



William C. C. Claiborne

This portrait of Claiborne is reproduced here with the permission of Clayton Rand, author of *Sons of the South, Stars in their Eyes, Dreamers and Builders in Louisiana*, and *Men of Spine in Mississippi*. The portrait, the original of which is by Harry Coughlin, appeared in these books.

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identified, but careful investigation has narrowed the most likely locations to two. Church records stated that he died at the home of his son-in-law, Major James Dyer. Major Dyer, then a rather prosperous planter, had a large country home, the location of which has been established by Mrs. John C. Allen of Dallas, a great-great-granddaughter of Stevenson. It was on a farm about six miles east of Homer. In the fall of 1964 Mrs. Allen learned from Mrs. Annie Mae Tooke Hamp-hill, who now lives on part of the Dyer farm, across the road from the old Dyer house, that there were at one time eight or ten graves in a private burying ground near the old house. No markers were left, and signs of the graves are becoming faint. It may well have been here that Stevenson was buried.

The other likely place is the cemetery of Forrest Grove Methodist Church, which was built about 1845 near Dyer's home. The church building was later moved, but the old cemetery remains at the original location. This was the most prominent Methodist church in Claiborne Parish, and the Dyers and Stevensons probably had a big hand in its founding. Thus it would have been logical for the venerable preacher to have been buried there.

Editor's note: We are indebted to Phyllis Frye for calling to our attention the suitability of this material for our publication.

The Gladden and Todd Families Serve Their Country

By Anna Gladden Berry

The Gladden and Todd pioneer families of Claiborne Parish were united through the marriage of Emma McNeil Todd and Francis Isaiah Gladden.

Emma McNeil Todd was the daughter of Dr. John Williams Todd and Anna Maria Harper. During the Civil War, Dr. Todd served the Confederacy with the rank of Captain in the Cavalry. His eldest daughter, Emma, although a very small child, remembered traveling at night with her mother and a faithful old slave, "Uncle Nove", to meet her father who was to be at a certain location on a given date. At the end of the war, Captain Todd divided what he had left with his slaves who remained faithful. The old carriage driver was given his fine saddle horse, Captain Todd remarking that he, Captain Todd was more able to

walk than "Uncle Nove". After the war Dr. Todd moved to Flat Lick, then to Homer. He built the two story home that is now the J. L. Moss home. At this time the house faced the Lisbon road, and the acreage from there to the house was the front lawn. Later the present Pine Street was cut through the property and building sites were sold. Dr. Todd lived here with the family until his death. At this time he was Tax Assessor for Claiborne Parish. He died at a Masonic meeting being held in the Court House. He now lies buried, beside his wife, in the Old Homer Cemetery.

Francis Isaiah Gladden was the son of Daniel Webster Gladden and Anna Elizabeth McMeekin. They originally came from Fairfield County, South Carolina, and came first to Arizona in Claiborne Parish, then to Homer. Their home is now the Pat Johnson place. It originally comprised what is now Edgewood Drive, Beverly Drive and the City Park and acreage on either side of the old Haynesville road. Daniel Webster Gladden served the Confederacy as a Captain in the Civil War. His brother, Addley Hogan Gladden, also from Fairfield County, South Carolina, served as Captain in the Mexican War and as Brigadier General in the Confederacy. He was severely wounded in the Battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862. His left arm had to be amputated and he died several days later, either April 12 or 14, at the Headquarters of General Beauregard, near Corinth, Mississippi. He is buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile, Alabama. Daniel Webster Gladden and his wife, Anna Elizabeth McMeekin lie buried in the Old Homer Cemetery.

Following the family tradition, Captain Daniel Webster Gladden's son, grandson and great grandsons saw service in World War I and World War II and Captain John Williams Todd's grandson and great grandsons all served in World War II.

