Madison Miller

Biography

Madison Miller was born on February 6, 1811, in Mercer, Pennsylvania. He served in the Mexican-American War, where he was captain of the 2nd Regiment of the Illinois Volunteer Infantry and was wounded at the Battle of Buena Vista. Following that, he was judge of El Dorado County, California, from 1851 to 1852. After returning to Missouri, Miller became successful in Missouri politics and business. He served as mayor of Carondelet, president of the St. Louis & Iron Mountain Railroad, and in 1860 was elected to the Missouri General Assembly.

During the War

At the beginning of the Civil War, Miller entered the United States Army as captain of the 1st Missouri Infantry, and later the 1st Missouri Light Artillery. In January 1862, he was promoted to colonel of the 18th Missouri Infantry. Miller commanded the 2nd Brigade of the 6th Division at Shiloh, where he was captured. He describes the experience in his diary: "The attack commencing on the right was an overwhelming force coming down upon us by a front and flank movement.... We were ordered by Gen. P. to fall back to a position where our might could be supported…. We found ourselves entirely surrounded and to prevent our utter annihilation Gen. Prentiss at 26 m after 5 O'clock P.M. displayed a white flag and what was left of us found ourselves prisoners of war. I offered my sword to Gen. Polk and to Gen Breckenridge both refused to take it. It was after taken by a Col. who resides at Nashville Tenn." The next day Miller said, 'Without anything to eat we marched eleven miles to Corinth." Miller was eventually freed in a prisoner exchange, and in March 1865 he received the brevet of brigadier general for "gallant and meritorious services in the battle of Shiloh."

Later Life

Miller was elected to the Missouri State Senate in 1865, and starting in 1867 served as commissioner of the Missouri Railroad. Miller died on February 27, 1896, and was buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery.