

THE LEWIS AND WATERMAN ADMINISTRATIONS

"The mayor is only nominally head of the city government," observed the Picayune, in an editorial on the local political situation, published early in 1854.¹ The occasion of this pronouncement was a proviso inserted in the State constitution in 1853, by which the control of the city police had been removed from the mayor's hands and confided to a board. The mayor, it is true, was a member of this board; but he sat with the four recorders, and it was thus always possible for a combination of three subordinate officers of the government to eliminate him as a factor in the control of the force and dominate the entire administration of justice in the primary courts of the city. As the Picayune went on to point out, hitherto, under the act of consolidation of the three municipalities, the mayor had made the appointments of all policemen, by and with the consent of the Council. This system was, in effect, less arbitrary than the new board management, inasmuch as, while it concentrated authority, it also concentrated responsibility. A prime objection to the existing system was, that the recorders were judicial officers; by adding police functions to their other powers they were in the position of first arresting offenders against the law and then sitting in judgment upon those arrested—a situation which obviously invited criticism.

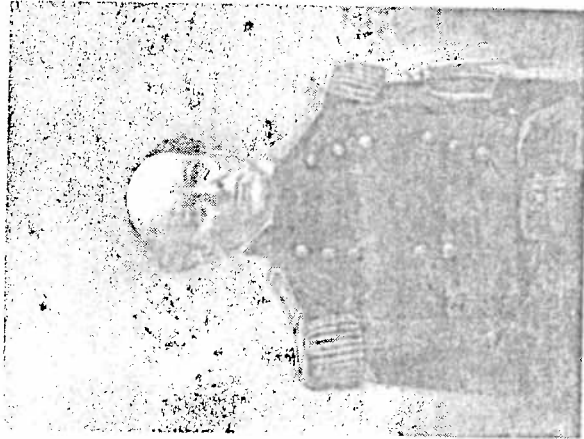
This question of the control of the police force recurred at intervals in the political history of the city for nearly forty years thereafter. It was one of the principal motives of the city charters which substituted for one another in fairly rapid succession. The consolidating charter of 1852 endured only till 1856 and was then modified in this essential matter, as well as in certain others, in an effort to undo the mischief wrought by the Legislature in the interim. Lack of positive control over the police force may probably be blamed for the riotous scenes which disgraced the municipal election of 1854. The relation between these disturbances and the relaxed discipline of the force under board management seems to have been noticed at once; for the question of the reform of the police force was the first matter brought to the attention of the new mayor, General Lewis, when he went into office on April 10, 1854.

Lewis who, on this occasion, succeeded Crossman as mayor, had been identified with the history of the city since the cession of the Province of Louisiana by France to the United States. Born in Lexington, Kentucky, in March, 1800, he was brought to New Orleans when only three years of age. His parents were among the earliest settlers in Kentucky. His father obtained large grants of land there in consideration of his services as a soldier in the Revolutionary war. When the United States acquired the vast new province of Louisiana, the elder Lewis was appointed judge of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Orleans. The family made an eventful journey down the Mississippi River in a "keel" boat, from Louisville to New Orleans. In this city

¹ Picayune, February 7, 1854.

they made their home thereafter. The boy was educated here under the famous teacher, François d'Hennecourt, and at the academy of the Rev. James F. Hull, the distinguished rector of the Episcopal Church, which then stood on Canal Street.

At the age of 18 young Lewis left school to begin the study of law in his father's office. During the remainder of his life he was intimately connected with the legal profession in the city. His first political employment was as assistant clerk under Martin Gordon, then clerk of the First Judicial District Court of Louisiana. In 1826 Gordon resigned his post in favor of Lewis. A year later the young man married. He was



MAYOR J. L. LEWIS

exceedingly happy in his home life. Three children were born to him. But in 1833 the scarlet fever attacked wife and children and within a few days of one another all of them died. This terrible loss profoundly affected Lewis' life. He sought relief from his sorrow in business and public activities. Thenceforth he mingled more and more aggressively in local politics. His pleasant manners and winning personality made him extremely popular. He showed great aptitude for military matters. But for his father's opposition he would have chosen the army as a career rather than the law. He now became a member of the local volunteers, rose rapidly from rank to rank, and finally was appointed inspector-general of the First Division of Louisiana Militia—in which

capacity, he was charged with the oversight of all the numerous volunteer organizations in the city. In 1842 he was elected to command this division and thereafter repeatedly re-elected.

The State constitution of 1854 was influenced by the popular enthusiasm for "government by the people" and went far in that direction. Virtually all officers were made elective. Among them was that of sheriff of the Parish of Orleans. General Lewis became a candidate for this office on an independent ticket. His knowledge of local law and his large practical experience fitted him for the post in a special manner. His election followed as a matter of course, and he served with distinction for two successive terms. His re-election was attended by an exciting contest. In 1852 he went to the State Senate for one term. He was a candidate for mayor in 1852, but was defeated. His nomination two years later for the same position was a recognition of his exceptional abilities and long public service.² His name was presented to the democratic convention on March 7, when it convened for the purpose, and was accepted without opposition.

The latter part of Crossman's administration seems to have been characterized by a notable decline in efficiency. "As the elections approached we find the Bee and the Bulletin filled with uncontradicted indictments of the city government. 'We know that we are badly governed,' said the former paper, in March; 'that our city has been ruled by the despotism of faction; that fair and equitable principles, sound policy, equal justice, and the rights of the minority have been ruthlessly sacrificed to the domination of a clique, which has seized upon and maintained power through the hateful employment of means so flagitious and corrupting as to have rendered us a hissing and a scorn in the eyes of the upright, well-organized communities.'³ 'Two years ago,' added the Bulletin, 'the bonds of the city were above par; now they are from 6 to 8 per cent below. Why? The interest has been punctually paid; the city has grown steadily richer. But a city which is governed as events have shown ours can be governed, is bound to sink into insolvency, and degrade itself to the level of tacit repudiation.'⁴ 'The city is miserably governed,' resumed the Bee, a few weeks later. 'Party legislation has alone prevailed. The contract system is a source of vile depravity and corruption; efforts to banish elections from grogeries and bar rooms are systematically flouted and derided * * * the improvidence, recklessness, prodigality, inexperience and ignorance of the Council have * * * injured the city. * * * Its credit is tottering; and much more, to the same effect.'⁵

The most serious accusations, because, as the event demonstrated, the best founded, related to the police. In recommending certain persons for election as recorders, the Bee guaranteed that, if they were put into office, "the police of our city would be essentially remodeled. We have not met a reform democrat who does not participate" in the movement. "In the hope that this result will be attained. The police, as at present organized, is a source of universal and well-founded complaint * * * a powerful, well-disciplined, and unscrupulous electioneering machine, employed by a skillful and reckless management to influence

doubtful contests and compel the ballot box to render a democratic verdict. * * * A mighty and odious despotism, which has been foisted upon the community."⁶ It appears that the policemen were used by the political leaders to spy upon their enemies. Members of the force stationed at the door of the meeting place of any opposing faction kept tabs on those attending; and pressure was then applied to induce these persons to alter their party allegiance. "It only remains for the police to be armed with discretionary powers to arrest any individual at their supreme wills and pleasure, without the necessity of legal process."⁷

At the same time all the newspapers carried eulogistic notices of the retiring mayor. The Picayune, for instance, commended his modesty and ability and praised the work for the city. It is, at first blush, difficult to reconcile these commendations of the individual with the prevailing outspoken censures of the administration. But we must recognize that the objection really was to the "machine" which controlled the city, in which the mayor appears to have had no place. The object of this organization had been, so far, principally to control the city vote for use in State elections; in fact, up to this time the municipal elections had been tolerably orderly, whereas, as we shall have occasion to point out in a subsequent chapter, the State elections were frequently of a nature amounting almost to revolution. Moreover, the same faction, working through the State Legislature, had recently stripped the mayor of real power; the facts complained of, therefore, were not imputable to him, although features of his administration. This conclusion is supported by the recurrence in the opposition newspapers of complaints about the introduction of State and National issues in municipal elections, and the use of State and National patronage to make sure of the city vote for the benefit of the "machine."

A call signed by 700 representative citizens for a mass meeting to name an anti-machine municipal ticket, to be held on March 16th, appeared in the Bulletin on the 14th inst. Among the signers were H. M. Summers, G. W. Lawrason, J. B. Leele, J. E. Caldwell, J. O. Nixon, F. E. Southmayd, Julien Neville, J. B. Walton, and others whose names were long prominent in New Orleans affairs. The Courier, commenting upon the signers, declared that there were "precious few" democrats in the list, and that the majority were "whig wirepullers."⁸ The meeting, however, took place and was attended pretty largely, as even the Courier reluctantly confessed. F. A. Launsden, one of the editors of the Picayune, presided; and among those who made addresses or figured on the committee on resolutions were Colonel Christy, a veteran of the War of 1812; Doctor Harmon, J. O. Woodruff and G. A. Fosdick. A complete city ticket was presented and ratified enthusiastically. For mayor, J. W. Breedlove was nominated; for city treasurer, W. H. Garland; for comptroller, O. DeBays; for street commissioner, A. S. Phelps; for city surveyor, L. H. Pile. All of these, except Phelps, were whigs, and many had held office with credit to themselves under Crossman. For recorders, H. M. Summers, J. L. Fabre and H. D. Keene were endorsed; and the following names were put up for the council: Board of Aldermen—Charles Pride, N. F. Bailey, James

² Bee, March 22, 1854.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Courier de la Louisiane, March 15, 1854.

⁵ Picayune, May 20, 1856; Jewell, Crescent City Illustrated.

⁶ Bee, March 15, 1854.

⁷ Bulletin, March 14, 1854.

⁸ Bee, March 25, 1854.

Prague, John Pemberton, George Clark, P. H. Gordon, and Jesse E. Gilmore; Board of Assistant Aldermen—J. L. Levy, Colonel Campbell, F. W. Delesdernier, Wm. Bloomfield, Sr., A. W. Cooper, C. G. Barkley, Henry Lathrop, B. T. K. Bennett, L. H. Place, W. E. Seymour, F. A. Conant, John Fox, Gerard Smith, Newton Richards, W. S. Howell, A. Boudouque, Henry Peychaud, J. Tynes, P. E. Laresche, C. W. Whitehall, P. C. Wright, John McLean, Miles Taylor, William Reed, Isaac Taylor, W. H. Reese.

In this way was launched the first definite reform movement in the history of New Orleans. The "independent" movement of two years before was initiated as a protest chiefly against the candidacy of one man; it did not nominate a full city ticket, and its failure was due principally to the fact that it was launched after the nominations of the regular parties had been made. Now, however, for the first time, an independent reform movement was set up in strict conformity to the etiquette in such matters; it was staged at a proper moment, and was accepted, even by the opposition, as complying fully with all the conditions requisite to the full-fledged political organization. In fact, now for the first time reform became a definite issue in a city campaign, with organizations both for and against; and this issue, in one form or another—with the exception of the epoch of the Civil war and reconstruction, when the issue was in reality one of race—was destined to be a vital one in local politics thenceforward to the present day.

James W. Breedlove, who headed the reform ticket, was a "time-honored veteran," as the Bee called him. He was an intimate friend and correspondent of Andrew Jackson. He was president of the Archafalaya Bank. He was a man of great wealth and influence. He had been for many years one of the leaders of the democratic party in the state. He was, however, not a "ring" man, as the phrase went in those days. His acceptance of the nomination for mayor was acclaimed by the Bee as an evidence that "the people of New Orleans were resolved to break down party lines . . . and support men of standing, intelligence, and character."⁹ The Bee flattered itself with having engineered the movement, but other papers of influence, like the Bulletin, the Crescent, and the Picayune, which promptly rallied to its support, were entitled to some share of the credit. The opposition press ridiculed the movement and said that it was directed against the naturalized citizen and the Catholic Church. It was a revival of the know-nothing party. It was pointed out as proof of this allegation that on the ticket then was not a single person born outside of the United States.¹⁰ It was an attempt to reanimate the "leftwing" whig party. Finally it was said that the ticket had been made up secretly by a group of four or five whig leaders. The Bee insisted that it had been really prepared after long consultation with men prominent in both the whig and the democratic parties.¹¹ It insisted that this did not parallel the democratic caucus method of making nominations, but inasmuch as the entire slate was printed on the day before the ratification meeting was held at which it was formerly put in nomination, the difference of method is not apparent.

⁹ Bee, March 18, 1854.

¹⁰ Courier, March 31, 1854.

¹¹ Bee, March 20, 1854.

The election took place on March 27th. It was complicated by the arrival on that day of ex-President Fillmore, who paid a short visit to New Orleans in the course of a tour of the South. An elaborate parade was given in his honor, but the reception with which the day was to close was, on account of the election, postponed till the 29th. No doubt the entertainment kept away from the polls many persons who would otherwise have voted. There was, however, no lack of incident. Below Canal Street, in the French part of the city, the election was orderly, but great excitement prevailed above that thoroughfare.



JAMES BREEDLOVE

In the First District two men, one a policeman, were killed in rows at the polls. In several Precincts rowdies took possession of the polls and held them during most of the day. At various other points there was a good deal of fighting and some bloodshed. The papers on the following day complained that the police put no restraint on "the brutality of the crowds." Citizens who challenged the right of certain persons to vote, were set upon, beaten, and driven away from the booths.

At dusk the reform watchers at the Seventh Precinct poll left, having ascertained that the total vote cast was 932. A little later they were informed that the commissioners who were counting had already tabulated 1,400 votes for the democratic ticket. They returned in order to make an examination. Night had fallen. The door of the booth was

closed. Admission was refused. They then forced their way in and were greeted by a volley of pistol shots. Several men fell wounded, among them Chief of Police Offguy. A hot fight followed, in the course of which the ballot box was broken, and its contents scattered to the four winds. The police were accused of participating in the attack on the reform leaders here.

The killing of the policeman, Meehan, resulted from a somewhat similar incident. Early in the afternoon the rough way in which voters were being treated in the First District, became generally known and a number of the reform leaders hurried to the spot. An attempt was made to expel them and the reform watchers from the vicinity of the poll, but it failed. Meehan then organized a gang of roudies, burst into the building and a free fight followed, in which he was stabbed and fell dying to the floor, while the remainder of his party was driven off, carrying seven injured men with them.¹²

The personal popularity of Lewis once more secured his election. He received 6,899 votes, against 4,382 for Breedlove. The democratic electors, Senzaman, Ramon and Jackson recorders. These success assured them control of the Police Board, and thus perpetuated some of the worst abuses against which the reform movement was directed. By otherwise the entire reform ticket was elected. DelBays, Garland and Phil defeated P. C. Collins, D. J. Ker and Hugh Grant, the democratic candidates. Sumners was chosen recorder in the First District in preference to Winter. Phelps defeated Patrick Cummings for street commissioner. All the reform candidates for the council were elected. On the whole, the first serious reform campaign in the city's history may be said to have been successful.

As mayor, Lewis signalized himself by taking an active and very creditable part in promoting the building of railroads out of the city. In this respect New Orleans had, till now, been sadly deficient. As we shall see in a subsequent chapter, the construction of new routes of overland transport in the Middle West was affecting injuriously her commerce. Some appreciation of this fact led two enterprising Louisianians, M. W. Hoffman and Clark Woodruff, in 1835, to obtain a charter for the construction of a railroad to Nashville; but the company suffered shipwreck after constructing only twenty miles of road, and this track, which, if preserved, might have been very useful to the city, even in its fragmentary state, was suffered to fall into disrepair, and in a few years disappeared utterly. Mayor Crossman, as we have seen, addressed himself currently to the task of reviving interest in railroad building. To him is due largely the impulse which led, in 1850, to a meeting in New Orleans with this object in view. In April, 1851, another meeting strengthened the interest in the matter. James Robb, the well known capitalist, took an active part in the deliberations. A bonus of \$100,000 was offered to any company which would undertake to build a road to Pointe Coupee. About the same time, a similar aspiration in the Arkansas country resulted in a determination to build a railroad down to New Orleans, and Mansell White, a prominent New Orleans business man, engineered a meeting in favor of this project. Further support for the railroad idea was supplied by Clendy Burke, then a member of the city government, who, in 1851, fathered a resolution adopted by the

¹² *Paidune*, March 26, 1854.

council proposing a convention of representatives from the Southern and Western States at which the idea might be fully ventilated. A committee was appointed which visited various parts of the South and stirred up interest in railroads.

On this committee was C. S. Tapley, who used the data then accumulated to prepare a series of articles published in the local press in 1852 urging the building of a railroad from New Orleans to Jackson, Mississippi. A meeting of delegates from Louisiana and Mississippi at Monticello, Louisiana, resulted in the appointment of committees, which seem to have done useful work in keeping the project before the public.

At this time Louisiana had sixty-three miles of railroad actually in operation, including the Carrollton and the Pontchartrain railroads, each six miles long, both merely local to New Orleans. It was now proposed to build two roads, one north to Holly Springs, Tennessee, Kentucky, and the Ohio River; the other west, to Texas and, it was hoped, ultimately to Mexico. The former enterprise was incorporated in 1851 by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, under the name of the New Orleans & Jackson Railroad, and by July of that year, had \$500,000 available for construction work. The latter scheme took form in the following year, under the title of the New Orleans, Opelousas & Great Western Railroad, with a capital stock of \$3,000,000, divided into shares of \$25 each. The former road was subsequently incorporated by the Louisiana Legislature under the name of the New Orleans, Jackson & Great Northern Railroad Company, with a capital of \$3,000,000.

Work on the New Orleans, Opelousas & Great Northern Railroad began in August, 1852. The first section, from Algiers to Lafourche Crossing, a distance of fifty-two miles, was finished on November 6, 1854; the second, to Tigerville, on October 15, 1855; and the third, to Berwick's Bay, on April 12, 1857. There the work stopped till after the Civil war. The building of these eighty miles of road involved a financial exploit of considerable magnitude. The state gave the enterprise some assistance by subscribing to a block of stock; but certain lands donated by Congress never came into the company's possession, and the aid extended by the City of New Orleans, although generous, came late. At the suggestion of Mayor Crossman the city agreed to tax itself a large amount for the benefit of this road, to be paid in six annual installments. A similar course was adopted in order that the city might give necessary assistance to the New Orleans, Jackson & Great Northern. These taxes were put on real estate and were expected to yield a total of \$3,500,000. It proved difficult to calculate in advance the amount to be derived from this source, and banking capital, which was essential to the prosecution of the work, was found about unobtainable in the enterprise under such circumstances. Mayor Lewis, therefore, was compelled, as one of the first problems of his administration, to consider some new expedient by which the roads might be helped without putting too large a burden upon the citizens. His solution was for the city to take at once \$3,500,000 in the stock of these two roads, paying for it with the proceeds of a bond issue of like amount. This scheme was approved on April 21, 1854. The city subscribed to \$1,500,000 stock in the New Orleans, Opelousas & Great Western, and to \$2,000,000 stock in the New Orleans, Jackson & Great Northern Railroad.¹³ These bonds were paid many

¹³ *Paidune*, April 18, 1854. See also references to the history of these railroads, in Rydner's "Standard History of New Orleans," 298-306.

years later by the city; its stock was ultimately sold, and what might, under happier auspices, have proven a wonderfully valuable investment, never advantaged New Orleans at all, except insofar as these roads have contributed to the upbuilding of its commerce.

