

# Louisa ROBISON & Descendants

## First Generation

### 1. Louisa ROBISON.

Louisa married (1) **Daniel GOVAN**, son of Andrew GOVAN. Daniel died 1797.

"DANIEL GOVAN (d 1797?). Father of ANDREW ROBISON GOVAN (1794-1841); son in law of GEORGE ROBISON (1730-1805)

"DANIEL GOVAN, planter, was the son of Andrew Govan and Rachel Rowe. From his father he inherited a plantation, "St. George", on the Edisto River below Orangeburg. On 1 May 1786 he received a grant for 640 acres on Beaver Creek near the North Edisto River and four years later was listed in the Federal Census as owning eight slaves in the northern part of Orangeburg District. Following a special election for the Eighth General Assembly (1789-1790), Govan qualified 31 January 1789 to represent Orange Parish in the House.

"Married to Louisa Robison, daughter of George Robison and Elizabeth Ann Stewart, he was the father of two children: ANDREW ROBISON and ELIZABETH ANN (married Nash Roach). Survived by his wife and children, Daniel Govan was killed in a fall from his horse circa 1797.

Sources: BDC, pg 963; Census 1790, pg 97; Manning, "Barnwell Co. Records," 6: 79-82. "Moore, Wills" 3: 166; William Gilmore Simms Mss., 1821-1895, n.d. folder, in SCL, SCHM, 37:71; State Grants, 11:528." ." (These bios are from a book compiled re: "South Carolina Legislatures")

Married 1758 - South Carolina

Inherited the plantation, St. George; on the Edisto River below Orangeburg. On 1 May 1786 he received a grant for 640 acres on Beaver Creek near the North Edisto River and 4 years later was listed in the federal census as owning 8 slaves in the northern part of Orangeburg District. Elected House Representative 01/31/1789 - Orangeburg District, SC. The first federal census reveals that Daniel Govan owned at least 8 slaves in 1790.

His daughter, Eliza Ann Govan, who probably inherited Oak Grove at the time of her grandmother's death and presumably her slaves too, married Nash Roach in 1813. It is presumed that Roach became the proprietor of Oak Grove at that time.

1797 Daniel died from injuries from a fall from a horse.

St. George/Oak Grove:

Michael Christopher Rowe (1715 - 1787), a Scotsman, was an extensive landowner in the Orangeburgh District along with his two brothers Samuel and Henry. In 1757, he received two land grants near the town Orangeburg-one for 150 acres and the other for 250 acres-and in 1758 he received another grant for 700 acres. He also bought other lands in the same area for a total of over 3,000 acres.

On June 4, 1759, he transferred 100 acres of land in the Orangeburgh District to his daughter and son-in-law, Rachel and Andrew Govan. Daniel Govan was to inherit the "St. George" property-1,300 acres-from his father Andrew Govan at the time of his mother's death although it appears that Daniel died before his mother did. Andrew Govan's will stipulated that his personal property presumably including his slaves, would be split equally between his wife, Rachel, his son, Daniel, and daughter, Rachel, although other evidence suggests that his daughter Rachel inherited all of the slaves. The first federal census reveals that Daniel Govan owned at least 8 slaves in 1790. His daughter, Eliza Ann Govan, who probably inherited Oak Grove at the time of her grandmother's death and presumably her slaves, too, married Nash Roach in 1813. It is assumed that Roach became the proprietor of Oak Grove at that time.

Plantation records for Woodlands are scanty. Most were burned in the two fires that completely destroyed the plantation house. What remains is but a remnant of the Woodlands Plantation Book, which provides only sketchy information about operations of the plantation and the enslaved population. The book is in two sections. The first dates from 1845 - 1851 and appears to be recorded primarily by Nash Roach. A transcribed copy is published in The Letters of William Gilmore Simms, Volume II, pages 585 - 598(2). In the first part of the book, there is information about the crops planted

including rice, wheat, potatoes, sugar cane, corn, and cotton, the care of livestock, churning butter, making candles, weaving cloth, and weather reports. In 1845, Roach writes in the book that he has 62 "Barnwell Negroes" for which he paid tax of 55 cents each. In 1846, Roach provides a list of 45 people who received shoes and cloth. Other than those on this list, he only mentions two people by name: Isaac, presumably Isaac Nimmons, the coachman at Woodlands, described as shearing and tending the sheep, and Antony, who is cited as hunting for lost sheep. The second section includes the years 1867 and 1868 then skips to 1874 and contains a section entitled "Births of Negroes" listing a total of 46 people by first name only grouped by family. The names of children, born between the years 1842 and 1863, are recorded below their mother and sometime their mother and father.

There are no records documenting the purchase or sale of slaves by William Gilmore Simms and few for Nash Roach. On October 27, 1817, Nash Roach bought three slaves-Henry, Lizzy, and Sylvia-from Mary Cameron of Charleston. On February 10, 1832, Roach bought a "negro boy Polydore, son of my woman Branch" for \$350 from A. R. Govan, the uncle of Chevilette Eliza Roach Simms. On July 30, 1839, Roach sold three slaves-Tolbit, Conjdon, and Cynces-to this same A. R. Govan. These three people had been part of the estate of his Roach's wife that she had inherited from her mother, Louisa Robinson Govan Chevilette.

They had the following children:

- + 2 M i. **Andrew Robison GOVAN** was born 13 Jan 1794 and died 27 Jun 1841.
- + 3 F ii. **Elizabeth Ann GOVAN**.

Louisa also married (2) **John CHEVILETTE**, son of Col. John CHEVILETTE and Ann.

Oak Grove Plantation, Orangeburg....Number of acres – 1,465 ....listed owners: Alphabetical list – Brantley, CHEVILETTE, Chisolm, Dantzler, Fairey, GOVAN, Hurtel, Hutson, Randall, Roach, Robertson, Robinson, Rowe, Wilcox

ORANGEBURGH LAND RECORDS #2 (South Carolina Archives)  
Index Prev BRUCE - DATTWYLER Next

NAME..... DATE..... LAND..... REMARKS.....  
.....TOWN LOT.... ARCHIVES REFERENCE NUMBER...

John CHEVILETTE 02 Jul 1759 250 Orig William Card 8Aug41-sold 23Dec1746. Peter Ott Release 104A:084 (1772).  
.....Twp. Lot \_\_\_ Ref: 0030 002 0007 00253 03

John CHEVILETTE 1769 .5 Colonel. Adj N by Broad St. (Wragg St.). Wife Sarah (heir of CHAS(GLCH) Francis Yanam, Purrsyburg)  
.....Twp. Lot 059 Ref: DBk M-3:291

There was a Colonel John Chevillette who was Colonel of a company during Cherokee Indian War from 1759-1761 translation by Joop: copy of A.S. Salley  
1745/6 Monday the 13th of January  
Sir Johann Chevilette and Mrs. Susanna Hepperditzel in the presence of Joseph Robinson (101) 1745/6 Monday 13 Jany, married Johann Chevilette to Mrs. Susanna Hepperditzel, Witness, Joseph Robinson, -----  
Appears in the list: maryed by me under nr 1:  
Mr. John Chevillette Esqr. Jan 13th. 1745/6. To Susannah Hepperditzel. Widow  
(Rev. Giessendanner)

According to the list Susanna Hepperditzel was a widow, which is also consistent with Fr(au)

Internet notes regarding Henry Patrick: In Daniel Marchant Culler's "ORANGEBURGH DISTRICT 1768 - 1868 History and Records", he states in his section on lawyers, legislators, and public officials, "Henry Patrick lived in the southern part of Orangeburgh District, acquiring through grants 686 acres in the fork of the Edisto River (1785, 1790). He also co-owned with John CHEVILETTE an additional tract of 762 acres on the North Edisto River, which allegedly was issued through grants."

