**Name**  
McCulloch, Benjamin

**Other Names**  
Ben

**Born**  
11/11/1811

**Birthplace**  
Rutherford County, Tennessee

**Places of residence**  
Tennessee  
Alabama  
Texas

**Father**  
Alexander McCulloch

**Mother**  
Frances Fisher LeNoir

**Nationality**  
United States of America

**Notes**  

Benjamin McCulloch  
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia  
Benjamin McCulloch

Benjamin McCulloch  
BornNovember 11, 1811  
Rutherford County, Tennessee  
DiedMarch 7, 1862 (aged 50)  
Benton County, Arkansas  
Place of burialState Cemetery in Austin, Texas  
AllegianceRepublic of Texas  
Confederate States of America  
Service/branchTexas State Militia  
Confederate States Army  
Years of service1835â€“1836; 1840â€“1845 (Texas Army)  
1846â€“1847 (Texas Militia)  
1861â€“1862 (CSA)  
RankFirst Lieutenant (Texas Army)  
Major General (Texas Militia)  
Brigadier General (CSA)  
Battles/warsTexas Revolution  
Mexican-American War  
American Civil War  

Benjamin McCulloch (November 11, 1811â€“March 7, 1862) was a soldier in the Texas Revolution, a Texas Ranger, a U.S. marshal, and a brigadier general in the army of the Confederate States during the American Civil War.  

Contents [hide]  
1 Early life
He was born November 11, 1811 in Rutherford County, Tennessee, one of twelve children and the fourth son of Alexander McCulloch and Frances Fisher LeNoir. His father, a Yale University graduate, was an officer on Brig. Gen. John Coffee's staff during the Creek War of 1813 and 1814 in Alabama (and apparently at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815). His mother was a daughter of a prominent Virginia planter. The McCulloch family had been wealthy, politically influential, and socially prominent in North Carolina before the American Revolution, but Alexander had wasted much of his inheritance and was unable even to educate his sons. (Two of Ben's older brothers had briefly attended a school in Tennessee taught by their neighbor, Sam Houston.) One of Ben's younger brothers was Henry Eustace McCulloch, also a Confederate general officer. Another brother, Alexander, served in the Texas Revolution and as a captain in Mexico.

The McCulloch family, like many on the frontier, moved often by choice or necessity. In the twenty years following their move from North Carolina and Ben's birth, they lived in eastern Tennessee, Alabama, and then western Tennessee, finally settling at Dyerburg, where one of their closest neighbors was David Crockett—a great influence on young Ben.

In 1834, McCulloch headed west. He reached St. Louis just too late to join the fur trappers headed for Santa Fe as a muleskinner, but was told they had a full complement. He moved on to Wisconsin to investigate lead-mining, but found all the best claims already staked by the large mining companies. In the fall of 1835, he returned to Tennessee to take up farming.

When David Crockett went to Texas in 1835 (following his defeat in his third congressional campaign), Ben McCulloch—tired of farming but seeking adventure—decided to accompany him, as did his brother Henry McCulloch. They planned to meet Crockett's Tennessee Boys at Nacogdoches on Christmas Day. Crockett's arrival in Nacogdoches was delayed due to hunting between the Bois d'Arc Creek and Choctaw Bayou. By January 5, 1836, Crockett found his way to Nacogdoches. There, Ben McCulloch greeted him after having convinced his brother, Henry McCulloch to return to Tennessee. Ben subsequently contracted measles and was bedridden for several weeks. Crockett pressed on toward San Antonio. McCulloch's illness prevented him from arriving in San Antonio until after the Alamo had already fallen.

McCulloch joined the Texas army under Sam Houston in its retreat to east Texas. Assigned to Captain Isaac N. Moreland's artillery company at the Battle of San Jacinto (April 21, 1836), he commanded one of the "Twin Sisters"—two six-pounder cannon sent to aid the Texans by the citizens of Cincinnati. He made deadly use of grapeshot against the Mexican positions and received a battlefield commission as first lieutenant. For his service (dating before April 18, 1836), McCulloch was issued Texas Bounty Certificate No. 2473 for 320 acres (1.3 km²). In 1839, he also received Donation Certificate No. 776 for 640 acres (2.6 km²), for his service at San Jacinto.

McCulloch was then attached to Captain William H. Smith's cavalry company,[1] but left the army to revisit Tennessee. He returned a few months later with a company of thirty volunteers under the command of Robert Crockett, David's son.

By 1838, he had taken up the profession of surveying land for the Republic of Texas in and around the community of Seguin, later joining the Texas Rangers as lieutenant to Captain John Coffee "Jack" Hays. He acquired a reputation as an Indian fighter, favoring shotguns, pistols, and Bowie knives to the regulation saber and carbine.

