

SIGNERS OF ORDINANCE OF SECESSION

(From The Columbia State)

The following are short biographical sketches of the lives of the signers of the Ordinance of Secession from Laurens District:

Young, Henry C.—Born in North Carolina, his father moving to Laurens when he was quite young. His educational opportunities were limited. Read law and was admitted to the bar in Laurens at the age of 24. Formed a partnership with Col. Downs. Never argued a case in court for ten years, his senior partner always appearing. In a few years he built up a very large practice, having a partner at every court house in the circuit. Served 15 to 20 years in the legislature, rarely, if ever, making a speech. Served South Carolina in the Free trade convention at Philadelphia in 1831, or 1832. Served four years as trustee of the South Carolina college. Married a Miss Young of Charlotte, their only daughter marrying Col. W. D. Simpson of Laurens. When Judge Richardson was threatened with impeachment, Col. Young was selected by him to defend him. Gov. Perry says of him: "The jurist had equal confidence in his integrity and sincerity, learning, ability and honor, and no lawyer at the bar was more successful in his cases before the jury. His statements were always regarded as truthful, and they knew there was no purpose on his part to deceive or mislead them. He was, too, a most liberal practitioner towards his opponents at the bar. He never resorted to trickery or stratagem in his practice, or availed himself of any technical advantages which did not meet the justice of the case. No one ever had less of the pettifogger or demagogue in his nature. He was wholly selfless and without a particle of vanity. His only pride and ambition was to discharge every duty of life as a man, a lawyer and a statesman, conscientiously and to the best of his ability. In his manners he was simple, unpretending and unaffected. He had nothing for vainglory. In his nature he was kind and affectionate. Such is the portraiture my hand draws of an old friend, who has passed off the stage of life, and now quietly waits to be gathered to his fathers."

Garlington, Henry W.—Born at Laurens, November 12, 1811; died May 7, 1893. Eldest son of John Garlington. Forty years clerk of court of Laurens county. Was a large and successful farmer, taking deep interest in the leading public questions of the day. The only office he held was that of a member of the secession convention. Gave three sons to the Confederacy.

Williams, Col. John Drayton—Born in 1831 in the lower section of Laurens county; grandson of Col. James Williams, who fell at battle of King's Mountain; son of Washington Williams. In early life was a merchant, but it was to planting and breeding of the stock that he devoted the greater part of his life. Was too old to go into the army, but his son, Albert, and his son-in-law, John Dorgan Garlington, both died on the battlefield. Was a successful farmer, and his great plantations were run on business lines. Was an ardent advocate of secession. Married, first, Elsie Young of Laurens; second wife was Miss Anna Eliza Bennett of Abbeville. Though the war swept away so much of his wealth in the way of slaves, he was at its close a very large landowner. He died in 1870.

Dr. Thomas Wier, Sr. was born July, 1880, died July, 1880, was of Scotch-Irish parentage and raised in Abbeville county, near Greenwood, S. C. was a man of strong character, man of energy and perseverance; when a young man worked his way through medical college, Charleston, S. C., that is, borrowed the means from a friend, which he afterwards made and returned. After finishing medical course, settled in lower part of Laurens county, near old "Duncan's Creek church," of which he was long an active elder. Married Miss Nancy Long daughter of Robert Long, Esq., "Soldier of Revolutionary war." He and his wife were born eight children. Only one now survives, Mrs. Mattie Wier Glenn. He had an extensive practice and became an eminent physician of his day; made quite a success both of his farm and profession. Then after practicing his profession nearly 40 years, gave it up reluctantly. He was noted for his acts of charity and liberality; the needy were never turned away with empty hands, and today stands two churches for the whites and colored people, with lands for schools and cemeteries, given by him from his plantation. The colored minister who served them at that time never failed to pray for Dr. Wier. In 1860 was one of the delegates

sent from Laurens county to the secession convention. Then in that cruel, or "civil war," as it is called, lost four members of his family, Lieut. Bobt. L. Wier, Capt. Harrison K. Wier, Lieut. Samuel L. Wier, and his son-in-law, James W. Davis, in command of company when killed in battle; only one returned of the five—Dr. T. W. Wier, Jr., now deceased.

Quoting from a friend who knew him long and intimately, "Dr. Wier was a man of strong integrity of character, therefore often selected for the management of trust estates; he was also a representative man, and therefore called in the trying times of secession to take part in the councils of the State. An independent but cautious and conservative adviser; his opinions were sought in important and critical moments. A man who professionally, politically, socially and religiously was regarded adequate to the emergencies of life, and therefore sought on great occasions."

Quoting from another who knew him well, remarked that "Dr. Wier was a man who weighed his words."

William Dendy Watts, son of James Watts and Priscilla Dendy, was born on a farm in the southwestern part of Laurens county, near the Saluda river, August 22, 1800, and received a good common school education which was broadened by reading and active experience in business. He began life as a country merchant in association with Col. John D. Williams at "Milton" and in 1828 married Susan Young, a sister-in-law of Col. Williams. Then they moved to Belfast and conducted a farm and store. In 1831 his wife and three children died. In 1835 he was elected tax collector for Laurens district and changed his residence to Laurens court house. In 1837 he married Sarah Speaks Cannon of Newberry district.

