THE GILMERS

BY

JNO. GILMER SPEED

1731 - - - - 1897

CRAIGMILLAR CASTLE, NEAR EDINBURGH IN SCOTLAND.

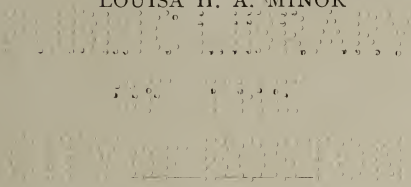
THE GILMERS IN AMERICA

BY

JOHN GILMER SPEED

With a Genealogical Record, Compiled by

LOUISA H. A. MINOR



"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches."

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John Gilmer Speed,

THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED TO THE

MEMORY OF

DR. GEORGE GILMER

THE FIRST OF

THE GILMERS IN AMERICA AND THE FOUNDER

OF A FAMILY OF WHICH THIS BOOK

IS AN INADEQUATE RECORD.

PREFACE.

THE editor of this little book permits it to go to press with full consciousness that it is imperfect, both as a record and a narrative. It would be withheld if he had any hope that he could correct the imperfections which will be manifest to all who read it. He has endeavored to secure information of interest and value, and in this he trusts that in a measure he has succeeded. But he has not been able to secure full information. If the faults of the work be only those of omission he will be glad, for such he could not avoid.

The members of the family, when applied to, have expressed a cordial interest in the work and have supplied the material from which this narrative and these records have been constructed. Many papers which would have been of great assistance were destroyed during the Civil War, the ravages of which were particularly sad in those sections where the Gilmer archives were chiefly stored. Acknowledgment is hereby made to all of those who have assisted. Should mention be made of each individual contributor, it would be necessary to print a pretty full list of the living lineal and collateral Gilmers.

This work could not have been undertaken had it not been for the pious zeal of Mrs. Mary E. Gilmer, widow of John Thornton Gilmer of Salt Lake City, Utah. She in large measure guaranteed the expense of the undertaking, and also in a great degree inspired the interest of others into practical activity. It is well that these facts should be made known to the Gilmers and others of the connection who cherish the bonds of family and recognize the obligations of kinship.

The editor has been asked to "tell the bad as well as the good"; on the other hand, he has been counseled against "too great frankness for fear that disagreeable things might be recalled, and the innocent made to suffer." It is pleasant to be able to say that the editor can obey the first injunction without any indelicate frankness, and the consequences thereof. The Gilmers have been a clean people, and the bad have been so inconspicuous that their evil deeds are long forgot, or so hidden by the mantle of charity that they cannot now be discovered.

No vain pride has inspired the making of this record. On the contrary, it is the hope of those who are responsible for this publication that it will tend to the suppression of idle vanity and vulgar pride, while stimulating a wholesome feeling of obligation in all of the kin to strive to be worthy of an honorable name and of untainted blood.

J. G. S.

Mendham, New Jersey,
June, 1897.

THE GILMERS IN AMERICA.

GILMER, Gilmor, Gilmour, and Gilmore are all of the same Scottish origin. The name comes from the Gaelic *gille*, a servant, and *mor*, large, great; it was given to the henchman or follower of the chief, to one who carried the chief's broadsword. In none of its forms has this name ever been common in America, and it is not so in Scotland to-day. In the Edinburgh directory for 1896 there were only nineteen Gilmours, fourteen Gilmores, and no Gilmers. In America Gilmore is the commonest form, while Gilmer and Gilmor are the most distinctive. Anyone tolerably acquainted with American history would be pretty sure to conclude that a Gilmer in this country was of Virginian ancestry, and that a Gilmor originated in Maryland. I have made no effort whatever to trace any connection between these well-known families, but shall content myself with sketching the Gilmers of Virginia; a race which has spread to many parts of the country and has supplied to society men and women of approved intelligence, virtue, and courage.

The founder of this American family was Dr. George Gilmer, who was born near Edinburgh in 1700. His father was William Gilmer, an advocate, a member of the family which owned the castle and estate of Craigmillar for several generations. Craigmillar became the property of the great lawyer Sir Thomas Gilmour, at some time in the middle of the sixteenth century, when it was used very frequently as a royal residence. It was a very old place then, and had recently been restored, as it had been burned by the English after Pinkey fight in 1555. Captain Grose, the noted antiquarian, was sure that the building, which is now again in ruins, was rebuilt immediately after this fire. A date on the rampart wall shows that it was built in 1427. When this castle was used by Mary Stuart so constantly, it was the property of the Gilmour family, and a newer and more spacious residence than any in the neighborhood of the Scotch capital. Indeed, the Court was so often established at Craigmillar that the little village in which the retainers and servants were lodged acquired the name of Little France.

Previous to Mary Stuart's time Craigmillar had been used in 1477 for the imprisonment of John, Earl of Mar, brother of James III., and during his minority it was often used by James V. But Mary Stuart's residence in Craigmillar, and the things she there sanctioned, have fixed the

old castle permanently in history. Disgusted with the treacherous plasticity of her husband, the youthful Darnley, and madly enamoured of the bolder and more manly Bothwell, the Scottish Queen considered that no price was too high to pay for a release from her distasteful partner. The Pope did not take kindly to the idea of a divorce. A poison, the illness from which was called the smallpox by the members of the Court, failed to do its work. And so a party of Bothwell's adherents met at Craigmillar, where the Queen was in residence, and signed this bond, which was drawn up by a cousin of Bothwell, the wily Sir James Balfour:

"That fer sae meikle as it was thought expedient and profitable for the commonweal, by the nobility and lords underwritten, that sic an young fool and proud tyran [as the King] should not bear rule of them—fer divers causes therefore they all had concluded that he should be put forth by one way or other—and whosoever should take the deed in hand or do it, they should defend and fortify it, for it should be by every one of them reckoned and holden done by themselves."

This bond was signed by Argyle, Huntly, Maitland, Bothwell, and Balfour, and news of its execution was not slow in reaching the sick room

of Darnley at Glasgow. It was at first proposed to remove Darnley to Craigmillar, and there do him to death, but at the last moment he was lodged in the house in Edinburgh, where he was blown up with powder.

This castle is all in ruins now, but it is one of the show places of Edinburgh, lying on a commanding hill, surrounded by fine trees, about three miles south of the city. In 1668 the owner of Craigmillar, Alexander Gilmour, was created a baronet. The second baronet of Craigmillar was also Sir Alexander Gilmour, who was born in 1657, and married the Honorable Grizel Ross, daughter of the eleventh Lord Ross. The second baronet died in 1731, and was succeeded by his only surviving son, Sir Charles Gilmour, the third baronet, who was also a Member of Parliament for the county of Edinburgh, from 1737 till his death in 1750. He was married to Jean, daughter of Sir Robert Sinclair, baronet, of Longformacus. By her he had one son, Sir Alexander Gilmour, the fourth and last baronet of Craigmillar. This Sir Alexander was an officer in the Foot Guards, Member of Parliament for Edinburgh county from 1761 to 1774, and a clerk comptroller of the Board of Green Cloth. He died in France in 1792, and the baronetcy became extinct. The eldest daughter of the second baronet married William Little of Liberton, in the county of Edinburgh. Her only child, Grizel

Little, married her cousin, Walter Little of Liberton. Their only son, Wm. Charles Little

of Liberton, was born in 1742, and on the death of the fourth baronet he succeeded to the estates

of Craigmillar, and assumed the name and arms of the Gilmours. For two more generations the property remained in the hands of the Little-Gilmours of Craigmillar and Liberton, and then by the Entail Acts the property was broken up. The arms of the Gilmours of Craigmillar, as recorded by Burke, are "Az. three writing pens paleways arg." The Virginia Gilmers have used a more elaborate coat of arms, of which the cut on the preceding page is a copy.

The first time that this coat of arms was brought to the attention of George Rockingham Gilmer, author of the "Georgians," was when a copy of it was brought out from Scotland by Francis Walker Gilmer in 1824. He made an extract from the Register of Armorial Bearings of Scotland as follows:

"The right worshipful Sir Charles Gilmer of Craig-Miller, Baronet, bears azure, a chevron, between two fleur de lis in chief or; and in base, a writing pen, fine feathered argent, with the badge of Nova Scotia as Baronet, Crest a garland of laurel proper. Motto, 'Perseveranti dabitur.' Matriculated 18th Dec., 1735."

The author of the "Georgians" makes this comment: "The gentleman upon whom it was conferred, was certainly not an ancestor of any of the Gilmers of Virginia on Broad River.

Their relationship to him must therefore have been very distant if any at all."

Governor Gilmer was evidently unaware that this Sir Charles Gilmer, or Gilmour, was a third baronet and had inherited his title and arms, and therefore most likely took for granted, on account of the date of matriculation, four years after Dr. George Gilmer came to America, that the connection between the Scotch baronet and Scotch doctor was remote, if any at all. It was no doubt remote, but they were of the same family and descended from a common ancestor, the first Gilmer who owned Craigmillar by purchase from Sir Simon Preston, whose ancestors acquired it from John de Capella in 1374. The Gilmers have therefore been quite right in using the arms of the Craigmillar family; that is, quite right in using those armorial bearings if they used any at all.

The first Dr. George Gilmer was graduated from the University of Edinburgh and went to London to practice medicine with Dr. Ridgway. Before he had been there long he attracted the attention of the directors of the Royal Land Company, which was interested in large properties in Virginia. He was employed by this company to go out to Virginia and make an examination and a report on the properties. Before going to Virginia, on a mission which was regarded by the ordinary Londoner of that day

as an adventure full of peril and hazard, he was privately married to the only child of Dr. Ridgway, in the presence of Mrs. Ridgway. He came then in 1731 to Williamsburg, where were the colonial headquarters of the Royal Land Company.

He stayed in Virginia the better part of a year and returned to London with the information he had been sent for. But in London he was met with the sad intelligence of the death of his young wife—a wife who never knew aught of the placid pleasures of married life, but who was remembered always with chivalric tenderness by the bridegroom who won her but to lose her. Indeed, her family name * was bestowed

* The name Peachy Ridgway Gilmer will be found to recur very frequently in the Gilmer record, which Miss Minor has prepared and which follows. In one branch of the family at least there was a tradition that Dr. Ridgway's wife was the daughter of a French military man named Peachy, and that the name "Peachy Ridgway," given to Dr. Gilmer's first son, was a combination of the two family names of his first wife. I doubt this, but it may be so for any direct evidence that I have to the contrary. If it be so it is a most singular coincidence, as the maiden name of the mother of Dr. Gilmer's second wife was unquestionably Peachy, and there were persons of that name in Virginia during the Revolutionary War who were united to the Gilmers and the Walkers of that period by ties of blood and friendship. One of them, Colonel William Peachy, was an officer of distinction in the army of Washington. My attention was attracted to this "Peachy Ridgway" tradition by a letter from Peachy Ridgway Gilmer of Plain-

upon the eldest born of Dr. Gilmer's children by a subsequent marriage, and it has been honorably borne by subsequent generations for more than a hundred and fifty years.

He returned to Virginia almost immediately and settled in Williamsburg, where he managed the affairs of the Royal Land Company and also practiced medicine. His social position in the colony was evidently good from the start, for in May,

dealing, La., to Mrs. John Thornton Gilmer of Salt Lake in Utah. In this letter, dated July 7, 1894, and written when Mr. Gilmer was eighty-four years old, Mr. Gilmer says: "My father's grandfather was a native of Scotland and a doctor of medicine. He moved to London and there got employment in an apothecary shop kept by a man named Ridgway. His employer's wife was a Frenchwoman whose maiden name was Peachy. They had a daughter Mary Peachy, whom he married. He left London and moved to Virginia. His first wife died childless. He afterward married twice—once a Miss Walker and after her death a Miss Blair, from which of the wives I am descended."

It will be seen by this extract that Mr. Gilmer of Plaindealing, La., had the record tolerably clear, but as the second wife of Dr. Gilmer, Miss Walker, was named Mary Peachy, I am inclined to the belief that Miss Ridgway's mother's name was not Peachy. Mr. Frank Gilmer of Charlottesville, Va., in commenting on this tradition, says that "Peachy" is a Gilmer, not a Walker, name. The records of the Walkers and their descendants show that if it be a Gilmer name it is also a Walker name, and a name in which the Walkers took considerable satisfaction, for in their family it is continually recurring. The present generation of the families that once were proud to call their children Peachy appear to think the

1732, he married Mary Peachy, the daughter of Dr. Thomas Walker of King and Queen County, a leading citizen of the colony, and a man distinguished for the high offices that he held and the very large estate that he acquired. As will be seen by the record Dr. Gilmer again became a widower in 1745, and he wrote in his Bible that this bereavement was "to the great loss of her said children, but more immediately

name not entirely lovely, for I know of several instances where pseudonyms have been adopted instead of the once highly cherished Peachy. On the other hand Mr. Caleb Capps of Palmyra, Ill., a gentleman skilled in genealogical lore and the son of a Gilmer, quotes in a letter to me Miss Minor's "Meriwethers" (Note, p. 146) as authority for the statement that the first Mrs. Gilmer was the mother of Peachy Ridgway Gilmer and George Gilmer. From this Mr. Capps concludes that the second wife "Mary Peachy Walker, died childless, and his last wife Miss Blair, was the mother of my ancestor John Gilmer." Then he piously adds: "Let us hope that the coincidence of the 'Peachy' in the names of his two first wives was an indication of kindly kinhood among our ancestors, and that Dr. George stood well among his wife's people, marrying one in London and one in Virginia. This is the only explanation I can find and it would leave the question of accuracy between Governor George and Miss Minor with the probability of Miss Minor being correct." But Governor George R. Gilmer, when he wrote his "Georgians," had his great-grandfather's family Bible before him, and there it is set down that Peachy Ridgway and George were both the sons of Mary Peachy Walker Gilmer. So we are just where we started—a tradition on one hand and record on the other, and the probabilities all in favor of the written record.

to her Husband, who had experienced her Christian life and fondness for him."

Two months and eleven days after this sad event Dr. George Gilmer took to wife Miss Harrison Blair, a sister of the Hon. John Blair, President of the Virginia Council. The Blairs were as considerable people in the colony as the Walkers, as the uncle of Dr. Gilmer's Blair wife had founded and was first president of William and Mary College, while her nephew, John Blair, was an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court under appointment from Washington. I somewhat doubt the accuracy of the date, as given in the "Georgians," for the third wedding of Dr. Gilmer, and am inclined to believe that 1745 should read 1746. If the first were the correct date I do not understand how the fact escaped a comment from Governor George R. Gilmer, who had a very pretty talent for giving prominence to any peculiar act of any of the Gilmers. Possibly his great-grandfather held to the not unreasonable view that no greater tribute could be paid to the worth of a wife than to quickly find her successor when she was dead, and that the gallant descendant who won fame as Governor of Georgia agreed with him unreservedly. As I have been unable to secure the manuscript record, I transcribe it as it has been printed. This wife bore two sons, John and William, and November 2, 1755, "after

a severe and long painful illness, departed this life, Sunday evening between 8 and 9."

Dr. Gilmer was engaged to be married, accord- to the "Georgians," to Miss Ambler, when he died, January 15, 1757. He was surely fond of matrimony; if it were not irreverent, it might be said that he was addicted to it and proposed as well as he might to put in practice the scriptural admonitions as to the unwisdom of dwelling alone. This is the will disposing of his property, and the codicil executed a month before his death:

"In the name of God Amen I George Gilmer Chirurgeon Apothecary of the City of Williamsburgh being thank God in perfect health do make and ordain this to be my last Will and Testament.

"Imprimis I bequeath my soul to God hoping to receive forgiveness of all my sins thro' the merits of my Saviour Jesus Christ and my body I commit to the Earth to be decently buried close by my last wife my Estate after my just and lawful Debts are paid I give and dispose as followeth between my three sons

"Item I give and devise to my eldest son Peachy to him and his Heirs forever the House and lots wherein I now live with the Shop and all other buildings thereon

"Item I give the Brick store and House with the lot and every other House therein at my

decease to my son George now in England to him and his heirs forever.

"Item I give my part in Raleigh with the land belonging to it to my youngest son John to him and his heirs forever.

"Item I give to my son Peachy one negro wench Patt and her children with my watch and appurtenances as also a Crooked Guinea.

"Item I give to my son George my negro wench Ely and her children with the Gold Chain and Dove in the Silver Box

"Item I give to my son John Sally and Ferret two negro wenches with their children.

"All the rest of my Estate whatsoever I desire may be disposed of to the best advantage and equally divided between them in case of the death of either before they come to the age of twenty-one his part or parts shall be equally divided among the survivers.

"Item the Mourning Rings and other Trinkets not mentioned I leave to the discretion of my Executors to divide among the children as they see proper.

"I do hereby appoint and Commission Dr. Thomas Walker of Louisa and John Blair Jun Mercht in Williamsburg with my nephew John Blair to be Executors of this my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have herewith set my lines and affixed my Seal, this tenth day of Novr. 1755

"Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the Testator as used for his last Will and Testament

"GEO: GILMER { L. S. }

"in Presence of
"JAMES KEITH
"RICHARD PRINGLE
"MARY her x mark DUNFORD
"RO. C. NICHOLAS
"THOS. EVERARD
"JOHN PEARSON WEBB.

"I George Gilmer Chirurgeon Apothecary of the City of Williamsburg being in perfect Sense and Memory tho' now Sick do this 14th day of February 1757 make and publish this my Codicil to my last Will and Testament in manner following that is to say I do hereby impower my Executors if they think it necessary to sell and dispose of the real Estate given by my will to my young son John viz: my part in the Raleigh with the Land belonging to it and the Negros Sally and Ferritt with their children and to apply the money in any other purchase or as they shall judge best for his Interest. Item I impower them with the Consent of my son George now in England to sell the Estate thereby given him during his minority and to

apply the Money as they shall Judge best for his interest. I desire the Estate may be kept together til my son Peachy come of Age and that out of the Profits my Sons be maintained and then a division made equally. I give to my house-keeper Mary Dunford for her extraordinary care of my late wife and me in our last illness the sum of twenty Pounds. I give to Mrs. Christian Burwell in token of my affection my Desk or Dressing Table upstairs I desire to be buried without any pageantry or mourning and that my Executors may not be required to give Security, and I desire that this my Codicil be annexed to and made a part of my last Will and Testament to all intents and purposes and because some of the Witnesses of my Will may not be easily got viz. Richard Pringle and James Keith I desire the proving of this codicil may be taken as the proof of my will. In Witness whereof I have herewith set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

"Signed Sealed and Published by the said George Gilmer as a codicil to be annexed to his will in the Presence of GEO: GILMER { L. S. }

"RO C. NICHOLAS

"THOS EVERARD

"JOHN PEARSON WEBB.

"At a court held for Leek County the 21st day of February 1757

"This Will and Codicil were proved according to Law by the Oaths of Robert Carter Nicholas and Thomas Everard witnesses thereto and sworn to by Thomas Walker and John Blair junr. Executors therein named and ordered to be recorded and on the Motion of the said Executors Certificate was granted them for obtaining a Probate in due form Liberty being reserved for the other Executor to Join in the Probate when he shall think fit.

"Test Thos. Everard Cur."

When Dr. Gilmer died his eldest son Peachy Ridgway was twenty years old, his second son George was fifteen, and his third son John was only nine. Each of these three reared a family and, as will be seen by reference to Miss Minor's record, each was the founder of a more or less distinct branch. The descendants of the eldest son are chiefly those who made homes in Georgia and thence spread over several of the Southern States; the descendants of the second son for a generation or so remained with tolerable constancy in Virginia, while the Illinois, Missouri, and far Western Gilmers are generally descended from the youngest son John, whose mother was a Blair.

It is interesting to note that the custom of primogeniture was not followed by Dr. Gilmer in the distribution of his property, which was

apparently divided as nearly as possible in equal shares. It is also interesting to note that his early marriage with Miss Harrison Blair apparently did not injure his friendly relations with his second wife's family, for we find that his brothers-in-law, Dr. Thomas Walker (guardian of Thomas Jefferson) and John Blair, together with his nephew by marriage, John Blair, were appointed executors of his will and administrators of his estate. In this will, by the way, though Dr. Gilmer remembered his faithful housekeeper and his friend Mrs. Barwell, he made no provision for his *fiancée* Miss Ambler, of whom I learn nothing from any other source than the "Georgians," the entertaining and candid chronicle which Governor George R. Gilmer contributed to family history. From that chronicle much will hereafter need to be extracted, and acknowledgment is now generally given for what may be taken.

THE ELDEST BRANCH.

Dr. George Gilmer's first son was educated chiefly at William and Mary College, and was evidently lacking in ambition to go abroad for scholastic training, as it was the custom at that time in the colony for the eldest sons of well-to-do and well-born families to go. We have seen that Dr. Gilmer in making his will was unmoved by the traditions of the feudal system, and did not recognize any rights of primogeniture; but primogeniture in education survived in Virginia for more than two generations after he had passed away, and until the establishment of the University of Virginia. The great thing, the almost indispensable thing to do was to send one son to England for his teaching and training, and that son was preferably the eldest born. But Peachy Ridgway Gilmer had a predilection for agriculture, and probably felt that the culture to be acquired at his home college would be sufficient for the life he meant to lead. Even as a lad he was blunt in speech and open of heart.

While he was at college Braddock's unfortunate expedition went West to conquer the French and their Indian allies. In these border wars William

and Mary had always done her part, sending her professor of mathematics, Joshua Fry, in command of the Virginia regiment of which Washington was the major before the advent of the ardent and impetuous English general. For Braddock's campaign William and Mary gave leave of absence to so many students that the doors of the college were closed till the remnants of the expedition returned. Peachy Gilmer was one of those who accompanied the troops, his college chum Frank Meriwether being also his marching and fighting companion.

While on a visit at the home of this intimate friend, he fell in love with and married the sister Mary Meriwether, and soon after settled on a farm, in Rockingham County, and called his place Lethe, because of its remoteness from old associations and the forgetfulness of care of its owners and visitors. "The Meriwethers," we are told in the "Georgians," "were then, as they are now, plain people in manners and dress. Peachy Gilmer, from being the most dashing beau of the metropolis of the colony, became as unpretending in his appearance and manners as any of his new relations." He lived to old age, his distinguished grandson tells us, "without troubling himself about anything. The Lethe tract of land was large and fertile. He had many negroes, kept fat horses and cattle, and lived bountifully upon the products of his farm, selling only what

was sufficient to pay his taxes, and buy sugar and coffee in the small quantities then used. His wife was a most notable housekeeper, managed the children and servants, made their clothing, and provided furniture for the house. Peachy Gilmer's unruffled temper, frank manners, and unrestricted hospitality made his house the collecting place of old and young, who were fond of frolic and fun. He was his father's executor,* and so negligent in collecting the debts of the estate, that large sums were never collected at all."

There were six children by this marriage, and we shall have to depend upon the "Georgians" for an account of how they spent their lives. There were two sons, Thomas Meriwether and George; and four daughters, Mary Peachy, Elizabeth Thornton, Lucy, and Frances Walker.

The eldest son, who, on the death of his father, became the head of the Gilmer family according to the old English method of reckoning, Thomas Meriwether Gilmer, took upon himself the responsibilities of matrimony before he had

* Presumably Governor Gilmer was speaking by the card in this and Peachy Ridgway Gilmer probably succeeded to the administration of his father's estate after attaining his majority. But considering the carefulness of his younger brother, Dr. George Gilmer of Pen Park, I incline to the opinion that if debts were uncollected they were either bad debts or debts that Peachy Gilmer took as his share of the estate.

attained his majority, and a year after this serious venture he displayed his independence of character and his self-reliance by removing with his young wife, Elizabeth Lewis, to Georgia and settling on Broad River, which was then (about 1783) a far frontier. His son thus speaks of him: "He had small hands and feet, his features were regular, his head large, his nose straight and well formed, his eyes very gray and his teeth good. He was somewhat under the common height. His frame of body was small, and his limbs of proper proportions and much muscular strength. He was very fat from childhood, weighing at eighteen two hundred pounds. He floated on water without any effort except straightening his legs. The school to which he went when a boy was up the Shenandoah River a mile or two from his father's. During the summer months he went home by floating and swimming down the river, to save himself from walking. The current of the river was so continued and strong that he could easily outstrip the usual speed of his school companions. He was insensible to cold, but could not bear heat. The doors of his house were never closed day or night, summer or winter. He continued to grow more and more corpulent, until he weighed upward of three hundred pounds. He was an excellent rider, sitting his horse so easily that few men could ride as far in the day. Though

he never worked himself, he impressed the habit very strongly upon his children and negroes. He had governing manners and temper, so that his children never disobeyed him. He managed all his affairs with admirable judgment. He had eight negroes, a small tract of land, and some money, when he settled on Broad River. He left at his death an estate of near seventy negroes, a large tract of land, a considerable sum of money, a large amount in notes due him, besides having previously provided liberally for his children who were married. The estates which they have accumulated are equal together at this time to more than a million of dollars. They are all planters except me. The lawyer and politician is the poorest of them all. Thomas Gilmer was a man of good sense, aided but little by reading. He was punctual in the discharge of every requirement of law. He attended musters and juries, though at great inconvenience. He was a justice of the peace for some time, and was once elected a member of the legislature. He was trustful and upright. I have often heard him mention that he never but once lent money at more than the legal interest. He was induced to do so then by the borrower being a negro trader. The mistake was corrected by the difficulty he met with in collecting any part of the loan. He never suffered his children to harass or hunt birds or beasts. I recollect a

cousin, who was about my own age, instructing me during the idleness of Sunday how to prepare a chicken cock for fighting, by cutting off his comb. My father finding out our employment, took me between his knees, and pulled my own comb until I scarcely knew whether the crown of my head had hair left upon it.

"He bought what he wanted, and sold what he wished to part with. He had a great dislike to chaffering and swapping, considering that the habit of such trading generally ended in the habit of lying. He expressed his thoughts and purposes without equivocation. He had great contempt for foppery of all sorts. When I first went to school, I found most of the boys occasionally wearing fine clothes, and expressed to him on my return home my desire to do as they did. His answer was, that boys neither learned more nor were less wicked by being dressed fine; that when I grew up it would be well enough to attend to dress, because it would influence many persons' opinion of me and thereby increase my capacity for usefulness. After going through school without shoes in the summer, or a broadcloth coat at any time, I was immediately, upon quitting, dressed in the very best which his merchant's store could supply.

"During his youth he performed a tour of militia duty under the Marquis de la Fayette. He had previously gone out with a militia com-

pany to disperse or make prisoners of some Tories who occasionally met in the North Mountains. The company caught a Tory, or what was the same to the prisoner, one suspected by the Whigs. He was carried to a distillery, underwent examination, and was punished by being put headforemost into a large hogshead of water. He kicked his feet free from those who held him, and was about drowning in the confused and failing efforts to draw him out, when a half-witted fellow standing by turned over the hogshead, letting out the Tory and the water.

