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HASBROUCK DAVIS.

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P.

In Memoriam.

HASBROUCK DAVIS.

Born, April 19, 1827. Died, October 19, 1870.

*By P. C. Hasbrouck Davis*

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NOT PUBLISHED.

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1871.

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HASBROUCK DAVIS.





**H**ASBROUCK DAVIS, third son of John Davis, known as "Honest John," was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on the 19th of April, 1827. His education commenced in the public schools of his native town, and, after passing through their various grades with credit to himself, he entered Williams College in 1841. He sustained a reputation for industry and ability while there, and graduated with an unblemished record of college life in 1845. On his return to Worcester, he was employed as Assistant Teacher in the High School. Here he remained a year, winning the respect and affection of his pupils, as well as the confidence of his employers.

He had an earnest wish to fit himself for the ministry, and, at the close of this engagement, he decided to spend a short period in Germany for the purpose of perfecting himself in the German language, that he might thereby enable himself to command the stores of German thought, both in his literary and theological pursuits. He spent the time during his absence chiefly in Heidelberg, engaged in those studies which he would find advantageous to him in his subsequent career. To be a Christian Minister had been the first purpose of his life after he was old enough to comprehend its duties; and, when he had passed through a preparatory course of study, he was settled in Watertown as Pastor of the Unitarian Society in 1849.





In November, 1850, he married Miss Martha W. Stickney, daughter of Josiah Stickney, Esq.

The connection between him and the Parish remained one of harmony, till the seed sown by his German studies had taken root and began to bear fruit. Ere long he announced to his parishioners that his theological opinions had changed in consequence of new views by which he interpreted the Scriptures. This frankness did not diminish the respect of his people; on the contrary, so highly did they estimate his talents and acquirements that they wished him to remain, although they admitted they could not adopt his sentiments. But this his conscience forbade. Unless he had their full sympathy he felt that no good could result from his labors. And the tie between them was dissolved.

His chosen occupation gone, he commenced the study of law in Boston, and when admitted to the Bar in 1854 he opened an office in that city. The busy West, offering more attractions to his active temperament, he went, in 1855, to Chicago, and settled permanently there. He soon found friends in the home of his adoption. He had become well established as a lawyer, had acquired the confidence and respect of his clients, had won the love and friendship of those who knew him in private life, and was beginning to realize the reward which follows industry, when the war-whoop was sounded. His ardent nature kindled in every fibre. The questions involved had engrossed his thoughts and inspired his enthusiasm for years before, and now, the very existence of his country being in peril, he felt that she had the first right to every man's labor and life. He put his business into the hands of a partner and left Chicago to be added to the list of self-sacrificing men, who perilled all for the nation in this struggle. We leave others to speak of his deeds while in the army.

On returning to Chicago, after peace was secured, he success-



fully recommenced the business his long absence had scattered, and in 186- the city elected him as her attorney.

At the expiration of these official duties, he made arrangements for a tour in Europe, and sailed in the *Cambria* on the 8th of October last to execute this plan. The wreck of that vessel closed the mortal career of a man who was one of Nature's noblemen. He was gifted in an unusual degree with bodily and mental vigor. Tall (over six feet), well proportioned, fair in complexion, with light brown or perhaps auburn hair, and blue eyes, with a tinge of grey in them, he might be said to possess a more than common share of physical beauty. His voice was soft and gentle in conversation, but full and sonorous in public. His quickness of perception gave him almost a poetic nature, which in boyish life manifested itself in writing charades and other trifles, very clever in their way; but he had the wisdom to resign ambition of that sort. In his maturity his mind was ever seeking knowledge. Philosophy, poetry, or science were alike eagerly pursued, and enabled him, by his conversational power, to add pleasure to any circle where he felt at home.

Naturally impulsive, he gave his soul to every act; and to this ardent nature he added a persistency of purpose rarely found in unison with it. What he thought right for him to do was always done, whatever might be the consequence to himself, or however others might judge of the act.

We know but little of the awful catastrophe by which he was transferred to a sphere where his various powers of intellect shall have a wider range and fuller development. But this we do know. Our country has lost a true patriot. His city one of her most gifted citizens. His friends a genial companion. His family a member beloved alike for the rich treasures of his mind and heart.

He has left four children, who have always been under the excellent care of their mother.





OFFICIAL RECORD  
OF THE  
MILITARY SERVICES OF GENERAL DAVIS.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

*January 25, 1871.*

HASBROUCK DAVIS was enrolled November 18, 1861, and mustered into service February, 1862, at Chicago, Illinois, as Lieutenant Colonel 12th Illinois Cavalry. The field and staff of the regiment was mustered in this date.

October 30, 1862. Voss, the Colonel, went on recruiting service, and Lieutenant Colonel Davis assumed command of the regiment at Williamsport, Maryland, and remained in command of regiment at above-named place, and Dumfries, Virginia, until February 11, 1863, when he went to Illinois on recruiting service.

September 12, 1862. This regiment evacuated Martinsburg, Virginia, September 12, 1862, arrived at Harper's Ferry same day, and cut its way out of that place on the evening of the 14th, and marched for Greencastle, Va., capturing on the Wil-





Williamsport and Hagerstown pike a portion of the enemy's train and about one thousand prisoners; marched from Greencastle through to Williamsport, Md., where it arrived September 27, 1862. April 30, 1863, mustered present with regiment, at Kelley's Ford, Va. June 30, 1863, mustered absent on detached service, Yorktown, Va.

