

= William L. Brandon =

William Lindsay Brandon ( born c . 1801 ? 1802 in Adams County , Mississippi ; died October 8 , 1890 in Wilkinson County , Mississippi ) was a physician , state legislator , planter and military officer best known for having served as a general in the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War . Brandon was born c . 1801 ? 1802 , though his exact birthdate is indeterminate .

Brandon served with the Confederate States Army from 1861 until 1864 . He fought in several major battles , such as the Battle of Malvern Hill , where he was greatly injured after a ball passed through his ankle . He also participated in the Yorktown siege of 1862 , the Battle of Williamsburg and the campaigns of Chattanooga and Knoxville . Brandon was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in June 1864 . From July 1864 until the end of the war , he served in such positions as the commander of the Reserve Corps of Mississippi and the head of the Confederate Bureau of Conscription .

In his postbellum life , he returned to his Wilkinson County plantation where he worked , despite physical injury and age , until his death on October 8 , 1890 . Upon his death , he was buried at his plantation .

= = Early life and education = =

William Lindsay Brandon was born to Irishman Gerard Brandon , a veteran of the American Revolution , in either 1801 or 1802 in Adams County , Mississippi . Brandon 's exact birth date cannot be determined as his family records were destroyed in an 1831 fire . He settled in Wilkinson County , Mississippi near Pinckneyville in 1824 . The following year , Brandon married Ann Davis . This union produced two children , however , both Davis and her children would soon die . Brandon was educated at Washington College ( now Washington and Lee University ) in Virginia , and the College of New Jersey ( now Princeton University ) where he studied medicine . In his antebellum career , he became a planter , highly interested in horses and hunting . In 1826 , Brandon served in the Mississippi State Legislature , around the same time that his brother Gerard Brandon was serving as the governor of Mississippi . In 1828 , Brandon founded the Kelter Club , a gentlemen 's club populated by propertied men from the Natchez area of Mississippi and from West Feliciana Parish in Louisiana . In 1833 , Brandon married Ann Eliza Ratliff , having three sons , William , Lane William and Robert , all of whom later served in the Confederate States Army . A fourth son , Eugene , died at the age of two . Brandon enlisted for service in the Mexican American War , and become a major general in the local militia . Because of his medicinal expertise , Brandon was consulted often by professionals in the field . When Brandon 's wife died in 1840 , he continued to take care of her plantation , as well as his own Arcole Plantation . By 1860 , Brandon owned a considerable amount of property , including \$ 14 @, @ 000 in real estate and \$ 64 @, @ 000 in personal property , as well as 63 slaves and 16 slave quarters .

= = Military career = =

Despite his age of 59 or 60 at the time , Brandon was permitted to serve with the Confederate States Army in 1861 as lieutenant colonel of the 21st Mississippi Infantry Regiment and went to Virginia . In July 1861 , Brandon contracted a cold , prompting him to take a leave from active service until the end of August . His subordinates did not believe him fit for duty again and he did not receive an appointment to colonel . Brandon and his regiment were placed in the Confederate Army of the Potomac in Virginia . During the summer and fall of 1861 , Brandon 's unit was on duty in the northeastern part of the state . During the Yorktown siege , his regiment , along with other Confederate army units , were spread out across eastern Virginia between Culpeper , Fredricksburg , and Norfolk , forming the Warwick Line . Brandon 's regiment would again see action in the Battle of Williamsburg , fought the day after the action at Yorktown .

During the Battle of Malvern Hill on 1 July 1862 , Brandon 's ankle joint was struck by a ball . As he

fell , his hand hit a rolling shell which did not explode . Oblivious to his wounds , Brandon tried to rise again but he fell once more and remained on the field until men were able to pick him up and carry him to the rear . Because there was no visible bleeding , Brandon thought that his injuries were not serious but was taken on horse @-@ back to a hospital . Initially , Brandon was offered whiskey which would have eased the pain , but he refused to drink it without water and sugar . He drank it only after being convinced it was necessary . Brandon 's foot was removed after a tourniquet was put in place . Brandon 's arteries were then sewn in what was likely to be a very painful procedure , as there was not enough chloroform to produce a full anesthesia . To replace his amputated leg , his doctors gave him a wooden prosthetic leg . Because of Brandon 's age , his doctors thought his chances of survival were slight . After coming to Richmond , he was tended to by friends and his servant . Confederate President Jefferson Davis even offered Brandon the hospitality of his mansion in the city .

Brandon later returned to active service , commanding his regiment through the Battle of Gettysburg . General William Barksdale was killed in the battle ; Colonel Humphreys became brigadier general to replace him , and Brandon was in turn promoted to colonel . He went on to see action in the Chickamauga Campaign . In September 1863 , after the Battle of Chickamauga , Brandon resigned from active duty . Because of his artificial leg , age and the recurrence of an ailment from 1862 , he did not feel fit for military service at the time .

= = Later life = =

In June 1864 , Brandon was promoted to brigadier general and sent to Mississippi where , on 23 July , he was given command of the Reserve Corps of Mississippi . He was later placed in charge of the Confederate Bureau of Conscription on 8 October 1864 , where he worked to recruit men for the Confederate army . After the war , Brandon returned to his Arcole Plantation in Wilkinson County , where despite his age and physical disability , he worked until his death on October 8 , 1890 . Brandon was buried at his plantation .

Brandon 's son Lane William Brandon eventually graduated from Harvard University . In service to the Confederate States Army , Lane achieved the rank of captain . He fought in several major battles including Chickamauga and Malvern Hill , where both he and his father were wounded . William R. Brandon , a physician , was wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg . Robert L. Brandon went on to attend Yale University .