"My father was temperate in the use of all liquors except water. He was never even slightly intoxicated but once, and that was when he was a boy. Like most of the Gilmers, he loved good eating. He was subject to violent attacks of fever. At one time his physician thought it absolutely necessary to take blood from him. No vein could be found. The temple artery was cut. He had a violent cough, which whenever he lay down, threw off the pressure from the artery, and covered the room with blood before the pressure could be reapplied. He was compelled to sit up in a chair for six to seven weeks, sleeping when he could by leaning his head upon a table before him. He died July, 1817, at his residence on Broad River. He was a member of the Methodist Church from 1809 till his death. He left a widow and nine children.

"Elizabeth Lewis, the wife of Thomas M. Gilmer, was the daughter of Thomas Lewis and Jane Strother. She has now* passed her 89th year and been a widow more than thirty-five. Her ceaseless industry and untiring care have aided to make her children rich. She still enjoys the good things of life with a pleasant relish. She has endured its evils with unfailing patience. Malice and envy seem never to have found a resting place with her for a moment. Cheerfulness constantly shines in her face, and is heard in her voice. Her gentle spirit never reproaches. Necessity alone limits the extent of her kindness. Charity covers the faults of others from her sight, whilst gratitude is ever filling her heart for forgiveness of her own."

I have transcribed these several paragraphs from Governor Gilmer's book in full for two or three various reasons. They draw two distinct characters, the portrayal of which is quite germane to our book, and they picture life in an admirable way as it existed in a frontier community of the South during the early years of this century. Then again Governor Gilmer has been accused by his own kinsmen of a lack of tenderness and affection even for those most nearly related to him. What he has said of his father and mother shows that toward those who won

* This was evidently written some time near to 1852.

his reverence and affection he could be both reverent and tender without bridling that frankness and candor which sometimes quite naturally and properly gave offense. He was a truth-teller as he saw the truth, and if he sometimes bore false and unjust witness, it was because he spoke from misinformation; then his candor betrayed him against his will. Throughout his whole book there is abounding evidence that the truth in his eyes was the most sacred thing in the world. Not having absolute and infallible sources of information, it is not wonderful that his love for the truth should have led him into offenses against reticence and delicacy. I beg those who have condemned the "Georgians" from hearsay to read what he says of his father, and note how he not only escapes exciting mirth, but actually gives to the man who was under the common height but upward of three hundred pounds in weight, a dignity of personality and a simplicity of character which accord thoroughly with high integrity and a worldly shrewdness worthy of the most canny of his Scotch forefathers.

George Gilmer, the second son of the first Peachy Ridgway Gilmer, inherited his father's estate in Rockingham County, Virginia, and lived at Lethe until his death, when he was past seventy years old. His nephew thus describes him: "He had regular features, and an erect, perfectly formed person. His father never sent

him from home or to mix in society. His modest diffidence was never worn off. He sought for a wife only among his cousins, because they were free in their intercourse with him. They happened always to be engaged. His understanding was capable of great things; but its exercise was confined to a very limited range of observation. His discernment was quick and clear, and his judgment unequaled for correct conclusions upon all matters within his examination. His temper and feelings were as simple, sincere, and affectionate as a child's. He never bought or sold for profit. He inherited the valuable Lethe land, upon which he lived, spending its products in hospitality and kindness, without seeking or making any accumulation.* His truthfulness and integrity were never doubted. His kindness to his negroes was without limit. His man, 'Great Billy,' owned three horses through his master's means. After 'Great Billy' lost his first wife, he courted a young girl at Lethe, and tempted her to marry him by offering to keep a gig for her to ride in. When he died his master sold his horses and paid the proceeds of the sale, amounting to between two and three hundred dollars, to 'Great Billy's' children, the negroes of a neighbor. Sterne's description of Uncle Toby was realized in my Uncle George's charac-

* See note from Professor Trent's "English Culture in Virginia," on page 32.

ter. Not a fly ever perished by his thoughtlessness or cruelty. For the last twenty years of of his life he rode a noble horse of his own raising. Sorrel never was in harness. He carried his master wherever he went, especially once a week during the summer months across the Shenandoah River, to the top of Blue Ridge Mountain, where he salted his cattle. Sorrel was never known to leave him, though often left without confinement. When his master died, Sorrel was carried from Lethe to Major Grattan's, where he continued to be served by Major Grattan's children as if he were akin to them. None but the youngest were ever put on his back. When they were, he would walk about as if he knew the preciousness of what he carried. Occasionally he would leave his pasture, and go to Lethe, as though in search of something he had lost. He was always sent for as soon as he was missed, lest he should suffer for the want of food. Sorrel lived to be thirty-seven years old. When he died he was buried with the greatest affection by Major Grattan's children and grandchildren, as if he had been the last remnant of their good uncle."

The four daughters of Peachy R. Gilmer were Peachy,* Elizabeth Thornton, who married Major

* This is the first time that Peachy appears in the family as the baptismal name of a female. It recurs very frequently afterward among the Gilmers and Walkers and Frys.

Robert Grattan, Frances Walker, who married Richard Taliaferro, and Lucy. Peachy and Lucy both remained spinsters. They are both described as fine women, who had the misfortune to be captivated by unworthy suitors. Peachy is represented as a beauty, and her nephew says that "she was more courted than any young lady of the country." But he says one thing of her which indicates that in one regard she did not meet with his entire approbation. "Peachy Gilmer," the frank nephew remarks, "had neither the taste nor capacity for investigating sectarian controversies. She was by inheritance an Episcopalian. When she died she left part of her estate to build a church in Mississippi, for the special use of the Episcopalians." What he would have had the gentle lady to do with her estate he fails to tell us; maybe if it had been left to the Methodists she would have been given crenit for both taste and capacity in sectarian controversy, and have been praised for forsaking the church of her fathers. Lucy Gilmer lived with her brother George until his death, and then made her home with her sister Mrs. Grattan. She was an invalid during the last years of her life, and was tenderly ministered to by her sister and nieces.

Mrs. Elizabeth Thornton Grattan, the wife of Major Robert Grattan, left three sons and two daughters, and their progeny are people not

only of respectability, but of consequence, to-day. Her husband was of Irish lineage and belonged to the same family with Henry Grattan, the great parliamentary orator. The eldest, Eliza Frances, became the wife of her cousin George Rockingham Gilmer, and of her more will be heard in the chapter specially devoted to her husband. Robert, the elest son, was educated to be a lawyer, but upon the death of his father he devoted himself to the care of his father's plantation, which, in a few years, by skillful husbandry, he got into a very fine condition. The second son was named Peachy Ridgway. He was a leading lawyer of Richmond and has left many descendants. His wife was a Ferguson, a descendant of the Bollings of the Pocahontas stock. Lucy Gilmer Grattan, the second daughter, a very beautiful woman, married Dr. George W. Harris of Goodland, Va. John Grattan, the third son, studied medicine and practiced in Morgan County, Georgia, and then in Columbus, Miss. He married Martha, the daughter of his kinsman, Peachy R. Gilmer, and left several children. His widow and family, after his death, moved to Montgomery, Ala., to be near Mrs. Grattan's father. Of her cousin the family chronicler says: "She is a fine mother, an affectionate daughter and a kind kinswoman."

DR. GEORGE GILMER OF PEN PARK.

The second Dr. George Gilmer of Virginia was the second son of the founder of the family in America and was born in Williamsburg January 19, 1742–43. He was the most forceful of the family of his generation and filled a place of distinction in the society and the affairs of the colony. He studied at William and Mary College, and there acquired a knowledge of the classics which he continued to cultivate during his life. He studied medicine with his uncle, Dr. Thomas Walker, and then went to the university of Edinburgh, where he was graduated. He returned to Williamsburg, where his father had been the leading medical man, and began the practice of his profession. He married his first cousin, Lucy Walker, the daughter of his preceptor, and moved to Albemarle County, where he continued to reside until his death in 1792. He acquired with his wife an estate of four thousand acres near Charlottesville which was called Pen Park, and here a hospitality was dispensed that was notable even at a time so generous in enter-

tainment that it is no exaggeration to speak of it as prodigal.*

Dr. Gilmer was the friend and associate of the remarkable men who lived in Albemarle and made that district, during and for many years after the Revolutionary War, the most noted section of the Old Dominion. Among these were Jefferson and Madison. With the former of these Dr. Gilmer was closely intimate, and had confidential relations not only professional but political. In 1774 he represented Albemarle in the House of Burgesses and offered a revolutionary resolution in regard to Crown Lands. This was seconded by Patrick Henry's brother William. He was most prominent that year and the next in opposition to the aggressions of the Crown upon the rights and liberties of the colonists. He addressed the citizens of the county in eloquent protest against the seizure of the powder of the colony by Lord Dunmore, and proposed the organization of independent companies of volunteers to resist these aggressions and protect the rights of the people. This proposition was carried into effect, and he was the First Lieutenant of the Company of Gentlemen

* "The current opinion that Virginia was ruined by the late war is utterly erroneous. Virginia was ruined long before; ruined by an extravagant system of labor, *by a lavish hospitality*, by inattention to ordinary business principles."—*From "English Culture in Virginia," by William P. Trent.*

"PEN PARK," ALBEMARLE CO., VIRGINIA.

Volunteers of Albemarle. This company was drilled regularly and was ready for action at any time. Many of these volunteers took part in the Revolutionary War, and several of them held commissions in the Patriot Army.

As a man of affairs with a talent for executive organization Dr. Gilmer is shown to great advantage by the plans he prepared for these volunteer companies. His papers, showing these plans, have been preserved by the Virginia Historical Society, and extracts from them have been published in volume vi. of the "Miscellaneous Papers" of that society. The propositions formulated by Dr. Gilmer were approved by Washington, Jefferson, and Peyton Randolph, while the most substantial citizens of his county enlisted in the volunteers, upon the following terms:

"We, the subscribers, volunteers in the Independent Companies of the County of Albemarle, do most solemnly bind ourselves by the sacred ties of virtue, Honour, and love to our Country, to be at all times ready to execute the Command of the Committee in defiance of the rights of America (unless incapacitated) agreeable to the underwritten resolves.

"1. We resolve, should we fail or fly back, on being called into service, to be held as unworthy the rights of freemen, and as inimical to the cause of America.

"2. That each man elected to the office of Captain, Lieutenant, or Ensign and refusing to accept the same oblige himself to pay £25 for the first, £15 for the second and £10 for the latter, to be disposed of by the Committee for the use of the Company.

"3. We oblige ourselves to obey the commands of the officers, by ourselves elected from the Inlisted Volunteers, to Muster four times in the year, or oftener, if necessary. To provide gun, shot pouch, powder-horn; to appear on duty in a hunting shirt."

Upon the first assembling of the Volunteers and before the election of officers Dr. Gilmer presided, opening the meeting with a speech full of fire. He addressed himself to the "Gentlemen Soldiers," and began his remarks as follows:

"On your disposition this day much depends respecting our own fate. This alternative is now before us, either to become the voluntary and abject slaves of a wicked administration, or to live free as the air we breathe. The choice is easily made, but remember, the maintaining this happiness must depend on a peculiar magnanimity and resolution which must be firm, unanimous and permanent. We must not only emulate the Roman name but surpass it, if possible, when in its greatest lustre. We must now exert to the

utmost, valor, prudence and love for our country —that valor void of rancour and revenge; observe that prudence which may be necessary, divested of every self interested motive; with that love for our country, that to die in its defence shall be our highest ambition and most exalted virtue."

He plead with them to be firm and to be uninfluenced by party prejudice, to uphold the delegates in Congress and in Convention, and to make themselves "masters of every art of war with the quickest despatch." In conclusion he spoke more personally of himself and said:

"Gentlemen, you behold me before you with my Tomahawk girt about me, and though I am too sensible of my awkwardness, yet your esteem shall animate me to its proper use, and give me liberty now, Soldiers, to plight my honour to you that my ability shall not only be exerted to make myself master of the necessary parade of war, but of the really useful branches of that intricate science, and I do now dedicate my arms, life and fortune to the protection of my country and the service of the first Company of Independents for the County of Albemarle, with this firm resolve never to bury the Tomahawk until liberty shall be fixed on an immovable basis through the whole continent."

It will be seen from the above that the medical man of Pen Park was convinced more than a year previous to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence that nothing less than a separation from England would secure the honor and the liberty the Americans sought. He commanded this company when it marched in July, 1775, from Charlottesville to Williamsburg. While in camp there he wrote this letter to Charles Carter of Corotoman, who represented Lancaster County in the Virginia Convention of 1776. He said:

"Excuse a soldier's presumption in troubling you with a line on public affairs. I shall never presume to advise or recommend, but send you the opinion of an honest heart that glows with as warm an honour in his Country's cause. As we are in a positive state of war, it is my opinion that the Governour ought to be deposed or taken as a hostage, as some kind of security for the good behaviour of our enemies. In the first case, his salary to be stopped, his estate confiscated, in order to refund the loss sustained by individuals by his having their slaves carried off by the *Fowyer*, which ship ought to have blazed in flames long ago. That the King's money be all seized and appropriated to the discharge of military matters. It is my opinion you Gentlemen ought to use the greatest caution

in fixing immediately our military establishment; let it be on such footing as essentially to draw in Gent'n of the first property in the Colony; let us now determine to rest no longer on protection from our virtues, but solely on our arms; let us become rigid disciplinarians, and should the Convention think of appointing an Adjutant, I think you'l from the credentials Mr. Davies will produce, elect him as Adjutant General. If you appoint officers yourselves, let naught but merit gain a commission; if so please to enquire after Mr. Matt Joüett, who was in the last engagement as a volunteer, who showed the truest courage and magnanimity through the whole of his conduct. Let him have your interest and my friends' for a Capt's command. The Capt. of the *Mercury* threatens exerting his coercive means if the Carpenters are not returned. Wisdom and fortitude be with you all. Adieu.

"G. GILMER.

"In Camp, 15th July, 1775."

Indeed, while the volunteers were in camp at Williamsburg, Dr. Gilmer's proposition to seize all the King's money in the hands of agents in Virginia was acted upon and several thousand pounds was secured and used to defray the expenses of the volunteers. But Dr. Gilmer could not bring himself to repudiate private debts, even when they were owed in England, for

we find him about this time sending this letter to Messrs. James & Donald Webster, Druggists and Chemists in London:

"Gentlemen: Contrary to my opinion of what is right, I enclose you a bill of exchange to the amount of my account with you and must observe that your charges were extravagant beyond all bounds. The people in Great Britain are to such a degree corrupted, that gold is the only medium thro' wh' they'l admit any reasoning; if they do not annihilate those acts complained of with the late acts added to that infamous list they must be inevitably ruined. Our Governour has abdicated; taken off numbers of our slaves and intended to raise the whole body into rebellion, but he is disappointed in all his hellish schemes; he, it is said, expects troops, but we are prepared to make them scamper by the Lexington March. I am down with a chosen Detachment of Riflemen to salute any that may be rash enough to land in this Colony. We wish union and peace on Constitutional principles, but we will not yield or surrender one jot of our natural or acquired rights, and I remain a declared enemy of all Sons of Corruption.

"GEORGE GILMER."

The Virginia Convention, then sitting at Richmond, did not approve of the acts of the

officers at Williamsburg in raising revenue by forcible seizure. The officers were told to desist, but nothing was said of restitution. In Albemarle County Dr. Gilmer's activity was somewhat criticised, and we find that the next time he addressed the people of his neighborhood he does so "notwithstanding the censure and illiberal abuse I have received in particular for appearing active in the Weighty affairs of my Country and County; notwithstanding the ungenteel reflections thrown out against the conduct of persons in public business." This criticism unquestionably annoyed him, for he was a friendly and amiable man, but it did not cause him to abate one jot of the fiery zeal which he had previously shown and so fearlessly expressed. He plead with the able-bodied men to join the volunteers and be ready to fight at a minute's notice. Here is one of his arguments:

"Were the whole Colony to be bound by the same obligations, and become fighting men in rotation as they might be called on, then there might be no occasion for more than provisions and cloaths; but how unjust and ungenerous it is to expect only the best spirits in the country should be led into the service to defend the inactive, and such as enjoy themselves in ease at home. An equal tax is certainly the properest method to equipoise all our distresses, and he

who mutinies against this plan must be a Rebell to his country. The name we are called by declares we are always to be ready for action on a minute's warning. If we consider this matter well we shall find out we ought to conduct ourselves with the greatest prudence and circumspection, not to do anything that shall render us incapable of acting up to the name. The first step towards becoming a good soldier is becoming in every respect a good man. We should beware of every species of debauchery; have all our affairs settled, and not when we are called upon say it does not suit—an excuse that some make at this period. Some few, no doubt, are so situated as to render it impracticable to become Minute Men, but numbers *it does not suit because they have no inclination to sacrifice their own ease and interest to their country's welfare;* let these set down and calculate what an army we shall have if none were to act but such as it suited. Shame overtake such as have no better argument than their own convenience. Who does it suit to leave their dearest connections, perhaps never to return. Ye fair, who feel for your offspring's sakes, animate your husbands to the field of battle; bid them quit themselves like men, and fight! Ye tender fair! Ye, virgins, whose hearts are on the verge of yielding to the fond one's wish, boldly postpone the mingling Joys, and spurn the lover that would linger in this hour of

danger when his country calls for his assistance. With what rapture will you receive your sweetheart's returning from battles not fought in vain, loaded with honours and his country's praise, then crown all his hopes with a Heavenly welcome to all your charms."

In another vein he argued:

"A well grounded zeal for the rights of America is sufficient to inspire every American breast with the love of a righteous cause. The king is powerfull but he is not more powerful than God, who is Justice itself, in whom I trust, in the maintenance and prosecution of mine and every American's rights. This must appear a just cause even to our enemies, and let us hearten ourselves by resolutely fighting for our rights and liberties. Woe to us if we should suffer our rights and liberties to be trampled on, extinguished by any power on earth, or that or what we earn hardly should be snatched away and carried off. It is impossible for an honest man ever to hate his country, and as we cannot hate our country, so, for the same reason, we cannot but hate such a generation of men as for their own little ends are willing to enslave it to all posterity, wherein they are worse than Esau, for he sold only his own birthright for a mess of pottage, but not that of other folks too. The

custom and usage of England is the law of England, as the usage of Parliament is the law of Parliament. The English Government is upon covenant and contract. Now it is needless in leagues and covenants to say what shall be done in case the articles are broken. If satisfaction be denied, the injured party must get it as he can. Taking of Towns, ships, etc., are not provided for and made lawfull by any special article; but those things are always implied and always done. There can be no covenant on one side only. What signifies swearing while the original compact is dissolved. Laud says a covenant is a knot; you need not loose both ends of it, but untying one end you untie both. And such is a mutual bond of allegiance betwixt king and people; it is conditional and reciprocal, and impossible for the people to be bound while the king is loose."

When Dr. Gilmer was taking this active part in spurring on his neighbors to a resistance of oppression he was thirty-three years old and as presentable a man as was often seen. He had a manner that was at once commanding and persuasive; his character for integrity and disinterestedness of purpose was such that he said with impunity many things which in another would have given deep offense. And so he was able to do great and patriotic service in this try-

ing time when every true man had to declare himself and place both his life and his fortune at stake. Dr. Gilmer was in constant correspondence at this time with Jefferson in Philadelphia, to whom he sent minute information of the happenings in Albemarle. In one of these letters in the summer of 1775, he said: "I am determined to die in the cause if necessary, in any of their establishments, but shall, I believe, stick to the volunteer list." And he continued a volunteer during the war, rendering service in the field when called upon and working continuously and incessantly for the cause in his own way in his own neighborhood. In the Virginia Convention which met at Williamsburg in 1775, he was returned by Albemarle County as the alternate of Thomas Jefferson.

Mr. Brock in a prefatory note to the "Gilmer Papers," which have been so freely quoted, says:

"His wife was a worthy mate to so sterling a patriot. During the early days of the struggle for independence, the patriots in different sections of the country found great difficulty in corresponding with each other, and it became necessary to establish a secret means of intercommunication by private letter carriers. Mr. Jefferson, during a visit to Dr. Gilmer at this period, in conversation with him, deplored the

want of funds to defray the expense of such correspondence. Mrs. Gilmer, who was present, immediately left the room, and speedily returning with her personal jewels, of much value, handed them to Mr. Jefferson, and, with tearful eyes, asked him to use them in the cause of her country. Nor was she less a heroine than a patriot. When the British troops, under the command of Tarleton, entered Charlottesville in the pursuit of the Virginia Assembly, which had adjourned there to resume their session uninterrupted by the enemy at Richmond, Mr. A., a friend of Dr. Gilmer, was a guest of Mrs. Gilmer, her husband being absent professionally. Mr. A., mounting his horse, attempted to escape, but was shot down and carried off by the enemy. Mrs. Gilmer, learning that he was still alive, determined to succor him; and, accompanied by a maiden sister only, made her way perilously through the village, filled with drunk and disorderly troopers to the presence of Tarleton himself on her errand of mercy. He was so filled with admiration at the courage displayed by Mrs. Gilmer that he not only delivered to her the helpless and insensible form of her friend, but sent his own surgeon to attend him until Dr. Gilmer returned home. Mr. A., happily, recovered to gallantly serve his country, and to bequeath to his descendants a debt of gratitude to the admirable couple at Pen Park."

The desire of Mr. Jefferson in regard to a surer correspondence was met by Dr. Gilmer, who secured a subscription toward postal carriage. This was the obligation and these the subscribers:

"Subscribers to ride in rotation every week for papers and letters to be delivered two days after arrival of post at Fred'g, at Bentivoglio and Charlottesville. Failing penalty £5.

"Thomas Carr	Menan Mills
George Gilmer	John Joseph
S. Taliaferro	J. S. Lewis
T. Jefferson	John Moor
J. Walker	Richard Woods
T. Walker Sr.	James Garland Sr.
T. Walker Jr.	Jason Bocock
Nicholas Lewis	Davis Rodes
Peter Marks	Joseph Holt
J. Harvie	James Garland Jr.
P. Mazzie	Benj. Henderson
P. Lindsay	Chas. Lewis Jr.
Isaac Davis	James Henderson Sr.
Matt. Maury	J. S. Barrett
J. Old	Wm. Brisco
Robert Davis	Tucker Woodson
Richard Bruce	Thomas West
J. S. Kerr	Richard Harvie
William Michie	Jacob Ogilvie
D. Allen	J. S. Marks

H. Mullins	Colo. Edward Carter
P. Clarkson	Chas. Lewis
Thomas Garth	Walker Maury
C. L. Lewis	John Lewis "

This document is transcribed because of the distinguished names in it and because so many of the subscribers were related or connected with the Gilmers. The "Dr. Thomas Walker Sr." was the brother-in-law of the first Dr. George Gilmer and the father-in-law of the subject of this sketch. His seat was Castle Hill in Albemarle County, and he was a man of large property and great influence. He was the guardian of Thomas Jefferson during his minority; in the Braddock Campaign he was Major and Commissary of the Virginia forces; in 1775 he was member of the House of Burgesses and of the Virginia Convention; the year before, after the Indians had been defeated at Point Pleasant by Andrew Lewis, he was commissioned with John Harvie to treat with them; with Daniel Smith he ran in 1778 the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina. His wife was Mildred Thornton, the widow of Nicholas Meriwether. John and Thomas Walker, Jr., were sons of the above and brothers-in-law of Dr. George Gilmer of Pen Park. John Walker of Belvoir was a colonel in the Revolutionary War, an aid on the staff of Washington, and

afterward United States Senator. The life of George Gilmer was full of activity and usefulness. From him are descended many people of note in Virginia and other parts of the country. One of his daughters married that brilliant lawyer William Wirt, Attorney General in the Cabinet of President Monroe. Another of his children, and the most brilliant of the family, was Francis Walker Gilmer, of whom something will presently be said. Mr. Wirt had the highest opinion of his father-in-law, who was his earliest and most influential friend when first the ambitious young advocate went to seek his fortune in Albemarle. It was thus that Wirt spoke of Dr. Gilmer in a letter of friendly advice to Francis Walker Gilmer:

"You, I understand, propose to follow your father's profession. The science of medicine is, I believe, said to be progressive and to be daily receiving new improvements. You will, therefore, have a wider field to cultivate, and will take the profession on the grandest scale—it will be your own fault, therefore, if you do not, as a physician, 'fill a larger space in the public eye.' But the space which your father occupied was not filled merely by his eminence as a physician (although he was certainly among the most eminent), he was moreover a very good linguist—a master of botany and the chemistry of his day—

had a store of very correct general science—was a man of superior taste in the fine arts and to crown the whole, had an elevated and a noble spirit, and was in his manners and conversation a most accomplished gentleman, easy and graceful in his movements, eloquent in speech, a temper gay and animated, and inspiring every company with its own tone, wit pure, sparkling and perennial—and when the occasion called for it, sentiments of the highest dignity and utmost force. Such was your father before disease had sapped his mind and constitution, and such the model, which, as your brother, I would wish you to adopt."

Dr. Gilmer was the most prominent of the physicians of Albemarle during his day, and he was called to all of the great houses both as friend and medical adviser. His account book shows that he prescribed pills and ointments both at Monticello and Montpelier, and it is safe to imagine that he himself prepared his own mixtures, for such was the custom of the time. We have Mr. Wirt's authority for it that he was a good chemist, and in a letter to Jefferson we learn that he tried to turn his scientific knowledge to patriotic purpose before and during the Revolutionary War. In this letter he said:

"You alarm me greatly with y'r account of the scarcity of powder. We were informed here that

it was made in abundance in Philadelphia. It is astonishing when the materials are so easily obtained, that no person should think it worth while. Saltpetre may be had in large quantities from the stores. Why not buy it up? It may be collected in many places. It is to be collected by an easy and cheap process from all putrid substances. I will try and send you a small specimen soon. I have made gunpowder full strong, but cannot grain it, tho' we have tried every plan proposed by Chambers, Postlethwaite, etc., etc."

In the "Georgians" Governor George R. Gilmer printed a very brief sketch of Dr. George Gilmer. That worthy chronicler was not in the habit of wasting words in flattery, and when he tells us of Dr. Gilmer's skill as a physician, his eminence as a citizen and his eloquence as an orator we may take for granted that there was little room for doubt. He says, in his own naïve way, "He loved good conversation and good eating and died of paralysis." There is a suggestion of sequence in this statement, but doubtless the suggestion was not intended; though doubtless also the Governor did have it in his mind that an indulgence in "good eating" was pretty sure to lead to some dreadful illness, paralysis as well as another.

