

Advocates for Harvard ROTC

HARVARD CONFEDERATES

	<u>Total served</u>	<u>killed in action</u>	<u>Died by disease & accidents in service</u>
Harvard College:	78	16	5 (all by disease)
Harvard Law School	154	33	7 (all by accidents)
Harvard Scientific	23	3	0
Harvard Medical	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	257	52	12

The above total of Harvard alumni serving in the Confederate military included five major generals and eight brigadier generals, three of which were killed in battle. It surprises some that 22% of all Harvard alumni who served in the Civil War fought for the South but Harvard Confederates represent 38% of the sons of Harvard killed in action during this conflict. As result among Harvard alumni, Confederate military losses were 20% compared with a 13% casualty rate for the Union Army. Confederate soldiers were forced by the statutes of the Congress of the Southern Confederacy to serve throughout the war, regardless of the terms of their enlistment or commission, which was not the case on the Union side. Thus, Confederate soldiers generally participated in more engagements than the Union troops. A few unusual situations among these sons of Harvard who died for the Confederacy includes one Rebel officer who was killed in the same battle where his brother fought as an officer in the Union Army. Another Harvard Confederate casualty was a brigadier general and the brother in law of Abraham Lincoln. A third Harvard casualty for the South was the chief of staff for a Lt. General who was also a Harvard graduate and son of a president of the United States.

As expected, most of the Harvard alumni killed in the service of the Confederacy were born and raised in the southern states. However, 9 Harvard Confederates were from Border States (i.e. 5 from Tennessee and 2 from both Missouri and Kentucky). Four were from the Mid Atlantic area (i.e. Maryland = 3 and District of Columbia = 1). Surprisingly, there was also 1 Harvard Confederate casualty from Illinois, Massachusetts (Lowell) and New Hampshire. All of the below men made the supreme sacrifice for their country which for most at that time was their home state. In recognition of their unselfish service, all of these Harvard alumni merit a permanent place of honor and remembrance along with their brother warriors from Harvard who died for the Union as shown on plaques in Memorial Hall as well as those listed in Memorial Church who were casualties from World War I to the Vietnam War. If Harvard University deems fit to memorialize the Harvard graduates who died in the military service of our enemy Germany during World Wars I and II, it seems more than fair and appropriate to provide a prominent place of honor for the Harvard alumni who died serving their country which was the Confederate States of America during the War between the States as well as other Harvard alumni with no place of honor who died for our country in military service from the American Revolution to the 1914 Vera Cruz campaign.

HARVARD CONFEDERATES WHO FELL IN THE CIVIL WAR

1. HARVARD COLLEGE BY CLASS

1840

Surgeon John Francis Heath from Virginia – North Carolina Infantry.

In charge of a hospital at Fort Caswell, N. C. where he died from disease on 7 Oct. 1862.

1849

1st Lt. Henry Middleton Rutledge Fogg from Tennessee – Staff of General Zollicofer (Army of Tennessee).

He was killed at Fishing Creek, Ky. on 19 Jan. 1862. His division commander reported that “Lieutenant Fogg . . . displayed conspicuous courage.”

Major John Pegram May from Virginia – Co. A, 12th Virginia Infantry.

He was killed at Second Manassas, Va. on 80 Aug. 1862.

1. HARVARD COLLEGE BY CLASS (continued)

1851

Captain William H. Sparks from Louisiana – 1st La. Infantry (Brigade staff).

He was killed at Atlanta, Ga. on 22 July 1864. His brigade commander reported: "In the thickest of the fight, fell Capt. W. H. Sparks."

1852

Major Frederick Percival Leverett from South Carolina – 11th South Carolina (Brigade Surgeon).

He died from disease in Richmond, Va. on 23 July 1864.

Major William Duncan McKim from Maryland – Maryland Infantry (Brigade and Division Staff).

Battles included: Cross Keys, Cedar Run, Seven Days before Richmond, Second Manassas, Antietam where he was severely wounded but disregarded warnings to recuperate and went mounted into battle next day and Chancellorsville, Va. where he was killed on 2 May 1863. His division commander reported: "The chivalrous Duncan McKim, fell while conducting reinforcements to repel the enemy."

1854

Sergeant-Major Beverly William Means (HLS -1853) from South Carolina – 6th South Carolina Infantry.

He was mortally wounded at Fair Oaks, Va. on 31 May 1862.

Lt. Colonel Thomas Pinkney Alston from South Carolina – 1st South Carolina Infantry (Brigade Staff).

