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MEMOIRS OF GENERAL GEORGE IZARD, 1825

Edited by CHARLTON DESAUSSURE, JR.*

General George Izard wrote his memoirs in 1825, three years before his death. A month after he completed his writing, President Monroe on March 25, appointed him Governor of Arkansas Territory. General Izard died at Little Rock, November 25, 1828.¹

The original copy of Izard's memoirs was transcribed by his nephew, Joseph Allen Smith. This man felt Smith was too common a name and adopted his mother's maiden name of Izard. Smith was the son of Charlotte Georgina Izard, born in Philadelphia September 16, 1792, and sister to George. On May 1, 1809, she married Joseph Allen Smith. Their son, Joseph Allen Smith, was born in Philadelphia February 17, 1810, and on March 1, 1838, married Emma Middleton Huger.² When he changed his name to Allen Smith Izard is unclear, but in 1876 he affixed that signature to the copy he made of his uncle's memoirs and this I found in the home of my grandfather, the late Daniel Elliott Huger, Jr. The manuscript came into my grandfather's possession through Emma Middleton Huger who was his great grandfather's sister.

George Izard addresses the story of his life to his sons, Ralph Farley, George and James Farley. The first six pages of the manuscript offer an informal history of the Izard family and need not be given in their complete form here.

The narrative reveals that George Izard was born in Richmond in Surrey near London on October 21, 1776. He was the son of Senator Ralph Izard and Alice deLancey. His parents were in England at this time settling the affairs of their estate in Worcestershire. As soon as was practicable after the birth of their son, the Izards left Great Britain for France due to the hostilities caused by the Declaration of Independence.

George Izard spent the first few years of his life travelling with his family in Europe and America. His earliest recollections deal with his formal education which began at the College de Navarre at Paris, where he was sent at the age of six by his mother. He returned to America a few years later unable to speak any English and was, therefore, in close

* A student at the University of South Carolina School of Law.

¹ Langdon Cheves, "Izard of South Carolina", *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, II (1901), 222.

² *Ibid.*, p. 217.

contact with a private tutor for two years. In 1786, at age ten, Izard was placed in the boarding school of Mr. Henry Osborne in Charleston.

In 1788 Ralph Izard and Major Pierce Butler were elected senators from South Carolina under the new Constitution. George Izard accompanied his parents to New York and entered Columbia College as a freshman. Izard excelled at Columbia and in 1790, when his father had to move his family to Philadelphia where Congress was now meeting, George was admitted into the junior class of the old college in that city on 4th Street. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in February, 1792, at little more than fifteen years of age.

The manuscript further reveals that George Izard's father had for several years encouraged him to pursue the military profession. Therefore, Senator Izard in 1792 asked Major Thomas Pinckney, the recently appointed Minister to Great Britain, to allow George to accompany him abroad where young Izard could receive formal military training.

In August, 1792, George Izard travelled with Major Pinckney to England and was placed at the Prince of Wales Royal Military Academy at Kensington Gravel Pits near London. Finding this situation unsatisfactory, Izard left after six weeks of instruction and, after travelling in Europe for a year, found himself in September of 1793 at Monsieur de Beauclair's Institute at Marbury in Hesse Cassel, Germany. Izard concluded his course of study there in the spring of 1795.

During the summer, Izard proceeded to Paris where he hoped, with the aid of James Monroe, United States Minister to France, to obtain admission to one of the military schools. Izard was granted a place at the Ecole du Genie at Metz and proceeded there in the fall of 1795.³

We have reached a point in George Izard's life, at age nineteen and beginning his training at Metz, where we can view the remainder of the narrative as he related it to his sons. George Izard offered his memoirs to his sons as a "bird's eye prospect of your father's Pilgrimage through life." With this synopsis, we can resume the story of his life in Germany in October, 1795.