Under Lewis two important enterprises for the beautification of the city require mention. They were the completion of the Jackson statue, and the inauguration of the movement which resulted in the erection of the Clay statue, unveiled in 1860. The former was unveiled February 9, 1856. What was known as the Jackson Monument Association was organized January 11, 1851, with A. D. Crossman as president. In 1852 the association obtained a charter from the State Legislature. That body at the same time appropriated \$10,000 to pay the expenses of the proposed statue. The site in the Place d'Armes had been chosen because in 1840 Jackson had placed there the corner stone of what was intended to be a monument in memory of the battle of New Orleans. At the time of making the appropriation for the Jackson monument, the Legislature set aside \$5,000 for the Chalmette monument, and declared that the motive of its action in both cases was "the gratitude of Louisiana" and the wish "to commemorate the achievements of the hero to whose military genius and patriotic devotion in the hour of her darkest peril she owes the triumph which preserved her chief city from capture by an invading enemy and which illustrates the brightest page in her history."

The cornerstone laid by Jackson was now transferred to a position in the new pedestal which was being erected by Newton Richards, of New Orleans. In the corner stone, which was opened for the purpose, were placed a volume of the Code of Louisiana, one of the city laws, a cannon ball from the battlefield of 1815, and some historical memoranda. Similar articles were at the same time placed in the corner stone of the Chalmette monument, the erection of which it was now proposed to carry to completion. The commission for making the Jackson statue was entrusted to Clark Mills, the well known sculptor, on June 15, 1853. Mills had recently completed a statue of Jackson for Washington. His work was greatly admired. What was wanted for New Orleans was a replica of this work. The statue was finished by December, 1855. It was planned to unveil it in the following month, on the anniversary of the battle. The completed bronze was shipped by a sailing vessel, but delayed by contrary winds, it did not reach the city till January 6th, and the program was perforce postponed till February 9th.¹⁴

The ceremony of February 9th was made an occasion of great festivity. "Business was in a great measure suspended and the streets literally swarmed with the population in holiday attire. The military, firemen, the local societies, and other civic bodies turned out in full uniform and regalia, with banners and music, under the leadership of General Tracy, and formed into a procession which actually seemed interminable. This procession once under way, the widely-scattered multitude began to concentrate in the direction of Jackson Square and, when at noonday the concentration came to a focus, the square and its vicinity formed a spectacle such as never before was seen in New Orleans and probably will not again be seen for many a year. * * * It is estimated that the falling of the canvas was witnessed by at least 25,000 people. Those of the spectators who must have enjoyed the spectacle most, and who

were themselves not the least interesting part of the spectacle, were the veterans of 1815, those who shared the glory of him to whom they were now paying posthumous honor. They had the places of honor in the procession and were assigned an honorable position in the square. The colored veterans of the same famous occasion were also out, headed by their fellow veteran, the incomparable drummer, Jordan Little. Upon a platform appropriately decorated in front of the statue, the ceremony of inauguration took place. Ex-Mayor Crossman, president of the Monument Association, introduced L. J. Sigur, Esq., to the multitude as the orator of the day. Mr. Sigur made an appropriate address, reviewing the life of his hero as warrior and as the chief of a great people, and was interrupted by the frequent applause of those who were able to hear him. When he concluded a man by the pedestal pulled the string, the canvas fell, and the bronze figure of the warrior, upon his rampant war steed, glittered in the light of the sun. Instantaneously a deafening cheer arose, and the hats of the multitude were raised aloft, the various bands of music joined in a chorus of the most inspiring music, and a salute of 100 guns, given with cannon on the levee awoke the echoes far and near. Subsequently ex-Mayor Crossman introduced Clark Mills, Esq., the designer and builder of the statue, to the assemblage, which he then addressed. * * * Mr. Mills was loudly cheered. After that General Plauché stepped forward and announced that the ceremonies were at an end. Subsequently the venerable Bernard Marigny addressed the multitude in French, in a very spirited and appropriate manner, and came off with vociferous applause. A large portion of the crowd remained in the square for hours, admiring and criticizing the statue.¹⁵ That night a banquet was given at the St. Charles Hotel, at which Mills and various local celebrities were present, and addresses were made which the innumerable chronicler quoted above regretted that he had not space to report in full.

Work on the Clay statue was begun on April 13, 1856. A site in Canal Street was chosen in order that the effect of a somewhat similar monument in Montreal, which the committee admired, might be attained. The inaugural ceremony included an oration by Judge McCaleb, an ode by Mark Bigny, an address written by Mme. O. W. LeVert and a dinner given by the Continental Guards to the military organization from Mobile, which took part in the celebration.

The problem of the police was pressed upon Lewis' attention immediately after he took office. But under the circumstances it was impossible for him to do anything to correct the evils which admittedly existed in the force. Two years later, the Legislature furnished the city with a new charter the motive of which was, specifically, to cure this trouble. The act conformed closely to the project submitted to the Board of Aldermen, in 1855, by one of its members, Mr. Durell. It did not change the existing municipal divisions, nor the number of recorders. The council, as before, consisted of aldermen and assistant aldermen—the former limited to nine, three from the First District, and two from each of the others; the latter to fifteen, to be chosen by wards. The members of the council were to hold office for two years, half of the aldermen to hold over each year, and eight of the assistants one year, and seven the next year, and so on alternately. The assistant aldermen

¹⁴ Crescent, February 9, 1856.

¹⁵ Vol. I—13.

¹⁴ See an interesting article on the subject, in the Times-Democrat, for July 4, 1904.

were to be chosen at the first election, as follows: Two from each ward in the First District, two from the Fourth Ward in the Second District, and one from each of the remaining wards in that district; and one from each ward in the Third and Fourth districts.

The executive power remained vested in the mayor, the four recorders, a treasurer, a comptroller, a city surveyor, a street commissioner, a board of assessors, and a board of supervisors of assessors. The mayor, comptroller, street commissioner, and one class of aldermen and assistant aldermen were to be elected biennially on the first Monday in June. The common council was empowered to elect the treasurer, surveyor, city attorney, and assistant city attorney, all to serve for two years. The council likewise selected the board of assessors—twelve in number—while the board of supervisors of assessors was to be composed of the mayor, and the chairmen of the finance committees of the city council. The assessors were to be chosen within one month after the organization of the council and were to hold office till the second Monday in January, 1859. Thereafter they were to be elected in the month of January, 1858, and every two years subsequently.

With regard to the police, the charter provided: "The mayor * * * shall be ex-officio justice and conservator of the peace; he shall appoint police officers, policemen and watchmen, under the ordinances of the common council organizing the same, and discharge the same at pleasure; and in case of the discharge of any officer of police, he shall communicate the fact of such discharge to the common council at their first meeting after such discharge; and he shall alone control and make regulations for the police officers, policemen, and watchmen." This had the effect of concentrating in the mayor's hands anew the complete control over this important branch of the city government.

The other important provisions in the charter which may be briefly described. All real and personal property in New Orleans was made subject to taxation, excepting State and United States property, colleges, academies, poor houses, hospitals, and incorporated benevolent institutions. Incomes were to be taxed on all amounts in excess of \$1,000, and household furniture when its value exceeded \$300. But the entire tax, for any purpose whatsoever, could not exceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent except in case of insurrection or invasion. There were also detailed provisions as to the payment of salaries of city officers. The mayor was to receive not less than \$4,000 or more than \$5,000. The precise amount of his compensation was to be fixed by the council. The salaries of the recorders were settled at \$2,500 per annum. The surveyor, city attorney, and street commissioner, each were to receive an annual salary of \$3,000. The chairmen of the finance committees of the common council were to receive \$200 per month.

The common council had power to issue licenses, payable from the 1st to the 31st of January. If unpaid, the city was to have a lien on the property, and to be empowered to obtain a writ of provisional seizure. All other taxes were payable between the months of March and May. Tax bills remaining unpaid were to pay 1 per cent per month interest, should be put in suit and advertised, the advertisement serving as a citation. The fees of the assistant city attorney were to consist of a percentage on the accounts of delinquent tax payers.

The remaining provisions referred to the paving and banqueting of streets, the opening of new streets, the consolidated and railroad taxes,

which were unaltered; the fiscal agent, the public school system, etc. There were few or no changes in these provisions. An important section provided for an annual budget of expenditures. Finally, it was provided that, this budget once adopted, no further appropriations should be made.¹⁰

The reform council did a great deal to clear up a bad situation in the city finances. In 1853 a democratic council had come into power. It started on a program of improvement which, while highly commendable in itself, was beyond the resources of the community at the moment. It projected in that year public improvements to cost \$452,000, with extensions and repairs to the wharves to the amount of \$222,000. A failure to collect the full amount of the anticipated revenues from taxation crippled these enterprises and left a considerable debt. The reform council of 1854 found itself hampered by these obligations, with regard to which it could do little except wait for their expiration, in the meantime reducing expenses wherever possible. To meet the costs involved, the tax rate was raised, a fact which, although it occasioned some complaint, did not discredit the reform movement, inasmuch as at the council election of 1855 virtually both the aldermanic boards were re-elected on that issue.

The report of the finance committee published in July, 1855, showed that in the previous January the floating debt of the city in treasury warrants and matured liabilities amounted, all told, to \$556,546.41. Every dollar of this large sum had been paid in the interval, except about \$10,000 in securities which had not yet been presented for redemption at the treasury, and there was on hand a balance of \$80,267.48. This had been effected with the city's ordinary income, used economically, and a rigid avoidance of all contracts of doubtful expediency.

The council adopted a plan of leasing out the city wharves. This idea, which at the present day would probably invite criticism, seemed in that epoch a wise and proper one, inasmuch as the operation of these public utilities by the city had netted it a deficit. In 1853 this deficit amounted to \$35,000. The new arrangement yielded the city a revenue of \$155,615.21 between 1855 and 1857. Furthermore, the expenditures in the city surveyor's department, which had amounted to \$1,358,700 in 1855, were in the following year reduced to \$145,029.28. In the street commissioner's department many unperformed contracts were annulled, and the work completed by the city, involving a small apparent increase. The tax rate for 1856 was lower than that of the preceding year; in the regular city tax, by 70 per cent; in the railroad tax, 32 per cent. As for the consolidated loan tax, this remained unchanged save in the Third District, where there was an increase of about 8 per cent.

Efforts were also made to improve the methods of making up the assessment rolls. Hitherto the assessment of real estate by the city was effected on the basis of a roll transcribed from that prepared by the State assessors, with the result that it abounded in errors. Property in many cases went assessed in the names of the wrong people for years at a time. Whole squares were assessed in the names of deceased persons. The valuations were frequently unchanged over long periods, irrespective of the improvements which might or might not have been made. The city council had no control over the assessors, and no authority to correct these errors, even when they were known. In consequence, the collection

¹⁰ Act 164 of 1856, approved March 20, 1856.

of the city alimony was somewhat of a lottery—the totals usually were known those which had been confidently anticipated. The abuses were so great that in 1855 public opinion compelled the State Legislature to insert in the new city charter an article rectifying the methods of making assessments and giving the council the powers it required in this connection.

A further abuse was in the collection of fines. The licences for "coffee houses" should, it was estimated, produce about \$200,000 per annum, but discrimination in the collection was such that it often failed to produce more than one-quarter of that sum.¹⁷ In 1957

In 1853 an effort was made to renew the fire department from the control of the Firemen's Charitable Association, where it had been lodged since 1829. It was ascertained that this was done as part of the general program of rearmament. The firemen claimed that it was engineered by the politicians with a view to increase the patronage at their disposal. At any rate, a so-called "revolt" of the firemen followed. It must be confessed that the policy of the city towards the firemen had not been liberal. The fortunes of the fire department were in the hands of public-spirited citizens who contributed liberally out of their own pockets to its maintenance. The Council relied a good deal on their generosity. There had long been friction over appropriations, and over payments on account of appropriations previously made. The higgledy policy of the Council, moreover, did not prevent it from interfering actively with the management of the department. The firemen opposed the introduction of steam engines, then just coming into vogue in the North. The Council insisted upon investing in one of these machines. Either on account of the defective construction of the engine, or because the firemen allowed their prejudices against it to influence them unduly, this innovation was a conspicuous failure. For some years the engine remained a cause of expense, with no corresponding advantage. Next, the Council created the office of Chief Engineer. James H. Wingfield was elected to the position on May 30, 1855. He was an experienced fireman and no objection was made to him personally, but the firemen as a body were opposed to this change in the organization of the department and opposed to the appointment.

In the spring of 1857, moreover, a new fire ordinance was enacted against the wish and contrary to the advice of the leading members of the department. The objectionable feature of the new law was that it provided that the firemen should be paid. Until this date the service was voluntary. It was regarded as insulting to propose that men should be paid for the performance of what they regarded as their social and civic duty. Finally, seven fire companies were ordered disbanded. This action was taken without consultation with the other companies, and in some quarters against their protest. The wisdom of reducing the department to the interests of economy was not disputed, but the method and the desire to attack the reform was carried out against the fair wishes of the firemen.

On October 27, 1931, therefore, the Bureau addressed a letter to the mayor, stating that grievances and claims form a condition to the maintenance of the existing department and that the annual appropriation for

¹ New York, April 24, 1826. See the anonymous pamphlet *What Has the President Done to Serve for New Orleans?* published in 1829.

the Council of \$1,200 to each company; liberal appropriations for fire alarm towers and bellries; the payment by the city of all debts contracted for the building of new engines, as stipulated in the old fire ordinance; reimbursements for rent, and various arrangements for appraising the companies with apparatus and hose. Moreover, they insisted that no fire companies be disbanded thereafter except for positive violation of the laws governing the department; and upon a new fire ordinance, embodying the foregoing points, to remain in force for not less than five years from the date of its promulgation. The department also seems to have the privilege of electing its own chief and his assistants, etc.

The city government, encouraged, it was believed, by the insurance companies, was not averse to seeing the volunteer department disbanded, and a paid department put in its place; consequently, the Council now went through the motions of offering certain concessions to the firemen, in reality the attempt was rejected. A meeting of the delegates of the various fire companies was held on November 20th, and it was decided to turn in to the city, all the municipal apparatus on hand, and to sever all connection with the local government. The surrender of the apparatus took place on December 1st in Lafayette Square. "Our firemen," says the *Times*, "were met by the mayor, the city fathers, and the firemen of the firemen assembled with their machines in Canal Street and prepared for a formal march to Lafayette Square, where the apparatus was to be surrendered to the mayor. At 1 o'clock the march commenced. Twenty-four engines and hose companies and four hook-and-ladder companies filed slowly up Camp Street to no other music than the solemn tolling of Louisiana Hose Company's bell—without banners, every man with his bar reversed and belt inverted and a bit of cappe fluttering from armoire or hose carriage here and there."

On the front panel of Engine No. 13 we noticed this: "Organized 1837—based 1855," and over the splendid truck of Louisiana Hose Company the sign, "Justice Is Our Wish." Arrived at Lafayette Square the companies entered and rested their apparatus around the walls. The firemen then repaired to the reception room in the City Hall and through Mr. Solomon (President of the Firemen's Charitable Association), formally tendered the property in their possession belonging to the city. * * * then for the first time in its existence, New Orleans stood without an organized fire department.

The enrollment of paid firemen began on the following morning. The new service was organized by Wingfield with the aid of two assistants, "Jack" Adams and John Youmans, who had been selected by the underwriters of the city for that purpose. The new force, however, worked badly. The men were inept. It was now proposed by the Council to transfer the department entirely to the control of the underwriters. Councilman Durel presented an ordinance providing that bids be received for the contract for the extinguishment of fires for the succeeding five years. On December 4, 1878, this contract was adjudicated to "Jack" Adams and John Youmans, representing the underwriters, for a consideration of \$100,000 per annum. The sureties offered by the successful bidders proved unsatisfactory and the contract was ordered rescinded. "It was bluntly charged at the council meeting that the whole transaction was prearranged prior to when the city would be

a loser, and that the same service for which the contractors would charge \$100,000 could be secured for \$85,000."¹⁹

In the interval a new president had been elected by the Firemen's Charitable Association. I. N. Marks, who was now recalled to that responsible post, after a retirement of several years, saw an opportunity to turn the tables upon the opponents of the volunteer department. When the contract was put up the second time and the bids were opened it was discovered, to the stupefaction of the underwriters and their friends, that the association had bid it in for \$70,000 per annum. The comptroller adjudicated the contract to the association on December 15th; the organization bought the fire apparatus turned in to the city only a few weeks before, paying \$70,000 for it, and the project of a paid department was laid to sleep for thirty-five years to come, during which time the business of fighting fire was managed in New Orleans wholly by volunteers, members of the association.²⁰

Space suffices here merely to mention the impeachment proceedings brought against two of the recorders in the closing year of Lewis' administration. The action against these officials was, it was said, due to pressure from the Know-Nothing, or American, party, which still existed in the city. The trials resulted in acquittal.²¹ Know-Nothingism was supposed to have come to an end in 1855, but the peculiar antagonism in New Orleans really protracted its existence down almost to the Civil war. The State Legislature, for instance, in 1855 re-enacted the law prohibiting aliens from holding offices of honor or profit. The enemies of the reform party, in fact, denounced the Council of 1854-1856 as "Know-Nothing," or "American."²² In fact, Know-Nothingism, so-called, was ostensibly the issue on which the municipal campaign of 1856 turned; though in reality the question at stake was that of reform—whether the government should be administered in the interests of the people or exploited for political purposes. As the election approached the Bee drew attention to the real issue involved. "The new charter," it added, "converts the mayor from a passive and powerless chief into an active and responsible one, by clothing him with ample authority. . . . We want a vigorous executive, who will neither be the puppet of a clique nor a soulless automaton."²³

But three offices were to be chosen by the city at large—mayor, comptroller and street commissioner. The democratic nominating convention met on May 10th and nominated W. A. Elmore for mayor. The Whigs, if any of that party yet remained, made no nomination. The best elements in the population now were contained in the reform movement. A meeting called at Banks' Arcade on March 18th was intended to select candidates on a "citizens' ticket"—by which was understood the Reform ticket. The meeting, however, was snatched out of the hands of its promoters by the American partisans, and thereafter the Reformers refrained from acting. The call for this meeting was signed by Alfred Penn, R. B. Summers, S. H. Kennedy, W. A. Gasquet, H. D. Ogden, E. J. Hart, James Robb, W. E. Leverich, Ed Pillsbury, H. S. Buckman, J. U. Payne, P. Labatut, W. C. Claiborne, Henry Ken-

¹⁹ O'Connor, "History of the Fire Department of New Orleans," 113.

²⁰ See O'Connor, "History of the Fire Department of New Orleans," Chapter IV.

²¹ Louisiana Courier, June 10, 1856.

²² Bee, June 2, 1856.

²³ Bee, May 10, 1856.

shaw, Richard Miliken, Moses Greenwood, C. T. Buddecke, J. P. Freret, J. C. Ricks, P. Maspero and other prominent persons. The meeting was attended by a large but disorderly crowd. An address by a man named Fuller was well received, but when Major Beard offered a list of vice-presidents, "symptoms of disapprobation" developed, and "No" was shouted to almost all the names. The meeting then appointed its own vice-presidents and selected a committee of five to make nominations for the city offices. This committee reported C. T. Waterman for mayor, A. Giffen for treasurer, T. Fieard for comptroller and J. R. Rust for street commissioner. Waterman was not present, but Giffen was, and made a speech which was cheered by the tumultuous crowd.²⁴ The callers of the meeting registered a tulle protest in the newspapers against the action of "outsiders" who had "usurped their functions." In fact, Waterman's friends seem to have gone thither organized with the intention of forcing his nomination.

