# THE FAMILY and EARLY LIFE OF STONEWALL JACKSON

ROY BIRD COOK

THOMAS JONATHAN JACKSON

# THE FAMILY AND EARLY LIFE

OF

# STONEWALL JACKSON

BY

ROY BIRD COOK

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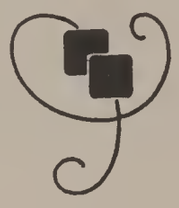
"Lewis County (W. Va.) in the Civil War,"
"Collins Settlement of Old," "One Hundred Years of Schools in Weston," etc.



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# EDITOR'S PREFACE

Stonewall Jackson, like many other great men, has been to a considerable extent the subject of legend. Thus, for instance, the impression has been left that he was reared in a wild and godless community and only became serious-minded and religious in later life. As a matter of fact, from early boyhood he was deeply interested in religion. Again, the fable has been spread broadcast that he walked from his home in western Virginia to Washington in order to secure means to reach West Point, to which he had been appointed. Jackson was poor, but not so poor as this.

It is the merit of Mr. Cook's little book that all the evidence bearing on the early life of Stonewall Jackson has been carefully sifted, so that the reader may be sure that what he finds bears the stamp of authentic history. Much new matter, garnered here and there, has been added: the result is that by far the most complete account of the youth of the great general is to be found in these pages. The notes on the Jackson family are also new and a most important contribution to the genealogy of famous Americans: they will be of interest to the many branches of the Scotch-Irish clan from which Stonewall Jackson derived his source.

H. J. ECKENRODE.

# FOREWORD

"The most striking figure of the Civil War on the Southern side, Stonewall Jackson," writes James Ford Rhodes in his *History of the United States,* "has the fascination of a character of romance. No characterization of him has fully satisfied his admirers. To some he seemed made up of contradictions, to others a rare consistency appears to run through his mature life." The cause for which he fought and died has long ago been overthrown, but the intervening years have but accentuated interest in the life of one who fought for the right, as he saw it, not only in the Confederacy but in the War with Mexico.

Since the appearance of a little volume by Williamson in 1863, some eighteen or twenty biographies have issued from the press. That written by R. L. Dabney, some time major and Jackson's chief of staff, deserves special notice among the earlier works, the writer having had access to personal papers and manuscripts, and is very complete. Next in order comes the military biography by John Esten Cooke, a brilliant and prolific writer, which is still deservedly popular. *Life and Letters of Stonewall Jackson,* written by his widow, admirably covers his private life from boyhood onward. *The Life of General Thomas J. Jackson,* by Sarah Nicholas Randolph; *With Stonewall Jackson,* by James Power Smith (the latest surviving member of his staff); *Jackson's Valley Campaign,* by William Allan, deserve passing mention: but of all the works confined solely to the subject, two demand especial attention, each being the best in its class.

In 1898 appeared the first issue of *Stonewall Jackson and the American Civil War,* by the distinguished British military critic and strategist, Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. R. Henderson. This work, in two volumes, is based upon years of research and study of official records. It portrays faithfully and accurately the military career of the great warrior whom fratricidal strife brought forth,

and of whom the late Field Marshal, Viscount Wolseley, in the introduction wrote:

> That the true cause of the conflict was the antagonism between the spirit of Federalism and the theory of States rights, and that had he been a New Englander, he would have fought to the death to preserve the Union, while had he been born in Virginia he would have done as much for the defense of a right the South believed inalienable. The war thus brought about, dragged its weary way from the spring of 1861 until the same season of 1865. During its progress, reputations were made that will live forever in American history, and many remarkable men have come to the front. Among these, not the least prominent was 'Stonewall' Jackson, who to the renown of a great soldier and unselfish patriot was added the brighter fame of a Christian hero.

In all of the first works on Jackson there is a noticeable lack of knowledge concerning his early life; such as is included is often inaccurate. This situation continued until 1916, in which year appeared *Early Life and Letters of Thomas J. Jackson,* by his nephew, Thomas J. Arnold. As the name implies, it covers the period of life mentioned, which the author was well equipped to treat. It is concise, authentic, contains much original material, and has taken its place along with the book of Henderson as the best contribution to the literature on Jackson.

*Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Famous Men and Women, America in Romance,* and a multitude of such books contain special articles. In the field of reference works the sketch in the *Encyclopedia Americana* takes first place; in many others the articles are badly prepared in so far as Jackson's early life is concerned. Several concur in the rather impossible statements that "Jackson served as sheriff of the county of Lewis," and "walked barefooted to Washington in search of an appointment to West Point."

The errors are not confined to these sources, the public press often carrying similar misinformation. Conspicuous among such erroneous statements is the attributing by newspapers of a poem to Jackson that bears on the subject of "Mother." Perhaps no one living can say just who wrote it, yet the evidence indicates that it should probably

be credited to Mrs. Margaret Junkin Preston, his sister-in-law. In the Clarksburg *Telegram*, in 1894, the following notation appeared, since reproduced in many sources: "Lieutenant Tom Jackson was presented with a sword of honor in the town of Weston, Lewis county, on his return from the Mexican War. It was to him and his numerous kinsmen present a proud and memorable occasion."

As a matter of historical fact, no such presentation took place. During the Mexican War Jackson carried an artillery saber, which is now in the possession of his nephew, Thomas J. Arnold. A dress sword used while at the Virginia Military Institute is in the Confederate Museum, at Richmond, presented by his grandchildren. It is a well-known fact that the sword he wore during the Civil War was lost when he was shot at Chancellorsville and was never found.

It would seem, perhaps, that nothing of importance remained to be said about this distinguished son of the Monongahela Valley. Yet the author has collected a few notes concerning the subject covering points of the life of Jackson yet untreated: the family and homestead as connected with the region from which he came; and anecdotes that search has largely verified and that are worthy of preservation. There is still material to be obtained along this line in the interior of West Virginia, to be moulded into final shape by hands more capable than the writer; if this little volume brings forth more matter of the sort its mission will have been fulfilled.

It would indeed be strange if, in spite of meticulous care, some error has not crept into these notes. Every effort has been put forth to secure authentic information. Thanks are due to many who loaned letters and papers as well as photographs for illustrations. Each one has contributed to a common undertaking—a little tribute to the memory of the "right arm" of such a great American as Robert E. Lee, to a man whose life and activities are a source of pride to all Americans, regardless of origin or of sympathies.

# The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson

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## CHAPTER I

### CHRONOLOGY

1824—January 21, born in Clarksburg, (West) Virginia, third child of Jonathan and Julia Beckwith Neale Jackson.

1826—March 26, Jonathan Jackson dies.

1830—The mother, Julia Neale Jackson, marries (2) Blake B. Woodson, of Cumberland county, Va., and removes to present Fayette county, W. Va.

Thomas (as named) Jackson finds a home with his step-grandmother, Mrs. Edward Jackson and family at Jackson's Mills, near Weston, (W.) Va.

1831—September 4, Julia Neale Jackson Woodson dies at present Ansted, W. Va.

1841—June 11, Thomas Jackson appointed a constable of Lewis county, (W.) Va.

1842—June 18, conditionally appointed to West Point Military Academy from Weston, Lewis county, (W.) Va. Admitted July 1.

1846—June 30, graduated from West Point with brevet rank of second lieutenant of artillery.

1847—March 3, advanced to rank of second lieutenant, and on March 9 lands with Scott's army in Mexico. Advanced to first lieutenant for gallant conduct in siege of Vera Cruz in March; to brevet rank of captain for conduct in battle of Contreras in August; and to brevet rank of major for heroic conduct at Chapultepec in September.

1848—June, returns to United States from Mexico City with Scott's army and is stationed at Fort Hamilton, Long Island, N. Y.

1850—Transferred with a command to Fort Meade, near Tampa, Fla., during Seminole troubles.

1851—March, resigns from United States Army, to take effect in 1852 (U. S. Army Register); and is appointed Professor of Artillery Tactics and Natural Philosophy at Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.

1853—August 4, marries Eleanor Junkin, daughter of Rev. Dr. George Junkin, then president of Washington College at Lexington. In fall of 1854 his wife and infant child die.

1856—Tours Europe.

1857—July 16, marries (2) Mary Anna Morrison, daughter of Dr. Robert H. Morrison, of Lincoln county, N. C.

1859—Takes company of cadets from V. M. I. to Harper's Ferry and to the execution of John Brown at Charlestown, (W.) Va.

1861—April 21, leaves Lexington with cadets in opening of the Civil War. On April 27, appointed colonel of Virginia volunteers; assumes command at Harper's Ferry, April 29; assigned to command of First Brigade in June; engages in skirmish at Falling Waters, July 2; commissioned brigadier-general, July 3, and leads First Brigade in first battle of Manassas, July 21; advanced to rank of major-general, October 7, and assigned to command of Shenandoah Valley, November 4.

1862—January 1, leaving Winchester, drives Federals from Romney across Potomac; does not believe himself properly supported and sends in resignation, January 31. Recalls resignation and engages in battle of Kernstown, March 23; battle of McDowell, May 8; captures Front Royal, May 23; battle of Winchester, May 25; battle of Cross Keys, June 8; battle of Fort

Republic, June 9. Marching toward Richmond, engages in battle of Gaines' Mill, June 27; battle of White Oak Swamp, June 30, and Malvern Hill, July 1.

1862—Battle of Cedar Run, August 9; captures Manassas Junction, August 26; repulses Pope's army, August 29-30, at battle of Chantilly and Second Manassas; September 1, enters Maryland; marches from Frederick, capturing Harper's Ferry, September 15; battle of Sharpsburg, September 17; repulses enemy at Boteler's Ford, September 20; encamps in Valley near Winchester, September 20-November 22; advanced to lieutenant-general, October 11, and placed in command of Second Corps; November 22, marches toward Fredericksburg; battle of Fredericksburg, December 13; enters winter quarters at Moss Neck on Rappahannock, December 16..

1863—May 1, leads Second Corps around Hooker's flank at battle of Chancellorsville, routing right wing of Federal Army; is wounded and dies at Chandler's, near Guinea Station, on May 10; buried at Lexington, Va.

# CHAPTER II

## ANCESTRY AND DESCENDANTS

Among the people who have contributed markedly to the making of American character are those designated as the Scotch-Irish, generally regarded as the most aggressive strain that came to America in colonial times. The English were the first and main contributors to the population, however; those who could trace their lineage back to Scotia, with a residence in the north of Ireland, were largely forced to locate in the interior, to become frontiermen, to derive their living directly from the soil, leaving to their English brethren the more prominent occupations of law and politics. Among the immigrants of the Scotch-Irish race, few, if any, were more prominent than the Jacksons. A strange analogy runs through their history to that in the times before they came to America, particularly evident in a strong inclination to participate in public life. They have produced few writers and artists, but many generals, politicians and captains of industry.

The beginning of the story of the Jackson family, so far as written records go, leads back into the province of Ulster, in the north of Ireland, and is closely allied with the history of the counties of Tyrone, Donegal, Antrim and Londonderry. The last named was originally Derry, but the title was changed by a charter granted by Charles II in 1662. At this time the Irish Society, of London, controlled Londonderry, Coleraine, with the fisheries, woods, ferriage and lands lying between the Lough Foyle and the rivers Royle and Bann. This society in turn sublet rights in this region to local officials, and this system may be said to have really established Protestant power in Ulster. In such manner the territory around Coleraine came into the hands of the Jacksons, and of them Robert Slade, Secretary

of the "Society," 1802, writes (see *Scotch-Irish Pioneers*, by Bolton):

Ambitious to acquire both property and power, they were often at odds with the authorities in London and were driven by these conditions to hold their territory at excessive rates imposed by the none too friendly London directors. In the year 1713, complaint was made that William Jackson had three uncles, who, with himself and tenants, were aldermen, so that six of the twelve aldermen of Coleraine obeyed his orders. Five of the twenty-four burgesses were his tenants, and Mr. Jackson desired to fill a vacancy with another tenant of his living twelve miles distant at Kilrea. This tenant was a brother of a burgess, and both were sons of an alderman. Thirteen members of the council (which included aldermen and burgesses) called upon the mayor for a judicial investigation of the matter, but the mayor, who was a relative of Jackson's, refused their request, although it was claimed to be made according to law. This was but the beginning of discord in the Bann Valley. In 1728 the Society expressed dissatisfaction with the Jackson family, which had opposed the political interests of the Society and had, through the control of the corporation of Coleraine, usurped the power to grant lands. The long arm which reached out from London had no sooner quieted Coleraine than Londonderry was in trouble for disregarding its by-laws. These controversies had probably little influence upon the lot of the humble tenant, except along the Bann, where the Jackson sway was felt. It was 'commonly reported' that the Hon. Richard Jackson was forced to raise the rents of his tenants in order to meet his obligations, and that these tenants, near Coleraine, began agitation for the first great Scotch-Irish emigration to America.

Something of the magnitude of this emigration may be understood when it is noted that 4,200 people left in 1718; and after the famine of 1740, 12,000 left annually.

The residence of Hon. Richard Jackson stood just west of the bridge over the river bank at Coleraine, on the road to Derry. Other roads radiated to Borough Castle of the Earl of Tyrone, about eight miles away; to Kilrea, twelve miles up the Bann river; to Antrim and Belfast to the south; and to Port Rush on the north. One standing on the bridge at Coleraine, at this day, will see in the beautiful view before him, on the left bank of the Bann, a very pretty mansion and grounds, still designated as "Jackson's Hall."

In the neighborhood of Coleraine was born in 1719 John Jackson, the first of the family of Lieutenant-General Thomas J. Jackson of whom we have any definite record. At the age of ten, his parents and two brothers joined one of the migrations from Port Rush, removing to London. From this point, in 1748, at the age of twenty-nine, he set out to seek his fortune in America. Others in the same family, settling in New Jersey, found their way into western Virginia in later years; still another line in the South produced Andrew Jackson of Tennessee.

Arriving in the colony of Maryland, John Jackson located in Cecil county and here, in 1755, married Elizabeth Cummins, born in 1720, who had been a fellow passenger on the trip from London. Three years later, in the spring of 1758, they removed to the south branch of the Potomac, settling in Pendleton, near the present Moorefield,

"In the fall of the ensuing year (1768)," relates Alexin Hardy county, (W.) Va.
ander Scott Withers in *Chronicles of Border Warfare*, "John Jackson (who was accompanied by his sons, George and Edward) settled at the mouth of Turkey Run, where his daughter, Mrs. [Josiah] Davis, now lives." This is the site long known as Jackson's Fort and present Buckhannon, W. Va. Large holdings of state lands were acquired in this region, and among them is a patent for 3,000 acres issued to Elizabeth Cummins Jackson, the fees being paid with English gold, a few guineas of which are still in the hands of descendants.

The first county court of Randolph was held on May 28, 1787. The records show that John Jackson was appointed commissioner of revenue in 1787, and had been ordered into service as an Indian spy by Governor Henry Lee in 1786. He was made a justice of the peace, lieutenant of militia in 1787, and captain of militia in 1789.

Later in life John Jackson and his wife removed to Clarksburg to live with their children; here he died, Sep-

tember 25, 1804.* His wife survived until 1825. To John and Elizabeth Jackson were born eight children:

1. GEORGE. Born in Cecil county, Maryland, January 9, 1757, and died at Zanesville, Ohio, May 17, 1831. Married (1) Elizabeth Brake at Moorefield, November 13, 1776, who was born February 22, 1757, and died March 22, 1812; (2) Mrs. Nancy Richardson Adams, on November 6, 1814.

In 1779 he organized a band of Indian spies that did excellent service. Appointed a captain in 1781, he recruited a company of 104 men to participate in the expedition of George Rogers Clark against Detroit, making a sensational journey with two guides into the wilderness of present Indiana.

The first county court of Harrison county was held in his house on the Buckhannon River, June 29, 1784. George Jackson was recommended and appointed a justice of the

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* I, John Jackson, of Harrison county and State of Virginia, do hereby make my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say, I desire that a deed shall be made to my daughter, Sophia, for two hundred acres of land lying in Randolph county, on Brushy Run, joining Joseph Hall's land on the west side, including Frank's lick. Secondly, I give to my granddaughter, Elizabeth Reager, two hundred acres of land lying in Randolph county, on the west side of Buckhannon River, and on the south side of a line running between the waters of Turkey Run, and two small runs, one known by the name of Long Bridge Run, and the other by the Rich Knob Lick Run, including the mouths of both. It is also my desire that the above described tract of land shall remain in the hands of her father until she becomes of age or marries. It is to be understood that in case she should die previous to either these events, the land to fall to her father. Thirdly, I give to my wife, Elizabeth, all the residue of my estate, real and personal, of whatsoever nature it may be, to be disposed of as she may think proper. And lastly, I do hereby constitute my son, George, executor of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, affixed my seal, this twenty-second day of September in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and one. John Jackson ( )

Signed, sealed, published and declared as and for the last will and testament of the above named John Jackson in presence of

John G. Jackson
William Williams.

Recorded in Will Book No. 1, page 133.

peace, and as such a member of the county court; he was a member of the Virginia assembly, 1786-1790; a member of the Virginia convention that adopted the Constitution of the United States, 1788; and a member of the Fourth, Sixth and Seventh Congresses; founder of "Collins Settlement" in present Lewis county, and a member of the Ohio legislature. Altogether, he was a man of great activity and prominence—a soldier and politician.

Early in March, 1782, Indians appeared in the Buckhannon valley and some of the people were murdered without warning. Captain White, "the lion in the defense of the settlement in the absence of George Jackson," was killed in plain view of the fort. Soon after, George Jackson is said to have run all the way from present Buckhannon to Clarksburg in the night for help and arrived in time to repel an invasion. These are merely high marks in the efforts of this man to take care of the people of that day. George Jackson fostered efforts to start schools and was a trustee of Randolph Academy in 1795.

Ability was not limited to the second generation, however, and of George Jackson's fourteen children by his two marriages several became distinguished. Edward Brake (1793-1826) served in the Virginia assembly, War of 1812, the Seventeenth Congress, was elected to the Eighteenth and resigned. John George (1774-1825) served in the Virginia house of burgesses, the Eighth Congress and five succeeding Congresses; was brigadier general of militia and judge of the United States District Court. He married (1) Mary Payne, sister of Dolly Payne Todd Madison, and (2) Mary Meigs, daughter of Return Jonathan Meigs. George Washington served in the army and will be noted later. Prudence (1789-1855) married Elijah Arnold, founder of the Arnold line in Lewis county.

Other members of this line were scarcely less distinguished. William L. (Jr.) served as lieutenant-governor of Virginia, 1856-8; was a member of Stonewall Jackson's staff, commander of a cavalry brigade and judge of the

superior court in Virginia and Kentucky. John J., Jr., served as a United States district judge. James Monroe was a member of the Fifty-first Congress, and Jacob Beeson was governor of West Virginia. Many others were prominent.

2. EDWARD. (See further.)

3. JOHN, JR. Born 1760, died 1821; married (1) Rebecca Hadden, April 10, 1786, and (2) Elizabeth Cozad in 1799 in Harrison county. His will probated on May 24, 1821, is of record in Lewis county, and mentions children: Edward, Jacob, Samuel, George, William W., Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth and Rebecca. Personal property was owned to the value of $1,811.24, including six slaves.