Commanding detachment 12th Illinois Cavalry August 31, 1863; on court of inquiry, Washington, D. C., November 7; joined regiment November 30, in command of regiment at Camp Stoneman.

December 31, 1863, in command of regiment at Camp Fry, Chicago; January 5, 1864, mustered in Colonel.

February 28, 1864, present with regiment at Camp Gamble, Missouri.

March 31, 1864, on board steamer E. Walsh, en route for New Orleans, with regiment.

Arrived there April 8, 1864, and at Alexandria, La., April 23, 1864.

June 30, 1864, absent in command of Post Napoleonsville, La., to sometime in September, 1864.

September 30, in command of Post of Donaldsonville, La.

October 31, 1864, at Baton Rouge, La., in command of 3d Cavalry Brigade Cavalry Division.

November 30, 1864, in the field commanding 3d Brigade Cavalry Division.

December 29, 1864, on leave of absence 20 days from arrival at Cairo.

January 31, 1865, on detached service, and February 28 in command of 2d Brigade Cavalry Division, Department of Mississippi; continued in command until April 24, 1865, when granted 20 days leave; S. O. 102, Department Cumberland, dated April 18, 1865.

May 30, 1865, reported in command of 2d Brigade Cavalry Division, D. W. Tennessee.



June 30, 1865, Brevet Brigadier General; present sick at Alexandria, La.

July 31, 1865, Brevet Brigadier General; present sick at Alexandria, La.

Resigned, resignation accepted to date, August 1, 1865, per S. O. 32, Headquarters Cavalry, Alexandria, La.

Brevet Brigadier General Volunteers, "for gallant and meritorious service," to rank from March 13, 1865.

(Signed)                    THOMAS M. VINCENT,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*







## MEMORANDA

FURNISHED BY

GENERAL HAMILTON B. POX, OF CHICAGO.

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The first time the 12th met the enemy was after the evacuation of Winchester by General White, of Chicago. It had become necessary, therefore, that the forces at Martinsburg, Va., should establish their outposts. Lieutenant Colonel Davis was placed in command of these stations. About five miles from camp, on the Martinsburg and Winchester pike, on the morning of the 5th September, 1862, he scouted the country as far as Bunker Hill, where he came up with the enemy's cavalry, in numbers far superior to his own. These were in strong position, but the scouting party, by a vigorous charge, routed them and drove them several miles, killing, wounding, and capturing a considerable number.

On Saturday morning at daybreak the enemy, having been largely reinforced, and designing to capture Colonel Davis and his command, made a bold attempt to get to his rear and cut him off from his camp at Martinsburg. Anticipating this movement Colonel Davis sent out a small party under Lieutenant Logan to reconnoiter. This detachment was surrounded,





but the men succeeded in cutting their way through the enemy and again joined the Colonel, who immediately despatched a messenger to Martinsburg for reinforcements. Capt. J. W. Grosvenor, (afterwards Major and Lieutenant Colonel,) commanding company A, with 40 men was immediately ordered forward, to be followed by the remainder of the 12th as soon as they could be got ready. As soon as the Captain reported Colonel Davis ordered him out at once to meet the enemy. He drove several squads of rebels from ambush in the woods and roadsides, until he reached Darksville, where he met the enemy in force to the number of 800. As the little band of Federal cavalry approached the graybacks, the latter fired upon them at short range, severely wounding the Captain and killing Lieutenant Luff's horse, thus leaving the company without a commander. Colonel Davis then led the men in person. His presence animated the troops, and his voice was heard above the din of conflict calling upon his men to follow him. Away they went, madly, furiously upon the enemy, drawing their sabres as they charged, scorning to use their pistols, but delivering their concentrated blows—the sabre blows of forty resolute, noble heroes against 800 rebels in position—all in cold steel, and finally drove them until their retreat became a rout, and the forty men literally masters of the field, the enemy running way beyond Winchester before they could be rallied. It is true that in the meantime the remainder of the regiment had come up, and that they joined the brave little band of forty and completed the disaster of the rebels on the occasion, but it was really the valor, the dash, the bravery of this ever-memorable forty under Colonel Davis that did the business. The result of this encounter was that twenty-five rebels were buried on the field, including Lieutenant Carroll, of the Maryland battalion, who, by-the-way, was a grandson of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton. Fifty rebels with their horses and equipments were taken back prisoners to the Federal camp, many severely wounded by



sabre cuts and thrusts. General White, who had assumed command of the post at Martinsburg, a few days previously, reported to the Secretary of War the result of this battle, and Mr. Stanton responded in terms highly complimentary; thanking the officers and men for their gallantry on this occasion.

A few days subsequent to this gallant affair the 12th rejoined General White's command, and with it fell back before superior numbers of the enemy, and on the morning of September 12th, 1862, entered Harper's Ferry.

On the night of the 14th Colonel Davis (having received permission from Colonel Miles) with the cavalry, in all some 2,000, cut his way out of Harper's Ferry. The column left Harper's Ferry at 8 p. m., and proceeded to Sharpsburg, Md., thence to within two miles of Williamsport, Md. At this point it intercepted a part of Longstreet's train and captured 112 wagons loaded with ammunition and supplies, 100 head of beef-cattle, and 50 prisoners. The column reached Greencastle, Pennsylvania, on the morning of the 15th, after marching sixty-five miles.

