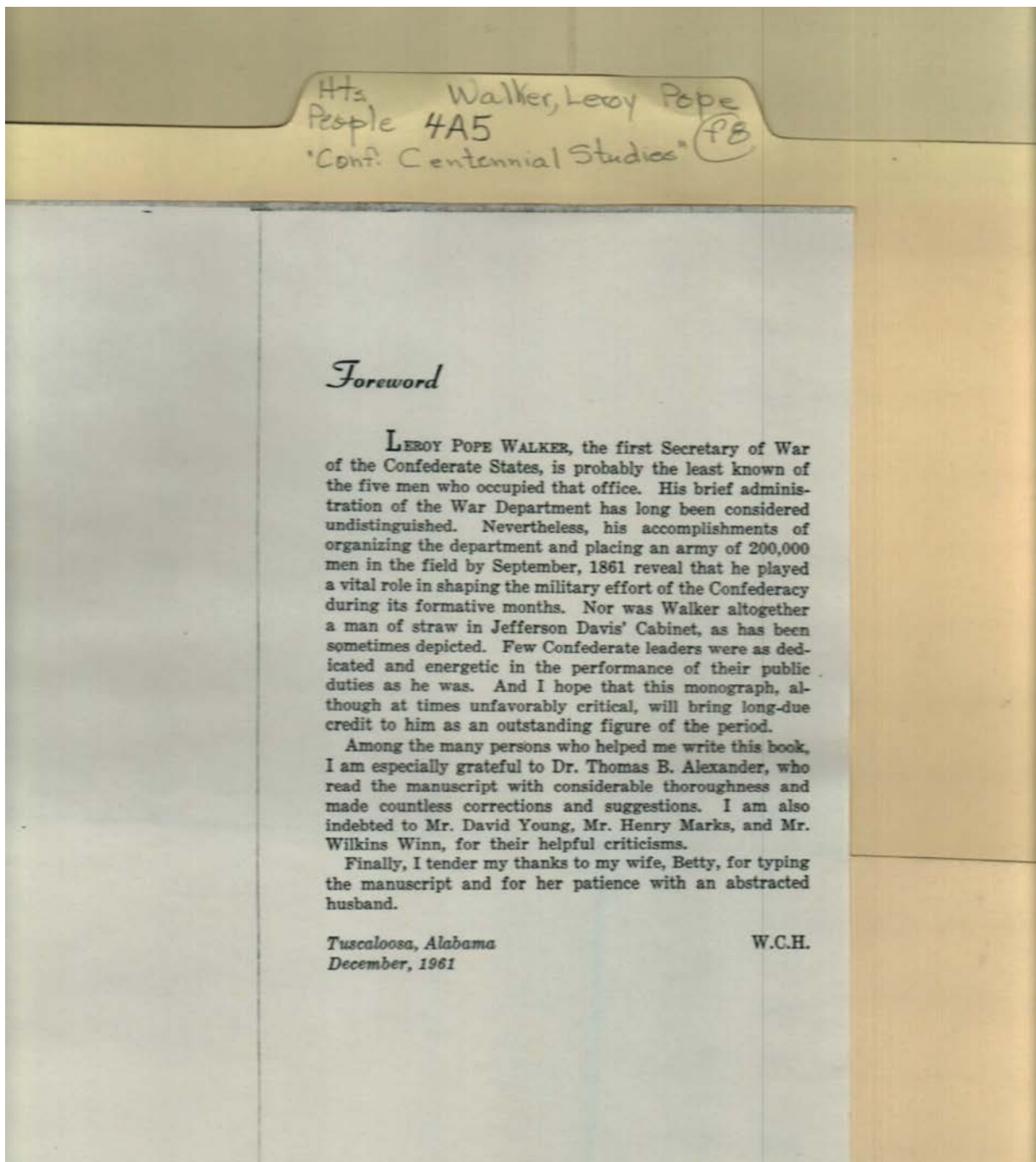
Tuscaloosa, AL

**Types:**

book

**Dates:**

1961



**Names:**

Alexander, Thomas  
B., Dr.

Davis, Jefferson  
Harris, Betty

Marks, Henry  
Walker, Leroy Pope

Winn, Wilkins  
Young, David

**Places:**

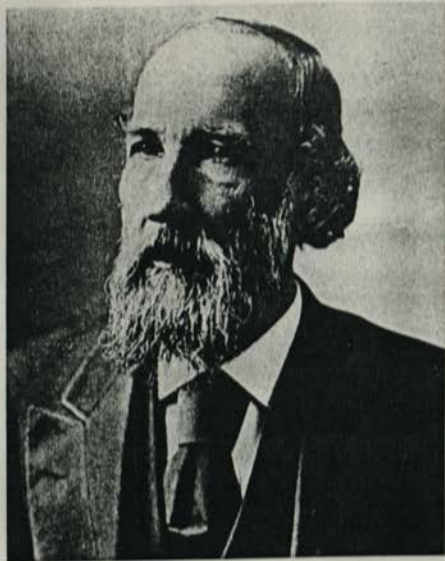
Tuscaloosa, AL

**Types:**

book

**Dates:**

December, 1861



Leroy Pope Walker  
(Courtesy of the Library of Congress)

### *Prologue: Early Career*

WHEN THE Democratic National Convention, meeting in Charleston, April 30, 1860, adopted a platform on slavery in the territories contrary to that supported by William Lowndes Yancey's militant "Alabama Platform," Leroy Pope Walker, chairman of the Alabama delegation, dramatically led his twenty-five colleagues off the convention floor. They were followed by the delegations from Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, Florida, and Texas. As one eye-witness declared, ". . . it was evident that an unprecedented crisis had arrived. The late tumultuous convention was hushed to silence and the stillness of death, while solemnity was depicted upon every countenance."

Although Yancey had long dominated the Southern-rights' wing of the Democratic party in Alabama, Leroy Pope Walker was none the less ardent in his support of the "Alabama Platform." Indeed, he was described as "Yancey's best aide" at the Charleston convention, a peerless advocate of state rights, an eloquent spokesman, and a man of strong convictions. In his own words, in Charleston he had been "willing to accord anything for the sake of harmony except the surrender of a principle" (i.e., the "Alabama Platform").

Setting themselves up in a nearby hall, the protesting delegates, who were soon joined by those from Virginia, Florida, Georgia, Arkansas, Missouri, and Delaware, organized themselves into a Constitutional Democratic convention and, with but little delay, adjourned to reassemble in Richmond on June 11. The original convention, unable to nominate a candidate, adjourned to meet in Baltimore on June 18.

At Richmond the Southern Democrats, including Alabama, again led by Walker, endorsed John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky for President and Joseph Lane of Oregon for

HTS  
People 4A5  
Walker, Leroy Pope  
Centennial Studies 9B

**Names:**

Breckinridge, John C.  
Lane, Joseph

Walker, Leroy Pope

Yancey, William  
Lowndes

**Types:**

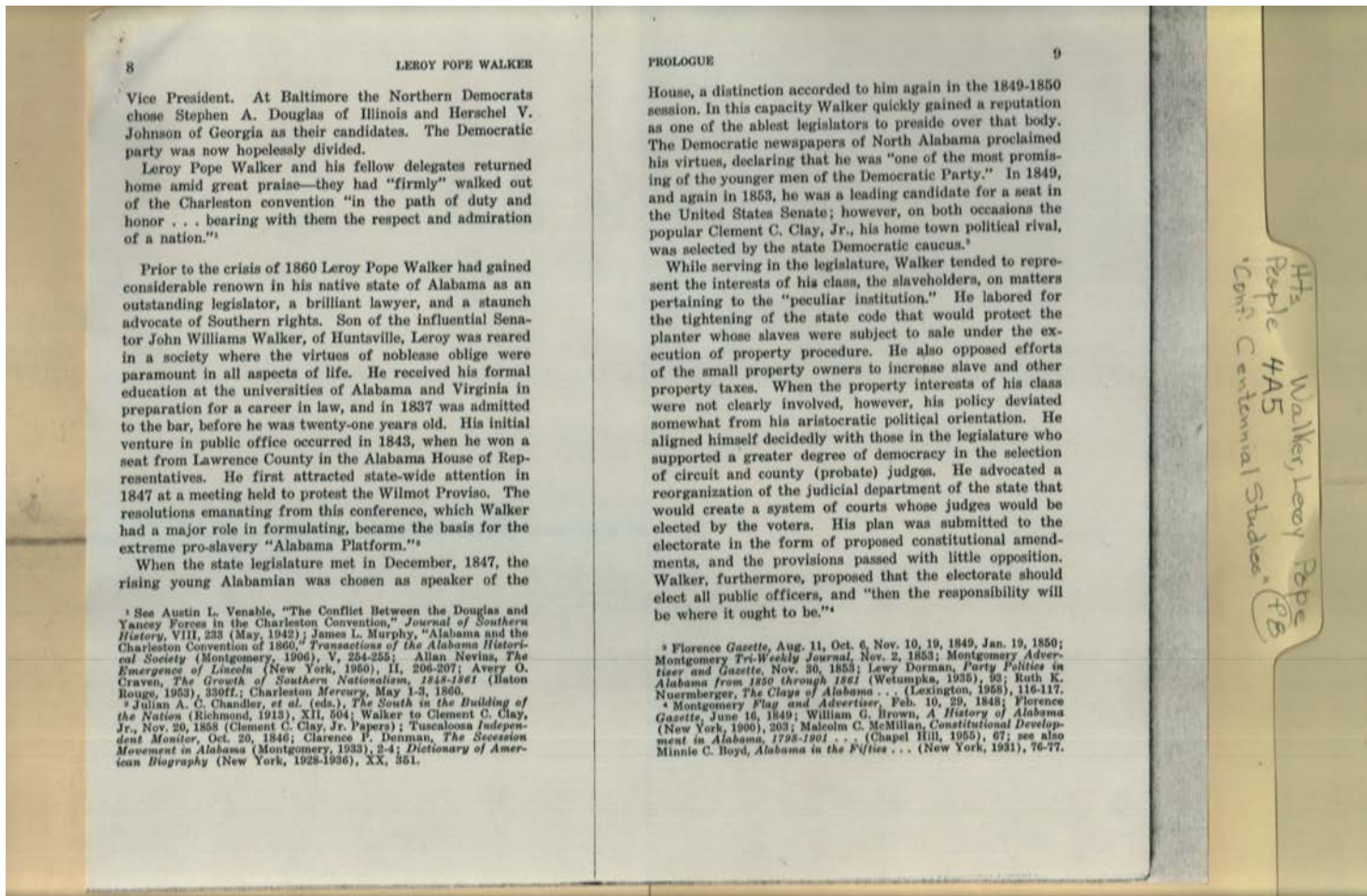
book

portrait

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 5 r04a05-08-000-0164 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Clay, Clement C., Jr.  
Douglas, Stephen A.

Johnson, Herschel V.

Walker, John  
Williams

Walker, Leroy Pope

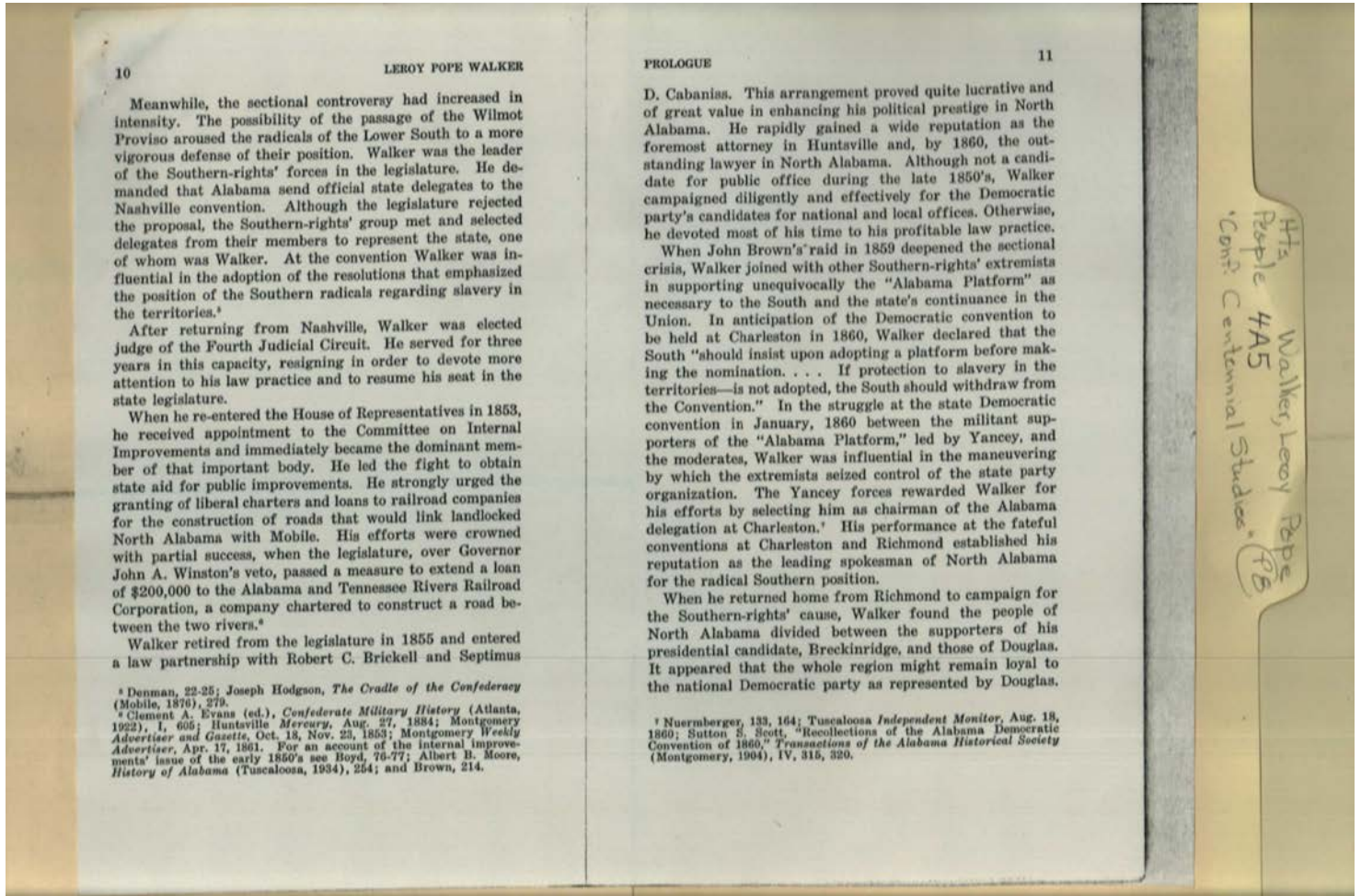
**Types:**

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 6 r04a05-08-000-0165 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Breckinridge, John C.  
Brickell, Robert C.  
Brown, John

Cabaniss, Septimus  
D.  
Douglas, Stephen A.

Walker, Leroy Pope  
Yancey, William  
Lowndes

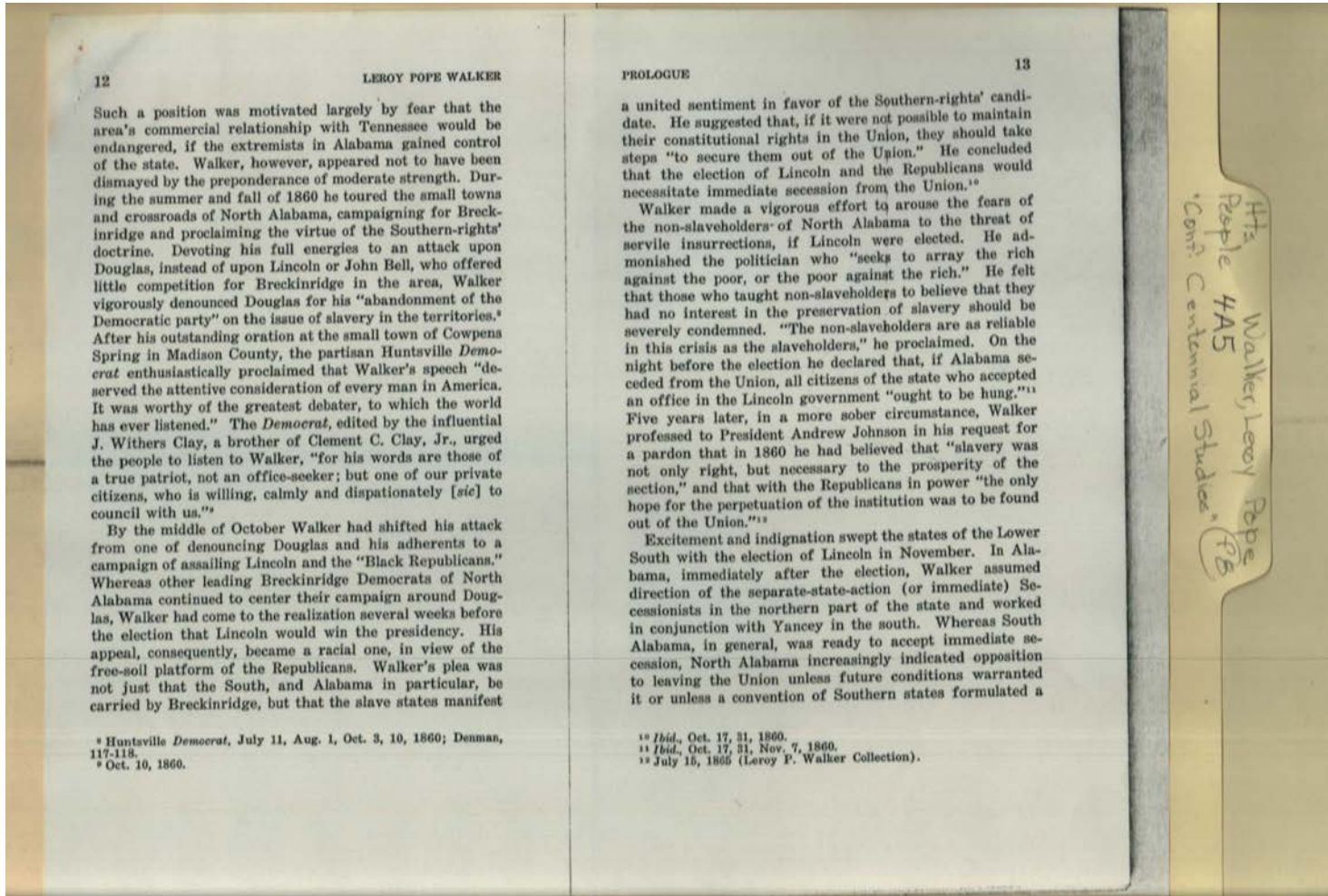
**Types:**

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 7 r04a05-08-000-0166 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Bell, John  
Breckinridge, John C.  
Clay, Clement C., Jr.

Clay, J. Withers  
Douglas, Stephen A.

Johnson, Andrew,  
President  
Lincoln, Abraham

Walker, Leroy Pope  
Yancey, William  
Lowndes

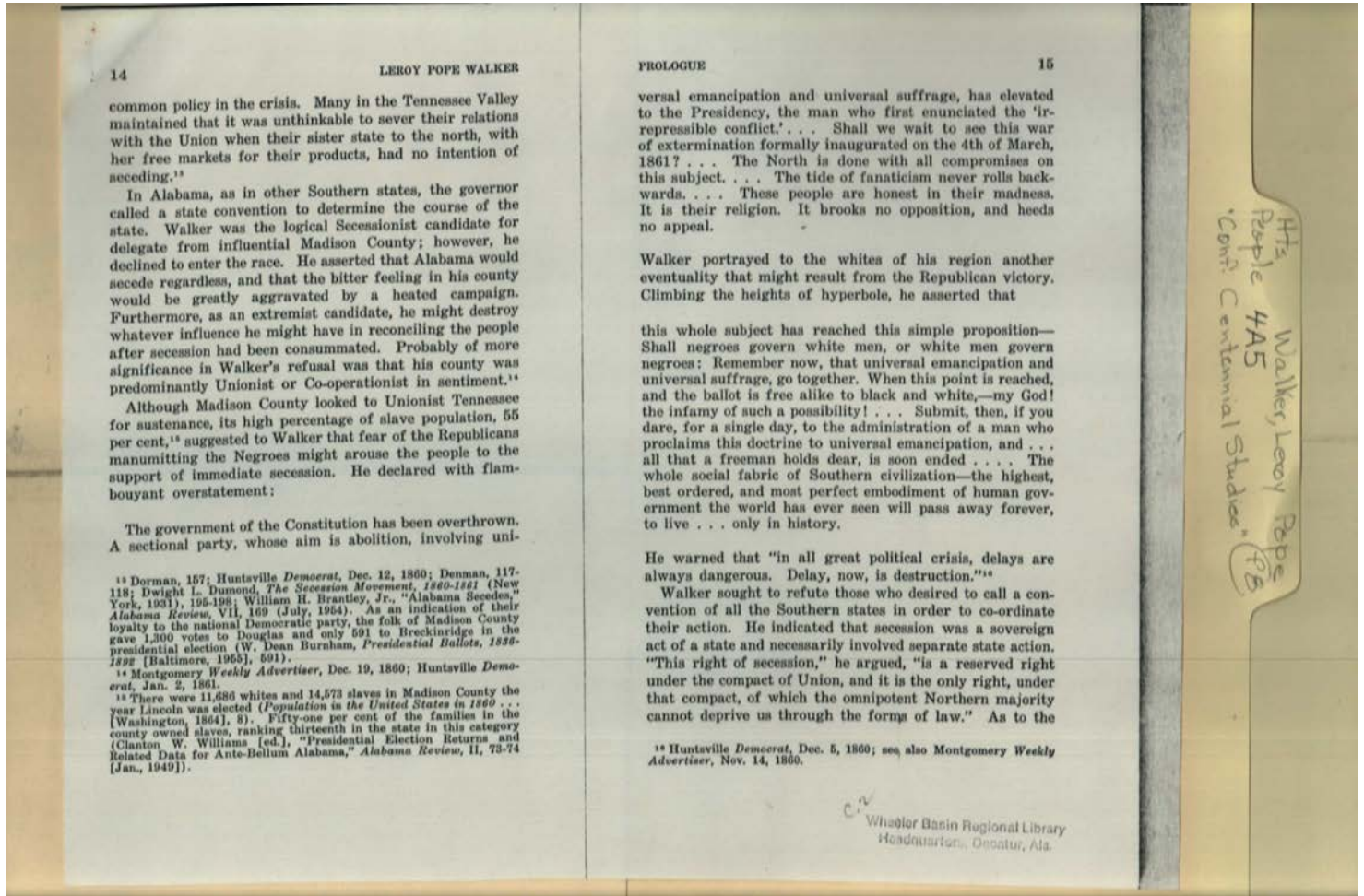
**Types:**

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 8 r04a05-08-000-0167 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

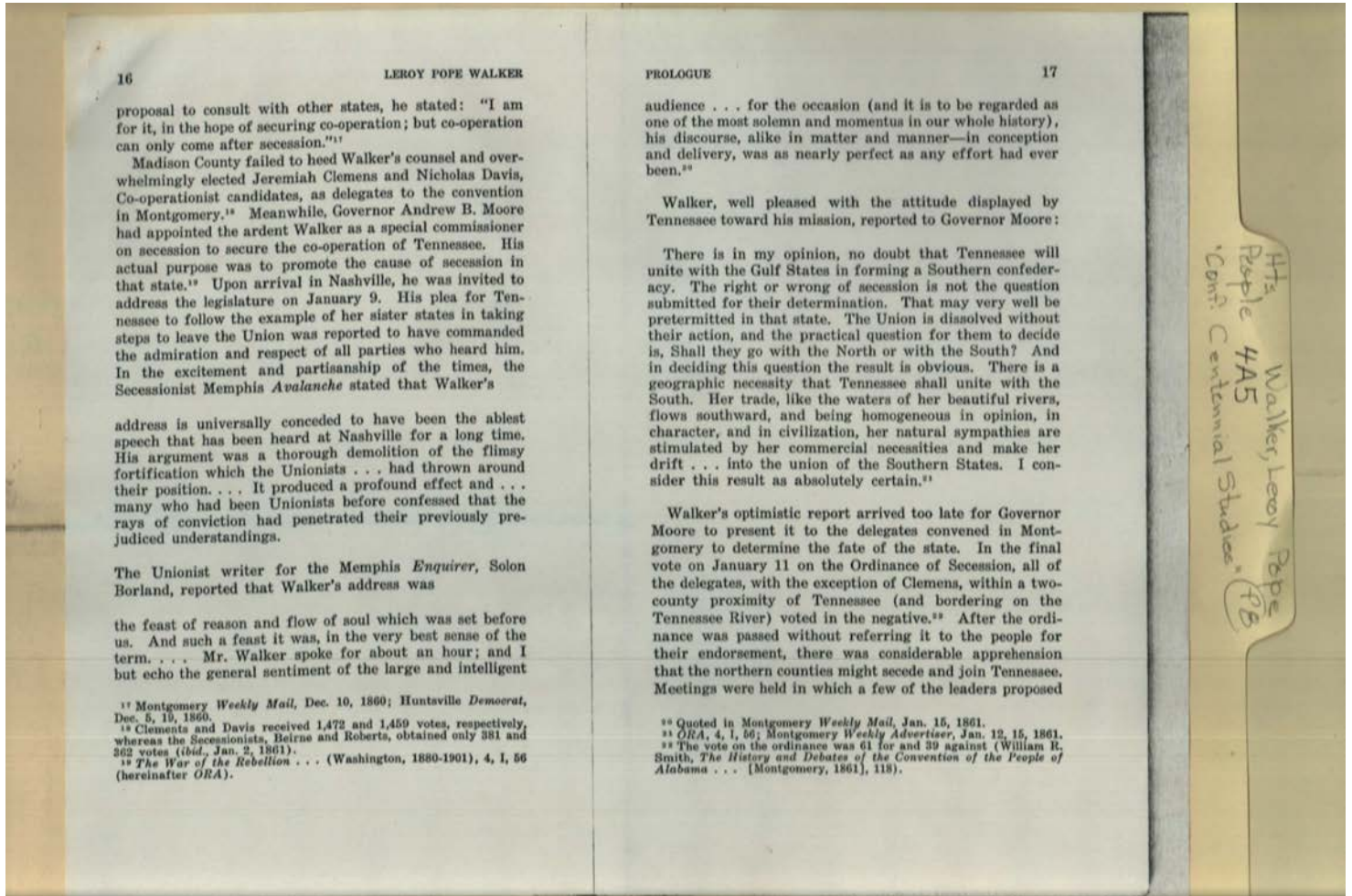
book



Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 9 r04a05-08-000-0168 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Borland, Solon  
Clemens, Jeremiah

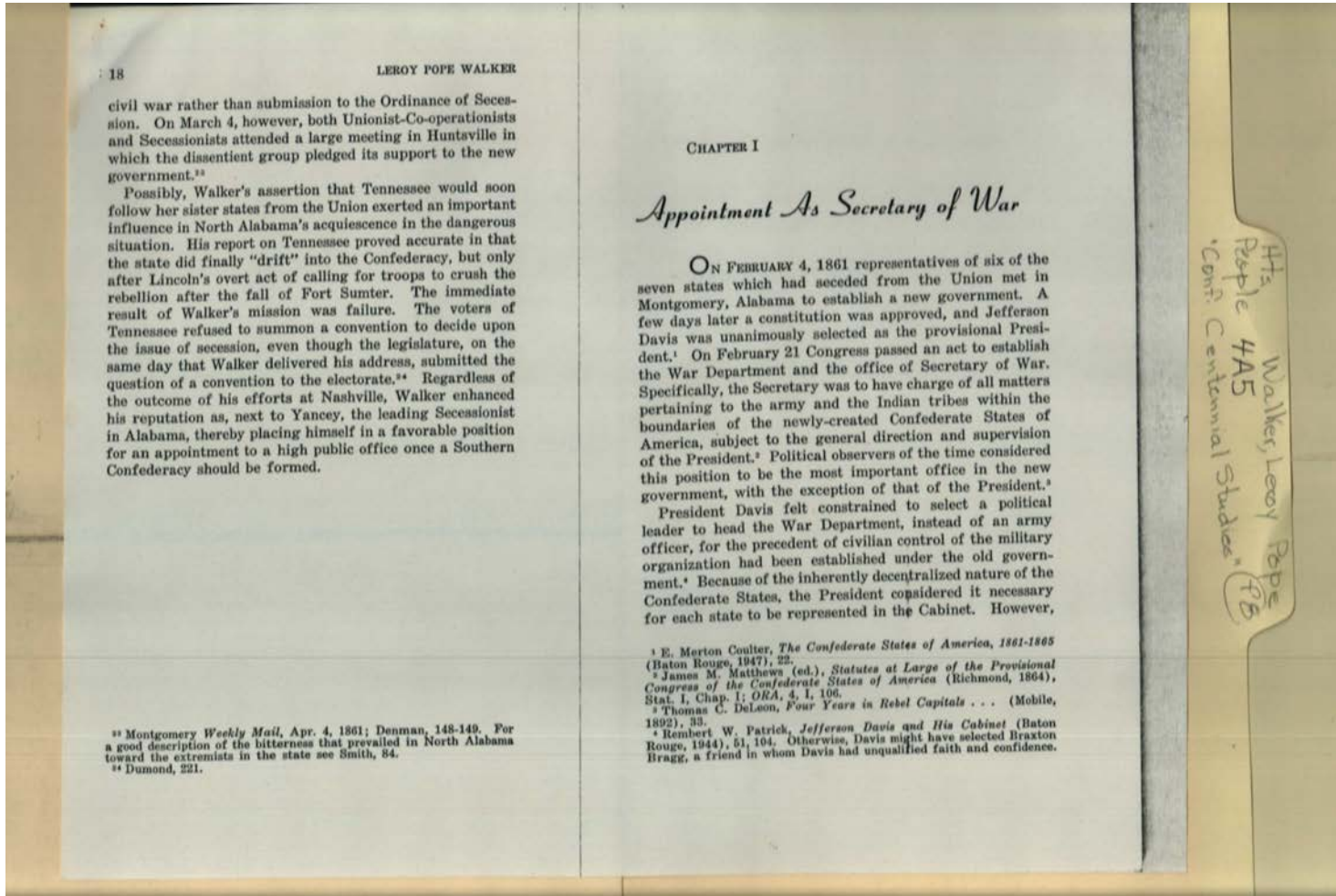
Davis, Nicholas

Moore, Andrew B.,  
Gov.

Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book



**Names:**

Appointment As  
Secretary of War

Davis, Jefferson  
Lincoln, Abraham

Walker, Leroy Pope

Yancey, William  
Lowndes

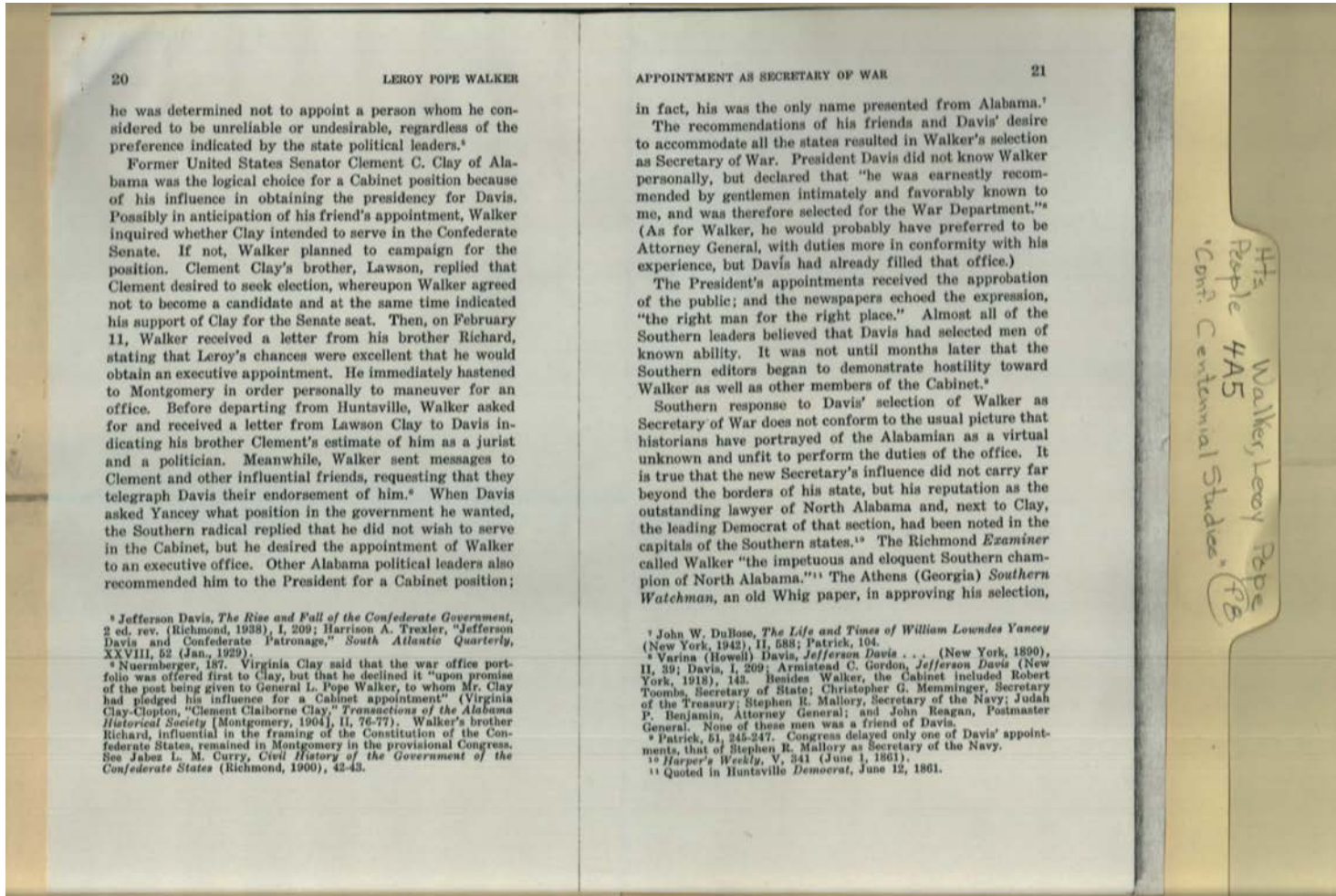
**Types:**

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 11 r04a05-08-000-0170 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Clay, Clement C.  
Clay, Lawson

Davis, Jefferson  
Walker, Leroy Pope

Walker, Richard

Yancey, William  
Lowndes

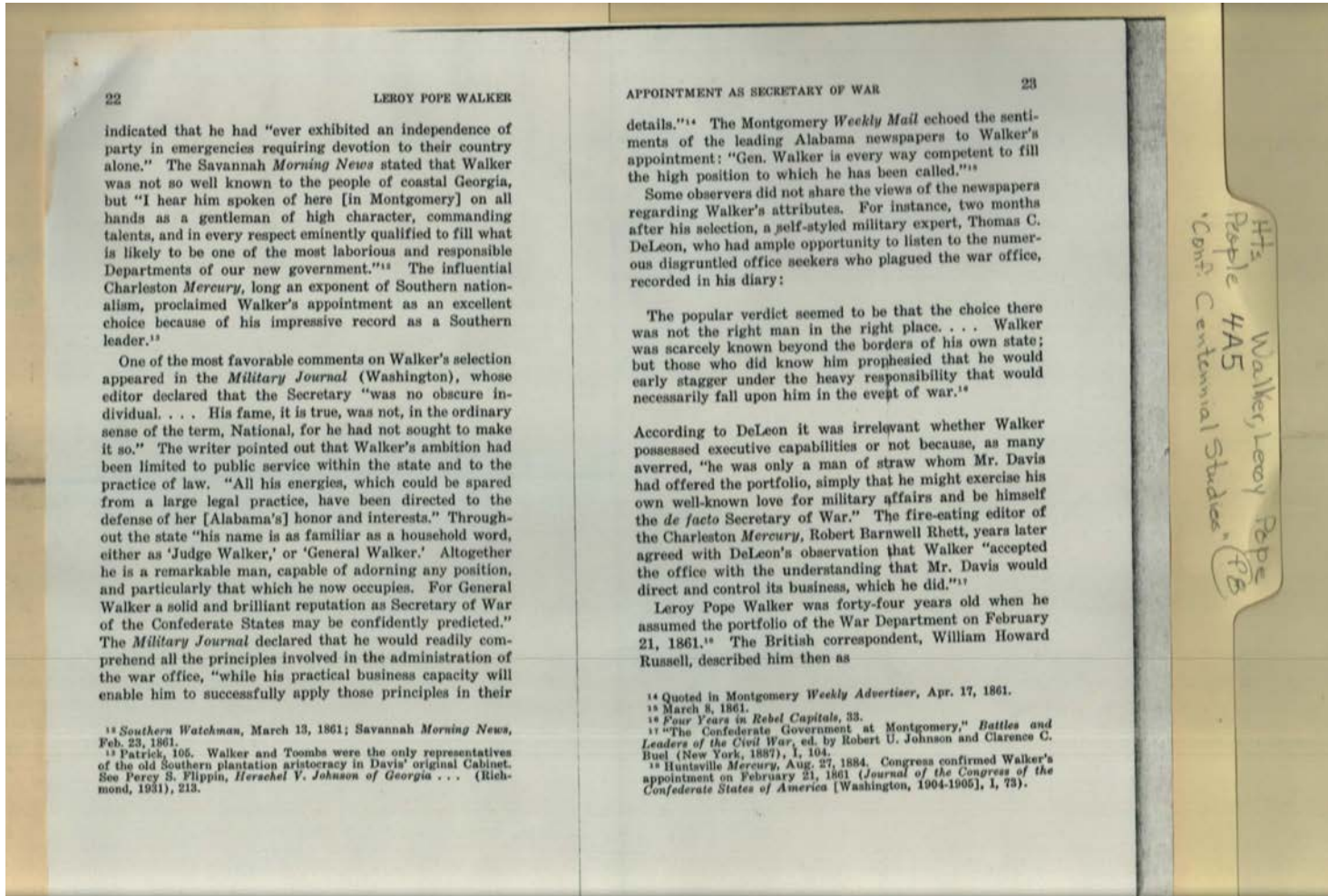
**Types:**

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 12 r04a05-08-000-0171 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Davis, Jefferson  
DeLeon, Thomas C.