Waterman, who thus became the candidate for mayor of the American, or Know-Nothing, party, as its opponents liked to style it, was a "young merchant," who had already become widely known in the city as an "ardent and zealous politician." "He has a love of everything noble and exalted," said the Bee, a few days after the election, when Waterman's success was acknowledged, "and a scorn for everything vicious and debased; * * * he is firm, resolute and inflexible."²⁵ The election took place on June 2nd and was "disgraced by violence and bloodshed."²⁶ In the First District the polls were occupied early in the day by armed men, who dictated who should vote and what votes should be cast. In the First District two polls in precincts regarded as Democratic strongholds were similarly seized. The newspapers refrained from saying precisely what faction was responsible for these high-handed proceedings, but it seems clear that it was the American party. In Orleans Street an attempt to control the voting led to a fight, in which several persons were wounded, some severely. In the Eleventh Precinct occurred the most serious trouble of the whole eventful day. There Norbert Trepagnier, clerk of the First District Court, was shot and mortally wounded. He was standing near the poll when a group of naturalized citizens—or, rather, of Sicilians who claimed to be such—approached and demanded to vote. Their right was challenged. A disturbance immediately arose, which Trepagnier, it is said, strove to abate, whereupon he was attacked, wounded, and while prostrate on the ground cruelly beaten with a slung shot. It looked as though a riot would follow. The poll was hurriedly closed and the crowd dispersed, but not until a detachment of the mob had located the Sicilians, who had fled, one of whom was intercepted and killed.

The danger at this point was sufficiently great for Mayor Lewis to issue a proclamation calling on all good citizens to repair to the City Hall and be sworn in as a special police. The regular police were useless. Two days before the election an order requiring them to go unarmed on election day, issued in the hope of reducing the possibilities of disorder, had led to many resignations from the force. The remainder seems to have been busy coercing voters, rather than preventing violations of the law, or arresting those who violated it. Only twenty citizens

²⁴ Bee, March 19, 1856.

²⁵ Bee, March 9, 1856.

²⁶ True Delta, June 3, 1856.

responded to the mayor's appeal, but these were armed and sent to the polls. There can be no doubt that this action averted what might have been serious trouble at those points. As it was, six men were that day carried to the Charity Hospital wounded, two of them dangerously. One policeman in attempting to do his duty was assaulted and beaten by a gang of thirty men. It is not remarkable that, under the circumstances, only a small vote was cast. Large numbers of naturalized citizens, intimidated by the tactics of the American partisans, refrained from voting; those who made the attempt were, except in the instances noted, not molested.²⁷

The result was the election of Waterman as mayor by 4,726 votes over Elmore, who received only 2,762 votes. Theard defeated J. R. McMurdo for comptroller, and P. A. Guyol won over J. A. D'Hemecourt for street commissioner. The recorders elected were Gerard Stith, J. L. Fabre, Jos. Salomon and L. Adams. R. M. Summers became president of the Council.

²⁷ Ibid.

Camp Lewis 28th June 1864

Dear Sir

I send you an official communication regarding the scarcity of drinkable water in this Camp. On the Artillery side there is such a dearth of such an essential article that the men cannot possibly wait for the purpose. As to the side of the Regiment of Cavalry Guards, the works do not progress according to the expectations expressed by you yesterday. The great Engine sent here for the purpose still remains embedded in the mud & therefore is of no avail. Will you please (in your communication) make the necessary observations on this subject to the proper authorities & return, if possible, today, the news from this unpleasant source.

Yours faithfully

Arthur Stoddart

R. J. Lewis
Major General &c

Private note. There is here a gentleman pumping water & is willing to continue so provided the Adjutant feel assured to it.

Le Mat revolver #88 with original
holster.

Carried by Maj. Genl. John L. Lewis,
who commanded the 1st Division of
La. Militia until they were mustered
into Conf. L. service in 1861.

Thereafter, Lewis served as aid-de-camp
in various Confederate commands.

Head-Quarters Camp Lewis,

Dec 14th 1861.

Permit Mrs. Lyman & family
to pass and repass

to and from Camp, until further orders.

By order Brig. Genl. C. St. John.

Wm. Chapman
aid-de-camp

Chronology of events in Federal and Confederate forces during the Red River Campaign from the approach of the main Federal forces to Natchitoches and Grand Ecore on March 30, to the arrival at that point on the retreat on April 11 and 12, 1864.

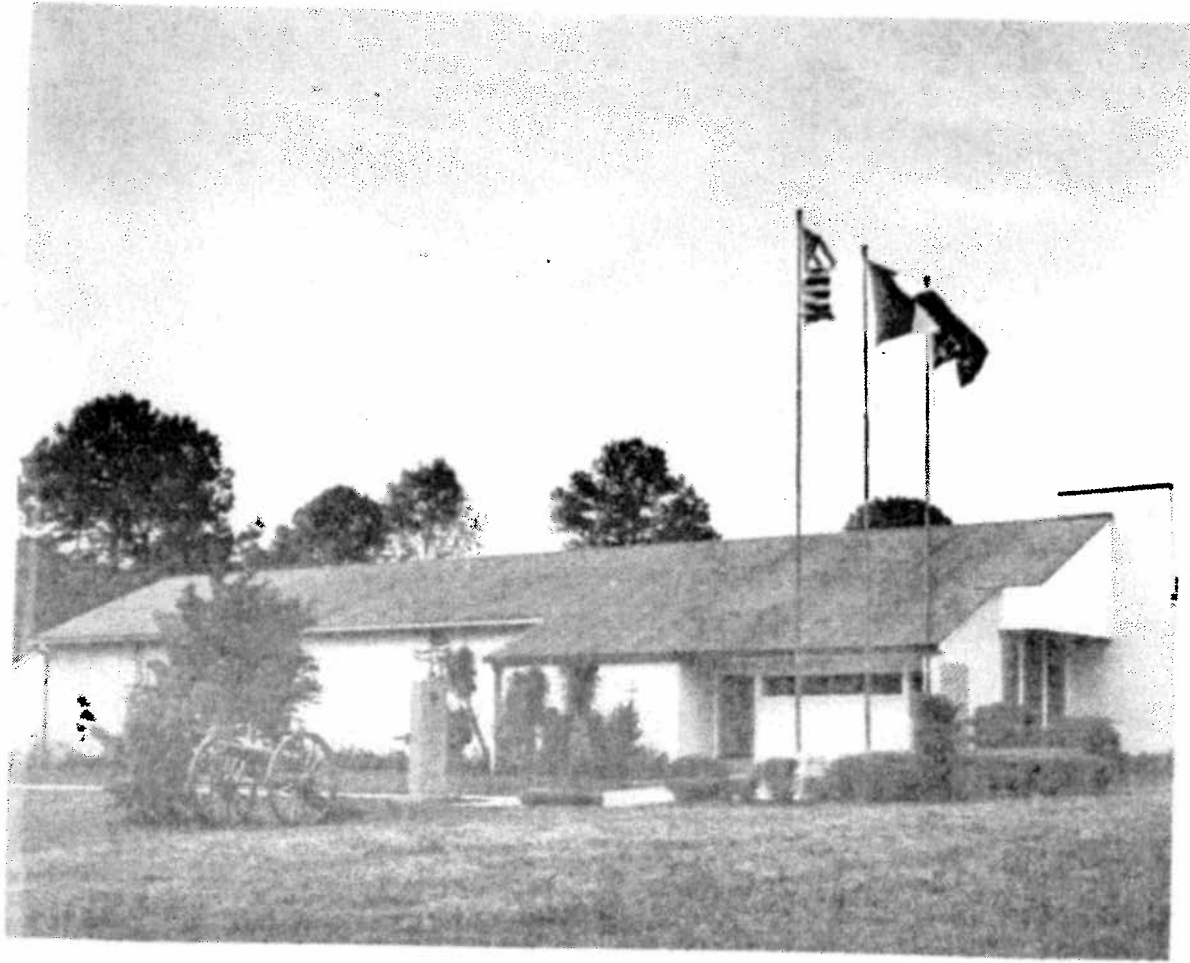


Compiled and Edited by
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Mansfield Battle Park

—●—

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LOUISIANA, LA.

DEATH OF GEN. JOHN L. LEWIS.

A distinguished and venerable personage has disappeared from his place among the living and has joined the grand army that has passed to the other side of the river. John Lawson Lewis, for more than eighty years a resident of this city, and for much of that time a conspicuous figure in the social and public life of New Orleans, was born in Lexington, Ky., on the 26th of March 1800. His parents were both Virginians of Revolutionary stock, and of social eminence. The father of the subject of this notice was appointed by President Jefferson Judge of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Orleans, and removed with his family to this city in 1803, making a long and tedious journey down the river, floating with the current in an old-fashioned keel-boat.

The childhood of young Lewis was spent here, and the foundations of his education were laid under the direction of a French gentleman, Mr. Francois d'Hemecourt, and subsequently at the school taught by Rev. James F. Hull, rector of Christ Church. He afterwards studied law under the guidance of his father and some time afterwards was appointed Minute Clerk to the First Judicial District Court of the State of Louisiana, under Martin Gordon, Chief Clerk. In 1826 Mr. Gordon resigned the office and young Lewis was appointed thereto.

In 1827 he married Miss De Ferrier, member of a most respectable

Creole family, and thus became thoroughly identified with the Creole population, then comprising the larger portion of the people of the State. Mr. Lewis, however, enjoyed but a few years the happiness of his married life, for in 1833 an epidemic of scarlet fever carried off his wife and three children in the course of a few days.

After this sad bereavement Mr. Lewis sought relief and distraction from his sorrow in the exciting activities of public life. He became a member of a volunteer military company, and to military affairs he devoted so much attention that he rapidly rose from grade to grade until he became commander with the rank of Major General of the State forces of the First Louisiana Division.

In 1845 Gen. Lewis was elected by the people Sheriff of the parish of Orleans, and served two terms with ability, being elected in each instance by large majorities. In 1852 he was elected to the State Senate, and in 1854 was chosen by the people to the position of Mayor of the city of New Orleans.

When the civil war broke out, Gen. Lewis, although far beyond the military age, offered his sword to his State, and joining the Confederate forces in the Trans-Mississippi Department, served on the staff of the commanding General, behaving with great gallantry. At the battle of Mansfield he was wounded in the head by a bullet, and the injury thus suffered gave him

trouble for the balance of his life. He was specially thanked for his splendid conduct on the field by the Governor of Louisiana, Hon. Henry W. Allen.

The close of the war saw the gallant old General stripped of the wealth he had amassed during his busy and useful life; but he ever remained the same courtly, genial gentleman he had always been, a man among men, ever generous, brave, hospitable and typifying in his own person the high qualities of the ancient Southern chevalier. At the time of his death and for some years previous he was a Jury Commissioner of the parish of Orleans.

He leaves three sons, Alfred, John and Thomas. The second of these lost an arm in the battle of Mansfield. The last named, who grew up since the war, is a lieutenant in the United States Army. These with three daughters are all the children of a second marriage. The General's three brothers and one sister, who still survive, show the family to be extremely long lived. They are: Major Theodore Lewis, aged 83, residing in New Iberia; Miss E.C. Lewis, aged 80 years, living in New Orleans, Dr. J.H. Lewis, aged 73 years, living in New Orleans, George Washington Lewis, 72 years old, living three miles below Algiers. The General himself had passed the age of 86. For some months he had been in declining health, but, up to within

a few hours of his demise he retained his faculties and knew and appreciated the attention of his friends. He died full of years and full of honors. He had done the work of his long life well, and he died without regrets, without apprehension, surrounded by his family.

The funeral will take place today at 1 o'clock, from his late residence, Rev. Dr. Girault officiating. The remains will be interred in St. Vincent de Paul's Cemetery, with the remains of his wife and son.

THE CHILDREN OF JOSHUA LEWIS

AND

AMERICA LAWSON

1. SIDONIA PIERCE LEWIS, the first-born, native of Lexington, Kentucky, born October 22, 1798. She came with her parents to New Orleans in 1803, and married in that city, PETER KNIGHT WAGNER, a noted and fearless journalistic friend of General Andrew Jackson. She died at the ripe age of 86, in 1883. Their children if any, are unknown.

2. JOHN LAWSON LEWIS, born at Lexington, Kentucky, on March 26, 1800. He was the eldest son. He married in 1827 in first nuptial, LOUISE ELIZABETH CAMILLE de FERIET, daughter of the French Baron, LOUIS de FERIET and MARIE de la MERCED de SAINT-MAXENT, who in turn were married on May 23, 1805. MARIE de la MERCED was the daughter of GILBERT ANTOINE de SAINT-MAXENT, co-founder of St. Louis, Missouri, distinguished and controversial Frenchman, who was a high official in the Spanish service in Louisiana. Father-in-law of two Spanish Governors of the Louisiana Province, and served gallantly against the British in the War of the American Revolution. LOUIS, BARON de FERIET was a Lieutenant of Spanish troops in that conflict. He owned extensive lands.

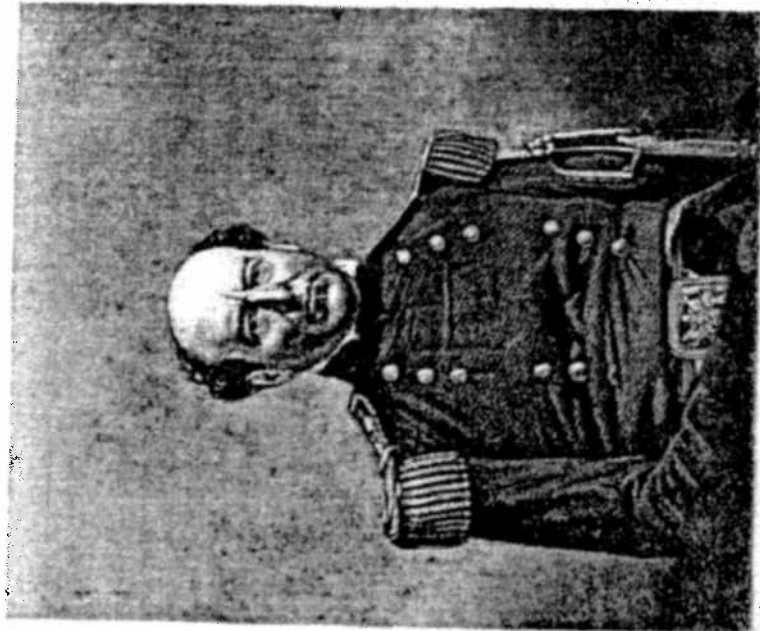
JOHN LAWSON LEWIS enrolled in the famous private school of Francois d'Hebecourt at New Orleans, who in turn was a former French exile of the colony at Gallipolis, Ohio. John Lawson Lewis also studied under Reverend James F. Hull, rector of Christ Church in New Orleans. Under the guidance of his father, John Lawson Lewis became the Chief Clerk of the First Judicial District Court at New Orleans as he studied law. In 1852, he was elected to the State Senate. In 1854, he was the Mayor of New Orleans. Although ripe in years, he offered his services at the outbreak of the Civil War. Detached to the Trans-Mississippi

Department, serving on the staff of General Richard Taylor, son of Zachary Taylor. John Lawson Lewis was wounded in the head at the battle of Mansfield. After this conflict in which the Confederates were victorious, Henry Watkins Allen, the famed governor of Louisiana, thanked him publicly. Before the death of John Lawson Lewis on May 15, 1886, stripped of his wealth, he never lost his courtly manners, geniality and kindness. In his person, he represented the finest qualities characteristic of the old South. His first marriage ended in tragedy, his first wife whom he had married in 1827, died suddenly with three of his young children from a scarlet fever epidemic in 1833. From his second marriage with HENRIETTA BAHAM they had the following children:

- (1) ALFRED RANDOLPH LEWIS, who married
Their children:
 - a. REAR ADMIRAL MAYS LIVINGSTON LEWIS, who resided in Norfolk, Virginia.
 - b. GLADYS ALASKA LEWIS, who married a MR. BERNARD and resided in New Iberia, Louisiana.
- (2) THOMAS JEFFERSON LEWIS, of whom very little is known. He is said to have married.....
His daughter:
 - a. HENRIETTA LEWIS, married COL. H. J. SCHROEDER of Baltimore, Maryland.
- (3) ALASKA LEWIS, of whom nothing is known.
- (4) NEBRASKA LEWIS, of whom nothing is known.
- (5) UNCAS LEWIS, he was a surveyor in New Orleans.
- (6) HENRIETTA LEWIS, who died unmarried.

Note: There may have been more. John Lawson Lewis named some of his children after the people who appeared in James Fenimore Cooper's book, "The Last of the Mohicans."

3. LOUISA MARIA LEWIS, born in Lexington, Kentucky on October 11, 1801. She died unmarried.
4. THEODORE LEWIS, born in Lexington, Kentucky on April 18, 1803. He married CAMILLA SAUVINET. He died in 1896 at New Iberia, Louisiana where he resided with his family. Their children:
 - (1) MRS. AGNES E. LEWIS
 - (2) ANNIE C. LEWIS, unmarried.



Portrait of General Lewis

General Lewis

JOHN LAWSON LEWIS.

It would be difficult to find a name more intimately connected with the history of this city, since the cession of the Territory by France to the United States, than that of the distinguished individual, the principal source of whose career we now have the pleasure of writing. It would be as difficult also to find anywhere a man more universally popular, in so great and changing a population as ours, who possesses so many warm friends, as the General. His general attachment and esteem so little of adventitious aid, and his genial courtesy, has in ages and fractions that show it to be of native, not fostered growth; the pleasant smile of the man, and the ready and available expression of the well stored mind, with the courtesy and attention in return, while the clear voice and hearty manner, irresistible decided military bearing of the tall, well shaped form, give every dignity to the air and gait, and dignity, decision, and self-reliance are found, in close acquaintance, to be innate in the man. They are the safeguards which effectively preserve the public man in his individuality, while he risks it, somewhat, as he extends his popularity by attending his acquaintance among all classes of the community.

General Lewis, as he is familiarly called here, has in his favor, in addition to his many personal recommendations, a strong and peculiar basis for popularity, which cannot be easily displaced, and which secures success in his career as a public man. We allude to the fact of his being, emphatically, "one of us." He came here when quite young; he has been raised and educated here; he has always been here; he has grown up with the city that grew up when the surrounding region was a swamp. The population took hold of public affairs, both, and entered a stamp into a most commercial career; he has personally participated, deeply, by family ties and abiding feelings and political association with the ancient population of the Territory of Orleans—the great business, who fear neither crosses, nor frowns, who are the pillars of the "Banyan South," appealing to their old habits and language and customs, the more persistently, that they are threatened with transformation and obscurity—the generous, amiable, warm-hearted, polished, hospitable Creoles! Gen. Lewis knows them all, and is known by all; he has grown to mature manhood among them, as one of themselves, and, whether they be his political opponents or not, he has no steeper, more constant, or more formidable phalanx of friends than they invariably present in his defence.

John Lawson Lewis, now Mayor of this goodly city of New Orleans, was born in Lexington, Kentucky, in March, 1800. His has the right to boast of his parents, for his father and mother were both of that old Virginia Revolutionary stock that holds so eminent a place in the history of the country. They were among the early settlers of this "Bloody Land," as Kentucky was once called, and large tracts of land were made by them and their's for their services in the war of the Revolution.

The father of the family maintained, in the then wild Indian country, his claims to distinction, for, in the year 1803, when Louisiana was ceded to the United States, he was appointed, by President Jefferson, to the responsible post of Judge of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Orleans. The family soon after started on a long and tedious journey, by the river, for their new resting place, and reached it safely. In those days, steamboats were not, and the slow moving, narrow, uncomfortable keel-boat afforded the only safe means for families to travel on, from Louisville to this city.

The subject of our memoir obtained an education of Mr. Francois D'Hemecourt, (a French gentleman whose descendants are among our most respectable citizens,) and at the Academy of the Rev. James F. Hull, Rector of Christ's Church, on Canal street. At the age of eighteen—or in the year 1819, young Lewis left school and commenced the study of the law, under the careful and capable guidance of his father. With this profession, in various capacities, he has had intimate connection ever since. He was first employed as an assistant clerk in the office of Martin Gordon, Esq., then clerk of the First Judicial District Court of the State of Louisiana, and always one of our prominent and influential citizens.