Mentioned for gallantry at 2nd Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. Gen. A. P. Hill, commanding division at Fredericksburg, reported: "Captain Alston, of the 1st South Carolina Volunteers, deserves special mention. He having been severely wounded and dressed at the hospital, he returned to the field in spite of the remonstrance of the surgeon." Lt. Colonel Alston was wounded three times in The Wilderness, Va. on May 1864, and died from wounds in Richmond, Va. on 19 June 1864.

1856

Lt. Colonel Charles Le Doux Elgee from Louisiana (also Harvard LLB-1858) – 9th Louisiana Infantry

(Chief of Staff of Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor who was also a Harvard grad and son of President Zachary Taylor) He was taken prisoner after the capture of New Orleans but was later exchanged and subsequently died from a fever in Bapides, La. on 13 Nov. 1864.

1857

1st Lt. John Julius Pringle Alston from South Carolina – Co. E, 1st South Carolina Artillery.

Wounded at Fort Sumter and honorably mentioned for conduct at Fort Wagner. He died from exposure and exhaustion at Greenville, S. C. on 20 Sept. 1863

Captain Henry Longer De Saulles from Louisiana – 32nd Louisiana Infantry (aka Miles Legion).

He was mortally wounded at head of his company at Port Hudson, La. on 3 June 1863.

2nd Lt. Samuel Breck Parkman from Georgia. – Read's battery of the 10th Georgia

He was killed at Antietam, Md. on 17 September 1862. Brigade commander reports: "Read's battery performed the most important service in a position of great danger. 2nd Lt. Samuel B. Parkman was killed on the field gallantly discharging his duty."

1. HARVARD COLLEGE BY CLASS (continued)

1860

2nd Lt. Charles Alston Pringle from South Carolina – Co. H, 1st South Carolina Infantry.
He died in camp from disease on 29 July 1862.

Captain Thomas Devereux Jones from North Carolina – Co. A, 22nd North Carolina Infantry.
Taken prisoner near Newbern, N. C. in 1862 and later exchanged or escaped. He was mortally wounded at Bristoe Station, Va. and died on 6 Nov. 1863.

Captain William MacRea Magenis from Missouri – 2nd Kentucky Cavalry (Staff). Battles included: Belmont, Shiloh, Farmington, Murfreesboro and Perryville. He was killed in General Morgan's raid to Ohio on 4 July 1863. His commander writes: "Captain Magenis had behaved with the greatest gallantry and had won the encomiums of his chiefs".

Captain Benjamin Smith Skinner from North Carolina – 22nd North Carolina Infantry.
He was taken prisoner near Newbern, N. C. in 1862 & later exchanged or escaped. He was later killed at Reams' Station, Va. on 25 Aug. 1864.

2nd Lt. Horatio Eustis from Louisiana – Co. B 10th Louisiana Guard Artillery.
He was killed at Winchester, Va. on 19 Sept. 1864.

1863

Captain John Prink Smith Van Bokkelen from North Carolina – Co. D, 3rd North Carolina Infantry. Mortally wounded at Chancellorsville, Va. and died on 22 June 1863. While suffering from his wounds he spoke kindly of Harvard and his classmates. One of his contemporary warriors writes: "Captain Van Bokkelen was universally popular and almost idolized by his own men. But twenty-one years of age, and full of youthful ardor, intelligent, with a conception of his duties and an indomitable energy in pursuing the line of conduct which a discriminating judgment dictated, to him, possibly, more than to any other officer of the company which he commanded, was due the high morale to which that company attained."

1864

Corporal Richard Eustis from Mississippi – Co. A, Adams Troop, Jeff Davis Legion (Cavalry).
Roll of Honor for meritorious conduct at Upperville, Va. in 1864. He was mortally wounded in a skirmish near Raleigh, N. C. and died on April 1865.

Private George Washington from Virginia – 12th Virginia Infantry.
He was severely wounded at Kernstown, Va. He was later mortally wounded and died on 30 June 1863.

Lt. Colonel Anderson Watkins from Arkansas – 8th Arkansas Infantry (Adjutant).
Battles included: Corinth and Chickamauga. He was killed near Atlanta, Ga. on 22 July 1864. His brigade commander reported: "Lt. Col. Anderson Watkins, Eighth Arkansas Regiment . . . was stricken down, sword in hand, very near the enemy's works. Also quite young, he was a brave soldier, a gifted and valuable officer, possessed of great courage, and having a high sense of duty."

2. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL BY CLASS

1843

Colonel Stuart Wilkins Fisk from Louisiana – 25th Louisiana Infantry.

