

*Nashville Banner*, February 26, 1908

### **Gentleman of the Old School**

**Maj. Joe Vaulx Dies Suddenly While Driving in a Carriage**

Maj. Joseph Vaulx, a native resident and a member of one of the most prominent families of Nashville, died last night while taking a drive in a carriage.

Maj. Vaulx had been confined to his rooms for several months, but had recovered sufficiently to be out during the past few days, and spoke of feeling greatly improved to his friends. About 9 o'clock last evening he engaged the carriage of Webster Crutcher, a veteran colored hackman, and told him to drive him to the house of Mr. Hutchison on Patterson Street. He did not know the number of the house, but the hackman went to Patterson Street and endeavored by inquiry to find the house mentioned. He was unsuccessful, however, and they returned to 411 Union Street, where Maj. Vaulx had an apartment. Crutcher opened the door of the carriage for Maj. Vaulx to get out, but he was unable to arouse him. He immediately called Henry Griffith, who had been a servant of Maj. Vaulx for twenty-six years. Maj. Vaulx had fallen slightly forward, but, being a corpulent man, he had not fallen between the seats. The combined efforts of both men were not sufficient to move him from the hack, and thereupon Crutcher drove to DeMotive & Co.'s drug store and asked Dr. W. H. Owen, prescriptionist, to come and see what was the matter with Maj. Vaulx. Dr. Owen made an examination and stated that he had probably been dead about half an hour. The remains were removed to the establishment of Dorris, Karsch & Co. and the relatives of Maj. Vaulx were notified.

The news of the sudden death of Maj. Vaulx came as a great shock to his many friends in the city, where he was very popular and highly esteemed. He had lived in Nashville all his life, with the exception of ten years which he spent in New York as a merchant. He was at one time superintendent of the Cumberland Iron Works in Stewart County. He had amassed a considerable fortune, and for some years had not actively engaged in business. He was unmarried. He was a brother of Mrs. M. M. [sic] Crockett, who died several years ago; Miss Kittie Vaulx and Mrs. R. S. Cowan.

Maj. Vaulx entered the service of the Confederate army as Lieutenant in Company A, First Tennessee, and throughout the war served with distinction. He was promoted to a captaincy and later served on the staff of Gen. Cheatham.

Mr. Vaulx was widely known in Nashville. For many years he was a member of the Hermitage Club and spent a large portion of his time there. He had a splendid memory, was a fluent talker, and his familiarity with the early history of Nashville made his presence at any function very acceptable. During his lifetime he had been thrown in touch with many distinguished men.

Maj. Vaulx was a young man when the sports of the turf were at their zenith in Tennessee, and he delighted so to recount the events of those days that whenever he had a listener he would sit up all night long calling forth the reminiscences of the old

days. He was acquainted with the pedigree and achievements of all the noted horses. He claimed to have been in part instrumental in the bringing to Tennessee of Bonnie Scotland, the great Belle Meade sire. Many of the famous Belle Meade horses were named by him.

Maj. Vaulx was 75 years of age at the time of his death, and with his death another of the old landmarks passes away. His strong traits of character and outspoken language sometimes caused the term eccentric to be applied to him, but over all he was genial and courteous as befits a gentleman of the old school.

Transcript by Deborah Brewington