Dr. Gilmer died in 1792 and was buried at Pen

Park; where the cemetery has been undisturbed, though the estate has passed through several hands during the century since his death. Originally the estate consisted of four thousand acres; now all has been sold off save the six hundred acres immediately about the house. This is the property of a German named Hotopp, who has extensive vineyards and makes a wine which he brands as from the "Pen Park Vineyard."

For the record of Dr. George Gilmer's progeny the reader will please consult Miss Minor's genealogical table; of two sons, Peachy Ridgway and Francis Walker, and of one grandson, Thomas Walker, brief sketches will follow.

FRANCIS WALKER GILMER.

Of all the Gilmers of whom I have heard, the subject of this brief sketch appears to have been the most gifted. Intellectually he was the peer of any man of his day, and Jefferson said of him that he was "the best educated subject we have raised since the Revolution." Rarely cultivated, full of enthusiasm and energy, he had every gift save one—a robust constitution. From boyhood he struggled against the handicap of little health, and was finally overcome before he reached middle life. Mr. Jefferson had for him a great affection, and when proposing to make him the first professor of law at the University of Virginia he said: "The individual named . . . is one of the best, and to me the dearest of living men. From the death of his father, my most cherished friend, leaving him an infant in the arms of my sister, I have ever looked on him as a son." In his boyhood Francis Walker had the advantage of intimate association with that very gifted man William Wirt, who when he was Attorney General of the United States took the time from his official duties to write the following biographical notice

which was printed with the little volume of "Sketches, Translations and Essays," by the subject of the sketch. Mr. Wirt said:

"Francis Walker Gilmer, the author of these essays, was one of the most interesting young men that Virginia has ever produced. He was cut off very early in life; and the following effusions, brilliant as they are, afford but an inadequate idea of the vigor and comprehension into which his mind was expanding at the period of his death.

"He was the youngest son of Dr. George Gilmer, an eminent physician, of Albemarle County in Virginia; a gentleman not less distinguished for his classical attainments, his wit and eloquence, than for his professional skill. Dr. Gilmer resided in the immediate neighbourhood of Monticello, and enjoyed throughout his life, the intimacy and friendship of Mr. Jefferson. The neighborhood was favorable for the culture of science as well as for the development of all those manly qualities, and all those finer feelings that adorn and sweeten life.

"Francis was yet a child when he lost both his parents; and although his proportion of the estate left by them was amply sufficient to have given him a regular education and furnished a very decent out-fit for life, yet he used to complain of the mis-direction under which he laboured

in this respect, and to regret the very imperfect manner in which he was prepared for his profession. He overcame these disadvantages, however, by his own ardour and assiduity—and at the age of seventeen was so accomplished a classick, that Bishop Madison, the President of William and Mary College, offered him the ushership of the grammar school in that institution.

"It was about this period, that, for the first time since his childhood, the author of these hasty lines met with Francis in Williamsburg—and in point of learning, he was already a prodigy. His learning, indeed was of a curious cast: for having no one to direct his studies, he seemed to have devoured indiscriminately every thing that came in his way. He had been removed from school to school, in different parts of the country—had met at all these places with different collections of old books, of which he was always fond; and seemed also to have had the command of his father's medical library, which he had read in the original Latin. It was curious to hear a boy of seventeen years of age, speaking with fluency and even with manly eloquence, and quoting such names as Boerhaave, Van Helmont, Van Sweiten, together with Descartes, Gassendi, Newton, Locke, and descanting on the system of Linnæus with the familiarity of a veteran professor. He lived, however, to

reduce this chaos to order, and was, before he died, as remarkable for the digested method, as the extent and accuracy of the attainments.

"He studied law in Richmond, in the office of William Wirt, the present Attorney General of the United States; and commenced the practice in Winchester, and the neighbouring counties in the valley of the Shenandoah.

"His success was highly flattering—and in the year 1818 he removed to Richmond with the view of continuing his practice on that more publick and more extended theatre. Here there is no reason to doubt that he would also have succeeded had his health and strength been equal to the duties of so laborious and exhausting a profession.

"In common with other distinguished Virginians he took a deep interest in the success of the University of that state; and on account of his own superiour and general attainments in science, he was offered his choice of either of the professorships—declining this offer from his reluctance to give up his profession, he was, in the spring of 1824, prevailed on by the influence of Mr. Jefferson, to go to England and procure professors from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The excursion was very delightful to him from his intimacy with English literature and the feelings of veneration for the seats of science and the general localities of England,

which a fondness for their literature never fails to inspire. These he had an opportunity of indulging—and he executed his commission in a manner most honorable and advantageous both to himself and the University. In the fall of 1824, he set sail on his return home, with improved health. But the voyage was protracted and disastrous, and brought on the diseases which finally ended in his death.

"After being sometime on shore his health was, in a measure, recruited; but his constitution had received such a shock, that he was now willing to retreat from the labours of his profession, and he accepted the professorship of law in the University of Virginia. With his talents, attainments, ardour and industry, there can be no doubt of the honours with which he would have distinguished that chair, had it been the pleasure of heaven to spare him. But it was otherwise decreed. He never delivered a lecture: but after many vain attempts to arrest the disease that was consuming him, he died at the residence of his uncle, George Divers, in the County of Albemarle, on the 25th day of February, 1826: and in the thirty-sixth year of his age.

"The variety, extent and accuracy of his attainments in science and literature, the high tone of his character and the splendour of his conversation, introduced him to the acquaintance and admiration of most of the distinguished

men in the United States. Like his father, he was a great favourite with Mr. Jefferson; and the celebrated Portuguese philosopher, Mr. Correa, was always well pleased when he could prevail on Mr. Gilmer to accompany him in his scientifick tours through the Union, which he did on several occasions. Mr. Gilmer had many and warm friends among the most eminent men in our country. His virtues were great and attracting. He was brave, high-minded, open and honourable. His colloquial powers were equalled by very few men of the age. His apprehension was quick; his wit pregnant; his sallies of imagination highly poetic, his stores of knowledge such as would have done honour to a hoary head; his language copious and rich even to exuberance; his manner very prompt and spirited, and his style surprisingly beautiful and felicitous. His conversation was indeed a perfect banquet to everyone who had a taste to perceive or a heart to feel. It is impossible to contemplate the death of a young man so gifted with talents, so fraught with the treasures of learning, and so full of the noblest promise, without feeling anew the truth of Solomon's apostrophe to the vanity of all sublunary things."

To his brother Peachy, John Randolph of Roanoke sent this letter after Francis Walker Gilmer's death:

"WASHINGTON, March 8, 1826, Tuesday.

"MY DEAR SIR: Your letter enclosing mine to my late most excellent friend, your lamented brother, finds me in a situation that leaves me only the power to acknowledge it—overcome by his loss, inevitable and speedy as I had foreseen it to be—by the daily expectation of that of my earliest living friend, Mr. Tazewell or of what is worse even than Death—his surviving in total darkness like 'Blind and blind Meonides;' overworked by his absence, I am hard put to it to write at all; and should be quite incapable of doing so, but for the cheering intelligence which I received along with your letter from Norfolk.

"What shall I say? What can I say, my good Sir, to you under the circumstances of your unhappy privation—mine of the truest and staunchest of friends; yours of a brother, also. Can words, that never yet eased a finger-ache, minister to a mind diseased? to the sick heart. No; there is but One that can pour balm into such wounds. He is God! May he shed the influence of His Holy Spirit upon our hearts and understandings—may he temper the wind to us shorn to the quick, until He shall see fit, in His own good time, to gather us also into his fold, where we may rejoin our brother that is lost and shall be found; and where the grim wolf shall never enter to tear us one from another, as in this vale of tears.

"In sending the letter with the seal unbroken I (as well as yourself) am ignorant how far we have obeyed the laws of Etiquette; for, thank Heaven! I know nothing of Etiquette in any case. But this I do know; that if you shall have transcended the fashionable Code you have adhered to that established by Delicacy and Honour in every well principled mind; in every heart that is not hardened and polluted by the defilements of the world, as it is pleased to call itself.

"I had it in contemplation to write to you upon the subject of poor Frank's request before I knew that he had made such a one. But indeed to compose merely an epitaph; but (for my own perusal, for the indulgence of my own deep and strong affection and respect for his name and memory) something like a sketch of his character and history, can you supply me with dates and facts that I am ignorant of?

"But the other day I spoke of him in Congress in association with Tazewell, whom above all men he admired; it was the highest honor that I could pay him, and each reflected lustre upon the other. I spoke of them as the only two men West Virginia had bred since the Revolution that deserved to be called men of learning and be ranked as scholars, and ripe and good ones. Of these two, one was removed from us forever, and the other I never expected to see again, at

least in that house. To both might be applied with some variation the language of Ovid in describing the Palace of the Sun, 'Matenis Superabat Opus'—the gem surpassed the workmanship in value, exquisite as that was admitted to be. The soil was superior to the cultivation, deep and finished as it had been.

"My highest consolation under the affliction of his loss is to know that his last letter was written to me. I enclose it under this cover with the answer to it which you transmitted to me unopened. I have broken the seal with my own hand, and when you shall have read them both, pray return them to me. I shall be glad also to receive any other letters of mine that may be found among his papers, through the same channel, or that of our friend Wm. Leigh.

"After once more reading them I shall seal up his letters to me, at my death to be delivered up by my Executor (W. L.) to yourself, or to be disposed of, in any other manner that you shall see fit to prescribe.

"And now, my good Sir, I must drop the pen for the present at least. I have lost the best of friends, you the best of brothers, also. There is no worldly remedy for calamities like these. Let them pray to God to help us in this distress; and our Father who heareth us in secret, may reward us openly.

"Most faithfully yours (not altogether but almost) for dear Frank's sake.

"J. R. of Roanoke.

"To Peachy R. Gilmer."

Here is a letter to Francis Walker Gilmer from Randolph written nine years before that which precedes it:

"RICHMOND, March 15, 1817.

"DEAR SIR: Your very polite and friendly letter, with its acceptable accompaniment reached me yesterday. I read your 'Bagatelle' as you are pleased to name it, with considerable interest, and much gratification. I should indeed be more vain than Cicero, or even the other great orator whom (You say) you have offended, if I were not satisfied with the ample share of applause, which, in a liberal distribution, falls to my lot, of the justice of the censure ('If any has been passed') I am at least as sensible as of any claim that may be put in for me to the praise by which it is preceded. To the partiality of some of my friends it has proved very offensive; but whether it be the effect of disease, of premature age, or the utter extinction of desire for public life—whatever may be the cause, I feel disposed to abate much from the arrogance that has been so lavishly imputed to me by the enemies whom

it has been my misfortune to make in the course of my unprosperous life.

"I was struck with the sagacity with which you had hit off the other character (one alone excepted), and could I express myself as well, I should use your very words in describing Mr. Pinkney's eloquence.

"Your inquiry is very flattering. Nothing is farther from my purpose than to turn Editor to my own work. It is a ricketty offspring, reared in the Foundling Hospital of the Reporters, and so changed by hard usage that the very mother that bore it, and possibly looked with a mother's partiality, at the moment, on the misbegotten babe, can no longer recognize a feature. I never prepared myself to speak but on two questions—the Connecticut Reserve and the first discussion of the Yazoo claims. Neither speech was reported. Indolent, or indifferent to the business before the House, for a long time past, I have relied for matter upon the Case-Hunters and acted upon the impulse of the occasion, of the failure of my powers, such as they were, no man 'in the Gallery,' or out of it, can be more sensible than I am, at the same time I flatter myself that my judgment may have been improved at the expense of my power of declamation; and that altho a much worse speaker I may be a safer legislator. I am vain enough to believe that I know myself, in some

respects at least, more thoroughly than any other person can know me, and this knowledge I am persuaded it is in the power of any man to acquire, who meditates often and deeply on himself. This habit was one of the advantages, I believe the only one, that I derived from an early taste, nay passion, for metaphysical studies. I have always been as sensible of my innumerable abortions, as any of my auditors—and felt when I have succeeded, and to what degree, as accurately as any one of them. Had I been blessed with the powers of Milton to have composed the first of epic poems, I should never have ranked the Paradise Regained before it. The causes of my failure have, for the most part, been known only to myself. A mind harassed with cases—a heart lacerated by unkindness and ingratitude—spirits broken by treachery—senses jaded by excess—these are not the circumstances under which a man would rise, without preparation to address a public assembly, nor will any man so expose himself, who fears, or who courts public opinion. After all, altho I never made a verse in my life, not even a jingle, I have sometimes thought that my temperament was that of the poet rather than of the public speaker: fitter for the pulpit that the floor of parliament—altho Hopkinson insists that I ought to have been bred to the bar, and that my mind is of the cast best suited to that profession.

"With great deference to your better judgement, I cannot agree that the H. of R. should be addressed in the style that is proper for intelligent rational beings who think deeply and reason consequentially. There is one style for Mr. Chief Justice, and another to convince, persuade, or deter the 'Groundlings.' A very defective education (*i. e.*, no education at all, except what I picked up by chance) and circumstances more romantic and improbable than can be found in any fictictious narrative have marred my prospects, and I am content to give way to younger and abler performers; but I will cheer my retirement with the flattering unction that 'I know how the thing should be done, altho unable to execute it.'

"You hardly do justice to Tazewell. '*Mivat inter Omes velat inter ignes lumna minores.*' Are you not mistaken when you say 'that bright meteor (Henry) shot from its mid-heaven sphere too early for Mr. Wirt.' Surely he must be at least as old as I am, and I remember Patrick Henry very well. I heard his last speech in March, 1799, to the free-holders of Charlotte.

"I will not affect to conceal from you that it is Mr. Wirt's character which I think you have mistaken; since the error is honourable to your heart. Had you been impartial in this case, I should perhaps have thought you a better critic, but not so good a man. I do not pretend to judge of his

forensic powers. Better judges than I could ever have been with the best opportunity, have pronounced him to be an able advocate, and the public have affirmed the decree. Some, who ought to know, say that argument is his forte. Of his manner and delivery 'I have perhaps some shallow spirit of judgment,' altho in the 'nice *quillets* of the law,' I am a 'Jack-daw,' or a Jack anything else you please. His voice is very far from sweetness or melody to my ear. It is almost as harsh and monotonous as Mr. P.'s. In the tones of Mr. W. and Mr. Quincy the hearer often recognizes an imitation of Cooper, the tragedian. His pathos, so far from being natural, or impressive, revolts me as artificial. It is, to me, a 'theatrical trick,' but by no means well played off. The grating on the soul on such things, when seen thro (as they must be where the emotion is not spontaneous) is among the most irksome of the disagreeable feelings that we are exposed to at public exhibitions. When I hear the voice of Mr. W. or of Mr. Speaker Clay I think of the compass and richness of Patrick Henry's tones, of the fine tenor and bass of the Col. Innes and the enchanting Recitativo of Richard Henry Lee; of which you have a broad caricature in the nasal twang of his Imitators;——The late Dick Brent for instance.

"You have given our frothy fourth of July boys very good advice. Blair ought to be

banished from our schools. Horace's art of Poetry, Quintillian, Cicero, Longinus among the ancients; Boileau and Martinus Sinblem, among the moderns; these should be our text-books. But whilst you caution our smatterers and dabblers against the meretricious ornaments of Curran (Himself an imitator of Grattan—a dangerous model), they are imitating a wretched caricature of the Irish advocate, in the person of Counselor Phillips, who in the lowest deep has had the 'art of sinking' into 'a lower stile.' Pray read Mr. Wilde's speech on the Compensation Law; composed for the occasion. I can vouch that the exordium is verbatim as delivered. I cannot, however, say so much for the rest.

"You have brought this *avalanche* of egotism upon your own head. I was on the point of overwhelming you with a smaller one before I left George Town, where I lay painfully and dangerously ill from the time of your departure until the adjournment of Congress. I sent for you, but my note was returned with a message that you had left town; in what direction I knew not. The Abbe was very kind to me, and you will not be sorry to learn that I have taken to him 'hugely.' After I crossed the Rappahannock I began to mend, for I threw physick to the dogs, and followed the instincts of nature. Cold outer and in first gave me relief, contrary to the positive prohibition of the 'Doctors.' Apropos of

these slayers and maimers of mankind H. T. when I last heard from him was in Philadelphia unable to bear the motion of a carriage.

"Adieu, your friend,

"JOHN RANDOLPH of Roanoke.

"As everybody is not bound to know that F. stands for 'Francis' let me advise you to write you first Christian name at full length. As for my biography, it may be told in five lines as well as five quartos. Certain it is that I cannot play Dr. Mitchell and furnish materials for notoriety, much less work them up myself. Pray let me know when the 'Bagatelle' was composed.

"I am still weak and low, emaciated to a skeleton, but I hope convalescent. I had no idea of what it was to be sick until this last attack."

"To Francis W. Gilmer, Esq."

This letter was called forth by the reading by Randolph of the essay by Gilmer, "Sketches of American Orators." This letter I think is a valuable contribution to American literature. Another essay presumably that on "Usury" brought forth this letter from Randolph:

"WASHINGTON Dec. 13. 1820.

"Many thanks, my dear Sir, for your kind present, which I received by yesterday's mail. I have perused it with a degree of attention and interest that no publication has, for a long time,

excited in me; always saving and excepting My Landlord's Tales. In my opinion, this Essay does honour to your reading, your taste, your understanding and your heart. What effect it may have on the presumptious and heartless sophisters, who assume that there is nothing in the world undreamt of in their Philosophy, I cannot undertake to say. The evil of the times we live in is not want of information or intellect; but that the hearts of men will not give their understanding fair play. It is to the heart and not to the intellectual faculty that Divine wisdom and goodness has addressed itself in order to enable us to 'see the things that belong to our salvation.' With regard to the present times I am as unbiased a judge as a man who stands aloof from the actors in the theatre of life can be. 'At forty-five my race is run,' and I look on those who are now fretting and strutting in the public eye 'more in sorrow than in anger.' To grant one favour very often subjects us to the request of another; more especially where the first has been unsolicited and unexpected. May I then ask you, at your leisure times to let me know what is doing (or rather suffering) in and around Richmond. I can promise you no adequate return for such a favour. Like 'the high mettled racer' I am 'grown old and used up,' and I await, with what patience I may, the close of a life which is almost without enjoyment and

altogether without hope, at least so far as it regards this world.

"Remember me to your brethren Wickham, Leigh and Bowldin, to Dr. D. and the Br——s, and accept the sincere assurance of my respect and regard.

"JOHN RANDOLPH of Roanoke.

"To Francis W. Gilmer, Esq."

The same essay sent to the Ex-Presidents Jefferson and Madison, then living in Mr. Gilmer's native Albermarle was duly acknowledged by each. Mr. Jefferson said:

"MONTECELLO, Dec. 26. 20.

"I thank you, very dear sir, and cordially for your little treatise on Usury, which I have read with great pleasure. You have justified the law on it's true ground, that of the duty of society to protect it's members disabled from taking care of themselves by causes either physical or moral: and the instances you quote where the salutary function has been exercised with unquestionable propriety, establish it's indication in this case beyond reply. 'Macte Virtute Esto, Curaque ut Valeas, et me, ut amaris ama.'

"TH. JEFFERSON."

And Mr. Madison said:

"MONTPELLIER, Decr. 18. 1820.

"DEAR SIR: I have received your favour of the 10th, enclosing the letter from Mr. Correa for the perusal of which you will please to accept my thanks. I am glad to find that he leaves our country with so many cordial feelings, and I cannot but value highly the share allowed me in such, by one not more distinguished by the treasures of his capacious mind, than by the virtues and charms of his social life.

"I am to thank you also for the little treatise in vindication of the Usury laws. The arguments you have marshalled on that side must be respected by those most zealous on the other. They will at least agree that you have seconded them by very interesting appeals to the sympathies of benevolence.

"It has occasionally seemed to me as worthy of consideration where a limitation of the legal interest in favour of the distressed and inconsiderate might not admit exceptions where a higher rate would be advantageous to the borrower as well as to the lender. That there are such cases cannot be doubted, and if exceptions in favor of them could be duly guarded against abuse, by official formalities and even by disinterested sanctions founded on satisfactory explanations, the space would be much narrowed for difference of opinion. How far the excepted cases would be of sufficient extent to justify the departure from a uniform rule, is another point

requiring more investigation and reflection than I have bestowed on it.

"With great esteem, yours,

"JAMES MADISON.

"W. Gilmer, Esq."

Johns Hopkins University in its publications on Historical and Political Science printed in 1889 an essay,* "English Culture in Virginia," by Professor William P. Trent, which was a study of the letters of Francis W. Gilmer written when he was in England seeking professors for the University of Virginia. His service to learning has not therefore been forgotten only to be recalled by old letters from admiring contemporaries.

The remains of Francis Walker Gilmer lie buried at Pen Park, in the County of Albermarle, Virginia, under a white marble tombstone, with the subjoined epitaph, written a short time before his death:

Sacred to the Memory
of
FRANCIS WALKER GILMER
Professor elect of law, in the University of Virginia.
Born October the 9th, 1790;
Died, February 25th, 1826;
He directed this epitaph to be inscribed on his Tomb.
"Pray Stranger, allow one who never had peace"
"While he lived, the sad immunities of the Grave:
"Silence and repose."

* This essay can be obtained from the Publication Agent, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

PEACHY RIDGWAY GILMER.

This is the autobiography of Peachy Ridgway Gilmer, the son of Dr. Gilmer of Pen Park, and it was sent to the editor bound in with a volume containing also the essays of his brother Francis Walker Gilmer. This volume has been piously preserved by his granddaughter, Mrs. Eliza W. Breckinridge of Raleigh, Va., and by her it was kindly placed at the disposal of the editor for insertion at his discretion in this book. The editor has used his discretion and has omitted such parts of the narrative as seemed to him to be unessential or too private to be put in type. No indication will be made where such omissions occur, for stars and asterisks more frequently than not lead to guesses more or less harmful.

Peachy Ridgway Gilmer, third son of George and Mary Gilmer that lived to years of maturity, was born at Charlottesville in the County of Albemarle on the 25th of November, 1779.

His early years were passed in that village and in the neighboring country until about the year 1781 or 1783, when his father purchased an estate on the Rivanna, two miles distant from Char-

lottesville, called by him (and still retaining the name) Pen Park, after the seat of Mr. John Harmer, near Bristol in England. Mr. George Harmer, a brother of that gentleman, about the same time devised to my father a valuable estate lying in the County of Henry.

My early life was passed in absolute seclusion from the world, my education private, under teachers employed by my parents, and wholly without incident or interest. The first of my teachers of whom I have any distinct recollections, was Dr. Charles Everette, since for many years an eminent physician in Albemarle and adjoining country; who, at that time, was afflicted with very bad health. His chief occupation was the study of medicine, which he afterward, for a long time, practiced very successfully in Albemarle. John Robertson, a Scotchman of good, classical learning, but a sot, wanting energy and destitute of dignity, succeeded Everette as teacher in the family at Pen Park, in the year (I think) 1792, and continued until the autumn of 1794. During all that period we were absolved from restraint; indulged in idle and negligent habits with his (a very bad) example before us, so that I consider it worse than lost to all the useful purposes of education. In the autumn of the year 1795 I visited at his request, with my uncle (by marriage with my mother's sister,

Peachy Walker), Joshua Fry,* to Rockingham County, leaving my father in a very low state of health: this was the first deep and lasting distress I recollect to have felt. I had never before (that I could recollect) lived at any place but Pen Park, with a very large family of the kindest and best affections. To be sent, as I considered it, far from home, amongst people almost strangers, to have no intercourse even by letter, with the constant expectation of hearing of the death of my father, was to me, then a boy between fifteen and sixteen, a deep and lasting distress, which continued through the year, and at times brings tears into my eyes now after the lapse of almost forty years. I applied myself diligently to the study of Latin during this year, and acquired what imperfect knowledge I possess of the language. I also learned a little French, which I afterward neglected, having never after read any book but "Gil Blas," in that language, and a very small part of Rousseau's writings. In the year

*Joshua Fry was the great-grandfather of the editor. He went to Kentucky after settling the estate of his father in Virginia, and became one of the richest and best known men in that new State. His descendants include the Bullitts, the Bells, the Greens, and the Speeds—all well-known and prominent families. He had a great fondness for teaching, and he held a kind of free school at his plantation near Danville, having for his pupils his own children and grandchildren, and those of his neighbors. He was a man of great mental and moral force and of most pleasing originality.

1795 I received a letter from Mr. Wirt, the first I ever received in my life; which is mentioned in his last letter to me. In May of that year he was married to my sister, and in November (the 29th) my father died; on that same day I returned home from Buckingham, being then sixteen years and four days old. Mr. Wirt for some time heard me read Latin lessons and directed what reading I was disposed to do, 'til an Irishman named Macnemara was employed as a teacher in the family; who according to my present recollection of him wanted every requisite, except a very good appearance and some little dignity of manners. With him I do not recollect to have learned anything. I loitered away the time unprofitably, until the autumn of the year 1797, when my mother, by the advice of friends, Mr. Wirt principally, sent me to William and Mary College for one session. When I returned in the summer of 1798 a Scotchman named White, a great oddity, without *common* sense, but with some little smattering of classical and other learning, was tutor in the family. I then began to read law with Mr. Wirt, and to form with him and Carr, now judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals, that friendship which was continued ever after, until Mr. Wirt's death, on the 18th of last month, February, 1834, and left my most dear and valued friend, Judge Carr, alone, of all the friends of my early life, an

ancient, solitary tower on the horizon of my youthful attachments. My return to Pen Park and residence there was a happy period of my life in excellent society, in the bosom of the most affectionate, kind-hearted, and hospitable family I have ever known. Mr. Wirt, Judge Carr, the schoolmaster (White), and a few of the neighboring gentlemen formed a little debating club, of which I was a member, that met once in two weeks at the Rock Quarry spring, a place of favorite resort, and, on the bank near the spring under the shade of the trees, held our debates. During the summer of 1799, in the fall (September) of that year, my sister, Mrs. Wirt died, and Mr. Wirt very soon afterward removed to Richmond, where he continued to reside for a few years. Left alone I passed my time idly, and what made the matter worse, was taken with ague and reduced almost to death, and while weak, emaciated, and broken-hearted, my mother in April, 1800, died suddenly of apoplexy.

This, in my feeble condition, added to the disease and the unsettled state of my affairs, and an uncertainty of my prospects, had like to have destroyed me utterly. The heirs of George Harmer had brought suit for the Henry lands, and profits accrued since my father's death. I had no property in possession. It was thought doubtful what would be the issue of that suit, and consequently whether I would have an estate

of seven or eight thousand dollars or be a pauper. This unhappy state of suspense continued until the year 1805, when the suit was determined in favor of my father's heirs. Meantime, in the autumn of 1800, I was urged by Mr. Wirt to join him in Richmond and prosecute the study of law, which I did. He at that time associated with Meriwether Jones and other dissipated persons, and passed his own time for the most part very unprofitably.