## Second Generation

2. **Andrew Robison GOVAN** (Louisa) was born 13 Jan 1794 in Orangeburg District, South Carolina. He died 27 Jun 1841 in Marshall County, Mississippi.

1820 SC House of Representatives

4 Dec 1822 - South Carolina member of Congress, 4th District, to 3 Mar 1827.

Married Mary P. Jones 10 Mar 1825 in Northampton, North Carolina.

Moved to Tennessee near Summerville in 1831.

Moved to Mississippi in 1832. (Snowdown Plantation) where he is buried.

Andrew Robison Govan, either the first or second one, seems to have bought a lot of land in Arkansas, Texas, Alabama, and elsewhere.

Andrew married **Mary Pugh JONES**.

Marriage 1 Mary Pugh JONES b: 8 Jan 1802 in New Berne, North Carolina

Married: 10 Mar 1825 in Northampton, NC

Children

Eaton Pugh GOVAN b: 1924 (27)? in North Carolina

Daniel Chevilette GOVAN b: 3 Jul 1827 in Northampton County, NC

John Jones GOVAN

William Hemphill GOVAN

Andrew Robison GOVAN

George Morgan GOVAN

Mary Pugh GOVAN

Sarah Davis GOVAN

Elizabeth Jones GOVAN

They had the following children:

- + 4 M i. **Gen. Daniel Chevilette GOVAN** was born 3 Jul 1827/1829 and died 12 Mar 1911.
- + 5 M ii. **Eaton Pugh GOVAN** was born 1824 and died 14 Feb 1881.
- 6 M iii. **John Jones GOVAN**.
- 7 M iv. **William Hemphill GOVAN** was born 1831.
- 8 M v. **Andrew Robison (Jr.) GOVAN** was born 1838. He died 1863 in Georgia.
- 9 M vi. **George Morgan GOVAN** was born 1840.
- 10 F vii. **Mary Pugh GOVAN**.
  - Mary married **R. Edward CHEW**.
  - R. EDWARD CHEW married to MARY PUGH GOVAN 25 Oct 1865 Marshall MS
- 11 F viii. **Sarah Davis GOVAN**.
- 12 F ix. **Elizabeth Jones GOVAN** was born 1836.

3. **Elizabeth Ann GOVAN** (Louisa).

Elizabeth married **Nash ROACH**. Nash died 28 Feb 1858.

Woodlands Plantation was owned by Nash Roach (1792 - 1858), a wealthy planter from Charleston. Starting in 1821, Roach began buying property in the Barnwell District that would become Woodlands Plantation. By 1830, the Barnwell federal population census shows that Roach owned 23 male and 23 female slaves-46 total-presumably working at Woodlands. Most of the records of the plantation were destroyed when the house at Woodlands was burned-once in 1862 and again at the end of the Civil War. Nash Roach also owned a plantation across the Edisto River in Orangeburg County called Oak Grove that he acquired through his marriage to Eliza Ann Govan (1791 - 1822), the daughter of Daniel Govan (? - 1797) and Louisa Robinson. This was Roach's principal residence and primary income property until 1846 when he sold Oak Grove and moved to Woodlands to live fulltime with his daughter, Chevilette Eliza, and son-in-law, William Gilmore Simms. In colonial days, Oak Grove was called "St. George"; during the Revolution, it was

referred to as "Chevillette's" after Eliza Ann Govan's stepfather, John Chevillette. "St. George," not to be confused with the town or district of St. George in adjacent Dorchester County, was a land grant consisting of many acres just below the town of Orangeburg, which was given to Daniel Govan's father, Andrew Govan (? - 1771) in 1757. In 1758, Andrew Govan married Rachel Rowe (1740 - ?), daughter of Michael Christopher Rowe by his first marriage.

They had the following children:

- 13 M i. **Andrew Govan ROACH.**
- 14 F ii. **Claudia ROACH.**
- + 15 F iii. **Chevillette Eliza ROACH** was born 1817 and died 10 Sep 1863.

## Third Generation

4. **Gen. Daniel Chevillette GOVAN** (Andrew Robison GOVAN, Louisa) was born 3 Jul 1827/1829. He died 12 Mar 1911 in Seattle, WA.

Daniel Chevillette Govan (1829-1911) was a Brigadier General in the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War.

Daniel Chevillette Govan was born on 4 July 1829 in Northampton County, North Carolina. His family moved to Mississippi where he was raised. Govan attended the South Carolina College.

Govan moved to California during the gold rush along with his cousin Ben McCulloch who, along with his brother Henry McCulloch would also become a Confederate General.

In 1852 Govan returned to Mississippi and remained there until 1861 when he moved to Helena, Arkansas and became a planter.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he entered Confederate service and received a commission as Colonel of the 2nd Arkansas Infantry Regiment. Govan and his regiment participated in the Battle of Shiloh.

After Shiloh his regiment took part in Edmund Kirby Smith's Kentucky campaign and fought at the Battle of Perryville and at one point commanded the brigade.

Govan became a brigade commander and fought at the Battle of Chickamauga, the Battle of Missionary Ridge, and played a prominent role at the Battle of Ringgold Gap.

On 9 December 1863 Govan is commissioned a Brigadier General with his command consisting of the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Arkansas Infantry Regiments. His brigade participated in the Atlanta Campaign and received particular mention for his conduct at the Battle of Pickett's Mill. General Govan was captured after a fierce battle at the Battle of Jonesboro but was soon exchanged by Union forces. Govan served the remainder of the war with the Army of Tennessee.

Govan died on 12 March 1911. He is buried at Hill Crest Cemetery in Holly Springs, Mississippi.

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Name GOVAN, Daniel Chevillette

Born July 4 1829, Northampton Cty NC

Died March 12 1911, Memphis TN

Pre-War Profession Gold miner, deputy sheriff, farmer, planter.

War Service 1861 raised company that became part of 2nd Arkansas, Lt. Col., Shiloh, Perryville, Murfreesboro, commanded Liddell's Bde/Liddell's Divn at Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, December 1863 Brig. Gen, commanded Govan's Bde/Cleburne's Divn in Atlanta campaign, Jonesboro (c), Franklin and Nashville campaign, Carolinas campaign.

Post War Career Planter, Indian agent.

Daniel Chevillette Govan Brigadier General

Born July 4, 1829 Northampton County NC

Cousin of CS General Ben McCulloch

Cousin of CS General Henry Eustace McCulloch  
Captured at Jonesboro  
Died March 12, 1911 Memphis TN  
Buried Hill Crest Cemetery Holly Springs MS

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1860 United States Federal Census > Arkansas > Phillips > Richland  
Daniel, age 33  
Mary, wife, age 25  
Ben, age 5  
Bettie, age 4  
James, age 3  
Julius, 3/12 mos

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Source: Confederate Military History, vol. XIV, p. 400

Name: Daniel Chevilette Govan

State Served: Arkansas

Highest Rank: Brig-Gen

Birth Date: 1829

Death Date: 1911

Birth Place: Northampton County, North Carolina

Army: Confederacy

Promotions: Promoted to Full Lt Colonel (2nd AR Inf)

Promoted to Full Brig-Gen

Biography: Brigadier-General Daniel C. Govan, of Arkansas, is one of the commanders of whom General Cleburne said, "Four better officers are not in the service of the Confederacy." Entering the army in 1861, he was made colonel of the Second Arkansas regiment, and was present in the first day's battle of Shiloh. Sickness prevented his participating on the second day. In the Kentucky campaign, the Second Arkansas was in the brigade of General Liddell, and participated in the battle of Perryville.