In 1839 or 1840 Mr. Watts was elected judge of probate, or "ordinary" as the officer was then called, served for 18 years, voluntarily retiring on account of feeble health before his last term expired. The judge of probate's office was not greatly remunerative and Mr. Watts, being in comfortable circumstances, continued to hold it rather at the solicitation of friends with whom he was allied in county politics than from any personal wish. At different times he was urged to be a candidate for the legislature and especial pressure was brought to bear that he run for senator for the unexpired term of Col. James H. Irby, his life-long friend, upon the death of that gentleman, but he declined in favor of William D. Simpson afterwards governor and chief justice) who, though a much younger man, was also his warm friend. "Judge" Watts, for by that title he was familiarly known in Laurens, was one of the most popular men in the county and had large political influence. He was especially active in the hard-fought contest which ensued between Col. Simpson and Charles P. Sullivan, a distinguished lawyer, and which resulted in the election of the former.

Mr. Watts was physically a frail man and on that account habitually declined any post that would take him from his home at night, so, when he allowed himself to be elected a delegate to the secession convention it was against his own better judgment and against the protest of his family. He made the sacrifice because of his intense devotion to the State right doctrine. He returned from the convention a sick man and was never well again, dying at Glenn Springs where he had gone upon the advice of his physician, July 10, 1861.

Mr. Watts was a kindly gentleman of dignified bearing and excellent common sense, well informed in current and public affairs, a liberal supporter of schools and a man whose sound and discriminating judgment hundreds of people of every class were accustomed to consult. In business and often in matters of delicate nature neighbors and friends throughout the county. In many instances widows or women having no male protector, sought his advice or assistance.

In 1852 he built the house on the site of what is now the "president's house" of Watts Mills, where he spent the remainder of his life. This house was surrounded by a plantation of 1,350 acres and there flourished a typical and ante-bellum establishment of the up-country planter and slaveholder, the house being open always to his friends, poor and rich alike and being known far beyond the borders of Laurens county for its generous hospitality. The institution of slavery had an admirable illustration of what it was at its best among high-minded people of the South in the relations between

the master and mistress and their negroes. When the war began, his two sons, old enough to bear arms, John W. and Laurens H. Watts, army and served until the end of hostilities, the former commanding the Laurens "Briars," Company G. of the Third regiment, when it was surrendered. The heroic color bearer of the Third regiment, Sergeant William Lamb, was the overseer of his plantation.

His widow, who was much younger, survived him, dying in 1892 and two of his sons, L. H. and J. D. Watts, and four daughters, Mrs. M. T. Simpson, Mrs. Lucy N. Boyd, Mrs. B. W. Ball, and Miss Bettie Watts are living. He is buried in the family plot in the Laurens cemetery.

Simpson, R. F.—Youngest son of John Simpson and Mary Wells Born in Laurens county, 1798. Graduated from South Carolina college in 1816. Studied law and practiced at Laurens. Abandoned law; entered cotton manufacturing, owning one of the first cotton mills in the State. Served one term as senator from Laurens county. Major of regiment furnished by South Carolina as its quota in the Seminole Indian war in Florida, 1842; elected to Congress serving three terms. Was a staunch supporter of State rights; was a minute man in the days of nullification. Died in 1882. Married Margaret Talferro of Pendleton.