. . . At Metz, I began to feel that I was what I had hitherto only affected to be, a man. When my father determined that I should be sent to Germany he had obtained from his old friend General Moultrie the Governor of South Carolina, the commission of his aide-de-camp, with the Rank of Captain of Militia. I had however, put on no military dress

³ For his subsequent military career, see Harold W. Ryan, ed., "Diary of a Journey by George Izard 1815-1816", *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, LIII (1952), 67-76.

since my departure from the Academy at Kensington Gravel Pits, where the boys wore a ridiculously splendid and expensive uniform with epaulettes. At Paris I received another commission which I liked much better. It had been entrusted to the care of Dr. Edwards and was that of Lieutenant in the United States Corps of Artillerists and Engineers dated June 4, 1794, when that corps was first raised. This rank was much more fitted to my age and situation, as it put me on the footing of my fellow students who in passing their examination and being admitted into the school became Sub Lieutenants of Engineers. I was now in my proper place, member of the most celebrated institution for military education in the world, introduced into very polished society, and supplied with an allowance which in that cheap country and amidst the universal pecuniary distress of the times was sufficient to place me on a footing with the wealthiest of those with whom I associated. M. Bizat du Courday, Lt. Colonel & Commandant of the School received me with the greatest kindness and furnished me with all the aid & advice necessary for the prosecution of my studies. I was informed that I might wear the uniform of the Corps, which was a matter of no little importance as it gave me access to those parts of the fortifications which were not open to any but engineers or officers of the staff. My having obtained permission to join the School gave me a considerable degree of consequence in the eyes of the inhabitants as it was known that both before and since the Revolution similar applications from several governments of Europe in favour of young noblemen of high rank had been rejected. The House of Madame Marbois the gayest at that time in Metz, was open to me, and by that amiable lady I was treated with all the sister-like friendship which was naturally excited by her seeing for the first time after several years one of her countrymen, who was familiar with the scenes of her birthplace and acquainted with many of those Persons whose remembrance she cherished. The sisters too of M. de M., Madame Kellerman and Madame Souvage, treated me on all occasions as one of their own family; the former of these ladies, since Duchess of Valmy, was a woman of great wit and literature; her daughter Mlle. Cecile since married to General Count Levy, was amiable and highly accomplished. Madame Souvage and her excellent husband, were the most unaffected and hospitable of Beings. Their friend Madame Rouillon, a young and handsome widow, contributed not a little to confirm my predilection for polite society, and many happy days have I passed at the Chateau de Jouy, belonging to her mother, Madame de Jubison with that interesting family. In short I neglected none of the advantages which were now at last within my reach. I had good instruction, amiable friends, and sensi-

ble advisers. I was permitted to live in a private house, where I and James [his French servant, "a very decent young fellow"] were comfortably lodged. I took my dinners at the table d'hôte of the Petite Croix l'or, the best inn of the place where I was sure to meet respectable company and sometimes persons of note on their way to or from the frontiers. In short this is the period of my past life, that if I were called upon to choose, I should select as the one which I would live over again.

... In 1797 the misunderstanding between the U. States and France had become very serious. Mr. Monroe had been recalled and General C. C. Pinckney was appointed in his place. About the end of the summer I received a letter from that gentleman desiring me to leave Metz and proceed to the Hague whither he had returned from Paris to wait for two other commissioners, Gen'l Marshall and Mr. Gerry who were joined with him to negotiate with the Directory. It was not without much regret that I took leave of my good friends at Metz though the prospect of soon seeing my parents and country after so long an absence was highly gratifying. In the month of September I found myself again with James in a travelling carriage of my own; this was no longer a luxurious post-chaise but a small though commodious cabriolet that held us and our baggage and required but two horses to draw it. Our route was by Thionville, Luxemburg, Hamur, Brussels, Antwerp, Rotterdam to the Hague. Here I found General Pinckney and one of my earliest friends and schoolfellows Henry M. Rutledge who accompanied him as his secretary. Mrs. Pinckney our near relation⁴ and Miss Eliza P. the General's youngest daughter by a former marriage were with them. The latter is now the widow of your deceased Uncle Ralph. There was no vessel ready to sail for the U. States and I was detained till the commissioners Pinckney & Marshall proceeded to Paris. Mr. Gerry arrived at Rotterdam the very day after they had left that city. At last about the middle of October I embarked in a ship for Baltimore where I arrived at the close of November in excessively cold weather. Mr. James Colghour whom I met with in Holland had given me letters of introduction to some of his relations at that place and the first person I met on landing was Capt. Staats Morris of our regiment whom I had known some years before as the friend of my *older* brother. The ice prevented vessels from leaving Baltimore and I therefore proceeded to Philadelphia to present myself to President Adams and the Secretary of War Mr. McHenry. I obtained orders to go to Charleston where the secretary informed me that I should be soon employed as our engineer, but the ice here also

