

GENEALOGY
OF THE
GRIGSBY FAMILY

IN PART
INCLUDING A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE
PORTER FAMILY

Republished by
ROBERT HALL McCORMICK
1905
CHICAGO

Published by
WILLIAM H. GRIGSBY
December, 1878

Genealogy of the Grigsby Family.

IN PART.

The Grigsbys are Anglo-Saxon. Goldsmith mentions their great number in England. [In drama "She Stoops to Conquer."] Josiah, in 1794, in the House of Commons, seconded the motion of the celebrated Earl Gray, later prime minister of England, for a reform in the representation of Parliament. The English ancestors of our family came over to Virginia in about the year 1660, on the restoration of Charles II.; and were on the side of the Puritans, as Independents.

John Grigsby was born, 1720, Stafford Co., Va. Was called "Soldier John" after he was one of Augustine Washington's company at the siege of Carthagen, &c. The tradition is that his parents came from Wales, (which even Julius Cæsar could not conquer.) It is known that he had three brothers: Thomas, Aaron and Redmond.

John married Miss Aitchison [Scotch] or Etchison, 1746, and settled on upper side Rapid Ann river, Culpepper Co.; where was born to them: James, Nov. 10, 1748; John, Oct. 15, '52; Charles, Apr. 6, '55; Sally, Dec. 30, '57; William, Dec. 6, '61.

This wife died, 1761 or '62, and in '64 John married Elizabeth Porter, daughter of Benjamin and Ann (Campbell) Porter, Orange Co., Va., who had settled there as early as 1730. (He was a native of England, and she or her parents came from Wales). She was a sister of JAMES Grigsby's first wife, Frances Porter. The children were; Ann, June 15, 1766; Joseph, July 6, '68; Jane, Nov. 17, '69; Rachel, May 7, '71; Martha, Sep. 19, '72; Elisha, May 17, '74; Elizabeth, Mar. 10, '76; Frances, Feb. 2, '78; Reuben, July 5, '80. All except Reuben were born in Culpepper Co.; and he in Rockbridge Co., at "Fruit Hill," where the parents had settled, Fall 1779. The father died, 1798 or '99. "He was a hard-working, industrious man; and was taken with his last illness while coopering a tobacco hogshead."

All the daughters, except Ann, who died in infancy, married at the old Rockbridge homestead. (Sally possibly excepted.)

SALLY married Thomas Welch, Culpepper Co.; they settled on the "Fancy Hill" farm, Rockbridge Co., in a mile or so of the old homestead, where they died in old age. Marriages of children: Mildred, Alexander McCorkle; Nancy, Wm. McCorkle; Rosa, Wm. Cunningham; Betsy, Benj. Darst; Benjamin, Charlotte Pitzer; Thomas, Elizabeth Grigsby [my aunt]; Rachel, Thomas Willson; Jenny, Benj. Holmes. Mildred was the mother of Rev. Dr. McCorkle, for many years pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Talladega, Ala.; but who about in 1872, returned to Rockbridge Co. He had at home, 1871, a grown son, Sylvester, (I believe,) a lad, Willie, and a charming Miss, Sally, a brunette. A very delightful family.

JANE married William Paxton, ruling-elder of Falling Spring Church, Rockbridge Co. Here she always lived. [My father, son of her brother William, after his mother's death, passed much of his boyhood in her home.] She was the mother of Gen. E. F. Paxton, Adjutant of "Stonewall" Jackson until he became Lieut.-Gen., and then succeeded to the command of the grandly famous "Stonewall Brigade"—(late in command of his cousin Andrew Jackson Grigsby)—at the head of which he was struck dead in the decisive charge at the battle of Chancellorsville.

