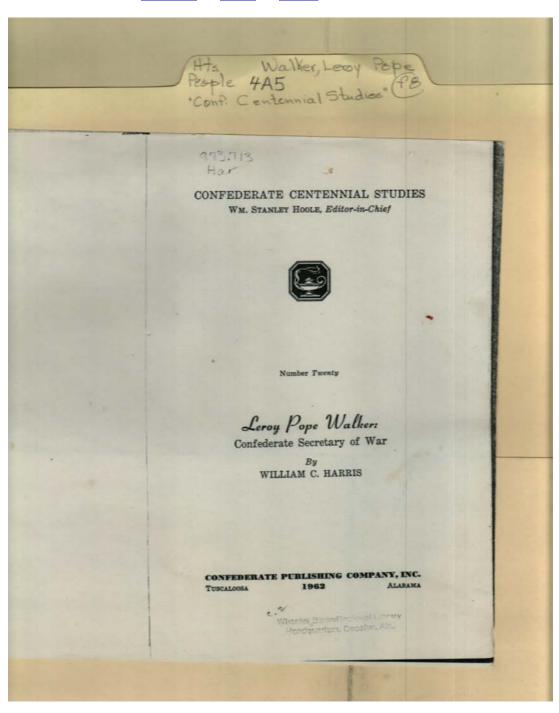
Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8

"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

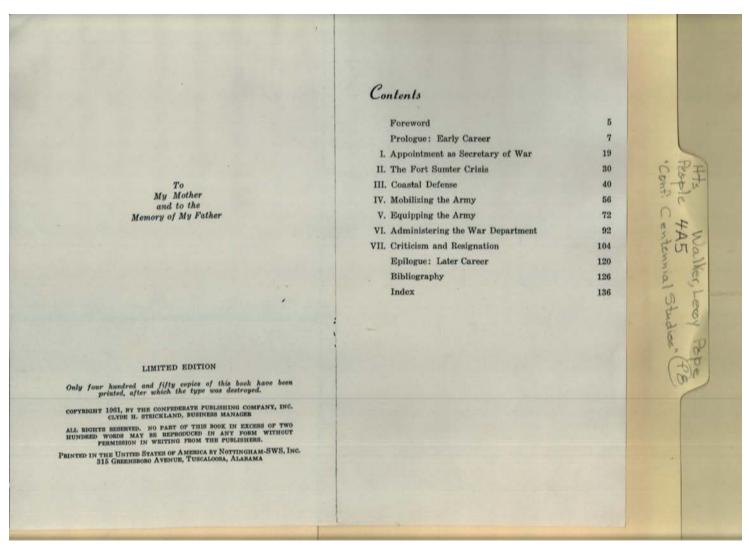
Types:

book

Dates:

1962

Image 2 r04a05-08-000-0161 Contents Index About



Names:

Confederate Publishing Co.

Places:

Tuscaloosa, AL

Types:

book

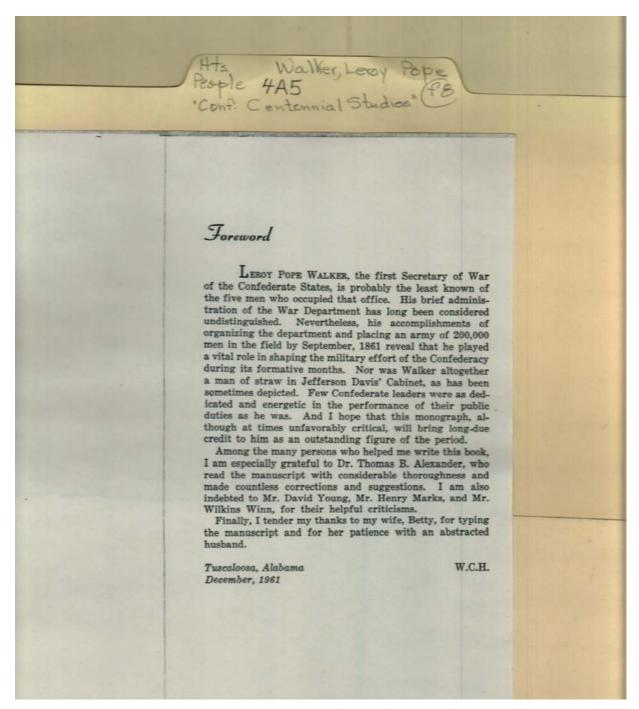
Dates:

1961

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

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

Image 3 r04a05-08-000-0162 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Alexander, Thomas B., Dr.

Places:

Tuscaloosa, AL

Types:

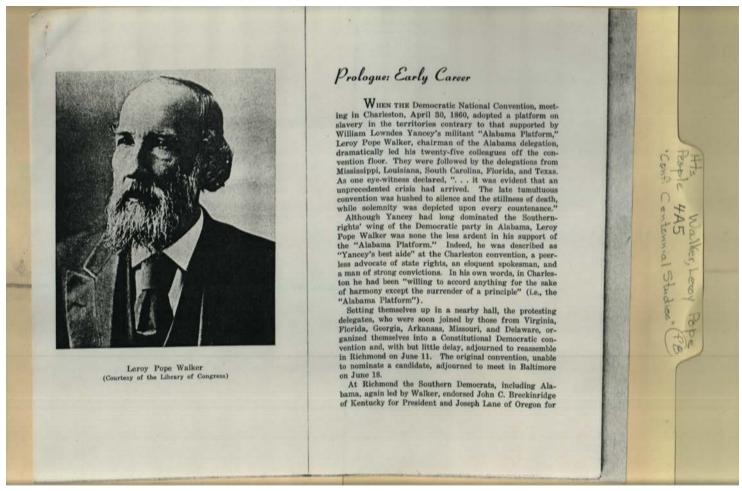
book

Dates:

December, 1861

Davis, Jefferson Harris, Betty Marks, Henry Walker, Leroy Pope Winn, Wilkins Young, David

Image 4 r04a05-08-000-0163 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Breckinridge, John C. Lane, Joseph

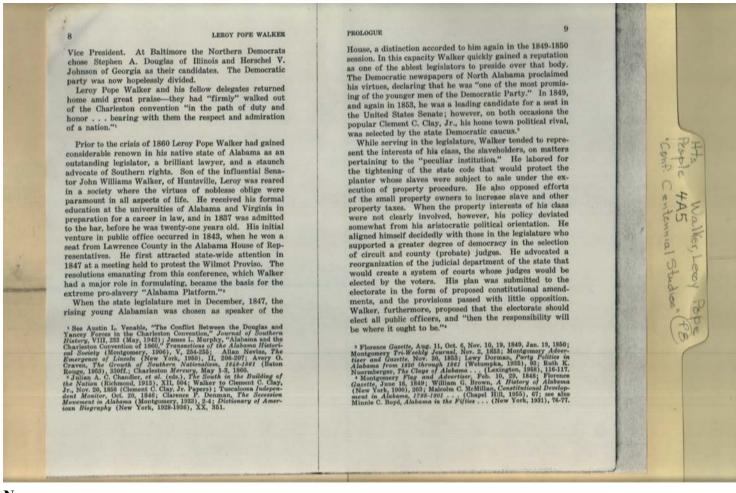
Walker, Leroy Pope

Yancey, William Lowndes

Types:

book portrait

Image 5 r04a05-08-000-0164 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

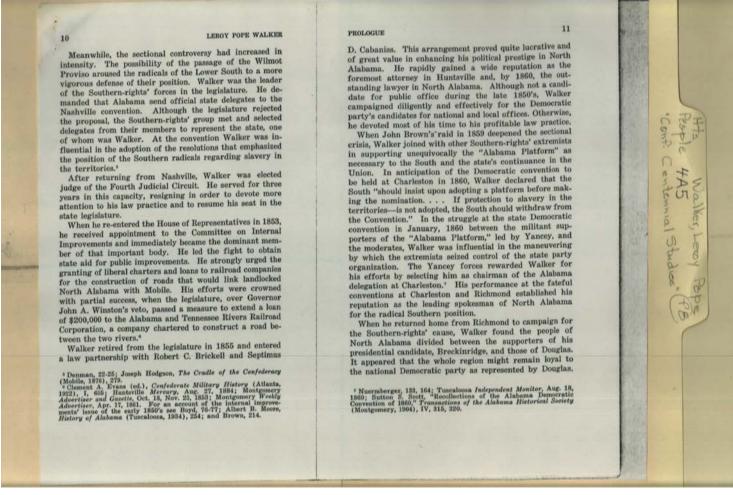
Clay, Clement C., Jr. Douglas, Stephen A.

Johnson, Herschel V.

Walker, John Williams Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 6 r04a05-08-000-0165 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



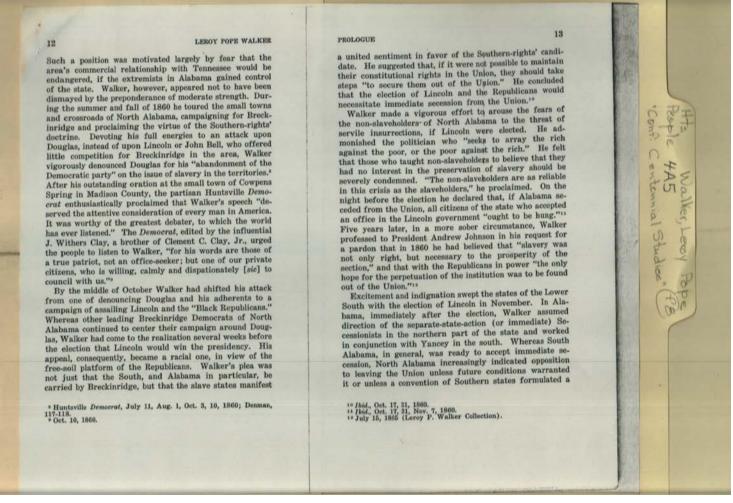
Names:

Breckinridge, John C. Brickell, Robert C. Brown, John Cabaniss, Septimus D. Douglas, Stephen A.

Walker, Leroy Pope Yancey, William Lowndes

Types:

Image 7 r04a05-08-000-0166 Contents Index About

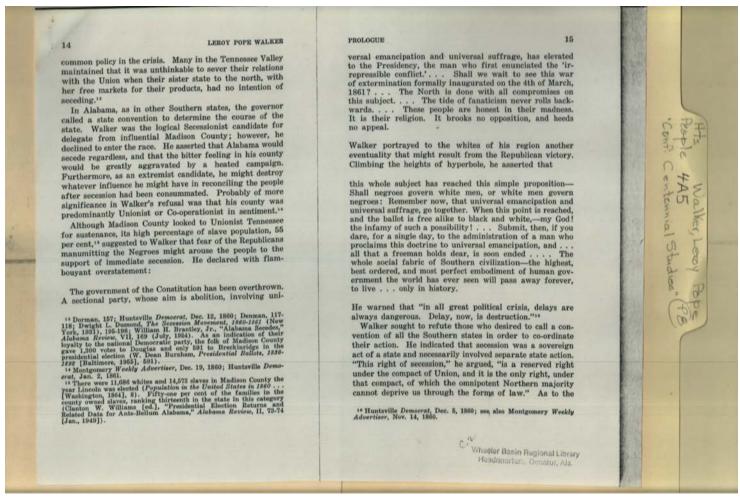


Names:

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:

Image 8 r04a05-08-000-0167 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>

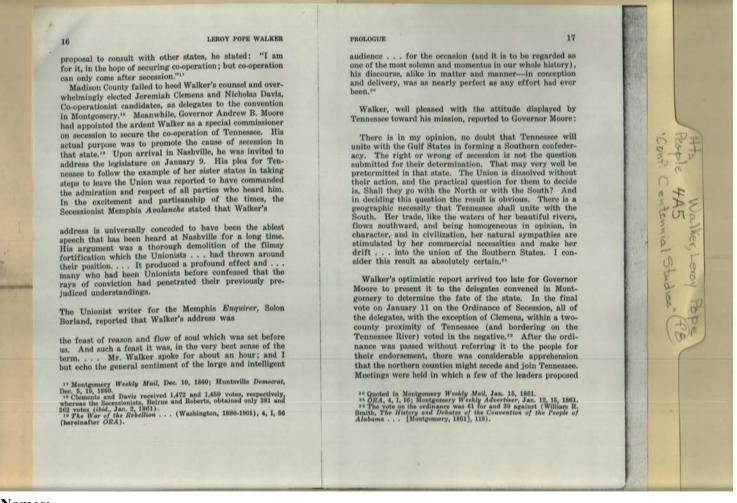


Names:

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 9 r04a05-08-000-0168 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

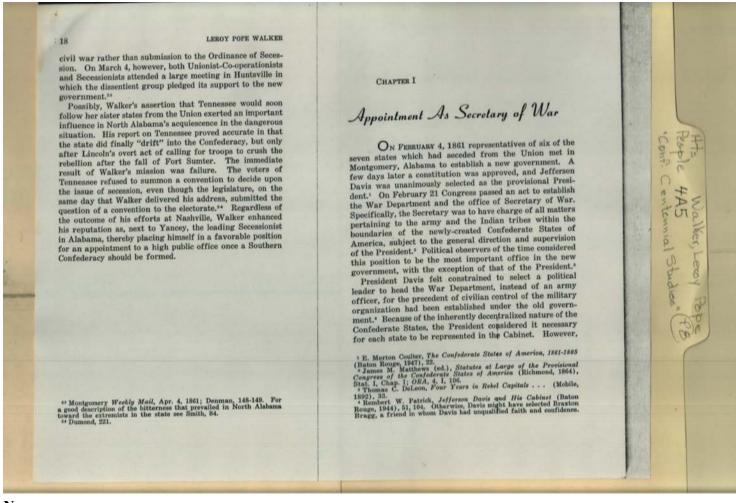
Borland, Solon Clemens, Jeremiah Davis, Nicholas

Moore, Andrew B., Gov.

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 10 r04a05-08-000-0169 Contents Index About



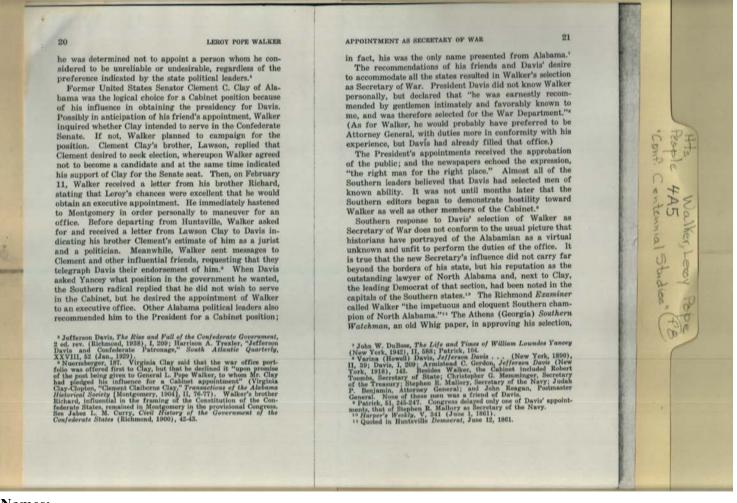
Names:

Appointment As Secretary of War Davis, Jefferson Lincoln, Abraham Walker, Leroy Pope

Yancey, William Lowndes

Types:

Image 11 r04a05-08-000-0170 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

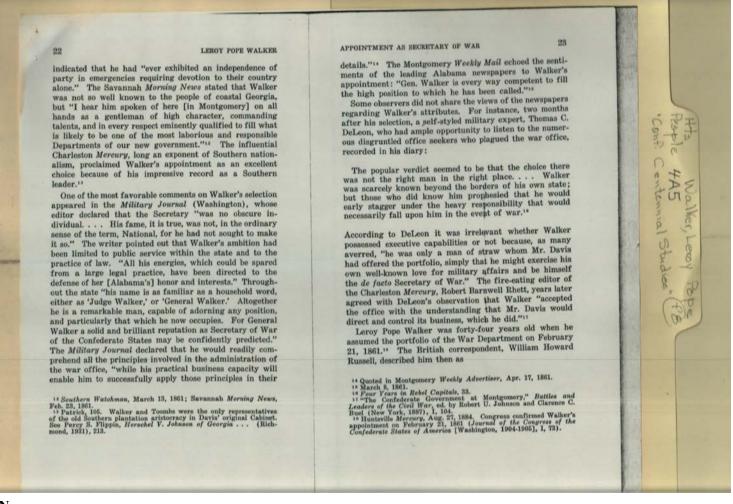
Clay, Clement C. Clay, Lawson

Davis, Jefferson Walker, Leroy Pope Walker, Richard

Yancey, William Lowndes

Types:

Image 12 r04a05-08-000-0171 <u>Contents Index About</u>

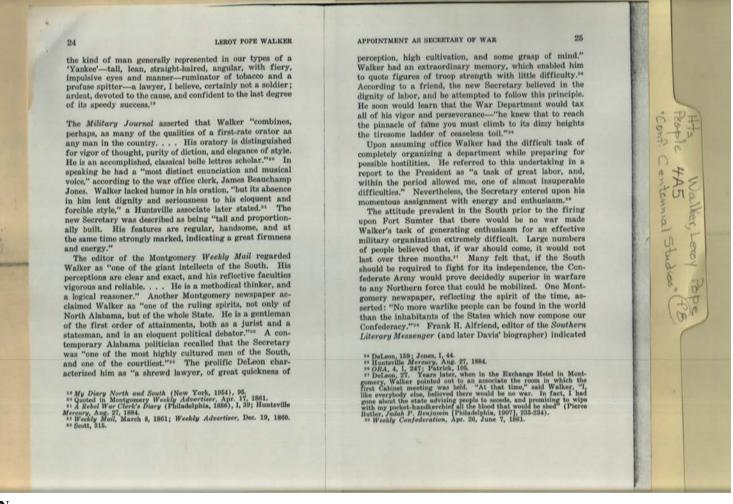


Names:

Davis, Jefferson DeLeon, Thomas C. Rhett, Robert Barnwell Russell, William Howard Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 13 r04a05-08-000-0172 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

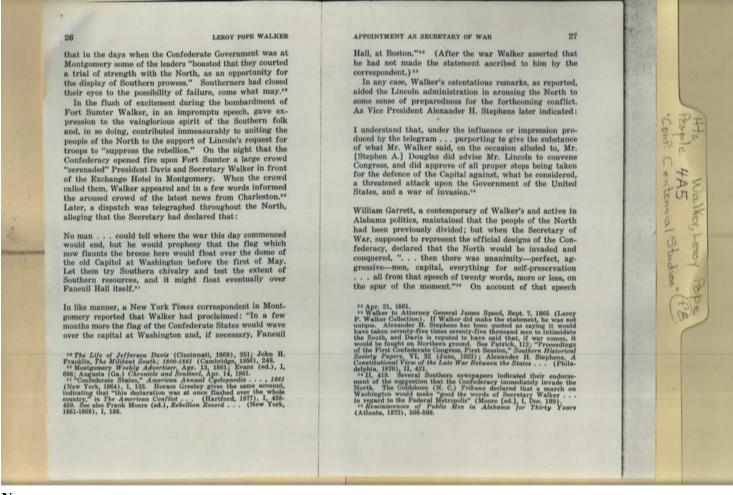
Alfriend, Frank H. Davis, Jefferson

DeLeon, Thomas C.

