

# GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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GENEALOGICAL EDITOR

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The Contributors—Please observe carefully the following rules:

1. Name and date must be clearly written on typewriter. Do not use pencil.
2. All queries must be signed and sender's address given.
3. All queries must be short and to the point.
4. In answering queries give date of magazine and number and signature of query.
5. Only answers containing proof are requested. Unverified family traditions will not be published.

All letters to be forwarded to contributors must be unsealed and sent in blank, stamped envelopes accompanied by the number of the query and its signature. The right is reserved to print information contained in the communication to be forwarded. No letter asking the contributor to correspond direct to the writer will be forwarded.

The Genealogical Editor expects to publish in this department of the D. A. R. Magazine, during the coming year, a series of Bible Records. If the members are interested, and wish to have their Bible records thus recorded and will donate them to the Genealogical Editor they will be glad to publish same. If the members are not interested in this, of course it will be discontinued.

## THOMAS MEANS' FAMILY BIBLE

Entries from the Family Bible of Thomas

Means, now owned by David Harper Means

(David Harper; Isaac Hugh; David Har-

per; Thomas), of Columbia, S. C., and

copied by Elizabeth Doby English (Bever-

ley Means English; Maria Elizabeth Pres-

ton Means; David Harper Means; Thomas

Means), assistant Librarian, University of

South Carolina Library, Sept. 16, 1934.

On the fly-leaf of the Bible is written:

"In Memory of John Means, son of John

and Isabella Means, who departed this life

on the 1st day of April, 1811, aged 53

years."

A statement below this says that it is

of the inscription on the tomb-stone in the yard

of the old Means house, near Blairs rail-

road station, in the western part of Fair-

field County, and that it was copied June,

1912, by Jimmie Fraser, who owned the

home at that time.

Written in the front of the Bible, on

blank leaves:

"Record

Isaac Means, son of John and Isabella

Means, born May 22, 1748.

Martha Means, daughter of John and

Isabella Means, born June 23, 1751.

Mary Means, daughter of John and Isa-

bella Means, born Oct. 20, 1753.

Rebecca Means, daughter of John and

Isabella Means, born Nov. 2, 1756.

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Entries in the regular section:

Rebecca Means died Dec. —, 1832.

1832.

Robert Means (of Beaufort) died Dec.

1, 1828.

Thomas Means died in S. Carolina, Sept.

1816.

Mary Liles died in S. Carolina, July 18,

8, 1811.

John Means died in S. Carolina, April

1774.

Jacob Means died at Boston, Nov. 14,

Dec. 10, 1765.

Thomas Means, the first, died at Boston,

Sarah Means died at Boston, April 11, —.

1779.

Samuel Means died at Boston, Aug. 25,

1774.

Isaac Means died at Boston, Aug. 17,

died in S. Carolina, Oct. 10, 1793.

Isabella Means, wife of John Means, Sr.,

1, 1789.

John Means, Sr., died at Boston, April

Robert Means, born March 24, 1774.

Isabella Means, born Feb. 7, 1772.

Jacob Means, born Sept. 25, 1769.

14, 1767.

Thomas Means, the second, born Feb.

1765.

Thomas Means, the first, born April 10,

Sarah Means, born March 1, 1763.

Samuel Means, born Nov. 14, 1760.

John Means, born July 13, 1758.

