

Our Gordon Family

A Genealogical

AND

Biographical Record

BY

SPENCER GORDON



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SPENCER GORDON



JOHN GORDON

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FOREWORD

IN 1913 George B. Gordon, of Pittsburgh, published and presented to the members of the family a book containing the autobiography of his father Alexander Gordon, a number of old letters, and other historical data. From this book is derived our knowledge of the first three generations of Gordons of our branch in this country.

I am of the fifth generation in America, and there is already a seventh generation. I have felt that someone should collect and distribute again the family information as now available, lest with the passage of time some part of the record may be irretrievably lost.

“Pride of family,” said Alexander Gordon, “is a Scotch characteristic; we may place as much store, or as little, by this as we feel disposed to.” But his sister Eleanor Griswold wrote, “For my part I always felt proud of my ancestry on account of their sterling integrity.”

As this is a book of Gordons, the text contains sketches only of those bearing that name. A more complete roster of the descendants of our Gordons is contained in the genealogical tables at the conclusion.

I intend to give copies to all the family. Some naturally will be more interested than others, but if everyone puts it on his library shelf, and if the world lasts, there should be a few copies still in the family fifty years from now. Some history-minded Gordon may then take up the story again.

SPENCER GORDON.

Washington, D. C.
March 13, 1941.



WILLIAM ALEXANDER GORDON

The Gordons

THE FIRST DEFINITE reference that I have to a Gordon is that a laird of Berwickshire bearing that name was killed at the battle of the Standard in 1138. We know that King David I of Scotland (1124–1153) called many Normans from England to aid him against rebellious subjects, and bestowed lands available by forfeiture to those best soldiers of the time. There was a village of Gourdon in southwest France, which some early historians associate with the family. The place held by the Gordons in the feudal system, and their decidedly martial character, are consistent with Norman origin.

The ballads testify that they were a powerful border family. When the doughty Douglas rode to meet Lord Percy he chose “the gallant Gordons gay,” and

“The Gordons good in English blood
They steeped their hose and shoon;”

at the Battle of Otterburn, known as Chevy Chase.

“There never was knight like the young Lochinvar,”
sang Sir Walter Scott, and Robert Burns tells us that,

“There ne’er was a coward o’ Kenmure’s blude,
Nor yet o’ Gordon’s line.”

Sir Adam Gordon supported Robert Bruce, who rewarded him with the lordship of Strathbogie in Aberdeenshire, to which Gordon gave the name Huntly from a village on his estate in Berwickshire. A branch of the family then migrated to the north of Scotland, while another remained near the border.

The northern Gordons quickly overran the neighboring territory and their rule was extended to include the greater part of northern Scotland. A castle was established at Huntly, the ruins of which are still magnificent. Their chieftains were earls, then

marquises, then dukes, practically sovereign in their domains during the turbulent days of Scottish history, and bearing the popular title of "Cock of the North."

"The gool, the Gordon, and the hoodie crow
Are the three worst foes that Moray ever saw."

Meanwhile the southern branch of the family was prominent in Galloway and the adjoining counties. I have mentioned the Lochinvar branch. Kenmure is also a Gordon name, and we find the head of that house as one of the leaders of the Jacobite rebellion of 1715.

"There's Gordons in the North, Willie,
Are rising frank and free;
Shall a Kenmure Gordon not go forth
For the King that's on the sea."

"The great point about the Gordons is their great vitality under all conditions—the more adverse the better," wrote John Malcolm Bulloch, the historian of the family, who was *not* a Gordon. "Other families have risen and disappeared or become immensely weakened, but the Gordons remain, and the vast ramifications of the clan are to be found all over the world."

The arms of all branches of the family bear the boar's head, and their badge is the ivy.



JOHN GARDNER GORDON

Origin of Our American Family

ALEXANDER GORDON was our first ancestor in America. Our only accounts of his origin are contained in the meager statements of his grandchildren written in 1866 and 1879.

“My grandfather’s parents came from Scotland to Ireland; whether my grandfather was born in Ireland or Scotland I know not; all I know is that they belonged to some branch of the great Gordon families of Scotland, and belonged to the gentry.”—Alexander Gordon, *Autobiography*, 1879.

“* * * All I know of our ancestors is this. My grandfather came to this country direct from Ireland, he emigrated there from Scotland but soon left for this country on account of his religion, being a staunch Presbyterian he would not pay tithes to the Church of England. His object in going there was to heir a wealthy Aunt, who was so displeased at his leaving that she disinherited him. He only lived a short time after he came here. First settled in Berks County, Penn’a.”—Eleanor Griswold to William Alexander Gordon, October 20, 1866.

That they knew so little is understandable. Their grandfather had died before they were born, and their father had died when they were children. They were raised by their widowed mother in what was then the western country. Their frequent change of base would tend to the destruction of records and the obliteration of memories.

Thus we have no means of knowing which of the many branches of the family in Scotland is ours. Alexander Gordon states that we “belonged to the gentry.” The pictures of John Gordon and his brother William so indicate. The correspondence between these two and their sisters from 1795 to 1811 portrays them as persons of education and refinement, attributes not quickly acquired in those days.

On two trips to Scotland I have tried to trace some connection of Alexander Gordon with families there,

but have become convinced that it will be almost impossible to do so. In Edinburgh are assembled the records of all the parishes of Scotland. There are literally hundreds of parishes where the prolific family of Gordon abounded, and there were innumerable Alexander Gordons.

If we knew where Alexander Gordon married Betsy Boden a start might be made by finding a record of the marriage. My cousin Gordon Gordon tried this in Belfast but without success. To search all the marriage records of the period from Galloway alone would be a labor of many months. If we knew the parish from which they came or the name of any estate owned by the family the task might be comparatively easy, but without that knowledge we probably shall never establish a definite connection. There is one remaining possibility which some descendant better endowed than I may some time try and which I shall mention at the conclusion of this chapter.

I am convinced that Alexander Gordon came from the Galloway branch of the family, and not from the northern branch. We know that he came by way of Ireland which is just across from Galloway, but remote in those days from Aberdeenshire. The southern Gordons were Presbyterians, as was Alexander, while the northern Gordons were staunch Catholics. Many southern Gordons came to America in the early days.

I have always been fascinated by the statement of Eleanor Griswold

“ . . . I recollect when a child hearing Aunt Jane tell of a Sir George William Gordon, a near relation, who was beheaded for treason. I felt ashamed of it, and once modestly suggested that it would be agreeable to me if she would keep reticent on the subject. She answered: Foolish child, it shows that you have noble blood, had he been a Plebeian he would have been hanged.”



JOSEPHINE L. GORDON

1864

While many heads fell among the northern Gordons, the occasions were a hundred years and more before Alexander Gordon came to America. But there was a famous execution of a southern Gordon of a date then comparatively recent. William Gordon, 6th Viscount Kenmure, one of the leaders of the Jacobite rebellion, was tried before the House of Lords, pleaded guilty, and was beheaded February 24, 1716. He was a gallant gentleman, the hero of two lovely poems, and I like to think that perhaps we are related to him. He was the son of Alexander, 5th Viscount, and descended from Sir John Gordon of Lochinvar, whose grandson another Sir John Gordon was created Viscount Kenmure in 1633. The names of Alexander, John and William have a familiar ring, and although the connection must only be an hypothesis it is a pleasant one.

Perhaps some wealthy Gordon, if there ever is one, can begin with these Kenmure Gordons and can ascertain whether any one of them had a descendant Alexander who went to Ireland and then to America in approximately 1765. A start can be made from information on pages lx and lvii of the biographical appendix to the preface of the three volume "The House of Gordon" by John Malcolm Bulloch.

