

## The Confederate Exodus to Brazil

Edwin S. James of Rock Hill has written a fascinating ninety-one page account of the removal of a number of Chester, York, and Lancaster families to northern Brazil at the end of the Civil War, following these families down to the present. In 1941 James first met a descendant of one of those who migrated. In 1942 he was at Amapa, a village on the Amazon River, helping to construct an emergency air strip and searching for possible Nazi submarine hiding places. One night he was given refuge from the jungle by an illiterate blond, blue-eyed Brazilian who had a small rosewood box with a small silk Confederate flag glued to the bottom.

Fascinated by many such adventures, Mr. James has collected stories and has visited, both in Brazil and the American South, numerous descendants of those who emigrated to Brazil in the 1860s. In 1991 he wrote his findings under the title "The Last Confederates Live in Brazil, A Lecture." He delivered the lecture at a meeting of the Chester District Genealogical Society and at a public meeting at the York County Library to appreciative audiences, some of whom were descendants of the Brazilian settlers. (Carolina names mentioned include Gaston, Miller, Hall, Wise, and Ferguson.)

Mr. James gave the York County Genealogical and Historical Society a copy of his lecture (he is also the treasurer of our Society). We thank him and feel we should add that we wanted to condense the material for The Quarterly but were inadequate to the task. The combination of numerous anecdotes and Mr. James own inimitable writing style defeated us. Instead, we will simply print the last two pages of the lecture in which he so well summarizes the impact of the ex-Confederates on Brazil and Brazil's impact on the Southerners:

"The arriving Confederate generation and those first born in Brazil remained aloof and clannishly to themselves, refusing on the whole to mix with or to accept Brazilian culture or society. However, with the next generation Confederate sentiments gradually changed.

"Slowly they integrated into the Brazilian world about them. As time passed and Brazil advanced industrially and economically, descendants of the Confederates gradually left the land and moved away from Santa Barbara and Americana to the surrounding towns and not so distant cities of Campinas, Sao Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro.

"The Confederates had brought to Brazil, not only a technical stimulus such as the plough, the kerosene lantern, and a light type of horse 'buggy' common in the South, but new to Brazil, but also introduced a host of new methods and ideas on agricultural

The Confederate Exiles to Brazil

James G. Thompson has written a fascinating ninety-one page account of the removal of a number of Confederate families to northern Brazil at the end of the Civil War, following these families down to the present. In 1941 James Thompson was a descendant of one of those who migrated. In 1942 he was at Annapolis, a village on the Amazon River, helping to construct an emergency air strip and searching for possible bases for military aircraft. One night he was given refuge from the jungle by an illiterate black-eyed Brazilian who had a small cowshed but with a small black Confederate flag on the bottom.

Informed by such adventures, Mr. James has collected stories and has visited both in Brazil and the American South numerous descendants of those who migrated to Brazil in the 1860s. In 1941 he wrote his findings under the title "The Last Confederates Live in Brazil: A Lecture". He delivered the lecture at a meeting of the Eastern District Genealogical Society and at a public meeting at the York County Library to appreciative audiences, some of whom were descendants of the Brazilian exiles.

(Names mentioned include Gerson, White, Hall, Wisco, and Ferguson.)

Mr. James gave the York County Genealogical and Historical Society a copy of his lecture (he is also the chairman of our Society). We thank him and feel we should add that we wanted to endorse the material for the Quarterly but were inadequate to the task. The combination of numerous anecdotes and Mr. James' own inimitable writing style is excellent. Instead, we will simply print the last two pages of the lecture in which he so well summarizes the impact of the ex-Confederates on Brazil and Brazil's impact on the Confederacy.

"The surviving Confederate generation and those first born in Brazil remained aloof and generally to themselves, retaining on the whole to this day with or to accept Brazilian culture or society. However, with the next generation Confederate sentiments gradually changed.

"Story they integrated into the Brazilian world about them. As time passed and Brazil advanced industrially and economically, descendants of the Confederates gradually left the land and moved away from São Paulo and Americana to the surrounding towns and not so distant cities of Campinas, São Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro. "The Confederates had brought to Brazil, not only a technical skill such as the breeding of the Kentucky horse and a light type of horse 'buggy' common in the South, but also to Brazil, but she introduced a host of new methods and ideas on agricultural

development, which biologically, had been researched and learned in the days of the great plantations of the ante-bellum South.

