

Colonel David Lang



David Lang was born in Camden County Georgia on May 9, 1838 and attended the Georgia Military Academy, graduating in 1857. Lang joined the 1st Florida Infantry in early 1861 and later served with the 8th Florida Infantry.

Prior to the war he was a Survey Engineer when he enlisted as a Private in Company H, 1st Florida Infantry on April 2, 1861. He was promoted 1st Sergeant on October 1, 1861 and Captain of Company C, 8th Florida Infantry on May 10, 1862. With the 8th, he was wounded at Sharpsburg, September 17, 1862 and at Fredericksburg, December 11, 1862. On April 30, 1863, he was promoted to Colonel and led the 8th at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 2, 1863 (including Pickett's Charge). He was involved in some of the major battles of the war including Antietam, Gettysburg, the Battle of Cold Harbor and was leading the Florida brigade when they surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865. At the Appomattox Virginia surrender, April 9, 1865, he served as a staff officer on the Confederate delegation.

After the war, under the Federal States of the Union alignment, he served as Adjutant General of the State of Florida (1885-1894) during the administrations of Governors Perry and Fleming from 1885 to 1893. He was influential in the reorganization and training of Florida's state militia troops, which contributed to the creation of Florida's modern National Guard and served as (Major General. From 1893 to 1901, he served as private secretary to Florida Governors Henry L. Mitchell and William D. Bloxham. Lang was Administrator Cashier of the Florida State Hospital.

He was elected as a state representative from Tallahassee in 1885 until 1893. Also in 1895, he was appointed by the Florida State Legislature to locate the position for placement of the memorial monument on the Gettysburg battlefield to honor Florida troops. Lang died Dec. 13, 1917 in Tallahassee and is buried at the Old Cemetery.