*"Marriages"*

Sarah Milling, wife of Thomas Means, was born Nov. 12, 1773.  
 John Means, son of Sarah and Thomas Means, was born Dec. — 1789.  
 Isaac Means was born December 16, 1790.  
 Samuel Means was born May —, 1793.  
 David Harper Means was born Nov. 3, 1794.  
 Robert Means was born Dec. 29, 1796.  
 Maria Isabella Means was born March 14, 1799.  
 Thomas Jefferson Means was born Oct. 25, 1801.  
 Edward Means was born January 2, 1804.  
 Sarah Means was born May 23, 1806.  
 William Burney Means was born Nov. 5, 1807.  
 Henry Means was born Feb. 14, 1810.  
 Martha Means was born March 31, 1811.  
 John Hugh Means was born August 18, 1812.  
 Rebecca Mary Ann Means was born March 2, 1815.  
 William Burney, son of W. B. and Martha Means, was born Aug. 29, 1833.  
 Martha S. Means, daughter of W. B. and Benjamin Hart, son of Edward and Claudia Means, was born Aug. 17, 1832.  
 Benjamin Hart, son of Edward and Claudia Means, was born Aug. 11, 1833.  
 Robert Starke, son of John H. and Sarah Means, was born Dec. 11, 1833.  
 Frances Coalter Means, daughter of David H. and Frances Means, was born Sept. 21, 1835.  
 Mary Hart, daughter of Edward and Claudia Means, was born —, —, —.  
 Robert Thomas Means, son of Edward and Claudia Means, was born May 13, 1836.  
 Emma Sarah, daughter of John Hugh and Sallie Means, was born April 18, 1835.  
 Claudia Sarah, daughter of Edward and Claudia Means, was born Oct. 9, 1838.  
 James Taylor, son of William and Martha Means, was born June 22, 1835.  
 Thomas Taylor, son of William and Martha Means, was born Oct. 26, 1838.  
 Julius Howell Means, son of William and Martha S. Means, was born Jan. 29, 1840.  
 Eliza Herron Means, daughter of Edward and Claudia Means, was born Feb. 28, 1841.  
 Thomas Means and Sarah Milling were married March —, 1789.  
 Robert Means, son of Thomas and Sarah Means, was married Aug. 16, 1815.  
 David Harper Means, son of Thomas and Sarah, and Frances Margaret Coalter were married January 2, 1817.  
 William Burney Means, son of Thomas and Sarah Means, and Martha Sarah Howell were married May 24, 1831.  
 Edward Means, son of Thomas and Sarah Means, and Claudia Hart were married April 3, 1832.  
 John H. Means, son of Thos. and Sarah Means, and Sarah Rebecca Stark were married Jan. 24, 1833.  
 Preston S. Brooks and Caroline H. Means, daughter of David Harper and Frances M. Means, were married March 11, 1841.  
 John English and Maria E. P. Means, daughter of D. H. and F. M. Means, were married May 11, 1843.  
 Samuel Wilds Trotti and Sarah Frances Means, daughter of David H. and F. M. Means, were married May 1, 1845.  
 Thomas Coalter Means and Mary H. Means were married Dec. 22, 1853.  
 Isaac Hugh Means and Alice Hagood were married March 8, 1854.  
 David Coalter Means and Elizabeth Mobley were married May 20, 1857.  
 R. Stark Means and Virginia Preston were married August 26, 1856.  
 John Glover Mobley and Fanny Coalter Means were married March 15, 1859.  
 Edward John Means and Martha J. McPheeters were married April 18, 1860.  
 B. Hart Means and Mary Strother were married Sept. 3, 1857.  
 Julius R. Poelnitz and Eliza Heron Means were married Sept. 20, 1860.  
 B. W. Means and J. P. DuBoise were married April 4, 1861.  
 Wm. Wallace and Fannie Mobley, daughter of D. H. and F. M. Means, were married Dec. 21, 1876.  
 Thomas Means was born at Boston, Massachusetts, February 14, 1767.

*Births*

Thomas Means was born at Boston, Massachusetts, February 14, 1767.  
 Dec. 21, 1876.

