D. Brainard Bayless

This youth, handsome, dashing and brilliant, readily became one of the pets of the brigade. A native of Covington, Ky., apparently not more than sixteen years of age, small, always neatly attired, a perfect little gentleman, he first came to the brigade as a member of “the little battery.” The first time I ever saw the battery in action was at Telfords Station, where it came promptly upon the field when the engagement began, and at the first fire my attention was attracted to the little boy, Bayless, who was rapidly working one of the guns, and at each discharge of the diminutive cannon he would wave his hat, jump into the air and cheer. After leaving the battery he filled various “preferred” positions, and being a prime favorite of Adjutant-General Guarrant he was installed into that officer’s office as clerk and to perform general staff duty—the same position held by myself. Later, when General Breckinridge was in command, his younger brother, Tommy Bayless, joined us, and for a long time was my bedfellow and most intimate companion. Brainard Bayless was captured at Mt. Sterling, June, 1864, during Morgan’s raid, but escaped from prison, and in the following September rejoined the command, remaining with it until the termination of the war.