Rhett, Robert  
Barnwell

Russell, William  
Howard

Walker, Leroy Pope

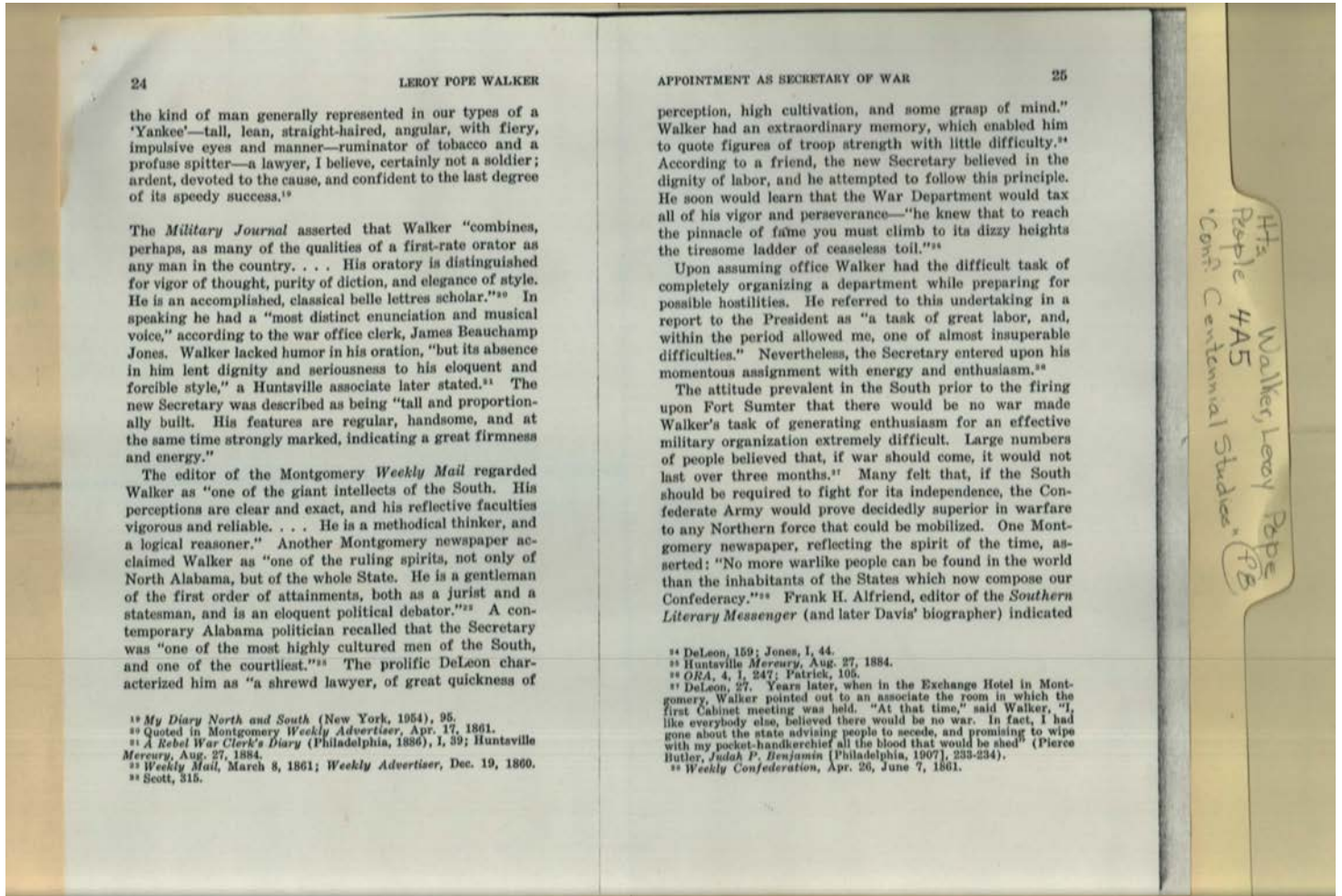
**Types:**

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 13 r04a05-08-000-0172 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Alfriend, Frank H.  
Davis, Jefferson

DeLeon, Thomas C.

Jones, James  
Beauchamp

Walker, Leroy Pope

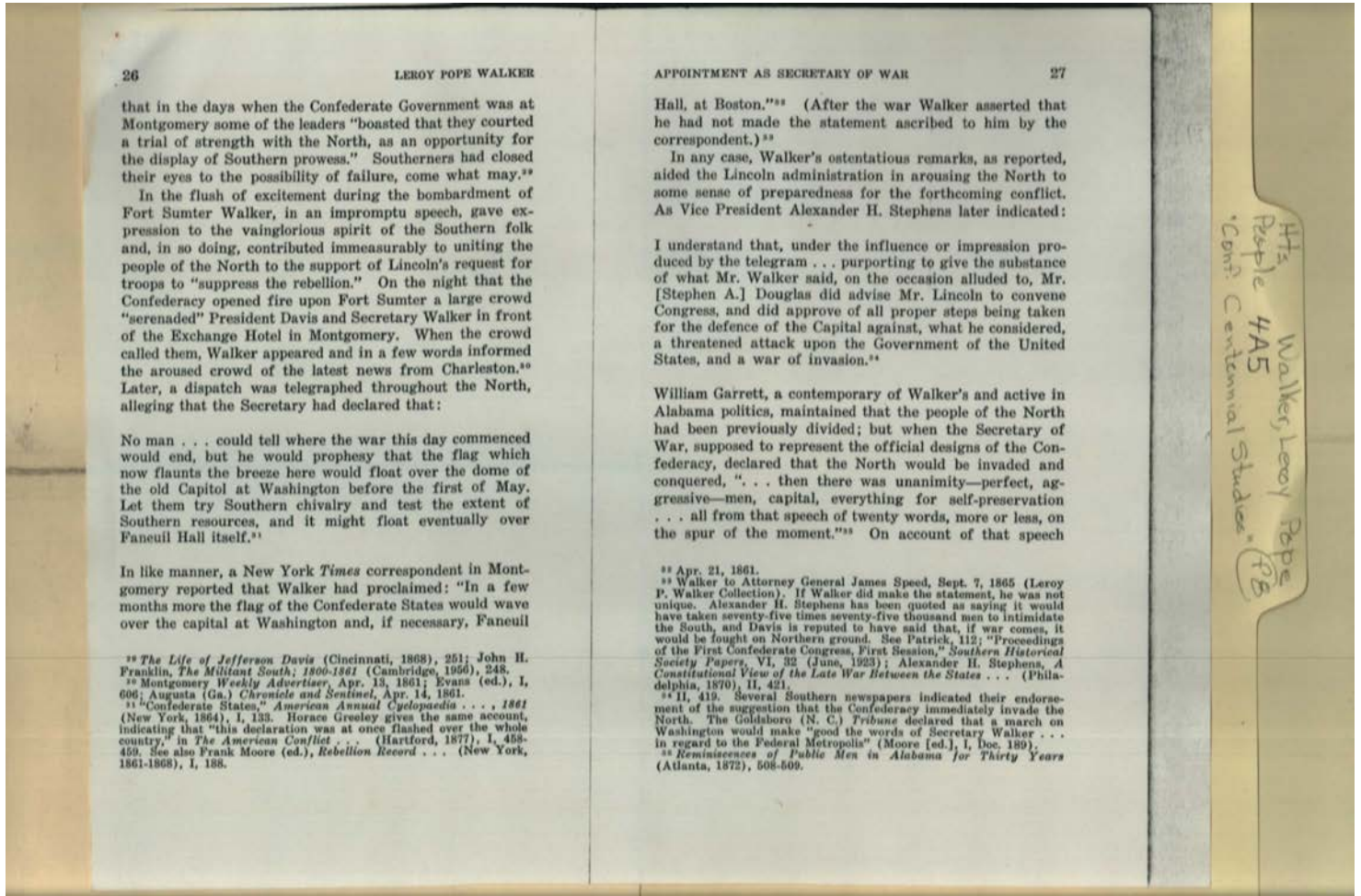
**Types:**

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 14 r04a05-08-000-0173 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Davis, Jefferson,  
President  
Douglas, Stephen A.

Garrett, William  
Lincoln, Abraham

Stephens, Alexander  
H., President  
Walker, Leroy Pope

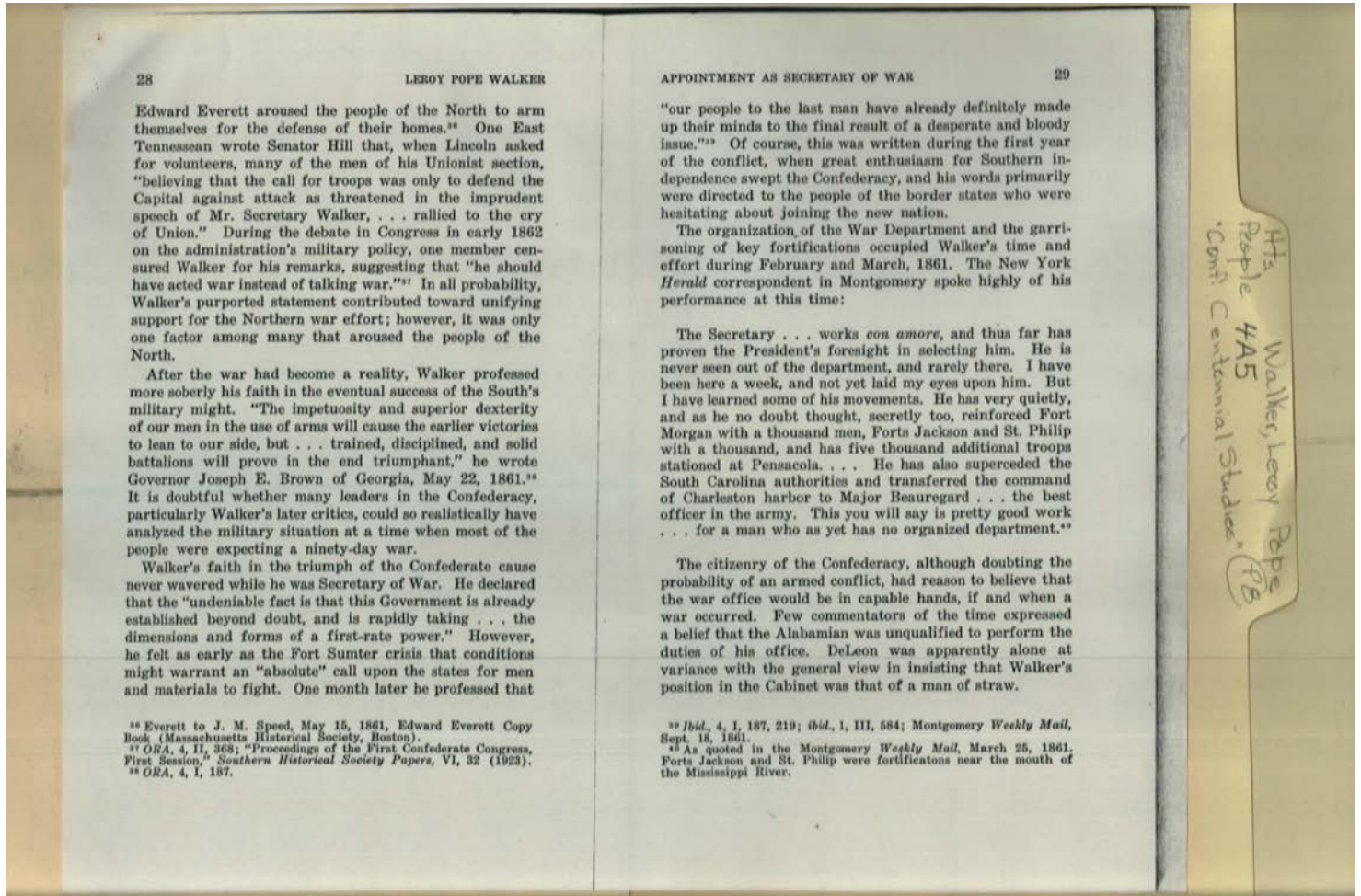
Types:

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 15 r04a05-08-000-0174 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Beauregard, Major  
Brown, Joseph E.

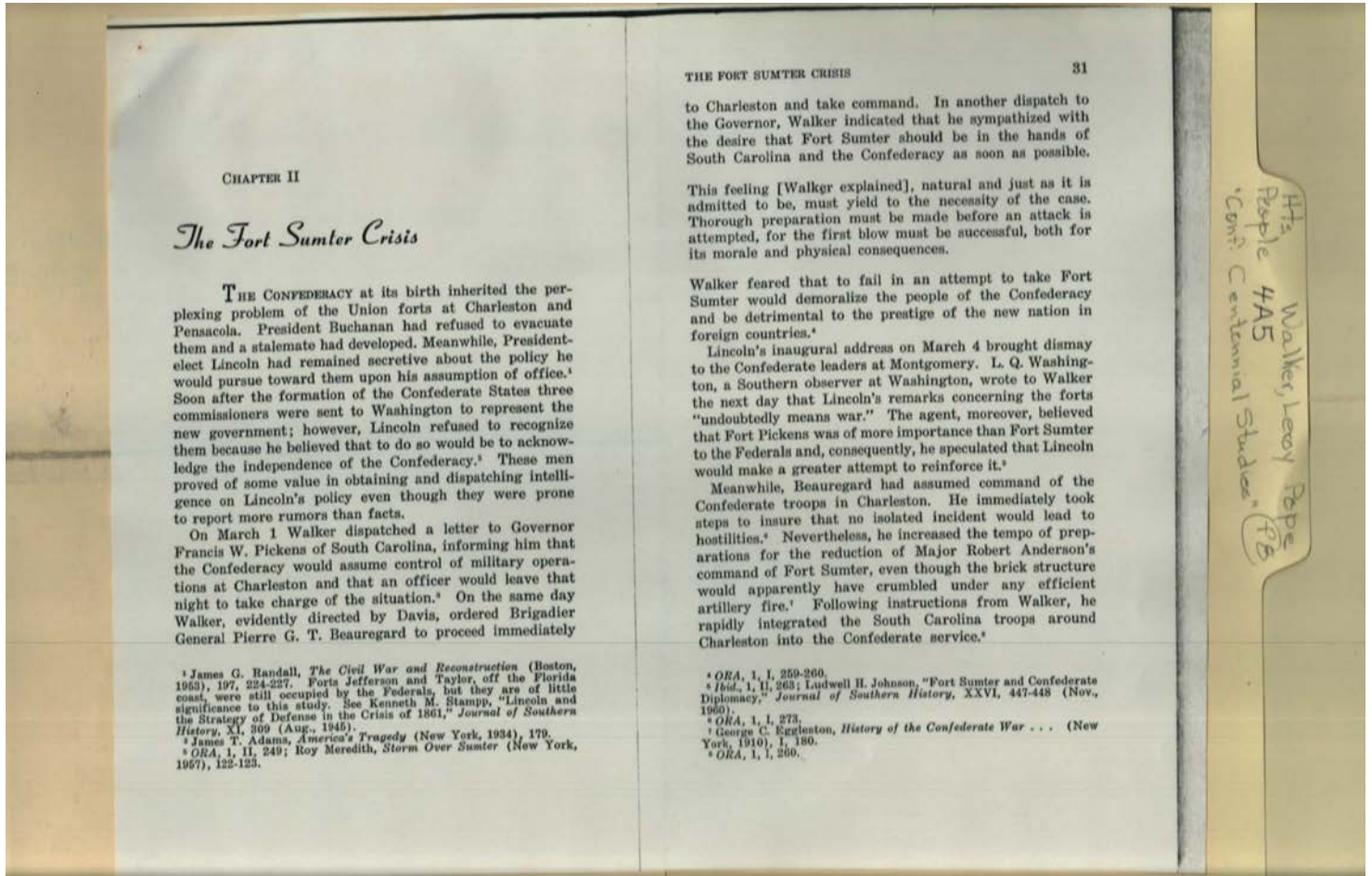
DeLeon, Thomas C.  
Everett, Edward

Hill, Senator  
Lincoln, Abraham

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

book



**Names:**

Anderson, Robert,  
Major  
Beauregard, Pierre G.  
T., Brig. Gen'l

Buchanan, President  
Davis, Jefferson  
Lincoln, Abraham

Pickens, Francis W.,  
Gov.  
The Fort Sumter  
Crisis

Walker, Leroy Pope  
Washington, L. Q.

**Types:**

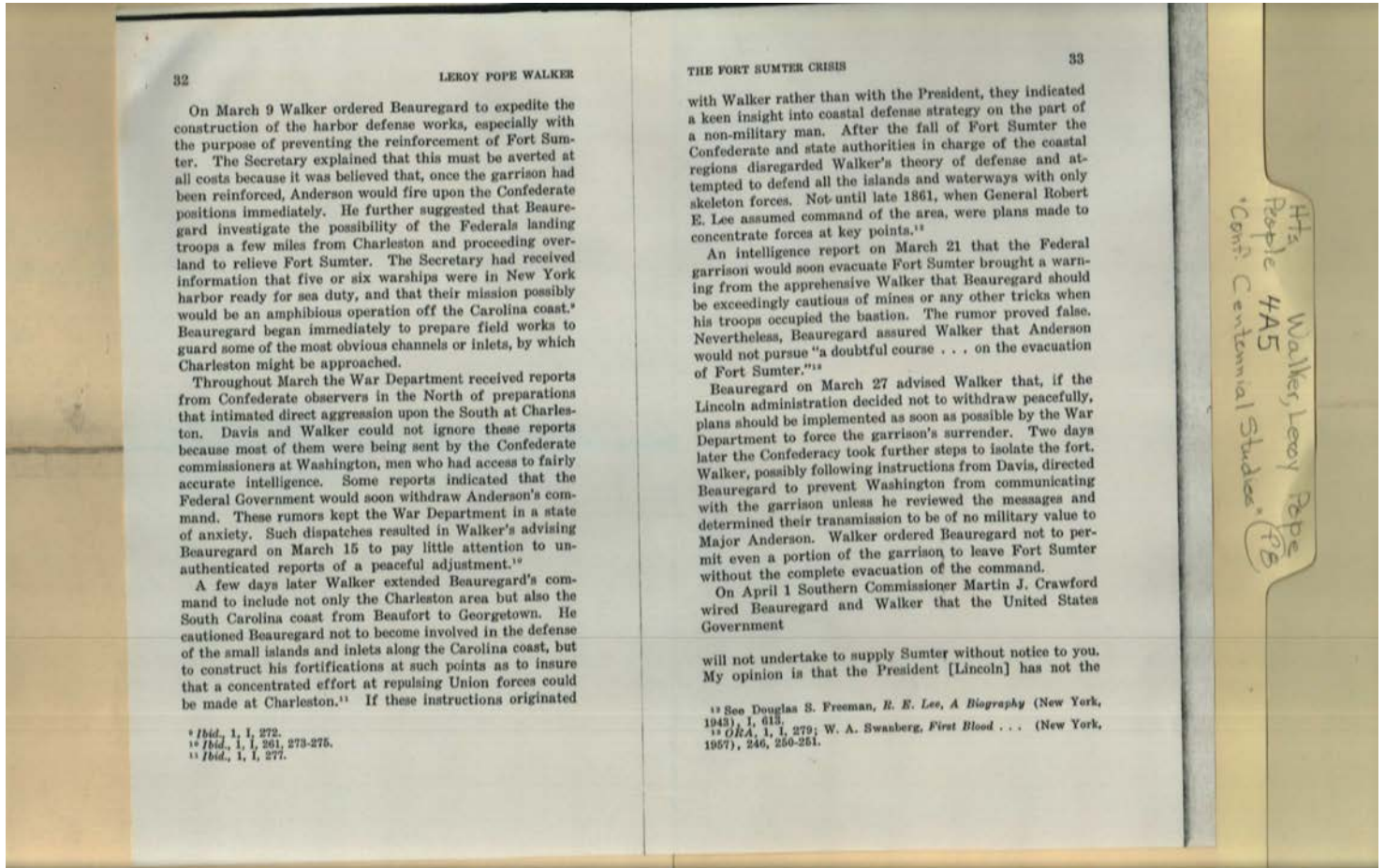
book



Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 17 r04a05-08-000-0176 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Anderson, Robert,  
Major

Beauregard, Pierre G.  
T., Brig. Gen'l  
Crawford, Martin J.

Davis, Jefferson  
Lee, Robert E., Gen'l  
Lincoln, Abraham

Walker, Leroy Pope

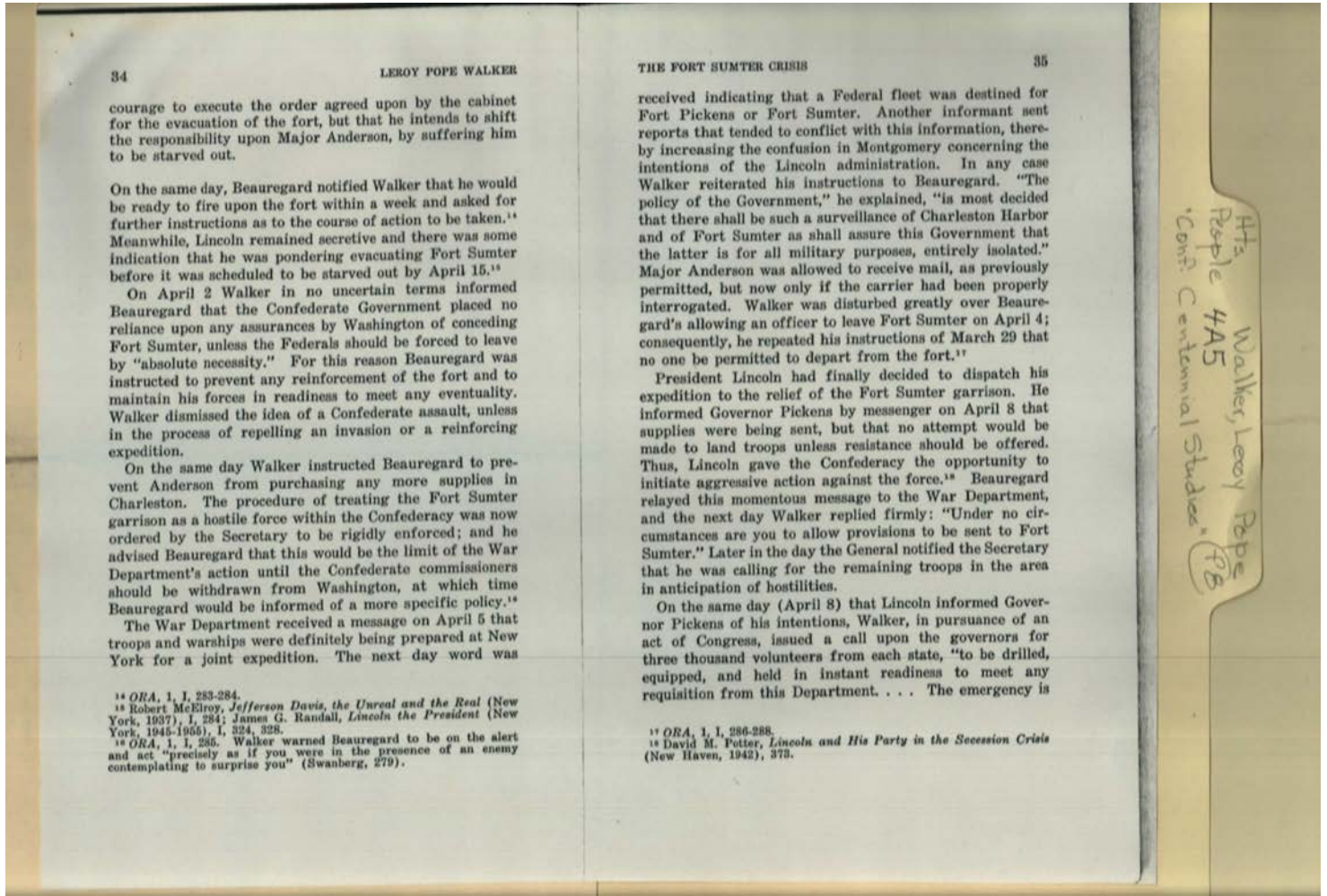
**Types:**

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 18 r04a05-08-000-0177 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

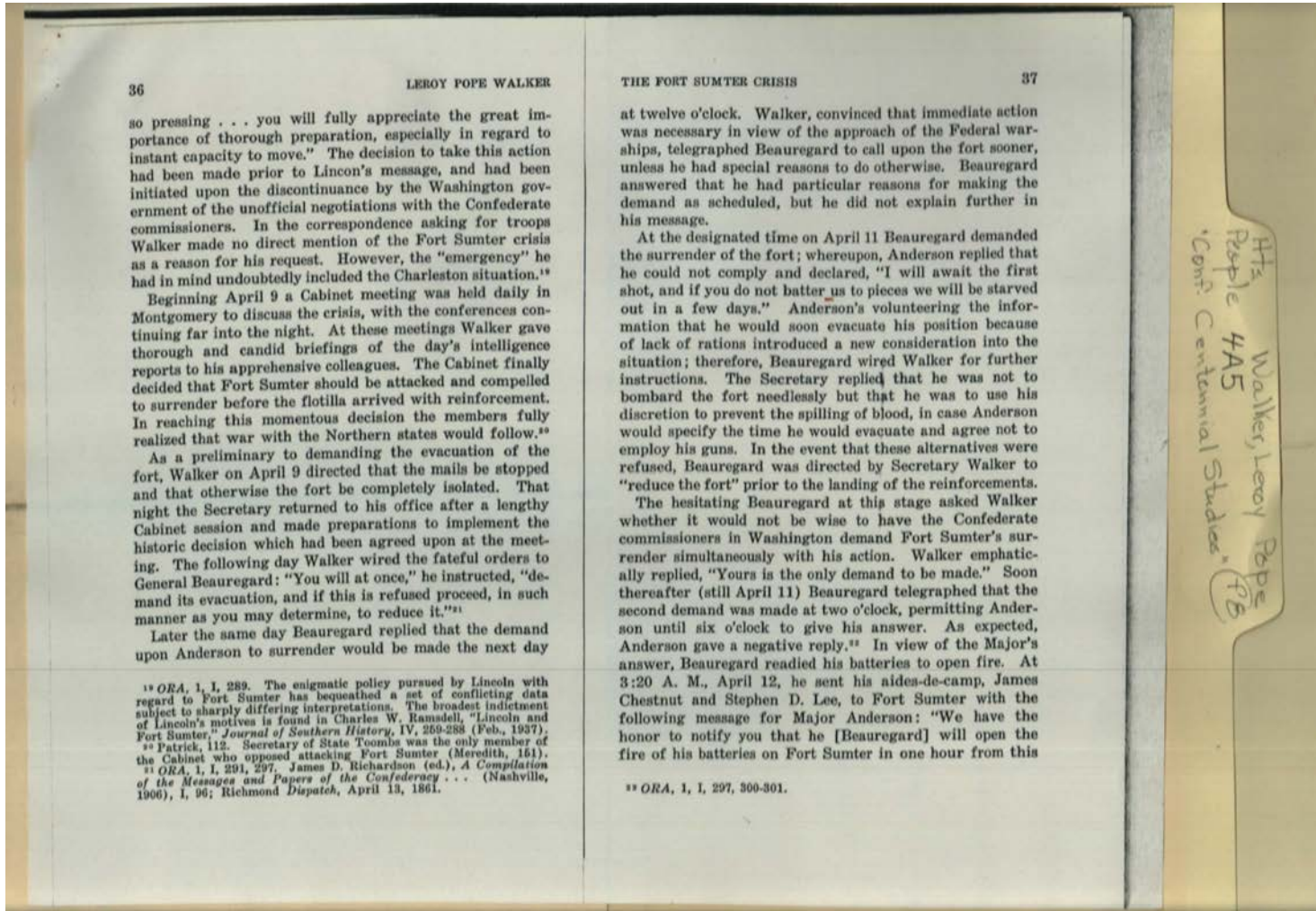
Anderson, Robert,  
Major

Beauregard, Pierre G.  
T., Brig. Gen'l  
Lincoln, Abraham

Pickens, Francis W.,  
Gov.  
Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book



**Names:**

Anderson, Robert,  
Major

Beauregard, Pierre G.  
T., Brig. Gen'l  
Chestnut, James

Davis, Jefferson  
Lee, Stephen D.  
Lincoln, Abraham

Walker, Leroy Pope

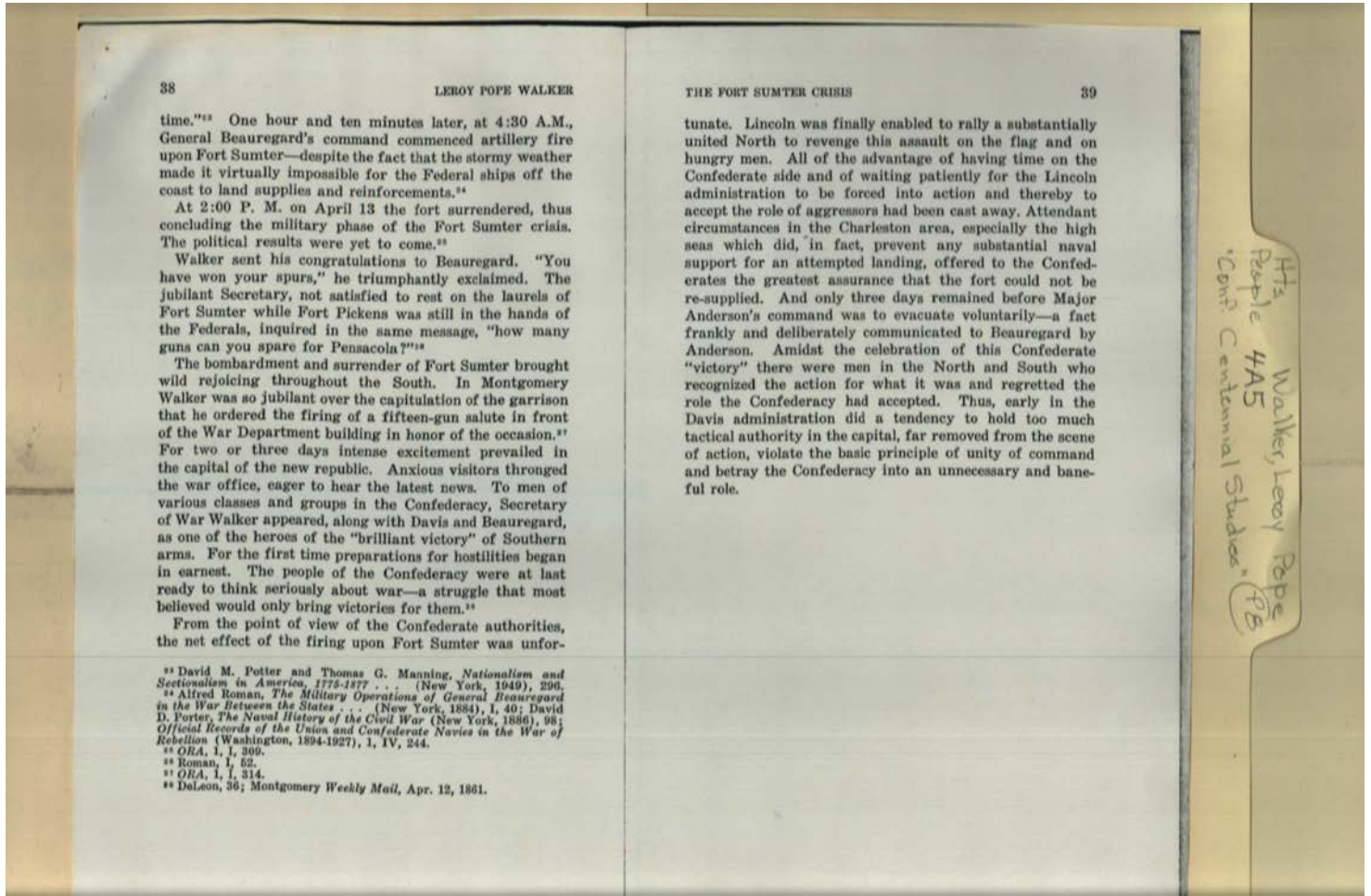
**Types:**

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 20 r04a05-08-000-0179 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Anderson, Robert,  
Major

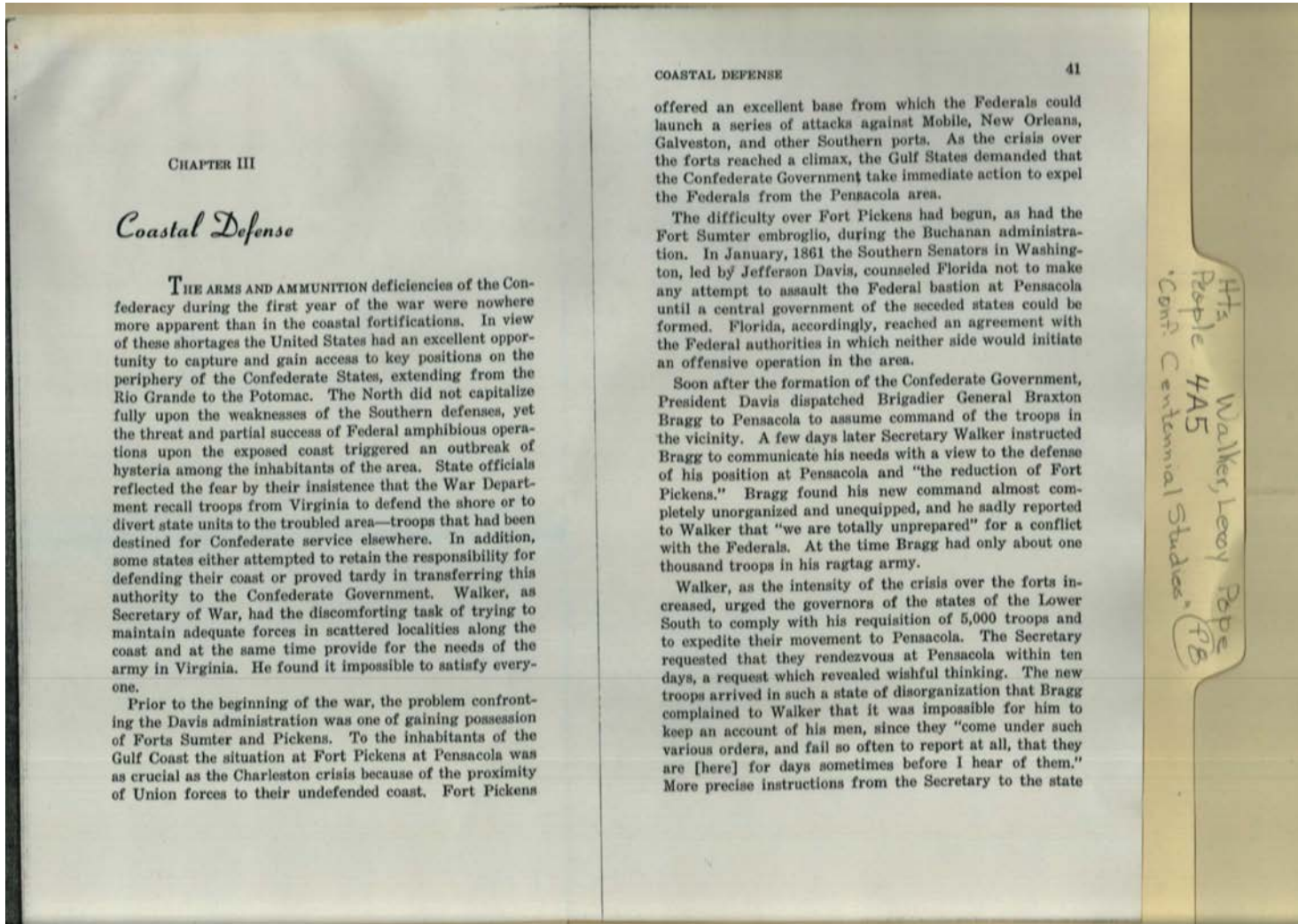
Beauregard, Pierre G.  
T., Brig. Gen. ♦1

Davis, Jefferson  
Lincoln, Abraham

Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book



**Names:**

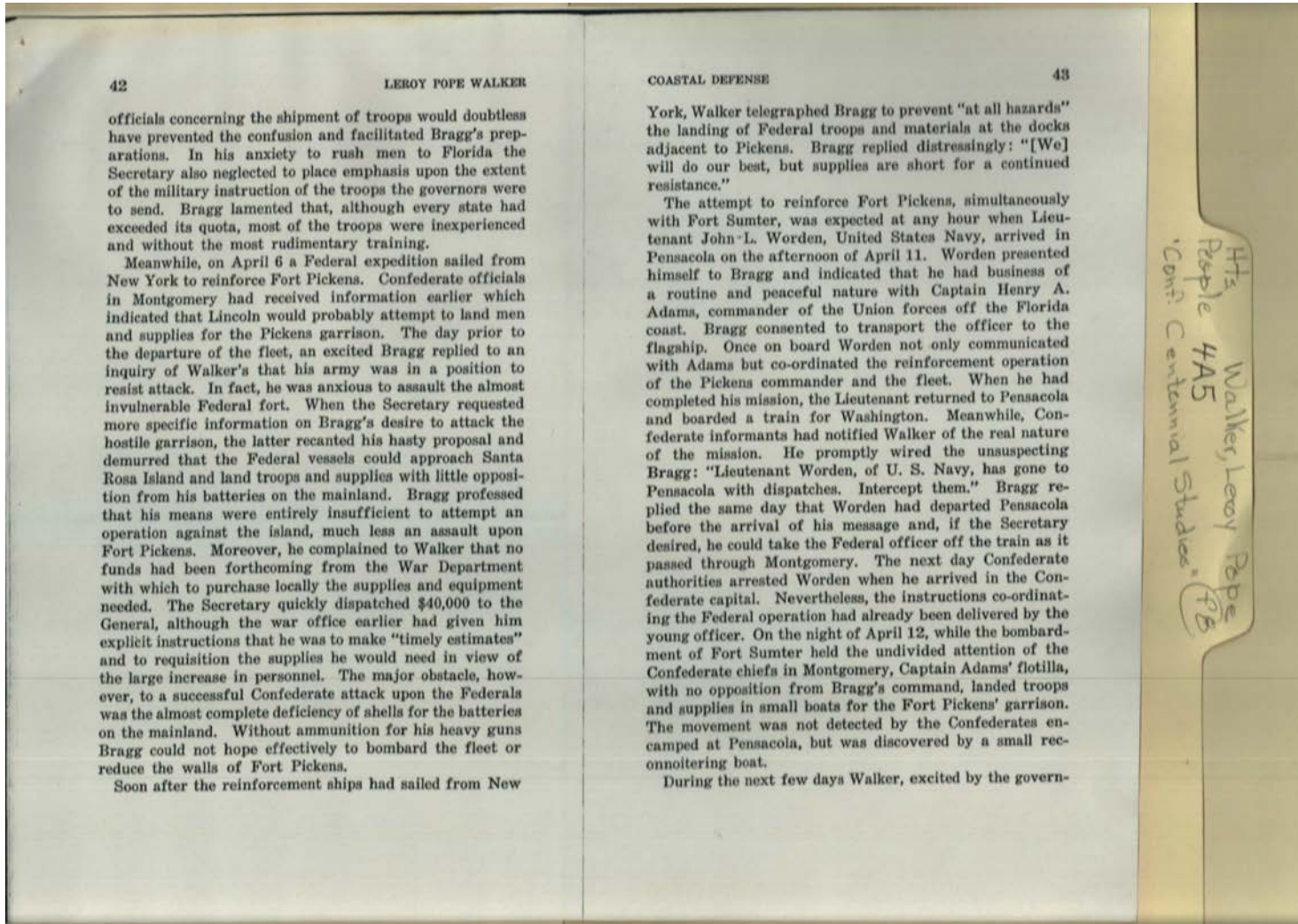
Bragg, Braxton, Brig.  
Gen'l

Coastal Defense  
Davis, Jefferson

Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book



**Names:**

Adams, Henry A.,  
Capt.