Battles included: Farmington, Penyville and Murfreesboro, Tenn. where he was killed on 31 December 1862. His brigade commander reported: "Among the killed I have to report and to regret the death of Col. S.W. Fisk, who fell gallantly leading his battalion in the charge. He was a worthy, brave and gallant officer."

(Rank unknown) Thomas Harris Towner from Virginia – (Unit unknown).

Mortally wounded at Winchester, Va. and died on 26 March, 1862.

1844

Lt. Colonel Jeremiah Morrill Clough from New Hampshire – 7th Texas Infantry.

He settled in Texas after Law School. He had served in the Mexican War under General Taylor. He was killed in his first battle at Fort Donelson, Tenn. on 15 Feb. 1862. His brigade commander, reports: "Lieutenant-Colonel Clough, and his lieutenant fell nearly together, nobly performing their duties on the field."

Captain Joel Joseph Jones from Tennessee – Tennessee Regiment.

He was killed at Perryville, Ky. on 8 Oct. 1862.

Major John Smith Minor from Louisiana – 10th & 11th consolidated Tennessee Infantry.

He died from disease in service in Ascension Parish, La. on April 1863.

1st Lt. William Means Bratton from South Carolina – Co. B, 11th Alabama Infantry.

He was killed at Glendale, Va. on 30 June 1862.

1844

1st Lt. John Litton Bostick from Tennessee – 2nd Arkansas Volunteer Infantry (Aide de Camp).

Battles included: Perryville, Murfreesboro, and Chickamauga. Mortally wounded near Atlanta, Ga. and died in Griffin, Ga. on 29 Aug. 1864. His brigade commander, reports: "During two years' service with his command, he [Lt. Bostick] has ever been at his post, a most efficient, gallant, and reliable officer, and worthy of greater trust than has been imposed upon him. In this engagement, as well as in all others in which he was, he behaved with cool and intelligent gallantry, and was of great assistance to me."

1847

Lt. Colonel Henry Macon Dunwoody from Georgia – 51st Georgia Infantry.

He was killed at Gettysburg, Pa. on 2 July 1863.

Captain Boscoe Briggs Heath from Virginia – 1st South Carolina Infantry (Assistant adjutant-general).

Died from disease at Rockbridge Alum Springs, Va. on 21 Aug. 1863. His brigade commander reported: "But it is due to Captain Roscoe B. Heath, my able assistant adjutant-general, that I acknowledge the obligation I am under to him for his valuable assistance not only on these occasions, but throughout his service as the chief of my staff. Notwithstanding the fact that he was suffering from severe illness, he insisted on accompanying me on this march against my earnest advice . . ."

Colonel Randall William McGavock from Tennessee – 3rd, 10th & 13th Tennessee Infantry (CO).

Battles included: Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, Tenn. Surrendered with garrison and was confined at Fort Warren, Mass. and exchanged for three 1st lieutenants. Killed at Raymond, Miss. on 12 May 1863. Gen. J. E. Johnston CSA wrote : "The loss of Col. Randall McGavock, . . . who fell gallantly on this occasion, was much regretted."

2. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL BY CLASS (continued)

1848-9

Major John Stewart Walker from Virginia – Co. B, 15th Virginia Infantry.

Battles included: Big Bethel and Seven Days before Richmond. Killed at Malvern Hill, Va. on 1 July 1862.

1850-1

Lt. Colonel Thomas Brown from Alabama – 1st Alabama Cavalry.

He was killed at Munfordville, Ky. on 21 Sept. 1862.

(Rank unknown) Hamilton Couper (also Harvard Scientific School-1851) from Georgia (Unit unknown).

He died from disease at Manassas Junction, Va. during March 1862.

1850-1

Brigadier General Albert Qallatin Jenkins from Virginia – 8th Virginia Cavalry.

He resigned seat in Congress to enter Confederate Army. Battles included: West Virginia campaigns, Scarey Creek, Winchester, Bunker Hill and Martinsburg. He was wounded at Gettysburg and led raids into Ohio and Pennsylvania. He was the first to unfurl the flag of the Confederate States in Ohio. He was killed at Cloyd's Mountain, Va. on 9 May 1864. Gen. Loring reported he was a "brilliant and enterprising general."

1851-2

Captain Thomas Jefferson Martin from Virginia – Co. F, 57th Virginia Infantry.

He was killed at Malvern Hill, Va. on 1 July 1862.

Major Alexander Yates from Mississippi – 36th Mississippi Infantry.

Severely wounded at Corinth. His brigade commander reported that he behaved "heroically and nobly" at Iuka, Miss. He was killed during the siege of Vicksburg, Miss. on 2 July 1863.

