

Captain Daniel Ruggles

Charter Member of Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 205 A.F.&A.M.

by George F. Winters, Historian

Daniel Ruggles was born in Barre, Massachusetts, on January 31, 1810, to Parents Gardner Ruggles (1782-1853) and Lydia Phinney (?-1833). He has five siblings; William Paige Ruggles (1807-?), Cordelia Ruggles (1808-1810), Sarah Berry Ruggles (1814-?), Lucy Spooner Ruggles (1816-?), and Zenas Phinney Ruggles (1823-1912).¹

Daniel Ruggles, age 19, entered the Military Academy at West Point New York on July 1, 1829. He graduated July 1, 1833, 34th out of 43 cadets. He was brevetted 2nd Lieutenant in the 5th U.S. Infantry Regiment and was posted in Wisconsin.²

He spent the next years in the Midwest with border duty and recruiting services. In 1839, by now a 1st Lieutenant, Ruggles participated in the war against the Seminoles in Florida. In 1840 he returned to the Canada–US border³. While stationed at Fort Crawford Wisconsin, on July 10, 1841, he married Richardetta Barnes Mason Hooe (1821-1904). They had four sons: George Mason Hooe Ruggles (1842-1853), Edward Seymour Ruggles (1843-1919), Mortimore Bainbridge Ruggles (1844-1902), and Gardner Ruggles (1854-1910). Ruggles stayed at that post until 1845 when he took part in the occupation of Texas.⁴

1st Lieutenant Ruggles and the 5th Infantry, under command of Lt. Col. James S. McIntosh, were part of the 2nd Brigade under Col. David E. Twiggs. Participating in the Texas Campaign, Ruggles fought in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma; his solid services securing him a promotion to Captain on June 18, 1846.

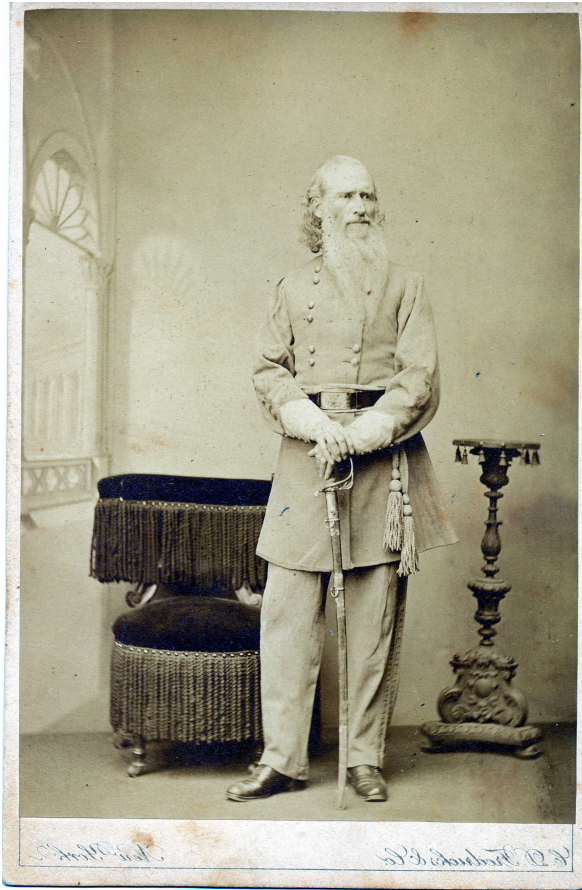
Doing recruiting services after the end of the campaign Ruggles and the 5th Infantry joined Gen. Winfield Scott's army for the Mexico City Campaign, fighting at Vera Cruz, San Antonio, Churubusco, Molino del Rey, Chapultepec, and Mexico City. Ruggles was breveted for Gallant and Meritorious Conduct to Major after Churubusco and to Lieutenant Colonel after Chapultepec.

After the war ended, he was posted for frontier duty in Texas and the surrounding territories, participating in the Utah Expedition in 1858. Captain Daniel Ruggles, assigned to Company A, 5th Infantry at Camp Floyd 1859-1860⁵ was one of the twenty-three signers on the petition to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, requesting a dispensation to form Rocky Mountain Lodge. All the signers were Master Masons prior to arriving in Utah Territory, they received their degrees at other Traveling (Military) Lodges or in their home states. It is not known at this time where Ruggles received his degrees.

During 1859 Ruggles went on leave of absence for health reasons and stayed absent till the beginning of the American Civil War.

With the outbreak of the War, Ruggles resigned his commission in the U.S. Army on May 7, 1861 and applied for service in the new Confederate Army. Appointed a Brigadier General of Militia and Colonel in the Provisional Army of Virginia he was given command of the Aquia District in May 1861. There Ruggles set up shore batteries to block the Chesapeake Bay. After exchanging fire with the Union Navy

Ruggles' troops resisted a landing party and prevented a Union beachhead in the Battle of Mathias Point.