On the strength of his new fame, he was elected to the Republic of Texas House of Representatives in 1839. The campaign was contentious, and McCulloch fought a rifle duel the next year against Colonel Reuben Ross, resulting in a wound that left his right arm crippled for life. Ben considered the matter closed, but it flared up again the following year, this time involving Henry McCulloch, who killed Ross with a pistol.

In 1842, McCulloch went back to surveying and intermittent military service. At the Battle of Plum Creek, August 12, 1840, he served as a scout against the Comanches, and then commanded the right wing of the Texas army. When a Mexican raiding party under General Ráúl Vásquez invested San Antonio in February 1842, McCulloch was prominent in the fighting that pushed the Mexicans back beyond the Rio Bravo Rio Grande. A second Mexican raid led by General Adrian Woll in September of that year again captured San Antonio. McCulloch then served as a scout for Captain Hays's Rangers. He and his brother, Henry, subsequently took part in the failed Somervell expedition and both escaped very shortly before most of the Texans were captured at Mier, Mexico in Tamaulipas, December 25, 1842.

Samuel Reid, a volunteer from Louisiana, described McCulloch and his ranger company as "men in groups with long beards and mustaches, dressed in every variety of garment, with one
Van Dorn's plan was able to achieve. Opposed, it was again McCulloch's reconnaissance that contributed most to what little success when Van Dorn launched an expedition against St. Louis, a strategy McCulloch strongly. The continuing feud between McCulloch and Price led to the appointment of Major General Earl. Confederate. when a bold attack might well have destroyed Lyon's smaller force and given Missouri to the Missourians, noting that they were undisciplined, commanded mostly by incompetent and inexperienced politicians, and possessed only a poor mix of weapons and equipment. For some 5,000 of them, their enlistment time was up and they were anxious to go home. Cooperation inexperienced politicians, and possessed only a poor mix of weapons and equipment. For some 5,000 of them, their enlistment time was up and they were anxious to go home. Cooperation.

Benjamin McCulloch
McCulloch was placed in command of the Indian Territory. He set up his headquarters at Little Rock, and began piecing together an Army of the West, with regiments from Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. He disagreed strongly with General Sterling Price of Missouri, but with the assistance of Brigadier General Albert Pike, he was able to build alliances for the Confederacy with the Cherokee, Choctaw, and Creek nations.

On August 10, 1861, McCulloch's troops, though relatively poorly armed, handily defeated the army of General Nathaniel Lyon at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri. "We have an average of only twenty-five rounds of ammunition to the man," McCulloch reported, "and no more to be had short of Fort Smith and Baton Rouge." He did not have a high opinion of Price's Missourians, noting that they were undisciplined, commanded mostly by incompetent and inexperienced politicians, and possessed only a poor mix of weapons and equipment. For some 5,000 of them, their enlistment time was up and they were anxious to go home. Cooperation between the Arkansas and Missouri contingents was feeble, with "little cordiality of feeling between the two armies." His lack of confidence in the Missourians led McCulloch to hesitate when a bold attack might well have destroyed Lyon's smaller force and given Missouri to the Confederacy.

The continuing feud between McCulloch and Price led to the appointment of Major General Earl Van Dorn to overall command, Henry Heth and Braxton Bragg having declined the appointment. When Van Dorn launched an expedition against St. Louis, a strategy McCulloch strongly opposed, it was again McCulloch's reconnaissance that contributed most to what little success Van Dorn's plan was able to achieve.
Van Dorn's plan was able to achieve. McCulloch commanded the Confederate right wing at the Battle of Pea Ridge (or Elkhorn Tavern), Arkansas, and on March 7, 1862, after much maneuvering his troops overran a key Union artillery battery. Union resistance stiffened late in the morning, however, and as McCulloch rode forward to scout out enemy positions, he was shot out of the saddle and died instantly. McCulloch always disliked army uniforms and was wearing a black velvet civilian suit and Wellington boots at the time of his death. Credit for the fatal shot was claimed by sharpshooter Peter Pelican of the 36th Illinois Infantry.

McCulloch's next in command, Brig. Gen. James M. McIntosh, head of the cavalry, was killed a few minutes later in a charge to recover McCulloch's body. Confederate Col. Louis Hélbert was captured in the same charge, and the Confederate forces, with no remaining leadership, slowly fell apart and withdrew. Historians generally blame the Confederate disaster at Pea Ridge and the subsequent loss of undefended Arkansas on the death of General Ben McCulloch.

McCulloch's body was buried on the field at Pea Ridge, but was subsequently removed with other victims of the battle to a cemetery in Little Rock. He was later reinterred in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin; the gravesite is in the cemetery's Republic Hill section, Row N, No. 4. His papers are housed at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History (previously the Barker Texas History Center) at the University of Texas at Austin. McCulloch County, Texas, formed in 1856 and located in the present geographical center of the state, was named for him. He is also one of thirty men inducted into the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Fisher, Waco.