Brigadier General States Rights Gist from South Carolina – 1st & 27th Army of Tennessee.

Battles included: Bombardment of Fort Sumter, Bull Run, Jackson, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Atlanta campaign. Killed at Franklin, Tenn. on 30 Nov. 1864. His brigade commander, reports: "His horse was shot. After dismounting, he was leading the right of the brigade when he fell pierced through the heart. General Gist, a noble and brave cavalier from South Carolina who was lying with his sword reaching across the breastworks still grasped in his hand. He was lying there dead. Thus died Gen. S. R. Gist, a gallant son of South Carolina, who had nobly defended on many a field the cause for which he now so heroically yielded up his life."

(Rank unknown) William Anderson Beene from Alabama – (Unit unknown).

He was killed in Seven Days' Battles before Richmond, Va. in 1862.

Private William James Steuart from Maryland – 1st Maryland Infantry.

He was mortally wounded at Spottsylvania Court House, Va. and died in May 1864.

1853-4

(Rank unknown) James Albert Meader from Lowell, Massachusetts – (Unit unknown).

Date died not known

Major Edward George Washington Butler from Kentucky 11th Louisiana Infantry.

He was mortally wounded at Columbus, Ky. and died 9 Nov. 1861.

2. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL BY CLASS (continued)

1853-4 (continued)

Captain Henry Lord Page King from Georgia – 10th Georgia (aka McLaws division) [Staff].

He was killed at Fredericksburg, Va. on 13 Dec. 1862. His division commander reported: "He was a brave and accomplished officer and gentleman, and had already distinguished himself during the operations in front of Fredericksburg, as he had done in all the other engagements when on duty."

1854.

Brigadier General Ben Hardin Helm from Kentucky – 1st Kentucky Cavalry.



Benjamin Hardin Helm was born in Bardstown, Kentucky, to John L. Helm and Lucinda Barbour Hardin on June 2, 1831. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1851, 9th in his class of 42 cadets. He was appointed a brevet second lieutenant in the 2nd U.S. Dragoons, but resigned his commission the following year, after serving at a cavalry school at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and at Fort Lincoln, Texas. Following the resignation of his commission, Helm studied law at Harvard and was later elected a Kentucky state legislator for one term, and became the state's attorney for the 3rd district of Kentucky. In 1856, Helm married Emilie Todd, the half-sister of Mary Todd Lincoln. Helm was also cousin-in-law of U.S. General and Congressman John Blair Smith Todd. As Kentucky's status in the American Civil War remained neutral in 1861, Helm was offered the job of Union Army paymaster by his brother-in-law, President Abraham Lincoln.

He declined the job, instead returning to Kentucky to raise the 1st Kentucky Cavalry for the Confederate States of America. Helm was commissioned a colonel on October 19, 1861, and served under Brig. Gen. Simon B. Buckner in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Helm's group was then ordered south. He was promoted to brigadier general on March 14, 1862, and was given command of the 1st Kentucky "Orphan" Brigade several months later. Helm maintained command of the Orphan Brigade through the Battle of Baton Rouge and with the brigade joined the Army of Tennessee, where he was with Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge throughout the Tullahoma and Chickamauga Campaigns in 1863, when he was mortally wounded at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863. He died on the battlefield the following day, with his last word being "Victory." Following his death, Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln went into private mourning at the White House. Her niece recalled: "She knew that a single tear shed for a dead enemy would bring torrents of scorn and bitter abuse on both her husband and herself. "Emilie Todd Helm was granted safe passage to the White House in December 1863."

His division commander reported: "Here Gen. Helm, ever ready for action, and endeared to his command by many virtues, received a mortal wound while in the heroic discharge of his duties." In the official records concerning Gen. Helm is the following order of President Lincoln: "War Department, Washington, August 8, 1864 to Major General Burbridge, Lexington, Ky.: Last December Mrs. Emily T. Helm, half-sister of Mrs. Lincoln, and widow of the rebel General Ben Hardin Helm, stopped here on her way from Georgia to Kentucky, and I gave her a paper, as I remember, to protect her against the mere fact of her being General Helm's widow. I hear a rumor today that you recently sought to arrest her, but was prevented by her presenting the paper from me. I do not intend to protect her against the consequences of disloyal words or acts, spoken or done by her since her return to Kentucky, and if the paper given her by me can be construed to give her protection for such words or acts, it is hereby revoked pro tanto. Deal with her for current conduct just as you would with any other. — A. LINCOLN

2. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL BY CLASS (continued)

1855-6

Captain Robert Hitt from Illinois – Arkansas Infantry. He was killed at Prairie Grove, Ark. on 7 Dec. 1862. His brother, Captain S. N. Hitt, an officer in a Union regiment, was in the same battle.

