

The James Family



1810 to 1900

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The Family

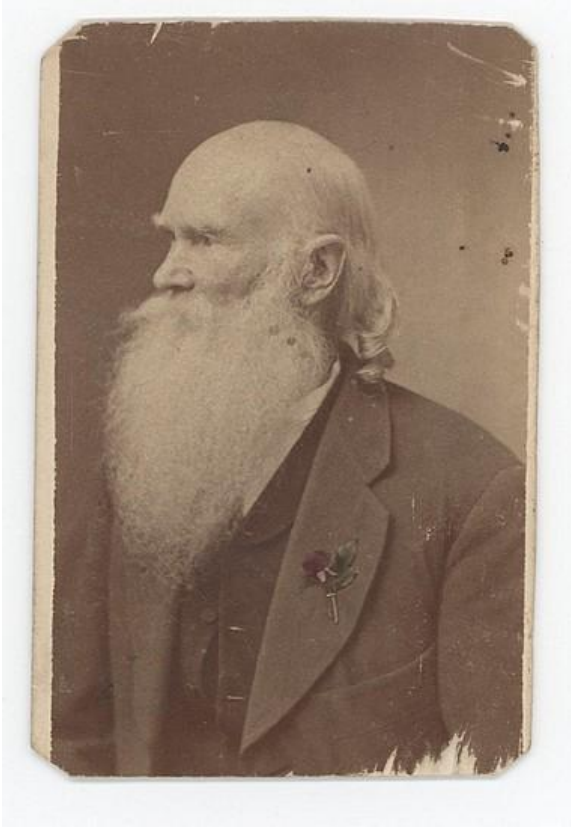


Figure 1 - William James

William James (circa 1807 to 28 February 1873): He was said to have been the youngest son of the Earl of Carmarthen however, there was never an Earl of Carmarthen. William is buried at Glenwood Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

The Family



Figure 2 - Jane Francis James

Jane Francis James (circa 1811 to April 17, 1883): She was said to have crossed the Atlantic 24 times¹. Jane is buried at Glenwood Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

William married Jane some time before 1836 probably in Wales. Their eight children were:

The Family



Figure 3 - Samuel Reginald James

Samuel Reginald James (6 April 1836² to 14 June 1906³): When 68, Samuel said he was 5' 7" and 235 lbs. Samuel was buried in Viewland Cemetery, Rotterdam, New York.

The Family



Figure 4 - John James

John James (circa 1937 to after 1883)

The Family



Figure 5 - Mary Jane "Jennie" James

Mary Jane "Jennie" James (August 1838 to 25 January 1907): Jennie was supposed to be born at sea during one of her mother's 24 trips across the Atlantic. Jennie was buried at Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York.

Jennie married Ira Ayer, Jr. (July 14, 1836 to February 3, 1903) on December 21, 1863.

Children:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Jennie James | 1864-1923 |
| Julia Fletcher | 1866-1935 |
| Ira | 1868-1939 |
| Edith Lavinia 'Daisy' | 1871-1957 |
| Alice Wadsworth | 1873-1966 |
| Clementine | 1875-1972 |

The Family



Figure 6 - Sarah Ann "Annie" James

Sarah Ann "Annie" James (circa 1841 to January 12, 1884). Annie is buried at Glenwood Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

William James, Jr. (circa 1843 to before 1860): He likely died from drowning⁴. I'm not completely certain it was him though. William shows up on the Ship Juliet in 1850 and in the 1851 Census in New Brunswick at ages 7 and 8 but is absent from the 1860 census and is never mentioned later. Of the 8 known children, he is the only one dead at the time Jane mentions the drowning of her son. However, in 1903, Samuel said that his mother had nine children of whom only four were still alive (Samuel, Jennie, Emma, and Hannah).

The Family

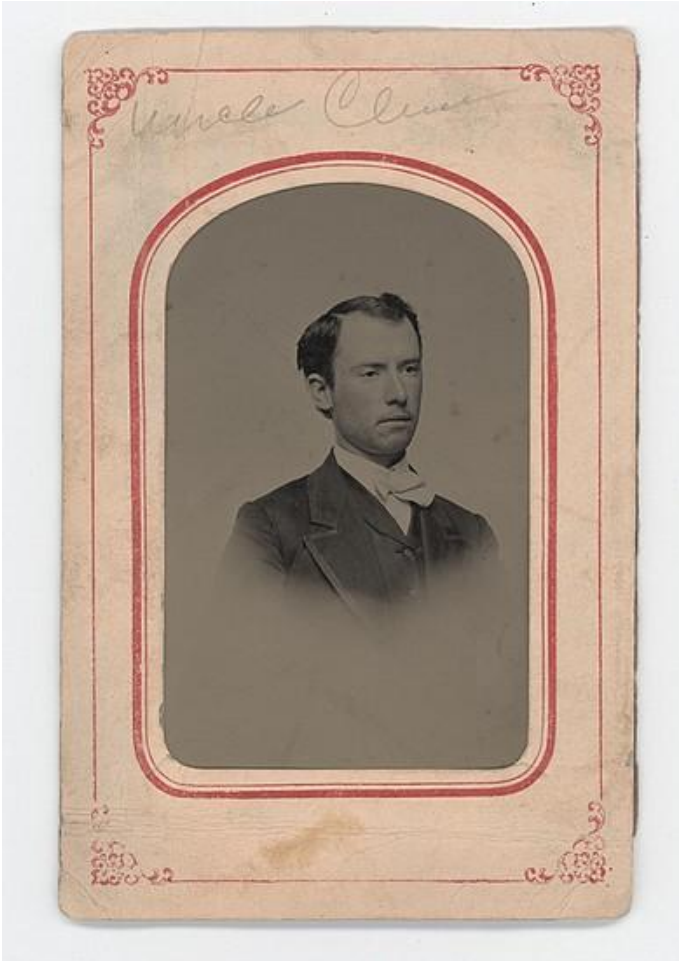


Figure 7 - Clements James

Clemens James (1 September 1845⁵ to September 20, 1876): He was born at Corn Street, Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales. He was supposed to have died in a train accident. Clemens is buried at Glenwood Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

The Family



Figure 8 - Emma James

Emma James (8 February 1847⁶ to 21 May 1913): She was born at Corn Street, Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales. She is buried at Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York.

The Family



Figure 9 - Hannah "Baby" James

Hannah "Baby" James (13 March 1849⁷ to after 1910): She was born Webbs College, Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales. She was called Baby throughout her life by her family because she was the youngest.

Ages

The birth dates of the daughters are tough to identify because three (Jennie, Annie, and Emma) changed their birthdates before getting married by as much as 6 years. Jennie was likely 23 before she met Ira Ayer, Jr. and was 18 (almost 19) after she met Ira. Emma was about a year older than her husband before she got married and was two years younger after she got married. She continued to move her birth date forward throughout her life. Her tombstone shows a date almost ten years after her actual birth date. She was born on 8 February 1847 but her tombstone reads December ___ 1856 with a space so the day could be filled in later. This caused some confusion because Hannah's nickname was Baby because she was the youngest. However, until I found some childhood records, all the records I could find showed Emma as the youngest.

Wales

Wales

The first records of James family are in the 1841 Wales census. They were living in the city of Newport on Corn St., right along the river. William was listed as Mine Merchant. I assume this meant he sold mine equipment. The people in the other houses in the area included a shop keeper, a tailor, a carpenter, a mason, a match maker, a cider merchant, a spirit dealer, a butcher and a lawyer. He, his wife, and the first four kids were all listed as being born in the same county. Even Jennie (Mary) is listed as being born in the same county. The data comes from forms filled out by the families on the night of 5 June 1841.

New Brunswick

On November 6th, 1850 the entire family arrived in Boston on the ship Juliet. They were on their way to New Brunswick.

In the 1851 census for New Brunswick, the family was living on a farm outside St. Johns in the town of Hampton. The farm belonged to Sarah Francis. A note says that Sarah's husband was a Baptist Minister and was absent the day of the census. Sarah's husband is likely the brother of Jane Francis James. Sarah is listed as a native of New Brunswick while the Jameses are listed as English and immigrated in 1950. William is listed as a farmer, a very different profession from living in a city and being a Mine Merchant.