At Murfreesboro, still in Liddell's brigade, Colonel Govan led his regiment and during a part of the day the brigade. At Chickamauga he led the brigade, Liddell acting as commander of a division. He again commanded his brigade at Missionary Ridge and on the retreat, sharing prominently in the timely victory at Ringgold, and winning from Cleburne the compliment already mentioned.

On December 29, 1863, he was promoted to brigadier-general, his command consisting of the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Arkansas regiments of infantry. Throughout the Atlanta campaign he handled his brigade so admirably as to merit favorable mention from his division and corps commanders and from Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, who especially mentioned the gallant conduct of his brigade at Pickett's mill. On the 1st of September, while Hardee with one corps was holding a position of no great strength in order to protect Hood's retreat from Atlanta, he was attacked by five corps of Sherman's army. Fortunately, the attacks were not simultaneous along the line, and Hardee was able to shift troops to the threatened points in time to repel assaults.

About the middle of the afternoon an angle held by Govan's Arkansas and Lewis' Kentucky brigades, troops that had no superiors in the army, were assailed by an overwhelming force. They held to their line until the dense masses of the Federal troops poured over the works, and by force of numbers drove back the brave defenders. A large part of Govan's brigade fought until the dense volume of Federal troops ran over them and took physical possession of the men. What was left of the brigade, charging with Granbury's Texans and Gordon's Tennesseans, succeeded in establishing a new line, which was held until night put an end to the conflict. General Govan, captured that day, was soon exchanged and followed the fortunes of the army of Tennessee to the last.

He led his brigade through the hardships and disasters of the Tennessee campaign, and in the final campaign in the Carolinas commanded his own and Granbury's brigade, which had been consolidated. No officer of the army of Tennessee enjoyed to a greater degree than General Govan did, the esteem of his men and of his superior officers.

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General Daniel Chevilette Govan

This article will complete biographies of officially commissioned CS General Officers buried in Holly Springs. There are still a number of others connected to Holly Springs, but are buried elsewhere.

General Daniel Chevilette Govan who was born July 4, 1829 in North Carolina. He attended the University of South Carolina, but was reared in Mississippi. Ben McCulloch, a relative who also became a Confederate General, and Daniel joined the 49er's in the gold rush to California. After the gold rush, he returned to Mississippi and remained until he moved to Arkansas in 1861.

When hostilities began, he raised a company which became part of the 2nd Arkansas and was promoted to Lt. Colonel. He was commissioned a Brigadier General February 29, 1863. He was captured at Jonesboro during the Atlanta campaign and was with Joe Johnston at the surrender in 1865.

After the War, Gen. Govan returned to Arkansas where he remained until appointed Indian Agent in the state of Washington by President Cleveland. When he completed his tenure in that position, he lived with various ones of his fourteen children until his death in Memphis, Tennessee on March 12, 1911. Gen. Govan is buried in the family plot in Hillcrest Cemetery in Holly Springs along with his brother-in-law, Christopher Kit Mott.

Daniel married **Mary Fogg OTEY** on 20 Dec 1853 in Shelby County, TN.

They had the following children:

- 16 M i. **Benjamin McCulloch GOVAN** was born<sup>1</sup> about 1855.

Undoubtedly named for his father's cousin, Brigadier General Ben McCulloch, who was born November 11, 1811 at Rutherford County TN  
Brother of CS General Henry Eustace McCulloch; Cousin of CS General Daniel Chevilette Govan. The Generaal was killed March 7, 1862 at Pea Ridge/Elkhorn Tavern - Buried State Cemetery, Austin TX

2 Benjamin McCulloch Govan

+ ?

3 Frances Bruce Govan b: 23 JUN 1898 d: MAY 1984

+ Guy Hendrrix Lackey b: 17 NOV 1899 d: FEB 1962

4 ? Lackey

- 17 F ii. **Bettie GOVAN** was born<sup>1</sup> about 1856.

- 18 M iii. **James GOVAN** was born about 1857.

- 19 M iv. **Julius GOVAN** was born about 1860.

- 20 F v. **Helen GOVAN**.

- 21 vi. **(9 Other Children) GOVAN**.

5. **Eaton Pugh GOVAN** (Andrew Robison GOVAN, Louisa) was born 1824. He died 14 Feb 1881 in Plantation near Marianna, AR.

Eaton married **Julie Ann HAWKS**.

Marriage 1 Julie Ann HAWKS b: 16 Oct 1825 in Hillsboro, NC

Married: 4 Mar 1845 in Marshall, MS

EATON PUGH GOVAN married to JULIA A. HAWKS 04 Mar 1845 Marshall MS

They had the following children:

- 22 M i. **Francis Hawks GOVAN** was born 7 Jan 1846 in Marshall County, MS.

Marriage 1 Mildred Hewitt Ford  
Married: 28 Jun 1875 in Marianna, Lee, AR 1  
Change Date: 16 Nov 2003  
Children  
Elizabeth Hewitt Govan b: 15 Nov 1876  
Laura Pugh Govan b: 5 Oct 1878  
Francis Hawks Govan b: 17 Sep 1880  
Eaton Pugh Govan b: 24 Nov 1882  
Charles Ford Govan b: 5 Aug 1892

- 23 F ii. **Mary Pugh (2nd of the name) GOVAN** was born Oct 1847 in Marshall County, MS.

Marriage 1 Edward R. Chew b: Abt 1844 in Mississippi  
Married: 1865 in Holly Springs, Marshall, MS 1  
Change Date: 16 Nov 2003  
Children  
Julia Hawks Chew b: 24 Jun 1866 in Mississippi  
Edward Govan Chew b: 8 Sep 1867 in Mississippi  
Frisley Freeland Chew b: 9 Oct 1869 in Mississippi  
Ralph Chew b: 27 Sep 1872 in Mississippi  
William Roberts Chew b: Nov 1873 in Mississippi  
Francis Hawks Chew b: 9 May 1875 in Mississippi  
Carrie Elizabeth Chew b: 8 May 1877 in Mississippi  
Mary Pugh Chew b: 26 Oct 1879 in Mississippi  
Eva Bogert Chew b: 1 Oct 1888

- 24 M iii. **Andrew Robison (2nd of the name) GOVAN** was born 20 Mar 1849 in Marshall County, MS.

Marriage 1 Mattie Lambert b: 1853 in Henderson, Henderson, KY  
Married: 1870 in Helena, Phillips, AR 1  
Change Date: 17 Nov 2003  
Children  
Mary Moore Govan b: 19 Nov 1871 in Arkansas  
Julia Hawks Govan b: 14 Sep 1877 in Arkansas  
Lawsoh Moore Govan b: 17 Jan 1882  
Robert Lambert Govan b: 28 Jul 1884  
Maggie Govan b: 13 Sep 1886  
Maggie Tappan Govan b: 11 Oct 1890

- 25 M iv. **Eaton Pugh (Jr.) GOVAN** was born 19 Apr 1851 in Holly Springs, Marshall, MS.