⁴ Mary Stead Izard, a first cousin of Senator Izard, and wife of Gen. C. C. Pinckney. Cheves, "Izard of South Carolina", p. 238 n3.

prevented communication by water. I therefore early in January went to New York where after some detention I took my passage in a small schooner the *Amphitrite*, and after a very rough one of a fortnight found myself at my fathers house on South Bay where I had the happiness of meeting all the members of the family. I had not been long at home before the exposure which I had undergone while travelling by land and water for several months and probably the change in my mode of life brought on a severe illness; from which however I recovered in time to direct the construction of Fort [Castle] Pinckney in the Harbour of Charleston. War now existed between our country & France. The Commissioners had been recalled and in 1799 a new army was raised of which General Washington was appointed Commander-in-Chief. The major generals were A. Hamilton, Charles C. Pinckney, and Henry Knox. The latter having been of superior rank to the others in the War of the Revolution, did not accept and the vacancy was left unfilled. A 2nd Regiment of Artillerists and Engineers was also instituted in which my friend Francis K. Huger was appointed a captain. A company of that corps recruited in the States of Delaware and Maryland, was sent in the winter of '98-'99 to garrison Fort Pinckney which was placed under my command. These poor fellows suffered sadly during the ensuing summer when more than half of them died of the Yellow Fever. I was myself seized with this dangerous malady and narrowly escaped the fatal effects. The ability of Dr. Polony a French Physician from St. Domingo, however, and the comforts of an airy apartment in my father's excellent mansion restored me to life. When I was recovered a letter reached me from General Hamilton 1st Major General & Inspector General of the army offering me the situation of aide-de-camp in his family. Disgusted with the climate of South Carolina and influenced by some other circumstances which I will briefly explain, I gladly accepted this offer, and on the 2nd of January 1800 I embarked in a vessel for New York.

I should omit all mention of what I am now going to notice, but for the knowledge that my conduct was much misrepresented at that time and that it is not impossible when my bones shall be mouldering in the silent Tomb, some partial report of it may reach the ears of those who shall be interested in my memory. I became acquainted at Charleston with a French family, emigrants from St. Domingo, where they had been in possession of great wealth. Mademoiselle P. lived with her sister Mde M. wife of the Spanish Consul: Don D. M. This young lady without being a beauty, had considerable attraction, and was especially an excellent performer on the Piano Forte. I became attached to her, but it was with a perfect understanding on her part that my situation and

circumstances did not admit of my forming a matrimonial connection, nor did such a one ever appear to be contemplated by the lady. Our intimacy however, proceeded and an act of unpardonable imprudence betrayed our mutual attachment. She had several brothers, three or four of whom were grown up. The eldest of these thinking the honour of his family compromised, proposed to me the alternative of either immediately marrying his sister, or fighting him. Whatever might have been the disposition to perform the first of these acts this was not the way to confirm me in it, and I left him to follow the course he thought proper. We met in a retired spot, out of town, and as we were about to decide our difference we were both arrested by the Civil Authority. We gave our words of honour to proceed no farther against the Laws of the State and were left at liberty. Mr. P. was informed however, that I was at his orders in any other state or country. This business was followed by interviews with the mother Madame R. and the sister in which I was assailed with tears and entreaties that affected me sensibly; but I knew the character of the male part of the family consisting of Mr. R. the husband of the mother, and his sons the lady's half-brothers, very gross, and I believe, true reports, were afloat of their extreme immorality and dissoluteness. At last these ladies brought Miss P. to their aid. Her conduct throughout the painful business was correct and disinterested. We were left alone together. She threw herself on her knees and implored me to let it be believed that I would marry her at a future moment and solemnly declared that she would never urge the performance of my promise which was asked only to pacify her own family and preserve her own reputation. I yielded; what else could I, or ought I to have done? Our engagement was announced — Visits were exchanged between the Ladies of our respective families, and soon afterwards I was at New York. Let me finish the painful narrative, before I proceed with the remainder of my story. More than two years after the scenes just mentioned, I received by mail at Bristol, Pa. where I was raising recruits for my company, a letter from Mr. P. dated Charleston, couched in very lofty language and demanding the performance of *the Promise I had made to him*; he added that my answer might not find him in Carolina, as he was about to make a voyage to the West Indies, but that he had authorised one of his *brothers* to receive any communication from me in his absence, which should be promptly attended to. By return of Post I informed Mr. P. that I knew of no *promise I had ever made to him*. That what had passed between a member of his family and myself was exclusively a matter which concerned ourselves, and that I disclaimed all Right in him to interfere. I added that from the tone