Jones, James Beauchamp Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 14 r04a05-08-000-0173 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



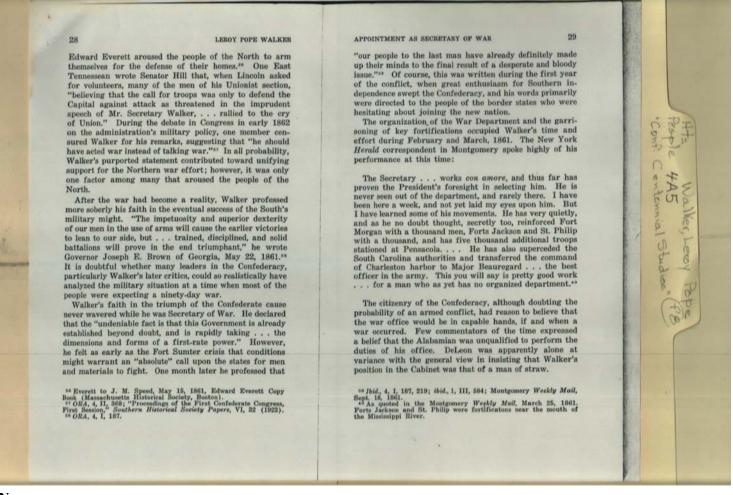
Names:

Davis, Jefferson, President Douglas, Stephen A. Garrett, William Lincoln, Abraham

Stephens, Alexander H., President Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 15 r04a05-08-000-0174 Contents Index About



Names:

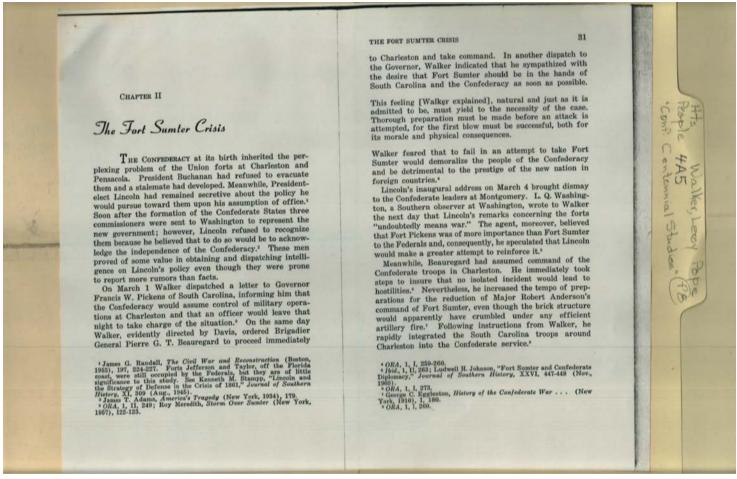
Beauregard, Major Brown, Joseph E.

DeLeon, Thomas C. Everett, Edward

Hill, Senator Lincoln, Abraham Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 16 r04a05-08-000-0175 <u>Contents Index About</u>

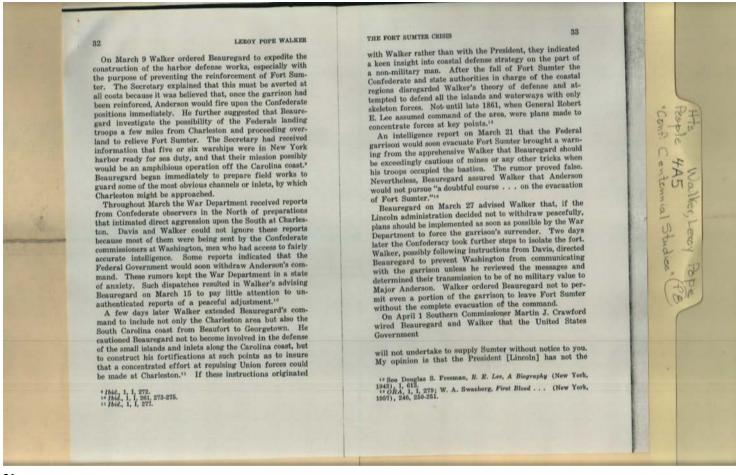


Names:

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:

Image 17 r04a05-08-000-0176 Contents Index About



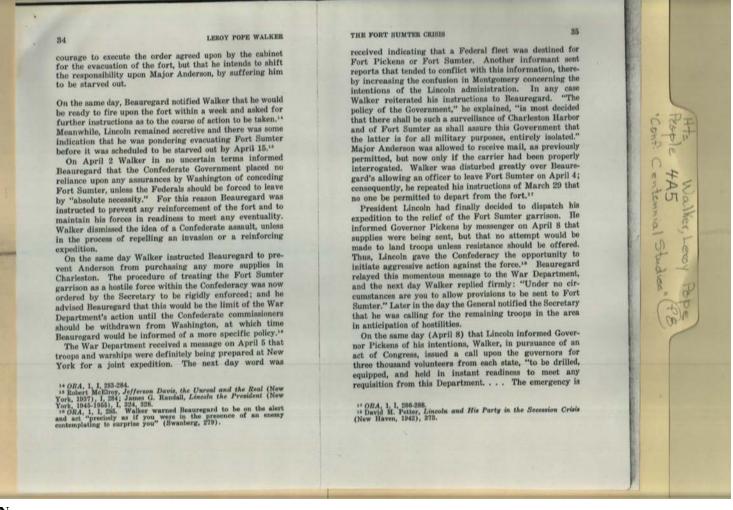
Names:

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:

Image 18 r04a05-08-000-0177 <u>Contents Index About</u>

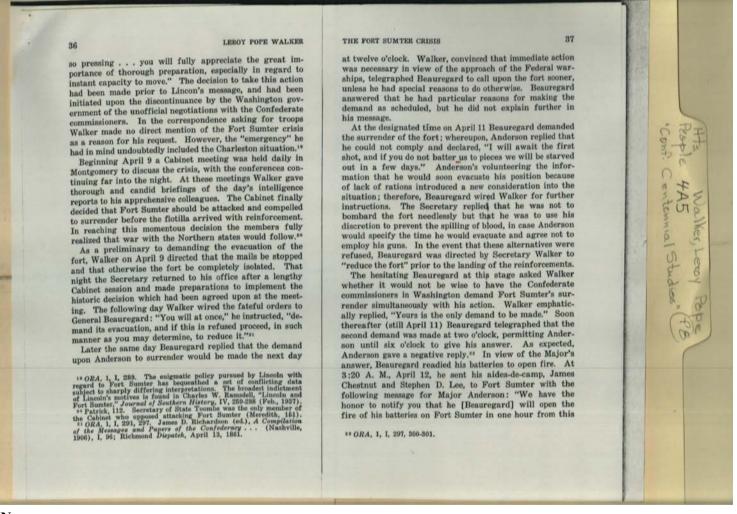


Names:

Anderson, Robert, Major Beauregard, Pierre G. T., Brig. Gen'l Lincoln, Abraham Pickens, Francis W., Gov. Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 19 r04a05-08-000-0178 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>

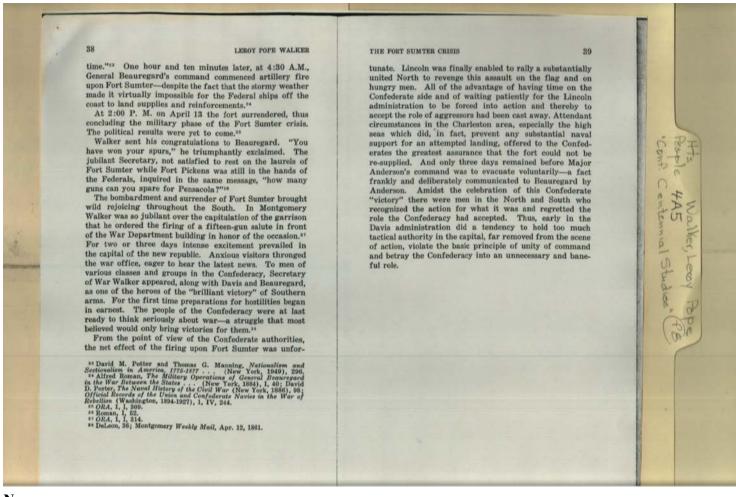


Names:

Anderson, Robert, Major Beauregard, Pierre G. T., Brig. Gen'l Chestnut, James Davis, Jefferson Lee, Stephen D. Lincoln, Abraham Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 20 r04a05-08-000-0179 Contents Index About



Names:

Anderson, Robert, Major Beauregard, Pierre G. T., Brig. Gen l

Davis, Jefferson Lincoln, Abraham

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 21 r04a05-08-000-0180 Contents Index About

COASTAL DEFENSE offered an excellent base from which the Federals could launch a series of attacks against Mobile, New Orleans, Galveston, and other Southern ports. As the crisis over the forts reached a climax, the Gulf States demanded that CHAPTER III the Confederate Government take immediate action to expel the Federals from the Pensacola area. The difficulty over Fort Pickens had begun, as had the Coastal Defense Fort Sumter embroglio, during the Buchanan administration. In January, 1861 the Southern Senators in Washington, led by Jefferson Davis, counseled Florida not to make any attempt to assault the Federal bastion at Pensacola THE ARMS AND AMMUNITION deficiencies of the Conuntil a central government of the seceded states could be federacy during the first year of the war were nowhere more apparent than in the coastal fortifications. In view formed. Florida, accordingly, reached an agreement with of these shortages the United States had an excellent opporthe Federal authorities in which neither side would initiate tunity to capture and gain access to key positions on the periphery of the Confederate States, extending from the an offensive operation in the area. Soon after the formation of the Confederate Government, Rio Grande to the Potomac. The North did not capitalize President Davis dispatched Brigadier General Braxton fully upon the weaknesses of the Southern defenses, yet Bragg to Pensacola to assume command of the troops in the threat and partial success of Federal amphibious operathe vicinity. A few days later Secretary Walker instructed tions upon the exposed coast triggered an outbreak of Bragg to communicate his needs with a view to the defense hysteria among the inhabitants of the area. State officials of his position at Pensacola and "the reduction of Fort reflected the fear by their insistence that the War Depart-Pickens." Bragg found his new command almost comment recall troops from Virginia to defend the shore or to pletely unorganized and unequipped, and he sadly reported to Walker that "we are totally unprepared" for a conflict with the Federals. At the time Bragg had only about one divert state units to the troubled area—troops that had been destined for Confederate service elsewhere. In addition, some states either attempted to retain the responsibility for thousand troops in his ragtag army. defending their coast or proved tardy in transferring this authority to the Confederate Government. Walker, as Walker, as the intensity of the crisis over the forts increased, urged the governors of the states of the Lower Secretary of War, had the discomforting task of trying to maintain adequate forces in scattered localities along the South to comply with his requisition of 5,000 troops and to expedite their movement to Pensacola. The Secretary coast and at the same time provide for the needs of the requested that they rendezvous at Pensacola within ten army in Virginia. He found it impossible to satisfy everydays, a request which revealed wishful thinking. The new troops arrived in such a state of disorganization that Bragg Prior to the beginning of the war, the problem confrontcomplained to Walker that it was impossible for him to ing the Davis administration was one of gaining possession of Forts Sumter and Pickens. To the inhabitants of the keep an account of his men, since they "come under such various orders, and fail so often to report at all, that they are [here] for days sometimes before I hear of them." More precise instructions from the Secretary to the state Gulf Coast the situation at Fort Pickens at Pensacola was crucial as the Charleston crisis because of the proximity of Union forces to their undefended coast. Fort Pickens

Names:

Bragg, Braxton, Brig. Gen'l Coastal Defense Davis, Jefferson Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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LEROY POPE WALKER COASTAL DEFENSE York, Walker telegraphed Bragg to prevent "at all hazards" officials concerning the shipment of troops would doubtless the landing of Federal troops and materials at the docks have prevented the confusion and facilitated Bragg's prepadjacent to Pickens. Bragg replied distressingly: "[We] arations. In his anxiety to rush men to Florida the will do our best, but supplies are short for a continued Secretary also neglected to place emphasis upon the extent resistance." of the military instruction of the troops the governors were to send. Bragg lamented that, although every state had The attempt to reinforce Fort Pickens, simultaneously with Fort Sumter, was expected at any hour when Lieuexceeded its quota, most of the troops were inexperienced tenant John-L. Worden, United States Navy, arrived in and without the most rudimentary training. Pensacola on the afternoon of April 11. Worden presented Meanwhile, on April 6 a Federal expedition sailed from himself to Bragg and indicated that he had business of New York to reinforce Fort Pickens. Confederate officials a routine and peaceful nature with Captain Henry A. in Montgomery had received information earlier which Adams, commander of the Union forces off the Florida indicated that Lincoln would probably attempt to land men and supplies for the Pickens garrison. The day prior to coast. Bragg consented to transport the officer to the flagship. Once on board Worden not only communicated the departure of the fleet, an excited Bragg replied to an with Adams but co-ordinated the reinforcement operation of the Pickens commander and the fleet. When he had inquiry of Walker's that his army was in a position to resist attack. In fact, he was anxious to assault the almost completed his mission, the Lieutenant returned to Pensacola invulnerable Federal fort. When the Secretary requested and boarded a train for Washington. Meanwhile, Conmore specific information on Bragg's desire to attack the federate informants had notified Walker of the real nature hostile garrison, the latter recanted his hasty proposal and of the mission. He promptly wired the unsuspecting Bragg: "Lieutenant Worden, of U. S. Navy, has gone to Pensacola with dispatches. Intercept them." Bragg replied the same day that Worden had departed Pensacola demurred that the Federal vessels could approach Santa Rosa Island and land troops and supplies with little opposition from his batteries on the mainland. Bragg professed that his means were entirely insufficient to attempt an before the arrival of his message and, if the Secretary operation against the island, much less an assault upon desired, he could take the Federal officer off the train as it Fort Pickens. Moreover, he complained to Walker that no passed through Montgomery. The next day Confederate authorities arrested Worden when he arrived in the Confunds had been forthcoming from the War Department with which to purchase locally the supplies and equipment federate capital. Nevertheless, the instructions co-ordinatneeded. The Secretary quickly dispatched \$40,000 to the ing the Federal operation had already been delivered by the young officer. On the night of April 12, while the bombard-General, although the war office earlier had given him explicit instructions that he was to make "timely estimates" ment of Fort Sumter held the undivided attention of the Confederate chiefs in Montgomery, Captain Adams' flotilla, and to requisition the supplies he would need in view of the large increase in personnel. The major obstacle, how-ever, to a successful Confederate attack upon the Federals with no opposition from Bragg's command, landed troops and supplies in small boats for the Fort Pickens' garrison. was the almost complete deficiency of shells for the batteries The movement was not detected by the Confederates enon the mainland. Without ammunition for his heavy guns camped at Pensacola, but was discovered by a small rec-Bragg could not hope effectively to bombard the fleet or onnoitering boat. reduce the walls of Fort Pickens During the next few days Walker, excited by the govern-Soon after the reinforcement ships had sailed from New

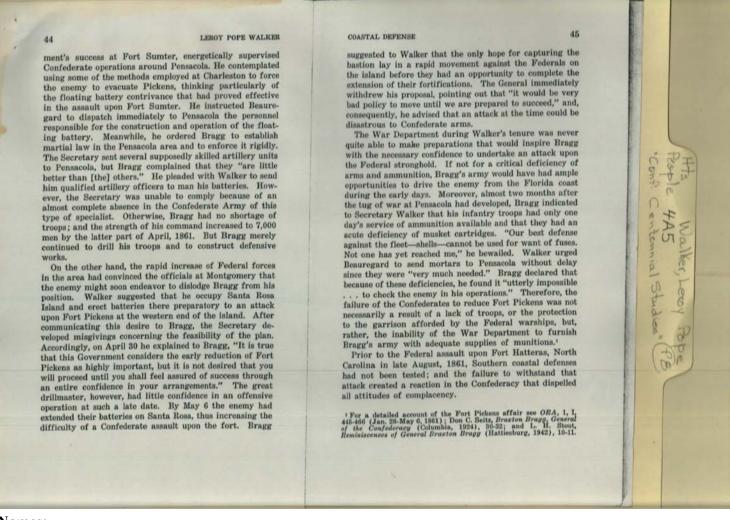
Names:

Adams, Henry A., Capt.