Marriage 1 Florence Gist b: 15 Mar 1861  
Married: 28 Oct 1880 1  
Change Date: 17 Nov 2003  
Children  
Joseph F. Govan b: 12 Jan 1882 in Helena, Phillips, AR  
Ida Quarles Govan b: 1 Oct 1883 in Marianna, Lee, AR  
Eaton Pugh Govan b: 20 Jun 1887 in Helena, Phillips, AR  
Mabel Hawks Govan b: 1 Aug 1888 in Helena, Phillips, AR

- 26 M v. **William Lister GOVAN** was born 30 Oct 1854. He died 6 Apr 1872.

- 27 F vi. **Emily Kirby GOVAN** was born 10 Feb 1860 in Holly Springs, MS (Walters House). She died 1936 in MS.

Marriage 1 T. C. Merwin b: 25 Dec 1845 in Louisville, Jefferson, KY  
Married: 28 May 1879 in Marianna, Lee, AR 1  
Change Date: 17 Nov 2003  
Children  
Mary Merwin b: 16 Jul 1881 in Marianna, Lee, AR  
Eaton Govan Merwin b: 12 May 1883  
William Lister Merwin b: 11 Jun 1886 in Little Rock, Pulaski, AR  
Georgia Merwin b: 12 Apr 1894 in Marianna, Lee, AR

Emily married **Thorburn (Tobin) Chartres MERWIN**.

Ancestry file of Erin Arellano

Moved near Austin, MS in 1860. Brother, George fought for the NUnion in the Civil War. Thorburn fought for the Conferates. Attended college at South Hanover College in Kentucky. Released from Confederate duty 19 June 1865. Wife Emily (GOVAN) Merwin.

Father: Anson William Stow MERWIN b: 4 July 1814 in Milford, CT

Mother: Anna L. CHARTRES b: 1817 (18)?

Marriage 1 Emily GOVAN b: 10 Feb 1860 in Holly Springs, MS (Walters House)

Married: 28 May 1879 in Marianna, AR

28 F vii. **Laura Maria GOVAN** was born Apr 1862. She died 25 Aug 1871.

15. **Chevilette Eliza ROACH** (Elizabeth Ann GOVAN, Louisa) was born 1817. She died 10 Sep 1863.

From a bio of William Gilmore SIMMS:

In April, 1836, he became engaged to Chevilette Eliza Roach, daughter of Nash Roach, a wealthy South Carolina planter. Determined not to marry while burdened with debt, Simms managed to meet his obligations with the aid of friends and income from his literary works. He and Chevilette were then married in November, 1836, and made their home at The Woodlands, one of Roach's twin plantations, in Barnwell District, near Orangeburg. The union marked a turning point in Simms's life. By his marriage, Simms secured, not only his own and his daughter's domestic stability, but their social and financial future, as well. A year later, Simms and Chevilette's happiness seemed complete when their first child was born. But the child died before she was a year old, leaving both parents grief-stricken. Though consoled somewhat by the birth of their second child in 1839, Simms's series of personal losses had by then led him to believe that a perverse fate stalked him. The furious pace of his publications throughout this period, however, clearly indicates that, in good times and bad, in happiness and sorrow, his literary ambitions continued to drive him relentlessly.

During the decade of the 1840s, Simms continued his annual trips to the North and published more than two dozen separate works, including seven novels. In addition, for short periods, he edited two literary magazines; his purpose in both ventures, to advance the literature of the South. His life with Chevilette, though happy on the whole, was characterized by alternating periods of sunlight and shadow. Five children were born to them during this time, but three more children died. By the end of the decade, they had buried four of seven children.

Simms's domestic life during this decade (the 1850's) was complicated by the need to take over management of Nash Roach's plantations as his father-in-law's health declined, by Chevilette's fragile health, and by the births of six more children, five of whom died before the age of seven, bringing to nine the number of children they had lost.

The decade of the 1860s brought the onset of the Civil War. Simms tried to aid the war effort in any way he could, even offering strategic advice. Early in the war, though, the house at The Woodlands was partially destroyed by an accidental fire. Simms was subsequently much preoccupied with designing and rebuilding his home. He also suffered intense anxiety and distraction over the well-being of his only son, Gilly, who enlisted in the Confederate Army and was wounded. The unexpected death of his beloved wife in 1863, shortly after the birth of their fourteenth child, was a particularly heavy blow.

- 1 Chivellelte Eliza ROACH b: 1817 d: 10 SEP 1863
- + William Gilmore SIMMS, Jr. b: 17 APR 1806 d: 11 JAN 1870
- 2 Virginia Singleton SIMMS b: 15 NOV 1837 d: 10 OCT 1838
- 2 Mary Derille SIMMS b: 6 SEP 1839 d: 1842
- 2 Agnes SIMMS b: 28 MAY 1841 d: 28 JUL 1841
- 2 William Gilmore SIMMS III b: 16 MAR 1843 d: 15 OCT 1912
- + Emma Gertrude HARTZOG b: 3 OCT 1857 d: 5 MAR 1949
- 3 Chevilette Austin SIMMS b: 20 JAN 1880 d: 28 JUL 1890
- 3 Zaidée Aldrich SIMMS b: 12 MAY 1882 d: 8 MAR 1968
- + Robert Boyd COLE b: 8 NOV 1882 d: 28 JUL 1949
- 4 William Gilmore Simms COLE b: 23 JUL 1908 d: 31 JUL 1908
- 3 William Gilmore SIMMS IV b: 14 DEC 1883 d: 8 AUG 1953