Bragg, Braxton, Brig.  
Gen'l

Lincoln, Abraham  
Walker, Leroy Pope

Worden, John L.

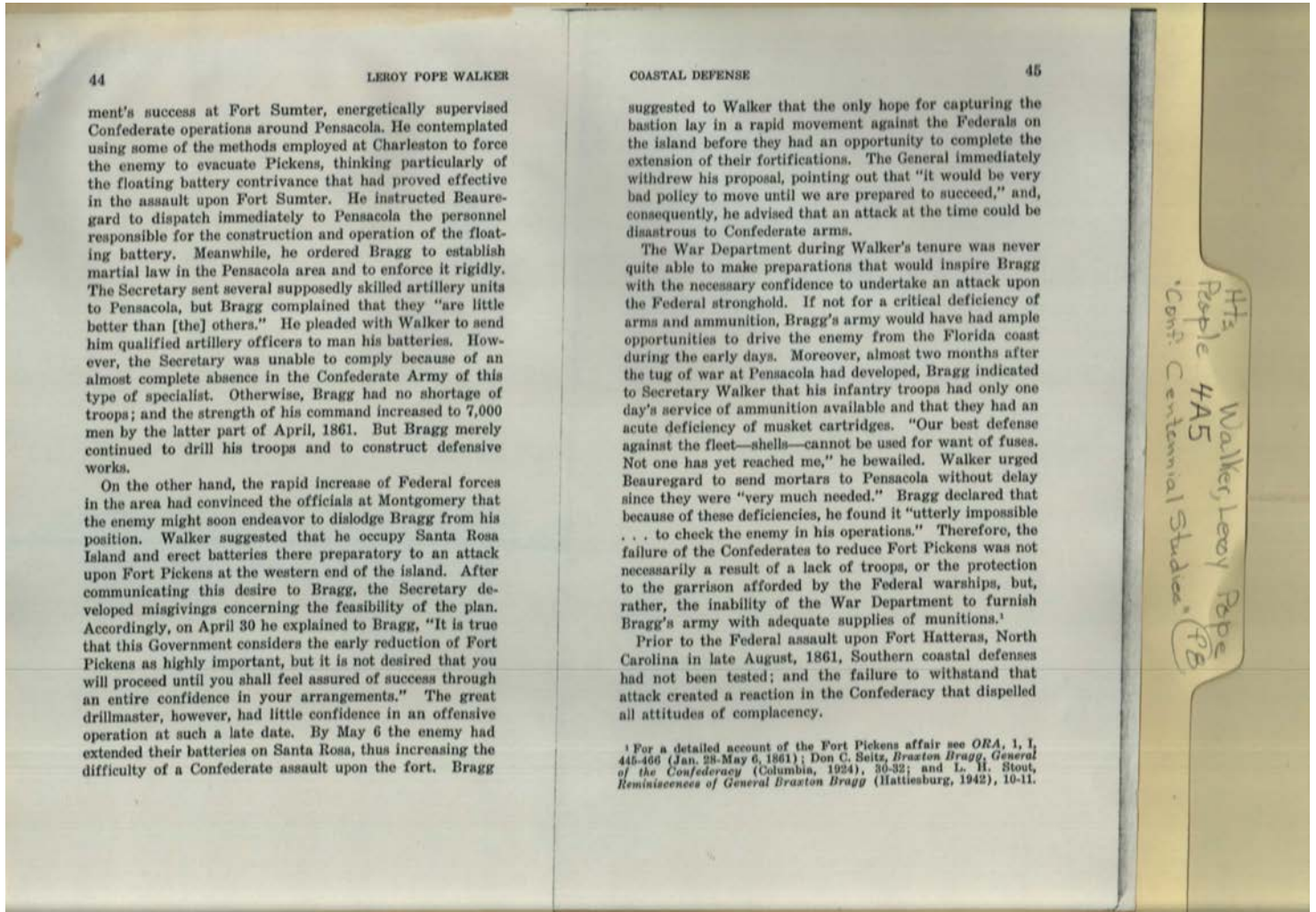
**Types:**

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 23 r04a05-08-000-0182 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

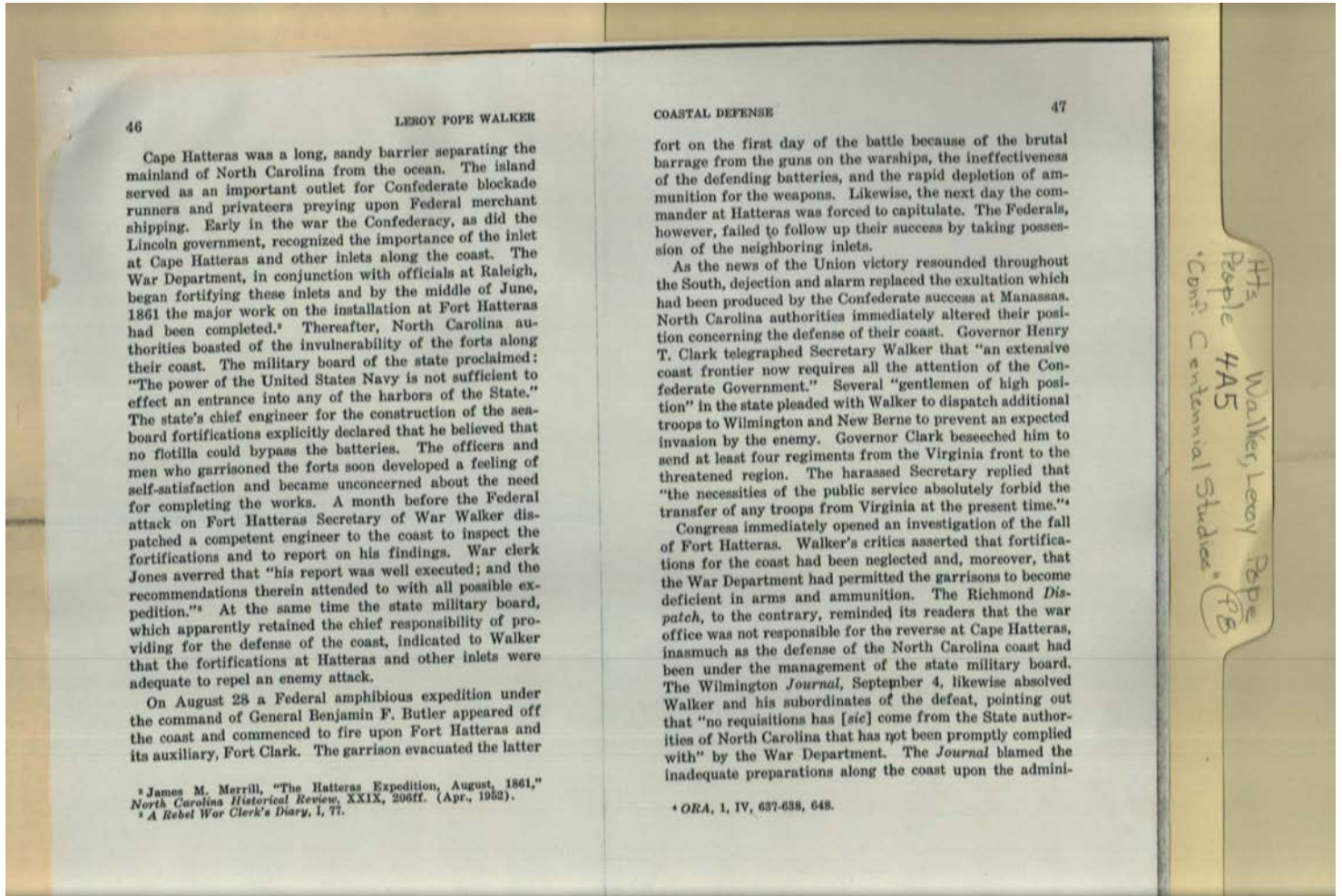
Beauregard, Pierre G.  
T., Brig. Gen'l

Bragg, Braxton, Brig.  
Gen'l

Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book



**Names:**

Butler, Benjamin F.  
Clark, Henry T., Gov.

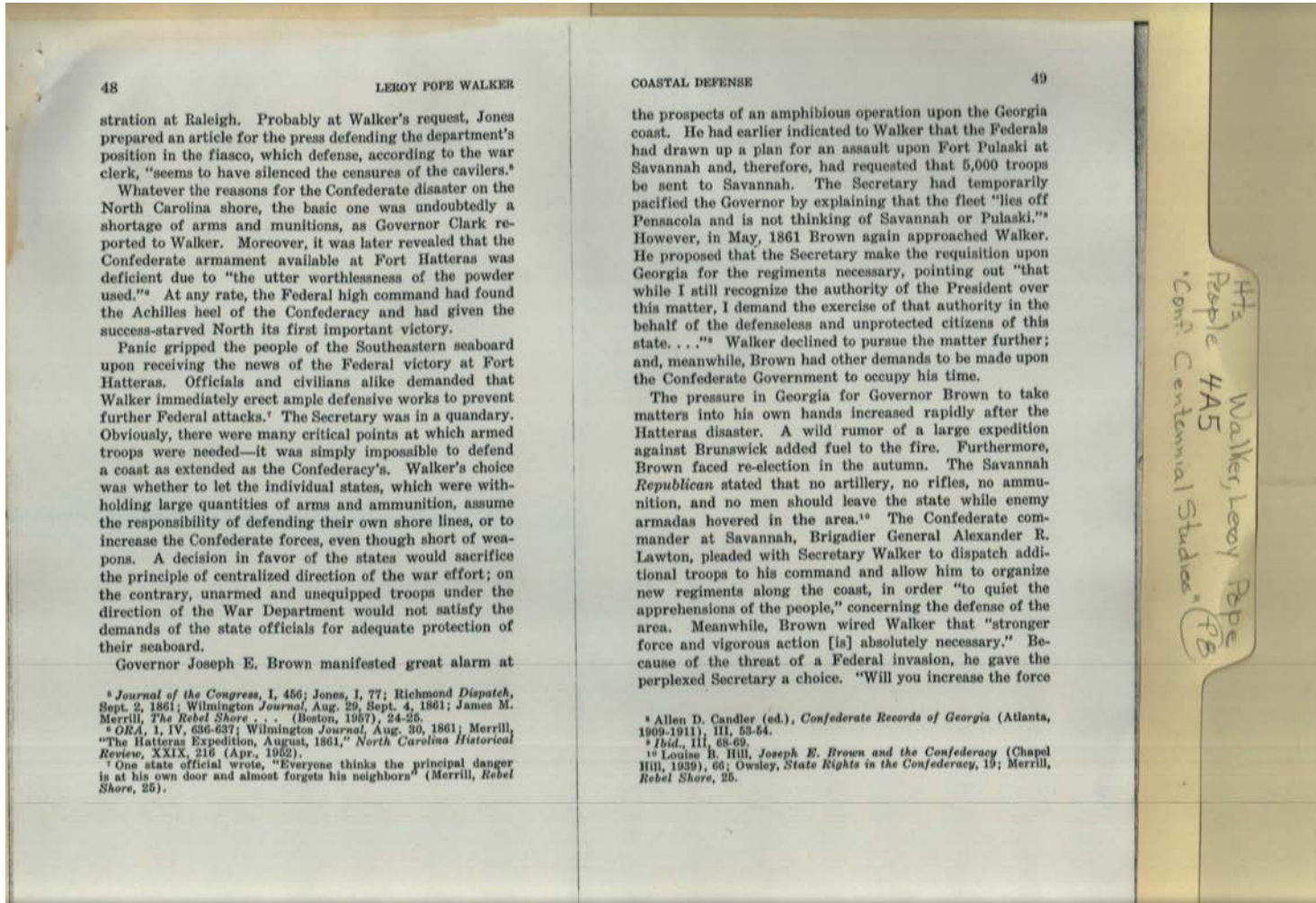
Jones, James  
Beauchamp

Lincoln, Abraham  
Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book





**Names:**

Brown, Joseph E.,  
Gov.  
Clark, Henry T., Gov.

Jones, James  
Beauchamp

Lawton, Alexander  
R., Gen'l  
Walker, Leroy Pope

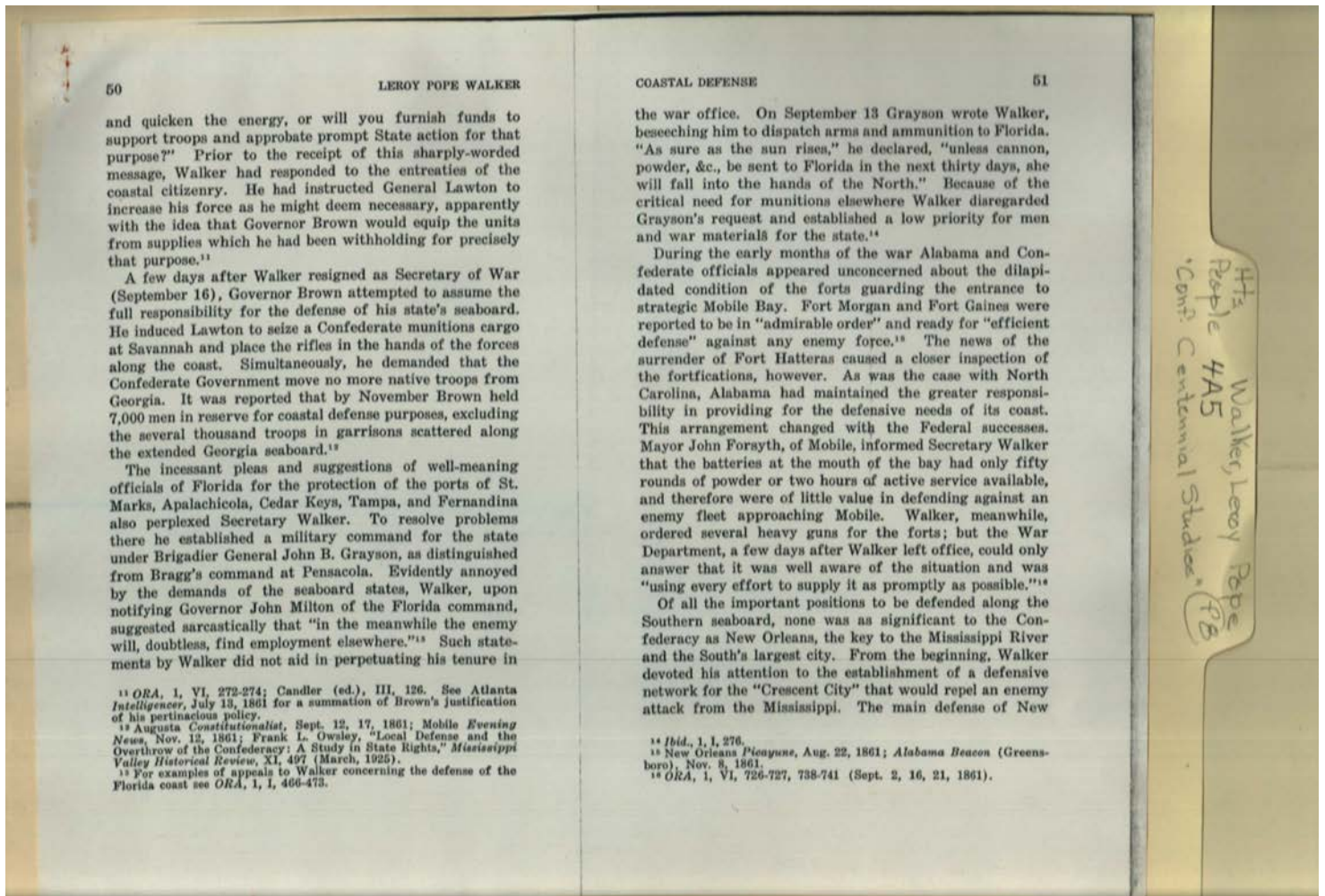
**Types:**

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 26 r04a05-08-000-0185 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Bragg, Braxton, Brig.  
Gen'l  
Brown, Joseph E.,  
Gov.

Forsyth, John, Mayor  
Grayson, John B.,  
Brig. Gen'l

Lawton, Alexander  
R., Gen'l  
Milton, John, Gov.  
Walker, Leroy Pope

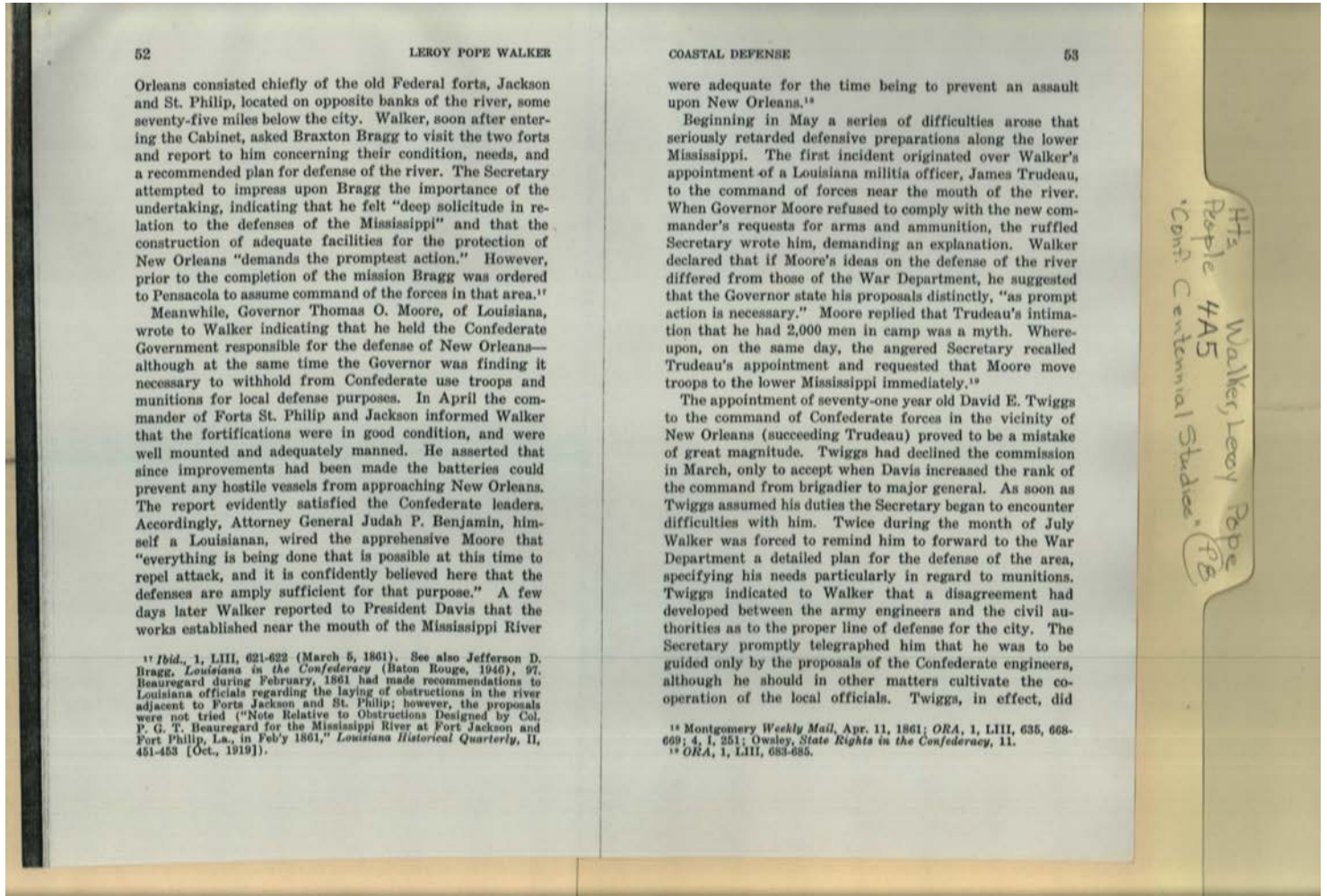
**Types:**

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 27 r04a05-08-000-0186 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Benjamin, Judah P.,  
Attorney Gen'l  
Bragg, Braxton, Brig.  
Gen'l

Davis, Jefferson,  
President  
Moore, Thomas O.,  
Gov.

Trudeau, James  
Twiggs, David E.  
Walker, Leroy Pope

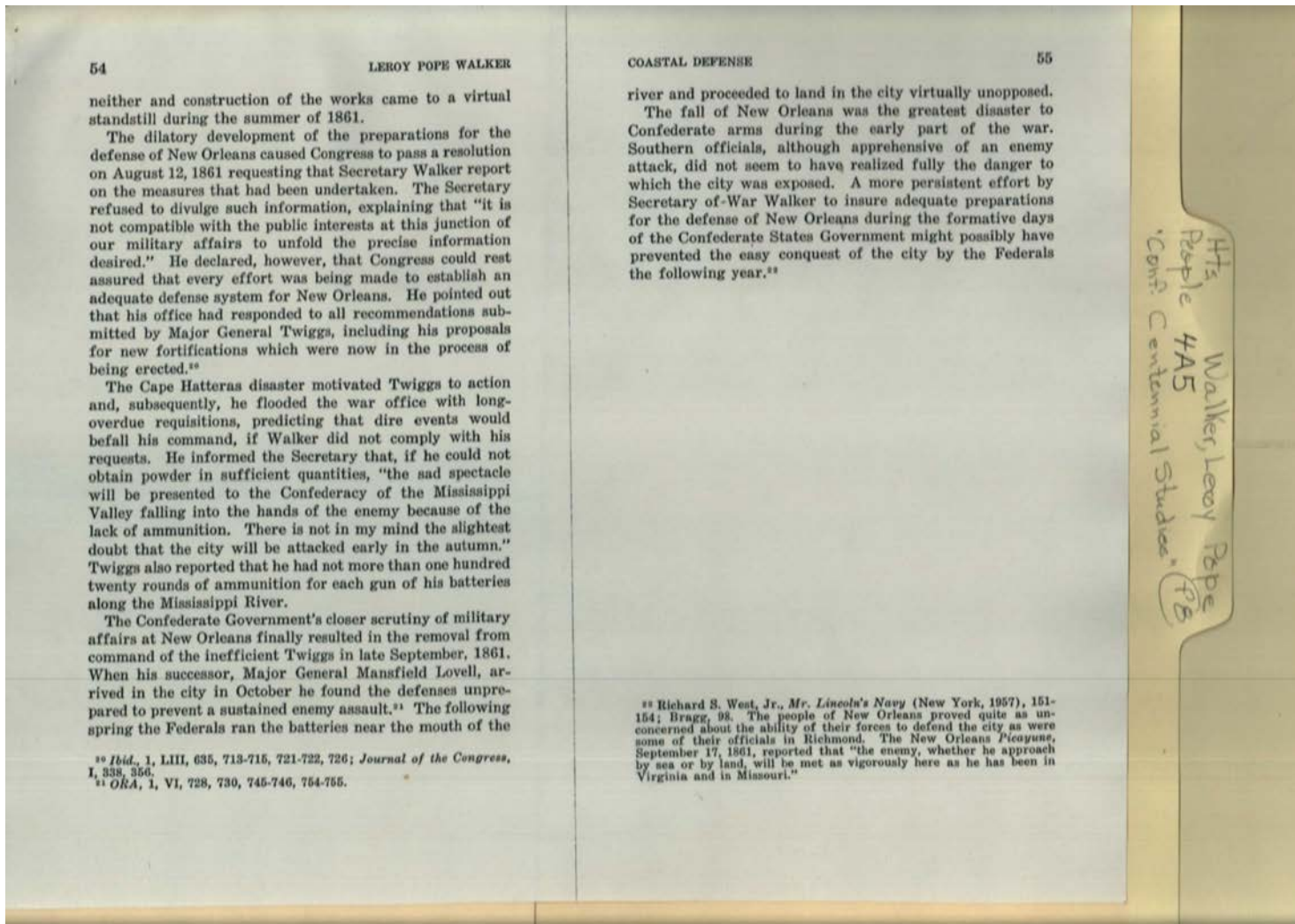
Types:

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 28 r04a05-08-000-0187 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



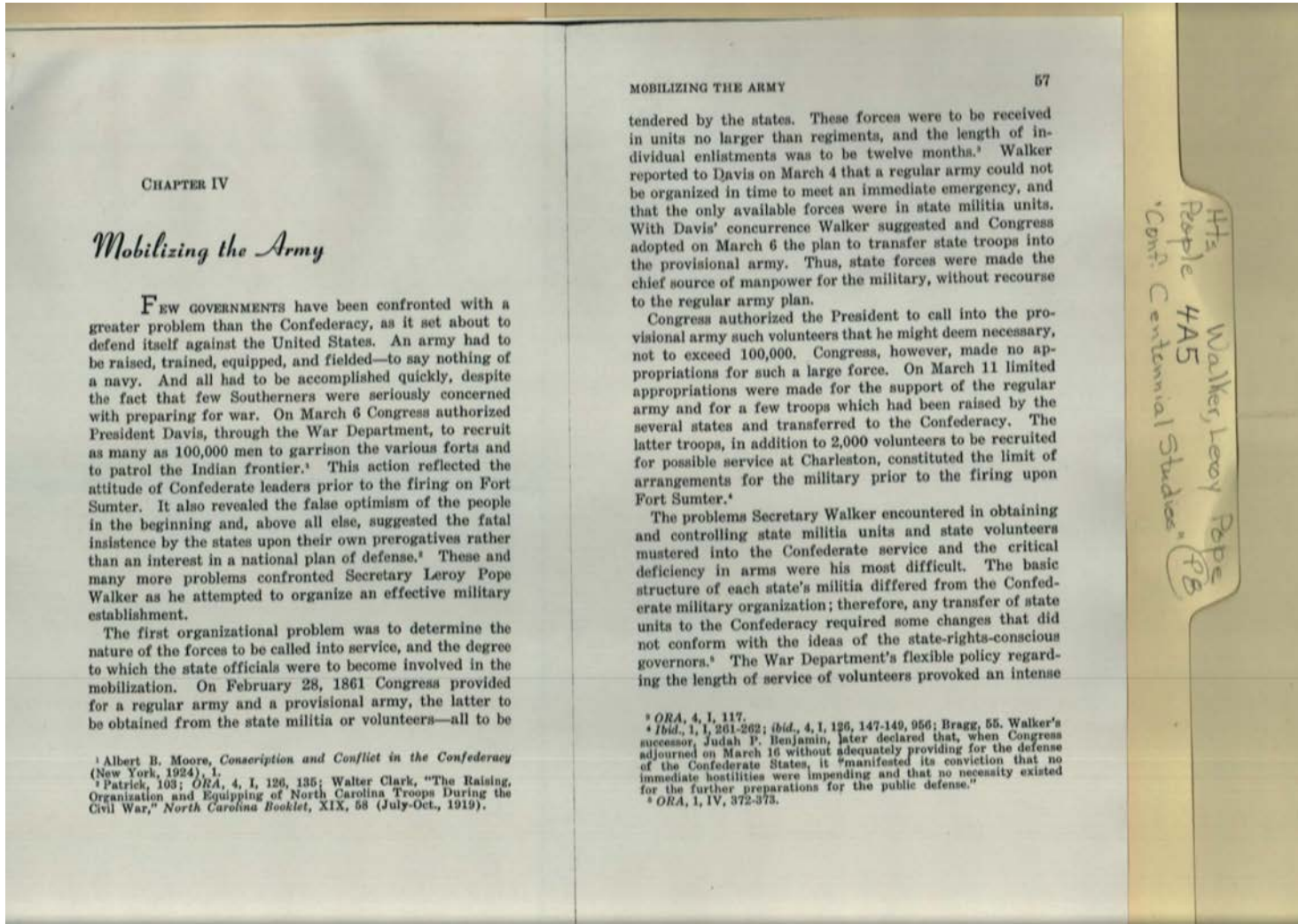
**Names:**

Lovell, Mansfield,  
Major Gen'l

Twiggs, Major Gen'l  
Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book



CHAPTER IV

*Mobilizing the Army*

FEW GOVERNMENTS have been confronted with a greater problem than the Confederacy, as it set about to defend itself against the United States. An army had to be raised, trained, equipped, and fielded—to say nothing of a navy. And all had to be accomplished quickly, despite the fact that few Southerners were seriously concerned with preparing for war. On March 6 Congress authorized President Davis, through the War Department, to recruit as many as 100,000 men to garrison the various forts and to patrol the Indian frontier.<sup>1</sup> This action reflected the attitude of Confederate leaders prior to the firing on Fort Sumter. It also revealed the false optimism of the people in the beginning and, above all else, suggested the fatal insistence by the states upon their own prerogatives rather than an interest in a national plan of defense.<sup>2</sup> These and many more problems confronted Secretary Leroy Pope Walker as he attempted to organize an effective military establishment.

The first organizational problem was to determine the nature of the forces to be called into service, and the degree to which the state officials were to become involved in the mobilization. On February 28, 1861 Congress provided for a regular army and a provisional army, the latter to be obtained from the state militia or volunteers—all to be

<sup>1</sup> Albert B. Moore, *Conscription and Conflict in the Confederacy* (New York, 1924), 1.  
<sup>2</sup> Patrick, 103; *ORA*, 4, I, 126, 135; Walter Clark, "The Raising, Organization and Equipping of North Carolina Troops During the Civil War," *North Carolina Booklet*, XIX, 58 (July-Oct., 1919).

tendered by the states. These forces were to be received in units no larger than regiments, and the length of individual enlistments was to be twelve months.<sup>3</sup> Walker reported to Davis on March 4 that a regular army could not be organized in time to meet an immediate emergency, and that the only available forces were in state militia units. With Davis' concurrence Walker suggested and Congress adopted on March 6 the plan to transfer state troops into the provisional army. Thus, state forces were made the chief source of manpower for the military, without recourse to the regular army plan.

Congress authorized the President to call into the provisional army such volunteers that he might deem necessary, not to exceed 100,000. Congress, however, made no appropriations for such a large force. On March 11 limited appropriations were made for the support of the regular army and for a few troops which had been raised by the several states and transferred to the Confederacy. The latter troops, in addition to 2,000 volunteers to be recruited for possible service at Charleston, constituted the limit of arrangements for the military prior to the firing upon Fort Sumter.<sup>4</sup>

The problems Secretary Walker encountered in obtaining and controlling state militia units and state volunteers mustered into the Confederate service and the critical deficiency in arms were his most difficult. The basic structure of each state's militia differed from the Confederate military organization; therefore, any transfer of state units to the Confederacy required some changes that did not conform with the ideas of the state-rights-conscious governors.<sup>5</sup> The War Department's flexible policy regarding the length of service of volunteers provoked an intense

<sup>3</sup> *ORA*, 4, I, 117.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 1, I, 261-262; *ibid.*, 4, I, 126, 147-149, 956; Bragg, 55. Walker's successor, Judah P. Benjamin, later declared that, when Congress adjourned on March 16 without adequately providing for the defense of the Confederate States, it "manifested its conviction that no immediate hostilities were impending and that no necessity existed for the further preparations for the public defense."

<sup>5</sup> *ORA*, 1, IV, 372-373.

HHS  
 People 445  
 Walker, Leroy Pope  
 Conf. Centennial Studies  
 (98)

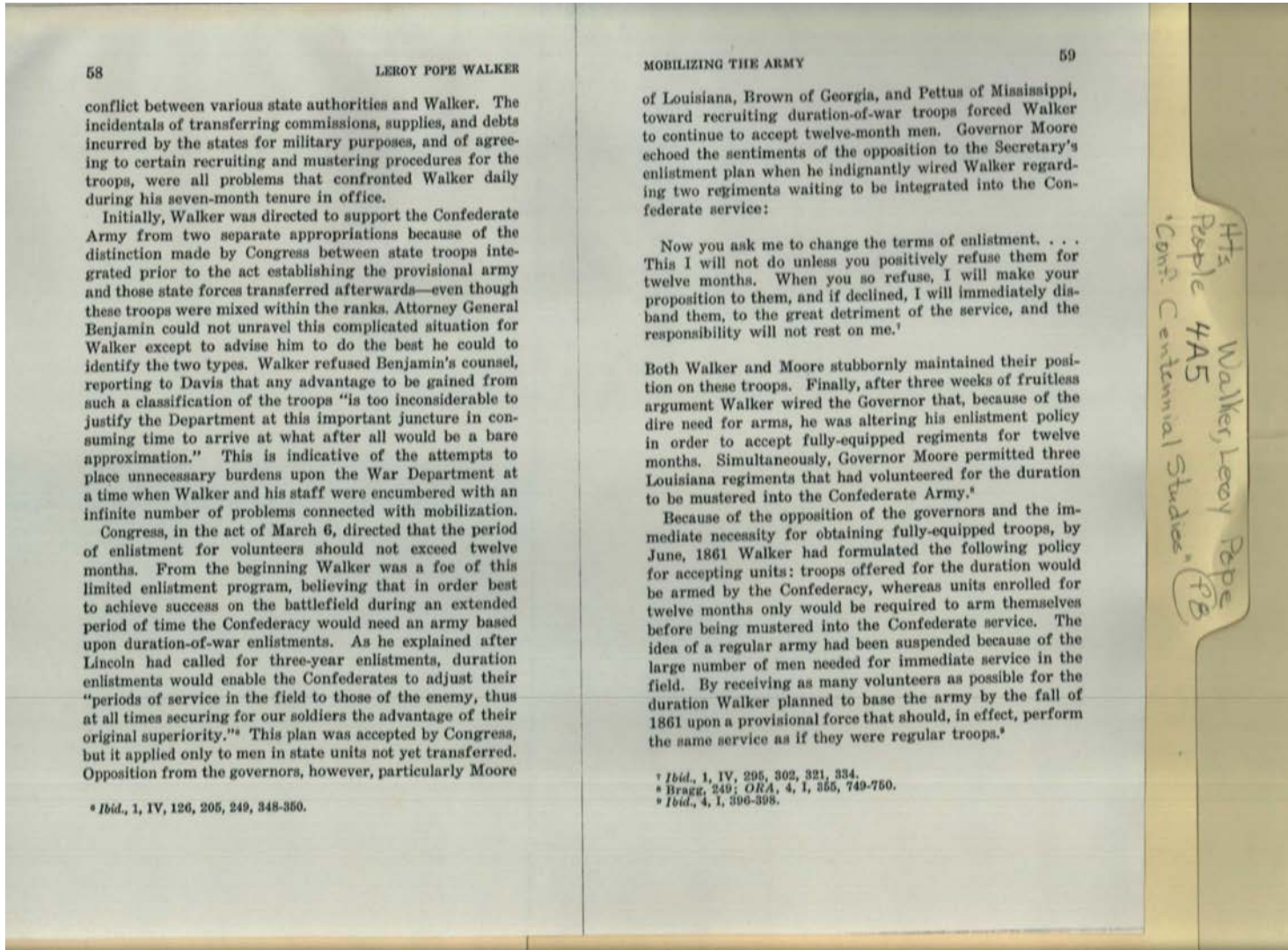
**Names:**

Davis, Jefferson,  
President

Mobilizing the Army  
Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book



**Names:**

Benjamin, Judah P.,  
Attorney Gen'l

Brown, Joseph E.,  
Gov.