Bragg, Braxton, Brig. Gen'l Lincoln, Abraham Walker, Leroy Pope Worden, John L.

Types:

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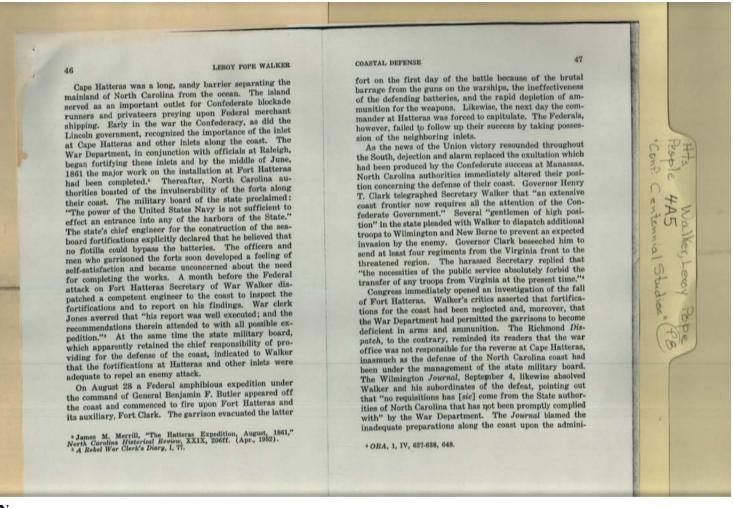
Names:

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

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 24 r04a05-08-000-0183 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



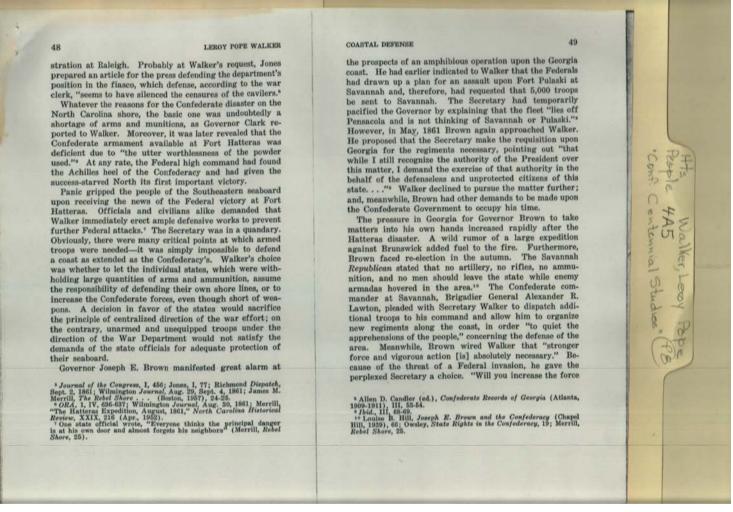
Names:

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

Jones, James Beauchamp Lincoln, Abraham Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 25 r04a05-08-000-0184 Contents Index About

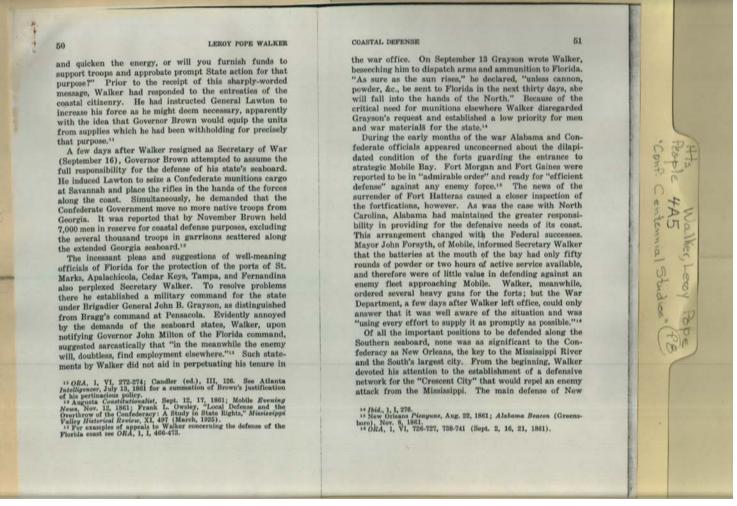


Names:

Brown, Joseph E., Gov. Clark, Henry T., Gov. Jones, James Beauchamp Lawton, Alexander R., Gen'l Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 26 r04a05-08-000-0185 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>

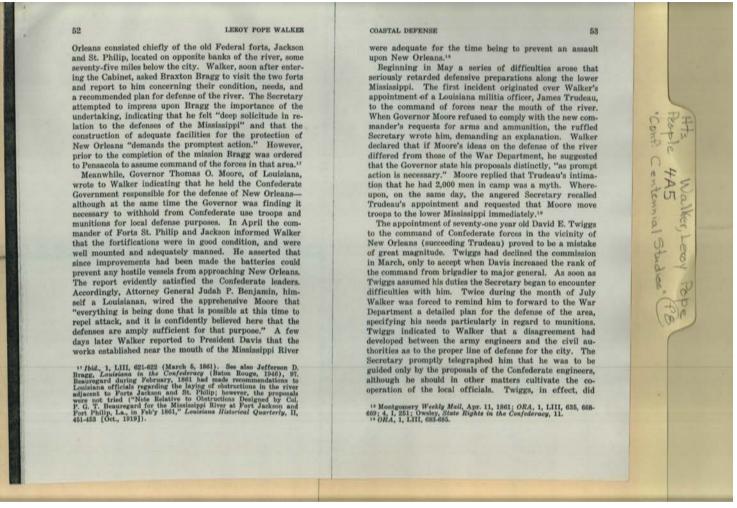


Names:

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:

Image 27 r04a05-08-000-0186 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>

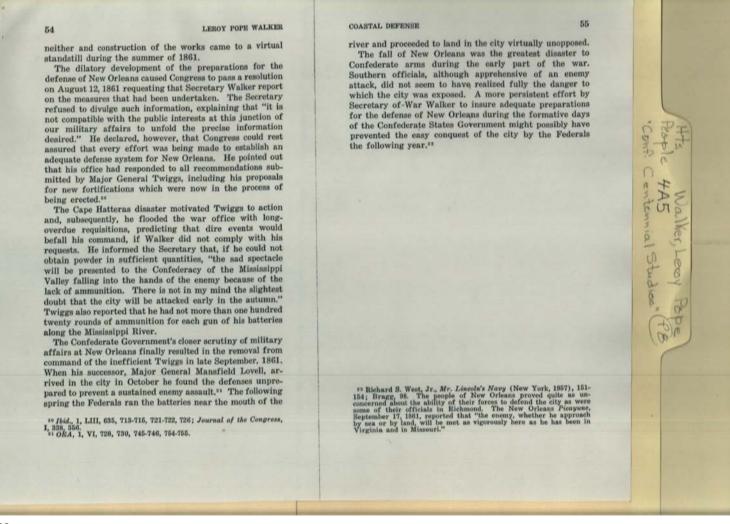


Names:

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:

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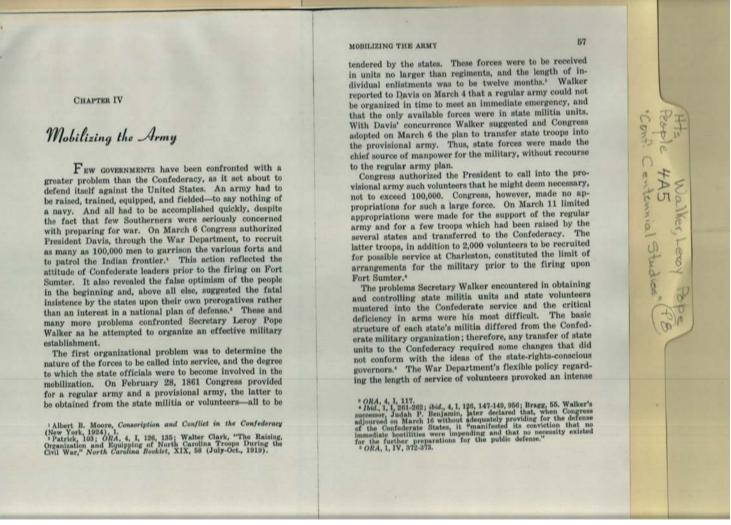
Names:

Lovell, Mansfield, Major Gen'l

Twiggs, Major Gen'l Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 29 r04a05-08-000-0188 Contents Index About



Names:

Davis, Jefferson, President Mobilizing the Army Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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MOBILIZING THE ARMY LEROY POPE WALKER of Louisiana, Brown of Georgia, and Pettus of Mississippi, conflict between various state authorities and Walker. The toward recruiting duration-of-war troops forced Walker incidentals of transferring commissions, supplies, and debts to continue to accept twelve-month men. Governor Moore incurred by the states for military purposes, and of agreeechoed the sentiments of the opposition to the Secretary's ing to certain recruiting and mustering procedures for the enlistment plan when he indignantly wired Walker regardtroops, were all problems that confronted Walker daily ing two regiments waiting to be integrated into the Conduring his seven-month tenure in office. federate service: Initially, Walker was directed to support the Confederate Now you ask me to change the terms of enlistment. . . . This I will not do unless you positively refuse them for twelve months. When you so refuse, I will make your proposition to them, and if declined, I will immediately dis-Army from two separate appropriations because of the distinction made by Congress between state troops integrated prior to the act establishing the provisional army and those state forces transferred afterwards-even though these troops were mixed within the ranks. Attorney General band them, to the great detriment of the service, and the Benjamin could not unravel this complicated situation for responsibility will not rest on me. Walker except to advise him to do the best he could to Both Walker and Moore stubbornly maintained their posiidentify the two types. Walker refused Benjamin's counsel, tion on these troops. Finally, after three weeks of fruitless reporting to Davis that any advantage to be gained from argument Walker wired the Governor that, because of the such a classification of the troops "is too inconsiderable to dire need for arms, he was altering his enlistment policy justify the Department at this important juncture in consuming time to arrive at what after all would be a bare approximation." This is indicative of the attempts to in order to accept fully-equipped regiments for twelve months. Simultaneously, Governor Moore permitted three Louisiana regiments that had volunteered for the duration place unnecessary burdens upon the War Department at a time when Walker and his staff were encumbered with an to be mustered into the Confederate Army." Because of the opposition of the governors and the iminfinite number of problems connected with mobilization. mediate necessity for obtaining fully-equipped troops, by Congress, in the act of March 6, directed that the period of enlistment for volunteers should not exceed twelve months. From the beginning Walker was a foe of this June, 1861 Walker had formulated the following policy for accepting units: troops offered for the duration would be armed by the Confederacy, whereas units enrolled for limited enlistment program, believing that in order best to achieve success on the battlefield during an extended twelve months only would be required to arm themselves before being mustered into the Confederate service. The period of time the Confederacy would need an army based idea of a regular army had been suspended because of the upon duration-of-war enlistments. As he explained after large number of men needed for immediate service in the Lincoln had called for three-year enlistments, duration field. By receiving as many volunteers as possible for the enlistments would enable the Confederates to adjust their duration Walker planned to base the army by the fall of "periods of service in the field to those of the enemy, thus 1861 upon a provisional force that should, in effect, perform at all times securing for our soldiers the advantage of their the same service as if they were regular troops." original superiority." This plan was accepted by Congress, but it applied only to men in state units not yet transferred. Opposition from the governors, however, particularly Moore † *Ibid.*, 1, IV, 295, 302, 321, 334, 8 Bragg, 249; *ORA*, 4, 1, 355, 749-750. 9 *Ibid.*, 4, I, 396-398. o Ibid., 1, IV, 126, 205, 249, 348-350.

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:

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MOBILIZING THE ARMY 60 LEROY POPE WALKER medium of the governors the number of troops proposed The refusal of the Lincoln government to negotiate with the peace commissioners from the Confederacy resulted in Walker's second call for troops "to resist the coercive by Walker.11 The transfer of state troops resulted in continual friction between Walker, who was attempting to comply with the measures of the Washington Administration." In making Confederate law providing for the military, and the various his request to each governor, the Secretary enjoined that governors, who were extremely jealous of their state "the emergency is so pressing that Your Excellency will prerogatives under their interpretation of the Constitution. fully appreciate the great importance of thorough prep-A recurring problem involved the organizational structure aration, especially in regard to instant capacity to move. of the state forces entering the Confederate Army. The governors responded to Walker's urgent call for 20,000 regiment was designated by Congress as the largest type additional troops, although almost all of the units were of unit that the states could transfer. These units were inadequately armed and equipped when they entered the to consist of ten companies, and each company was to be composed of not more than eighty and not less than sixty-The commencement of hostilities and Lincoln's call for four men.11 As far as practical, regiments from the same 75,000 troops brought a quick reaction from the Confedstate were to be assigned to the same brigade, and efforts erate Government. Without waiting for the April 29 were to be made to appoint generals to command troops special session of Congress to make preparations for war, Walker requested on the thirteenth that the states estabof their own state.13 The governors always desired to obtain the privilege of lish reserve army groups, enrolling 32,000 troops in addition tendering state forces larger than the regiment, which to the April 8 requisition, to be fully armed and equipped, would enable the states to control the appointment of field, and to be held in readiness for movement at the call of the War Department. This program fell short of Walker's staff, and general officers. Governor Brown, however, was the only governor, in this regard, who hampered mobilization by incessantly demanding that the states be expectations because, as Governor Moore of Louisiana explained to him: "Our State cannot keep men in camp to allowed to raise brigades and even divisions for the Conmove at any moment, for want of means, and the Confederate service.14 On June 28, 1861 Brown offered Walker federate Government will not take charge of them until a completely equipped brigade, as part of Georgia's quota. Without mentioning the brigade, Walker placed a requisiwanted for immediate use, [therefore] they are obliged to remain at home." tion on Georgia for two more regiments, hoping that Brown A few days after the firing upon Fort Sumter, Walker would comply with Confederate law and tender the brigade reported to Davis that at least 100,000 troops would be as individual regiments. On July 8 Brown offered a "frank proposition" to Walker regarding the brigade. He necessary to prosecute the war during the first year of the conflict. He declared that such a force in the field would stated that he would permit the whole unit, with equipment, "the smallest that prudence would dictate to be mainto enter the service of the Confederate States, if Walker tained in view of actual hostilities. . . . preparations on a smaller scale would but contribute to protract the war. Vigorous measures alone will deter the foe and assure the defense of the country." Congress responded heartedly by giving the President the authority to raise through the 10 Ibid., 4, I, 211, 252; Bragg, 55.

Names:

Brown, Joseph E., Gov.

Davis, Jefferson Lincoln, Abraham Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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MOBILIZING THE ARMY 62 LEROY POPE WALKER when he proclaimed to Brown that "the crisis of our fate would appoint the state brigade commander as the commanding brigadier of the regiments once they were organ-ized. As an added incentive for Walker to accept this may depend upon your action. At the time of integrating their troops into the Confedarrangement, Brown made a tempting offer of two more fully-equipped regiments. Walker replied that the Presierate service the states were permitted to appoint all regimental officers or to allow them to be elected by the dent had no power to accept a brigade, or to accept the regiments under the conditions imposed by the Governor. units. Once they were mustered into the Confederate service they were promoted according to the War Department's policy. The Confederacy, in all cases, appointed officers for higher echelons and staff positions. The election of officers, as might have been expected, often Walker admonished Brown severely for his laggardness in forwarding the critically-needed, fully-equipped brigade. The Secretary, aware that Northern troops were massing proved to be disastrous to the discipline and combat readiness of the units. Walker did little to end the elective on the Virginia border for the first drive on Richmond, sternly warned the obstinate Brown: system.18 The crisis of our fate may depend upon your action. The two regiments you have organized are indispensable to success. For the sake of our cause and the country I beseech you to send them without standing upon the point of byledge organization. If you refuse you will record Several of the state executives abused the appointive privilege by organizing regiments with the full component of governor-selected officers but with only a skeleton force of enlisted men. The governors, particularly Brown of Georgia, attempted to force Secretary Walker to accept these officer-heavy units; however, the congressional act of brigade organization. . . . If you refuse you will regret it. It is not necessary that I should say more. providing for the acceptance of state troops was explicit Brown replied that under state law he had no authority to in stating that companies would be composed of not less disband the brigade into regiments, even though on July 8 than sixty-four men, and in turn, the regiments would consist of not less than ten companies. Walker, in reply to an he had offered to forward the regiments separately, if Walker would have accepted his proposal. The Governor offer by Brown to supply skeleton units, informed him that again offered his brigade and concluded by referring to Walker's dispatch of July 12. "If the threat of consehis interpretation of the act would not allow him to receive officers without men. Governor Brown had the Secretary of State and a fellow Georgian, Robert Toombs, to intercede in his behalf, but Walker would not change his mind.17 quences to me for disobedience to your behest, which the language of your dispatch implies, is intended, rest assured it fails to intimidate," Brown angrily declared. Walker's difficulties with Brown continued to hinder and Walker answered that his message to Governor Brown embarrass the Secretary throughout the remainder of his was not intended as a threat, but that his "sole object was to make an appeal to your well-known patriotism, based Governor Moore, of Louisiana, bargained with Walker upon facts known to the Department . . . which it would be highly impolitic to make public." Brown delayed, howthat he would raise more men than his quota, "if I should ever, until August 1 before he tendered the brigade, organized as regiments, to the Confederacy. Meanwhile, well-equipped troops remained idle at a time when they might have changed the history of the Confederate States—during 19 Ibid., 4, I, 408-409, 411, 424, 466, 477-478; Candler (ed.), II, 91-92,
 118; Hill, 57-58; Owsley, State Rights in the Confederacy, 93.
 12 ORA, 4, I, 273, 794; William E. Dodd, Jefferson Davis (Philadelphia, 1907), 293. For a discussion of the disastrous consequences of the elective system in the Confederate Army see David Donald (ed.), Why the North Won the Civil War (Baton Rouge, 1960), 80-82.
 11 ORA, 4, I, 166, 181; Candler (ed.), 25-26. the first Manassas campaign. Walker was probably correct

Names:

Brown, Joseph E., Gov.