Engraving of McCulloch as a Confederate general officer

Shortly after Pea Ridge, Albert Pike, now a brigadier general, constructed Fort McCulloch as the principal Confederate fortification in the southern section of the Indian Territory, naming it after his late commander. It was built on a bluff on the south bank of the Blue River and is now located in Bryan County, Oklahoma. It was placed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

Camp Ben McCulloch (see External Links below) was established near Austin in 1896 as a reunion site for the United Confederate Veterans and is the last such site still owned by the UCV's descendant group, the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy. It is now a public recreation facility of some 200 acres (0.8 km²), operated by the County of Hays, and is a popular location for Central Texas family reunions, picnics, and musical festivals.

Several other members of McCulloch's family followed him to Texas, including his mother. She died in Ellis County in 1866 at the home of another of her sons, John C. McCulloch, who had been a captain in the Confederate army. Her remains were exhumed in 1938 by the State of Texas and reinterred beside those of Gen. Ben McCulloch, and a joint monument was erected. Other siblings lived in Gonzales and in Walker County.

In popular culture

Steve Earle wrote a song about McCulloch on his album Train a Comin'.
He is one of the main Antagonists in Harry Turtledove's short story "Lee at the Alamo"
He is also mentioned in Janice Woods Windle's True Women which later got made into a movie

Biography portal
United States Army portal
American Civil War portal
List of American Civil War generals

* This William H. Smith was captain of 2nd Regiment Texas Volunteers Cavalry Company J, part of Sam Houston's Army at the Battle of San Jacinto. "San Jacinto Veterans Unit" Retrieved May 15, 2012. In 1837, he was a major in charge of a battalion of Texas Rangers. See entry on "Fort Fisher" in 'The Handbook of Texas Online' Retrieved May 15, 2012, which mentions Major Smith.

References


Further reading

Rose, Victor Marion. The Life and Services of Gen. Ben McCulloch. Philadelphia, 1888; Austin:

Undated clipping, probably from Dallas Herald, provided by Thomas R. Lindley; Henry McCulloch to Henry McArdle, January 14, 1891, Henry McArdle San Jacinto Notebook, TXSL.


[edit]External links

Account of Ben McCulloch's Peach Creek fight in 1839 from Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas by John Henry Brown, published 1880, hosted by The Portal to Texas History

Benjamin McCulloch from the Handbook of Texas Online

A Guide to the Ben and Henry Eustace McCulloch Family Papers, 1798-1961, Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

murfreesboropost.com Murfreesboro Post site biography of McCulloch.

nps.gov National Park Service site biography of McCulloch.

[1] Camp Ben McCulloch, Hays County, Driftwood TX
[2] Camp Ben McCulloch (map), Hays County TX, Google Maps

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Categories: 1811 births1862 deathsPeople from Rutherford County, TennesseeConfederate States Army generalsPeople of the Texas RevolutionAmerican military personnel of the Mexican–American WarMembers of the Texas House of RepresentativesMembers of the Texas Ranger DivisionUnited States MarshalsPeople of Texas in the American Civil WarConfederate States military personnel killed in the American Civil War

Occupation
Military officer
Surveyor

Relationships
Henry Eustace McCulloch - brother

Role
Military

Associated Records

HAT -
Fragment.

Painting - Ben McCulloch
Oil on canvas portrait painting of a male subject, in a full frontal pose, shown from the waist up. The subject is wearing a Confederate uniform.

Carte-de-Visite - The Generals of the Confederate States Army
Cdv of 8 individual studio portraits around larger centered studio portrait; 7 of the 9 portraits are of men in United States Military Uniform, with various insignia visible on shoulder boards; the last 2 portraits are of men in civilian clothing; printed on obverse, "The Generals of the Confederate States Army;" handwritten on reverse, "Bowles;" printed on reverse, "American & Foreign Stereoscopic Empoioum 501 E. Anthony 501, 501 Broadway;"

Carte-de-Visite - Ben McCulloch

Print, Photographic - Ben McCulloch
b/w photo of Ben McCulloch
**Carte-de-Visite - Davis and Generals [The Generals of the Southern Forces]**
Cdv of a lithograph a group of men, both seated and standing in uniform; to the left of the image, a tent and horses, with more men on horseback, the background of the image has soldiers in formation; typewritten on reverse, "Photograph of President Davis and Confederate officers taken by a Richmond photographer soon after the first battle of Manassas presented by Miss Mary Pendleton."