- Isaac Means, son of W. B. and Martha S. Means, was born June 16, 1841.
- Whitefield David Brooks, only child of Preston and Caroline H. Brooks, was born June 26, 1843.
- Eugenia Muddleton Means, daughter of Edward and Claudia Means, was born Dec. 11, 1842.
- Franklin English, son of John and Maria English, was born May 7, 1844.
- Fanny Means English, daughter of John and Maria English, was born Dec. 22, 1847.
- John Edward, son of John and Maria English, was born April 17, 1850.
- Robert Means Davis, son of Henry C. and Belle H. Davis, was born Apr. 9, 1849.
- Mary Carroll, daughter of Preston S. and Martha C. Brooks, was born —, —.
- Sally Means, daughter of Preston S. and Martha C. Brooks, was born —, —.
- Caroline Harper, daughter of Preston S. and Martha C. Brooks, was born —, —.
- Joseph English, son of John and Maria English, was born May 15, 1852.
- David Harper, son of Isaac and Alice Means, was born March 31, 1856.
- James Hagood, son of Isaac H. and Alice Means, was born Jan. 23, 1858.
- Alice Means, was born Jan. 23, 1858.
- Thomas Coalter, son of David C. and Elizabeth M. Means, was born Feb. 22, 1858.
- Robert Preston, son of R. Stark and Virginia Means, was born July 18, 1857.
- Fannie Margaret, daughter of D. C. and F. M. Means, was born July —, 1859.
- Robert Harper, son of Isaac H. and Alice Means, was born —, 1861.
- John Glover, son of Fannie C. and John C. Mobley, was born Dec. 19, 1859.
- Sarah Frances, daughter of Isaac H. and Alice Means, was born Oct. —, 1861.
- Alice Means, was born Oct. —, 1861.
- James Mobley, son of D. C. and E. M. Means, was born —, —.
- Zebulon Means, son of D. C. and E. M. Means, was born —, —.
- Fannie A., daughter of E. J. and Martha Means, was born Mar. —, 1861.
- Fannie Beverley, daughter of Beverley Wm. and J. P. Means, was born Sept. —, 1862.
- Beverley Means, son of John and Maria English, was born (July, error) June 27, 1863.
- Harriet, daughter of John and Maria English, was born June (July) 11, 1865.
- Sarah Maria English, daughter of John and Maria English, was born Jan. (28), 1868.
- David Harper Means, son of David Harper Means and his wife, Fanny Cory, was born in Columbia, S. C., Apr. 16, 1913.
- Frances Cory Means, daughter of David Harper Means and his wife, Fanny Cory, was born in Columbia, S. C., Apr. 16, 1913.
- Frances Cory Means, daughter of David Harper Means and his wife, Fanny (or Frances) Cory Means, was born July 9, in Columbia, S. C.
- James Hagood Means, son of James Hagood Means and his wife, Emma Wright Means, was born in Columbia, S. C., Aug. 29, 1890.
- Alice Hagood Means, daughter of James Hagood Means and his wife, Emma Wright Means, was born in Columbia, S. C., March 27, 1893.
- Margaret Hill Means, daughter of James Hagood Means and his wife, Emma Wright Means, was born in Columbia, S. C., Oct. 8, 1895.
- Emma Belle Means, daughter of James Hagood Means, and his wife, Emma Wright Means, was born in Columbia, S. C., May 18, 1899.
- Mary Hart Means, daughter of John Hugh (grandson of Ex-Gov. Jno. Hugh Means of S. C.) and of his wife, Ruth Dorland Means, was born Dec. 21, 1916 (Maryville, Wis.).
- Emma Deane Nichols, daughter of Margaret Hill Means, and her husband, Ermon Davis Nichols, was born in Columbia, S. C., Feb. 22, 1923.
- Sarah Ann Frances Means, daughter of David Harper and Frances (Coalter) Means, was born April 15, 1818.
- Maria Frances Means, daughter of Robert and Sarah Means, was born May 10, 1815.
- Caroline Harper Means, daughter of D. H. and F. Means, was born Feb. 1, 1820.
- Thomas Coalter Means, son of David H. and Frances Means, was born at Dardennes, Missouri, April 12, 1821.
- Thomas Corbett Means, son of Robert and Sarah Means, was born May 18, 1821.
- Maria Elizabeth Preston Means, daughter of D. H. and Frances Means, was born Feb. 5, 1823.
- Sarah Anne Means, daughter of Robert and Sarah Means, was born January 13, 1824.

David Coalter Means, son of David H. and Frances Means, was born Jan. 14, 1825. Martha Caroline Means, daughter of Robert and Sarah Means, was born April 8, 1826. Isaac Hugh Means, son of David H. and Frances Means, was born Sept. 16, 1826. Robert Harper Means, son of David H. and Frances Means, was born August 18, 1828. Julia Bates Means, daughter of David H. and Frances Means, was born Sept. 30, 1829. Isabella Harper Means, daughter of Robert and Sarah Means, was born July 4, 1830. Edward John Means, son of David H. and Frances Means, was born Feb. 10, 1831. Beverley William Means, son of D. H. and F. Means, was born May 12, 1833. *Deaths* John Means (son of Thos. and Sarah) died Jan. 16, 1790. Samuel Means (son of Thos. and Sarah) died July 16, 1793. Maria Isabella Means (daughter of Thos. and Sarah) died July 29, 1800. Sarah Means (daughter of Thos. and Sarah) died Nov. 12, 1806. Henry Means (son of Thos. and Sarah) died March 1, 1810. Martha Means (daughter of Thos. and Sarah) died June 25, 1811. Rebecca Mary Ann Means (daughter of Thos. and Sarah) died April 21, 1815. Sarah Means, wife of Thomas Means, departed this life May 28, 1818. Thomas Means departed this life September 1, 1828. Martha Sarah, daughter of Wm. B. and Martha S. Means, died Sept. 27, 1832. Julia Bates Means, daughter of D. H. and Frances Means, died Feb. 28, 1834. Robert Means (son of Thos. and Sarah) died January 17, 1836. Thomas Corbett Means, son of Robert and Sarah Means, died January 31, 1837. Maria Frances Means, daughter of Robert and Sarah Means, died Jan. 26, 1838. Isaac Means, son of Thos. and Sarah Means, died December 1, 1838. Thomas Taylor Means, son of Wm. B. and Martha S. Means, died Aug. 29, 1839. David Harper Means, son of Thomas and Sarah Means, died March 29, 1840. Isaac Means, son of Wm. B. and Martha S. Means, died July 8, 1841. Caroline H. Brooks, daughter of D. H. and F. M. Means, died June 28, 1843. Whitfield David Brooks, infant son of Preston S. and Caroline H. Brooks, died on the evening of June 28, 1843. Samuel Wilds Trotti, husband of Sarah F. Means, died June 24, 1856. Robert Harper, son of D. H. and F. M. Means, died Sept. 18, 1858. Thomas Coalter, son of D. H. and F. M. Means, died March 24, 1859. John G. Mobley, husband of Fanny Coalter Means, died April 1, 1860. Beverley William Means, son of D. H. and F. Means, died June 1, 1862. Robert Harper, infant son of Isaac H. and Alice Means, died Jan. 22, 1861. Edward Means, son of Thos. and Sarah Means, died in Louisiana April 30, 1847. Thomas Jefferson Means, son of Thomas and Sarah Means, died July 8, 1846. William B. Means, son of Thomas and Sarah Means, died Sept. 4, 1857, in Louisiana. Beverley William Means, son of D. H. and F. M. Means, died a glorious and happy death on the battlefield of Seven Pines in Virginia, June 1, 1862. (Note: This entry must have been made by his sister, Sarah F. Trotti, for she made the same one in her own Bible, now owned by Mrs. Jos. L. Nettles, of Columbia, S. C., a grandniece.) David C. Means, son of D. H. and F. M. Means, breathed his last March 15, 1876. Edward J. Means, son of D. H. and F. M. Means, breathed his last March 28, 1877. Sarah Maria English, daughter of John and Maria English, took her flight to her heavenly home Nov. 28, 1873. John E. English breathed his last June 23, 1879. Isaac Hugh Means, son of David H. and Frances Coalter Means, died at Columbia, S. C., February 25, 1898. Eloise Butler, daughter of Isaac H. and Alice Hagood Means, died in Columbia, S. C., Sept. 4, 1903. John English, husband of Maria English, breathed his last Nov. (error: Dec. 12), 1876.



