

FAMOUS PEOPLE AT FORT MOULTRIE



Preface

From 1776 to 1947, Fort Moultrie was part of the harbor defenses of Charleston. Like other fortifications guarding every major harbor in the country, Fort Moultrie was a link in the coastal defenses of the United States. The fort occupying the site today is actually the third Fort Moultrie.

The first fort was constructed of earth and palmetto logs in 1776, and defeated a fleet of nine English warships on June 28th of that year. By 1793, this fort had fallen into ruins and was replaced by a second Fort Moultrie, which was destroyed by a hurricane in 1804. The present fort was finished in 1809 and remained active until 1947.

When we visit the site today, we are reminded of 171 years of U.S. seacoast defense, of advances in fortifications, artillery and harbor defense techniques, but there is very little to remind us of the people who occupied the fort during its years of service. It was the people who brought life to Fort Moultrie and it is through them that its story was preserved.

It is the purpose of this booklet to give a brief biographical sketch of some of the famous people associated with Fort Moultrie. Some of these people were famous before they came to the fort, others achieved fame while they were here. The majority of the people mentioned in this book became

famous after their departure from Fort Moultrie. The names in this book are by no means a complete list of all the famous people connected with Fort Moultrie and space does not permit us to say all we would like about each one. However, perhaps this book will give you enough background information to enable you to dig a little deeper into the story of the people who served at Fort Moultrie.



William Moultrie (1730-1805). As Colonel of the 2nd South Carolina Regiment, Moultrie commanded the forces on Sullivan's Island on June 28, 1776, when the incomplete palmetto log fort defeated a fleet of nine English warships under Sir Peter Parker. This was one of the early patriot victories in the south during the

Revolution. A few days after the battle, the fort was named Fort Moultrie in his honor.

Moultrie began his political career in 1754 as a member of the Commons House of Assembly for St. Johns Parish, Berkely. In 1760, during the Cherokee War, he was appointed Captain of the South Carolina Provincial Regiment. He was a member of the First Provincial Congress of South Carolina in 1775 and a member of the First General Assembly in 1776.

Moultrie rose to the rank of Brigadier General in 1776 and participated in the defense of Charleston in 1780, where he was taken prisoner. He was exchanged in Philadelphia in February 1782. Promoted to Major General in October 1782, he served till the end of the war.

General Moultrie continued to serve his state after the war. He served one term as Lieutenant Governor and two terms as governor. After his death, his grave went unmarked and the

exact location forgotten. Discovered through archaeological excavations, the remains of General Moultrie were reinterred at Fort Moultrie on June 28, 1978.

(No portrait is given as no accurate one is known to exist.)

William Jasper (c. 1750-1779). Joined Captain Francis Marion's company (2nd South Carolina Regiment) in 1775. A sergeant by June of the following year, he braved death while under bombardment during the battle of Sullivan's Island. Going outside Fort Moultrie's walls, Jasper re-raised the garrison's fallen flag while in full view of the English fleet. An illiterate, he declined an officer's commission, insisting that he had been bred a sergeant. His death again involved his unit's colors. He fell at the siege of Savannah, after retrieving the regimental colors which had been previously planted on the enemy's fortification. His name lives on at Fort Moultrie in Battery Jasper, the concrete gun emplacement constructed adjacent to the fort in 1898.



Francis Marion (c. 1732-1795). The "Swamp Fox" served at Fort Moultrie during the English fleet's repulse in 1776. A major in the Second South Carolina Regiment, he commanded the guns of the fort's left side. Later, while commander of the same regiment, he escaped capture at the surrender of Charleston (1780). By a quirk of fate, he was convalescing outside of the city when it fell. At the lowest ebb of patriot

fortunes in the south, Marion's guerrilla operations

provided hope of eventual victory. His band of partisans operated in the Carolina lowcountry, harassing English posts, supply lines, and Tory militia. He was nicknamed the "Swamp Fox" by English Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton after a fruitless chase of 26 miles. General Marion went on to serve in the South Carolina Legislature following the war.



Osceola (c. 1800-1838). Famed war leader of the Seminole, arrived at Fort Moultrie on January 1, 1838 with 202 other Indians, 82 of which were women and children. Osceola was captured on October 20, 1837, after two years of leading raids on settlers, militia, and soldiers in Florida.

Prior to coming to Fort Moultrie, Osceola was held at Fort Marion in St. Augustine, Florida. The Indians were sent to Fort Moultrie to await removal to Oklahoma. Osceola was already ill when he arrived on Sullivan's Island. However, while here, the Indians received excellent treatment.