Moore, Thomas O., Gov.

Toombs, Robert Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8 **Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection:** "Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

r04a05-08-000-0192 Image 33 Contents Index About

MOBILIZING THE ARMY LEROY POPE WALKER acceptance of the units. To adopt Brown's plan would have be permitted to select the officers." Governor John Letcher, placed an added expense upon the War Department and of Virginia, wrote the Secretary that "the right of appointing the officers of the militia is reserved to the states." would have delayed the mobilization of the army. Walker, consequently, refused the request and Brown was forced He felt that all troops in the Confederate service, except to acquiesce. But Brown insisted that he had made an regulars, were members of the state militia and therefore exception by complying with Walker's desire, and emtheir officers should be selected by the Governor. Nevertheless, Walker, supported by Davis, remained steadfast in phatically declared: his determination that the Confederacy appoint all officers I wish no misunderstanding about this matter in [the] future, I think it best to notify you of my conclusion in advance of a call for actual service. . . . She [Georgia] will insist on having her rights and wishes respected when above the regimental level. Furthermore, the governors were unwilling to draw on state funds for the transportation of state troops to the rendezvous for mustering into the Confederate Army, she is claiming the recognition of a principle of justice to her troops, as well as of obvious propriety.** unless the Secretary agreed beforehand to repay the expenses. The central government was also obligated to assume the debts incurred by the states in raising volunteers Walker, indicating a reluctance to prolong the argument, informed the Governor that "technicalities must not stand in the way of preparation." Of course, "technicalities" had and in calling out the militia.18 None of the state executives impeded the mobilization of the army to the same extent as did Governor Brown. already retarded the mobilization of the Georgia troops and Early in 1861 Howell Cobb perceived that a severe conflict had inevitably planted a seed of suspicion in the minds would develop between his fellow Georgian, Brown, and of both Confederate and Georgia officials."1 Confederate officials over the disposition of the state's troops. Cobb indicated that Brown "is trying to ride the In the days after the hostilities at Fort Sumter, Walker waived some of the stipulations regarding the acceptance high horse about certain Acts of Congress which take out of his hands all control of Georgia troops. I shall sustain Davis and Congress and if they show the right spirit, we will thoroughly put down the miserable demagogue who now disgraces the executive chair of Georgia." However, of troops that were so objectionable to the state officials in order to expedite the mobilization of the army. One of these, the policy of designating locations for the mustering of troops into the army, he abandoned when the war started; instead, the governors were to name the place and time most suitable to them.22 Confederate authorities, including Walker, were never able to "put down" Brown or convince him of the necessity of On the other hand, the tardiness of the governors in co-operating with the War Department in assembling the forwarding troops to the Confederacy resulted in an act of Congress (May 11) authorizing President Davis to acarmy.19 Soon after his state entered the Confederacy Brown became obsessed with the idea that Georgia troops should be cept volunteers without the formality of going through the respective governors. The irascible Brown promptly ismustered into the Confederate service within the state, even ** ORA, 4, I, 206-207, 218, 225-226.
** In fairness to Governor Brown, it should be added that Hill (pp. 74-75) concluded that his assistance to the Confederacy was without doubt considerable, but during 1861 he "created difficulties for the new government at a time when the utmost harmony should have though Walker had designated convenient points for the ¹⁸ ORA, 4, I, 175, 237-238, 419.
¹⁹ Ulrich B. Phillips (ed.), Correspondence of Robert Toombs, Alexander H. Stephens, and Howell Cobb (Washington, 1913), II, 568; Thomas R. Hay, "Joseph Emerson Brown, Governor of Georgia, 1857-1865," Georgia Huterical Quarterly, XIII, 56 (June, 1929). new government at a time when the utmost harmony should he provailed." State Rights in the Confederacy, 93; ORA, 4, I, 232.

Names:

Brown, Joseph E., Gov.

Cobb, Howell Davis, Jefferson Letcher, John, Gov. Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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MOBILIZING THE ARMY LEROY POPE WALKER offense at the War Department's action in this respect, desued a proclamation that Georgia troops mustered into the claring that "the history of the United States . . . furnishes Confederate service without the approval of the state exno precedent for the raising of men by proclamation ecutive would not be permitted to take their arms outside the state. He considered the act permitting the Confederacy to accept "direct tender" troops to be "a very dangerous infringement of state rights." He feared that with the emanating from generals commanding nor from the President."** Evidently, the old constitutional objections to the direct recruitment of troops by the central government intringement of state rights. He feared that which the central government in control of both the "sword and the purse," it might become "the uncontrollable master instead of the useful servant of the States." Secretary Walker, had its supporters in the Confederate States. cruitment continued, however, but in the face of the avowed hostility of several of the Southern governors After the firing upon Fort Sumter and the passage of cognizant of the pressing need at this time for troops in the act of May 11, Walker dispatched Confederate officers Virginia, explained to Brown in some detail the exigencies that led Congress to pass such a law and pleaded with him to recall his proclamation. Walker enjoined Brown that "the one object of the bill was to prevent delay when prompt action is so necessary." But Brown remained to all parts of the South to establish recruiting centers and camps for the training of volunteers." Counties, towns, neighborhoods, and private individuals organized companies and regiments for the field in the frenzy of activity that followed the beginning of the war.10 A vast adamant and, subsequently, the perplexed Secretary connumber of applications to volunteer for the army arrived sented, rather than risk a serious quarrel with the state at the War Department daily. The correspondent for the Charleston Mercury, as quoted in the Montgomery Weekly leaders, to his condition that the troops be requisitioned through his office. Brown then promptly furnished the Mail, April 16, stated that he had been "creditably in-formed that more than 40,000 men, as of April 16, 1861, had offered their services in the military." By mid-summer War Department with well-armed and equipped regiments to be used as the Confederacy saw fit. Nevertheless, as a result of Brown's tardiness, unarmed troops were sent to it was not unusual for the Secretary of War to refuse offers of 5,000 men per day. The main stipulation that Virginia who otherwise could have been fully equipped by Georgia. This may be considered as another reason for the inability of the South to follow up its victory at Manassas in July, 1861. Walker placed upon the acceptance of these troops was that they be armed upon entering the Confederate service. The Secretary also was flooded with offers of units in Governor Moore, of Louisiana, also revealed to Walker return for a commission to the individual making the his displeasure regarding the direct forwarding of troops tender. In many cases the person offering the troops had to the Confederate Army. He indignantly expressed the nothing more than a "paper company"-and hopes that hope that: after acquiring a commission he would be in a more favor-You [Walker] will perceive the embarrassing and per-plexing difficulties in which such orders will place our able position to recruit the necessary men. Prior to hostilities Walker refused all such requests; however, the neces soldiers . . . that you will take immediate steps to countermand orders which may have been issued to enlist troops sity for an accelerated recruiting program resulted in his acceptance of units that he and his staff considered to be in this State, unless emanating from the Executive. ** ORA, 1, III, 696, ** Ibid., 4, I, 299; DeLeon, 37, ** DuHose, II, 594. Governor Henry M. Rector, of Arkansas, likewise took 23 Ibid., 4, I, 310, 332, 356, 194; Candler (ed.), II, 85-88; Hill, 55-56.

Names:

Brown, Joseph E., Gov.

Moore, Thomas O., Gov.

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types: book

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LEROY POPE WALKER MOBILIZING THE ARMY organized in compliance with Confederate law and to be thorize the President to field an aggregate force of 560 adequately equipped and armed.21 regiments or 500,000 men, an increase of 350 regiments. Enthusiasm for joining the army was high after Lincoln's Apparently, the Secretary was dismissing the concept of call for troops to suppress "the rebellion," and consequently defensive strategy and was advocating that the South wage the War Department had little difficulty, initially, except an offensive war against the enemy's homeland. One in regard to the procedure for mobilizing the units, in Richmond newspaper endorsed Walker's proposal, mainobtaining the needed manpower. The young John B. taining that with inferior pumbers "we are obliged con-Gordon, who journeyed to Montgomery to volunteer, reported that Walker was "literally overwhelmed by the vast numbers wishing to enlist. The applicants in companies and regiments fatigued and bewildered him." Indeed, the stantly to stand on the defensive, and are constantly running the risk of defeat and disaster." Although not convinced of the necessity for an army as large as the one proposed by Walker, Congress enacted legislation on pressure was so great that comparatively few of those who August 8, 1861 that permitted the President to accept any sought places in the army could reach the Secretary. number of volunteers not exceeding 400,000 to serve for Volunteers actually waylaid him on the streets, according a period of not less than twelve months nor more than to Gordon, to urge him to accept their tenders of service. three years. This act also rescinded the one of May 8 in Walker afterwards stated that he found it necessary, when which volunteers were accepted for the duration of the war leaving his office for his hotel, to go by an unfrequented only.30 The May 8 act had proved obnoxious to the state way "to avoid the persistent appeals of those who had commands ready to take the field." By August, 1861 more executives The withholding of troops by the governors for local than two hundred thousand men were in the field, many of whom were inadequately equipped.

The first swell of enthusiasm for volunteering began to dissipate, however, while ardor for the Southern cause was still at flood stage. Signs of dwindling interest in joining defense was a constant source of friction between the Confederate Government and the state executives. As the threat of Federal invasion increased, the situation became more acute and perplexing. During the latter days of Walker's administration the mobilization policy of the War the army first occurred over the War Department's policy Department, it was said, of equipping troops who would enlist for three years or for the duration of the war. Individuals of moderate means was on the eve of being crowned with entire success, when protested because they felt that, in view of the small comit was embarrassed and impeded by a very unexpected cause. In several of the States the Governors, apprehensive pensation which soldiers received, they could not afford to pledge themselves to lengthy periods of service. Non-slaveholders complained that rich men could enlist for the of attack at home, and actuated by the natural desire of aiding in the defense of their own States, failed to perceive that the only effective means of attaining that end was by a concentration of the common strength under one head, and that an attempt by each State to make a separate one-year period, but those of little means were required to enlist for three years or not at all."

The huge preparations initiated by the United States in defense against so powerful an enemy as that which we are now combating could result in nothing but the defeat of each in detail. The fatal effect of so short-sighted a July, 1861 motivated Walker to request Congress to au- ORA, 4, I, 795, 491, 532-533; New Orleans Picayune, Apr. 12, 1861.
 Reminiscences of the Civil War (New York, 1963), 16-17; Moore, 6,
 Bell I. Wiley, The Life of Johnny Reb. . . . (Indianapolis, 1943), 124. ** ORA, 4, I, 537; Richmond Dispatch, July 31, 1861; Huntaville Democrat, Aug. 14, 1861.

Names:

Gordon, John B.

Lincoln, Abraham

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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71 MOBILIZING THE ARMY LEROY POPE WALKER 70 inexperienced officers." Furthermore, as late as August, 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 rendez-1861 Walker had the difficult problem of obtaining drill vous to enlist in State service for three, four, or six months." 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., engi-All of the states during the first year of the war withheld a portion of their troops for local defense purposes. South neers, quartermaster officers, and artillery officers) who Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia insisted upon retaining large numbers for coastline defenses. In fact, Governor Brown demanded that the Confederacy return were qualified to teach various specialties. Nine months after the formation of the Confederate Government the several Georgia units from Virginia in order to reinforce Corps of Engineers was composed of only twelve officers, Georgia's coastal batteries against a rumored Federal naval operation. Later (after Walker had left office), Brown whereas there was a need for many times that number.** By the time Walker resigned as Secretary, in September, advanced the idea that he, himself, should assume the 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: responsibility of the entire direction of the defense of the Georgia coast." 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 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 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 merits of a minister who has shown himself to be the right units.33 Georgia's action in training its militia was the exception to the rule among the Southern states. During man in the right place?" May, 1861, when a major portion of the population of the Walker's success in mobilizing troops for the Confederate Confederacy was boasting that Southern troops would war effort was accomplished despite the impediments prove far superior to Northern mechanics in the field, placed in his path by jealous state-rights' conscious gover-Hugh L. Clay, an old friend of Walker's and a Confederate nors. However, the assembling and organizing of an army mustering-in official unimpressed by the saber rattling, proved to be less of a problem for the Secretary than complained to the Secretary that the recruits were "raw, the supplying of the necessary arms and equipment for wild, undisciplined Democrats, on a frolic, as many of them think, and commanded in many instances by inefficient and ORA, 1, IV, 795; Owaley, State Rights in the Confederacy, 30-31.
 ORA, 4, 1, 635, 1092; ibid., 1, VI, 274, 284, 397; Owaley, State Rights in the Confederacy, 19-20, 25, 29.
 Hay, 93; Ulrich B. Phillips, Georgia and State Rights (Washington, 1902), II, 196-197. ** ORA, 4, I, 305.
** Ibid., 1, I, 470-472; ibid., 4, I, 535, 565, 583, 796.
** Sept. 18, 1861.

Names:

Brown, Joseph E., Gov.

Clay, Hugh L. Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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73 EQUIPPING THE ARMY 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 CHAPTER V 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 Equipping the Army secession to collect arms and ammunition for their local forces.* These supplies were decidedly limited and, in some cases, jealously retained by the states for their own pur-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.\(^1\) The reason poses, even when the Confederacy requested them. fore, the War Department had to search for additional sources of munitions for the armies. After the beginning of hostilities home manufacture and foreign sources furfor their failure to gain and hold the initiative in the conflict, when enthusiasm was at its greatest, may be suggested nished the bulk of arms and ammunition for the Confedby Secretary Walker's report to President Davis, July 27, erate States The procedure for transfer of former Federal arsenals and supplies to the Confederacy varied in almost every 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. 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. could come into its service already armed and equipped." He sheepishly suggested to North Carolina officials, for instance, that they "word the instrument of transfer as to As has been stated, supplying arms for the rapidly expanding forces proved to be Walker's major problem as reconcile the fundamental doctrine of State rights set forth Secretary of War," and the chief reason for the growth of criticism that led to his resignation. Certainly, it contriin the Constitution with the imperative requirements of our present military operations . . . and the exacting purposes of the general defense." Governor Andrew B. Moore, of buted largely to the belief that his administration of the Alabama, informed Walker that he would be glad to deliver War Department was inefficient. the former Federal arms and munitions, but that it would When the Confederacy was organized there were only two available sources of arms and munitions. Both were Frank E. Vandiver, Ploughshares Into Swords . . . (Austin, 559), 55-56.
Frank E. Vandiver, "Makeshifts of Confederate Ordnance," Journal Southern History, XVII, 183-184 (May, 1951). Frank L. Owsley, "Defeatism in the Confederacy," North Carolina Historical Review, 111, 446-447 (July, 1926).
 ORA, 4, 1, 497.
 Patrick, 108.

Names:

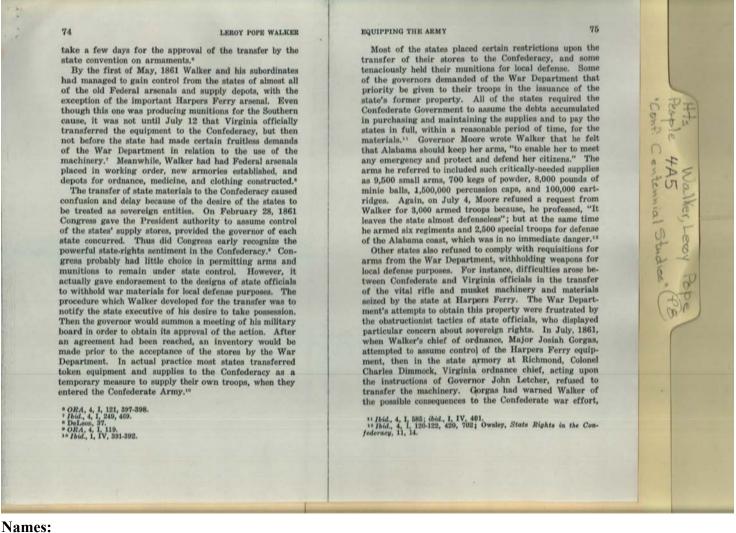
Brown, John Equipping the Army Moore, Andrew B., Gov.

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types: book

Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8 **Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection:** "Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

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Dimmock, Charles, Col.