JOHN HUGH MEANS

(1812-1862) Only South Carolina governor from Fairfield; 40th elected governor (1850-52); president of the 1852 Secession Convention; signer of the Ordinance of Secession in 1860; Colonel in the 17th Regiment, S.C. Volunteers; killed in Second Battle of Manassas 1862.

Before the Norman conquest in 1066, the Means family lived in France (possibly De Mesne); went with William the Conqueror to the north of England, then into Scotland where it attached to the clan McGregor. John Means, grandfather of the governor, was born in Tyrone County, Ireland; about 1727. The family emigrated to this country, and this John died in Boston April 1, 1789.

His widow, Isabella Harper Means, removed to South Carolina with her two sons--John and Thomas--and a daughter, Mary, shortly after the Revolution. She died at the home of her son, Maj. Thomas Means, - located on what is now Road 18 three miles north of Salem Crossroads. Her infant grandson, John Means, was the first to be buried there in 1790 in the beautiful shaded plot that was destined to hold so many succeeding generations.

John and Isabella had 12 children - Thomas, Gov. John's father, being the ninth. (The first Thomas was born two years earlier and lived just 6 months.) Thomas was born in Boston on Febr. 4, 1767. The family arrived in Fairfield District in about 1788 where Thomas married Sarah Milling in March of 1789. She was the daughter of David and Sarah Burney Milling and a sister of Capt. Hugh Milling of the S.C. Continental line.

Thomas and Sarah had 14 children of which 7 sons lived to adulthood. One daughter lived to age 4; 3 sons and 3 daughters died in infancy. John Hugh was the 13th child - born Aug. 18, 1812 - the first born, also named John, having died in infancy. The governor's mother, Sarah Milling Means, gave birth to the last of her 14 children in 1815 - a daughter that lived just six weeks - and she died one year later, not yet 43, when the future governor was four years old. It should be noted that Mary Means, the older sister of John and Thomas who came here from Boston, married Col. Armandus Lyles, reported to be the first white male child born in Fairfield. He was born in 1748 and served as a Captain during the Revolution. Mary Means Lyles is buried in the Means Family Cemetery on Road 18.

Early history tells us that Thomas Means' brother, John, lived in Granby and kept a store - then moved to Newberry District and kept a store at a place afterward belonging to Thomas Waddington. His brother, Thomas, lived there, too, and kept store. Apparently there was some difficulty between the two and Thomas moved to Fairfield and bought a place from Hampton. John then moved to a place near Ashford's Ferry and built the first brick house in the county in about 1805 - the place we now know as FAIRVIEW. John had married Mary Ann Milling, sister of Sarah Milling who had married his brother, Thomas. When John died in 1811 he left three plantations including 106 negroes. The total value was listed at \$40,423, but the estate was much larger than that. The widow Means died in the 1840s. Fairview was sold to William Blair and was passed down to the Praxler family.