The Seminoles stayed in the soldiers' quarters inside the fort and were provided with food and clothing by the military. They were at liberty within the fort walls and some even p'ayed ball with the officers. Osceola and

other Seminole leaders attended the theatre in Charleston on January 6th as guests of the management. Artists, including the famed George Catlin, painted portraits of Osceola and several others.

On January 26th, Osceola's illness intensified when he was taken with what was termed as "a violent Quinsy". Two days later in the company of his wives, children, the officers and chiefs, he died. He was given a military funeral and buried next to the entrance to the fort. Osceola's head was removed by the surgeon just prior to his burial and preserved for study--a practice though entirely normal at the time.

Though the grave was vandalized with some minor digging in 1966 and the remains reportedly stolen, the culprit came nowhere near Osceola, having dug only 30 inches deep. It took five days of patient digging by archaeologists working in shifting mud and ground water to exhume the remains of Osceola in 1968. The headless remains conclusively proven to be him were reinterred on January 13, 1969.



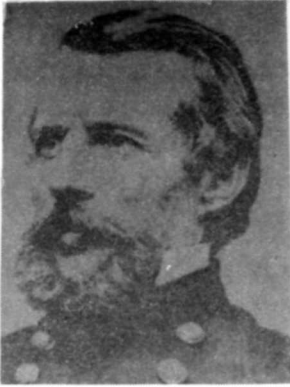
Edgar Allen Poe (1809-1840). Arrived at Fort Moultrie with Company H, 1st United States Artillery in November 1827. Young Poe, under the assumed name of E. A. Perry, had enlisted in the Army some six months earlier. Probably due to his literacy, Poe received rapid promotions. He became both company clerk and an artificer. At Moultrie for little more than a year, his unit

was next transferred to Fort Monroe, Virginia. Promoted again, Sergeant Major Poe was discharged from the Army in April 1829, having purchased a substitute for the remainder of his five year term of service. This area is the setting for his story, "The Gold Bug", and, Fort Moultrie is mentioned in "The Balloon Hoax".



Major General Henry J. Hunt (1819-1889) U.S.A. Served at Fort Moultrie. He graduated from West Point in 1839 and served in the artillery during the Mexican War, receiving two temporary promotions. He was the third member of the board that revised the system of light artillery

tactics which would be used throughout the Civil War. Hunt's Civil War engagements included First Bull Run, the Seven Days Battles, Antietam and Gettysburg where his artillery decimated Pickett's charge on the third day of the battle. Hunt was Chief of Artillery of the Army of the Potomac and was placed in charge of all siege operations in Petersburg by General U. S. Grant. He worked in the south during reconstruction and retired from the Army in 1883.



Major General Erasmus D. Keyes (1810-1895), U.S.A. Was a West Pointer (1832). He served at Fort Moultrie from 1842 through 1844 and reports his stay in Fifty Years Observation of Men and Events (1834).

Keyes once instructed his company clerk to "conduct this quadruped to my dwelling". The quadruped was a dog. He was Aide De Camp to General Winfield Scott three times and was his military secretary at the outbreak of the Civil War. He commanded a brigade at First Bull Run and the IV Corps in the Peninsular Campaign under McClellan. He resigned in 1864 to become a wine grower, banker, and gold miner.



General Braxton Bragg (1817-1876). Graduated from West Point in 1837. A native of North Carolina, he served at Fort Moultrie during the years 1843-1845. Abner Doubleday was to recall him as an "odd fish". Serving as both quartermaster and commander, Lieutenant Bragg complained of bad beef to himself in written correspondence. Major Bragg served throughout the Mexican War as an artillery commander, receiving three battlefield promotions. At Buena Vista (1847), his batteries

were devastating and supposedly occasioned the comment from General Taylor: "a little more grape, Mr. Bragg". Bragg was more than likely firing cannister at the time.

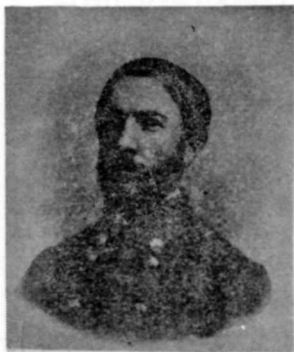
He resigned from the Army in 1856 to live the life of a Louisiana planter. Commander of a Confederate Corps at Shiloh (1862), he assumed command of the Army of the Tennessee later that year. His finest hour was at Chickamauga (September 1863) and his low point was at Missionary Ridge (November 1863). He was relieved of command early in 1864 and assigned as military advisor to Jefferson Davis. Bragg was given command of the Department of North Carolina in January 1865. After the war, he worked as a civil engineer in New Orleans, Louisiana and Mobile, Alabama. He died in Galveston, Texas.



