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Swedish Generals and Colonels in Gray 1861-1865^o

Bertil Häggman* and Lars Gjertveit†

Preface

At the outbreak of the American Civil War, the U.S. census of 1860 reported 750 Swedes living in what would be the Confederate States of America. Perhaps not more than fifty joined the Confederate army and navy. The full story of all these Swedes in gray remains to be written.

This modest booklet is an attempt to introduce higher officers of Swedish origin who were in the Confederate army. Of the two generals, one (Brigadier General Charles G. Dahlgren) was commissioned by the Governor of Mississippi; the other (Brigadier General Roger W. Hanson), by a Richmond commission.

It is the hope of the authors that this little booklet will encourage further research, both in Scandinavia and the United States, into the military careers of these officers and contribute to the celebration this year [1996] in Sweden and the United States of the start of Swedish mass immigration to America in 1846.

Brigadier General *Roger Weightman "Old Flintlock" Hanson* (1827-1863)

Roger Weightman Hanson was born in Winchester, Clarke County, Kentucky, on 27 August 1827, the son of Samuel, a lawyer, and Mathilda Hanson. He was a descendant of the Swedish Maryland Hansons.

An ancestor of General Hanson, Johan Hansson, was killed at the Battle of Lützen, Germany, in 1632, during the Thirty Years' War. Swedish King

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Gustavus II Adolphus fell in the same battle, a great setback to the Protestant cause. The grandfather, who also went by the name of Johan Hansson, came to the New Sweden colony in Delaware in 1643, settling in Maryland in 1653.¹

Roger W. Hanson gained military experience during the Mexican War 1846-1848. At the age of twenty he served in the 4th Kentucky Volunteers as a first lieutenant of Captain John S. "Cerro Gordo" Williams's company. In a duel shortly after his return from Mexico, Hanson was shot in the right hip and crippled for life. He subsequently studied law and was admitted to the bar, but left with a company of gold-seekers bound for California. Early in 1850 he returned home and took up his law practice in Winchester. He was twice elected to the Kentucky legislature (1853 and 1855) and had a statewide reputation as a skilled criminal lawyer.

Hanson started out as a Union man but changed his view and in 1860 joined the pro-southern Kentucky State Guard as a colonel. On 3 September 1861 he received a Confederate commission as colonel of the 2nd Kentucky Infantry Regiment. Hanson's regiment formed the nucleus of Kentucky's famed "Orphan Brigade" (2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 9th Kentucky). He was captured at Fort Donelson, Tennessee, on 16 February 1862 and imprisoned for several months in Fort Delaware, Maryland. Released after a prisoner exchange in the fall, Colonel Hanson and his men reinforced Brigadier General John H. Morgan in the expedition against Hartsville, Tennessee, on 7 December 1862.

"Old Flintlock," as he was affectionately called, won promotion to brigadier general on 13 December 1862, and assumed command of the Orphan Brigade. Three weeks later, the general fell mortally wounded leading his Kentuckians in a desperate assault on the Federal left at the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on 2 January 1863. He died two days later. First buried in Nashville, Tennessee, he was reinterred in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1866 with full military honors. Kentucky soldiers of all arms paid him his last honors before the remains were taken under escort to Lexington. The funeral oration was given by Elder Joseph Desha Pickett, first chaplain of the 2nd Kentucky.

In 1893 it was decided at the annual reunion of the Orphan Brigade to erect a monument to Hanson and his wife, who had died in 1888. The monument now stands at the resting place of the couple with the following words inscribed:

The surviving members of the Orphan Brigade erect this stone in memory of their commander and his devoted wife. Let this monument witness now, and to coming generations, our knowledge of his worth, our sense of his valor, our pride in his patriotism, and our profound conviction that he fell in the defense of a righteous cause.

¹ *Editor's note:* This presumed ancestry is somewhat controversial. Cf. Elisabeth Thorsell, "Was the First President of the United States a Swede?," *Swedish American Genealogist* XXI (June 2001): 89-92.

Historian Edison H. Thomas has described John H. Morgan's reunion with Hanson in October 1861. Morgan had then left Lexington to join Major General Simon B. Buckner's command at Bowling Green:

When Morgan reached Green River on September 30, some 200 men had attached themselves to his unofficial command. Actually, it was a rather motley looking group by the time it reached the Confederate camp near Woodsonville in Hart County. For Morgan, however, the arrival was something of a homecoming. His uncle, Colonel Thomas Hunt, was there in command of two companies, and so was Morgan's old friend, Colonel Roger Hanson. A homely little figure with a rather peculiar stance, Colonel Hanson did not look much like a military man, nevertheless, he had the complete respect of his 600-man infantry regiment. Morgan and Hanson had served together during the Mexican War, and at Woodsonville in the days that followed they set out to shape their groups into some semblance of a military organization.²