The tombstone in the back yard of Fairview, now covered with heavy underbrush, clearly shows it was the home of Governor John's uncle, John Means, and not his father, Thomas, as stated in Bolick's Sketchbook. The marker reads: "In memory of John Means, son of John and Isabella

Means, who departed this life on the first day of April, 1811, at the age of 53 years."

John H. Means was born at Buckhead Plantation believed to have been located near the site of the Means Family Cemetery on Road 18 and now marked by the Means/Harper Historical Marker. John was educated at Mt. Zion Academy and he was graduated from South Carolina College in 1832. He then took up the occupation of a planter under the old slavery regime. A strong believer in the doctrine of states rights, he became conspicuous in the state and was chosen for the state legislature as one of the champions of that cause. He was elected governor in 1850 and served two years, which at that time was the constitutional limit of eligibility.

It is particularly interesting to note that in his quest for the governorship, Means was opposed by another Fairfield native son-- Gen. John Buchanan. The latter, 22 years older than Means, had fought in the War of 1812, served in the state legislature for 16 years, and was one of the state's most distinguished citizens. Kate O'bear, in her book "Through the Years in Old Winothboro", reported that Gen. Buchanan was defeated for governor by only one vote. It is reported that two candidates for governor had been invited to appear at a militia parade and rally at Hampton's Old Field near Columbia. Gen. Buchanan spoke first since he out-ranked Gen. Means, and gave a long, historical address. After he had finished Gen. Means dashed up on a horse and gave a short, snappy speech of about five minutes, and the result was that when the legislature met the next day to elect a governor Gen. Means was elected.

During his term of office Gov. Means made many speeches favoring the withdrawal of the southern states from the Union, and he was active in the state militia. He reportedly trained 100 Buckhead Guards near the Buckhead Plantation. In February of 1851 a state convention was formed to consider separate state action on the question of leaving the Union. The convention voted overwhelmingly for immediate secession, but in October, during the statewide elections, the citizens voted against taking any action without the support of the rest of the South. Gov. Means was president of the convention and he and his followers were determined to be prepared for the crisis that they foresaw for the near future.

At the close of deliberations of this body the governor retired to private life, but on the revival of the controversy between the slave and free states he was called from retirement to act as a delegate in the convention which passed the ordinance of secession, and his name was subscribed to that memorable document. Means illustrated his devotion to his state by enlisting in its defense and sacrificing his life in its cause. At the age of 48 he enlisted in the 17th S.C. Infantry and was made colonel of the regiment.

The story of the 17th Regiment can be told partly from the diary of Samuel Cosmo Lowry of Yorkville. He was 16 when he enlisted in a company called "The Carolina Rifles" - about 100 men from York district. They left Yorkville on Nov. 27, 1861, and went to Columbia where they made their first camp at College Green for one week. Then to Camp Hampton which was Gen. Wade Hampton's plantation about five miles distance. The officers were elected there: Ex Gov. John H. Means, Col.; Fitz W. McMaster, Lt. Col.; Julius Mills, Maj.

The Regiment travelled by train to Charleston where they took part in various operations around John's Island, Kockville, Klawah, Church Flats, Ravenel, and Pocolatigo. During this stint they marched to Edisto Island where they were to "drive 10,000 Yankees" off the island, but the Yankees had been warned by an escaped slave and the regiment was back-tracked to Pinebury. They later got orders to move on to Virginia where most of the action took place. During the siege of Petersburg in the summer of 1864 young Lowry was killed in the battle of the Crater - not yet 19 years of age.

The 17th Regiment, while still commanded by Col. John Means, saw action in three epic Virginia engagements in 1862. At Malvern Hill the regiment was deployed as skirmishers, according to the official report from Confederate Army Records. "...on Aug. 6 we marched through a body of woods about 6 pm, driving in the skirmishers of the enemy. About nightfall we rested, under order of Gen. Evans, in an open field. We took a prisoner and Col. Means sent forward Company A under command of Capt. Culp as an advance guard. In a few minutes it engaged a company of cavalry of the enemy, which immediately retreated, leaving one of their dead on the field. About midnight the regiment was ordered back."

On Aug. 23 Col. Means was ordered to support Col. Stevens at Rappahannock Station where the enemy was located on the other side of the river. At 8 am the regiment was marched by flank and then in line of battle under the heavy fire of the batteries. Lt. Col. F. W. McMaster reported... "when it reached the hill it was in a place of comparative security until the enemy opened an enfilading fire, which as soon as I discovered I marched the regiment by the right flank to a secure place. After the regiment was exposed for above five hours to a severe shelling, without the opportunity to fire a single shot, it was ordered to retreat. In this engagement we had one man killed, I severely and 3 slightly wounded."