In 1855 Jane Francis was traveling from St. Johns, New Brunswick to Liverpool on the Ship Lillies. It was the maiden voyage for the ship which would spend most of its life traveling from Liverpool to Australia under the flag of the White Star Line. The passage was particularly rough and one of the crew, the boatswain, was washed overboard. Jane wrote a poem about the trip and called it Stansas. It is reproduced below in the appendix. We know it was this voyage that Jane was on because that was the only voyage the Lillies took from New Brunswick and the watermark on the paper says 1855. So the family was probably still in New Brunswick.

We don't know when the family left, but it was likely in the 2nd half of the 1850s. The "St. John Business Directory" of 1857 lists a Samuel R. James as a Surveyor of Lumber. Also, there is a teacher listed in the Province of New Brunswick named Jane F. James. We don't know if either of them our from our James family but it seems likely.

Pre-War Richmond

Pre-War Richmond

Next we find the family living in Richmond, Virginia in the 1860 census. Three children are missing, Samuel, John, and William. William may have died by then and Samuel and John being adults may have been living out of the home, but I couldn't find them in the census. The father William is now listed as a Baptist minister and the family is living in the home of Rev. John Francis. John is likely the brother of Jane Francis James. However, he might not be the husband of Sarah Francis because she is about 14 years older.

Data in the census is not particularly reliable, but John Francis is listed as being born in Wales and the rest of the family is listed as being born in England. This contradicts the 1841 census where everyone is supposed to have been born in Monmouthshire County in Wales. However, one should never take what is in the census too seriously.

We have to question the listing as a Baptist Minister because William, later in life, claimed he was always a Methodist. However, even if they actually meant a Methodist minister, that doesn't fit with the lifestyle we find in the next phase of their life in Washington. I tried to find the family in the 1860 Richmond City Directory. There was no William James. There were three John Francis. The entry I found most interesting was "James, Mrs. J. Q. h S E cor 2nd and Franklin". It's possible that the J in Mrs. J. Q. stands for Jane. I don't know about the Q. The most interesting part is "h S E cor 2nd and Franklin". I believe that stands for h(ome) S(outh)e(ast) cor(ner of) 2nd and Franklin (Streets). This is interesting because in Richmond, one of the most famous neighborhoods is called Linden Row. It's named for the Linden trees that lined the street. Linden row is the region of Franklin Street between North 1st and North 2nd. Technically, the southeast corner of 2nd and Franklin is across the street from the end of Linden Row though. When the Jane and Jennie returned to Richmond (and presumably to their house) after the Civil War they sent mail addressed from Linden Row. Jane also wrote what I thought was M 2nd Linden Row, but could have been N 2nd Linden Row.

It's hard to know how people living on a minister's salary could live on Linden Row. One hint is that in a biography on Samuel James⁸ he was supposed to be in the tobacco business. William may have also been in the tobacco business. I couldn't find Samuel or John anywhere in the 1860 census though. They may have been visiting Wales or living in another home but not in the census.

The Jameses did not live in Richmond for too long before the war started. We have a description of what happened from Royal Francis in his autobiography "My Nave Grounds". Royal was the grandson of William and James by Hannah.

Prior to the Civil War my mother's father, William James, was a wealthy resident of Richmond, Virginia. Like many worthy Southerners he had never faced

Pre-War Richmond

squarely the issue of slavery. People are inclined to accept the mores of their time and place without critical examination. Many good people today accept the building of armaments, including nuclear bombs, and invasions of civil liberties and civil rights as though they were normal aspects of human existence. So it was with my grandfather until he was forced to a decision. Virginia seceded. After lonely vigil and prayer—he was a deeply religious man—he assembled his wife and children. He told them he was convinced that slavery was wrong and that the Union should be preserved. He gave the other members of the family complete freedom of choice and they all agreed with him. When the first parade of Confederate troops marched down the principal residential street of Richmond, the Stars and Stripes hung in front of his home. The house was mobbed. The family made its way to Washington.

I'm sure that Royal's understanding was mostly true. We have no reason to believe that the James family was wealthy and whole family did not move to Washington. Annie had married a Confederate and she stayed in the South. For about four years the family knew if anything, very little of how she was doing. I don't know Annie's view on Slavery, she may have been against it, but she chose to stay with her husband while the rest of her family moved away. As we find out later, she had an infant son, the first grandchild in October of 1861.

We know William was an abolitionist and a devoutly religious man. He strongly sided with the North and as we will find out, the family did their part to fight the war and care for the wounded.

Another story about the family was that before they moved to Washington, their friend Robert E. Lee told them to put their possessions in a warehouse rather than leaving them in their home. The warehouse ended up being burned but their home was untouched. It is, however, very likely that if they had left things in their home they would have been stolen.

As to Robert E. Lee being a friend, there is no way to know for sure. Lee had a house at 707 E Franklin Avenue, about five blocks from where the James family was. However, he didn't have the house until the middle of the war, long after the Jameses moved to Washington. Prior to the war Lee's home was in Arlington (now Arlington National Cemetery) so he was not a Richmond resident. During the early part of the war he stayed at the Spotswood Hotel, a brand new large hotel a block away at the corner of 8th and Main. During that time he was planning his campaign so I doubt he developed friendships. He attended an Episcopal Church so they wouldn't have met there.

What I think is most likely is that Lee may have made a general recommendation to people leaving the city for the duration of the war to put their things in storage and over time the story changed to Robert E. Lee being a close friend.

Washington, DC and the Civil War

We know that the family moved to Washington, DC during the Civil War. Tradition says that it was because they sided with the North. Because the Jameses were Methodists, they were strongly against slavery⁹ (see letter to President Lincoln from William James below). From this point on we have many records of the family and many letters to and from them. Much of what we know about the family's arrival in Washington comes from a letter from Jane to Mrs. Lincoln dated 19 August 1862ⁱ. I assume this was a copy of a letter that was actually sent.

Coming to Washington

The first to arrive in Washington was William and possibly Samuel. I'm not sure when they arrived but William was before March 1862 and Samuel was by October 1861. According to Samuel's biography¹⁰, "He left for the North on the last vessel to leave Richmond before the hostilities actually commenced." Fort Sumter was fired upon in April of 1861, but the actual fighting didn't really get started until July when the Union Army marched on Manassas Junction. That might be when Samuel and possibly William left.

William had no source of income so the first thing he did was to go to the Whitehouse and ask for an audience with the President. Mr. Lincoln received him and listened to his story. He was very sympathetic and gave William his card and sent him to the Treasury Department. William was given a job right away. I'm not sure exactly what that job was. This would make William's fourth career. First he was a Mine Merchant, then a Farmer and then a Baptist Minister.

As bad as it was for William and Samuel to get to Washington, it must have been much worse for the rest of the family. They didn't arrive until March of 1862, long after "the hostilities actually commenced". Jane said to Mrs. Lincoln, "I arrived in this City from Richmond in March with my Children having passed through much trial." The family lived at 403 13th Street (13th Street NE).

Samuel Goes to War (draft) (Knights of Pythias)

Samuel must have come to Washington with his father because on 25 October 1861, he started volunteering with Battery A of the 5th U. S. Artillery as an acting Second Lieutenant under the command of Lieutenant Adelbert Ames. Ames

ⁱ The letter first thanked The President for getting her husband a job in the Treasury Department. Then she talks of her arrival with the children and how sorry she is about Mrs. Lincoln losing a son. She says she too lost a son to drowning. She says she has been consoling sick and dying soldiers in hospitals. And, the point of the letter, she asks if Mrs. Lincoln can help her get a job in the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, DC and the Civil War

would eventually rise to the rank of Major General. Not only was Samuel not paid, but he had to buy his own uniform and pay all of his expenses. He did it because he says that Secretary of War, E. M. Stanton had promised him a commission. The commission never came through so Samuel left the Regiment on 27 February 1862.