The regiment joined the forces on the Upper Potomac, September 20th, 1862, and served there until November 8, 1862, when it marched to Dumfries, and with the forces there defended and held the place against a greatly superior force of cavalry and artillery under Generals J. E. B. Stuart and Fitz Hugh Lee.

On the 3d May, 1863, Colonel Davis received orders from General Stoneman to penetrate to the Fredericksburg railroad, and, if possible, to the Virginia Central, and destroy communication between Richmond and Lee's army, then confronting Hooker on the Rappahannock. In case the latter part of the programme was carried out, the regiment was to make for Williamsburg, supposed to be in possession of General Keyes, of our army, who had been sent up the Peninsula, as a means of diverting the attention of the rebels. The 12th began the march before daybreak, passing down the bank of the South



Anna through a region never before occupied by our forces. It burned one bridge and dispersed a party of mounted guerillas, who made a poor attempt to oppose it. The first line of railway was struck at Ashland. Lieutenant Mitchell, with a party of about a dozen men, was sent ahead to occupy the place. He dashed into the village and took it without loss. The inhabitants were much astonished at the appearance of this Yankee force in their midst, and it required a good deal of persuasion before they became assured that their persons and property would not be harmed. When the remainder of the regiment came up, the boys were set to work cutting the telegraph wires and tearing up the rails. A quantity of boards were piled in the trestle-work of a railroad bridge south of the town, which being ignited, made an immense fire and soon consumed the entire structure. While at this work a train of cars approached the village, was captured, and brought in for inspection. It proved to be an ambulance train from Fredericksburg, of seven cars filled with two hundred and fifty sick and wounded officers and soldiers, with a guard. Among those captured were an Aid to General Letcher and several officers of high rank. Colonel Davis, after receiving from them their version of the battle of Chancellorsville, paroled them and let them go, leaving the cars for the benefit of the poor fellows who were more seriously injured. The engine and tender of the train, together with another found in the town, were rendered completely useless by a mechanic from the ranks.

After destroying a wagon train and quantity of harness, and taking about eighty mules, the regiment moved out of Ashland. When about five miles from the town word was brought that eighteen wagons were camped in the woods near by. Captain Roder, with companies B and C, was sent to destroy them, which he did. The Central railroad was struck at Hanover Station, on the afternoon of the 5th. Although wearied and exhausted by the day's march, Colonel Davis thought it best to





complete the duty assigned him and break all the enemy's connections before going into camp. Thirty officers and men were captured and paroled at the station. Captain Hears was ordered to destroy the trestle-work, which reached about ten rods to the south of the depot. The work was effectually done by the same process as at Ashland, and by its blaze could be clearly discerned the Confederate guards passively standing at the other end. They also burned a culvert and cut the telegraph wires and burned the depot buildings, storehouses, stables, and a train of cars, all belonging to the rebel government and filled with property.

By the light of the burning buildings the regiment left the station and marched on down to within seven miles of Richmond, bivouacked there till 8 o'clock the next morning, when it marched for Williamsburg. At Tunstall Station (near the White House and the Richmond and Yorktown railroad) a train of cars filled with infantry and a three gun battery was run up with the intention of debarking there and giving battle to the 12th. Colonel Davis at once took measures to break through this force before the men could be got out of the cars or the battery in position. He therefore brought up the two foremost squadrons and ordered a charge, which was executed, Captain Reans, with companies D and F, taking the lead. This charge was made most gallantly. The infantry filled the embankment of the railway and poured upon the boys a severe fire; but the brave fellows dashed up the embankment and with carbines and pistols responded to the fire with equal effect. It was impossible, however, to break through. There were formidable rifle pits to the left of the road, which the enemy soon filled. The 12th retired from the conflict with a loss of two killed and several wounded, among the latter Lieutenant Marsh, who was one of the foremost in the charge. Failing to penetrate the enemy's lines at this point, Colonel Davis determined to cross the Pamunkey and Mattaponi rivers and make for Gloucester's



Point. In this movement he had nothing to guide him but a common map of the State of Virginia, and he also was in entire ignorance of the position of the enemy's force, except that the line before him was closed. The only information he could gather was from ignorant contrabands. He selected Plunkett's Ferry over the Pamunkey and occupied it, after driving away a picket on the other side, with whom the regiment exchanged shots. The regiment was crossed in a boat holding fifteen or eighteen men and horses, which was poled across the river. In the same manner the passage of the Mattaponi was made at Walkertown, after driving away the pickets. The 12th captured fifteen rebels and destroyed a quantity of saddles at King's and Queen's Court-House. From Walkertown the regiment marched to Gloucester's Point, having traveled a distance of over two hundred miles, much of it through southern homes never before disturbed by the presence of an enemy. Not far from Sadula the regiment captured and destroyed a train of eighteen wagons loaded with corn and provisions.

The total loss sustained by the 12th in this most remarkable raid was two commissioned officers and thirty-three enlisted men; while the regiment brought with it as results of the expedition one hundred mules and seventy-five horses captured from the enemy. A much larger number of animals were captured in the course of the march, but they could not be brought along. The amount of property destroyed was estimated at over a million of dollars. While a portion of the 12th remained at Gloucester's Point one battalion was sent to General Dix, commanding at Fortress Monroe, and the remainder reported at Alexandria. The detachment which reported to General Dix, under command of Colonel Davis, made frequent forays into the interior counties for the purpose of suppressing a band of smugglers who infested that district. On one of these expeditions a rebel general, William H. Lee, a son of Robert E. Lee, was captured and taken to Fortress Monroe.