The great grandson of both Captain John W. Todd and Captain Daniel W. Gladden, Ensign Franklin Pierce Berry, III, of the Naval Air Corps, gave his life in the service of his country. He was a Naval Aviator instructor in dive-bombing and gunnery in World War II. He was awarded posthumously the American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal. He, too, with his maternal grand parents and his great grand parents lies buried in the Old Homer Cemetery.

(Editor's note: Wills often reflect the times. This is true of "The Last Will and Testament of Samuel B. Harper" and excerpts of it are given here. It has been made available by Anna Gladden Berry.)

Last Will and Testament of Samuel B. Harper
(Samuel B. Harper was the father of Anna Maria Harper, wife of Dr. John W. Todd)

In the name of God. Amen.

I Samuel B. Harper, a citizen of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, being

weak in body and feeling I must soon die, but having at this time a sound mind and disposing memory, and being anxious to dispose of all of my estate both real and personal to my wife and children according to my own wishes and judgement, do make this my last will and testament hereby fully revoking and annulling all previous wills or parts of wills or codicils made or signed by me.

First, I do hereby authorize my son James D. Harper to sell the plantation and settlement of land I lately occupied in the County of Columbia in the State of Arkansas, being near sixteen hundred acres of land, and after paying over to my Executors one thousand dollars to be applied in the payment for the plantation bought of Charles Phillips on Flat Lick in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, the balance to be equally divided between my said son James D. and my daughters Sarah E., Mary K. and Ann M. Harper. The portion going to each of my said daughters to be subject to the same restrictions at the property herein given them. I further give and bequeath unto my son James D. Harper my slaves Peter, Amy and her children Cornelius, Davy, Jenny Lind, Johana and Pollard, also a negro boy Austin. I give and bequeath unto my son Albert G. Harper my slaves Tom, Tuff, Caroline, Burton, Charles, Arrena, Fed and Booker and their increase and also all my right title claim and interest in and to a certain tract of land purchased by me from Daniel E. Jones, situated in Columbia County, Arkansas, of which my said son Albert G. now has possession and also my gold watch. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Sarah E. Harper, my slaves York, Betsy, Lucy, Paralee, Horace, Susan and her children Robert and Florance May, and also Marshall and Tom Davis and Cato, said slaves and their increase are not to be subject or liable to the debts, contracts or any incumbrance to be contracted or suffered by any husband she may marry and in case my daughter Sarah should die, leaving no issue living at her death, then said slaves with their increase to be equally divided between all her brothers and sisters or their decendants. I also give my daughter Sarah the Piano-forte now on hand and a saddle horse to be worth one hundred dollars which my Executors will purchase for her whenever she may desire after my death. I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary K. Harper my slaves, Ransom, Emeline, Lilla, Weldon, Edmond, Rachel and Middleton, said slaves and their increase and not to be subject or liable to the debts contracts or any incumbrance to be contracted or suffered by any husband she may marry, and in case my daughter Mary K. should die leaving no issue living at the time then said slaves with their increase to be equally divided between her brothers and sisters or their descendents. I also give my daughter Mary K. one saddle horse to be worth one hundred dollars which my Executors will purchase for her whenever she may desire after my death. I also



Addley Hogan Gladden, Captain in the Mexican War and Brigadier General with the Confederacy.

