



Jefferson Davis.

Jefferson Davis was born in Christian county, Kentucky, June 3d, 1808. During his childhood his father removed to the state of Mississippi. He graduated from the West Point Military Academy in 1828 and served with distinction against the Indians until 1835, when he resigned his commission, returned to Mississippi and married the daughter of Gen. Taylor, afterwards President of the United States. He became a cotton planter and continued in the business until 1843, when he interested himself in politics as a democrat, and took a prominent part in the election of Polk. He was sent to the House in 1845 and took an important part in the debates on the tariff, the Oregon question, the preparations for the Mexican war, etc. Upon the breaking out of this contest, he was elected colonel of the Mississippi regiment of volunteers, when he resigned his seat in Congress, and joined the army of General Taylor on the Rio Grande. He was engaged in the storming of Monterey and the battle of Buena Vista. At the close of the war he was offered by President Polk the rank of Brigadier-General of volunteers, but declined it. In 1847 he was elected Senator for Mississippi. In 1850 he became chairman of the committee on military affairs, and was distinguished by the energy with which he defended slavery, and by his zealous advocacy of State Rights. In 1851 he resigned his seat in the Senate to enter upon a canvass for Franklin Pierce, who, on being elected President, appointed Mr. Davis Secretary of War. He was again elected Senator in 1858, but the election of Lincoln in 1860 and the consequent secession movement, caused him to withdraw. When the movement received shape and form he was chosen Provisional President of the Confederate States February 4th, 1862. In 1862 he was elected as President for six years. After the fall of Richmond President Davis, while endeavoring to make his escape, was captured at Irwinsville, Georgia, May 10th, 1865, and remained a prisoner at Fort Monroe for two years awaiting trial. He was released on bail in the summer of 1867 and all proceedings against him discontinued. He visited Europe, became president of a life insurance company and in 1881 wrote "The Rise and fall of the Confederacy."

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