

4528. ARCHIVES. The curator shall be the trustee and custodian of the archives of Iowa and of such county and municipal archives as are voluntarily deposited. The term "archives" shall mean those manuscripts and materials originating under or passing through the hands of public officials in the regular course and performance of their duties, over ten years old, and not in current use; but the executive council shall have power and authority to order the transfer of such archives or any part thereof at any time prior to the expiration of the ten years, or cause them to be retained in the respective offices beyond such limit if in its judgment the public interests or convenience shall require it.

4529. RECORDS DELIVERED. The several state, executive, and administrative departments, officers or offices, councils, boards, bureaus, and commissioners, are hereby authorized and directed to transfer and deliver to the historical, memorial, and art department such of the public archives as are designated in the preceding section, except such as in the judgment of the executive council should be retained longer in the respective offices, and the curator is authorized to receive the same.

4530. REMOVAL OF ORIGINAL. After any public archives have been received into the division of public archives by the curator, they shall not be removed from the custody without his consent, except in obedience to a subpoena of a court of record or a written order of the officer from whose office they were received.

4531. CERTIFIED COPIES—FEES. Upon request of any person, the curator shall make a certified copy of any document contained in said archives, and when such copy is properly authenticated by him it shall have the same legal effect as though certified by the officer from whose office it was obtained or by the secretary of state. Said curator shall charge and collect for such copies the fees allowed by law to the official in whose office the document originates for such certified copies, and all such fees shall be turned into the state treasury.

A LETTER FROM GENERAL BEAUREGARD

Mrs. Viola Soule Cooke of Des Moines recently loaned to the Historical Department a letter from the noted Confederate leader, General Beauregard, written just after the First Battle of Bull Run and dated August 10, 1861, and directed to the widow of the former president of the United States, John Tyler. We present in connection with this article a photographic reproduction of this letter.

Mrs. Cooke, who is the widow of the late Colonel John B. Cooke of Carroll, Iowa, tells us this rare and interesting document was sent sometime during the Civil War by Colonel Cooke

Maryland D^r. August 10th 1861

Dear Madam.

I beg to present you my
kinⁿs thanks for the welcome pre-
sent you have sent me, which
has but this day been received -

I accept also from those who legal-
ly executed my order on the 21st
inst. the compliment you have
been kind enough to address me
relative to our victory of that
day. I hope for the sake of
our cause & the interests we have
in the States that whenever & where
we meet with our Southern bro-
thers. They will always meet
with the same terrible retribu-
tion - With much respect,

I remain Your most O^b L^d S^r

S. J. Beauregard

W^r Mrs. Pres. Tyler
Shenandoah
Charlottesville, Va.

Facsimile of a letter from General Beauregard to Mrs. John Tyler, widow of President Tyler.

to his mother. Many years afterward she returned it to Colonel Cooke, and ever since then it has been in the keeping of either Colonel or Mrs. Cooke.

General P. G. T. Beauregard, the author of this letter, was actively in command of the Confederates at the Battle of Manassas, or First Battle of Bull Run, and at the time of writing the letter, August 10, 1861, was still in command, with headquarters at Manassas, Virginia. He had been graduated from the Military Academy at West Point in 1838, was promoted to major at the close of the Mexican War in which he distinguished himself, and was appointed superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point on November 20, 1860. A few days after he took charge of West Point the secretary of war transferred him back to New Orleans, his station before his appointment to West Point. In February, 1861, he resigned his commission in the United States Army and entered the service of the Confederacy as a brigadier-general. He was in command of the Confederates at Charleston during the assault on Fort Sumpter, which was evacuated April 14, 1861. On June 1, 1861, he was placed in command of the Confederate forces at Manassas, under General Lee, commander-in-chief. On July 18 there was skirmishing. General Joseph E. Johnston, arriving with re-enforcements, and being the ranking officer, declined to assume command over General Beauregard who had matured the plans. On July 21 occurred the battle known as the First Battle of Bull Run, so disastrous to the Union forces, and Beauregard emerged as the Confederate hero of the hour. It was less than three weeks after this that he wrote the letter to Mrs. Tyler.