of his letter I presumed that he was desirous of replacing things between us on the footing we had left them when we last met, and that, if such was the case I should be happy to save him the half of his journey to bring us together. This was answered by the brother A. R. in a note acknowledging the receipt of my letter, which he had forwarded to his relative who he doubted not, would reply to it as it deserved. Soon after this correspondence, I took the command of Fort Mifflin in consequence of the new organization of the army under Mr. Jefferson's administration. About the middle of June I received a letter from Mr. P. informing me that he was in Philadelphia agreeably to my invitation, that he lodged so and so & should be happy to see me. Immediately I left the Fort, ordering one of my lieutenants to be the next day at 12 o'clock, with a barge at a wharf in Philadelphia where I would join him. I found Mr. P. at his lodging, where he repeated that he had obeyed my invitation. I told him that the invitation was certainly not mine, but that I guessed his motive in calling it so. That I considered him entirely as a stranger in what concerned his sister and me but that as his object in coming to Philadelphia could not be misunderstood, I was at his orders when, where and how he pleased. He said he should be glad to meet me as soon as possible, and we agreed to go to the Jersey Shore the next day at 12 o'clock. The reason why Mr. P. represented the invitation or challenge as coming from me was that he might secure the choice of weapons. He knew that I had the reputation of fencing well and apprehended that with swords I should have the advantage of him. We met in a wood opposite the Gloucester Point about 7 o'clock on the 13th of June 1802 attended by our seconds, Lieut. Murray and a Mr. Jaudon and by Doctors Proudfer and Monges. I felt great reluctance in shedding the blood of a man whose conduct, after all was pretty much as I should have recommended to a friend in his situation though my heart throbbed with joy at an event which would inevitably relieve me in one way or another from an embarrassing yoke which had weighed for years on my spirits. I knew that I could kill him at the first shot if I chose. My determination was soon formed. I charged my pistols so low that they could only produce a contusion, and proposed that we should take our ground and fire as we pleased. I thought it probable he would miss me the two first shots after which it was my intention to proceed if he desired it but that it should be at the risk of his life. I received his first fire, which had no effect, and returned it. My ball struck his leg and recoiled. He took better aim the second time and I fell, severely wounded through the arm and in the breast. I was carried to Dr. Proudfer's house where the skill of that excellent surgeon, and worthy man, aided by the atten-

tion of my friends, James & Benjamin Wilcocks, restored me to life after having hovered for several days on the brink of eternity.

The consequences were as I had anticipated. Miss P. formally released me from all engagements with her, and I have the consolation of knowing she was soon afterwards respectably married and comfortably established. There ended one adventure, which like all those that are the result of Imprudence and vanity, caused me indescribable uneasiness not unattended with remorse.

We will now return to New York where I arrived in January 1800 and was very agreeably received by General Hamilton and his other aide Philip Church, an old acquaintance of mine when we were boys in England. The General was obliged to go to Albany on account of a great law suit on which he had been retained before the increase of the army and very politely left it to my choice either to stay where I was, or join a board of artillery at which Col. Tousand presided in Philadelphia. I had many acquaintances in the latter city where Congress was then in session. Whither I went and installed myself at the City Tavern, kept by Mr. James Kitchen which is now the Merchants Coffee House. I was soon plunged into all the dissipation of that then very gay capital. The most distinguished characters of our country were resident there and Mr. Robert Liston the British Minister to whom I brought a letter from my uncle Colonel Barclay put me quite at my ease in his hospitable establishment. Here too I found a young widow whom I had seen at my fathers in Charleston wither she had accompanied her sick husband in the autumn of 1797 & who died there a short time before my return to Carolina. The most distinguished families of Charleston had vied with each other in their attentions to her during her affliction, and she staid alternately at their houses. The recollection of the civilities she had received from my family made her solicitous to treat me with kindness, and I soon experienced that if domestic happiness was to be my lot it could only be my sharing it with her.⁵

I had been but a few weeks in those scenes of gayety & fashion, when a letter reached me from Mr. William Smith, my brother-in-law,⁶ then Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Lisbon. I had not seen this gentleman since my boyhood & his invitation to join him as his secretary which he rendered very tempting by representing that the mission would probably be extended to Constantinople was quite unexpected. I had discovered that the military establishment was on a very precarious foot-

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 226.