On the 20th November, 1863, the 12th was ordered home to Illinois to reorganize as veterans. This distinguished privilege was awarded to the regiment by the Secretary of War "for brilliant services in the field."

On arrival at Chicago the men were all furloughed, subsequently rejoining the regiment at Camp Fry, Chicago. The ranks were not only filled to the maximum but an excess of nearly three hundred recruits were turned over to the 17th Illinois Cavalry.

On the 9th February, 1864, the regiment started for St. Louis and went into camp there. In the early days of March it embarked on transports for New Orleans, and shortly after arriving there was ordered to join General Banks on his retreat down the Red river, being in action at Alexandria, April 28th, May 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th; Markville, May 15th; Yellow Bayou, May 17th, losing a large number of men. At the conclusion of the disastrous Red River Campaign the 12th returned to New Orleans; was almost immediately ordered to do picket duty on the Lafourche from Donaldsonville to Thibodeaux, Louisiana, continuing on this line during the summer. In the early part of September it was ordered to report to General Lee, commanding the cavalry division at Baton Rouge, where it was actively employed in picket and scouting duty, Colonel Davis commanding the third brigade. In the early part of November the brigade and the other cavalry regiments under General A. L. Lee made an expedition to Liberty, Mississippi, where they had a severe action, driving the enemy and capturing a number of prisoners, cannon, and small arms. Subsequently the brigade (commanded by Colonel Davis) participated in General Davidson's expedition against Mobile; returned to Baton Rouge. The regiment was ordered to Memphis, January 5th, 1865, joining General Osband's division, General Davis commanding the brigade, which did scouting and picket duty until ordered to join General Custar's cavalry division at Alex-



andria, La. The General remained in the service until the acceptance of his resignation, August 1st, 1865.

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The above is taken mainly from a work entitled "The Patriotism of Illinois."

I did not join the regiment until January, 1864, but from what the General has often told me, and his writing to me from time to time when he was in the field, it is the best account I can find, though not by any means doing him full justice.

The organization and acceptance of the regiment was mainly due to him, and to him it owes the reputation it won in the field.

His charge at Darksville was most decisive and brilliant. The cutting-out at Harper's Ferry was not only his own conception but he did not rest until he secured the necessary order from Colonel Miles. General Davis, of the 8th New York cavalry, a regular army officer, aided him in obtaining this. His own Colonel, as on many other occasions, was too inert to be of any use. It was an extremely hazardous undertaking most admirably carried out. Though not nominally, the General was really in command. He was constantly in active service from this on with his regiment in every fight.

With regard to the so-called Stoneman raid, Stoneman asked for a regiment to make this expedition, which he considered so important that, as he expressed himself, they could afford to sacrifice a regiment if it could accomplish the work laid out. The General volunteered, and after a most thorough personal inspection of his regiment, started with about three hundred, (taking with him only the best of the men and horses,) carried out the orders, and brought his regiment back when it was given up for lost. Kilpatrick subsequently sent Dahlgren over the same ground, but with most lamentable results. On subse-





quently visiting Washington the General was sent for by the President and gave him and Halleck an account of his expedition.

It was owing to the General that the regiment was the first in our State that re-enlisted as veterans and sent home to be furloughed and recruit. The estimation it was held in here was shown in the short time that its ranks were recruited to more than maximum.

On the Banks retreat the cavalry had to protect the rear. Here again he had hard fighting, and did good service. He was wounded in one of the engagements, but kept his saddle.

On the Lafourche he kept his command active in scouting duty, with good results. On reporting with his regiment to General Lee, commanding cavalry division at Baton Rouge, September, 1864, he was assigned to command of 3d brigade, (2d and 12th Illinois cavalry.) At Liberty, Mississippi, it was owing to him that the whole command was not captured.

On the Davidson raid he endeavored to obtain permission to cut loose from the main column two divisions of cavalry, and with his brigade attempt the cutting of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. It would have been a perilous undertaking, but if he had received the wished for orders, I feel confident he would have succeeded.

The General remained in command of a brigade, until joining General Custar's command at Alexandria, when he tendered his resignation.

On his return to Chicago, the General resumed the practice of law. On the 1st June, 1866, he purchased an interest in the *Chicago Evening Post*, remaining until April, 1867, when he disposed of the same. While with the *Post* he was not only editor, but manager, and brought it up from obscurity to a position of influence and power. He was subsequently elected City Attorney, and served as such for nearly two years with marked ability.





## LETTERS AND RESOLUTIONS.

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The General had many friends here, and his loss is most keenly felt, particularly by those who knew him best. I am met by people of every station in life with the kindest and most appreciative expressions in regard to him.

It is impossible for me to realize that our long intimacy should thus be ended. No friend was so close to me, and it is hard to think I shall never see him again.

Deeply sympathizing with you in your great loss,

I remain, yours truly,

HAMILTON B. DOX.

KINGSTON, ULSTER CO., N. Y.,

*October 26, 1870.*

MY DEAR SIR.

I trust you will not consider intrusive my expression of sympathy in the loss of your brother, whose melancholy fate I read in yesterday's paper. Your father favored me with his friendship and confidence during his life, and signally marked his regard for me by giving my name to his son, whose loss we now deplore. Under such circumstances I am sure you will not look



upon me as a mere stranger intermeddling with the painful feelings of the occasion. It has not been my fortune to become acquainted with either you or your brother, but my reverence of your father's memory has led me to note your progress through life, and I am gratified to know that his fair fame has not been dishonored by his children.