Says Dabney's Life of Stonewall Jackson, page 709: "The last occupation of General Paxton on the battlefield, after he had placed his regiments in position, was to employ the interval of leisure in reading his New Testament; and that as he received the order to carry them into action, he replaced the book in his pocket and accompanied his command to move with a brief exhortation to those around him, to entrust their safety into the hand of the Almighty in the faithful performance of their duty." Again: Lieut. Smith, nurse, related to Jackson on his death bed "the magnificent onset of the Stonewall Brigade."—"They sprang forward and drove before them three-fold numbers with irresistible enthusiasm, and decided the great day. The general listened with glistening eyes; and after a strong effort to repress his tears said: 'It was just like them to do so; just like them. They are a noble body of men.' Smith replied: 'They have, indeed, behaved splendidly; but you can easily suppose, General, that it was not without the loss of many valuable men.' His anxiety was immediately aroused, and he asked quickly: 'Have you heard of any one that is killed?' Said Smith: 'Yes, sir; I am sorry to say, they have lost their commander.' He exclaimed, 'Paxton? Paxton?' Smith—'Yes, sir; he has fallen.' Thereupon, he turned his face to the wall; closed his eyes, and remained a long time quiet, laboring to suppress his emotion. He then, without any other expression of his own sense of bereavement, began to speak in a serious and tender strain of the genius and virtues of that officer." [I am proud that my father was his cousin, and that they were reared in the same family. A short time before he died, (1856,) he revived to speech, and addressed his "Aunt JANE," about "Falling Spring Church." He had very frequently said: "She was all the 'mother,' I can remember of having."]

RACHEL married Alex. McNutt; MARTHA, Alex. Trimble. [A Trimble married my Aunt.] ELIZABETH, Wm. McNutt. All of Rockbridge Co. FRANCES ("Franky") married Thomas Beckham, Culpepper Co., "Clover Hill;" lived and died there, aged 60. Their children were: James A., John Grigsby, (who lived for many years in Warrenton, Fauquier Co., and now resides in Prince William Co.) Mary married Samuel Porter; moved to Liberty Co., Mo., and reared a large family. Martha, Dr. Lewis, to Ark.; Hannah died, unmarried, when about 35 years of age; Abner Porter (quite a scholar) died when about 21 years old; Frances Jane Thomas married David S. Gwin, Bath Co., only surviving son of David Gwin, Revolutionary soldier. They lived at Alexandria, Va., from 1853 to her death, Oct., 1871. He now resides in Baltimore, with his oldest son, Thomas T., who married his cousin, Maggie Mohler, Rockingham Co., daughter of Jane, youngest child of ELISHA Grigsby. (Thomas had a daughter [deceased] named Fannie Grigsby.) The second son, James, was killed by an accident when 4 years old; and four other children died before coming of age. David William married Jennie Crawford Howell, daughter of Rev. R. B. C. Howell, D. D., (for a quarter century pastor of the First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., and died in 1861,) and sister

of Edith Serena Howell, who, 1877, married Andrew Jackson Grigsby, that city, (whom I believe to be a son of James Scott, eldest son of JOSEPH Grigsby.) Rev. David William Gwin, D. D., is pastor of the First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., and was for the eight years preceding pastor in Montgomery, Ala. He is not only a fine scholar, a reasonable eloquent and popular preacher, but also a very cordial and public-spirited gentleman in society. His little son Grigsby Toy [named also for a Norfolk, Va., family] died in 1871. The living children are Howell, Crawford and Gertrude. The Doctor was 40 years old 6th Dec. last. Fannie Viola married a Powers, and they live at Mt. Sterling, Ky., [where is living a Grigsby family.] Mary S. unmarried; the others are Ella F., Laviece and George. A sister died when 7 years old named Eliza Grigsby.