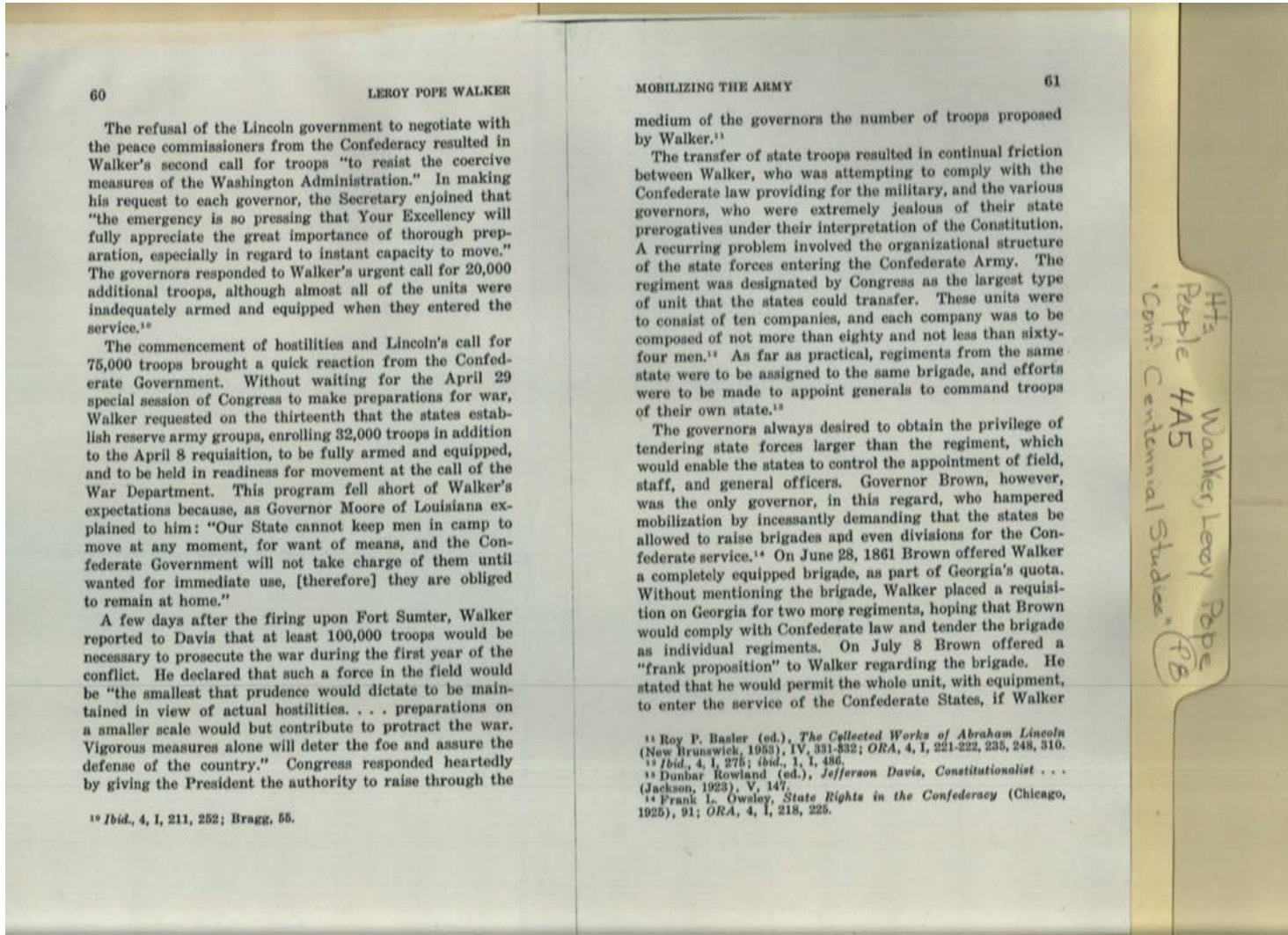
Davis, Jefferson

Lincoln, Abraham  
Moore, Thomas O.,  
Gov.

Pettus, Gov.  
Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book



**Names:**

Brown, Joseph E.,  
Gov.

Davis, Jefferson  
Lincoln, Abraham

Walker, Leroy Pope

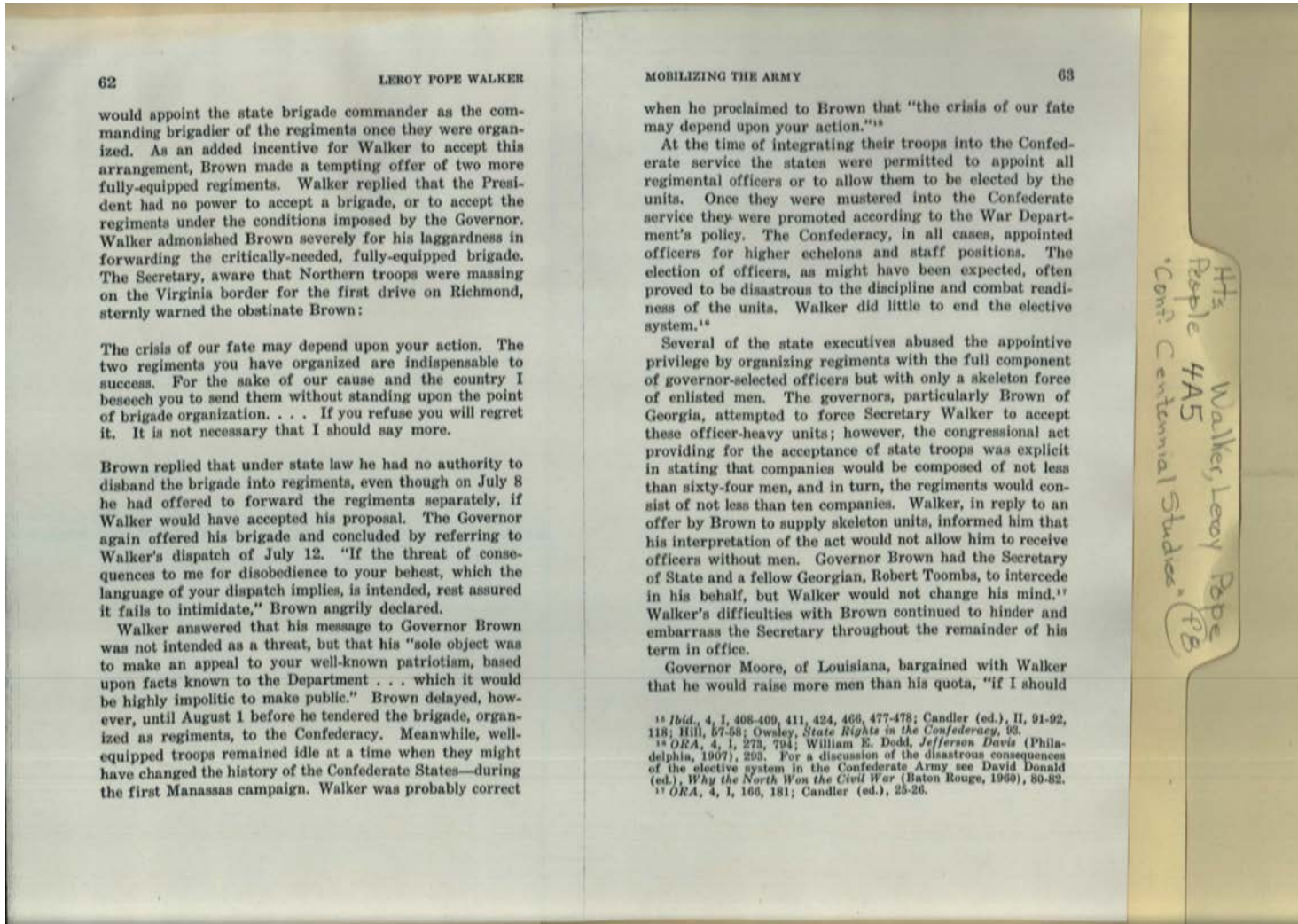
**Types:**

book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 32 r04a05-08-000-0191 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Brown, Joseph E.,  
Gov.

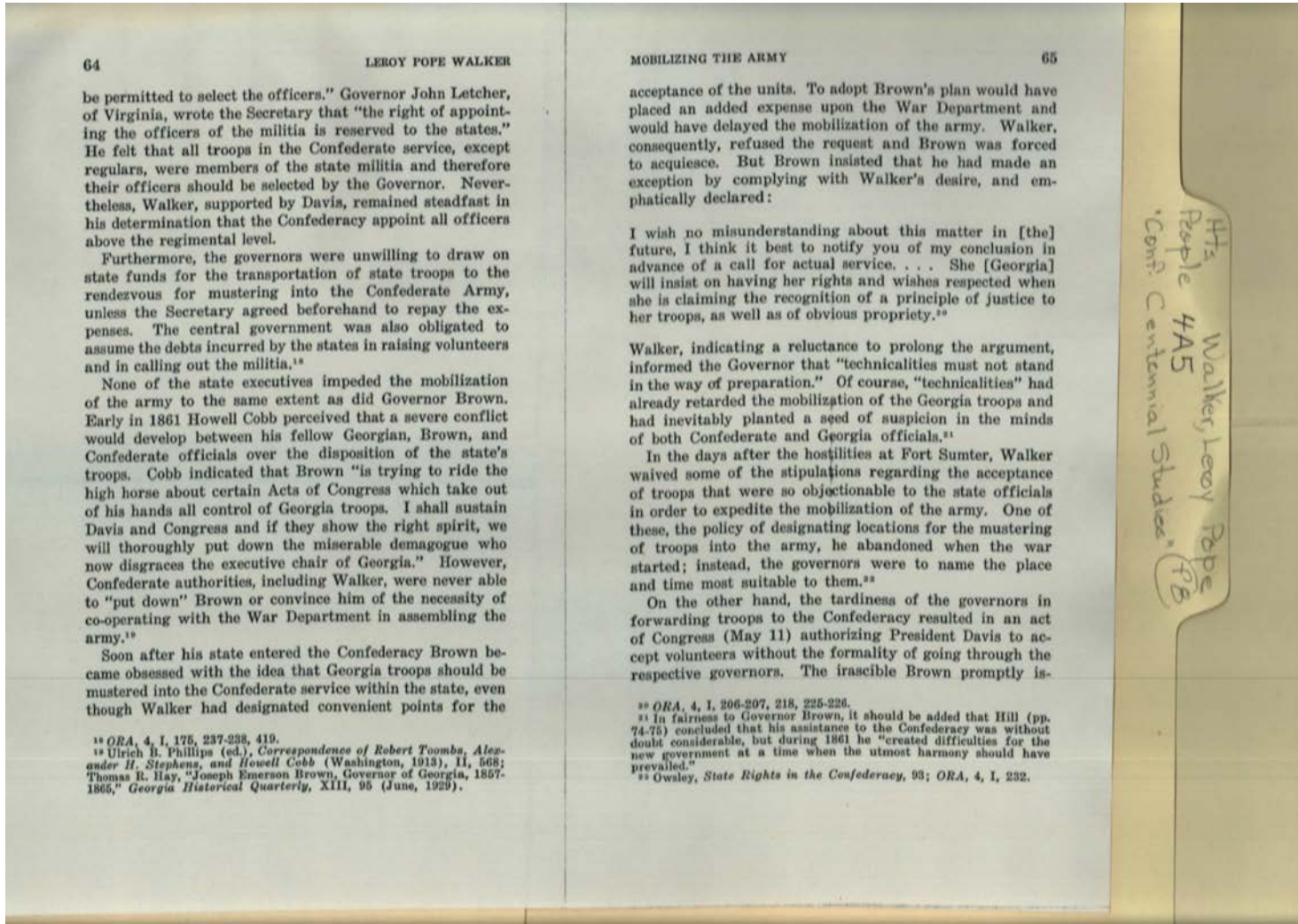
Moore, Thomas O.,  
Gov.

Toombs, Robert  
Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book





**Names:**

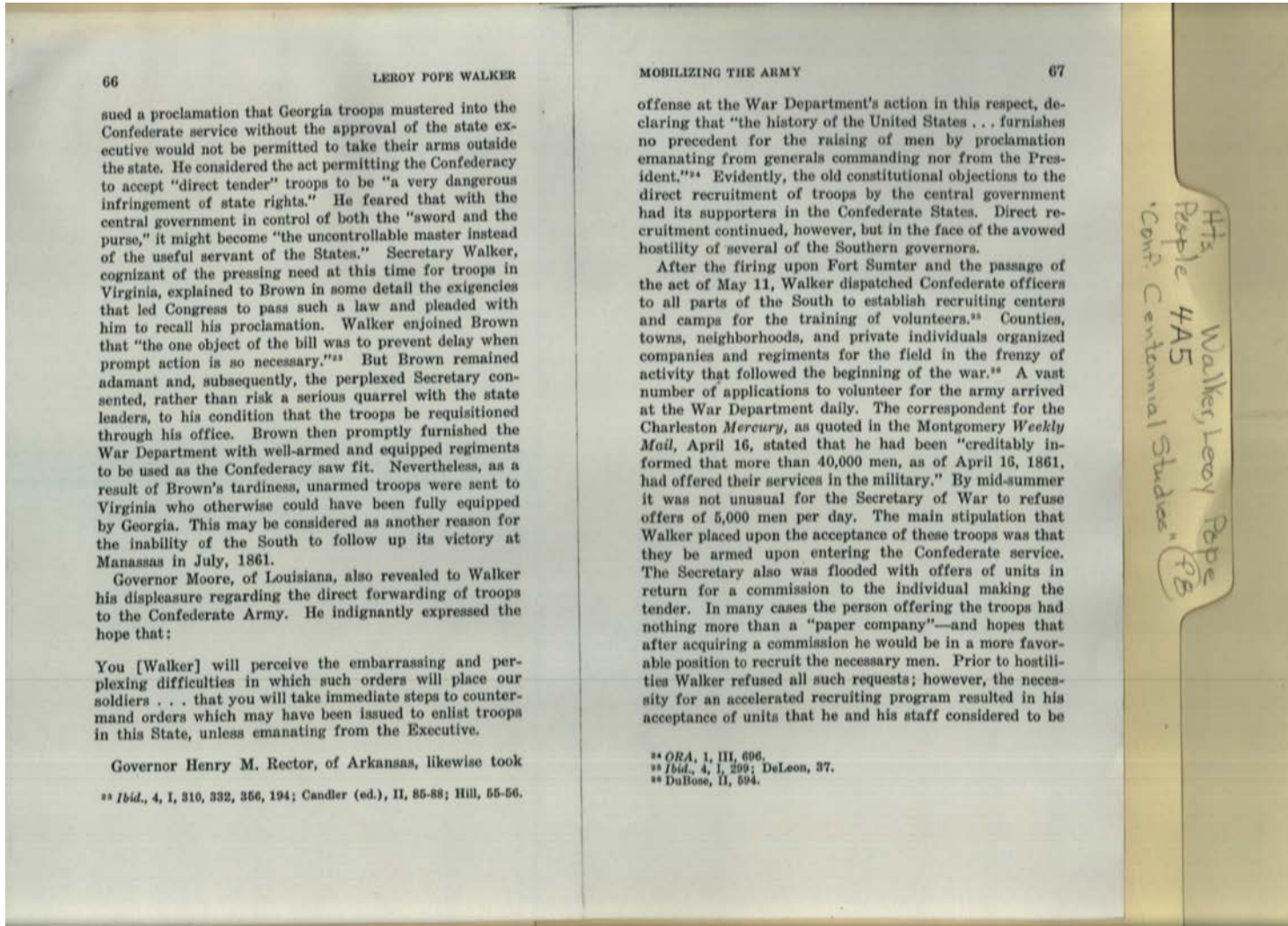
Brown, Joseph E.,  
Gov.

Cobb, Howell  
Davis, Jefferson

Letcher, John, Gov.  
Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book



**Names:**

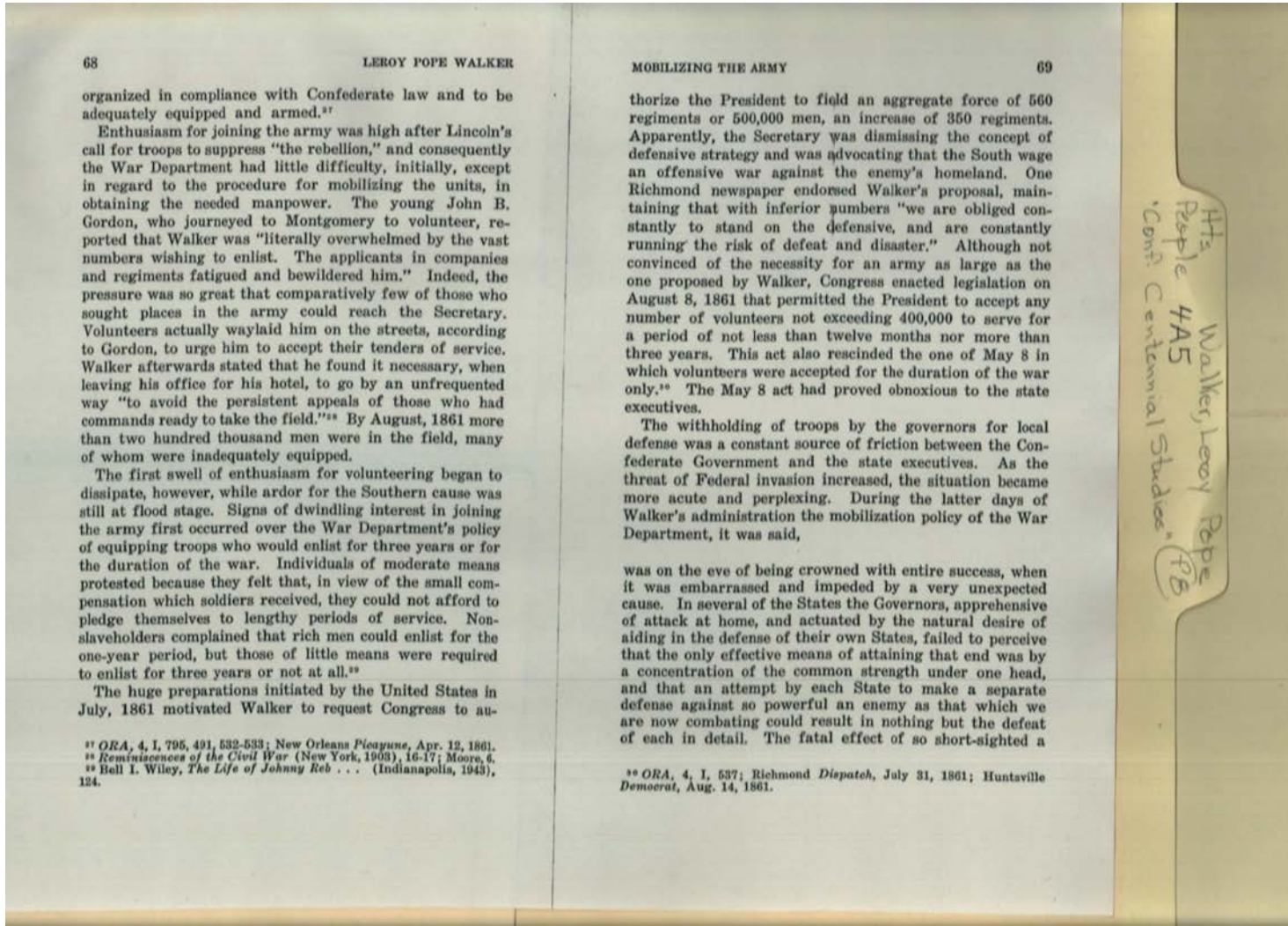
Brown, Joseph E.,  
Gov.

Moore, Thomas O.,  
Gov.

Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book



**Names:**

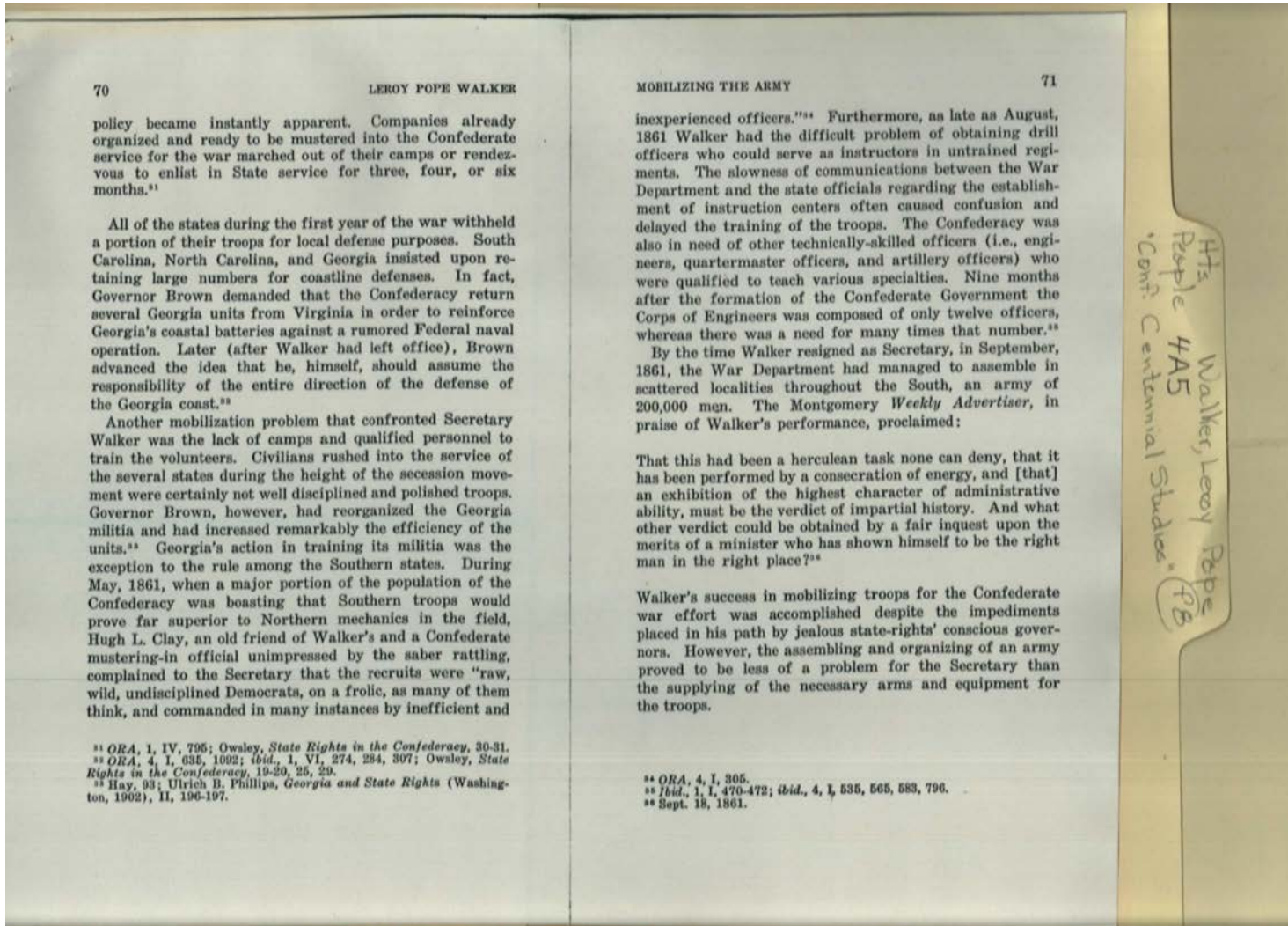
Gordon, John B.

Lincoln, Abraham

Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book



policy became instantly apparent. Companies already organized and ready to be mustered into the Confederate service for the war marched out of their camps or rendezvous to enlist in State service for three, four, or six months.<sup>21</sup>

All of the states during the first year of the war withheld a portion of their troops for local defense purposes. South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia insisted upon retaining large numbers for coastline defenses. In fact, Governor Brown demanded that the Confederacy return several Georgia units from Virginia in order to reinforce Georgia's coastal batteries against a rumored Federal naval operation. Later (after Walker had left office), Brown advanced the idea that he, himself, should assume the responsibility of the entire direction of the defense of the Georgia coast.<sup>22</sup>

Another mobilization problem that confronted Secretary Walker was the lack of camps and qualified personnel to train the volunteers. Civilians rushed into the service of the several states during the height of the secession movement were certainly not well disciplined and polished troops. Governor Brown, however, had reorganized the Georgia militia and had increased remarkably the efficiency of the units.<sup>23</sup> Georgia's action in training its militia was the exception to the rule among the Southern states. During May, 1861, when a major portion of the population of the Confederacy was boasting that Southern troops would prove far superior to Northern mechanics in the field, Hugh L. Clay, an old friend of Walker's and a Confederate mustering-in official unimpressed by the saber rattling, complained to the Secretary that the recruits were "raw, wild, undisciplined Democrats, on a frolic, as many of them think, and commanded in many instances by inefficient and

<sup>21</sup> *ORA*, 1, IV, 795; Owsley, *State Rights in the Confederacy*, 30-31.  
<sup>22</sup> *ORA*, 4, I, 635, 1092; *ibid.*, 1, VI, 274, 284, 307; Owsley, *State Rights in the Confederacy*, 19-20, 25, 29.  
<sup>23</sup> Hay, 93; Ulrich B. Phillips, *Georgia and State Rights* (Washington, 1902), II, 196-197.

inexperienced officers."<sup>24</sup> Furthermore, as late as August, 1861 Walker had the difficult problem of obtaining drill officers who could serve as instructors in untrained regiments. The slowness of communications between the War Department and the state officials regarding the establishment of instruction centers often caused confusion and delayed the training of the troops. The Confederacy was also in need of other technically-skilled officers (i.e., engineers, quartermaster officers, and artillery officers) who were qualified to teach various specialties. Nine months after the formation of the Confederate Government the Corps of Engineers was composed of only twelve officers, whereas there was a need for many times that number.<sup>25</sup>

By the time Walker resigned as Secretary, in September, 1861, the War Department had managed to assemble in scattered localities throughout the South, an army of 200,000 men. The *Montgomery Weekly Advertiser*, in praise of Walker's performance, proclaimed:

That this had been a herculean task none can deny, that it has been performed by a consecration of energy, and [that] an exhibition of the highest character of administrative ability, must be the verdict of impartial history. And what other verdict could be obtained by a fair inquest upon the merits of a minister who has shown himself to be the right man in the right place?<sup>26</sup>

Walker's success in mobilizing troops for the Confederate war effort was accomplished despite the impediments placed in his path by jealous state-rights' conscious governors. However, the assembling and organizing of an army proved to be less of a problem for the Secretary than the supplying of the necessary arms and equipment for the troops.

<sup>24</sup> *ORA*, 4, I, 305.  
<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, 1, I, 470-472; *ibid.*, 4, I, 535, 565, 583, 796.  
<sup>26</sup> Sept. 18, 1861.

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 Centennial Studies

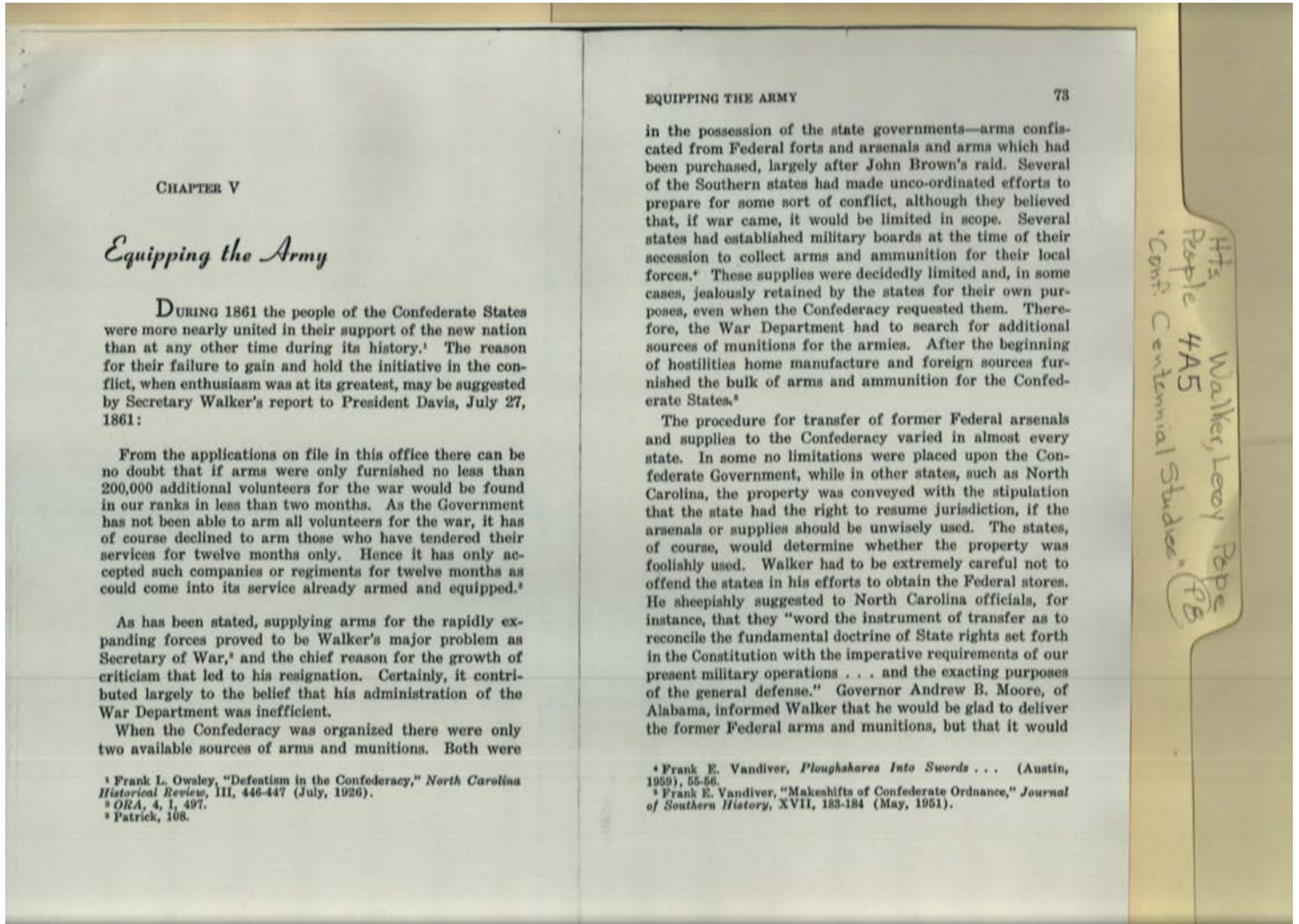
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 Walker, Leroy Pope

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CHAPTER V

*Equipping the Army*

DURING 1861 the people of the Confederate States were more nearly united in their support of the new nation than at any other time during its history.<sup>1</sup> The reason for their failure to gain and hold the initiative in the conflict, when enthusiasm was at its greatest, may be suggested by Secretary Walker's report to President Davis, July 27, 1861:

From the applications on file in this office there can be no doubt that if arms were only furnished no less than 200,000 additional volunteers for the war would be found in our ranks in less than two months. As the Government has not been able to arm all volunteers for the war, it has of course declined to arm those who have tendered their services for twelve months only. Hence it has only accepted such companies or regiments for twelve months as could come into its service already armed and equipped.<sup>2</sup>

As has been stated, supplying arms for the rapidly expanding forces proved to be Walker's major problem as Secretary of War,<sup>3</sup> and the chief reason for the growth of criticism that led to his resignation. Certainly, it contributed largely to the belief that his administration of the War Department was inefficient.

When the Confederacy was organized there were only two available sources of arms and munitions. Both were

<sup>1</sup> Frank L. Owsley, "Defeatism in the Confederacy," *North Carolina Historical Review*, III, 446-447 (July, 1926).  
<sup>2</sup> *ORA*, 4, I, 497.  
<sup>3</sup> Patrick, 108.

in the possession of the state governments—arms confiscated from Federal forts and arsenals and arms which had been purchased, largely after John Brown's raid. Several of the Southern states had made unco-ordinated efforts to prepare for some sort of conflict, although they believed that, if war came, it would be limited in scope. Several states had established military boards at the time of their secession to collect arms and ammunition for their local forces.<sup>4</sup> These supplies were decidedly limited and, in some cases, jealously retained by the states for their own purposes, even when the Confederacy requested them. Therefore, the War Department had to search for additional sources of munitions for the armies. After the beginning of hostilities home manufacture and foreign sources furnished the bulk of arms and ammunition for the Confederate States.<sup>5</sup>

The procedure for transfer of former Federal arsenals and supplies to the Confederacy varied in almost every state. In some no limitations were placed upon the Confederate Government, while in other states, such as North Carolina, the property was conveyed with the stipulation that the state had the right to resume jurisdiction, if the arsenals or supplies should be unwisely used. The states, of course, would determine whether the property was foolishly used. Walker had to be extremely careful not to offend the states in his efforts to obtain the Federal stores. He sheepishly suggested to North Carolina officials, for instance, that they "word the instrument of transfer as to reconcile the fundamental doctrine of State rights set forth in the Constitution with the imperative requirements of our present military operations . . . and the exacting purposes of the general defense." Governor Andrew B. Moore, of Alabama, informed Walker that he would be glad to deliver the former Federal arms and munitions, but that it would

<sup>4</sup> Frank E. Vandiver, *Ploughshares Into Swords . . .* (Austin, 1959), 55-56.  
<sup>5</sup> Frank E. Vandiver, "Makeshifts of Confederate Ordnance," *Journal of Southern History*, XVII, 183-184 (May, 1951).

HTs Walker, Leroy Pope  
People 4A5  
Conf. Centennial Studies  
PB

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Brown, John

Equipping the Army

Moore, Andrew B.,  
Gov.