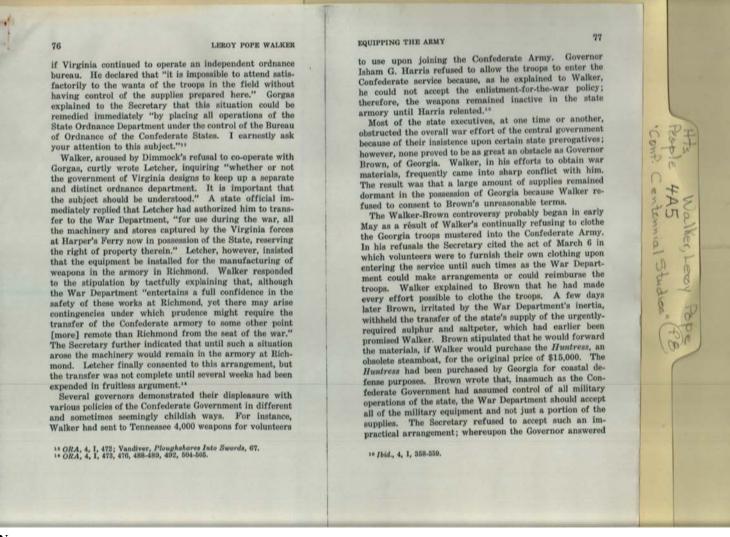
Gorgas, Josiah, Major Letcher, John, Gov.

Moore, Andrew B., Gov.

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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Names:

Brown, Joseph E., Gov.

Gorgas, Josiah, Major

Harris, Isham G., Gov.

Letcher, John, Gov. Walker, Leroy Pope

Types: book

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EQUIPPING THE ARMY LEROY POPE WALKER confiscated Federal stores; however, he was hesitant in that not only must the Huntress be a part of the bargain, initiating action to contract for local and foreign manubut he would accept only Confederate bonds in payment for the boat. Walker replied on May 22: "I trust you will factured arms and munitions. On February 20, the day prior to Walker's assumption of his portfolio, Congress not insist on what under the circumstances is impossible." Two months later Walker again pleaded with Brown for enacted legislation empowering the President and the new the transfer of the sulphur and saltpeter, but the Governor Secretary of War consistently refused to abandon his position during Walkto make contracts for the purchase and manufacture of heavy ordnance and small arms; and of machinery for the manufacture or alteration of small arms and munitions of war, and to employ the necessary agents and artisans for these purposes; and to make contracts for the establishment of powder mills and the manufacture of powder; and the President is authorized to make contracts provided for in this act, in such manner and on such terms as in his judgment the public exigencies may require.¹⁸ er's tenure in office On June 26, 1861 Governor Brown ordered the arsenal at Savannah not to issue any arms or ammunition to a Confederate officer. The Confederacy at the time was receiving from the arsenal percussion caps and cartridges, munitions that the army needed badly. Walker reacted quickly to this policy by requesting an explanation. Brown replied, reminding the Secretary that the armory was the property of the state, and that he could decline at his pleasure to issue supplies to the Confederacy. He indicated Walker, prior to the crisis over the Federal forts in the South in early April, grossly neglected the opportunity that he had closed the Savannah arsenal because "your [Confederate] officer at Augusta has locked up in the offered by Congress to initiate a concerted effort to obtain magazine a large quantity of powder purchased and placed there by the state." In other words, Brown, without regard arms and munitions other than those on hand in the South. It is true that there was immediate need to take over the to the importance of the armaments to the troops in the arms in the state arsenals. But because of the new government's precarious relations with Washington Walker cerfield, was retaliating for Walker's delay in releasing the powder claimed by Brown in the Confederate-operated tainly should have made an effort to dispatch agents both Augusta arsenal.16 to Europe and throughout the country to contract for the In some cases the states complied readily with Walker's manufacture of arms, particularly the heavy weapons of requisitions for war supplies. For example, on April 25 which the South's supply was wholly inadequate. the Secretary asked for 2,000 percussion muskets from The first attempt to secure materials outside the South North Carolina, and received from Governor John W. Ellis four times as many as requested.¹⁷ Almost all of the state or to contract for the purchase of arms from manufacturers was made by President Davis, prior to Walker's assumption officials co-operated in issuing materials to the Confedof office, when he dispatched Raphael Semmes, a former eracy, as long as such generosity did not interfere with their local defense requirements. United States Navy captain, to New York and other Northern areas to procure war supplies. On February 21 During the early weeks of the Confederacy a considerable the President instructed Semmes to co-ordinate his activeffort was made by Walker to obtain what he deemed to ities and contracts with incoming Secretary of War Walker.18 Semmes immediately left for New York, arbe the necessary military supplies from state and state-¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 4, I, 289, 306-307, 314, 316, 348, 401, 411, 487, 490; Hill, 64-65. ¹⁷ *ORA*, 4, I, 106-107. 18 Matthews (ed.), Stat. I, chap. IV. 18 ORA, 4, I, 106-107.

Names:

Brown, Joseph E., Gov.

Davis, Jefferson, President

Ellis, John W., Gov. Semmes, Raphael

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 41 r04a05-08-000-0200 Contents Index About

EQUIPPING THE ARMY LEROY POPE WALKER establish a factory for the production of small arms. riving there in early March. He spent a month there arrang-Walker was apparently aware of the bleak prospects for ing for the purchase and shipment of arms and munitions for the Confederate States. Most of the merchants were the manufacturing of arms within the South with the limited equipment on hand, although he waited until after willing to do business with Semmes on a gold basis, and fighting had actually commenced before taking steps to many entertained him lavishly in hopes of selling to him. encourage home manufacture of weapons. He reported to They apparently had no scruples concerning the shipping of war supplies to a nation that might soon use the arms against their own. Considerable quantities of firearms, Congress on May 7 that the outlook for the production of small arms in the Confederacy was unsatisfactory, and that it was "probable that the Government will be obliged cartridges, gunpowder, and percussion caps were thus dispatched, sometimes openly, but more often under false to initiate steps toward the immediate establishment of a manufactory of this kind of arms." Walker proposed that labels. Semmes made contracts for the manufacture of "a competent agent be selected and sent without delay to artillery equipment, but delivery was accomplished only in part. Because of increasing hostility toward the South England" to purchase three sets of machinery that could be established in arsenals in the South for the manufacture in the North, Semmes returned to Montgomery in early of small arms. Such action was long overdue. Not until August were the important Confederate armories at Rich-mond and Fayetteville able to manufacture muskets and rifles on a large scale. Walker then reported to President April, 1861. He later became the first of many agents sent abroad in hopes of finding arms." As the crises at Charleston and Pensacola became more intense, Walker dispatched agents throughout the North Davis that the War Department's arrangements for the and the South to purchase provisions. At the same time home production of small arms was complete. However, the consummation of the Secretary's plans for the manuhe was preparing to send a mission to Europe to contract for the purchase of vitally-needed war supplies. Prior to facture of weapons came late, after the Battle of Manassas. Walker's slowness in approaching Congress on the matter the fall of Fort Sumter the main effort to procure powder was made in the North and, when this source became unreliable, a powder-works was found to exist in Tennessee. must be considered as a major factor contributing to the army's deficiency of weapons during the first year of the Walker reported to Congress on May 7 that this mill had a stock of sulphur on hand, but no saltpeter, and that "as Prior to the firing upon Fort Sumter, Secretary Walker soon as the saltpeter and sulphur now understood to be in argued over prices before purchasing war materials which possession of the State of Georgia shall be turned over to were made available for immediate sale by merchants. On April 8, 1861 John Forsyth, Confederate commissioner the Confederate States, it is proposed to employ the mill at once." As previously indicated, Governor Brown rein Washington, wired Walker that 10,000 Colt pistols and fused to furnish the Confederacy with the saltpeter, there-2,000 Sharps rifles, reportedly of the best quality, had been fore Walker had to await developments in Georgia before offered to the Confederacy with delivery to be made at arrangements could be made for the facilities in Tennesse Richmond. The following day, without awaiting a reply, to be placed in operation. Forsyth ordered from Northern merchants 2,000 of the pistols, informing Walker of the transaction and indicating that the rifles could be obtained for \$42.50 each. He also The Confederate Government as late as May, 1861 had taken no action to obtain machinery from Europe or to ²⁰ W. Adolphe Roberts, Semmes of the Alabama (Indianapolis, 1938), 38.39. 11 See ORA, 4, I, 292-294, 496-497.

Names:

Brown, Joseph E., Gov.

Davis, Jefferson, President Forsyth, John Semmes, Raphael Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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LEROY POPE WALKER EQUIPPING THE ARMY reported that 300 tons of powder were available for purcountries that had very limited supplies of munitions to chase. Walker told Forsyth that the price of the rifles be exported. By July citizens of the Confederacy were was excessive, and that the War Department would be being induced to sell their private arms to the army and, willing to pay no more than \$30.00. He explicitly informed if they entered the service, they were encouraged to bring their weapons with them. The War Department promised Forsyth that he could not accept the pistols and for him to cancel the order. The Secretary, nevertheless, agreed to take 100 tons of the powder, if it could be delivered to pay for them upon assessment of their value." Occasionally during Walker's tenure and even after the immediately. Walker explained that "the object in replying commencement of hostilities, Northern offers to sell imas I did to you was to get immediate supply. If to be manuproved arms to the Confederacy were received. These factured nothing is gain. Let there be no mistake about proposals invariably stipulated that arms could be made available for the Confederate forces, if the War Departits quality." Apparently, the Secretary had already conment was willing to pay what amounted to exorbitant prices and in gold. The quantity of arms received by this tracted for the manufacture of powder to satisfy anticipated future needs. He did not realize that in less than a month the Confederacy could use any and all powder available, means was small. But the groping for any weapons, reregardless of quality, cost, source, or time of delivery. Subsequently, Forsyth encouraged Walker to purchase the gardless of cost, indicated the desperate straits in which Walker found himself in his attempts to arm the rapidly rifles since they were selling at the lowest market price, the same as that paid by the Federal government. Walker, expanding Confederate Army once fighting had started.24 The energy with which Secretary Walker and his staff belatedly tackled the arms problem did not produce results wavering somewhat, raised the price he would pay for the rifles and decided to permit Forsyth to purchase the 2,000 in time for the summer campaign of 1861. Construction pistols. Soon thereafter, however, the vacillating Secretary decided not to buy the rifles. A few days later Forsyth was begun on the Confederate armories at Richmond, Virginia, and Fayetteville, arsenals that soon were able and the other Confederate commissioners were forced to to manufacture muskets and rifles on a large scale-but leave Washington, thus ending hope for the continuance not in time for the First Battle of Manassas. of negotiations with the merchants involved in the transwere made by July for the manufacture of 61,200 stands action." of small arms by Confederate citizens and 200,000 more After hostilities had begun wide authority was given agents to make purchases, the War Department promising by foreign companies. The War Department's policy prior to the firing on Fort Sumter had been to obtain all the weapons available in the South, but not to contract for the manufacture of arms. Walker, in fact, as late as March 29 had declined an offer of a company to produce to take all arms, brass, cannon, and other munitions that could be obtained. Excellent prices were assured those who shipped arms to the Confederacy, plus paid transportation costs and insurance against losses at sea or from shot and shell. If contracts had been initiated in February capture by the enemy. Agents were sent to Europe to or March, 1861, a large number of arms would have been procure weapons, and even dispatched to Cuba and Mexico, available to the thousands of volunteers that Walker had been forced to refuse because of lack of weapons. It is **Ibid., 1, I, 210-212, 216-217, 250. In his report of April 27, 1861 to Davis, Walker indicated, "I would fail in my duty if I did not earnestly recommend that an appropriation be made for the establishment of powder mills and for the purchase of materials of which gunpowder is composed." ** Patrick, 109; A. Howard Mencely, The War Department, 1861 . . . (New York, 1928), 299-300; ORA, 4, 1, 496. ** Jones, I, 78.

Names:

Forsyth, John

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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EQUIPPING THE ARMY LEROY POPE WALKER In May Walker sent Major Edward C. Anderson to assist well to remember, however, that Congress was extremely Huse. The agents soon discovered that there were no small arms on the market of the category or within the price range Walker had specified.* Huse asked for more reluctant to appropriate adequate funds for the provisioning of the Army-even after the war had begun. By the time arms were available to the military, the enthusiasm liberal instructions for purchasing weapons and contracting for the manufacturing of arms. Walker, elated over the for volunteering had waned considerably. Agents sent into the various Southern states in search victory at Manassas, replied: of munitions often met difficulties in jealous state officials. One agent in Virginia failed to purchase an ordnance The just exultation inspired by this success [Manassas] should only redouble our energies and efforts in the future. This war is now assuming truly gigantic proportions. The Government of the United States is straining every nerve, and the Congress has been outstripped by the demands of the executive in the preparations which it has set on foot. These preparations the Confederate Government is determined to meet by equal preparations, and at whatever cost to stand ready to prosecute to a successful end the war that has been thus wickedly forced upon us. In view of the magnitude of this struggle and of the pressing exigencies which surround us, this Department deems it necessary to enlarge your powers and to press upon you with more foundry because the authorities said that they needed the arsenal to secure weapons for the state's defense. Another agent reported that he had found it troublesome to obtain rifles within the Confederacy because of the reluctance of some states to accept bank notes of other states. He requested that Walker send him gold, if he expected him to achieve any degree of success.26 In contrast with his uncertain policy in contracting for home-manufactured munitions, Walker acted with some celerity to obtain arms from Europe after April, 1861. Prior to that date the Southern government had not deemed which surround us, this Department deems it necessary to enlarge your powers and to press upon you with more earnestness than ever the necessity of procuring at once and by every means within your reach a supply of arms and munitions of war for the Confederate Government . . . To this end you are authorized to depart, at your discretion, from the terms of your original instructions. You will purchase at the earliest possible moment all the arms suitable for our purposes which can be obtained, from whatever places and at whatever price . . . at the earliest possible moment, sufficient to arm, if need be, not less it necessary to dispatch a purchasing agent to Europe. In early April Caleb Huse, a former artillery captain in the United States Army, was chosen to represent the Confederacy in Europe in the procuring and purchasing of war supplies. However, when Huse reached Montgomery on April 12, Walker had made no arrangements for his trip. Neither had he issued orders regarding Huse, and he had likewise failed to request funds from the Secretary of the Treasury to finance the mission. possible moment, sufficient to arm, if need be, not less After considerable delay Huse finally sailed for Europe than 500 regiments. from Portland, Maine. Upon his arrival in London he found that the Confederacy's hesitancy in sending him, Walker issued similar instructions regarding the purchase plus Secretary Walker's negligence in expediting the arof powder. An armed vessel, the C.S.S. McRae, and a rangements for his mission, had resulted in the Union naval officer were placed at the disposal of the agents to representatives gaining the initiative in the purchasing of facilitate the shipment of the munitions. These arrangements did not immediately result in the Confederate representatives' gaining the initiative over the purchasing ** ORA, 4, 1, 194, 221, 496.
** Calch Huse, The Supplies for the Confederate Army . . . (Boston, 1904), 6, 9-10, 16-17, 19. * ORA, 4, I, 220, 333-334; Samuel B. Thompson, Confederate Purchasing Operations Abroad (Chapel Hill, 1935), 13.

Names:

Anderson, Edward C., Major

Huse, Caleb Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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87 EQUIPPING THE ARMY 86 LEROY POPE WALKER Continued complaints and inquiries from field officers agents of the United States. Anderson wrote Walker that and state officials on the condition of clothing and equip-"we have the mortification of learning every day of new ment undoubtably irritated the sensitive Walker. Congress increased the perplexities by passing three different acts during Walker's tenure in office regarding the clothing contracts entered into by them for arms and accouterments, of which contracts they are now receiving the fruits." By the middle of August, however, the Confederate agents of the troops." State authorities and army officers were constantly writing Walker for explanations as to the were on a par with the Federals in procuring and shipping arms, "and if supplied with means will reverse their posisubstance of the legislation. After the enactment of the second measure, the Secretary complained to Davis that "the law of the last Congress does not leave the question of how our troops are to be clothed altogether free from tion by holding the same advantage over them which they enjoyed over us in the beginning," Anderson reported. The first shipment was not made until August, but afterwards munitions began to flow regularly to the Confederacy." doubt." This act, as interpretated by the Attorney General, provided that in lieu of the quartermaster's furnishing Congress, probably at Walker's suggestion, enacted legisclothing the private soldier or nencommissioned officer lation on August 5, 1861, authorizing the Secretary of War might be allocated a certain sum of money per annum to "to make advances upon any contract, not to exceed thirtypurchase his clothes. In reference to this arrangement three and one-third per cent., for arms or munitions of Walker reported to Davis on July 24, that it would be imwar." And on the seventeenth he reiterated to the agents the importance of haste in shipping arms. He urged, "We possible for the men to furnish themselves and that want arms and must have them if they are to be had. it would be inhuman in the Government to pretermit this question to be determined only by the actualities of experience. . . . The Quartermaster's Department has been trust you will no longer confine yourselves to Great Britain and Belgium in your efforts."30 Walker was also responsible for the procurement of directed to provide clothing for the Army, feeling satisfied as I do that no army should be left to the hazards of chance or the possibilities of individual supply for either raiment shoes, clothing, tents, wagons, saddles, and other provisions for the armies. A quartermaster general was not appointed to assist him until March 25, 1861, when Lieutenant Colonel Abraham C. Myers was selected to supervise that function of the War Department. Afterwards, Walker con-Subsequently, Congress passed a provision by which a cerned himself with the more critical arms and ammunition soldier, unable or unwilling to supply himself, even with deficiencies, allowing Myers considerable freedom of action the aid of the annual allowance, would be furnished clothing in the administration of the quartermaster department. by the War Department." ***ORA, 4, I, 493-494, 538-542. If the Confederate Government earlier in the year had been willing to show its good faith by making advance payments to manufacturers in contracting for war supplies. Huse and other Confederates in Europe could probably have shipped munitions on such a scale as to have had a pronounced effect upon the fighting during the early months of the war.