4. SAMUEL. Married Barbara Reger (sister of Philip) and removed to near Terra Haute, Ind. A daughter "Polly" married Leonard Brake, September 3, 1823.

5. HENRY. Married (1) Mary Hyer (issue Hyer Jackson, eminent jurist of Texas), and (2) Elizabeth Shreve. He became county surveyor, Randolph county, 1793, and had charge of the Banks Survey.

6. ELIZABETH. Married Abraham Brake.

7. MARY SARAH. Married in 1788 Philip Reger, who served as ensign in the Virginia militia in the Yorktown campaign, and subsequently became first sheriff of Lewis county.

8. SOPHIA. Married Josiah Davis.

EDWARD JACKSON, second son of John and Elizabeth Cummins Jackson, was born March 1, 1759, and died at Jackson's Mills, December 25, 1828. The minutes of the first county court of Randolph county, May 28, 1787, contain the following entry: "That Edward Jackson be recommended to the governor as a proper person to fill the office of surveyor, he being of probity and good character." He was appointed a justice of Randolph, May 29, 1787, and as such a member of the county court; captain and colonel of militia, 1787; commissioner of the revenue, 1791; high

sheriff, 1792; and also served as a justice in Harrison county.

About 1801, Edward Jackson removed his family from present Buckhannon to the homestead located below Weston, where he resided until his death. He acquired some knowledge of medicine, was an expert millwright, and a farmer of more than usual ability. He did much of the local surveying work; laid out the site of the town of Weston, and was appointed a commissioner to construct a court house for Lewis county, November 4, 1819. In 1820 he was appointed a justice of the peace and represented Lewis county in the Virginia assembly in 1822-23.

On October 13, 1783, he married Mary Hadden, born May 15, 1764 and died April 17, 1796, a daughter of David Hadden, who had removed from New Jersey to Randolph county in 1772. To this union were born:

1. George E., born December 23, 1786, died March 26, 1831; removed to St. Genevieve county, Mo., in 1821.

2. David E., born October 30, 1788; married Juliet Norris in 1812. Issue: Mary (1813-1900), who married John H. Hays; Edward J. (1810-1896); Nancy and William Pitt. Served as ensign in the Nineteenth Infantry, U. S. A., 1813-14.

3. Jonathan, born September 25, 1790; died March 25, 1826.

4. Rachel, born July 8, 1792; married Jacob Brake in 1815.*

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* Mr. J. L. Brake, of Henrietta, Calhoun county, W. Va., writes under date of July 7, 1923:

"I am the son of Leonard J. Brake, a first cousin of Stonewall Jackson and a son of Jacob Brake and Rachel Jackson. Rachel Jackson was a sister of General Jackson's father.

"We have an old dictionary which belonged to my grandfather, Jacob Brake. In it is a partial family record from which I take the following:

" 'Jacob Brake, born August 1, 1785. Married Rachel Jackson, September 10, 1815, who was born in 1792. To this union were born ten children: (1) Edward H.; (2) George W.; (3) Rachel; (4) Leonard J.; (5) Mary; (6) Jacob L.; (7) Catherine; (8) Rebecca; (9) David J.; (10) Eliza.'

"All of these are dead. I was born March 16, 1840, and would like to know more of my father's family than I do."

5. Mary (Polly) Hadden, born February 19, 1794; died August 30, 1840; married November 30, 1820, Isaac Brake, who was born November 16, 1797; died January 17, 1885, near Buckhannon, W. Va. Issue: Rachel Elizabeth, born January 4, 1822, died November 28, 1883; Edward Stalnaker, born February 20, 1823, died in infancy; Jacob, Jr., born October 10, 1824, died in infancy; Melville Shook, born August 6, 1826, died October 14, 1898; Diademma, born July 20, 1828, died September 12, 1904; Oliva, born September 7, 1830, died February 19, 1914; Mary Virginia, born October 5, 1837, died March 9, 1862; and Isaac Newton, born August 30, 1840.

6. Rebecca, born September 15, 1795; died July 18, 1889. Married George White in 1811 and removed to Pawn Creek (Belleville), Wood county. To this union were born eleven children, among whom were Benton and Jackson, who settled near Columbus, O.

On October 13, 1799, Edward Jackson married (2) Elizabeth, daughter of John (1754-1838) and Elizabeth Wetherholt Brake, who was born January 11, 1772, and died August 19, 1835.

Issue:

1. Katherine ("Caty"), born July 25, 1800, and died December 3, 1876. On January 25, 1824, she married John White, son of Alexander White, a soldier of the Revolution from New Jersey.

Issue:

Fortunas, born November 2, 1824; died July 31, 1901; married Lucy Gibson, December 9, 1847. Sylvanus, born January 15, 1827; died November 29, 1911; married Malinda Henderson, April 21, 1853. Marcellus, born March 17, 1829; died June 2, 1897; married Flora Gibson, December 25, 1856. George Edward, born August 17, 1831; died June 9, 1902; married Alice Fetty. Marellah, born February 2, 1834; died July, 1874; married Jacob

Rohrbough, July 15, 1865. William Pitt, born August 15, 1836; removed to California, March, 1857; married Prudence Strader, December 31, 1854. Alexander Perry, born October 13, 1838; married (1) Mary Fetty, (2) Lovie Ireland, March, 1899. John McDowell, born February 18, 1841; died June 16, 1882 (killed by a falling tree); married Sarah Woofter, 1865.

2. Cummins E., born July 25, 1802; died in Shasta county, California, December 4, 1849.

3. James Madison, born April 3, 1805; died October 27, 1872; married (1) Eleanor Law, December 4, 1836, who died December 27, 1850.

Issue:

Margaret, who married Gaston Greathouse; Mary E., who married John Cunningham; Stokley R., born 1839, died 1906, married Mrs. Eliza Curry Armstrong; Nancy Elizabeth, born 1843, died 1922, married David J., son of John H. and Mary Jackson Hays, who was born 1835, died 1898; Edward T., born August 4, 1848, married Julia A. Brake, February 19, 1874.

Married December 30, 1851, (2) Susan Ann Bailey, who died 1879.

4. Elizabeth (Eliza), born April 6, 1807; died February 22, 1849; married Nicholas Carpenter, July 3, 1830, and removed to near Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

5. John E., born January 22, 1810; died July 18, 1875; married Sarah Byrne and removed to Missouri.

6. Margaret (Peggy), born February 2, 1812; married Jonathan Thompson Hall, March 7, 1833.

7. Return Meigs, born March 15, 1814; died July 6, 1835, at St. Genevieve, Mo. It is related that he died from the result of a standing jump to his own height, six feet.

8. Edward J., born October 29, 1817; died October 21, 1848.

JONATHAN JACKSON,
father of General Jackson.

9. Andrew, born March 16, 1821; died October 31, 1867; married Mary Dean and removed to Indiana. Later returned to Lewis county and died on Hughes River.

(2) JONATHAN JACKSON, the third son of Edward and Mary Hadden Jackson, was born in Randolph county (now Upshur), September 25, 1790. He was educated at the Randolph Academy in Clarksburg and the old Male Academy at Parkersburg, later taking up the study of law under his cousin, Judge John G. Jackson, of Clarksburg. He was admitted to the bar in Harrison county in December, 1810; Randolph county in 1813, and Lewis county at the first county court held at Westfield, just below Jackson's Mills, in 1817. Jonathan served as collector of internal revenue and by 1813 was recognized as one of the most promising and successful lawyers in Clarksburg.

In 1818 he married Julia Beckwith Neale, a school acquaintance, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Winn Neale, of Parkersburg. Margaret Winn Neale was a daughter of Minor Winn, who resided on the west side of Bull Run Mountain, Virginia. Thomas Neale was a son of Richard Neale, of Westmoreland county and Loudoun county, Virginia, and a descendant of Daniel Neale or O'Neale, immigrant from Ireland, in 1649, to Northumberland county, Virginia. Thomas Neale, with his brothers, George, William, Richard and James, removed to Wood county about 1798 and founded Neale's Station, now a part of the city of Parkersburg. Among his eleven children were Alfred, William, Harriet, Julia, Thornton and Minor Neale.

Jonathan and Julia Neale Jackson had issue:

1. Elizabeth, born 1819, died March 5, 1826.

2. Warren, born January, 1821, died November, 1841, on Turkey Run, Upshur county, (W.) Va.

3. Thomas. (See 3.)

4. Laura Ann, born March 27, 1826, died September 24, 1911; married Jonathan Arnold in September, 1844.

Issue:

Hon. Thomas J. Arnold, late collector of the port of San Diego and author of *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson,* who married, in 1876, Eugenia, daughter of Lieutenant-General D. H. Hill, C. S. A.; Stark, born 1851, died 1898, married in 1880 Elizabeth Gohen; and Anna Grace, who married C. H. Evans.

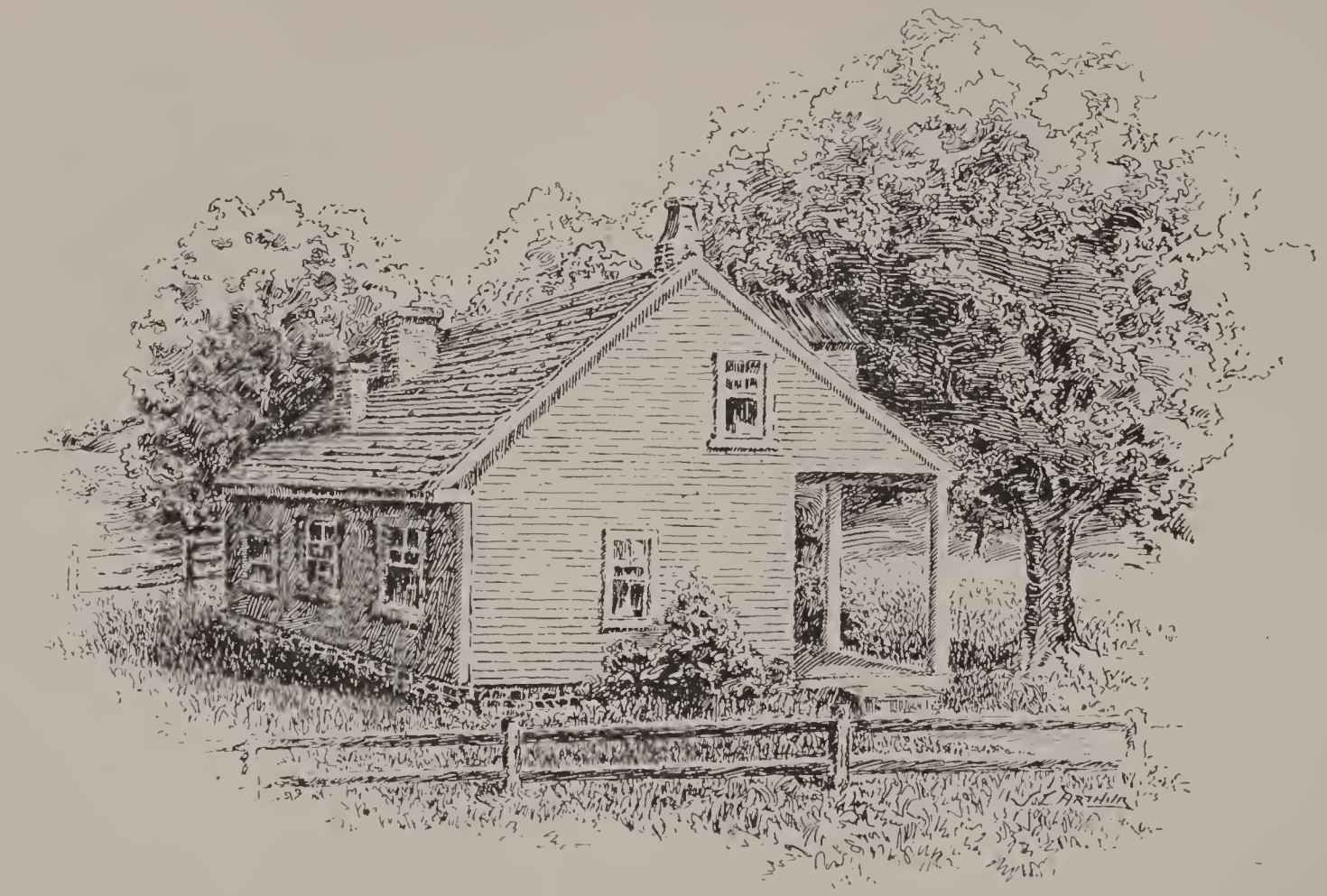
Jonathan Jackson died March 26, 1826,† leaving the young widow with three children; every vestige of his property was swept away. In 1830‡ she married (2) Blake B. Woodson, of Cumberland county, Virginia, then located in Clarksburg in the practice of law. When Fayette county was formed, through the influence of Judge Edwin S. Duncan, he was appointed clerk of court. To this union was born, in 1831, one child, Wirt, who died after the Civil War, near Mt. Vernon, Indiana. Within a year the children were called to their mother's bedside; and today the visitor to her tomb near Ansted, West Virginia, reads:

Here lies Julia Beckwith Neale,
born February 29, 1798, in Loudoun Co., Va.
Married first, Jonathan Jackson;
Second, Blake B. Woodson.
Died Sept. 4, 1831.
To the mother of "Stonewall" Jackson
This tribute from one of his old Brigade.

(3) THOMAS (JONATHAN), the third child of Jonathan and Julia Neale Jackson, was born in Clarksburg, (W.) Virginia, January 21, 1824, and died near Guinea Station, Virginia, May 10, 1863. He married (1) Eleanor Junkin, daughter of Rev. George Junkin, president of Washington College, at Lexington, Virginia, August 4, 1853, who died in the fall of 1854. On July 16, 1857, he married

† Edward Jackson was appointed administrator of estate of Jonathan Jackson on April 19, 1826.—From records of County Court of Harrison county. This proves that Jonathan Jackson died in 1826 instead of 1827, as usually given.

‡ Blake B. Woodson and Julia B. Jackson were married November 4, 1830, by Daniel Limerick.—From records of County Court of Harrison county.



HOUSE IN WHICH GENERAL JACKSON WAS BORN. (MAIN STREET, CLARKSBURG, (W.) VA.)

(2) Mary Anna Morrison, daughter of Dr. R. H. Morrison, of Lincoln county, N. C., who was born July 21, 1832, and died March 24, 1915. To this union were born:

1. Mary Graham, born February 28, 1858, died May 25, 1858.

2. Julia Laura. (See 4.)

(4) JULIA LAURA (THOMAS) JACKSON, born November 23, 1862, died August 30, 1889; married William Edmund Christian, of Richmond, Va., June 2, 1885.

Issue:

1. Julia Jackson, born June 5, 1887; married Edmund Randolph Preston, of Lexington, Va., August 8, 1907.

Issue:

John Randolph, born July 25, 1908, died August 14, 1909; Anna Jackson, August 2, 1910; Elizabeth Cortlandt, January 9, 1914; and Julia, October 9, 1919.

2. Thomas J. Jackson, born August 29, 1888; married Bertha Cook, daughter of Captain Cook, U. S. A., in 1914.

Issue:

Thomas J. Jackson, 1916; and Peggy, 1919. Thomas Jackson Christian was appointed a cadet at West Point by Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, graduating in 1910; advanced from lieutenant to captain; served through the World War, advancing from captain to lieutenant-colonel, and is at present instructor in military tactics at Cornell University. It may not be out of place to state here that in 1921 a splendid statue of General Jackson was unveiled at Charlottesville, Va., by two little great-grandchildren, Thomas Jackson Christian, Jr., and Anna Jackson Preston.

# CHAPTER III

## THE JACKSON HOMESTEAD—JACKSON'S MILLS

Three miles directly north of the city of Weston, in Lewis county, West Virginia, the west fork of the Monongahela River, at an altitude of 1,000 feet and a half mile below the mouth of Freeman's Creek, suddenly swerves to the east and, after traveling a quarter of a mile, swings back to the northwest, creating a peninsula of some proportions in a vast horseshoe curve. Wide bottom land for the first time marks the downward path of the river near the mouth of the tributary, Freeman's Creek; precipitous heights to the east rise to 1,200 feet, and on the west gradually ascend to a height of 1,300 feet. Like some giant thumb stuck out in the path of the stream, this peninsula could not escape attention, and it would indeed be hard to find a more suitable location for a home in the entire Monongahela valley. Here Edward Jackson, in the beginning of the nineteenth century, decided to make his home.

The origin of his title is somewhat obscure; it has been set forth in various works that Edward Jackson patented 1,500 acres in this region, but as a matter of fact no such patent is of record. Yet to him was issued, from 1787 until 1801, six grants of lands, in all 10,418 acres, located on Elk, Glady and Cove Creeks, on Glady Fork of Little Kanawha (as assignee of Henry Banks, June 12, 1801); and on Tygart's Valley River.

From the records of the county court of Lewis it appears that in 1801 Edward Jackson acquired a land grant of 500 acres, issued to George See, on April 16, 1788. An examination of the Virginia records in the land office discloses only one grant in the then Harrison county to George See, and that in 1788 for 218 acres "on the waters of Tygars Valley River."


COLONEL EDWARD JACKSON'S HOME, AT JACKSON'S MILLS, ABOUT 1837.
BOYHOOD HOME OF STONEWALL JACKSON.

Adjoining the See patent to the north was a patent to James Keith, of Hampshire county, and this was transferred on May 15, 1802, by Aleson Clark, D. S., Harrison county, to Mary Sleeth, who in turn sold to Edward Jackson. In April, 1823, the latter conveyed land adjoining "Jackson's Mills" to his grandchildren, Edward, William Pitt, Mary and Nancy, children of David E. Jackson. Title to the homestead was held clear until November 3, 1820, when, in a chancery case of William L. Jackson, of Harrison county, against "Edward Jackson, David W. Sleeth and George White, his sureties on a forthcoming bond in the name of John White for the use of the Ohio Company," the property was transferred to William L. Jackson, Sr. This was done to protect Edward Brake Jackson, who agreed to assume the payment of $1,800 due on the bond named, and the property included "one tract of 500 acres including Jackson's Mills" and the following slaves: Nancy, Sampson, Lamar, Cecelia, Meria, Aaron, Lucy, Sam, Louisa and Lucy.

In the subsequent litigation, and following the death of Colonel Edward Jackson, who left no will, the property was sold by the United States marshal according to a decree of court and was bid in by Cummins E. Jackson. On August 26, 1830, he in turn transferred it to John J. Allen, a son-in-law of John G. Jackson. The deed specifies a tract of land situated in Lewis county, on the east side of the West Fork River, and "also that other tract of land situated on the west side of said river and opposite to the foregoing tract, being a tract of land on which the said Cummins E. Jackson resides, on which there is a mill, being the same land formerly occupied by Edward Jackson." And which was sold under a decree of the superior court of law and chancery, "and being the tract of land originally patented by George See, and by him sold to Edward Jackson."

It seems that within a short time John J. Allen reconveyed the homestead to Cummins Jackson and that Elizabeth Jackson, the widow of Colonel Edward Jackson,

acquired an interest in it. In November, 1835, James Madison Jackson qualified as the personal representative of Elizabeth Jackson and also as administrator of the estate of Return Meigs Jackson, with Edward J. Jackson as surety.

