

OVERLOOKED ORLEANS

Brown had a 30-year Army life

ACTIVE SERVICE: Doctor served in Civil War before retiring to his Albion propertyBy **MATT BALLARD**
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ALBION — Joseph Lee Bullock Brown spent a comparatively short time in the village, but his life outside was notable, to say the least.

Born July 26, 1822 in Albany, Brown graduated from Albany Medical College, likely in the early 1840s.

Appointed physician at Clinton Prison in 1845 — the year after the institution was established — Brown remained in that position for nearly three years before he moved to Detroit to practice surgery.

In 1849, he received an appointment as a surgeon with the U.S. Regular Army, and received an assistant surgeon commission from Zachary Taylor the following year. Stationed at Ft. Dalles in the Oregon Territory, Brown also served in Texas and the Washington Territory up until the start of the Civil War.

After war broke out, Brown was ordered to return to east and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac under the command of General George McClellan. Commissioned as a surgeon with the rank of Ma-

**Joseph Lee Bullock Brown**

yor by President Lincoln on July 4, 1861, Brown remained in service until he was assigned as medical director of the 4th Corps, Army of the Potomac.

After authoring a report on medical care which was later published in the "Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion," he was reassigned to the assistant surgeon general's office at St. Louis and then at Louisville,

Kentucky. He was active in a number of Indian campaigns throughout the course of the war.

As the war reached its conclusion, Brown was promoted temporarily to lieutenant colonel for his service, and after treating patients during a cholera epidemic at Ft. Columbus in New York Harbor, he was brevetted to brigadier general. From that point

on, he was known as "Gen. Brown" and spent 13 more years in service with the Army as president of the Medical Examining Board in New York City, and Medical Director at the Department of the Platte, a region which then contained the territories of Iowa, Idaho, Nebraska, the Dakotas, and Utah.

At 64 years old in 1886, Brown retired from service before moving to Albion in 1887 where he lived out the rest of his life at the Bullock Homestead on Liberty and W. Park Streets. After serving more than three decades with the Army, Brown dedicated his life to the study of the classics and photography. He died on October 21, 1891 at his home in Albion and is interred at Mt. Albion Cemetery.

As a footnote, Brown's brother, Judge Robert Hewitt Brown, was a well-respected attorney and author of "Stellar Theology and Masonic Astronomy," who later served as counsel for Rufus Brown Bullock during the investigation into his tenure as Georgia governor. Gov. Bullock and Gen. Brown were first cousins.