

# THE MOREHOUSE CLARION

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NO. 3.

## PROFESSIONAL CARDS

**JAMES BUREY**.....H. H. NAPP  
**BUSSEY & NAFF,**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,  
Bastrop, Louisiana.  
Will practice before the Courts of Morehouse parish and before the Supreme and Federal Courts in Monroe. Will attend to business in State and United States Land Offices.

**R. B. TODD, JR.,**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW,  
Bastrop, Louisiana.  
Will practice in the Courts of Morehouse parish and before the Supreme and Federal Courts in Monroe. Will attend to business in State and United States Land Offices. Feb 14 '94.

**ROBERT WHITSTONE,**  
Attorney & Counselor At Law,  
Bayville, La.  
Will practice in the parishes of North Louisiana, and in the Supreme and Federal Courts of the State.

**MADISON & MADISON,**  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law,  
Bastrop, Louisiana.  
Will practice in the parishes of North Louisiana, and in the Supreme and Federal Courts of the State.

**G. H. ELLIS,**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW,  
BASTROP, LA.  
Will attend all the Courts of Union parish, when desired.  
Special attention given to all matters not in his charge. Sept. 21, '94.  
C. NEWTON & HALL.

**NEWTON & HALL,**  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law,  
Bastrop, Louisiana.

**W. P. PERKINS, M. D.**  
Physician & Surgeon,  
Bastrop, Louisiana.

**Lee Dreisbach, M. D.**  
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## GRANT AND DAVIS COUSINS.

**BANCROFT'S LITERARY ASSOCIATE TRACES IT OUT.**

**New Light on the Simpson Family of Pennsylvania—The Simpson Character Apparent in Both Men.**

Many good people, well read and interested in genealogies of great men do not know that Gen. Ulysses Simpson Grant and Jefferson Davis were relatives, having a common ancestor in the third generation back.

This was a matter of common report in some parts of the western army during the civil war, and after the war many soldiers spoke of it. Since then the question of kinship between the great conqueror and the great conqueror has lapsed into a matter of nothing more than family history, interesting, however, to those who trace out great consequences in general history from the lives and acts of individuals.

I had always regarded the rumor of the Grant-Davis relationship as a mere fiction or a passing fancy until a few weeks ago, I had occasion to turn the leaves of some old family records, which, by mere accident, showed me some definite statements. Yet no claim will be made in this article concerning the idea expressed in the caption, consequently there will be nothing either to prove or disprove. A few unpretentious extracts, well vouched for, will enable any one, either partially or impartially, to draw his own deductions.

Without hesitation or apology, I will try, first, fairly to trace the three preceding generations of Gen. Grant on his mother's side. His right name was Ulysses Simpson Grant. A book entitled "Ancestry of Gen. Grant," by Edward Chauncy Marshall, published in 1869, is the authentic family history, according to Col. Frederick Dent Grant, now commissioner of police for New York City.

From this and other books and documents in my possession, it appears that Gen. Grant's mother was Miss Hannah Simpson, daughter of John Simpson and granddaughter of William Simpson, of Bucks county, Pa.

An extract from a private letter written by Gen. Grant's father, Jesse Root Grant, is sufficient testimony to the high character and inherent merit of the Simpsons and to their origin. The date of

the letter has not been transmitted. The part referred to is taken from page 65 of the "Ancestry of Gen. Grant," and is as follows: "Miss (Hannah) Simpson was the second daughter and third child of John Simpson, and was born and brought up in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania. Twenty years ago she married Mr. Simpson was a highly respectable farmer of America. Her ancestry for several generations was one of the family connections were ever aspirants for fame or political notoriety, but were more solicitous as to their standing in regard to integrity, veracity and independence. The family had removed to Ohio a few years previously, and settled in Clermont county.

Another letter from the same source to the New York Ledger says: "At the time of our marriage (June 24, 1821), Mrs. Grant was an unpretending girl, handsome but not vain. She had previously joined the Methodist Church; and I can truthfully say that it has never had a more devoted and consistent member. Her steadiness and strength of character have been the stay of the family through life. She was always careful, and most watchful over her children; but never austere, and not opposed to their free participation in innocent amusements."

The influence and inherited traits of Gen. Grant's mother upon his character, have been told so many times that they need no reiteration here. It only remains to show the manner in which the traits of the Simpson and Davises, in ancestral composition, as a chemist might say.

"The Life of John Davis" is the logbook by which every real Pennsylvania Davis swears. The manuscript for it was prepared from the old documents in possession of various branches of the family, covering a period of nearly two hundred years. The collection and arrangement of these documents for print required several months for a number of years and the work was done and published for private circulation, in 1866, by Gen. W. W. H. Davis, now living at Doyleston, Pa.

Gen. Davis was an officer in the Mexican war, Brigadier General in the Union army of the civil war, later Governor of New Mexico, and United States commissioner to the 1878 Paris exposition. His military, civil and literary records constitute him an authority on the subject here discussed. On page 30 of the "Life of John Davis" are the statements:

a daughter of William, who was a Revolutionary soldier, and he had a son named John. I have often heard my father say that Gen. Grant was a cousin of his. Grant was also related to the Houghs of this county, who are our relatives. You came from the same ancestry. Judge Root did not belong to this bailiwick.

"Regarding the conversation I had with Jefferson Davis while he was Secretary of War, I know nothing more than I have told you. Our talk was informal. He thought we were cousins. Good-by."

