

FORREST, Nathan Bedford, soldier, b. in Bedford county, Tenn., 13 July, 1821; d. in Memphis, Tenn., 29 Oct., 1877. While yet quite young he removed with his family to Mississippi, where his father soon afterward died, leaving Nathan mainly responsible for the support of the household. In 1842 he removed to Hernando, Miss., and established himself as a planter, remaining there till about 1852, when he went to Memphis, Tenn., and became a real estate broker and dealer in slaves. When the civil war broke out he had amassed a considerable fortune. In June, 1861, he joined the Tennessee mounted rifles, and in July

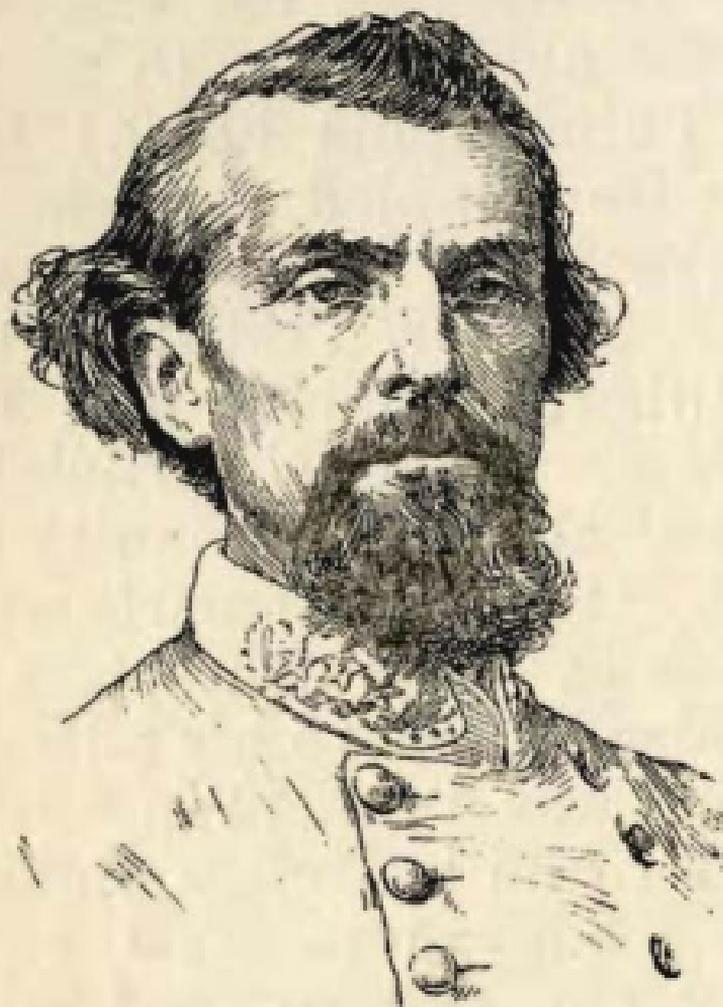
following he raised and equipped, at the request of Gov. Harris, a regiment of cavalry, and was made lieutenant-colonel. In October he moved with his men to Fort Donelson, where he remained until the approach of Gen. Grant, and whence he was allowed to escape with his men before the flag of truce was sent. After a raiding excursion, during which he visited Nashville, Huntsville, and Iuka, he took part in the battle of Shiloh. He was assigned to the command of the cavalry at Chattanooga in the following June, participated in the attack on Murfreesboro on 13 July, 1862, and on 21 July was made brigadier-general. In September he was in command at Murfreesboro, and on 31 Dec. was engaged at Parker's Cross-Roads. He fought at Chickamauga on 19 and 20 Sept., 1863, and in November was transferred to northern Mississippi. In the following month he was made major-general and assigned to the command of Forrest's cavalry department. He was in com-



N. B. Forrest

mand of the Confederate forces that attacked Fort Pillow in April, 1864, and, while negotiations for the surrender of the fort were in progress under a flag of truce, moved troops into favorable positions that they could not have gained at any other time. Maj. Bradford, the commander of the fort, refused to surrender, whereupon the works were taken by assault, and the

garrison, consisting mainly of colored troops, were given no quarter. The excuse given by Forrest's men was, that the flag of the fort had not been hauled down in token of surrender. During the operations of Hood and Thomas in Tennessee he proved a great source of annoyance to the National commanders, and in February, 1865, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general. He was finally routed by Gen. James H. Wilson on 2 April, 1865, and on 9 May he surrendered at Gainesville. After the war he was president of the Selma, Marion, and Memphis railroad, but resigned in 1874. He was a delegate from Tennessee to the New York Democratic national convention of 4 July, 1868. Some of Gen. Forrest's official documents are very amusing for their peculiar orthography and phraseology. In his dispatch announcing the fall of Fort Pillow, the original of which is still preserved, he wrote: "We busted the fort at ninerelock and scatered the niggers. The men is still a cillanem in the woods." Accounting for prisoners, he wrote: "Them as was cotch with spoons and brestpins and sich was cilld and the rest of the lot was payrold and told to git." See "Campaigns of N. B. Forrest," by T. Jordan and J. B. Pryor (New York, 1868).



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