Should your mother be still alive she may be gratified to learn my sincere condolence.

With much regard, yours, &c.,

A. BRUYN HASBROUCK.

J. C. B. DAVIS, Esq.

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DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS,

*October 27, 1870.*

MY DEAR MRS. DAVIS.

The uncertainty that has hitherto hung over the fate of Hasbrouck has hindered me from writing to you as my heart most surely prompted me to do, telling you how sincerely I have sympathized with you in your great grief. General Davis I never saw. The able Attorney of the City of Chicago I never knew; but Hasbrouck, the mild, gentle, timid, shrinking boy; the faithful scholar and devoted teacher in our schools; the affectionate companion and playmate in our homes, I recall distinctly, and can share your painful feelings now that he has been torn from you by an event so awfully sudden. But I pray you to be comforted by the thought that a wiser than human hand has permitted this; that Hasbrouck has passed from the world with so little of suffering, and that a large circle of friends share in your sorrow. I have no doubt you will patiently receive and with a deepened trust bear what has been laid upon you.

Mrs. Hill wishes to express her heartfelt sympathy.

Your old friend,

ALONZO HILL.



BOSTON, *October 29, 1870.*

MY DEAR MRS. DAVIS.

I can assure you that I was deeply distressed to hear of the death of your gallant son in the ill-fated *Cambria*. We have not met since the war except for a moment, but during the war we met on several occasions. A few days after *Antietam* the regiment he commanded was detailed to accompany the brigade of infantry I then commanded in a movement up the *Potomac* to prevent the crossing of the enemy at *Williamsburg*, which was for some reason then anticipated. On that day we had much interesting conversation as to the extrication of his regiment from the unfortunate and disreputable surrender of *Harper's Ferry*. As I felt a great regard for him, both as an officer and in private life, you will not, I know, feel the expression of my sincere sympathy in your great loss as obtrusive, although I am well aware no earthly consideration can alleviate the grief of a mother who mourns for a son.

Believe me yours, most sincerely and respectfully,

CHARLES DEVENS.

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BOSTON, *November 7, 1870.*

MY DEAR DAVIS.

I wish to offer you my condolence on the loss of your distinguished brother, for I suppose there is no longer hope.

This comes close to me, for I made the passage out to Europe in the *Cambria*, only the second before her wreck. I came to know the captain and officers well, as is my wont at sea, and the qualities and condition of the boat. We passed through the *Strait of Donegal* by early daylight, and, being on deck, I asked Captain G—— if the island was not a dangerous place in bad weather. He said it was a place to be avoided, and gave me an account of a merchant vessel that was wrecked there. On this island the poor *Cambria* ran, at night, and in very heavy





weather I suppose, from the only evidence we have. A few months ago I lost a brother, long an invalid, who had for years given up all hope of labor, and who died of lingering pain. You are at once, by a sudden wrench from life, called to mourn a brother in the full vigor of conscious merit and the ability to act. So, one way or another, these lessons of life and death, of the certainty of nothing, mortal and material, are taught us.

I sincerely wish you all the comfort you can gain from the memory of his high character, self-denying, self-sacrificing, and heroic virtues.

Believe me, truly yours,

RICHARD H. DANA.

Hon. BANCROFT DAVIS.

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SPRINGFIELD, MASS.,

November 12, 1870.

Gen. J. D. WEBSTER, *Chicago, Ill.*

DEAR GEN.: Permit to join you and your comrades in your expressions of regret at the loss of our distinguished fellow-soldier, Gen. Hasbrouck Davis, and to tender, through you, to his bereaved family my heartfelt sympathy in their sad affliction.

I had the honor, as an humble private soldier, attached to a squadron of Rhode Island cavalry, to follow General Davis on that midnight ride out of Harper's Ferry, when, by his wisdom, courage, and patriotic devotion, manifested by him on so many occasions during the war, the entire cavalry force at that place were saved from the shameful surrender that followed.

Then only 17 years of age, I remember how I almost worshiped General Davis, and surround his name in my mind with everything noble, high, and good; and now I cannot help thinking, with sadness and pride, at the position he must have assumed during the last terrible moments on board the ill-fated steamer.



God bless his memory and protect those dear to him left behind.

I am yours, very respectfully,

H. M. PHILLIP.

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DUBLIN, *December 8, 1870.*

\*                    \*                    \*                    \*                    \*

It was with great pain I learned that your brother was on board the ill-fated steamer. He was a gifted, manly fellow, who had faithfully served his country and would have done it further service. I am sure you greatly feel his loss, and am sure, too, that the calamity must have given a severe shock to the declining years of your mother.

With Mrs. Eaton I visited the Giant's Causeway and the coast still nearer, only eleven miles from the scene of the shipwreck, and two days after it happened. The day of our arrival towering waves were setting in from its direction, and on that very night the body of a female passenger came to the beach—not an exile from Erin, but one of our naturalized countrywomen. And as I walked along the cliffs and listened to the thundering billows below, seeing among them fragments of trunks and rigging; and down upon the shore, examined a long teak plank, with marks of the berth it lined; and thought of all that had happened, we did not know that any friend of ours would be one of the many mourners caused by the calamity of that sad night. It is a comfort to know all must have been over in a moment; there were no dread hours of apprehension.