Here I met with a young lady I had seen before in Albemarle, and a prepossession I had there conceived was ripened into an attachment, that ended in marriage, or rather led to the result with Mary House of New London, Conn., by birth, but educated mostly in Philadelphia. My love affairs and indolence and melancholy occupied all my time and attention. I read, it is true; my thoughts were far from the subject I was reading. The contagion of my friends' dissipation was soon communicated to me, and I left Richmond in the spring of 1801 with no other improvement than some little additional knowledge of the ways and manners of the world. I returned again to Pen Park, then almost desolate. My brother John and I kept house there until the spring of 1802, he prosecuting the study of medicine and I nominally studying the law, but in truth, in social pleasure and idleness. The society was indeed excellent. Colonel T. M.

Randolph, Peter Carr, Dabney Carr (before mentioned), Dr. Bache, Mr. Wirt, Mr. Jefferson, Colonel Monroe, Mr. G. Devers, Colonel Wilson Nicholas, and some others, formed then in Albemarle, a social circle such as I have never since known. Meriwether Lewis was too, sometimes with us, sometimes absent; and very often interesting strangers to Monticello and Mr. Jefferson. I then again resumed the study of the law, under Mr. Wirt, then Chancelor of the Williamsburg district, and residing in that place. Or rather, for the first time, commenced the study in earnest. He was at that time engaged most laboriously, preparing to discharge the duties of his office, and I studied law diligently, four hours, and was examined for one hour upon what I had read, and from April to August obtained sufficient knowledge to procure a license, though it is due to candor to say I was very slightly prepared. This was a happy part of my life, to which I have always looked back with unmixed pleasure and approbation. The society of Williamsburg was then not surpassed, if equaled, in Virginia, in true refinement, hospitality, and politeness, with Colonel Wilson, Mr. Cary at the head, of whom Mr. Randolph (John of Roanoke) said when he died, "He was indeed a most perfect gentleman," and then constant and familiar and cordial intercourse with my friend Mr. Wirt, whose equal in talent and disposition to amuse,

interest and instruct, I have never known, and all crowned with a diligent and faithful discharge of every duty, made this although a short period, a memorable and happy epoch of my life.

In August I again returned to Pen Park, and was admitted as counsel in the court of that county and Fluvanna. But I passed my time for the most part in idleness and social pleasures, a mere hanger-on upon the bar, until September, 1803, when I was married. The suit for the Henry lands still depending, my plan of life not settled and spirits sinking at the prospects of having on my hands a family before I had a house or home or the means of supporting one, so I lingered at Pen Park, then the residence of Mr. Wirt's family, until their departure to join him at New Orleans in the spring of 1804. This family consisted of his mother (the elder Mrs. Wirt), his wife's mother, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Wirt the younger, her sisters, Lucy and Harriet Brown, my wife and myself, and very commonly some of my brothers, and my sisters, afterward Mrs. Minor, young Mrs. Wirt and Lucy Brown, two of the handsomest and most interesting women I have ever known, a charming family and surrounded by fascinating society.

After their departure Mary and myself kept up the establishment until about the end of that year, having born to us in September our first child, a son, whom I named William Wirt, after

my friend and benefactor. We never after that time had a regular residence at Pen Park, but lived at Farmington, the residence of my uncle and aunt Diver, and with other friends till the spring of 1805, when we went to visit my wife's father and mother at New London, Conn., and passed the summer and autumn until late in October with them. Shortly after our return the controversy respecting the Henry lands was finally determined in our favor, and I determined to remove thither as soon as the land could be divided, and take possession of my proportion of it. Accordingly, in the month of February, 1806, I went out to superintend the division, leaving my wife and son with my kind friends and relations at Farmington, saw the work completed, and returned on the 1st of April, made what little preparation for my removal was requisite, and about the last of that month, with six negroes, three of them children, and one quite old, two horses, an old gig, one wagon-load of furniture, a wife, one child, and a heavy heart, took leave of all my friends and my dear native land. I never while I remember anything shall forget the feelings with which, from the south bank of James river at Warren, I waved with my hat adieu to my brother George, who had accompanied me to the opposite shore, and to that shore (as I then supposed), forever. Torn from my friends and relations, from famil-

iar intercourse with a society such as I never since have known; a houseless and friendless wanderer amongst semi-barbarians, barring a good wife raised to every refinement of manners and all the comforts of polished society, and rearing a family of children in such a society seemed more than death; my heart sank and seemed to die in me. We arrived on the 9th of May at our destined residence (not on my own land). A miserable little habitation, about two miles from it, where our second child, our daughter Emma, was born; and sustained by the consciousness that we were discharging our duty, we continued about two years and a half at this place, when, having so far completed a very humble building that it might be inhabited, we removed to my own lands and continued living with the utmost economy, and indeed in some respects, privation, even of common comforts, hoping for better and happier things. All this my dear wife bore with a resignation and patience and even contentment, that kept me from absolute despair.

I had little practice, no other means of subsistence, and not a friend; no knowledge of the practice of my profession, had never done an hour's work at a time in my life, and was in wretched health. Yet Providence, mainly through the fortitude and temper of my wife, sustained me; and in its kindness and mercy

reserved us for a more prosperous condition; and we knew that these privations and sacrifices were all a trifle, to living in a mean dependence, and laying up poverty and wretchedness for the evening of life. Here we had several children born, and my professional prospects brightened a little. I got acquainted with the people, began to feel an interest in the affairs of that country, had some very good friends, sold a part of my land, got more confidence in myself, began to be familiar with the details of the practice, and began to feel more assured that I could keep my family from want. But what chiefly and more immediately improved my pecuniary condition, in the summer of 1812 my brother Harmer died, having at the request of my brother Francis W. devised to me his land in Henry, which I sold for three thousand dollars. This enabled me to pay off some money I owed, and to buy a few negroes to cultivate my farm. This sum, with our habits of economy, and some profits from my profession, made us comparatively prosperous and comfortable. A million of dollars, added to these three thousand dollars, would not have been so important an addition to our wealth, as the three thousand dollars was to our circumstances when we got it. It revived my spirits, increased my confidence; my health improved; I had begun to learn to depend upon myself, and to feel confidence in the belief, that if a man per-

severed in prudence, frugality and industry, Providence would sometime or other give him prosperity for their reward. The hope too then began to revive, which had never been wholly extinguished that I would be able to bring up my children in a country more congenial to my habits and wishes. Though the people of Henry were improving very much in civilization and refinement, and I began to feel that my reputation as a lawyer was rising, my affections had taken no root in this people. I still looked back to Pen Park, the rock quarry, the society of early life, my brothers and sisters, the spot consecrated by the remains of my parents and departed brothers and sisters, the scenes and dear companions of childhood and early life. I felt that I was alone, in a rude inhospitable land, far from my kindred and friends and all the joys of social life; and still remember with pleasure my chief enjoyment, to wander alone for days through the wild and picturesque mountains of Patrick, far from the haunts of men, and recognize as old acquaintances the linnets and lily of the valley; that seemed like me, exiles from happier regions. Days and years rolled heavily on, marked by no pleasing incident. In the course of the preceding year I had sent my eldest son William, then a boy of seven years old, to school in Albemarle.

That my prospects in life were improving, is

all I distinctly recollect, and continued to improve during my residence in that country; and if I had possessed energy and industry, and settled habits of business, I might have made myself much more happy and useful. I did oppose with tolerable success the little tyrants that then infested Patrick and Henry. I saw their power entirely prostrated, and had the gratification to believe it was owing in great measure to my exertions, in both counties, in Patrick altogether.

In 1818 I resolved to change my residence, and venture upon a new theater. Having sold part of my land in Henry, a tract originally of 1273 acres, I removed to Liberty in the County of Bedford, a village pleasantly situated near the Peaks of Otter, in search of schools for my children, society for my family and myself, and a more extended practice. I here purchased a small house in the village, and commenced a new career. The country I left had improved considerably, and was improving. When I first settled in Henry, I don't think there was a tolerable Latin scholar in that or the neighboring counties of Franklin or Patrick. The people generally were very poor. In Henry there was no physician, no tailor that I recollect, not a good shoemaker, scarcely any sheep. The people (very decent farmers) wore cotton clothing all the year round. No ice-house, and few houses, if any, of necessity

and convenience, as it is thought, in more polished countries; gardens were almost unknown. Cabbages, bad Irish potatoes, parsnips and turnips, and sweet potatoes, very good, almost the only vegetables known; tomato not used for food; log houses almost universal, there being but two brick houses, private or public, in the county, neither good, and one of them very mean, belonging to a man named Turner, on Town Creek, the other to George Hainton. My new residence, of which I took possession in February, 1818, promised better things. I did not owe a dollar, my ambition, of which I had always too little, was stimulated by being brought before new tribunals and pitted against new antagonists, and in general more formidable than I had been contending with. I set in with a fixed resolution to become a lawyer, if I could. I began again, after a long prorogation, to taste the pleasures of cordial and refined intercourse with congenial society and friends; my wife and daughter and boys lived happily and formed new friendship. The unmanly longing I had so long cherished for Albemarle began to subside, and I was beginning once more to be happy—until the winter of 1819. In a luckless hour I visited my old haunts and my friend General Cocke of Bremo, amongst other purposes to confer with him concerning an estate on James River, not far from his residence, which he had recommended to me on a

visit the preceding spring. By his advice I bought this place at twelve thousand dollars, just before the fatal and memorable derangement of the currency * of the country which occurred in that year, spreading bankruptcy, hideous desolation and terror over the whole country, so that after toil and almost every privation for thirteen years, when I had just reached the shore of an ocean of trouble through which I had swam, I was again in debt to an amount that seemed to me almost hopeless. My spirits sank almost to despair; my temper, naturally kind and benevolent, was soured; my spirits bouyant and elastic were overcast with settled gloom, and almost wholly destroyed. Yet I labored on and read harder than ever. My brother, my dearest and best friend, Francis, came to see me, gave me comfort, and gave me aid. My excellent friend William Leigh, too, came kindly to my aid and sustained me. My wife too, with her presence, helped to sustain me, and I at last worked through this difficulty. This was the great error of my life. It cannot be remedied, but I warn my posterity against such weakness; I warn them never to go in debt at all, but most of all against their own judgment. Now at the close of life I say in perfect sincerity, that nearly all the unhappiness I have known has been produced by

* This will be read with much interest by the Gilmers of today in various parts of the country.—Ed.

being in debt. It is the great scourge of mankind. Time passed on pretty well, until the year 1824, when my brother Francis was appointed as regent for the University of Virginia, then nearly completed, to procure from Great Britain professors, of which mention may be found in the sketch of his life by Mr. Wirt, prefixed to his essays in this book, as also of his unhappy voyage home and illness and death, about the middle of January, 1826. I was informed by my brother-in-law and friend, Peter Minor, that Dr. Daughson had ascertained certainly that his disease was pulmonary consumption, then considerably advanced, and his situation altogether hopeless. I left my wife with a son then only two weeks old (John), and flew to his bedside, which I never left for a day, and by which I watched and wept for one half of every night till he died. As I stood over him in the dead of the night, the 25th February, I felt all a man should feel, losing his best, most constant, most kind, and most beloved friend.

I had stood by him in this last sad scene, attended his funeral obsequies, and was about to return to my family when my uncle Divers sent me a message by Peter Minor, requesting me not to leave the country until I wrote his will, as my brother's death made it necessary to alter it. My brother had told me just before his death, that he should have left me a larger portion of

his estate, but he knew that my uncle and aunt Divers would leave me part of theirs. It immediately occurred to me that this was his intention when I was desired to remain and write the will. Day rolled after day while I was distracted to return, still my uncle said nothing about the will, and it was almost another month before he mentioned the subject, most of which time I spent in making catalogues of the books and other property, furniture, etc., of my brother, when at last he took from a press in his chamber the will he had formerly written, took me with him into his study and asked me to copy the former will, putting my own name in the place of my brother's, and giving to Susan Minor, formerly Susan Fry, some negroes, worth considerable more, instead of a pecuniary legacy of one thousand dollars, and these were the only changes of importance made from the original will, which by his express dictation, I put into the fire immediately.

By this will I got one equal third part in value of my uncle's estate. He survived the making of this will in March, 1826, until the 2d May, 1830. So that in the course of one month I saw myself from very moderate competency, by the bounty of my brother in immediate possession, and by that of an infirm and aged relation in present expectancy, worth thirty-five or forty thousand dollars. In the month of May, 1830, I was notified of the death of my kind benefactor,

Uncle Divers; and very soon after, that his heir-at-law, Mr. White, who was also a legatee of one third of his estate, meant to contest the will. I went down as soon as I could leave the Chancery Court at Lynchburg, qualified as executor, proceeded to Farmington and soon adjusted the threatened contest by compromise, and have sometimes suspected it was merely threatened in the hope of getting some advantages in the division of the estate. Be this as it may, none was conceded.

The affairs of the estate were arranged, as far as possible, for final, division and adjustment in the ensuing fall: at which time, in November, I attended the division of the lands, making necessary deeds of partition, etc., and returned home to the marriage of my daughter, Emma, with Cary Breckinridge, on the 25th of that month, my birthday, being then fifty-one years old. We then prepared for our removal to Albemarle as fast as possible, and in December set out through dreadful roads, and the coldest weather I almost ever felt, and arrived on the 23d of December, 1830, at our habitation, six miles from Charlottesville, where I had first seen the light, twenty-four years and eight months from the time I had left that part of the country. But it was too late. My friends were all dead; and enemies, if I had any, for I knew nobody. Not one remained of the society before named.

My brother John, sister Lucy Minor, and friend Professor Tucker were I believe the only persons who felt pleasure at my good fortune and settlement in Albemarle; they were certainly the only persons who manifested the least interest or friendly concern on the occasion. Mr. Tucker and myself were much together during my residence in Henry and at Liberty, and his company and conversation, during both periods, the most interesting I had with anyone that I considered as a neighbor, though he resided thirty miles off.

. . . . . .

I have been fortunate that I have lived now to be fifty-five years old, through many hardships and great pecuniary difficulties, with a reputation free from blot or blemish; that I am cheered by the consciousness of a life of truth, justice, and integrity. This I am aware would seem vain boasting if it were intended for the public, but it is not; it is said to my children alone, to whom I dedicate this imperfect sketch of my past life, with a fervent prayer to Almighty God that he will assist them in avoiding the errors into which I have fallen; that they may all be imbued deeply with the grace of his holy and blessed spirit; that they may repent heartily of their sins, live, and die, in the faith of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and that when our destinies are finished here on earth, that

their dear mother, and all of us, may be assembled, to rejoice forever, around the throne of our God and Redeemer, with Whom, and the Blessed Spirit, be praise and glory, now and evermore.

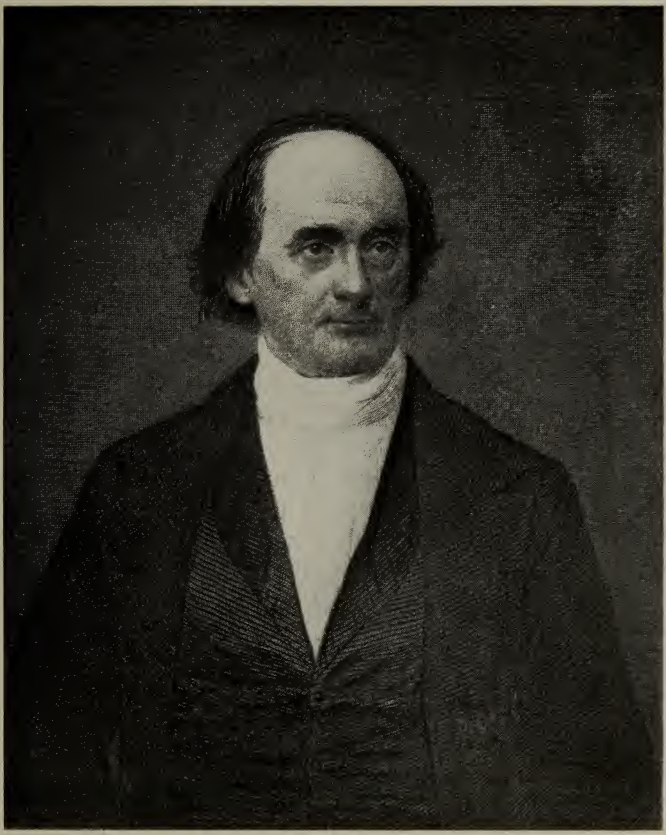
PEACHY R. GILMER.

Leigh: 20th December, 1834.

GOVERNOR GEORGE ROCKINGHAM GILMER.

George Rockingham Gilmer, the historian of the family, and very distinguished in public life, was born in Wilkes (now Oglethorpe) County, Georgia, April 11, 1790. Though he lived into his seventieth year he never had robust health. His first recollection, he says in his autobiography, was of being in bed with bilious fever, and he was afflicted all his life with various maladies. He was tortured constantly with toothache and headache. And no wonder! "Until I was ten years old," he says, "my father lived in a house made of hewed logs. I slept with a crack at my back large enough for my body to pass through. I went barefooted every winter until frost, and suffered from it more than my father thought possible."

His schooling was acquired under difficulties usually incident to the uncertain state of education in primitive settlements. First a deserter from the British navy, a thief and an unmerciful tyrant; next a drunken Irish wanderer, also an expert at flogging; then a Virginia gentleman, who had lost his property because of drunkenness; then another wandering drunkard, succes-



GOVERNOR GEORGE ROCKINGHAM GILMER OF GEORGIA.

sively had in charge the boy of ten. Mr. Culberson, an accomplished gentleman from North Carolina, was an exception, but he got married very soon and left the neighborhood. Under Charles Goss the boy made genuine progress for a few months; when twelve years old he was sent to a classical school at Abbeville Court House, S. C. Here he boarded with an Irish family, consisting of the old man, his wife and two nieces, the older of whom was very pretty. All slept in the same room; the youngster was very bashful. He did not like the idea of undressing in the presence of two young girls, but they did not mind him, so pretty soon he did not mind them.

From this school he went to Dr. Waddel's Academy, near by, where he remained several years; finally becoming Dr. Waddel's assistant. When eighteen years old he left here and went home and taught his younger brothers and sisters and some neighborhood children. He had intended going to Princeton, but put it off, in order to assist Dr. Waddel. Then he found his health so poor he did not care to leave home. A year was spent in the law office of Mr. Upson in Lexington, when ill health and an accident, in which he was nearly drowned, again interfered with his study. He returned to his father's home and stayed three years.

In October, 1813, he was made first lieutenant

of the 43d Regiment, being induced to enter the service by his doctor, who told him it would either kill or cure him. His first duty was to march with twenty-two recruits, as raw as himself, against the Creek Indians, but no fighting occurred. He afterward became adjutant, and was placed in charge of recruits in Columbia. While there peace was declared. His health continued bad, but at the beginning of 1818 he returned to Lexington and resumed his law studies.

There were at this time two political parties in Georgia. The Crawford party were mostly Virginians, who had settled in Georgia after the Revolutionary War. The Clark party were Ante-revolution settlers, mostly North Carolinians. Gilmer was a Crawford adherent, and was elected to the legislature which sat in 1818. He won a State reputation at this time by a long fight with Governor Rabun over some question of local interest in which he was the victor. He was re-elected in 1819. The Crawford Clark fight was very bitter at this time, and as a strong partisan of the former Gilmer was an object of special hatred to Clark, who had become Governor on the death of Governor Rabun.

He was elected to Congress in 1820. His poor health became worse while he was in Washington, but that did not deter him from taking an active part in the Congressional proceedings,

where the questions of States Rights and the extension of Federal authority were becoming very prominent. John C. Calhoun was then the great State Rights leader. Mr. Gilmer was in hearty accord with him on this question, but the two men were never friendly, because the South Carolinian regarded the Georgian as a powerful opponent to his Presidential aspirations. Mr. Gilmer was a supporter of Mr. Crawford, who was at that time also an avowed candidate for the Presidency. It was during this term in Congress that he went to Richmond and married Eliza Grattan, a cousin. They never had any children, but their married life was very happy. At the end of his term in Congress he returned home to the practice of law.

In 1827 he was again elected, this time to fill an unexpired term, and was re-elected for the full term in the following year. "Increased experience and observation of the world," he says in the autobiography, "made public service upon my return to Congress more agreeable then my first term had been. The wiry edge of political zeal had been tempered; I had learned that the country was not ruined by the government pursuing a course of policy different from what I thought best. I associated cordially and freely with the members of opposite party opinions."

The tariff was the leading question at this

time. The fight was already one between North and South. "Our Southern people got on their high horse," the autobiography says, "on account of the insolence of the King of Great Britain and the Emperor of France. . . The big talk of the Southerners, the lawlessness of Great Britain, the insolence of France, and the tricks of the Yankees" brought on the war of 1812. Then the North and South squabbled over the issues arising from this war. The "Yankees" insisted that, as the Southerners had caused the war and ruined their commerce, they ought to be compensated by having a tariff law which would compel Southerners to buy Northern manufactures. The Southern statesmen did not see it in this light at all. When the tariff laws were passed they went to Washington dressed in homespun made by their wives and daughters. Mr. Gilmer had a most picturesque outfit trimmed with velvet and silk, presented to him by a woman constituent. He had, however, to patronize a Washington bootmaker for his wife, as he tells us, because no home-made article would fit the "small, delicate, and symmetrical feet" of Mrs. Gilmer. He says these feet were the prettiest in the world, "such as a Chinese lady would have envied." "I have threatened a thousand times to kiss them," he adds, "and as often expressed a wish to have them painted as a model for the painters and sculptors of our country."

Mr. Gilmer was elected Governor of Georgia in 1829, the year that Andrew Jackson became President of the United States. The Clark party had no candidate, and voted for their old-time opponent. His career in this office was marked by a long and persistent fight to get rid of the Creek and Cherokee Indians. He had no enmity for the red men but believed they could do better elsewhere, and that the territory they occupied was too valuable for so worthless a people. He had no sympathy with the romantic sentiment indulged in on their behalf, and considered them the most good-for-nothing people in the world, without a single virtue and only an encumbrance.

"They were called eloquent," he says, "because they followed the vagaries of their imagination in speaking without investigating facts or elucidating principles; heroic, because their insensibility enabled them to bear torture without complaining; hospitable, because they laid up no provisions for the future and consumed what they had without care; and dignified, because they were calm and indifferent where others would have been excited." In his efforts to get these people out of the State he had to reckon, not only with the United States Government, but with an intensely bitter opposition among his own people. By the treaty of 1802 the State of Georgia had ceded to the general

Government territory now comprised in the States of Alabama and Mississippi. In return for this cession the Government was to move the Indians from Georgia territory, and restore the land they occupied to the State. Governor Gilmer's entire term was consumed in a tedious correspondence with the Government, in an endeavor to have the terms of the treaty complied with. He was supported by the officials of the State, who disregarded the sentimental opposition that came from the country. The published correspondence fills a good-sized volume. Finally Congress passed an act to carry into effect the treaty, and Governor Gilmer had won his case. Then came the effort to induce the Government to give effect to this act. In the meantime indignation meetings were being held in the East denouncing the Governor, and he was censured bitterly everywhere. The arrest of two missionaries, who had trespassed on the reservation and refused to leave, particularly aroused the sentimentalists of the country.

So bitter and widespread was the feeling that, when some years later he returned to Congress, he met many men from the East who shunned him. President Jackson even, who was thoroughly familiar with the question and in sympathy with the movement to get rid of the Indians, was influenced by the public feeling. It required the most strenuous insistence to induce him to

act. But the question was not settled during Governor Gilmer's first term. When he went out of office the law had not been put into effect. It was not till some years later, when he was again chief magistrate of the State, that the general Government fulfilled its obligations to the people of Georgia.

Governor Gilmer's animus in the entire transaction is shown by the following, which he wrote:

"It is a source of pride and pleasure to those who were responsible for the conduct of Georgia toward the Cherokees, to know that what they did has tended to the good of both the Indians and Georgians; that the Cherokees, instead of being controlled in their public affairs and corrupted in their morals by profligate white men, as they were when within the limits of Georgia, were now in a country the best suited to their peculiar instincts and habits of living; and that the Georgians have already converted the Cherokee hunting grounds into the most beautiful, highly cultivated, and populous region of the South."

In regard to his private fortune the Governor wrote: "I have six brothers, all of whom are much richer than myself; not one of them has enjoyed his estate so much, or had so little trouble in its management, or been so entirely satisfied with its increase as myself. . . I make my

profits and expenses tally, except when my wife wants a large addition to her house, a new carriage, an additional supply of hothouse plants, new carpets, china, silver, etc. The overdraw thus made I have usually paid out of some family legacy, or old fees, so that my estate is about equal in amount to what it was when I quit professional and public business. The legislature, to be sure, has made a strong inroad into my income of late years by lessening the rate of interest from eight to seven per cent. But as I consider this change of the law right, I have endeavored to accommodate my expenditure to my lessened means, though it operates a little hardly upon my wife's love of new and pretty things. As she has the happiest temper in the world, and makes her husband as well satisfied as his constitution will allow, he is Caudle-ized but little on account of the deficiency of money to supply her wants."

In the book written by Governor Gilmer and often quoted in the various sketches in this publication the author never tires of sounding the praises of Mrs. Gilmer. The Governor says her amiability and excellent qualities compensated in a measure for the absence of children. He was always very proud of her, particularly in the society of Washington, where her unconventional freedom and sprightly step in the dance attracted universal attention. Occasionally a merry laugh

would ring out from the Senate or House gallery and startle the dignified law-makers, but they would smile when they recognized the young wife of the Georgia congressman.

Governor Gilmer was defeated for re-election. He says it was due to his Indian policy partly; but principally to the disappointment of his friends because they did not get all the offices they wanted. He confessed freely that he was keenly disappointed because of the defeat, and felt immensely uncomfortable when he turned over the office to his successor. Even Mrs. Gilmer, who had been consoling him with talk about duty well done, principles, and all that, and who said she gloried in his defeat because he had acted for the public good, discovered that "it was a glory that had to wait for its exultation until the pageant of the day had passed away."

He found freedom from the cares of public life, however, very agreeable. His health improved too, and altogether he would have been content to remain at home. But that was not permitted. He was elected to Congress the very next fall, in 1832. During the campaign he opposed vigorously the South Carolina doctrine of nullification and reaffirmed his opposition to the tariff, particularly the existing law. Still, in the election he got but little support from the Union party, while the Nullifiers had to stand by him because he expressed their States Rights

and tariff views better than any other candidate.