*** Matthews (ed.), Stat. III, Chap. IV.
*** ORA, 4, I, 564. Apparently, the Confederate commissioners in London had interfered with the work of Anderson and Huse, for Walker wrote that "our commissioners must not interfere with your shipment of arms." One of these was Walker's old friend, William Lowndes Yancey. Governor Brown was continually harassing Walker about the need for adequate clothing and equipment for Georgia troops. He expected the War Department to assume the responsibility of furnishing supplies for the state forces Ibid., 4, I, 188; Charles W. Ramsdell, "The Control of Manufacturing by the Confederate Government," Mississippi Valley Historical Review, VIII, 232 (Dec., 1921).
 Matthews (ed.), Stat. II, Chap. XXXIV; ORA, 4, I, 497-498.

Names:

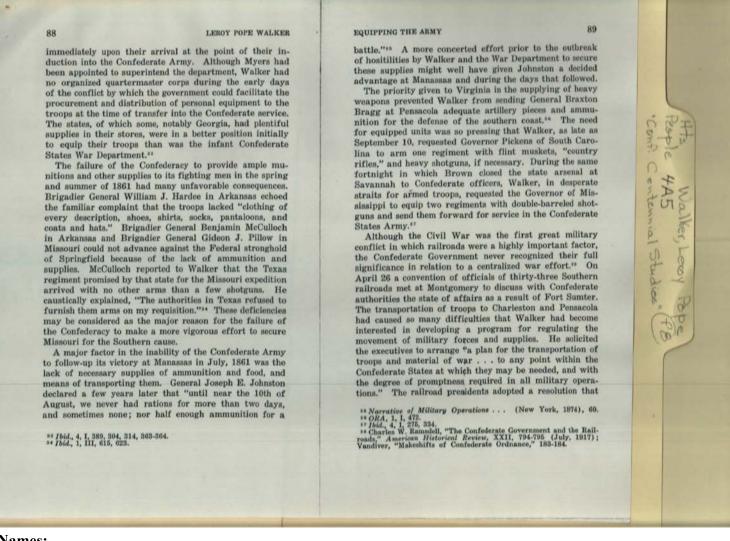
Brown, Joseph E., Gov.

Davis, Jefferson

Myers, Abraham C., Lt. Col. Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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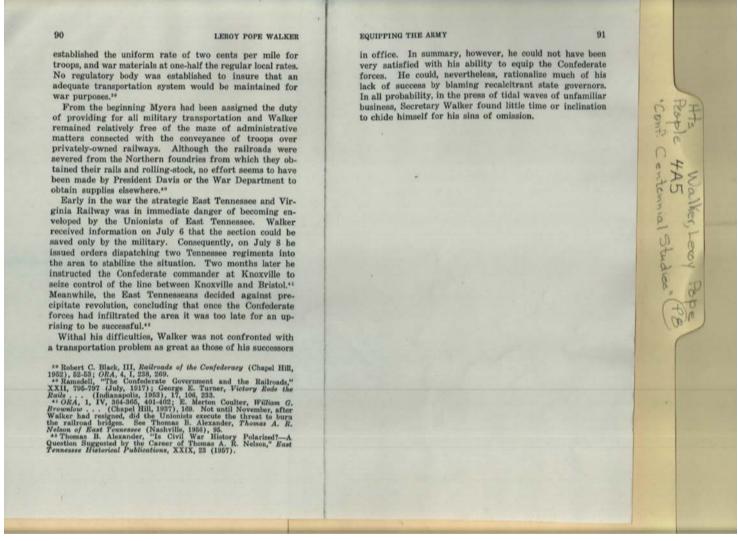


Names:

Bragg, Braxton, Gen'l Hardee, William J., Brig. Gen'l Johnston, Joseph E., Gen'l McCulloch, Benjamin, Brig. Gen'l Myers, Abraham C., Lt. Col. Pillow, Gideon J., Brig. Gen'l Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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Names:

Myers, Abraham C., Lt. Col.

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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ADMINISTERING THE WAR DEPARTMENT requirements of the army, the President appointed an old friend, Colonel Lucius B. Northrop. Colonel Abraham C. Myers was placed in charge of the Quartermaster Bureau, with the duties of assisting the Secretary in providing for clothing, shoes, tents, and other related articles for the troops in the field. Of the three appointments that of CHAPTER VI Gorgas only proved in the end to be wise. Administering the War Department From the beginning President Davis regarded the tactical functions of the War Department as his particular field. As the war progressed he assumed direction of all major military strategy, leaving the administrative details to Walker and his assistants. During the early days of the Confederacy, however, Davis did allow Walker wide latitude in exercising his control over his office; and through-DURING THE EARLY PART of the South's struggle for independence, Confederate Secretaries of War adhered to a simple plan of army organization and administration. To a great extent they conceived warfare to be of a highly personal nature in which such terms as "chains of com-mand," "channels," and "staff action" had little or no meaning.' On the other hand, the tremendous responsiout most of his tenure Walker apparently raised and equipped the armies with a minimum of interference from the President.* Mobilizing an army and providing war supplies proved to be of major significance to the Southern bilities of mobilizing, equipping, and positioning an effective fighting force placed upon the department, particause, and it was in this capacity that Walker was given cularly during Secretary Walker's tenure, an enormous his greatest opportunity to render an important service burden that necessitated the adaption of better managerial for the Confederacy. techniques. Staff and clerical personnel were not of suf-An organization as large and complex as the War Departficient numbers and Congress had not appropriated funds ment, which had a seemingly endless aggregation of probfor an adequate staff. At the time when requirements were lems and administrative chores, afforded ample room for greatest, the department was short of administrative oftwo executives (Davis and Walker). The impression, which ficers and clerks." has survived the years, that Davis really ran the department Soon after the formation of the Confederate Government, Walker divided the responsibilities of the War Department was contrary to his ideas at the time and generally incorrect. DeLeon echoed the erroneous belief that Davis into four bureaus-engineer, ordnance, quartermaster, and managed the War Department in all its details, "finding commissary, each with a supervisory chief. As chief of the Ordnance Bureau and as acting head of the Engineer time not only to give it a general supervision, but to go into all the minutiae of the working of the bureaux, and Bureau President Davis designated Major Josiah Gorgas. the choice of all its officers, or agents, and the very dis-bursement of its appropriations." The same writer, more-Gorgas held both posts until the appointment in the late summer of 1861 of Major Danville Leadbetter as chief * Ibid., 4, I, 956, 959, 1176; Vandiver, Ploughshares into Swords, 58; Prank E. Vandiver, Rebel Brass . . . (Baton Rouge, 1956), 28. See above, Chapter V, for an account of the activities of these bureaus during Walker's administration.

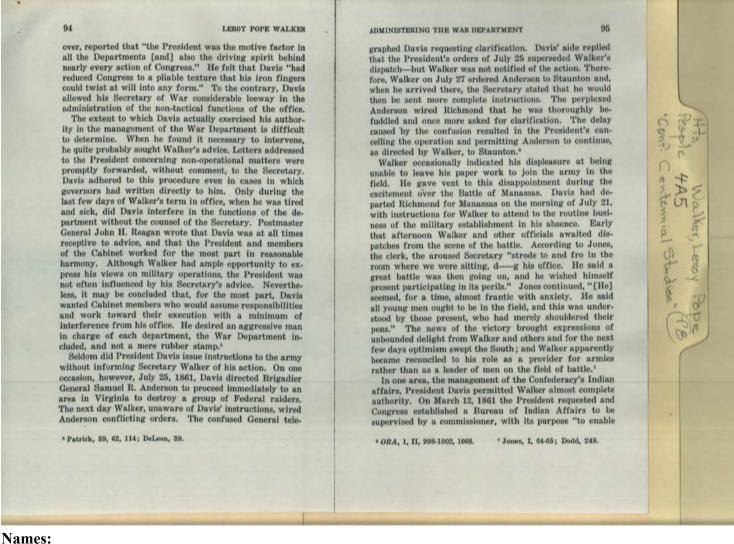
* Of course, Congress, upon the recommendations of the President, enacted legislation at various times to provide for the military establishment. engineer. For the position of commissary general, with the responsibility of providing for the subsistence (ration) ³ Frank E. Vandiver, "Jefferson Davis and Unified Army Command," Louisiana Historical Quarterly, XXXVIII, 27 (Jan., 1955).

Names:

Administering the War Department Davis, Jefferson, President Gorgas, Josiah, Major Leadbetter, Danville, Major Myers, Abraham C., Major Northrup, Lucius B., Col. Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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Anderson, Samuel R., Brig. Gen'l

Davis, Jefferson, President

Jones, James Beauchamp Reagan, John H., Postmaster Gen'l Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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ADMINISTERING THE WAR DEPARTMENT LEROY POPE WALKER the Secretary of War most advantageously to perform the duties devolved upon him in relation to the Indian tribes." The most burdensome administrative chore that confronted Walker was the incessant clamor of applicants for office. Hundreds of requests for commissions came By April 27 Walker had organized the bureau and had through the office every week, and only Walker or Davis, by act of Congress, could approve or disapprove the reappointed David Hubbard, an experienced Indian agent, as commissioner.* Walker early recognized the importance of extending the military arm of the Confederacy into the Indian territory, but he admitted that little could be accomplished until after Arkansas joined the Confederate States. Subsequently, in One observer declared that for each and every position there was a rush of jostling and almost rabid claimants. Every knot of men had its grievance; every flag in the pavement was a rostrum. . . . Personnel of the Cabinet and especially the latest army appointments—these and kindred subjects were May, Walker dispatched Hubbard to the Indian country, instructing him to make known to the tribes west of Arkansas and south of Kansas "the earnest desire of the canvassed with heat equalled only by ignorance." Confederate States to defend and protect them against the rapacious and avaricious designs of their and our enemies at the North." He also directed Hubbard to explain to Secretary Walker, was faced with this problem more than any other Cabinet officer because of the many commissions He also directed Hubbard to explain to the leaders, many of whom were slaveholders, the aboliand positions that had to be filled in the infant military tionist designs of the Washington government; and how, organization. Jones wrote in his diary that "Congress in view of this policy, the Indians' property interests could may simplify his [Walker's] duties by enacting a uniform best be protected within the Confederate States. mode of filling the offices in the field. The applications Simultaneously, the Secretary assigned Brigadier General now give the greatest trouble; and the disappointed class give rise to many vexations." The Montgomery Weekly Advertiser reflected on May 22 that "applicants for com-Ben McCulloch to the command of the district embracing the Indian territory, with orders to secure that region against a Federal invasion and, in addition, to attempt missions in the army complain that there is great and un-necessary delay in issuing them, and then at once [they] come to the conclusion that the War Department is not as efficient as it should be." The influential Georgian, to recruit Indian troops for Confederate service in the area. After extended negotiations in which the Confederacy conceded to the Indians, among other privileges, the right of territorial integrity of their lands, the tribes agreed Robert Toombs, professed to Vice President Stephens, after to ally themselves with the South in defense of their home-Walker's resignation, that he had been unable to obtain land. McCulloch organized several Indian regiments coman answer from Walker regarding his requests for com-missions, and "I hope as Walker is out it will now be different." posed of Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, and Chickasaws, but they participated in only one major campaign, the Battle of Pea Ridge. The tribes, nevertheless, loyally fought Individuals desirous of particular concessions constantly the pro-Union Indians and the Kansas raiders that ravaged harassed Walker. He received these claimants with all their lands.10 the courtesy and respect that he would have given a client * Richardson (ed.), I, 58.
* ORA, 4, I, 248; Annie H. Abel, The American Indian as Slaveholder and Secessionist. . . (Cleveland, 1915), 142-144.
10 Coulter, Confederate States, 52. The famed Arkansas poet, Albert Pike, acting for the infirm Hubbard, actually negotiated the treaties with the tribes (Abel, 144, 158, 160-161, 210-212). ¹¹ DeLeon, 26. The Savannah Republican (quoted in the Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel, April 11, 1851) compared the clamor for commissions to "the people who gathered around the pool of Siloam (the Secretary of War's office), waiting for some one to trouble the waters, and who generally retire without being relieved."

Names:

Davis, Jefferson Hubbard, David Jones, James Beauchamp McCulloch, Benjamin, Brig. Gen'l Stephens, Vice President Toombs, Robert Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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in his law office in peace time, but it was impossible for him to accommodate all he interviewed. Almost all left his office disappointed. Many could have been screened by his staff, if he had had the proper organization. Fellow Cabinet members brought pressure upon him for certain considerations. Secretary of Treasury Christopher G. Memminger, for instance, argued at great length in behalf of payments due his native South Carolina. Jones wrote that "Mr. Walker, always hesitating argued the other side, merely for delay. . . [Memminger's] demand was audited and paid, amounting, I believe to several hundred thousand dollars." One unique claimant for Walker's consideration was a man named DeKalb. He proposed "the explosion of the federal Capitol, at a time when Abe . . . and the off morthern Congress are all assembled together." For this service, in case of success, DeKalb demanded a colonel's commission and \$1,000,000. Walker apparently mentioned the preposterous proposal to Attorney General Benjamin but the scheme was never considered seriously.

Unlike Secretary Simon Cameron, his counterpart in off Washington, Walker completed his term without any charge graof corruption or favoritism. The excellent opportunities

Online Secretary Simon Cameron, his counterpart in Washington, Walker completed his term without any charge of corruption or favoritism. The excellent opportunities for graft, which were multiplied by the complex and undeveloped nature of the department's organization, evidently did not affect Walker's purpose to administer his responsibilities fairly and impartially. During the late days of his term in office the Richmond Enquirer declared: "The grand fact stands out prominently, that in the face of great scarcity at first of many of the most essential requisites of outfit and equipment, there is no case known of speculation or imposition in the matter of army contracts. It is a fact . . . most creditable to the Secretary of War." Although his critica made every effort to uncover evidence of perversion on Walker's part, the Enquirer acclaimed upon his retirement that it was unusual for a

Jones, I, 38-39; Phillips (ed.), Correspondence
 U, S. 39 Cong., 1 Seas., House Doc. 194, Assassination of Lincoln (Washington, 1866); Howard K. Beale (ed.), The Diary of Edward Bates, 1859-1866 (Washington, 1933), IV, 569.

ADMINISTERING THE WAR DEPARTMENT

99

Secretary of War to serve his entire term and not be "arraigned [by newspapers] on charges of corrupt favoritism, fraud and theft."14

The War Department not only proved a rostrum for the solicitations of office seekers and other interests, but it also became a sounding board for disgruntled officers who had not received certain promotions they thought that they deserved. Brigadier General Gideon Pillow complained to Walker: "Why is it that I have been placed in position and ranked by nearly every general officer of the Confederate Army when it is known that I ranked every officer now in that Army in my long term of service in the Mexican War." Pillow was incensed with the fact that a junior officer of his during the Mexican conflict had been appointed as his commanding officer.¹²

In his capacity, next to President Davis, as the promoting authority for Confederate officers, Secretary Walker came into sharp conflict with the querulous Braxton Bragg, who took issue with the policy of occasionally promoting younger officers over their seniors, as figured from their time in grade in the United States Army. Walker disregarded Bragg's entreaties, indicating that an officer's performance should be the determining factor in his elevation to a new grade. This was in sharp contrast with the traditional but not all inclusive procedure of promotion by seniority. The elevation by Walker of the youthful Lieutenant Joseph Wheeler, of Bragg's army, to the grade of colonel in the artillery, without the recommendation of his commanding officer, infuriated the choleric General. After Secretary Walker's resignation, Bragg vociferously complained to Secretary of War Benjamin that the growing dissatisfaction among the old army officers because of Walker's slight of their seniority status had resulted in a number of resignations. Moreover, Bragg took the opportunity to criticize the procedure of promoting "eleventh-hour converts and

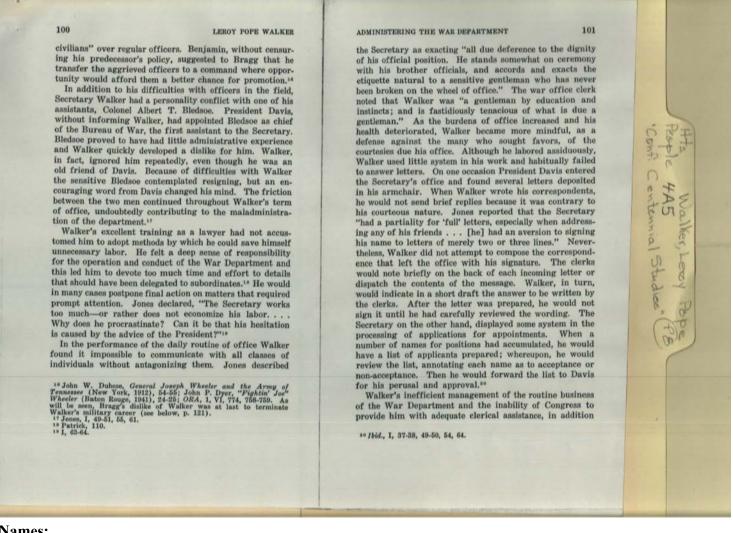
¹⁴ Aug. 23, Sept. 20, 1861. For a discussion of the Federal Secretaries of War's activities in the disbursement of favors see T. Harry Williams, *Lincoln and the Radicals* (Madison, 1941), 88-89, 127.