- + Susan Elizabeth BURKETT b: 11 MAR 1886 d: 4 NOV 1964
- 4 Beverly Carroll SIMMS b: 5 NOV 1918
- 4 William Gilmore SIMMS V b: 5 NOV 1918 d: 29 DEC 1980
  - + Ruby Elizabeth MARTIN b: 23 JUN 1918
  - 5 Living SIMMS
    - + Living HISE
  - 5 Living SIMMS
    - + Living PINCUS
- 3 Beverly Hartzog SIMMS b: 5 JUL 1886 d: 6 JUL 1887
- 3 Harold Algernon SIMMS b: 13 JUN 1888 d: 29 OCT 1965
- 3 Mary Chevillette SIMMS b: 6 JAN 1891 d: 27 JUL 1988
- + Albert Drane OLIPHANT , Sr. b: 6 MAR 1890 d: 8 MAR 1935
- 4 Mary Chevillette Simms OLIPHANT b: 14 FEB 1918
  - + Alester Garden FURMAN III b: 3 JAN 1918
  - 5 Living FURMAN
    - + Living GREGORY
  - 5 Living FURMAN
    - + Living PRESSLEY
  - 5 Living FURMAN
    - + Living TOOMEY
  - 5 Living FURMAN
- 4 Albert Drane OLIPHANT , Jr. b: 20 JUN 1920
  - + Joan West BOLLIN b: 13 AUG 1928
  - 5 Living OLIPHANT
    - + Living BELL
  - 5 Living OLIPHANT
  - 5 Living OLIPHANT
  - 5 Living OLIPHANT
- 4 William Gilmore Simms OLIPHANT , Sr. b: 13 JAN 1926
  - + Mary Byrd MURRAY b: 27 MAY 1926 d: AFT 1970
  - 5 Living OLIPHANT
  - 5 Living OLIPHANT
  - 5 Living OLIPHANT
- 3 Anne Lee SIMMS b: 21 JAN 1893 d: 1 MAR 1969
- + Carl Edward BUCK , Sr. b: 12 OCT 1891 d: 22 NOV 1955
- 4 Carl Edward BUCK , Jr. b: 17 NOV 1924
  - + Marjorie Louise GOULD b: 8 AUG 1928
  - 5 Living BUCK
  - 5 Living BUCK
- 4 William Gilmore Simms BUCK b: 24 SEP 1926
  - + Sara Ann SWYGERT b: 2 APR 1928
  - 5 Living BUCK
  - 5 Living BUCK
  - 5 Living BUCK
- 2 Valeria Govan SIMMS b: 10 AUG 1845 d: 1846
- 2 Mary Lawson SIMMS b: 13 SEP 1846 d: 26 APR 1908
  - + John Millar KINLOCH , Sr. b: 31 MAR 1834 d: 26 JAN 1898
  - 3 John Millar KINLOCH , Jr. b: 18 JUL 1884 d: 8 SEP 1922
  - 3 Mary Chevillette Simms KINLOCH b: 26 JUL 1889 d: 23 OCT 1953
    - + John Townsend RIVERS b: 19 MAR 1882 d: 1 DEC 1930
    - 4 John Kinloch RIVERS b: 2 JUN 1925 d: 27 APR 1989
    - 4 Mary Townsend RIVERS b: 12 DEC 1929
      - + Robert Francis KELLO , Sr. b: 1 AUG 1928
      - 5 Living KELLO
      - 5 Living KELLO
        - + Living LEE
      - 6 Living LEE
      - 5 Living KELLO
        - + Living THOMAS
        - + Living DUTY

6 Living DUTY  
 6 Living DUTY  
 6 Living DUTY  
 5 Living KELLO  
 2 Chevillette Eliza SIMMS b: 13 DEC 1848 d: 17 JUN 1914  
 + Donald Jacob ROWE b: MAR 1841 d: 14 FEB 1905  
 3 Chevillette Simms ROWE b: JAN 1867 d: SEP 1867  
 3 Mary Lawson ROWE b: 13 SEP 1869  
 3 Mary Augusta ROWE b: SEP 1872 d: 1940  
 + Peter B. THOMAS  
 3 Charlotte Percival ROWE b: 7 SEP 1874 d: 12 FEB 1954  
 + Henry Fullerton BUIST , Sr. d: 26 JAN 1916  
 4 Henry Fullerton BUIST , Jr. b: 1908 d: 1908  
 4 Charlotte Fullerton BUIST b: 21 FEB 1910  
 + George Asa WALKER  
 5 Living WALKER  
 + Living AUSTIN  
 3 Sara Moss ROWE b: SEP 1876  
 + William WEEKLEY  
 4 Sara Rowe WEEKLEY  
 + Joseph FLORENCE  
 5 Sallie Ann FLORENCE  
 + William GUIN  
 3 William Gilmore Simms ROWE b: 2 OCT 1879 d: 29 JAN 1943  
 + Susie Brown FARMER b: 8 MAR 1883 d: 11 DEC 1966  
 4 Margaret Simms ROWE b: 27 JUL 1906  
 + James Clayton BUCKLEY b: 6 FEB 1909 d: 10 MAR 1969  
 5 Living BUCKLEY  
 + Living REID  
 5 Living BUCKLEY  
 4 William Gilmore Simms ROWE II b: 8 OCT 1916 d: 6 JUN 1917  
 3 Pauline Hayne ROWE b: 6 FEB 1885 d: 11 OCT 1885  
 3 Chevillette Simms ROWE b: 12 DEC 1886 d: 18 JUL 1887  
 3 Chevillette Govan ROWE  
 2 Sydney Roach SIMMS b: 9 NOV 1851 d: 22 SEP 1858  
 2 Beverly Hammond SIMMS b: 17 AUG 1854 d: 22 JUL 1861  
 2 Govan Singleton SIMMS b: 1 SEP 1856 d: 7 JUL 1891  
 + Meta DOWLING  
 3 Charles Carroll SIMMS b: 21 SEP 1889  
 3 Katherine Walton SIMMS b: 1891  
 2 Harriett Mydleton SIMMS b: 14 MAR 1858 d: 24 DEC 1861  
 2 Sydney Hammond SIMMS b: 22 JUL 1859 d: 22 JUL 1861  
 2 Charles Carroll SIMMS , Sr. b: 20 OCT 1862 d: 10 DEC 1930  
 + Emily Margaret DUNCAN b: 31 MAY 1859 d: 13 MAR 1887  
 + Frances Hagood MAHER b: 13 JAN 1874 d: 30 OCT 1946  
 3 Charles Carroll SIMMS , Jr. b: 2 MAY 1895 d: 4 MAY 1896  
 3 Chevillette Eleanor SIMMS b: 30 APR 1897 d: 24 OCT 1971  
 + Mar AGARD  
 3 John Govan SIMMS , Sr. b: 21 JAN 1899 d: 9 OCT 1980  
 + May Drew JOHNSON b: 28 DEC 1901 d: 27 FEB 1991  
 4 Beverly Carroll SIMMS b: 15 OCT 1927  
 4 Living SIMMS  
 + Living WANNER  
 4 Living SIMMS  
 + Living COUNTS  
 5 Living COUNTS  
 5 Living COUNTS  
 4 Living SIMMS  
 3 William Gilmore SIMMS b: 24 NOV 1901 d: 3 SEP 1902  
 3 Katherine Maher SIMMS b: 26 JAN 1903 d: 12 JAN 1988

3 Perry Buckingham SIMMS b: 3 JUL 1905 d: 14 FEB 1993  
 + Constance Elizabeth HANLEIN b: 7 MAY 1909 d: 5 APR 1957  
 4 Living SIMMS  
 + Robert Lee HARTMAN b: 14 JUL 1928  
 5 Living HARTMAN  
 + Living MACMANUS  
 5 Living HARTMAN  
 + Living HERRON  
 5 Living HARTMAN  
 5 Living HARTMAN  
 4 Living SIMMS  
 + Living COOPER  
 5 Living COOPER  
 5 Living COOPER  
 5 Living COOPER  
 3 Frances Carroll SIMMS b: 12 OCT 1907 d: 24 OCT 1994  
 3 Beverly Singleton SIMMS b: 15 AUG 1910 d: 5 FEB 1972  
 3 Edmund Bellinger SIMMS b: 9 NOV 1912 d: 9 MAY 1983  
 + Doris Evelyn HANCOCK b: 25 FEB 1918  
 4 Living SIMMS  
 + Living HALTIWANGER  
 5 Living HALTIWANGER  
 + Living WOLFE  
 4 Living SIMMS  
 4 Living SIMMS  
 3 William Gilmore SIMMS b: 25 JUN 1915 d: 5 DEC 1975  
 + Margaret Caroline D'EPIRO b: 6 MAR 1914 d: 28 JAN 1990

Chevillette married **William Gilmore SIMMS** on Nov 1836. William was born 17 Apr 1806. He died 11 Jun 1870.

The plantation of author William Gilmore Simms (1806-1870) was in what is now Bamberg County, but was previously a portion of old Barnwell District.