Ed Porter Thompson, veteran and historian of the Orphan Brigade, characterized General Hanson in the following way:

In person, Gen. Hanson was robust, and his constitution was sound, vigorous, and capable of great endurance. He had one of those acute, yet comprehensive intellects, which see a field of business, the circle of the sciences, the world of philosophy....Hanson saw every point of any thing to which he turned his attention, whole looking at the whole result. He had, almost to perfection, that rare power of individualizing, which fitted him for the details of a business, as well as for grasping it in its general import—the power of analyzing, as well as for comprehending, aggregations. "Horse sense" he is said to have called it, humorously; but, by this term, men mean a rough talent, and his was not "horse sense." Great powers of observation, of perception, which furnish food to the mind in the shape of isolated facts, combined with that large reason which enables a man to digest, to comprehend these facts and their relative value, constitute genius—the highest order of mind—the power to see and understand, to adapt, to apply, to read men, to divine the tendency of events, which few men possess. Earnest, energetic, with an indomitable will, a large ambition, and invincible courage, the motive force, the "power behind the throne" of this great intellect, was not wanting, and the capability of achievement was only bounded by the limits of possibility.

That these characteristics of mind gave him capacity for a great commander, no man who knew him, who saw his conduct in the administration and execution of military affairs, will doubt for a moment.

² Edison H. Thomas, *John Hunt Morgan and his Raiders* (Lexington, KY, 1985), 17-18.

Whether a colonel or brigadier, he was ever active, ever watchful—bending the circumstances to his will—marking the impress of his own character on everything he touched.³

Brigadier General
Charles Gustavus Dahlgren
(1811-1888)

The first head of the Dahlgren family was Börje Ersson, who owned a farm named Dahlby in the Swedish province of Östergötland. In 1615 he took the name Dahlgren.⁴ His son, Charles Gustavus's grandfather, Bernard Ebbe Dahlgren, was born in 1744 in the city of Norrköping in Östergötland. He studied chemistry and pharmacy at the University of Uppsala and was a protégé of the world famous naturalist, Carolus Linnaeus, graduating with a degree in medicine. In 1789 he became chief physician in Finland, then a part of the Swedish realm. His son, Bernard Ulric, was born in 1784. Bernard Ulric was also educated at the University of Uppsala but, unlike his father, he rebelled against the Swedish monarchy. In 1804 he was caught distributing pamphlets advocating republican principles. His property was confiscated by the crown and Charles Gustavus's father was forced to flee the country. In the winter of 1806-1807, he arrived in the United States, settling in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Bernard Ulric married Martha Rowan in 1808, a daughter of James Rowan, who served in the Revolutionary War. The Rowan family originally came from Ireland and its members were among Pennsylvania's oldest settlers. Bernard Dahlgren's motto was "Candor and Fidelity" and the Dahlgrens lived on the fringe of Pennsylvania's socioeconomic elite.⁵ A prosperous merchant, Bernard Ulric was later appointed Swedish-Norwegian Consul in Philadelphia. Charles Dahlgren's stepdaughter, Sarah Ann Ellis Dorsey, was a prominent nineteenth century novelist. His brother, John Adolphus Dahlgren, was a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy.

Charles Gustavus Dahlgren, born in Philadelphia on 13 August 1811, started his career in the Navy, but soon went into banking while still a young man, a protégé of Nicholas Biddle, president of the Bank of the United States. The future general later became manager of the Natchez (Mississippi) Branch of the Bank of the United States. He bought plantations in Louisiana and Mississippi and operated a supply house. His first wife, Mary M. Routh, inherited considerable wealth at the death of her father, Job Routh. By 1860 he had accumulated a huge fortune through cotton harvesting. A big, burly man of

³ Ed Porter Thompson, *History of the Orphan Brigade* (Dayton, OH, 1898): 377-378.

⁴ Article in the journal *Svensk Samling*; Robert J. Schneller, Jr., *A Quest for Glory: A Biography of Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren* (Annapolis, MD, 1996).

⁵ *Ibid.*

strong temper, he fought many duels and is said to have left quite a number of dead enemies behind and had himself a large collection of dueling scars.

Following Mississippi's secession, Governor John J. Pettus commissioned Charles Gustavus Dahlgren brigadier general of state troops on 8 July 1861. From his own resources, he equipped the Third Brigade of Mississippi Volunteers (3rd and 7th Mississippi Infantry Regiments). He was placed in charge of southwest Mississippi. Headquartered in Pass Christian, his brigade helped guard the Mississippi coast against Union invasion. Local leaders are said to have been against him. By November, over Dahlgren's vehement objections, his troops were transferred to the Confederate army and President Davis placed Major General Mansfield Lovell over him. In January 1862 the governor appointed Dahlgren commissioner to oversee the construction of gunboats. Later in 1862 he was given command of the post at Fayette, Mississippi.