George Oliver in the Weston *Democrat* (1892) says:

> In 1844 the old Jackson Mill property was owned by Cummins E. Jackson. He supplied Weston with a great quantity of lumber for building purposes. I have been informed that he owned some 1,500 acres in connection with the mill property lying on both sides of the West Fork.

Cummins Jackson patented in this same year 551 acres on Cutright Run and 570 acres on Jaw Bone Run. In 1838 he patented 612 acres on the West Fork, 200 acres on Freeman's Creek, and 500 acres on Coal Lick.

In the spring of 1849 Cummins Jackson and others left for California, attracted there by the gold fields. Few people now living can appreciate the attraction this offered to Eastern folk. Whole companies of men left sections of the Valley of Virginia, and in the interior the exodus was only marked by the smaller numbers. Sylvanus White, writing to Thomas Jackson Arnold from California, under date of July 4, 1911, says of the party from around Weston:

> I will now give you the names of the little party that left Virginia, the first of April, 1849, bound for California. The third day of April we left my father's (John White's on Freeman's Creek). In the party were Cummins E. Jackson, Edward J. Jackson (son of David), Calvin J. Brown, myself and brother, George E. White, all of Lewis county; James T. Jackson (at the time) of Parkersburg, Jonathan Ireland and John Gipson of Upshur county; White Vineyard and Griffin Vineyard from Randolph county; the latter later joined another train. (These were grandnephews of Colonel Edward Jackson's first wife, Mary Hadden.) Then from Gilmer county we had Shelton Furr, Othello Hays, Samuel Covert, William Queen and Morgan Queen.

This company arrived in California some time in July, 1849, and the colony was soon augmented by the arrival of others. Many in later years returned East and others founded families still to be found on the Pacific coast. Cummins E. Jackson, however, only lived a few months,

Jackson's Mills, Near Weston, (W.) Va., About 1843.

dying of a fever contracted in the gold camps in December of the same year. The news did not reach Weston until in February of 1850, and after some delay, due to absence of proof of death, etc., the Jackson's Mills property was subdivided among his heirs, he, it seems, having died without a will.

On March 5, 1866, Andrew Jackson and Mary, his wife, executed a deed of trust to David J. Hays, conveying "all real estate descended to said Jackson on the death of Cummins E. Jackson or Edward Jackson direct."

James Madison Jackson, on October 3, 1868, transferred to Stokely R. Jackson ninety-six acres, part of "the old Cummins E. Jackson Mill property." The mill property had in the meantime passed into the possession of Katherine Jackson White (Mrs. John White) and was transferred to William and Huldah Moxley, owners of the Moxley House in Weston.

On March 31, 1886, William E. Arnold, commissioner in a chancery case of "Marcellus White, administrator of Katherine White, deceased, vs. Huldah and Wm. Moxley," sold Jackson's Mills property, together with five acres of land, to Joseph Clifton for $1,300. On November 5, 1913, this five-acre tract with the buildings thereon was sold by Miss Ella Clifton to A. T. Watson, acting for the Monongahela Valley Traction Company, for $4,000, and was by this corporation donated to the state of West Virginia in 1922.

Additional property was then acquired and donated by public-spirited people of the city of Weston and Lewis county. Under the direction of the state of West Virginia it has been converted into a beautiful park, known as

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The illustration facing is from a painting by E. E. Myers, head of the Department of Art, Marshall College, Huntington, W. Va. This is based on actual study on the ground, old engineering maps and prints. The Cummins Jackson house for some years had no porch, the original being removed, and then replaced in 1886. The site is now occupied by Stonewall Jackson Park. This picture is the best ever made of this old home place and is the work of an artist widely and favorably known.

"Stonewall Jackson Park." Here has been founded the first unit in a great national movement, known as the 4-H Project, devoted to the upbuilding of boys and girls in health, head, heart and hands. What more fitting purpose could be served than the creation of Christian citizenship as a memorial to the boy who, with his motto, "You can be whatever you resolve to be," spent his youth at this spot and from here rode away to national and international fame as a man and a warrior?

Parts of the original homestead are still in the hands of members of the family, being owned by the Hays heirs, Edward J. and Byron Stonewall Jackson.

Colonel Edward Jackson in 1801 erected, on the north bank of the river bend and facing the broad bottom land directly south, a two-story, hewn-log manor house with an ell. It was about twenty feet by forty without the wing, quite well constructed, nicely finished inside and considered among the best in the community in that day. This home was occupied by the family until some years after the death of the widow of Edward Jackson, at which time portions were used in the erection of other farm buildings. The site can still be discerned about three hundred feet west of the location of the late Cummins Jackson house, on a rise in an open place among the old apple trees of the family orchard on the county road. This home, rather than that remembered by later generations and depicted in pictures, is the one in which Stonewall Jackson spent his boyhood days, and was dismantled about 1843.

In 1808 an eight-foot dam was constructed in the river for the purpose of supplying power for a saw mill and a grist mill. In or near that year machinery was brought from one of the earlier mills of the Jacksons near Clarksburg and installed in a log building constructed on the east shore (opposite the present mill). Constant trouble was encountered; the bend in the river threw the current against that side and the erosion caused the building partly to slide into the river bed. To this day a slide area of

some proportions still exists on this side and gives trouble to the road-makers and traction lines. With the establishment of this mill the place became Jackson's Mills, and was the scene of constant activity thereafter for over forty years.

At a time precisely undetermined but prior to 1830, the foundation timbers and machinery were removed to the opposite side of the river. Here they were housed in a building, a combination of hand-hewn lumber and lumber sawn in the mill just above. The wife of a distinguished local resident, born in 1834, relates that the first mill building on the present site burned when she was but a small child, and the present building was erected thereupon. An old print examined by the writer bears the notation "Jackson's Mills, 1837," which would seem to indicate that the building still standing was erected in that year. The material of which it is constructed is largely sawn by machine; the building is 40 x 40 feet, two and a half stories in height, with a native stone foundation. An indication of the quality of the timber that once abounded in the community is shown by the hand-hewn beams, which are of poplar, sixteen inches square, forty feet long and free from imperfection. The building contained two flour mills, two bolting machines, burrs for corn and other grain. Power was supplied by two wheels located under the mill, and operating horizontally, rather than the open overshot wheel as depicted by early artists. During the Civil War parties of Federal troops damaged the machinery and, like countless people since, carried away "relics," attracted to the scene because it was the boyhood home of a Confederate chieftain whose moves were on every tongue on both sides during his military career.

Thirty feet above the mill building, on a line with the dam, stood a one-story building until after 1873, with roof sloping like the grist mill; this housed the saw mill. Below these two buildings, on the road to the ford in the river, stood a carpenter and blacksmith shop and the barn.

For a time a store was conducted nearby, and the place was a little self-contained community.

In the early forties (perhaps 1843, although one member of the family says it was new in 1848) Cummins Jackson erected a larger and more pretentious house on the north side of the river in the apex of the curve. It was a two-story frame building, in the shape of an ell with equal sides, with five windows in each side. It had no porch and commanded a view for some distance up and down the river. Stonewall Jackson probably, indeed in all likelihood, spent his vacations from West Point and his later visits in this home. As already noted, it was not his early home place. It was used as a residence by some member of the family for the greater portion of the time until the opening of the Civil War, although it had periods of vacancy even in that early day.

Cummins Jackson departed for the gold fields of California in 1849, and for the next four decades the home place went through a period in which it was often deserted for years at a time. The Jackson house was leased to others; the mill was operated at intermittent periods by Trowbridges, Whites, James Madison and Andrew Jackson, the latter's connection with it ceasing about 1867.

Under such circumstances it became simply a rambling deserted home place; the old mill building was the rendezvous for ghosts and the alleged scene for the basis of the novelette, *Black Beelzebub*, and other stories. Barney Hamback, a worker in the mill, had lost his life in an unfortunate affair in earlier years, and the superstitious believed that certain mysterious sounds did not cease until the iron bar from a bolting mill with which he had been struck had been made into horseshoes. In the late forties a deputy United States marshal named Thorp appeared at the mills with a legal paper to serve on a local resident, who escaped by what seems a dangerous feat of jumping in the river from a window in the rear of the mill and swimming across; later he performed a similar feat by

escaping under the waterfall created by the dam. This man eluded pursuit by taking refuge in the old Jackson house. A negro slave girl, passing in the road, screamed when intercepted, detracting attention momentarily from him. Finally, the fugitive was taken to the clerk's office of the court house in Weston to execute bond for appearance, when he suddenly pulled a pistol from beneath his shirt, backed out of the door in the face of his surprised captors, mounted a horse and left the community.

Back in the mills, in the hills to the west, is the alleged lost Barrett lead lode, for which more than one searching party has sought in order to discover the origin of metal used for purposes legitimate and illegitimate.

After the purchase of the homestead in 1886 by Joseph Clifton, the mill and the Jackson house were repaired. The windows had long been broken out and little sycamore trees had taken root in the accumulated debris on the floors. The mortar had fallen from the chimney and under the hearthstones were found a number of old Spanish silver pieces. The stairway, if ever there had been one, was gone, and access to the second floor was secured by a ladder arrangement on the wall. One end of the basement was sub-divided by a native stone wall, which created a small room six feet by sixteen. In blasting a stone for steps for the house, several fossilized nuts resembling pecans were found embedded therein; these are still in the hands of the late owners. A porch was constructed on the two sides next to the road, the puncheon floors in the kitchen annex were replaced, and the place again became habitable. This is the house shown in all the pictures of the "Boyhood Home of General Stonewall Jackson."

When it was announced that the mill pond would be drained and the mill race repaired, folk of the neighborhood recalled that in 1867 a local resident had died in another county. On his death-bed he was constantly talking of a "box buried in a stream or drain," and his words were supposed to have reference to something buried near the

mill. The result was that a number of people appeared on the scene, and, when the water was let out, the bed of the river was examined with pitchforks, bare feet and other means for several hundred yards up and down, but to no avail. After a period of operation running into the nineties, the mill was again closed. Floating logs in the river in timber runs did much damage to the property. For a number of years the mill and the house as well were simply used as a storage place; in the meantime several attempts by patriotic organizations to buy and preserve the homestead failed.

The visitor to the home of Jackson's boyhood finds the scene greatly changed from the days "before the war." The old mill stands a silent sentinel at the river's edge, rising like a great white phantom of the past, as is so well expressed in the words of Camden Sommers:

A shell, naught more, the old mill stood,
Grim jest of passing winters' snows;
Gruesome it stays, bathed in blood,
Filched where the big red moon arose,
A wreck of time—thus each thing goes;
All around the landmarks are falling—
That's life—the new is always calling.

Above the old mill pond now passes an artistic concrete bridge replacing the ford in the river below. The dam and mill race have ceased to exist, leaving only tumbled stones and decaying timbers to mark their place.

On a rise along the river near the junction of the Lightburn road is located the old Jackson burying ground, surrounded by a neat iron fence. Here one reads on the markers the names of "John Brake"; "Colonel Edward Jackson, and Elizabeth Jackson, consort of Colonel Edward Jackson." Nearby are those of "James M. Jackson" and "Susan Ann, wife of James M. Jackson"; "Edward J., son of David and Juliet Jackson"; "Edward Jackson and Mary Jackson, wife of John H. Hays," and several others of the Jackson and Hays families.

The old manor house with its widespread porch, through negligence, went the way of Blennerhassett's mansion and other historic structures by fire in May, 1915. On its site stands a block of granite, four feet eight inches high, weighing about twenty tons, bearing a bronze tablet on which one reads:

> This tablet marks the site of the boyhood home of General T. J. (Stonewall) Jackson, a soldier of great military genius and renown, a man of resolute, pure Christian character. Died May 10, 1863, of wounds received at the battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia.

# CHAPTER IV

## CHILDHOOD

It is a far cry from Main Street in the industrial city of Clarksburg, West Virginia, to that of the little village of the same name located in western Virginia in the early days of the eighteenth century. Yet to Jonathan Jackson, who inherited much business acumen and foresight, it was easily apparent that the town would be the leading one of the great interior in time, the key to the upper Monongahela, and therefore a good place wherein to settle for the practice of law. Here, in what is now the very heart of the city, he in 1818 erected a neat three-roomed cottage, with semi-attic and inset porch, of a type now fast disappearing. No paved street lay in front. No concrete walks afforded means of egress and access. The street was the road, and alongside ran an ordinary fence surrounding a lot of some proportions with an old gnarled apple tree therein, which tradition relates was set out by Benjamin Wilson from seed secured from the famed "Appleseed Johnny." The site is now covered by a three-story brick building erected by D. Davidson in 1861; in 1911 there was attached thereto a bronze tablet by the Stonewall Jackson Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy which informs the public that it is the site of the birthplace of "General Stonewall Jackson." Here, on September 30, 1869, no less a personage than Horace Greely—he who espoused enthusiasms so opposite—stood with bared head and addressed to the assembled crowd a touching eulogy on the spirit of the departed chieftain.

To this home place Jonathan Jackson brought Julia Neale, his Parkersburg bride. Rather a brunette, with dark brown hair, dark gray eyes, of medium height, handsome face, a close student and well educated, she at once became

a favorite in the little town. Edward Jackson, the father of Jonathan, took much interest in the young couple, and gave to them some property holdings (inherited, it has been stated, but Jonathan Jackson died before his father). The law practice grew, and the young lawyer seemed destined to achieve success; the children born to him came into the world with no thought of the troubles that were in store for the family in the future. The father, like many in those days, in a region far removed from banks and other financial institutions, advanced money and endorsed notes for his neighbors. In March, 1827, the oldest child, Elizabeth, contracted typhoid fever. The father turned his attention to the bedside of the sick one, and in the same month both passed to the great beyond, leaving the widow, a little daughter, Laura, and two little boys, Warren and Thomas.

The investigation of the following weeks revealed that every vestige of the property of the family had been swept away. The Masonic fraternity, of which Jonathan Jackson had long been a member, came to the rescue and the bereaved ones took up their abode in a small one-room cottage furnished by the organization. Turning to look for some means of livelihood, the mother took up sewing and, being solicited to do so, opened a three-months school. During this time came the opportunity for the future general's first exploration of the outside world. Left with a neighbor's child somewhat their elder while the school was in session, the little girl and the two little boys, Warren and Thomas, did well enough until their protector deserted them. Warren raised a window, and the three youngsters got out as best they could and started down the road. The mother returned to find the house empty and for a time was nearly distracted, until it developed that Jesse Jarvis, for many years deputy clerk of the county court of Harrison, had found them and taken them to his home. With the year 1830, the story of the family and its connection with Clarksburg comes to a close.

# CHAPTER V

## THE BOY AT JACKSON'S MILLS

On the removal of the family of Jonathan Jackson to present Fayetteville, Warren was sent to live with Alfred Neale, of Parkersburg. Thomas and his sister, Laura, after a few months in the new home, returned to Lewis county to make their home with Elizabeth Cummins Jackson, second wife of their grandfather, Edward Jackson, two maiden aunts and several uncles, among whom was Cummins Jackson, who was destined to take a great interest in the future general.

Some two years later Thomas left Jackson's Mills for a short time and resided with Isaac Brake in Harrison county. Some difficulty, either real or fancied by the young mind, arose, and he suddenly appeared at the home of Mrs. John J. Allen, at Clarksburg. She, after listening to his troubles, told him he should return to his Uncle Brake. "Maybe I ought to, ma'am, but I am not going to," was his reply; and he again took up his home at the "old homestead" below Weston.

For twelve years the boyhood of the future general was spent at the Jackson homestead, an existence not unlike that of many others of the same period. Yet the lad was marked by many singularities that even then set him apart from the circles in which he moved. His strict adherence to truth and unfailing honesty and courage are still proverbial in the community. One of his schoolmates in the Clarksburg *Telegram,* in 1894, says:

> Tom was always an uncommonly behaved lad, a gentleman from a boy up, just and kind to everyone.

At a very early age Thomas did much work about the farm. The holdings of Edward Jackson had been increased

by land patents issued to Cummins Jackson on Freeman's Creek and in other adjacent locations. Much was in primeval forest, the trees of which were cut down and hauled or floated to the saw mill, located at the foot of the mill pond just above the grist mill. Indeed, the lumber for the grist mill was cut in this mill, which was erected first, besides that used in part in the old manor house, the store and the blacksmith shop. Most of the neighbors' homes were built from lumber from the same source, as well as the thirty-odd houses and shops and stores in the town of Weston. Tom was often directed to take charge of the men and the few slaves engaged in the forest, a task he performed well, even though he would seem to us a mere child. His labors also took him to the grist mill, where he worked under the direction of the millers, all of whom felt an unusual interest in the orphan boy.

Yet, with all his industriousness, he was a boy, with a boy's inclinations and addicted to spells of contemplation. Sitting by the side of the mill race or at the end of the dam, he would be seen by neighbors deep in a book or engaged in silent meditation. From this he would turn to his chickens, a collie dog, and a few sheep with great zest. The barnyard occupants were a great delight, and he wrote much to his aunt, Mrs. Alfred Neale, concerning this phase of his boyhood life. Soon he learned to ride the horses and made several weekly trips to Weston for the mail and to secure books loaned by the village folk. From this he went on to practicing on the race track, traces of which can still be seen on the farm of Wilson Arnold adjoining the home place; by the time he was twelve he could ride as well as any of the older boys in the races held at this spot.

Early in life he was seized with some obscure form of dyspepsia, and on the advice of others he sought fervently all kinds of outdoor life. He continued, however, to be troubled by nervous indigestion for the rest of his life. His health was not seriously affected by it.

The sheep were his pride, and when shearing time came he took great delight in that procedure, later hauling the wool to the carding mill of a family connection, David Hays, at Jane Lew. The wool was taken home, spun and made into clothing, some of which he wore. A small amount of flax was raised, and Thomas worked on this with a flail, breaking it; from it a coarse linen cloth was woven. He rode with his uncles in the fox hunt and took part in deer hunts in the fall. During the winter months he trapped rabbits along the river and in the forests back of the bottom lands.

South of the mill pond stood a magnificent grove of sugar maples, which were by Jackson regarded more or less as his personal property. In "sap season" the maples were tapped and the resultant product made into maple sugar, an operation in which Thomas became quite proficient. The river then—before the passing of the forests—was much larger in volume than at this day and could not be crossed except on a horse at the "ford." With the aid of "Robinson," a log was selected and, with Thomas's own hands, the inside was burned out and the trunk fashioned into the canoe of that period. His sister, Laura, who lived at Jackson's Mills until after 1835, made many trips in this improvised ferry-boat. Tradition relates that he once attempted to cross during a spring freshet, but the current was so swift that he lost control and was swept over the dam, being compelled to swim ashore. Indeed, it is quite possible that years later, as Jackson lay dying, his mind reverted to the scenes of his boyhood when he uttered his last words: "Let us cross over the river and rest in the shade of the trees."

About three hundred feet from the site of the old Jackson home there still stands an immense chestnut tree. With it is connected a well-verified anecdote clearly illustrating the determination and grit of Stonewall Jackson as a boy. One night he, in company with some boys from down the river and a few of the slaves with choice "coon

JACKSON'S MILLS, 1920.