When he went to Washington in December, 1833, to begin his third term his position was very pleasant; enough so, he thought, to reconcile him to his defeat as a candidate for Governor. He had voted for Jackson, but was not a particularly strong Jackson adherent. The President had removed the public deposits from the Bank of the United States and was making his war upon that institution. The fight was the occasion of a long and stormy contest in Congress; Governor Gilmer supported the President in his policy, but did not approve his methods. He gave his views on the question in a very elaborate speech, "prepared with unusual care, for me," he said, that attracted great attention. During this term he was a member of the committee on Indian affairs, with whose duties he was thoroughly familiar, and had with him Horace Everett of Vermont, "a plain, sensible man, who was always ready to do the work of writing."

During this session he was so ill that he went to Philadelphia to consult a noted specialist, Dr. Physic. The doctor first refused to have anything to do with the case, because he said he had retired from practice. Mrs. Gilmer besought him with tears not to turn them away. The great man then consented to do his best. His services

were of great benefit and he succeeded in curing a lot of internal tumors, a carbuncle, and other ills which he pronounced "as numerous as the contents of Pandora's box." He refused to let the patient return to Washington till one day the two men got into a political discussion. The doctor found that the Governor's opinions coincided so closely with his own that he told him to go back at once, the country needed him.

He was defeated for re-election in 1834. At the expiration of his term, however, he was placed on the States Rights electoral ticket which carried Georgia in opposition to Mr. Van Buren. Although a Democrat he was bitterly opposed to the Democratic candidate, whom he regarded as an heir to all the objectionable features of the Jackson administration. He said the contest was between the patronage of the Government and the independent action of the people, though to adopt the course he did, he had to work with men whose political principles were different from his own and incur the opposition of his friends. His action did not injure his political power, however, for in the next year, 1837, he was again elected Governor of the State.

The old Cherokee matter came up at once simultaneously with his inauguration. The provision for the removal of the Indians had already been made, and it only remained to carry that provision into effect. This was done shortly after

Governor Gilmer's inauguration. The principal concern was to get the Indians away without any violent outbreaks, and the Governor feared that President Van Buren's disposition to shirk the responsibility might lead to violence. There was a conflict between the two executives over the command of a contingent of Georgia troops who were called out to aid in the work of removal. The Governor asserted his prerogatives and the President did not again interfere. Finally the Cherokees were removed peaceably, and Governor Gilmer, having had the satisfaction of finishing up a task he had begun years before, addressed a congratulatory note to the legislature.

"I congratulate you," he wrote, "that our citizens are at last in the quiet possession of all their lands, and the State the undisputed sovereign over all her territory."

"Fine houses," he wrote in the autobiography, "valuable farms, beautiful meadows, schools, colleges, churches, and railroads have taken the places of wigwams and scalp poles. And yet every public man who was employed in bringing about this admirable change for the better was for a time the target for shooting defamation at by every intermeddling politician, from the lowest scribbler to the Supreme Court of the United States."

Toward the close of his administration Gov-

ernor Gilmer was seized with an acute attack of illness, and for a long time his life was despaired of. He had not recovered when his term expired and he turned over the office to his successor. "I was so feeble and emaciated by disease," he wrote, "as to be looked upon with kindness by everyone who saw me deliver up the insignia of office."

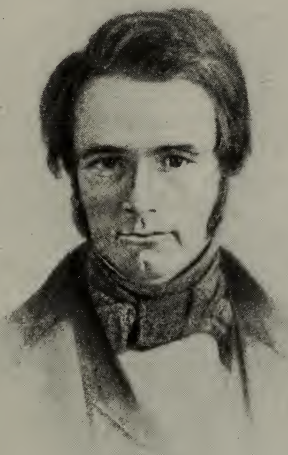
Although shattered in health, and enjoying his retirement to private life, Governor Gilmer became a candidate for elector of President and Vice President in 1840, again in opposition to Mr. Van Buren, who was a candidate for re-election. In his opposition he a second time disregarded party ties, and when the Harrison ticket was successful in Georgia he became president of the Electoral College. His reasons for taking this step were the same that induced him to oppose his party candidate four years before, only he said they operated with additional force. After this campaign his health became steadily worse. He found many of his old-time friends opposed to him on account of his action in the last two Presidential elections, and this was a source of bitterness. Several times he was seized with attacks of illness which nearly killed him. But his marvelous powers always came to his support, and he rallied from the most critical situations with wonderful rapidity. His health began to improve after he had had a

sufficient rest from public care, and he devoted his attention to his farm. He wrote that this period was, after all, a very happy one in his life.

Haymaking and raising cattle employed much of his time; he also became something of a geologist, and gathered a valuable collection of the minerals of Georgia. He was very fond of going to all public auctions. Rarely did he miss one of these, and his purchases were so numerous that he filled every particle of empty space in his house, much to the disgust of his wife. That lady one day determined to get rid of this superfluous stuff, so she sent it to a public auctioneer to be sold. The Governor, as usual, attended this sale, and bought everything in sight. Then he hastened home and informed his wife that he had just secured some of the best bargains of his life.

GOVERNOR THOMAS WALKER GILMER.

Of George Gilmer, the third son of Dr. George Gilmer of Pen Park, the author of "The Georgians" says "he was the only male member of Dr. Gilmer's family not distinguished for talents." But this George Gilmer was the father of Thomas Walker Gilmer, who was surely one of the most distinguished of his race. Thomas W. Gilmer was born in 1798, his mother being a Miss Hudson, "whose taste, cultivation, superior intellect, and piety made her an admirable mother to fit sons for usefulness and greatness." When her oldest son, the subject of this sketch, was fourteen years old he was sent to live with his uncle Peter Minor, at Ridgway, where he was placed under the care of an excellent tutor. He was a precocious boy, fond of books and very ambitious, and made excellent progress in school. Dr. Frank Carr, a well-known teacher of wide experience, had him in charge next and said he was one of the most proficient students he ever knew. He continued in this way, studying under accomplished instructors until, when grown, he began to study law with his uncle,



GOVERNOR THOMAS WALKER GILMER OF VIRGINIA.

Peachy R. Gilmer, in Bedford County. After one year he was licensed and went to live in Scottsville, Albemarle County. This place was too slow to satisfy him. After a few months he moved to St. Louis, Mo., and practiced his profession there. On account of his father's failing health, however, he returned to Virginia and settled in Charlottesville. He went to work with zeal, and at the end of six years was in the front rank of Albemarle lawyers. He was an acute, adroit, resourceful practitioner of wide and sound learning, and entirely able to cope with any competitor in the State. He was particularly strong as an advocate, and had great power over juries, and in addition to being a man of fine talents and wide reputation as a lawyer, he was very fine-looking, and of engaging manners and very popular.

Mr. Gilmer's first appearance in public life was in 1825, when, with three others from Albemarle County, he was appointed delegate to the constitutional convention which was held in Staunton July 25. This convention recommended several important amendments to the State constitution, which were adopted. While in Staunton, attending this convention, he met Miss Anne E. Bacon, whom he married shortly after.

Mr. Gilmer was not a strong partisan of General Jackson, but supported his candidacy in 1828-29 because he considered him the most

desirable of all the men in the field. He edited the *Virginia Advocate* in Jackson's interest until the election was over. During this time he became acquainted with John Randolph, and won the cordial approval of that statesman by some of his political editorials, an approval which lasted during the rest of the Roanoke sage's life.

Mr. Gilmer was elected to the lower house of the Virginia legislature in 1829, and became a member of the Committee on Courts of Justice. During this session an effort was made to renew the charter of the State banks, an effort which Mr. Gilmer strongly and successfully opposed. He was re-elected in 1830. At this session the work of remodeling the statute laws in conformity with the amended constitution had to be done, and as a member of the Committee on Courts of Justice Mr. Gilmer did an important part in it.

At the close of the session Governor Floyd appointed him Commissioner of the State to prosecute Virginia's Revolutionary claims upon the United States. He spent the summer and autumn of 1831 in Washington, in this work. In the spring of 1832 he was again elected to the legislature. During the session following President Jackson's proclamation concerning South Carolina's nullification doctrine was considered by the legislature, after an old custom,

and referred to a committee of which Mr. Gilmer was appointed a member. Gilmer was opposed to the South Carolina expedient, but he condemned the President's proclamation and asserted the right of secession as a last resort, and supported his views in a strong speech. He was re-elected in 1833, as a strong States Rights man. In October of that year President Jackson removed from the United States Bank the public deposits, and the Virginia legislature in the next December again considered the President's conduct. Mr. Gilmer was a second time in opposition to the Administration, and found himself now its leading opponent among Virginia Democrats.

He was defeated for re-election on account of this opposition to the President, but in 1835 was again elected. By this time he had severed his connection entirely with the Democratic party, and had, with a large number of Jackson's opponents, joined the Whigs. He had always been an anti-Van Buren man, and when the New Yorker was candidate for President in 1836 Mr. Gilmer was his strong opponent. He had already been defeated in the spring of this year, for re-election to the legislature. He was not a candidate the following year, and on account of bad health made a trip through the extreme Southern States. He was again elected to the legislature in 1838, and became Speaker of the

House. He was a member of the next House and was re-elected Speaker, this time unanimously.

In February, 1840, he was elected Governor of the State; being the candidate of the Whigs and conservatives. At this time he was only thirty-eight years old, one of the youngest executives the State ever had. His administration was noted principally for his controversy with Governor Seward of New York. Governor Gilmer, at the instance of the General Assembly, demanded from the New York executive the surrender of three men charged with slave-stealing in Virginia who had taken refuge in New York. Governor Seward refused to comply with the demand on the ground that slave-stealing was not a crime in New York. Governor Gilmer's reply was very exhaustive and considered by his partisans unanswerable. After six months Governor Seward replied to this, adhering to his original position. Then the General Assembly of Virginia in March, 1841, passed a law imposing onerous restrictions on all vessels trading from New York ports to Virginia, or owned or navigated by a citizen of New York. Provision was made for enforcing this law.

The controversy then took an unexpected turn. Three days after the retaliatory law was passed, Governor Seward demanded of Virginia the surrender of a man charged with felony in New York, who had been arrested in Virginia.

Governor Gilmer replied that the fugitive would be surrendered when Virginia's three criminals were turned over to him, and that the felon would be held for six months to give the New York executive time to make up his mind what to do. The Virginia legislature did not support the Governor in this position, however, and, in direct contradiction to their former position, passed a resolution disapproving his action. The Governor sent at once to that body his resignation of the office. The General Assembly refused at first to accept the resignation, but Mr. Gilmer persisted. He was immediately elected to Congress from his home district.

During his two terms in Congress he was always persistent in his demands for the strictest economy in the public service. He was, in his second term, a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, of which John Quincy Adams, then ex-President, was chairman. Mr. Adams presented to the House in January, 1842, a petition from the citizens of Haverhill, Mass., for the immediate, but peaceable, dissolution of the the Union. Mr. Gilmer severely censured Mr. Adams for presenting the petition, and the differences of the two men led to the former's retirement from the Committee on Foreign Affairs. He was always a strong supporter of John Tyler, who became President while Mr. Gilmer was in Congress. Mr. Gilmer was very close to

Mr. Tyler, and was considered to be the spokesman of the administration in the House. It was reported just after the break between Tyler and Clay because of Tyler's veto of the Bank Bill that there would be a new Cabinet, and that Mr. Gilmer would take a portfolio, or in the case of Senator Rives being made Secretary of State that Gilmer would go to the Senate. In a letter to a cousin at home Gilmer spoke of these reports, but said that he greatly preferred remaining where he was, as then he could serve his own people and his country at the same time, with the advantage of being responsible only to a people with whom he was well acquainted. In the bitter quarrel between Tyler and Clay, Gilmer sympathized with the President, but he did not approve of the harsh names some of the Tyler adherents applied to Clay when they spoke of that powerful Senator. Whatever may have been Gilmer's wishes he was at length prevailed upon to go into the Cabinet, for when he was appointed Secretary of the Navy, February 15, 1844, he accepted the office.

Mr. Gilmer's violent death, the result of an accident that startled the country, occurred a few days after he entered the Cabinet. On February 28 Captain Stockton of the steam frigate *Princeton* invited the President and his Cabinet to visit the frigate and inspect her big guns. Secretary Gilmer and Mrs. Gilmer were in the party. As the

boat passed Mount Vernon one of the guns, loaded to salute, burst as it was fired, and Mr. Gilmer, Secretary of State Upshur, and several others were killed instantly. Thus he died, scarcely yet in the prime of his life, but full of honors. Almost all his life, since his twenty-fourth year, was spent in the public service, and in all that time his reputation was never sullied by a questionable deed. He was buried in Mount Air cemetery, Albemarle County. Some years before his death Mr. Gilmer joined the Presbyterian Church, and from that time he was a man of deep religious feeling, his children were carefully trained, and his home was very happy and one of the most hospitable in the Old Dominion.

Of Thomas W. Gilmer his cousin and colleague the Governor of Georgia said: "He died in the prime of life. What his indomitable energy would have done, strengthened and directed as it was by purity of purpose and clear, strong, vigorous intellect, none can say. Judging by what he did, he would, if he had lived, have been the first man of his country as he was of his name."

DR. FREDERICK G. GILMER.

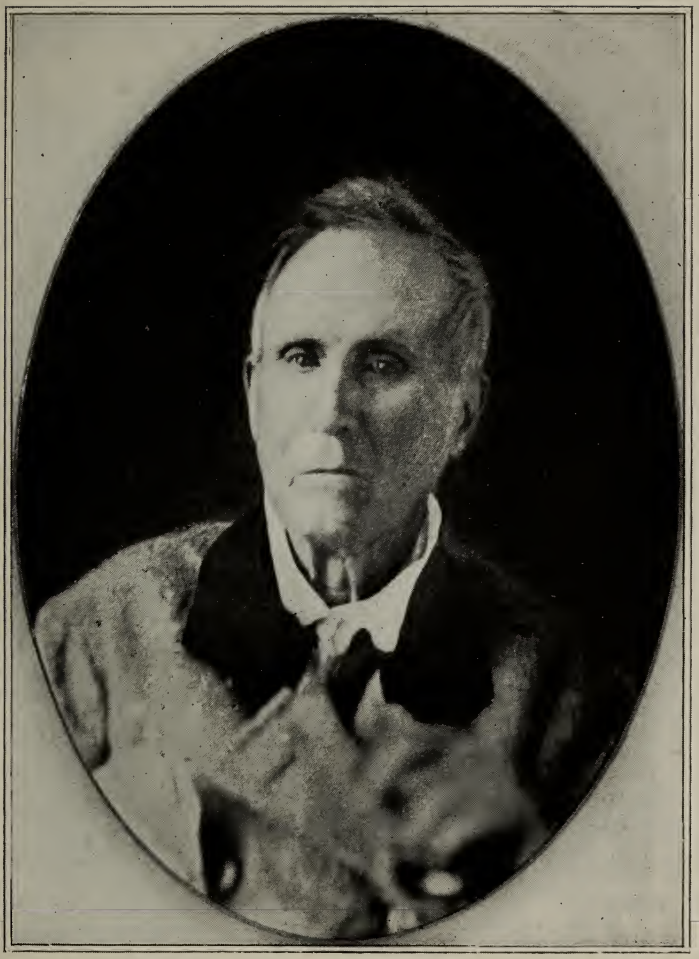
Dr. Frederick George Gilmer was born in Wilkes County, Georgia, in 1806. He was the son of Dr. John Thornton Gilmer, who was born in Amherst County, Virginia, in 1774.

The subject of this sketch removed with his parents from the place of his birth to Christian County, Kentucky, when he was but a youth. He was not a college-bred man, but read Greek and Latin easily, being educated in one of those private schools so well known in the South in the earlier part of the nineteenth century. Later he graduated in medicine from Transylvania University, and began the practice of medicine in Russelville, Ky. He was married in Kentucky, January 2, 1830, to Miss Sarah J. Loving. Miss Loving was a Virginian. She also removed to Kentucky when very young. In a few years he removed to Lewiston, Fulton County, Illinois. Later he purchased, from Henry Clay, land in Lincoln County, Missouri, situated fifty miles north of St. Louis, near the Mississippi River. To this purchase he removed a number of negroes he had inherited through his wife and

others he had bought from her sister, in order that the negro families might not be separated.

Dr. Gilmer practiced medicine in this county over forty years, and in that time endeared himself to the people for fifty miles around. He was often called in consultation in this and adjoining counties, his skill being universally acknowledged, both by the laity and the profession. Medicine was not then, as now, broken into specialties, but the practitioner, especially in the districts remote from the large cities, was surgeon, obstetrician, and general practitioner. Such was Dr. Gilmer, and he was more; being a man of the keenest sensibilities and of the kindliest nature, he was beloved by those who knew him far more than the average man. He was loved by the young; they sought his society and counsel, so long as he lived, because of his store of wisdom, his genial nature, and his ability to adapt himself to all ages alike. His intuition and ability to judge of men were remarkable. When he died the whole county mourned, and to this day, a quarter of a century having elapsed since his death, his skill, virtues, and generosities are enumerated by those who knew him.

He was a man of fine appearance, six feet two inches tall, of commanding bearing, brisk in his movements as well as quick in intellect. His personal influence over his patients was remark-



DR. JOHN THORNTON GILMER, BORN 1774.

able. The writer of this sketch, when a child, often accompanied him to see the sick. When we would arrive and go into the sick room, the patient would seemingly be sick unto death; but after the doctor had examined the patient's tongue, felt his pulse, and had talked to him awhile, he who was upon our arrival lying in bed, full of pain perhaps, would now be sitting erect in bed, laughing and chatting, and declare he felt "real well." The "mind healers" could do no better.

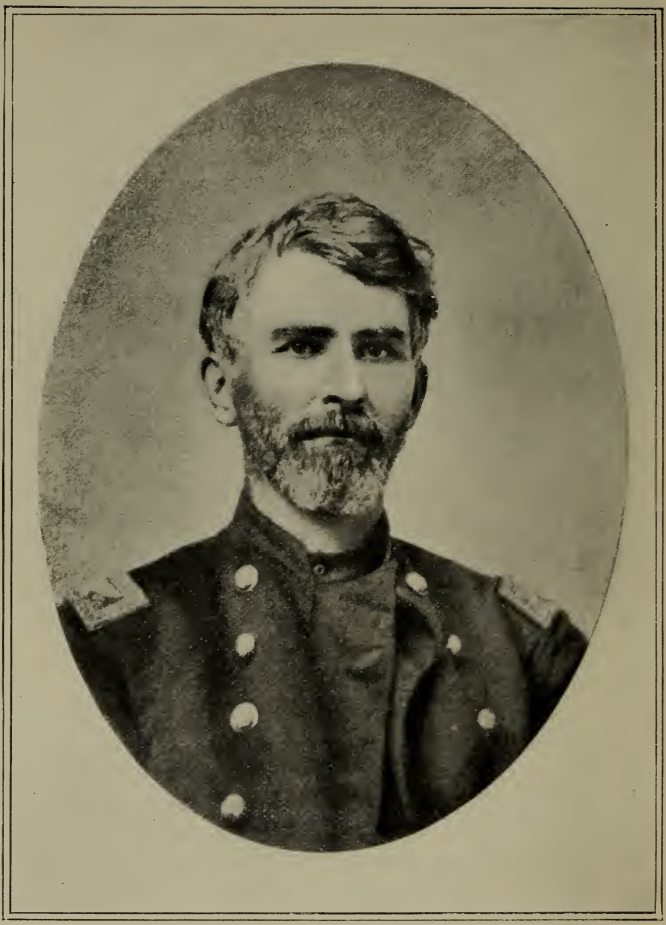
The Civil War disturbed this good man very much. His sympathies were with the people of the South. He believed with all his soul in the righteousness of their cause. Being on the border line, he was for those opinions subjected to many cruelties and indignities by the lower grade of Union troops which infested that part of the country.

No brave or self-respecting soldier on either side took pleasure in practicing cruelties on the old men, or women and children, but Dr. Gilmer and his family were subjected to the grossest treatment during the latter part of the dark days from 1861 to 1865, which was almost more than one of his age and temperament could bear. But he did survive it, and many times returned to those who so ill-treated him good for evil. In one instance a colonel's wife was left ill in the neighborhood, with people too poor to supply

her with the delicacies which one ill often needs. Dr. Gilmer not only gave her, freely, medical attention, but supplied her with the necessities of life for weeks, until she could safely leave for her home.

Dr. Thomas L. Gilmer of Chicago, the son of Dr. Frederick G. Gilmer, has in his possession two letters from the husband of this woman, praising and thanking Dr. Gilmer for his kindness to her.

He was the kindest and truest husband and father. If he ever spoke a cross word to either wife or child it has never been known.



DANIEL HARVIE GILMER,

Colonel of the 38th Regiment of Illinois Infantry, was killed at the battle of Chickamauga, September 20, 1863.

JOHN THORNTON GILMER OF SALT LAKE.

No descendant of the canny Scotch founder of the family was a man of more initial force than this member of the third and youngest branch of the Gilmers. The energy of the Gilmers, the resourcefulness of the Blairs, the high-mindedness of the Walkers, and the common sense of the Meriwethers, found expression again in this sturdy product of the West; of a new section in its formative period, struggling toward a civilization which was attained so quickly that the crudeness of the frontier vanished as if by magic, and the scars of the fight were hidden by the wreaths of victory. In this fight John Thornton Gilmer bore his part in a large way, and though he fell, yet in the prime of life, his accomplishments were worthy of one who had labored successfully during all of the allotted span of man. He was a self-made man in the best sense of what that much-abused term implies; for he made of himself a very man, a personage whose manhood was superior to mere material accumulations, and more precious than either wealth or power. There was rarely good blood in his

veins, but he always, during an adventurous life in a frontier society, lived up to the obligations his birth imposed. It is true that some of his occupations at times were humble, but the man behind the occupation made whatever he did, not only worthy but notable. "Jack" Gilmer, the frontier stage driver, was a personage, a man among men, and commanded the respect of all who came in contact with him to the same degree, if not in so large a measure, as Mr. John T. Gilmer, the capitalist, the mine-owner, and the conductor of large enterprises.

He was born in Quincy, Ill., February 22, 1841, and was the son of Charles Meriwether Gilmer and Mary Ann Ratliffe Gilmer; the grandson of Dr. John Thornton Gilmer and Martha Gaines Harvey Gilmer. He was a grandson on his mother's side of William Ratliffe of London, Eng., and his wife, who before marriage was Mary Ann Wade of Philadelphia.

Mr. Gilmer was the eldest son in a family of six children—three boys and three girls. When he was quite young his father moved to a farm near Quincy, owned by his grandfather, Dr. Gilmer. This was where he passed his childhood. Until he was fourteen he attended a country school, some two miles from his father's home. About that time his mother died; she had been always his best friend. He was ever willing and ready to please her, but when she was gone he

would please no one. His sister one day told him he must do the churning; he said no word of good by, but took his hat and started out in life for himself. For a time he drifted, and then started for California. He crossed the plains, driving a team or coach by the way of Salt Lake, camped several days at the lower end of Main Street, and went on to California; he stayed there a year and a half, and started back with three thousand dollars to see his relatives. He traveled by water, stopping at Panama and Havana; at each place a short time.

When he reached New Orleans his money was gone. He knew the pangs of hunger before he had secured work, but he would not present himself to any of his relatives, although his uncle Peachy R. Gilmer owned a plantation near by, and a wealthy aunt lived in the city. He preferred to look out for himself. So he worked his way northward, independent of any assistance.

In this new career he became a stage driver on Ben Holiday's Stage Line. He was promoted to Division Agent in 1864. In 1866 he married the daughter of an excellent Tennessee family, Mary Vance, the lady who is now his widow, and made a home at Fort Bridger. This praiseworthy act having been accomplished to his satisfaction, he wrote to his sister an ample apology for leaving the churning for her to do. Having thus broken the seals of silence, he also wrote to several of

his family, whom he had not seen for twelve years. In 1869, with the approach of the railroad, he moved his family to Salt Lake, when he and Monroe Salisbury bought the Montana stage routes. Unexpected success rewarded them. In 1870 he went to Washington, D. C., to secure mail contracts for the stage lines, and was most successful.

In this staging enterprise Mr. Gilmer had evidently found an occupation in which his abilities and energy could find congenial expression. It would be better perhaps that one who knew him well, and who had observed him in his work, should speak of his business activities and capacities. It is therefore with pleasure that the editor is able to quote Mr. Travis, now of Chicago. Mr. Travis says of Mr. Gilmer:

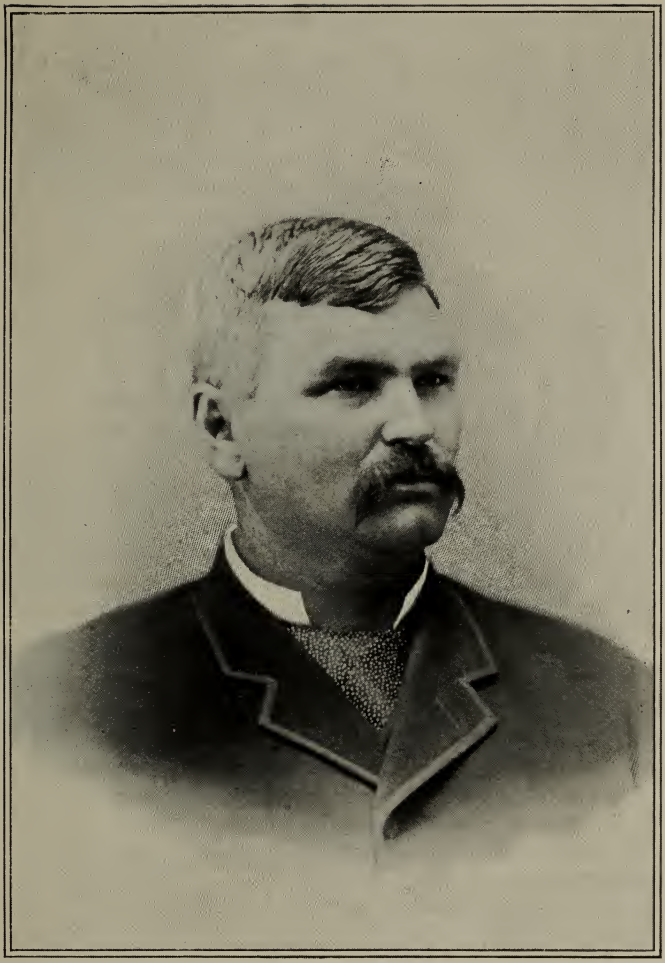
"In his ability to organize a business offhand, he was unapproachable. In a staging enterprise of large magnitude, he would distribute stock and men to their respective places; carrying the whole scheme in his head with such precision and accuracy as immediately to give such form to a large organization as to enable passengers and mail to be moved without interruption or delay. This is a feat the difficulty of which can only be fully comprehended by those familiar with the stage business, or railroading (which involves the same principles as to locating motive power), though the railroad business is facilitated by the

telegraph, and mistakes are easily remedied, whereas the stage line or system, involved in Mr. Gilmer's experience five thousand miles with no such aid to administration and the frequent necessity for immediate organization. On these lines were employed three hundred or more drivers, and probably seven hundred stock tenders, and five thousand horses, while every mile of the road had to be covered by coaches each way, each day. Further than this, each coach or driver depended upon the proper performance of his duty by each other, while the whole was subject to be entirely blocked and stopped by the slightest omission. This made it necessary that the organization should be as complete in its character as the machinery of a watch, but with this difference: the watch could be mastered by the mechanic, but the man who could successfully organize a system of stage roads needed to be gifted with a genius for command and a provident foresight which anticipated all contingencies, and dealt with the unexpected with resourceful promptness and good-natured imperturbability. In a system such as referred to, no less than three hundred coaches might be moving at the same time—one hundred and fifty in each direction. Each coach must perform its office, or else a link in the chain would be broken and everything stopped.