John Tyler of Virginia had been a representative in Congress, governor of the state, United States senator, and president pro tem of the Senate, when in 1840 he was elected on the Whig ticket as vice-president of the United States, and became president on April 6, 1841, on the death of President Harrison. The first Mrs. Tyler died in 1842. On February 24, 1844, President Tyler and several cabinet officers and guests were aboard the naval vessel Princeton on a pleasure trip down the Potomac. Among the guests were David Gardiner of New York and his daughter, Miss Julia Gardiner. A new gun on board which was being demonstrated exploded, killing Secretary of State Upshur,

Secretary of Navy Gilmer, and several guests, among them Mr. Gardiner. The boat returned to Washington and the body of Mr. Gardiner was taken to the White House. Because of this tragedy, which deeply affected the president, an attachment developed between him and Miss Gardiner and they were married the following June 26. On retiring from the presidency in March, 1845, President and Mrs. Tyler went to his home at Sherwood Forest on the banks of the James River, three miles from Greenway, Charles City County, Virginia. President Tyler lived for several years in honored retirement. In January, 1861, he was elected to the Virginia State Convention called to consider secession. In order to preserve the Union he proposed a peace conference of the states, which met at Washington, and he presided over the distinguished body. When it became evident war could not be averted, he voted in the Virginia Convention for secession. He was elected a member of the Confederate House of Representatives, but died January 18, 1862, before he could take his seat. Mrs. Tyler continued to live at Sherwood Forest, as indicated by the Beauregard letter. After the war ended she resided for a time with her mother on Staten Island, but after several years, removed to Richmond, Virginia, where she died July 10, 1889.

The remaining character brought to our attention by the discovery of this fine old historic document is Colonel John B. Cooke who was for many years a citizen of our state. He was born at Willimantic, Connecticut, December 30, 1839, and was the son of a Baptist minister. When John B. was thirteen years old the father died and he became the principal support of the family. He entered business for himself at Lewiston, Maine, and on April 19, 1861, enlisted in Company K, First Maine Infantry. He was elected third lieutenant, but the Federal Army organization not including third lieutenant, he was mustered in as a private, but was later promoted to first sergeant. On August 10, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company K, Seventh Maine Infantry, and was elected second lieutenant. On December 25, 1861, he was promoted to first lieutenant, and on January 24, 1862, to captain of Company I of the same regiment. He participated in the Siege of Yorktown, and the battles of Williamsburg, Mechanicsville, Fair Oaks, Second Bull Run, Antietam,

Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and numerous other engagements. On January 1, 1864, he was appointed major of the Twenty-second United States Colored Troops, was with Kilpatrick around Richmond, was in many engagements, participated in the Siege of Petersburg, and commanded his regiment when it charged Clingman's left flank and, colors in hand, drove in the Confederate line. On September 30, 1864, he was promoted to lieutenant-colonel for gallantry and assigned to the Fifth United States Colored Troops. On September 26, 1865, he was promoted to colonel of this regiment. Colonel Cooke was severely wounded in the right leg during the Battle of Antietam, and in the charge on Clingman was wounded in the right side and the right arm. He was mustered out October 8, 1865, with the regiment at Columbus, Ohio.

After the war Colonel Cooke, believing there was an opportunity in the South for Northern men to aid in the reorganization and development of that section, located at Selma, North Carolina, secured a plantation and for several years manufactured tar, pitch, and resin from pine forests, to his financial success. He was a member of the North Carolina State Senate in 1868, 1869, and 1870 with Judge Albion W. Tourgee. He became discouraged in the effort to live among a people who were so bitter in their defeat and returned to the North.

In 1872 he removed to Carroll, Iowa, and for several years conducted an extensive agricultural machinery business. He joined the Iowa National Guard and became captain of Company E, First Regiment. He helped organize the J. C. Davis Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Carroll, and was its first commander. In 1883 he was elected commander of the Department of Iowa, G. A. R. He never entirely recovered from his army wounds. His right arm was practically useless. He died in Chicago, October 15, 1892, and was buried at Carroll.

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