Walker, Leroy Pope

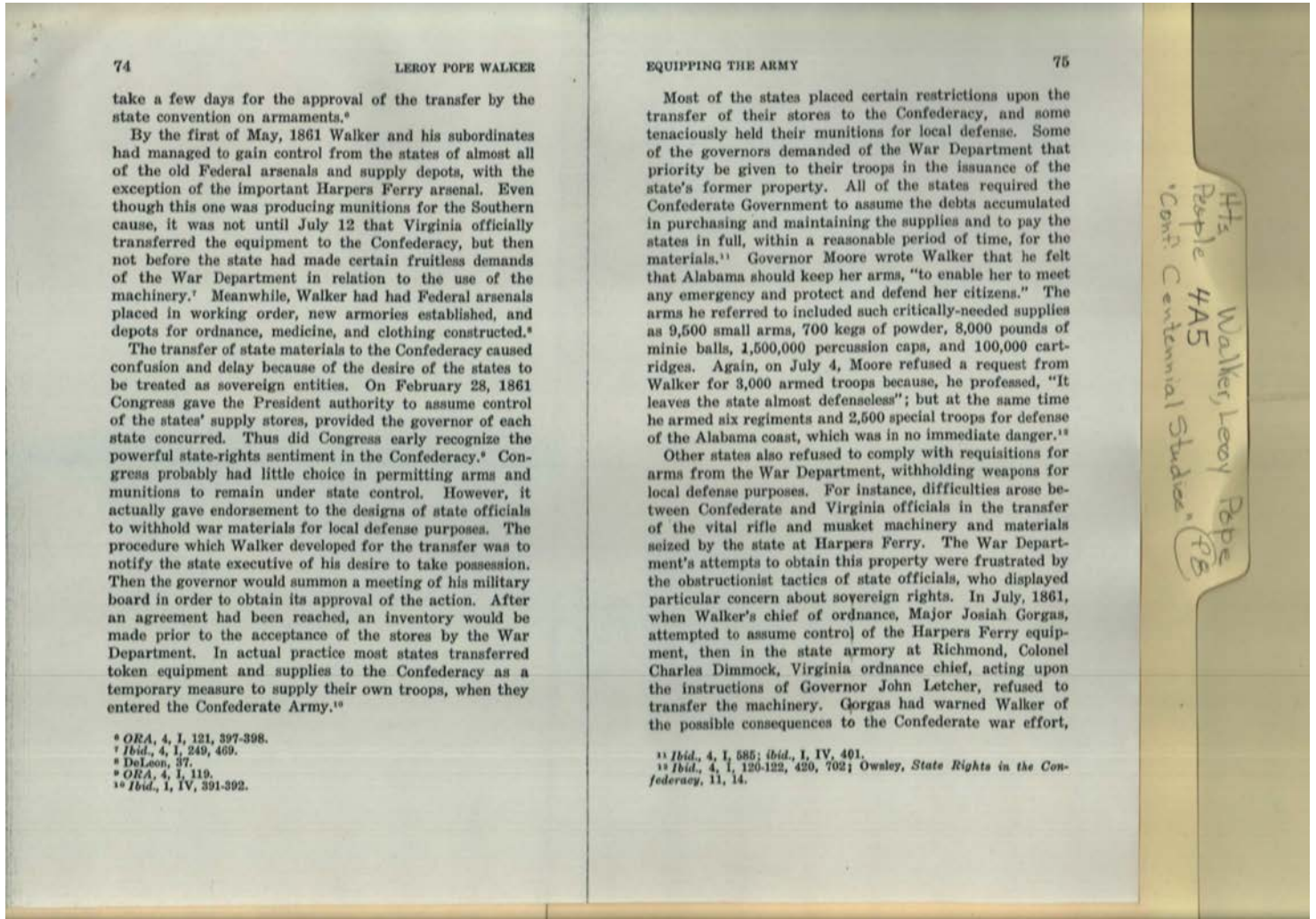
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Image 38 r04a05-08-000-0197 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



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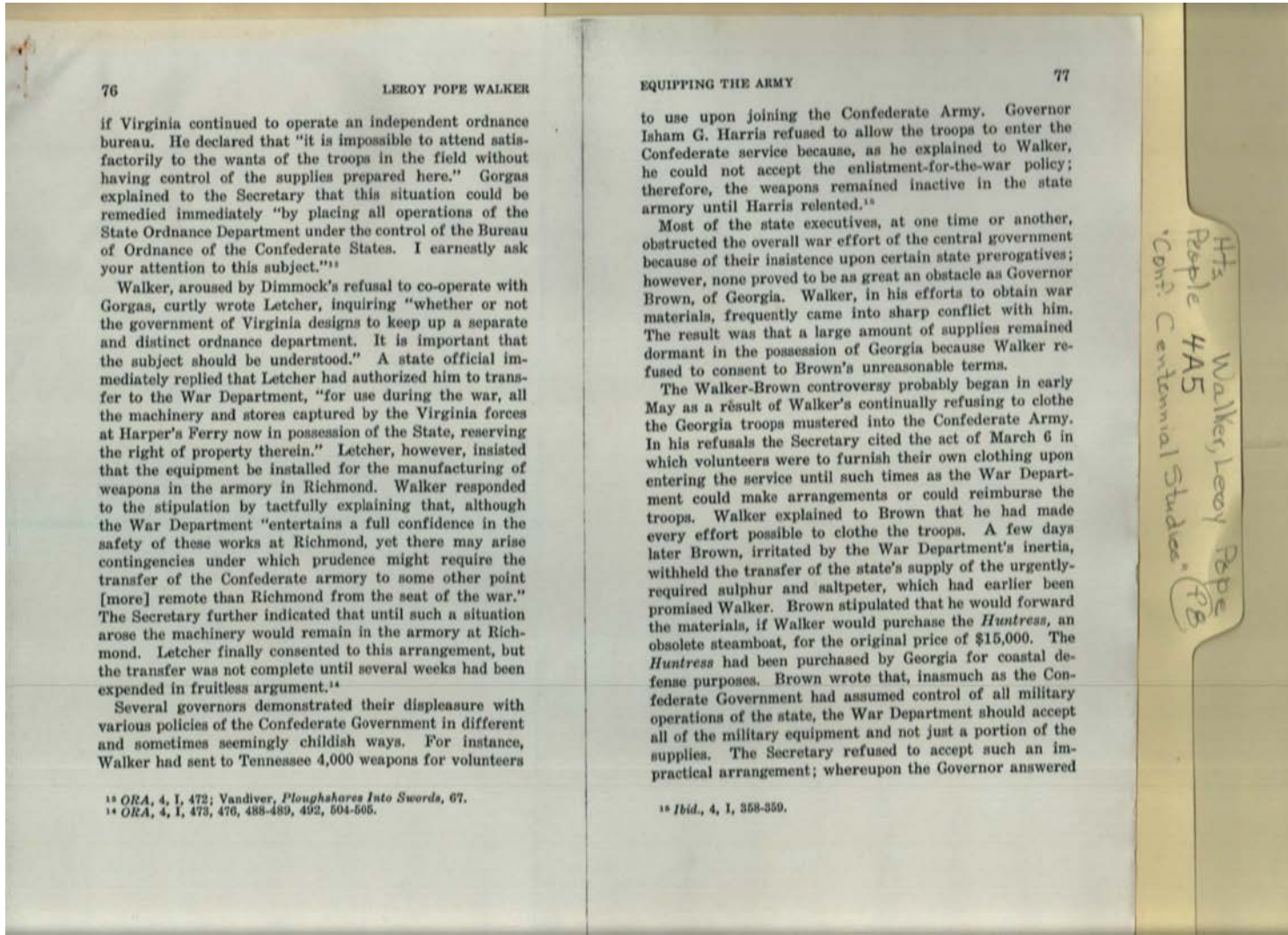
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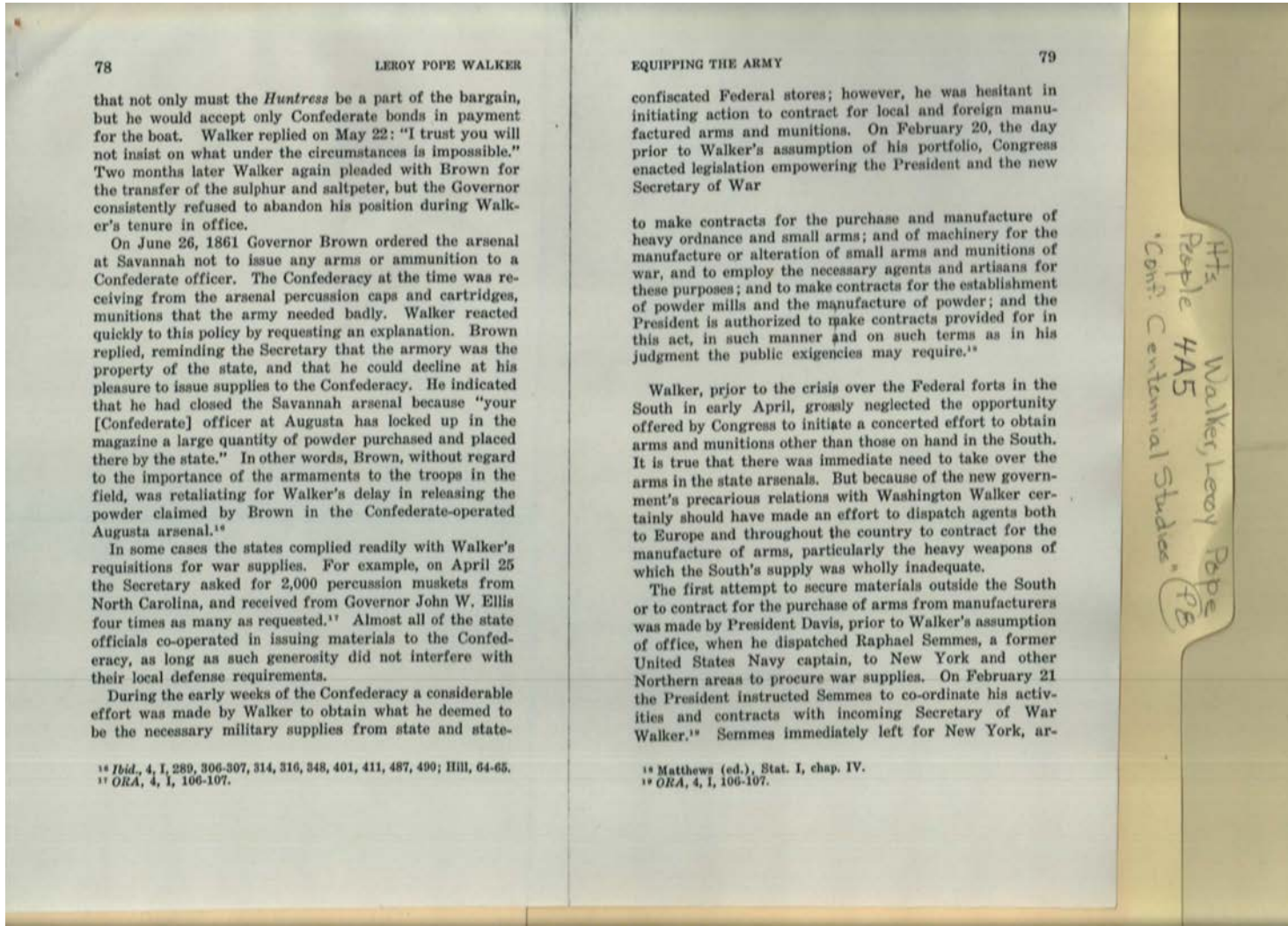
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Letcher, John, Gov.  
Walker, Leroy Pope

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Ellis, John W., Gov.  
Semmes, Raphael

Walker, Leroy Pope

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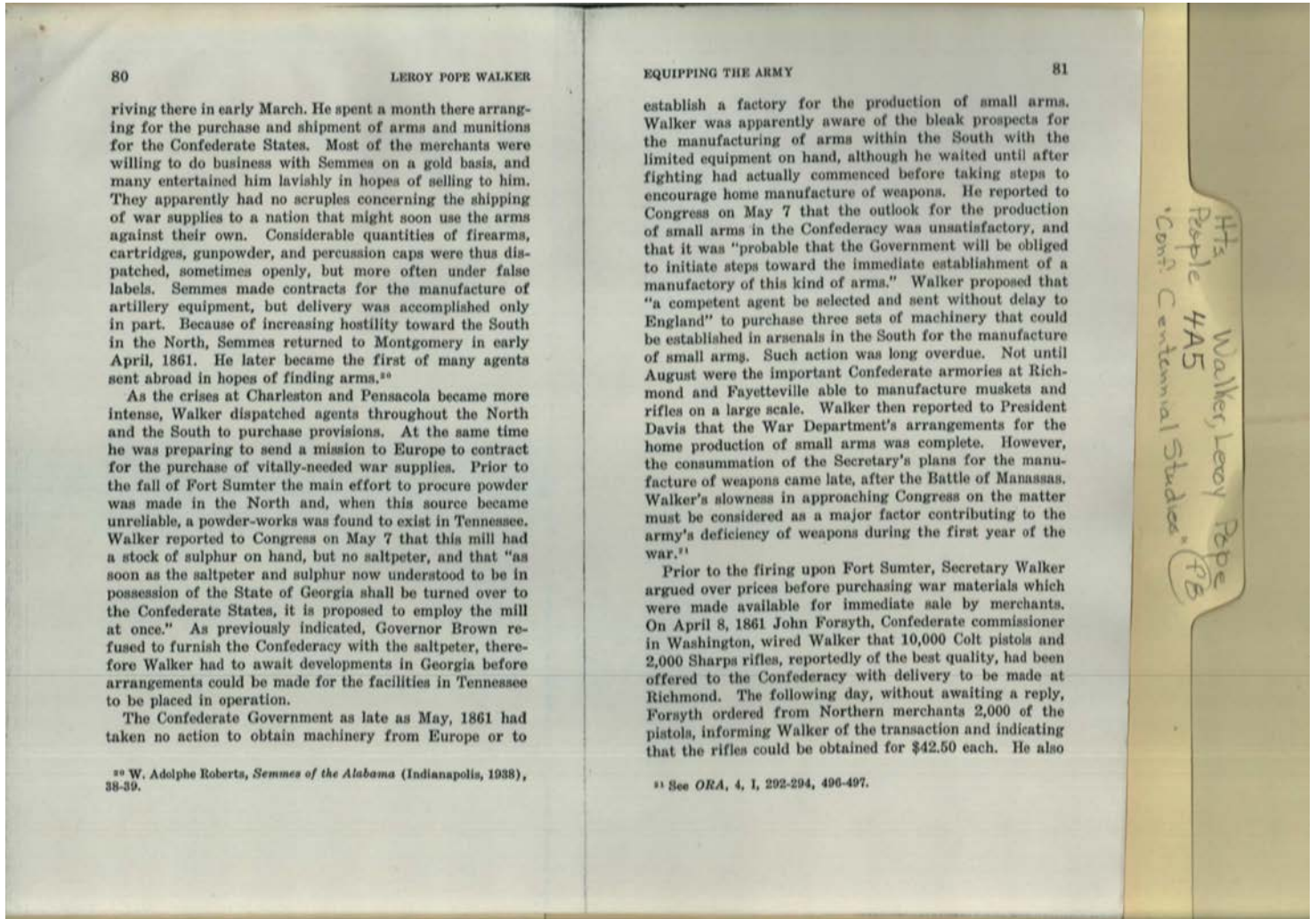
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"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 41 r04a05-08-000-0200 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



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President

Forsyth, John  
Semmes, Raphael

Walker, Leroy Pope

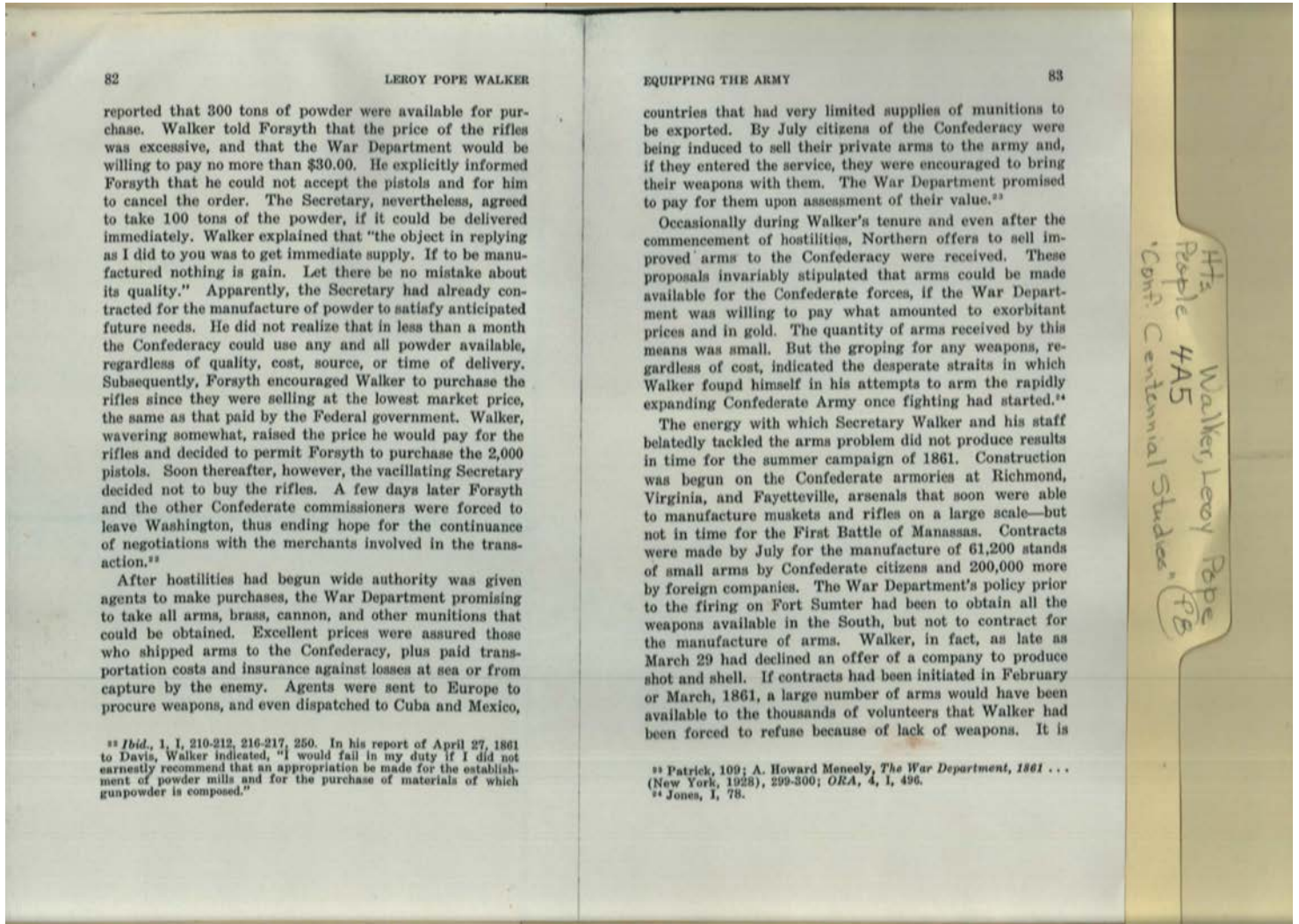
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Image 42 r04a05-08-000-0201 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



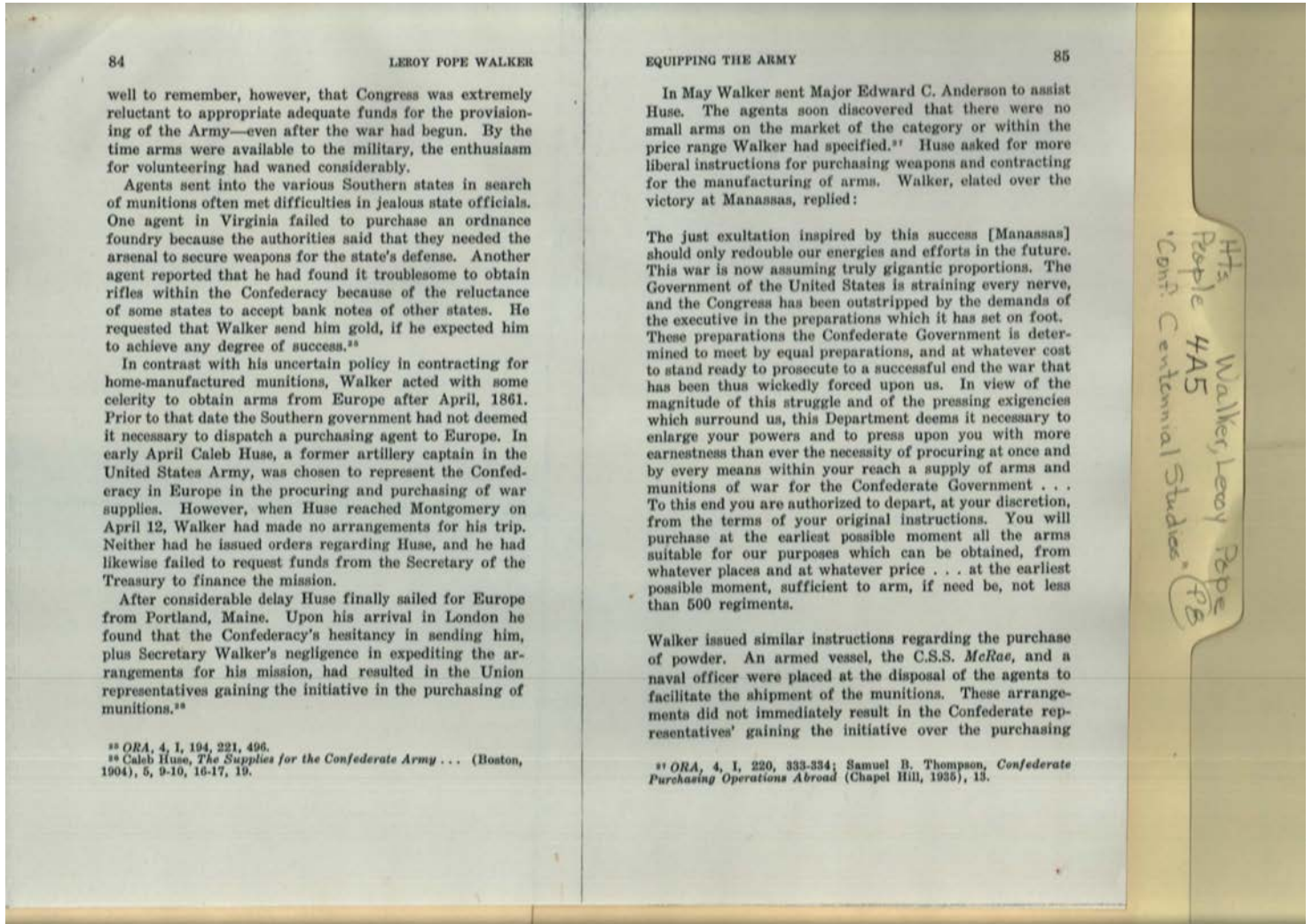
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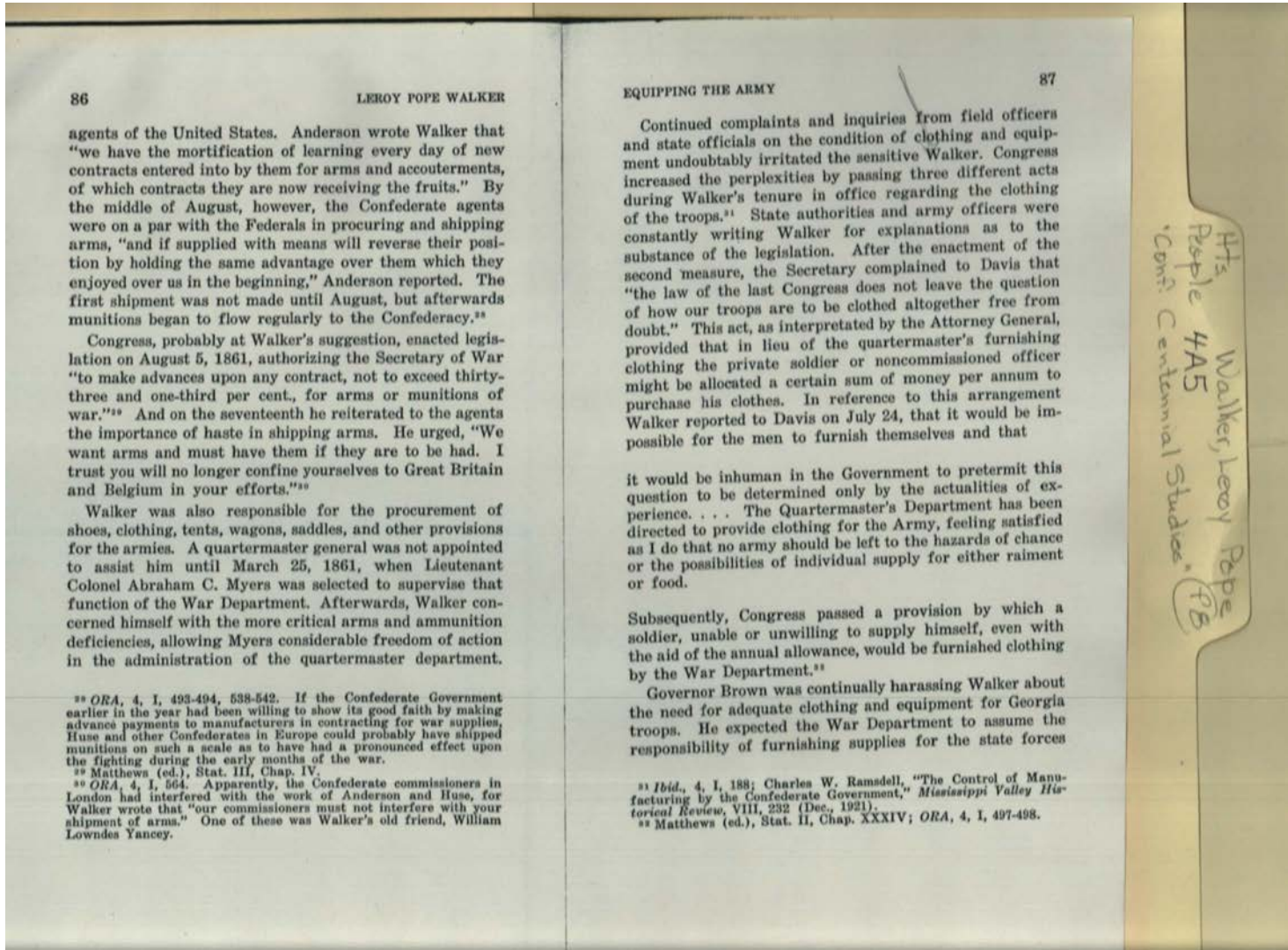
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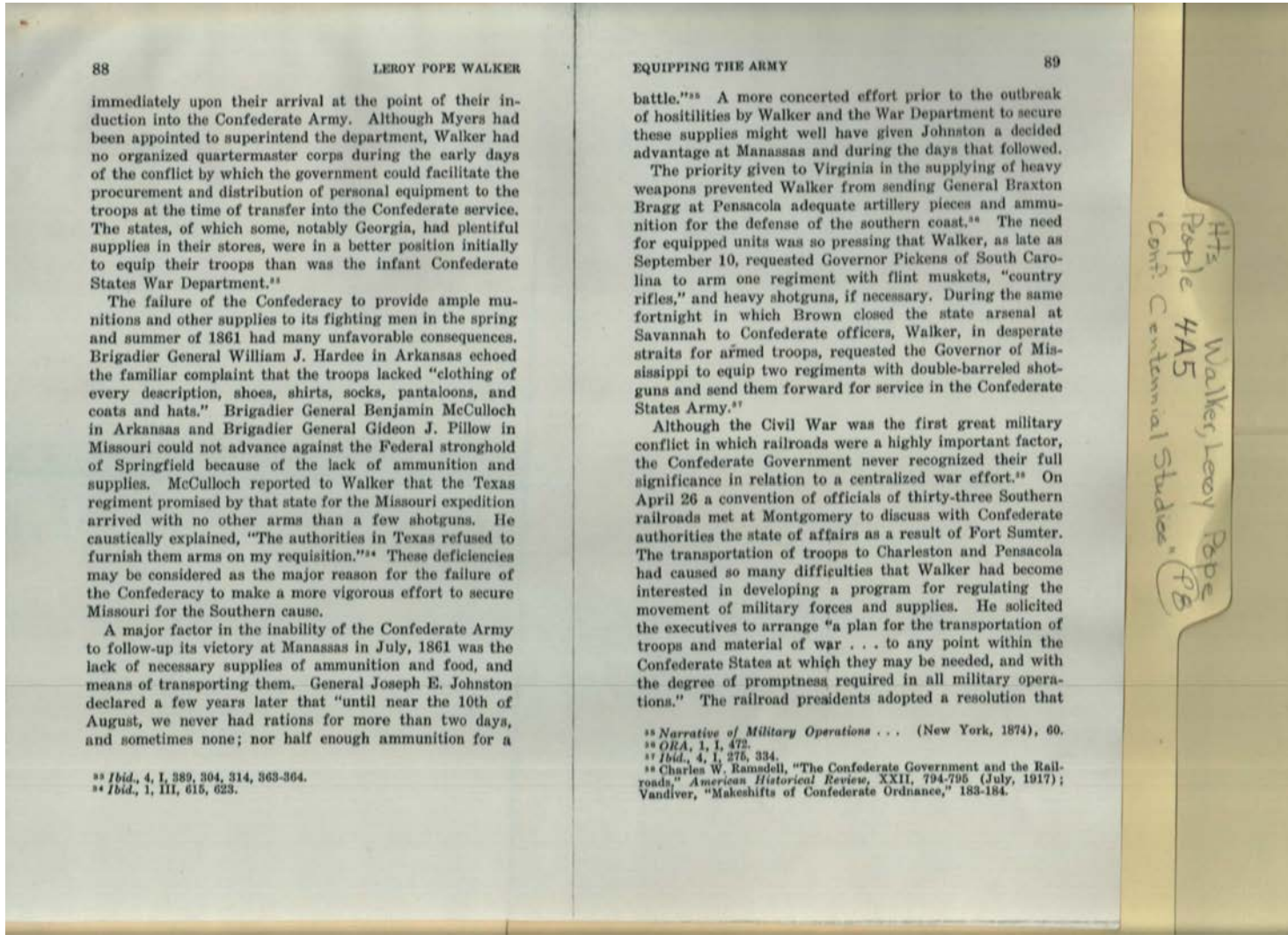
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Johnston, Joseph E.,  
 Gen'l  
 McCulloch,  
 Benjamin, Brig.

Gen'l  
 Myers, Abraham C.,  
 Lt. Col.

Pillow, Gideon J.,  
 Brig. Gen'l  
 Walker, Leroy Pope

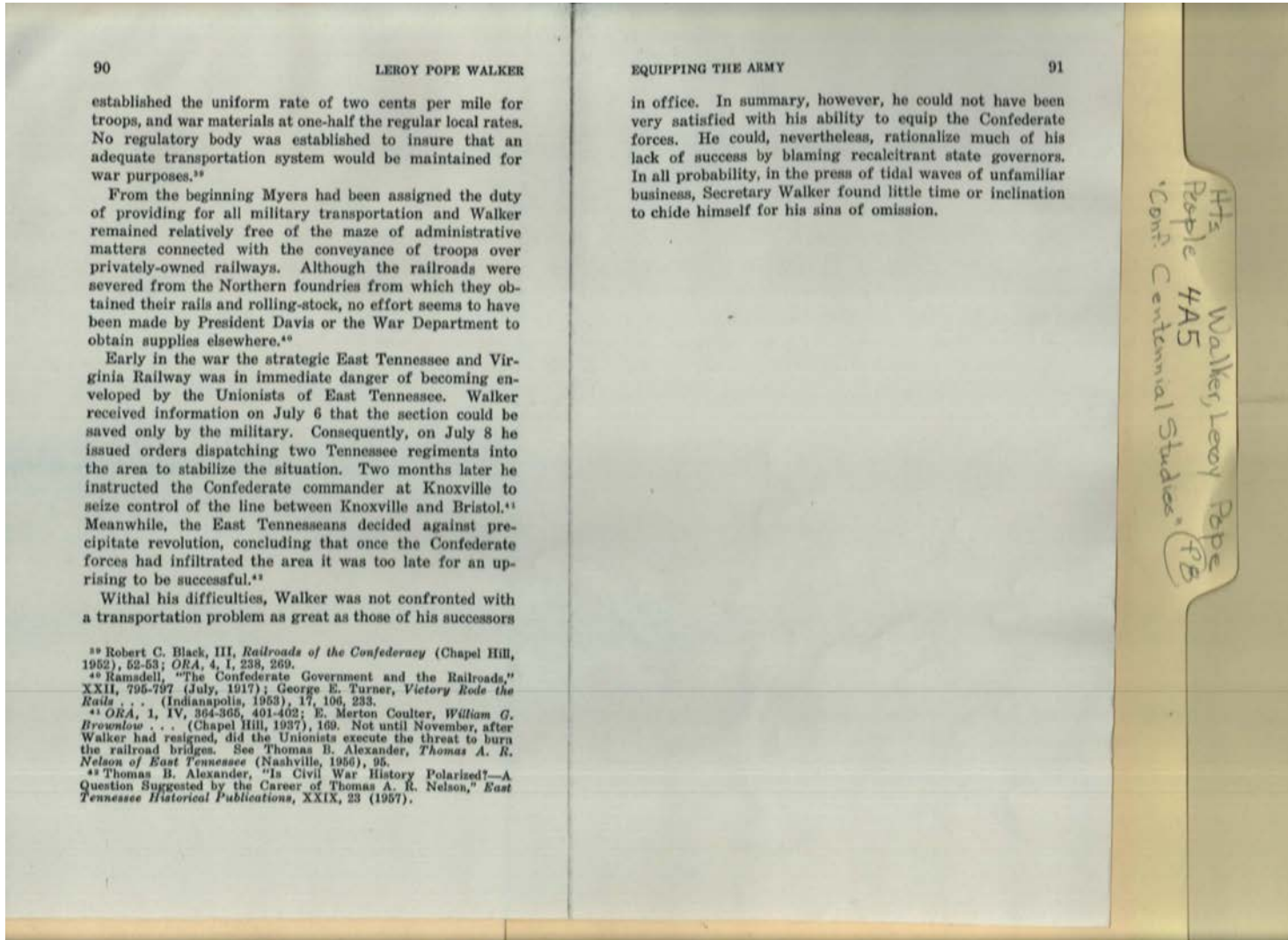
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Image 46 r04a05-08-000-0205 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



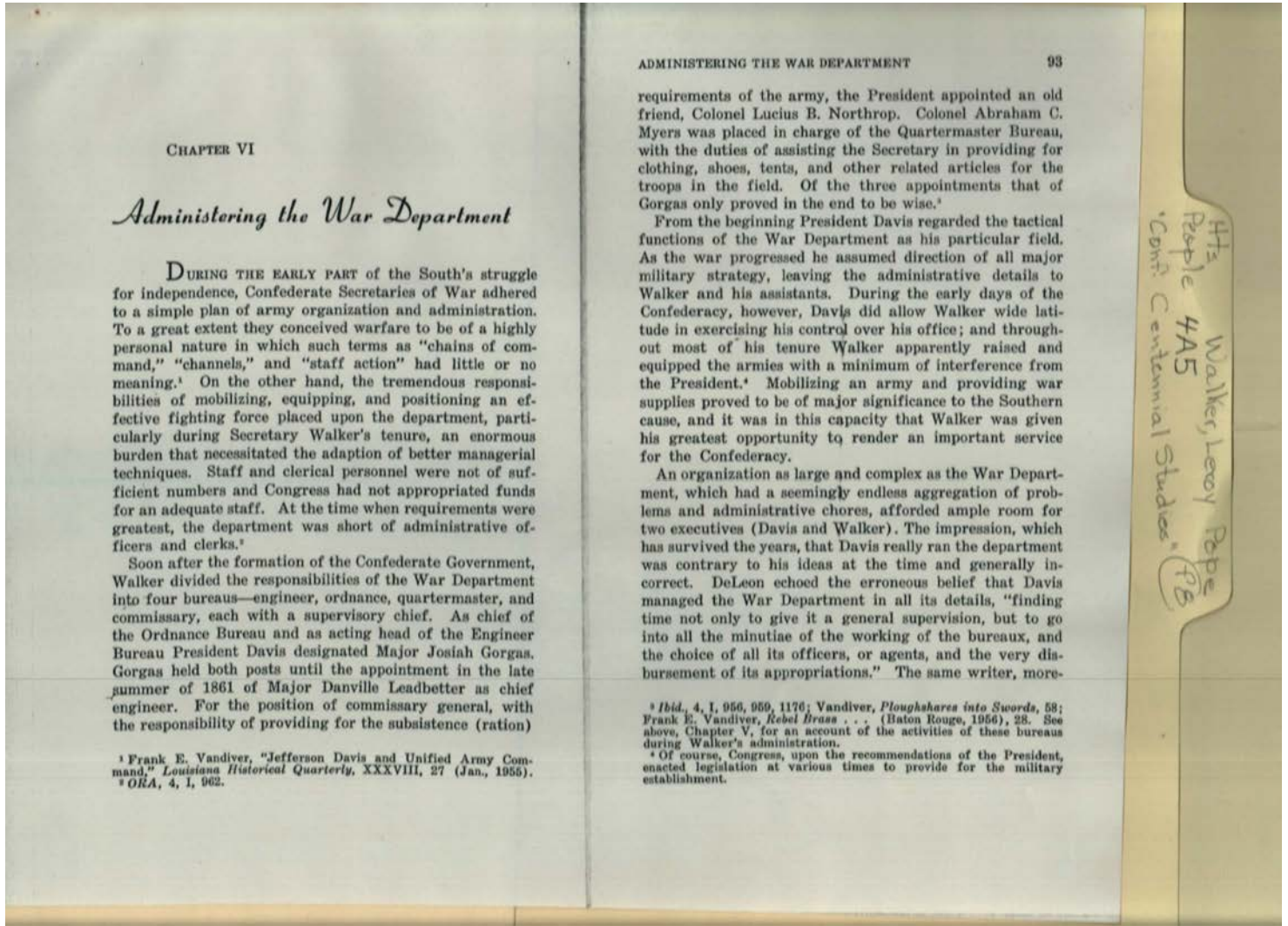
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Myers, Abraham C.,  
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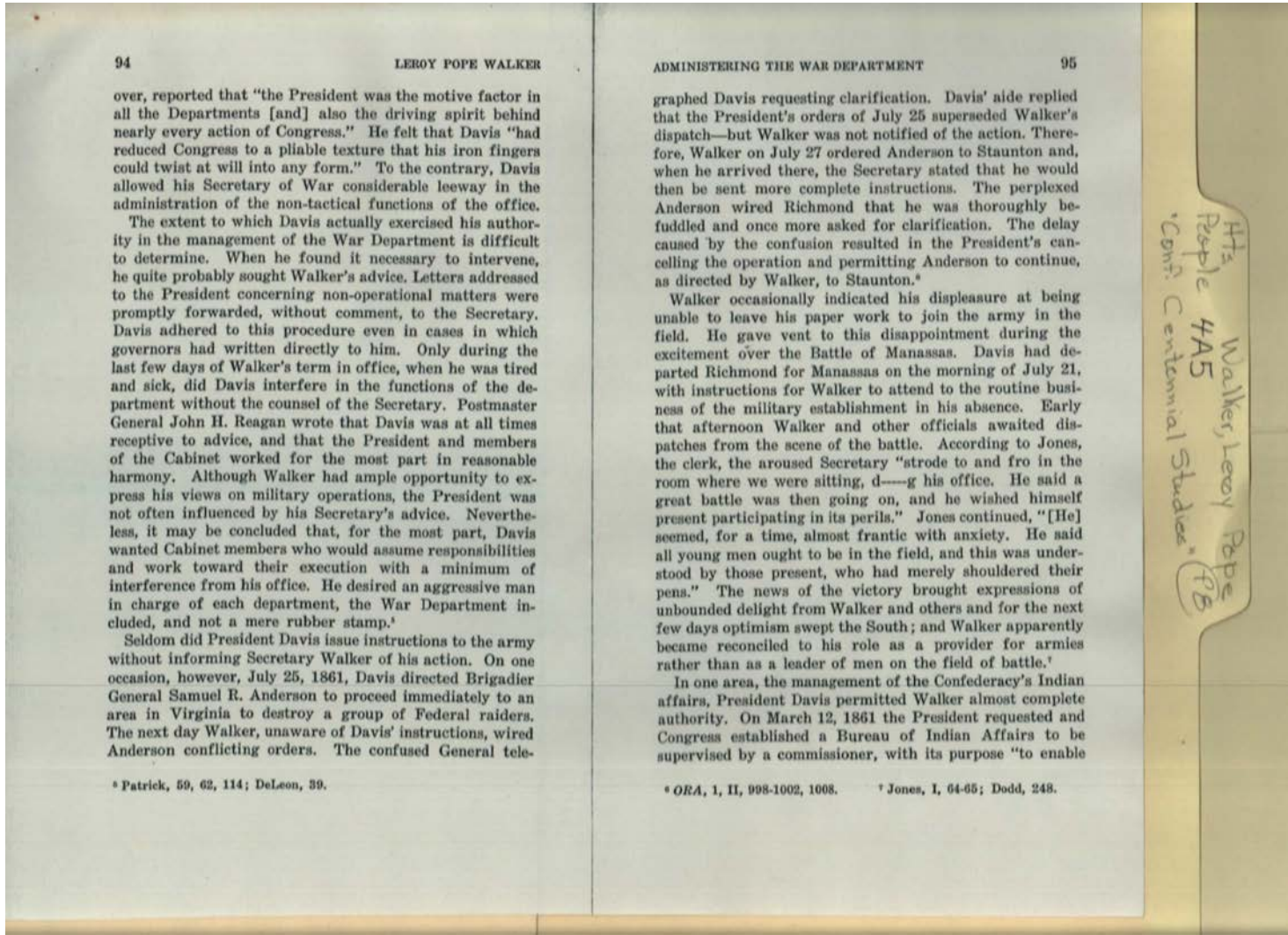
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"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 48 r04a05-08-000-0207 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