Major General George H. Thomas (1816-1870). The "Rock of Chickamauga" was a native Virginian. A West Pointer (1840), he served during the Seminole and Mexican War, winning two temporary promotions for gallantry. As a First Lieutenant he was stationed at Fort Moultrie from 1842-1843. Just prior to the out-

break of the Civil War, he was serving in the 2nd U. S. Cavalry with future Confederate Generals Lee, A. S. Johnston, Hardee, Hood,

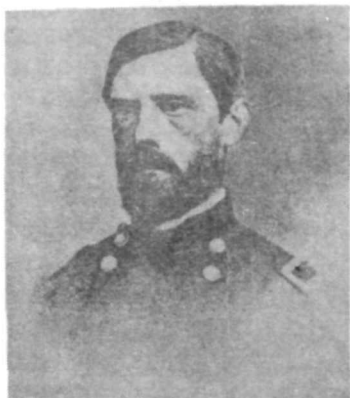
Fitzhugh Lee, and Van Dorn. A Brigadier General of Volunteers by 1862, his engagements included Mill Springs (1862) and Shiloh (1862). By Perryville (1862) he was second in command of the Army of the Ohio. By Stones River (1862-1863) he was a Major General and a Corps Commander during his courageous stand at Chickamauga. Commander of the Army of the Cumberland at Chattanooga (1863), Atlanta (1864), Franklin (1864), and Nashville (1864), he was given the thanks of Congress for his performance at Franklin and Nashville.



Major General Daniel H. Hill (1821-1889). Confederate States Army, served at Fort Moultrie in 1845. Major General Abner Doubleday, U.S.A., was a fellow classmate at West Point (1842) and Lieutenant General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson was his brother-in-law. He was a native South Carolinian and descendant of two of General Thomas Sumter's partisan band. Hill won two promotions for gallantry in the Mexican War. He resigned from

the Army in 1849, taught mathematics at Washington College, and later became Superintendent of the North Carolina Military Institute. Donning Confederate gray, he was the victor in one of the first big skirmishes of the War of the Rebellion at Big Bethel (1861). He served with Lee in Virginia and commanded in North Carolina. He was relieved of command of his Corps of the Army of the Tennessee after criticizing General Bragg's failure to aggressively follow up his victory at Chickamauga

(1863). He observed that "Confederate infantry and federal artillery, side by side on the same field, need fear no foe on earth".



Major General John F. Reynolds (1820-1863), U.S.A., was a lieutenant when he served in the Fort Moultrie garrison. A U.S. Military Academy graduate (1841), his combat experience was on the frontier and in the Mexican War where he won two temporary promotions for gallantry. He was commandant of Cadets at West Point

when the Civil War began. Reynolds was captured during the Seven Days Battles (1862). After his exchange, he was a Division Commander at Second Bull Run and as a Major General, a Corps Commander at Fredericksburg. He was considered for command of the Union Army following Chancellorsville (1863). Reynolds was killed leading the I Corps at Gettysburg.

Major General Joseph K. Mansfield (1803-1862), U.S.A. Graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1822 and saw service as a lieutenant in the Engineer Corps at Fort Moultrie. He



served with distinction during the Mexican War as General Taylor's Chief Engineer, was wounded once, and won three temporary promotions. Prior to the Civil War, he was Inspector General of the Army and his first wartime duty was as Commander of the Department of Washington. In 1862, he was assigned duty in the field and was killed at Antietam leading the Federal XII Corps.



Brigadier General John Henry Winder (1800-1865), C.S.A. Served as a member of Fort Moultrie's garrison as a Captain. A West Pointer (1820), he saw service in the Seminole and Mexican Wars, winning two temporary promotions for gallantry. He resigned from the Army in 1861 and entered Confederate service. He was ever after associated with prison camp administration. First Commander of Richmond's Libby and Belle Isle Prisons,

his duties expanded until he was named Commissary General of all prisons east of the Mississippi River (1864). He thus bore responsibility for Andersonville, the south's most notorious prison. Death came in February 1865--some say as a result from overwork; others from disease contracted during prison inspections.



General William T. Sherman (1820-1891), U.S.A. A West Point graduate (1840), his brother officers at Moultrie included future rival George H. Thomas and future opponent Braxton Bragg. Described by a contemporary as "ambitious", Sherman's Mexican War duty was frustrating; he recruited in

Pennsylvania and helped occupy California. He resigned his commission in 1853 to go into banking. Unsuccessful, he then went into law. At the outbreak of hostilities (1861), he was superintendent of present day Louisiana State University. He served as a Colonel at First Bull Run (1861) and was almost ruined by a newspaper article charging him with insanity while commanding in Kentucky. Finding a friend in U. S. Grant, he became an integral part of Grant's string of victories: Shiloh (1862), Vicksburg (1863), Chattanooga (1863). Sherman succeeded to command in the west when Grant became overall Union Army Commander and became noted in his own right for his capture of Atlanta (1864) and his March to the Sea (1864). He is also noted for his observation, "War is Hell". Sherman was commanding general of the U.S. Army from 1869 to 1883.