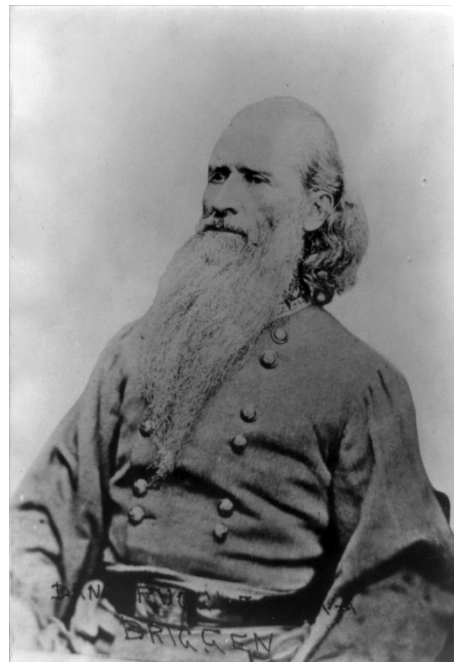
On August 9, 1861, he was promoted to Brigadier General and assigned command of a brigade in General Braxton Bragg's Army of Pensacola in Florida. Simultaneously commanding the District of Northern Alabama, Ruggles's brigade moved westwards into Mississippi with Bragg in February 1862. Ruggles now was assigned to command a division in Bragg's Corps in the Army of Mississippi. Under overall command of General Albert Sidney Johnston, they marched northwards for the Shiloh Campaign. General Daniel Ruggles pictured to the left in Confederate uniform.

During the battle of Shiloh (Union name Pittsburg Landing) on April 6-7, 1862, Gen. Ruggles, on Sunday, April 6, saw repeated Confederate charges against the Union line known as "The Hornets' Nest" fail. He sent word to his commanders to "Get every gun you can find." Subsequently, artillery was collected from every part of the field and lined up in a row of 62 cannons, now known as "Ruggles's Battery" (the biggest concentration of Artillery ever assembled in the history of North America up to that point), which hammered the Hornets' Nest until the last Confederate charge broke the Union line at around

5:30 p.m., forcing it to surrender, 12 hours after the battle had started. He fought with General John C. Breckinridge, the former Vice President of the United States, in the 1862 campaign to regain control of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The combined Breckinridge-Ruggles forces were unable to regain the capital city⁶.

From August 15 to August 29, 1862, Ruggles was in command of the Port Hudson position on the Mississippi in Louisiana and supervised the planning and initial construction of fortifications in that region. On the 29th he was ordered by Breckinridge to move with some of his troops to the state of Mississippi to aid Earl Van Dorn in his attempt to recapture Corinth, Mississippi in the ensuing Second Battle of Corinth.

The photo at the right was taken by Mathew Brady ca 1864. © United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division, digital ID cph.3b47601. I suspect that it was taken at the same time as the photo shown above



"Most of the predatory warfare [after the fall of Vicksburg, in 1863], was waged by Federal troops stationed on the Memphis-Charleston Railroad [in southern Tennessee], and near it in [northern] Mississippi. On the eastern part of that frontier, Brig. Gen. Ruggles commanded Ferguson's brigade of Confederate cavalry, and ten or twelve field pieces...This disposition had been made by Lt. Gen. Pemberton."

For the rest of the war, he performed mostly administrative duties and was named as the head of the prison system in 1865. He oversaw the final exchange of Union prisoners of war at the end of the conflict.

The 1870 Census reports both Daniel, his wife and family living in Fredericksburg, Virginia, working as a real estate agent.⁷ He later served as a member of the West Point Board of Visitors⁸.

On June 29, 1893, He applied for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution based on his grandfather, the Honorable Daniel Ruggles 1756-1838, who served in the conflict at Lexington and Concord, the first military engagements of the American Revolutionary War. His application was approved on September 3, 1893, and was assigned National Number 6948, State Number 448.

He died at home in Fredericksburg, Virginia on June 2, 1897; and rests there at the Confederate Cemetery in Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, Virginia.⁹

¹ Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/158446234/person/222075158159/facts> visited 6/17/2021

² Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Ruggles visited 6/17/2021

³ Cullum, George W. (1891). Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy, Volume 1 (3rd ed.). West Point, NY. page 563

⁴ Ancestry.com, https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/158446234/person/222075158157/facts?_phsrc=dtU440&_phstart=successSource visited 6/17/2021

⁵ Ancestry.com, U.S., Returns from Regular Army Infantry Regiments, 1821-1916, Camp Floyd, February 1859, https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2229/images/31637_218293-00226?treeid=158446234&personid=222075158157&rc=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=dtU444&_phstart=successSource&pId=12965717 visited 6/17/2021

⁶ John D. Winters, The Civil War in Louisiana, Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1963, ISBN 0-8071-0834-0 pages 112-13

⁷ Ancestry.com, 1870 United States Federal Census, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania County Virginia, p. 99 https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7163/images/4268768_00790?pId=36906046 visited 6.17/2021

⁸ "Shuguang 1". Encyclopedia Astronautica. Archived from the original on 2007-09-28. Retrieved 2021-6-10.

⁹ Find A Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11069/daniel-ruggles> visited 6/17/2021