JAMES, in 1768, married Frances ["Franky"] Porter, Orange Co., youngest sister of his father's second wife. [These sisters were the mother and aunt of the Porter sisters who married the brothers, ELISHA and REUBEN Grigsby.] Soon after they moved from Culpepper Co., and settled in Rockbridge Co., on the farm first below "Fancy Hill" where his sister SALLY lived. Here were born unto them: Benjamin Porter, Sep. 18, 1770; John, Mar. 7, '72; Mary, May 27, '74; Hannah, Oct. 10, '77; Simeon, Dec. 18, '79. The mother of this family died not long after the birth of Simeon, and was buried near the top of sloping ground in the rear of her last dwelling place. There, too, and by her side, John was buried, who died in early youth. Simeon was lost at sea, by the foundering of the vessel in which he sailed from Norfolk for New Orleans, where he intended to settle and practice law. Mary and Hannah were "the two pretty little girls" noticed and spoken of by the Marquis of Chastellux in his Travels through Virginia, to see the Natural Bridge, etc. Mary married a Wier, and their son Adolphus and my father were clerks in the Clerk's office of Rockbridge Co. Hannah married a Snodgrass, and they moved to Georgia. I met her for a few moments, Dec. 1871, in Giles Co., Tenn. She was the most intelligent and sprightly old woman I ever saw; and she was in her 95th year of age. Her memory was very active and her speech rapid and concise. Intending to see her again, (which I could not make convenient,) I took no notes of her familiar family knowledge. She may be still living.

Benjamin Porter Grigsby married a daughter of Hugh and Liliast (Blair) McPherson. (He was a Highlander and she Virginian.) This son became a clergyman, and was the father of Hugh Blair Grigsby, LL.D., born in 1806. (Graduate of Yale.) The Doctor married a Miss Carrington; removed from Norfolk in 1861, where for 4 or 5 years—about 1830—he was interested in a daily paper; but nearly ever since he has been a heavy tobacco planter. He now lives at Charlotte C.-H., Va. They have a son, Hugh Carrington, born in 1856, now being educated at Hampden-Sidney College; and a beautiful daughter named Mary Blair, now about 18 years of age. She has a fair, brilliant complexion; flaxen hair, and impressive presence. As the Doctor says, and as her picture shows, "She is thoroughly Anglo-Saxon, after the Grigsby side of the house." He writes in a letter: "It is to daughters, and not to sons, that the father must look for the delicate and unnameable kindnesses so grateful to declining years. Not that sons fail in duty to their sires: but the tender and perpetual offices to be rendered to the old are in some measure extraneous to the masculine temperament. That this is not a new thought of mine, you may see from 'Lines to my Daughter on her Fourteenth Birthday,' which I wrote at her request." [A very unpretentious title to quite a fine book!] Again: "Mere wealth goes but a little way with me, unless it has been won

by the honest exercise of the sterling qualities of the head and heart” * * * “Religion is strictly a personal concern; and each one must act for one’s self, under a solemn sense of the responsibilities of time and eternity: not forgetting that a true way has been vouchsafed to us, which we are bound to follow.” He is a member of the American Philosophical Society and of the Historical Society of Virginia, Pennsylvania, &c., &c. In the leisure of an active business life, he has become the author of several published works—the Life and Character of Gov. Tazewell, History of the Convention of 1798, Centennial Discourse on the Origin and History of Hampden-Sidney College, &c., &c. He has largely discussed political economy.

Considerable time after the death of his first wife, JAMES married Rebecca Wallace, widow of Col. Samuel Wallace, Rockbridge Co., parents of Elizabeth, wife of CHARLES Grigsby. They had three children: John, Etchison and Samuel. John’s family were, so far as I know: Margaret, James, John, William, Edward W. and Benjamin. Margaret married a Garrison, and in 1872 lived in Limestone Co., Ala. James, (then lately dead) was the father of John Pitt Grigsby, Bethel, Tenn.; who, like his father was, is a man of great physical power, and on my visit enthusiastically read to me from Bryant’s Homer. [He appreciates the stalking prowess of the gods!] He was married to a Miss Readus, whose brother married his sister Tiara. The only other living member of this family, in 1872, was Margaret, the handsome wife of Dr. Mason, Prospect, Tenn. John, William, and Benjamin were old bachelors, and are dead. Edward W.’s children were: Sally (Baugh,) Caroline (Copeland), Nancy (Griffis,) Edward, Jennie, Lucy, John and Ida—who is especially educated, accomplished, aspiring, and very good looking, indeed! All the brothers were wealthy. [Elkton, Tenn.]

