

<http://www.colecohistsoc.org/civilwar6.html>

M. M. Parsons was born on May 21, 1822 in Charlottesville, VA, son of General Gustavus Aldophus Parsons. Around 1840 he moved with his family to Cole County where he studied and was admitted to the bar in 1846. During the Mexican War he organized and commanded the Cole Co. Dragoons. He was Attorney General of MO, elected to the House of Representatives and was subsequently elected to the State Senate in 1858.

He commanded the 6th Division, MO State Guard from the outbreak of war until he was commissioned brigadier in the Confederate service on Nov. 5, 1862. Parsons fought at Carthage, Springfield and Elkhorn, and in the AR campaigns of 1862 & 1863. The following year he was sent to reinforce Richard Taylor during the Red River campaign where he was present at Pleasant Hill, and later participated at Marks' Mills and Jenkins' Ferry against Steele. He was appointed commander of the MO State Guard to replace Gen. Sterling Price who had joined the Confederate Army. Parsons was commissioned Brigadier General after the battle of Pea Ridge and the AR campaigns. He commanded the Div. of MO Inf. At the battle of Pleasant Hill, was with Price in his last march through AR and MO. As of April 30, 1864 he was assigned to duty as a Major General by Kirby Smith and was so paroled, although he was never officially appointed by the President.

He went to Mexico after the close of the war. About Aug. 7, 1865, Parsons was captured and executed by Juaristas near Chino, Mexico. He is probably buried in the state of Nuevo Leon, Mexico.