Mr. Gordon resigned his clerkship in favor of his young assistant, and the latter was appointed to the vacancy in 1826. He was now on the full tide of success in life, and in 1827 he married. A few years passed in the calm enjoyment of domestic happiness and the well merited rewards of industry. The fell destroyer came and at one blow desolated the home hearth; broke up the household gods. In 1833, an attack of malignant scarlet fever carried off each within a few days of the other, the wife and her three children.

Having thus lost the dearest ties that held him to private life, he in some respects to seek consolation in a more bustling occupation, became a prominent public man, mingling actively in the busy politics of the times. He had always had what may well be considered an inherited, instinctive fondness for a military life. But for his father's opposition, he would have followed the profession. He indulged his propensity by becoming a member of one of the numerous volunteer corps that have always existed in our city. He served for many years, and rose from rank to rank until he received the responsible and important appointment of Inspector General of the First Division of Louisiana Militia—the Division comprising all the volunteer military companies of the city, besides those unfortunately the never-to-be-met-with regular militia regiments.

From this long and close connection with the Division, it is not surprising that Inspector General Lewis should be elected to the chief command thereof. This took place in 1842, and he has ever since held the office, always being re-elected at the expiration of his term of service. A more military looking Major General of Division could not easily be found, nor one more esteemed by the hundreds of gallant men under his command.

The State Constitution of 1845 introduced the novel feature of making nearly all State officers elective by the people. Gen. Lewis, in the general election that followed, was nominated as an independent candidate for that very important office, the Shrievalty of the Parish of Orleans. He was opposed by several of the most popular citizens of the parish, but he was the successful one. His knowledge of our peculiar system of law, and his practical acquaintance with its executive department, fitted him excellently for the duties of Sheriff, and we have never yet heard a com-

JOHN LAWSON LEWIS.

plaint against his administration of these duties, which he filled for two successive terms. He was elected each time by large majorities, after the warmest and most exciting contests our city has ever witnessed.

In 1852, Gen. Lewis was elected to the State Senate, and served one term in that distinguished body, to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. In 1854 he was elected to his present honorable position as Mayor of the city of New Orleans, then, and now comprising, under the action of the Legislature, the old city and the new, adjoining and flourishing one of Lafayette. He administers the multifarious duties of his office—and they are indeed many and numerous—with as much vigor as the peculiar and unnecessary Legislative restrictions imposed on it, will allow, and the salutary reforms he has proposed to the City Council to introduce into various important branches of the city government, clearly evince his sagacity and his determination to do right, whatever the loss of popularity to himself personally.

Mayor Lewis is in the prime of life, and bids fair to hold his own in good health and spirits for many years to come. He has long been known as one of our most prominent public men, and though a strong politician, he is an impartial one, and commands the respect of his political opponents.

THE LE MAT REVOLVER OF MAJOR GENERAL JOHN LAWSON LEWIS C.S.A.

by Jan Paul Reifenberg

With the advent of ever expanding interest in the field of Confederate handguns it is a rare event indeed when a newly discovered piece, especially one with historical significance, emerges. An estate sale in Augusta, Georgia in early 1968 proved to be one such uncommon occurrence and added another invaluable segment in the unfolding story of Colonel Le Mat and his "grape-shot" revolver. The revolver and its arsenal issue "batwing" holster were discovered during examination of the contents of the estate's safe. The weapon upon initial examination was obviously quite a desirable piece, being a low serialized (#88) first model Le Mat in excellent condition and was soon purchased by an advanced eastern collector. During the years that followed the weapon passed through several prominent collections, finally ending up in the distinguished Confederate collection of William A. Albaugh III, noted author of numerous works on Confederate weaponry. The significance of the find might have ended there had it not been for the efforts of Gary Smith to restore the issue Le Mat holster. As Gary stated in a letter to Mr. Albaugh concerning the holster:

"During the preliminary cleaning of the holster, it became apparent that a name had been first written in longhand, then printed on the inside flap of the holster. After the leather had a chance to dry, the name of General John L. Lewis was readily discernable. The writing appears to be old and original and considering the unrestored condition in which I received it, completely authentic. The leather preparation I use tends to darken the leather and it was in the course of my preliminary cleaning that the name of General John L. Lewis became evident on the inside flap of the holster. I asked John if he was aware of this mark

and he stated that he was not, but that the holster and pistol had always been together, with no mention of any historical association outside of its obvious Confederate usage. I know that no previous owner has made any attempt to repair or clean the holster and I believe the markings to be absolutely correct."

Who then was John Lawson Lewis? Cohen's New Orleans Directory of 1855 gives us a brief sketch of General Lewis' life.¹ Born of Virginia revolutionary stock in Lexington, Kentucky in 1800, he soon moved to Louisiana with his parents when his father was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Orleans in 1803. Following in his father's footsteps young Lewis took up the practice of law, and in 1826 was appointed Clerk of the First Judicial District Court of the State of Louisiana. The following year Lewis married Miss Louise Elizabeth Camille De Ferrier,² a member of one of the most respected Creole families of that period living in New Orleans. In 1833 tragedy struck the Lewis family in the form of scarlet fever, which took the lives of his wife and three children.³ As the New Orleans Daily Picayune suggests, in the years following this personal disaster Lewis seemed to seek relief from his anguish in the vigor and excitement of public life. Lewis soon joined a Louisiana volunteer military company and quickly rose through the ranks until in 1842 he was elected Commander of the First Division of Louisiana Militia. This placed him in direct command of all volunteer military companies of the city of New Orleans, along with all regular militia units. As we shall see later in the story, this martial position may have been one of the influencing factors in General Lewis carrying one of the first of Colonel Le Mat's famous revolvers.

The years passed, but Lewis' desire for public service was not to be quenched. In the year 1845 he ran for, and was elected to, the post of Sheriff of New Orleans. In 1852 he served as a member of the State Senate, and finally in 1854 he was elected to the office of the Mayor of New Orleans.⁴ While serving in these political offices Lewis kept his interest in military affairs maintaining his position as the Commanding General of the State Militia. If we are to believe the early accounts of New Orleans, John Lawson Lewis must have been an exceptionally talented man, his popularity and efficiency are attested to in the numerous historical works concerning the city during this period.

Early 1861 found New Orleans reverberating with the ominous rumblings of the coming war. On April 12, 1861 the Adjutant General's office ordered all volunteer troops Louisiana into a state of readiness. This general order included the soldiers of the First Division under Major General John L. Lewis.⁵ At the outset of the war these early days in the state were quite chaotic, but it appears that the militia rendered effective service through it all with Lewis' guidance. As in most Southern states the militia was soon to be incorporated into the regular Confederate army. On October 13th, 1862 Governor Thomas O. Moore acted to disband the militia and placed it at the service of Brigadier General Alfred Mouton, C.S.A.⁶ It must be remembered that Lewis was sixty one years old at this time, and consequently not liable to any further military service. From the records we find that Lewis' unselfish sense of patriotism came through as he volunteered his services as an aide to Colonel Henry Gray, who was commanding General Mouton's Brigade.⁷ If the fact that Lewis volunteered at his age is astounding, the fact

that he volunteered to do so without pay is even more so!⁸

To regress for a moment to the question of how this Le Mat came into the possession of General Lewis, we need to go back to the New Orleans of the late 1850's. At that time Dr. Jean Alexandre Le Mat was attempting to have his arm tested and accepted for use in the United States Army. Two special boards were assembled in 1859 in order to evaluate the weapon. One board convened in Washington, the other in New Orleans. Both boards recommended that the arm be placed in active service, but the one in New Orleans is of particular interest. As William A. Albaugh points out in his book Confederate Handguns:

"If the names of some of the persons who have appeared in the past few pages are familiar, it is not surprising. In the "Report of the Special Board," conducted in New Orleans, Beauregard, Bragg, Evans and Smith became generals in the Confederate Army, while Huger died defending New Orleans as Lieutenant Commander, C.S.N. The "John B. Floyd, Secretary of War" to whom the letters of introduction were addressed was a former governor of the state of Virginia, and later a general, C.S.A. Joseph E. Johnston hardly needs an introduction to those interested in Confederate history, nor does Samuel Cooper who, two years hence, was to be Adjutant and Inspector General for the Confederate States Army. The C. Girard who witnessed patent number 24312 was, in a short time, to become Le Mat's partner and owner of a three-quarter interest in the revolver venture."⁹

So we see that Le Mat was to have strong ties with the Confederacy in the very near future. Indeed if we examine surviving specimens of the revolver in museums and private collections we find that many were

carried by high ranking Confederate officers. A few such examples are the Le Mat revolvers of General J.E.B. Stuart, #115, the aforementioned Generals Beauregard and Bragg, #427 and #1273, and of course the subject of this article General John Lawson Lewis, #88.¹⁰

The recommendation that " the Guard D' Orleans be armed with 400 rifles and sabre bayonets, and for the officers - improved revolvers, such as Colonel Le Mat's grape-shot revolver," was made by the Louisiana Inspector General in November of 1860.¹¹ If we are to assume that Colonel Le Mat was every bit as much of a businessman as the famous Colonel Colt, but perhaps on a somewhat smaller scale, isn't it likely that he would attempt to present the first models of his revolvers to influential officers? In light of the above recommendation it seems only logical that General Lewis acting as Commander of the Louisiana Militia would have received the revolver directly from the inventor, Jean Alexandre Le Mat.

In April of 1864 Major General Nathaniel P. Banks, U.S.A., began his ill-fated thrust north in Louisiana. The Red River Campaign, as it would come to be known , had as its objective to gain further control of Louisiana and eventually eastern Texas and the Rio Grande. The plan never succeeded for on April 8, 1864 Bank's army was engaged and defeated by General Richard Taylor's Confederate forces at the battle of Mansfield, Louisiana. This marked an end to the Union's northern ambitions in Louisiana, but the battle was extremely costly in lives and equipment on both sides.¹² Brigadier General Alfred Mouton, C.S.A., whom Lewis had turned his state militia over to earlier, was killed during this engagement. Both General Lewis and his son John sustained serious wounds

at Mansfield.¹³ The details of their bravery during this crucial battle are few, but we do know that General Lewis received the personal thanks of Governor Henry Watkins Allen of Louisiana.¹⁴ In the few pieces of official and personal correspondence that are left, we find this letter from General Lewis to a Captain Radclift (sic), C.S.A.:

Opelousas 9th Sept. 1864
Captain Wm. B. Radclift,
Dear Sir,

I address you, as the best informed and most reliable person, from whom I can obtain information as to the best and safest way of crossing the Mississippi, and getting on the Jackson railroad in the neighborhood of Camp Moore. I have learned (that) my family, that lately left the city, now are, and from whom I have been separated for nearly three years, and am anxious to re-join.

I will be accompanied by my son, who lost his arm in the battle of Mansfield, a negro servant, and three horses. I should like to be posted as to the best road from this place, where to cross and if with horses, the expense, and in what kind of money, the dangers, both on this side and the other, to be encountered from the enemy. By giving all useful and necessary information on the subject, you will confer a great favor on your

Most obt. servt.

John L. Lewis

As with so many of the gallant soldiers of the Confederacy, the end of the Civil War saw General Lewis stripped of his wealth and position. The head wound that he suffered at the Battle of Mansfield was to afflict him for the rest of his life. Never again was he to regain the public positions of responsibility he so ably administered in pre-war Louisiana. To the end General Lewis was to maintain "his courtly manners, gentility and kindness. In his person, he represented the

finest qualities characteristic of the old South." ¹⁵ He died on May 15, 1886 at the age of 86 in the city that he loved and fought for, New Orleans. It is hoped that in some small way this article and his Le Mat revolver will be a fitting tribute to the life of a true American patriot.

POSTSCRIPT

Postscript: - There has been considerable speculation over the years as to the origins of the first factory produced Le Mat revolvers. William A. Albaugh III in his excellent reference work, Confederate Handguns, proves that at least some of the First Model Le Mats were produced here in the United States. It has been thought that the marking "Baguet" found stamped on the inside of the grips of a few early pieces, (namely serials #1, #4, #88, and #101), may have been an American gunsmith contracted by Dr. Le Mat to produce his first few revolvers. In an effort to resolve this question the author went to the U.S. Forest Service laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. For comparison the author took the grips from 1st Model Le Mat #88 with the "Baguet" stamping, and 2nd Model Le Mat serial #1312. After careful examination, utilizing several different tests, Dr. Regis B. Miller, Ph. D., determined that both sets of grips were carved from European walnut. It should be stated that Dr. Miller is a wood anatomist specializing in the various types of walnut woods.

On the supposition that Dr. Le Mat was a practical man, and would have used the materials at hand to build his revolver, it

can be surmised that at least from serial #88 forward the weapons were made in Europe. The author is currently collecting more information on this subject and would welcome any help the readers may wish to give.

Footnote References

1. Cohen's New Orleans Directory of 1855, pp. III - V
2. The New Orleans Daily Picayune, Sunday, May 16, 1886
p. 4, column 3 & 4
3. Cohen's New Orleans Directory of 1855, pp. IV - V
4. John Smith Kendall, History of New Orleans, 1922
Vol. 1, p. 184
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6. Ibid, Vol. 15, pp. 826-827, General Order No. 889
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General Thomas Green C.S. Army
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10. Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia, In-
ventory of Confederate Arms
11. Inventory of Arms, State of Louisiana, Nov. 1860
12. Frederick H. Dyer, A Compendium of the War of Rebellion,
Vol. II, pp. 585, 752
13. The children of Joshua Lewis and America Lawson,
Tulane University Library, New Orleans, p. 23
(John was General Lewis' son by his second marriage
to Henrietta Baham)
14. Jewell's Crescent City Illustrated, New Orleans, 1873
15. The New Orleans Daily Picayune, Death of General John
Lawson Lewis, May 16, 1886

The first thing that struck the eye was the fact that the man was not alone. He was surrounded by a large number of men, some of whom were armed with rifles. The man in the center of the group was being held back by several of the men around him. He was looking towards the camera with a determined expression. The men around him were looking in various directions, some towards the camera and some away from it. The scene was taking place in a dark, narrow alleyway. The walls of the alleyway were made of brick and the ground was paved with cobblestones. The lighting was very dim, with the only light source being a single lamp hanging from the ceiling. The overall atmosphere was one of tension and mystery.

CALLING TO THE DEATH.

WILLIAM, EDWARD, JOHN T. KENTON, JR.
TOGETHER WITH A PROPOSAL
FOR THE REFORMATION OF THE
LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.
IN SENATE, JANUARY 1, 1884.

REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE,
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION
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ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE
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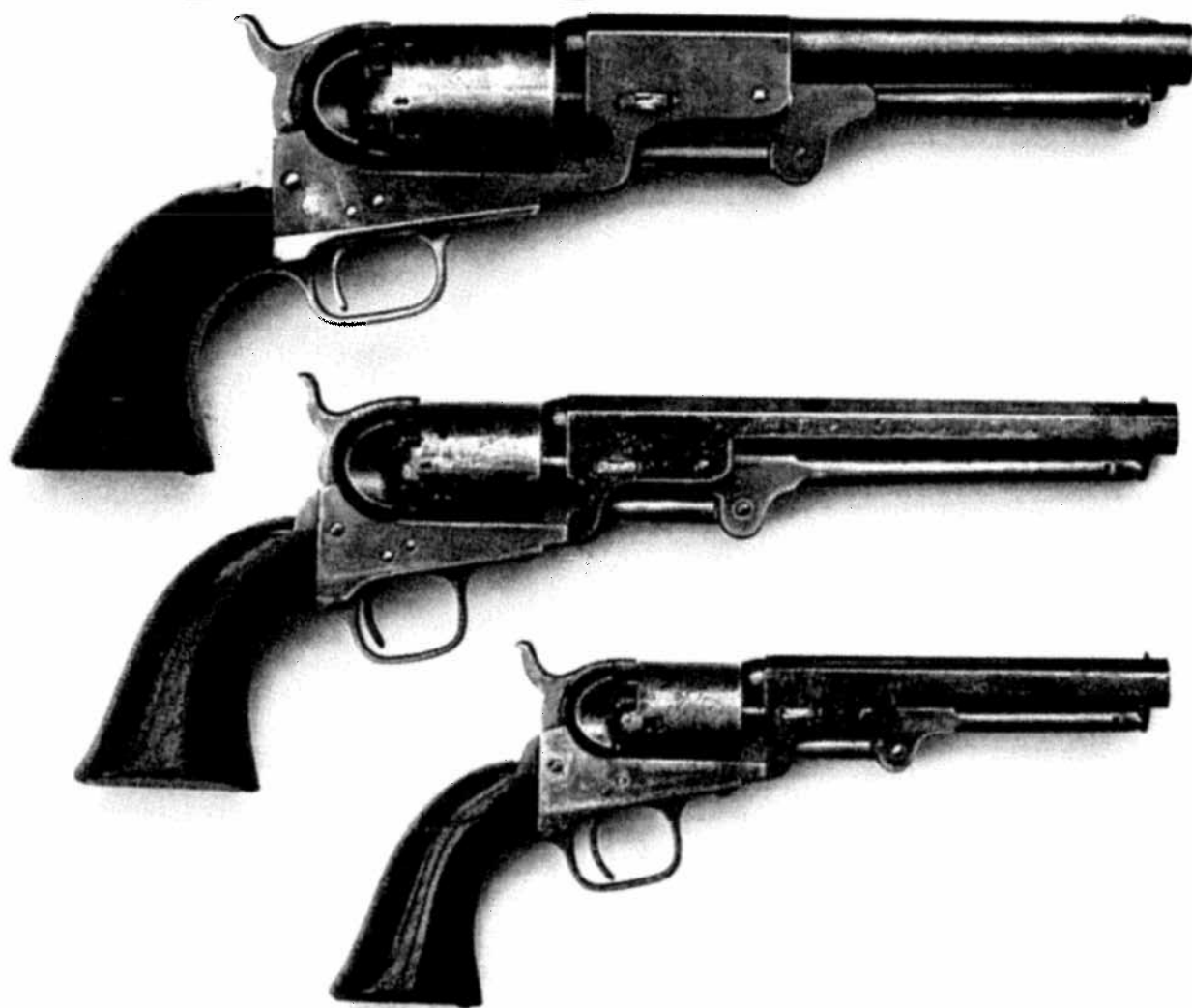
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I am not that he is
 I am and
 had and faithful
 almost hopeless
 sad and weep for
 with good for
 to work on earth
 that infinite sea
 heavenly land and
 red. He lives to
 joy and joyous
 as midnight hour
 rapped in silence
 as heard beyond
 track from his
 call Death across
 on off the golden
 known as in
 meaning of angel
 kind saw
 and earth below
 wonderful and
 readily bloom
 heart that glorious
 light that faint
 in whose grief is
 this part
 p. there no more
 I. when is
 friend whom we
 roused him from
 voice that said
 like. Come with
 him means that
 a hand and
 kind in sales in
 us in the sea
 road to God's own
 land beyond the
 in on the
 part 1901
 J. B. B.

ARMS

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Two Gun Shows — Those Mixed S&W's
The Le Mat Revolver of John Lawson Lewis
A Unique Museum — London Dragon
1980 Show Calendar — Garter on Postage



Major General John Lawson Lewis, C.S.A.

The Le Mat Revolver of...

General John Lawson Lewis, C.S.A.



Dr. Jean Alexander Francois Le Mat, Inventor of the grape-shot revolver, circa 1879. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Ramon A. Marus).

by Jan Paul Reifenberg

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1st Model Le Mat Number 88.

