

DUMAS MALONE, ED., DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY  
VOL. 10, NEW YORK; CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS, 1933, PP. 216-17

**JORDAN, THOMAS** (Sept. 30, 1819–Nov. 27, 1895), soldier, journalist, son of Gabriel and Elizabeth Ann (Sibert) Jordan, was born at Luray, Va. A maternal grand-uncle, a Withers of South Carolina, served on General Sumter's staff in the Revolution, and it was a family tradition that the Jordans and the Washingtons were kinsmen in England. After a common-school education, young Jordan entered the United States Military Academy in 1836, and graduated four years later in a class which included William Tecumseh Sherman (his roommate) and George H. Thomas. Commissioned as a lieutenant in the 3rd Infantry, he served in the Florida war and took part in the surprise and capture of the Seminole chieftain, Tiger Tail, near Cedar Keys, in November 1842. He was promoted first lieutenant, June 18, 1846, and distinguished himself at Palo Alto and Resaca de La Palma in the war with Mexico, his battalion being the first to cross the Rio Grande in advance of General Taylor's army. He was later appointed captain and quartermaster and at Vera Cruz had charge of the final withdrawal from Mexico by land and sea of some 35,000 men of Scott's army. For this service he was commended by General Twiggs. He served as a staff quartermaster during the second uprising of the Seminoles, 1848–50 and then on the Pacific Coast, notably during operations against hostile Indians in what is now the state of Washington. While stationed at Fort Dalles, Ore., 1856–60, he is said to have introduced steam navigation on the Columbia River above that point, and also to have initiated a successful irrigation project (Marrin, *post*).

On May 21, 1861, under a sense of loyalty to his native state, he resigned his commission and entered the Confederate army, first as a lieutenant-colonel of Virginia troops, and later as adjutant-general of the forces which fought the first battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861. As Beauregard's chief of staff, he took part in the battle of Shiloh, being promoted brigadier-general for gallantry on the field; and subsequently participated in the Corinth campaign. Later, he served as Beauregard's chief of staff in the operations around Charleston, S. C., until the end of the war.

On leave of absence, 1860–61, he had written *The South, Its Products, Commerce, and Resources* (1861), and at the close of the war he returned to writing, publishing in *Harper's Magazine* (October 1865) an article on Jefferson Davis which aroused wide-spread interest and comment. It was markedly censorious of the Southern leader, depicting him as imperious, narrow, and so lacking in the gift of organization and in statesmanship as to have been unfitted for the administration of the Confederacy. Soon after the appearance of this article Jordan became editor of the *Memphis Appeal* (1866). With J. B. Pryor he published *The Campaigns of Lieutenant-General N. B. Forrest* in 1868.

In the year 1869 he became chief of staff and later commander of the Cuban insurgents, and in January 1870 he met and defeated a superior Spanish force at Guaimaro, Cuba. At this time, Spain is said to have placed a price of \$100,000 on his head. Recognizing the impracticability of reorganizing the Cuban army, and with his war supplies becoming exhausted, he resigned his command in February 1870 and returned to the United States and to his literary pursuits. In the same year he became the founder as well as editor of the *Financial and Mining Record of New York*, a journal devoted to the interests of the free coinage of silver, which he conducted until ill health forced him to abandon the undertaking in 1892. He contributed "Notes of a Confederate Staff Officer at Shiloh" to *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War* (vol. I, 1887). As a soldier, Jordan's most conspicuous quality was his organizing ability, for which General Beauregard gave him high praise. As a writer and journalist, his work was marked by clearness of diction as well as vigorous style. He was married to the daughter of Edmund Kearny, of Keyport, N. J., who had been a captain in the British navy; his wife died in the year 1884. A son and a daughter were born to them.

