

## Pen Portraits of the Combatants



### Jubal Early

A Virginian, known to Robert E. Lee as his “Bad Old Man” for his short temper, course language and his irascible demeanor, he was known to his men as "Old Jube" or "Old Jubilee" with enthusiasm and affection. His subordinate generals often felt little of this affection. Early was an inveterate fault-finder and offered biting criticism of his subordinates at the least opportunity; in the reverse case, he was generally blind to his own mistakes and reacted fiercely to criticism or suggestions from below.



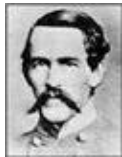
### John Beckinridge

Born in Kentucky, a former Vice-President of the USA and an unsuccessful US Presidential candidate in 1860, Beckinridge threw his lot in with the south at the outbreak of the Civil War. An experienced soldier and former commander of the Kentucky ‘Orphans’ Brigade, he saw extensive service in the western theatre. Following the demise of the ‘Orphan’ Brigade at Murfreesboro, Beckinridge developed a hatred for his former commanding officer Braxton Bragg and was transferred east in early 1864. He commanded the forces in the Shenandoah Valley and has recently let them to victory at New Market, where he witnessed the charge of the VMI cadets.



### John B Gordon

A Georgian, who has up to no never known defeat when he was in command of the situation, however he was also known for his unfortunate ability to always get himself wounded when in battle, but was admired by his men by his bravery and desire to keep going – it usually took several wounds to bring him down! At Gettysburg Gordon had personally attacked and for many years believed that he had killed Union General Francis Barlow.



### Robert Rodes

A former native of Lynchburg, Virginia and a graduate of and former asst. professor at the VMI, only leaving when one Thomas Jackson took the full professorship in his stead. He always resented his being overlooked and when war came he chose to serve with his adopted state of Alabama, instead of his home state of Virginia. Rodes later served under Jackson’s command and the pair developed mutual respect culminating in Jackson’s deathbed recommendation that Rodes be promoted to Maj. General.



### Stephen Dodson Ramseur

At 27 years old, Ramseur is the youngest Major General in the Confederate Army. Known as ‘Dod’, he comes from North Carolina and has a record of near brilliant execution of orders when in the tightest of situations – as displayed at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, The Wilderness and Spotsylvania. Jubal Early regarded him as his “lion”.



### Armistead Long

Aged 34 when the Civil War broke out, Long was a career soldier with extensive service in the Indian Territories. His efficiency in the disposition of artillery was particularly shown -upon the fields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. In September, 1862, he was promoted brigadier-general and assigned to the duty of chief of artillery of the Second corps of the army.



### Robert Ransom

Born in North Carolina, he was graduated at the United States military academy in 1850, and promoted to a lieutenant in the dragoons. He was on duty at the Carlisle cavalry school until March, 1851, when he led a detachment of troops to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, thence to New Mexico. During the succeeding four years he was engaged in scouting through that territory, Arizona, Texas, Colorado, and Utah, until in the fall of 1854 he was detailed as instructor of cavalry at West Point, under Col. R. E. Lee. He later served at Fort Leavenworth, in the Sioux expedition, and in the quelling of the Kansas disturbances.



### **John Echols**

Born in Virginia and 6' 4" tall – he was a man who stood out in a crowd, his physic matched his larger than life character, always leading his men from the front. Pre war he was a lawyer in his beloved Shenandoah Valley, initially against secession, he earned his spurs as a regimental commander in the Stonewall brigade. Quickly promoted after 1st Bull Run he held a number of notable positions within the Army of Northern Virginia.