



River Battery at Fort Donelson

According to their nephew, Cyrus Spaulding King Smith, the two brothers were in a skirmish line at the Battle of Ft. Donelson at daybreak of the first day when a minie ball struck William in his cartridge belt, wounding him in the left side. He died of those wounds the next day, Feb. 16, 1862. He was 23 years old. He was buried on the battlefield, his brother Charles marking the grave.²¹



William H. and Charles L. Nichols

CHARLES LOREN NICHOLS, 1840-1881

(Hannah Beery Nichols, Catherine Parkison Beery)

Charles Loren Nichols was born in Kentucky on Oct. 2, 1840, the second son of James Washington Nichols and Hannah Beery, and the younger brother of William Henry Nichols. At the age of 20, at Peoria, IL, Charles was mustered into Co. A of the 17th Illinois Infantry on May 25, 1861, for a period of three years. His brother William joined the regiment in September of that year. The two brothers fought at Frederickstown, Shiloh, and Ft. Donelson where William was killed. Charles buried his brother on the battlefield.

Charles had the misfortune to eat some of the food that had been captured from the enemy and apparently poisoned. Quite ill, he was sent home and discharged for disability in 1863. After the war, he engaged in silver mining in Colorado. He died there at the age of 40 on Apr. 24, 1881.²²

MILDRED STANFORD, 1877-1944

(Edith Nichols Stanford, Hannah Beery Nichols, Catherine Parkison Beery)

Mildred Stanford was a woman ahead of her time. She was born in Secor, Woodford Co., IL, on Oct. 24, 1877, the eldest of three children of Albert Eugene and Edith L. (Nichols) Stanford. She was well-educated for a woman of her day, graduating with excellent grades from Stanford University with an A. B. in English in 1901.

Mildred became a teacher, news writer and clerk working in various departments for the state of Washington. During World War I, from 1917-18, she was employed by the War Department in Washington, D. C. and from 1918-19, she worked for the American Red Cross in France.

Her great nephew Zane Motteler described her as follows:

*"Aunt Mildred... never married. [She] was a quintessential career woman, and when Women's Liberation was a political fad, I used to say [she] made even the movement's leaders look like wimps. Aunt Mildred was as tough as nails... She was also a strikingly handsome woman, and probably never married simply because she never found a man worthy of her. I only saw her a few times when I was a young boy, but I remember being highly impressed by her intelligence, which she did nothing to hide, and which must have been intimidating to many men. It is a measure of her time that a highly educated and intelligent woman could aspire to nothing better than a clerical job."*²³



Mildred Stanford

Mildred loved the outdoors. She enjoyed hiking and horseback riding. She also put a lot of effort into preserving her family history.