JAMES moved to East Tenn., and settled in Sequatchee Valley, Bledsoe Co. His third wife [where married, I know not] was Mary Ann Mondon; and they had one daughter, Mondaner, and seven sons: William, James, Louis, Charles, Wilkison, Newton and Calvin. Mondaner and Charles were living in Dec., 1876. Uncle REUBEN describes a visit to him in the Valley, 1834; and he died February following, in the 87th year of his age. When a young man he was a member of the General Assembly of Va.

JOHN married a Miss Watson, South Carolina, and thence to Ala. Mrs. — (Grigsby) Holston, wife of Stanmore Holston, La Fayette, Ala., is a grand-daughter. Her mother, a widow Grigsby, was living with her in 1872. Two charming daughters then graced her pleasant home; both have married.

CHARLES married Elizabeth, daughter of Col. Samuel Wallace, sister of James and Andrew, of Rockbridge Co., and step-daughter from 7 years old of JAMES Grigsby. Soon after marriage, they went to Tenn. They reared 13 children; of whom all but the two youngest married: James, Margaret Houston; Sally, Wm. Greenway; Martha, Edward Anderson; Rebecca, Benj. Cleaveland; Samuel, Dorcas Wiley; William, Mary Greenway; Mary, John McKinsey; Nathaniel, Temperance Bowin; Caroline, Chesley Carter; John Etchison, (3) Susan Roberts, Mahala Gammon, and Elizabeth Cook; Charlotta, Wm. Scrivner; Elizabeth and Benjamin. In Dec., 1876, these were living: Sally, Samuel, William, Nathaniel, John Etchison, Charlotta and Elizabeth. CHARLES, the father, died about the year 1816. John Etchison was born about in 1810. [P. O., Cleaveland, Bradley Co., Tenn.] He reared 9 children to be grown—1st wife: Samuel, born Feb. 20, 1834, married Mary Gonce; William, May 18, ’37, Ann Ingle;

Benj. F., Sep. 14, '40, Elizabeth Roberts. 2nd wife: Mary, April 27, '46, Robert Privette; Ann, May 25, '47, Charles Maynard; Hannah, Aug. 30, '48, Polk Runyan; Charles, Mar. 30, '50; James, Dec. 7, '51, Malinda Runyan; Susan, Aug. 30, '53. No children of third marriage.

WILLIAM* married Sally Porter, I think of Culpepper Co., and they had five daughters and two sons: Polly, Jane, Elizabeth, Sally, John, (who died in early youth,) Samuel and Caroline. He always lived in Rockbridge Co., and died about in 1830. It is my impression that Polly married a Trimble; Jane never married; Elizabeth, Thomas Welch; Sally, a Porter or a Darst, and Caroline, a Templeton. The latter with her husband went in 1825 or '26 to live near Liberty, Ind. Samuel, my father, was born May 20, 1803. He was called "Little Sam" in the same neighborhood with Samuel the youngest son of his uncle JAMES and aunt Rebecca. He wrote when a youth in the Clerk's office of Rockbridge Co., with Adolphus Wier (older,) son of his cousin Mary. As before stated, after his mother's death, when he was probably about 5 years old, much of his boyhood was passed at the home of his aunt JANE Paxton, at "Falling Spring." In about 1823, he was taught and practiced architecture and carpentry, according to a Scotchman named Balingall on the building of a house for his uncle ELISHA, or it might have been REUBEN, or for both. In this work he had his left eye put out accidentally. In 1826 he visited his sister in Indiana; lived a while in Nashville and New Orleans, and on June 11, 1836, he married Sarah Tharp, daughter of a wealthy gentleman at Pekin, Ills., who had moved there from Ky., and who had in all with one wife 16 grown children, and lived to be over 95 years old. Next year he stopped a few months at Belleville, Ills., on his way to a 9 years' residence in S. W. Mo. Most of the time there he was Clerk of Court, and repeatedly declined urgent requests to stand as Whig candidate for Congress. In 1846 he returned to Pekin, on a visit; but bought a farm 5 miles in the country near the Bloomington road. In 1856 he moved to Lancaster, Iowa. Here on the 31st day of October, of that year, he died. He would not be, but he might have been, one of the leading men of this country. I know I speak critically and with due discrimination, when I pronounce him to have been the most reasonable and best informed man I ever knew, and ever above a mean act, and strictly honest. Said Dr. C. A. Roberts, (now a prominent politician of Illinois, then our family physician,) "he had the most powerful constitution I ever saw." Though not a tall man, his strength and activity were wonderful. His brain was alike strong and vigorous, and his head was over 24 inches around. But he had an unutterable aversion to public life after his Electoral canvass for Henry Clay, to find him beaten by "one James K. Polk!" Moreover, while making a speech in Ozark Co., the Polkites and roughs mobbed him with stones, almost causing his death outright; as it was thereby brought on after twelve years of constant decline. I am his only child, and was born near Springfield, Mo., Oct. 28, 1838.† From before my teens to father's death, I supported the family on a farm. Then, at 18, prepared for college in a machine shop and on R. R. engineer corps. Left Illinois State University at the breaking up of the Charleston Presidential Convention; became editor on daily paper, and declared war as certain if Lincoln became elected—never doubted; in Dec. following went to New York, to see the opening of what I predicted would be "a seven-years war." In Sept., 1861, walked from there to the Ohio river; worked my passage to St. Louis; went to Springfield, my birth-place—in short, gave my time to the war thus even before it began to the surrender, in one way or another. Have

