

17 November 1952

OI-023 JMC

Dear Cecile,

You must be a busy woman, and in much demand right now, with the Convention at Biloxi winding up one grand year and beginning another for you! I'm sure there's a feeling of great satisfaction and achievement in your many years of work with the Daughters of the Confederacy, topped with the honor of a year as their President General. Congratulations on the success of that year and your election for a second term. I'm sure they could not have made a better selection, and we are all very proud of you.

A letter from me, under almost any circumstances, would have to mean work for somebody, for I rarely have time for pleasant correspondence I once indulged in, and though you are probably far busier than I at the moment at least, I thought you might (without too much trouble) forward this request for information to the proper person, or archives, for answer. I shall certainly appreciate anything you can do to help us in our present search.

Commander Shaw, my superior here in the Navy Department, is presently engaged in writing, for public information purposes, a story on the Evans family of which Admiral Robley D. Evans was a member, principally "Fighting Bob," and his brother, Samuel, who as a youngster joined the Confederate forces (enlisted in the 5th Cavalry, I believe, at the age of 14) and fought with Pelham, Stuart and Hampton. He was called, in one of his brother's books, "Captain of scouts on General Lee's Staff" and may be listed in Confederate records as "Colonel." We have much information on Robley (Fighting Bob), but almost none on the younger brother, whose name we had to get from Floyd County, Virginia, Census Records of 1850, which gave Robley as four years old and Samuel as three.

Their father was Mr. Samuel Andrew Jackson Evans, Sr., and their mother Mrs. Sarah Evans, a spirited little woman of the South, who (by that time was a widow) sent her second son to fight with the South and almost never forgave her eldest for remaining with his shipmates, and who even resigned his commission in the U. S. Navy for him! Robley became a most beloved Naval officer, and after retirement wrote two books (autobiographical) in which he affectionately refers to his younger brother, but not by name.

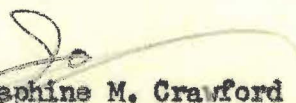
Admiral Evans' daughter-in-law, here in Washington, was able to give us much information on him and others in the family, but knew so little of Samuel. A cousin, Mrs. Kefauver in Richmond has a wealth of information on the "Southern" members of the family, and furnished the facts that Samuel Andrew Jackson Evans, Jr., became a doctor, practised medicine in

Texas, and, probably early in life, committed suicide when he believed his paralysis would prevent him from carrying on his work as a physician. She gave brief information concerning his service, but knew nothing of his schooling, subsequent practice of medicine (time of) and date of death.

I would like anything (in detail if possible) about his service to the Confederacy, which I imagine may be obtained from official records. Also if you can suggest where the names of his family (if he ever married) could be found, along with date of his death and any other information pertinent to such a story of brothers in blue and grey, I will be very glad. Even leads will be welcome, for as you see we have so little on him. My official address below.

My love to you and Glenn and the other members of the family, and much success to you in the year, and years, to come!

Fondly,


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