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As William A. Albaugh points out in his book *Confederate Handguns*: "If

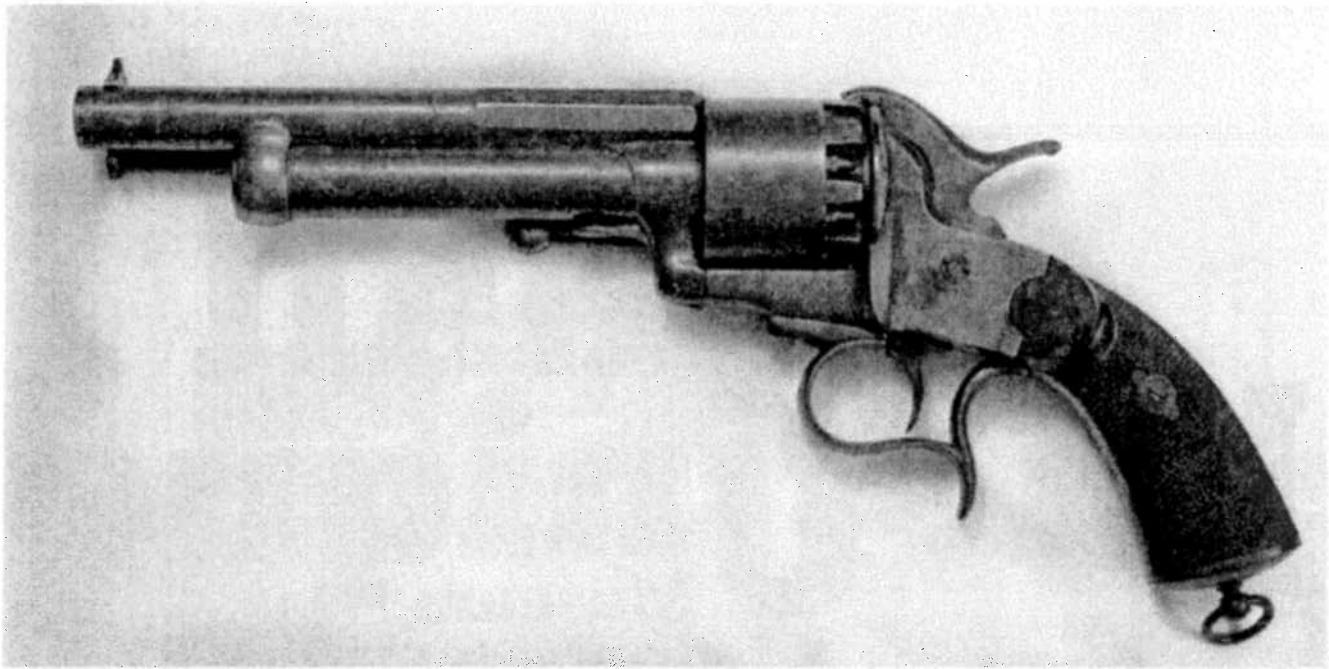
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number 427 and number 1273, and course the subject of this article General John Lawson Lewis, number 88.(10)

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1st Model Le Mat Number 88.

Mansfield, Louisiana. This marked an end to the Union's northern ambitions in Louisiana, but the battle was extremely costly in lives and equipment on both sides.(12)

Brigadier General Alfred Mouton, C.S.A., whom Lewis had turned his state militia over to earlier, was killed during this engagement. In addition, General Lewis suffered a head wound and his son John lost an arm during the battle at Mansfield.(13) The details of their bravery during this crucial battle are few, but we do know that General Lewis received the personal thanks of Governor Henry Watkins Allen of Louisiana.(14)

As with so many of the gallant soldiers of the Confederacy, the end of the Civil War saw General Lewis stripped of his wealth and position. The head wound that he suffered at the Battle of Mansfield was to afflict him for the rest of his life. Never again was he to regain the public positions of responsibility that he so ably administered in prewar Louisiana. To the end General Lewis was to maintain "his courtly manners, gentility and kindness. In his person, he represented the finest qualities characteristic of the old South."(15) He died on May 15, 1886 at the age of 86 in the city that he loved and fought for, New Orleans.

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lecting more information on this subject and would welcome any help the readers may wish to give. Information can be sent to Jan P. Reifenberg, P.O. Box 668, Knight's Landing, California 95645. □

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- 1.—Cohen's New Orleans Directory of 1855, pages III to V.
- 2.—*The New Orleans Daily Picayune*. Sunday, May 16, 1886, page 4, column 3 and 4.
- 3.—Cohen's New Orleans Directory of 1855, pages IV to V.
- 4.—John Smith Kendall, *History of New Orleans*, 1922, Volume I, page 184.
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- 6.—*Ibid.*, Volume 15, pages 826-27, General Order No. 889.
- 7.—*Ibid.*, Volume 22, pages 329-32, Report of Brigadier General Thomas Green C.S. Army.
- 8.—National Archives and Records Service, Military Service Records, Washington, D.C.
- 9.—William A. Albaugh, III, Hugh Benet, Jr., Edward N. Simmons, *Confederate Handguns*, (York, Pennsylvania, 1967) page 89.
- 10.—Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia, Inventory of Confederate Arms.
- 11.—Inventory of Arms, State of Louisiana, November 1860.
- 12.—Frederick H. Dyer, *A Compendium of the War of Rebellion*, Volume II, pages 585, 752.
- 13.—The children of Joshua Lewis and America Lawson, Tulane University Library, New Orleans, page 23 (John was General Lewis' son by his second marriage to Henrietta Baham).
- 14.—Jewell's Crescent City Illustrated, New Orleans, 1873.
- 15.—*The New Orleans Daily Picayune*, Death of General John Lawson Lewis, May 16, 1886.

(Inventory #41)

Spiller & Burr 36 Confederate #239.

Identified to "Dr. Thos. Hill," (Surgeon for CSA - see file on him)

Barrel ~~and~~ and cylinder have a light grey-brown patina. Loading lever and hammer casehardening have faded to grey. One small spot of pitting on right side of loading lever, hardly noticeable.

Bronze frame and grip straps ^{have} an attractive mellow patina.

Fitted with a beautiful pair of deluxe bush walnut grips which retain 99% of their varnish.

Bottom of grip strap engraved in a flowing style, "Dr. Thos. Hill"

Dear Mr. Albaugh

John Graham called me this morning and asked me to furnish you with certain information on Le Mat #88.

As I've done a fair amount of leather restoration, John asked me to Clean, soften and do a minor amount of restitching on #88's original holster, as it was in pretty rough shape and its extreme rarity warranted the time spent in restoration.

The leather preparations I use, tends to darken the leather and it was in the course of my preliminary cleaning that the name of General Lewis became evident on the inside flap of the holster. I asked John if he was aware of this mark and, he stated that he was not but that the holster and pistol had always been together, with no mention of any historical association outside of its obvious Confederate usage.

I know that no previous owner has made any attempt to repair or clean the holster and I believe the working to be absolutely correct.

I began researching General Lewis and turned up a fair amount of information on him, with the promise of turning up considerably more as I was actively corresponding with the State of Louisiana. Unfortunately, Iahn sold #88 along with a number of other Le Mat's to Mr. Ron Bridges before I could complete my research (much to my great consternation). However I'd be delighted to forward the sparse information I did uncover to #88's present or future owner as I believe the weapon to be an extremely historic and important piece (Gen. Lewis was a true Southern patriot who served without pay).

Now if I might impose on your great expertise, could you please let me know what your sources of information on the British made Potts & Hunt rifles are or the reason you believe these arms

to be pure Confederate in usage, I
have such a gun which was carried
by Charles I Graham of Rising Sun Mountain.

As your name the Patto & Hunt has
a number of rather unusual features
uncommon to the basic Pattern Enfield,
but very little is known about the weapons
and I'd greatly appreciate hearing from
you.

If I can be of any further assistance to
you in the General Lewis matter, I would
be greatly honored to help in any way
I can.

Yours Truly
Gary Smith.

State rights view of the subject. During the war, Mr. Gayarré advocated the arming of the slaves and the conclusion of a treaty with England and France recognizing the independence of the Southern Confederacy on the basis of a gradual emancipation of the African race. In 1866, when Louisiana was presumed to be reconstructed, Mr. Gayarré's name was put forward by his friends in the Legislature, and came within a few votes of obtaining the honor of an election to the United States Senate—Messrs. Randal Hunt and G. Williamson, his successful competitors, having been denied admittance to that body. Since the war, Mr. Gayarré, besides the last volume of his great historical work on Louisiana, has published a "*History of Philip II,*" of Spain—a work of great research and sound historical philosophy and a novel based on the early history of Louisiana, "*Fernando de Limos,*" which has elicited great praise from all the literary journals of the country. He is now preparing for publication, another historical novel, "*Aubert Dubayet,*" in which the hero goes through the American Revolution of 1776 and the French revolution of 1789. It will doubtless prove highly interesting, and give ample scope to the writer's wide field of information and fertility of conception.

HON. MILES TAYLOR.

THIS gentleman, who is one of the best civil lawyers in this State, was born in New York about sixty years ago. He is small of stature, gray haired, fair complexioned and bright eyed.

When quite young he came to this State and devoted his attention to the study of the law. He passed an excellent examination before the Supreme Court, and obtained his license to practice. As Mr. Taylor had previously studied pharmacy, old Judgeasley with naiveté said at the time of his admission to the bar, that Mr. Taylor would be unrivaled in bringing an apothecary (hypothecary) action.

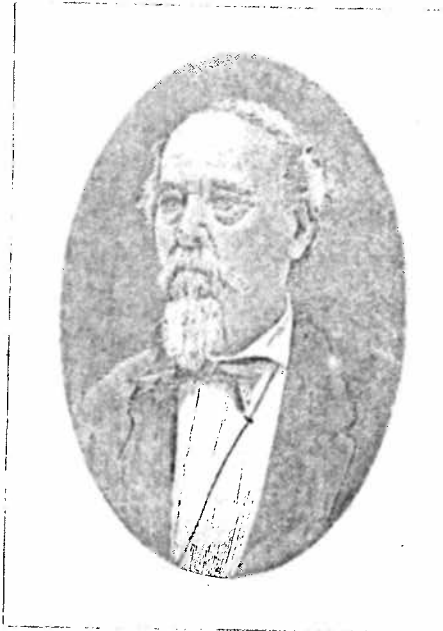
Mr. Taylor has proved to be one of our most eminent lawyers. He is certainly a gentleman of vast talents, profoundly read in law, and trained to grapple closely with every question. He is distinguished for grace and ease of manner, and for happy and polished address.

He exerts great influence on the mind and affection of those who know him.

He is a good speaker, clear and correct in diction. Endowed by nature with a quick and vigorous understanding, his arguments are vivid, and he shows in all the cases intrusted to him, honesty of purpose, earnestness and faithfulness. Even at his advanced age he is most diligent and attentive to business.

Mr. Taylor has represented Louisiana in the Congress of the United States when that body contained the most brilliant array of ability ever seen in any deliberate assembly. He there distinguished himself as a polished debater, achieved a high position, and stood on the same plane as the most prominent statesman who adorned the halls of the National Legislature.

THE ST. MARY'S MARKET fronts on Tchoupitoulas street and runs to New Levee. It was completed in 1836 in the rusticated Doric order at a cost of about \$48,000.



MAYOR JOHN L. LEWIS.

OF all the members of the old population of New Orleans, there is no one who is better known, and more universally esteemed by all classes, than the subject of this sketch. John Lawson Lewis is the son of Judge Lewis, who was appointed to the Supreme Bench of the then Territory of Orleans by Thomas Jefferson, immediately after the purchase of Louisiana from France. Mr. Lewis was then only three years old, and was brought up at the school of Mr. D'Hébécourt, on the old Bayou Road, where he had for his schoolmates many of the creoles who afterward took a leading part in the politics of the State, and afterward completed his studies at the Academy of the Rev. James F. Hull, on Canal street. In 1819, young Lewis left school and read law under his father, entering shortly after the office of Martin Gordon, Sr., then Chief Clerk of the First District Court, to which position he succeeded upon the resignation of Mr. Gordon, in 1826. In 1842, John L. Lewis was unanimously elected Commanding General of the First Division of the Louisiana Militia, an office for which he was peculiarly fitted by his previous military training and his great personal influence, and to which he was invariable re-elected without the shadow of an opposition. In 1845, he ran as an independent candidate for the Shrievalty of the Parish of Orleans, and though opposed by several of our most popular citizens, was returned at the head of the poll. So ably did he administer the office, that on three successive occasions he was re-elected by handsome majorities, sometimes in the face of a formidable party opposition, and when, some years later, an effort was made to defeat the hitherto invincible A. D. Crossman, Gen. Lewis accepted the nomination of the Democratic Party for the Mayoralty, and although the ticket upon which he ran was beaten, so great was his personal popularity that he was returned over his competitor

JEWELL'S CRESCENT CITY ILLUSTRATED.

by a small majority. When the war broke out Gen. Lewis, although not liable to military service, promptly offered his sword to the Confederate Government, and served throughout the war with great gallantry and distinction in the Trans-Mississippi Department. As a public officer, Gen. Lewis has always maintained the reputation of an able, courteous and incorruptible public servant. A high-toned, affable gentleman, ever generous and open-handed whenever his means allowed him to indulge the warm impulses of his nature, few men of his generation can claim a larger circle of attached friends, or after occupying so many responsible positions, are able to exhibit more unexceptionable record than John L. Lewis.

The following letter, written by Gov. H. W. Allen to Gen. Lewis, soon after the battle of Mansfield, shows the high estimation in which Gen. Lewis's services were held by that distinguished official:—

SHREVEPORT, LA., April 27, 1864.

GEN. LEWIS:

MY DEAR SIR.—I have just heard from you through Mr. Wagner. I am rejoiced to hear that you are doing well. I sent my Surgeon-General down to take care of you. He reported that you were doing well.

Receive my thanks, my dear sir, and the thanks of Louisiana for your gallant conduct on the battle-field of one of the best fought battles of this war. If you visit Shreveport do not fail to call on me. I shall be glad to receive you at the Executive Mansion and extend all the courtesy due a brave patriot and gallant soldier.

Very truly your obedient servant,

(Signed.) HENRY W. ALLEN, Gov. Louisiana.
To Gen. John L. Lewis, Mansfield, La.

ROBERT MOTT ESQ.

Is a native of Baltimore, Md., of fair complexion, classical features, of commanding appearance and about fifty-seven years of age. He is open and above everything like dissimulation, warmly affectionate and steadfast in friendship.

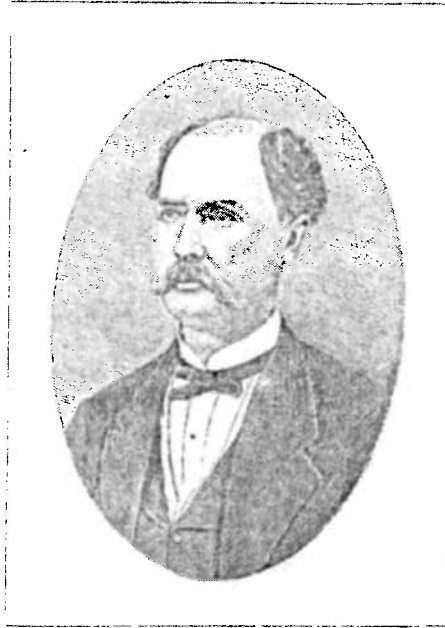
As a lawyer, the clearness of his statement presents at once a picture to the mind. In his arguments he appeals forcibly to strict reason, and his tone, though deferential and courtly, is manly. He indulges very sparingly in declamation.

He is one of the best civil, commercial and chancery lawyers in this State, with an uncommon capacity for effective and untiring industry. His legal studies have been comprehensive. He writes with great facility and cleverness, exhibiting philosophical research and maturity of judgment.

Several years ago, he served as a member in the State Legislature of Louisiana with much ability. After our late war, he went to Europe and visited the principal cities of the Old World.

Mr. Mott is now in the full vigor of all his faculties, active in his movements and in turning off business with as much ease as when he entered public life thirty years ago. He is kindly in his disposition, so as to devote some of his time and resources to making others happy—domestic and affectionate in his habits, and religious without intolerance.

He is a cautious and safe counselor, a diligent man of business, punctual to his appointments, regular in the distribution of his time, never suffering pleasure or distraction of any kind to interfere with his duties.



JOSEPH H. OGLESBY

IS DESCENDED from Scottish ancestry. His father, the Rev. Joseph Oglesby, D.D., was born in West Moreland, Virginia, the native county of Washington and Lee. His mother, Elizabeth Hite, was born in the Valley of the Shenandoah. His grandfather removed to Kentucky, and the father and mother of Mr. Oglesby subsequently removed from Kentucky to Madison, in Indiana, at which place the subject of this sketch was born September 14, 1822. In 1839, Mr. Oglesby came to New Orleans, and was employed as a clerk in the house of Hyde & Comstock, Poydras street. In the year 1842, Mr. Comstock retired, and at the early age of twenty, Mr. Oglesby became a partner in the Western produce commission house of Hyde & Oglesby. The house did a large and profitable business, and upon the withdrawal of Mr. Hyde, was continued under the style of Oglesby & McCaulay, which was a leading house in the Western trade, at the declaration of civil hostilities in 1861.

Upon the termination of the war, Mr. Oglesby resumed business under his own name, in the same street in which he has been engaged in the same trade for a period of about thirty years. Perhaps few cities have undergone the same mutations of commerce within the same period. An inspection of the Directory of 1856, shows that of about 300 firms engaged in the commission business at that date, only eleven exist at present under the same style, while very few of the members who composed these firms are in business at all. To have pursued the same business, in the same community, amid such vicissitudes of commerce, and for so long a period, displays a sound texture of character and systematic business habits. After a period of mercantile probation so long and so successful, it was natural that Mr. Oglesby should have been promoted to the charge of the associated interests of his fellow merchants. The highest and most disinterested evidence of commercial ap-

On this date, March 19, I sold
William Albright III a Remat revolver #88
(originally belonging to Maj. Gen. John L. Lewis
of Louisiana) for ^{plus a Remat value at} . He having
given me a down payment of 300⁰⁰
which does not apply to the 1700⁰⁰

The balance of the 1700⁰⁰ will be
paid for at a monthly rate of
200⁰⁰ starting May 1, 1975

William Hoxie

With this piece came an original Holster
with the General's name inscribed on the
flap. I bought the piece from one Ron Bridge
who kept the holster. He bought it from John
Graham of Oakland, Calif. His friend, one Gary
Q. in N.

BATTLE OF MANSFIELD, LA.

APR. 8, 1864

PG. 585

VOL. II

APR. 8, 1864 SABINE CROSS ROADS
& PLEASANT HILL

KIA OR MORTALLY WOUNDED	WOUNDED	CAPTURED & MISSING	AGG- REGATE
258	1487	1772	3517

MANSFIELD NEAR PLEASANT HILL

UNION LOSSES PG. 752 VOL. II

DYER, FREDERICK H.

A COMPENDIUM OF THE WAR
OF REBELLION VOL. II

ILL. 2ND CA

1288.62

125.00

1163.62

1288.62

CALIFORNIA BRAKE & CLUTCH PARTS, INC.

2605 MARKET STREET

OAKLAND, CALIF. 94607

PHONE: 452-4010

March 27, 1973

*Mr. Val Forgett, Jr.
Service Armament Company
689 Bergen Boulevard
Ridgefield NJ 07657*

Dear Mr. Forgett:

I certainly enjoyed a very pleasant conversation with you Sunday at the Baltimore Arms Show (1973).

I was very impressed with your French and British Research leading to "no factories" for the manufacture of LeMat Revolvers.

In that I am conducting research on the LeMat Story; I would be very interested to exchange some ideas and experience in the future, because I have yet to make the trip to France.