The general had a low opinion of President Jefferson Davis and was very critical of his conduct of the war. His lack of respect hit a low when Fort Donelson fell in February 1862. On 23 March 1862, he published his own detailed plans for the defense of the South in the newspaper the *Daily True Delta*, after sending them to Davis and receiving no answer from the president. As a rebuff to Davis, Dahlgren resigned his command on 15 July 1862. He saw no more active service and remained on "detached" duty for the remainder of the war.

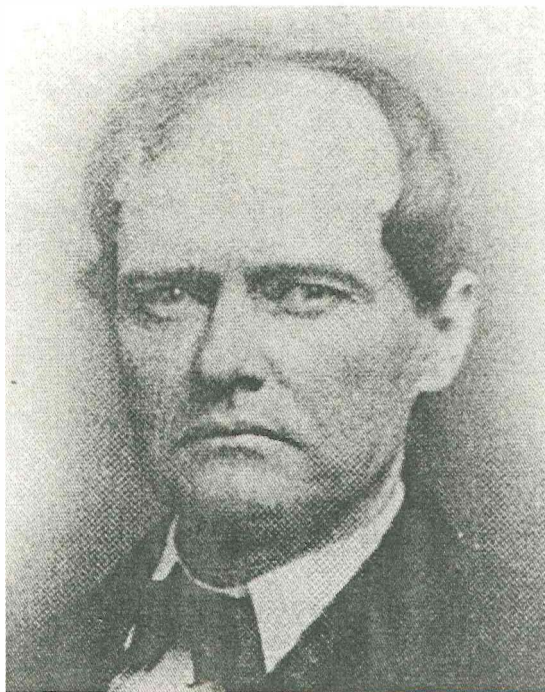
It is ironic that his last home (Beauvoir, near Biloxi) was later willed by his estranged stepdaughter to Jefferson Davis, when she died in 1879. The Dahlgren family went to court against Davis and newspapers both North and South reported the affair. One journalist gave this description of General Dahlgren in one of the articles:

He is tall and grey, and although now nearly 70 years of age, possesses a powerful frame, a steady step and a clear eye. Perhaps no man in New York is more rich in reminiscence....General Dahlgren has a deep, long scar on both sides of his left hand, where in fighting a duel with bowie knives, he clasped the keen edge of his antagonist's weapon to prevent a thrust into his bowels, and held it so hard that the blade cut through his hand and severed his little finger. He carries two pistol balls, received in duels, in his body, one lodging against his ribs. Two other balls, fired to kill him, have been removed by surgeons. On top of his head, toward the left side, beneath the scalp, is the broken tip of a bowie knife, which is fastened into the skull bone, and was left there in a desperate duel.⁶

⁶ *Philadelphia Press*, 1 August 1879. Copy in Geisenberger Papers, Armstrong Library, Natchez, MS.

The feud between the Dahlgrens and President Jefferson Davis, carried on by Austin Mortimer Dahlgren (the general's son), lasted from 1862 to 1906. During 1877 and 1878, Mortimer wrote several letters about the ex-president while in residence on the Gulf Coast as guest of Mrs. Dorsey. The following is a short quote from one of his letters:

Our guests on this occasion [Christmas Day, 1877] were President Davis, Genl. Jubal A. Early, and Genl. J. R. Davis. Christmas night we gave a grand reception in honor of Genl. Early. All the distinguished persons in this section of the country were present with their wives and fair daughters. The whole yard was lit up with reflections, while the house was a blaze of light. Cheerful pine fires burned on every hearth, while hundreds of wax candles from the grand old chandeliers poured a flood of variegated light upon the happy throng of gallant gentlemen and beautiful women, only to be reflected back by sparkling eyes and brilliant gems upon the necks and fingers of their fair owners.⁷



Charles G. Dahlgren

⁷ Quoted in Herschel Gower, "The Dahlgrens and Jefferson Davis," *Journal of Mississippi History* (August 1993): 179-201.

Charles Gustavus Dahlgren's fortunes were wiped out during the war and he moved with his family to Brooklyn, New York, to practice law. After his death on 18 December 1888, services were held in Brooklyn and the body was later shipped to Natchez where he was buried in a plot next to his first wife. The grave, in the Natchez City Cemetery, lay forgotten until it was marked with a marble slab on 18 January 1992 at the instigation of Professor Herschel Gower and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Dahlgren had three sons in Confederate service. Charles Routh served with the cavalry in Virginia; Bernard Dahlgren was in the Mississippi home guard; and John Adolph Dahlgren, barely fourteen years old, was at Vicksburg.