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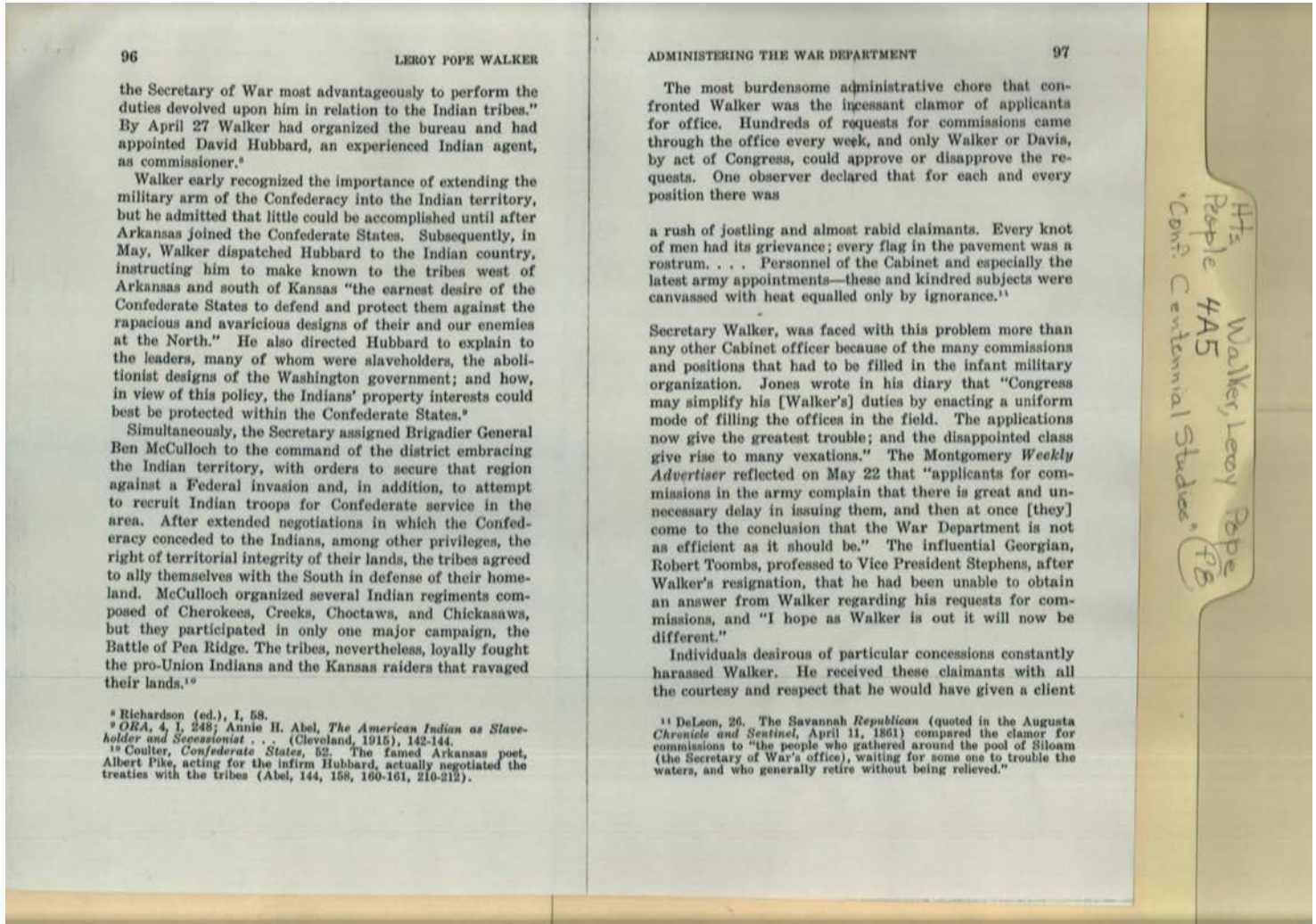
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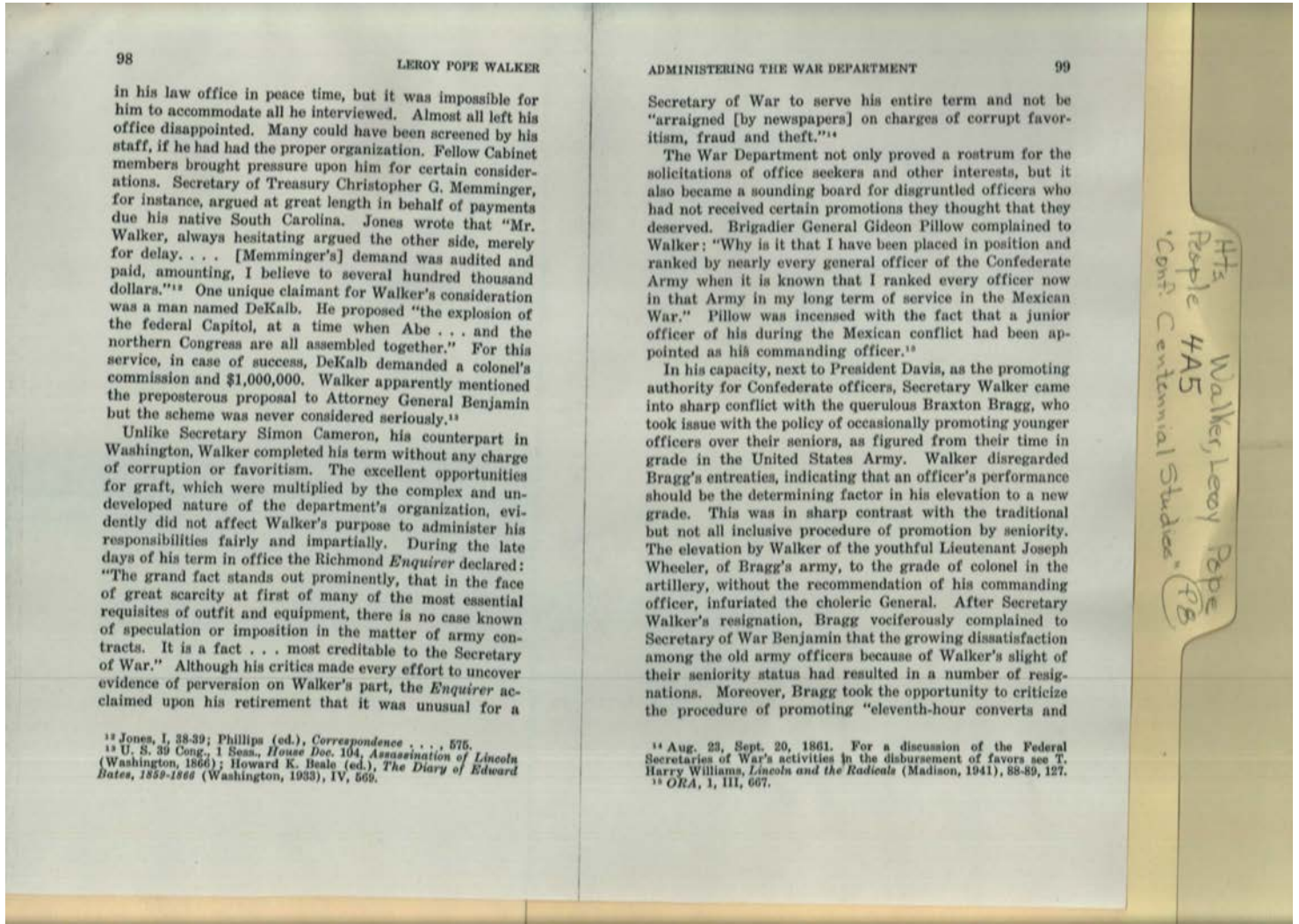
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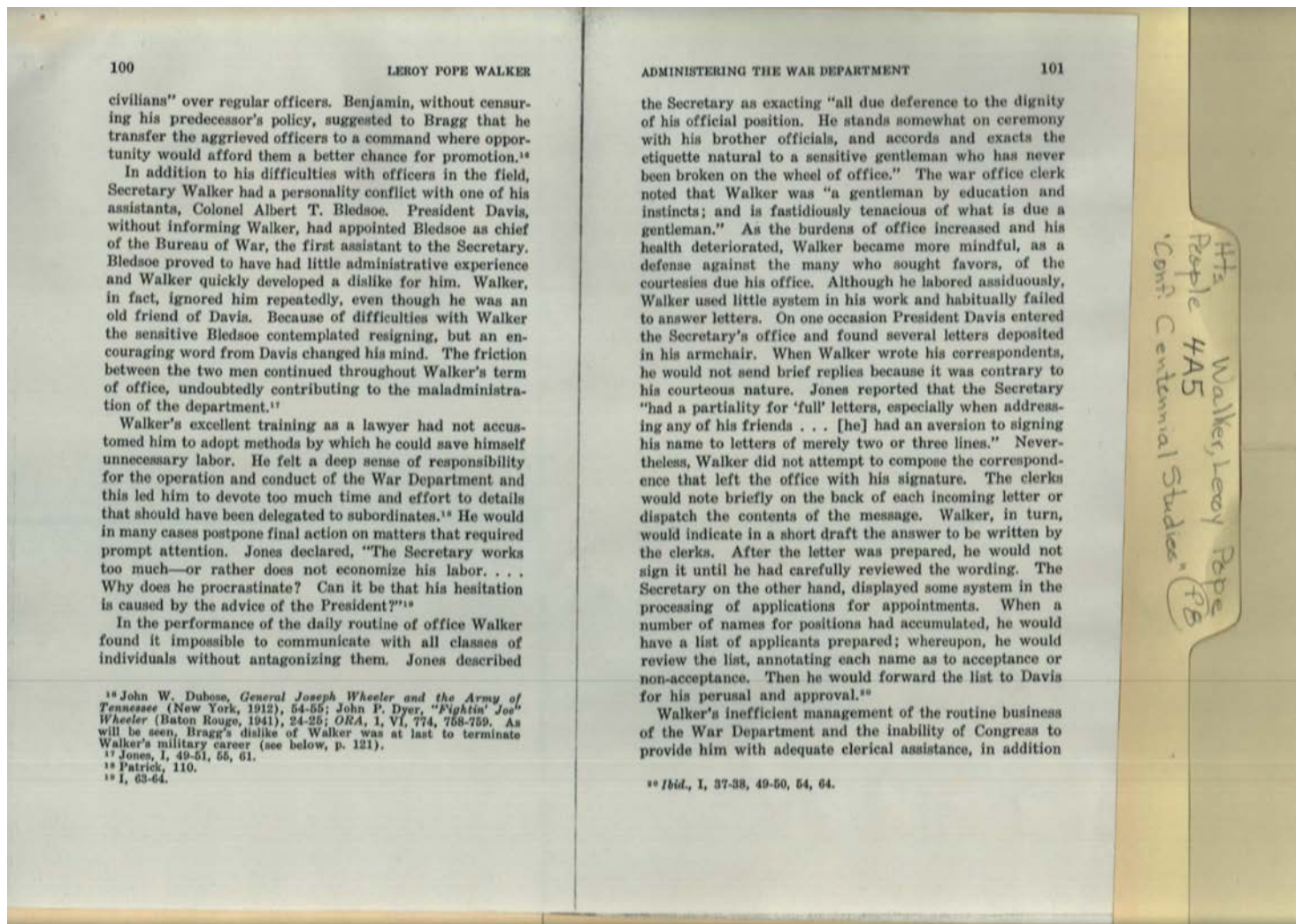


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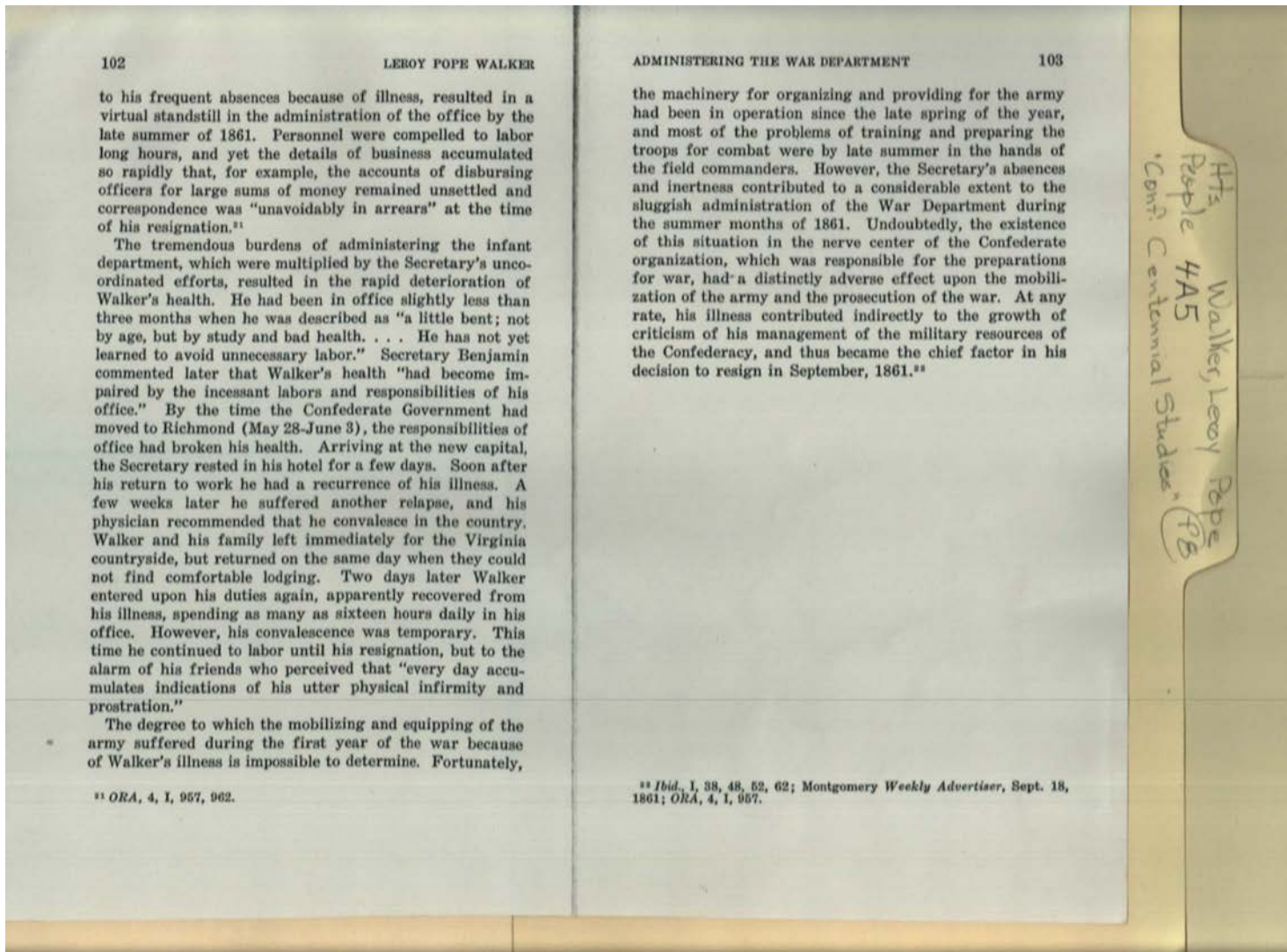
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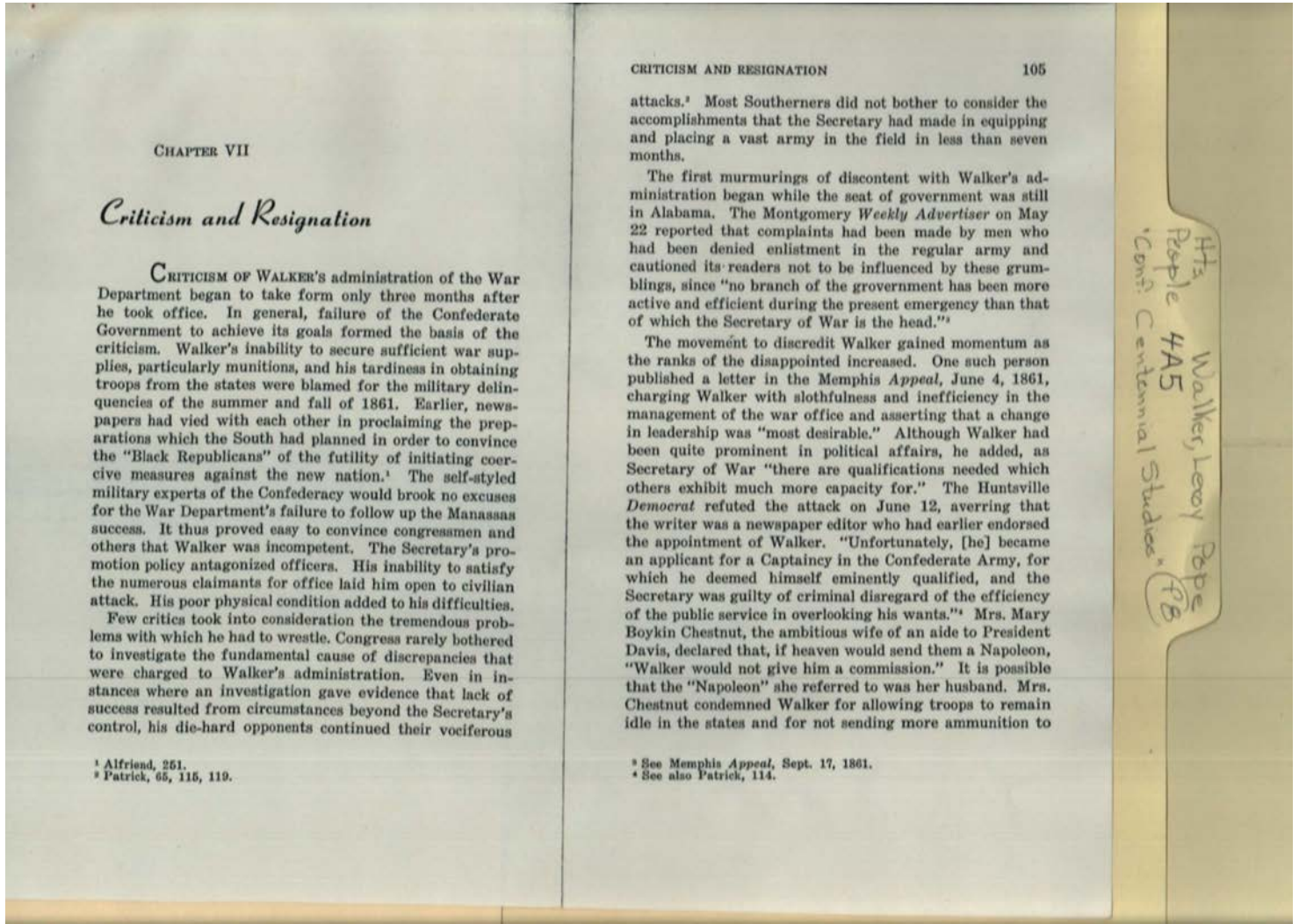
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Walker, Leroy Pope

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Walker, Leroy Pope

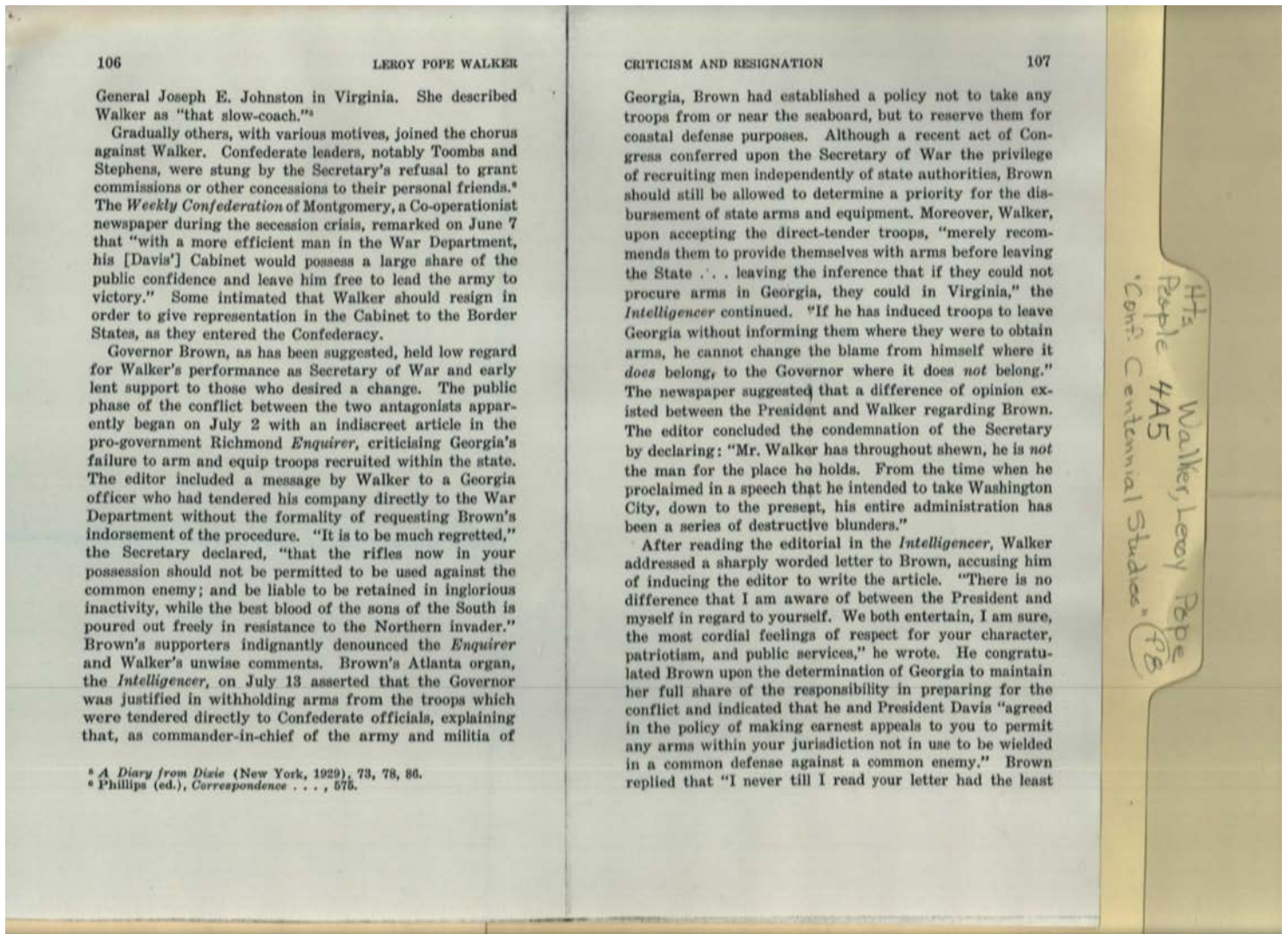
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"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 54 r04a05-08-000-0213 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



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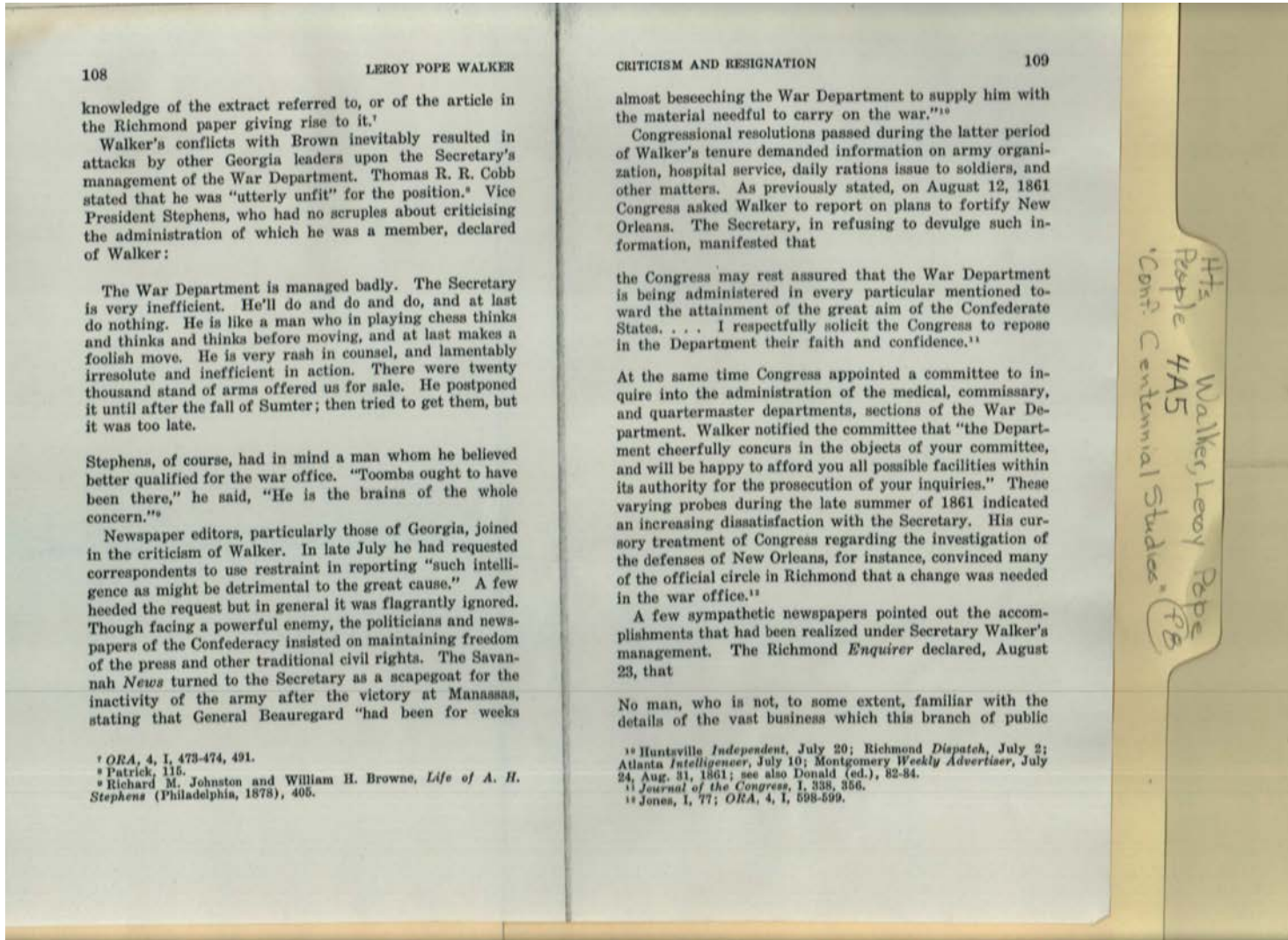
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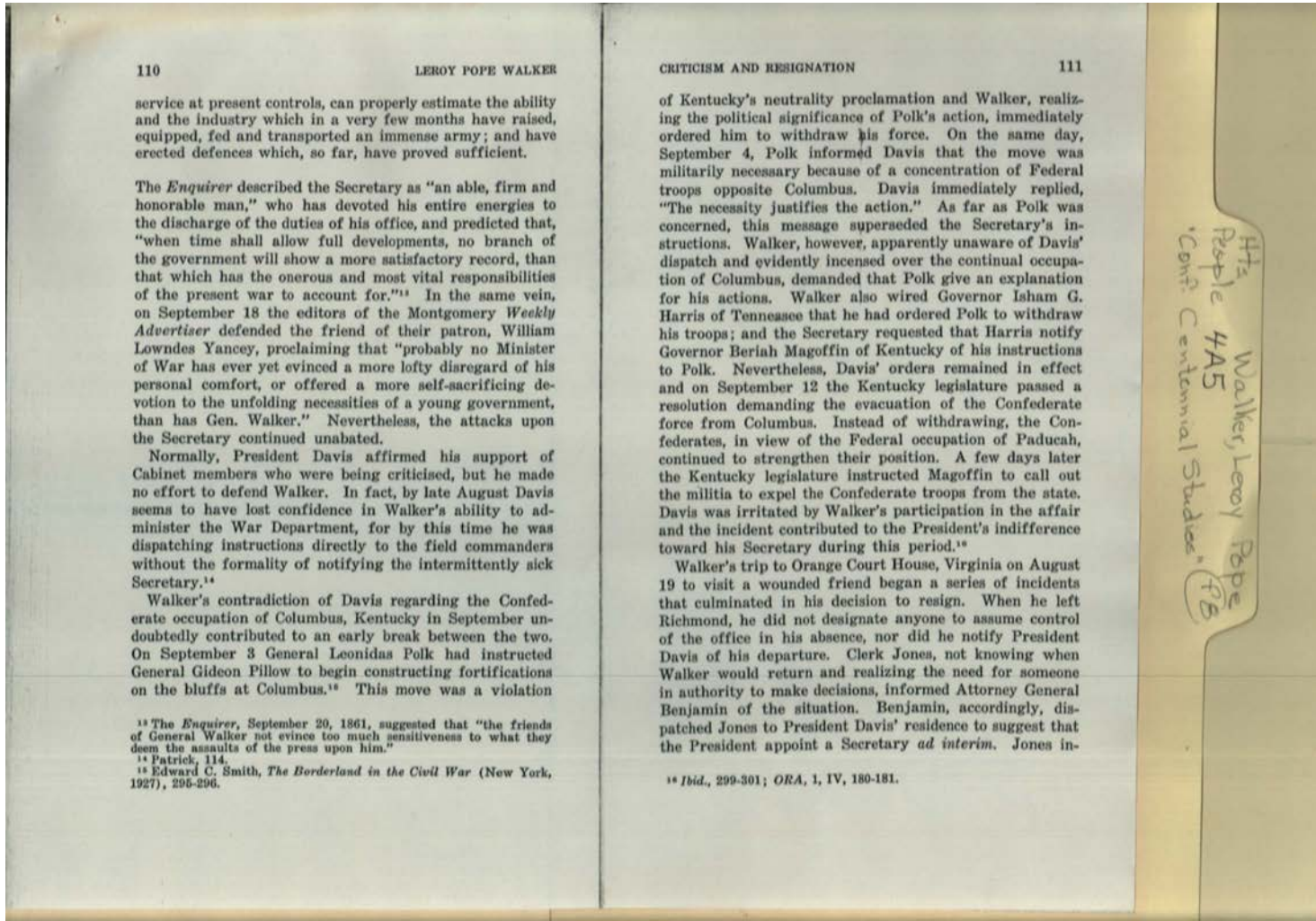
Cobb, Thomas R. R.

Stephens, Vice  
President

Walker, Leroy Pope

**Types:**

book



service at present controls, can properly estimate the ability and the industry which in a very few months have raised, equipped, fed and transported an immense army; and have erected defences which, so far, have proved sufficient.

The *Enquirer* described the Secretary as "an able, firm and honorable man," who has devoted his entire energies to the discharge of the duties of his office, and predicted that, "when time shall allow full developments, no branch of the government will show a more satisfactory record, than that which has the onerous and most vital responsibilities of the present war to account for."<sup>13</sup> In the same vein, on September 18 the editors of the *Montgomery Weekly Advertiser* defended the friend of their patron, William Lowndes Yancey, proclaiming that "probably no Minister of War has ever yet evinced a more lofty disregard of his personal comfort, or offered a more self-sacrificing devotion to the unfolding necessities of a young government, than has Gen. Walker." Nevertheless, the attacks upon the Secretary continued unabated.

Normally, President Davis affirmed his support of Cabinet members who were being criticised, but he made no effort to defend Walker. In fact, by late August Davis seems to have lost confidence in Walker's ability to administer the War Department, for by this time he was dispatching instructions directly to the field commanders without the formality of notifying the intermittently sick Secretary.<sup>14</sup>

Walker's contradiction of Davis regarding the Confederate occupation of Columbus, Kentucky in September undoubtedly contributed to an early break between the two. On September 3 General Leonidas Polk had instructed General Gideon Pillow to begin constructing fortifications on the bluffs at Columbus.<sup>15</sup> This move was a violation

<sup>13</sup> The *Enquirer*, September 20, 1861, suggested that "the friends of General Walker not evince too much sensitiveness to what they deem the assaults of the press upon him."

<sup>14</sup> Patrick, 114.

<sup>15</sup> Edward C. Smith, *The Borderland in the Civil War* (New York, 1927), 295-296.

of Kentucky's neutrality proclamation and Walker, realizing the political significance of Polk's action, immediately ordered him to withdraw his force. On the same day, September 4, Polk informed Davis that the move was militarily necessary because of a concentration of Federal troops opposite Columbus. Davis immediately replied, "The necessity justifies the action." As far as Polk was concerned, this message superseded the Secretary's instructions. Walker, however, apparently unaware of Davis' dispatch and evidently incensed over the continual occupation of Columbus, demanded that Polk give an explanation for his actions. Walker also wired Governor Isham G. Harris of Tennessee that he had ordered Polk to withdraw his troops; and the Secretary requested that Harris notify Governor Beriah Magoffin of Kentucky of his instructions to Polk. Nevertheless, Davis' orders remained in effect and on September 12 the Kentucky legislature passed a resolution demanding the evacuation of the Confederate force from Columbus. Instead of withdrawing, the Confederates, in view of the Federal occupation of Paducah, continued to strengthen their position. A few days later the Kentucky legislature instructed Magoffin to call out the militia to expel the Confederate troops from the state. Davis was irritated by Walker's participation in the affair and the incident contributed to the President's indifference toward his Secretary during this period.<sup>16</sup>

Walker's trip to Orange Court House, Virginia on August 19 to visit a wounded friend began a series of incidents that culminated in his decision to resign. When he left Richmond, he did not designate anyone to assume control of the office in his absence, nor did he notify President Davis of his departure. Clerk Jones, not knowing when Walker would return and realizing the need for someone in authority to make decisions, informed Attorney General Benjamin of the situation. Benjamin, accordingly, dispatched Jones to President Davis' residence to suggest that the President appoint a Secretary *ad interim*. Jones in-

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 299-301; *ORA*, 1, IV, 180-181.

H4  
People 4A5  
Conf. Centennial Studies  
Walker, Leroy Pope  
PB

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Davis, Jefferson,  
President

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Gov.  
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Gov.