"W. W. H. Davis,"  
of Washington D. C., New York.

During Jefferson Davis' last illness he was prevailed upon by his friends to dictate a short statement of his ancestry, and though very feeble, he made a short dictation. His first statement was:

"Three brothers came to America from Wales in the early part of the eighteenth century. They settled at Philadelphia." Then he meagerly traced his lineage back through Samuel Davis, his father. The life of Jefferson Davis has been ably written by his wife, Mrs. Varina J. Davis. The history of Philadelphia Davises can be read by any one sufficiently interested. The names of David Davis, and of the innumerable lawyers, physicians and literary men, are easily traced. Through John Davis, it appears, William Simpson was great-grandfather of Jefferson Davis as well as of Gen. Grant, thus making these men direct second cousins.

John Davis crossed the Delaware twice with Washington, took care of Lafayette when he was wounded, and for some weeks entertained James Monroe, afterward President.

Though both the Grant and the Davis characters are sui generis, the blood of the Simpsons and of many other good people coursed and courses through the veins of each. There are more than 500 descendants in the United States at the present time who are about equally related to both Gen. Grant and Jefferson Davis.

And, however, though there may have been some chance of error in tracing the exact relation of these two great men, a few observations on the similarity of their characters may not be out of place.

The writer of this was too young even to see the last battle of the civil war, and never met either of the men personally, but it appears that he is related to both; hence, laying aside further grandfatherly comparisons, a fair comparison will be attempted.

The curtain has been drawn between this generation and the times in which Gen. Grant and Jefferson Davis lived—and fought. The one was soldier-statesman; the other statesman-soldier. Both came from a common parentage in Great Britain. For five generations their mutual ancestors lived under American influences—almost in the same localities, progressing westward and southward. Their forefathers were fellow-colonial subjects of Great Britain, then close comrades in Washington's army, also in the war of 1812, and the sons in the Mexican war. While Gen. Grant was conquering the Spaniards in the ancient Aztec country, Jefferson Davis was instituting successful plans for the conduct of the War Department in the new Territories, afterward becoming Secretary of War.

Both came from obscurity, but for generations the same stream of genius in national affairs flowed through the ancestral veins of both until, divided in twain by the political condition of the country,

the two branches formed mighty cataracts, which dashed against each other until the stain of slavery was washed out.

These fatimously associated with them pronounced their battle and good in their home and personal department. It is a matter of record that the army officers who guarded Davis while he was imprisoned at Fortress Monroe were entirely surprised at his personality. Their preconceived notions of his disposition were completely reversed. Instead of the fire-eater, they found a calm, gentle man of the greatest fortitude in the face of the greatest calamity that ever befell an American citizen. This statement is well attested. When this was discovered, Horace Greely, foremost of Davis' former foes, signed the bond for his release. When Davis died in 1889, the New York Sun said, "A great soul has passed."

Through all the public career of each there were shown tenacity, firmness and resolution, even to stubbornness. Grant never repented the merciless slaughter of Union Soldiers in the great battles; Davis never asked forgiveness for what he had done. They both looked up on the great losses as a national calamity, from which a national blessing has come—to the black man, to commerce, to all concerned, bringing happiness to all. One sleeps in almost the extreme North, the other in almost the extreme South.

The era of the civil war and all discussion of it has closed as a national matter. The new North and the new South are now practically and indissolubly one, closer in union than ever before. Verily they now know that they are brothers of the same blood, bone, brains and brain. Four wars have been fought since.

WASHINGTON DAVIS.  
DEMANDS OF SILVERTIES.  
They Ask More For Silver Than Has Ever Been Granted to Gold.

One of the claims made by the advocates of silver is that the government should treat both metals alike. How does the government treat gold? For every 23.3 grains of pure bullion deposited in the mint the owner receives a gold dollar weighing 25.8 grains and nine-tenths fine. The government stamp adds nothing to the value of the metal. It simply certifies to the value and puts the metal in a form convenient for use. Everywhere in the world gold thus coined is worth \$1. If you go to Europe, the little piece of gold is worth \$1. If your house burns down, the little lump of gold that was worth \$1 previous to the fire will be worth \$1 at any jeweler's anywhere.

The advocates of free silver do not want silver treated this way. Oh, no! They ask for more. They ask that the owner of silver bullion be permitted to take it to the mint and have the government stamp 371 1/4 grains, with the necessary alloy, as a dollar of equal legal tender with the gold dollar coin today the value of the bullion in the dollar is worth only 63 cents. They ask that the government stamp, its fit, to the extent of 47 cents, shall be put on every 63 cents worth of silver they take to the mint. Say the house burns again. The piece of silver worth \$1 the night before because of the stamp only in only worth 63 cents when taken to the jeweler.

Don't you see that the silver people are asking more from the government for silver than was ever granted by any government in the world for gold? One metal stamped \$1 because of its value the world over; the other stamped \$1 and worth but 63 cents anywhere. If we are to have fiat money, why not have it all fiat, and not 47 cents fiat? If we are to have fiat money, let it be paper. But the silver people claim that if the government passes a free coinage of silver bill silver will immediately jump in price from now being worth 63 cents for 371 1/4 grains to 100 cents for the same amount. Do you believe it? Some people are almost willing to believe that the moon is made of green cheese.—Eumholdt (Tenn.) Messenger.

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