Colonel
Ludwig August Forsberg
(1832-1910)

Ludwig August Forsberg was born in Stockholm, Sweden, on 13 January 1832. He was the nephew of War Councilor Carl David Forsberg and was educated at the Technological Institute in the Swedish capital. At age twenty-two, he was a second lieutenant in the Swedish Army Engineer Corps. He immigrated to the United States in 1855 and settled in Columbia, South Carolina. A few years before the American Civil War he came to Washington D.C. to work on the Capitol, then under renovation. He was head engineer but was removed due to intrigue.

When the South seceded, Forsberg sailed in a fishing boat to Charleston, South Carolina, and arrived during the bombardment of Fort Sumter. He volunteered and served first as topographical engineer in Charleston harbor. In August 1861, he joined the 51st Virginia Infantry Regiment being assembled in Wytheville, Virginia. Forsberg's reflections on his situation, when he saw departing comrades saying goodbye to their wives and relatives that year, have been preserved and merit reproduction here:

Fathers, mothers, wives, and friends had gathered around the depot to cry over their loved ones and bid them a last adieu. The scene was distressing indeed. I felt more than ever a stranger in a strange land. There was no one to cry over me, no one to wish me good speed and a safe return.⁸

Forsberg received an appointment as lieutenant of infantry on 11 October 1861. He led a detail of engineers in the 51st Virginia and served attached to the staff of Brigadier General John B. Floyd. Between August 1861 and May 1862, he took part in the battles of Carnifax Ferry, West Virginia, 11 September 1861; Fort Donelson, Tennessee, 12-16 February 1862; and Princeton, West Virginia,

⁸ From the archive of Bertil Häggman.

17 May 1862. Lieutenant Forsberg was cited for bravery at Fort Donelson and generally admired for his devotion to the Confederacy.



Ludwig August Forsberg

Forsberg's leadership and valor were also widely recognized. On 26 May 1862 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel of the 51st Virginia and to colonel of the same regiment from 8 July 1863. During this period, Forsberg fought in the battles of the Kanawha Valley Campaign in West Virginia from 6-16 September 1862. After this followed a year of hard marching, but little action, in southwestern Virginia and eastern Tennessee. Forsberg was absent (sick at New Market) in May 1864 but returned to command the 51st Virginia near Cold Harbor (27 May-4 June 1864), when the regiment served briefly with the Army of Northern Virginia, and fought again at Lynchburg, Virginia, on 17 June 1864.

In July 1864, Colonel Forsberg succeeded Brigadier General Gabriel C. Wharton as commander of what became known as "Forsberg's Brigade" (45th, 50th, 51st Virginia Infantry, and 30th Battalion, Virginia Sharpshooters). The brigade distinguished itself in many hard-fought battles of Early's raid on Washington and the subsequent Shenandoah Valley Campaign—Frederick (7-8 July 1864), Monocacy (9 July 1864), Fort Stevens (11 July 1864), Kernstown (24 July 1864), Leetown (25 August 1864), and Third Winchester (19 September 1864). At the Battle of Winchester, Colonel Forsberg was shot in the hand while trying to rally his men. Recuperating in Lynchburg, he reassumed command of his brigade in late February 1865. He led the brigade in the disastrous Battle of Waynesboro, Virginia, on 2 March 1865, where Forsberg was captured along with most of his command.

Imprisoned at Fort Delaware, he was finally released on 24 July 1865. He settled in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he married Miss Mollie Otey who, as a nurse, had tended him after he was seriously wounded in the Battle of Winchester. He served as city engineer of Lynchburg for twenty-one years, designing and directing the construction of many of the city's public buildings. Colonel Ludwig August Forsberg died in Lynchburg on 15 July 1910 and is buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery. One of his friends spoke at his grave: "Here lies this generous stranger who watered with his precious blood the tree of liberty."

Lieutenant Colonel
Carl Jacob Hammarskjöld
(1833-1884)

The Hammarskjöld family is one of the foremost noble families in Sweden. Its history can be traced back to the beginning of the seventeenth century. UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld was distantly related to this Confederate lieutenant colonel.

Carl Jacob Hammarskjöld was born on Skultuna Estate on 3 June 1833, son of the cavalry captain Carl Wilhelm Hammarskjöld, who was director of Skultuna ironworks in the province of Västmanland. Carl Jacob was educated in Uppsala. In 1849 his father had to leave Sweden due to financial problems. He immigrated with his family to Cooperville, South Carolina, where he managed a small ironworks for Scottish owners. He had brought Swedish workers over the Atlantic, but after a labor dispute with the employees, the Hammarskjöld family was forced to leave Cooperville. The father moved to another small ironworks in Spring Hill, North Carolina, of which he became owner. Carl Jacob (Charles John) helped his father at the ironworks, served as postmaster of Spring Hill, and ran a trading company.

