

Northern Kentucky
Views presents . . .

General Albert Sydney Johnston

JOHNSTON, GEN. ALBERT SIDNEY, Soldier, was born February 2, 1802, at Washington, Mason County, Kentucky; and was the son of Dr. John Johnston, a man of talents and fine standing in his profession, at Salisbury, Connecticut, from which place he emigrated to Kentucky, in 1785. Hon. J. Stoddard Johnston was his brother, and a native of Connecticut; graduated at Transylvania University, became a lawyer; was distinguished in his profession; was Judge of United States District Court; represented Louisiana, to which he had moved, in 1805, in the Lower House of Congress from 1821 to 1823; and was a member of the United States Senate, from 1824 until the time of his death, which occurred by the explosion of the steamboat "Lioness," on the Red river, in 1833. His brother, Amos, was a planter of Louisiana, and the father of J. Stoddard Johnston, of the Frankfort "Yeoman." Other brothers became prominent men; and one of his sisters was the wife of John A. McClung, and another, the wife of Hon. James Byers. Albert Sidney Johnston began his education in Transylvania University, and graduated at West Point Military Academy, in 1826, seventh in his class; entered the Second Regular Infantry; soon afterwards became Adjutant of the Sixth Regiment; served with distinction in the Black Hawk War; resigned his commission, in 1835; in the following year, enlisted in the service of Texas; in 1837, became commander-in-chief of her forces; in 1839, became Secretary of War for the Republic of Texas, being at the same time, general-in-chief of the army; warmly supported the annexation of Texas to the United States. Engaged in cotton planting in that State; at the breaking out of the war with Mexico, in 1846, became Colonel of the First Texas Infantry; soon after was made Inspector-General of Butler's Division; distinguished himself at Monterey by re-forming Mitchell's Ohio regiment, and leading it in a charge on the Mexican forces; in 1849, was appointed paymaster, filling the position for several years on the frontier of Texas. In 1854, he became Colonel of the Second Cavalry, with Robert E. Lee as Lieutenant-Colonel, commanding the department of Texas; subsequently, conducted the expedition against Utah, and established terms with the Mormons; was afterwards assigned to the department of California, and, while in that command, resigned his position, to join his State in the war of the rebellion; was assigned to the command of the unorganized territory west of the Atlantic States; met with various defeats, owing undoubtedly, to some extent, to the incompetent force which he operated, and other circumstances over which he had no control; after meeting the indignation of the people, reorganized his troops, and on April 6, 1862, began the battle of Shiloh, and, when the fortunes of the day were turning against him, placed himself at the head of his column, and was killed while leading the charge. He was a soldier of great bravery and undoubted skill; was a man of many admirable and magnanimous traits; and gave his life for a cause which he did not originally support. Gen. Johnston was twice married; in 1828, to Henrietta Preston, eldest daughter of Major William Preston, of Louisville, Kentucky, who died in 1836; and was afterwards married to Miss Eliza Griffin, who survived him.