give my said daughter Mary K. the sum of three hundred dollars to be used by my Executors in the purchase of a Pianoforte whenever she may desire them to do so. I give and bequeath to my daughter Ann M. Harper my slaves Humphrey, Lucinda, Eliza and her child Cealey, Octavia, Agnes, Anderson, Frank, and George. Said slaves and their increase are not to be subject or liable to the debts, contracts or any incumbrance to be contracted or suffered by any husband she may marry, and in case my daughter Ann M. should die leaving no issue living at the time, then said slaves with their increase to be equally divided between her brothers and sisters or their descendants. I also give my daughter Ann M. a saddle horse worth one hundred dollars to be purchased by my Executors when she may desire it and I also give her three hundred dollars to be used by my Executors in the purchase of a Pianoforte for her whenever she may request them to do so. I give and bequeath unto my son Samuel B. Harper my slaves, Patsey, Jim, Warren, Jacob, Wesley, Isabella, John and Chaney. If my said son Samuel should die during the life time of his mother, the slaves and their increase herein bequeathed to him, shall go to and be controlled by his mother for her benefit during her life. I do hereby appoint my son Albert G. Harper to manage and control the property given my son Samuel for him, and to prevent the same being used or disposed of by my son Samuel until Albert shall be satisfied of his capacity to manage and take care of his property even after he may become of the age of twenty one and at the death of my son Samuel he having no child living at the time, his property and its increase shall be divided between his brothers and sisters or their descendants. I give and bequeath unto my son William D. Harper my slaves, Darcus, Polly, Diana, Ellen, Jack, Richard, Joe, Daniel and Harriet and in case he should die before he attains the age of twenty one, then I give said slaves to his mother Ann S. Harper, to hold during her natural life and at her death to be equally divided between his brothers and sisters or their descendants. I also give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Ann S. Harper, my slaves, Dick, Dave, Henry, Billy, Ephraim, Judge, Solomon, Vinson, Dinah, Hannah, Rhoda, Sally, Kate, Catharine, Charlotte, Sarah, Nancy, Old Nancy, Grace, Old Anaca, Old Edmond, Anaca (child of Nancy) Hannah (child of Sally) Jesse (child of Chancy) and Rosellee (child of Belsey.) Said slaves I give to my beloved wife during her life and at her death I wish them equally divided among my children if living or among the descendants of those dead share and share alike. I also give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Ann S. Harper, during her life the plantation and settlement of land (except what I this day deed to my son Albert G. Harper) purchased from Charles Phillips on Flat Lick, in the Parish of Claiborne and State of Louisiana, about eleven miles from the town of Minden, at her death the said land and plantation to be prop-

erty of my sons Samuel B. Harper and William D. Harper and should they die without issue living, then said land to be equally divided among my children or their descendants. I wish any other lands belonging to me not herein described to be sold either at public or private sale at the discretion of my Executors and titles made to the same without the expense or trouble of an order of court. . .

In witness whereof I do hereby put my hand and declare this my last will and Testament this-----day of November 1853.

Out of the Past

(Editor's note) Excerpts of interest to our area are quoted by permission from *OUT OF THE PAST, A TALE OF TWO MODERN CITIES—LITTLE ROCK—SHREVEPORT*, by Eloise Paxton Hutchison, c. 1943, Shreveport. Permission has been given by the author's son, William Paxton Hutchison. The author states that her purpose in writing was to preserve for her children the history of the family. The Paxton name has great significance for the Baptists of North Louisiana.

Early Family History. I will begin with our family history as far back as your great-grandparents on each side, starting with the Paxton side. Your great-grandmother Paxton was Lucy Edwards (whose mother was a Searcy and her father Captain John Edwards who fought in the Indian Wars with Daniel Boone) was born in 1802, just before the Louisiana Purchase. She married David Coulter Paxton of Rockbridge County, Virginia, near Natural Bridge. They moved to Kentucky and lived in an old stone house near Frankfort. In a few years they moved to Arkansas where they spent the winter with his Uncle Joseph E. Paxton before building their own home in Little Rock on the bank of the Arkansas River. Having been given a land grant in Hempstead County for services in the war of 1812, your great-grandfather moved thither, built a home, lived the remainder of his life and is buried there.

The Great Raft. This Uncle Dr. Paxton was a physician with a wide practice extending over central and south Arkansas and north Louisiana, a highly educated man and a good geologist. Some five years after this time, about 1828, navigation on Red River was closed on account of the "Great Raft", a collection of debris which gradually blocked the river from Alexandria to over forty miles above Shreveport. As the chief mode of transportation was by boat, one can readily see that commerce was greatly hampered. In this extremity the help of this Dr. Joseph E. Paxton was solicited in studying the problem and suggesting ways of overcoming this difficulty. The result, after care-