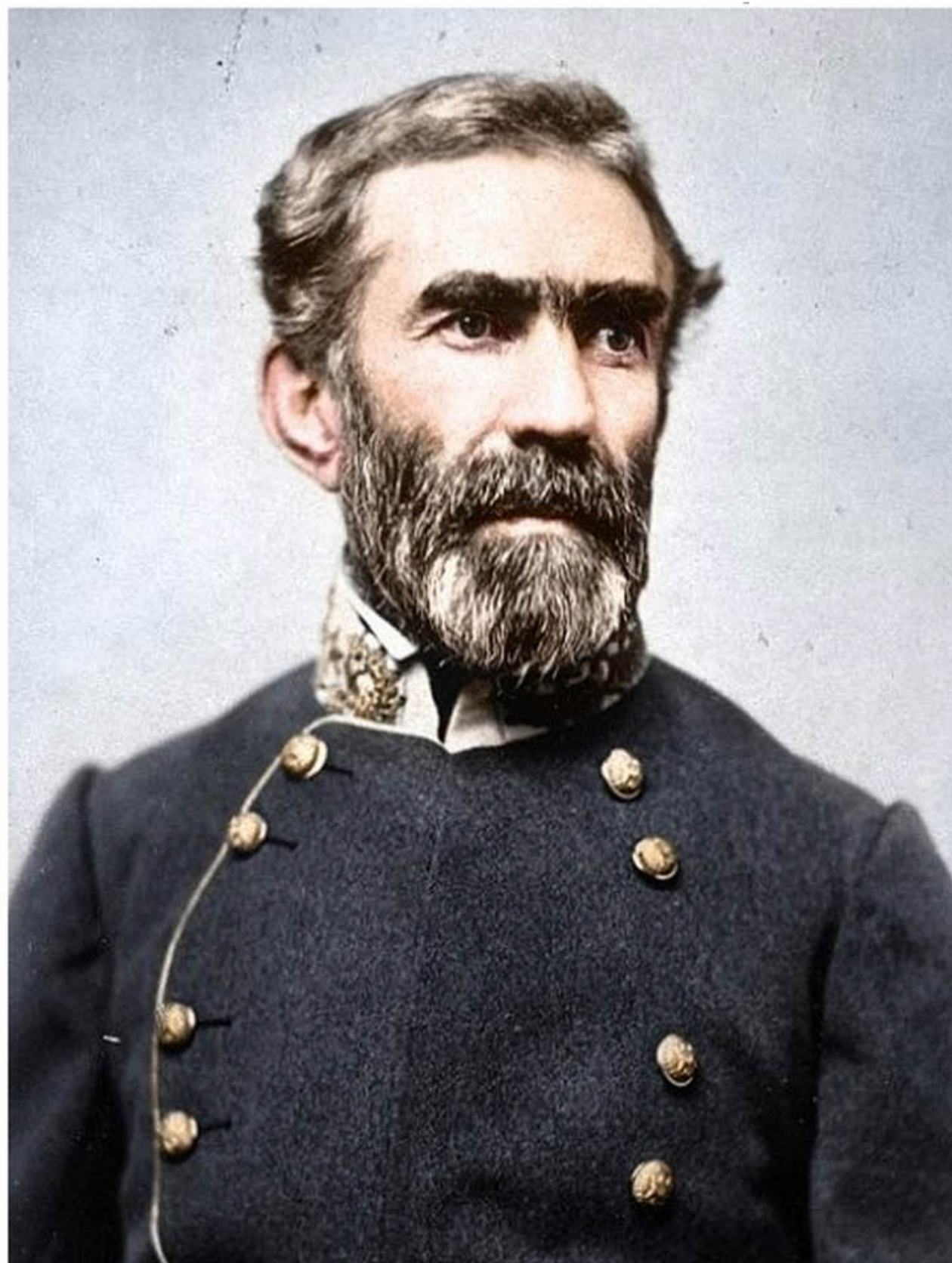


THE GENERALS WHO FAILED



Irvin McDowell, a Union commander, led the first sizable Union army on the first "on to Richmond" drive in July, 1861. His untrained, poorly organized army met the Confederates at Bull Run and was beaten in a battle which ended in a Union rout. The defeat was no fault of McDowell's, whose battle plan was excellent, but it weakened his reputation and he was replaced by McClellan. After more defeats, he was assigned to noncombat duty in California, and the Civil War knew him no more.



Braxton Bragg, a stern, humorless Confederate, possessed a distinguished Mexican War record and was assigned to command the unlucky Confederate Army of Tennessee. He had a knack of making excellent moves and then failing to cash in on them. In 1862 he fought the bloody battle of Murfreesboro against a Union army led by Gen. William S. Rosecrans. At the end of the first day, Bragg's army was clearly the victor, but Bragg failed to follow up his triumph, stayed on the field inactive for two days, and was finally driven off in retreat.