Above—Monument on site of Cummins Jackson home. Top: Cummins Jackson House, the Mill and Cemetery in 1886.

dogs," set out for the hills next to McCann's Run. The hours passed with little luck and the party set out for home. The way led through a cornfield in the level bottom land north of the home place, and here the dogs routed out a big raccoon that sought refuge in this chestnut tree.

Clubs and other methods failed to dislodge the prey, and a darkey was told to "shin up" the tree. Eyes shining in the flickering light of a pine knot were all of the raccoon that could be made out, and these on a large limb well out. Obedient to instructions, the colored boy did his best, but the coon put up such a fight that he fell from the tree. He was not hurt, but declared the animal to be a bear and not a coon.

Young Jackson laughed impatiently, announced that he would get it and started up the tree himself. Climbing out on the limb and encountering a resistance such as a large coon can give, he speedily dispatched it with a club. Needless to say, he was a hero among the boys for days thereafter.

The West Fork of the Monongahela then contained fish of a size and variety seldom found since the hills have been denuded of forest. Turtles of a rare size were easily caught, and such prey afforded opportunity to earn a little money. Thomas Jackson fished much. As an evidence of his upright character comes the story of his dealings in fish with Conrad Kester, the gunsmith at Weston. One morning he came by the home of Colonel John Talbott with a fine three-foot pike hanging over his shoulder.

Colonel Talbott hailed him, "Tom, that is a fine fish you have there; what will you take for it?"

"This fish is sold, Colonel Talbott," replied Thomas.

"I'll give you a dollar for it, Tom."

"I can't take it, Colonel Talbott; this fish is sold to Mr. Kester."

"But, Tom, I will give you a dollar and a quarter; surely he will not give you more than that."

Thomas straightened up, saying: "Colonel Talbott, I have an agreement with Mr. Kester to furnish him fish of a certain length for fifty cents each. He has taken some from me a little shorter than that; now he is going to get this big fish for fifty cents."

Kester also offered him one dollar for it, but he refused, giving the same reason he had given Colonel Talbott.

Thomas took part in the social life of the community. On one occasion he started out to attend a party. On the way he had to pass a place said to be haunted, a terror to all the youth of the neighborhood. As he approached the spot his horse was frightened at a white object in the road. "Who art thou?" cried Jackson. No reply. "Who art thou?" he demanded a second time. No reply, but the ghost grew taller. "Who art thou?" came the third time. No reply yet, but the ghost rose to an enormous height and spread wings in a threatening manner. He, who as a man faced cannon unflinchingly, as a boy succumbed to the ghost. "Lucy," he said to his horse, "if you ever did me any good, do it now." Lucy needed no further urging and fled at full speed to the ford, where Jackson crossed and rode to his destination by another route. His Uncle Edward played the ghost and told the story.

The educational facilities afforded by the state of Virginia at that early day were very meager. During some years there were no schools of any kind except a private school at Weston conducted by Matthew Holt, which opened in 1832. There is no record to indicate that Jackson ever attended this school. Later, Robert P. Ray, at the instigation of Cummins Jackson, taught a term in a building generally supposed to have been near the Jackson home, if not one of the buildings there. Thomas attended his first sessions there and for a time went to a school on McCann's Run. This was the beginning of a strong desire for further learning. His efforts were so strenuous along this line that they caused a loss to his Uncle Cummins, but one which he forgave.

A well-authenticated tale is told that Cummins Jackson owned one slave who was somewhat above the average in mentality. Thomas made an agreement with the negro that if the latter would provide pine knots, which were stuck in the jam of the fireplace and furnished light by which to study, he would teach him to read and write. This agreement was carried out, and the slave kept at the task until he became sufficiently learned to write a pass on the "Underground Railroad" and ran away to Canada.

The late William E. Arnold, a distant cousin, relates an event that occurred while he was under the tutelage of a Mr. Mills, who taught a school for a few months near Westfield, as evidence of Jackson's extraordinary decision of purpose. "Thomas was a pupil," says Mr. Arnold, "and whilst on the way to school an overgrown rustic behaved rudely toward two of the girls. He was fired at his cowardly conduct and told him that he must apologize to them at once or he would thrash him. The big rustic, supposing that he was an overmatch for him, declined to do so, whereupon he pitched into him and gave him a severe pounding."

Mr. Arnold, writing in the Weston *Democrat*, further describes his character:

> He was a youth of exemplary habits. He was not what is now termed brilliant, but he was one of those untiring matter-of-fact persons who never would give up an undertaking until he accomplished his object. He learned slowly, but what he got in his head he never forgot. He was not quick to decide, but then when he made up his mind to do a thing, he did it on short notice and in quick time.

His untiring efforts toward self-improvement were noted by Dabney, who says:

> To prove himself worthy of his forefathers was the purpose of his early manhood. It gives us a key to many of the singularities of his character; to his hunger for self-improvement; to his punctilious observance from a boy of the essentials of a gentlemanly bearing.

In the fall of 1836, Warren Jackson, then teaching school in present Upshur county, came to Jackson's Mills

on a visit. The two brothers set out to visit their sister Laura at the home of their uncle, Alfred Neale, who resided just above Parkersburg on James Island. Here they learned of the custom then in vogue of selling firewood to steamboats plying the Ohio River. As a means of monetary remuneration this appealed to their youthful minds. After a short visit at the home of George White, who had married their aunt, Rebecca Jackson, then residing at Pawn Creek (Belleville), Wood county, the two boys set out for Southern waters.

This undertaking finally led them below the mouth of the Ohio, where on an island in the Mississippi they located and plied their trade. Finally, in the throes of malarial fever, perhaps against the desire of the older brother, Warren, the undertaking was abandoned; the return trip was made by way of Parkersburg in February, 1837. The two boys, again at home, were rather reluctant to talk of their experiences, of which two new trunks were the principal physical evidence.

After thirteen years of legislation and some preliminary work, the actual construction of the noted Parkersburg and Staunton Turnpike through Lewis county got under way in 1837. On June 14 of that year, Major Minter Bailey, owner of Bailey's Hotel at Weston, was appointed a commissioner to sell contracts for construction. The contracts were made in July. A great deal of surveying was yet to be done, and the commissioner personally supervised the contracts let. Jackson secured a place under him during the summer and labored long and faithfully. Mrs. Bailey each day packed a lunch for him, and he spent a part of his meal hour in reading or asking questions. Problems of engineering, the compass and level seemed to appeal to him very much. He was described as being one of the best fellows on the job, always doing just what he was told and doing it well.

Considerable stress has been laid by various writers on the lack of religious atmosphere surrounding the boy-

hood of Jackson and the alleged human frailties of his uncle, who was by many looked upon as the nominal head of the house. "Cummins Jackson, though temperate and energetic, was utterly devoid of Christianity, of a violent and unscrupulous character," writes Dabney in his widely read and otherwise admirable work, "and the wonder is that the circumstances did not simply make him [General Jackson] another Cummins Jackson." Cummins Jackson, it is true, was a man of keen likes and dislikes and had a passion, it seems, for "goin' a-lawin,'" according to the vernacular of that day. His ideas as to Christianity have not come down to us, but his conduct and attitude toward his orphan nephew do much toward effacing any bizarre stories that came to the ears of Dabney or his contemporaries. Early in life Cummins Jackson began to patent lands on adjacent streams. Squatters and settlers, both good and bad, who also received title to lands, with overlapping lines, soon engaged him in endless controvercies. In the Clarksburg *Enquirer,* September 12, 1832, he notifies John Hardman and James Keith of a suit against them and calls James M. Camp, Daniel Stringer, William McKinley, Thomas Bland, Weedon Huffman and Gideon Camden, as his witnesses. To one familiar with these men it does not appear that he traveled in bad company. Again, some of the alleged violations of law took place after Thomas Jackson had gone to serve his country in Mexico and these could not therefore have had the remotest influence upon his character.

During five years of Thomas's residence at Jackson's Mills his step-grandmother lived; until 1839 his uncle James Madison had much to do with the direction of affairs; and there were in addition two aunts and other uncles of more youthful years. Opportunities for religious worship were not wanting. There had been a Baptist Society nearby on Freeman's Creek since 1820.

The Broad Run Baptist Church, dating back to 1808, often held Thomas's attention, and near the home of a

family connection, John H. Hays, on Hacker's Creek, was the Harmony Methodist Church, organized in 1829 and presided over by that early "soldier of the cross", John Mitchell. In the town of Weston, where the "gentry" were no greater and no better than their country kinsmen, John Talbott, Jonathan Holt, and John L. Williams administered to the spiritual needs of the community during this period in a full fledged Methodist Society. A daughter of one of these men is authority for the statement that on several occasions "Thomas Jackson, a shy, unobtrusive boy, sat with unabated interest in a long sermon, having walked three miles in order to attend." Members of the Jackson family were connected with some of these church organizations, especially the Baptists, and it would not be too much to say that few communities of its period and population had a better religious background.

> "Men of the ruling houses like the Jacksons", continues Dabney, "were too often found to be corrupted by the power and wealth with which the teeming fertility of the soil of their new country was rewarding their talents. Moreover the general morals of the community were loose and the irregularities too often found countenance from those of the highest station."

As a matter of fact, the "power and wealth" did not exist. Not even a bank was in existence in the county until after Thomas Jackson had taken up his residence in Lexington. Land was cheap, money was scarce, folk were "land poor", and the "teeming fertility" allowed the gleaning of grain only after the hardest kind of labor in clearing the forest.

Continuing, Dabney says "no one will wonder then that as young Jackson approached manhood his conduct became irregular" and he "became a frequenter of house raisings and log rollings." Strange indeed would have been a youth of that day who, with his elders, did not participate in these combination affairs of work and pleasure, then about all that the limited social resources offered. True these events could be made coarse and un-

productive of good to the community, but not more so than certain social pleasures of this day and time. "Apple peelings, corn huskings" and those gatherings enumerated above were attended by the best and missed by few citizens of the town. From such a community life have come ministers and bishops in the church; public men and soldiers; citizens who by their example left the community a better place in which to live. Not the least of these was Thomas Jackson.

It is related and no doubt, with some basis of truth, that the religious inclinations of Jackson were accentuated by the intense interest in the subject manifested by some of the slaves in the household, particularly "Granny Nancy Robinson". She was a typical "Southern mammy", but unlike most of them had been taught to read and write. She read and preached the Bible to all who would listen, and at one time held forth in a public meeting. Cecelia, who had charge of the domestic affairs of the home, was a devoted follower of the elder woman and the directing hand of the younger children in the neighborhood, who were all devoted to the faithful old servant. Edward Jackson, as has been noted, owned ten slaves, as follows: Nancy, Sampson, Lamar, Cecelia, Meria, Aaron, Lucy, Sam, Louisa, and Lucy. Meria, who helped in the mill, and the first two mentioned, later belonged to Cummins Jackson; he also acquired Robinson and Mary, who remained with members of the family until the beginning of the Civil War.

To Robinson is attributed a piece of race track strategy that in the end had rather direful results for all parties concerned. In the summer of 1839, a number of running races were held on the Cummins Jackson track, and Thomas Jackson rode his uncle's horses in most of the contests. A purchase made shortly before of blooded stock included "Kit", whose fame as a runner soon became more than local.

On Crooked Fork of Freeman's Creek was the Simmons farm, and on it was a course laid out for races.

Near by resided a man who owned the only real competitor for Kit in the community, and it was proposed to pit this horse against the Jackson horse, which had made a record. Money was freely bet and local feeling on the outcome rose to a high pitch. Robinson, on the night before the day set for the race and probably at the instigation of others, took the Jackson horse "Kit" up on Freeman's Creek and, procuring the other horse from the barn, with his assistants, ran several races, in all of which Kit was the winner.

The stage was set, word was passed to friends and money was much in evidence. Tom Jackson was to ride the Jackson horse. But an argument arose, and in the controversy Cummins Jackson announced that he would ride his own horse and he put up more money. Being over six feet tall and heavy, his horse with the extra burden lost. The tables were turned, a fight ensued, and feelings were aroused that reflected themselves in the community for several years afterward.

In the spring of 1840, Benjamin Lightburn, of Westmoreland County, Pa., removed to the neighborhood, establishing a mill on the West Fork, a few miles below the Jackson homestead. Among the members of his family was a son, Joseph Andrew Jackson, who was soon to become a great "chum" of young Thomas Jackson. Lightburn owned a book he valued greatly, *The Life of Francis Marion*, by Mason Weems; he also took a profound interest in religious matters. Jackson had a Bible, with which he was quite familiar. It was no unusual sight for travelers to the "Ford" to see the two boys deeply engaged in study and consideration of the problems and interests presented to their youthful minds by these two books. Who can say what influence the story of the "Swamp Fox" and the Bible had upon their lives? Both espoused military careers, in which they rose to high rank; the one surviving the Civil War was ordained a minister in the Baptist Church, and continued to fight for Christianity as he had earlier fought for the Union.

From this it would appear that Jackson's deep religiousness manifested itself at an early period in his life—much earlier than has generally been supposed.

Indeed there is but little question that the thought of becoming a minister in the church often received much attention from Jackson. In very early years he often voiced such a sentiment, and later declared that if he had more education and could overcome a diffidence in speaking in public he most assuredly would have entered the ministry.

Writing from Lexington, Va., about 1852, to his Aunt Clemetine (Mrs. Alfred) Neale, of Parkersburg, he says in part:

> The subject of becoming a herald of the Cross has often seriously engaged my attention, and I regard it as the most noble of all professions. It is the profession of our divine Redeemer, and I should not be surprised were I to die upon a foreign field, clad in ministerial armor, fighting under the banner of Jesus. What could be more glorious? But my conviction is that I am doing good here, and that for the present I am where God would have me. Within the last few days I have felt an unusual religious joy. I do rejoice to walk in the love of God.

In early years he displayed some interest in music. The old melodies of the slaves were known to him, and he could carry them through in their dialect. Like many boys in the rural districts of that day, he became quite expert in the making of "corn stalk fiddles", and it is related that during a recess period of the school on McCann's Run he became so engrossed in the task that the teacher finally had to go out and bring him in to class. About 1840 he came into possession of a regular violin, badly in need of repairs. Taking it to Conrad Kester, the gunsmith of Weston, with whom he was on the most friendly terms, he soon had the instrument in serviceable condition. After hours of patient practice, Jackson gained proficiency on it.

During the summer of 1840, Richard P. Camden, accompanied by John S. Camden and a young son, Thomas, set out on horseback to Lightburn's farm on a business

errand. As they approached Jackson Ford, they heard the sound of a violin interrupting the stillness of the scene. Suddenly around the bend of the road came a short procession led by Thomas Jackson, who suddenly ceased playing. By his side walked "Joe" Lightburn, carrying a flag; back of him marched a boy named Butcher with a kettle and some five or six other boys of the neighborhood, with a rear guard of three colored boys, one of whom carried an old gun. A hurried consultation was held, and then the future military leader suddenly broke into the strains of "Napoleon's March", and with "eyes front" all the young soldiers filed by the riders, passing out of sight without even a backward look.

An unconfirmed tradition relates that in the fall of 1840 Jackson taught school for three months. This school is said to have been conducted in a long building erected by one Valentine Butcher near the mouth of Gee Lick of Freeman's Creek, near the Jackson home. There is yet in existence a "copy" he is supposed to have "set" for his scholars in penmanship which runs as follows:

"A man of words and not of deeds,
Is like a garden full of weeds."

In December, 1841, Jackson wrote to his Uncle Alfred Neale, informing him of the death of his brother Warren, which occurred in November of that year. In the spring of 1842, he wrote further,

> I have received no answer to my last communication conveying the sad news of my brother's premature death. He died in the hope of a bright immortality at the right hand of his Redeemer. * * * * As time is knowledge I must hasten my pen forward. We have received the smile of a bounteous providence in a favorable spring. There is a volunteer company being formed here to march to Texas, in order to assist in the noble cause of liberty.

Three of this proposed company, William Newlon, Joseph Hill Camden and Jonathan Wamsley, did go to Texas.

# CHAPTER VI

## THE CONSTABLE

In the fall of 1839, a private school was opened in the assembly room of the first court house of the county of Lewis, at Weston, under the direction of Colonel Alexander Scott Withers. Thomas Jackson, through the kindness of his Uncle Cummins, was permitted to attend this school for some two months, walking or riding each day from the Jackson homestead. The teacher was not unknown in parts far removed from this locality, as he was the author of Chronicles of Border Warfare, the first book printed west of the Alleghanies, a work that has since gone through six large editions and is reckoned a classic. Colonel Withers' tastes were domestic; he preferred the society of his books—the study of the Latin and Greek classics in the original—to public life, which would otherwise have called a man of his ability and education.

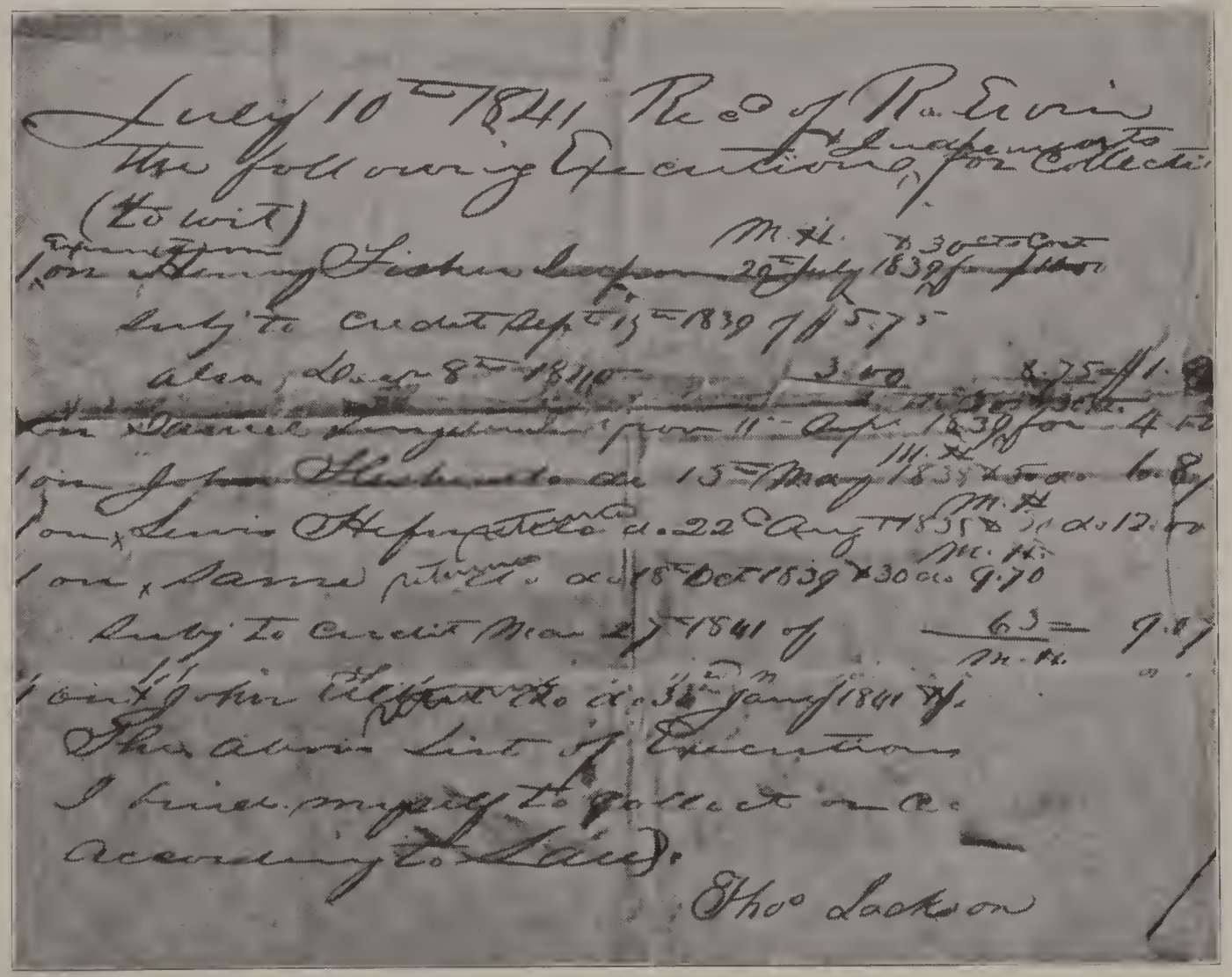
Colonel Withers was attracted by the evident sincerity of Thomas Jackson in his school work and had often observed him in the Jackson home, where he was an occasional visitor. For a time he maintained a residence in Weston, and also lived a number of years below Jackson's Mills, near the mouth of McCann's Run, where he leased a farm that he later acquired in 1857. To the young people of the community, when he could be found in the mood, Colonel Withers was a delightful entertainer, lending them copies of his book, relating further stories of Indian warfare and tales of "old Fauquier County", where he had been born in 1792. Wearing the best of attire and a tall silk hat, he called on the Jacksons one day and while there bought a small sack of meal at the mill. It was prepared so that he could carry it to his home a short distance below on the river, but this he declined to do, stating that he would send Old Kit, a

faithful slave, for the sack. Young Joseph Lightburn, about to return home from spending the day with Thomas Jackson, volunteered to carry it but was informed by the Colonel that "gentlemen from Fauquier had servants for such tasks and worked their heads instead of their hands". Thomas thoughtfully replied, "Well, when one has money to go to William and Mary College, then he knows how to work his head". "Some day I will get you a job so that you can earn some money", replied Withers as he rode away. Later he fulfilled his promise.

