

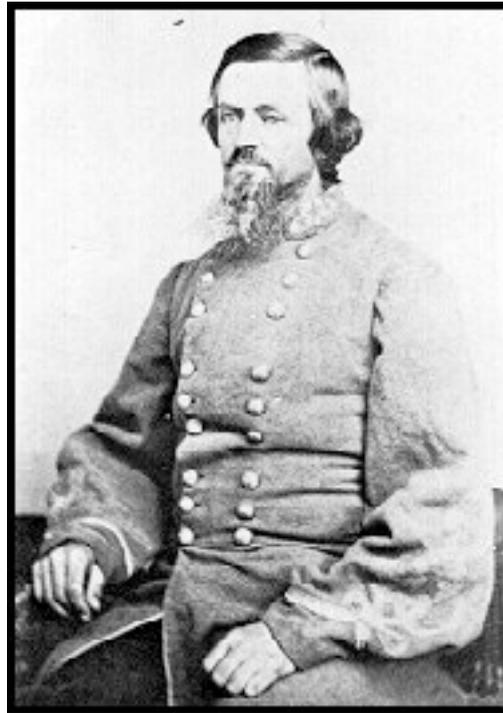
FAMILY HISTORY OF GEN. GEORGE GIBBS DIBRELL

Gen. George Gibbs Dibrell, a man foremost in the history of White County-political, moral, and military-was born in Sparta, Tennessee on April 12, 1822, and departed this life on May 6, 1888. He was son of Anthony Dibrell (b. 1788), who in 1811 was a pioneer in the county, coming from Virginia and being a descendant of a noted Virginia family. The family is of French origin, the early generation being descendants of Dr. Christopher Dubreuil, who was a Huguenot refugee in 1700, settling on the James River in Virginia, and becoming a celebrated physician. His only son Jean Antoine Dubreuil anglicized the name to that of Anthony Dibrell (b. 1728). Anthony married Elizabeth Lee in 1756, from a noted Virginia family and great aunt of the noble and brilliant General Robert E. Lee. They had two sons who fought in the Revolutionary War.

Anthony Dibrell (b. 1788), father of Gen. George Gibbs Dibrell, was Director of the Bank of Tennessee, member of the Legislature, and ten years treasurer of the State of Tennessee. Anthony's sister, Lee Anna, married Gen. George W. Gibbs, a prominent lawyer of Sparta who became the first president of the Union Bank of Tennessee at Nashville and afterward was the founder of Union City, Tennessee. He was senator in the state Legislature at Knoxville, Tennessee, when he resigned, came home, and raised a company during the war of 1812, and made a fine record.

Gen. George Gibbs Dibrell was educated at Sparta and attended one session at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Returning to Sparta he was elected clerk of the Bank of Tennessee branch in Sparta, which he held for six years. At twenty-four he was married to Mary E. Leftwich, a daughter of Wayman Leftwich, a prominent citizen and successful merchant. To this union were born seven sons and one daughter. He engaged in merchandising and farming until 1848. He was county court clerk for three terms and voluntarily retired in 1860.

In February 1861, George Gibbs Dibrell was the Union candidate for the State convention, and elected to the Legislature, receiving every vote cast but one. While he opposed secession, not believing this the wise solution of the difficulty, he was always outspoken in his adherence to the cause of the South; and when war became inevitable, he was the first to come to defense of his section, and on many battlefields he defended the South's standard, carving with the sword an imperishable name in the annals of war.



GENERAL GEORGE GIBBS DIBRELL

He entered Confederate service on July 20, 1861, as a private in the 25th Tennessee Infantry. He assisted in organizing the Twenty-fifth Regiment of Tennessee Infantry, and at the organization, August 10, 1861, he was elected lieutenant colonel: Sydney S. Stanton, colonel, and Tim H. Williams, major. His first hard-fought battle, and the first involving Tennessee troops, was at Fishing Creek in KY, when, Colonel Stanton being wounded early in the engagement, he assumed command of the regiment, which made a gallant resistance to the overwhelming forces, and was the last to retire from the battlefield and the last to cross Cumberland River at Mill Springs, KY. At the reorganization of the regiment he was defeated as lieutenant colonel for local caucus, and returned to his home, intending to enter the cavalry service.

Col. George Gibbs Dibrell had only a letter from Gen. John S. Marmaduke and Gen. W. I. Hardee, who witnessed his fight with Gen. Pope's advance at Corinth, MS, when he went to Richmond for authority to raise his cavalry regiment. He raised the 13th but was called the Eighth Tennessee Cavalry Regiment within the lines of the enemy with 921 men in September 1862, were issued 400 flintlock muskets and 600 sabers, and were assigned

to the brigade of the great cavalry leader, General Nathan Bedford Forrest.

He was engaged in several battles around Nashville, Franklin, and in West Tennessee, at Parker's Cross Roads, Spring Hill, and Triune. On the retreat from Tullahoma he assisted in the command of General Forrest's old brigade, after the wounding of Colonel Starnes, and commanded that brigade until the close of the war. Col. Dibrell's name was favorably mentioned on many occasions in reports of movements of Forrest's command.