"It is quite likely that, even when the stage-

coach was the universal method of pioner communication, that few gave credit to the successful manager for the many qualities that he needed to possess. He needed a versatility that came by nature and was cultivated and sharpened by experience. In the first place he needed to be a business man, with a business man's knowledge of human nature; then he must be a horseman, a reinsman, and above all an indefatigable worker. These things Mr. Gilmer had to an extraordinary degree, besides being a giant in strength with all the proverbial good nature which comes with great strength and rugged health. Indeed I am doubtful whether, in the equipment necessary for successful staging on a large scale, that Mr. Gilmer ever was equaled. Certainly he was never surpassed. What has been said is especially true when the whole business had to be molded out of the raw material—wild horses from the herd, roads to be carved out of the desert and mountain, stations to be constructed, perhaps wells dug in the desert, supplies furnished; all to be provided and the line started on short notice. Such achievements can be accomplished only by the expert. No mistakes would be tolerated by the United States postal authorities and the exacting public.

"Mr. Gilmer's personal courage was shown by his having concealed himself in the boot of a stagecoach on the Black Hills route, armed with



JOHN THORNTON GILMER OF SALT LAKE.

a breech-loading shot gun to protect the valuable treasure that was being handled and guaranteed by the firm of Gilmer & Salisbury, at a time when messengers were frequently shot from the boxes of the stage, and large sums of money taken by the robbers. At the particular time that he thus went out, information had been given to the firm that an attempt would be made to rob the stage—the time and place being designated. Though the robbery was not carried out, the nerve of the man who would thus place himself in the breach, being familiar with the consequences of such conflicts, can be questioned by none.

"Though afraid of nothing, his discretion was amusingly indicated on a certain occasion when he met a stage that was behind time. He interrogated the driver as to the reason, and reprimanded him in a just manner for dereliction of duty. The latter, chafing under his embarrassment, invited Mr. Gilmer to a fist fight. Mr. Gilmer regarded him for a moment contemptuously and replied, 'If I should whip you, it would be no credit to me. If I should be whipped by you, I would be everlastingly disgraced,' and dismissed the subject by reminding the man not to indulge in such impertinence again.

"He was a man of broad views and sound judgment; in passing through a country he was a keen observer of its resources and people. There was that indefinable something about him

that attracted everybody to him, whether of high or low degree. Statesman, professor of mineralogy, or whatever, so soon as he met Mr. Gilmer the stranger was sure almost at once to become profoundly interested in him. This interest was excited, I think, by reason of the remarkably original character of his arguments; he was not in the least hampered by conventional theories. He early discovered the fallibility of the mining expert and became a student himself. Being a man of remarkable memory, he could instantly cite proofs wherein actual tests had been made and was familiar with every mineral-bearing rock known. He was a shrewd judge of men, and had a contempt for hypocrisy. The small pettifogging lawyer and the narrow preacher excited his aversion, while he had a corresponding admiration for the broad-minded, unselfish, and able professional man. He could read men at a glance, and understood the common classes quite as well as he did the professional humbugs.

"In the latter seventies some difficulty originated between the Indians and white settlers in eastern Nevada, and I believe a few persons in Spring Valley were killed as the result of some local difference. The telegraph was used for several days in succession, in controversy with the authorities in Washington. The State militia was ordered out from all parts of the State and great excitement prevailed. At this

time Mr. Gilmer and the writer were out locating a stage road in the very neighborhood that the great massacre was said to have happened. As we returned to Hamilton, Nev., we met a large troop of militia, with flying colors, marching to the front, whence we had just come. Mr. Gilmer espoused the cause of the Red Man to the extent that the troops were about faced in defiance of the orders of the Governor of the State. After-developments proved the correctness of Mr. Gilmer's views. I remember well his arguments to the commander of the troops, a shrewd lawyer. When we left the Indians we knew nothing of the shooting of certain white men, though it had occurred near us. The writer had not specially noticed the Indians, but Mr. Gilmer, ever carefully noticing everything about him, was able to convince the commander of the troops that there was lacking the first sign of preparation for war on the part of the Indians. The bucks were promiscuously mingling with the squaws and papooses. The ponies were grazing quietly upon the mountains. The Indians were hunting and pursuing their usual vocations. Thus possible carnage was stopped by Mr. Gilmer's habits of observation and admirable common sense."

Notwithstanding all of his shrewdness there was not an atom of selfishness in his composition.

At the height of his prosperity—a time when the ordinary man of success hardens his heart against the appeals of the unfortunate—his real nature shone out as it never had before. His great prosperity was accomplished with perpetual good nature; it was sustained as though it were a trust; with utter unselfishness he lavished his money on every worthy object, and a thousand times permitted himself to be imposed upon, because it was easier to give than to refuse; "and then," he would quietly say, "who knows but what for once the scoundrel might be breaking his record by telling the truth?" His hospitality was boundless; to friend or stranger his door was open alike; and it was the same everywhere—whether in Nevada, Colorado, Idaho, or Montana; he was, as his Virginia ancestors had been, hospitable to the point of prodigality.

Judge Goodwin of Salt Lake, who studied Mr. Gilmer closely, has said this of him: He was an original thinker on all subjects; with a seemingly careless exterior, he was a shrewd judge of his fellow-men; he was always picking out the strong points of men and explaining away their manifest weaknesses; he knew a fraud by instinct, and yet often permitted himself to be imposed upon like a simpleton. Walking with a friend, he was one day accosted by a ragged "old-timer." He stopped and talked with him for ten minutes. Rejoining his friend, the friend said:

"You must have had a great deal to say to that old vagrant."

"Yes," was the reply, "I made twenty dollars clear out of him."

"Is it possible," asked the friend, "that one of those old beats ever paid back a loan?"

"No, oh, no!" was Gilmer's reply; "he wanted thirty dollars, and I beat him down to ten."

A droll humor forever possessed him. Then, when least expected, he would express in a dozen words a thought that revealed the fact that, deep down, his mind was working on problems altogether profound.

He was a child of the frontier, but when he went to a great city his native superiority asserted itself at once, and the brightest of men were irresitibly drawn to him. A distinguished English gentleman, on the way around the world, met Mr. Gilmer at the Palace Hotel, San Francisco. Before twenty-four hours the Englishman begged Mr. Gilmer to go with him. "Not quite yet," was Gilmer's reply: "Come along in about three years, and if in the meantime I am lucky I will go with you. I am bothered with two or three patches of the world now; when I get them all secure I will join you, and we will take in the whole earth."

The Englishman showed Gilmer his outfit for the journey and said, "Mr. Gilmer, if you were

TENNIS COURT IN THE GILMER PLACE IN SALT LAKE.

going on that journey, would you take more than seven trunks?"

"Seven trunks! seven trunks!" was the reply. "I would take a gunny sack."

His eccentricity about his clothes was one of his wife's anxieties. He was a powerful man, and indifferent to exposure. He was likely to get on a summer suit in December and a winter suit in June. He would wear a suit of clothes until his wife would have to steal it at night, leaving another outfit in its place. If, on occasion, it was necessary to put on a dress suit, and he was to leave next day for the mountains or the desert, the clothes had to be exchanged for others while he slept, or the dress clothes went with him on the journey.

A man said to him once, "You ought to know A.; he is a big-headed man." Whereupon Gilmer replied, "Big heads don't count. A man's head is like a stagecoach. Loaded all in front, you cannot hold it on a down grade; loaded all in the rear, you cannot get stock enough to haul it; loaded all on top, the first pebble you strike over it goes. You must balance it."

Once he referred to a glowing article that had been written upon American civilization. "It is a mistake," he said; "we are not civilized, at least not enlightened. The Japanese are away ahead of us. There are no rich men there, no poor men, no idle men; there is no false pride

there, and all love their country. Here one man has a million, and a hundred men are starving; one man works and has to help support the vagrant that is over there," pointing across the street, "in the saloon, drunk. Our schools do not give any practical knowledge to a boy or girl, and our girls would rather marry a rich idiot than a sterling man. Do not talk about it too much, but our civilization is a failure."

These anecdotes could be multiplied indefinitely. Often he would simulate a savage mood and a sovereign contempt for the average man. Then it was that his heart was wide open to perform some splendid charity.

So he lived, and when toward the close his misfortunes culminated he made no plaint but went away high in the mountains of Idaho, opened a mine, built a little mill, and built up a property that was paying well when he came home for the last time.

No one knows what he gave away. How he often did business is illustrated by one incident. When he made his home on the hill east of Salt Lake, a man came to his house one evening and, wanting money, proposed to sell to Mr. Gilmer the forty acres across the street for $2500. It was not fenced, had no water right, and was practically to all appearances without value; but Mr. Gilmer said, "All right," and gave the man his check for the amount. He fenced and

beautified the place, and ten years later sold it for $72,000. It is now known as Arlington Heights.

He was wrapped up in his family. He would never punish his children in any way. He declared that women and children were entitled to equal rights with men. The result was his children worshiped him and were always eager to anticipate his wishes.

He had a religion of his own, which was, chiefly, to do the best he could for his fellow-men. He met the Rev. Phillips Brooks once on a railroad train, and the two men were at once drawn to each other. When they separated, Mr. Gilmer said: "No long ride has ever seemed so short before. If I could live near Phillips Brooks, nothing could keep me from hearing his every sermon."

He had the sixth sense greatly developed. He could make a shrewd estimate of men whom he had never seen, if he could hear their speeches or hear how they had borne themselves on marked occasions.

He had an intuitive knowledge of the characters of men by hearing their voices and watching their actions for a little while.

He bonded a mine of a man in California, paying $5000 down. The papers were all made out and signed, and the $5000 paid, when Gilmer turned to the man and said:

"I believe you are a sorry scoundrel. I believe you 'salted' the rock that I tested; you have got the $5000; it is yours all right; you know that if you have been cheating I shall find it out so soon as a more thorough examination is made, and you will never get any more money from me. Now, tell me the truth, and if you are the grand larceny thief that I suspect you are, tell me so and don't put me to any more expense and trouble."

The man protested his innocence and grew eloquent over the value of the mine. So Mr. Gilmer sent for a trusted expert in his employ in the Black Hills to sample the ore. The man came, and was to go alone to the mine to make his tests. The owner seemed pleased at that, but in an offhand, generous way said, "Take along my Chinese cook to pound up the quartz for you," which offer was gladly accepted. The expert worked half a day "horning" the ore that the Chinaman pulverized, and then reported to Mr. Gilmer that he believed the mine was better than had been represented.

Mr. Gilmer heard the report, thought for a moment, and then said: "I don't believe it. If that man is not a scoundrel, then a mistake was made when that hang-dog face of his was put on him." Thereupon he sent for Messrs. O. J. Salisbury and C. D. Porter, told them what he had done and all about it, and asked them to go up

and sample the mine. They broke down their own rock from the mine, pulverized and tested it, and there was not a trace. The owner had salted the rock on Gilmer, and "the heathen Chinee" had salted it on the expert. But Gilmer comforted himself with the thought that his idea of the thief had been vindicated.

Mr. Gilmer, when a lad, was tossed, unlettered and without experience, on the frontier. He grew to manhood and was, through all the years when his character was forming, among rough men. Over all he triumphed, and marked out for himself a distinct and most remarkable personality. He moved respected among the foremost business men of his generation, and they called him "Mr. Gilmer." But over half the continent, when one stage met another, the drivers asked what was the latest news from "Jack" Gilmer.

His pungent wit, mixed with his perpetual hearty humor, made him a boon companion in all the camps of the West. Among the shrewd men of the cities, sometimes a dozen words from him revealed a mind so subtle that they knew in an instant that a rough diamond was before them. His appearance, when studied, confirmed that thought. He was of massive proportions, and his head was a sovereign one in all respects. His forte was the harnessing and riding of the great moving physical forces of the modern world.

Had he been born a thousand miles further East, and could his young mind have been guided by a loving but firm father, he would not have rested until he controlled a railroad from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with connecting great steamers to Europe on the East and the Orient on the West.

Underneath all his careless ways, he had an intense interest in the welfare of his country, and a constant fear that it was falling under the control of small and unworthy men. He would pick out Congressmen, one after the other, and dispose of each with a sentence, sometimes with very few words. Such an one was "small of soul"; such an one was "narrow of vision"; such an one was "corrupt and was only in Congress for what he could make"; such an one was "bright and earnest, but lacked courage"; such an one was "bright and honest, but was a scatterer—lacked terminal facilities." Then he worried over the encroachments being made by great wealth upon legislation and the decisions of courts. "See," he said one day, "the Government makes no discrimination. A clown draws the same salary that an archangel would in the same position. In the corral yonder are one hundred horses. There are five standard-bred animals worth the ninety-five others. The Government gets the mustangs; the others go where they can be appreciated.

"Men are like horses; the majority have neither blood nor breeding, and the most of them do not know a blood animal from a mustang. Popular government and an equal franchise sounds well, but I never could see the sense or justice of the rule. Think of it! If any man wants a workingman for any purpose, he searches until he finds someone trained to that work. If I want a contract drawn up, I go to my lawyer; if my baby is sick, I send for the family doctor; but when a man or a measure, or the election of one or the crystallizing into law of the other is to be decided upon, the rabble of all nations is called in to vote. The man who is the biggest demagogue or has the longest purse gets the office, and the vote upon the measure depends largely upon the amount of demagoguery in it. I believe in the elective franchise, but I would limit the electors. I would make a man establish that he has an interest in the country, and that he knows the principles upon which this Government is founded, before I would permit him to register. Still, I may be mistaken. There is something in the vote of a whole great people like the voice of God, and the record is that, when the people are fully aroused, they do not make a mistake."

In business he was a daring operator. Mining had a wonderful fascination for him, though after years of trial he was one day asked his opinion

of mines, and replied: "There are just two kinds of mines. One kind is good; all the others are not worth a cent." And waiting a moment in thought he added: "I ought to know. I have tried all kinds." Then he believed that luck was a great factor in mining, and was wont to talk in this strain: "I believe that in its strictest sense legitimate business is an exact science, subject to exact calculation, and when all the conditions are properly estimated, and there is no fault in the execution, the result is like the conclusion of a problem in mathematics. But when Jones, a tenderfoot, locates a mine that on the surface assays forty dollars per ton, and both walls are lime, and Smith, an old miner, locates a better looking prospect in granite and porphyry, and his assays average fifty dollars, everyone says he has the best showing on top and the best prospect of a continuous ore channel. But when Smith sinks 200 feet and his vein pinches out, and Jones sinks 150 feet and the ore opens out into a million-dollar deposit, then everybody knew all the time that Jones was shrewd, and that though Smith had been mining a good while, he really never had made much of a success; and if there happens to be a mining suit in town the next week, Jones will be secured for an expert, but no one will trust Smith."

He gave to all churches and charities indiscriminately, and when sometimes remonstrated

with, he would reply with his quaint humor: "Who knows which one is right?" When assailed by the pitiable story of a tramp and he gave him a dollar, and then it was explained to him that the wretch was a notorious "beat," he replied: "It's likely enough, but I did not want to doubt the gentleman's word for just a dollar."

He died in Salt Lake in 1892, leaving a widow and six children. Those who knew him mourned as though a near relative had passed away.

If what has been said fails to make a picture of this vigorous and original man, then the editor is sorry. He is sure that a comprehension of the character of John T. Gilmer would be well, for he was a credit to the Gilmer name. To the blood of his fathers his life added increased value, and his example should stimulate not only his descendants but all of the Gilmers and the kin of them.

SALLY TALIAFERRO GILMER AND HER FAMILY.

Sally Taliaferro Gilmer, daughter of Dr. John Thornton Gilmer and his wife, Martha Gaines Harvie, was born in Christian County, Kentucky, January 24, 1817.

She married John Capps, March 27, 1837. John Capps was the son of Caleb and Martha Capps, and was born in the northeast part of North Carolina about 1809. His father, Caleb Capps, was the son of Caleb and Lydia Capps, and was born in North Carolina or Virginia on September 9, 1778; married Martha Williams, August 14, 1803; moved to Clark County, Kentucky, about 1810, where they spent the remainder of their lives; she dying in 1861, and he in 1864.

John Capps was brought by his parents to Kentucky when about two years of age. He was one of a large family, five of whom lived to mature years. Charles W., the youngest, is the only survivor. He lives in Missouri. The descendants of the others live in central Illinois and are characterized for their uprightness and stability of character.

John went to Illinois about 1830; worked as

a carpenter and builder; entered government land, and after his marriage constructed and operated a carding mill at Columbus, Adams County, Illinois. He returned to Kentucky about 1839, hoping to regain his health, which had become impaired. He was still in Kentucky at the time of his death, which occurred June 5, 1843. His widow soon returned to Illinois with her three sons.

Born of this marriage: Thornton Gilmer Capps was born in Adams County, Illinois, February 4, 1838. He enlisted in Company E, 122d Illinois Infantry Volunteers, August 15, 1862, and served until the close of the War of the Rebellion, being promoted to the rank of first lieutenant, and receiving the brevet rank of captain, "for faithful and meritorious services," and was mustered out July 15, 1865. He has lived since then on a farm near Greenfield, Green County, Illinois. He married Anna Hartsook, December 31, 1867. She was born February 5, 1841.

Born of this marriage: John Hartsook Capps was born in Green County, Illinois, April 4, 1869. He married Della Edminston, September 2, 1891. Their daughter, Della Maude Capps, was born November 11, 1893.

Charles Caleb Capps was born in Green County, Illinois, March 30, 1872.

Willie Capps was born in Green County, Illinois, February 13, 1876, and died in infancy.

Mabel Capps was born in Green County, Illinois, June 2, 1878.

Caleb Capps was born in Clark County, Kentucky, March 23, 1840. He was mustered into the United States service during the War of the Rebellion in Company A, 32d Illinois Infantry Volunteers, October 15, 1864, and mustered out September 16, 1865, participating in several important campaigns, including Sherman's March to the Sea. He is now a retired farmer, living in Palmyra, Ill. He married S. Elizabeth Maxfield January 3, 1872. She was born February 11, 1844.

John T. Capps was born in Clark County, Kentucky, December 30, 1841; enlisted in Company B, 10th Regiment Illinois Infantry Volunteers, August 13, 1861, and served through the War of the Rebellion; was discharged as quartermaster sergeant of the regiment, July 4, 1865; is now engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods at Springfield, Ill.

He married Laura A. Lee at Springfield, Ill., May 7, 1867.

Olive Latham Capps, their daughter, was born in Springfield, Ill., December 31, 1868, and married Luther W. Irwin, September 26, 1893, and lives in Chicago, Ill. Their son, John Capps Irwin, was born in Chicago, April 17, 1896.

William Lee Capps, son of John T. Capps, was born in Springfield, Ill., March 3, 1871; resides

in Springfield, Ill.; married Naomi Mounts, April 25, 1895. Their daughter, Catherine Capps, was born January 31, 1896.

In 1847 Sally T. Capps—formerly Gilmer—married Joseph J. Gray, a minister of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Gray was born near Weldon, N. C., on the Roanoke River, August 5, 1804. His preparatory education was received at Raleigh, N. C.; his collegiate at Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.; and his theological at Hanover, Ind. After preaching several years in Illinois he was compelled to discontinue his work on account of throat trouble, and removed to a farm near Greenfield, Ill., where he remained the rest of his life. There were born from this marriage seven children, four of whom are still living.

Martha Ann Gray was born in Macoupin County, Illinois, November 7, 1848; married Alfred Dwight Vanarsdale of Carrollton, Ill., September 1, 1869. Their daughter, Edith Harvey Vanarsdale, was born in New York, Ia., November 10, 1870.

Louise Vanarsdale was born at Greenfield, Ill., December 31, 1872.

Cecilia Gray Vanarsdale was born at Greenfield, Ill., December 21, 1874.

Alfred Gray Vanarsdale was born at Fountain, Col., March 25, 1878, and died at Port Byron, N. Y., January 27, 1889.

Earnest Vanarsdale was born at Buena Vista, Col., May 12, 1882.

Dwight Gilmer Vanarsdale was born at Buena Vista, Col., June, 1890, and died February 26, 1892.

Mr. Vanarsdale died at their home in Buena Vista, Col., September 13, 1892, where the family still reside.

Charles Gilmer Gray was born in Macoupin County, Illinois, January 26, 1850; was educated at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Ind.; member of Calliopean Literary Society and Beta Theta Pi Greek Fraternity; has lived for the last fifteen years at Springfield, Ill. He married Virginia Kent of Peoria, Ill., April 23, 1895.

Lucy Walker Gray was born in Macoupin County, Illinois, November 5, 1851, and married S. M. Henderson of Whitehall, Ill., June 3, 1896.

Newton Gray was born in Macoupin County, Illinois, May 14, 1854; was educated at Blackburn University, Carlinville, Ill., afterward graduated at the Chicago School of Pharmacy and has been engaged in the drug business in Chicago, Ill.; Denver, Col.; San Francisco, Livermore, and Elmhurst, Cal. He now resides at the last named place, which is a suburb of Oakland. He married Kate Lynn Minton, September 22, 1886.

Their daughter, Kate Minton Gray, was born September 19, 1887.

Their daughter, Gladys Gray, was born March 4, 1890, and died November of the same year.

Their daughter, Eunice Gilmer Gray, was born December 21, 1894.

Sally Taliaferro Gilmer—afterward Capps, and still later Gray—died February 1, 1888, aged a few days over seventy-one years. Her husband, Joseph J. Gray, died December 11, same year, aged eighty-four years, four months, and eleven days.

THE GILMER GENALOGICAL RECORD

AS COMPILED BY MISS LOUISA A. H. MINOR.

William Gilmer was born near Edinburgh, Scotland, about 1670. His son, George Gilmer (1), born 1700, and married, 1st, a daughter of Dr. Ridgway of London. She died there and Dr. Gilmer settled in Williamsburg, Va., where he married, 2d time, Mary Peachy Walker, daughter of Th. and Susanna Peachy Walker of King and Queen County, Virginia, and had two sons. His 3d wife was Miss Harrison Blair of Williamsburg, Va. She had one son.

Dr. George Gilmer (2) and Lucy Walker (his cousin and daughter of Dr. Thomas Walker, and his wife, Mrs. Mildred Meriwether, *née* Thornton), were married at "the Glebe," Albemarle County, Virginia, in 1771. Lucy Walker was born May 3, 1751; died 1800. Dr. Gilmer (2) was born January 19, 1742–43.

Their issue:

1. Peachy Ridgway Gilmer (3), born 1779, married Mary House at Pen Park, his father's home in Albemarle County, Virginia, on the 15th September, 1803. Mrs. Mary House Gilmer was born in New London, Conn., July 7, 1785,

and died at the home of her son-in-law, Cary Breckinridge, Grove Hill, Botetourt County, August, 1854. Peachy R. Gilmer (3) was a successful lawyer in Henry County, Virginia, where several of his children were born. He was a forcible pleader, a cheerful companion, and with all the quick wit characteristic of the Gilmer family. He lived for several years at Liberty (now called Bedford City), in Bedford County, Virginia; from there he moved to "Leigh," Albemarle County, Virginia, where he died.

2. George Gilmer, M. D. (3), married Miss Elizabeth Hudson, a daughter of Christopher Hudson, a soldier of the Revolution; born March 30, 1758; died May 1, 1825; buried at Mount Ayr, the home of George Gilmer (3), his son-in-law.

3. Walker Gilmer (3), physician; died unmarried.

4. Dr. John Gilmer (3), born 1782; married Sarah Minor, daughter of Dabney Minor of Wood Lawn, Orange County, Virginia, in 1808, and died in 1834. His wife died in 1864. They lived at Edgemont, Albemarle County, Virginia.

5. Francis Walker Gilmer (3), born October 9, 1790; died February 26, 1826. He never married.

6. James Gilmer (3), died unmarried.

7. Harmer Gilmer (3), died unmarried.

8. Mildred Gilmer (3), born August 15, 1772; married May 28, 1795, William Wirt, and died, September, 1799. She is buried in the cemetery at Pen Park, her father's old home (Dr. George Gilmer (2)).

9. Lucy Walker Gilmer (3), married Peter Minor of Ridgway, Albemarle County, Virginia. He was born in 1782, and died in 1827.

10. Susan Gilmer (3), married Mr. Shackleford.

No issue.

Issue of Peachy R. Gilmer (3), and his wife Mary House:

1. William Wirt Gilmer (4), "The wit of Albemarle," born September 26, 1804, at Pen Park. Never married; died only a few years before the publication of this book.

2. Emma Walker Gilmer (4), born September 22, 1803, in Henry County, Virginia. Married Cary Breckinridge July 18, 1830. Cary Breckinridge was a son of General James Breckinridge of Grove Hill, Botetourt County, Virginia; died in 1893.

3. George Henry Gilmer (4), born September 22, 1810, in Henry County, Virginia; married 1st, Miss Preston, November 27, 1845. She died.

Issue: One son, James Preston Gilmer (5), born 31st December, 1851; died 1st of January, 1852.

Judge George H. Gilmer (4), married, 2d, December 22, 1856, Elizabeth Cabell Carrington, daughter of Henry and Louisa Carrington of Charlotte County, Virginia. Judge G. H. Gilmer died January 31, 1875.

Issue: Three children.