On August 14, 1840, Governor Thomas Gilmer appointed Colonel Withers, a justice of the peace and, as such, a member of the county court of Lewis. As a justice, Colonel Withers was fearless, independent and decided. In the spring of 1841, the office of constable in the Freeman's Creek section became vacant, and he at once, after a conference with Major Minter Bailey, a close friend, called on Cummins Jackson and suggested Tom Jackson for the place. It would help the boy a little financially, and more physically, and give him contact with other people. Objection was made that he was very young, but, nevertheless, his friends decided to support him. The eighth of June found all interested at the county seat to await the result, which is partly disclosed in the following court record (Record Book 1837, 606):

> At a court held for the county of Lewis, at the court house thereof on Tuesday, the 8th day of June, A. D. 1841.
>
> The court this day proceeded to appoint constables in this county: Richard Hall and Thomas Jackson were put in nomination as candidates. There voted for Richard Hall, David Bennett, Joseph McCoy, Philip Reger, Samuel Z. Jones, Richard Dobson, Jacob Lorentz, John Reger, James Malone, Matthew Holt, Benjamin Riddle, Alexander Huffman and James M. Camp, 12. For Thomas Jackson, Minter Bailey, Alexander S. Withers, William Powers, Simon Rohrbough & Jacob L. Jackson, 5; and the said Richard Hall having received a majority of the votes of the Justices present was declared duly elected.

One can imagine with what pangs of disappointment the result was learned by the youthful aspirant. Richard



Copy of Receipt Given "Judge" Robert Irvine by Jackson.

Hall, his opponent, was a resident of the near neighborhood, an excellent man and the founder of a family prominent in the annals of the county. Among his supporters were residents of the Collins Settlement section and portions of the present Upshur county, one or more of whom were connected with the Jackson family. Jackson's supporters, as will be noticed, included the two men who espoused his candidacy; William Powers, who had furnished much assistance to Withers in his literary pursuits; Simon Rohrbough, and one of the distantly related Jackson kinsmen.

The subsequent proceedings are unknown, or as yet undiscovered. No bond is found for Hall; possibly he, guided by a feeling of kindliness toward the orphan boy, declined to accept the office. Another story is that Cummins Jackson had acted as "family banker" for some of the members, and that they changed their minds and decided to make arrangements for two constables. However that may be, the fact remains that Thomas Jackson was elected a constable at the same term of court as evidenced by the following entry (Record Book 1837, 650):

Friday, June 11th, 1841.

Thomas Jackson who was appointed a constable in the 2nd district in this county at this term this day appeared in open court and entered into bond with security in the penalty of $2,000 which bond is ordered to be recorded, and took the several oaths prescribed by law, the court being of opinion that he is a man of honesty, probity and good demeanor.

Cummins Jackson and John White appeared and signed his bond, and, at seventeen years of age, Thomas Jackson found himself a full fledged constable. Of his service in this office little is of record; it covered the short space of one year. Sylvanus White, a cousin, in later years, wrote to Thomas J. Arnold, concerning this period as follows:

I went with him on one occasion to show him the near way through the forest, over the hills some three or four miles to a man's

house by the name of Dennis, whom he wished to serve with a legal process. He left the horse at father's, and we went on foot. He served the papers and we returned home. I remember to have seen him and William Stringer have a very hot political discussion one day in Weston. Stringer was an ardent Whig; he was perhaps 45 years of age. Thomas would not stand to have his word disputed, but went and brought papers and proved his point. Father was a security for him in his official capacity. Thomas never superintended his uncle's farm, or the mill work; some of the uncles were always at home. He was a great favorite of mine, one of the most sincere, upright, polite persons I ever knew. The biographies written of him as to his early life are in many respects erroneous.

Receipts and notations thereon indicate something of his trials while acting in the capacity of constable; oftentimes circumstances arose that required the skill and acumen of a man, but he unfailingly made good in all he undertook. One incident, well authenticated, proves this statement.

A widow who resided along the river below Weston sold some goods to a local resident, long noted for his penuriousness, who did not pay as promised. Jackson visited him time and again about the debt, but he kept putting off the settlement. One day Jackson was standing in the door of a livery stable at Weston when he saw the man approaching on horseback. The constable stepped back out of sight. The debtor rode up, dismounted, and was tying his horse to the hitching rail in front of "Benny" Pritchard's blacksmith shop, when Jackson stepped out. Seeing Jackson, he hurriedly unhitched his horse and swung into the saddle just as the former grasped the bridle reins, intending to levy on the horse to meet the debt. But the man guessed his intention and leaped on the horse, knowing that it could not be levied upon with its owner in the saddle. Jackson knew that also, but he started to lead the horse through the open door into the shop. The rider ordered him to release the animal and, when he failed to do so, lashed him over the head and shoulders with his riding whip. Young Jackson bent his head to escape the cuts and dog-

gedly led the horse on through the doorway. The rider was forced to jump to the ground in order to avoid injury, and Jackson levied on the animal. There was nothing left for the man to do but to pay the debt or lose his horse, and so he paid.

The position of constable that day carried with it more dignity and authority than at the present time. Counties in Virginia were then governed by justices of the peace, who besides acting as members of the county court, which they held jointly, were authorized to decide singly in their own neighborhood upon controversies over property or money involving sums not exceeding twenty dollars. Of this little court the constable was the chief officer—as it were, a minor sheriff.

# CHAPTER VII

## THE APPOINTMENT TO WEST POINT

There are few youths of the upper Monongahela Valley who have not, perhaps many times, visited the historic Jackson homestead below Weston, now sadly defaced by the hand of time and the ravages of fire, and who have not heard from the lips of their elders the traditional accounts of "Stonewall's" going to West Point. Nor is tradition confined to this region alone, for writers all over the land, after Jackson's fame became the property of the nation, in their often excellent books covered this episode in his life with the romantic mantle of the "Village Blacksmith" and like characters of fiction. They took refuge, as it would seem, in the theory of one writer who said, "Surround a reasonable basis of facts with fiction and the reader will do the rest." The fact of the erroneousness of popular accounts does not, however, detract from the interest of the event. It should be said, in all fairness, that there is no strange romance back of Jackson's appointment, and still there is an interesting true story.

When Joseph Johnson, after a long term of service in Congress, decided not to seek another term, the Jackson family, then the most powerful political faction in western Virginia, brought out as a candidate Samuel L. Hays, already prominent in state politics. He resided near the mouth of Freeman's Creek, below Weston, and was successful in the election in the fall of 1840, taking his seat on March 4, 1841. He was in Washington continuously from December 6, 1841, until August 31, 1842.

Samuel L. Hays was born near Clarksburg in 1795 and resided in early boyhood on the waters of Elk Creek. In 1817 he married Roama Arnold of the Fauquier County

family (who died about 1848) and removed to Lewis County, locating on a tract of land conveyed by John G. Jackson; in later years he removed to Stewart's Creek in present Gilmer, but then Lewis County. To this union were born: Elizabeth, who married John Webb; Peregrine, who married Louisa Sexton; Othella who removed to California during the "gold rush of '49"; John E., who married a Miss Lewis of Wood County; Samuel L. Jr., who married Elizabeth Cather; Norvell; Mary, who married Shelton Furr; Drusilla, who married Levi Johnson; Warren, Edmund, and Calhoun. Samuel L. Hays served as a member of the Virginia assembly, 1831-36, 1844-45, and 1850-51; he was appointed a justice of the county court of Lewis, June 4, 1833; member of the board of trustees of Northwestern Virginia Academy; and member of the board of visitors, Virginia Military Institute. In the late fifties he married (2) Nancy Covert and in 1856 was appointed by President Buchanan receiver of the land office of Minnesota, situated at Sauk Rapids. Here he married (3) Mrs. Emma Hand Fletcher and here he died in 1871. He is described as an orator of unusual ability.

Another prominent actor in the event was George W. Jackson (1791-1876) of Weston, who had been appointed a lieutenant in the 19th Regiment of Infantry, July 6, 1812, by President Madison; advanced to captain August 15, 1813; transferred to the 17th Regiment and resigned, July 9, 1814. He married Hester Taylor; and to this union were born; Margaret E., who married Jonathan M. Bennett (1816-1887); Capt. James T., who married Phoebe Wilson of a prominent Harrison County family; Eliza, who married Cornelius Hurley; Katherine, who married Gibson J. Butcher, the first appointee to West Point in the case; and Alfred H., who married Mary Paxton and who later, as Lieutenant-Colonel in the Confederate army, before his untimely death gave promise of a military genius second only to that of his illustrious

cousin. Here was, as will be seen, a web of interlated interests that existed for years.

In the spring of 1842 an appointment to West Point was assigned the Congressional district represented by Hays, who at once took steps to fill it. The fact soon became known throughout the community; the appointment especially appealed to Captain George Jackson, who from his connection with the army and his association with kindred who had graduated at West Point, knew something of the value of such an education. In addition, the reader may possibly discern a trace of a romance in the first appointment. More than one applicant desired the coveted appointment. Johnson N. Camden, who was the next appointee from the district, was one.

It developed that Camden was two years too young, but he had formidable political backing. Joseph A. J. Lightburn, a young man of eighteen, who had arrived from Pennsylvania some two years before, was another candidate. The other two were Gibson J. Butcher and Thomas Jackson.

While there is no direct evidence extant concerning the manner of the appointment, there seems good reason to believe that, in order to settle the matter, some kind of a preliminary examination was held under the direction of Captain George Jackson. This was in the "Old Bailey House", at the corner of Second and Main Streets in Weston, now occupied by the Lewis County Bank. The result of the test was that Gibson J. Butcher was selected from among the applicants. He is described by various writers as an "orphan youth of good character and ambitious." His family was in many ways closely connected socially and otherwise with the Jacksons. In later years, George Warren Hays, a grandson of the Congressman wrote:

> Grandfather often related that the appointment had first been given to Butcher. He passed some sort of a local examination and

THE "OLD BAILEY HOUSE BUILDING", WESTON, W. VA.,
as it appeared about the close of the Civil War. Here Jackson and others took an examination for entrance to West Point. Among the crowd in front are: David Bare (1803-1883); Dr. Thomas Camden, (1829-1910); Judge Matthew Edmiston, (1814-1887); John S. Camden, (1851-1923); and Andrew Edmiston, (1849———).

was more proficient in mathematics than any of the others who had made application.

The subsequent history of the unsuccessful candidates is of more than passing interest. Jackson, as will be seen, secured the place. Camden succeeded him at West Point, being admitted in July 1846. He resigned at the end of the second year to take up the study of law, became a builder of railroads, a vice-president of the Standard Oil Company and United States Senator from West Virginia. Lightburn, not to be thwarted in his desire for a military career, became a private, corporal and sergeant in the general service, December 5, 1846 to December, 1851; Colonel 4th (W.) Virginia Infantry August 14, 1861; brigadier-general of volunteers, March 14, 1863; resigned, June 22, 1865. Butcher was for a number of years a director of the branch of the Exchange Bank of Virginia and the National Exchange Bank at Weston; he served a term as clerk of the legislature and as clerk of the circuit court of Lewis County, 1856-60.

The records of the War Department show that Gibson J. Butcher "was conditionally appointed a cadet to West Point on April 19, 1842, by Hon. John C. Spencer, in the name of the President upon the recommendation of Hon. Samuel L. Hays, Representative in Congress from Virginia." The condition was that Butcher would appear at West Point and pass the necessary examinations. In the latter part of May Butcher left for West Point, and of his experience there Sarah Nicholas Randolph writes:

> He had a quick mind; but, on seeing how hard the young men had to study at West Point and under what strict rules they were obliged to live, he determined he could not stand such a life, returned home, resigned his appointment and left the place to be filled by one whose name the world can never forget.

Butcher, on his way back from West Point, stopped at the Jackson home on the way up the river from Clarksburg to Weston and informed the family of what he had

done. Jackson again took hope and at once proceeded to interview Jonathan M. Bennett, Capt. George Jackson, and Matthew Edmiston, who had kindly given him advice and loaned him books prior to the preliminary examination. The greatest danger of failure for Jackson lay in his lack of education. It was well known that the attitude of Hays would be favorable to his candidacy. No letters of introduction to this man were needed. As a neighbor he had been daily in the view of the Jackson family, between which and himself there were the closest relations. What those above Hays would do was a different matter. It was decided to make out several petitions to be presented the Secretary of War and reinforce these with personal letters. Jonathan M. Bennett (who, as the reader will note, had much to do with Jackson's career) later related to John Esten Cooke that he talked the matter over with Thomas, laying stress on his lack of education. Young Jackson replied, "I am very ignorant but I can make it up in study. I know I have the energy and I think I have the intellect." This pleased the men interested very much, petitions were signed, and George Jackson wrote to John C. Spencer in his behalf.

Jackson, in his eagerness to lose no time should he secure the appointment, at once set out for Washington. Dressed in a full suit of homespun, his wardrobe packed in a pair of saddle pockets, he mounted a horse from the farm; and, accompanied by a colored boy, likewise mounted, to bring the horse back, he set out for Clarksburg to catch the stage. The stage line at the time was operated by the Kuykendalls and, as the "Pioneer Stage Line", allowed one for $10 to travel 210 miles. Arriving at Clarksburg and finding the stage gone, Jackson overtook it near Grafton, and the servant returned with the horses. Jackson's route from this point to Washington is obscure, but it may be said that he did not "walk 300 miles", "arrive covered with mud", or "sell his horse", etc., as has variously been stated. Instead, it seems that

he left the stage at Green Valley depot, sixteen miles east of Cumberland, and from there took his first ride on a train, which, to a boy from the interior, was no doubt interesting and exciting.

Arriving in Washington on June 17, he at once made his way to the office of Mr. Hays, presented him with the papers in his possession, explained his mission and awaited results. He also delivered to him the following letter from Butcher, which is in itself explanatory and clears up a point much discussed in the intervening years:

Weston, June 14, 1842.

Mr. S. L. Hays,
Dear Sir:

It is with deep regret that I have now to send you my resignation as "Cadet" in the West Point Military Academy. I left here the last of May and arrived in West Point on the 3rd. of June, and after seeing the movements and learning the duties which I had to perform I came to the conclusion that I never could consent to live the life. I did not know as much about the institution when I applied for the appointment as I know now and it was altogether through the instrumentality and persuasions of my friends that induced me to make application for the appointment. My friends here think it would have been a decided advantage for me to have remained at West Point, and I am of the same opinion, if I could have remained there contented but this I could not do, it being an institution for the education of young men destined for the army and for no other purpose and I have only to regret the disappointment which I have made, and especially having disappointed you, after using your agency in prouring the appointment for me, and be the consequences what they may I must humbly ask you to make every degree of allowance for me in your power and have another cadet appointed. You will please communicate my resignation to the Secretary of War and if consistent with your views still remain my friend.

Mr. Jackson will deliver this letter to you, who is an applicant for the appointment.

I did not resign when I was at West Point but left without reporting myself to the Superintendent.

Will you be good enough to write to me on the receipt of this?

Very respectfully,

Your Ob't. Serv't,

G. J. Butcher.

This letter was "forwarded" to the Secretary of War by Hays, together with two petitions signed by the following constituents:

Lewis Maxwell
Matthew Edmiston
Gideon D. Camden
Richard P. Camden
John McWhorter
William Carey
Alexander Scott Withers
Burton Despard
Jonathan M. Bennett
Allan Simpson
Cabell Tavenner
August J. Smith
Weeden Hoffman
Robert Irvine
William Morrison
Minter Bailey
Cummins E. Jackson
Jacob J. Jackson
John White
William E. Arnold
George Jackson Arnold
John Talbott
Thomas Bland
Peregrin Hays
Dr. Evan Carmack
Dr. Richard W. Riddel
Henry F. Westfall
William J. Bailey
John Lorentz
Presley McIntire
Smith Gibson

Hays at the same time recommended Thomas J. Jackson for appointment in place of Butcher, and as a result a conditional appointment warrant was signed by John S. Spencer on June 18, 1842.

Thus did a slender thread control the destinies of this young man who before his death was to rise from obscurity to fame, but whom fate might easily have left to follow an ordinary career in the upper Monongahela Valley. Stories of a personal interview between Hays, Jackson and Spencer have been rampant, but, judging by the use of the word "forwarded" in the records, no such interview seems to have taken place. The Congressman, who often spoke of incidents in this connection, did not relate the conversation if one took place. The papers in the case likewise set at rest the statement that Jackson added the word "Jonathan" to his name while at West Point, as its first appearance is in the appointment warrant. Indeed it may have been customary for the department to expect more than one given name.

After the securing of the appointment, Hays wrote a personal letter to the Superintendent at West Point, laying stress on the circumstances of the appointment and the need and deserving qualities of the appointee. The utility of this may be apparent when it is noted that, from 1838 to 1917, 4,966 boys were rejected by the academic board, 2,890 failing to pass in grammar.