First Generation

ALEXANDER GORDON came to America from Belfast, Ireland, with his wife about the year 1765. He first settled in Berks County, Pennsylvania, and later lived at Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

His grandson Alexander Gordon, writing in 1879, states that the wife of the original Alexander Gordon was Betsy Boden, and mentions one Andrew Boden, a Congressman from Pennsylvania, as "a cousin of my father." Eleanor A. G. Griswold, his granddaughter, writing in 1866 gives the wife's name as Mary Campbell. I think that her name must have been Boden, perhaps Mary Boden, for in several old books printed in 1750 formerly in the possession of their great-grandson John Gordon appear the names of Mary Boden and Alexander Gordon. Nor do I think it likely that there would have been a marriage in those days between a Gordon and a Campbell. But if her descendants disagreed about her name they were in unanimity in regard to her character. Alexander Gordon records that Dr. Brown of Jefferson College told him

"My Grandmother Gordon was the most godly woman that he ever knew"

and Mrs. Griswold wrote that she was

" . . . a remarkable woman, high spirited, well educated and very pious. I often heard Pa say that when she spanked him she always took him into a private room, prayed over him, and then thrashed away in good style. He venerated his mother."

Alexander Gordon and his wife were members of the Secession Church, a branch of Presbyterians.

"All he cared for was entertaining clergymen, reading his Bible and praying."

Four volumes remain from his library, a copy of Rutherford's Letters, Edinburgh 1761, a volume of



WILLIAM ALEXANDER GORDON

1863

sermons, “The View of the Covenant of Grace” by Thomas Boston, Edinburgh 1750, and “Christ the Peoples Covenant” by Ralph Erskin, Belfast 1751.

Alexander Gordon died at Carlisle in 1795, and his wife shortly after. They are buried in the Seceder Burying Ground.

They had five children, John, William, Mary, Jean, and Eliza.

Second Generation

JOHN GORDON, son of Alexander Gordon, was born in Pennsylvania, and married Maria Gardner of York, Pennsylvania, in 1802. In 1816 he was living at 111 North Howard Street, Baltimore. The following account of John Gordon and his wife is contained in the Autobiography of his son Alexander Gordon.

“* * * He died in the year 1818, in the prime of life of Typhus Fever. At the time of his death was in the mercantile business on Bolys wharf, Baltimore; residence Federal Hill, where he had a rope-walk; was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He had the reputation of being an honorable, upright man. . . .

“My father had traveled much in foreign lands, had resided in the West Indies, Dutch Guiana and Quito, South America; in the East Indies, at Batavia and in China; in the North of Europe, and at Paris and London. His contact with the people of many countries made him quite a polished gentleman. He spoke most of the modern languages. Baltimore being a seaport town, he associated very largely with foreigners, particularly Frenchmen.

“As to his religious belief, I know nothing, except that he was an attendant at Dr. Duncan’s church in Baltimore, an independent Presbyterian Church, not connected with the General Assembly. . . .

“Owing to endorsements that he had to pay, and his death occurring at a time of unexampled difficulty in the business affairs of our Country, growing out of the war of 1812-1815, his estate paid nothing to his heirs, though I have been informed by respectable citizens of Baltimore, that if it had been placed in competent hands the result might have been very different; as it was, my mother was left in poverty, with seven children, the oldest 16 years, the youngest one year. . . .

“My mother left Baltimore immediately after my father’s death. With the assistance of some of his friends she obtained a stock of goods and opened a store in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where resided some of my father’s relatives. She

was doing very well and would have been able to make a good living for her family had it not been for the failure of the bank in which she had deposited her money . . . In consequence of this she had to wind up her business, and begin the world anew. . . .

“There was nothing for my mother left but to go to York, Pennsylvania, to my Grandmother Gardner’s with her six children. My grandmother was living alone in a house large enough to hold us all, and was in circumstances which enabled her to keep our family, which she was willing to do, and was unwilling that the family should leave her when the time came that they decided on going west. . . .

“I would here say that my mother received some assistance from my brother, William A., from the time of his appointment to a clerkship in Washington, but had to sacrifice her jewelry and some of her silver plate spoons, &c. in educating her children, which was done cheerfully, as she was very anxious to keep up the respectability of the family by education.”

Mrs. Gordon later took her family to Canton, Ohio, and then to Pittsburgh. She died in Alleghany, Pennsylvania, September 27, 1847. The seven children of John and Maria Gardner Gordon were William Alexander, Eleanor, Maria Louisa, Alexander, John Gardner, Lavinia, and Franklin.

WILLIAM GORDON, son of Alexander Gordon, was in partnership with his brother John. The Autobiography of Alexander Gordon contains a number of interesting letters written by him from various parts of the world. He died unmarried on the Island of St. Domingo, March 3, 1811.

MARY GORDON, daughter of Alexander Gordon, married — Morris, and lived in Washington, Pennsylvania, where Morris “kept a tavern” in 1832 when her nephew Alexander Gordon visited them. She died without issue. Alexander Gordon writes:

“I cannot leave this account of the Gordons without some notice of the only two of them that I was personally ac-

quainted with, sisters of my father, Jane Gordon who died unmarried and Mrs. Mary Morris who died without issue. They emigrated from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to Washington County, Western Pennsylvania, which was then a wilderness, about the beginning of this century. They were good representatives of that old Scotch-Irish stock which has given character to Western Pennsylvania and the adjacent parts of Virginia and North Carolina, and which it still, to some extent, retains; rigid Presbyterians, psalm singers, pure and honest, we shall not see their like again; peace to their ashes."

JEAN GORDON, daughter of Alexander Gordon, went to Washington, Pennsylvania, with her sister. She is called "Jane" by her nephew Alexander Gordon, but her brothers addressed her as "Jean" in their correspondence. Eleanor Griswold wrote in 1866:

"* * * Aunt Jane told of another cousin, a Captain Gordon, who came to this country with a servant, dogs and gun on a hunting expedition, remained one season and made his home with them. He was in the British Army. They did not like him, he was too aristocratic. He supplied their table with game and wanted to marry Aunt Jane. The Gordons were great democrats and would not listen to it an instant, one reason was he used profane language. I think Aunt Jane loved him. Thus she became an old maid."

ELIZA GORDON, daughter of Alexander Gordon. My only information as to her existence comes from letters written by John and William Gordon. She was very ill in 1806.

The Autobiography of Alexander Gordon contains the following:

"* * * As persons of the same name have at different periods made efforts to claim relationship with our family, I would here say that my father's brothers died bachelors, and his sisters without issue, so that it is not probable that any of the same name will ever be found related to us except my father's descendants."

I do not know what he meant by his father's "brothers". The only brother of John Gordon of



J. HOLDSWORTH GORDON

1862

whom I have ever heard was William. But it seems reasonably clear that the children of John were the only survivors of the family.

The first three generations of our family in this country are shown on Table I at the end of this book.

Third Generation

WILLIAM ALEXANDER GORDON, son of John Gordon, was born in Baltimore, November 24, 1803. After the death of his father he obtained an appointment to West Point, and was there for two years. The tradition is that he was selected by his classmates to complain about the food, that the commissary was improved, but that he was eliminated. In 1824 he became a clerk in the office of the Quartermaster General of the Army, and remained there throughout his life, serving in his later years as Chief Clerk. He married Glorvina Blake November 4, 1830. They lived in Georgetown, where he was a regular attendant of Christ Church (Episcopal). He was a Democrat, remaining such until his death, and despite this fact was not removed from office, notwithstanding the bitter partisanship of the various administrations under which he served and the further fact that his oldest son was in the Confederate Army. His son Holdsworth wrote,

“My father was a fine specimen of manhood. Nearly if not quite six feet high: erect in figure and of commanding presence, he was a truly handsome man. He had a ruddy complexion as fair as a woman’s. His hair curled slightly on his finely shaped head. His eye was bright and a well moulded mouth, often wreathed in smiles, added to the general attractiveness of his face. All my life, even in advanced years, stories and jokes have been a great amusement to me, and I am sure I inherited this characteristic from my father. Indeed amongst his young friends he was generally known as “WAG” Gordon, not alone from the word spelled by the initials of his name but also on account of the trait to which I have referred. One feature of his character especially appealed to me as a child, and that was that he did not appear to know what fear was. Though never aggressive, I have seen him under circumstances that would have tried men’s souls, as cool, calm and collected, as though nothing untoward were happening. As might be



J. HOLDSWORTH GORDON

1920

imagined such a man could but win the admiration of his children and the esteem and respect of all men. * * *

“Father was one of those who believed in affording his children every possible opportunity for school and college education, and at great sacrifice to his own comfort and peace of mind, stinted and saved for our benefit in the educational line. In my childhood days there were no such public schools as now, and the better class were educated by teachers at home, or at private schools. I often reprove myself when I remember how little I appreciated his loving, self-sacrificing, character, but in after years I did understand, and with loving heart cultivated recollections of his goodness. * * *”

He died July 25, 1873, and his wife on April 6, 1890. They had five children, Maria Blake, Josephine Lavinia, William Alexander, Franklin Blake, and James Holdsworth. Their descendants are shown on Table II.