1st Lt. James Wentworth Martin from Alabama – 11th Virginia Infantry. He was killed at Williamsburg, Va. on 5 May 1862.

1856-7

Private Wright Smith Hackett from Tennessee. – Co. C, 16th Tennessee Infantry. He was killed at Chickamauga, Tenn. on 6 Aug. 1864. His commanding officer reported: "While others deserve nobly, I feel that I ought not to fail to notice the courage and good conduct of Private Hackett, whom I placed in command of the company after the fall of the commanding officer"

1857

Lt. Colonel Andrew Jackson Williams from Georgia – Co. D, 25th Georgia Infantry. He was killed at Chickamauga, Tenn. on 20 Sept. 1863. Col. His brigade commander reported: "Of the number wounded several have since died, among them Lt. Col. A. J. Williams, commanding the 25th Georgia Regiment, a brave and gallant officer, to whom much praise is due for his conduct on the field. He fell at his post and in the efficient discharge of his duties."

1858.

2nd Lt. Andrew Jackson Calhoun from South Carolina – Arkansas Infantry. He was mortally wounded at Chickamauga, Ga. and died on 8 Oct. 1863.

Captain James Davis Hunt from Arkansas – Arkansas Infantry. Killed at Corinth, Miss. on 3 Oct. 1862.

1858-9

Major William Henry Lilly from Louisiana – 12th Mississippi Infantry. Wounded at Games' Mill, Va. but was killed returning to his regiment in a railroad accident at Chunky Creek Bridge, near Meridian, Miss. on 19 Feb. 1863. His brigade commander reported: "Major W. H. Lilly, who was in command of the 12th Mississippi Regiment, was wounded while gallantly and coolly discharging his duties at the head of the regiment . . ."

1859

Major John Morris Jackson from Georgia – 34th Georgia Infantry. He was killed at Jonesborough, Ga. on 31 Aug. 1864.

Private Jesse Reed from Georgia – 6th Georgia Infantry. He was mortally wounded at Antietam and died near Sharpsburg, Md. on 19 Sept. 1862.

Private Joshua Johnson from Virginia – Virginia Infantry. Served fifteen months but then died in hospital of disease at Luray, Va. on 1 June 1862.

2. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL BY CLASS (continued)

1860

(Rank unknown) Thomas Neale Banney from Missouri – Missouri Infantry. He was killed in Arkansas in 1865.

Private Henry Reynolds Storrs from Alabama – Co. I, 3rd Alabama Infantry. He was killed at Norfolk, Va. on 21 May 1861.

1st. Lt. George Louis Taylor from the District of Columbia – 19th Alabama (Aide de Camp). He was killed on 27 Dec. 1862.

Captain George Williamson from Maryland – 6th Alabama (assistant adjutant general). Williamson was wounded and the captured and later escaped. He was killed at Fisher's Hill, Va. on 22 Sept. 1864. One of his brother officers stated "Captain Williamson was one of the bravest men that ever trod a battlefield."

1860-1

Lt. Colonel John Bellenfant Johnson from Tennessee – 29th Tennessee Infantry. He died in Griffin, Ga. on 17 Nov. 1863, probably from disease.

1st Lt. George McLeod Turner from Georgia – Savannah Guards, Infantry and then the Army of Northern Virginia. He killed at Sailor's Creek, Va. on 6 April 1865.

1861

Captain Thomas Watson Cooper from North Carolina – Co. C, 11th North Carolina Infantry. He killed at Gettysburg, Pa. on 3 July 1863.

3. HARVARD SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL BY CLASS

1856

Captain Lt. Elijah Graham Morrow from North Carolina – Co. G, 28th North Carolina Infantry. He served in the Seven Days' Battles before Richmond, Va. He was killed at Gettysburg, Pa. on 3 July 1863.

1857

(Rank unknown) James Hartwell Hart from South Carolina – (Unit unknown). He was killed in Seven Days' Battles before Richmond, Va. in 1862.

1859

Lt. Colonel William Walter Sillers from North Carolina – Co. A, 30th North Carolina Infantry. Battles included: South Mountain, Antietam, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. He was killed at Kelly's Ford, Va. on 7 Nov. 1863. His division commander reported: " Lt. Colonel Sillers behaved gallantly and did his duty."

Source: Harvard Graduate Magazine, volume XX, 1911-1912, pages 423 to 432 by Henry N. Blake from Milton, Massachusetts and Harvard Law School class of 1858