

Davis, William C. and Sue Heth Bell. The Wharton's War: The Civil War Correspondence of General Gabriel C. Wharton & Anne Bradford Wharton, 1863-1865. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2022.

Preface

Well educated couple—goes beyond their own generation and scholarly categories
Countered gender values of their era
Gabriel sought to manage Nannie's emotions [fits into new historical emphasis on emotions]
Closely connected to slavery, xvi-xvii
Much emphasis on honor
Pouring out of emotions in letters—you get a detail look at the evolution of their relationship

Introduction Gab and Nannie, 1824-March 1863

Gabe, Culpeper, VMI, civil engineer, road work in Texas,
Very interested in women
Might have included his unpublished memoir of the early war?
51st Virginia Infantry
Barely escaped capture at Fort Donelson

Anna Rebecca Radford, born 1843; her father a substantial slaveholder; she became an ardent Confederate

Introduced to Colonel Wharton when she was 19

Good background introductions to each chapter—deals much with emotional bonds between the two

Deferential on letter, 22

Corruption and “wirepullers” in Richmond, 22

Promotion to general, 23

Worries about her sadness, 25

Length of engagement, 25-26

Hopes her father will consent to the marriage, 26

Possibility of a private marriage, 28

Marriage, small wedding, 32

Fears his being ordered to the East, and postponement of marriage, 32

Engagement known, blues, 33

Father has consented to the marriage, 34

Chancellorsville, 34

Honeymoon, 36

Ambition, afterlife, 37-38

Miss each other, 40

Departure for East Tennessee, 41

Congratulated on his marriage, 42

Reinforcements for General Lee, 42

Lee needs to strike a blow—aggressive pressure, peace, 43

Joy in marriage but duty to the country, 43

Tries to maintain a cheerful demeanor, 44

Recognizes his duty, but she says the cause is dark now, 44-45
Beauty and quality of husband, 45
Will read and improve self so he will not be ashamed of her, 46
Pushes him on question of promotion, 46
Knows he feel gloomy at times—more emotions, 47
Will not allow herself to think he will be killed, 47
Rumors of Yankees in area, 48
Wharton in Winchester guarding rear of Lee's army, 50
Talk with General Lee, 51-52
General Heth, 52
Gettysburg, regret third day attack, morale, 52
Destruction, 53
Yankee raid, 53-54
Women and foolish conduct, will not leave home, 54
Imagines perfect happiness after the war, 55—check this later
Imboden, 56
Strange nature of love, 57
Wives, 59
Fate and worldly honors, 60
Jubal Early, 60
Ambition for her husband, 60-61
Honor, pride, promotion, 63-64
Almost thinks he should resign if not promoted, 64
Jubal Early, 64
Kissing, 65
Her letters cheer him up when he is tired of the army and of soldiers, 66
Only joy is recalling all their time together, 66
Yankee reconnaissance, 68
Ordered to Army of Northern Virginia, 68
His honor, soldier's wife, 69
Frustration with slave Emeline, 69
Dreams he committed adultery, 69
He cares little for personal comfort, 70
Possible pregnancy, 71
Praise slave camp servant, 71
Dreams, 71-72
Still not sure of his position in Army of Northern Virginia, 74-75
General Samuel Jones, 75-76, 77-78
She is not pregnant, 76
She hates writing, 76
Doubts about the war and the Confederacy, 76
Her fear of pregnancy, 78-79
Expects Lee to fight decisive battle of the war, 79-80
Faith in Lee but loss of faith in Republican government, 80
Pickett, 80
General Echols and Jones, 81

Criticizes Jefferson Davis, 83
Regrets not using their time together better, 84
Nannie's fits of despondency, 87
Anticipates his coming home, 88
Criticism of General Jones, 90-91
Saltville, 90-93
Yankee raid, 90
Home Guards, 92, 95
Johnston, Bragg, Longstreet, 93
Davis and appointment of brigadiers, 93
Samuel Jones, Confederate prospects, 96
East Tennessee, 99ff
Jonesboro, 100ff
Bristol, Tennessee, 103
Blountville, Kingston, 106
Rumors, refugee, 107
Said he would leave the country to be together with her—try to keep her emotions in check, 108
Tells her to look at the bright side, not the dark side, 109
Blountville, 110ff
Snow, misses wife, 112
Pregnancy, 112
Dreams, 113
General Corse, 113-15, 117
Pregnancy, husband miserable with East Tennessee assignment, 116
Soldier in bad shape, 118
Mood swings, his, 119
Generals Corse and Jones, 119
Burnside, Longstreet, 125
Possible return to Virginia, 127
Illness of camp slave, 128-29
Her fit of bad temper, 130-31
General Jones, 131
Diary reflection on marriage, 133 [their diaries, not included in volume]
General Ransom, 134
Longstreet and Knoxville, 134-35
Bragg's defeat at Chattanooga, 137
Bristol people, housing arrangements, pregnancy, 138
Longstreet leaving East Tennessee, stripped of supplies, 138
Wants to be transferred to Army of Northern Virginia or leave service, 139
Ashamed of complaining letter, 140-41
Longstreet, 144
Bean's Station, 144
General Jones, 145-46
Fears raid of Yankees at home, 146
Food, 146
Yankee raid, Salem, 147