ELEANOR GORDON, daughter of John Gordon, married Hiram Griswold a lawyer and judge. They lived in Canton, Ohio, in Cleveland, Ohio, and finally in Leavenworth, Kansas. She died at the age of sixty-five, leaving no children. Alexander Gordon wrote,

“Eleanor was a very remarkable woman, and had great energy of character and was very intellectual, indeed a very superior woman in every way.”

MARIA LOUISA GORDON, daughter of John Gordon, was born in Baltimore, November 17, 1809. She married John Craighead whom she met in Canton, Ohio, where she was living with her mother. They lived in Canton and in Portsmouth, Ohio, where John Craighead engaged in the river merchandising business, and later in Fairview, Iowa, where he kept a store and acted as postmaster and justice. She died in January, 1880. She had six children, who left many descendants shown on Table III.

JOHN GARDNER GORDON, son of John Gordon, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, February 16, 1812.

As a young man he lived in Louisville, Kentucky, and was in partnership with his brother Alexander in the forwarding business on the Ohio. He then went to Iowa and engaged in general merchandising at Muscatine. He was commissioned a brigadier general of the Iowa Militia in 1847. He was a staunch Democrat. His home was one of the show places on the bluffs of the upper Mississippi, and is now used as a hospital. He married Sarah Reinhard, of Louisville, Kentucky, who died September 6, 1855. He later married Elizabeth Dougherty, nee Klein. John Gardner Gordon died January 4, 1877. His children by his first marriage were Ella Blake, Susan Baker, Mary Edwards, Maria, John Gardner II, and Annie. By his second marriage he had one son, Glenn. His descendants are shown on Table IV.

LAVINIA GORDON, daughter of John Gordon, lived with her mother in Pittsburgh, and later with her brother Franklin, and her nephew Franklin Craighthead. She died unmarried October 14, 1892, at Swissvale, Pennsylvania.

ALEXANDER GORDON, son of John Gordon, was born January 30, 1813. His story can be found in the Autobiography. As a young man he travelled widely in the west, settling in Pittsburgh, where he entered the shipping and forwarding business in partnership with his brother John, who lived in Louisville. He was connected with many other successful business enterprises and with important charities. He was a Whig, later a Republican, and a strong Abolitionist. In religion he was a Presbyterian. He married Katharine Edwards of Youngstown, Pennsylvania, a descendant of Jonathan Edwards. He lived in what is now the downtown business section of Pittsburgh, at the corner of Washington Street and Wiley Avenue. In 1857 he moved to a farm underlaid with coal in what was then Swissvale Borough,



J. HOLDSWORTH GORDON, JR.

now Edgewood Borough, and there erected a residence in which he lived until his death on October 31, 1894. His widow died November 24, 1908. Alexander Gordon had five children, John, Orra Edwards, Alexander, George Breede, and William Gardner. His descendants are shown on Table V.

FRANKLIN GORDON, son of John Gordon, was born in 1817. He went to Pittsburgh as a young man and was successful in many fields of business, merchandising, insurance, and banking. He was the cashier of the People's National Bank. He married Eliza Horner of Williamsburg. They had a beautiful residence at Swissvale. He died December 9, 1883. Franklin Gordon had no children, but, when his sister Maria Craighead moved to Iowa with her husband in 1846, their little son Franklin Gordon Craighead was left with Franklin and Lavinia Gordon and they became so attached to him that it was later agreed that they might raise him as their child. Franklin Gordon Craighead became a prominent business man in Pittsburgh, and continued to live in the old Franklin Gordon home in Swissvale, where his son Ernest S. Craighead now resides.

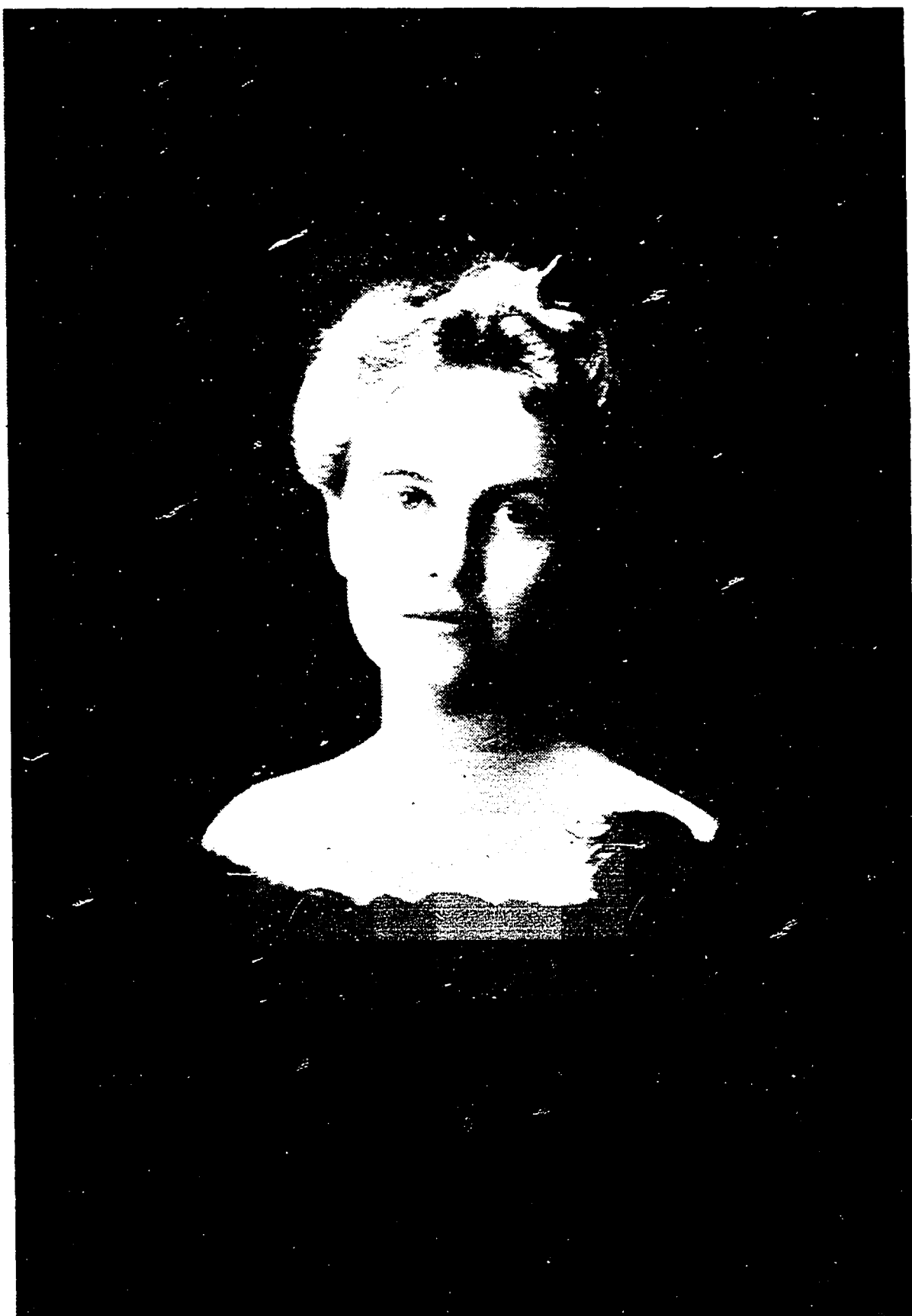
Fourth Generation

Descendants of William Alexander Gordon

MARIA BLAKE GORDON, daughter of William Alexander Gordon, was born July 29, 1834, and died in childhood July 13, 1840.