We know this because in 1865 got a notarized document explaining this and signed by Ames. Ames added "that Mr. James proved himself able and efficient and believe if appointed in the Regular Army he would show himself most worthy of such trust and confidence and would reflect credit upon himself and the service." In 1870 Samuel sent a copy of it to the Military Affairs Committees in both houses of congress asking to be paid for this service (10 years after the fact). Samuel retained the original so, all I've seen is a copy.

On 17 March 1862, Samuel gets a commission and is mustered into the Battery C of the 1st NY Artillery in Washington, DC as a 1st Lieu. and immediately reports for duty at Manassas. I don't know how he ended up in the 1st NY Artillery. I assume that he wanted to enlist and they happened to be stationed in Washington. As far as I know, the family had no connection with New York prior to that.

On April 22nd he was granted a leave of absence due to sickness that was extended to 30 days by a surgeon. He served until 26 August when he was wounded in battle in Manassas Junction. His horse was shot and fell crushing Sam's foot. In addition he lost two cannons under his command.

A description of the battle written from the Southern perspective said¹¹:

General Stonewall Jackson's habit in the valley had been to make enforced requisitions upon the Federal commissaries for his subsistence supplies ; and the tempting opportunity of continuing this policy and rationing his hungry command, as well as inflicting almost irreparable loss upon the enemy, was not to be neglected. General Trimble volunteered to execute the enterprise with five hundred men, and his offer was readily accepted; but 'to increase the prospect of success," Stuart, with a portion of his cavalry, was ordered to cooperate with him. The enemy were not taken by surprise, and opened with their artillery upon the first intimation of attack, but their force was too small ; their cannon were taken at the point of the bayonet, and without the loss of a man killed, and with but fifteen wounded, the immense stores, eight guns, and three hundred prisoners fell into our hands.

[Notes from the editors] The guns captured at Manassas Junction appear to have belonged to the 11th New York battery, Captain Albert A. von Puttkammer, who lost 6 guns ; one section of Battery C, 1st New York Artillery, Lieutenant Samuel R. James, 2 guns.

Washington, DC and the Civil War

It does not appear that Samuel was one of the 300 captured. According to the doctor's report "I do hereby certify that I have carefully examined this officer and find that on the night of the 26th in a charge made upon his battery by a body of Rebel Cavalry at Manassas Junction. He was injured by his horse which was shot falling upon – Thereby causing him to spit blood. And that in consequence thereof he is in my opinion unfit for duty. I further declare my belief that he will not be able to resume his duties in a less period than 15 or 20 days!"

Samuel went home and petitioned the Adjunct General for a discharge:

In consequence of ill health and general disability with a degree of Lameness in my foot received and contracted on the Peninsula in Genl. McClellan's Command, I feel myself in duty bound, although reluctantly feeling my inability arising from the above circumstances to perform the arduous duties devolving, to tender my resignation as 1st Lieut. in the 1st Regt of New York Artillery.

Your immediate and favorable notice will oblige.

Yours very Respectfully

Samuel Reginald James

His discharge was granted. I don't think military life agreed with Samuel. He was only in for five months, one of which he was out sick. I don't know how much of his need to resign was real and how much was him just wanting to get out. But, in September of 1864, when things were going in the North's favor, Samuel tried to re-enlist in his old position. He was rejected as having insufficient education and experience. Contrast this with the recommendation from Adelbert Ames.

Therefore, the family tradition that he was captured and held prisoner in Libby Prison from which he escaped is not likely true. Libby Prison was an officer's prison in Richmond (Samuel's home town). On 10 February 1864 109 prisoners escaped using an almost identical method to the one from the WWII movie, "The Great Escape". 59 of the prisoners reached Union lines, 48 were recaptured, and 2 drowned. Samuel was not part of this and likely was never in Libby Prison.

Support for the Wounded and Sick

At the time of the Civil War, the concept of hospitals was not nearly as developed as today. Also, the number of hospital beds available at the time of the Civil War was much less than that needed. Therefore, after the war broke out, many churches were converted to hospitals. According to William, the Baptist Church across the street from the James home became known as the 13th Street Hospital.

Many people spent a lot of time comforting the sick, wounded and dying. According to William, "attendants from the best circles wait upon them day and night". These attendants included William's boss Salmon P. Chase, the

Washington, DC and the Civil War

Secretary of the Treasury. Jane and William were among the most devoted. They would stay at the 13th Street Hospital until late at night. According to Samuel Bates¹², Jane “had, during the war, ministered at the bedside of many sick and dying soldiers, evincing a patriotism as sincere and fervid as the man who bore the musket and met face to face the foe.”

The Letter

Also, according to Bates, Jane “watched at the side of one of the brave men of Ayer's company, Edwin B. Pier, a scholar of promise, and after his death wrote a most touching letter, descriptive of the Christian fortitude of the departed young soldier.” Actually, the letter was written by William James on 12 July 1862ⁱⁱ. It was this letter that eventually leads to Jennie meeting Ira Ayer. Of all the letters they had written, this was the only one they saved a copy of. They may have had copies of each letter, but at some point gave this one to Ira and Jennie.

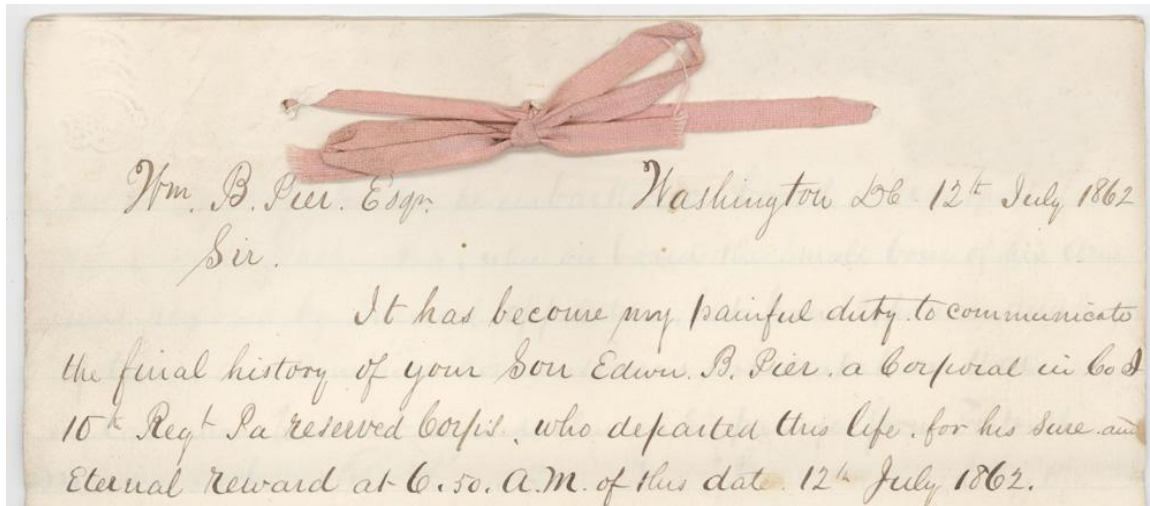


Figure 10 - Header of letter from William James to parents of Edwin B. Pier

It was a very nice letter. William stressed how brave and strong Edwin had been and how much support Edwin had received from the community and especially from Jane and William.

Jane Looks for Work

Apparently the \$1200 per year not enough for the family to survive in the lifestyle they were accustomed to. In July of 1862 Jane wrote the letter to Mrs. Lincoln in an effort to get her help in securing a job at the Department of Agriculture. I have no records of her holding any job before that, but you have to give her credit for offering to help support the family. As far as I know, she never got the job. But they must have been doing OK. At one point, Jennie told Ira in a letter that the servants had the night off.