Hays invited Jackson to stay with his family a few days and see the sights of the city, but impatience to get to school and work led him to decline this request. He did climb to the dome of the then unfinished Capitol and viewed Washington and the surrounding country. As he had stood in silent meditation beside the old West Fork, he looked long and silently on the scene before him. Over the Potomac, on a height in the hills of his own Virginia, might be seen the home of the modest young officer, Robert E. Lee; the new cadet could almost see Manassas, where later in the din and smoke of battle, he was to win undying glory and utter the following prayer:

> "Oh, God, let this horrible war quickly come to an end that we may all return home and engage in the only work that is worth while and that is the salvation of men."

# CHAPTER VIII

## WEST POINT.

Just when Jackson appeared at West Point for the purpose of standing the preliminary examination is not known. It is certain that it was between June 20 and 30, 1842. A traditionary account declares (and subsequent letters seem to support) the declaration that Congressman Hays loaned him a small sum of money, and that he spent a day in New York while on his way. The records in the Adjutant's office at the Academy are very meagre, simply setting forth his name as "Thomas J. Jackson", resident at Weston, Lewis County, Virginia, and that he was admitted July 1, 1842 (Congressional District not given) from Virginia.

An insight into the ideals of the young man at this period of his life may be gleaned from the following extracts from a private note book, dated 1842: "Sacrifice your life rather than your word." "Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve." And further, "You may be whatever you resolve to be." This last is the most characteristic and famous expression of "Stonewall" Jackson.

The following four years were passed uneventfully; his studious habits never left him, and in the later years he came to the front rank in the study of logic. Shy and retiring though he was, he nevertheless made friends among many whose names became illustrious in the great Civil War to come.

It is stated that at the time of his arrival at West Point Jackson was five feet ten inches in height, but that constant drilling developed his frame until he reached six feet. He had a great fondness for the artillery; upon graduation he stood seventeenth, having risen in a short

time from the fifty-first place in a class of seventy-two. This was an extraordinary accomplishment.

During his attendance at the Military Academy, the regulations of 1839 were in effect which provided that the Superintendent might grant a leave of absence to a cadet, at the request of his guardian, for all or a part of the encampment period. With this regulation in mind, Jackson wrote home to Cummins Jackson in regard to securing a vacation period. Likewise he addressed a letter to his sister Laura, of Beverly, (W.) Virginia, on January 28, 1844, in which he said in part:

> Tell Uncle Cummins if you should see him shortly that I want him to write to me, giving me permission to come home; for without his consent the superintendent will not give me a furlough; though if you should not have an opportunity of doing so, you need not mention it to him, for I will write to him if I do not hear from him soon. Give my respects to Seely (Celia, a slave of Cummins Jackson who looked after household affairs) if you should see her and tell her that there is not a day that passes without my thinking of her, and that I expect to see her in less than five months.

It seems that Cummins Jackson complied with his request shortly thereafter. Jackson was released on furlough and returned to Weston and the old home place in the summer of 1844. An interesting story is handed down concerning this visit.

Dressed in a brand new uniform and mounted on one of the crack horses from the Jackson barns, in company with Miss Caroline Norris and others, he set out to attend church on Broad Run. In crossing the West Fork, at Wither's Ford near McCann's Run, his horse slipped on a stone, fell and precipitated the future general into the river. In the face of objections on the part of his companions, he gallantly remounted though thoroughly wet and continued on his way. This with a stoicism that marked so many of his acts and no doubt with a feeling that he was simply keeping faith with the doctrines of the Broad Run Baptist Church.

On his return to West Point in August, it would seem that the task of again taking up his studies weighed heavily upon his mind and that his thoughts reverted to earlier days on the West Fork of the Monongahela.

> Times are different,—he wrote his sister Laura, on September 8, 1844,—from what they were when I was at my adopted home. None to give their mandates, none for me to obey but as I chose, surrounded by my playmates and relatives, all apparently eager to promote my happiness.

On June 30, 1846, he received the brevet rank of second lieutenant of artillery, and graduated on July 1. He at once returned to visit his sister at Beverly and the old home at Weston. Concerning this visit, Sylvanus White in a letter to Thomas Jackson Arnold says:

> While he was here our County Militia was called out with a view of getting up a company of volunteers for the Mexican War. Our Colonel McKinley asked him to take command of a company in the day's muster. He (Thomas) said, 'No, I would probably not understand your orders.' But the Colonel insisted. When we got on the parade ground the Colonel did not give the proper command and Tom's company was headed uptown, so he went on, explaining afterwards that he was obeying orders. 'I volunteered in the company for the Mexican War', he said to me; 'I expect orders any minute to go. I want to see you at the taking of the City of Mexico. We are going to take it.' Our company was never called out.

This visit was very short, for it appears that he arrived at Weston on Monday, July 20. On Wednesday he received orders to report to Captain Francis Taylor, at Fort Columbus, Governor's Island, New York, and he left on Thursday, July 23, for this point.

JACKSON IN 1847.

# CHAPTER IX

## MEXICO AND THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE.

On August 19, 1846, Jackson, in company with Captain Francis Taylor, left Fort Hamilton with some thirty men and forty horses, to join the United States forces in Mexico. He was assigned to Company K, First Regiment of United States Artillery. After traveling to Pittsburgh, the command set out for New Orleans by boat; on the way down the Mississippi River they passed the island that had been the scene of the adventures of Thomas and Warren Jackson in 1836-37, when they set out to seek their fortune in the West. Leaving New Orleans in the latter part of September, the company was soon attached to the army of General Zachary Taylor. It remained more or less inactive until the spring of 1847, and in the meantime was transferred to the troops under the command of General Winfield Scott, the commander in chief of the army of occupation. On March 3, 1847, Jackson was advanced to the full rank of second lieutenant and later in the same month wrote his uncle, Isaac Brake, as follows:

Camp near Vera Cruz, Mexico,
March 31, 1847.

Dear Uncle:

I remember with no small degree of pleasure the happy days which I have spent under your hospitable roof, and in the agreeable society of yourself and family.

Since those happy days I have seen many vicissitudes of fortune, but in the all changing scenes the hand of an allwise God can be seen. He has prolonged my life up to the present moment though my health has been bad at various times, and I have been for months in a sickly climate.

Since leaving home I have been in many of the large cities of our own country and in some of those of the enemies. Among the latter may be enumerated Matamoras, Monteray, Saltillo, and Vera

Cruz, the latter city in connection with the castle of San Juan Ulloa surrendered to us after a long siege. We landed on the ninth of this month near the city, and on the same night the enemy commenced their fire on us which was kept up with occasional intermissions until we had so bombarded and cannonaded them as to induce them to surrender, which they did day before yesterday giving up their arms, and all public property, themselves retiring into the interior with the understanding that they should not again take up arms against us during the present war.

Troops at present occupy both town and castle. The town is of immense strength being surrounded on one side by a wall about ten feet high and forts extending around to the Gulf of Mexico, and on the gulf side is defended by the castle itself which is a large fortress of the strongest character and the works are so arranged that it is impossible for a man to approach the town on either side without being exposed to the fire of cannon. I hope that before many days I shall be on the march towards the City of Mexico. Vera Cruz continues healthy. Our loss is small, not exceeding in my opinion 20 men killed, but the loss on either side is not accurately known. We had two captains killed, one of the artillery and the other of the infantry.

General Taylor has obtained a great victory over General Santa Anna, but sustained a loss in killed and wounded of about 700 men. The Mexican army appears to be in a very distracted state according to rumor. I hope I shall again be allowed the privilege of meeting with yourself and family before the lapse of many years, but I cannot think of it until the close of the present war.

I wish you to answer this as soon as convenient giving me a general history of things in your vicinity. My health is about as when I last saw you. Give my respects to each member of your family including of course Rachel and James, and remember me to all inquiring friends. Tell Uncle Jacob if he is still living that I intend writing to him before long and remain assured of my highest regards.

T. J. JACKSON.

P. S. You will be particular not to allow any part of this or any other letter from me to be published. T. J. J.

Isaac Brake,
Buckhannon, Va.

Jackson was advanced to the rank of first lieutenant on August 20, for "gallant and meritorious conduct at the siege of Vera Cruz" and on the same date was further advanced to the rank of brevet captain "for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Che-

rubsco". In the events which followed in rapid succession, Captain McGruder in his official reports writes: "I beg leave to call the attention of the Major-General commanding the division to the conduct of (then) Lt. Jackson of the First Artillery. If devotion, industry, talent and gallantry are the highest qualities of a soldier, then he is entitled to the distinction which their possession confers. On Sept. 13, 1847 he was commissioned a major (register U. S. Army) for "gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chapultepec, September 13, 1847", having in less than a year risen to this rank from brevet second lieutenant.

The Harrison *Republican,* published at Clarksburg, states (December 10, 1847) that a letter had been received from Lieut. Thomas Jackson, a West Point Graduate from Lewis County, in which it is related that he had been favorably noted in reports for his conduct in engagements near the capital of Mexico. His residence in Mexico was not of any great duration, but during this time he managed to learn something of the Spanish language and investigated the prevailing religion of that country. On March 5, 1848, an armistice was signed and, in June, Major Jackson's command returned to Fort Hamilton, New York, arriving in August. In December of the same year he secured a furlough and for a short time visited his sister Laura, then residing at Beverly, and relatives in Clarksburg; he spent the Christmas season at Jackson's Mills. Here he found the family circle much broken; his Uncle Edward with whom he was a great favorite had died in October of the same year, and his Aunt Elizabeth (Carpenter), who was then ill, died a short time after he left the community.

Returning to Fort Hamilton in January, 1849, Jackson lived the routine garrison life. Letters extant show his great interest and feeling in religious matters. He also set himself to the task of further education and had in view the possibility of being advanced from a major-

ship to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. The following letter to his benefactor Samuel L. Hays, of Weston, is of great interest in this connection.

Fort Hamilton, Long Island, N. Y.
Feby. 2nd. 1849.

Dear Sir:

Having to a great extent recovered my strength, and, I hope, my health, I take pleasure in returning you my most sincere thanks for your repeated kindness towards me; hoping at the same time, that some opportunity may present itself, of discharging my debt of gratitude in some other way; though at present, I must admit, that I cannot see very clearly in what way I can ever be serviceable to you; though should that opportunity never present itself, I well know from the interest which you have taken in my welfare that you will consider yourself compensated, if I but turn to the best advantage the opportunities which your exertions in my behalf, have, and may hereafter give me.

I regret that I could not have had an occasion of conversing a moment with you at our last meeting; you might have given me some information, which I could not otherwise acquire.

I believe that the list of brevets is now being made out, and from what you intimated to me, and from information received since, and the strong grounds on which I have been presented, I have but little or no doubt but that I shall be advanced; provided my claims should be presented to the Secretary of War; but I am afraid that the case may from forgetfulness, not be brought to his consideration at this time; as the list is being filled up.

I would be glad to converse with you; as I know that my conversation would be directed to *my best friend;* but that pleasure I must forego for the present. My sense of gratitude for the interest which you have taken in my welfare, is easier to be appreciated by the heart, than to be expressed by words.

I purpose with the blessings of *Providence* to be a hard student, and to make myself not only acquainted with Military art and science; but with politics, and of course, must be well versed in history. My historical studies I have arranged in the following order: first a general history, ancient and modern, and then, special histories of important events, countries, etc.

I have commenced with Rollins Ancient History, and have read about one-fourth of it; reading about forty or fifty pages per day.

You will please answer this, and remember me to your family, those absent as well as at home.

The gold fever is running quite high here; I have conversed with Mr. Loester, an officer of the Army, from the gold mines, and who

Major Jackson in 1851.

brought a quantity of the precious metal with him; the dust consists of scales, of which he brought a vial full, holding the value of a hundred dollars; and its appearance is that of scales, instead of sand, as I had formerly imagined it to be; and he also brought a solid piece weighing probably more than an ounce.

This officer stated to me that the average gathering there was about 90 dollars per day, but that everything was extremely high. The climate, he says, is charming, the thermometer ranging from 60 to 70 degrees.

This post is about ten miles below N. Y. city, and on the east bank of the Hudson or North River, and is a delightful station.

Your sincere friend,

T. J. JACKSON.

Col. Samuel L. Hays.

In the fall of 1850 Jackson again secured a furlough and returned to western Virginia, spending some time at Beverly, Weston and Jackson's Mills. Rejoining his command by March 1, 1851, he was next at Fort Meade in Florida.

As he had never been at any time a person of robust constitution, the swampy air of Florida soon began to undermine his health. This caused him to determine to seek some other situation, and D. H. Hill, who afterward became his brother-in-law, brought his ability to the attention of Colonel Francis H. Smith, Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, Virginia. Smith wrote that he would present his name to the board of visitors of the institution as an instructor therein. Jackson on February 25, 1851, wrote to Col. Smith, "Though strong ties bind me to the army, yet I cannot decline to accept so flattering an offer." John S. Carlisle, of Clarksburg, Samuel L. Hays, John Stringer, J. M. Bennett and William E. Arnold, of Lewis County, all men of great influence in that day, added endorsements; and on March 28, 1851, Jackson was appointed to fill the chair of Natural and Experimental Philosophy and Artillery.

Resigning from the Army, to take effect in 1852, he spent much of the summer with relatives in western Vir-

ginia and a short time at Jackson's Mills, and with other relatives in Lewis County. Sylvanus White, a cousin then residing in California but at the time on a visit in the community, later wrote to Thomas J. Arnold:

> We stayed over night at the old mill place. There were no other whites that night, only the negroes [slaves]. He and I slept in the same bed. In talking of Mexico he was telling me of the heroism of other officers. I said "I want you to tell me something of your own." He replied "Oh, if I have to blow my own horn, it will be a long time before it is blown."

Speaking further of the action at Chapultepec, Jackson remarked that "It would have been no disgrace to have died there, but to have failed to gain my point it would."

After visiting several medicinal springs, Jackson reported for duty at the V. M. I., on September 1, 1851. Here for ten years he lived the rather monotonous life of an instructor.

Writing to his uncle, Alfred Neale, of Parkersburg, in September, 1851, he says in part:

> I have reported at Lexington and am delighted with my duties, the place and the people. At present I am with the corps of cadets at this place (Warm Springs), where we may remain until the company shall leave, which may be some time hence. I recruited rapidly at Lake Ontario, where I passed part of July and August. It would have given me much pleasure to have visited you during the past summer, but I am anxious to devote myself to study until I shall become master of my profession.

John Esten Cooke, member of J. E. B. Stuart's staff and biographer of Jackson, relates that people in Lexington and especially the students at V. M. I. in his earlier years there regarded Jackson with a mingled feeling of awe, respect for his absolute subservience to military rules, and a belief that he was eccentric. His exploits in walking through a pouring rain to repay a small debt; and his firm belief in preordination, which some believed

later led to the loss of his life, only accentuated this feeling. His biographer and close friend further relates that the moment a military drill began, a salute was fired, or, later, the roll of battle began, Jackson's very being changed and that he was without a doubt the most fearless and decisive man that ever wore the uniform of an American soldier.

In August, 1852, Jackson left Lexington for a short time and in company with his sister visited relatives in Parkersburg. He spent a short time at Mineral Wells, where a number of people from Weston were sojourning, among them Major Minter Bailey, who had in 1836 employed him on the surveying of the construction work of the Parkersburg and Staunton Pike. Jackson thence proceeded to Weston for a short stay.

During his residence in the Valley he made every attempt to keep in touch with friends and relatives in western Virginia, keeping up a quite active correspondence with the family of his sister Laura, the Whites in Lewis and Wood County, and especially with his Uncle and Aunt, Alfred and Clementine Neale, residing on Neale's Island, above Parkersburg, in the Ohio River. The letters of his boyhood to Mrs. Neale seem to have been lost, and indeed but a small part of the extensive correspondence with this family is extant. The first letter deals with the requirements at the V. M. I. and is as follows:

Virginia Military Institute,
Lexington, Rockbridge Co., Va.,
January 28, 1854.

My dear Uncle:

Though I have not heard from you for many months, yet you have not been so long absent from my thoughts. Before leaving you I promised to write and let you know what the inducements are for sending one of my cousins here to be educated. I am not certain that the promise has ever been fulfilled. Certainly if it has not, it ought not to be postponed any longer. Should you at any time wish to have a son educated at the institute the steps necessary to be

taken will be to make application to the Superintendent before the annual examination of the cadets, which takes place the latter part of June of every year. The letter for the applicant should state that the applicant is not less than sixteen, nor more than twenty-five years old, that his height is not less than five feet. You should also forward recommendations as to moral character, character of mind, extent of education, etc. His health and physical constitution should also be good. The regulations require that every person who receives the appointment of cadet shall read and write well and that he shall perform with facility the four ground rules of arithmetic,—that is simple and compound proportions, vulgar and decimal fractions and reduction.

I find that the application should be made on or before the 20th of June.

The expenses will be near three hundred dollars per annum.

I am much pleased with my duties here.

It has been rumored that Cousin Harriett Murdock was engaged, if so is she yet married?

We have in this little town been much shocked by the murder of a cadet last month. The call court has sent the murderer on to further trial, which will take place next April.

Please remember me kindly to Aunt and the family and to all inquiring relatives and friends. If you know anything of Wirt I would be glad if you would let me know where he is and what he is doing.

My health is very much improved. During last summer I traveled with my wife through the North, visiting Niagara, Quebec and other places of interest.

I have heard Ohio spoken of as being a desirable place for investing funds and that bank stock and such like declares a dividend of ten per cent. Please let me know if such is the case and if so how I could manage to invest some funds safely there and whether stock is at par or not. Please let me hear from you soon.

Your much attached nephew,

T. J. JACKSON.

Mr. Alfred Neale,
Parkersburg, W. Va.

During July and August 1855 Jackson made his last visit to Weston and the scenes of his boyhood.

From this section he went to Parkersburg, spending a short time with the Neales and the Whites. From his letters it is evident that he at this date felt that matters were arising between the North and South that would

later have to be adjusted in some manner. In a discussion of this at Mineral Wells on this visit it is related that he said if trouble came: "in that event it may be the duty of some of us to stand for some of the things we may not implicitly approve. It is inevitably so in a conflict of that kind." From Parkersburg he journeyed to Point Pleasant, and through the Kanawha Valley, visiting the place of his mother's burial in Fayette County. He was ever solicitous of the welfare of his half-brother Wirt, who became a well-to-do, substantial business man. His letters to the Neales which follow are of interest in this connection, portraying as they do the depth of Jackson's character.

Lexington, Va.,
Sept. 4th, 1855.

My dear Aunt:

Though I have reached home, yet the pleasures enjoyed under your hospitable roof, and in your family circle, have not been dissipated. I stopped to see the Hawk's Nest, and the gentleman with whom I put up was at my mother's burial, and accompanied me to the cemetery for the purpose of pointing out her grave to me; but I am not certain that he found it. There was no stone to mark the spot. Another gentleman, who had the kindness to go with us, stated that a wooden head or foot board with her name on it had been put up, but it was no longer there. A depression in the earth only marked her resting place. When standing by her grave, I experienced feelings to which I was until then a stranger. I was seeking the spot partly for the purpose of erecting something to her precious memory. On Saturday last I lost my porte-monnaie, and in it was the date of my mother's birth. Please give me the date in your next letter.

Your affectionate nephew,

T. J. JACKSON.

Mrs. Alfred Neale,
Parkersburg, Va.

Lexington, Va., Oct. 22, 1855.