JOSEPHINE LAVINIA GORDON, daughter of William Alexander Gordon, was born March 8, 1837. She married William H. Sowers, of Germantown, Pennsylvania, on May 19, 1870. This marriage proved an unhappy one, and she made her home with her brother William in Georgetown. She died March 7, 1920, and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. She had one son, Gordon Sowers, who on reaching manhood changed his name to Gordon Gordon.

WILLIAM ALEXANDER GORDON, son of William Alexander Gordon, was born May 16, 1841. He was educated at Columbian College which he left in 1862 to enter the war. He was a lieutenant of engineers in one of the few regiments of the regular Confederate Army as distinguished from the state troops. At the conclusion of the war he returned to Washington and entered the practice of law. A few years later he took into partnership his younger brother Holdsworth, and the firm continued under the name of Gordon and Gordon for more than fifty years. William A. Gordon was a brilliant scholar and an authority on real estate law. He married Harriette Echols Caperton, daughter of Senator Allen T. Caperton of West Virginia, on January 7, 1875. They lived at 6 Cooke Place in Georgetown, a kindly, hospitable home which held his large family, his mother, his sister and her boy, and a constant succession of relations and friends. He was a member of the Vestry of Christ Church, Georgetown. Harriette Caperton Gordon died on January 3, 1906, and



ESTHER GORDON

William Alexander Gordon on January 16, 1923. They are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. They had five children, Glorvina Blake, William Alexander, Allen Taylor Caperton, John Blake, and Erskine.

FRANKLIN BLAKE GORDON, son of William Alexander Gordon, was born October 7, 1844, and died in childhood January 3, 1851.

JAMES HOLDSWORTH GORDON, son of William Alexander Gordon, was born March 3, 1847. He graduated from Columbian College and Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1867. On June 23, 1874, he married Mary Cox Spencer, of Chestertown, Maryland. The junior partner of Gordon and Gordon, he was an able speaker and an excellent trial lawyer. His outstanding characteristic was his cheery and friendly disposition. He was one of the most widely known and best loved men in Washington. His home at 3028 Q Street through some strange nomenclature was immediately across the street from 6 Cooke Place where his brother lived, and their children grew up together and formed a close family group. He was an ardent churchman, and was a member of the Vestry of Christ Church and of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Washington. He was the President of the School Board of the District of Columbia, and the Gordon Junior High School in Georgetown bears his name and contains his portrait. He survived his brother only two years, dying October 21, 1924. His widow died on September 7, 1940. Their pew in Christ Church has been dedicated forever in their memory as a free pew for visitors to the Church. They had five children, James Holdsworth, Jr., Esther, Frank Blake, Josephine, and Spencer. They were all born at 2905 Gay Street in Georgetown (now N Street). In 1888 the house on Q Street was built and the family moved there.

Descendants of John Gardner Gordon

ELLA BLAKE GORDON, daughter of John Gardner Gordon, was born June 28, 1837, at Louisville, Kentucky. She married William Read Stone April 22, 1857, at Muscatine, Iowa. They lived in Duluth, Minnesota, where Mr. Stone was President of Stone, Orden, Wells Company a wholesale grocery. Upon Mr. Stone's retirement they moved to Santa Barbara where she died December 28, 1919, without issue. Mr. Stone had died August 26, 1915.

SUSAN BAKER GORDON, daughter of John Gardner Gordon, was born May 8, 1839. She married William Samuel Humphries at Muscatine, Iowa, May 4, 1864. They lived in St. Louis, where Mr. Humphries was a member of the Board of Trade. She died June 5, 1894, at Ferguson, Missouri. Mr. Humphries died October 19, 1895. They had five children and one grandchild, but none of her descendants have survived. See Table IV.

MARY EDWARDS GORDON, daughter of John Gardner Gordon, was born July 4, 1841, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She married Colonel Joshua Backus Culver, December 22, 1874, at Duluth, Minnesota. She died April 17, 1926, at Duluth, Minnesota. Colonel Culver had died July 10, 1883, at Buffalo, New York. They had no children.

MARIA GORDON, daughter of John Gardner Gordon, was born September 27, 1843, at Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. She married Myron W. Griffin at Muscatine, Iowa, October 1, 1874. They lived at Muscatine, Iowa, where Mr. Griffin died July 9, 1895. She died March 19, 1908, at Alexandria, Egypt. She had two children who died in childhood. See Table IV.

JOHN GARDNER GORDON, JR., son of John Gardner Gordon, was born November 7, 1847, at Bloomington,



FRANK B. GORDON

1898

Iowa. He attended the University of Iowa and then went to St. Louis where he entered business with his brother-in-law William S. Humphreys as commission merchants. October 30, 1883, he married Fanny M. Sterne of St. Louis. She died March 10, 1889, in St. Louis. He later moved to Los Angeles, where he died January 26, 1918. He had three children, John Gardner, Annette, and Laurance Sterne.

ANNIE GORDON, daughter of John Gardner Gordon, was born March 20, 1849, at Muscatine, Iowa. She married Thomas Cullyford January 13, 1890, at Duluth, Minnesota. Mr. Cullyford was a hotel man and they lived in various parts of the country, for a good many years in Duluth. She died June 9, 1926, at Los Angeles, California, and Mr. Cullyford died October 14, 1929, in the same place. They had no children.

GLENN A. GORDON, son of John Gardner Gordon, was born October 21, 1865. He died November 2, 1889, in Muscatine, Iowa, from a gunshot wound received in a hunting accident.

Descendants of Alexander Gordon

JOHN GORDON, son of Alexander Gordon, was born March 10, 1850. He married Emma Ward Bacon May 31, 1877. He was a clergyman and educator, A.M. Yale, LL.D. Western University of Pennsylvania. He held pastorates in Lincoln, Pittsburgh, and Omaha, and was for a time President of Tabor College and later of Howard University. He died in February 1923. His widow died December 6, 1936. They had two children Alexander and John Hamlin.

ORRA EDWARDS GORDON, daughter of Alexander Gordon, was born in Pittsburgh August 14, 1852. She lived in Pittsburgh with her brother William, and died unmarried May 8, 1920.

ALEXANDER GORDON, son of Alexander Gordon, was born in Pittsburgh July 25, 1855. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1873, and later was engaged in the lumber business at Homestead, Pennsylvania, retiring some twenty years ago. He married Catherine Edwards May 4, 1892. They live in the house erected by his father in 1857 in Swissvale, now 149 Gordon Street, Edgewood, Pa. They have one son, Allen Edwards.

GEORGE BREEDE GORDON, son of Alexander Gordon, was born in Swissvale August 1, 1860. He was educated at Western University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University, where he received the degree of LL.B. in 1883. He married Mary Edwards Boorum of Brooklyn June 4, 1889. He was one of the most eminent lawyers of Pittsburgh, and was President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association in 1916. He was an Episcopalian and a member of the Vestry of the Church of the Ascension. He died September 8, 1927. His widow died March 25, 1934. They are buried in Homewood Cemetery in Pittsburgh. He had two children, William Boorum and Katharine.

WILLIAM GARDNER GORDON, son of Alexander Gordon, was born in Swissvale, August 1, 1863. He was associated with his brother Alexander in the lumber business, and later was President of the First National Bank of Swissvale. He served as Burgess of Edgewood Borough for many years. He died unmarried November 3, 1922.



ERSKINE GORDON

1918

Fifth Generation

Descendants of William Alexander Gordon

GORDON GORDON, son of Josephine Gordon Sowers, was born July 18, 1874, in Georgetown, D. C. On attaining manhood he changed his name from Gordon Sowers to Gordon Gordon. He attended Columbian University (now George Washington), but completed his law studies at Columbia Law School. Thereafter he was continuously engaged in the practice of law in New York City. He lived in Flushing, Long Island, where he married Lucy Henderson Bullard on November 6, 1901. They later moved to East Williston, Long Island. Gordon Gordon died June 28, 1933, and is buried in Flushing Cemetery. He was an able, forceful man, successful in law and in business, and always kindly and affectionate. He was president of the Flushing Hospital and was active in other civic affairs. During the World War he was a Colonel in the Police Reserve and served on the Draft Appeal Board. He had two sons William Alexander Gordon and Lewis Henderson Gordon. His widow Lucy Henderson Gordon resides at Lane's End, East Williston, Long Island.