Woodlands Plantation, in the 19th century, was the home of William Gilmore Simms (1806 - 1870), a noted Southern literary figure, his large family.

SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY  
 UNIVERSITY SOUTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY  
 MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTIONS

William Gilmore Simms Family Bible Records, ca. 1836-1968

Two printed volumes, 1836-1952 and 1879-1968, family Bibles of noted literary figure William Gilmore Simms (1806-1870).

Records include births, deaths, and marriages for the families of Simms and Chevillette Eliza Roach and their son William Gilmore Simms and Emma Gertrude Hartzog. Much of the family data is duplicated between Bibles, but information on the Cole, Furman, and Oliphant families is with the earlier records.

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Source: From Charles Reagan Wilson and William Ferris, eds., *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989. Used by permission of the publisher.  
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/simms/bio.html>

William Gilmore Simms, 1806-1870

Simms, William Gilmore, 1806-1870 Simms was born in Charleston, S.C., and lived much of his life in or near it, making frequent visits to northern publishing centers and to the Gulf Coast and the southern mountains. His extensive knowledge of southern regions influenced novels and tales set in the Low Country, such as *The Yemassee* (1835), *The Partisan* (1835), and *The Golden Christmas* (1852), which trace the development of the region from the colonial era through the Revolution and into the antebellum period. Simms also published border and mountain romances like *Richard Hurdis* (1838) and *Voltmeier* (1869), set in the antebellum backwoods South.

To a greater extent, perhaps, than any other 19th century southern author, he gave a comprehensive picture of his region

in its historical and cultural diversity—of the Low Country with its class hierarchy, its agrarian economy, its increasingly conservative politics, and its keen sectional self-consciousness; of the Gulf South, both civilized and violent, part plantation, part frontier; and of the Appalachian Mountain South in its pioneer phase. His writing exhibits qualities that mark southern literature from its beginnings: a sense of time and history, a love of southern landscape, a respect for southern social institutions, and a firm belief in class stratification and enlightened upper-class rule. In addition to fiction, poetry, drama, orations, and literary criticism, he wrote a history and a geography of South Carolina and biographies of Francis Marion, Captain John Smith, the Chevalier Bayard, and Nathanael Greene. At the beginning and near the end of his career, he edited several South Carolina newspapers, and in the 1840's and 1850s he served as editor of important southern journals, among them the *Magnolia*, the *Southern and Western*, and the proslavery *Southern Quarterly Review*, which gave voice to sectional issues.

The embodiment of southern letters, Simms was also an influential spokesman for what he saw as the region's social and political concerns. A unionist in the 1832 nullification controversy, in the 1840s he supported the intensely nationalistic Young America group, which pushed for American freedom from British literary models. Active in politics, he served in the South Carolina Legislature from 1844 to 1846, conferred with prominent planters like James Henry Hammond about southern agricultural policies, conducted a copious correspondence with fire-eating Beverley Tucker of Virginia about slavery and secession, and helped develop the proslavery argument. As his southern nationalism mounted in the 1840s and 1850s, he supported the annexation of Texas and advocated the creation of a southern empire in the Caribbean. When the Civil War broke out, he served as advisor to several southern politicians and made elaborate proposals for Confederate military defenses. During the war he wrote little of literary importance save the lively backwoods novel *Paddy McGann* (1863); after it, he ruined his health by the incessant writing and editing chores he took on to support his impoverished family. Energetic and often humorous, his work is important for its sweeping picture of the colonial and antebellum South in its regional diversity and also for its representation of continuing southern literary and intellectual issues.

Mary Ann Wimsatt  
Southwest Texas State University

C. Hugh Holman, *The Roots of Southern Writing: Essays on the Literature of the American South* (1972); James E. Kibler, Jr., *The Poetry of William Gilmore Simms: An Introduction and Bibliography* (1978); with Keen Butterworth, *William Gilmore Simms: A Reference Guide* (1980); Mary C. Simms Oliphant et al., eds., *The Letters of William Gilmore Simms (1952-56)*.

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Simms, William Gilmore (1806-1870)  
Novelist, Poet, Editor, Biographer, Historian, Orator, Essayist, Letter Writer.  
Active 1825-1870 in USA, North America  
<http://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=4078>

William Gilmore Simms, the only writer from the American South, other than Poe, to rank as a major national literary figure before the Civil War, was born 17 April 1806 in Charleston, South Carolina. His grandparents, William and Elizabeth Sims, emigrated from Ireland to South Carolina shortly after the American Revolution. Simms's father, also named William Gilmore, added the second "m" to the family name. He operated a tavern and grocery in Charleston and married Harriet Singleton in 1804. The couple's first son died the year Simms was born, and when Simms's mother and their third child died in childbirth in 1808, Simms's father, whose business failed about the same time, condemned Charleston as "a place of tombs" and fled to the frontier, leaving two-year-old William, Jr., in the care of his maternal grandmother.

A stern disciplinarian with limited financial resources, Jane Singleton Gates did not offer Simms much emotional nurturing and could not afford a better education for him than that provided by the poor Charleston public schools. But she was a spirited raconteur and fascinated the young Simms with a rich fund of ghost stories and exciting tales of her family's Revolutionary War exploits. Simms did benefit greatly from a brief period in an academy for promising students at the College of Charleston, but most of his education came from voracious reading, much of it by candlelight under a box in his bedroom after his grandmother had ordered lights out. Simms's formal education ended at twelve, when he was apprenticed to an apothecary. But his strong literary inclinations soon emerged when he began writing long rhymed sagas of American wars and publishing verses pseudonymously in local newspapers.

In 1824, when Simms was eighteen, he visited his father at his plantation in the Mississippi territory. Together, they ranged widely about the region on horseback, observing frontier life, Indian tribes, and outlaws, and listening to stories. When Simms returned to Charleston, he gave up medical training, began to study law, and started a literary magazine,

The Album. In 1826, he again visited his father and gathered more materials for his later writings.

The Album only lasted a year, but it anticipated much of Simms's later literary career. First, it acquainted him with editing a literary magazine, a role he repeated numerous times. In its pages he also published poetry on southern subjects and fiction that dealt with criminal psychology and South Carolina in the Revolution. Finally, in a series of travel letters written during his second frontier trip, Simms published materials that foreshadowed his border novels and his interest in frontier characters and Southern humor. These letters also anticipated Simms the letter writer, whose voluminous correspondence, published in six volumes eighty years after his death, constitutes perhaps the most detailed record of a literary life by any 19th century American writer.

Within the short space of about two years, from 1825 to 1827, besides editing *The Album*, Simms also published his first book of poetry, married Anna Malcolm Giles, and was admitted to the Charleston bar. In the five years that followed, he published four more volumes of poetry in Charleston, continued practicing law, served as a magistrate, and edited two more short-lived journals. His main occupation during these years, however, was as editor and part owner of a newspaper, the *Charleston City Gazette* (1830-1832), in which he took an unpopular editorial stand against Nullification that forced him to withdraw from the paper.

Though blessed with the birth of his first child, Anna Augusta, during this period, he suffered the deaths of his father and grandmother in 1830, and in February, 1832, he was devastated by the death of his young wife. When the *City Gazette* failed four months later, leaving him in debt as well as stricken with grief, Simms decided, probably at the invitation of James Lawson, a New York writer and editor with whom he had been corresponding, to travel to the North in the summer of 1832, both to escape the gloomy reminders of his recent losses and to see if he could improve his literary fortunes. He quickly placed his sixth volume of poetry and first work published outside the South with a leading New York publisher. More important, though, were the many valuable connections he made with writers, editors, and publishers, and they, in turn, apparently encouraged him to turn his attention to fiction.