After Robert E. Lee's forces had driven the Union army back from the gates of Richmond it became apparent there would be no quick end to the war, and the S.C. 17th Regiment was ordered northward toward the Potomac would retreat back to Washington for a second time from a place called Bull Run. The following report was filed Oct. 20, 1862, by Col. Fitz W. McMaster who then commanded the 17th.

"On Aug. 29 we were ordered to advance in direction of the firing about 7 p.m. We were not allowed to fire as one of our own regiments was in advance, and it was too dark to distinguish the enemy. After resting our arms we were ordered to retire and occupy a position in rear of Gen. Hood's brigade.

"Aug. 30, about 3:30 p.m., under command of Col. Stevens, acting brigadier-general, the brigade was ordered forward to support Hood's brigade. After marching in line of battle through a piece of woods for near half a mile we were ordered to march by the left flank until nearly the whole regiment came into an old field with a few small pine in it. Then the regiment was marched forward in line of battle up a hill in direction of the Chinn house in face of a terrific fire of the enemy, which was concentrated from two batteries, one on each side, and a regiment of infantry a short distance in front. Near this place our noble chief, Col. Means, was mortally wounded, and died two days after, lamented not only by every man in his command, but by every good citizen of South Carolina.

"After falling a few moments under the fearful shower of shot and shell the regiment rushed forward and the enemy retreated. The regiment charged over the hill, driving the enemy before us. ..."



Col. McMaster then went on to report that he--upon taking command-- had perceived the weakness of the unit, and the reinforcement of the enemy by at least two new regiments within 150 yards, ordered the men to retire beyond the brow of the hill and form a new line of battle. But he admitted he did not succeed in collecting them in sufficient numbers for this purpose, and they were not re-formed during the rest of the engagement.

The regiment was engaged in a fierce struggle with the enemy for about an hour from 4 to 5 p.m. The report shows that in this one engagement -- out of a complement of 284 men -- 40 were killed, 58 severely wounded, 90 slightly wounded, and one missing, for a total of 189 casualties.

John Hugh Means was 50 years of age when he died of his wounds at Manassas. In his report of the battle Brig. Gen. Evans included the following: "Among the killed were the gallant Col. J. H. Means of the 17th Regiment, S.C. Volunteers, and Col. J. M. Gadberrry of the 18th Regiment. These brave men were shot down while boldly leading their regiments into action. Col. Means (mortally wounded) survived two days. It is but just to the memory of these noble and gallant officers to mention my appreciation of their valuable services. Col. Means, although much advanced in years, ever exhibited the energy of youth in battling our ruthless foe and devoting his whole ability to our sacred cause. His death fully exemplifies his devotion to his country."

The Sept. 9, 1862, edition of the Charleston MERCURY carried this

story: The Death of Col. Means. We have received the following,

dated "near Gainesville, Va., Sept. 1st." Colonel Means of the 17th

Regiment died this morning of a wound received in the Battle of

Manassas on 30th August. He fell in the thickest of the fight,

gallantly leading his regiment on a charge. The wound was severe,

and as his valiant comrades pressed on, he said "push on, my boys;

push on." He died calmly and quietly, and perfectly resigned to

his fate. No nobler or better man ever lived or died. Signed,

S. D. Goodlett, Colonel, commanding 22nd Regiment, SCV.

The Southern Historical Society Papers, published in Richmond in

1888, and edited by R. A. Brock, carries this account under the

heading "Heroes of the Old Camden District, S.C."

"Gov. Means had been earnest in his advocacy of secession. He had

been elected governor in 1850 on that issue and he had constantly

advocated secession. But when it came he was an elderly man, beyond

the age even of reserve duty. With his age, too, his physique had

become such as to unfit him for the field. The dignity of his position

as an ex-governor of the State would seem to have excused him had his

age and physical condition fitted him for active service. His family,

too, were fully represented in the army. All these considerations

might well have persuaded him that the proper sphere of action was at

home where, by his countenance, he might have encouraged his people

in their adversities and by his wisdom have aided them in their

necessities. So he might have reasoned, if indeed he had felt himself

called upon to reason at all, why he, a man advanced in life, why he

should not go into the field. But so he did not reason.

"He reasoned, on the contrary, thus: I have been advocating

secession all my life; by my conduct I have done much to bring it

about; now it has come, age or not, I will ~~not~~ go with them and

share the dangers to which the boys have been brought by my advice.

And so he did noble man as he was. In the very commencement of

hostilities he hastened to Charleston and tendered his services as

an aide to General Beauregard.