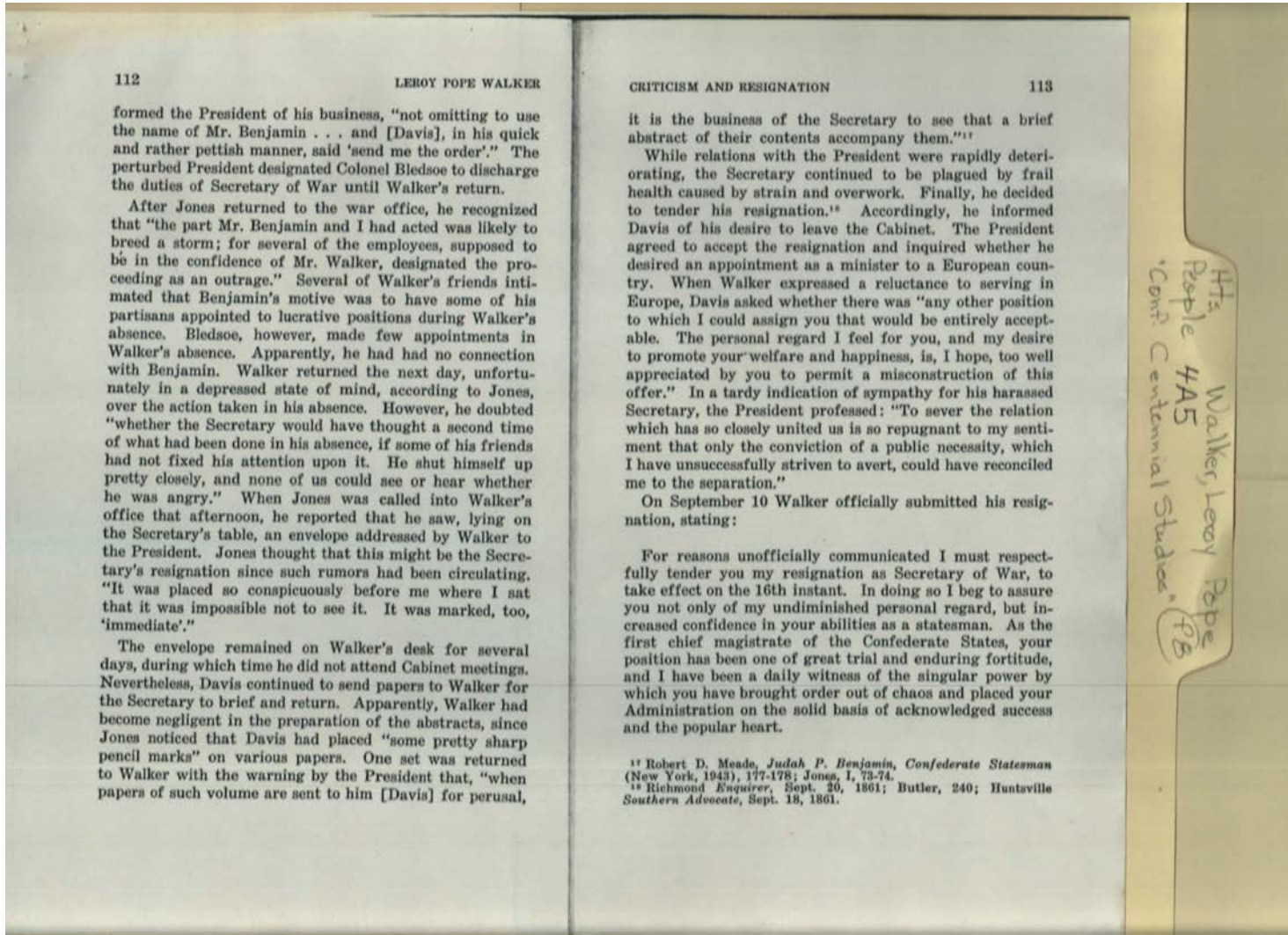
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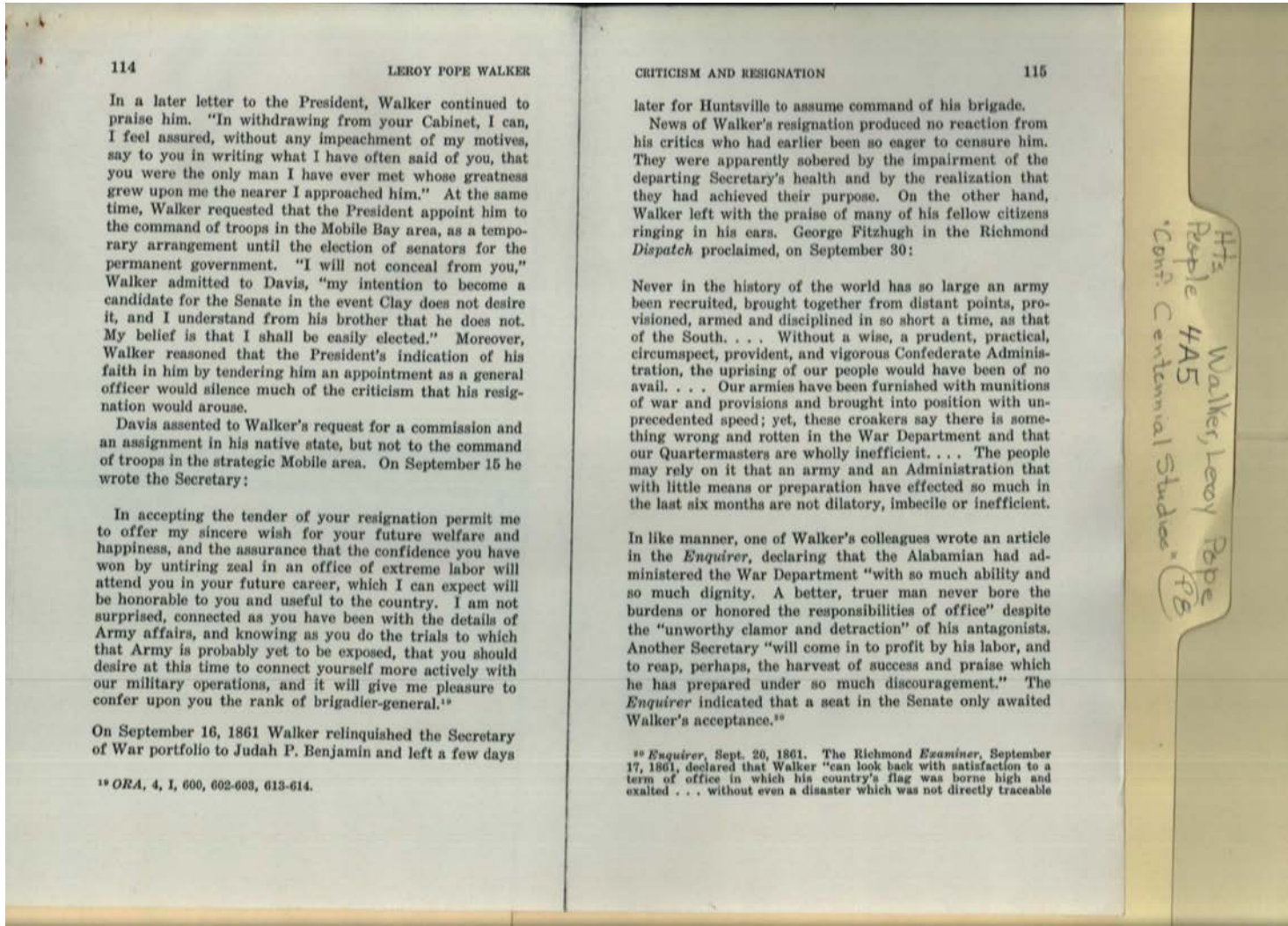
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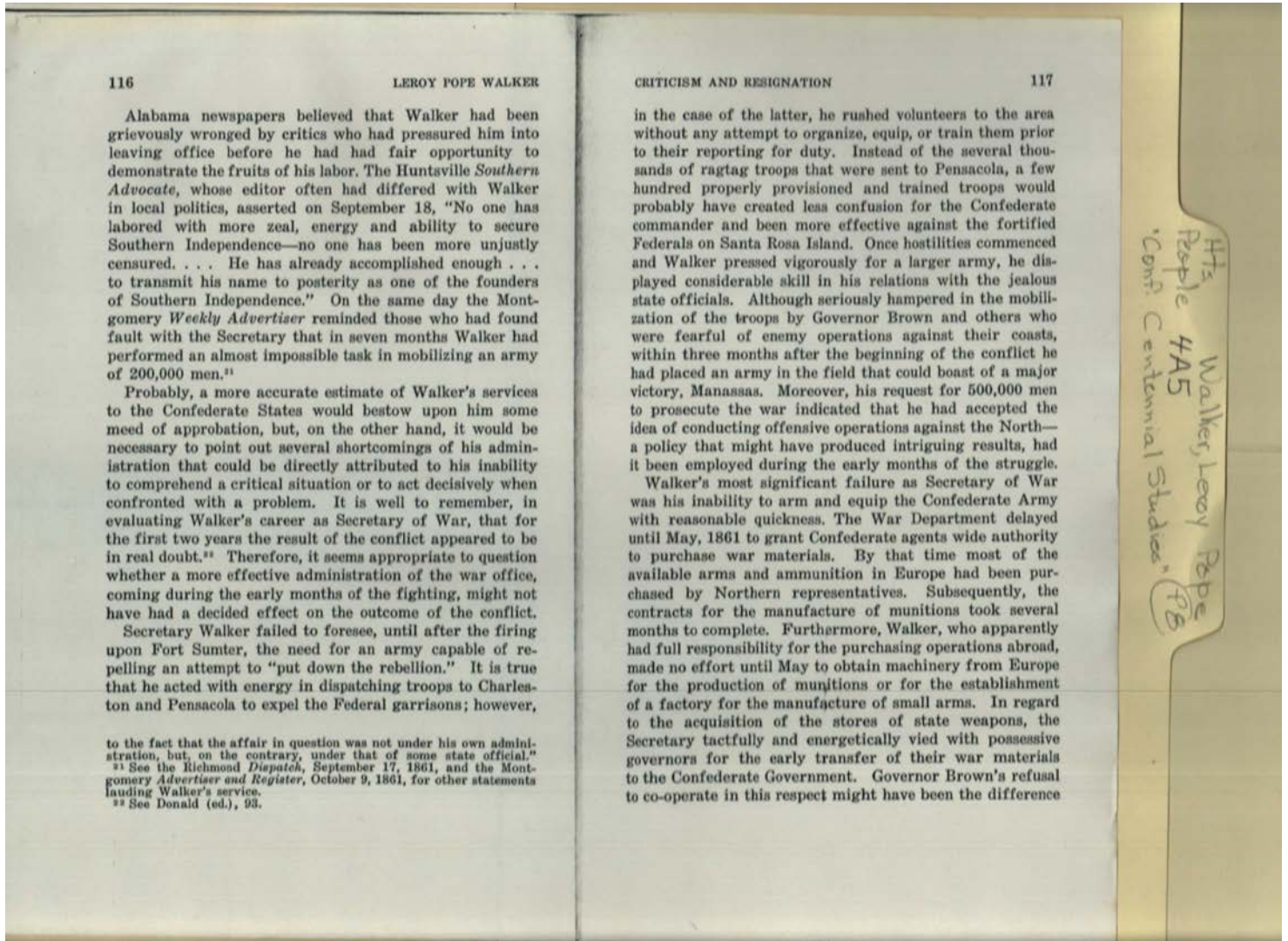
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Fitzhugh, George  
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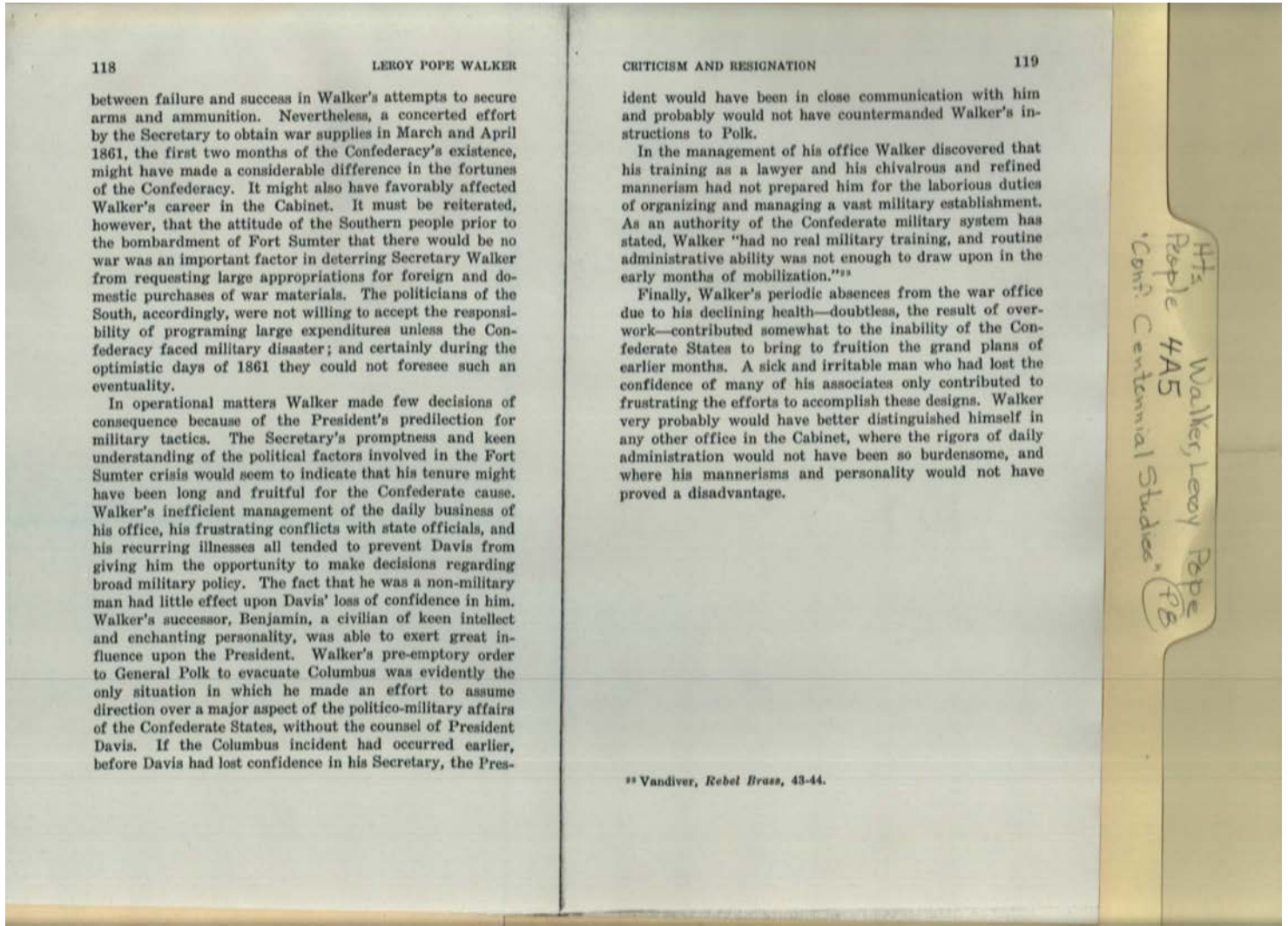
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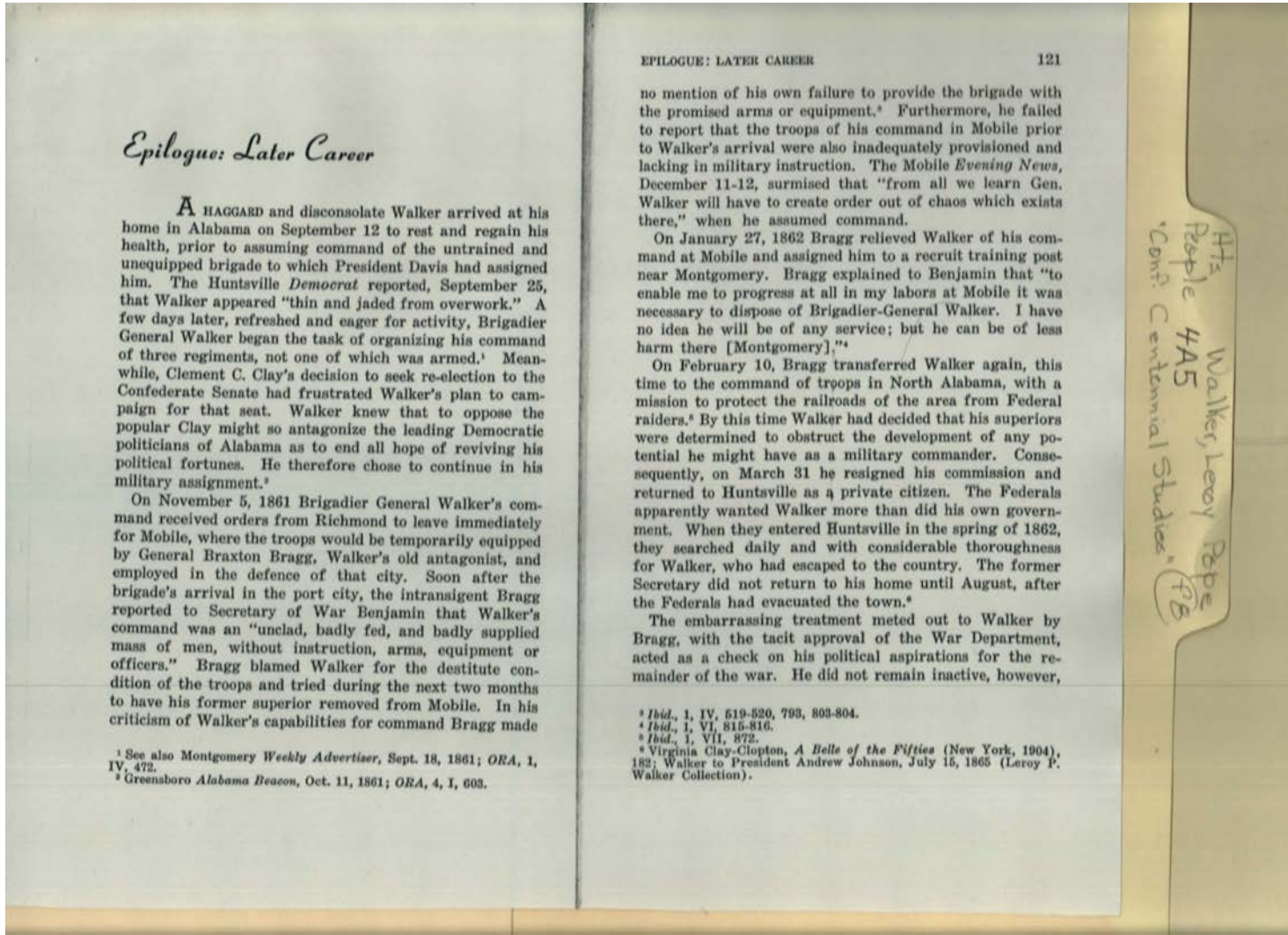
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Epilogue: Later  
Career

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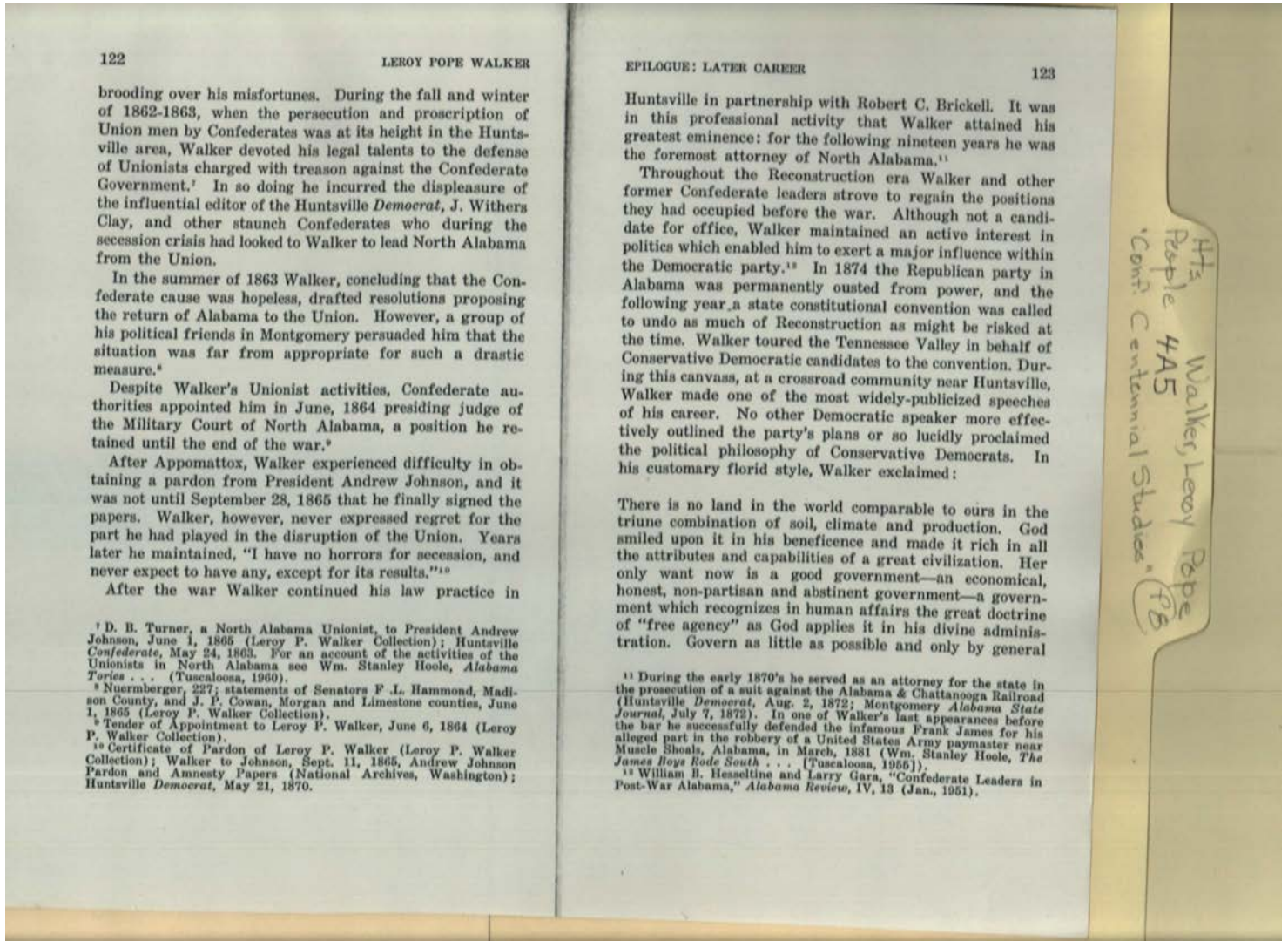
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"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 62 r04a05-08-000-0221 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



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Johnson, Andrew,  
President

Walker, Leroy Pope

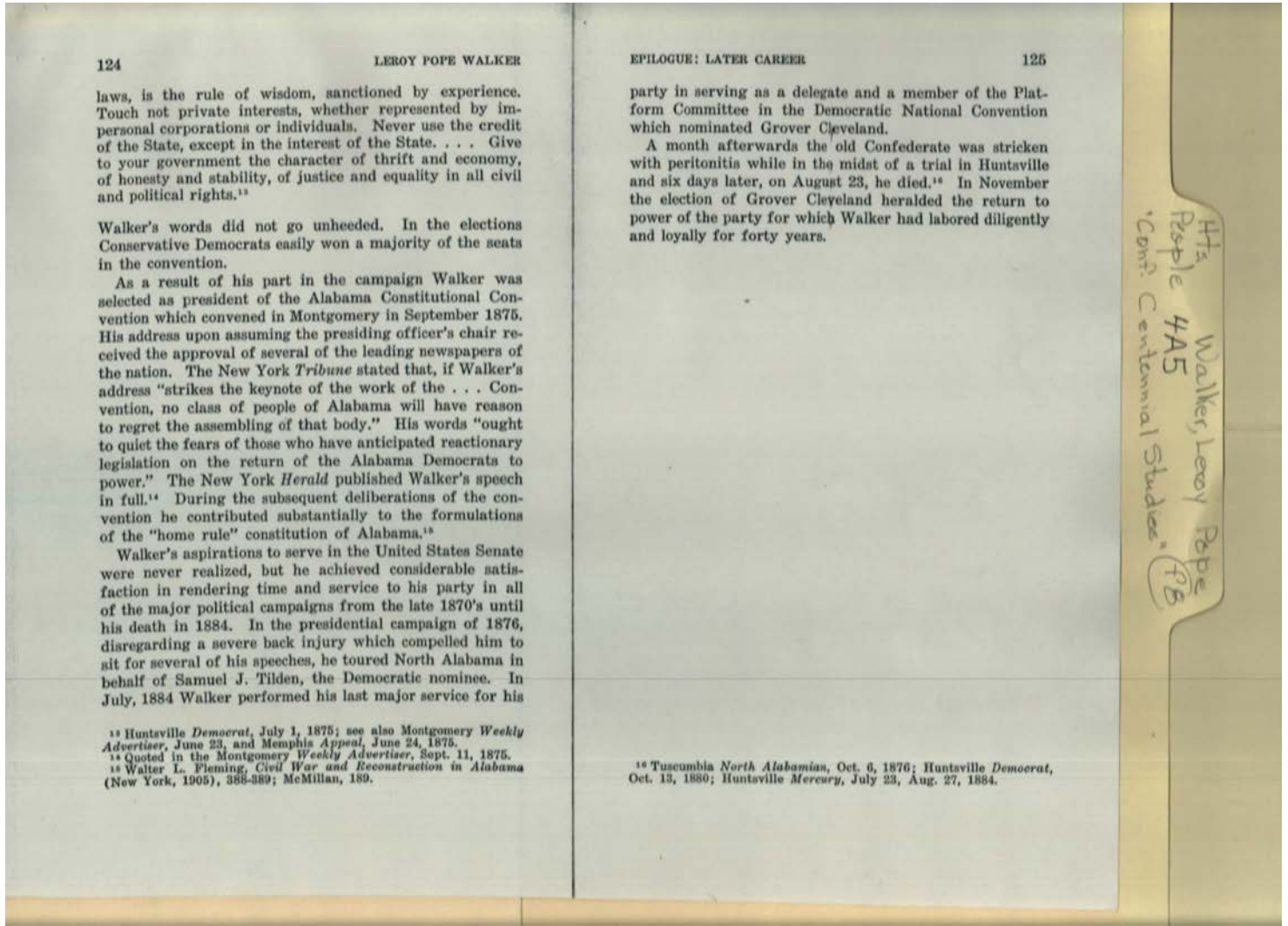
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Image 63 r04a05-08-000-0222 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



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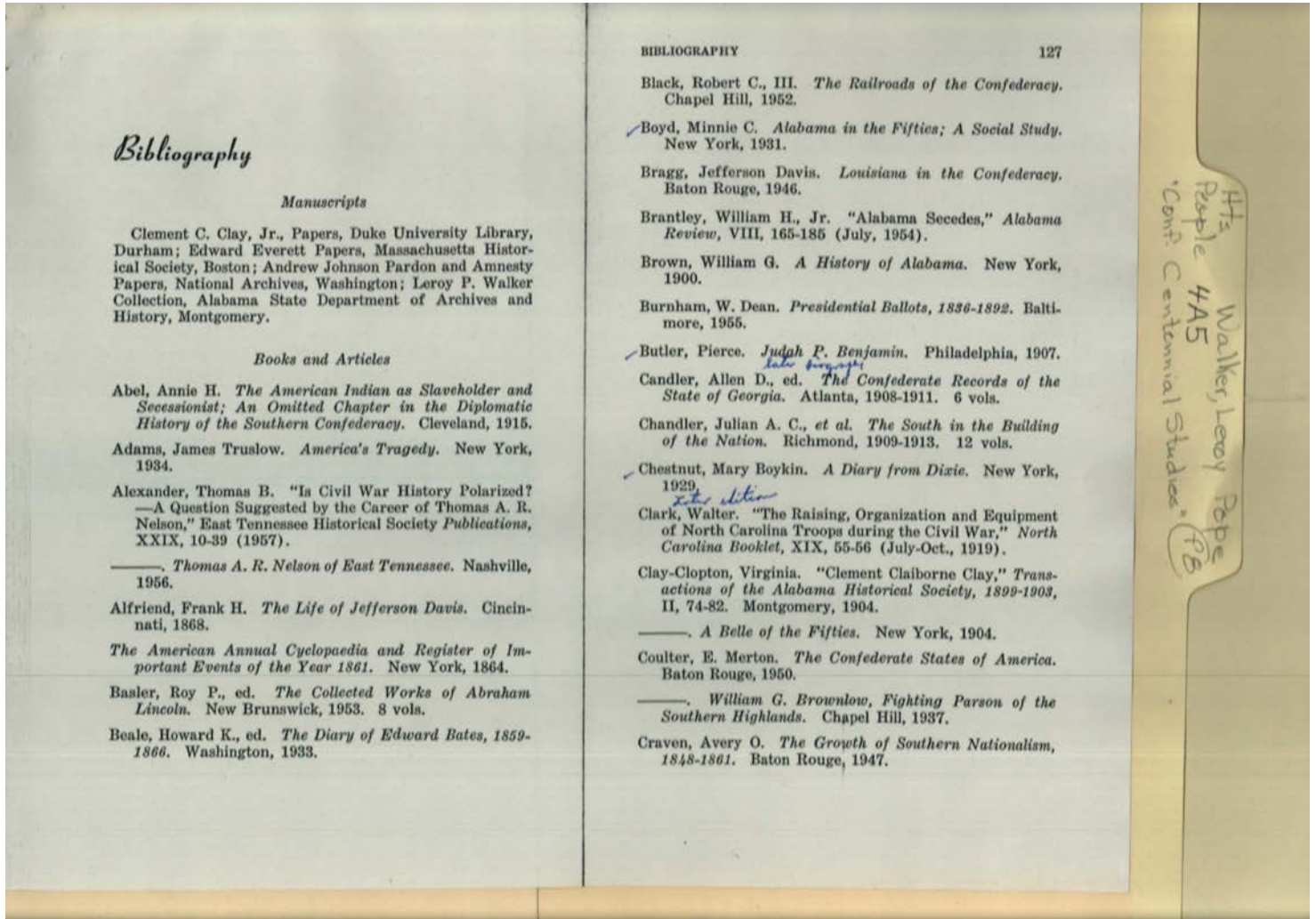
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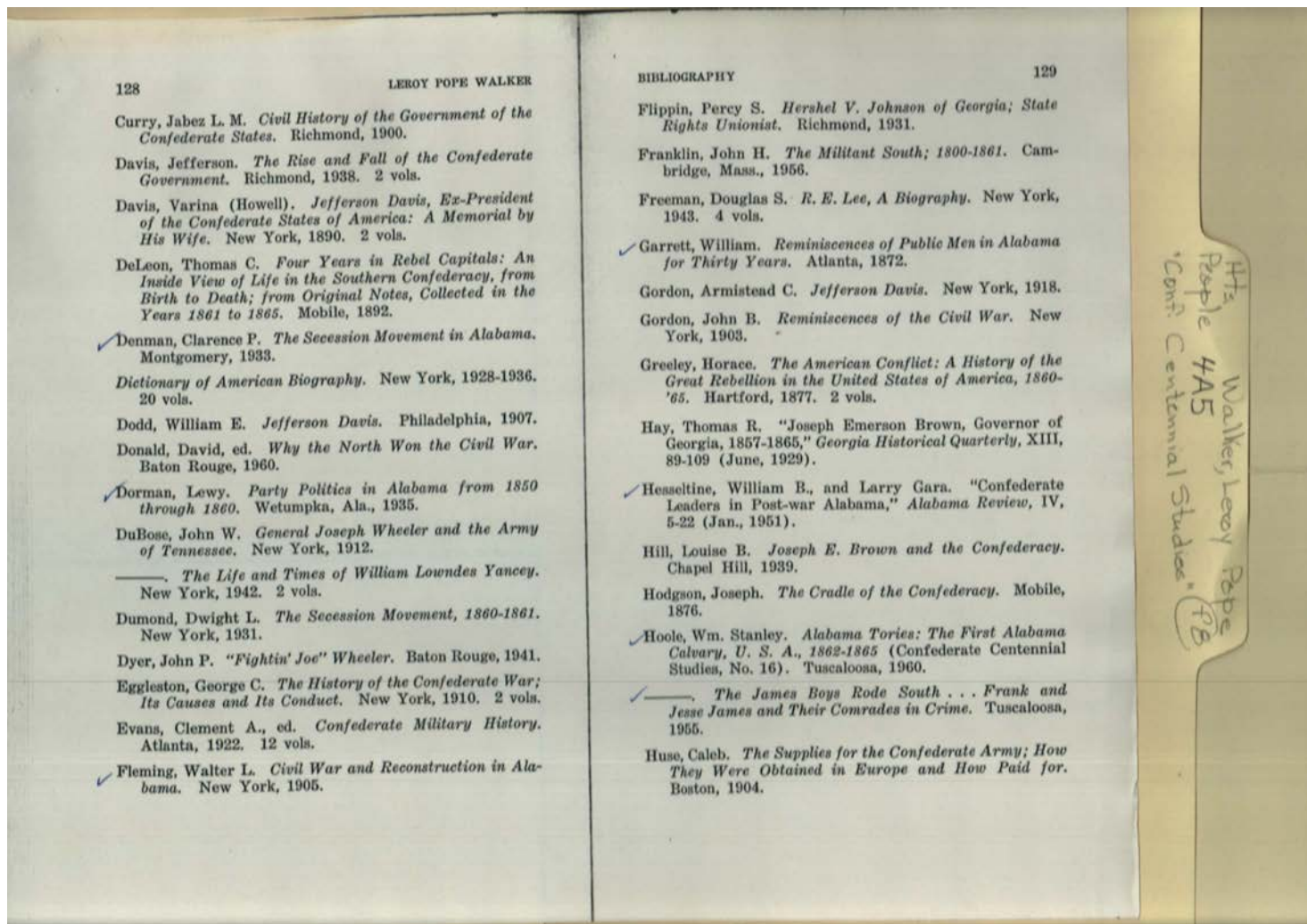
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"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 65 r04a05-08-000-0224 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



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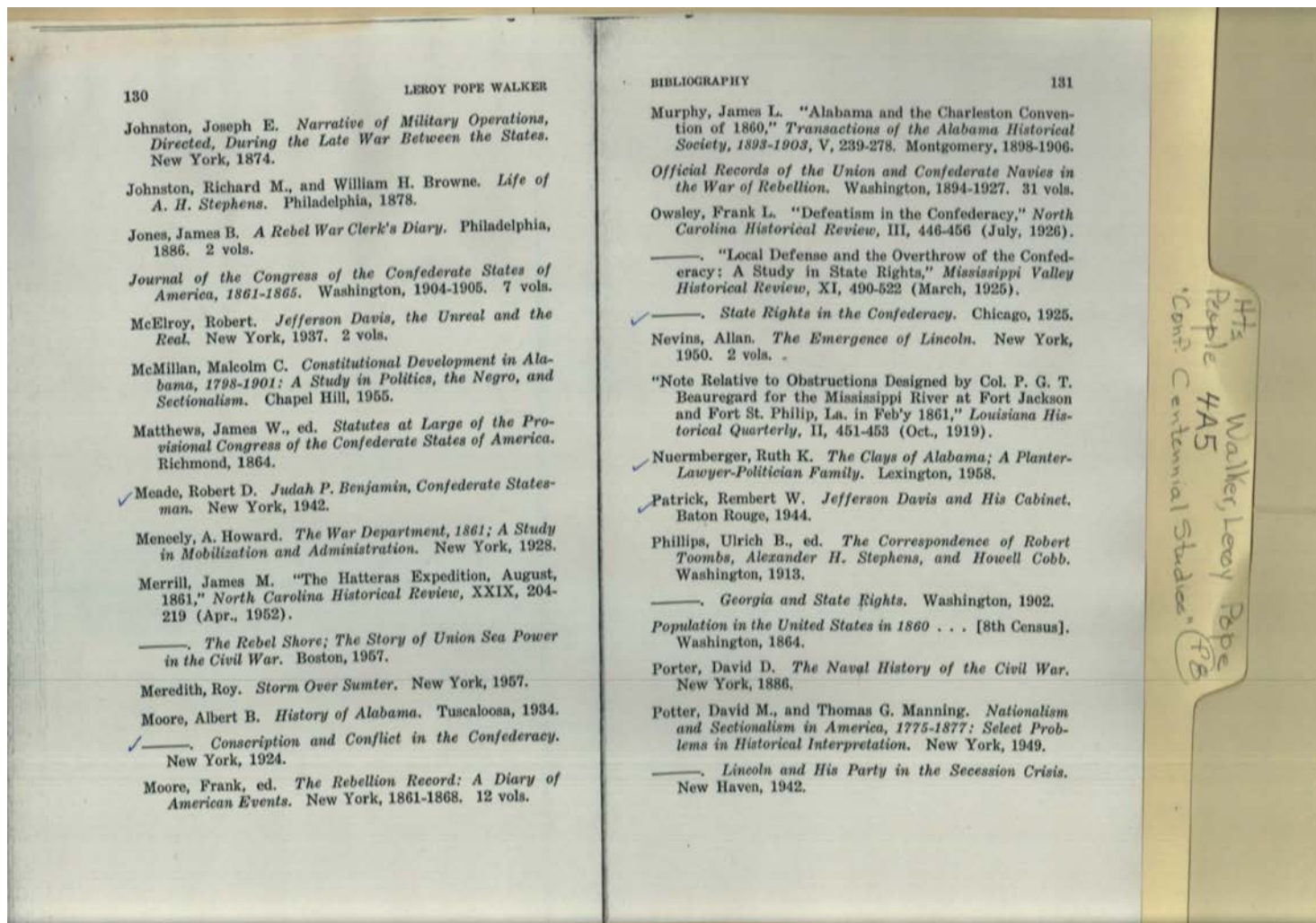
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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 66 r04a05-08-000-0225 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



