

HERBERT, HILARY ABNER

Confederate soldier, congressman, Secretary of the Navy, was born at
March 12, 1834.
Laurensville, now Laurens, S.C./ Educated at the universities of Alabama and
Virginia, studied law and admitted to the bar. He practiced in Greenville,
Ala. until the outbreak of the Civil War. Served in the Confederate Army
as captain and colonel of the 8th Alabama Regiment. Disabled at the Battle
of the Wilderness (1864) retired from the Army and resumed the practice of
law, first at Greenville and then at Montgomery, Ala. (1872). He was elected
to Congress in 1877 and was re-elected seven times. He was a member of the
committee on ways and means and three times chairman of the committee on naval
affairs. In the latter capacity he was largely responsible for the increased
appropriations which led to the revival of the American Navy. In 1893 he was
appointed Secretary of the Navy in President Cleveland's cabinet. He had a
definite program in view which centered construction work upon battleships and
torpedo boats and constantly urged increased construction upon a reluctant
Congress, he was able in spite of the financial depression to get support for
an enlarged navy.

From 1897 to the end of his life, the Honorable Hilary Herbert practiced
law in Washington. He died in Tampa, Florida on March 6, 1919, shortly before
his eighty-fifth birthday.