

General Samuel Read Anderson
February 17, 1804 – January 2, 1883

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Samuel Read Anderson, son of Revolutionary War veteran Robert Anderson, was born on February 17, 1804, in Bedford County, Virginia. The family moved to Kentucky and then to Tennessee. In 1846, when Secretary of War, under President James K. Polk, requested 2,800 recruits from Tennessee for two regiments of infantry and cavalry during the Mexican War, 30,000 Tennesseans offered their services, honoring the title “The Volunteer State.” Anderson served as Lt. Colonel of the First Tennessee Volunteer Infantry in the War with Mexico and led his troops at the Battle of Monterrey.

Anderson was married three times. He married Susan Miller in Fayette County, Kentucky, on November 25, 1824. They had one son Robert J. Anderson. After her death in 1844, he married Mary Jones. Their infant daughter Mary Eliza died in 1847 and was buried at City Cemetery. His wife Mary died in July 1854 and five months later his 12 year old son Robert died of Typhoid fever. They were buried at City Cemetery. On February 13, 1856, in Shelby County, Tennessee, he married Susan Allen. Their only child May lived to adulthood and married James Harvey Weakley.

Anderson served as Post Master in Nashville 1853-1861. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was appointed Major General of the Tennessee Provisional Army of the Confederate States by Governor Isham G. Harris. In July 1862, he was promoted to a Confederate Brigadier General and served in western Virginia and Yorktown, Virginia. Ill health caused him to resign in May 1862 and return home. During the last year of the war, he served as head of Conscription for Tennessee with headquarters in Selma, Alabama.

When he returned to Nashville, after the Civil War, he continued many business interests and was involved with veteran’s affairs. General Anderson died in Nashville on January 2, 1883 and was buried at City Cemetery. His third wife Susan died six years later and was buried at Mt. Olivet.

Sources

Tennessee Encyclopedia, “Tennesseans in War with Mexico” On-line
Generals in Gray: Lives of Confederate Commanders. Ezra J. Warner. 1994
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City Cemetery Lot Purchase by Saml. R. Anderson. July 24, 1854
U.S. Census Davidson County, TN. 1850; 1860; 1880
Obituary *Nashville Daily American*. January 3, 1883. Gen. Anderson. City Cemetery website
Anderson Interments. City Cemetery website
City Cemetery Tombstone Inscriptions for Samuel R., Mary, Mary Eliza & Robert Anderson

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