GLORVINA BLAKE GORDON, daughter of William Alexander Gordon, Jr., was born in Georgetown, D. C., March 9, 1876. December 29, 1914, she married George Llewellyn Nicolson of Washington, D. C., who was President of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company and of the District of Columbia Paper Mills. Their residence in Georgetown was a few doors from her girlhood home. It is impossible adequately to describe Glovie's lovely character. She died October 5, 1937, and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. Mr. Nicolson survived her, and lives at 3023 Q Street, Washington, D. C.

WILLIAM ALEXANDER GORDON, JR., son of William A. Gordon, was born in Georgetown, D. C., June 6, 1877. He attended Washington and Lee College and later obtained a law degree at Columbian. His health was bad, and in search of a more favorable climate he went to Butte, Montana, where he practiced law for some years, but ultimately returned to his father's home in Georgetown where he died May 11, 1919. In spite of his continued illnesses, he was brave and cheery, fond of good books and of merry jokes. He was always ready for a game of chess.

ALLEN TAYLOR CAPERTON GORDON, son of William A. Gordon, was born in Georgetown, D. C., August 24, 1878. He was educated at Episcopal High School, the University of Virginia, and Columbian Law School where he received the degree of LL.B. in 1901. He then went to Pittsburgh and has since been engaged in the practice of law. He married Alice Walton Scully of Pittsburgh November 15, 1928. They reside at 6 Robin Road and have two children Ann Caperton and Alice Blake. His office is in the Union Trust Building.

JOHN BLAKE GORDON, son of William Alexander Gordon, was born in Georgetown, D. C., March 8, 1880. He was educated at Columbian University, B.S., 1903, C.E., 1904. After a period in private practice he joined the engineering department of the District of Columbia, where he is now the Director of Sanitary Engineering. He attempted to enter the army in 1917 but was rejected because he had lost the sight of one eye in an accident in boyhood. He thereupon joined the Army Engineering Corps as a civilian engineer and served two years in France on sanitary engineering work, ultimately being commissioned as a lieutenant. October 11, 1919, he married Katharine DuBose, and they now live at 3241 R Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. They have two children Louise DuBose and Harriette Caperton.



SPENCER GORDON

ERSKINE GORDON, son of William Alexander Gordon, was born in Georgetown, D. C., January 29, 1882. He received the degree of LL.D. at George Washington University in 1904, and engaged in the practice of law in Washington until the spring of 1917 when he entered the army and was commissioned a lieutenant. He served one year in France with the 319th Infantry, 80th Division. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Croix de Guerre, and the Legion of Honor, and was discharged in 1919 as a major. He is now the Trust Officer of the Hamilton National Bank. He is unmarried and lives at 3023 Q Street, Washington, D. C.

JAMES HOLDSWORTH GORDON, JR., son of J. Holdsworth Gordon, was born in Georgetown, D. C., May 13, 1875. He graduated at Johns Hopkins University in engineering in 1896. At that time degrees were not given in engineering, and he received a certificate of proficiency but was subsequently given the degree of Bachelor of Engineering in 1926. Immediately after his graduation in 1896 he entered the employ of the New York Telephone Co. and recently retired as chief engineer at the age of sixty-five after forty-four years of service. He married Muriel Bogert of Flushing, Long Island, January 14, 1909, and they lived until recently in Flushing where he was a member of the Vestry and Treasurer of St. George's Church. They have three children Muriel, James Holdsworth III, and Richard Blake. Their present residence is 829 Park Avenue, New York City, summer home Wainscott, Long Island.

ESTHER GORDON, daughter of J. Holdsworth Gordon, was born in Georgetown, D. C., July 18, 1877. She attended the McDonald Ellis School. November 17, 1904, she married C. Powell Minnigerode, who was then the Assistant Director and is now the Director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art. They reside at 1812 24th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. They

have one son, Holdsworth Gordon Minnigerode, born August 22, 1905, Ph.B. Brown University, 1928, and a member of the United States Foreign Service since 1930. He has served in Montreal, Quebec, Jerusalem, Tegucigalpa, Bangkok, Singapore and Penang. He married Anna H. Meade of Birmingham, Alabama, August 22, 1938. He is now stationed at Singapore as vice consul.

FRANK BLAKE GORDON, son of J. Holdsworth Gordon, was born in Georgetown, D. C., August 19, 1879. In 1898 at the age of eighteen he enlisted in the District of Columbia Volunteers for service in the Spanish War. Company H, to which he was assigned, was detached and made a part of an engineer battalion. They were the first troops to land in Puerto Rico. He was discharged as a sergeant. Since then he has engaged in business, and is now Vice President of the Pittsburgh Screw and Bolt Company in charge of production. April 24, 1913, he married Henrietta Barclay Costin, of Eastville, Virginia. They reside at 5107 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They have one daughter, Mary Spencer.

JOSEPHINE GORDON, daughter of J. Holdsworth Gordon, was born in Georgetown, D. C., October 27, 1885, and died in infancy April 30, 1886. She is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

SPENCER GORDON, son of J. Holdsworth Gordon, was born in Georgetown, D. C., March 13, 1887. He graduated at Princeton, A.B., 1909, George Washington LL.B. 1912. Prior to the World War he practiced law in Washington and Chicago. He was a cadet in the Balloon Division of the Air Service and was discharged as a Second Lieutenant, Aerial Observer. After the war he returned to Washington and resumed his profession. He is a lawyer in active practice, office Union Trust Building, and is at this time Chairman of the Advisory Board for Registrants

in the District of Columbia administration of the selective service. February 28, 1920, he married Mildred Larcum Jones of Elmira, New York. Their home is at 2305 California Street. They have one son, Spencer.

Descendants of John Gardner Gordon

JOHN GARDNER GORDON, III, son of John Gardner Gordon, Jr., was born December 15, 1884, at St. Louis, Missouri. He received the degree of Engineer of Mines at the Colorado School of Mines in 1906, and thereafter traveled widely in the practice of his profession in the West and in Mexico. He is now President of Layne & Bowler, Inc., Memphis, Tennessee, manufacturers of water well equipment and installers of water well systems for municipalities, industries, railroads and irrigation projects throughout the United States and in most foreign countries. He is a member of the Vestry of St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral. His home is at 594 West Drive, Memphis, Tennessee. February 8, 1910, he married Ruth Starr Mauro, of Burlington, Iowa. She died May 16, 1939, at Memphis and is buried at Burlington. They have one son, John Gardner, IV.

ANNETTE GORDON, daughter of John Gardner Gordon, Jr., was born September 13, 1886, at St. Louis, Missouri. She attended Monticello Seminary at Godfrey, Illinois. September 8, 1917, she married Maurice V. Hartman of Los Angeles, and they now reside at 15750 Foothill Boulevard, San Francisco. They have one son, Maurice Gordon Hartman, born June 30, 1918. He attended the University of California, and resides at San Fernando, California, where he is a citrus manager. He married Juanita Burbank, of San Fernando, on June 14, 1940.

LAURANCE STERNE GORDON, son of John Gardner

Gordon, Jr., was born March 2, 1889, at St. Louis, Missouri. He attended the St. Louis Manual Training School. He was commissioned as a Captain in the U. S. Army reserve corps, March 27, 1917, ordered to active duty May, 1917, ordered to France June, 1917, appointed Chief Purchasing Officer Base No. 2 Bordeaux, France, for duration of war, promoted to Major August, 1918, decorated by France as Officer d'Academic Beaux-Arts, November 20, 1919, citation by General John J. Pershing July 26, 1919, ordered to Paris after the Armistice as assistant to General Dawes on the Surplus Sales Board, June, 1919, and was honorably discharged at San Francisco, California, October 19, 1919. While in France he met and married on January 29, 1917, Yolande Westcott Hoke, of Bordeaux. Since the war they have lived in Duluth where he is a partner in Draper, Gordon Brokerage Co., flour brokers. They have three children, Virginia Stone, Yolande Westcott and Laurance Sterne, Jr.