⁶ William Loughton Smith had married Charlotte Izard. See George C. Rogers, Jr., *Evolution of a Federalist* (Columbia, S. C. 1962).

ing and from mixing almost exclusively in the society of the Politicians of the day and of the people in the highest offices that there was a violent misunderstanding between Mr. Adams and the leading men of the Party which had brought him into power — the Federalists who generally looked to Alexander Hamilton as their head. To the latter I addressed myself for his advice on the subject of going to Europe. His answer was flattering and friendly. He confirmed my doubts of the permanency of the army and advised my acceptance of Mr. Smith's proposal. Immediately I set out for New York to take my leave of the General, returned in a couple of days engaged my passage in a ship destined for Madeira, there being no opportunity for Portugal direct, and with a heart torn by conflicting emotions, bade adieu to the lady whom my fondest hopes dared not look forward to as the future partner of my life — Need I tell you, my boys, that this was your mother?

We sailed from Philadelphia in March. The ship *Spy* was a crazy vamped up vessel belonging to Mr. Stephen Kingston of Philadelphia and was bound to the East Indies via Madeira. Captain Wood, however by his skill and attention as a seaman, made up for the deficiencies of his ship and after a boisterous voyage we were landed at Funchal. Here I waited a fortnight for the departure of another American vessel destined to Setubal or St. Ubes. I had been very hospitably received in the house of Mr. Adler, a merchant of Funchal, to whom I brought a letter of introduction from Mr. Samuel Withers a gentleman who was a fellow lodger of mine at Kitchen's. We were obliged to perform a quarantine of a few days at St. Ubes and I had an early opportunity of estimating the delights of living under a despotic government. A custom house guard consisting of one very filthy fellow was put on board our ship, *the Pacific Capt.* This gentleman was indignant at not being permitted to sit at our table in the cabin, which by the way was my act. There were besides myself two cabin passengers, a young Doctor of Laws from Madeira and a lady, the wife of an English army surgeon who had sent her this far on her way to London. When our quarantine was taken off this fellow complained to the Magistracy that his life had been threatened on board the American ship and that the captain or passengers had fired pistols at him. This accusation was confirmed by the fact of pistols having been frequently discharged from our deck during our detention — Now they were so by me, who amused myself sometimes by shooting at empty bottles which I made my black servant Abraham throw from the bow of the vessel, and which floated with the tide. Our poor captain who was a very pusillanimous creature, was not released until the next day, when I made such representation through our

vice consul that the Portuguese authorities became alarmed. When we landed, Mrs. Stanton & I as foreigners were conducted before a magistrate who examined our Passports — on reading mine, he civilly said that all was right and I might proceed to Lisbon — but Mrs. S. was not so rapidly disposed of — This Functionary gloated on her with the eyes of a Satyr and pretending some difficulties announced that she must remain, till certain irregularities in her papers were cleared up, and declared that his house was her prison. The poor woman, who was rather pretty than otherwise, entreated my protection, and I forthwith informed this gentleman that if she was to remain where she was, I would keep her company. After some hesitation and no little surprise at the time with which I had ventured to explain myself to a personage of so much importance, who wore a fine badge at his buttonhole, he consented that she should go to an English lodging house in the town whither I escorted her and having in the course of the day become acquainted with Mr. Williams the English consul I recommended my distressed charge to that gentleman's care. I saw the unlucky woman some days afterwards, at Lisbon, from whence she sailed to England.

The Portuguese L. L. D. & I attended by my black servant Abraham mounted three mules which we hired, and travelled off to Aldeia Galega a wretched village on the Tagus about nine miles from Lisbon and on the following day crossed that river. I found my way with some difficulty to Mr. Smith's house at Buenos Ayres a suburb of that city & had just time to change my dress in order to accompany him to a great funcaon, or procession held on the festival of Corpus Christi — I had been but a few hours in this diplomatists company when I discovered that his views and mine of our relative situation differed materially. A short time however sufficed to set that matter right, and if never very cordial we kept up appearances of mutual good understanding. After a few weeks we left Lisbon for Centra [Sintra] near which celebrated village we occupied a house at another called Colares. We had remained in the city till after the 4th of July, it being expected that that anniversary should always be celebrated by a feast among our Envoys abroad. I was introduced to a number of Mr. S's friends and formed a pretty large and agreeable acquaintance. But the Constantinople voyage was abandoned and this had been my great inducement to leave America. I found means to secure a sum of money which I judged sufficient for my expenses in a tour to England & France and in January 1801 I bade adieu to my brother-in-law who when he found I was about to leave him became singularly friendly and amicable. A British Packet landed me in a week at Falmouth. I had found the black complexion of my