\*                    \*                    \*                    \*                    \*

Ever and faithfully yours,

D. B. EATON.

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CHICAGO, *November 10, 1870.*

Mrs. JOHN DAVIS.

MADAM: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of re-



solutions adopted at a meeting of the comrades and friends of the late General Davis and Colonel Hayden, in this city, on the fifth instant.

Your obedient servant,

J. H. A. BARTELS.

An adjourned meeting of the comrades and friends of the late General Hasbrouck Davis and Colonel R. Nelson Hayden was held at the Briggs House, on Saturday afternoon, November 5th, 1870.

General J. D. Webster was elected chairman and J. H. A. Bartels and August Severenz were appointed secretaries.

After addresses by General J. S. Beveridge, Major S. J. J. Nissen, Captain James Daly, General A. C. McClurg, Major Wm. M. Luff, Dr. John McCarthy, Colonel Oldushott, and Fernando Jones, Esq., the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, we have learned with profound sorrow of the death of General Hasbrouck Davis and Colonel R. Nelson Hayden, formerly of the 12th Illinois cavalry, by the loss at sea of the steamship "Cambria," on the 19th of October, 1870: Therefore—

*Resolved*, That in the death of General Davis the nation has lost one of its bravest and ablest defenders, society a distinguished member, and we a loved and honored soldier and devoted friend.

*Resolved*, That we sincerely mourn his death and cordially unite in bearing testimony to his worth. As a soldier he was original and daring in conception, and brilliant and successful in execution; as a citizen, able, upright, and patriotic; as a friend, genial, generous, and true. He was a ripe scholar, an able lawyer, and an eloquent advocate.

*Resolved*, That in Colonel Hayden we have lost a brave and capable officer, a faithful comrade, an honored and cherished



friend, and the State a worthy citizen and true patriot. He was endeared to us alike by his gallantry in action, his conduct on the march and in camp, and his manly and genial social qualities.

*Resolved*, That while our friends have ended their career while in their prime, yet, in all that makes a life useful or honorable, we may look upon theirs as complete. They have gone to their rest, leaving nothing to be regretted but their untimely end.

*Resolved*, That we tender to the relatives and friends of our deceased comrades our heartfelt sympathy in their affliction, and that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to them.

J. D. WEBSTER,

*Chairman.*

J. H. A. BARTELS,

*Secretary.*

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*Resolutions of the Cook County Bar.*

An adjourned meeting of the bar was held on yesterday afternoon in the Law Institute. On motion of Mr. Evans the following resolutions were adopted:

Having heard with feelings of great sorrow of the death of our late brother, Hasbrouck Davis, in accordance with a long established and proper custom of this bar, we unite in the following resolutions, expressive in some degree of our respect for his character as a lawyer and our esteem for his worth as a man.

*Resolved*, That to many of us who knew him as a lawyer his memory is endeared by our recollection of his manly presence, his refined and scholarly acquirements, his eloquence and devotion to his clients' interests, and to the few of us who knew him also as a companion and friend, by our knowledge of his con-





stancy, his genial and generous nature, his readiness to punish a wrong, his willingness to forgive an injury.

*Resolved*, That while the reputation of our deceased brother as a lawyer, having now become the heritage of his professional brethren, shall be by us carefully and kindly preserved, we feel that his character as a man may be most safely entrusted to the keeping of those who knew him thoroughly and well, who will be its truest and most vigilant guardians.

Eulogiums upon the deceased, General Davis, were delivered by several members of the bar, after which the meeting adjourned.

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*Meeting of the Alumni of Williams College.*

At a meeting of the Alumni of Williams College, in Chicago, held in that city on the 16th of February, 1871, General R. W. Smith (of the class of 1850), in response to a toast to "The Memory of General Hasbrouck Davis," said:

**MY BROTHERS ALUMNI.**

In the midst of this pleasant social gathering we are but too sadly reminded that all is not joyous. The richest rose has its thorn, and in the sweetest cup of cheer and pleasure there is often found the bitter tear. Memory, true to herself and to us, brings to this scene recollections of sadness. All are not here. One of our number is missing, and his seat will always be vacant.

In responding to the beautiful memorial sentiment just read, I am stirred with feelings of joy, mingled with deep emotions of sadness and sorrow. Of joy, because of the earnest manifestations of sympathy and respect shown to the memory of our brother by his friends and associates; of sadness and sorrow, because of the sudden and melancholy death of our friend, cut



down in the prime and vigor of his manhood, and at the noon-tide of his usefulness.

But a very short time since General Hasbrouck Davis was at the Chicago Bar, in the daily discharge of his duties, with the same prospect of long life before him that any of us now enjoy, and before many of us even knew that he had sailed for foreign lands, the startling announcement is made: The Cambria is lost, and she and her cargo of human souls have perished in the deep.

General Davis went down with that ill-fated band, and now there is to us nothing left of him but his memory. He is beyond the call of any,

"Until the sea give up the dead which are in it."

It was my good fortune to have known General Davis long and well. I made his acquaintance, I think, at the first court I ever attended in Chicago, and from that time until his passing away I often met him at the bar and on the field, and have known him in the social relations of life. And I am now gratified to be able, and most cheerfully do, bear testimony to his rare richness and ripeness as a scholar, his uniform urbanity as a gentleman, his courtesy and ability as a lawyer, and his scrupulous and uncompromising integrity as a man. He was a true patriot, a brave and gallant soldier.