ⁱⁱ The letter could have been written by Jane and just attributed to William, but the style was very much William's although there was less of a sermon than I would have expected

Washington, DC and the Civil War

What I don't understand is what his profession prior to moving to Washington was? When he lived in New Brunswick the census said he was a farmer living with a Baptist Minister. Almost all his neighbors were farmers so it's not likely he was anything else. When he was in Richmond the census said he was living with a Baptist Minister and that he too was a Baptist Minister. If that were the case, I would think that he would find \$1200 year a good salary. Also, in the letter he wrote to Edwin's parents, he said he was a Methodist and Ira and Jennie marry in a Methodist Church. However, after reading William's letters, it's not hard to picture him as a minister. Many of them are more sermons than letters. Everyone threw in some praises of the Lord in several places in their letters, but William tended to throw in letters in his sermons.

Jennie and Ira Meet

I'm not sure exactly when Ira met Jennie, but it was most likely in the spring of 63. During May of 63 Ira was stationed in Washington. On 11 May Ira told his sister Julia he was hoping to meet the daughter of his friend doctor in his Regiment. Jennie and Ira met because Ira called on Jane and William. He wanted to thank Jane for taking such good care of Edwin B. Pier before he died and William him for writing such a nice letter to Edwin's father.

First we will do some background. Around 1811, Ira's grandfather moved his family in two covered wagons from Haverhill, Massachusetts to the wilds of Evans, New York, west of Buffalo. The Ayers were Presbyterians while in Massachusetts and not very religious at that. Shortly after moving to New York, they joined the Methodist Church and became fairly devout. Ira's father was more strongly religious than his grandfather and Ira more than his father. Ira was attending Bible School at Alleghany College when the war started. Being a devout Methodist, Ira shunned alcohol and all other vices. According to Samuel Bates¹³, Ira was "Strictly temperate-of tobacco and spirituous liquors abstemious-he was little affected by temptation, as the habits of youth are strengthened and confirmed by time."

In addition to being very religious, Ira was very prudish. Just before meeting Jennie on 11 May 1863, Ira sent a letter to his sister Julia telling her about how he is very slowly working to the point where his friend will consider possibly introducing his daughter to him. This passage really helps explain Ira.

The weather is getting very warm here. Yesterday the thermometer stood at 90° in the shade. The Doctor and I walk out in the parks around the Capital many an evening, and talk and chat upon this subject and that until sufficiently cool to go to bed. It is a great place for "sparking" as the Doctor remarked last evening when we found nearly all the iron seats occupied by a young man and (as it appeared), his sweet-heart. Speaking of "sparking" makes me think of my courtship. When it will begin and when end heaven knows. The Doctor has a

Washington, DC and the Civil War

sweet daughter, I believe, and the Doctor likes me. I think, but the Doctor is not the daughter. Perhaps kind Providence may find for me some angelic Rebekah who being asked “Will thou go with this man?” will reply – “I will go.” The Doctor has a sort of fatherly feeling toward me I believe as though I was his son. Once he very delicately suggested that he supposed I had a sweet-heart – as a young man that was worthy of one ought to have; but he did not draw me out, because I thought it would be better not to be. There is no question but that he thinks of all these things; for he is one of your thoughtful, practical, kind-hearted, benignantly-look-through-the-lower-edge-of-his-spectacles kind of man, that you don’t meet with very often in this world of sin. He tells me what a good wife he has, what a good mother he had. The Doctor and I often talk together as freely as father and son, being restrained only by considerations of delicacy. He often opening by a sort of hint to me some of his family affairs. I in turn doing the same, so far as I think proper, allowing again to this subject which I was speaking of in the other sheet, there is something very pleasing at present to me in our personal relations. I look down into his pure, honest Christian, fatherly bosom, and wonder whether – yes wonder for the course all is doubt, whether he regards me any differently because he has a sweet daughter whom he thinks more of than his right eye or right arm, and who – though her very name is unknown to me, I am well assured will be marriageable for some time to come. One thing is certain I don’t labor to conceal any side of my character from him; though I leave him to draw his own inferences in some things just as he does me, which gives considerable zest to our intercourse so far as I am concerned; and for this reason. I say mentally – “I read your motives thus and so. How far do I read them correctly? I wait particularly for time to develop.” On the other hand I say mentally – “You, dear Doctor, read me thus and so. What do you read? What do you think? Time must develop – if anything does.”

You see then our present relations! The fact that I am well nigh 28, have a warm heart, believe myself capable of making a good husband for a good wife, and am determined to defer the matter until I can have a reasonable assurance that such is the wife I am about to make my partner for life, must be my excuse for dwelling as long upon this subject.

Ira’s views on courting and temperance were hugely different from his father’s. See the section below on Ira’s father.

So now let’s look at this from Jane’s point of view. In through her front door comes a tall, handsome, devout Methodist who is a war hero to boot. I doubt that the thought of spending a few weeks slowly drawing him out ever occurred to her. She was going to introduce her oldest daughter, Jennie, right away. There’s only one small problem. You saw above that Ira talked of the Doctor’s daughter being of marriageable age for some time to come. Well, at almost 24, Jennie was bordering on being an Old Maid. I’m sure that when Ira walked through that door, Jenny went from be almost 24 to not quite 19 (still within marriageable age).

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Since Ira was only in Washington for a few weeks after the letter about his doctor friend, Ira and Jennie wouldn't have had much time together. By early June Ira's regiment has left Washington. On 4 June, Ira wrote to his sister Vinnie asking her to keep his relationship with "a certain young lady in Washington" quiet until he is ready to tell everyone. From July 1-3 he was fighting at The Battle of Gettysburg. Then, on 16 July his attentions turned back to love and he wrote a letter to Jane where it's clear his intentions for Jennie are marriage. In the first half of the excerpt below, the word "you" refers to the James family:

Separated from you and surrounded as I have been continually with the excitement and all the stern realities of war, still I have never for an hour forgotten you. Fond memory lingers around the sweet and happy associations of my acquaintance with you and your dearly loved ones. I cannot tell fully wherein its sweetness to me, but still almost increasingly do I find gushing up in my heart like the waters of some pure and living spring, a love which I never before entertained for any, except those of my own Dear Home. Still I think I am enabled somewhat to analyze the power of which draws me so mysteriously to you. It is the affection and love, and the sweet spirit of piety that pervades your home. I will not speak more. Words seem so formal my Dear Madam, this is unsatisfactory for me to attempt to express what I feel. You must allow me here to express to you my gratitude for so kindly and generously giving me her to love and protect who so dear to me, and who I know was one of your most precious []. When I first mentioned this subject to you, I loved Jennie as I had never loved another; but I did not know her fully. My love for her was increased from day to day, with our further acquaintance, until it seems to me that the happiness of my life depends upon her sweet companionship. I do not believe that any ever loved more truly and purely than do we. This sweet union of our hearts – this commingling of our affections – was not, I believe, sought by either of us, We rather I think, thought not to love too well; but our hearts blended in the sweetest sympathies and we believe the result is of divine direction. With approval of our Heavenly Father and of those near and dear to us we feel that we cannot but be happy.

Between June and December it's not likely that Ira and Jennie saw each other much, if at all. Ira had no leave of absences during that period. I'm sure they wrote to each other often, but none of the letters survive. However, it's clear that Ira's feelings for Jennie are strong. In a letter to Ira's sister Sarah he says:

I will only say then (to take up the thread), that dear Jennie embodies all the virtues of the James family and none of the faults – the former of which I have heretofore narrated at some length; and the latter of which I am only waiting to discover in order duly to communicate. In placing myself upon this broad, simple, and elevated platform, I have only one request to make; and that is that you will make all due allowances for this frank and sincere declaration of a true lover. I do love Jennie, dear Sadie. I do not know whether she would seem beautiful to others or not – what think you? – I only know that she is very