Upon the death of his father in 1860, Carl Jacob sold the ironworks and moved with his family to Charlotte, close to the South Carolina border. That year in August he wrote: "Here are a lot of troubles this year and it cannot end

well—I believe the Union is too large and it must soon fall.” The states “must soon be separated.”⁹

Two weeks after the firing on Fort Sumter, North Carolina took steps to organize a military force. Carl Jacob Hammarskjöld was among the first to respond to the governor’s call. In May 1861, while engaged in organizing troops for the state, he wrote to his uncle in Sweden:

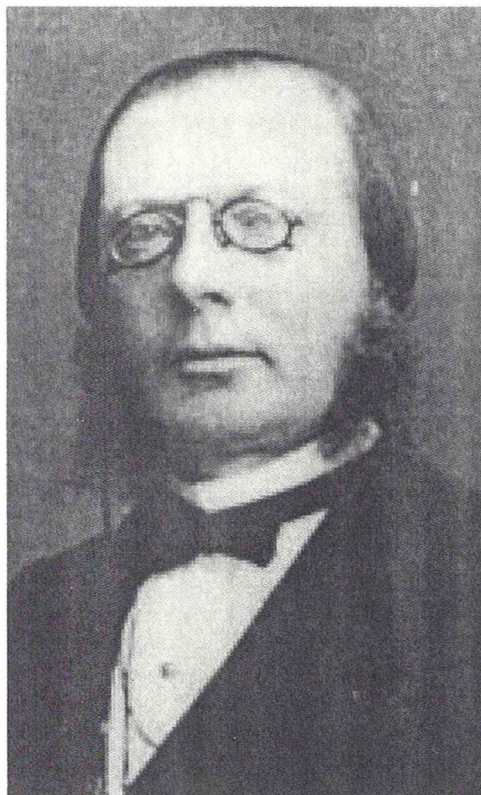
I have now left all that is dear to me on this earth to participate in a war that will decide the fate of the wonderful South, with the full, firm, and well-considered decision that either we will win or fall in the defense of our country---Two weeks ago I received orders from our Governor Ellis to report for active duty - of course it was heavy to so suddenly leave my dear family back home and take the first train from my dear home. Since then I have been in service with the governor, where I and three other men run the office and are fully occupied with writing, training, mustering, reviews, etc., etc. My life, this new life, is really good, especially as the governor and his family treat us very well---Uncle may wonder what the reason is for this war in a land that for so long has enjoyed the pleasures of peace, did not have an army, and was not prepared for war? Yes! Three weeks ago Lincoln, that useless president, attacked a fort in Charleston against a given promise; his troops were beaten back, his fort capitulated---North Carolina was then under his power and he asked our governor for 2,000 men, which was promptly denied. Our sympathies were already with the Southern Confederation and to fight against it was impossible---He [Lincoln] promises his troops, that if they can invade the South and subjugate us “our women and our land will be theirs to rape and plunder”---How different this is to garrison life in Stockholm. The life there often seemed ridiculous, only play and extravagance. Here we are daily waiting for orders to fight, quite a different feeling.¹⁰

Desiring active service, Hammarskjöld received an appointment as first lieutenant of Company E, 34th North Carolina Infantry Regiment, on 25 October 1861, a regiment initially commanded by another foreign-born, Colonel Collett Leventhorpe of England. The first assignment of the 34th North Carolina was to guard the port of Wilmington. While there, resignations and transfers caused vacancies among the field officers. Carl Jacob Hammarskjöld received promotion to major on 2 April 1862 and two weeks later rose to lieutenant colonel (17 April). In June 1862, after eight months of garrison duty, the 34th North Carolina was sent to the front outside of Richmond, Virginia. Here they formed part of the famous “Light Division” (under Major General A. P. Hill) of

⁹ Nina Hammarskjöld, *Ätten Hammarskjöld: personhistoria och tidsbilder från tre hundra år berättade för släkten*. Stockholm, Sweden, 1915, 531. Translated into English by Bertil Häggman.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 531.

Stonewall Jackson's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. In the course of five days, Lieutenant Colonel Hammarskjöld led his men in three bloody battles at Mechanicsville (26 June), Gaines' Mill (27 June), and Frayser's Farm (30 June). However, his career was cut short by an eye injury. After helping to save the Confederate capital on 12 July 1862, he was forced to resign on account of "nearsightedness & weak eyes."



Carl Jacob Hammarskjöld

Half a year later, on 9 November 1862, Hammarskjöld sends home another letter, dated Spring Hill Forge. He is hoping for peace soon "if Lincoln will acknowledge our independence....But all of Europe is cold and insensitive to this terrible war." He continues to describe how the blockade has taught Southerners to produce what they need at home.