I purchased a First Model LeMat number 88 from Jack Malloy in 1969, and it was accompanied by a holster that Jack said came with the LeMat. He mentioned that you were its former owner.

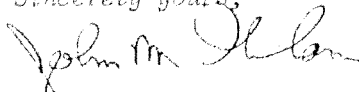
I am now attempting to secure some type of documentation that this was so, and you indicated that when you had handled an estate in Augusta, Georgia that a safe had to be opened and the number 88 was first discovered in said holster on being opened and that the smell of the two was rather thick; indicating possibly that the two (holster and revolver) had been stored together for many years before your discovery in this safe.

As complete a description as possible by you of possibly, a name in the estate, the type of entry made into the safe, its approximate size and appearance, its color, and the approximate date these events took place would certainly be appreciated by me. If I can complete this bit of research successfully, I intend to give the full story to someone such as the Gun Report naming yourself and Jack and all of the events that took place, including your discovery.

The holster has in two different places, after cleaning, an inscription of J. E. Lewis. In checking the U. S. War of Rebellion Series of books, I find this to be a Brigadier General John L. Lewis of Louisiana, a noted General for the South during the Civil War. New Orleans seemed to be the base of his operations with the State Militia.

I know that I am probably asking for something that is difficult to remember or research, but your memory for this piece seemed to be extremely sharp after such a long time. Anything that you might answer would certainly be largely appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John M. Graham".

John M. Graham

JMG:jed

Munitions - Importers - Exporters - Brokers
Service Armament Co.



689 BERGEN BLVD.
RIDGEFIELD, N. J., U.S.A.
CABLE ADDRESS: SERARMAMENT, RIDGEFIELD, N. J. 07657
945-2500

April 2, 1973

Mr. John M. Graham
California Brake & Clutch Parts, Inc.
2605 Market Street
Oakland, Cal. 94607

Dear John:

Good to hear from you again and the only thing I can really remember about that gun is it was purchased through a friend of mine who helped me get first crack at it after the safe was opened.

When we had the gun, we took it out of the holster and jokingly I smelt the gun and so help me the gun smelt like the holster, it had been in the holster so long. It is the only LeMat holster in my years of collecting that I have ever run across. I was very pleased to get it.

I split up my Confederate collection many years ago and a few of the pieces went to Jack Malloy. I am not sure where the rest of them went. I wish I could be of more help, but it's just too many guns, too long ago.

If in the future I run across any more information on LeMat will be happy to let you know.

One last point of information. I'm not sure if you know it or not, but when the Steamer Trent was stopped by the Yankee Navy and Mason and Slydell were removed, they removed Mason and Slydell but left Col. LeMat on not knowing who he was. Just a sidelight into history.

Cordially,

Val J. Forgett

November 16, 1973

Dear John:

In reference to our telephone conversation of this afternoon, I am glad to hear the good news on Serial Number 88 LeMat.

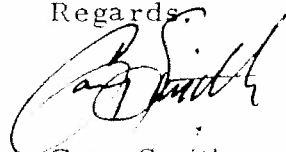
During the preliminary cleaning of the holster, it became apparent that a name had been first written in long hand, then printed on the inside flap of the holster. After the leather had a chance to dry, the name John L. Lewis was readily discernable. The writing appears to be old and original and, considering the condition, I received it in, completely authentic.

A cursory check of the Official Records indicates that Major General John L. Lewis was Commander of the Louisiana Militia before it was mustered in regular Confederate Service. You might want to write to the Louisiana State Archives for more information.

You've mentioned in the past that #88 LeMat was found in this holster. I can help to firm up this association with the individual you purchased the weapon from. It would have a most desirable addition to your collection and, considering its historical association with General Lewis, its worth should be in excess of \$4,000.

So, congratulations on your find. I'll be looking forward to seeing you at the Sacramento Gun Show. Please keep me in mind if you hear about a good Fayetteville rifle.

Regards,



Gary Smith



12/27/93

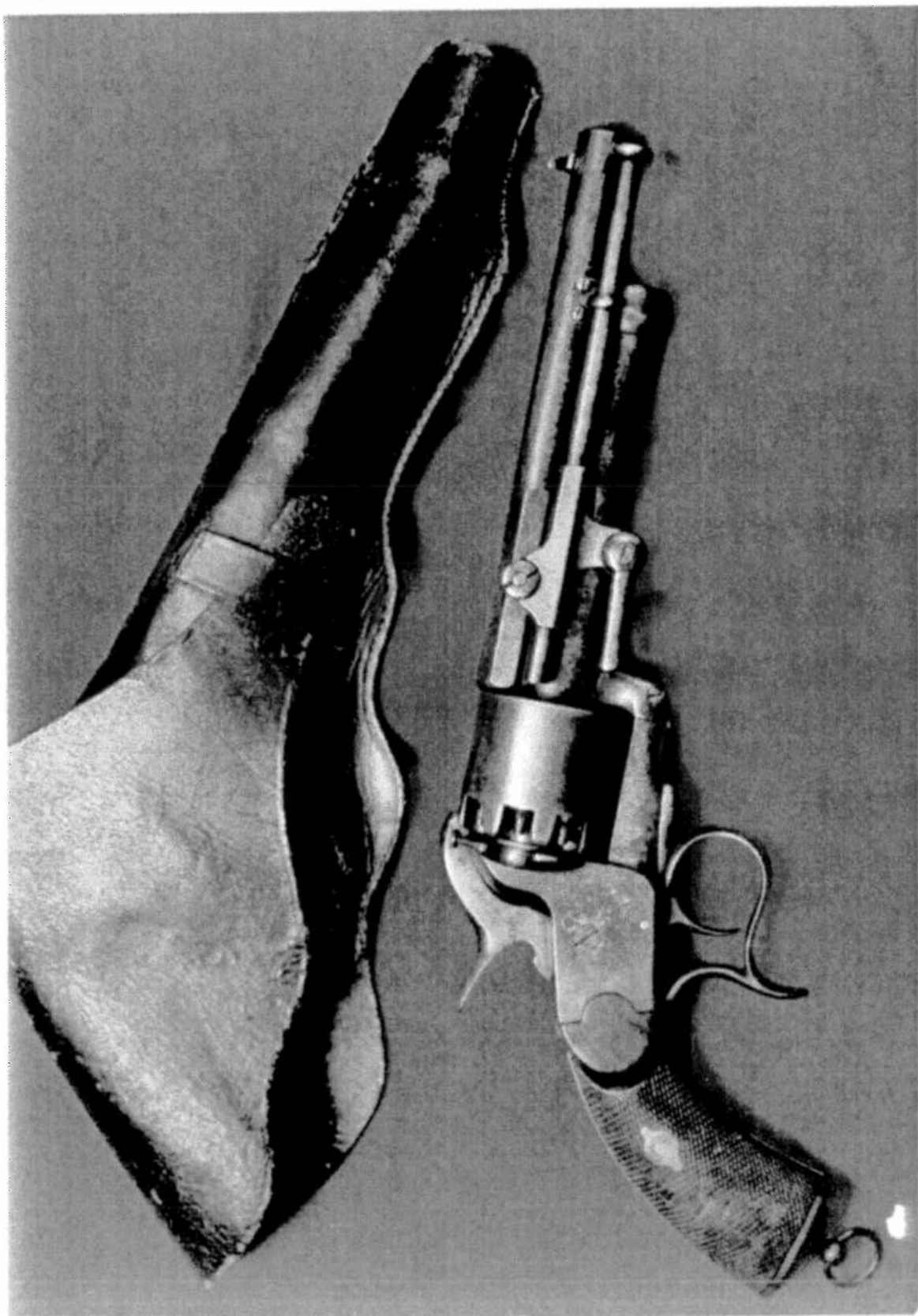
Dear Don,

Here are those 8x10 pictures of Le Mat #88 that I told you about. As you can see it is a very nice specimen. If I can provide any more information for you just give me a call.

I'll be looking forward to seeing the photos of the Robinson Sharps.

I hope that you and your family had a pleasant Christmas.

Best regards,
Jan





May 16, 1973

Alberta R. Ducote, GRS
Division of Genealogy
Archives & Records Service
P. O. Box 44422
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Re: General John L. Lewis

Dear Ms. Ducote:

Thank you very much for the letter I received today. The information you supplied to me is of great interest. If possible, I would appreciate information concerning the actions General Lewis took part in and the names of the units he commanded. I would also like to know the date and place of this man's death.

I will, of course, be happy to pay for the photocopies and research. I fully realize that research by your limited staff is extremely difficult, so if I can obtain the above information, I will be able to pursue any further research on my own. Copies of any information I turn up will be furnished to you if you so desire.

I am sorry if Mr. Waldroup took offense at my last letter. That was not my intent. However, imagine my chagrin at turning up so many references to General Lewis after being assured by Mr. Waldroup that no records or information on the veteran could be located. The information I sent you was turned up after my initial request for research. In any case, my apologies to Mr. Waldroup for my impatience.

Very truly yours,



Gary R. Smith
39077 Presidio Way
Fremont, California 94538

GRS:jw



STATE OF LOUISIANA
SECRETARY OF STATE
ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

389-5256
1515 CHOCTAW DRIVE
P.O. Box 44422
BATON ROUGE, LA
70804

WADE O. MARTIN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE

A. OTIS HEBERT, JR.
DIRECTOR

Mr. Gary R. Smith
39077 Presidio Way
Fremont, California 94538

11 May 1973

Mr. Smith,

Ref: MAJ. GEN. JOHN L. LEWIS

We have located official CSA documents written by and to the above named veteran. These records were located in the Louisiana Rebel Archives section of the Archives & Records Service. These records were filed under the command (1st Division Louisiana State Guards). In your first letter requesting research, you failed to mention any other information than the veteran's name and Mr. Waldroup could only go through indexes of individual veterans. Gen. Lewis is not listed in any capacity other than with the unit.

The records we have located show the veteran as the commanding officer of the 1st Division (CSA) and contain letters of appointment as commanders and action the unit took part in as reported by General Lewis.

The Rebel Archives is open to the public and research must be done by a professional researcher or genealogist or by any individual who wished to spend the extensive amount of time required to research these records. The Archives & Records Service does not have the staff to conduct extensive research such as this would require.

For your information, the probable reason for Warner's Generals in Grey not listing General Lewis is his commission was a state commission and not by the Confederate States government. This is due to his possession as commander of the 1st Division of the Louisiana State Guards (Militia).



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5/3/78

Mr. George M. Waldroup
Division of Genealogy
Archives and Records Service

Dear Mr. Waldroup:


Regarding your letter of April 12, 1973 in which you stated that no record of Major General John L. Lewis could be found, I should like to refer you to the Official Records Union and Confederate Armies.

The above veteran is mentioned in Series I, Vol. 6, pages 741, 850, 837; Vol. 15, pages 557, 734, 756, 759, 798, 799, 826; Vol. 26, pages 331, 332; Vol. 53, pages 746, 610, 671, 745, 763; Series 11, Vol. 11, pages 912 and 1422; Vol. 4, pages 708 and 709.

I have also included photocopies of letter written by John Lewis to various individuals, furnished to me by the National Archives.

Certainly you must have some record of this very prominent New Orleans citizen! His leadership in the organization of the State Militia and later serving as a volunteer A.D.C. cannot be unrecorded. My interest is only seeing that Gen. Lewis finds his rightful place in the military history of Louisiana. Can't you dig a little deeper than the obviously incomplete "Generals in Grey" by Ezra J. Warner?

Very truly yours,



Gary R. Smith
39077 Presidio Way
Fremont, California 94538

CALIFORNIA BRAKE & CLUTCH PARTS, INC.
2605 MARKET STREET
OAKLAND, CALIF. 94607
PHONE: 452-4010

Dec. 18, 1974

Dear Bill,

I am enclosing a set of pictures for you of Kell's Buckle (Front and Rear) that I think are pretty fair. I wonder if I could ask you to put a little pen and ink on my set like you were very kind to do for me with the Alabama Coffee Cup shots. You do it with an art that can never be duplicated by anyone.

I want to wish you and yours a very happy and prosperous new year including a very merry christmas.

Regarding #88 Lot #1, if I were you, I wouldn't touch it unless Mr. Hozis includes the holster that was with it and I am sure he has it. Could be that he would like to sell you the holster after you have the gun and the price might be raised a little on that account. Bill would do this, if he could. The gun is on the contract and is unpaid for by Bridges and Hozis here is an accessory because he knows of the contract and the guns that he was with Bridges when

The guns were delivered and accepted by
Bridges.

Again, Bill, the very best for you and
hope you are starting to enjoy retirement

Very Truly Yours,

Mark

July 4, 1975

Mrs. Alberta R. Ducote GRS

~~Ante~~ ^{Archives, Records Service}
^{PO Box 44422}
^{Baton Rouge, La}

I recently acquired a Le Mat revolver serial #88, supposedly made ^{circa} approximately 1860 in New Orleans. It has its original holster, & inked inside the flap is "Gen^l J. L. Lewis".

Records from the Nat'l Archive reveal that General Lewis was in command of the 1st Div. of La. Militia prior to their entrance into Conf. service. During the War he evidently served as an unpaid aide, attached to various Conf. commands.

Would any of your records reveal what those commands might have been, & their generals? ~~Conf. generals he served under?~~ Also do

your records contain any sort of a biography on Gen'l Lewis? I would like to know something of his background, and how a man named "Lewis" could become an adjutant general for the State of La? I believe he fought in the Mexican War and possibly settled in La afterwards?

The name is so blatantly Virginian that it is hard to relate it to Louisiana - although there was Richard Taylor.

I am aware that my questions will cause you considerable time & trouble, & I expect to

pay for same.

Under separate cover I am mailing you
a copy of one of my books "More Conf. Faces".
Due to publishing & printing it is a poor affair
and I am not at all proud of it, but
never the less, it does not portray a
number of La. soldiers. Thus, it may be of
interest for your files.

I Thank you in advance for your kind
consideration.

Sincerely

Bob Abney

1944
 [Stamp: READING, PA. 1944]
 [Stamp: READING, PA. 1944]
 [Stamp: READING, PA. 1944]

Dear Sir,
 I address you in
 the last information I must advise person from
 whom I can obtain information as to the best
 and safest way of leaving the city, and
 getting on the Jackson Rail Road in the
 neighborhood of Camp Moore, which I have
 learned my family, that lately left the city,
 have are, and from whom I have obtained the
 nearly three years, and am anxious to begin
 I will be accompanied by my son, who has
 his arm in the battle of Marston, a negro friend
 and three horses, I should like to be ported
 in to the best road from this place, where to
 the camp, both on the side & the other, to
 be accompanied from the enemy. We
 are giving all matter and necessary information
 on the subject, you will consider
 a great favor on your
 part. I do not
 intend
 I. S. I do not mean not to consider any, I will
 assume that I have the pleasure of being
 introduced to you about two years ago at
 Rhode Island, by an mutual friend
 Gen. Westcott, who I was organizing the
 militia on the day which before they
 were disbanded by Gov. Moore
 Sir.

ENCLOSURE ZIP CODE) WITHIN THE DOTS BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> WHEN WE ARE UNABLE TO FIND A RECORD FOR A VETERAN, THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT HE DID NOT SERVE. YOU MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HIM FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE STATE CONCERNED.	
<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE COMPLETE BLOCKS 1 (GIVE FULL NAME), 4, AND 5 AND RESUBMIT.	
<input type="checkbox"/> SEE ATTACHED FORMS/LEAFLETS.	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE REVERSE.
<input type="checkbox"/> SEE ATTACHED BILL.	
<input type="checkbox"/> A REFUND OF \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> WILL BE SENT BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.
<input type="checkbox"/> IS ENCLOSED.	
CASHIER	SEARCHER <i>H.W.</i> FILE DESIGNATION <i>J. Lawson Lewis</i> <i>, 1st Division 1st. State Troop</i> <i>MISS.</i> <i>C.S.P.</i>
REFUND AUTHORIZATION	
DATE <i>4-17-73</i>	

GSA FORM 6751 (REV. 8-71)

Opolovisas La. 16th Oct 1864

To S. Cooper Adj. Gen. U. S. A.
General,

Using the privilege
of an old acquaintance, I address
you on this occasion, to solicit your
assistance in a matter I will explain.

Since the transfer of the troops I
commanded as Adj. Gen. of the State
of La, to the service of the Confederacy,
I have been serving in the field as a
Volunteer S. C. without pay, until
the means I had with me were en-
tirely exhausted, all my other resources
were lost with the fall of N. Orleans.

Some months since I was informed
that by obtaining the recommendation
of one of our Generals, I might be appointed
Inspector to some army corps.

Early last July I wrote to Gen. R. D.
Taylor requesting him to recommend me,
I have not since seen or heard from

him, and am not informed if he did so,
and now address you to know if there
is any chance of my being placed
in some position where I might be
useful, and at the same time get
pay enough to live on.

If deemed necessary, I respectfully
refer to Messrs Conrad, Kinner, Dupré,
and others from La. as to character of
standing, the zeal I have displayed
in our Cause, and also as to the manner
in which I have always encouraged &
kept alive the Military Spirit of La.

Having resided some time in
N. Orleans, you must retain some
recollection of the interest I always
took in the organization of our Vol.
Soldiers, and I yet retain a grateful
remembrance of the valuable infor-
mation and useful advice you
were kind enough to impart to
me on military matters while
with us. Trusting, my Dear

General, that you may have it in
your power to assist me to a position
where I can be of some use to
our beloved South,

I remain respectfully
Your most obt. Servt.

J. Harrison Lewis
Lt. Maj. Genl. of the State of Ga.

Opelousas, La.
Oct. 11/28.

J. Lawson Lewis
Ex. Wry. Genl. State of La.

States, that since the
transfer of his command
to C. T. service, he has
been serving in the
field, as Vol. C. D. E.
without pay, his means
being exhausted, request
appointment of Inspector to
some Army Corp. or as-
signment to any position
where he can be useful
& supported. Refers to
Hon. C. W. Conrad & others
for character, genl. ac. &c.
J. L. Lewis

LIBRARY

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE . LOUISIANA . 70803

September 25, 1975

Mr. William A. Albaugh III
"Holly Springs"
Center Cross, Va. 22437

Dear Mr. Albaugh:

I am replying to your letter of September 16.

Requests for xerox or photocopying should be addressed to:
Mr. Don Morrison, Photoduplications Department, L.S.U. Library, Baton
Rouge, Louisiana, 70803. 9/27/75 - m-
12/6/75 - answer

A very good likeness of John Lawson Lewis appears in Cohen's
New Orleans Directory for 1855. He is in uniform. This could be copied.
Biographical information appears in the following and could be
xeroxed on standard size paper:

Jewell's Crescent City Illustrated. New Orleans, 1873. pp. 17-18. ✓
"Sketch of John Lawson Lewis." Cohen's Directory, 1855. pp. iii-v. ✓
Biographical sketch. Kendall, J.S. History of New Orleans, v.1, pp. 182-198,
217, 218, 236.

Please give the citations as I have given them when you fill out the
accompanying order form.

I regret to say that I am unable to provide much on his Civil War
military career. You should find some information in books dealing with
activities of the Trans-Mississippi Department where he served. Perhaps
your local reference librarian could help you. Also, you should check the
index to the War of the Rebellion Records.

I hope this will be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Evangelina Lynch
Evangelina Lynch, Associate Librarian
Head, Louisiana and Rare Book Rooms
rec'd 11/10/76



STATE OF LOUISIANA
MILITARY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
JACKSON BARRACKS
NEW ORLEANS 70146

EDWIN EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

O. J. DAIGLE, JR.
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

DPA-L
LEWIS, John L.