"In the Seventeenth regiment he went into the field. A correspondent, writing to the MERCURY of a visit to the regiment while it was on the coast, in April, 1862, thus writes of the regiment: 'I have seen nowhere else an intermingling of discipline with a courtesy and kindness of manner to the men that approaches paternal tenderness. No doubt, the antecedents of the commander, Col. John H. Means, contribute much to his success. But few men are so gifted in manner, not the spurious coin, but the genuine emanation from kindness and generosity of temper.' 'Is it any wonder that his men were not only proud of their colonel but loved him as a man? Nor was this feeling confined to his own regiment. It extended to the whole brigade. Colonel Means, of the Seventeenth South Carolina volunteers died this morning (September 1st) of a wound received in the Battle of Manassas on 30th August."

The Southern Historical Society Papers also give a brief account of the 17th Regiment during the remainder of the war. "The brigade moved into North Carolina and then was sent to Vicksburg, but reported to Gen. Joseph E. Johnston at Jackson on the 3rd of June, 1863, and did not reach Vicksburg. It was engaged in some skirmishes at Jackson but nothing more. From Mississippi the brigade was ordered to the Isle of Hope, near Savannah, where it was encamped during the winter of 1863-64. From Savannah this regiment was sent to Charleston, where it furnished its details for the garrison at Ft. Sumter, and thence it rejoined the Army of Northern Virginia in the spring of 1864 under the command of Gen. W. S. Walker.

"On the third of July it was engaged in the battle of the Crater at Petersburg in which, as Col. McMaster justly observed in his address at Chester in 1879, it seldom falls to the lot of a regiment to act such a conspicuous part in saving an army as did the 17th on that occasion. The Scribner Series tells how the regiment, under Col. McMaster conducted itself so admirably during the Virginia campaign. One-half of the regiment was lost at Fort Steadman on the 25th March, 1865. Col. McMaster and twenty officers were captured. The remainder fought at Five Forks where Lt. Col. Culp was captured. The three remaining officers of the regiment--Major Averv, Adjutant Lent and Captain Steele of Lancaster--were each wounded on the day of the surrender."

John Hugh Means married Susan Rebecca Stark on Jan. 24, 1833. Their only son, Robert Stark Means, was born Dec. 10, 1833; he married Virginia Ann Emily Preston, granddaughter of Virginia Governor James Patton Preston, and they produced seven children. Robert Stark followed his father into the 17th Regiment where he became a major. Upon the death of his father in 1862 he was promoted to Lt. Col. thereof. He reportedly owned a plantation in Fairfield near other family members called "Oakland" but there appears to be no trace today. He resided there except during his years in service; his wife and children were driven before Sherman's army to Union, S.C. After the war she and her husband and two sons moved to Virginia where they lived at "Solitude", the home of her father. Col. Means had been wounded in the battle of South Mountain, taken prisoner, but later exchanged. He died in Virginia June 20, 1874. John H. Means' only daughter, Emma Sarah, was born in 1842. She never married and died in 1860 at the age of 18. She reportedly taught school in Fairfield (Mrs. Henry Matthews has records to show Emma taught members of her family at the Means home near Blackstock).

The writer began an extensive search for the grave of John Hugh Means in 1982 but none was ever found. There are no markers in the Means Family Cemetery and it had been rumored in days gone by that the bodies had been disinterred and removed to Columbia. In fact, there is no real proof that the body of the former Governor who fell in Virginia ever was placed in the family cemetery. Interviews with people who live in the Buckhead area, letters to historians who earlier had done research on the subject, and letters to Manassas National Battlefield Park failed to uncover any useful information. However, certain facts are known. There is a cenotaph in his honor in First Presbyterian churchyard in Columbia. It reads as follows:

"John Hugh Means, son of Thomas and Sarah Milling Means, born Aug. 18, 1812. Mortally wounded at Second Battle of Manassas Aug. 30, 1862. Dulce Et Decorum Est Pro Patria Morte. A graduate of S. C. College, 1832; representative from Fairfield District 1844; Governor of South Carolina 1850; President of the Convention 1852; Member of CSA; and for many years an elder of Salem Church, and thus he bore without reproach the grand old name of Gentleman. He is buried in the Means Cemetery in Fairfield County, and this cenotaph is erected to his memory at the church he loved."

There were stories that not only had the governor's body been re-moved to Columbia, but that the gate from the cemetery had been given to the University of South Carolina. The latter turned out, indirectly, to be true. The gate was located on Pickins Street at the edge of a garden in the corner of the USC campus. A bronze plaque reads: "This gate formerly in Buckhead Cemetery, Fairfield County, was given by descendants of John and Robert Means of Fairfield through the Dogwood Garden Club - 1938."