Names:

Benjamin, Judah P., Attorney Gen'l Bragg, Braxton, Gen'l Cameron, Simon DeKalb, Jones, James Beauchamp Memminger, Christopher G. Pillow, Gideon J., Brig. Gen'l Walker, Leroy Pope Wheeler, Joseph, Col.

Types:

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Names:

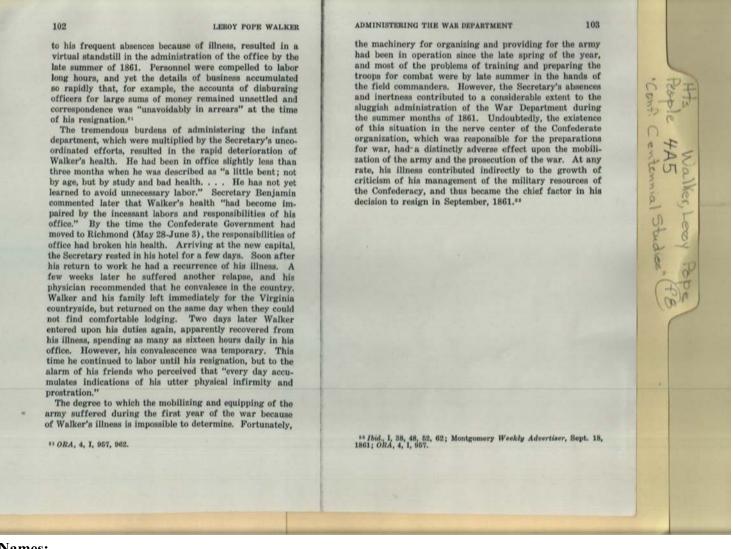
Benjamin, Judah P., Attorney Gen'l

Bledsoe, Albert T., Col. Bragg, Braxton, Gen'l Davis, Jefferson, President

Jones, James Beauchamp Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

r04a05-08-000-0211 Image 52 Contents Index About



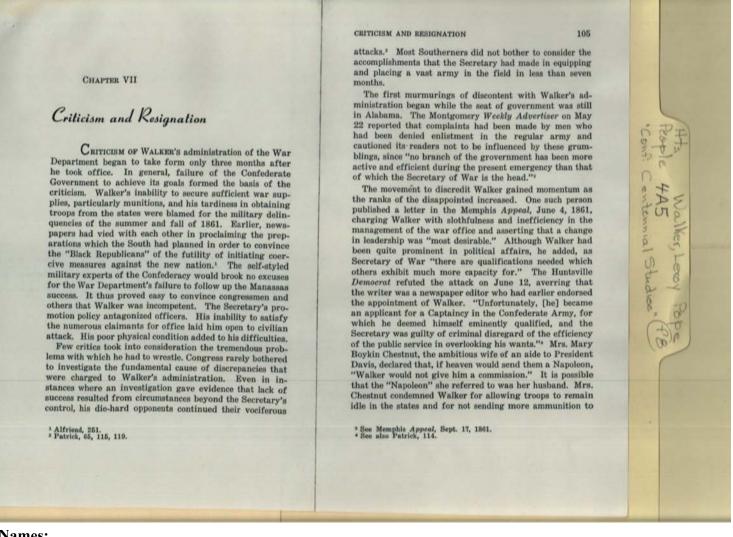
Names:

Benjamin, Judah P., Attorney Gen'l

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

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Names:

Chestnut, Mary Boykin, Mrs.

Criticism and Resignation Davis, Jefferson, President

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types: book

Image 54 r04a05-08-000-0213 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>

106 LEROY POPE WALKER CRITICISM AND RESIGNATION General Joseph E. Johnston in Virginia. She described Georgia, Brown had established a policy not to take any Walker as "that slow-coach." troops from or near the seaboard, but to reserve them for Gradually others, with various motives, joined the chorus coastal defense purposes. Although a recent act of Conagainst Walker. Confederate leaders, notably Toombs and gress conferred upon the Secretary of War the privilege Stephens, were stung by the Secretary's refusal to grant of recruiting men independently of state authorities, Brown commissions or other concessions to their personal friends. should still be allowed to determine a priority for the dis-The Weekly Confederation of Montgomery, a Co-operationist bursement of state arms and equipment. Moreover, Walker, newspaper during the secession crisis, remarked on June 7 upon accepting the direct-tender troops, "merely recomthat "with a more efficient man in the War Department, mends them to provide themselves with arms before leaving his [Davis'] Cabinet would possess a large share of the the State . . . leaving the inference that if they could not public confidence and leave him free to lead the army to procure arms in Georgia, they could in Virginia," the victory." Some intimated that Walker should resign in Intelligencer continued. "If he has induced troops to leave order to give representation in the Cabinet to the Border Georgia without informing them where they were to obtain States, as they entered the Confederacy. Governor Brown, as has been suggested, held low regard arms, he cannot change the blame from himself where it does belong, to the Governor where it does not belong." for Walker's performance as Secretary of War and early lent support to those who desired a change. The public The newspaper suggested that a difference of opinion exphase of the conflict between the two antagonists apparisted between the President and Walker regarding Brown. ently began on July 2 with an indiscreet article in the The editor concluded the condemnation of the Secretary pro-government Richmond Enquirer, criticising Georgia's by declaring: "Mr. Walker has throughout shewn, he is not failure to arm and equip troops recruited within the state. the man for the place he holds. From the time when he The editor included a message by Walker to a Georgia proclaimed in a speech that he intended to take Washington officer who had tendered his company directly to the War City, down to the present, his entire administration has Department without the formality of requesting Brown's been a series of destructive blunders." indorsement of the procedure. "It is to be much regretted," After reading the editorial in the Intelligencer, Walker After reading the control and the state of t the Secretary declared, "that the rifles now in your possession should not be permitted to be used against the common enemy; and be liable to be retained in inglorious difference that I am aware of between the President and inactivity, while the best blood of the sons of the South is myself in regard to yourself. We both entertain, I am sure, poured out freely in resistance to the Northern invader." the most cordial feelings of respect for your character, Brown's supporters indignantly denounced the *Enquirer* and Walker's unwise comments. Brown's Atlanta organ, patriotism, and public services," he wrote. He congratulated Brown upon the determination of Georgia to maintain the Intelligencer, on July 13 asserted that the Governor her full share of the responsibility in preparing for the was justified in withholding arms from the troops which conflict and indicated that he and President Davis "agreed were tendered directly to Confederate officials, explaining in the policy of making earnest appeals to you to permit that, as commander-in-chief of the army and militia of any arms within your jurisdiction not in use to be wielded in a common defense against a common enemy." Brown A Diary from Dixie (New York, 1929), 73, 78, 86.
 Phillips (ed.), Correspondence . . . , 575. replied that "I never till I read your letter had the least

Names:

Brown, Joseph E.,

Davis, Jefferson, President Johnston, Joseph E., Gen'l Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 55 r04a05-08-000-0214 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>

109 CRITICISM AND RESIGNATION LEROY POPE WALKER almost beseeching the War Department to supply him with knowledge of the extract referred to, or of the article in the material needful to carry on the war." the Richmond paper giving rise to it." Congressional resolutions passed during the latter period of Walker's tenure demanded information on army organi-Walker's conflicts with Brown inevitably resulted in attacks by other Georgia leaders upon the Secretary's management of the War Department. Thomas R. R. Cobb stated that he was "utterly unfit" for the position." Vice zation, hospital service, daily rations issue to soldiers, and other matters. As previously stated, on August 12, 1861 Congress asked Walker to report on plans to fortify New President Stephens, who had no scruples about criticising Orleans. The Secretary, in refusing to devulge such inthe administration of which he was a member, declared formation, manifested that the Congress may rest assured that the War Department is being administered in every particular mentioned toward the attainment of the great aim of the Confederate States. . . . I respectfully solicit the Congress to repose in the Department their faith and confidence. The War Department is managed badly. The Secretary is very inefficient. He'll do and do and do, and at last do nothing. He is like a man who in playing chess thinks and thinks and thinks before moving, and at last makes a foolish move. He is very rash in counsel, and lamentably irresolute and inefficient in action. There were twenty thousand stand of arms offered us for sale. He postponed it until after the fall of Sumter; then tried to get them, but it was too late. At the same time Congress appointed a committee to inquire into the administration of the medical, commissary, and quartermaster departments, sections of the War Deit was too late. partment. Walker notified the committee that "the Department cheerfully concurs in the objects of your committee, Stephens, of course, had in mind a man whom he believed and will be happy to afford you all possible facilities within its authority for the prosecution of your inquiries." These varying probes during the late summer of 1861 indicated better qualified for the war office. "Toombs ought to have been there," he said, "He is the brains of the whole concern." an increasing dissatisfaction with the Secretary. His cur-Newspaper editors, particularly those of Georgia, joined sory treatment of Congress regarding the investigation of in the criticism of Walker. In late July he had requested the defenses of New Orleans, for instance, convinced many correspondents to use restraint in reporting "such intelliof the official circle in Richmond that a change was needed gence as might be detrimental to the great cause." in the war office.11 heeded the request but in general it was flagrantly ignored. A few sympathetic newspapers pointed out the accom-Though facing a powerful enemy, the politicians and news-papers of the Confederacy insisted on maintaining freedom plishments that had been realized under Secretary Walker's management. The Richmond Enquirer declared, August of the press and other traditional civil rights. The Savannah News turned to the Secretary as a scapegoat for the inactivity of the army after the victory at Manassas, stating that General Beauregard "had been for weeks 23, that No man, who is not, to some extent, familiar with the details of the vast business which this branch of public Huntsville Independent, July 20; Richmond Dispatch, July 2;
 tllanta Intelligencer, July 10; Montgomery Weekly Advertiser, July 4, Aug. 31, 1861; see also Donald (ed.), 82-84.
 Journal of the Congress, 1, 338, 366.
 Jones, I, 77; ORA, 4, I, 598-599. ORA, 4, I, 473-474, 491.
Patrick, 115.
Richard M. Johnston and William H. Browne, Life of A. H. tephens (Philadelphia, 1878), 405.

Names:

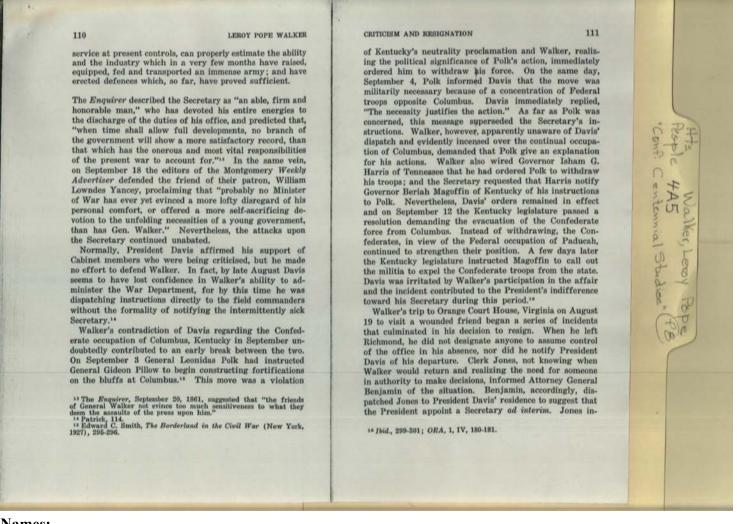
Beauregard, Pierre G. T., Brig. Gen'l

Cobb, Thomas R. R.

Stephens, Vice President Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

r04a05-08-000-0215 Image 56 Contents Index **About**



Names:

Benjamin, Judah P., Attorney Gen'l Davis, Jefferson. President

Harris, Isham G., Gov. Magoffin, Beriah, Gov.

Pillow, Gideon J., Gen'l Polk, Leonidas, Gen'l Walker, Leroy Pope

Yancey, William Lowndes

Types:

Image 57 r04a05-08-000-0216 Contents Index About

112 LEROY POPE WALKER CRITICISM AND RESIGNATION 113 formed the President of his business, "not omitting to use it is the business of the Secretary to see that a brief the name of Mr. Benjamin . . . and [Davis], in his quick and rather pettish manner, said 'send me the order'." The abstract of their contents accompany them."11 While relations with the President were rapidly deteriperturbed President designated Colonel Bledsoe to discharge orating, the Secretary continued to be plagued by frail the duties of Secretary of War until Walker's return. health caused by strain and overwork. Finally, he decided After Jones returned to the war office, he recognized to tender his resignation.¹⁸ Accordingly, he informed Davis of his desire to leave the Cabinet. The President that "the part Mr. Benjamin and I had acted was likely to breed a storm; for several of the employees, supposed to agreed to accept the resignation and inquired whether he be in the confidence of Mr. Walker, designated the pro-ceeding as an outrage." Several of Walker's friends intidesired an appointment as a minister to a European country. When Walker expressed a reluctance to serving in mated that Benjamin's motive was to have some of his Europe, Davis asked whether there was "any other position partisans appointed to lucrative positions during Walker's to which I could assign you that would be entirely acceptabsence. Bledsoe, however, made few appointments in able. The personal regard I feel for you, and my desire Walker's absence. Apparently, he had had no connection with Benjamin. Walker returned the next day, unfortuto promote your welfare and happiness, is, I hope, too well appreciated by you to permit a misconstruction of this offer." In a tardy indication of sympathy for his harassed Secretary, the President professed: "To sever the relation which has so closely united us is so repugnant to my sentinately in a depressed state of mind, according to Jones, over the action taken in his absence. However, he doubted "whether the Secretary would have thought a second time of what had been done in his absence, if some of his friends ment that only the conviction of a public necessity, which had not fixed his attention upon it. He shut himself up I have unsuccessfully striven to avert, could have reconciled me to the separation." pretty closely, and none of us could see or hear whether he was angry." When Jones was called into Walker's office that afternoon, he reported that he saw, lying on On September 10 Walker officially submitted his resignation, stating: the Secretary's table, an envelope addressed by Walker to the President. Jones thought that this might be the Secre-For reasons unofficially communicated I must respecttary's resignation since such rumors had been circulating. fully tender you my resignation as Secretary of War, to take effect on the 16th instant. In doing so I beg to assure "It was placed so conspicuously before me where I sat that it was impossible not to see it. It was marked, too, you not only of my undiminished personal regard, but increased confidence in your abilities as a statesman. As the first chief magistrate of the Confederate States, your position has been one of great trial and enduring fortitude, and I have been a daily witness of the singular power by 'immediate'." The envelope remained on Walker's desk for several days, during which time he did not attend Cabinet meetings. Nevertheless, Davis continued to send papers to Walker for which you have brought order out of chaos and placed your the Secretary to brief and return. Apparently, Walker had become negligent in the preparation of the abstracts, since Jones noticed that Davis had placed "some pretty sharp Administration on the solid basis of acknowledged succ and the popular heart. pencil marks" on various papers. One set was returned to Walker with the warning by the President that, "when Robert D. Meade, Judah P. Benjamin, Confederate Statesman
 (New York, 1943), 177-178; Jones, I, 73-74.
 Richmond Enquirer, Sept. 20, 1861; Butler, 240; Huntaville
 Southern Advocate, Sept. 15, 1861. papers of such volume are sent to him [Davis] for perusal,

Names:

Benjamin, Judah P., Attorney Gen'l Bledsoe, Albert T., Col.

Davis, Jefferson, President Jones, Clerk Walker, Leroy Pope

Types: book

Image 58 r04a05-08-000-0217 <u>Contents Index About</u>

114 LEROY POPE WALKER 115 CRITICISM AND RESIGNATION In a later letter to the President, Walker continued to later for Huntsville to assume command of his brigade praise him. "In withdrawing from your Cabinet, I can, News of Walker's resignation produced no reaction from I feel assured, without any impeachment of my motives, say to you in writing what I have often said of you, that his critics who had earlier been so eager to censure him. They were apparently sobered by the impairment of the you were the only man I have ever met whose greatness departing Secretary's health and by the realization that grew upon me the nearer I approached him." At the same they had achieved their purpose. On the other hand, Walker left with the praise of many of his fellow citizens ringing in his ears. George Fitzhugh in the Richmond time, Walker requested that the President appoint him to the command of troops in the Mobile Bay area, as a temporary arrangement until the election of senators for the Dispatch proclaimed, on September 30: permanent government. "I will not conceal from you," Walker admitted to Davis, "my intention to become a candidate for the Senate in the event Clay does not desire it, and I understand from his brother that he does not. My belief is that I shall be easily elected." Moreover, Walker reasoned that the President's indication of his city is believed to the content of Never in the history of the world has so large an army been recruited, brought together from distant points, provisioned, armed and disciplined in so short a time, as that of the South. . . . Without a wise, a prudent, practical, circumspect, provident, and vigorous Confederate Administration, the unrising of our recole would have been of no tration, the uprising of our people would have been of no avail. . . Our armies have been furnished with munitions of war and provisions and brought into position with unprecedented speed; yet, these croakers say there is something wrong and rotten in the War Department and that our Quartermasters are wholly inefficient. . . The people faith in him by tendering him an appointment as a general officer would silence much of the criticism that his resignation would arouse Davis assented to Walker's request for a commission and an assignment in his native state, but not to the command of troops in the strategic Mobile area. On September 15 he may rely on it that an army and an Administration that with little means or preparation have effected so much in the last six months are not dilatory, imbecile or inefficient. wrote the Secretary: In accepting the tender of your resignation permit me to offer my sincere wish for your future welfare and happiness, and the assurance that the confidence you have In like manner, one of Walker's colleagues wrote an article happiness, and the assurance that the confidence you have won by untiring zeal in an office of extreme labor will attend you in your future career, which I can expect will be honorable to you and useful to the country. I am not surprised, connected as you have been with the details of Army affairs, and knowing as you do the trials to which that Army is probably yet to be exposed, that you should desire at this time to connect yourself more actively with our military operations, and it will give me pleasure to confer upon you the rank of brigadier-general. in the Enquirer, declaring that the Alabamian had administered the War Department "with so much ability and so much dignity. A better, truer man never bore the burdens or honored the responsibilities of office" despite the "unworthy clamor and detraction" of his antagonists. Another Secretary "will come in to profit by his labor, and to reap, perhaps, the harvest of success and praise which he has prepared under so much discouragement." The Enquirer indicated that a seat in the Senate only awaited Walker's acceptance. On September 16, 1861 Walker relinquished the Secretary of War portfolio to Judah P. Benjamin and left a few days ** Enquirer, Sept. 20, 1861. The Richmond Examiner, September 17, 1861, declared that Walker "can look back with satisfaction to a term of office in which his country's flag was borne high and exaited . . . without even a disaster which was not directly traceable 19 ORA, 4, I, 600, 602-603, 613-614.