Lieutenant General John M. Schofield (1831-1903), U.S.A. Served at Fort Moultrie

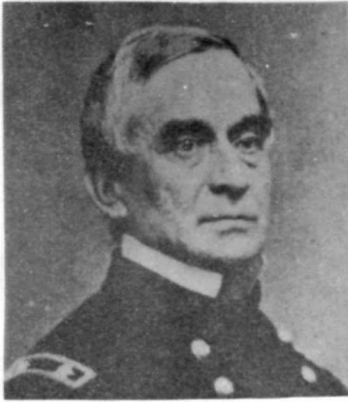


as a Second Lieutenant shortly after his graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1853. He became an instructor at the academy and later taught physics at Washington University in St. Louis.

In May 1861, Schofield was made a Captain in the First Artillery and by November, he was a Brigadier General. A year later, he was named Major General of Volunteers. At various times during the war, he commanded the District of St. Louis, Department of Missouri, Army of the Frontier, a division of the XIV Corps, the Department and Army of Ohio and the XVII Corps. He was active in Sherman's Atlanta campaign and was temporarily promoted to Major General in the U.S. Army for his service in the Battle of Franklin. In 1892, he was awarded the medal of honor for his service at Wilson's Creek over 30 years before.

Schofield was made a Major General in 1860 and served as the superintendent of West Point. He commanded the U.S. Army from 1888-1895, one of the three men who served at Fort Moultrie to achieve that honor. He retired in September 1895 as Lieutenant General.

Major General Robert Anderson (1805-1871), United States Army, began his military career at West Point (1825). He saw service against the Seminoles and may have mustered Abraham Lincoln



into service during the Black Hawk War. Seriously wounded at the Battle of Molino Del Rey during the Mexican War (1847), he received a temporary promotion for gallantry. As a major in 1860, he returned to Fort Moultrie as Post Commander, having left some 15 years before as a Captain. Following South Carolina's secession from the Union, Major Anderson

evacuated Fort Moultrie and removed his command to Fort Sumter. His former West Point artillery student, now Confederate General Beauregard, ordered his batteries to fire on his old instructor on April 12, 1861. Promoted to Brigadier General following Fort Sumter's surrender, his health became precarious. A Kentuckian, Anderson was assigned to command Kentucky and the Department of the Cumberland, his health failed in the fall, 1861. General Anderson was medically retired two years later. He returned to Fort Sumter on April 14, 1865, and re-raised the garrison flag which had flown from the Fort Sumter four years before. General Anderson died in France.

Major General Abner Doubleday (1819-1893), U.S.A. Erroneously associated with the origin of American baseball, was stationed at Fort Moultrie twice during his career and saw service in both the Seminole and Mexican Wars. A West Point graduate (1842), and classmate of D. H. Hill,



he commanded Company E, First U.S. Artillery, when Major Robert Anderson removed the Moultrie garrison to Fort Sumter (1860). After Sumter's surrender, he led a brigade at Second Bull Run, and a division at South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. With General Reynold's death at Gettysburg, he assumed command of the I Corps. Having angered a more senior general, Doubleday was then relegated to administrative duties. He

authored two books, Reminiscences of Forts Sumter and Moultrie (1876) and Chancellorsville and Gettysburg (1882)



Brigadier General Roswell S. Ripley, C.S.A. (1823-1887). Graduated seventh in his class (1843) at the U.S. Military Academy. His classmate, U. S. Grant graduated 21st. He taught mathematics at West Point and saw service in the Mexican War, winning the brevet rank of Major. He also served in the Florida Indian Wars. Resigning from the Army in 1853, he took up business in Charleston, his wife's home.

Though born in Ohio, Ripley sided with the south after the secession of South Carolina and was made a Lieutenant Colonel in the artillery. He commanded the forces on Sullivan's Island and Fort

Moultrie during the bombardment of Fort Sumter, April 12-13, 1861. Commissioned a Brigadier General in the Confederate States Army, he briefly commanded the Department of South Carolina. He later commanded a brigade in D. H. Hill's division of the Army of Northern Virginia seeing service at Mechanicsville, Gaines Mill, Malvern Hill, South Mountain, and Sharpsburg where he was wounded. He returned to command the first military district of South Carolina which included the defenses of Charleston. He reported to General Hood in January 1865 and was later assigned to command a division in Cheatham's corps in North Carolina.