One year later, in 1863, Lieutenant Colonel Hammarskjöld decided to return to Sweden with his mother and sister. Back home he received employment in the Swedish State Railways. In 1864 he was appointed station inspector at Forserum railway station, transferring to Falköping in the province of Västergötland in 1865. In 1866 he was promoted to assistant traffic director and in 1875 won further promotion to traffic director of the Fifth District. He married Agnes Hellman of Stockholm in 1870. Carl Jacob Hammarskjöld died in Stockholm on 24 April 1884 and was survived by his mother, who died in Uppsala in 1890. The House of the Nobility in Stockholm purchased his large collection of seals and weapon stamps.

Lieutenant Colonel
Baron Ludvig (Louis) Lybecker
(1826-1905)

Baron Karl Ludvig (Louis) Viktor Bleckert Lybecker was born 29 July 1826 on Österby Manor, close to Enköping in the province of Södermanland. His father was Major C. F. Lybecker and his mother was a Zetterstén. The Lybecker family came to Sweden from Germany in the seventeenth century. It was ennobled in 1709 through Harald Lybecker (1649-1714), who was deputy judge. When Karl Ludvig was only seven years old, the family decided that he should pursue a military career. From 1839 he was a cadet at the Karlberg Military Academy, but resigned in 1846 due to an illness. He served as sergeant (from the age of 12!) of the Royal Swedish Hussars. As of 1842 he was also a royal valet to Her Majesty Queen Josefina. Following his resignation from the Military Academy, Lybecker became a surveyor, graduating in the city of Härnösand (northern Sweden) in 1848. After that, he was employed for a year in the city of Sundsvall, just south of Härnösand.

When his mother died, Karl Ludvig claimed part of his inheritance and traveled in Europe. He lived in Paris and Antwerp, where he worked at a broker's office. Through contacts he was given the opportunity to travel in Egypt, Turkey, and other countries in the Middle East. Lybecker later returned to Sweden, claimed the rest of his inheritance, and immigrated to the United States in 1851. In New York he taught German, French, and music at a school for girls. After a few years he moved to Chicago and then to St. Louis, where he worked in a bank and taught music.

On 28 January 1861, Lybecker received an appointment as Swedish-Norwegian vice consul in St. Louis, a post that he held for only three months. In a letter dated 25 April that year, Swedish-Norwegian Consul-General Habicht in New York reported to the Foreign Minister in Stockholm about his resignation:

His behavior there [in St. Louis] had obviously been beneficial to the rebellious southern states. It has attracted attention in the local newspapers. Vice Consul Sandell has sent me an original letter from Lybecker to persons

living in Chicago, in which he expressed his devotion to the present undertaking of the southern states and declared that he was member of two societies advocating southern principles, etc.¹¹

In October, Lybecker left St. Louis to join Brigadier General M. Jeff Thompson's secessionist forces (1st Division, Missouri State Guard) operating in southeast Missouri. On 17 January 1862 he was enrolled as quartermaster sergeant in the artillery battery being organized for the Confederate army by Captain Robert C. McDonald at New Madrid, Missouri. In the summer of 1862, McDonald's Battery served aboard Jeff Thompson's Mississippi "River Defense Fleet" in actions near Memphis. Later, they manned the guns of the ironclad CSS *Arkansas* before being transferred to infantry service on 28 August 1862 (Co. D, 6th Missouri Infantry). Lybecker, however, appears to have returned to Missouri on a recruiting mission.

At Chalk Bluff, Missouri, on 6 June 1863, he joined Griswold's Missouri Battery (also known as 13th Missouri Battery) as second lieutenant. This battery became attached to Brigadier General John S. Marmaduke's cavalry division in Arkansas and saw action during the Little Rock expedition between 1 August and 14 September 1863 and at Pine Bluff on 25 October 1863. According to sources in Sweden, Louis Lybecker afterwards served as lieutenant colonel and volunteer aide-de-camp on the staff of General Marmaduke, probably from 1864. No proof of this service has been found in the National Archives or in the Missouri State Archives but, as such, he would have taken an active part in the Camden expedition (April-May 1864) and in Price's Missouri expedition (September-November 1864).

Some additional information on Baron Lybecker's service in the Confederate army is found in an obituary published in the newspaper *Stockholms Tidningen*. He fought, he had told the reporter on an earlier occasion, long after General Lee had surrendered in April 1865. With a few southern men he held a fort on the Mississippi River. Cut off from the surrounding world for a long time, they did not know of Lee's surrender in the east. It was not until a Federal warship appeared on the river outside the fort that they were informed. Lybecker was then forced to lower the Confederate flag. The Union naval officer lauded him for the brave defense of the fort and he was paroled with his men. At that time his wardrobe was minimal. He only had his gray field coat, his underwear, and one pair of shoes; his soldiers were not better dressed.¹²

¹¹ Letter from Consul Habicht to the Foreign Minister, Archive of the Swedish Foreign Ministry, Swedish National Archives, Stockholm.

