

General Felix Kirk Zollicoffer  
May 19, 1812 – January 19, 1862  
Louisa Pocahontas Gordon Zollicoffer  
February 21, 1819 – July 13, 1857

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Felix Kirk Zollicoffer, born on May 19, 1812 in Maury County, Tennessee, was the son of Martha and John Zollicoffer whose Swiss ancestors had settled in North Carolina in 1710. On September 24, 1835, in Maury County, Felix had married Louisa Pocahontas Gordon, daughter of Captain John and Dolley Gordon.

As a boy Zollicoffer attended the local schools and studied one year at Jackson College in Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee. Then he embarked on a career in printing and newspaper work. He became the editors of many newspapers. Of special interest was his editorship of the *Nashville Republican Banner*, the voice of the Whig Party. He served in state government positions and was a State Senator from 1849 to 1852. The Zollicoffers had 14 children but only six survived infancy. After a brief illness Louisa Zollicoffer, aged 38, died on July 13, 1857. Following her funeral at Christ Church (Episcopal), she was buried in the family lot at City Cemetery. Her daughter Octavia, only ten years old at the time of her mother's funeral, said that she never forgot "The stately form of Bishop Otey, who was six feet four inches in height, robed in black. There were no flowers on the bier, no lighted candles in the sanctuary... nothing to distract the attention from the stark words ~ Life Ended was Life Begun."

Following the secession of the Deep South states in 1861, Zollicoffer attended a peace convention in Washington, D.C., but these efforts failed to prevent the coming war. Zollicoffer had served in 1836 as a lieutenant of Tennessee Militia Volunteers during the Second Seminole War in Florida. Even though his military experience was limited, on July 9, 1861, he was commissioned a brigadier general in the Confederate Provisional Army of Tennessee.

On January 9, 1862, at the Battle of Mill Springs (Fishing Creek), Kentucky, General Zollicoffer was killed. His body was returned to the city on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railway. His pistols, sword and horse were also brought back home on the train. After services at the State Capitol, his horse led the procession to the City Cemetery. During the war years, his five orphan daughters went to live at "Ravenswood," the home of their older sister Virginia, wife of George H. Wilson, III., in Williamson County, Tennessee. The General's horse also went to live at "Ravenswood."

#### Sources

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Fletch Coke 2017