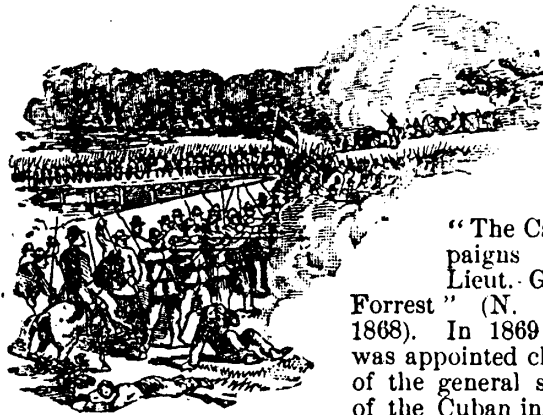
[Jordan's Civil War career is well covered by numerous references in *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War* (vols. I and IV, 1887–88), while many details of his private life are related by his friend and counsel, W. J. Marrin, in *Ann. Reunion Asso. Grads. U. S. Mil. Acad.*, 1896. See also C. A. Evans, *Confed. Mil. Hist.* (1899), vol. III; L. G. Tyler, *Encyc. of Va. Biog.* (1915), vol. V; *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, Feb. 26, 1870; *N. Y. Times*, Nov. 28, 1895.] C. D. R.

THE NATIONAL CYCLOPÆDIA  
OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY.

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Vol. 4

**JORDAN, Thomas**, soldier and journalist, was born in Luray Valley, Va., Sept. 30, 1819. He entered the U. S. military academy in 1836, having for a roommate Gen. W. T. Sherman, and was graduated with high honors in 1840. He entered the service as second lieutenant in the 1st infantry. He took part in the Seminole war, and later was stationed on the frontier. His services during the war with Mexico secured his promotion to first lieutenant on June 18, 1846, and to captain and quartermaster on March 3, 1847. From 1848 till 1860 he was stationed on the Pacific coast, where he had charge of the largest depot of stores in the service. When the civil war opened he elected to follow the fortunes of his native state, tendered his resignation on May 21, 1861, and entered the Confederate army as lieutenant-colonel. He was at once appointed by Robert E. Lee adjutant-general of the forces at Manassas, and commanded them until the arrival of Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard. He was made chief-of-staff to Gen. Beauregard in February, 1862, accompanied him to West Tennessee, and for his services at the battle of Shiloh on Apr. 6, 1862, was promoted to be brigadier-general. He was for a short time on the staff of Gen. Braxton Bragg, but soon resumed his former place on the staff of Gen. Beauregard, serving with that general, until the close of the war, at Charleston, S. C., in Virginia and the West, and in North Carolina, where Beauregard and Johnston finally surrendered to Gen. W. T. Sherman on Apr. 18, 1865. In 1866 Gen. Jordan became the editor of the Memphis (Tenn.) "Appeal," and while thus employed wrote and published, with J. B. Pryor,



"The Campaigns of Lieut.-Gen. Forrest" (N. Y., 1868). In 1869 he was appointed chief of the general staff of the Cuban insurgent army, which he

organized and drilled. At the head of 300 men he effected a landing at Mayari, Cuba, and forced his way into the interior. He was soon after made commander of the insurgents, and in January, 1870, with 642 men met and defeated a largely superior force of Spanish regulars at Guaimaro, but seeing that the odds were too great to be overcome he resigned his commission, returned to the United States, settled in New York city, and became the editor of the "Financial and Mining Record," a weekly paper. A review of the Confederate war policy, which he contributed to "Harper's Magazine" in 1865, attracted wide attention.

THE CYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN  
BIOGRAPHY, VOL. 3,

**JORDAN, Thomas**, soldier, b. in Luray valley, Va., 30 Sept., 1819; d. in New York city, 28 Nov., 1895. He was graduated at the U. S. military academy, and served as 2d lieutenant of infantry in the war against the Seminole Indians. He was then on garrison duty, and took part in the war with Mexico. He became 1st lieutenant, 18 June, 1846, and captain and quartermaster, 3 March, 1847, serving on the Pacific coast. He resigned, 21 May, 1861, entered the Confederate army as lieutenant-colonel, and was immediately made adjutant-general of the forces at Manassas Junction. He accompanied Gen. Beauregard to Tennessee as chief of staff, and became brigadier-general after the battle of Shiloh. He served temporarily on the staff of Gen. Bragg, but returned to his former post with Gen. Beauregard during the defence of Charleston, in 1862-'4. After the war he was made chief of the general staff of the Cuban insurgent army, and in May, 1869, landed at Mayari with 300 men, and arms, ammunition, and supplies for 6,000. On marching into the interior to join the insurgents he was attacked by the Spanish forces and lost 80 men. In December he succeeded to the chief command of the revolutionists, and in January, 1870, gained a victory over a superior force at Guaimaro. But as the supply of arms and ammunition was exhausted, and as there was small chance of reorganizing an effective force, he resigned in February, 1870, and returned to the United States. He resided for many years in New York city and was editor of the "Mining Record." Immediately after the civil war he published a critical review of the Confederate operations and administration in "Harper's Magazine," and was the editor of the "Memphis Appeal" in 1866. He contributed to periodical literature and published, in connection with John B. Pryor, "The Campaigns of Lieut.-Gen. Forrest" (New York, 1868).