Published in late 1833 and favorably reviewed by the Northern press, *Martin Faber; The Story of a Criminal*, gained Simms his first significant national recognition. The novel explored the psychology of the criminal mind, a subject Simms would return to in later novels, notably *Confession; or, The Blind Heart* (1841). But it was his second novel, *Guy Rivers: A Tale of Georgia* (1834), that became his first popular success and that secured for him a place among the top rank of American novelists of the time. Also with *Guy Rivers*, his first border novel, Simms embarked on perhaps the most ambitious scheme of any American novelist: to portray in fiction the settlement, struggle for independence, and westward expansion of the southern section of the United States.

Simms covered the pre-colonial and colonial periods of Southern history in four romances published at wide intervals throughout his career. *The Yemassee* (1835), his best-known work throughout the 20th century, deals with the South Carolina Indian wars of the 1700s. Second in the series was *The Lily and the Totem, or, The Huguenots in Florida* (1850); an experimental work described as "fictional history" by recent critics, it deals with the years between 1562-1570. Third was *Vasconcelos* (1853), a fictional portrait of the Spanish occupation of Cuba and conquest of Florida. Many critics view the final novel in this series, *The Cassique of Kiawah* (1859), based on the early settlement of South Carolina, as perhaps Simms's best novel.

Simms devoted eight novels to South Carolina Revolutionary War history, which he portrayed as primarily a partisan conflict between Whigs and Tories. *The Partisan* (1835) is the first volume of a trilogy that Simms concluded considerably later with *Katherine Walton* (1851) and *The Sword and the Distaff* (1852). Published again in 1854 under its better-known title, *Woodcraft*, this latter novel, which most critics agree is the best of the Revolutionary War series, deals with the end of the war and its aftermath and features as its leading character Captain Porgy, one of Simms's most successful fictional creations. Perhaps weakest is the second novel, *Mellichampe* (1836). Of more interest for its characterizations is *The Kinsmen* (1841), which Simms revised and published as *The Scout* (1854). The sixth and seventh novels in the series, *The Forayers* (1855) and its sequel, *Eutaw* (1856), cover the last major battles in South Carolina. The eighth novel in the series, *Joscelyn* (1867), returns to the prewar period and the early partisan conflicts in the South Carolina backcountry.

Simms's ten border novels deal with the expansion into the frontier territory from Georgia to Louisiana. As mentioned earlier, *Guy Rivers* (1834) was the first of these. Then came *Richard Hurdis; or, the Avenger of Blood. A Tale of Alabama* (1838), followed by *Border Beagles; A Tale of Mississippi* (1840). These three novels, perhaps the best of the series, deal with the struggle to establish a civilized society in a territory dominated by outlaws and gangs. Among the seven other border novels, of most interest are *As Good as a Comedy; or, The Tennessean's Story* (1852), Simms's only full-length work in the Southern humor genre, and *Voltmeier* (1869) and *The Cub of the Panther* (1869), which return to the theme of the first three border novels, but set during the frontier period in the mountains of North Carolina.

Two short stories written in the last months of Simms' life are also worth mentioning as notable portraits of border life as well as excellent examples of Simms's skill in handling the Southern humor genre. "How Sharp Snaffles Got His Capital and Wife" and "'Bald-Head Bill Bauldy'; and How He Went Through the Flurriday Campaign!—A Legend of the Hunter's Camp" are hilariously funny dialect tall tales, but their humor masks serious commentary on the social, economic, and political struggles of the post-Civil War South.

To return to the chronological survey of Simms's life, during the decade of the 1830s, he began taking extended annual trips to the North to look after his literary interests and succeeded in publishing eight novels and several other works. Simms's most pressing needs, however, were to pay his debts and to find a wife for himself and a mother for his daughter. In April, 1836, he became engaged to Chevilette Eliza Roach, daughter of Nash Roach, a wealthy South Carolina planter. Determined not to marry while burdened with debt, Simms managed to meet his obligations with the aid of friends and income from his literary works. He and Chevilette were then married in November, 1836, and made their home at The Woodlands, one of Roach's twin plantations, in Barnwell District, near Orangeburg. The union marked a turning point in Simms's life. By his marriage, Simms secured, not only his own and his daughter's domestic stability, but their social and financial future, as well. A year later, Simms and Chevilette's happiness seemed complete when their first child was born. But the child died before she was a year old, leaving both parents grief-stricken. Though consoled somewhat by the birth of their second child in 1839, Simms's series of personal losses had by then led him to believe that a perverse fate stalked him. The furious pace of his publications throughout this period, however, clearly indicates that, in good times and bad, in happiness and sorrow, his literary ambitions continued to drive him relentlessly.

During the decade of the 1840s, Simms continued his annual trips to the North and published more than two dozen separate works, including seven novels. In addition, for short periods, he edited two literary magazines; his purpose in both ventures, to advance the literature of the South. His life with Chevilette, though happy on the whole, was characterized by alternating periods of sunlight and shadow. Five children were born to them during this time, but three more children died. By the end of the decade, they had buried four of seven children. Simms's growing literary reputation meanwhile had made him one of the leading public figures in the South. As such, he found the lure of politics irresistible. Thus, in late 1844, the year his friend and political ally James Henry Hammond was finishing a term as governor of South Carolina, Simms ran for the state legislature and was elected. Though he had been an outspoken Unionist during the Nullification controversy of the early 1830s, by the mid-1840s, Simms, now a prominent public figure and member of the planter class, was staunchly loyal to the South and "hostile", in his own words, "to Yankee abominations". He had hopes that his loyalty and literary celebrity would gain him a foreign diplomatic appointment from Southern president James K. Polk. But his hopes were never realized, most likely because of his alliance with Hammond, a rival of South Carolina's leading political figure, John C. Calhoun. Simms abandoned politics in 1846 after, in quick succession, losing his bid for re-election to the state legislature, failing to gain support for his possible candidacy for the U. S. Congress, and losing a close election for lieutenant-governor of South Carolina. However, he continued to hope for a diplomatic appointment for another decade.

During the 1850s, as the South's leading literary figure, Simms continued to work for the advancement of Southern letters. He also felt called upon to defend the South against increasing Northern hostility. In pursuit of the former purpose, he returned to magazine editing, this time the Southern Quarterly Review (1849-1854). He also published twenty separate works, ten of them novels. Eight of these, four in the Revolutionary War series, three dealing with the pre-colonial and colonial periods, and one border novel, all well-received in the North and the South, can be seen as indirect attempts to defend the South against Northern hostility. His direct attempt to defend the South, however, his Northern lecture tour in the fall of 1856, was a disaster. The political atmosphere in the North was particularly volatile following South Carolina Representative Preston Brooks's savage beating of Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner on the floor of the Senate in May, 1856. Simms undertook his lecture tour that fall believing that the wide respect he enjoyed as a Southern writer with a national literary reputation of twenty-years' standing gave him a special opportunity to ameliorate these sectional divisions. But his lectures extolling the virtues of the South and defending South Carolina's role in the Revolution came across as overly defensive and damaged his reputation in the North, perhaps permanently. Audiences and the press reacted hostilely and forced him to abort the tour prematurely. Simms's domestic life during this decade was complicated by the need to take over management of Nash Roach's plantations as his father-in-law's health declined, by Chevilette's fragile health, and by the births of six more children, five of whom died before the age of seven, bringing to nine the number of children they had lost.