¹² *Stockholms Tidningen*, 31 May 1905. The authors have been unable to determine which post on the Mississippi, if any, was held by the Confederates as late as 1865.

“Highly educated, a true nobleman and with the vigor of a youngster into his old age, he had kept his enthusiasm for the South—and when he played ‘General Lee’s March’ on the piano the old man was once more all afire.”¹³

On 18 July 18 1865, Baron Lybecker wrote to the foreign minister of Sweden-Norway to ask if his resignation of 1861 had been accepted:

Please inform me if my resignation as Swedish & Norwegian v. Consul has been accepted by proper authorities? In May or June 1861, I mailed it and received an acknowledgement of my letter from Consul Habicht N.Y. but, as he cannot appoint the v. Consuls, I presume he cannot accept their resignation only forward them to proper authorities for acceptance or not acceptance.

I left above-mentioned year in October for the southern army and have just returned, so before I left or the time between my resignation and the departure for the south was, in my opinion, long enough to receive an official answer from the foreign bureau or proper authority.

I have now, according to the law and agreements between the generals commanding opposing forces, acted and taken the oath of allegiance to the United States, it is the first time I have done so; before I was a subject of Sweden.

Not knowing what will happen and desirous to remain unmolested in my present occupation as clerk with L. A. Benoist & Co. Bankers, I would respectfully ask for your advice, and if, according to your instructions, agreeable and lawful, I should like again to become a subject of Sweden and under your protection, I do not suppose you can refuse me that protection.

In expectation of an immediate answer and a kind consideration of my situation, I shall be more than grateful to receive your answer....¹⁴

Presumably, Baron Lybecker’s wish to become a Swedish citizen again had to do with problems he might face during the reconstruction years as a former officer of the Confederate army. After the war he returned to his old job as a banker and music teacher in St. Louis. Later, he was employed as surveyor for a railway company. In 1883 he decided to leave the United States for Sweden.

On his return to Sweden he became an employee of the Länna-Norrälje Railway and rose to station inspector at the Finsta railway station. Remaining in Finsta after his retirement, Baron Lybecker was given quarters by stationmaster Carl Johan Olsson. When he died on 29 May 1905, he left most of his few worldly possessions to Olsson—some furniture, household articles, books, and postcards. He was buried at the Skederid churchyard near Finsta and gave

¹³ *Stockholms Tidningen*, 31 May 1905.

¹⁴ From the Lybecker file at the Archive of the Swedish Foreign Ministry, Swedish National Archives, Stockholm.

precise written instructions about the funeral service. It would be simple, with no one in attendance, no speeches, or bell chiming. Olsson's daughter, Marie-Louise, who had her second name from the Baron, felt responsible for his resting place and took care of the grave until her death in 1993.

In 1979, Lybecker appeared in a documentary novel written by Peter Nerman. There he is described as a loner carrying a long, mahogany walking stick with a silver top. According to local rumors, he was a veteran of the Anglo-Boer War. Obviously, he did not talk much about his Civil War experiences.¹⁵

Lieutenant Colonel

Eric Ersson

(1840-1872)

Eric Er(s)son was born in Haglunda, Gottröra Parish, Uppland, in 1840. At the age of ten, he immigrated to the United States with his father, who was hired to work for Hammarskjöld in South Carolina. By the outbreak of the American Civil War, Erson worked as a merchant in Lincolnton, North Carolina. He joined the Confederate army on 25 April 1861 as a private in Company K, 1st North Carolina Infantry Regiment. Erson's height was given as 5' 10" at the time. The regiment was organized for six months' service and left Raleigh, North Carolina, for Virginia in May 1861. Stationed on the Virginia Peninsula, Erson received his baptism of fire at Big Bethel Church, south of Yorktown, on June 10. He was promoted to corporal on 25 July 1861 but saw no further action before the 1st North Carolina was mustered out in November 1861.

Returning to North Carolina, Ersson was active in recruiting men for a new regiment. On 28 April 1862 he was made captain of Company H, 52nd North Carolina Infantry, organized near Raleigh. He spent most of the following year garrisoning various points close to the Virginia border. In June 1863, the 52nd North Carolina formed part of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and advanced into Pennsylvania. At the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on 3 July, Captain Erson was wounded in the hand leading his men in the famous "Pickett's Charge." After his recovery, he was promoted to the rank of major.

