A Denial

It is very strange that after frequent publications of the Truth, you read such misstatements as were capria from The Philidelphia Times of Jany 13, 1893. That […] by a Sheet representing to be the voice of the Confederate Veterans. I allude to an article giving Gen Evans’ war record. I know nothing about that part of his illustrious deeds prior to the assault on Ft Steadman. The representation may be truthfully portrayed up to that time. But I am in a position to say positively Gen Evans was not a participant of that hazardous undertaking. Nor was it Gen Lee’s military tactics that […] the assault. Gen Gordon conceived the plan and proposed it to Gen Lee, who declared the scheme impracticable, Gen Gordon however did not agree with him, he told the Commander-in-Chief, his Sharpshooters could and would Capture the Fort. After a long discussion Gen Lee yielded. Capt Carson was at the time in command of the Sharpshooters, of about 100 men in number, they came from every state, were selected for their skill and bravery. The Fort was commanded by Gen McLocklin with over 500 men and eight pieces of artillery.

Surely those who have any desire to be just will remember in Jany 1884 an article appeared in the Macon Telegraph dictated by the chief actor of that memorable occasion, and written by Mr. Harry Edwards, giving the only true account ever rendered to the public of the fate of Ft. Steadman. This account was full of tragic interest so accurately described by Capt Carson as to leave no doubt as to its truthfulness. Besides there are those living to day who shared those trying moments whose pleasure it will be to join the wife in calling for justice, that honor shall be given where honor is due. The capture of Ft Steadman is now [considered?] to be the most brilliant event of our late war. Such would not have been the case had a whole division been engaged instead of 100 men commanded by a Captain and not by a General. Capt Carson always considered it a compliment to his bravery, that Gen Gordon should have selected him as the leader of the assault. Fear never however captured his patriotic heart, young and gallant, a southern born gentleman, he was proud of offering his life if needs be a sacrifice upon his country’s altar, and so successfully did he carry out his directions that nothing remained to be done but for the promise reinforcements to occupy the hardly controled field, but now came. The gallant captain had the [mortification] of seeing the stars and bars supplanted by the stars and stripes. Let me use the exact words of the Hero in his discription to Mr. Edwards, “As I entered the lines again, from which I had gone so hopefully in the early morning, I looked back to Ft Steadman, there in the sunlight floated again the stars and stripes in the last aggressive movement of the confederacy had failed Ten days later Richmond was evacuated.” I hope the friends of Gen Evans will not feel the need of another fame to add Laurells to his name in the
present Campaign, let him stand or fall upon his own merit. Capt Carson is no longer with us, his spirit is with his Heavenly Father. Therefore [grudge] not to his loving survivors this honor which so justly belongs to their dead. Be just, and render to Caesar the things that are Caesars.

Mrs. J. P. Carson

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Article:

**Justice to Whole It Is Due.**

Editors of the Cordele Sentinel –

Gentlemen: I read in your paper of July 5th a portion of Captain Kingsbury’s speech delivered in Vienna on the occasion of the Confederate veterans’ reunion. I must confess my surprise after reading so accurate an account of those stirring […] that he should have been […] the impression that Fort Steadman was taken by 3,000 or 4,000 troops commanded by General Gordon. I have always been impressed that General Gordon, and not General Lee, planned the assault, and that General Gordon selected Captain Carson, who at the time commanded Grooves’ sharpshooters, to undertake the Herculean task of capturing Fort Steadman.

The Capture of Fort Steadman was one, if not the most brilliant, evens of our Confederate war, but would not have been had 3,000 or 4,000 troops been engaged, instead of only 100 men true and tried. Fort Steadman was manned by 500 men, 8 pieces of artillery and one general officer.

This Correction should not be necessary. A few years before my father’s death, he was interviewed, and gave to the public the true story of Steadman’s fall. This account was published in the leading papers of this and other states. If it lacked truth, why did not some one come forward then and give a correct statement? Now that the chief actor in that drama sleeps in his grave and cannot demand his rights, it seems there are those who would dispute his just claims, who would not have dared cast a doubt upon his word while living.

Very respectfully,

Briggs Carson.