three wounds—in front; was taken prisoner once, but got away under very unhealthy circumstances. Prepared for theological seminary as printer in New York, Boston, and Harvard Square; graduated therein July, 1868; immediately settled as pastor. Married Mellie Willard† Aug. 17th following. On October 12, 1869, had deathly lung-hemorrhage, from overwork; recuperated in Ala., Ga. and Tenn., as missionary—travelled about 5,000 miles, till Dec., 1871. I wrote Hon. A. H. Stephens' School History at his dictation; was city editor of his *Atlanta Daily Sun* for six months; for 4½ years clerk Executive Department; and for 1½ following superintendent Experimental Farm of the University of Georgia. At once engaged as editor of the *Daily Evening Post* of this city; am now putting my affairs in shape to go to Washington, D. C. (Phonographer.) *Have lost no time;* but have lived a rushing life. || Children: May Serena, born Jan. 6, 1870; Willard Channing, Feb. 28, '73; Belle, May 25, '75, and died ¶ July 11, '76; §Ida Virginia, Oct. 19, '78. Healthy and vigorous, *Miss-achievous* and *boy-steerous*!

JOSEPH married Mary Ashley Warren Scott (south side James river) in 1811 or 1812. To them were born: Jane Ashley, Eliza Scott [born July 4, 1815; died Nov. 28, 1820,] James Scott, John Warren and Andrew Jackson. In Dec., 1820, the father when returning from a visit to Missouri, died at the house of Mr. Sharp, near Winchester, Tenn. He was buried in the family graveyard of the Messrs. Sharp. A plain tomb of Tennessee marble incloses his grave. Jane Ashley married Rev. James Walker Goss of Orange Co. She lived in 1876 in Albemarle Co. James Scott married [Hannah?] Judith Porter, daughter of Benjamin, son of Abner [and Hannah Ingram?] Porter of Orange Co. This was the father probably of James and Andrew Jackson Grigsby of Nashville, Tennessee; where also their widowed mother lives—neice of the wife of ELISHA Grigsby. John Warren married Susan Shelby, grand-daughter of General Shelby, Ex-Governor of Ky. He was Consul to France during the administrations of Presidents Harrison, Tyler and Polk. He lived at Danville, Ky., and was at the time of his death [Jan., 1877] a member of the General Assembly of that State; and was therein a leader in educational affairs. Ex-Governor and U. S. Senator Stevenson said of him the summer before his death: "We live in the same town; he is one of my most intimate friends: a man of exalted character, and one of the most distinguished men of Ky." The *Danville Advocate* said: * * * "This entire people from the humblest to the highest had other than ordinary regard for him; for in him were centered all the qualities that make a man at once noble and pure, generous, just and great. His faultless Christian deportment; his unswerving fidelity to correct principle in detail; his ready recognition of merit in the humble or the more exalted, and his abhorrence of meanness in either, rendered him eminently adapted to the high social position he has always enjoyed at home and abroad. As a benefactor and servant of the people of whom they were proud, his race is run; but in memory his name will be revered," &c. Said the *Lexington Press*: * * * "The solemn peal of the organ, the impressive service, and the beautiful emblems of purity, faith and hope which covered the casket, seemed to find a response in the hearts of the audience in harmony with, and inspired by, the profound respect and deep veneration which the character of the deceased had impressed upon all men. There lay the remains of one who had been brave, generous, unselfish and pure throughout a life of nearly three score years; one whose life had been one perpetual act of sublime faith in God and man; and the response of every heart was in accord with the beautiful fitness of the service