FAILED GENERALS

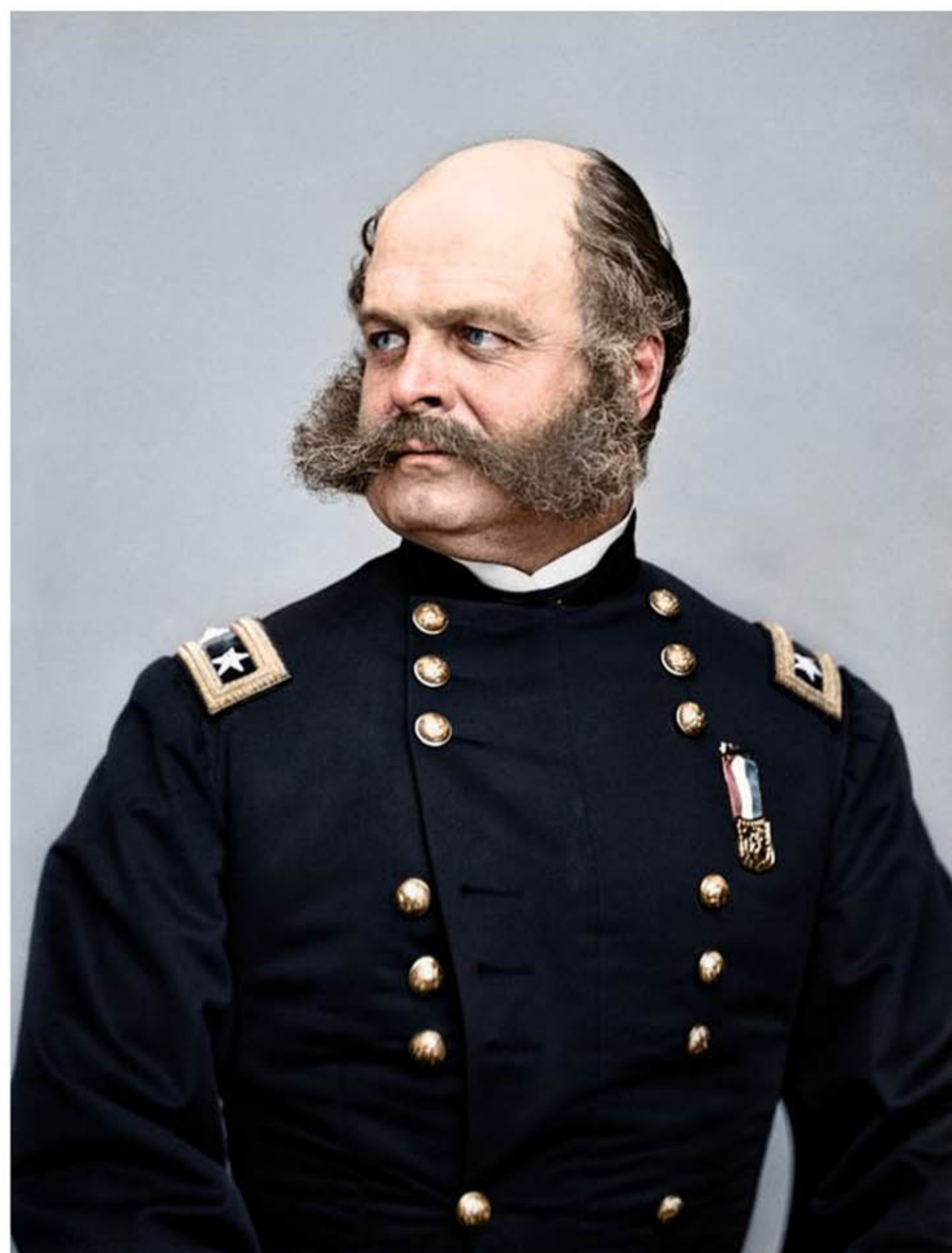


John C. Pemberton was a Pennsylvanian who fought for the South, partly because he married a Virginia woman and partly because he was convinced of the right of secession. Opposing Grant, he proved utterly unable to fathom Grant's movements and permitted his army to be penned up at Vicksburg in 1863. He finished the war as an obscure lieutenant colonel of artillery in the defenses of Richmond.



John Pope, an energetic Unionist, had considerable success early in 1862 in the Mississippi Valley, and was brought east. He indulged in a good deal of loose talk which was interpreted as sheer braggadocio, and when Lee and Jackson gave him a stunning defeat at the second Battle of Bull Run he was washed up. The government sent him to Minnesota to fight Indians for the rest of the war.

FAILED GENERALS



Ambrose Burnside was a Union general who is chiefly remembered today for his luxurious whiskers, commemorated in the name "sideburns." In December 1862 he assaulted an impregnable Confederate position, was roundly defeated, and lost 12,000 men without gaining the slightest advantage. Burnside was soon relieved of his command and ended the war with his name a synonym for whiskers and failure.

PAGEANT
June, 1958
p. 148

OldMagazineArticles.com