Naturally of not very warm social instincts, he was modest and retiring in his habit, always devoted to his friends, and never obtrusive in his public or private associations. He was a man to be remembered, and those who knew him best will miss him most.

As we press along through the hurrying, changing scenes of life, here and there, one and another of our friends drops out of the ranks, the column closes up, and we move on as before, soon forgetting that a comrade is missing.

"Tis true, and pity 'tis, 'tis true."

If we should nurture more carefully and earnestly those bet-



ter instincts of our nature, those higher inspirations of our nobler humanity, that make us cling more closely to our friends, and value more sacredly their friendships, and seek less after fame and the empty applause of the multitude, we would become better men, and be longer remembered and more sorrowfully mourned when we pass away.

“The evil that men do lives after them,  
The good is oft interred with their bones.”

In the remembrance of our friend let us reverse the saying of the poet, forgetting and forgiving his faults and his failings, emulating only his virtues and remembering only his goodness.

But our friend is no more. He who but yesterday was as hopeful and joyful as we, as healthful and vigorous as any, has lain off his armor; he has answered the call of the last messenger, and gone upon that long journey from which there is no return. He has gone, bearing with him the record of his life and his deeds, to that court in which there is no error, and from whose judgments there is no appeal. He will not return to participate in the daily busy scenes in which we, his survivors, may yet for a little while engage. *He* cannot come to us, but *we* will surely follow him.

And, my friends, when the summons does come to call you and me to the bar of the “quick and the dead,” may we *all* find there “a friend that sticketh closer than a brother,” and a prevailing advocate before the Judge of all the earth.







## EXTRACTS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

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[CHICAGO TRIBUNE, *October 22, 1870.*]

A cable despatch brings us the painful intelligence that General Hasbrouck Davis, of this city, was one of the passengers of the ill-fated steamer Cambria, wrecked off the coast of England. General Davis left this city a few weeks ago for an extended European tour, to include a visit to the armies now operating on French soil. The news of his terrible fate will prove a severe shock to his many warm friends in this city, who will sincerely mourn his untimely and terrible end. The least that could be said of him is, that he was a thorough gentleman and soldier, without fear or reproach.

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[CHICAGO REPUBLICAN.]

Late last night news reached Chicago of the loss of the steamer Cambria, belonging to the Anchor line. The despatch states that the steamer Enterprise, from Galveston to Londonderry, picked up a boat off Innishaven Head, at three o'clock on Thursday afternoon, containing a sailor and corpse of a girl.





The sailor stated that the steamer Cambria struck at 10 o'clock the night previous on Innisthrael Island and became a total wreck. Four other boats containing passengers left the steamer, but have not yet been heard of. The sailor reports that his own boat was upset and all in it but himself were drowned. A full list of passengers on the ill-fated steamer is given, and among the names is that of General Hasbrouck Davis. The friends of General Davis had received, up to a late hour, no other intelligence than that contained in the despatch alluded to.

General Hasbrouck Davis came to Chicago in 1854, and is well known here, having taken an active part in politics, and having held the office of City Attorney.

He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts. His father, John Davis, was for some years the colleague of Daniel Webster in the Senate, and for his sterling integrity was familiarly known as "Honest John." J. Bancroft Davis, Assistant Secretary of State, is a brother of the General. He was educated partly in America, partly in Germany, and had the reputation of being a most accomplished and scholarly man. In literary matters he occupied a high position. On coming to Chicago he embarked in the profession to which he had been trained—that of a lawyer—and practiced successfully until the breaking out of the great rebellion, when he forsook his profession for the field of battle. He chose the cavalry branch of the service, and joined the 12th regiment of Illinois cavalry as Lieutenant Colonel. From the time he entered the service he distinguished himself by his indomitable courage and cheerfulness while struggling with hardships and difficulties which beset every soldier when in the field. One brilliant instance of his bravery will be remembered by those who were at Harper's Ferry on the memorable 16th of September, 1863. The rebels in tremendous force had appeared before Harper's Ferry with the determination to force a surrender. They erected batteries on the



heights, and on the 14th opened a murderous fire on the Union garrison, and kept up the bombardment until the —th, when the place was compelled to surrender. A few hours previous to the surrender 2,500 cavalry under General Davis cut their way through the enemy's lines, while the remainder of the garrison, numbering 11,000 men, became prisoners of war. Those who were present and witnessed the dashing exploits of General Davis were amazed at the undertaking. \* \* \* \*

He served in the Red river expedition under General Banks and was severely wounded. He did not resign his military command until the collapse of the rebellion, when he threw down arms and resumed law practice in Chicago.

He afterwards connected himself with the Press, subsequently retired from that profession, and was elected City Attorney of Chicago, which position he filled with marked ability and zeal.

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[CHICAGO TIMES, *October 30, 1870.*]

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GEN. HASBROUCK DAVIS.

SOME REMINISCENCES OF HIS MILITARY CAREER.—THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE.—HOW HE PROBABLY MET HIS FATE.

That but two persons escaped from the ill-fated Cambria is an almost certain conclusion. One of these is an Indianian, and it is barely possible that from him the world may get some particulars, in time, of one of the saddest catastrophes which has shocked the world for many a year. Chicago has an interest in a recital of this kind. Among the passengers of the lost steamer were several of our citizens. The most prominent among them was Gen. Hasbrouck Davis. The Hayden family, who went from here, was under the care of the General. What would be



of superlative interest to learn would be the behavior of Davis during the trying moments or hours that preceded the final catastrophe. Those who knew him will not suppose for a moment that he faced the terrors of shipwreck, or that he went into the presence of death without a struggle. If ever the secrets of that hour shall become known, it will be found that his last effort was that of a strong and brave heart.