My dear Uncle:

Enclosed is a letter from Wirt. While he has departed from our understanding yet if he will thus be enabled to do well I am desirous that the money should be furnished him, but in doing so I must adhere to the conditions that Cousin Wm. Neale shall before paying for the land approve the purchase and receive the deed made

out in my name. You will observe that the land is represented as of very good quality and yet the price is below the average price. This would lead to the inference of a defective title or something wrong. I will be obliged to you if you will forward a check on N. York for the money which you get from the bank to Cousin Wm. Neale to be used by him upon the conditions which I have already mentioned and if the owner or person from whom Wirt purchased cannot satisfy cousin Wm. in the several particulars that he then retain the money until the conditions shall be fulfilled. I shall forward to cousin Wm. in about two weeks a check for three hundred and fifty dollars unless you shall deem it improper for me to do so. I could not get the check here and have sent by a friend to Richmond for it and he will not, it is thought, return until about next Saturday week, and if you can let me hear from you by that time if it is but a line, I will be much obliged to you.

I hope that Aunt's health has been restored to at least its usual state. Remember me very affectionately to Aunt and to each member of the family, and very kindly to all inquiring friends and relatives.

Your affectionate nephew,

T. J. JACKSON.

Uncle please return Wirt's letter to me.

Mr. Alfred Neale,
Parkersburg, Va.

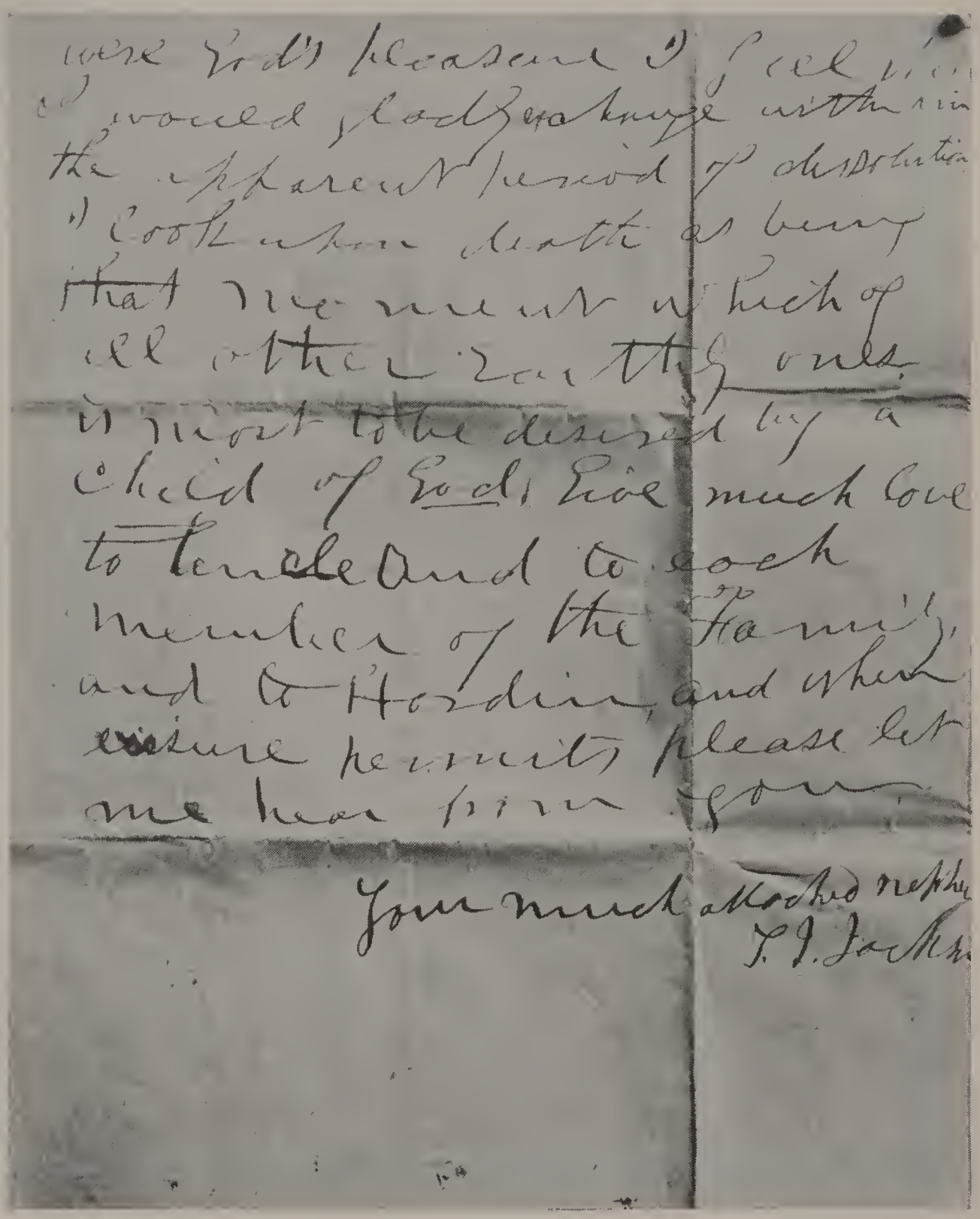
Lexington, Va., Nov. 12, 1855.

My dear Aunt:

I am much obliged for your letter of the 31st. ult.

Tell Uncle that I am much obliged to him for his kindness in regard to endorsing for me and all the kindness which he has shown me. I would say that though he, (Wirt) purchased land at a higher rate per acre than he was authorized to do, yet I desired to confirm the purchase, but I never communicated such intention to him, but since receiving your letter I have concluded not to do so. But on the contrary to keep within the offer and terms which I made to him. If he does not desire terms or finds himself unable to accept of such terms, then as I told him in Uncle Alfred's presence, and also in my last letter to him, I do not wish him to do so, but barely to remember that I made the proposition because he was my brother and that I was as favorable to him as I felt and still feel I ought to do. He says that he has been offered two hundred dollars for his bargain; if he can sell on such terms he will have done well by the purchase and sale.

Ask Uncle to let the money lay in the bank until he shall know whether the note is protested and if it should not be protested to then forward me a check either on Philadelphia or N. York.



were God's pleasure to call him
to rest, God grant me with in
the apparent period of obstruction
to look upon death as being
that we must all of us
all other earthly ones.
is most to be desired by a
child of God. Love much love
to Lewie and to each
member of the family,
and to Hosdin, and when
leisure permits please let
me hear from you soon.

Your much attached nephew
T. J. Jackson

FAC-SIMILE OF PORTION OF A LETTER TO MRS. ALFRED NEALE OF PARKERSBURG, (W.) VA. See text.

I regret to learn that cousin Hardin's health is so delicate, and yet if it were God's pleasure I feel that I would gladly exchange with him the apparent period of dissolution. I look upon death as being that moment which of all other earthly ones is most to be desired by a child of God.

Give much love to Uncle and each member of the family and to Hardin and when leisure permits please let me hear from you.

Your much attached nephew,

T. J. JACKSON.

Mrs. Alfred Neale,
Parkersburg, Va.

Lexington, Va., Dec. 24, 1855.

My dear Aunt:

Your welcome letter came safely on Saturday last and you must excuse a brief reply, looking upon it as a business letter rather than one which would be most congenial to my feelings and which I hope soon to write. I am very thankful to yourself and Uncle for your kindness and tell Uncle that if the three hundred dollars will be of service to him to retain it and have it ready for me by the 1st of July next and to forward the remaining portion to me in the form of a check on New York City as soon as it will be convenient for him to do so as I am anxious to get funds deposited there as soon as practicable, as they will thus not only increase, in consequence of interest which will accrue, but also I hope to be able to purchase land warrants when they shall fall to their lowest prices. Tell Uncle that in the event that he is not wanting the three hundred dollars then to forward a check for the whole on New York City. But say to him that if it will be any accommodation to him that he must not hesitate a moment to retain that sum until next July as I can do without it very well, and it would be a pleasure to me thus to be enabled in a small degree to requite his kindness to me.

I have no word from Wirt since I last wrote to you and should you hear from him or Cousin Wm. Neale, by the time this reaches you and the latter should satisfy Uncle that it would be proper to send the check to Cousin Wm. on the conditions of which you both already know to be used by Cousin William, then I wish Uncle would please have the check made payable to the order of Cousin William and forward it to him. But don't wait for any such letter as ample time has already elapsed and I might thus "lay" out of the use of the funds any length of time to no purpose. Much love to Uncle and all the family, and kindest regards to all inquiring relatives and friends. Please let me hear from you soon.

Your affectionate nephew,

Mrs. Alfred Neale, THOMAS.
Parkersburg, Va.

During the summer and fall of 1856 Major Jackson spent some four months in travel abroad. Something of the methodical manner in which he visited Europe may be gleaned from the following letter to Mrs. Neale, written upon his return.

Lexington, Va., Oct. 27th, 1856.

My dear Aunt:

It is with much pleasure that God again permits me to write to you from my adopted home. Your kindness and that of Uncle has not been forgotten; but when you hear where I have been during my short absence, you will not be surprised at not having heard from me, as my time was too short to see well all that came within the range of my journey. After leaving Liverpool I passed to Chester and Eaton Hall, and from there, returning, I visited Glasgow, Lochs Lomond and Katrine, Stirling Castle, Edinburgh, York, London, Antwerp, Brussels, Waterloo, Aix-la-Chapelle, Cologne, Bonn, Frankfort on the Main, Heidelberg, Baden-Baden, Strasburg, Basle, Lakes Lucerne, Brience and Thun; Berne, Freiburg, Geneva, the Mer de Glace, over the Alps, by the Simplon Pass; Milan, Venice, Florence, Naples, Rome, Marseilles, Paris, London and Liverpool again, and then home. . . . . It appeared to me that Providence had opened the way for my long-contemplated visit, and I am much gratified at having gone.

Your affectionate nephew,

T. J. JACKSON.

Lexington, Va., February 16, 1857.

My dear Aunt:

Your letter of February 7th reached me on Saturday arriving too late to answer it. In regard to Wirt I am unwilling to do anything which will favor his going to California. It does appear to me that if he goes to California that the gospel may but seldom if ever reach him and that the influences thrown around him there will be worse than where he is. I cannot consent to do anything which I have reason to believe will be detrimental to his morals. If I had the money by me the foregoing reasons would influence me, but I have not the money at this time, even if I felt disposed to let him have it. I have been more pressed for money in the last month or so, than I remember having been for years. But I expect to have some by the last of March, if not by the middle or 20th of March. It has happened though that the quarterly pay has not been ready at the expiration of the quarter, which in this case ends with March. Then I could

by inconveniencing myself let Wirt have a hundred dollars, and require neither principal nor interest.

I do not approve of assisting a person unless the assistance will prove a blessing. To assist him in going to California would in my opinion be cursing rather than blessing him. Give my warmest congratulations to Leroy and tell him that I hope that he and his wife and my cousin may have many happy returns of the day which commemorates their union.

Much love to Uncle and all the family. Let me hear from you soon.

Your affectionate nephew,

THOMAS.

Mrs. Alfred Neale,
Parkersburg, Virginia.

In politics Jackson was always a Democrat, with which party most of his kindred were connected. In this connection a great deal of interest was aroused in the furtherance of the ambitions of William L. Jackson, Jr., whose career has already been noted under another head. On January 22, 1857, he addressed the following letter to John E., son of ex-congressman Samuel L. Hays, then residing at present Grenville, Gilmer County, West Virginia.

My dear Friend:

Though I have not seen you for years, yet I remember with pleasure the companion of my more youthful days, and, trusting that I am still remembered by you with interest, I have concluded to write you this letter for the purpose of saying that I feel deep interest in the election of Wm. L. Jackson to the judgeship of your district, and of stating that any assistance which you may give him I will regard as a personal favor.

Wm. has ever shown a deep interest in my success in life, and this, combined with family feeling and my personal regard for him, induces me to do all in my power to further his success. I have, as it were, my hands tied in consequence of my position in the Institute so that I cannot mingle with the electors, and my only way of assisting him is by letters to my friends. I am indebted to your father more than to any other man for the deep interest he has taken in my success, and for the promptness with which he has ever responded

to my calls for assistance. Next to him I am under the strongest obligations to Wm.

Please regard this letter as private.

When you write to your father, I wish you would remember me to him very kindly.

Should you ever pass through this place, you must make my house your home. When a leisure moment will permit, I hope you will let me hear from you.

Very truly your friend

T. J. JACKSON.

The efforts to elect William L. Jackson judge of the nineteenth circuit court failed at this time, he being defeated by Matthew Edmiston, then occupying that office, and who did so continuously from 1852 until the fall of 1860. In the latter year Judge Jackson again became a candidate for this position. Major Jackson, shortly before the election then, wrote Hon. Jonathan M. Bennett of Weston as follows:

Lexington, Va., April 17, 1860.

My dear Friend:

I am anxious to see us possess that influence in our section of the state that will enable us to secure any office there by merely nominating a suitable person, and concentrating our strength upon him, and now in my opinion is the time to test our strength by electing Wm. L. Jackson to the judgeship. Of course Edmiston's influence will be vigorously exerted to defeat him but it appears to me that the united influence of the Jacksons with their relations, connections and friends, ought to prevail over Edmiston's influence even in Lewis and Braxton, where I suppose it is strongest. I have been told by a member of the old Whig party that W. L. J. is one of the shrewdest political managers of his party in the state, and I am in hopes that with his influence united to that of his friends we may be able to set up for ourselves. All of us who may be looking forward to advancement may expect to have prospects brightened by Jackson's election and diminished by his defeat. Being a professor my hands are tied so that I cannot appear in the canvass—all I can do is to write to my friends. I would like to take an active part in the canvass if it were practicable. You have a strong arm, and I think with it you may carry Lewis and Braxton. I have written with that freedom which I always desire from you to me. Please say nothing about the contents of this, but if you think as I do upon the subject, I hope

that you will if possible give Lewis and Braxton to Wm. If I can be of any service let me know how it can be rendered. I will always be glad to hear from you.

Very truly yours,

T. J. JACKSON.

In May, 1860, W. L. Jackson was elevated to the bench, but his term of office was very short, being closed by his enlistment in the Confederate service. He held his first term in Lewis County, October 8, 1860, and his last orders were entered on May 9, 1861.

Several important events marked the ten years of Jackson's life at Lexington. His first marriage and the loss of his wife; his affiliation with the Presbyterian Church; the second marriage and his march with the cadets to Charlestown, where John Brown was executed on December 2, 1859. Otherwise there was little to interrupt the daily duties as an instructor. During this time he once applied for a place on the faculty of the University of Virginia, but fate again came into his life and held him to a military career.

Shortly after his return from Charlestown and his resumption of his duties as instructor he wrote Mrs. Neale:

Lexington, Va., Jan. 21st, 1861.

My dear Aunt:

I am living in my own house, I am thankful to say, as, after trying both public and private boarding, I have learned from experience that true comfort is only to be found in a house under your own control. I wish you could pay me a visit during some of your leisure intervals, if you ever have such. This is a beautiful country, just on the confines of the Virginia Springs, and we are about fourteen miles from the Natural Bridge. . . . . Viewing things at Washington from human appearances, I think we have great reason for alarm, but my trust is in God; and I cannot think that He will permit the madness of men to interfere so materially with the Christian labors of this country at home and abroad.

Your affectionate nephew,

T. J. JACKSON.

# CHAPTER X

## OPENING OF THE CIVIL WAR.

In the spring of 1861 the long struggle between the two great sections of the United States came to an issue of arms. For some years deep observers of events in both North and South had felt that such a result was inevitable. With the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency, the Southern States felt that it was time to dissolve the Union and form a separate government. Some of the border states held back for a time, and Virginia, especially, refrained from formal acceptance of the Confederacy until April, 1861. On April 17, Governor John Letcher refused to obey Lincoln's call for troops, and on the same day the Virginia convention repealed the ordinance by which it had adopted the Constitution of the United States and seceded from the Union.

The Virginia authorities at once set about to organize such a military force as might be possible. A camp of instruction was established at Richmond and it was determined to use the senior cadets from Virginia Military Institute as "student teachers" in the drilling of volunteers. Accordingly the cadets set out from Lexington at one o'clock on Sunday, April 21, under command of Major Jackson, who laid aside his duties as teacher and left his home for the last time. A little more than two years afterward all that was mortal of the noted general was borne to the little village churchyard of Lexington.

Like many of the citizens of Virginia, Jackson deplored the existence of slavery in the state as an economic and social evil, and yet like others he seemed to feel that the only method of handling the problem was through the legislative halls. Yet the institution to him did not appear morally wrong and he is said to have supported

some arguments to this effect by statements taken from the Bible. When it became evident that war between the Southern states and those of the North could not be averted, it was to him the cause of great alarm.

A comprehensive survey of his attitude and belief at the time discloses the fact that he deplored the possibility of war, setting forth more than once that the public did not understand what war meant. Naturally his experiences in the Mexican War had given him an insight into it not possible for laymen. But once the course of events seemed to be set directly toward a conflict, his own course was soon decided on and his actions circumscribed thereby.

Mary Anna Jackson, his wife, wrote:

> He never was a Secessionist, and maintained that it was better for the South to fight for her place in the Union than out of it. * * * At this time (March 16, 1861) he was strongly for the Union. At the same time he was a firm States rights man.

With the beginning of preparations for hostilities, Governor John Letcher set about the selection of officers for the provisional army of Virginia. In this connection Major Jackson received his first commission in the organizing army as a major in the engineering corps. Jonathan M. Bennett, of Weston, later related that during April, 1861, he was in one of the hotels at Richmond; after eating, he sat down in the lobby to look over one of the city papers and, in glancing over the names of the officers commissioned, he noticed that Thomas J. Jackson had been appointed a major in the engineering corps. He immediately repaired to the capitol building, where, in a conference with Governor John Letcher, he informed the latter of the notice in the public press and, further, that he was well aware of Jackson's ability and that he felt it to be a great mistake to place such a man in the engineering corps. The governor was duly impressed with his statement and immediately directed the secretary of the

executive war council to transfer Jackson to regular line duty, and that a commission as colonel be issued him.

"Who is this Major Jackson, that we are asked to commit to him such a responsible post?" asked a member of the war council when informed of Mr. Bennett's interview with Governor Letcher. "He is one", replied S. Moore, of Rockbridge County, "who, if you order him to hold a post, will never leave it alive to be occupied by the enemy."

Jackson was commissioned colonel of volunteers on April 26, 1861, and ordered to Harper's Ferry. Here he spent his energies in shaping the raw volunteers into the highly respectable army of the Shenandoah, which he turned over to General J. E. Johnston, on May 23. Placed in command of the Virginia brigade that became so renowned, he met the advance of General Patterson at Falling Waters on July 2, checking the advance and capturing a number of prisoners.

Jonathan M. Bennett, of Weston, was then serving as auditor of Virginia and lived in Richmond. He at once directed a letter to Jackson proposing that he should be made a brigadier-general, to which a reply was made as follows from Martinsburg on June 5, in part:

Headquarters, Va. Forces,
Harper's Ferry, June 5, 1861.