4. Peachy Harmer Gilmer (4), M. D., born July 19, 1813, in Henry County, Virginia; married Maria Isabella Walker, February 9, 1836. She was born April 20, 1817, and died at the "Louise Home," in Washington City, July 19, 1890. She was the daughter of Captain Meriwether Lewis Walker of Logan, Albemarle County, Virginia, and a noble woman.

Dr. P. H. Gilmer died in Lynchburg, Va., March 10, 1872. He was graduated from the Philadelphia Medical School, and stood at the head of his profession, both as a physician and surgeon.

5. Francis Walker Gilmer (4), born in Henry County, Virginia, January 13, 1820; died unmarried.

6. Lucy Walker Gilmer (4), born in Bedford County, Virginia; died unmarried.

7. John Gilmer (4), born in Bedford County, Virginia, January 13, 1826; married Miss Eliza W. Patton of Richmond, Va., daughter of John M. Patton, November 15, 1860. He died at Chatham, March 12, 1894, leaving a family of ten children.

Mary Peachy Gilmer (4), born May, 1829, was married to Rev. George T. Wilmer, at Leigh, by Rev. R. K. Meade, 20th of April, 1847; died in Botetourt County, Virginia, 17th April, 1853.

Issue: Two daughters.

Issue of George Gilmer (3), and his wife, Miss Elizabeth Hudson. Nine children.

1. Thomas Walker Gilmer (4), born April 6, 1802; married Miss Annie Baker of Jefferson County, Virginia. He was Governor of Virginia, Member of Congress, 1842; and Secretary United States Navy, in 1844; killed February 6, 1844, by explosion of gun on board United States man-of-war *Princeton.* Was buried at Mt. Ayr, his father's home in Albemarle County, Virginia.

2. John Harmer Gilmer (4), married Miss Mary Anderson of Richmond, Va.

Issue: two children.

3. George Christopher Gilmer (4), born January 27, 1811; married first Miss Lean D. Lewis, daughter of Zachariah Lewis of Albemarle County, Virginia, August 24, 1831.

Issue: three children. Married the second time, Mildred Wirt Duke, daughter of Richard Duke, for many years presiding justice of County Court of Albemarle, on August 19, 1851.

Issue: two children. He died 8th September, 1888. His second wife still living in Charlottesville, Va.

4. Maria J. Gilmer (4), married Mr. Samuel Adams, 1831; died February 13, 1852.

Issue: two children.

5. Martha J. Gilmer (4), never married.

6. Sarah Gilmer (4), married Dr. Tompkins.

Issue: several children.

7. Georgianna Gilmer (4), born May 27, 1809; married C. C. Spiller, April 9, 1829; died September 20, 1840.

No issue.

8. Ann Hudson Gilmer (4), married Peter Magehee.

No issue.

9. Lucy Walker Gilmer (4), married Mr. Edwin Pegram of Baltimore. He is dead, and she lives in the Louise Home, Washington City.

No issue.

Issue of Dr. John Gilmer (3), and his wife, Sarah Minor. They lived at Edgemont, Albemarle County, Virginia. Two children, daughters.

1. Lucy Ann Gilmer (4), married September 8, 1837, B. Franklin Minor. She was born January 14, 1810; and died about 1883.

Issue: six children, three of whom died in infancy.

1. Ann Minor (5), died July 21, 1839.

2. John G. Minor (5), died July 10, 1846.

3. Margaret Cabell Minor (5), died April 11, 1848.

4. Juliette Minor (5), born August 9, 1838; married November 10, 1869, Charles H. De Janville of Baltimore. They have several children.

5. Sallie G. Minor (5), born December 9, 1839; married in April 7, 1869, Henry M. Magruder. They have several children and live at Edgemont, the home of her grandmother, Sarah Gilmer.

6. Emma B. Minor (5), October 12, 1849; married November 24, 1869, her cousin, Lancelot Minor. They lived in Arkansas; she died there, leaving several children.

7. Juliette Gilmer (4), youngest daughter of Dr. John, and Sarah Minor Gilmer, born July 16, 1811; died September 8, 1837; she never married.

Mildred Gilmer (3), wife of William Wirt, left no issue.

Francis Walker Gilmer (3), died unmarried.

Issue of Lucy Walker Gilmer (3), and her husband, Peter Minor of Ridgway. They had a family of nine children.

1. Hugh Walker Minor (4), married, 1st, his cousin, Miss Fry.

Issue: three children. Married, 2d, Mary Ann Carr, daughter of Boucher Carr, of the Brook, Albemarle County, Virginia, and he moved to Missouri, where he died. By this last marriage there were seven children.

2. B. Franklin Minor (4), of Ridgeway, Albemarle County; married Lucy Ann Gilmer, September, 1837.

Issue: six children. (See Dr. John Gilmer's record.) B. Franklin Minor was a noted instructor of young men preparing for college. For many years had a classical school at Ridgway, and many of his pupils have made their mark in the country, as scholars and statesmen.

3. Patty Minor (4), married Major Robert Grattan of Rockingham County, Virginia.

Issue: eight children.

4. Lucy Minor (4), married Dr. Charles Minor of Charlottesville, Va.

Issue: eleven children.

Dr. Minor was an A. M. of the University of Virginia, and one of the most learned men of the State. He was a fine physician, and excelled as a teacher of the classics.

5. Edward Minor (4), died unmarried.

6. Dr. George Gilmer Minor (4), married Miss Caroline Christian of New Kent County, Virginia.

Issue: five children.

Dr. George G. Minor was a fine physician. He was graduated in Philadelphia, and then finished his medical course in Paris. He died.

7. Louisa Minor (4), married Major R. W. N. Noland; lived in Albemarle County, on Ivy Creek, where she died.

Issue: four children.

8. Peter Carr Minor (4), married Lucy Carter.

Issue: three children.

He died in Richmond, Va., where he had been Clerk of the House of Representatives for many years.

9. John Skinner Minor (4), died unmarried, at Ridgeway.

Issue of the children of Emma Walker Gilmer (4), and her husband, Cary Breckinridge.

1. Mary Ann Breckinridge (5), born at Grove Hill, Botetourt County, December 4, 1831; married September, 1852, Dr. J. Lewis Woodville of Sweet Springs, W. Va.; died 1883.

Issue: 1. Emma Gilmer Woodville (6), born February 13, 1855; married, in 1884, Mr. Stephen Miller of South Carolina.

2. James Littlepage Woodville (6), born 1856; married Elizabeth Frederick of Sweet Springs, W. Va., 1883.

Issue: Littlepage Woodville (7), born 1884.

Preston Woodville (7), born 1886.

3. Cary Breckinridge Woodville (6), born 1858.

4. Mary Lewis Woodville, born 1860; married Mr. H. Hill of North Carolina.

5. Fannie Burwell Woodville (6), born 1863: married Dr. James Furgerson. One child.

James Furgerson (7), born 1893.

6. O'Beirne Woodville (6), born 1865.

7. John Breckinridge Woodville (6), born 1867.

Peachy Gilmer Breckinridge (5), eldest son of Emma W. Gilmer (4), and Cary Breckinridge, was born September 5, 1835; married Julia Anthony of Botetourt County, January, 1860. He was killed in the battle of Kennon's Landing, 1864. Was an officer in C. S. Service.

His issue was one daughter:

Mary Anthony Breckinridge (6), born October, 1861; married, in 1882, William Gordon Robertson of Charlottesville, Va.

Issue: four children:

1. Julia B. Robertson (7), born 1884.
2. William Joseph Robertson (7), born 1888.
3. Peachy Gilmer Robertson (7), born 1894.
4. Gordon Robertson (7), born 1895.

John Gilmer Breckinridge (6), born 1863; married, in 1892, Mary Garnet Munford of Botetourt County; has two children:

Nina Breckinridge (7), born 1893.

John C. Breckinridge (7), born 1896.

James Breckinridge (5), son of Emma Gilmer and Cary Breckinridge, born September 1, 1837. Killed in 1865, after surrender, by Federal troops. Married Frances Burwell of Bedford County, Va.

Cary Breckinridge (5), son of Emma and Cary Breckinridge, born October 5, 1839; married in 1866, to Miss Virginia Calwell of White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

Issue: six children.

James Breckinridge (6), born 1867; married

1892, to Mary Spencer of Botetourt County; has one child, Annie Spencer Breckinridge (7), born 1894.

Lucy Gilmer Breckinridge (6), daughter of Cary and Virginia Calwell Breckinridge (6), born 1868; married, in 1892, to John Easley of Richmond, Va., has two children:

Cary B. Easley (7), born 1893; Richard Easley (7), born 1895.

Henry Breckinridge (6), son of Cary and Virginia Calwell Breckinridge, born 1870.

John Peachy Breckinridge (6), son of Cary and Virginia Calwell Breckinridge, born 1872.

William Norwood Breckinridge (6), son of Cary and Virginia Calwell Breckinridge, born 1874.

Emma Cary Breckinridge (6), daughter of Cary and Virginia Calwell Breckinridge, born 1876.

Eliza Watts Breckinridge (5), daughter of Emma G. Gilmer and Cary Breckinridge, born 1841.

Lucy Gilmer (5), daughter of Emma G. and Cary Breckinridge, born 1843; married Mr. Jefferson Bassett in 1863; died in 1865.

John Harmer Breckinridge (5), son of Emma G. and Cary Breckinridge, born 1844; killed in the battle of Seven Pines, in 1862. In Confederate Service.

Emma J. Breckinridge (5), daughter of Emma

G. and Cary Breckinridge, born 1845; died in 1892.

George William Breckinridge (5), son of Emma G. and Cary Breckinridge, born 1847; married, in 1872, to Annie Hamner; has seven children:

1. Julia (6).
2. Hunter (6).
3. Peyton (6).
4. Maurice (6).
5. John (6).
6. Annie (6).
7. Emma Walker (6).

(All minors).

Issue of Dr. Peachy Harmer Gilmer (4), and his wife, Maria Isabella Walker. One son; several others, who died in infancy.

Thomas Walker Gilmer (5), born in Lynchburg, Va., March 17, 1845; married July 1, 1879, Miss Hattie Fears. He lives in Toccoa, Ga., and has four children:

Mary Gilmer (6), born June 25, 1880.

Peachy Harmer Gilmer (6).

Maria Isabella Gilmer (6).

Edward Shaefer Gilmer (6).

Issue of Judge George Henry Gilmer (4), and his 1st wife, Miss Preston:

James Preston Gilmer (5), born 31st December, 1851; died 1st January, 1852.

Issue of 2d wife, Elizabeth Cabell Carrington:

1. Louisa Edmonia Gilmer (5), born February 21, 1859; married R. H. Easley, 3d of November, 1879.

Issue: Elizabeth Easley (6).

Florence Leigh Easley (6).

James S. Easley (6).

George Gilmer Easley (6).

2. Mary Peachy Gilmer (5), born January, 1864; married John W. Craddock 7th December, 1885.

Issue: George Gilmer Craddock (6).

Charles G. Craddock (6).

Eliza Carrington Craddock (6).

John W. Craddock (6).

3. George Harmer Gilmer (5), born 19th December, 1865; married 19th June, 1895, to Margarita French Patton of Culpeper County, Virginia.

Judge George A. Gilmer (4), settled in Chatham, Va., when a young man, where he commenced the practice of law. Was elected Commonwealth's Attorney; served eight years as Circuit Judge.

Issue of John Gilmer (4), and his wife, Eliza W. Patton:

1. John Patton Gilmer (6), born in Charlottesville, Va., September 9, 1861; married Lucy Dabney Walker, daughter of Dr. Thomas Walker of Lynchburg, Va., October, 1895. He is now a lawyer of Kansas City, Mo.

2. William Wirt Gilmer (6), born at Chatham May 21, 1863; belongs to U. S. Navy.

3. Tazewell Gilmer (6), born March 30, 1865.

4. Mary Ridgway Gilmer (6), artist, born August, 1866.

5. Francis Walker Gilmer (6), born May 23, 1868; died November 11, 1879.

6. Mercer Williams Gilmer (6), born December 30, 1869.

7. James Carrington Gilmer (6), born December 7, 1871.

8. Lindsay Gilmer (6), born July 7, 1873.

9. Margaret French Gilmer (6), born March 18, 1876; died July 7, 1876.

10. Isabella Breckinridge Gilmer (6), born December, 1879.

Issue of Mary Peachy Gilmer (4), and her husband, Rev. George T. Wilmer.

1. Annie Fitzhugh Wilmer (5), born February 29, 1848: married Rev. A. Gaze, D. D.

2. Mary House Wilmer (5), born September 3, 1849.

Issue of George Gilmer (3), and Elizabeth Hudson. They lived at Mt. Ayr, in southern part of Albemarle County, Virginia, where many of the family are also buried.

John Harmer Gilmer (4), a lawyer of Richmond, Va., now dead; married Mary Anderson.

Their issue a son, Harmer (5), who died in

young manhood, and a daughter, Lucy Walker Gilmer (5), who married Everard Meade of Richmond, Va. She lives on Leigh Street, Richmond, Va., and has a large family.

Issue of Ex-Governor Thomas Walker Gilmer (4), and his wife, Anne Baker.

1. John B. Gilmer (5), born 1828; died 1859, unmarried.

2. Elizabeth A. Gilmer (5), born 1827; married St. George Tucker, son of Judge St. George Tucker of the University of Virginia.

Issue: four children.

1. Walker Gilmer Tucker (6), married Lizzie Edwards.

Issue: three children. St. George (7), Walker E. (7), Elizabeth Gilmer (7); the last named died in 1889.

2. Lena Hunter Tucker (6), never married.

3. Lucy Beverly Tucker (6), married Robert B. Richardson of Memphis, Tenn.

Issue, seven children: Robert Beverly (7), St. George Tucker (7), George Catlett (7), Lena Tucker (7), Marquis De Calm (7), Jennie (7), died in 1895; Thomas Walker Gilmer (7).

4. Annie Baker Tucker (6), married Lyon G. Tyler, President of William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Va., and son of President John Tyler.

Their issue, three children: Julia Gardiner (7), Elizabeth Gilmer (7), John (7).

5. Rev. Thomas Walker Gilmer (5), born 1834; married Patty Leigh Minor; died 1869.

Issue, one son, born in 1869: Thomas Walker Gilmer (6), lives in Roanoke City, Va.

6. Rev. George Hudson Gilmer (5), born 1836; died 1892; married, 1st, Miss Eliza Parkes Anderson; 2d, Miss Crockett.

His issue: eight children.

Thomas Walker Gilmer (6), married Miss Curtis of Washington; has no children.

Robert Anderson Gilmer (6), who died in 1887.

George Hudson Gilmer (6).

Ellen T. Gilmer (6).

Parke Poindexter Gilmer (6).

Francis Lightfoot Gilmer (6).

James Blair Gilmer (6).

Beverly Tucker Gilmer (6).

Ellen T. Gilmer (5), born 1832; died 1858, unmarried.

Francis Robert Gilmer (5), born 1838; and died 1839.

Juliette A. Gilmer (5), born 1830; died 1896, unmarried.

James B. Gilmer (5), born 1840; married Mrs. Ford in 1877.

Issue: three sons.

John Elgin Gilmer (6), born December 25, 1879.

James Blair Gilmer (6), born August 3, 1883.

Merrick Ford Gilmer (6), born January 28, 1886.

James B. Gilmer (5), lives in Waco, Tex.

Virginia D. Gilmer (5), born 1842; and died 1843.

Issue of Maria J. Adams (4), and her husband Samuel Adams:

Martha J. Adams (5), died unmarried.

Ella G. Adams (5), married Henry Price.

Issue: Patrick Henry (6).

Martha Jane (6). She lives in Roanoke County, Virginia.

Issue of George Christopher Gilmer (4) and his 1st wife, Miss Lewis—two sons and one daughter:

Zachariah Lee Gilmer (5), born June 18, 1840; married Annie Hudson Pattison of Buckingham County, Virginia; have four children.

James Pattison Gilmer (6), born April, 1871.

Thomas Walker Gilmer (6), born January, 1883.

Annie Lee Gilmer (6), born July, 1869.

Willie Chester Gilmer (6), born January, 1867, married A. Caldwell Horsley of Buckingham County, Virginia. They have two children:

Louise Scoville Horsley (7), born August, 1891.

A. Caldwell Horsley (7), born February, 1893.

This family live near Scottsville, Va.

George Walker Gilmer (5), born July, 1845;

married Fannie Harrison Brown, daughter of Ludwell Brown of Richmond, Va., and Margaret McClelland of Nelson County, Virginia.

Issue: Rose Leanna Gilmer (6), born 1870.

Margaret Cabell Gilmer (6), born 1871.

Ludwell Harrison Gilmer (6), born 1875.

Edmonia Preston Gilmer (6), born 1878.

George Walker Gilmer (6), born 1880.

John Harmer Gilmer (6), born 1882.

Isetta Barksdale Gilmer (6), born 1890.

This family live at Howardsville, Va.

Sarah Elizabeth Gilmer (5), born April, 1839; married N. E. May.

Issue: Bessie May (6).

Mary May (6).

Lucy W. May (6).

Robert Lindsay May (6): Post Office, Scottsville, Va.

Bessie May (6), married Mr. Hopkins of Tazewell County, Virginia. They have several children.

Mary May (6), married Mr. George Olvis of Roanoke, Va. They have one child.

Lucy Walker May (6), married Mr. J. B. Grasty of Gordonsville, Va.

Robert Lindsay May (6), never married.

Maria Walker Gilmer (5), daughter of George Christopher Gilmer (4), (and his second wife, Mildred Wirt Duke), born October 12, 1854; married Dr. Thomas Alexander Cunningham,

U. S. A., son of Thomas A. Cunningham and Miss Gallaway of Danville, Va., October 23, 1878; and died January 26, 1880.

Issue: one child, Mildred Laura Cunningham (6), who was born July 22, 1879, at Fort Stephenson, Dak.

Frank Gilmer (5), son of George Christopher, and Mildred Wirt Gilmer, born January 29, 1857; married Rebecca Singleton Haskell, daughter of Judge A. C. Haskell of Columbia, S. C. They were married March 17, 1886, at Columbia, S. C., by Rev. Dr. P. I. Shand. They now live in Charlottesville, Va.

Issue: two children.

George Gilmer (6), born April 13, 1888.

Frank Gilmer, Jr. (6), born June 17, 1892.

Issue of Sarah J. Gilmer (4), (daughter of George Gilmer and Elizabeth Hudson). She was born November 16, 1805; married Dr. Samuel W. Tompkins in 1824. He was born 23, December, 1793; died in July, 1849. She died in May, 1841. They had nine children. They lived in Scottsville, Va., where many of their descendants are still to be found.

1. George Tompkins (5), born January 2, 1825.

2. Elizabeth Tompkins (5), born May 3, 1826.

3. Francis Tompkins (5), born October, 25, 1827; died an infant.

4. Jane Tompkins (5), born August 12, 1829.

5. Charles Tompkins (5), born February 22, 1831; died in 1867.

6. Dr. Junius Tompkins (5), born October 20, 1833.

7. Martha J. Tompkins (5), born December 6, 1835.

8. Lucy Tompkins (5), born September 3, 1837.

9. Catharine Tompkins (5), born May 30, 1839.

1. George Tompkins (5), married Mary Allen. Issue not known.

2. Elizabeth Tompkins (5) married John S. Moon.

Issue: Frank C. Moon (6) of Scottsville, Va.

Edward Moon (6), married Miss Harris, lives in Lynchburg, Va., and has a large family.

John S. Moon (6), unmarried.

Lilla Moon (6), married Mr. Goodwin of Louisa County, Virginia, and has several children.

4. Jane Tompkins (5), married Mr. Hartman.

5. Charles Tompkins (5), married Miss Augustina Poore of Charlottesville, Va. He died in 1867, and left several children.

6. Dr. Junius Tompkins (5), married, 1st, Mary W. Cleneary in 1857; she died in November, 1865.

Issue: four children.

1. Catherine Tompkins (6), born April 15, 1858, and died in infancy.

2. Benjamin Blane Tompkins (6), born January 1, 1860; married Jane Hynes, June 5, 1894.

3. Walker Gilmer Tompkins (6), born January 18, 1862.

4. Catherine Tompkins (6), born December 11, 1863; married, January, 1885, Horace B. Linn.

Dr. Junius Tompkins (5), married, 2d time, Margaret McLain, June 4, 1867.

Issue: five children.

1. Charles J. Tompkins (6), October 11, 1868.

2. Mary Tompkins (6), born March 6, 1872.

3. Elizabeth Tompkins (6), February 19, 1874.

4. John E. Tompkins (6), born January 21, 1877.

5. Fannie M. Tompkins (6), born June 29, 1881.

Dr. Junius Tompkins and family reside in Canton, Mo.

7. Issue of Jane Tompkins (5), and her husband, Mr. Hartman. No record of any sort, but Sara Gilmer Hartman (6), and her husband, Mr. Pereira of Scottsville, Va.

8. Catharine Tompkins (5), unmarried, lives in Charlottesville, Va.

9. Lucy Tompkins (5), married Rev. Mr. Hale.

Issue of Lucy Walker Gilmer (3), and her husband, Peter Minor of Ridgway. She was the daughter of Dr. George and Lucy Walker Gilmer of Pen Park, Albemarle County, Virginia.

1. Hugh Walker Minor (4), born 1808, married, 1st, Miss Susan Fry (his cousin).

Issue: three children.

1. Dr. John Gilmer Minor (5), married Miss M. J. Crawford—three children.

Issue: Hugh Minor (6), Annie S. Minor (6), Susan H. Minor (6).

2. Thomas A. Minor (5), died unmarried.

3. Lucy Heywood Minor (5), married her cousin, Dr. Fry.

No issue.

Issue of Hugh Minor (4), and his second wife, Mary Anne Carr, the daughter of Mr. Boucher Carr, who died in Missouri some years ago, eight children.

1. Peter H. Minor (5), killed at Gettysburg.

2. George R. Minor (5), married Sally Carr.

Issue: ten children.

1. Annie Lee Minor (6).
2. Lawrence Carr Minor (6).
3. Sally Carr Minor (6).
4. Mary W. Minor (6).
5. Hugh Minor (6).
6. Eliza D. Minor (6).
7. George R. Minor (6).
8. Frank Minor (6).
9. Peter Minor (6).
10. Thomas Minor (6).

None of them married.

3. Patty Lee Minor (5), married Rev. Thomas Walker Gilmer; she was born January 29, 1843.

Issue: one child.

Thomas Walker Gilmer (6), now living in Roanoke City, Va.

4. William Boucher Minor (5), died in the Confederate Army in 1864.

5. Annie Minor (5), died in 1864.

6. Mary J. Minor (5), born 1849, still living.

7. Virginia C. Minor (5), born 1853; married John B. Minor, Jr.; still living.

8. Ellen M. Minor (5), born 1856; still living.

Issue of Patty Divers Minor (4), and her husband, Major Robert Grattan of Rockingham County, Virginia.

1. Lucy Grattan (5), married Mr. George Chrisman.

No issue.

2. Judge Charles Grattan (5), married Elizabeth Finley. Issue: six girls; lives in Stanton, Va.

3. George Grattan (5), married Ella Anniberger; three children.

4. Robert Grattan (5), died in Confederate War.

5. Peter Grattan (5), died in Confederate War.

Mary Grattan (5), married Mr. Robertson.

Issue: six children.

Louisa Grattan (5), married Mr. Doyle; one son (6).

John Grattan (5), not married.

Issue of B. Franklin Minor (4), and his wife Lucy Ann Gilmer. (See Dr. John Gilmer's (3) record.)

Issue of Dr. George Gilmer Minor (4), and his wife, Caroline Christian.

Judge Edmund C. Minor (5), married Miss Pleasants.

George Gilmer Minor (5), married Miss Yarborough.

Caroline Minor (5), not married.

John Minor (5), not married.

Issue of Peter Carr Minor (4), and his wife Lucy Carter. Three children:

Mary C. Minor (5), died in infancy.

Frank Minor (5), died unmarried.

Charles Carter Minor (5), not married.

Issue of Lucy Walker Minor (4), and her husband, Dr. Charles Minor:

1. Mary Overton Minor (5), died unmarried.

2. Lucy Ridgway Minor (5), married Mr. Abbot. Several children.

3. Charles Minor, Jr. (5), married Miss Board. Died without issue.

4. Patty Minor (5), married Mr. Leobe. No issue.

5. Louisa N. Minor (5), died unmarried.

6. Frank Minor (5), dead.

7. Lancelot Minor (5), married Emma Minor. Several children. He lives in Arkansas.

8. Kate Minor (5), unmarried.

9. Annie Minor (5), unmarried.

10. John B. Minor, Jr. (5), married Virginia C. Minor.

11. James Cabell Minor (5), unmarried.

Issue of Mary Louisa Minor (4), and her husband, Mr. Richard W. N. Noland:

1. Lloyd Noland (5), dead.
2. Charles Noland (5).
3. Frank Noland (5), dead.
4. Burr Noland (5).
5. Grattan Noland (5). Episcopal minister in Kentucky.

Issue of John Gilmer (2), born April 26, 1748, died March 22, 1771; and his wife, Mildred Meriwether, born July 25, 1753. Nine children:

1. Dr. John Thornton Gilmer (3), born in Amherst County, Virginia, February 20, 1774; married Martha Gaines Harvie October 4, 1803.
2. Nicholas Meriwether Gilmer (3), born May 25, 1776; married Amelia Clark. They lived in Kentucky and Tennessee, and had a large family of children.
3. George Oglethorpe Gilmer (3), born December 27, 1787; married Martha Harvie Johnson.
4. Francis Meriwether Gilmer (3), born July 27, 1785; married Martha Jamison Barnett.
5. David Harvie Gilmer (3), born May 2, 1790; married Virginia Clark.
6. Elizabeth Thornton Gilmer (3), born October 15, 1780; married Thomas Magehee.

No issue heard from.

7. Sarah Lewis Gilmer (3), born February 4, 1783; married Berkenhead Taliaferro.

No issue heard from.

8. Harrison Blair Gilmer (3) (daughter), born, married Rev. Gabriel Christian.

9. Jane Mildred Gilmer (3), born June 4, 1792; married, 1st, Thomas Johnson; 2d, Abner Magehee.

Issue of Harrison Blair Gilmer (3) (eldest daughter of John Gilmer (2) and Mildred Meriwether) and her husband, Rev. Gabriel Christian (Methodist). Six children:

1. John Christian (4).
2. Julia Anne Christian (4).
3. Abda Hobbs Christian (4).
4. Martha Taliaferro Christian (4).
5. Nicholas Thornton Christian (4).
6. Thomas Johnson Christian (4).