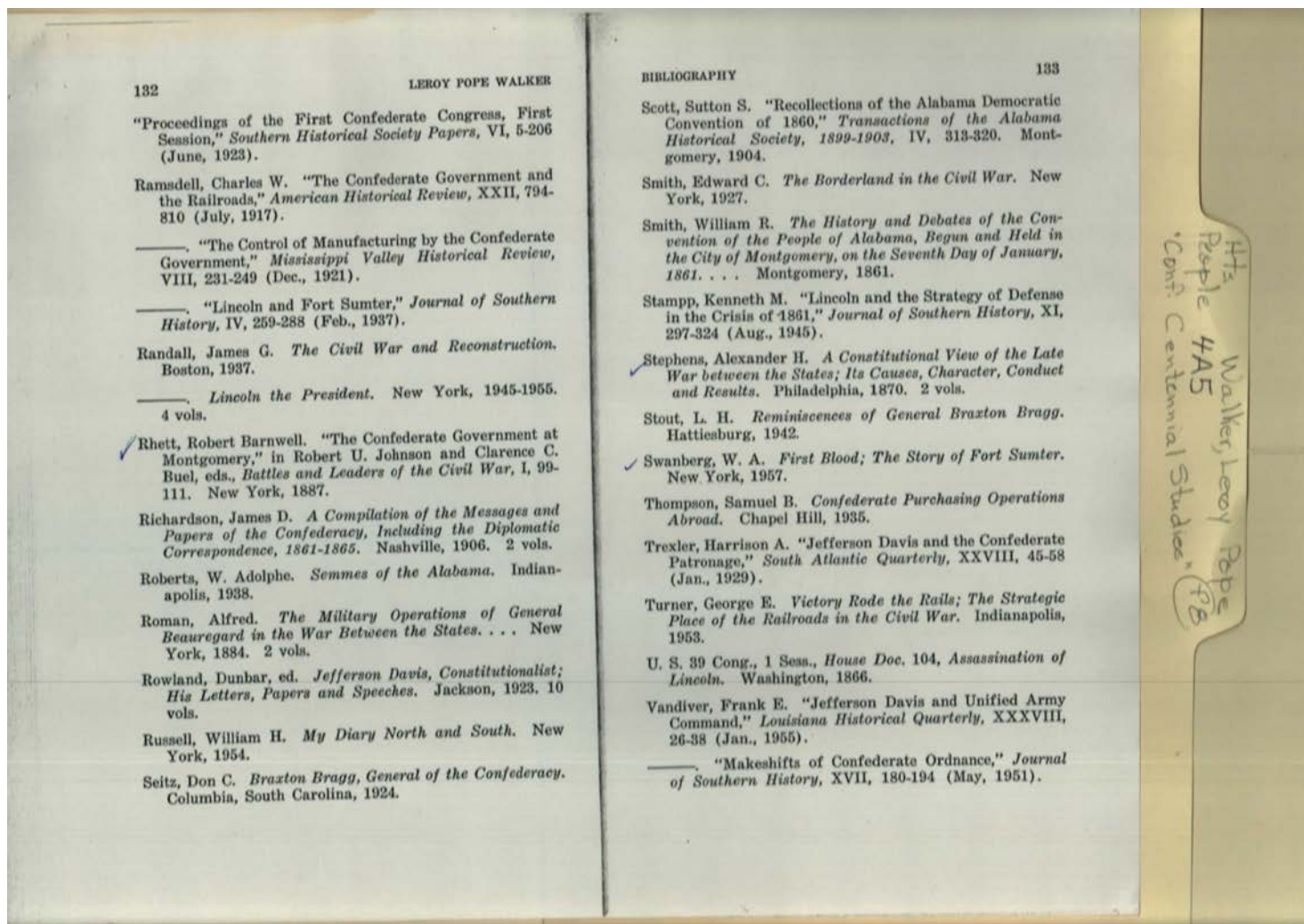
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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 67 r04a05-08-000-0226 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



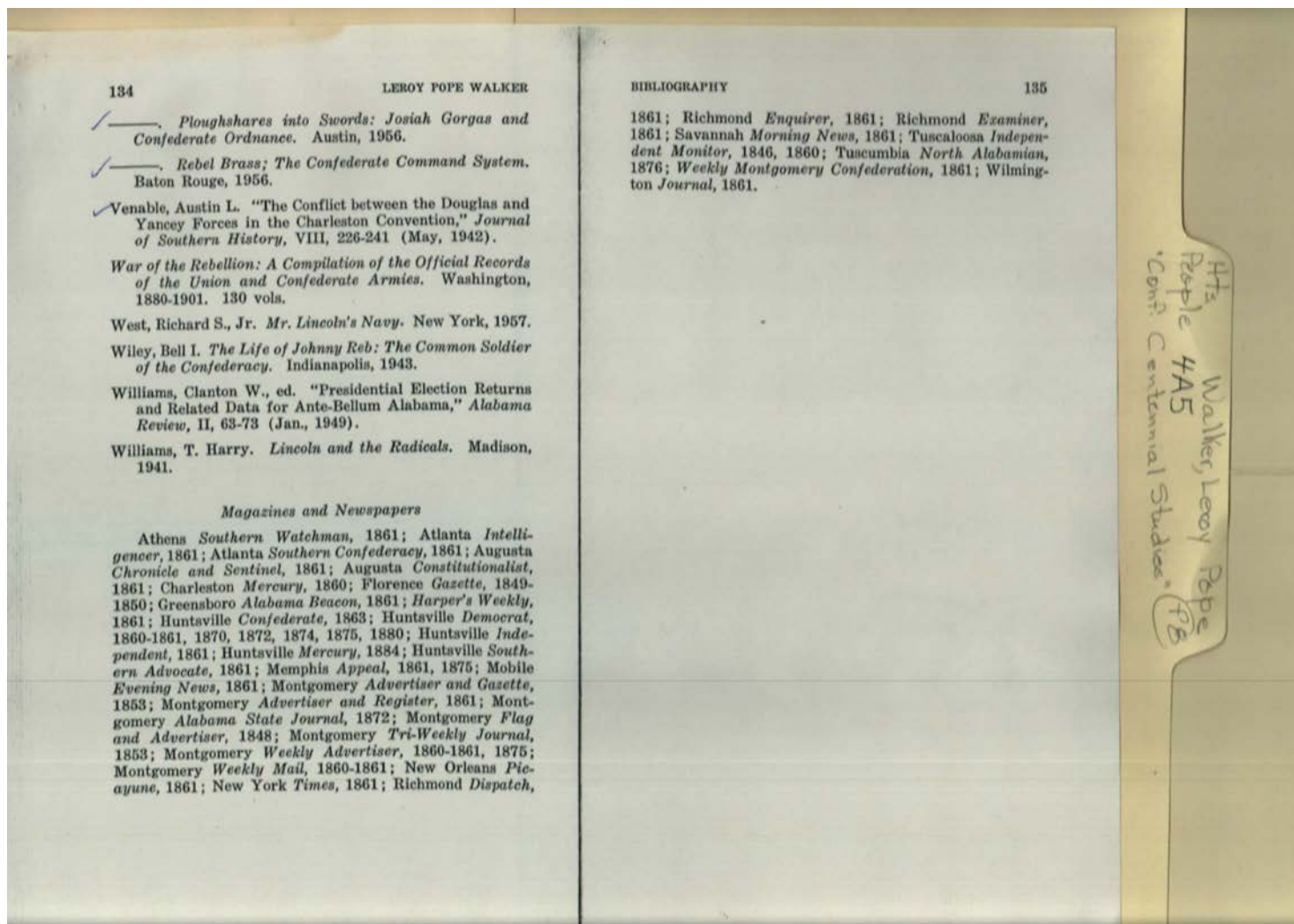
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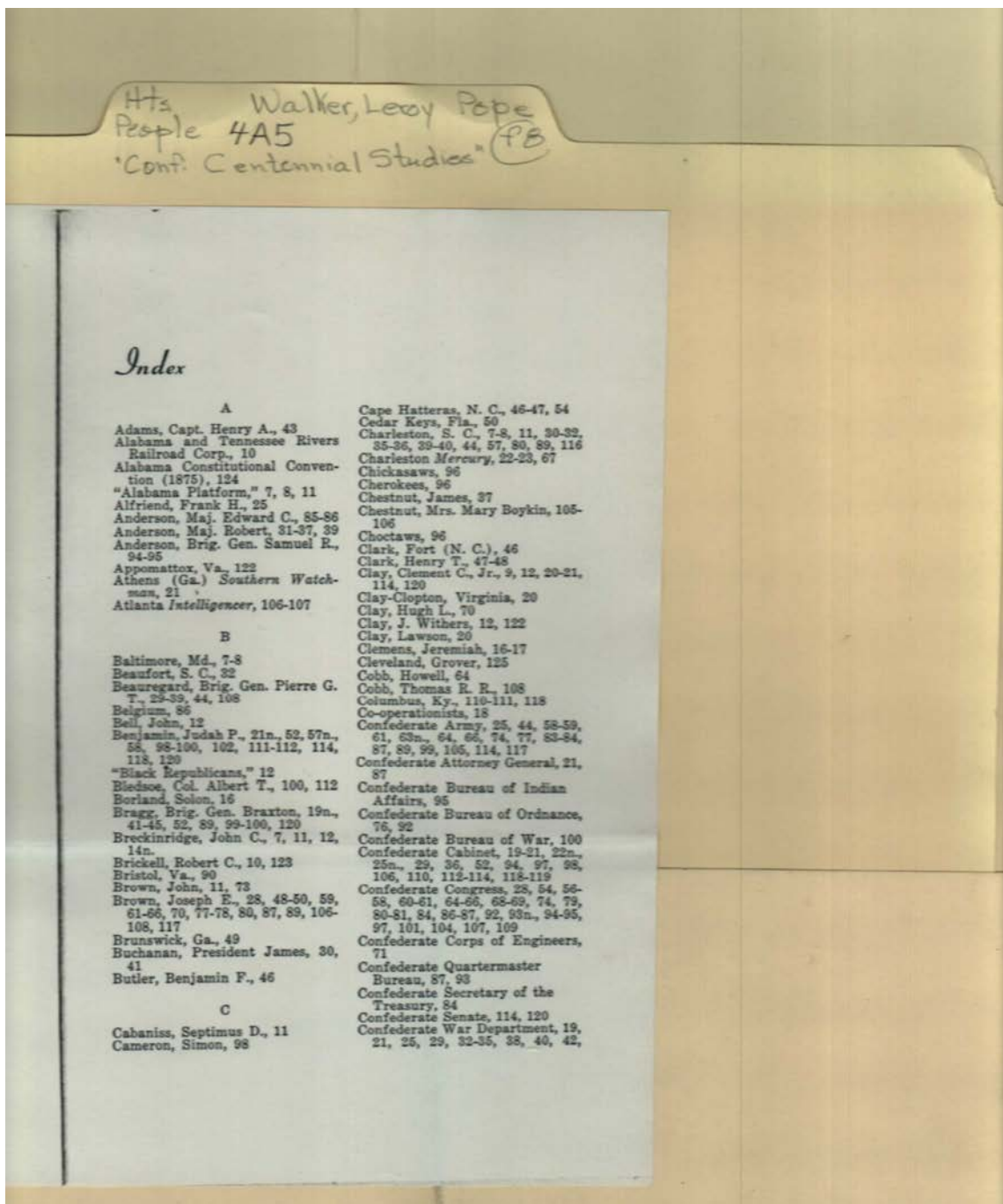
"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 68 r04a05-08-000-0227 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**  
Bibliography

**Types:**  
book



Hts  
People 4A5  
'Conf. Centennial Studies' (PB)

*Index*

- A
- Adams, Capt. Henry A., 43
  - Alabama and Tennessee Rivers Railroad Corp., 19
  - Alabama Constitutional Convention (1875), 124
  - "Alabama Platform," 7, 8, 11
  - Alfriend, Frank H., 25
  - Anderson, Maj. Edward C., 85-86
  - Anderson, Maj. Robert, 31-37, 39
  - Anderson, Brig. Gen. Samuel R., 94-95
  - Appomattox, Va., 122
  - Athens (Ga.) *Southern Watchman*, 21
  - Atlanta *Intelligencer*, 106-107
- B
- Baltimore, Md., 7-8
  - Beaufort, S. C., 32
  - Beauregard, Brig. Gen. Pierre G. T., 29-39, 44, 108
  - Belgium, 86
  - Bell, John, 12
  - Benjamin, Judah P., 21n, 52, 57n, 58, 98-100, 102, 111-112, 114, 118, 120
  - "Black Republicans," 12
  - Bledsoe, Col. Albert T., 100, 112
  - Borland, Solon, 16
  - Bragg, Brig. Gen. Braxton, 19n, 41-45, 52, 89, 99-100, 120
  - Breckinridge, John C., 7, 11, 12, 14n
  - Brickell, Robert C., 10, 123
  - Bristol, Va., 90
  - Brown, John, 11, 73
  - Brown, Joseph E., 28, 48-50, 59, 61-66, 70, 77-78, 80, 87, 89, 106-108, 117
  - Brunswick, Ga., 49
  - Buchanan, President James, 30, 41
  - Butler, Benjamin F., 46
- C
- Cabaniss, Septimus D., 11
  - Cameron, Simon, 98
  - Cape Hatteras, N. C., 46-47, 54
  - Cedar Keys, Fla., 50
  - Charleston, S. C., 7-8, 11, 30-32, 35-36, 39-40, 44, 57, 80, 89, 116
  - Charleston *Mercury*, 22-23, 67
  - Chickasaws, 96
  - Cherokees, 96
  - Chestnut, James, 37
  - Chestnut, Mrs. Mary Boykin, 105-106
  - Choctaws, 96
  - Clark, Fort (N. C.), 46
  - Clark, Henry T., 47-48
  - Clay, Clement C., Jr., 9, 12, 20-21, 114, 120
  - Clay-Clopton, Virginia, 20
  - Clay, Hugh L., 70
  - Clay, J. Withers, 12, 122
  - Clay, Lawson, 20
  - Clemens, Jeremiah, 16-17
  - Cleveland, Grover, 125
  - Cobb, Howell, 64
  - Cobb, Thomas R. R., 108
  - Columbus, Ky., 110-111, 118
  - Co-operationists, 18
  - Confederate Army, 25, 44, 58-59, 61, 63n, 64, 66, 74, 77, 83-84, 87, 89, 99, 105, 114, 117
  - Confederate Attorney General, 21, 87
  - Confederate Bureau of Indian Affairs, 95
  - Confederate Bureau of Ordnance, 76, 92
  - Confederate Bureau of War, 100
  - Confederate Cabinet, 19-21, 22n, 25n, 29, 36, 52, 94, 97, 98, 106, 110, 112-114, 118-119
  - Confederate Congress, 28, 54, 56-58, 60-61, 64-66, 68-69, 74, 79, 80-81, 84, 86-87, 92, 93n, 94-95, 97, 101, 104, 107, 109
  - Confederate Corps of Engineers, 71
  - Confederate Quartermaster Bureau, 87, 93
  - Confederate Secretary of the Treasury, 84
  - Confederate Senate, 114, 120
  - Confederate War Department, 19, 21, 25, 29, 32-35, 38, 40, 42,

Names:  
Index  
Types:  
book

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>138</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LEROY POPE WALKER</p> <p>45, 47-48, 51, 53, 56, 58, 60, 62-69, 71-77, 81-83, 85-97, 89-90, 92-94, 97, 99-101, 103-104, 106, 108-110, 115, 117, 121</p> <p>Conservative Democrats, 123-124</p> <p>Constitutional Democratic party, 7</p> <p>Cowpens Springs, Ala., 12</p> <p>Crawford, Martin J., 33</p> <p>Creeks, 96</p> <p>Cuba, 82</p> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>Davis, President Jefferson, 19-21, 23, 25, 26, 27n., 29-30, 32-33, 38-41, 62-63, 66-68, 60, 62, 64-65, 69, 72, 74, 79, 81, 87, 90, 92-95, 97, 99-101, 105-107, 110-114, 118, 129</p> <p>Davis, Nicholas, 16</p> <p>DeKalb, 98</p> <p>DeLeon, Thomas C., 23, 29, 93</p> <p>Democratic National Convention, 7, 11</p> <p>Democratic party, 9, 11, 123-124</p> <p>Dimmock, Col. Charles, 75-76</p> <p>Douglas, Stephen A., 8, 11-12, 14n., 27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>East Tennessee and Virginia Railway, 90</p> <p>Ellis, John W., 78</p> <p>Everett, Edward, 28</p> <p>Exchange Hotel (Montgomery), 25n., 26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>Faneuil Hall (Boston), 26-27</p> <p>Fayetteville, N. C., 81, 83</p> <p>Fernandina, Fla., 50</p> <p>Fitzhugh, George, 115</p> <p>Forsyth, John, 51, 81-82</p> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>Gaines, Fort (Ala.), 51</p> <p>Galveston, Texas, 41</p> <p>Garrett, William, 27</p> <p>Georgetown, S. C., 32</p> <p>Gordon, John B., 68</p> <p>Gorgas, Maj. Josiah, 75-76, 92-93</p> <p>Grayson, Brig. Gen. John B., 50-51</p> <p>Great Britain, 86</p> <p>Greeley, Horace, 26n.</p> <p>Gulf Coast, 40</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>Hardee, Brig. Gen. William J., 88</p> <p>Harpers Ferry, 74-76</p> <p>Harris, Isham G., 77-111</p> <p>Hatteras, Fort (N. C.), 45-48, 51</p> <p>Hill, Senator, 28</p> <p>Hubbard, David, 96</p> <p>Hostess, steamboat, 77-78</p> <p>Huntsville, Ala., 8, 11, 20, 24, 115, 121-123, 125</p> <p>Huntsville Democrat, 12, 105, 120</p> <p>Huntsville Southern Advocate, 116</p> <p>Huse, Caleb, 84-85</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>Jackson, Fort (La.), 29, 52</p> <p>James, Frank, 123n.</p> <p>Jefferson, Fort (Fla.), 30n.</p> <p>Johnson, President Andrew, 13, 122</p> <p>Johnson, Herschel V., 8</p> <p>Johnston, Gen. Joseph E., 88, 106</p> <p>Jones, James Beauchamp, 24, 46, 48, 95, 97-98, 100-101, 111-112</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>Knoxville, Tenn., 90</p> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>Lane, Joseph, 7</p> <p>Lawrence County, Ala., 8</p> <p>Lawton, Brig. Gen. Alexander R., 49-50</p> <p>Leadbetter, Maj. Danville, 92</p> <p>Lee, Gen. Robert E., 33</p> <p>Lee, Stephen D., 37</p> <p>Letcher, John, 64, 75-76</p> <p>Lincoln, President Abraham, 12-13, 14n., 18, 26-27, 30-31, 33-36, 39, 42, 46, 60, 68, 98</p> <p>London, Eng., 84</p> <p>Lovell, Maj. Gen. Mansfield, 54</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>Madison County, Ala., 12, 14, 16</p> <p>Magoffin, Beriah, 111</p> <p>Mallory, Stephen R., 21n.</p> <p>Manassas, Battle of, 47, 62, 66, 81, 83, 85, 88-89, 95, 104, 108, 117</p> | <p>139</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INDEX</p> <p>Memminger, Christopher 21n., 98</p> <p>Memphis Appeal, 105</p> <p>Memphis Avalanche, 16</p> <p>Memphis Enquirer, 16</p> <p>Mexican War, 99</p> <p>Military Court of North Alabama, 122</p> <p>Military Journal (Washington), 22, 24</p> <p>Milton, John, 50</p> <p>Mississippi River, 51-54</p> <p>Mississippi Valley, 54</p> <p>Mobile, Ala., 10, 41, 51, 114, 120-121</p> <p>Mobile Bay, 51, 114</p> <p>Mobile Evening News, 121</p> <p>Montgomery, Ala., 15-17, 19-20, 22, 26, 29, 35-36, 38, 42-44, 68, 80, 84, 89, 121-122, 124</p> <p>Montgomery Weekig Advertiser, 71, 97, 105, 110, 116</p> <p>Montgomery Weekly Mail, 23-24, 67</p> <p>Moore, Andrew E., 16-17, 73</p> <p>Moore, Thomas O., 52-53, 58-60, 63, 66, 75</p> <p>Morgan, Fort (Ala.), 29, 51</p> <p>Muscle Shoals, Ala., 123n.</p> <p>Myers, Lt. Col. Abraham C., 86, 88, 90, 93</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>Nashville, Tenn., 10, 16, 18</p> <p>New Bern, N. C., 47</p> <p>New Orleans, La., 41, 55-55, 109</p> <p>New York City, 32, 34, 42-43, 79</p> <p>New York Herald, 29, 124</p> <p>New York Times, 26</p> <p>New York Tribune, 124</p> <p>Northern Democrat, 8</p> <p>Northrop, Col. Lucius B., 93</p> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>Orange Court House, Va., 111</p> <p>Ordinance of Secession (Ala.), 17-18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>Paducah, Ky., 111</p> <p>Pea Ridge, Battle of, 96</p> <p>Pensacola, Fla., 29-30, 38, 40-41, 43-45, 62, 80, 89, 116-117</p> <p>Pettus, John J., 50, 89</p> <p>Pickens, Fort (Pensacola), 31, 35, 38, 40-45</p> <p>Pickens, Francis W., 30, 35, 89</p> <p>Pike, Albert, 96n.</p> <p>Pillow, Brig. Gen. Gideon J., 88, 90, 110</p> <p>Platform Committee, Democratic National Convention, 125</p> <p>Polk, Gen. Leonidas, 110-111, 118-119</p> <p>Portland, Me., 84</p> <p>Potomac River, 40</p> <p>Pulaski, Fort (Savannah), 49</p> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>Raleigh, N. C., 46, 48</p> <p>Reagan, John, 21n., 94</p> <p>Rector, Henry M., 66</p> <p>Republican party, 12-15, 123</p> <p>Rhett, Robert Barnwell, 23</p> <p>Richmond Dispatch, 47, 115</p> <p>Richmond Enquirer, 98, 106, 109-110, 115</p> <p>Richmond Examiner, 21</p> <p>Richmond, Va., 7, 11, 55n., 62, 69, 76, 81, 83, 95, 102, 108-109, 111, 120</p> <p>Rio Grande, 40</p> <p>Russell, William Howard, 23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <p>Santa Rosa Island, Fla., 42, 44, 117</p> <p>Savannah, Ga., 49-50, 78, 89</p> <p>Savannah Morning News, 22, 108</p> <p>Savannah Republican, 49</p> <p>Secessionists, 13-14, 18</p> <p>Semmes, Raphael, 79-80</p> <p>Springfield, Mo., 83</p> <p>St. Marks, Fla., 50</p> <p>St. Philip, Fort (La.), 29, 52</p> <p>Staunton, Va., 95</p> <p>Stephens, Alexander H., 27, 97, 106, 108</p> <p>Southern Democrats, 7</p> <p>Southern Literary Messenger, 25</p> <p>Sumter, Fort, 18, 25-26, 31-44, 56-57, 65, 67, 80-81, 83, 89, 108, 116, 118</p> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <p>Tampa, Fla., 50</p> <p>Taylor, Fort (Fla.), 30n.</p> |
|--|--|

HT's  
 People 4A5  
 Walker, Leroy Pope  
 Centennial Studies 198

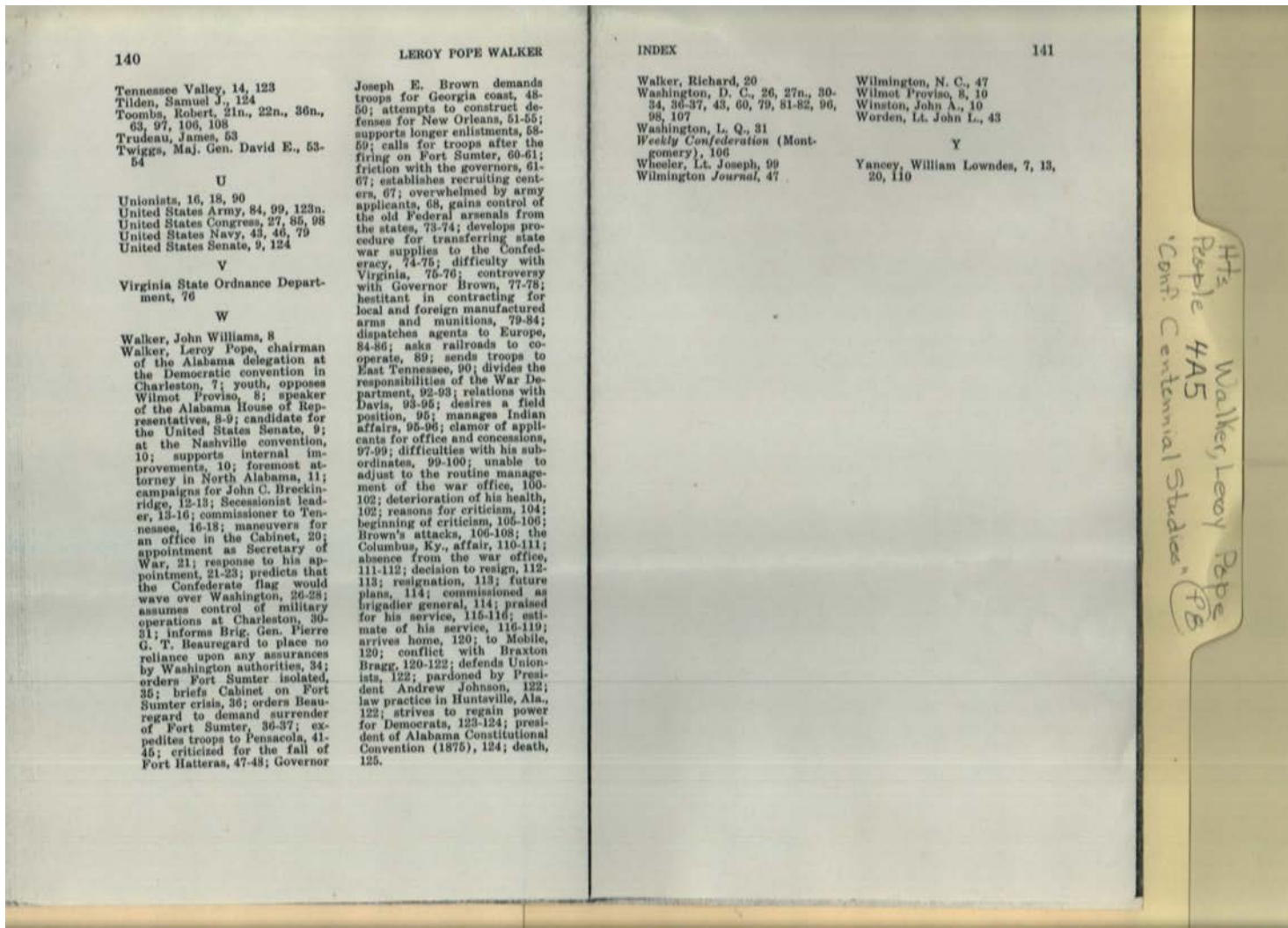
Names:  
Index

Types:  
book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

Image 71 r04a05-08-000-0230 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:  
 Index  
 Types:  
 book

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

[Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

**Table of Contents**

[Image 1](#) (r04a05-08-000-0160)  
[Image 2](#) (r04a05-08-000-0161)  
[Image 3](#) (r04a05-08-000-0162)  
[Image 4](#) (r04a05-08-000-0163)  
[Image 5](#) (r04a05-08-000-0164)  
[Image 6](#) (r04a05-08-000-0165)  
[Image 7](#) (r04a05-08-000-0166)  
[Image 8](#) (r04a05-08-000-0167)  
[Image 9](#) (r04a05-08-000-0168)  
[Image 10](#) (r04a05-08-000-0169)  
[Image 11](#) (r04a05-08-000-0170)  
[Image 12](#) (r04a05-08-000-0171)  
[Image 13](#) (r04a05-08-000-0172)  
[Image 14](#) (r04a05-08-000-0173)  
[Image 15](#) (r04a05-08-000-0174)  
[Image 16](#) (r04a05-08-000-0175)  
[Image 17](#) (r04a05-08-000-0176)  
[Image 18](#) (r04a05-08-000-0177)  
[Image 19](#) (r04a05-08-000-0178)

[Image 20](#) (r04a05-08-000-0179)  
[Image 21](#) (r04a05-08-000-0180)  
[Image 22](#) (r04a05-08-000-0181)  
[Image 23](#) (r04a05-08-000-0182)  
[Image 24](#) (r04a05-08-000-0183)  
[Image 25](#) (r04a05-08-000-0184)  
[Image 26](#) (r04a05-08-000-0185)  
[Image 27](#) (r04a05-08-000-0186)  
[Image 28](#) (r04a05-08-000-0187)  
[Image 29](#) (r04a05-08-000-0188)  
[Image 30](#) (r04a05-08-000-0189)  
[Image 31](#) (r04a05-08-000-0190)  
[Image 32](#) (r04a05-08-000-0191)  
[Image 33](#) (r04a05-08-000-0192)  
[Image 34](#) (r04a05-08-000-0193)  
[Image 35](#) (r04a05-08-000-0194)  
[Image 36](#) (r04a05-08-000-0195)  
[Image 37](#) (r04a05-08-000-0196)  
[Image 38](#) (r04a05-08-000-0197)

[Image 39](#) (r04a05-08-000-0198)  
[Image 40](#) (r04a05-08-000-0199)  
[Image 41](#) (r04a05-08-000-0200)  
[Image 42](#) (r04a05-08-000-0201)  
[Image 43](#) (r04a05-08-000-0202)  
[Image 44](#) (r04a05-08-000-0203)  
[Image 45](#) (r04a05-08-000-0204)  
[Image 46](#) (r04a05-08-000-0205)  
[Image 47](#) (r04a05-08-000-0206)  
[Image 48](#) (r04a05-08-000-0207)  
[Image 49](#) (r04a05-08-000-0208)  
[Image 50](#) (r04a05-08-000-0209)  
[Image 51](#) (r04a05-08-000-0210)  
[Image 52](#) (r04a05-08-000-0211)  
[Image 53](#) (r04a05-08-000-0212)  
[Image 54](#) (r04a05-08-000-0213)  
[Image 55](#) (r04a05-08-000-0214)  
[Image 56](#) (r04a05-08-000-0215)  
[Image 57](#) (r04a05-08-000-0216)

[Image 58](#) (r04a05-08-000-0217)  
[Image 59](#) (r04a05-08-000-0218)  
[Image 60](#) (r04a05-08-000-0219)  
[Image 61](#) (r04a05-08-000-0220)  
[Image 62](#) (r04a05-08-000-0221)  
[Image 63](#) (r04a05-08-000-0222)  
[Image 64](#) (r04a05-08-000-0223)  
[Image 65](#) (r04a05-08-000-0224)  
[Image 66](#) (r04a05-08-000-0225)  
[Image 67](#) (r04a05-08-000-0226)  
[Image 68](#) (r04a05-08-000-0227)  
[Image 69](#) (r04a05-08-000-0228)  
[Image 70](#) (r04a05-08-000-0229)  
[Image 71](#) (r04a05-08-000-0230)  
[Table of Contents](#)  
[Name & Place Index](#)  
[About the Collection](#)



**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8**

**"Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families**

[Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

**Name & Place Index**

Adams, Henry A., Capt. [22](#)  
Administering the War Department [47](#)  
Alexander, Thomas B., Dr. [3](#)  
Alfriend, Frank H. [13](#)  
Anderson, Edward C., Major [43](#)  
Anderson, Robert, Major [16](#), [17](#), [18](#), [19](#), [20](#)  
Anderson, Samuel R., Brig. Gen'l [48](#)  
Appointment As Secretary of War [10](#)  
Beauregard, Major [15](#)  
Beauregard, Pierre G. T., Brig. Gen'l [16](#), [17](#), [18](#), [19](#), [23](#),  
[55](#)  
Beauregard, Pierre G. T., Brig. Gen'l [20](#)  
Bell, John [7](#)  
Benjamin, Judah P., Attorney Gen'l [27](#), [30](#), [50](#), [51](#), [52](#),  
[56](#), [57](#)  
Benjamin, Judah P. [58](#), [60](#), [61](#)  
Bibliography [64](#), [65](#), [66](#), [67](#), [68](#)  
Bledsoe, Albert T., Col. [51](#), [57](#)  
Borland, Solon [9](#)  
Bragg, Braxton, Brig. Gen'l [21](#), [22](#), [23](#), [26](#), [27](#)  
Bragg, Braxton, Gen'l [45](#), [50](#), [51](#), [61](#)  
Breckinridge, John C. [4](#), [6](#), [7](#)  
Brickell, Robert C. [6](#), [62](#)  
Brown, John [6](#), [37](#)  
Brown, Joseph E., Gov. [25](#), [26](#), [30](#), [31](#), [32](#), [33](#), [34](#), [36](#),  
[39](#), [40](#), [41](#), [44](#), [54](#), [59](#)  
Brown, Joseph E. [15](#)  
Buchanan, President [16](#)  
Butler, Benjamin F. [24](#)  
Cabaniss, Septimus D. [6](#)  
Cameron, Simon [50](#)  
Chestnut, James [19](#)  
Chestnut, Mary Boykin, Mrs. [53](#)  
Clark, Henry T., Gov. [24](#), [25](#)  
Clay, Clement C., Jr. [5](#), [7](#)  
Clay, Clement C. [11](#), [61](#)  
Clay, Hugh L. [36](#)  
Clay, J. Withers [7](#), [62](#)  
Clay, Lawson [11](#)  
Clay, [58](#)  
Clemens, Jeremiah [9](#)  
Cleveland, Grover [63](#)  
Coastal Defense [21](#)  
Cobb, Howell [33](#)  
Cobb, Thomas R. R. [55](#)  
Confederate Centennial Studies [1](#)  
Confederate Publishing Co. [2](#)  
Crawford, Martin J. [17](#)  
Criticism and Resignation [53](#)  
Davis, Jefferson, President [14](#), [27](#), [29](#), [40](#), [41](#), [47](#), [48](#),  
[51](#), [53](#), [54](#), [56](#), [57](#), [58](#)  
Davis, Jefferson [3](#), [10](#), [11](#), [12](#), [13](#), [16](#), [17](#), [19](#), [20](#), [21](#), [30](#),  
[31](#), [33](#), [44](#), [49](#), [60](#)  
Davis, Nicholas [9](#)  
DeKalb, [50](#)  
DeLeon, Thomas C. [12](#), [13](#), [15](#)  
Dimmock, Charles, Col. [38](#)  
Douglas, Stephen A. [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [14](#)  
Ellis, John W., Gov. [40](#)  
Epilogue: Later Career [61](#)  
Equipping the Army [37](#)  
Everett, Edward [15](#)  
Fitzhugh, George [58](#)  
Forsyth, John, Mayor [26](#)  
Forsyth, John [41](#), [42](#)  
Garrett, William [14](#)  
Gordon, John B. [35](#)  
Gorgas, Josiah, Major [38](#), [39](#), [47](#)  
Grayson, John B., Brig. Gen'l [26](#)  
Hardee, William J., Brig. Gen'l [45](#)  
Harris, Betty [3](#)  
Harris, Isham G., Gov. [39](#), [56](#)  
Harris, William C. [1](#)  
Hill, Senator [15](#)  
Hoole, William Stanley [1](#)  
Hubbard, David [49](#)  
Huse, Caleb [43](#)  
Index [69](#), [70](#), [71](#)  
Johnson, Andrew, President [7](#), [62](#)  
Johnson, Herschel V. [5](#)  
Johnston, Joseph E., Gen'l [45](#), [54](#)  
Jones, Clerk [57](#)  
Jones, James Beauchamp [13](#), [24](#), [25](#), [48](#), [49](#), [50](#), [51](#)  
Lane, Joseph [4](#)  
Lawton, Alexander R., Gen'l [25](#), [26](#)  
Leadbetter, Danville, Major [47](#)  
Lee, Robert E., Gen'l [17](#)  
Lee, Stephen D. [19](#)  
Letcher, John, Gov. [33](#), [38](#), [39](#)  
Lincoln, Abraham [7](#), [10](#), [14](#), [15](#), [16](#), [17](#), [18](#), [19](#), [20](#), [22](#),  
[24](#), [30](#), [31](#), [35](#)  
Lovell, Mansfield, Major Gen'l [28](#)  
Magoffin, Beriah, Gov. [56](#)  
Marks, Henry [3](#)  
McCulloch, Benjamin, Brig. Gen'l [45](#), [49](#)  
Memminger, Christopher G. [50](#)  
Milton, John, Gov. [26](#)  
Mobilizing the Army [29](#)  
Moore, Andrew B., Gov. [9](#), [37](#), [38](#)  
Moore, Thomas O., Gov. [27](#), [30](#), [32](#), [34](#)  
Myers, Abraham C., Lt. Col. [44](#), [45](#), [46](#)  
Myers, Abraham C., Major [47](#)  
Northrup, Lucius B., Col. [47](#)

Pettus, Gov. [30](#)  
Pickens, Francis W., Gov. [16](#), [18](#)  
Pillow, Gideon J., Brig. Gen'l [45](#), [50](#)  
Pillow, Gideon J., Gen'l [56](#)  
Polk, Leonidas, Gen'l [56](#), [60](#)  
Reagan, John H., Postmaster Gen'l [48](#)  
Rhett, Robert Barnwell [12](#)  
Russell, William Howard [12](#)  
Semmes, Raphael [40](#), [41](#)  
Stephens, Alexander H., President [14](#)  
Stephens, Vice President [49](#), [55](#)  
The Fort Sumter Crisis [16](#)  
Tilden, Samuel J. [63](#)  
Toombs, Robert [32](#), [49](#)  
Trudeau, James [27](#)  
Tuscaloosa, AL [2](#), [3](#)

Twiggs, David E. [27](#)  
Twiggs, Major Gen'l [28](#)  
Walker, John Williams [5](#)  
Walker, Leroy Pope [1](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#), [11](#), [12](#), [13](#),  
[14](#), [15](#), [16](#), [17](#), [18](#), [19](#), [20](#), [21](#), [22](#), [23](#), [24](#), [25](#), [26](#), [27](#),  
[28](#), [29](#), [30](#), [31](#), [32](#), [33](#), [34](#), [35](#), [36](#), [37](#), [38](#), [39](#), [40](#), [41](#),  
[42](#), [43](#), [44](#), [45](#), [46](#), [47](#), [48](#), [49](#), [50](#), [51](#), [52](#), [53](#), [54](#), [55](#),  
[56](#), [57](#), [58](#), [59](#), [60](#), [61](#), [62](#), [63](#)  
Walker, Richard [11](#)  
Washington, L. Q. [16](#)  
Wheeler, Joseph, Col. [50](#)  
Winn, Wilkins [3](#)  
Worden, John L. [22](#)  
Yancey, William Lowndes [4](#), [6](#), [7](#), [10](#), [11](#), [56](#)  
Young, David [3](#)

# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

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**Collection Scope and Content:** The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

**Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions:** None

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