faithful Abraham a source of great pecuniary annoyance as servants of that hue in Europe are rarely in the service of any but people of great rank and wealth, and therefore profited of a vessel to America to send him home from Lisbon. From Falmouth I travelled by mail to Exeter. At this place I parted from Mr. Hugh Brown, a very agreeable young man who had been a fellow passenger of mine in the Packet where we had rapidly become intimate friends. He was hastening to London where he promised to secure a comfortable lodging for me and I diverged from the direct route to the great metropolis with a Captain Rigby of the British army whose health had obliged him to leave his regiment which was one of those comprising Sir Ralph Abercrombie's army in the Mediterranean, and who had also been with us on board of the Packet. At Bristol I staid a few days, and then proceeded by Bath to London. This must have been almost the middle of February.

My friend Brown & I occupied rooms in the same house, Craven Street, Strand, and were very comfortably lodged. He had a numerous acquaintance among officers of the guards, bankers and the superior class of merchants. I had seen London some years before only as a boy — I now mingled a little in the high scenes of fashion, and might have done so a great deal more, but they had no charms for one whose stay in that country was intended to be short. I made several visits to the good Crespigary's at Camberwell — They had not altered in their regard for me. Mr. Rufus King and Mr. Christopher Gore, the one our minister, the other one of the Commissioners of a Board for settling some question between the U.S. and Great Britain lived handsomely at the west end of the town. I received many civilities from these gentlemen, and I attended Mrs. King to some of the great Routes; but life in England has few charms for foreigners. I longed to be at Paris; and as I was governed by the length of my purse as to my continuance abroad, I hastened thither in April — At Calais I met Mr. Joseph Allen Smith since married to my sister Georgina.

Soon after my arrival Mr. & Mrs. Gore also made their appearance in the French Capital and I was passing my days very agreeably when one fine morning I examined the contents of my purse, which I found were little more than sufficient to convey me back to the shores of America. Fortunately the U. S. Sloop of War, *Maryland*, Capt. John Rodgers was then waiting for dispatches at Havre. I proposed to that officer to give me a passage in his ship which he consented to do and in July we sailed for Baltimore where we arrived about the middle of the following month. I found things greatly changed since my departure eighteen months before. Mr. Jefferson was president and the govern-

ment was now located at Washington. I hastened thither to report myself to the new Secretary of War General Dearborn and to my Colonel old Burbeck a good natured man who was willing to make any assignment which I desired with regard to the station I should take. I had been a captain since August 1799 and the company assigned to me was one of a Battalion in garrison at Fort Mifflin on the Delaware. It was however not complete and I obtained an order to raise recruits in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. For this purpose I chose to take up my quarters at Bristol, Pa. and my preference for that village will probably not appear to you very extraordinary — Here then I established one of my recruiting parties and had an opportunity of cultivating the society of your amiable mother. In April 1802 the first reduction of the army under Mr. Jefferson's administration took place. In consequence I was charged with the arrangement of the troops at Fort Mifflin, and to replace Major Rixarde who was one of the disbanded officers in the command of that Post. At the same time a Corps of Engineers was formed distinct from the regiment of artillery retained in the service in the command of which Major Williams, who had been bred to anything but the military profession, was appointed. This was calculated to have annoyed me as the members of the government very well knew what had been my means of acquiring the requisite professional knowledge of that branch of service; but I was very indifferent to the omission of my name in that Corps. The affair I have above narrated took place in June — Soon after my recovery your mother set out for her property in North Carolina and I obtained her permission to visit her in the autumn at the same town. In the meantime I was ordered to West Point where a company of artillery was assigned to me and I proceeded to the command of that Post towards the close of the summer. In November I obtained leave of absence which I availed myself of to make the proposed excursion to the Southward. I passed a few weeks with the object that had attracted me to that quarter and obtained her leave to repeat my visit to Farly in the spring — My return to West Point and my occupation there till April were followed by the visit in question when I announced my intention of resigning my commission and solicited the hand of Mrs. E. C. Skipper which she unaffectedly and kindly promised me for the month of June. When I arrived at New York on my way back to my Post I found that my company was ordered to proceed to Tennessee. My resignation was forwarded to the War Department and accepted with some hesitation on condition that I should first accompany my detachment as far as Richmond in Virginia and direct its route to the point of its destination. We sailed in the month of May for Virginia;

I complied with the instructions relative to the troops, passed a few days at Washington to close my accounts and resisted some proposals which were intended to tempt me to remain in the service; but the army had sunk to a very contemptable condition at that period of our history.