# GENERALS IN GRAY

*Lives of the Confederate Commanders*

BY EZRA J. WARNER

*Louisiana State University Press*

BATON ROUGE AND LONDON

Thomas Jordan was born at Luray, Virginia, September 30, 1819. After a common-school education, he was graduated in 1840 from West Point, where he was the roommate of William T. Sherman. He saw service both in the Seminole War and in the war with Mexico, and resigned his commission of captain and assistant quartermaster on May 21, 1861. His entire Confederate service was as a staff officer. He was adjutant general of the army at First Manassas under Beauregard; assistant adjutant general under A. S. Johnston at Shiloh, and under Beauregard after Johnston's death; and was made chief of staff to Bragg in July 1862. He served again under Beauregard during the siege of Charleston. He had been promoted to brigadier for gallantry on the field at Shiloh to rank



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from April 14, 1862. During the last months of the war he commanded the 3rd military district of South Carolina. Jordan wielded a facile pen and had written a treatise on the South in 1860. At the close of hostilities he returned to his writing, and in 1866 became editor of the *Memphis Appeal*. In 1869 he espoused the insurrectionary cause in Cuba, and became chief of staff and later commander of the Cuban revolutionaries. In 1870 Spain is said to have placed a price of \$100,000 on his head. The movement subsequently collapsed and General Jordan returned to the United States and resumed his literary pursuits. At the same time he became founder and editor of the *Financial and Mining Record* of New York, a publication devoted to free silver. Among his other writings were numerous contributions to *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*. He died at New York City, November 27, 1895, and is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, near Hastings-on-Hudson.

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BIOGRAPHICAL REGISTER

OF THE

Officers and Graduates

OF THE

U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,

AT

WEST POINT, N. Y.,

FROM ITS

ESTABLISHMENT. MARCH 16, 1802

TO THE

ARMY RE-ORGANIZATION OF 1866-67.

BY

BVT. MAJOR-GENERAL GEORGE W. CULLUM,

COLONEL, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY.

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1802-1840.

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D. VAN NOSTRAND, 192 BROADWAY.

1868.

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East Pascagoula, Mis., 1848; on frontier duty at San Antonio, Tex., 1848-49,—March to El Paso, 1849-50,—Ft. Bliss, Tex., 1850,—San Elizario, Tex., 1850-51,—Ft. Bliss, Tex., 1851,—Ft. Conrad, N. M., 1851,—Albuquerque, N. M., 1851,—Ft. Defiance, N. M., 1851-52,—Camp Vigilance, N. M., 1852,—and Ft. Fillmore, N. M., 1853-56; in garrison at New York harbor, 1856-59; on frontier duty at Ft. Defiance, N. M., 1859.—Expedition against Tuni-cha Navajo Indians, Nov., 1859,—Ft. Defiance, N. M., 1859-60, being engaged, Apr. 30, 1860, in the defense of that work against the Navajo Indians,—March to Texas, 1860,—Ringgold Barracks, Tex., 1860-61,—Ft. Clark, Tex., 1861,—and Ft. Brown, Tex., 1861; and in garrison at Ft. Hamilton, N. Y., 1861.

DROPPED, APR. 11, 1861,

for "having declined the command of his company, when ordered on a particular service" (to proceed to Ft. Pickens, Fla). He, however, did not join in the Rebellion against the United States. Residence, Georgetown, D. C.