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beautiful and very sweet to your brother Ira. If I had always been falling in love, and acted like a boy in love matters, you nor I would not think very strange of this attachment; but you know I have not; and moreover I have seen and known many good and what many would call beautiful girls; and you know also, dear sister, that if I had loved any of them as [effilt] that I must love the one whom I was to call my wife, I at least had the courage to tell them so. But I did not. Of course, you know, I could not help but like some of the girls very much, because girls are each beautiful and lovely creatures, but then, you know also, that there is a great difference between like and love – that which if I should attempt to explain (under existing circumstances) you would think me beside myself. Well! Your dear letter satisfies me. I am content. I want no more. My father, my sisters are pleased. It suffices me. In the language of the great – [soniare], I can say – “Sink or swim, [VC]” – with a slight change at the [close] – the sentiment of which is that I am Jennie’s heart and hand and that God permitting she shall one day be mine. Dear Sadie; if necessary you must pardon what might seem a little humorsome, in any part of the above, for so grave, beautiful and elevated a theme. ... Well! I will not say much more about Jennie this time – a little however (with your permission), Jennie is not unsophisticated; she has moved in the best society in Richmond and still from choice partly; and partly from education she has retained a beautiful simplicity of manners. She has a warm sincere, heart. Jennie loves one with all the devotion of a first, true, pure, elevated love. It is indeed a pure-minded, refined, beautiful, sweet girl’s love, for one whom she considers well, nigh perfect. Still Jennie is very womanly. She has a mind of her own, which is not easily changed, and a heart as true as steel. You, sister, can imagine how I value that love. Its price to me is above – infinitely above – wealth, as position, or personal beauty alone, or all combined. In short if dear Jennie should be taken from me, the light and joy of my heart would be gone. In the thought of such an event my eyes are sometimes filled with tears. I love Jennie as tenderly. But I do not suppose Jennie is perfect. All I care to know that is that my dear sisters will look upon Jennie’s faults only as upon a sister’s. If Jennie does err it will not be intentionally; and I have seen few, none who seemed to have more spiritual light than she. Now I think I have told you all I want to – No! not quite, Jennie is industrious. She believes in work. She has been brought up to it. The Doctor was in the city and visited them several times. She sent me out a beautiful cake made by her own hands. The servant is sometimes sick – she fills the servant’s place. Jennie is not very large, you know; but I would not have her different. What do you think of just five feet anyway? Jennie’s form is pretty. She is at home in the parlor, at the Piano, and she sings and plays the guitar very prettily. I do not say that in any of these she excels – that would be saying much; and besides, I am not a judge. But I think if she failed to exhibit much taste in all of these – or any of them, – I should detect it. Do you not think so? Jennie is, to me, very beautiful, very loveable, very, very sweet, and very, very, very near my heart. I think I have prolonged my love story sufficiently to satisfy – even one in love. I am finished.

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The wedding

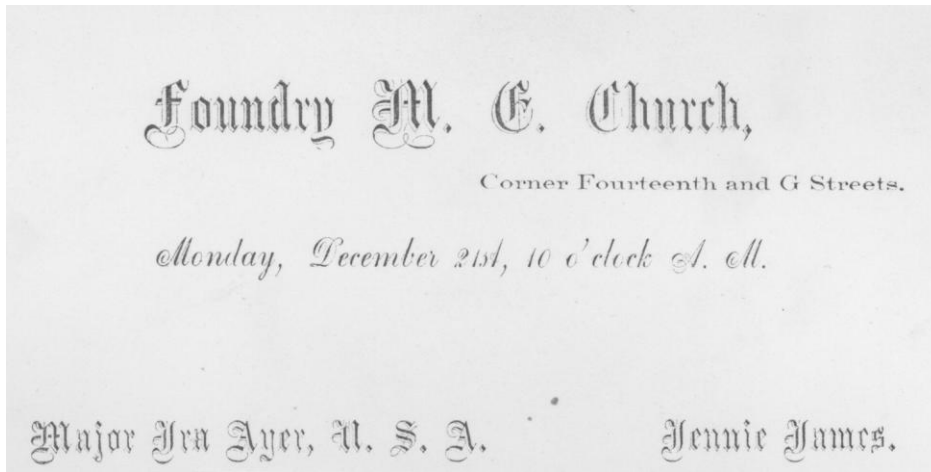


Figure 11 - Wedding Announcement for Jennie James and Ira Ayer, Jr.

In order to ensure that Ira would get a leave to attend his wedding, William went to the Secretary of War. William forwarded Ira these instructions in the end of October:

I have spoken (conformably with an intimation in your letter) to the war department. I am advised that when you want to come on a furlough say December, prepare and write your request to the Sec of War and ask Gen Meade to endorse his approval upon it and send it to me and I will present it in person attaching what importance I can to it and no time need be lost or uncertainty arise.

Ira originally got a three day pass that William was able to extend by 15 days.

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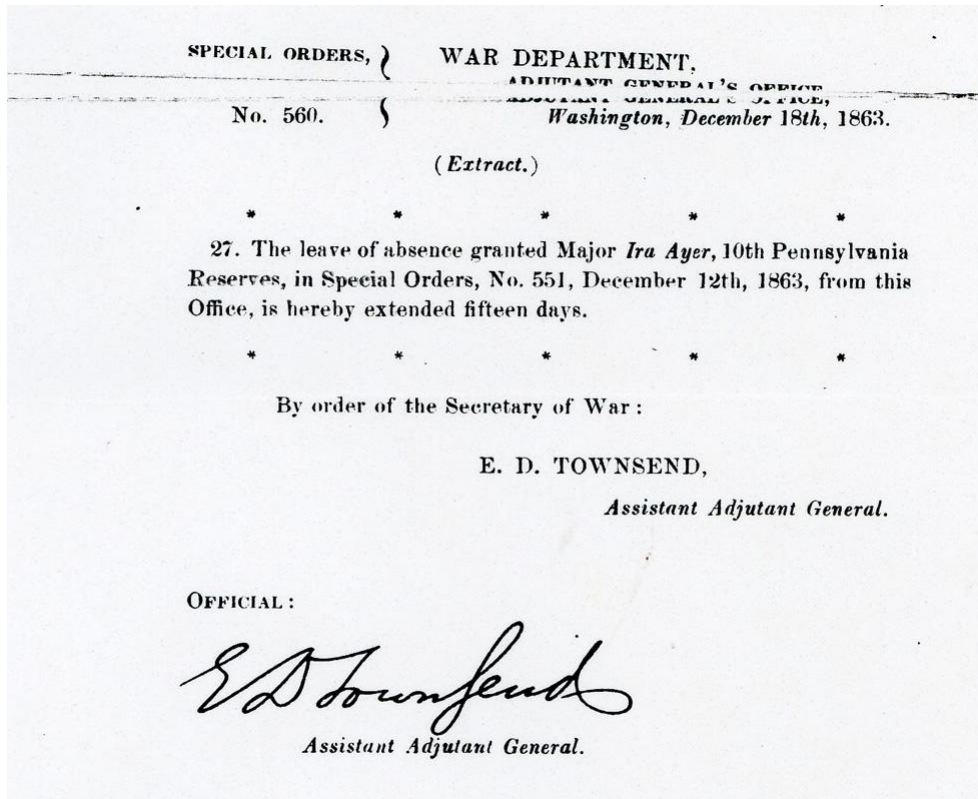


Figure 12 - Order extending Ira Ayer, Jr. leave by 15 days

Ira and Jennie were married on the morning of Monday, 21 December 1863. According to a local paper "The ceremony was performed with much solemnity beneath the folds of our national flag, in the presence of a large attendance of distinguished friends, both military and citizenry." In December of 1891, Ira was staying near where Jennie had lived and where the church was. In a letter to Jennie dated 1 December Ira writes:

As you see I am at the Ebbitt House, my old, old stopping place. It is kept better than ever, and is an exceedingly quiet and dignified hostelry, albeit in the very midst of affairs here in Washington. It is at the corner of 14th and G Sts. A square away from "13th Street," A square from there is "G" Street and between "G" and "H" Streets is "403," where I first met my heart's sweet love – "Miss Jennie James." Was "Miss Jennie" sweet? Ask the Honeysuckles that were in bloom when first I loved her, whether they knew their own fragrance when she was near. Ask the roses that I used to love to bring her in those days of early June, 1863. They will say "she was sweeter than we." A square to the North of the corner of G and 14th Streets stood the "Old Foundry Church", where we were married. That was on the 21st day of December 1863. – nearly 28 years ago. I see the whole scene as though it were yesterday. There was first dear sweet Jennie in her suit of lovely gray, with a beautiful Pink Rose in her bonnet. There was old father Ryan. He was the next most important personage – of course he was. Then there was dear Father and Mother – they were very important. Then there was "large brother Sam" – what should we have done without him in the sequel?