After the war, he spent several years in Paris finally returning to his business in Charleston. He died in New York.



George C. Marshall (1880-1959). Then a Colonel served as the commander of the 8th Infantry and Fort Moultrie from June 29 through October 20, 1933. His military career prior to coming to Fort Moultrie included his attendance at the Virginia Military Institute (1897-1901), 18 months service in the Phillipines, service in

France during World War I, aide to General John J. Pershing (1919-1929) and assistant commandant in charge of instruction at the infantry school

in Fort Benning, Georgia. Marshall transferred to Fort Moultrie from Fort Screven where he had served as commanding officer.

Marshall's stay at Fort Moultrie was brief. His wife spent most of her time trying to furnish the dilapidated commanding officer's quarters. She bought 325 yards of material to curtain 42 French windows and brought a van load of antique furniture. When Marshall left Fort Moultrie, he reportedly told his staff "I am going places". He did.

George C. Marshall served as Chief of Staff of the Army from September 1939 to November 1945. Winston Churchill called him "the organizer of victory". However, Marshall is as well known today for his efforts after the war. It was the Marshall Plan that helped rehabilitate war torn Europe. Marshall later served as Secretary of Defense. In 1951, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He was the first professional soldier to receive that honor.

Since we are unable to include biographies of all the famous people who were associated with Fort Moultrie, we decided to include a list of some of the others. Perhaps you will want to do some research on your own. They are listed by their rank when actually associated with Fort Moultrie.

1776-1783--Fort Moultrie I

Major General Charles Lee
Admiral Sir Peter Parker
Major General Sir Henry Clinton
Colonel Charles Pinckney
Admiral Marriot Arhuthnot

1794-1803--Fort Moultrie II

Colonel J. Christian Senf
Captain Francis Huger

1809-1947--Fort Moultrie III

Major Alexander Macomb
Captain Arnold Elzey
Lieutenant Armistead Long
Lieutenant Hugh Mercer
Major J. F. Heileman
Lieutenant Philip St. George Cocke
Lieutenant Jefferson C. Davis
Lieutenant Adam J. Slemmer
Lieutenant Henry M. Slocum
Lieutenant Francis A. Shoup
Lieutenant Steward Van Vliet
Lieutenant E. J. Steptoe
Lieutenant John C. Tidball

Captain Israel Vodges
Lieutenant Thomas W. Sherman
Captain George W. Cullum
Lieutenant John G. Foster
Captain Abraham Myers
Colonel William Gates
Colonel William Butler
General James H. Trapier
Major General Johnson Hagood
Lieutenant Truman Seymour

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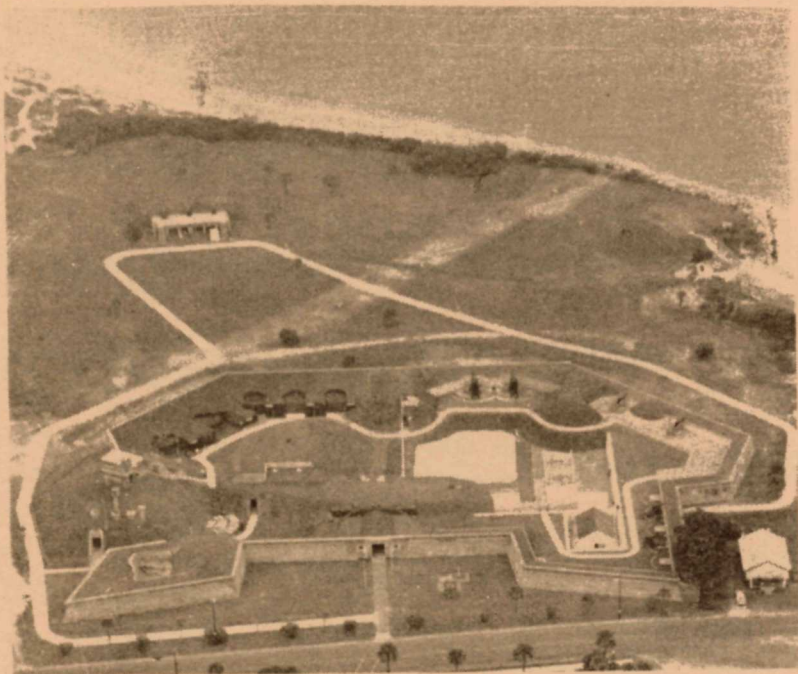
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