Alfred Potts-Nerelie By Walter D. Nesbit

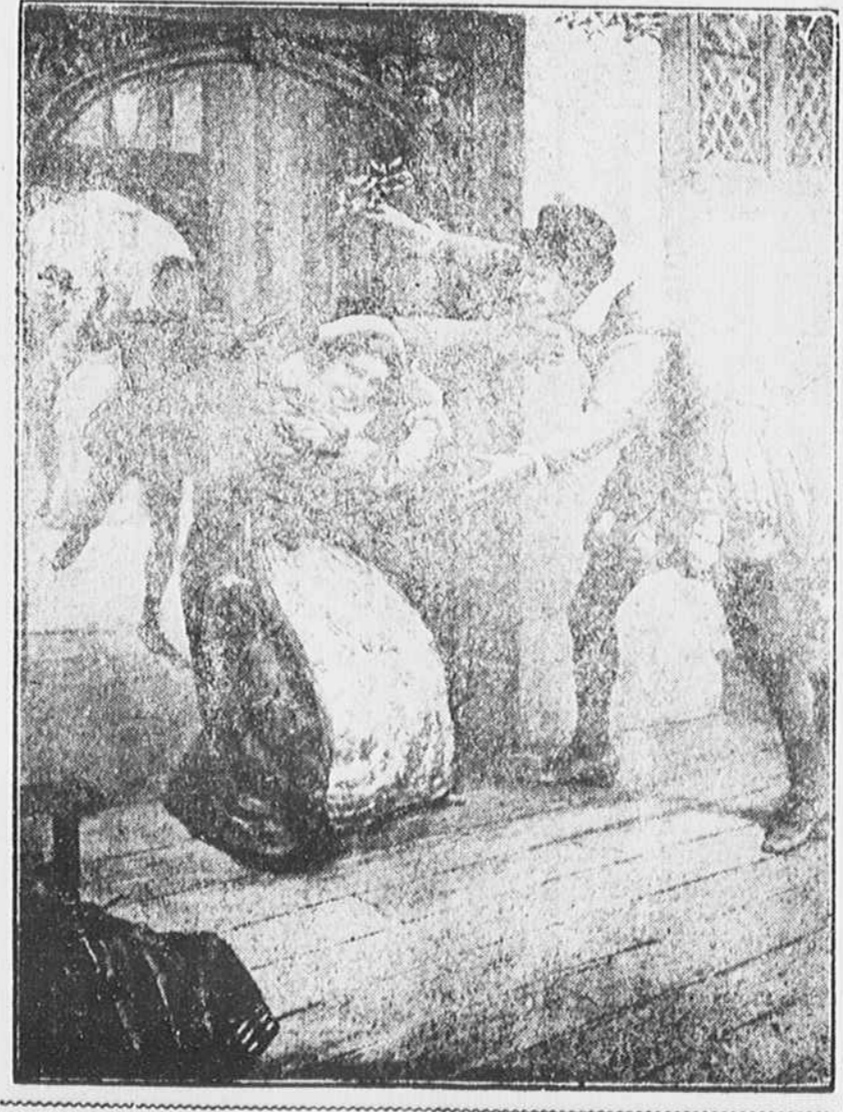


TODAY when me an' Willie Smith
An' Alfred Potts an' Spot McKay
An' some more boys we's playin' with
Got talkin' some 'bout Christmas day
An' how we must bubhave real well,
'Cause all our pas an' mas they said
Of Santa Claus can always tell
What boy has mischuff in his head,
Why, Alfred Potts he say to us:
'It's nothin' but a lot o' fuss!
Don't you bulieve your pas and mas—
There never was no Santa Claus!'

An' nen we tell him 'tisn't so.
'At we heard Santa come last year
An' see his sleigh tracks in th' snow—
An' he has sleigh bells, 'cause we hear,
An' where th' chimbley is we see
Th' soot all scraped off in th' back
An' 'at shows where o' Santa, he
Comed down th' chimbley with his pack.
But Alfred Potts, he sniff, like this,
An' say: "You don't know what you misa,
By not a bein' bad, lubcause
There never was no Santa Claus!"

Nen int an' Willie Smith an' all
Th' other boys, an' Spot McKay,
P'tend we hear somebody call
Us to come home, an' slip away
An' we won't play with Alfred Potts
Bubcause we know 'at he is bad
When we think of th' lots an' lots
Of Christmases 'at he have had.
I tell my pa what Alfred said
An' he laugh some an' shake his head
An' say 'at Alfred's chance is slim,
'Cause Santa won't bulieve in him!
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Dixie Land Roast Coffee, per bucket 1.00
3 lb. pail French Opera Coffee, ground, with a nice cup and saucer in each pail for only 1.00
Best Mocha and Java whole bean roast Coffee, 3 lbs for 1.00
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2 lb. pail Cracker Jack Roast Coffee only50
French Opera ground Coffee, 1 lb can25

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Schedule in Effect Oct. 3, 1910.
Between Augusta and Spartanburg.

No.	No.	Ar	Lv	No.	No.
6.11	6	Ar	Augusta	Lv	10.00
3.36	7.55	Ar	Greenwood	Lv	12.57 7.15
2.32	6.15	Lv	Laurens	Ar	2.00 8.17
2.03	6.10	Ar	Laurens	Lv	2.32 8.24
12.20	5.10	Lv	Spartanburg	Ar	4.05 10.00

Between Laurens and Greenville.

No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
53	54	86	84	52	55
12.20	7.00	4.20	12.50	Lv	Greenville
1.45	8.20	6.15	3.44	Ar	Laurens
				Lv	2.35 8.00 9.25 10.20

Between Laurens and Columbia.

No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
13	13	55	55	12	52
10.15	4.55	11.25	Ar	Columbia	Lv
7.55	2.55	8.44	Lv	Clinton	Lv
6.40	2.12	8.20	Lv	Laurens	Ar
				Ar	6.55 2.12 7.55

Nos. 1 and 2, and Nos. 5 and 6, daily passenger trains between Augusta and Spartanburg over C. & W. C. Ry.
Nos. 52 and 53, daily passenger trains between Greenville and Columbia over C. & W. C. and C. N. & L.
Nos. 54 and 55, daily except Sunday passenger trains, between Greenville and Columbia over C. & W. C. and C. N. & L.
Nos. 84 and 85, 86 and 87, freights with coach attached, between Greenville and Laurens over C. & W. C., making connections to and from Columbia over C. N. & L. Daily except Sunday.
Nos. 13 and 13 freight, daily except Sunday between Laurens and Columbia over C. N. & L. making connection to and from Greenville over C. & W. C.
Note—Black face type is for P. M. and Night face type is for A. M.