Descendants of Alexander Gordon

ALEXANDER GORDON, son of John Gordon, was born December 4, 1881, at Lincoln, Nebraska. He attended Yale University, A.B. 1904, and later studied law at George Washington University and New York Law School. He then entered practice in New York City. He was a Captain of Artillery in the A.E.F. After the war he resumed the practice of law. He resides at his family home at Rensselaerville, New York. He is unmarried.

JOHN HAMLIN GORDON, son of John Gordon, was born September 8, 1892, at Omaha, Nebraska. He graduated from Yale in 1913 and was employed by Boorum & Pease Company of New York City, manufacturers of standard diaries and blank books. He



MARY SPENCER GORDON

was a First Lieutenant in the Air Service and suffered severe injuries, from which he never fully recovered, when his plane was completely destroyed by fire near Bar le Duc. He married Mary Avery Worth, of Brooklyn, April 10, 1920. He reentered business and became Vice President of Boorum & Pease Company. He died May 14, 1935. Mrs. Gordon resides at 16 Cedar Place, Garden City, New York. They had two children, John Worth Gordon and Katherine Edwards Gordon.

ALLEN EDWARDS GORDON, son of Alexander Gordon, Jr., was born January 31, 1893. He graduated from Yale in 1915, and is employed as cost clerk in charge of factory costs in the New Kensington, Pa., plant of the Aluminum Company of America. He is unmarried and lives with his parents at 149 Gordon Street, Edgewood, Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM BOORUM GORDON, son of George Breede Gordon, was born June 2, 1890, and died in boyhood February 5, 1902.

KATHARINE GORDON, daughter of George Breede Gordon, was born April 7, 1893, and died unmarried February 18, 1917.

Sixth Generation

Descendants of William Alexander Gordon

WILLIAM ALEXANDER GORDON, son of Gordon Gordon, was born August 30, 1902, at Flushing, New York. He attended Westminster School and Phillips Academy, Andover, and graduated at Harvard, A.B. 1924. He is assistant sales manager of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. He married Madelaine Laughlin Alexander, of Sewickley, Pennsylvania, June 24, 1933. They reside at Sewickley, and have four children, Gordon, Maitland Alexander, William Alexander, Jr., and Laughlin Alexander.

LEWIS HENDERSON GORDON, son of Gordon Gordon, was born November 24, 1904, at Flushing, New York. He attended Phillips Academy, Andover, and graduated from Harvard in 1927. He is a sales representative of Newman-Crosby, steel producers. He married Charlotte Elizabeth Carnahan, of New York City, December 14, 1929. They reside at East Williston, Long Island. They have two children, Lewis Henderson, Jr., and Helen Hammond.

ANN CAPERTON GORDON, daughter of Allen T. C. Gordon, was born December 6, 1930.

ALICE BLAKE GORDON, daughter of Allen T. C. Gordon, was born December 15, 1932.

LOUISE DUBOSE GORDON, daughter of John Blake Gordon, was born September 15, 1920. She attends William and Mary College.

HARRIETTE CAPERTON GORDON, daughter of John Blake Gordon, was born April 23, 1922. She attends Sweet Briar College.

MURIEL GORDON, daughter of J. Holdsworth Gordon, Jr., was born in Flushing, New York, May 9, 1910.



JOHN WORTH GORDON

1941

She married B. Pendleton Rogers of New York City September 18, 1937. They reside at Sterlington, New York, and have one daughter, Bard, born October 31, 1938.

JAMES HOLDSWORTH GORDON, III, son of J. Holdsworth Gordon, Jr., was born July 9, 1911, at Flushing, New York. He attended Lawrenceville School, and graduated at Princeton, A.B. 1933. He is now with Campbell, McCarty and Company, investment bankers, Detroit, Michigan. He married Katharine Doughty, of Detroit, June 5, 1937. They reside at 425 Washington Road, Grosse Point, Michigan. They have one son, John Spencer.

RICHARD BLAKE GORDON, son of J. Holdsworth Gordon, was born July 20, 1917, at Flushing, New York. He attended Kent School and Trinity College, and resides with his parents at 829 Park Avenue, New York City. He is now in active service with Troop E, the 101st Cavalry, at Ft. Devens, Mass.

MARY SPENCER GORDON, daughter of Frank Blake Gordon, was born in Pittsburgh, October 19, 1914. She graduated at Dobbs Ferry. January 31, 1938, she married John Frederick Kraft, Jr., who is assistant to the president of the Washington Tin Plate Co., Washington, Pennsylvania. They reside in Pittsburgh, and have one son, John Frederick Kraft, III, born April 3, 1939.

SPENCER GORDON, JR. (Jack Gordon), son of Spencer Gordon, was born March 27, 1930. He attends St. Albans School.

Descendants of John Gardner Gordon

JOHN GARDNER GORDON, IV, son of John Gardner Gordon, III, was born January 14, 1912, at Los

Angeles, California. He attended Mercersberg Academy, and graduated from Yale, B.S. 1934. He is an engineer with Layne & Bowler, Inc. September 29, 1934, he married Grace Winston Braun of Memphis, Tennessee. They reside at 594 West Drive, Memphis, and have two children, Patricia and Ruth Starr.

VIRGINIA STONE GORDON, daughter of Laurance Sterne Gordon, was born May 31, 1919.

YOLANDE WESTCOTT GORDON, daughter of Laurance Sterne Gordon, was born September 9, 1920.

LAURANCE STERNE GORDON, JR., son of Laurance Sterne Gordon, was born July 15, 1922.

Descendants of Alexander Gordon

JOHN WORTH GORDON, son of John Hamlin Gordon, was born May 19, 1921. He is now in the Canadian Army.

KATHERINE EDWARDS GORDON, daughter of John Hamlin Gordon, was born November 6, 1923.



SPENCER GORDON, JR.

Seventh Generation

Descendants of William Alexander Gordon

GORDON GORDON, son of William Alexander Gordon, was born March 9, 1935.

MAITLAND ALEXANDER GORDON, son of William Alexander Gordon, was born August 25, 1936.

WILLIAM ALEXANDER GORDON, JR., son of William Alexander Gordon, was born December 28, 1937.

LAUGHLIN ALEXANDER GORDON, son of William Alexander Gordon, was born August 3, 1939.

LEWIS HENDERSON GORDON, JR., son of Lewis Henderson Gordon, was born October 6, 1930.

HELEN HAMMOND GORDON, daughter of Lewis Henderson Gordon, was born August 31, 1933.

JOHN SPENCER GORDON, son of James Holdsworth Gordon, was born April 23, 1940.

Descendants of John Gardner Gordon

PATRICIA GORDON, daughter of John Gardner Gordon, IV, was born February 6, 1936.

RUTH STARR GORDON, daughter of John Gardner Gordon, IV, was born December 25, 1938.



CHRISTMAS WITH THE SEVENTH GENERATION
GORDON, MAITLAND, WILLIAM, AND LAUGHLIN

GENEALOGICAL TABLES

IN THE following tables the surname is not given where it is the family name of the ancestor shown on the table, Gordon or Craighead as the case may be.

The names of the husbands of married women are shown in brackets.

Surnames of descendants other than Gordons and Craigheads appear in italics.

Dates of death and residences of living persons are given only when they do not appear in the text.

