

## Death of Capt. I. N. Brown.

Memphis, Sept. 6.—Capt. Isaac Newton Brown, who commanded the famous Confederate gunboat "Arkansas," built at Memphis and furnished at Yazoo City, and which war boat fought the entire National fleet between the mouth of the Yazoo and Vicksburg, July 15 1862, disabling the Carondelet, A. O. Tyler and Lancaster, many lives being destroyed by her boiler exploding from a cannon shot, died at Corsicana, Tex., last Sunday, aged seventy-two. Capt. Brown was a lieutenant in the old navy and served on the Niagara when she aided in laying the first Atlantic cable, over thirty years ago. He took sides with the South, showing great skill, energy and executive ability in converting the steamer Eastport, up the Tennessee river, into a war vessel for the Confederacy. In the fight on the Arkansas, while running through the National fleet from the mouth of the Yazoo down, Brown was wounded in the head, but did not give up command. Fifteen or more of his men were killed or crippled in the combat, among the rest John Hodges, the pilot, well known to all old-time steamboatmen. **For some years after the war Capt. Brown lived on his cotton plantation in the Yazoo delta, a hundred miles south of Memphis, but of late has resided in Corsicana. Several members of his crew survive him and are now living in Memphis.**

We take the above from Monday's Times-Democrat. Capt. Brown was greatly assisted in fighting by Capt. I. H. Hunter, the efficient steamboat agent at this city, to whom we are indebted for many reminiscences of Capt. Brown and the gunboat Arkansas.

Yazoo Sentinel  
Sept. 12, 1889 p. 4


According to Jack D. Coombe in his book THUNDER ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI (Sharpedon, 1996), Brown was a Kentuckian and a 28-year veteran of the U. S. Navy when he was put in charge of completing the Confederate ironclad "Arkansas." The Yazoo City naval yard was located just "a mile south of the city" (Hewitt Clarke, HE SAW THE ELEPHANT, CONFEDERATE NAVAL SAGA OF LT. CHARLES 'SAVVY' READ, CSN, p.80, pub. 2000) along the Yazoo River as it makes a loop by the town. This part of the river has now been cut off and Lake Yazoo formed. At one time where the shipyard was located was the McGraw-Curran Lumber Yard. A Mississippi Historical Marker was placed along MS Hwy 149 to commemorate the naval yard and the building of the "Arkansas."

Before coming to Yazoo City to superintend the building of the "Arkansas," Brown lived in Grenada, MS (see THE YAZOO COUNTY STORY, p. 54 (published in 1958 by the Yazoo Historical Association) and YAZOO: ITS LEGENDS AND LEGACIES by Harriet DeCell and JoAnne Prichard, p. 294 (1976).

I have no information on Brown's wife. Wikipedia says he married after the Mexican-American War and had three sons.

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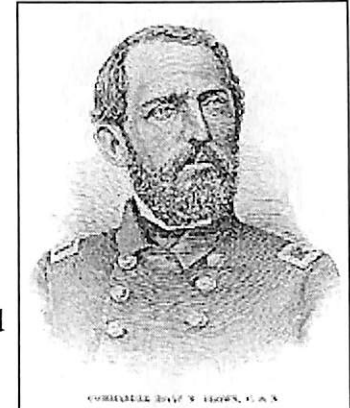
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## Commander Isaac Newton Brown, CSN, (1817-1889)

Isaac Newton Brown was born in Caldwell County, Kentucky, on 27 May 1817. He became a Midshipmen in the U.S. Navy in March 1834 and attained the rank of Lieutenant in 1846. Leaving the service on the outbreak of the Civil War, he accepted an appointment as a Lieutenant in the Confederate States Navy in June 1861 and served in the Mississippi River region during the next two years. In May 1862, he was assigned to the incomplete ironclad CSS *Arkansas*, finishing her outfitting and serving as commanding officer during her dramatic breakout through the Federal fleet to Vicksburg on 15 July 1862. He was promoted in August 1862 in recognition of this bold action. In 1863-65, Commander Brown was captain of the ironclad CSS *Charleston*, which operated in defense of Charleston, South Carolina. After the end of the Civil War, he farmed in Mississippi and later moved to Texas. Commander Isaac Newton Brown died at Corsicana, Texas, on 1 September 1889.



This page features our only images of Isaac Newton Brown.

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### Lieutenant Isaac Newton Brown, CSN

Line engraving published in "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War", Volume III, page 575.

He was Commanding Officer of CSS *Arkansas* during her July 1862 engagements with U.S. Navy forces and was author of the "Battles and Leaders" article in which this engraving appeared.

*U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph.*

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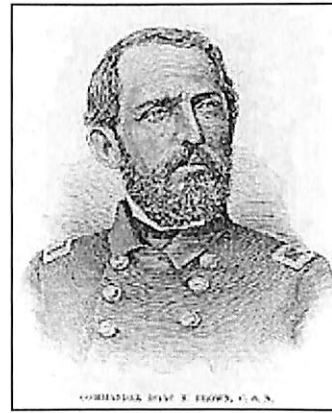
**"Commander Isaac N. Brown, C.S.N."**

19th Century line engraving.

While a Lieutenant, Brown commanded CSS *Arkansas* during her engagements with U.S. Navy forces in July 1862. He was promoted to the rank of Commander in August 1862.

*U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph.*

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28 November 1999