and the emblems to the character of the deceased." &c. Other journals of like tenor. He took an active, zealous and commanding part in the war. Andrew Jackson is a bachelor; a few years ago he was living with his sister, the widow Goss. At first he commanded the 27th Regiment in the Stonewall Brigade; and being senior colonel was frequently in command of that Brigade. As at Harpers Ferry—Dabney's Life of Jackson says, an important point was to be taken—"He [*Stonewall*] directed the Stonewall Brigade, under command of Colonel Grigsby, to seize it. This was done." &c. At Sharpsburg: "Early on informing Jackson of his critical position, he assigned to Colonel Grigsby the task of holding the left column in check. * * * Early advanced in conjunction with Semmes, Grigsby and Stafford. By this combined attack they [the enemy] were swept summarily with great loss from the woods, and the lines were finally restored." Dabney styles him "the dauntless Col. Grigsby." [His cousin Gen. E. F. Paxton, Jackson's Adjutant till put in command of the Brigade, was killed at its head; as before stated.]

ELISHA married Elizabeth Hawkins Porter, daughter of Abner and Hannah (Ingram) Porter. Their children were: Abner, A. P., who married Margaret Thompson of Rockbridge Co., and in a few years afterward settled at Winston, Tenn. He was for years Treasurer of the Mobile & Ohio R. R. These were the parents of Wm. T. Grigsby of Trenton, Tenn. His mother lived there in 1874. He and a brother proudly "wore the Gray." Hannah Ingram married David Greenlee of Rockbridge Co., where they reared a family. John went to Mo.; married and died there, leaving two sons named John and Elisha as infants to the care of his widow. John, just after the war, was strongly urged editorially in the old *Mo. Republican* for Democratic candidate for Congress [4th Dist., I think.] Probably didn't stand. Joseph married a Miss Wier, in Mississippi. They had several children. He left home on a speculation trip to California, and died on his way out. Verlinda married Thomas Scott of Campbell Co., Va. Here she died; leaving two children, Elisha and Nancy ("Nannie.") Jane married Jacob Mohler of Rockingham Co.; where she died, leaving a family of sons and daughters. Mollie married Thomas T. Gwin, grandson of her aunt FRANCES, and brother of Rev. Dr. Gwin. She lives in Baltimore.

REUBEN married Verlinda A. Porter, a sister of the wife of ELISHA. Their children were: Jacqueline A., Lucien P. [a bachelor about 50 years old; has lived in Rockbridge Co. until a few years ago, and then became interested in Springs elsewhere.] Abner Joseph, George Hugh Blair, Hannah Frances, who married John G. Hamilton; [to whom were born Reubenia (died in 4th year,) Verlinda, Mary Cornelia, "Abbey" Joseph, William Taliaferro, Maria Temple, Bettie and Emma Virginia.] Elizabeth Jane, Mary Ann, who married Wm. McCormick [of Reaper fame;] she lived for years in Chicago, Ills., but now resides in Baltimore, in a grand home said to be "a \$90,000 palace." [Their children were named: Robert Hall, (afterwards changed by him to Robert Sanderson as he had an elder cousin by that name, a son of Leander J. McCormick,) William, Mary Verlinda [died in 2nd year,] Emma Louise, and Reubenia, who married Dr. S. Temple Chandler; [to whom were born: Hugh Blair (died in infancy,) De Lacy Morgan, Lucy Verlinda, Joseph Sanderson, Anna Hamilton, Emma Temple and Frank Paxton.] Lucy Maria married Norborne E. Chandler. [Their children were: John [died in infancy,] Reuben, Walter Temple, Frank Porter [died in 3rd year,] Verlinda Porter, Lucien Hamilton, Mary Blair and Elizabeth Gertrude.] Reuben W. W.