Issue of Dr. John Thornton Gilmer (3) and his wife, Martha Gaines Harvie:

1. Lucy Walker Gilmer (4), born in Wilkes County, Georgia, August, 1804.

2. Dr. Frederick George Gilmer (4), born in Wilkes County, Georgia, March 11, 1806; married Sarah J. Loving, born August 20, 1808. Dr. Frederick G. Gilmer died in Lincoln County, Missouri, December 24, 1871. His wife died December 23, 1864.

3. Thornton Gilmer (4), born in Wilkes County, Georgia, March, 1808; married Lydia Barker.

4. Peachy Ridgway Gilmer (4), born in Wilkes County, Georgia, August, 1810; married Miss Dooley.

5. Daniel Harvie Gilmer (4), born in Christian County, Kentucky, September, 1811; married Louisa Quimby.

6. Sally T. Gilmer (4), born in Christian County, Kentucky, January, 24, 1817; married, 1st, Mr. Capps; 2d, Mr. Gray.

7. Charles M. Gilmer (4), born in Christian County, Kentucky, August 24, 1819; married Miss Ratliffe.

Issue of Dr. Frederick G. Gilmer (4) and his wife, Sarah J. Loving. Eight children:

1. Sarah Harvie Gilmer (5), born April 7, 1831, died August 20, 1858; unmarried.

2. Harriet Emeline Gilmer (5), born September 21, 1833; married Henry Fontaine Wells February 25, 1851.

3. Isabella J. Gilmer (5), born May 14, 1835; married June 13, 1861, Thomas Walker Lewis.

4. Elbertha B. Gilmer (5), born February 1, 1838; married, November 10, 1867, George O. Hamilton.

5. Mildred Taliaferro Gilmer (5), born June 30, 1840; married Charles S. Cox October 10, 1870.

6. William Loving Gilmer (5), born August 28, 1842; married Mary Russ.

No issue.

7. Annie Maria Gilmer (5), born April 17, 1845; married Samuel Overton Eastin in 1866; died October 17, 1877.

8. Dr. Thomas Lewis Gilmer (5), born February 19, 1849; married Ella M. Bostwick, September 29, 1868.

Issue of Lucy W. Gilmer (4) and her husband, William Wilson. Six children:

1. Thornton Wilson (5).

2. Peachy Taliaferro Wilson (5), a missionary to India.

3. Chapman Wilson (5).

4. Henry Wilson (5).

5. Harvie Wilson (5).

6. John Wilson (5).

7. Peggy Wilson (5).

Issue of Thornton Gilmer (4) and his wife, Lydia Barker. Five children:

1. Thornton Gilmer (5); died young.

2. Mattie H. Gilmer (5); married, 1st, Joseph Chase; 2d, William Douglas Meriwether of Clarksville, Tenn., died August 31, 1896.

No issue.

3. Charles M. Gilmer (5); married Miss Heller. Issue, four children: Warren (6), Dorothy (6), Helen (6), Meriwether (6).

4. Mollie M. Gilmer (5); unmarried.

5. George O. Gilmer (5); married Lizzie Meriwether. This family lived in and around Quincy, Ill.

Issue of Peachy Ridgway Gilmer (4) and his wife, Miss Dooley. Two children: Mary Gilmer (5), George Gilmer (5). Peachy R. Gilmer married, and still lives in Louisiana.

Issue of Daniel Harvie Gilmer (4) and his wife, Louisa Quimby.

1. Harvie Gilmer (5).
2. Lizzie Gilmer (5).
3. Henry Gilmer (5).

This family lived in Pittsfield, Ill. Daniel Harvie Gilmer (4) fell in the battle of Chickamauga. He was colonel of an Illinois regiment of Federal infantry.

Issue of Sally T. Gilmer (4) and her first husband, Mr. Capps. Three children:

John Thornton Capps (5).

Caleb Capps (5).

John T. Capps (5).

By second marriage with Mr. Gray. Four children, Anna (5), Charles Gilmer (5), Lucy (5), Newton (5).

Their home was in Illinois.

Issue of Charles M. Gilmer (4) and Miss Ratliffe.

John Thornton Gilmer (5) married Miss Mary Elizabeth Vance September 15, 1866. He was born February 22, 1841, near Quincy, Ill. His wife was born November 2, 1844, near McComb, Ill. Their home was in Salt Lake City, Utah,

where he died May 8, 1892. Their children are:

1. Charles Vance Gilmer (6), born June 16, 1867. Married December 27, 1890, Miss Emma Chase Merritt. They have two children:

Dorothy Merritt Gilmer (7) and Mary Vance Gilmer (7), born April 27, 1894.

2. Lucile Gilmer (6), born January 29, 1870.

3. Monroe Salisbury Gilmer (6), born August 20, 1875.

4. Jay T. Gilmer (6), born July 2, 1879.

5. Thornton Meriwether Gilmer (6), born August 5, 1883.

6. Lloyd Jack Gilmer (6), born May 20, 1887.

7. Earnest Gilmer (6), born February, 1869; died when three weeks old.

8. John Thornton Gilmer (6), born March 18, 1872; died when one day old.

9. Erma Gilmer (6), born March, 1872; died when five days old.

10. Daisy Gilmer (6), born September, 1878; died when five months old.

11. Harvie Gilmer (6), born February, 1886; died aged one month.

The other children of Charles M. Gilmer (4) and Miss Ratliffe are:

1. Mattie G. Gilmer (5).
2. William H. Gilmer (5).
3. Annie Gilmer (5).
4. Lizzie Gilmer (5).

5. Frederick Gilmer (5).

6. William H. Gilmer (5), born February 19, 1846; married Miss Snow.

Issue: two children.

He lives in Wyoming.

Issue of the children of Dr. Frederick G. Gilmer (4) and his wife, Sarah Loving.

Harriet Emeline Gilmer.

Issue of Harriet Emeline Gilmer (5) and her husband, Henry F. Wells. Nine children.

1. John Gilmer Wells (6), born September 14, 1853; died September 7, 1878.

2. Henry Harvie Wells (6), born February 18, 1855; married Miss Reid.

Issue: two daughters.

3. Edwin Wells (6), born February 25, 1857; died March, 1858.

4. Frederick G. Wells (6), born June 15, 1860.

5. Charles M. Wells (6), born June 20, 1862; married Miss Taylor.

Issue: a son and daughter.

6. Sarah J. Wells (6), born September 8, 1867; unmarried.

7. William Loving Wells (6), born February 27, 1870.

8. Thomas Lewis Wells (6), born July 16, 1858.

9. Overton B. Wells (6), born August 22, 1871.

Issue of Isabella J. Gilmer (5), and her husband Thomas Walker Lewis. Four children:

1. Henry G. Lewis (6), born 1864; married Clara Conyers.

2. Annie L. Lewis (6), born 1866; died 1867.

3. William Meriwether Lewis (6), born 1868.

4. Mary Alice Lewis (6), born 1871; married Mr. Gale of Massachusetts April, 1896.

Issue of Elbertha B. Gilmer (5), and her husband George O. Hamilton. Five children:

1. Hattie Belle Hamilton (6), born December 4, 1868; died October 3, 1876.

2. Frederick A. Hamilton (6), born January 7, 1871.

3. George Alva Hamilton (6), born August 25, 1872.

4. Annie Taliaferro Hamilton (6), born October 24, 1874.

5. Lucy E. Hamilton (6), born October 9, 1878.

Issue of Mildred Taliaferro Gilmer (5), and her husband, Charles S. Cox. One son:

William G. Cox, (6), born October 6, 1871.

Issue of William Loving Gilmer (5), and his wife, Mary Russ:

One child, died in infancy.

Issue of Annie M. Gilmer (5), and her husband Samuel Overton Eastin. One child:

1. George Gilmer Eastin (6), born December, 1875.

Issue of Dr. Thomas Lewis Gilmer (5), and his wife Ella M. Bostick, of Chicago, Ill.:

1. Sarah Virginia Gilmer (6), born September 20, 1869; married Dr. William V. B. Ames. He was born May 27, 1858.

Sarah Virginia Gilmer; married Dr. William V. B. Ames, December 18, 1895.

2. Frederick G. Gilmer (6), born September 23, 1873; died June 3, 1877.

3. Frank Gilmer (6), born July 10, 1880.

Issue of Nicholas Meriwether Gilmer (3), and his wife, Amelia Clark. Eight children:

1. John Gilmer (4), married Annie Green.

2. Sarah L. Gilmer (4), married Robert Browder.

3. Mildred M. Gilmer (4), married David Parrish.

4. Micajah D. Gilmer (4), married Elizabeth Parrish.

5. Francis M. Gilmer (4), married Sarah E. Taylor.

6. Meriwether L. Gilmer (4), married Susan W. Taylor.

7. Amy Gilmer (4), never married.

8. Peachy Gilmer (4), never married.

Issue of Francis Meriwether Gilmer (3), and his wife, Martha Jamison Barnett. Seven children:

1. Thomas Meriwether Gilmer (4), born November 17, 1808.

2. William Barnett Gilmer (4), born November 12, 1810; married Lucy Early Gilmer.

3. Mary Mildred Gilmer (4), born March 13, 1813.

4. John Thornton Gilmer (4), born June 23, 1816.

5. George Nicholas Gilmer (4), born February 4, 1822; died in 1896.

6. Francis Lewis Gilmer (4), born January 19, 1825.

7. Martha Barnett Gilmer (4), born February 3, 1829.

Issue of George Cglethorpe Gilmer (3), and his wife, Martha Harvie Johnson. Four children:

1. James Blair Gilmer (4).

2. Mary Mildred Gilmer (4), married John M. Sandiage.

3. Sarah M. Gilmer (4), married Leonidas Spyker.

4. George O. Gilmer (4).

Issue of David Harvie Gilmer (3), and his wife Virginia Clark. Six children:

1. Elizabeth Gilmer (4).

2. Thomas Meriwether Gilmer (4).

3. Mildred Gilmer (4).

4. Ellen Gilmer (4).

5. Robert Gilmer (4).

6. Thornton Gilmer (4).

Issue of Jane Mildred Gilmer (3), and her husband Thomas Johnson. No issue.

By second marriage to Abner Magehee, two children:

Elizabeth Magehee (4), married James A. Gilcrist.

Sarah Magehee (4), married Mr. Graves.

Issue of George N. Gilmer (4) (son of Francis M. Gilmer (3) and Martha J. Barnett) and his wife, Caroline Francis Smith. Five children:

1. Sarah Overton Gilmer (5), married Thomas E. Hannon.

2. Morgan Smith Gilmer (5), married, 1st, Mattie Barton; 2d, Helen Barton.

Issue, Mattie Gilmer (6).

3. Martha Barnett Gilmer (5), married Charles F. Hannon.

4. Caroline Frances Gilmer (5), married Hugh A. Belser.

5. Rebecca Louisa Gilmer (5), married John N. Meriwether.

Issue of William Barnett Gilmer (4) (son of Francis M. (3) and Martha J. Barnett Gilmer) and his wife, Lucy Early Gilmer. Five children:

1. Thomas M. Gilmer (5); married.

2. John F. Gilmer (5); married, 1st, Miss Sallie Darbie; 2d, Sallie Matthews.

3. William B. Gilmer (5), married Emma Heardt.

4. Fanny Gilmer (5), married William B. Clements.

5. Thornton E. Gilmer (5), married Fanny Matthews.

Issue of John Thornton Gilmer (4) (son of

Francis M. (3) and Martha J. Barnett Gilmer) and his first wife, Julia Taliaferro. One child:

1. Julia Martha Gilmer (5), married Frank Meriwether (son of Thomas Meriwether and Miss Fitzpatrick).

Issue of second wife, Jane Barnett. Three children:

2. William B. Gilmer (5), married Rosa Carr.

3. Mary Gilmer (5), married Mr. William Ledgard.

4. Fannie Gilmer (5), married Henry Walton.

Issue of Francis Lewis Gilmer (4) (son of Francis M. (3) and Martha J. Barnett Gilmer) and his wife, Margaret Green. Two children:

1. Margaret Gilmer (5), married Mr. Haistings.

2. Francis Gilmer (5), married.

These Gilmers all live in Alabama and Georgia.

Issue of Peachy Ridgway Gilmer (2) and his wife, Mary Meriwether, born April 4, 1742. Six children:

1. Thomas Meriwether Gilmer (3), married Elizabeth Lewis. They lived in Georgia.

2. George Gilmer (3), lived in Rockingham County, Virginia, where he married.

3. Elizabeth Thornton Gilmer (3), married Major Robert Grattan of Rockingham County, Virginia.

4. Lucy Grattan (3); never married.

5. Frances Grattan (3), married Mr. Richard Taliaferro.

6. Mary Peachy Grattan (3); never married.

Many of this family are now in Georgia and Alabama.

Issue of Thomas M. and Elizabeth Lewis Gilmer (3). Eight children:

1. Peachy R. Gilmer (4), married Mary Harvie.

2. Thomas L. Gilmer (3), married Nancy Harvie.

3. Mary M. Gilmer (4), married Mr. Taliaferro.

4. George Rockingham Gilmer (4) (Governor of Georgia), married Eliza Francis Grattan.

5. John Gilmer (4), married Lucy Johnson.

6. William B. Gilmer (4), married Miss Marks.

7. Charles L. Gilmer (4), married Miss Marks.

8. Lucy Ann Gilmer (4), married B. L. Bibb.

Issue of Elizabeth Thornton Gilmer (3) and her husband, Major Robert Grattan. Five children:

1. Eliza Frances (4), married George R. Gilmer (Governor of Georgia).

2. Robert (4), married Patty Minor of Ridgway, Albemarle County, Virginia. He lived and died at the old Grattan Homestead, in Rockingham County, Virginia.

3. Peachy R. (4), married Miss Furgerson.

Issue: a son (5) and two daughters (5).

4. Lucy (4), married Dr. Harris of Goochland County, Virginia.

No issue.

5. John Grattan (4). He married and lived in Columbus, Miss.

Issue of Robert Grattan, Jr. (4), and Patty Minor. Six children:

1. Lucy Grattan (5).
2. Charlie Grattan (5).
3. Peter Grattan (5).
4. John Grattan (5).
5. Robert Grattan (5).
6. Mary Grattan (5).

Issue of Frances Walker Gilmer (3), (daughter of Peachy Ridgway Gilmer (2) and his wife, Mary Meriwether) and her husband, Richard Henry Taliaferro of Orange County, Virginia.

1. Peachy R. Taliaferro (4).
2. George Gilmer Taliaferro (4).
3. William Quarles Taliaferro (4).
4. Mary Meriwether Taliaferro (4).
5. Elizabeth Thornton Taliaferro (4).
6. Lucy Gilmer Taliaferro (4).
7. Julia Taliaferro (4).

Peachy R. Taliaferro (4), married Sarah Frances Adams of Fredericksburg, Va. They settled in Mississippi in 1832, and had following issue:

1. Richard H. Taliaferro (5), married Malissa Brown.

2. Mary Peachy Taliaferro (5), married H. D. G. Brown.

3. Sarah Frances Taliaferro (5), married Major Roberts, U. S. A.

4. Charles Adams Taliaferro (5), married Eliza M. Price.

Issue of Richard H. Taliaferro (5) and his wife, Malissa Brown, daughter of Edwin R. Brown, one of the wealthy planters of Mississippi. Thirteen children:

Sarah Frances Taliaferro (6).
Albert S. Taliaferro (6).
Edwin Peachy Taliaferro (6).
Charles Adams Taliaferro (6).
Mary Brown Taliaferro (6).
Howard Taliaferro (6).
Frances Virginia Taliaferro (6).
H. D. G. Brown Taliaferro (6).
Richard Henry Taliaferro (6).
Malissa Taliaferro (6).
Lucy Adams Taliaferro (6).
Robert Young Taliaferro (6).
Stuart Taliaferro (6).

This family moved from Mississippi to Atchison, Kan., in 1869.

Issue of Sarah F. Taliaferro (6), and her husband Thomas J. Riggs of Kentucky: William Cochran Riggs (7), Mary B. Riggs (7), Edward Overton Riggs (7). They live in Atchison, Kan.

Edward Peachy Taliaferro (6), married Sarah Frasier.

Issue: Mary Taliaferro (7), Frances Taliaferro (7). They live in Effingham, Kan.

Mary Brown Taliaferro (6), married Frederick Giddings.

Issue: Christine Giddings (7), Edwin Giddings (7).

Frances Virginia Taliaferro (6), married Alexander Brown.

Issue: Sarah Brown (7).

Richard Henry Taliaferro (6), married Lousia Donahue.

Issue: Grace Taliaferro (7).

Charles Adams Taliaferro (6), married Amelia Bishop.

Issue: Richard Henry Taliaferro (7), Rollo Taliaferro (7), Malissa Taliaferro (7), Amy Taliaferro (7).

Malissa Taliaferro (6), married Dr. Daniel Campbell, a physician of note in Atchison, Kan. The other children of Richard H. Taliferro (5), and his wife, Malissa Brown, not married.

Mary Peachy Taliaferro (5), married H. G. D. Brown.

Issue: Joseph Taliaferro Brown (6), Edwin Rice Brown (6). They lived in Mississippi.

Joseph Taliaferro Brown (6), married Mary George Humphreys, a grandniece of General

B. G. Humphreys of the Army of Northern Virginia, and have the following issue:

Albert Gallatin Brown (7), Joseph Taliaferro Brown (7), Natalie Humphreys Brown (7). They live in Birney, Custer County, Montana.

Edwin Rice Brown (6), married Myra Cabiness.

Issue: Kate O. Brown (7), Adelle Brown (7). They reside in Texas.

Sarah Frances Taliaferro (5), married Major Roberts, U. S. A.

Issue: Hiram Taliaferro Roberts (6), Mary Peachy Roberts (6), Emma Roberts (6), Sarah Adams Roberts (6).

Hiram T. Roberts (6), married Concha Galves, a Mexican lady of Spanish descent.

Issue: Concheta Roberts (7), Alexander Maguel Roberts (7). They reside in the City of Mexico.

Mary P. Roberts (6), married Z. T. Cox, of Pulaski, Tenn.

Issue: Percy Roberts Cox (7). They live in Birney, Mont.

Emma Roberts (6), married Louis A. Alderson, of Atchison, Kan.

Issue: Floyd Taliaferro Alderson (7).

Charles Adams Taliaferro (5), married Elizabeth Macon Rice.

Issue: Marietta (6), Bessie (6), Balmaine (6), Fay (6), Charles A. (6), Edwin R. (6), Josephine B. (6). They live in Port Gelson, Miss.

Charles Adams Taliaferro (5), was a gallant Confederate soldier in the Army of Northern Virginia, and was terribly wounded at the battle of Seven Pines. Though permanently disabled, he served on the staff of General Nat Harris in Mahone's division to the close of the War.

Marietta Taliaferro (6), married James Vanhook, of Marshal, Tex.

Issue: Bessie (7), Julia (7), Balmaine (7).

They live in Vicksburg, Miss.

George Gilmer Taliaferro (4), 2d son of Frances Walker Gilmer (3), and her husband Richard Henry Taliaferro, married Sarah Jenkins.

No issue. They lived in Orange County, Virginia.

William Quarles Taliaferro (4), married Susan Chapman of Orange County, Virginia.

Issue: Peachy Ridgway Taliaferro (5), who was killed in 1862, at the Battle of Gaines' Mill. He was a lieutenant, and belonged to a Virginia regiment. His body was never found.

Mary Meriwether Taliaferro (4), married Thomas Boswell Adams, of Fredericksburg, Va.

Issue: Charles Adams (5), William Taliaferro Adams (5), Lucy Burnley Adams (5). They live in Mississippi.

William Taliaferro Adams (5), married Rebecca McClelland.

Issue: Thomas (6), and Samuel Adams (6),

Lucy Burnley Adams (5), married 1st, Daniel Sessions, of Bolivar County, Mississippi.

Issue: Julia Sessions (6).

By 2d marriage with Mr. Little, no issue. They live in Memphis, Tenn.

Elizabeth Thornton Taliaferro (4), married Albert Gallatin Brown of Mississippi. Twice Governor of his State, Representative in Congress, United States Senator, when the War commenced. Captain in the 18th Mississippi Infantry, was in the battles of Manassas, and Leesburg, and then elected a Senator in the Confederate States Congress. He held every office in the gift of his people, and enjoyed the unique distinction of never having been defeated at the polls.

No issue by this marriage.

Julia Taliaferro (4), married John Thornton Gilmer, son of Francis Meriwether Gilmer, and his wife Martha Jamison Barnett.

Issue: one child, Julia Martha Gilmer (5), who married Frank Meriwether. They live near Selma, Ala.

Copied from the family Bible of Dr. George Gilmer of Williamsburg, Va.:

"Mary Peachy Walker daughter of Thomas Walker, and Susanna Peachy, of King and Queen Co Va and Dr. George Gilmer of Wmsburg Va

were married by the Rev Mr John Shaife, at his house her stepfather, May 13th, 1732–33.

"March 6th 1737–8, a son born, christened the 20th by the Rev Mr Hith, by name of Peachy Ridgeway—Maj Nicholas and William Prentis, Godfathers, and Miss Robertson Godmother—now Mrs Liddendale.

"January 19th 1742–3 A Son born by name George, christened the 30th by Rev Thomas Dawson—Walter King (and James Harmer by proxy) Godfathers, and Miss Elizabeth Pratt Godmother—afterwards Mrs King.

"October 1st 1745, Mary Peachy Gilmer the mother of the above dear children, after a severe but short fit of sickness, departed this life to the great loss of her said children, but more immediately to her husband, who had experienced her Christian life, and fondness for him.

"December 11th 1745 George Gilmer was married to Miss Harrison Blair, by the Rev Mr Thomas Dawson, Rector of Brunton, in Williamsburg.

"April 26th 1748, A Son born to Mrs Gilmer, between six, and seven in the morning. On the 27th was christened by the Rev Thomas Dawson, by name John. The Hon John Blair, and Mr John Blair Godfathers and Mrs John Blair Godmother.

"—God preserve him.

"May 22nd 1753. Mrs Gilmer gave birth to a

son about five o'clock in the morning. Apprehending danger, had him christened in the afternoon, by name William, my father's name—Armstead Burwell, and Jno Holt, Mayor Godfathers, and Miss Sally Blair Godmother. This poor babe died the 30th, and was buried the 31st by the comissary in a grave so close to my dear former wife, that his coffin touched hers.

"November 2nd 1755, Mrs Gilmer after a sivere long and painful illness departed this life Sunday evening between eight and nine o'clock.

"Dr. George Gilmer departed this life, Jany 15th, 1757."

THE NORTH CAROLINA GILMERS.

A FAMILY of the Gilmer name has flourished in North Carolina for more than a century, and the descendants of the founder of that clan are spread all through the South, in which, wherever they have settled, they have been, and are at present, people of importance and consideration. It has been generally supposed by this generation and that which preceded it, that the Virginia and the North Carolina Gilmers were closely akin, and that they sprung from a common American ancestor. This, however, is not the case. Indeed, it is so far from the case that it is not possible now to unite the lines even by European records. The two families have, however, had common characteristics, the members of the two families having been noted for public spirit, simplicity of manner, directness of purpose, and uncalculating integrity. Considering these things the editor has concluded not to let this book go to press, even though it is a record of the Virginia Gilmers, without a chapter on the Gilmers of North Carolina; otherwise the book would be wrongly named.

The first of the North Carolina Gilmers to

come to this country, the founder, indeed, of the family, was William Gilmer, who emigrated from the north of Ireland some time previous to 1770. He was a married man, and settled for some time in Pennsylvania. Then he went to Guilford County, North Carolina, with his family. And Guilford County has remained ever since the home of the Gilmers. He was a very earnest man and a devout Presbyterian. His sons were Robert Shaw, John, and Joseph, while he had two daughters, Prudence and Elizabeth.

William Gilmer took part in the Revolutionary War, being a member of a company of patriots which in guerrilla fashion harassed the columns of Cornwallis' army. The eldest son of William Gilmer was a noted man in his State, and known far and wide as Captain Robert Shaw Gilmer. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1770, and lived far into this century, as he did not die till 1845. His long life was spent at the family place in the head-waters of the Alamance. He married the daughter of a Revolutionary notable, Captain Arthur Forbis, and the eldest son of them was the most distinguished man the family has produced. This son was John Adams Gilmer, a leader at the bar and in the politics of his State for forty years.

John A. Gilmer was reared as the other country boys in North Carolina in the early years of this century. The method produced vigorous

and courageous men, if nothing else. But Gilmer was more than this. He was studious, and therefore acquired learning; he was right thinking, and he therefore became conspicuous as an advocate for the right without reference to the prevailing opinion. He was a school teacher, a lawyer, a State legislator, and a member of Congress. In each capacity he was a fearless man and particularly outspoken. Just before the beginning of the Civil War he was in Congress, and among Southerners he was conspicuous by reason of his frank advocacy of the Union. He thought secession wrong from every point of view, and did all within his power to dissuade his people from the folly of their inclinations. Before the die had been cast, and when the Republicans still hoped that war might be averted and the Union saved, Mr. Lincoln believed that the best thing he could do was to secure a strong Southerner for his cabinet. In his letters it will be seen that Gilmer of North Carolina was his choice. And finally he offered Gilmer a place. Gilmer, not knowing what his State would do, and fearing that if he accepted he would lose his influence and so fail to prevent the folly of secession, declined the offer. In the convention he fought secession from beginning to end, but his efforts were in vain, and North Carolina, as everyone knows, joined the other States which sought to establish the Con-

federacy. When this had been done Mr. Gilmer joined in with his people and became a member of the Confederate Congress. In this he did all that he could for the success of the forlorn hope led by Davis in the cabinet and Lee in the field. He died in 1868. His son of the same name was born in 1838 and lived fifty-four years. He was a lawyer and a judge, and a man of note in his State.

Another son of Captain Robert Shaw Gilmer became a man of great distinction. This was General Jeremy Forbis Gilmer, who, during the Civil War, served several years as chief of engineers of the Confederate army. General Gilmer was born in 1818, and was graduated from West Point in 1839. As he stood third in his class he entered the corps of engineers. He saw service in the Mexican War, and subsequently was engaged in military engineering work till, when a captain, he resigned his commission in 1861. He reported at Richmond, and was assigned to the staff of General Albert Sidney Johnston. He took part in various battles, and at Shiloh was seriously wounded. When he had recovered he was made the chief of engineers of the Confederate army, and so remained till the end of hostilities. After the war he went to Savannah, and became president of the gas works, engaging also in railway building. He died in 1883.

Mr. John A. Gilmer of Greensboro, N. C., has

collected a mass of valuable material about the Gilmers of North Carolina. It is to be hoped this collection will soon be published. Mr. Gilmer undertook the collection at the suggestion of the editor, and it would have been published with this book had it been thoroughly germane to the subject.