10 December 1976

Mr. William A. Albaugh III
"Holly Springs"
Center Cross, Virginia 22437

Dear Mr. Albaugh:

The following reference was located for the name of JOHN L. LEWIS:

Major Gen. Commanding 1st. Div. Legion 1st Brig.
2nd Brig. 9th Brig. Elected 4/4 1842. 1843. 1844.
1845. 1846. (Reelected) 1847. 1848. 1849. 1850.
1851. 1852. 1853. 1854. 1855. 1856. 1857. Major
Gen. Comm. L.S.M. 1858. 1859. 1860.

It is suggested that you request biographical data about JOHN L. LEWIS from Edwin L. Jewell's Crescent City; The old New Orleans City Directory (I do not recall the year) has an account; Volume I of Kendall's History of New Orleans from the New Orleans Public Library. I think this volume includes a picture.

Send your request to the:

New Orleans Public Library
ATTENTION: Louisiana Division
219 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112.

I am sorry these are the only clues located thusfar.

Sincerely yours,

Mary B. Oalman
Mrs. Mary B. Oalman
Military Historian

BEINFELD

PUBLISHING, INC.

12767 Saticoy Street • North Hollywood, CA 91605 • (213) 982-3700

ASSIGNMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE

In consideration of BEINFELD PUBLISHING, INC., (hereinafter "Publisher") agreeing to pay to:

JAN PAUL REIFENBERG

(hereinafter "Contributor") certain sums with respect to Contributor's contribution to Publisher of:

The Le Mat Revolver of Major General John Lawson Lewis C.S.A.

(hereinafter the "contribution"). Contributor hereby agrees as follows:

- 1.—Contributor hereby sells, transfers and assigns to Publisher all of Contributor's literary rights and all other right, title and interest of Contributor in the contribution including, but not limited to, the right of Publisher to copyright the contribution in the name of Publisher and to renew such copyright. Contributor hereby appoints Publisher as Contributor's attorney in fact and agent to apply for and renew any such copyright.
- 2.—Publisher may revise the contribution in its sole discretion to meet its publication requirements. Publisher may publish, republish or otherwise use the contribution in any publication of Publisher's without being obligated to pay any further sum to Contributor. Publisher may, at any time for whatever use deemed proper by the Publisher use the contribution, the name of the contribution, the Contributor's name and/or photos contained as part of the contribution in any advertising or promotion program of Publisher's, and Contributor hereby grants Publisher unlimited rights to so use any or all of the material stated.
- 3.—Contributor represents and warrants that the contribution is original; that he is the author or creator of the contribution; that the contribution does not and the publication thereof will not infringe upon any rights of others; and that the contribution contains no material or references which are libelous, slanderous or an invasion of privacy. Contributor agrees to indemnify Publisher and hold it free and harmless from any loss or damages (including any costs in connection with defense of any criminal or civil action) arising out of Publisher's publication of the contribution or the breach or the claim by any party of the existence of any breach of Contributor's aforesaid representations and warranties.
- 4.—Payment is upon publication at a rate of \$.05 per printed word and \$5.00 per published photo.

DATE:

SIGNED:

Social Security Number

ARMS Gazette®

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE ARMS ENTHUSIAST

12767 Saticoy Street, North Hollywood, California 91605 / (213) 982-3700

WALLACE BEINFELD
Publisher & Editor

November 19, 1979

Jan Paul Reifenberg
P.O. Box 668
Knight's Landing, CA
95645

Dear Jan Paul:

RE: The Le Mat Revolver of Major General John Lawson Lewis C.S.A

We are pleased to advise you that your manuscript has been accepted for publication in a future issue of ARMS GAZETTE.

Enclosed are two copies of an assignment and general release form. If you agree to the terms, please sign and return one copy.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

ARMS GAZETTE

Encls: A/S





William A. Albaugh III

431 Lincoln Avenue

Falls Church, Virginia 22046

Center House,

Va. 22137

God of the South! protect this land
From false and open foes!
Guided by Thine all-ruling hand,
In vain will hate oppose.
So mote the ship of State move on
Upon the unfathomed sea,
Gallantly o'er its surges borne,
The bulwark of the free!

Dec. 30, 1971

Mr. Jan Reiferer,
Down, Calif.

Dear Jan:

Sorry you are going out of the sword bin,
but can understand why. Yes I am interested in
a Remondville post officer's sword (guard formed
by the letters "ESA") but only if in excellent
condition & with original scabbard. I don't
recall the condition of yours.

Also interested in your uniform if you
decide to let it go.

Altho I can give you no info. on your
Dance would advise extreme caution as too
many of the small ones have turned out to
be reconstructed colts. I am sure this advice
is unnecessary but couldn't help giving it.

I have a "fine" 1st Model T.Mat revolver
original throughout with original Holston Mat

Jan 16, 1977

Mr Jan Reifenberg
Davis Calif.

Dear Jan:

Have not answered your last because I was in the Hospital for several days having various tests conducted. Am slated to return Jan 24 for 8 days, surgery & then 2 weeks bed confined at home.

Nothing serious, but as you can guess, I am not looking forward to it.

Don't blame you in the least for wanting to hold on to your Kenansville sword, they are very eye-catching. Now that the "House of Swords" in Chicago is cranking out copies of these so accurate that it takes an expert to tell from the original, my guess is, that the genuine ones might become even more valuable. The same source is also making Va Juggers, Newbuck Plow & several others. I wish the place would burn down!

The Patent Models for both 1856 & 1859 LeMats have at long last turned up. Also, I have just received the complete series of letters written by Girard (LeMat's partner) from May 1865 through May 1866. They run a couple of hundred pages and despite being post war are never the less very enlightening. These events have somewhat heightened my interests in LeMat, but right now

over

doubt I will try to do anything about it. Maybe after I get out of the hospital, I'll change my mind.

The winter thus far has been the worst Va. has had for 90 years & might turn out to be the worst in history for the state. Rain-snow-sleet etc. excessively cold dreary weather.

Located as we are in a 300 year old house some ~~there~~ several hundred yards from a highway we feel quite isolated and while I don't object to this, I spend far too much time feeding the many fireplaces. Even so, it is never really warm, despite our 2 ft thick walls. I will be most glad when spring finally arrives. No place in the world can be more satisfying ~~than~~ than spring in Virginia.

Let's keep in touch and

all best wishes

Bob Albright

"Holly Springs"

Centerville

Va 22437

M. A.

April 3, 1977

Mr. Jan P. Reifenberg
Davis, Calif.

Dear Jan:

Have your letter of March 29th & thank you. I just plain feel tired all the time which is my only excuse for not having written you sooner.

I will ship LeMat #88 and the papers relating to it in the next few days. I think you are getting a "fine" "fine" LeMat with no faults and a whole lot of history. Should you ever decide to sell, would appreciate your giving me 1st go at it. Please do let me know just as soon as you receive it.

I understand your reluctance for credit. Although my own forgers came over in 1732, I am still as German as sauerkraut and accept credit only when I have money in the bank to cover it.

Took forward to receiving the sword, & the uniform & of course the check. Please send the sabre & uniform in different packages - also would like any back ground info on the uniform.

Good to do business with you

Cordially
"M. A."

"Holly Springs"
Cont. Co., Va. 22437



William A. Albaugh III

Phone 804-443-3710

440 Faulconer Circle
P.O. Box 1401
Tappahannock, Virginia 22560

Oct. 31, 1979

Dear Jan:

Very glad to hear from you, & what a pleasant surprise I got this AM upon going to the Post office!

I think your article is excellent, and see no way it can be improved. You have done a very good job. Congratulations! In the unlikely event that the Arms Gazette does not take it try Gun Report.

Jan, I have had so many kepees. I buy & sell them and at present the only one I have goes with the colonel's uniform of Elisha McAlexander, 2nd Ala. The pouch coat, sash, kepee, & boots all came together.

Just last week I traded a red crown field officer's kepee, gold braid plus rosin with oak leaves. Inside the crown is some French printing (address of maker). It could be French, but when I bought it, I thought it La. - wishful thinking perhaps?

Glad to hear you still have the Kenansville Fort officer's sword. I would like to get it from



you.
It just so happens that I have a "very good plus"
Palmetto pistol. In excellent shape aside from 5 notches
carved in the stock - Yankee killed?

Do you think we could work out some sort of deal?
If so, let me know before I decide to trade it off
for something else.

I presently have Gen'l. J. B. Kershaw's sword - double
edged, etched with his name, "CS" and "Kraft Gold
Kraft, Columbia, S.C." Gold is leaves much to be
desired, but is beautiful in my eyes.

Always glad to hear from you, and keep up
the good work. I see you have changed addresses?

Regards

Bill

P.S.

In your article "Gary Smith" is mentioned but
no address, type of business etc.?

W

March 11, 1

Dear Mr. Reifenberg;

Having just obtained and read the February 1980 of Arms Gazette I was much interested in your article of Confederate LeMats. Had dropped my subscription, so pick the missing copies when available.

Thought you might like this information on my file for your records. Serial # 7, condition excellent with some original finish, now a plum brown. All original with the exception of the large screw head on the right pivots the rammer. There is no "Baguet" name on inside. I have had correspondence with Albaugh, Ed Simmons, Bru among others, on the piece. Its most interesting feature is a small silver escutcheon on the right grip. This little escutcheon is approx 1/8 by 3/4" and is inscribed "ATLANTA". Click up in Boston advises me that 3 LeMats were on board the Confederate ironclad Atlanta - from official records - and the closest as I have ever come to provenance.

I shall be happy to hear from you if you have or want further information. Picked it up in a "job lot" in Maryland - those days are gone forever...

Sincerely,

J.C.Altemus
30 Sherman Avenue
Glen Ridge, N.J. 07028

J. C. Altemus

D. L. LOUGHERY JR.
3816 RIDGELEY DR.
LOS ANGELES, CAL.
90008

9/11/'80

Mr. Jan P. Reifenberg
PO Box 668
Knight's Landing, CA 95645

Dear Mr. Reifenberg,

Recently I was re-reading your interesting article on an old Le Mat ("The Le Mat Revolver of General John Lawson Lewis, CSA", ARMS GAZETTE - Feb. 1980, p. 19 ff). I had just received a French book on early revolvers and I was comparing its picture of a Le Mat to the photos of General Lewis's weapon. In the course of all this I came across your speculations regarding the possible American manufacture of early Le Mats. Your mention of the "Baguet" stamping found inside early grips rang a bell because the term "baguette" is frequently used in the French book. Doubtless you know that "baguette" means "rod" in French but you may not know that it is also the word for "rammer" or "loading rod", or -- for later models, "ejector".

It's a long way from Baguet to "baguette" but gunmakers frequently use contractions and other types of short-hand in their stampings. It seems possible that the stamped grips were identified for use upon the Le Mat with an integral, pivoted rammer. Was there an early or experimental model without a rammer and with a slightly different butt shape? If so, some stamping to distinguish one grip from the other may have been necessary. Most early Colt Pattersons and Deane - Adams - Deane revolvers were produced without integral rammers, so this is hardly a far-fetched conjecture. A number of French revolvers like the Michallon and Mariette had no rammers and indeed, the highly vaunted Lefauchaux had such a flimsy one as to bring into question the seriousness of its designer. Such an experimental arm could well have been abandoned early and this would explain the disappearance of the stamping upon later grips, when it was no longer necessary to deal with two different butt configurations. (We know, of course, that there were several different butt shapes later but they would have required a different type of classification since there were no later "rammerless" Le Mats.)

At any rate, there's the idea, for what it's worth. The book in which the term in question is used, incidentally, is: Pistolets et Revolvers d'autrefois (1829-1870), by Raymond Caranta and Jean Jordanoglou (photographer); Diffusion Générale de Librairie, Paris, 1974. It says the Le Mat was invented in America but produced in France, Great Britain, and Belgium.

Best Regards,


Don Loughery

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE . LOUISIANA . 70803

LIBRARY

January 14, 1976

Mr. William A. Albaugh III
"Holly Springs"
Center Cross, Virginia 22437

Dear Mr. Albaugh:

In reply to your letter of January 10, I regret to tell you that you have not received your materials from the Photoduplications Department because a tremendous backlog of orders piled up when foreign matter got into the water supply of that building and was leaving deposits of trashy matter on microfilm and photographs that stayed stuck in spite of all efforts to remove them. New filters (or something) have helped and you should receive your material soon. Apparently the water pipes were laid so many years ago under that building that it was something of a problem to know just where the rusting and flaking or whatever was going on.

With every good wish for 1976,

Sincerely,

Evangeline Lynch
Evangeline Lynch
Louisiana and Rare Book Rooms



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY
219 LOYOLA AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70140

ERNEST N. MORIAL
MAYOR

M. EUGENE WRIGHT, JR.
CITY LIBRARIAN

LOUISIANA DIVISION

DATE: 7/20/79

Jan P. Reipert
Post Office Box 6243
East Wenatchee, Washington
98801
RE: Your letter of: July 11, 1979

In response to your recent inquiry, we have located the following information:

Special Collections at Tulane University Library
has the Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry, Relative
to the Fall of New Orleans. (Richmond, 1864).
We have forwarded your letter to Tulane.

For photocopying procedure, see the enclosed information sheet. We have estimated that _____ copies will be required to cover the material you are requesting. We will begin copying as soon as we receive your check for \$ ____.

Sincerely,

Collin B. Hamer Jr.

Collin B. Hamer, Jr.
Head, Louisiana Division

Researcher: Jean Jones

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

Post Office Box 0243
East Wenatchee, Washington, 98801

Louisiana State University
and Agricultural and Mechanical College
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70803
Attn of: Associate Librarian Head,
Louisiana and Rare Book Rooms

July 11, 1979

Dear Mrs. Lynch:

For the past few years I have been doing research on John Lawson Lewis, mayor of New Orleans 1845, and commander of the First Division of Louisiana Militia from 1842 to 1860. I have visited New Orleans and thought that I had exhausted all of the standard sources of information concerning this historical figure. However, one source which I have overlooked is the Confederate imprint Proceedings of Court of Inquiry (on) Fall of New Orleans, by the Confederate Congress, Richmond, Virginia, 1864.

If you would have access to this work I would sincerely appreciate photocopies of any reference made to General John L. Lewis in it. I will gladly reimburse you for your research time and materials.

Looking forward to hearing from you. I remain,

Respectfully yours,



Jan P. Reifenberg

Dear Mr. Reifenberg:

Please forgive my brevity. This library does not own the above item.

The Louisiana Union Catalog does not locate one in any Louisiana Library, but it is a few years out of date.

I will ask my assistant to check the National Union Catalog and to list below any library that may be listed as owning.

Good Luck!

Proceedings of the Court of inquiry, relative to
the Fall of New Orleans. Pub. by order of
Congress. Richmond, Virg. R. M. Smith, public
printer, 1864

Sincerely yours,


Evangeline Lynch

- OHIO STATE
- UNIV of TEXAS, Austin
- Duke
- UNIV of Michigan
- HARVARD

- No locations are in the West
- For other locations see NAC-PRES6 Series V. 118, p. 654.

to 1LL

SEP 11 1979

Post Office Box 024
East Wenatchee, Was

University of Texas Library
Special Collections Section
Austin, Texas, 78712

September 5, 1979

*Very sorry, this is
reported missing in 76*

Dear Sirs:

E
973.7321
C76P

For the past few years I have been doing research for an art on John Lawson Lewis, mayor of New Orleans 1845, and Commander of First Division of Louisiana Militia from 1842 to 1860. I have vis New Orleans and thought that I had exhausted all of the standard of information concerning this historical figure. However, one so which I have overlooked is the Confederate imprint Proceedings of Court of Inquiry, Relative to the Fall of New Orleans, published order of the Confederate Congress, Richmond, Virginia, R.M. Smith public printer, 1864.

I was recently in contact with Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and they suggested that I contact your Special Collec Section, as you are one of the few university libraries with a co this work.

If you would have access to this work I would sincerely appr photocopies of any reference made to General John L. Lewis in it. gladly reimburse you for your research time and materials.

Looking forward to hearing from you. I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Jan P. Reifberg

Jan P. Reifenberg

Inter-Library Service
The General Libraries
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas 78712

We are sorry to report that this item
is missing from our collection.

TULANE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

HOWARD-TILTON
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

5 October 1979

Mr. Jan P. Reifenberg
P. O. Box 0243
East Wenatchee, Washington 98801

Dear Mr. Reifenberg:

In response to your letter of 5 September 1979 regarding the Confederate imprint Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry Relative to the Fall of New Orleans, I have checked our Library's holdings and located the microfiche of the book. We do not have the original.*

We were not able to read the entire microfiche since our staff is small and the time for answering research questions generated by mail inquiries is limited. However I did ascertain that there is no index on the fiche. A quick perusal did not uncover a reference to John Lawson Lewis.

In the Louisiana Vertical File there are two references to your subject, which you are probably aware of from your past research. One is from Cohen's New Orleans Directory of 1855; the other is a typewritten copy of an article in the Daily Picayune of May 16, 1886 entitled "the Death of Gen. John L. Lewis". If you would like a copy of these, please let us know. We'll be happy to send you them.

Sincerely yours,

Mary L. LeBlanc

(Mrs.) Mary L. LeBlanc

*It is listed in the National Union Catalog under Confederate States of America. War Department. among the holdings of about twelve libraries. You could ask your local library to find the nearest copy.

P. O. Box 158
Herndon, Virginia 22070
November 5, 1979

Mr. Jan P. Reifenberg
P. O. Box 668
Knight's Landing, California 95645

Dear Jan:

Received the draft copy of your impressive article on Lewis' LeMat #88. I truly like it, as you did such a fine job of tying the man and the revolver together. There is nothing to criticize. The progression is top rate, and the idea that Lewis would have received the revolver directly from LeMat is thoroughly logical -- especially based on the other early LeMats that went to important individuals. You have to do me the favor of notifying me when and where the article will be published so that I can obtain a finished copy.

I like the addition of your "Postscript". It reinforces what I have long suspected -- that most, if not all, of the LeMat revolvers were produced in Europe. I am exempting the Krider gun and possibly an unknown small number of others that were used in the tests in the late 50's. Where does "BAGUET" fit in? It has been suggested that Baguet could well have been a gunsmith who operated in Paris, France, in the 1850's. Now this does not conclusively mean that his name stamped on the grips denotes that the revolver was made in Paris. But, why would a Paris gunsmith be in any way associated with a revolver made in America? It makes no sense that he would have come over here to make them, although I suppose it is vaguely possible.

For your own files, the First Model LeMat #34 that I parted with a year or so back had "BAGUET" stamped on both halves of the wooden grips. I liked the revolver, but was not unhappy to move it and add something that was positively made in the Confederacy. No question that a vast majority of the revolvers were used by the Confederacy, but a lot of the percussion LeMats ended up in foreign countries (Brazil, Indochina, Japan, Egypt, and some others that escape me right now) in the post-War period. I am not talking about the pin-fire models, which were a completely different facet of the business.

Have been plugging along on my Rigdon revolver odyssey. Just recently added #41. This particular example has no firm markings of any sort on the barrel housing top -- they were never there. I'm aware of two others very close (#39 and #47) that are identical. No question that they are Rigdon revolvers. Would imagine they were made very shortly after the firm moved from Memphis to Columbus, Mississippi. No longer the "Novelty Works", they used no firm stamp for a period -- just serial numbers. In the 50's someplace (#59 and #60 are marked thusly) they began using the marking "LEECH & RIGDON" only utilizing a smaller die firm stamping than associated with the later revolvers stamped "LEECH & RIGDON CSA". All very interesting to me. Don't know where it's all leading me, but has kept me off the streets and out of trouble (so my wife says).