People who met the General about Chicago will scarcely believe that under his genial and polished exterior there existed one of the most courageous natures the world has ever known. Easy, smiling, affable, a trifle suggestive of indolence, he had yet the heart of a lion. If other proof were lacking, his military record would demonstrate this beyond a doubt.

During the early part of the war General, then Colonel Davis, was at Martinsburg, Va., with his regiment, the 12th Illinois Cavalry. At a certain time Jackson was approaching him from one direction, and a cavalry force, under Stewart, menaced him from an opposite one. The latter annoyed him by cutting off his outside pickets and in various other ways, so that it was finally determined to send out a force and drive him away.

Some infantry, a battery, and some cavalry were ordered to rendezvous at a certain point within the lines. Two companies of cavalry, numbering in all only eighty men, were first on the ground, and were commanded by Clybourn and Grovesnor, of this city. When these two reached him, Davis started without waiting for the others. A few miles out he encountered 250 of the celebrated Black Horse cavalry, who were drawn up in line awaiting his coming. Davis ordered his men to open fire on them; but the effect was trivial. The General, chafed at the lack of impression, roared out, "Boys, throw away your carbines, draw your sabres, and at them!"

The command was obeyed. Davis himself led the squadron, and a moment later at a fierce gallop the little force thundered against the rebel cavalry. Their speed and elan were irresist-



ible. The Confederates attempted a resistance and emptied a good many Federal saddles, and then they fled. For two miles was the pursuit continued, and then the retreat was blown. When Davis returned to camp he had forty of the rebels prisoners and fifty of their horses. His thorough insensibility to fear led him to undertake enterprises which, with most men, would seem sheer foolishness or reckless desperation. He would frequently start out for the enemy's line, accompanied, as were the Knights of old, by a single squire, who, in this case, was a trusty sergeant. In full uniform, he would pass into the regions occupied by the Confederates, and would penetrate their position in every direction. Frequently he would have to save himself by flight: but generally his address, his consummate coolness, and his knowledge of human nature, enabled him to brave difficulties and overcome them. On one occasion he passed an entire night in the town of Dumfries while it was occupied by a Confederate force.

In these solitary expeditions he was a combination of Knight-errant and Uhlan. His very insolence carried weight. He was supposed to be accompanied by an adequate force, and in this way he would always rout small strolling parties of the enemy, or reconnoitre and capture some small place without difficulty.

The grandest expedition of public daring was at Harper's Ferry. It was owing to him almost wholly, if not entirely, that the cavalry force at that place was not included in the Miles-White surrender of the position. For two days did he labor to secure Miles' permission to attempt to cut his way out, and the consent was only obtained after arduous and unceasing efforts. In this transaction the gallantry of Davis is as conspicuous as was the cowardice and inefficiency of the Miles-White regime that commanded the place and ordered a surrender. \* \* \*

The entire 2,000 horsemen moved out of Harper's Ferry at eight o'clock in the morning and crossed into Maryland without much loss. \* \* \* \*





The success of the enterprise is historical. Credit, however, has been given to Miles for the transaction, while the truth is it was accomplished by Gen. Davis only after having long and persistently combatted the opposition of the very man to whom the public ascribes the honor of the undertaking.

These occurrences, as well as the prominent and historical part taken by Gen. Davis in the noted Stoneman raid, proves that he was a man of no ordinary courage; and they enable the world to comprehend somewhat of the spirit which probably animated him during the last moments of his life. From these facts it is safe to infer that he struggled, not so much, perhaps, for his own life as for the lives of others; even up to the very moment when fate finally stilled his gallant heart. \* \* \*

The final scenes of that disaster may never be known, but if they shall be, it is certain it will be found that the coolest, the bravest, the most hopeful of all who went down into the waters, was Hasbrouck Davis.

F. B. W.

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[NEW YORK WORLD, *October 29, 1870.*]

General Hasbrouck Davis was an able lawyer, and one of our best officers during the war. He was a native of Worcester, Mass. He settled at Chicago in 1854, and immediately on the breaking out of war joined the 12th Illinois Cavalry, of which he was made Lieutenant-Colonel. When Harper's Ferry was surrendered to the Confederates by Miles, Davis refused to join in the capitulation, and fought his way through the enemy's line with 2,500 horse. The remainder of the command became prisoners of war. He was one of the Stoneman raid commanders, and led his men within five miles of Richmond. He was wounded in the Red river expedition. After the war he resigned his commission and returned to the practice of law, in which he was successful. He was on a tour to Europe in the



ill-fated Cambria, and was one of those who took to the boats at the sinking of the ship.

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[NEW YORK COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER, *October 23, 1870.*]

General Hasbrouck Davis, of Chicago, who was lost in the Cambria, was a son of Governor and Senator, "Honest John Davis." He was born in Worcester, Mass., in 1827. Graduated at Williams College in 1845. Was a Unitarian clergyman for several years, and in 1854 went to Chicago as a lawyer. He was a prominent cavalry officer in the late war, and also City Attorney of Chicago. He was a man of high scholarship and fine character.

























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