1056..(Born D. C.)...**DOUGLASS S. IRWIN**... (Ap'd at Large).. 40

**Military History.**—Cadet at the U. S. Military Academy from Sep. 1, 1836, to July 1, 1840, when he was graduated and promoted in the Army to

BVT. SECOND LIEUT., 6TH INFANTRY, JULY 1, 1840.

SECOND LIEUT., 3D INFANTRY, NOV. 18, 1840.

Served: in garrison at Ft. Columbus, N. Y., 1840-41; in the Florida War, 1841-42; in garrison at Ft. Stansbury, Fla., 1842-43,—and Jefferson Barracks,

(BVT. FIRST LIEUT., SEP. 7, 1841, FOR GALLANTRY AND GOOD CONDUCT  
IN THE WAR AGAINST THE FLORIDA INDIANS)

Mo., 1843-44; on frontier duty at Ft. Jesup (Camp Wilkins), La., 1844, 1845; in Military Occupation of Texas, 1845-46; as Adjutant, 3d Infantry, Oct. 12,

(FIRST LIEUT., 3D INFANTRY, MAY 18, 1846)

1845, to Sep. 21, 1846; and in the War with Mexico, 1846, being engaged in the Battle of Palo Alto, May 8, 1846,—Battle of Resaca de la Palma, May 9, 1846,—and Battle of Monterey, where, in a desperate conflict of the regiment of which he was the Adjutant, in the streets of the city, he was

KILLED, SEP. 21, 1846: AGED 26.

1057..(Born Va.).....**THOMAS JORDAN**.....(Ap'd Va.).. 41

**Military History.**—Cadet at the U. S. Military Academy from July 1, 1836, to July 1, 1840, when he was graduated and promoted in the Army to

BVT. SECOND LIEUT., 5TH INFANTRY, JULY 1, 1840.

SECOND LIEUT., 3D INFANTRY, DEC. 1, 1840.

Served: in garrison at Ft. Snelling, Min., 1840-41; in the Florida War against the Seminole Indians, 1841-42, being engaged in the Surprise and Capture of their Chief, Tiger Tail, near Cedar Key, Nov., 1842; in garrison at Ft. Stansbury, Fla., 1843,—and Jefferson Barracks, Mo., 1843-44; on frontier duty at Ft. Jesup (Camp Wilkins), La., 1844-45; in Military Occupation of Texas, 1845-46; in the War with Mexico, 1846, being engaged in the Battle of

(FIRST LIEUT., 3D INFANTRY, JUNE 18, 1846, TO MAR. 5, 1851)

Palo Alto, May 8, 1846,—and Battle of Resaca de la Palma, May 9, 1846; on

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Recruiting service, 1846-47; on Quartermaster duty in the War with Mexico,  
(CAPT. STAFF—ASST. QUARTERMASTER, MAR. 3, 1847)

at Vera Cruz, 1847-48,—in Florida Hostilities against the Seminole Indians, 1848-50,—Ft. Miller, Cal., 1850-56,—and at Ft. Dalles, Or., 1856-60; and on leave of absence, 1860-61.

RESIGNED, MAY 21, 1861.

Joined in the Rebellion of 1861-66 against the United States.

1058..(Born Me.).....**JOHN D. BACON**.....(Ap'd Me.).. 42

**Military History.**—Cadet at the U. S. Military Academy from July 1, 1835, to July 1, 1840, when he was graduated and promoted in the Army to

BVT. SECOND LIEUT., 2D INFANTRY, JULY 1, 1840.

SECOND LIEUT., 6TH INFANTRY, DEC. 3, 1840.

Served: in the Florida War, 1840-42; on frontier duty at Ft. Towson, I. T., 1842-45,—Ft. Washita, I. T., 1845-46,—and Ft. Towson, I. T., 1846-47; and

(FIRST LIEUT., 6TH INFANTRY, JUNE 18, 1846)

in the War with Mexico, 1847, being engaged in the Capture of San Antonio, Aug. 20, 1847,—and Battle of Churubusco, Aug. 20, 1847, where he was Mortally Wounded, at the head of his company.

DIED OF WOUNDS, OCT. 12, 1847, IN THE CITY OF MEXICO: AGED 29.

[END OF VOLUME I.]