Emma, who married a Mr. Herbert; has no children. She lived several years ago in Savannah; but lives now in Nashville. Benjamin died in infancy, and was buried with the mother of the family in the cemetery of Falling Spring Church in Rockbridge Co.; where about in 1860, was also buried by her side the father. He was about 80 years old. I corresponded with him, immediately before the war on our homes; he was then living, I think, at "Fruit Hill," the dear and blessed OLD HOMESTEAD of us all.

There is a Dr. E. O. Grigsby, DeView, Ark. Others near Florence, Ala. Also a Rev. Mr. Grigsby living near Blountsville, that State. Another Reverend of that name in East Tenn. At a camp-meeting he saw that there was too much dust about the "revival" railing; thereupon he rushed up into the pulpit and shouted: "M o r e s t r a w ! ! O brethren! immortal souls being lost forever and ever—for want of *s t r a w ! ! !*"

Grigsby E. Thomas, Jr., son of the late Judge Grigsby Eskridge Thomas, son of Frederick Grigsby Thomas, of Hancock Co., Ga. [whose grand-mother's maiden name was Rebecca Eskridge,] lives in Columbus, Ga. He has been re-appointed four times, I think, by Governors to be Solicitor of his county. He is or was Secretary of the First Presbyterian Church of that city. He wrote me: "I have heard my father say that he was often told by his parents, that he was expected to maintain each of his three family names with honor and credit to the names and to himself." The question appears to be this: *What Grigsby woman was the mother of Frederick Grigsby Thomas?*

References.

* In Dec., 1860, I left my father's family Bible record, and many valuable books and documents, with a room-mate (Jehu Little) at the Illinois State Normal University. He went into the Federal army. Since the war I have been unable to find them. Hence I speak entirely from memory respecting my grand-father WILLIAM's family; and much so of others of the relatives. He was a Revolutionary soldier; was wounded at Guilford C.-H.

BRIEF SKETCH OF THE PORTER FAMILY.

For these and many foregoing facts, I confess obligation to Dr. Hugh Blair Grigsby.

As connected with the Grigsbys above the ancestors were Benjamin and Ann (Campbell) Porter; as shown. They settled in Orange Co., 12 or 15 miles from Culpepper C.-H., on the Rapid Ann river, about 1730; where they reared six sons and three daughters. Four of these sons became owners of fine landed estates in that region. The other sons went to Georgia; married there, and became wealthy. Benjamin, the oldest child and son, married Mary Smith, of Rockingham. They had two children only, George and Benjamin; both of whom died in early manhood, leaving their father possessed of a large estate. Elizabeth married John Grigsby (the elder); and the youngest daughter married his eldest son, James. These were the mother and aunt of the Porter sisters that married the brothers Elisha and Reuben Grigsby. William, another brother, [my grand-father] married Sallie Porter; James Scott Grigsby, their nephew, married [Hannah?] Judith Porter and my aunt Sallie married [I think] a Porter. William Porter, of Orange Co., I have heard lately, married a Grigsby. Mrs. Harvey Hatcher, Orange C.-H., is his daughter, I believe, and is a cousin of Rev. J. William Jones, D. D., Secretary Southern Historical Society, [Editor "Papers."] Richmond, Virginia.

The Semmes family (of which the Admiral was only one of the famous,) and the Porters are blood kin. Sarah [Semmes] Conley, wife of Hon. Benj. Conley, [Ex-Gov. of Georgia, and for many years, as at present, Postmaster of Atlanta, Ga.,] is a grand-daughter of a sister of the wives of Elisha and Reuben Grigsby. Her sister [wife of George Clayton,] lives also in this city, and has a fine family of children.

Christmas, 1878.

W. H. GRIGSBY.