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MR. C. W. McCORD

One of Tishomingo County's most prominent antebellum politicians was Mr. C. W. McCord. A native of Tennessee, he moved to the county in 1846 and to the day of his death, forty-four years later, was regarded as an exemplary citizen, an accomplished gentleman, a forceful debater and a trusted and worthy public servant. Much of the legislation materially effecting the growth and development of Northeast Mississippi was the fruit of his comprehensive and analytical mind, and although repeatedly rewarded by his constituents with important public trusts, he always faithfully and satisfactorily discharged the duties devolving upon him and gave for the good of his people the best years of his life.

Campbell W. McCord was born in Franklin County, Tennessee, in 1810, where he grew into manhood surrounded by such meager advantages as the county at that time afforded. He acquired a good education in the public schools, and through his own indefatigable efforts. After reaching his majority he went to Northern Alabama, where he resided for a few years, and after marrying moved to Eastport, Tishomingo County, Mississippi, in 1846, and engaged in merchandising, remaining four years and meeting with considerable success. Disposing of his interests in Eastport, he moved to Hernando, Miss., where he lived for one year, when he returned to Tishomingo County and formed a

partnership with a Mr. Johnson, establishing a large steam saw mill four miles west of Shippers' Landing, on the Tennessee River, which the firm successfully managed for two years. Mr. McCord then disposed of his mill interests and moved to Farmington, where he again engaged in the mercantile business, being associated with Mr. Henry C. Hyneman. In 1854 Mr. McCord purchased a ten-acre tract south of the present Negro cemetery in East Corinth, and in 1855 the firm of McCord & Hyneman moved their store to Corinth, opening in a frame structure erected for the purpose on the block east of the present High School property. The business was continued with much success, Mr. Hyneman being appointed postmaster of Corinth. In the fall of 1856 the firm dissolved, Mr. Hyneman going to a farm and Mr. McCord moving his store to where is now the business center of Corinth, and later he disposed of the same and entered politics. The next five or six years he served as a member of the State Legislature, acquitting himself with distinguished ability and great credit, and much to the advantage of his constituents. He filled the position of county school commissioner during 1860 and 1861, and in January, 1861, he was appointed local mail agent on recommendation of Mr. H. S. Brooks, at that time postmaster of Corinth, but declined for reasons fully set forth in the following correspondence:

“Postoffice Department Appointment Office,

“Washington, D. C., Jan. 19, 1861

“Sir—The postmaster general has appointed you local mail agent of the department at Corinth, Tishomingo County, Mississippi, at the junction and crossing of the lines of the Memphis & Charleston and Mobile & Ohio railroads, in which capacity you will be authorized to act, upon taking the enclosed oath of office, which, being duly certified by a proper magistrate, you will return to this department.

“You will take charge of and see that the mails arriving at Corinth by railroad are properly distributed and dispatched on their destination, and in case of the failure of the cars to arrive or depart, to see that the mails are carefully protected from injury and depredation until the same shall be dispatched. Your service will be performed in conjunction with the postoffice and the postmaster at Corinth. Your pay will be at the rate of \$800 per annum. Respectfully, your obedient servant,

“Horatio King,

“First Assistant Postmaster General.

“Mr. C. W. McCord, Local Mail Agent,
Corinth, Mississippi.”

“Corinth, Miss., January 28, 1861.

“Sir—Your communication of the 19th instant, informing me of my appointment as local mail agent of the department at Corinth, Tishomingo County, was duly received.

“Greatfully appreciating this token of regard to me personally, I feel compelled to decline the appointment tendered me. You are doubtless aware that on the 9th of January, 1861, the State of Mississippi, of which I am a citizen, formally, by the solemn act of her people, in convention assembled, resumed the sovereign powers delegated to the United States government and declared herself a free and independent State. It is not for me to determine the wisdom of the course my State has seen proper to take, further than to say that I deem it fully justified under the circumstances surrounding the Southern people. Further, to submit to the aggressions and exactions of that fanatical spirit of Abolitionism which has culminated in the election of Abraham Lincoln, would be tantamount to an ignominious surrender of political right and equality, and an open invitation to the Northern people farther to insult and oppress us. I need not say to you that such a thought cannot for a moment be entertained by a free people, who have learned their lessons from a revolutionary ancestry.

“Holding that my allegiance is due my State, and that it is the duty of every good citizen to sustain her action, I cannot longer recognize the right of the United States government to command my services in any department.

“Feeling that in coming to this determination I am in an humble way obeying the highest considerations of patriotic duty, I beg to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

“C. W. McCord.

“Hon. Horatio King, First Assistant Postmaster General,
“Washington, D. C.”

Upon receipt of Mr. McCord’s letter of declination the Federal postoffice department appointed Mr. J. E. Small, who filled the position until he joined the Confederate army, when the work was carried on for the Federal government by

Mr. J. F. Small, until the 1st of June, and then for the Confederate government until the evacuation of Corinth by Gen. Beauregard the following spring. Mr. McCord being over the age limit did not join the Confederate forces until 1864, when he enlisted in a regiment organized in Tishomingo and adjoining counties, but the war was ended before the new recruits were ordered to the front. After the close of the war, Mr. McCord filled the office of Justice of the Peace for several terms and died in January, 1890.