**Carte-de-Visite - Davis and Generals [at Bull Run, 1861]**
Cdv of a lithograph a group of men, both seated and standing in uniform; to the left of the image, a tent and horses, with more men on horseback, the background of the image has soldiers in formation; handwritten on reverse, "Davis & Generals;"

**Carte-de-Visite - Davis and His Officers at Bull Run, 1861 (or, Davis and Generals)**
Cdv of a lithograph a group of men, both seated and standing in uniform; to the left of the image, a tent and horses, with more men on horseback, the background of the image has soldiers in formation; handwritten on obverse, "Davis & Council 1st Battle Manassas."

**Carte-de-Visite - Confederate Generals**
cdv, 9 individual oval photos, in circular pattern, one in center.

**Carte-de-Visite - Ben McCulloch**
Cdv studio bust portrait of a man, 3/4 pose, facing viewer's left; wearing double-breasted civilian coat, unbuttoned, over waistcoat, cravat/necktie, shirt; receding hairline, combed to side; beard; handwritten on reverse, "Ben M.Cullough [sic]." printed on reverse, "Published by E. Anthony 501 Broadway, N.Y."

**Carte-de-Visite - Ben McCulloch**
Cdv studio bust portrait of a man, 3/4 pose, facing viewer's left; wearing double-breasted civilian coat, unbuttoned, over waistcoat, cravat/necktie, shirt; receding hairline, combed to side; beard; handwritten on obverse, "Benj. McCulloch"; handwritten on reverse, "Ben McCullough [sic]."

**Carte-de-Visite - Davis and Generals [at Bull Run, 1861]**
Cdv of a lithograph a group of men, both seated and standing in uniform; to the left of the image, a tent and horses, with more men on horseback, the background of the image has soldiers in formation; handwritten on reverse, "Left to Right Sitting-- 1-- 2-Genl. Magruder 3-Com. Hollins 4-- Standing-- 1-Stonewall Jackson 2-- 3-Jefferson Davis 4-- 5-Beauregard 6-- 7-Joe Johnston;" printed on reverse, 'From Goupl's, 772 Broadway, New York, Maurice Stonefield, 711 Broadway."

**Ambrotype - Benjamin McCulloch**
Ninth-plate ambrotype with color added; man seated in chair, facing camera, hair parted on side, cut at ear level with poofs from wearing a hat, full beard and moustache with cheeks tinted pink, broad bow tie, vest and frock coat with wide lapels, left arm resting on back of chair, right hand in lap, in civilian dress, watch chain hanging in loop from vest button hole to watch pocket at right; door section has lock of hair sewn into velvet lining on interior; double elliptical embossed gilt mat; preserver has stamped foliate scroll design; red felt pad [faded] embossed with paisley scrol design; case is leather-covered wood, exterior obverse and reverse sections embossed with geometric scrol
Carte-de-Visite - Davis and Generals [The Generals of the Southern Forces]
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Carte-de-Visite - Davis and Generals [The Generals of the Southern Forces]
Cdv of a lithograph a group of men, both seated and standing in uniform; to the left of the image, a tent and horses, with more men on horseback, the background of the image has soldiers in formation; stamped on reverse, "Carte De Viste H. E. Hoelke Photographer, S. E. Cor. Fourth & Market, St. Louis;" handwritten on reverse, "givne my mrs. Robt B. Claytor"

Carte-de-Visite - Davis and Generals [The Generals of the Southern Forces]
Cdv of a lithograph a group of men, both seated and standing in uniform; to the left of the image, a tent and horses, with more men on horseback, the background of the image has soldiers in formation; handwritten on reverse, printed on reverse, "From Goupl's, 772 Broadway, New York, Maurice Stonefield, 711 Broadway."

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Carte-de-Visite - Fifty-one Portraits of the Confederate Army & Navy
Cdv, 51 individual portraits, each numbered with a corresponding number on the reverse of the card to identify each individual; title of image is "Fifty-one Portraits of the Confederate Army & Navy Chas. D. Fredericks, 3 or 507 Broadway, N.Y.;" some losses on reverse obscure the names of the pictured individuals; included on the image are: Anderson, George Thomas (Tige) Beauregard, Pierre Gustave Toutant (P. G. T.) Benjamin, Judah P. Bragg, Braxton Breckinridge, John Cabell Buckner, Simon Bolivar Cheatham, Benjamin Franklin Clay, James Brown Cobb, Howell Davis, Jefferson DeJarnette, Daniel Coleman Floyd, John Buchanan Gwin, William McKendree Hardee, William Joseph Helm Hill, A
the following: If the person leaves the enterprise, you terminate the person's work relationships. If the person later rejoins the enterprise, you create a new work relationship. A person record is a record for an individual whose name could appear as a text field value. Workflow assignments are made to roles. All roles resolve to a person, to a person group, or to an e-mail address. The name of a person is used as the text field value in the Reported By field or in the Affected Person field on a service request, in the Supervisor field on a labor record, or in a Ship To field or Bill To Attention field on a purchasing record. Home † Person Record. Person Record. Jon Diamond. Grade: 6 dan.