On the 6th of June [1803] I found myself in Philadelphia where I had the happiness of being united for life with the charming and excellent woman who gave you your birth.

My life was little diversified after that even until the beginning of the year 1812 when preparations were made for another war with Great Britain. I had some years before when every American bosom heaved with indignation at the insults offered to our country by the attacks on the Frigate *Chesapeake*, offered my services in case of war.

The Secretary had received me courteously and announced that it was the intention of government to give me the command of a regiment. That unfortunate affair was adjusted and no war took place. In the winter of 1811 - 12 I was invited to accept the command of the 2nd Regt. of Artillery about to be raised and received the appointment. I commanded the department composed of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware during the year 1812. In February 1813 I was appointed to the command of District No. 3 of which the city of New York was Headquarters. That place was threatened by the Enemy's fleet and Gen. Armstrong had pressed the Government to station me there the preceeding autumn. One of his first acts when made Secy. of war was to order me thither. I was at the same time promoted to the rank of Brigadier. In August of the same year the alarm having ceased at N. York I solicited and obtained leave to join Genl. Hampton's division on the Chateaugay Frontier.⁷ I remained the first part of the winter in that inhospitable climate but was obliged to return to Philadelphia for the recovery of my health in January. In March 1814 I was promoted to the rank of Major General and appointed to the command of the Northern army on Lake Champlain. In 1815 peace was announced & I was left out of the Peace Establishment — My history since has been uninteresting & you all have witnessed the greater part of it which I have passed in Philadelphia.

Adieu my dear boys

(Signed) George Izard

⁷ Major General Wade Hampton had charge of the Niagara Frontier. Ryan, "Diary of a Journey," p. 67.

CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF ABRAM HAYNE YOUNG

Edited by MARY WYCHE BURGESS *

Abram Hayne Young was the eighth and next to youngest child of Thompson Young and Martha Hawkins Young of Newberry County. His paternal grandparents had immigrated to America from County Down, Ireland, settling on a large tract of land in the Stoney hills on Bush River, in 1768. Hayne Young was born March 31, 1840 at Frog Level (now Prosperity), and was killed May 6, 1864, in the Battle of the Wilderness. He had been enrolled June 6, 1861, by Lt. Col. Barnard E. Bee; the company later became part of Kershaw's Brigade. By degrees he was promoted to third sergeant. A. S. Salley ** reports that he was wounded September 20, 1863; his diary continues through August 23, at which time the summer campaign ended. He is reported on the muster roll of Jan. 1, 1864, as absent since wounded, then reported on muster roll of Feb. 29, 1864, as present.

Except for two letters written while on leave, there is an unexplained gap between December, 1862, and February, 1864. Most of the letters are addressed to his sister, Mary Jane, the wife of Henry S. Boozer, a captain in Company H., Holcombe Legion Infantry Regiment.

The letters show Young to be a sensitive, intelligent young man, evidently of some culture, although the spelling is inconsistent and erratic, and punctuation and capitalization demonstrate a probable lack of formal schooling. He was deeply religious; his wants and habits were the simple ones of a country boy, albeit a very hardy one. Each letter ends with a rather lengthy closing, expressing affection for and greetings to each member of the family, often named. Young's handwriting is a beautiful, rather Spencerian script. For the most part, each letter covers both sides of a folded 8x12 sheet of stationery.

Kershaw's Brigade fought, and fought well, in most of the battles, large and small, in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Tennessee. Its tattered remnants laid down their arms at Greensboro, N. C., on May 2, 1865, nearly a month after Appomattox.

These letters are the property of Capt. Vernon Hayne Wheeler, United States Navy, retired, of Newberry, grandson of Mrs. Mary Jane

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** A. S. Salley, *South Carolina Troops in Confederate Service* (Columbia, 1914), II, 353.