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Well! that was all right. Then there was beautiful Clem, and there were lovely Emma and Baby, sweet sprites of girls, helping to make a more perfect picture. Then came “big Mrs. Pierpont”, whom I think you occasionally suspected I had a leaning toward because she was so “hefty!” You see you didn’t know me quite so well at that time, sweet Jennie. You only knew that you loved me, and that you were willing to take me as your “wedded husband” be it “for better or for worse.” Then there was the Poet Pierpont, and there was General Spinner, Treasurer of the United States, and the Lardners, and the Grahams and the Laubs and the Handys, and I know not how many more family and friends. Last and least of all came myself! I was dressed in my Major’s Uniform, with white Kid gloves, if I remember. Possibly I had gauntlets.

Among the more famous guests were John Pierpont and Francis Elias Spinner. John Pierpont (1785 - 1866) was a tutor, an attorney, a merchant, a minister, and finally worked in the Treasury department. He was famous for writing anti-slavery poetry and preaching against slavery and for temperance. These preaching got him thrown out of his ministry. General Spinner, treasurer of the U.S during the Civil War, was the first to allow women into government service. Spinner was also famous for introducing fractional or paper currency to replace coins during the Civil War. Because of the high demand for metals, coins were rapidly disappearing from circulation. The fractional currency was used to replace the coins until 1876 when coins returned.

For their honeymoon, they first went to Baltimore and then to upstate New York to see Ira’s family. I don’t think any of Ira’s family had been able to make the wedding.

Jane started to feel ill the morning of the wedding. She got better and worse, and by the 27th she thought she was dying. William sent a letter to Ira and Jennie asking them to come home. I don’t think they got the letter right away because I don’t think they returned from New York until mid-January.

The Love Letter Period (draft)

The love letter period between Jennie and Ira lasted from the time they returned from their honeymoon in New York in mid-January of 1865 until Ira was wounded in early May of the same year with the exception of a little over a month when they were together. In this period of only three months we have 26 letters from Jennie and we know that there were more. Ira wrote to Jennie almost as often, but none of the letters were saved.

The First Phase (draft)

Jennie Goes to War

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Somewhere between the 3rd and 19th of March, Jennie went to live with Ira in camp in his tent barracks. While we don't have a description of the tent that Jennie and Ira had, from a letter Ira sent to his sister Vinnie (13 February 1863) he described a particularly good tent:

I now occupy the tent which a Capt and his pretty wife lived in doubtless as harmoniously as two mice. He had fitted it up at an expense of twelve Dollars or more, a month or two since, hoping to be allowed to stay until Spring, at least, or, as they were nine months more, till their term of service expired.

The tent in question, is nicely seated up with pine, planed, has a good floor, a table upon which I now write, shelves, corded bed, stead, and in addition to all this, were left for my use, boxes, a good pail, and _____ oh! horror!!

All this he wanted five Dollars for, & I gave it willingly. So much extravagance is hard to take in at once; but we shall get used to it in time. On the Rappahannock we were only allowed three wall tents to the Regt: – here we can have one for each horse. In subsistence both for horsed and men the difference is about as great.

We have only one letter sent from either Jennie or Ira during that time. On 22 March 1864 Jennie sent a letter home to the family describing the kind of thing she and Ira were going through.

We know of naught, but courage, vigilance here dear ones; Thursday night, when all was quiet in Camp, we had retired. We heard the clanking of swords on the ground, then followed the low firm knocking at our door, Ira with the activity of the soldier was up in a moment, and said “whose there?” “Orders” was the reply. Who can disclose to no one first, Col “dear husband opened the door and received the papers, after perusing them, he told the orderlies to stay all night, keep their horses in Saddle, as they may want them in haste. Then Ira went to give the orders to double the guard on the railroad and to exercise the greatest vigilance. Friday night at the dead hours came a loud rapping at our tent door and the Adjutant's voice rang in the stillness, here are orders Col to be ready to move at any moment, and to have the men under arms at daylight, and loved Ira with his Cool deliberate courage, was uniformed in a very few moments, Sword, and revolver, buckled on, he went out to attend to duty soon returning, and said Jennie my soldiers wife is not trembling with fear I see. Rest dearest. All will be well. I shall have to go at the head of my regiment, but you will be safe here. I shall leave a detachment under Captain Patty to guard you, but they were not called out until Saturday, 4 o'clock the orders came that the Enemy was appearing in force to take position near the railroad. Ira kissed me many times in great hast and then mounted his horse and rode at the head of his regiment. I remained to defend our home. I cannot describe my feelings. You can best imagine them, but Oh! The camp looked so still and lonely. I feared not for myself but for husband, and I thought that I had never seen him look so handsome as when he in the true spirit of the patriotic soldier, in all his trappings, meeting stern duty, so courageously. We have great faith in your prayers. Dear Father Ira came home in safety, from

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his campaign on Saturday having seen nothing [slve] [farthing] they were out of the rebels. The men are still under arms.

While Jennie is away from home and near the front lines, Jane worries about both Jennie and Ira. At the same time, she is proud of them.

Yes be assured we ever think of you our brave Patriotic Volunteers Children, "brave and fearless (you say) in the country's noble cause." How much we would like to see you both in your Military home, surrounded by strong guard day and night, often in the Stilly Night. I awake and my mind glances swiftly to your tent, behold you reposing amid all manner of movements attendant upon War, the foe not far distant. Swiftly in richest confidence in the promises we know you having committed yourselves (we retiring to rest) to the care and keeping of almighty God, whom alone is able to keep you.

At one point Jane sent Jennie three 2 gallon kegs of oysters. They cost \$3 each. According to Grandma, pickled oysters were a family favorite. Alice used to love to put several of them on bread to make a sandwich. It is likely that it was a James family tradition since they came from near the coast. Jenny likely got the oysters to treat members or spouses of Ira's Regiment.

On 11 April 1864 Jane sends Jennie a letter indicating that things have changed. The family had tried to get passes to visit Jennie and Ira on the front lines but they were denied:

We received letters duly. We are always happy to receive any communication from you. They are especially interesting but respecting our visiting you, I fear will be impossible now. Clemens is greatly disappointed & so are we all. As we fully hoped he would be with you ere this. Your Father went to the War Department, found that orders were just issued which I presume you have read ere this & which are very rigid respecting passing to or from the Army. Your Father failed to see the Sec. of War on Saturday, but intends to today, but as I am anxious that you should hear from me I write you this Morn. You may rely upon Yr Father making every effort to obtain a pass for Ira as we all so much desire to see him & we are all longing for the day when you both will walk in. We will write you this Evening or tomorrow Morn respecting Father's success with the Sec. All Suller and Citizenry we read in last Evening's paper are requested to leave the Army immediately or will subject themselves to be taken by the proper authorities etc. We have thought there is a Movement contemplated. You best know. Can the Colonel not get a pass? Where he is we are told that officers obtain passes there to come to Washington, that it is a general thing to obtain them at Manassas Junction to come up. I hope you are both well "brave courageous & Vigilant in Your Country's Cause".

Something is about to happen and Jane wants both Jennie and Ira home where it is safe. Within a couple days, Jennie is back in Washington and Ira's regiment

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moved out for an area west of Fredericksburg, Virginia known as “The Wilderness”.

The Second Phase (draft)

Ira is injured

On 11 May 1864 Jennie writes a letter to Ira where she is very worried. She hasn't heard from him since the start of the battle.

My dear, dear husband;

Oh! What restless days and night I have experienced since the commencement of these fearful battles; where are you, now my Ira, I have not heard anything from you since your precious letter of the 4th, God, grant that all may be well with you, my dearest one; I know that nothing could keep me, in this world if you were called from it. I should soon follow you for dearer than my own life, are you to me my husband: so often do the question arise in my mind, “is it the will of God, that the sacrifice, must be made, then, I say His, will be done, and your death wound is mine, for I cannot exist when you are torn from me, my loved husband!