Table I

FIRST THREE GENERATIONS IN AMERICA

Alexander Gordon

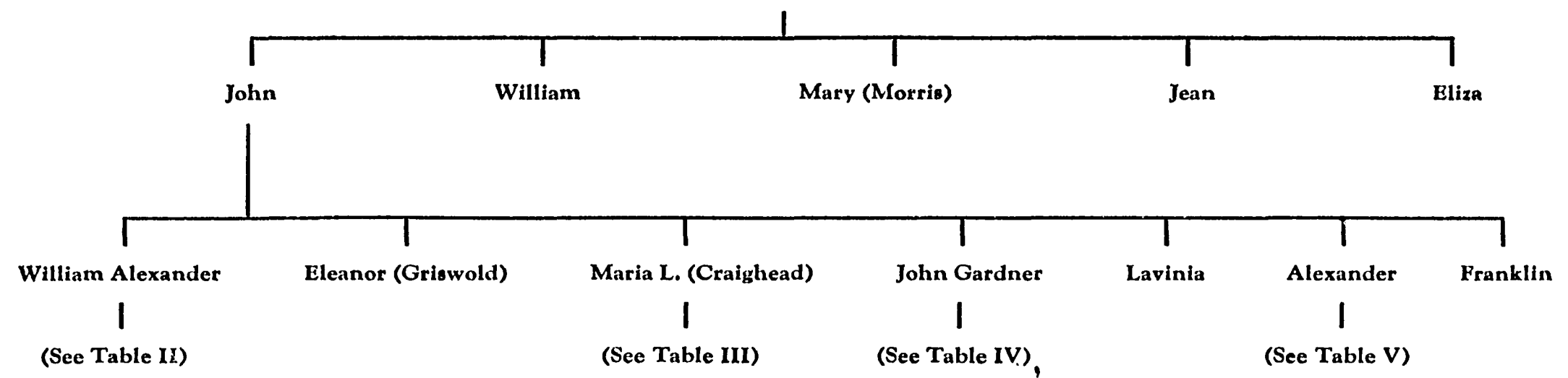


Table II

DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM ALEXANDER GORDON

William A. Gordon

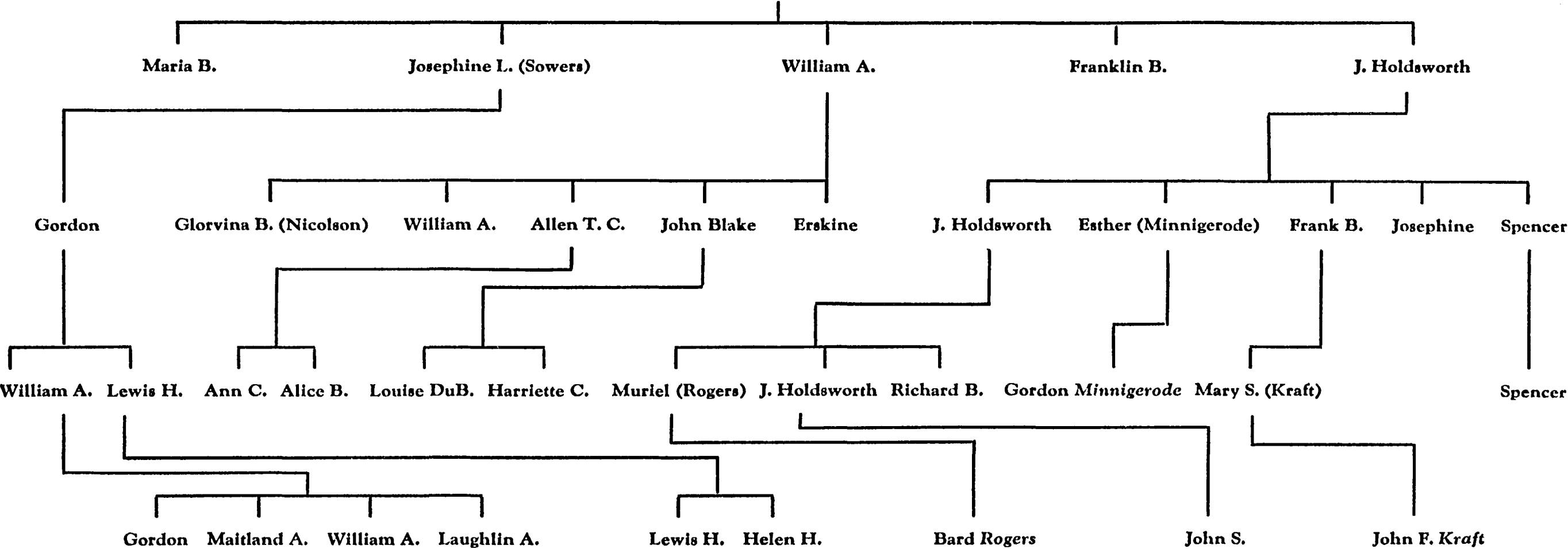


Table III

CRAIGHEAD FAMILY—DESCENDANTS OF MARIA GORDON CRAIGHEAD

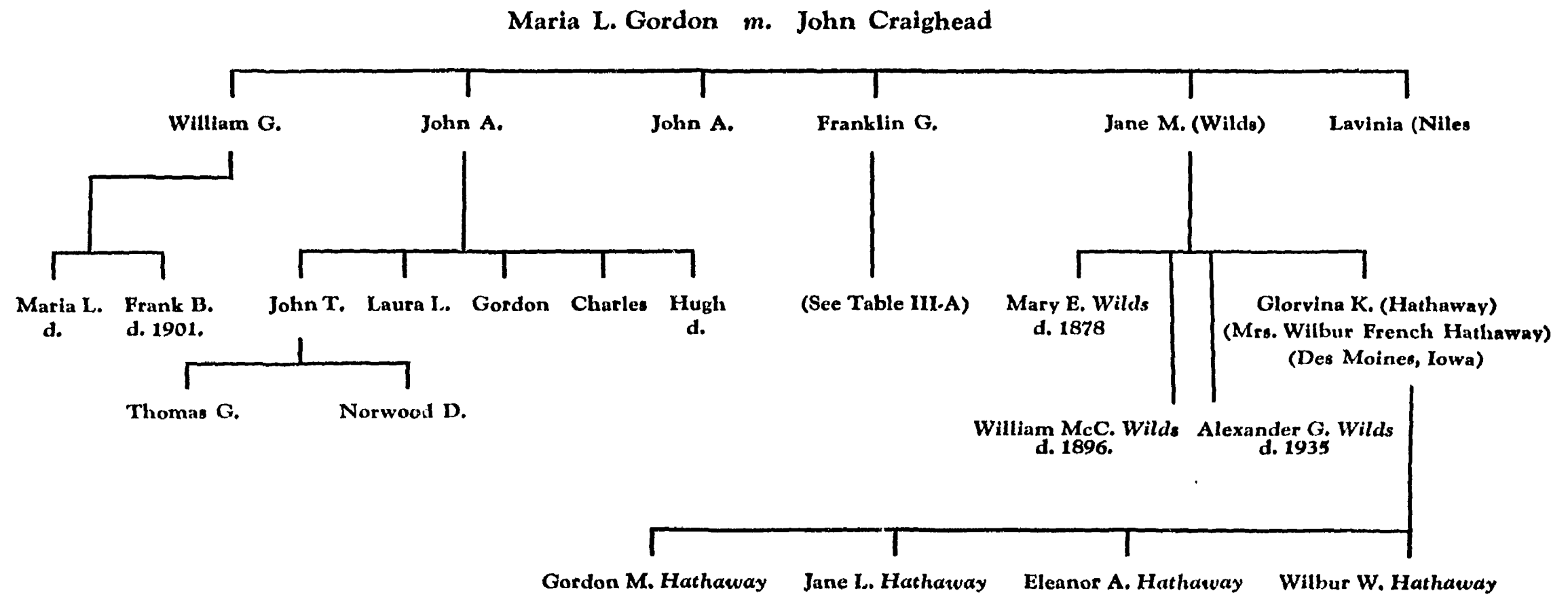