Names:

Benjamin, Judah P. Clay,

Davis, Jefferson, President Fitzhugh, George Walker, Leroy Pope

Types: book

Image 59 r04a05-08-000-0218 Contents Index About

116 CRITICISM AND RESIGNATION LEROY POPE WALKER Alabama newspapers believed that Walker had been in the case of the latter, he rushed volunteers to the area grievously wronged by critics who had pressured him into without any attempt to organize, equip, or train them prior leaving office before he had had fair opportunity to to their reporting for duty. Instead of the several thoudemonstrate the fruits of his labor. The Huntsville Southern sands of ragtag troops that were sent to Pensacola, a few Advocate, whose editor often had differed with Walker in local politics, asserted on September 18, "No one has hundred properly provisioned and trained troops would probably have created less confusion for the Confederate commander and been more effective against the fortified labored with more zeal, energy and ability to secure Southern Independence-no one has been more unjustly Federals on Santa Rosa Island. Once hostilities commenced censured. . . . He has already accomplished enough . . . and Walker pressed vigorously for a larger army, he disto transmit his name to posterity as one of the founders of Southern Independence." On the same day the Montplayed considerable skill in his relations with the jealous state officials. Although seriously hampered in the mobiligomery Weekly Advertiser reminded those who had found zation of the troops by Governor Brown and others who fault with the Secretary that in seven months Walker had were fearful of enemy operations against their coasts, performed an almost impossible task in mobilizing an army within three months after the beginning of the conflict he of 200,000 men.11 had placed an army in the field that could boast of a major victory, Manassas. Moreover, his request for 500,000 men Probably, a more accurate estimate of Walker's services to prosecute the war indicated that he had accepted the to the Confederate States would bestow upon him some meed of approbation, but, on the other hand, it would be idea of conducting offensive operations against the Northa policy that might have produced intriguing results, had necessary to point out several shortcomings of his administration that could be directly attributed to his inability it been employed during the early months of the struggle. Walker's most significant failure as Secretary of War to comprehend a critical situation or to act decisively when was his inability to arm and equip the Confederate Army confronted with a problem. It is well to remember, in with reasonable quickness. The War Department delayed evaluating Walker's career as Secretary of War, that for until May, 1861 to grant Confederate agents wide authority the first two years the result of the conflict appeared to be to purchase war materials. By that time most of the available arms and ammunition in Europe had been purin real doubt." Therefore, it seems appropriate to question whether a more effective administration of the war office, chased by Northern representatives. Subsequently, the coming during the early months of the fighting, might not contracts for the manufacture of munitions took several have had a decided effect on the outcome of the conflict. months to complete. Furthermore, Walker, who apparently had full responsibility for the purchasing operations abroad, Secretary Walker failed to foresee, until after the firing upon Fort Sumter, the need for an army capable of repelling an attempt to "put down the rebellion." It is true made no effort until May to obtain machinery from Europe that he acted with energy in dispatching troops to Charlesfor the production of munitions or for the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of small arms. In regard ton and Pensacola to expel the Federal garrisons; however, to the acquisition of the stores of state weapons, the to the fact that the affair in question was not under his own administration, but, on the contrary, under that of some state official." ²¹ See the Richmond Dispatch, September 17, 1861, and the Montgomery Advertiser and Register, October 9, 1861, for other statements lauding Walker's service.

22 See Donald (ed.), 93. Secretary tactfully and energetically vied with possessive governors for the early transfer of their war materials to the Confederate Government. Governor Brown's refusal to co-operate in this respect might have been the difference

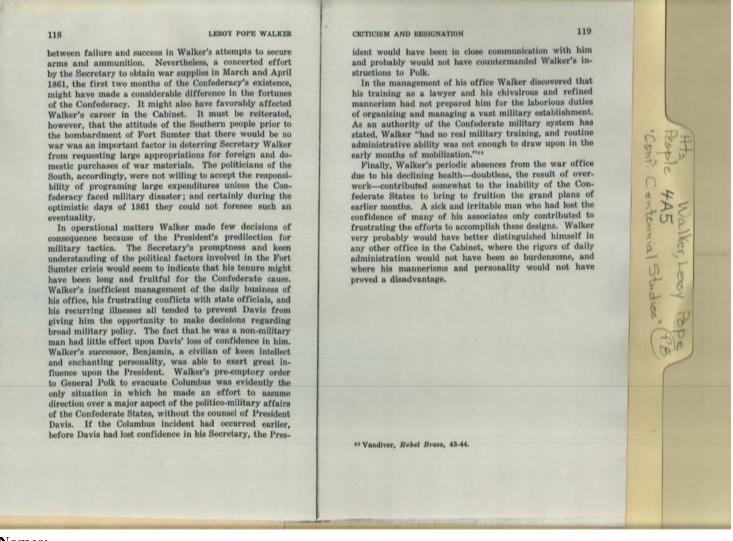
Names:

Brown, Joseph E., Gov.

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 60 r04a05-08-000-0219 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Benjamin, Judah P.

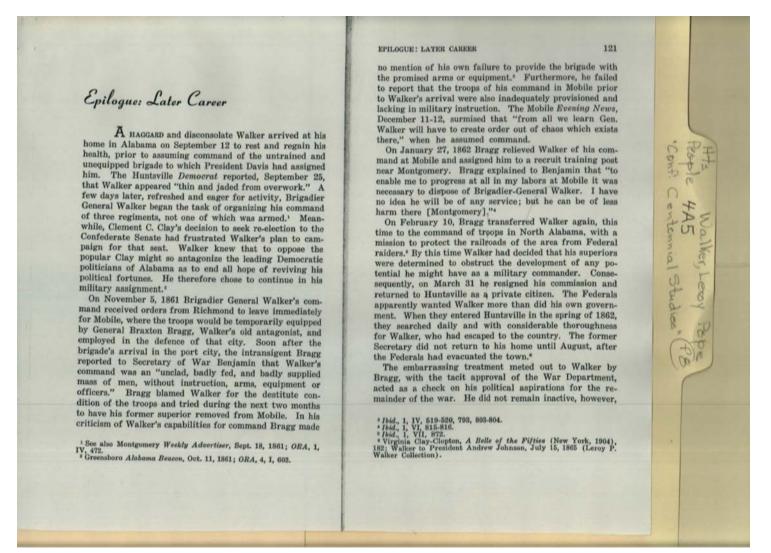
Davis, Jefferson

Polk, Leonidas, Gen'l

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 61 r04a05-08-000-0220 Contents Index About



Names:

Benjamin, Judah P. Bragg, Braxton, Gen'l Clay, Clement C.

Epilogue: Later Career Walker, Leroy Pope

Types: book

Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 8 Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: "Walker, Leroy Pope" by Harris, William C. - Families

r04a05-08-000-0221 Image 62 Contents Index **About**

LEROY POPE WALKER EPILOGUE: LATER CAREER brooding over his misfortunes. During the fall and winter Huntsville in partnership with Robert C. Brickell. It was of 1862-1863, when the persecution and proscription of in this professional activity that Walker attained his Union men by Confederates was at its height in the Huntsgreatest eminence: for the following nineteen years he was ville area, Walker devoted his legal talents to the defense the foremost attorney of North Alabama." of Unionists charged with treason against the Confederate Throughout the Reconstruction era Walker and other Government, In so doing he incurred the displeasure of former Confederate leaders strove to regain the positions the influential editor of the Huntsville Democrat, J. Withers they had occupied before the war. Although not a candi-Clay, and other staunch Confederates who during the date for office, Walker maintained an active interest in secession crisis had looked to Walker to lead North Alabama politics which enabled him to exert a major influence within from the Union. the Democratic party.18 In 1874 the Republican party in In the summer of 1863 Walker, concluding that the Con-Alabama was permanently ousted from power, and the federate cause was hopeless, drafted resolutions proposing following year a state constitutional convention was called the return of Alabama to the Union. However, a group of to undo as much of Reconstruction as might be risked at his political friends in Montgomery persuaded him that the the time. Walker toured the Tennessee Valley in behalf of situation was far from appropriate for such a drastic Conservative Democratic candidates to the convention. Durmeasure. ing this canvass, at a crossroad community near Huntsville, Despite Walker's Unionist activities, Confederate au-Walker made one of the most widely-publicized speeches thorities appointed him in June, 1864 presiding judge of the Military Court of North Alabama, a position he reof his career. No other Democratic speaker more effecof his career. No other beincerate speaker more cities of tively outlined the party's plans or so lucidly proclaimed the political philosophy of Conservative Democrats. In his customary florid style, Walker exclaimed: tained until the end of the war." After Appomattox, Walker experienced difficulty in obtaining a pardon from President Andrew Johnson, and it was not until September 28, 1865 that he finally signed the There is no land in the world comparable to ours in the triune combination of soil, climate and production. God papers. Walker, however, never expressed regret for the part he had played in the disruption of the Union. Years smiled upon it in his beneficence and made it rich in all the attributes and capabilities of a great civilization. Her later he maintained, "I have no horrors for secession, and never expect to have any, except for its results." In practice, in only want now is a good government—an economical, honest, non-partisan and abstinent government—a government— After the war Walker continued his law practice in ment which recognizes in human affairs the great doctrine of "free agency" as God applies it in his divine adminis-tration. Govern as little as possible and only by general ⁷ D. B. Turner, a North Alabama Unionist, to President Andrew Johnson, June 1, 1865 (Leroy P. Walker Collection); Huntaville Confederate, May 24, 1803. For an account of the activities of the Unionists in North Alabama see Wm. Stanley Hoole, Alabama Fories. . . (Tuscalocaa, 1960).

Suscraberger, 227; statements of Senators F. L. Hammond, Madison County, and J. P. Cowan, Morgan and Limestone counties, June 1, 1865 (Leroy P. Walker Collection).

Tender of Appointment to Leroy P. Walker, June 6, 1864 (Leroy P. Walker Collection).

Certificate of Pardon of Leroy P. Walker (Leroy P. Walker Collection).

Collection); Walker to Johnson, Sept. 11, 1865, Andrew Johnson Pardon and Amnesty Papers (National Archives, Washington); Huntaville Democrat, May 21, 1870. 11 During the early 1870's he served as an attorney for the state in the prosecution of a suit against the Alabama & Chattanooga Railroad (Huntsville Democrat, Aug. 2, 1872; Montgomery Alabama State Journal, July 7, 1872). In one of Walker's last appearances before the bar he successfully defended the infamous Frank James for his alleged part in the robbery of a United States Army paymaster near Muscle Shoals, Alabama, in March, 1881 (Wm. Stanley Hoole, The James Roye Rode South. . . [Tuscalosca, 1955]).

12 William B. Hesseltine and Larry Gara, "Confederate Leaders in Post-War Alabama," Alabama Review, IV, 13 (Jan., 1951).

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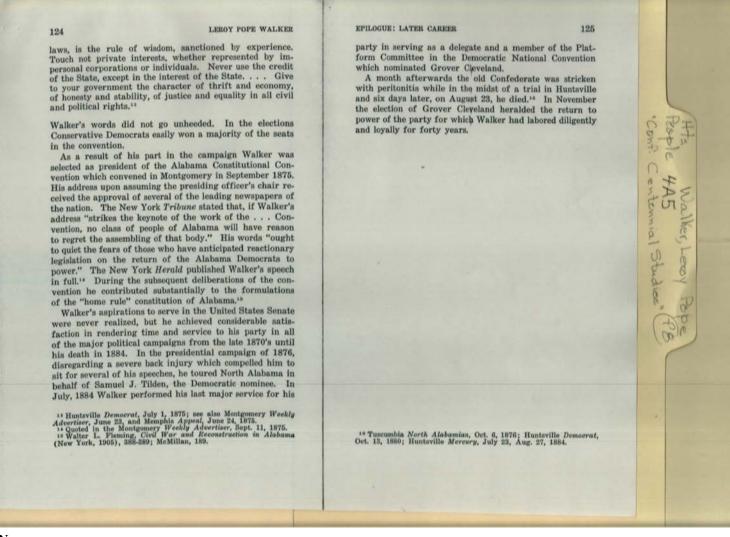
Brickell, Robert C. Clay, J. Withers

Johnson, Andrew, President

Walker, Leroy Pope

Types:

Image 63 r04a05-08-000-0222 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Cleveland, Grover

Tilden, Samuel J.

Walker, Leroy Pope

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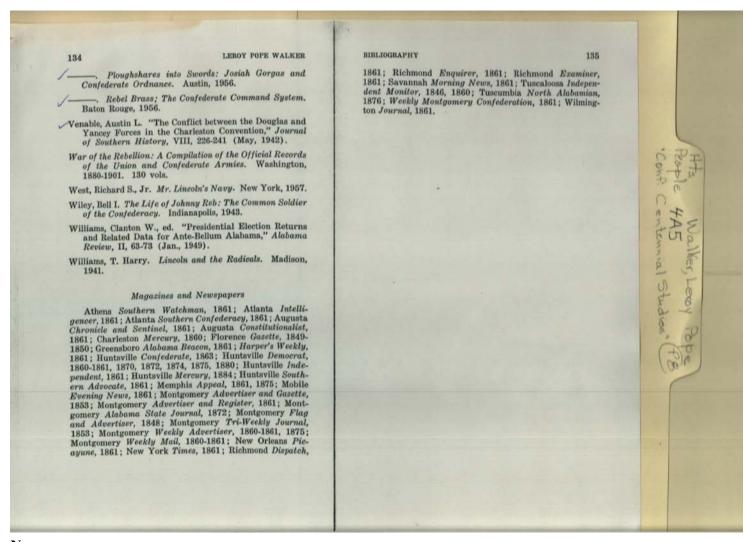
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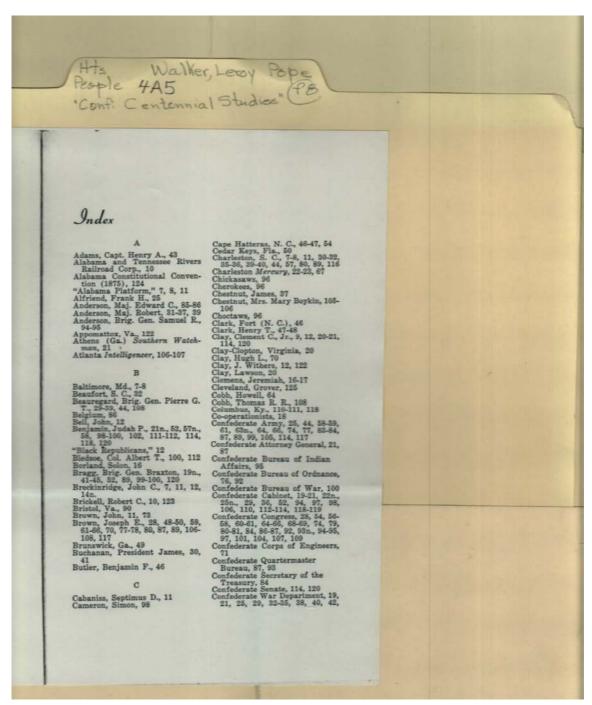


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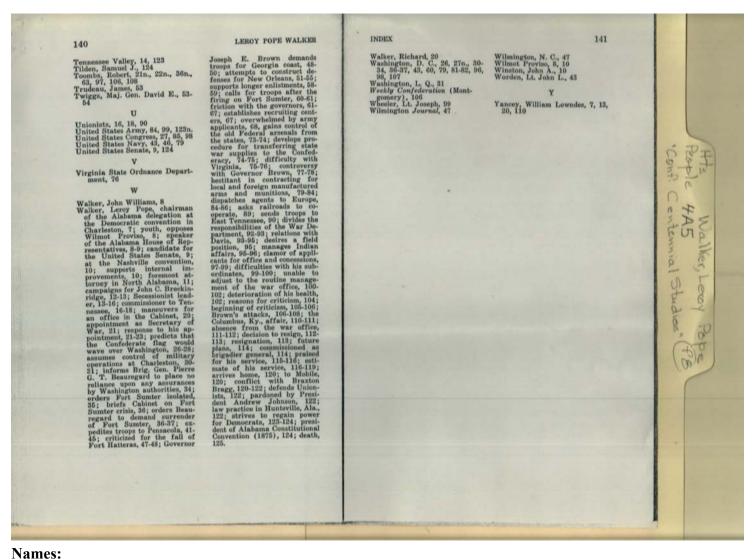
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