The decade of the 1860s brought the onset of the Civil War. Simms tried to aid the war effort in any way he could, even offering strategic advice. Early in the war, though, the house at The Woodlands was partially destroyed by an accidental fire. Simms was subsequently much preoccupied with designing and rebuilding his home. He also suffered intense anxiety and distraction over the well-being of his only son, Gilly, who enlisted in the Confederate Army and was wounded. The unexpected death of his beloved wife in 1863, shortly after the birth of their fourteenth child, was a

particularly heavy blow. Consequently, Simms virtually stopped writing during the war years, producing only one novel, Paddy McGann (1863), a political satire. Near the end of the war, the house at The Woodlands was again destroyed, this time burned by stragglers from Sherman's army. Lost in the blaze was Simms's large library of books and valuable historical manuscripts. Word of the loss reached Simms at the state capitol, where he had sought safety for his family and where he witnessed the burning of that city by Sherman's army, an event Simms graphically describes in Sack and Destruction of the City of Columbia, S. C. (1865). After the war, he turned to the only resource available to support his family, his pen. While dealing with his own losses and also working for the welfare of others, many of whom were sick and starving, he somehow managed to publish five works, including three novels, before his death, of colon cancer, in Charleston, on 11 June 1870.

Over the course of five decades, from the 1820s through the 1860s, Simms published seventy-two separate works and vast numbers of fugitive writings. In twenty-two novels and various other works, he accomplished his goal of chronicling in fiction the four periods of Southern history that he laid out in Views and Reviews in American Literature, History and Fiction (1845), an important collection of his critical writings. In several other novels he dealt variously with the psychology of the criminal mind, European history, the supernatural, and satirical portraits of Charleston and South Carolina society. The best poems in his seventeen volumes of poetry, the most extensive body of work by any antebellum Southern poet, rival those of better-known Northern poets such as William Cullen Bryant. Likewise, several of his works of short fiction, published in The Wigwam and the Cabin (1845) and six other collections, often utilized experimental forms and broke new ground in the realistic portrayal of African American and Native American characters. Poe and other leading critics of the time praised his works for their stirring adventure and insight into character. If other critics sometimes faulted them for being crude and graphic, we now recognize that his realism was ahead of its time, as were his portrayals of a number of strong, independent women characters. It has often been said that Simms wrote too much and revised too little. Yet occasional clumsy plot contrivances or infelicities of style hardly seem sufficient justification for ignoring such a significant and extensive body of work. Perhaps it is time to forgive Simms for being on the wrong side in the Civil War by acknowledging the prominent place in the literary history of the United States that his best work has long deserved.

Stephen E. Meats, Pittsburg State University  
First published 15 February 2005

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William Gilmore Simms Quotes:

He who would acquire fame must not show himself afraid of censure. The dread of censure is the death of genius.

Neither praise or blame is the object of true criticism. Justly to discriminate, firmly to establish, wisely to prescribe, and honestly to award. These are the true aims and duties of criticism.

Tact is one of the first mental virtues, the absence of it is fatal to the best talent.

Tears are the natural penalties of pleasure. It is a law that we should pay for all that we enjoy.

The dread of criticism is the death of genius.

The only true source of politeness is consideration.

The proverb answers where the sermon fails, as a well-charged pistol will do more execution than a whole barrel of gunpowder idly exploded in the air.

The true law of the race is progress and development. Whenever civilization pauses in the march of conquest, it is overthrown by the barbarian.

They had the following children:

- 29 F i. **Virginia Singleton SIMMS** was born 15 Nov 1837. She died 10 Oct 1838.
- 30 F ii. **Mary D. SIMMS** was born 6 Sep 1839. She died 1842.
- 31 F iii. **Agnes SIMMS** was born 28 May 1841. She died 28 Jul 1841.
- 32 M iv. **William Gilmore (III.) "Gilly" SIMMS** was born 16 Mar 1843. He died 15 Oct 1912.

William married **Emma Gertrude HARTZOG**. Emma was born 3 Oct 1857.

33 F v. **Valeria Govan SIMMS** was born 1845. She died 1846.

34 F vi. **Mary Lawson SIMMS** was born 13 Sep 1846 in Charleston, SC. She died 26 Apr 1908 in Barnwell County, South Carolina.

Marriage 1 John Millar KINLOCH , Sr. b: 31 MAR 1834 in Charleston, South Carolina  
Married: 24 MAR 1881

Children

John Millar KINLOCH , Jr. b: 18 JUL 1884

Mary Chevillette Simms KINLOCH b: 26 JUL 1889

Mary married **John Millar KINLOCH**.

35 F vii. **Chevillette Eliza SIMMS** was born 13 Dec 1848. She died 17 Jun 1914.

Marriage 1 Donald Jacob ROWE b: MAR 1841

Married: 25 DEC 1865 in Barnwell County, South Carolina

Children

Chevillette Simms ROWE b: JAN 1867

Mary Lawson ROWE b: 13 SEP 1869

Mary Augusta ROWE b: SEP 1872

Charlotte Percival ROWE b: 7 SEP 1874

Sara Moss ROWE b: SEP 1876

William Gilmore Simms ROWE b: 2 OCT 1879

Pauline Hayne ROWE b: 6 FEB 1885

Chevillette Simms ROWE b: 12 DEC 1886

Chevillette Govan ROWE

Chevillette married **Donald Jacob ROWE**.

36 M viii. **Sydney Roach SIMMS** was born 9 Nov 1851. He died 22 Sep 1858.

37 F ix. **Beverly Hammond SIMMS** was born 1854. She died 1861.

38 M x. **Govan Singleton SIMMS** was born 1 Sep 1856. He died 7 Jul 1891.

Govan married **Meta DOWLING**.

39 F xi. **Harriett Mydleton SIMMS** was born 1858. She died 1861.

40 M xii. **Charles Carroll SIMMS** was born 20 Oct 1862. He died 10 Dec 1930 in Washington, DC.

Marriage 1 Emily Duncan b: 31 May 1859

Married: 06 Jan 1886

Marriage 2 Fannie Simms MAHER b: 13 Jan 1874

Married: 18 Apr 1894

Marriage 1 Emily Margaret DUNCAN b: 31 MAY 1859

Married: 6 JAN 1886

Marriage 2 Frances Hagood MAHER b: 13 JAN 1874

Married: 18 APR 1894

Children

Charles Carroll SIMMS , Jr. b: 2 MAY 1895

Chevillette Eleanor SIMMS b: 30 APR 1897

John Govan SIMMS , Sr. b: 21 JAN 1899

William Gilmore SIMMS b: 24 NOV 1901

Katherine Maher SIMMS b: 26 JAN 1903

Perry Buckingham SIMMS b: 3 JUL 1905

Frances Carroll SIMMS b: 12 OCT 1907

Beverly Singleton SIMMS b: 15 AUG 1910



Edmund Bellinger SIMMS b: 9 NOV 1912  
William Gilmore SIMMS b: 25 JUN 1915

Charles married **Frances Hagood MAHER**.

41 M xiii. **Sydney Hammond SIMMS** was born 1859. He died 1861.

## Appendix A - Sources

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<sup>1</sup> 1860 Census.

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