General Ransom, 148
 Thoughts of death, 149
 Lack of food, morale, desertions, 150-51
 Tents, 151
 Bull's Gap, 154ff
 Good on army politics, 154
 Does not want to serve under Ransom, 156
 Sickness and pregnancy, 157
 She could not live in a tent in winter, he advises, 157
 General Jones, 158
 Departure of Ransom, General Jones, 159
 Word of a woman who died in childbirth heightened her fears, 162
 Worries about her appetite, 168
 He remains optimistic about Confederate prospects but notes newspapers trying to boost morale, 169
 Worries about speculators and substitution, 169-70
 Recommendations on Confederate money, 170—Wharton is quite practical
 Feels bitter about being married and responsibility involved, 172
 He was deceived about being able to winter in Virginia, 172
 Longstreet, 174
 Notes Nannie's many laments, 177
 Tells her not to always look on the dark side, 177-78
 Samuel Jones and wife, 178-79
 Emphasizes need to do his duty, 179
 She denies regretting their marriage, 180
 She is gloomy about John C. Breckinridge in command, 182, 185
 Disappointed so many times when he did not come home, 184
 Seeks to be invisible while she is pregnant, 186
 Morristown, 186
 Strawberry Plains, 187
 Both Whartons took increasing interest in a slave couple, 189
 Planned meeting, 190
 Thwarted by weather, 191-92
 Longstreet's movements, 194
 She should not worry about her appearance, pregnancy, 195
 Return to Virginia, 201
 She is depressed and feels guilty, 201
 Breckinridge, 202
 New money, taxes, 202
 Impressment, food, bacon, 203
 Assures her that he is not ashamed of her, 204
 She afraid Breckinridge will take her him to Kentucky, 205-6
 Lincoln's political prospects, 207
 Changes in year of marriage, 210-11
 Promises to be with her more often, 211
 Dreamed she had left him to marry someone else, 212

Growing more at peace with the pregnancy, 213
 Food short, Confederate troops robbing people, 216
 New Market, 220ff
 Letters get steadily shorter as war goes on
 Worries about Southwest Virginia, 224
 Death of General Jenkins, 226
 VMI cadets, 229
 Dreads giving birth, 235
 Destruction, slave lost their clothes, 236
 She worries a great deal about the Confederacy, 237
 With General Lee, 239
 Cold Harbor, 240ff
 Worries much about her delivery, 243
 Sherman in Georgia, 249
 Jubal Early, protection of property, 250
 Winchester, 252
 Martinsburg, supplies, 253
 Fall of Atlanta, 256
 She still feels bad, baby growing well, 257
 Maryland raid, 258
 Worries about health of wife and baby, 259
 Slaves, 260
 Cannot resign, 263
 Confidence on Jubal Early, 264
 Longs for war to end, 264
 Strasburg, Winchester, 264ff
 Early and small army, 266
 Baby and sleep, 267
 Various comments about health and the baby, 269-70
 McClellan nomination, 271
 Wharton performed very well at third Winchester and Fisher's Hill, 273
 Wishful thinking on Yankee demoralization, 275
 Her cough and alcohol, 275
 Fears her religion falters during adversity, 275-76
 Yankee demoralization and McClellan nomination, 276
 Fall of Atlanta and military prospects, 277
 Confidence in Early, 278
 Baby's health problems, 279
 He downplays importance of Atlanta's fall, 279, 281
 Soldiers need clothes and shoes, 279
 Early and Sheridan, 281
 Warning the baby, 282
 Winchester, 283ff
 She talks of military disasters and does not buy his wishful thinking, 285
 Waynesboro, John C. Breckinridge, 285-86
 Mosby, Winchester, 289

She fears Yankee occupation soon, 290
 Shortages of clothing and shoes, 291
 Admits disaster at Winchester, 292
 Lace veil, 292-93
 General Echols, 293
 Baby, 294
 Saltville, 294
 Confident about driving Yankees from the Valley, campaign closed, 296
 No furlough, 296-97
 Hopeful about Confederate prospects, possible election of McClellan, 297
 Criticism of Jubal Early, 297
 Fisher's Hill, 297-98
 She worries about the baby, 298
 She is critical of Early, prevented husband visiting her, 298-99
 Will get no promotion from Early, 299
 Cedar Creek, 300
 Critical of Early, 303-4
 Cedar Creek, 304-5, 307-8
 General Lee, Early, condition of Wharton command, 306
 Early's plans, 307
 Death Ramseur, 308
 Meeting of Early and commanders, 309
 Sheridan, Lincoln confident of reelection, 310
 Admits being too optimistic at times, 311
 Breckinridge, Early, 312
 She is tired to sickness and the baby, 313
 Her brother killed, 314
 Early laughed at his threats, 316
 Condition of the division, 316
 Winter quarters, 317
 McClellan, she would favor reconstruction under a Democratic president, 318
 He think McClellan stands not chance, 318
 Frustrated with slave Emeline for no good reason, 319
 Reelection of Lincoln and subjugation, 319
 McClellan had a large vote in Sherman's army, 320
 Election of Lincoln and loss of hope for the Confederacy, 320
 Her wounded brother, 321-25
 Campaign in the valley closed, 324
 Death of her brother, 325-26
 Series of troubles with slaves as slavery breaks down—in lives of Emeline and Tim, 330
 Cannot yet secure brother's body, 331
 Tim has gone to the Yankees, 331-32
 Early may not let him come to see her, 332, 335-37
 Need for a victory but he is still hopeful, 337-38
 Frustrated that officers and men cannot visit their families, 338
 Report on the baby, 340

Willing to forgive slave Tim, 341
Mad at Early keeping them there, 341-42
Christmas, 345
Quarters for her and child in Waynesboro, 346
New Year, 347-48
Jubal Early, 350-51
Paroled, slaves, 356-57
Wharton tempted to immigrate to Mexico
Railroad work
In postwar state politics
Financial struggles, Gabe's frequent absences in the West
Much detail on their postwar financial and emotional travails