He was in two battles on Wild Cat Creek, in White County, near Sparta, TN. In March 1863 Gen. Forrest sent him to defend manufacturing establishments in north Alabama. On March 25th near Florence, he defeated two Union gunboats and a body of raiders. In Columbia, TN, Col. Dibrell assumed Gen. Forrest command while he healed after being shot on June 13, 1863 by Lieutenant Andrew Wills Gould. He succeeded to the command of General Forrest's "old brigade" on July 1, 1863. He began the fight at the celebrated battle of Chickamauga on September 18, 1863. He fought at Cleveland, Sweet Water, Philadelphia, etc.

On the 26th of July 1864, Colonel Dibrell received his well-merited promotion and was commissioned brigadier-general of cavalry. His brigade became known as Dibrell's Brigade. He took part in many engagements under General Wheeler at Dalton and Atlanta, GA; was under General Longstreet in east Tennessee, including Dibrell's Hill; was with General Wheeler and General Longstreet in campaigns through Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, having hard fights at Buck Head Church, Averysboro, Bakersville, Stony Point, and other places; and was ordered from Raleigh, NC to report to President Jefferson Davis at Greensboro, NC, after the fall of Richmond. He made the eighty-five-mile march in two nights and one day, and escorted President Davis, with all the archives, to Washington, GA, where they surrendered and were paroled on May 19, 1865.

When he returned with his men to White County, finding much devastation, he went to work on the farm and engaged in a small mercantile business again. By his rare business tact he soon became prosperous. In 1869 he was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention, which framed our present Constitution, and was the author of many of the most beneficent clauses in that instrument. He was elected president of the Southwestern Railroad Company and succeeded in having the railroad extended to Sparta and then to Bon Ai coalmines, one of the finest coal properties in Tennessee. During this time he held \$78,000 of State bonds issued sai

road, which he refused to use or expend, returning the bonds to the State, being the only railroad official in the State to ever return bond issued to a company.

In 1874 General G. G. Dibrell was elected to represent the Third District of Congress and won by more than two to one. He served ten years, voluntarily retiring in 1884. His record in Congress was like his record in war, honorable and brilliant.

In 1886 General George Gibbs Dibrell was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor, narrowly defeated by Gov. Robert L. Taylor.

Two year later he died leaving a character more valuable than estates, high in love and esteem of his countrymen. As a citizen, soldier, and statesmen, General George Gibbs Dibrell was without peer. No man could do more to inaugurate enterprise, stimulate endeavor, or encourage Christianity and sobriety than General George Gibbs Dibrell. In the days to come the shaft of marble which, overlooking the thriving town of Sparta, marks his abiding place will be a baton of industry, a monument to courage, an emblem of honor more enduring than granite.

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Military Annals Of Tennessee: Confederate

MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS:

25th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, CSA

Engagement: _____ **Date(s):**

Mills Springs, KY 1861
 Corinth, MS May 7, 1862

8th(13th) Tennessee Cavalry, CSA

Engagement: _____ **Date(s):**

West Tennessee Raid, Northern Alabama Operations,
 Murfreesboro, Tullahoma, Atlanta, Savannah, and
 Carolinas Campaigns

Neely's Bend (Above Nashville)
 Oct 15, 1862
 Forrest's West Tennessee Raid
 Dec 11, 1862-Jan 3, 1863

Jackson, TN Dec 19, 1862

Parker's Crossroads, TN
 Dec 31, 1862

Northern Alabama Operations
 Mar-Apr 1863

Sparta, TN Aug 9, 1863

Sparta, TN Aug 17, 1863

Chickamauga, GA, more...
 Sep 18-23, 1863

Chattanooga Siege Sep-Nov 1863

Philadelphia, TN Oct 20, 1863

Knoxville Siege Nov-Dec 1863

Mossy Creek, TN Dec 29, 1863

Dandridge, TN Jan 17, 1864

Fair Garden, TN Jan 28, 1864

Atlanta Campaign May-Sep 1864

Resaca, GA May 13-15, 1864

Cartersville, GA May 20, 1864

New Hope Church, GA May 25-26, 1864

Dallas, GA, more... May 28, 1864

Calhoun, GA Jun 10, 1864

Kennesaw Mountain, GA, more...
 Jun 27, 1864

Chattahoochee River, GA
 Jul 4-9, 1864

Peachtree Creek, GA Jul 20, 1864

Dalton, GA Aug 14-15, 1864

Saltville, VA Oct 2, 1864

Savannah Campaign Nov-Dec 1864

Carolinas Campaign Feb-Apr 1865

Rivers Bridge, SC Feb 3, 1865

Averasboro, NC Mar 16, 1865

Bentonville, NC Mar 19-21, 1865



**Brigadier General
 George Gibbs Dibrell,
 C.S.A.**



DIBRELL'S BRIGADE