Over the next eleven months, Erson fought in every campaign involving the Army of Northern Virginia—Bristoe Station, Mine Run, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, and Cold Harbor. During the subsequent siege of Petersburg, the 52nd North Carolina distinguished itself on many occasions, particularly at Reams' Station on 25 August 1864. Here Erson received a painful wound in the thigh. He won promotion to lieutenant colonel on August 30, and was back in action in September. More heavy fighting followed at Peeble's Farm (30 September 1864), Burgess' Mill (27 October 1864), Hatcher's Run (6

¹⁵ Lennart Jansson, "Baronen i Finsta: Ett märkligt levnadsöde," *Sjuhundraårigens årsskrift 1994*, 77-82.

February 1865), and the final assault of the Petersburg lines (2 April 1865). Lieutenant Colonel Erson surrendered with the remnants of his regiment at Appomattox on 9 April 1865.

After the surrender of General Robert E. Lee, Erson claimed his parole. He was allowed to keep his horse and returned to his woman back home. Early 1866 his sweetheart, Sara Jane Arent, became Mrs. Eric Erson. Being an energetic man, he began recovering his losses during the war. He was well respected and loved in the community. In 1872 Erson was a family man with two daughters, Fannie and Mary, and he had started on a political career. Eventually the citizens of Lincoln County elected him county commissioner. Had he not been struck by an accident he might well have ended as governor of the state of North Carolina. While riding he was thrown from his horse. He suffered major internal injuries and passed away at the early age of thirty-two. The commissioners of Lincoln County dedicated a page in the record book to his memory and a resolution was passed in his honor.

In 1999 Lieutenant Colonel Erson was honored at a ceremony at Saint Luke's Lutheran Church in Lincoln County.¹⁶ A bronze marker was placed at his grave and re-enactors fired a volley in his honor. Lincoln County is connected to eight Confederate generals (four by birth), among them Major General Stephen Dodson Ramseur and Major General Robert F. Hoke.

Lieutenant Colonel
James H. Hallonquist
(1834-1884)

James H. Hallonquist was born in South Carolina of Swedish parents in 1834. A graduate of West Point Military Academy, he served in the 4th U.S. Artillery and as artillery instructor at Fort Monroe, Virginia, but lacked combat experience when the war broke out in 1861. After South Carolina seceded, Hallonquist resigned from the U.S. Army and was commissioned captain in the South Carolina state army. He was placed in charge of a battery in Charleston harbor (Fort Moultrie) and participated in the bombardment of Fort Sumter on 12 April 1861, which signaled the beginning of the American Civil War.

A few days later, on April 20, Hallonquist was ordered to report to General Braxton Bragg in Pensacola, Florida. Appointed lieutenant in the Confederate army, he served as Bragg's inspector and mustering officer, with the task of forming raw volunteers into organized military units. On 6 December 1861 he was promoted to major of the 2nd Alabama Artillery Battalion, which was organized in Mobile, Alabama. His tenure as battalion commander was short, however. When General Bragg's corps moved to Corinth, Mississippi, in March

¹⁶ Conducted by the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Camp Gen. Robert F. Hoke / William J. Hoke #1616, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

1862, Bragg requested that Hallonquist become his artillery inspector. He served on Bragg's staff during the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, on 6 April 1862.

A few months later General Bragg assumed command of the Army of Tennessee. He made his trusted subordinate, James Hallonquist, inspector and chief of artillery for the army. Promoted to lieutenant colonel 17 July 1862, Hallonquist next participated in the Kentucky Campaign (fall 1862) and the Battle of Murfreesboro (31 December 1862-2 January 1863). When the army went into winter quarters in and around Tullahoma, Tennessee, he journeyed to Atlanta to oversee personally the equipping of several batteries. Returning in March, Hallonquist followed the Army of Tennessee through the campaigns and battles for Tullahoma, Chickamauga, and Chattanooga in 1863.

As artillery chief, Hallonquist was, according to one historian, "preoccupied with housekeeping details to the exclusion of administration and tactical innovation."¹⁷ After General Bragg's removal, he quickly lost status. Two months before the Atlanta Campaign, in March 1864, Brigadier General Francis A. Shoup replaced him as chief of artillery. He assumed command of the army's reserve artillery (three battalions) on June 10, a position that he held until that organization was broken up following the Battle of Atlanta on 22 July 1864. Lieutenant Colonel Hallonquist subsequently served as chief of artillery of Lieutenant General Stephen D. Lee's (formerly Hood's) corps until the evacuation of Atlanta in September. At that point he left the Army of Tennessee with orders to proceed to Macon, Georgia. He was still there in February 1865.

At the close of the war, Hallonquist moved to Texas and was, for a while, state engineer under Governor Throckmorton. He did not marry, and retired from business in 1882.

Hallonquist committed suicide in 1884. No record of his death has been found in any of the cemetery records in Kaufman County, Texas, where he resided at the time of death.

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