While not a revolver, some while back I acquired a very fine cased 1/6 plate tintype of an identified Private from Forrest Regiment of Tennessee Cavalry, CSA. What is particularly appealing to me is that he is holding a Leech & Rigdon Cavalry Officer's saber. Additionally, he is wearing the very rare two piece rectangular CS buckle (Kerksis book page 253, Place 246) associated with

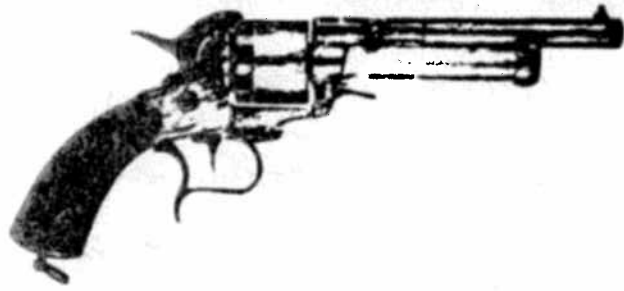
Leech & Rigdon firm production. Kerksis himself has seen the tintype and described it as the "best damn CS image I've ever seen". He had never seen the buckle pictured before on a CS soldier. I'm pleased to have it, as it adds immeasurably to my growing stock of Rigdon minutiae.

I wish you well on your article. Hope you can keep in touch as your time allows.

Best wishes,

Bruce Cumow

From The Desk Of
Ramon A. Marus
605 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee
38105



OCT. 1, 1979

MR JAN P. REIFENBERG,
P.O. Box 668
KNIGHT'S LANDING, CALIF. 95645

Dear Jan:

Received your letter of Sept 3 1979
and was glad to hear from you. The picture
of Ed that I sent you was taken in 1879
the year that he died. Did I send you the
back mark of the picture? This was a
short note written to his daughter. You
can may use the picture if you wish, and
I will send you the negative of the picture
front & back so that you can copy it.
Just send the negative back when you
are finished with them.

My health has been going down
hill all the way. I have had a problem

with my breathing. I can't stay out of the
hospital longer than six months. It sure
gets costly. About \$200⁰⁰ - \$250⁰⁰ for six
days and better luck in the Hospital.

I haven't picked up my Se-Moto in
about 2 years now. I have been working on
Fidel material and have put to-gether a
real nice collection. I am going to get you
all my #1's on the Se-Moto. Because I have
finally got my gun run straight.

Hope everything is going well for you
and, looking forward to hearing from you
again, soon.

Yours truly
Samuel A. Adams

HEADQUARTERS
LOUISIANA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
JACKSON BARRACKS
NEW ORLEANS 70146

LANG-DPA-ML
LEWIS, John Lawson

6 December 1979

Mr. Jan P. Reifenberg
Post Office Box 0243
East Wenatchee, Washington 98801

Dear Mr. Reifenberg:

It has come to my attention that no reply was sent to your request of 11 July 1979 regarding Major General John Lawson Lewis; my apologies for this oversight.

Biographical data about JOHN L. LEWIS appears in Edwin L. Jewell's Crescent City; The New Orleans City Directory for 1855 has an account and picture; also Volume I of Kendall's History of New Orleans. Copies of these references may be requested from the:

New Orleans Public Library
ATTENTION: Louisiana Division
219 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112.

Thusfar, I have not located a source of the Proceedings of Court of Inquiry (on) Fall of New Orleans by the C.S. Congress, Richmond, Virginia, 1864. However, the General Index, page 552, of the series of volumes entitled: The War of the Rebellion, OFFICIAL RECORDS of the Union and Confederate Armies contains a number of references for JOHN L. LEWIS. Also Volume VI, page 555 of this series indicates:

"Proceedings of a Court of Inquiry, assembled at Jackson, Miss. to examine facts and circumstances attending capture of New Orleans in April, 1862."
Orders from Richmond, Virginia, 18 February 1863.

Major General Mansfield Lovell appears to have been the chief witness.

Is it possible that this is the reference you have in mind?

A complet set of the volumes of the OFFICIAL RECORDS is probably available for study in a public library in your local area.

Again, my apologies for this long delayed reply. If I may be of service in the future, please inquire.

Sincerely yours,

Mary B. Oalman

Mrs. Mary B. Oalman
Military Historian

ARMS Gazette.®

12767 Saticoy Street, North Hollywood, California 91605 213/982-3700
BEINFELD PUBLISHING, INC.

Jan P. Reifenberg
Post Office Box 668
Knight's Landing, CA
95465

December 14, 1979

Dear Jan:

We received your letter of November 23 with your signed release agreement. Thank you. In that letter you also asked if we would be needing color negatives, or ~~trans-~~parencies.

I checked with our art director, Scott Beinfeld, and he would like some good black and white glossys, not only of General Lewis and Colonel LeMat but also of the revolver if you can obtain them.

At this point, it does not look like the gun will be on the cover of the ARMS GAZETTE, so the photos that will help us the most will be good black and whites. The article is scheduled for the FEBRUARY ARMS GAZETTE, so please try to get back with us as quickly as possible.

Thanks again.

Very truly yours,

Mike Schermerhorn
Mike Schermerhorn
ARMS GAZETTE



**STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF STATE PARKS**

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION AND TOURISM
P.O. DRAWER 1111 • BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70821 (504) 925-3830

DAVID TREEN
Governor

MRS. LAWRENCE H. FOX
Secretary

KIRK CARNEY
Assistant Secretary

Mansfield, Louisiana
January 14, 1981

Jan P. Reifenberg
P.O. Box 668
Knight's Landing, California 95645

Dear Jan;

Thank you for your letter dated 1/10/81. I am sorry you came while we were closed, we hope you will be able to come and visit with us again. We are still closed, the contractors are almost finished, but my work is just beginning all cases, cabinets, documents, artifacts etc. will have to be set up and it is a big job.

When we open we will have a much larger museum it will be 65'x34' and the old museum room will be our new meeting room and film room. There will not be a finer Civil War Museum any where and I am proud of it. We also have a fine library.

I am sending you a pamphlet that outlines the Red River Campaign and one of the books we sell, "Confederate Victory at Mansfield", it is real good and does a good job on our battle.

I would then give you first the 129 books, "Official Records of the War of the Rebellion--The Union and Confederate Armies, (Union slant). you should find these books in one of your larger libraries.

The second book would be, "The Civil War in Louisiana", by Winters--Louisiana State University Press--L.S.U.--Baton Rouge, La.

The third book, "Red River Campaign", by Ludwell H. Johnson--John Hopkins Press Baltimore, Md.

The last book, "Construction and Destruction", Richard Taylor Gen. in Command--D. Appleton and Company--549 & 551 Broadway--Ny.

I have my Grandfathers 36 Calib. Navy Pistol he used and it is in perfect condition. I had 8 Great Uncles and 2 Grandfathers in this war and they all came home except the baby boy, he was killed at Gettysberg.

We would appreciate your article on General John Lawson Lewis for our Library.

Trusting I have been of some help I remain,
Cordially Yours,

Mansfield State Commemorative Area
Office of the Grand Fosters Office Plaza at 666 N. Foster Drive, Baton Rouge
G.N. Edge Manager



November 19, 1981

Dear Ms. Eymard:

Here is the information on Major General Mayor John L. Lewis we promised to send. Bibliographic information is written on the back of the pages. There are so few pages involved, that we will not charge you for the copies. Just consider this as lagniappe!!

Please do not hesitate to call upon us again.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Pamela D. Arceneaux,
Assistant Librarian



November 19, 1981

Dear Ms. Eymard:

Here is the information on Major General Mayor John L. Lewis we promised to send. Bibliographic information is written on the back of the pages. There are so few pages involved, that we will not charge you for the copies. Just consider this as lagniappe!!

Please do not hesitate to call upon us again.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Pamela D. Arceneaux,
Assistant Librarian

MAJOR GENERAL MAYOR JOHN L. LEWIS' ADMINISTRATION

4/10/1854 - 6/17/1856

MAYOR

* John L. Lewis

DATE ELECTED

3/27/1854

TOOK OFFICEPERSONNELRECORDERS

* Geo. Y. Bright, 1st District
 * H.M. Summers, " "
 * C. Ramos, 2nd "
 * P. Seuzeneau, 3rd "
 * H. Jackson, 4th "

ASSISTANT RECORDERS

* Wm. Bloomfield, Sr.
 1st district
 * K. Filluel, 2nd district
 * P.S. Wiltz, 3rd "
 * Wm. Reed, 4th "

COMPTROLLER

* O. De Buys

TREASURER

* W.H. Garland

CITY ATTORNEY

* John Livingston
 * D.C. Labatt, asst.

CITY NOTARY

* P.E. Theard

STREET COMMISSIONERS

* A.S. Phelps

SECRETARIES

* J. Neville
 * G.W. Lewis
 * J.A. Hopkins
 * C. Claiborne

CITY PHYSICIANS

* Dr. Yeiser,
 1st District
 * Dr. Sabatier,
 2nd and 3rd District
 *

COLLECTORSLevee Dues

* Wm. Bloomfield, Jr.
 1st and 4th District
 * T. Wiltz,
 2nd and 3rd District
 * Mr. Fortier,
 2nd District
 * A. Chennevel,
 2nd District

Waarfingers

* J.D. Slemmer
 2nd and 3rd District
 * E. Dupre, deputy
 2nd District

* These names have been found in the records and have been verified as being absolutely correct as per references given.

92

ALDERMEN

First District

- * Chas. Pride
- * E.S. Bailey
- * James Prague
- * L.H. Place
- * W.C. Tompkins
- * Th. K. Price

Second District

- * Mr. Gordon
- * E.H. Durel
- * H.L. Piere
- * A. Dupre
- * W.O. Denegre

Third District

- * John Culbertson
- * J.O. Lugenbuhl

Fourth District

- * Jesse Gilmore

ASSISTANT ALDERMEN

First District

- * Adam Giffin
- * J.L. Levy
- * W.S. Campbell
- * F.W. Delesdernier
- * Wm. Bloomfield, Sr.
- * A.W. Cooper
- * Chas. G. Barkley
- * Hy. Lathrop
- * B.T.K. Bennett
- * L.H. Place
- * W.E. Seymour
- * F.A. Conant
- * E.L. Tracy
- * Gerard Stith
- * R.J. Dorsey
- * Wm. Chambers

Second district

- * R. Dolbear
- * Chas. Rolling
- * J.L. Lamothe
- * Chas. N. Oliver
- * E. Filleur
- * C.M. de Armas
- * T.A. Bartlett
- * A. Landry
- * E.M. Rusha
- * S. Howell
- * H. Trewinsky
- * A. Robert

- * These names have been found in the records and have been verified as being absolutely correct as per references given.

ASSISTANT ALDERMEN
(Continued)

Third District

- * P.S. Wiltz
- * Alex Roberts
- * J. Lynch
- * Hanson Kelly
- * E.L. Tracy
- * Gerard Stith
- * Chas. Banister
- * W.A. Violet
- * Jenison Eager
- * Wm. Reed
- * I. Thayer

Fourth District

- * Hy. Collis
- * B.W. Hebrard
- * S. Howell

Fifth District

- * Victor Benit
- * Wm. H. Barbarin
- * J.L. Fabre

Sixth District

- * E. Bouny
- * Hy. Guyol

Seventh District

- * L.A. Ducros
- * A. Chiappella

Eighth District

- * Webster Long

Ninth District

P.S. Wiltz

Tenth District

I. Thayer
I. Bridge

Eleventh District

Logan McKnight

* These names have been found in the records and have been verified as being absolutely correct as per references given.

References:

Daily Delta	-	3/23/1854	-	Page	2	Col.	2
"	"	4/11/1854	"	2	"	2	
"	"	4/29/1854	"	4	"	1	
Daily Crescent		3/29/1854	"	2	"	2	
"	"	5/12/1854	"	2	"	4	
Daily Picayune	-4/	1/1855	"	2	"	6/7	

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN L. LEWIS

1800 - 1836

John L. Lewis was elected the thirteenth Mayor of New Orleans, March 27, 1854, took office on April 10, 1854 and served until 1856. He was born in Lexington, Kentucky, March 26, 1800 and was brought to New Orleans when only three years of age. His father, Judge Joshua Lewis was a descendant of John Lewis who came from Ireland and who, in 1729 established the first white settlement in Augusta County, Virginia. His mother, America Lawson, was the daughter of General Robert and Sarah Merriwether Pierce Lawson, natives of Yorkshire, England. His brothers were Major Theodore Lewis, George Washington Lewis and Dr. L.H. Lewis. He had one sister, Miss N.C. Lewis, all lived to be octogenarians. His parents, both Virginians of Revolutionary stock, were among the earliest settlers of Kentucky. His father obtained large tracts of land in consideration for his services as a soldier in the Revolutionary war. When the United States acquired the vast province of Louisiana, the elder Lewis was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Orleans, by President Jefferson, an office which he held until his death in 1833.

John L. Lewis was educated by Rev. James F. Hull, the distinguished rector of Christ Church. At the age of 18 he left school to study law. In 1826 he became clerk of the First Judicial District Court of Louisiana. A year later he married Miss de Ferrier and his home life was an exceedingly happy one, but he only enjoyed a few years of this happiness for in 1833 scarlet fever attacked his wife and three children and within a few days all of them died. This terrible loss profoundly affected his life; he sought relief and distraction from his sorrow in the exciting activities of public life. Showing great aptitude for military affairs, he became a member of a volunteer military company and devoted so much attention to military affairs, that he rapidly rose from rank to rank until he became Major General of the State forces of the First Louisiana Division.

In 1845 he was elected Sheriff of the Parish of Orleans and served two terms. In 1852 he was elected to the State Senate and finally, in 1854 was chosen Mayor of the City.

When the War between the States began, General Lewis, although far beyond the military age, offered his sword to the State and joining the Confederate forces in the Trans-Mississippi Department, served on the staff of the

commanding general, behaving with great gallantry. At the battle of Mansfield he was wounded in the head by a bullet, a wound which caused him much suffering during the rest of his life. Governor Henry J. Allen especially thanked him for his splendid conduct.

The close of the war found him stripped of the wealth amassed during a busy and useful life, but he always remained the same courtly, genial gentleman, a man among men, ever generous, brave, hospitable, a typical example of the old Southern Chevaliers. At the time of his death he was Jury Commissioner of the Parish of Orleans, a post he had held for several years prior to his demise. His pleasant manners and winsome personality made him extremely popular.

Under his administration, two important enterprises for the beautification of the city deserve mentioning. They were: The completion of the Jackson Statue and the beginning of the movement which resulted in the erection of Henry Clay's Statue, unveiled April 12, 1860. The site in the Place d'Armes (Jackson Square, was chosen for the statue of Jackson, because in 1840 Jackson had placed there the cornerstone of what was intended to be a monument to the memory of the Battle of New Orleans. The appropriation \$35,000 for the monument was made in a spirit of gratitude by the people of Louisiana and to commemorate the achievements of this hero to whose military genius and patriotic devotion in the hour of their greatest peril, they owe the triumph which served their principal city from capture by an invading enemy and which is one of the brightest pages in the history of the State of Louisiana.

The Statue was made by Clark Mills, the well known sculptor. On the day of the unveiling, business was suspended and it is estimated that 25,000 people witnessed the fall of the canvas showing the bronze figure of the warrior upon his rampant war steed "Old Duke". That night a banquet was given at the St. Charles Hotel and which was attended by Mills and many other celebrities.

The Statue of Henry Clay was made by the celebrated American Sculptor Joll T. Hall, and was moulded by Muller of Lunich, it cost approximately \$50,000. The site on Canal Street at the intersection of St. Charles and Royal Streets, was selected in order that the effect of a somewhat similar monument in Montreal, Canada, which the committee had admired, might be achieved. The cornerstone was laid April 12, 1858 on the 79th anniversary of Henry Clay's birthday. After being located on this site for 40 years the bronze statue was removed to Lafayette Square where it stands today. This move was made

necessary for the convenience of transportation.

During the administration of Mayor Lewis, efforts were made to improve the methods of making up assessment rolls, a reform which did much towards clearing up a bad situation. Heretofore the assessment of real estate by the city was transcribing from a roll prepared by state assessors with the result that it abounded with errors. Property, in many cases, was assessed in the name of the wrong people.

In the spring of 1855 a new fire ordinance provided that firemen should be paid. Until that date the service was voluntary, it was considered an insult to offer pay for the performance of what was regarded a social and civic duty. The City Government encouraged by the insurance companies, was not averse to seeing the volunteer fire departments disband.

General Lewis stood high in Masonic honors. He became a thirty-third degree Scottish Rite Mason on February 16, 1855 and held this degree longer than any other member of the Masonic order in this State, up to that time.

He died May 15, 1886 at the age of 86. The last rites were held from the family residence, 529 Chartres Street and he was buried in the St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery. He was survived by three sons, Alfred John and Thomas, and three daughters, Salvadora, married to Mr. Thos. J. Veau, Henrietta and Louise, children by a second marriage.

Louisa St

References:

- The Times Picayune 1925
- La Louisiana Courier 1855
- History of New Orleans, Kendall Vol. II
- Fortier's History of Louisiana
- The Daily Picayune, May 16, 1886 - Page 4 - Col. 3



AERO UNION CORPORATION

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Call Writer Direct at 896-3_____

Post Office Box 1307
GOLETA, CALIFORNIA, 93117

30 JUNE 1993

Dear Don,

Here is that article I told you about along with a slide I found of the Le Kat with its original holster.

As I may have mentioned, I haven't really considered selling the pistol unless some real quality Confederate memorabilia avails itself.

I hope you have a pleasant 4th of July and find the article of interest.

Best regards,
Jan Riefenberg

August 1, 1994

To Whom it May Concern:

In 1972, I purchased from John Graham, a California collector (Oakland California) (California Brake and Clutch Co.) owner of same; a first model Le Mat revolver, serial number 88, with its original flap holster. The name "General John Lawson Lewis, CSA," was written on the inside of the holster's flap.

I believe from the style of print and age of same in appearance that General Lawson's name was written on the holster during its initial period of use.

Le Mat number 88 with its holster, was found in an old safe in Atlanta, Georgia, many years ago. I sold Le Mat number 88, with its holster, to Mr. William Albaugh in late 1975 or early 1976.

Alice Sproviero 9/8/94

ALICE SPROVIERO
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Sept. 27, 1998


Sworn by Ron Bridges

2/15/94

Dear Don,

Here is the check for \$5000.00 to finish up our trade on Le Mat #88. Thanks for hearing with me on the Sharps.

I enjoyed dealing with you and wish you all the best in your collecting endeavors.

Best regards,
Jan D. Riefenberg

P.S. If you would ever come across a good non- or non dug Mississippi oval please keep me in mind.

02/09/94

Dear Don,

Here is the documentation on General Lewis Le Mat. You probably know a few of the collectors who had it at one time or another.

Sorry that things didn't work out on the Richmond Sharps #907. I just wasn't comfortable with the condition of the lockplate as compared to the rest of the carbine. I think that if you look at it under a magnifying glass you will see what I mean.

I hope you survive the most recent surge of bitter weather. I'll be looking forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Jan

08/07/96

Dear Don,

I hadn't heard from you in quite awhile so I thought I'd drop you a line to see if you had anything interesting in the C.S. line for sale or trade.

I trust you still have General John L. Lewis Le Mat #88. Along those lines I am enclosing photocopies of some documents that I found in the bottom of my safe deposit box. One is a letter to Maj. General Lewis from W. Lyman at "Headquarter Camp Lewis" along with a pass from the same camp. Camp Lewis was a New Orleans recruiting camp for organizing state troops into regiments for the battlefield of Virginia.

I thought you might be interested. I would like to get \$200.00 for them. Give me a call at (805) 687-4373 home, or work (805) 967-6115.

Best regards,
Jan