My dear Colonel:

Your very kind letter, proposing, if I so desire, to make me a brigadier-general and send me to the Northwest in command of all troops of that region, has been received, and meets my grateful approbation. The sooner it is done the better. Have me ordered at once. That country is now bleeding at every pore. I feel a deep interest in it and have never appealed to its people in vain, and trust it may not be so now. I agree with you fully respecting the advantages named in your letter. Remember me kindly to Judge Allen and thank him for his kindness. Believe me with lasting gratitude, ever years,

T. J. JACKSON.

Harpers Ferry, June 5, 1861.

My dear Colonel:

Lest the letter mailed this morning in which I thankfully accepted the opportunity of being made a Brigadier General and put in command of all the North Western Troops should fail to reach you, I send this by private hands. Please have me ordered forthwith.

Very gratefully yours,

T. J. JACKSON.

Again addressing Mr. Bennett relative to the commission Jackson wrote as follows on June 24:

Headquarters 1st Brigade,
Camp Stevens, June 24, 1861.

My dear Colonel:

At present I am in command of the Virginia Volunteers organized into the First Brigade of the Army of the Shenandoah, and have my Headquarters on the road from Martinsburg to Williamsport, and about four miles distant from the former place. On Saturday last the enemy commenced crossing at Williamsport into Virginia and I immediately advanced with one regiment of infantry and a battery of artillery, but it amounted to nothing, as the enemy recrossed the river into Maryland. They are evidently afraid to advance.

In your last you stated: 'I presume all commissions will issue from the Confederate Government; if so, I have no pledge for any commission, but I shall never cease until I get it. You will hear from me soon again'. Knowing your success in carrying your measures, the energy with which you press them, and not having heard from you, the thought struck me that there might be some obstacle in the way, which, if made known to me, I might be able to remove. I am in command of a promising brigade, and I would be greatly gratified if you could secure me a brigadier-generalcy, and if I cannot be ordered to Northwestern Virginia, of course I would be continued in my present command, and as I am so far west, an opportunity might soon offer of having me with my command ordered into that region. Providence has greatly blessed me in securing good staff officers in the quartermaster, commissary and ordnance departments, which are so essential to the efficiency of the troops. All are anxious for active service. I feel deeply for my own section of the state, and would, as a brigadier-general, willingly serve under General Garnett in its defence. I know him well. There are three Brigades under General Johnson, and a few days since Brigadier-General Bee was assigned to the command of one of them, and at any time, so far as I know, another may be assigned to the command of mine,

unless you can induce President Davis to make the appointment soon by my promotion.

Please let me hear from you when convenient and ever believe me your grateful friend,

T. J. JACKSON.

P. S.—Please direct your answer to Martinsburg, Berkley County.

In the meantime, however, a commission was issued as a brigadier-general on June 17, which after some delay was forwarded early in July, together with the following characteristic letter from General Lee:

Richmond 3rd July 1861

My dear General:

I have the pleasure of sending you a commission as Brigadier General in the Provisional Army; and to feel that you merit it. May your advancement increase your usefulness to the state.

Very truly,

R. E. LEE.

In the battle of Bull Run, on July 21, 1861, in which the First Brigade—composed of the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 27th and 33rd regiments of Virginia volunteers—first attracted attention, General G. E. Bee, in rallying his men, exclaimed: "See, there stands Jackson like a stone wall!" He thus applied the name known around the world better than the Christian name given at birth.

Writing from Headquarters First Brigade, Camp near Manassas, July 28, 1861, to J. M. Bennett, Jackson said in part:

Through the blessing of Providence, my brigade passed our retreating forces, met the thus far victorious enemy, held him in check until re-enforcements arrived and finally pierced his center, and thus gave a fatal blow. I am more than satisfied with the part performed by my brigade during the action.

You must excuse my not having written this letter in reply to yours earlier but a slight wound (a broken finger) requires me to keep watching the flies all the time. I received the wound during the last charge. * * *

You will find when my report shall be published, that the First Brigade was to our army what the Imperial Guard was to the First

Napoleon—that through the blessing of God, it met the thus far victorious enemy and turned the fortunes of the day.

Please let me hear from you soon.

Your much attached friend,

T. J. JACKSON.

Early in August Jackson again addressed Mr. Bennet as follows:

My hopes for our section of the State have greatly brightened since General Lee has gone there. Something brilliant may be expected in that region. Should you ever have occasion to ask for a brigade from this army for the northwest, I hope mine will be selected. This of course is confidential, as it is my duty to serve wherever I may be placed, and I desire to be always where most needed. But it is natural for one's affections to turn to the home of his boyhood and family.

In the meantime part of a company of the 159th regiment of Virginia militia had left Weston and the scenes of Jackson's boyhood, under the command of Alfred H. Jackson, of Weston. He, as has been noted, was a son of Captain George Jackson, was born in 1836, and had graduated with honors from Washington College at Lexington. This command became a part of the 31st Virginia regiment. Following its activities in the battle of Greenbrier under Brigadier-General R. R. Jackson, the following letter was directed to Alfred Jackson:

Headquarters 1st Brigade 2nd Corps.
Centerville, Oct. 11, 1861.

My dear Alfred:

If agreeable to you please join us at once as a member of my staff. Give my kindest regards to Wm. L. Jackson.

Sincerely yours,

T. J. JACKSON.

P. S. Should you decline, please answer immediately.

Alfred Jackson was then appointed by J. P. Benjamin, acting Secretary of War, as assistant Adjutant General and ordered to report to General T. J. Jackson. Judge John W. Brockenbrough later said of him:

He filled the duties of this office with entire satisfaction for several months. It is a singular proof of the disinterested patriotism of young Jackson that he preferred the active and more laborious duties of the camp to the rare and envied position of officer on the staff of the commander in chief. He accordingly resigned this appointment and rejoined his old company as a private in the ranks.

Within a short time he was advanced by successive ranks to lieutenant-colonel, a commission had been made out as brigadier-general and he seemed on the verge of a distinguished military career when he was wounded at Cedar Mountain, on August 9, 1862, and died as a result in Lexington on August 1, 1863.

With the resignation of Alfred Jackson, as assistant chief of staff, Jackson at once telegraphed Mr. Bennett at Richmond, urging him to take the place. The message was followed by the following letter:

Winchester, Va., Feby. 28th, 1862.

My dear Colonel:

I telegraphed to you last week that Major Jackson had resigned from my staff, and requested you to say whether you would be willing to take his place with the rank of Major, but have not heard from you. You must not understand from my request that I desire you to give up your present position for the sake of coming into the field. But Captain Jackson told me that he would not be surprised should you decline a re-election. And should you do so, the thought struck me that you might desire active service with this Army. The position of Adjutant General is one of great labor and requires much study and an entire ignoring of personal ease. As it is the chief staff position, its head should be an example of military adherence to regulations. Please let me hear from you soon and either accept or decline. My opinion is that you would make an admirable Adjutant General. The letter written to you about Alfred please destroy. As you had been instrumental in getting him the position, it was proper that you should know the objection to him, apart from the request made by me of you in the letter. Alfred expects to bring his old company back into service, and I hope that he will secure distinction in the line.

Your most attached friend,

T. J. JACKSON.

The offer was declined by Mr. Bennett upon the ground of age and in the belief that more good for both Jackson and the Confederacy could be accomplished by his continuing in the executive department.

It is interesting to observe Jackson's inflexible attitude toward duty at all times. Especially was this true of his requirements of the members of his staff, but at no time did he ask them to do more than he would do himself. It is related that following the resignation of Alfred Jackson he had a forced march in mind, lost his patience with the tardiness of the staff in rising, and ordered the cook to throw away such a rare luxury as coffee. Before leaving he threatened to arrest the whole staff if they did not arise immediately. Suffice to say, they did.

In July, 1862, Jackson wrote his wife concerning her brother Joseph G. Morrison, then a captain in the service: "If you will vouch for Joseph's being an early riser", he wrote, "I will give him an aideship. I do not want to make an appointment on my staff except such as are early risers." The appointment was made, however, and writing from Charlotte, N. C., on October 25, 1866, to Mrs. Annie C. Neale of Parkersburg, the ricipient says in part:

> I had the honor to serve as aid de camp to the general during his campaigns in the Valley of Virginia and around Fredericksburg. During all my life I do not think I have ever known a more pious and conscientious man.

On October 7, 1861, Jackson was advanced to the rank of Major General and was, on November 4, assigned to the command of the Valley District. In January, 1862, he marched into western Virginia, striking Bath and Romney. In March he fell back before Banks with his army of 35,000 men, who reported him "in full retreat from the Valley", and started a column across the mountains to attack Johnston as he was falling back from Manassas, when Jackson suddenly turned, marched eighteen miles in one morning, with 2700 men, fought the battle of

Kernstown, on March 23, meeting 8000 Federals. The result, scarcely a victory for either side, caused the recall of the column moving on Johnston. Jackson then left the community without delay and moved secretly into present Highland County, leaving Ewell's division in the Valley to watch Banks. Suddenly the Confederacy and the North were thrilled by the following dispatch:

Valley District, May 9, 1862.

Gen. S. Cooper: God blessed our arms with victory at McDowell yesterday.

T. J. JACKSON,
Major General.

Strong pressure against Jackson's right brought to his defense the 25th and 31st Virginia regiments, the former of which included the "Upshur Greys" and the latter companies made up of Lewis, Harrison and Randolph County men. The Third (West) Virginia regiment of the Federals was posted within three hundred feet of the Confederates. Former companions and neighbors recognized one another and exchanged salutations. Such was the "reunion of fate" of men from the scenes of Jackson's boyhood.

The advance of Fremont under Milroy had been defeated and driven back. In rapid sequence followed the uniting of Jackson's division with that under Ewell at Luray, the retirement of Banks' flank at Front Royal, the cutting of his retreating column at Middletown, and, on May 25, the rout of Banks at Winchester and his retreat across the Potomac.

Jackson was about to follow Banks, when he learned that Fremont from the west and Shields from the east were marching to form a junction at Strasburg in his rear. With one of his rapid marches he reached the point of danger in time to defeat the project and protect his troops and supplies as they passed up the Valley, having in the meantime taken precautions to prevent the junction of

the Federals. His rear was protected by cavalry under the brilliant Ashby, who lost his life near Harrisonburg on June 6.

During the ensuing operation Jackson wrote Mr. Bennett as follows:

Near Mt. Meridian, June 14th, 1862.

My dear Colonel:

Your letter respecting your joining me in the event of the fall of Richmond came safely to hand; I hope and trust that no hostile foot will in the Providence of God ever be permitted to enter our honored capital, but should that calamity befall us, I will be very glad to have you with us in the field. Colonel Jackson is with me, and I hope he will so continue during the remainder of the war, as his services are very valuable.

T. J. JACKSON.

It is not our design to give in detail the account of Jackson's notable achievements in the Civil War. They have been narrated by many pens.

On June 7, at Cross Keys, Ewell, acting under directions of Jackson, met and defeated Fremont, and the next day Jackson defeated Shields at Port Republic on the opposite side of the river. The Federals then retreated down the Valley. In thirty-two days Jackson and his "foot cavalry" had marched about four hundred miles, scarcely a day without some sort of a skirmish; and in so doing they had fought five battles, defeated three armies, captured twenty pieces of artillery, taken 4,000 prisoners and large amounts of stores of all kinds. This in turn had cost Jackson some 900 men killed, wounded or missing; at no time did he have over 15,000 men with which to meet over 60,000 Federals.

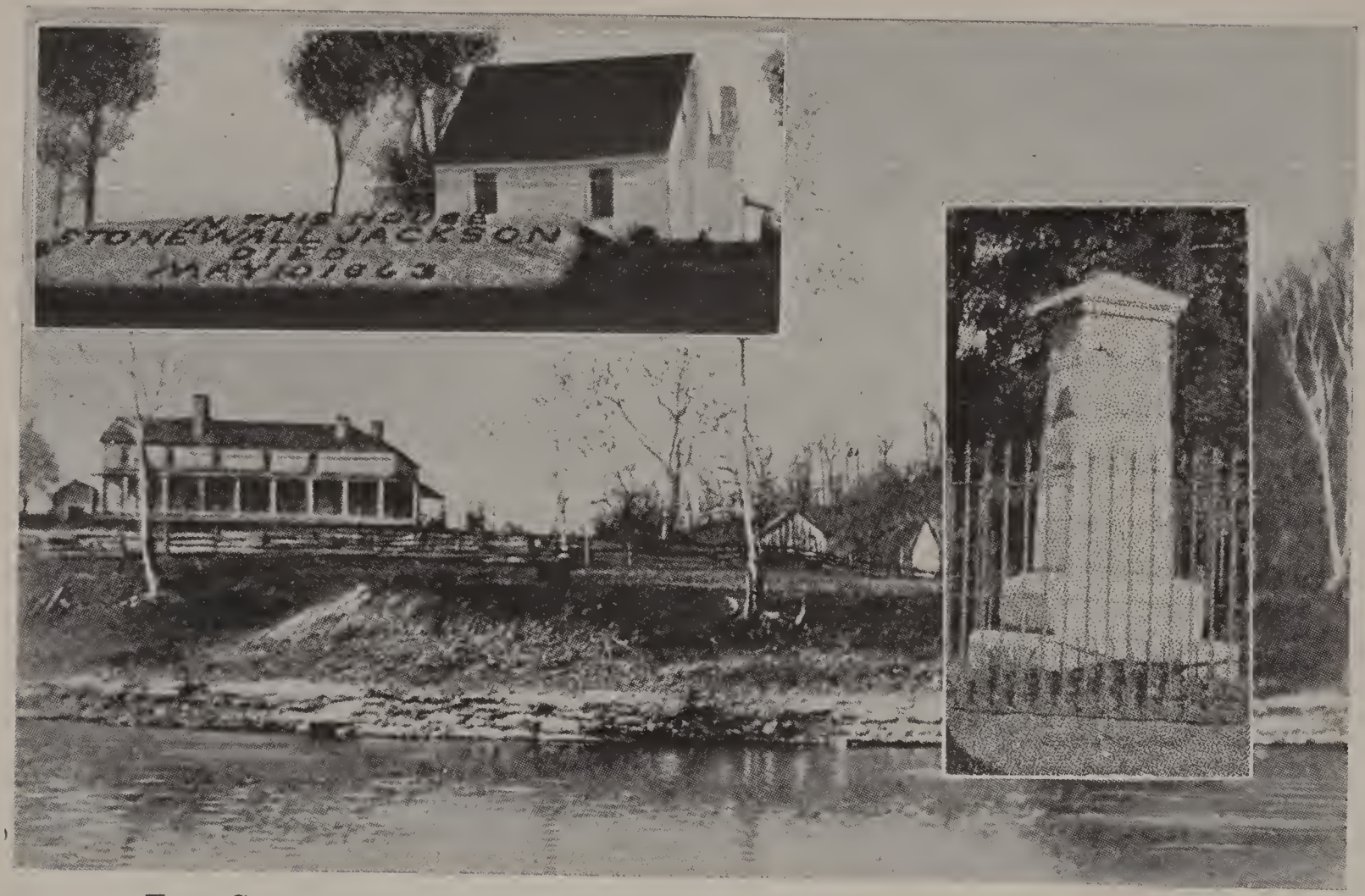
Banks at Strasburg soon began fortfying that point against an attack by Jackson, who suddenly appeared on McClellan's flank near Richmond. Following this, he participated in the Seven Days' campaign around Richmond, the second Manassas and the Maryland campaign,

the capture of Harpers Ferry with 11,000 prisoners in September, and the battle of Sharpsburg.

On October 10, 1862, Jackson was advanced to the rank of lieutenant-general and given command of the Second Corps, consisting of his old division under W. B. Taliaferro, Early's division, A. P. and D. H. Hill's divisions, Brown's Artillery, and numerous light batteries. At Fredericksburg, in December, 1862, holding the extreme right of Lee's army, Jackson defeated Franklin with a great loss to the Federals. After a winter spent in training, the troops moved forward to Chancellorsville in April, 1863. General Hooker had thrown Sedgwick across the river below Fredericksburg and taken position himself with the bulk of his army at Chancellorsville, where he was strongly fortified. Lee, leaving Early to watch Sedgwick, moved up to Hooker's front, having in the meantime sent Jackson with 22,000 men to attack Hooker's flank and rear. The plan was brilliantly executed, resulting in the rout of that flank of Hooker's army. Jackson was then preparing to cut off his line of retreat and compel Hooker to attack him when, in returning from a reconnoisance, his party was taken for the enemy and fired on and he was severly wounded. His left arm was amputated and other wounds dressed, but pneumonia set in and he died near Guinea Station on May 10, 1863.

Thus came to a close the earthly career of one of the most distinguished sons of the upper Monongahela Valley, whose faith in the Omnipotent was so blended with his convictions that his cause was just and directed by divine power that it was transmitted to his men in actions that will live as long as time endures. Lee announced his death to the army in General Order 61, as follows:

> Headquarters—Army of Northern Virginia,
> May 11, 1863.
>
> Gen. Order 61.
>
> With deep grief the Commanding General announces to the army the death of Lieutenant General T. Jackson, who




The Cummins Jackson Home as it Appeared in 1900—Jackson's Mills. Inserts: House in Which Jackson Died Near Guinea Station and Monument Marking the Spot Where He Fell.

> expired on the 10th instant at quarter past three p. m. The daring skill of this great soldier by the decree of an all wise Providence are now lost to us. But while we mourn his death, we feel that his spirit still lives and will inspire the whole army with his indomitable courage and unshaken confidence in God as our hope and strength. Let his name be a watchword to his corps, who have followed him to victory on so many fields. Let his officers and soldiers emulate his invincible determination to do everything in the defense of our loved country.
>
> R. E. LEE.

Thus did the beloved commander of the Confederate army speak of the passing of him whom he has figuratively designated as his "right arm" in the struggle of the Lost Cause. Within a few days all that was mortal of "Stonewall" Jackson was laid to rest in the little cemetery at Lexington, Virginia.

When the news of Jackson's death reached western Virginia, it came into a region where his youth and young manhood stood in high relief in the minds of all people. Among them were kinsmen who had espoused the cause of the Union and those who favored the Confederacy. The star of this young soldier of western Virginia had burst upon the world in a meteoric career only to be cut short by the hand of death. All alike paid him the respect due a gallant and worthy American. The Wheeling Intelligencer, the leading journal of this region at that time, on May 16, 1863, said:

> The incidents which are told of this able and daring leader would fill volumes. They all hinge upon the sincerity of his zeal, his personal bravery, his dash and courage in military operations and the remarkable influence over his men.

Sixty-odd years have now elapsed since the death of Jackson and in the intervening time a study of his life and characteristics have but accentuated its appeal to the American people. We have long ago passed from be-

neath the passions engendered by the war and can set in a just light the men produced on both sides.

Jackson died before he was forty, but in that brief time he sprang from an almost unknown but unusual boy of the hills of western Virginia to be a national and international figure. His record of fighting under the Stars and Stripes in Mexico and his conscientious course under the Stars and Bars cannot be effaced. No stain of insincerity, no vaingloriousness smirched a character combining gentleman, soldier and Christian.

Silence! ground arms!—kneel all!—caps off!
  Old Blue-light's going to pray;
Strangle the fool that dares to scoff!
  Attention! 'tis his way.
Appealing from his native sod
  In forma pauperis to God;
Lay bare Thine arm—stretch forth Thy rod—
  Amen!—That's Stonewall's way.