My own Ira, I have been in such agony of mind, ever since the fighting for even if your life is spared, my dearest, in this fearful conflict your sufferings are great, I never cease to pray, for the protection of our Heavenly Father, for you my darling husband. I have written a great many letters to you, my love, but I fear you have not received them, I know that the mails have been very irregular of late and the report here is that no communication, has been open to the Army since the conflict began.

My loved husband, never was love so powerful as this love in my heart for you, can it be, that all is well with my darling Ira, we made enquiries concerning your Regt. of the wounded, that came in on Monday night there were some from the 7th Regt. but they seemed to know nothing of the 10th Regt.

My Ira, I am in great pain of mind, and every nerve, seems to be brought to that point of sympathy, with the mental sufferings so that I cannot attend to my duties, one word from you, “Safe”, would revive my being, and give strength to my soul, and body. I know that you must have had, to bear intense suffering, God, help my loved Ira.

Dearest, the news is indeed exceedingly encouraging, the Lord be praised for the success to our Arms, Pa, Ma, and All our dear brothers and sisters are thinking of you, and praying, they are exceedingly anxious about you, too my love, they do all they can to give relief to my aching heart, Many consoling words are offered, but only one can revive this weight of sorrow.

My precious, noble husband, my arms are restless, they want to entwine themselves around you, my warmest kisses are waiting and trembling with eagerness to impress them, upon your manly lips. Oh! my Ira, I love you so ardently, God bless and keep you, darling, husband. All send love, and kisses, to you. Many, many loving kisses, I send to my dear Ira.

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Your true and loving Wife
Jennie Ayer

This is the first major battle Ira was in since they were married. Although, shortly after they met, Ira fought at Gettysburg. The Battle of the Wilderness was from 5 to 7 May. Ira, now a Lieutenant Colonel, led his Regiment into battle. From Bates¹⁴ referring to Ira's Regiment:

When it entered the Wilderness campaign it went with the free step and the resolute mien of the best trained and organized soldiers. It had not penetrated far before the old foe was met. In a letter dated May 6th, the second day of the battle, he says: "Our division had been rapidly ordered forward, preparatory as was supposed to a charge upon the enemy's works. I was leading my regiment into line when hit by a bullet from one of the enemy's sharpshooters, which passed through the large bone of my leg, causing a very painful though I hope not dangerous wound. I was compelled to leave the field at once, which I did after exhorting my men to do their duty... He was brevetted Colonel for this action, and was warmly complimented by Generals Crawford and Fisher. Only by wounds, however, was he kept from the field, possessing a good constitution and actuated by real patriotism.

Ira was wounded on the second day of the battle and taken to a field hospital near Fredericksburg. On 12 May, the day after Jennie sent her letter, Ira was admitted to Hospital 5661 in Washington¹⁵. The next day he was moved to Seminary Hospital. As mentioned above, many places were taken over to become hospitals. Seminary Hospital¹⁶ was in Miss Lydia English's Female Seminary and was on the corner of 30th and N NW in operation from 30 May 1861 to 14 June 1865. It was across town or several miles from the James house on the 13th St.

When Ira finished his three years service and was mustered out on 11 June 1864 he was still in the hospital in Washington. According to Bates, "For more than a year after the Reserve corps had completed its period of service and been mustered out he was disabled."

Young Jennie is born in NY

In early August Ira and Jennie went to Evans to continue Ira's convalescence. According to a letter from Jane, William almost died in an accident while loading the luggage on the train. I'm not sure I understand her explanation, but I think he was almost crushed by the train.

On 28 August 1864, Jennie Ayer was born in New York. Jennie had so looked forward to this. From shortly after they were married, Jennie wrote to Ira:

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My Ira; Oh! this love, the sympathy of such tone affection, inspires our hopes, our joys and prospects; what a happy union is ours beloved husband; do you know love, that I feel such an assurance that God will bless us, Our Father. He is all powerful, if He will give us a little Ira! how happy we shall be; the emotions excited within me, at these thoughts, are truly indescribable.

In the end of January, when she was only a few weeks pregnant she wrote:

I hope dear that God has begun his work which we do indeed desire so much, but I cannot tell love. I weigh four pounds more now than I did in N York, ... dearest. I do not know whether these are indications or not, but God is even good we will toast in Him.

On 8 November, Ira, Jennie, and little Jennie got on a train and headed back Washington.

Post-War Richmond

Post-War Richmond

After the war, the family slowly moved back to Richmond. Several letters were written from Linden Row, Richmond. Linden Row is a famous historical area of Richmond, although it was not historical at the time. Officially it is 100 block of East Franklin Street between North 1st Street and North 2nd Street. A letter from Jane says "Linden Row M 2nd" but it may be "N 2nd". There were several large homes. I don't know where they lived, if they owned their own home, were staying with friends, or even for sure that they lived in Linden Row. Tradition says that they owned a home and that their friends Robert E. Lee and family told them to move their furniture to a warehouse during the war and that their home was untouched but the house was burned down.

If they had owned a home on Linden Row, it is hard to see how they were in need of money during the war while living in Washington.

A City in Ruins

The war had officially ended on 9 April 1865 with Lee's surrender at Appomattox. We have a copy of a pass for Jane James to travel to Richmond, issued on 14 April and good until the 20th. I don't know if she used the pass because the first trip I have a record of wasn't until early July.

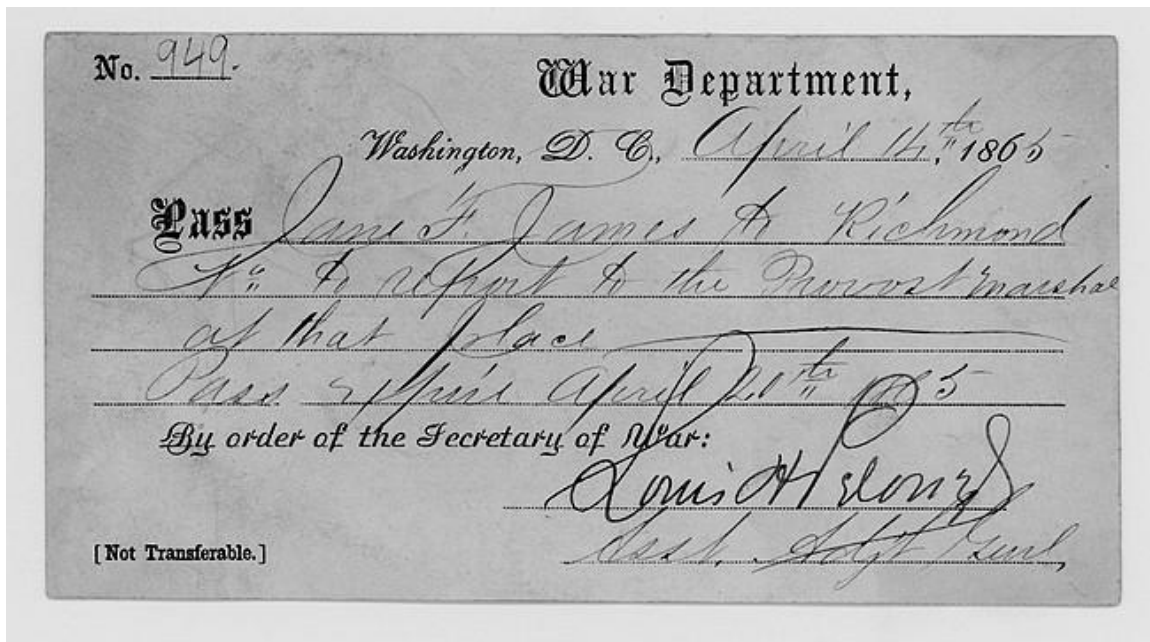


Figure 13 - Pass for Jane F. James to travel to Richmond only 5 days after the end of the war. The number on the pass is only 949 indicating that they were issued only rarely.