The most authentic information appears to come from the "History of Means Family," prepared by Elizabeth English, former librarian at Caroliniana Library, and published in 1934. She was related to the Means family by marriage. Miss English writes: "Gov. Means was buried in Buckhead Cemetery; how his body was brought back from the battle-field is not known. No stone was erected to his memory and his grave has disappeared, but the supposition is that it is just inside the entrance, on the right hand side. A cenotaph to him was placed by his son in the English family enclosure in the churchyard of the First Presbyterian Church in Columbia. Sarah Stark Means survived her husband by only a few weeks (Aug. to Oct.) Her grandson, R. Preston Means, says she was buried by her husband's side in Buckhead, and that is the logical place for her grave; but like his, it is unmarked and there is no trace of it."

After Gov. Means' graduation from S.C. College and his marriage to Sarah Stark he settled near his birth place in Fairfield County and engaged in planting. To this occupation he remained faithful all his life. The Fairfield County Agricultural survey of 1860 shows: 1500 acres of improved land, 762 unimproved - all valued at \$27,144; 30 mules and horses, 30 head of cattle, 79 sheep and 70 hogs. In 1859 the Governor raised 400 bushels of wheat, 160 rye, 3,000 corn, 500 oats, 100 peas, 100 sweet potatoes, 172 bales of cotton (400 pounds to the bale.) He had more than 70 slaves.

In the Fairfield County courthouse is the will of John Hugh Means that begins: "I, John Hugh Means, being of sound mind but about to expose myself to the duty of battling in my country's cause....." His estate was to be divided equally between his son, Robert Stark, and his wife, Sarah Rebecca Stark. But since his wife died only about six weeks after John's death in 1862, apparently went to his son.

In related matters - several members of the Means family saw service in the war between the States. Two of Gov. John's nephews were killed in action. Beverly William Means, son of David Harper, was mortally wounded at Seven Pines and died June 1, 1862. He had married Jane Porcher Dubose and their only child, Frances Beverly, married Dr. Theodore M. Dubose. Julius Howell Means, son of William Burncy, died from wounds received in the battle of Malvern Hill. He died July 24, 1862, at the age of 22.

Gov. John's older brother, David Harper Means, was graduated in medicine from S.C. College, was a practitioner and pioneer in Fairfield, served in the Legislature, was a member of the "Nullification Convention" in 1832-33. He married Frances Couler of Orangeburg District whose sister, Ann Catherine, married Chancellor William Harper. All are buried in the Means Family Cemetery. The Governor's older brother, Robert, also received his degree from S.C. College and became a Presbyterian minister. He married his double first cousin, Sarah Means, daughter of John Means.

Another figure closely associated with the Means family was Preston S. Brooks of Edgefield. At the age of 34 Brooks was elected to Congress and three years later was involved in an act that made him a villain in the North and a hero in the South. On May 22, 1856, Brooks strode into the Senate chamber, denounced Sen. Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, and beat him so savagely with a cane that Sumner could not return to his seat for three years. The savage attack followed Sumner's public vilification of South Carolina Sen. A. P. Butler, Brooks' uncle, at the height of heated debate on extension of slavery into Kansas. Forced to resign, Brooks nevertheless became a hero to the southern cause and was re-elected. Less than a year later he died in Washington, D.C., at the age of 38.

In 1843 Brooks had married Caroline H. Means, daughter of Dr. B. H. Means at the Means plantation in Buckhead. Two years later Caroline died giving birth to a son, Whittied, and both are buried in the Means Family Cemetery. Four years later Brooks married Caroline's first cousin, Martha, daughter of Rev. Robert Means, and she lived to the age of 75, dying in Norfolk, Va., in 1901. The state of South Carolina erected a monument to Brooks' honor in Edgefield Baptist cemetery which reads in part: "...ever able, manly, just and heroic, illustrating true patriotism by his devotion to his country, the whole South unites with his bereaved family in deploring his untimely end." The plantation of Thomas Means where John Hugh was born was called BUCKHEAD and located in western Fairfield. It is indicated on the 1824 Mills Atlas of South Carolina, Fairfield District, in the upper left corner on Hemp Patch Fork of Beaver Creek. Tradition is that Means (or Johnson) grass was accidentally brought into this state by a few seeds being mixed with the hemp seed that Thomas Means imported from Egypt. The Columbia STATE of July 20, 1907, carried an account of the introduction of Means Grass. The story said Thomas imported it from Egypt about 1800 and that it spread so rapidly it became known as "Means Grass." Some neighbors called it "Damned Means Grass." Some of the seed was taken from South Carolina by a Mr. Johnson to Alabama where it became known as "Johnson Grass."

Another story in the Mills Statistics of South Carolina tells about "the Rattlesnake and the Rawn." The story tells about James Phillips discovering a huge rattlesnake in one of Thomas Means' fields with a rawn in its stomach. The story was verified by several other people who had seen it.