Table III-A

CRAIGHEAD FAMILY—DESCENDANTS OF FRANKLIN G. CRAIGHEAD

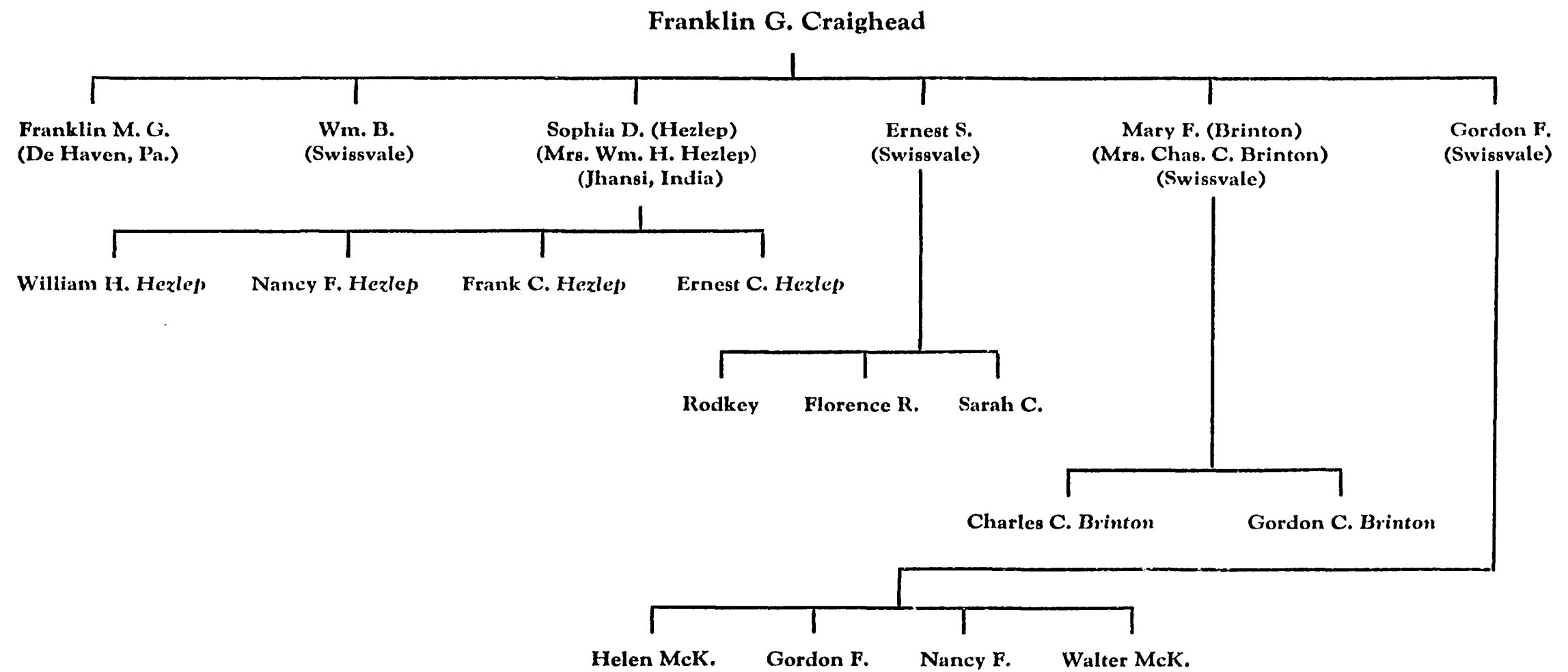


Table IV

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN GARDNER GORDON

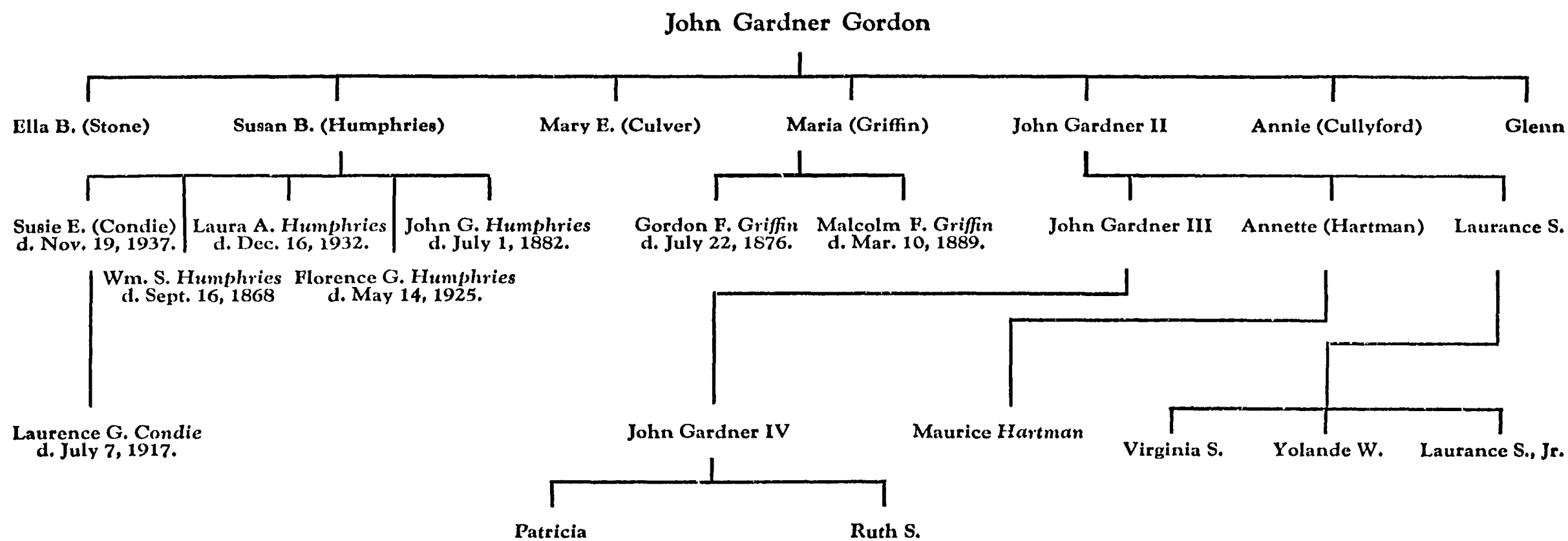
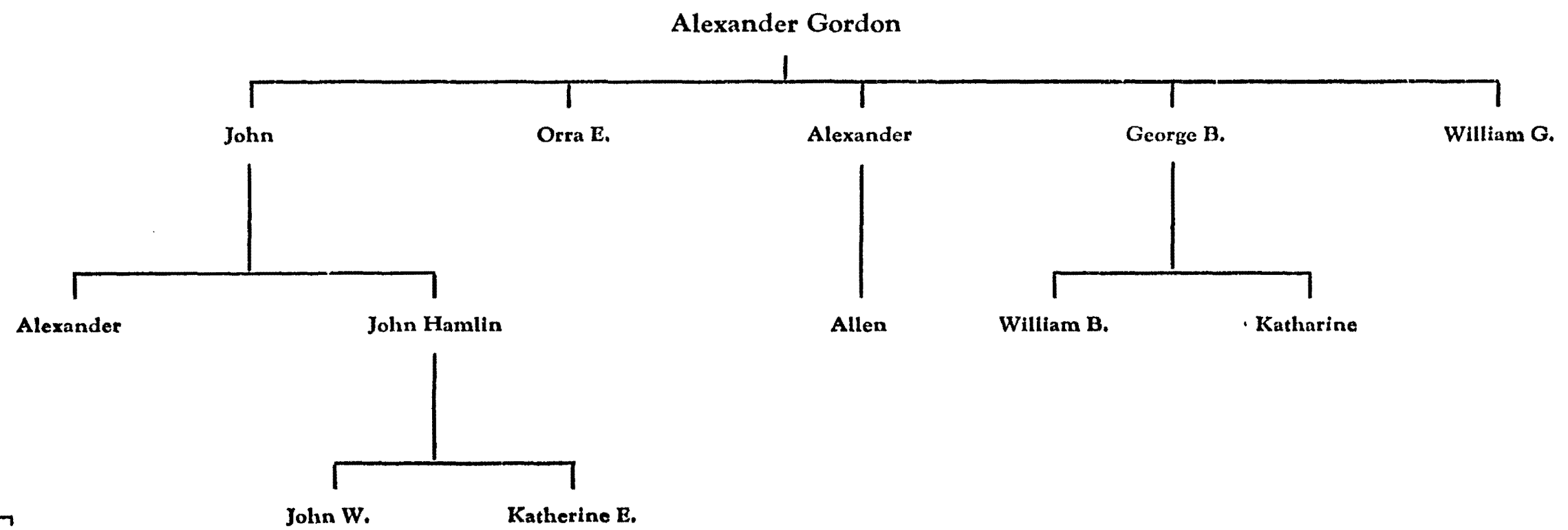


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