"They introduced a heavy injection of Presbyterianism and missionary life to Brazil. Two of Dr. Gaston's daughters married (the Reverends Kolb and Blackford) and stayed in Brazil after Dr. Gaston and his family left in 1883. James Miller's granddaughter, Kate Wheelock and her husband, were also missionaries in Belo Horizonte. And there was a host of others in missionary service throughout Brazil.

"They brought a powerful impact to the Masonic world, for Emperor Dom Pedro, himself, was a Mason as were most of the Confederates.

"They founded their own schools and intellectual institutions from which grew the present day McKenzie College, today a university of considerable size in the city of Sao Paulo.

"With the number of medical doctors who had been exposed to the circumstances of the Civil War amongst the Confederate immigrants, they pioneered new concepts of medicine and surgery and created up-to-date hospitals.

"And, of course, they founded their own town, Americana.

"Today, are the Confederates all gone from that section of Brazil? Yes, most have moved away to other parts of the nation. However, as all immigrants sooner or later, 'look back,' the descendants of the Confederate migration to Brazil have followed suit. In December 1955, they organized themselves into a brotherhood entwining the history of two nations, America and Brazil. Today they meet four times a year on a Sunday in the old cemetery, 'O Campo.'

"They hold a Presbyterian church service in Portuguese, then a meeting of the organization. Afterwards, they adjourn for a country picnic where one finds Brazilian black beans (feijao preto) and rice along with Southern fried chicken, corn bread, pies and cakes right off a Southern sideboard. One hears the sound of nasalized Portuguese, and occasionally soft Southern accents in English.

"It might be any where in the South today. Yes, the last Confederates live in Brazil. It has all turned out well, and things are just as they should be. They are proud Brazilians with an American heritage. In one corner at the front of the church stands the American flag, in the other the Brazilian. But they still do put a Confederate flag, the flag their ancestors fought for, over the pulpit during the church service."

development which biologically had been researched and learned in the days of the  
years of the late-19th century.

"They introduced a family of physicians and missionaries, life to  
Brazil. Two of Dr. Gaston's daughters married the Reverend Koff and Blackstone and  
stayed in Brazil after Dr. Gaston and his family left in 1881. James Miller's  
granddaughter, Kate Whitlock and her husband, were also missionaries in São  
Paulo. And there was a host of others in missionary service throughout Brazil.

"They brought a powerful impact to the Masonic world, for Emperor Dom Pedro,  
himself, was a Mason as well as one of the Confederates.

"They founded their own schools and intellectual institutions from which grew the  
present day Mackenzie College, today a university of considerable size in the city of São  
Paulo.

"In the number of medical doctors who had been exposed to the circumstances  
of the Civil War amongst the Confederate immigrants, they pioneered new concepts of  
medicine and surgery and created up-to-date hospitals.

"And of course they founded their own towns, American.

"Many are the Confederates in some part that section of Brazil. Yes, most  
have moved away to other parts of the nation. However, as all immigrants sooner or  
later have back, the descendants of the Confederate migration to Brazil have followed  
suit. In December 1922, they organized themselves into a brotherhood embracing the  
history of two nations, America and Brazil. Today they meet four times a year on a  
basis in the old country, O'Connell.

"They hold a Presbyterian church service in Fort Meade, then a meeting of the  
organization. Afterwards they adjourn for a county picnic where one finds Brazilian  
black beans (feijoada) and also along with Southern fried chicken, corn bread, peas  
and cakes right off a Southern table. One hears the sound of accented Portuguese  
and occasionally soft Southern accents in English.

"It might be any where in the South today. You can't tell the Confederates live in  
Brazil. It was all turned out well, and things are just as they should be. They are proud  
Brazilians with an American badge. In one corner in the front of the church stands the  
American flag, in the other the Brazilian. But they still do not a Confederate flag, the  
for their ancestors fought for over the world during the church service."