In a letter from Jane to her son Clements dated Richmond, Va., July 8, 1865 she writes:

Post-War Richmond

We sailed all the way to Richmond in the same steamer as we left Washington. We arrived in Richmond Wednesday Evening @ six or seven O'clock after a very interesting & beautiful passage. Every object was full of interest. I can not go into detail respecting sunken vessels, torpedoes, obstructions of various kinds. My object or writing you pertaining today is to let you know that we are well except Father. He is not well. He had too much work & withal he misses his home.

She continues:

Richmond is in Ruins, almost it look so desolate burnt, burnt away the magnificent [pauitdys], Tobacco & Flour where his burnt [coven] to the ground. You never saw such dreadful havoc & if the Union Army had not come into the city when they did, the city would have been completely burnt down.

Jennie's first trip to Richmond wasn't until early September. She went with her one year old daughter Jennie and her brother Clemens. In a letter to Ira she wrote:

Would dear Ira feel interested if I relate something of our journey? I know my noble husband would, but how to begin I know not, without being reminded of the most unpleasant part! Bidding my dear sweet husband adieu: We left Washington, it was truly beautiful upon the water, Oh! how I longed for your lovely society then. The journey was a pleasant one. Brother Clements is a splendid escort, he was always on hand without any hurry, never causing me seriousness. We had a beautiful moonlight night, so that I could enjoy the scenery very much; baby was exceedingly good, did not sleep much, was interested in every new object that she saw. There were very few ladies traveling with us, but a great many gentlemen. All seemed attracted to you lovely baby, one allowed her to lay her little head on his knee, in the stage coach, another carried her to the cars, a nice elderly man was looking after us all the time, seeing that we were comfortably seated, happy, and so on. I must say dearest that I really enjoyed traveling over this country, where so many hard contests had been for the right, and proved victorious to the just cause. The foliage looked rich, the air seemed pure; at the creek, it has a desolate appearance, the burnt wharf, and the few little huts for the guards are all that I could see there. We crossed the river at Fredericksburg, by stage on a pontoon bridge, this was the first time I had ever seen that kind of bridge. I saw great destruction of property at Fredericksburg, and I thought of the thousands of brave ones that had fallen in that fearful conflict, it was a place of double interest to me, when I remember that my brave wounded loved one lay in Hospital there.

Most of the railroads in northern Virginia were out of commission so for part of the trip they were traveling by stagecoach. They had to cross a major river, the Rappahannock. There were no intact bridges across the Rappahannock after

Post-War Richmond

the war. There was a temporary pontoon bridge in Fredericksburg that they crossed on a stagecoach.

Jennie was shocked with what she saw in Richmond:

Richmond is a changed place, but I recognized it without any trouble, the people are anything, but pleasant to my mind. Many friends come to see us. I do not enjoy them. They talk traitorously and boldly. So bitter do they feel towards the Yankees, Oh! Ira I never could live happily here, society is broken, religion is dead, the Church of God can hardly be said to have a place here, dear father, does not encourage our coming to live here, just now and I can see that we could not save anything, this is a most expensive place to live, Pa thinks of sending the family to W; for on in Pa's position to reside here, now it would take a pretty large fortune to support it.

She writes on 15 September:

Richmond (I would that it were otherwise) is a desolate place now. I have met many of my "old school mates" they are all respectful; and kind but speak in the [billerest] manner of the yankees; and the government, and you know dear it hurts me. I am writing close by the bed where baby is sleeping so sweetly. She is not feeling well for the past day or two and will not go to any one but me. Oh how I do long to be in your fond embrace my husband. I have no taste for society of other gentlemen. I had an invitation ride out do you think I went, No indeed I thought I should be lowering my self to go with on who said that he considered the yanks a very low class of human nature. I said Sir I married one. He said he had a better opinion of me at one time.

I thank you so much my darling husband for the nice sum of pocket money you sent me. I will be careful of it. Last night when we were all asleep some one got into the house, took out of Pa's pocket some money; all he happened to have. Pa's pants were found in the parlor this morning, the money gone. It seems fearful to us that anyone should go through the house and not any of us see the thief.

Ira visited Richmond in October of 1865. In a letter to his brother-in-law he talks about the situation in Richmond and the South. While referring to Annie's husband Mr. Pollard who was from the South, Ira says:

He formerly owned a considerable property; but it has been involved in the general ruin of the South; and the Southern people have nobody to blame for it but themselves. I found at Richmond great prostration, depression, and sullenness. There is a settled enmity which it will take time to uproot. Even in their devotions there is a coldness and formality which freezes and which more plainly than anything else, proves to me that rebellion and Secession was and is of the Devil, and that until that is out of them they cannot enjoy true religion.

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Mr. Pollard

While in Washington, the name of Annie (or Sarah) was virtually missing from all letters between family members. All I knew of her adult life was that Alice and Clem said she married someone whose last name was Pollard. The only official record I had of her adult life was from the 1880 censusⁱⁱⁱ. She was living with her mother in Ashland. Her name was listed as Annie Pollard and she had a son named Eddie Pollard.

I had seen a couple letters from Jane in Richmond where she talked of Mr. Pollard. She always called him Mr. Pollard. That was funny since her only other son-in-law at the time, Ira Ayer, she always called Ira. Then I read the first letter from Jane in Richmond after the war, from 8 July 1865.

I want to tell you principally today that I saw Mr. Pollard. I heard he was in the Bank. The bank is in the building that your Father's office is in, immediately that I heard he was in the Bank I went out to see him & found him not in the Bank but in the Assessor's Office. I went in & up to him & spoke to him. He immediately recognized me. I asked him to walk to his Father's office, which he said he would in a moment or two when he effected his business in & by this time your Father had come in & spoke to him convened together & then immediately he left Assessor's Room introduced Sam & John & we had a very pleasant meeting. He was exceedingly anxious to communicate all about you sister & he stated that he was on his way to Europe when he was captured which was unfortunate for him. On his return to Richmond he was placed in close confinement at Fortress Monroe & later at Castle Thunder. He was released from Castle Thunder upon the promise that he would leave the country as soon as he had perfected his arrangements. He seemed very proper, polite & gentlemanly.

So, Annie had not gone to Washington with the family, instead she spent at least part of the time in Macon where she had has a child. I assume this is Macon, Georgia since the 1880 census says that Eddie was born in Georgia. There is a Macon, Virginia, just outside of Richmond.

The first thing I noticed was that Jane was so formal when talking about Annie's husband. Jane and her son-in-law were both from Richmond and yet she said that when she met him "immediately recognized me." And, who captured him, the North or the South? I googled Castle Thunder and found it was a prison in Richmond that was a former tobacco warehouse. During the war the south used it for civilian prisoners including spies and after the fall of Richmond, the North used it the same kind of prisoners. I still couldn't tell if he was captured by the North or the South. So, I googled Fortress Monroe. Fortress Monroe (or Fort Monroe) is a fort next to Newport News, VA. During the war it was continuously

ⁱⁱⁱ Not one member of the James family showed up in the 1870 census with the exception of Ira. Ira was stationed in Norfolk. They may have all been living together and the records lost

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held by the North and was where Jefferson Davis was imprisoned. So he was captured by the North.

Now I wondered what his crime was. On a whim I googled "Castle Thunder Richmond Pollard" and found the name Edward Alfred Pollard (remember that Annie's son's name was Eddie). There was actually no connection on that website between Castle Thunder and Edward Pollard, but when I researched Edward Pollard, I found that he was a Confederate Journalist who had tried to escape to England toward the end of the war. His ship was stopped by a blockade and he was imprisoned in places including Fort Monroe.

From Wikipedia:

Edward Albert Pollard (1828–1872), American journalist, was born in Nelson County, Virginia, on 27 February 1828.

He graduated at the University of Virginia in 1849, studied law at the College of William and Mary, and in Baltimore (where he was admitted to the bar), and was engaged in newspaper work in California until 1855. During 1857 to 1861 he was clerk of the Judiciary Committee of the United States House of Representatives. By 1859 he had become an outspoken secessionist, and during the Civil War he was one of the principal editors of the Richmond Examiner, which supported the Confederacy but was hostile to President Jefferson Davis.

In 1864 Pollard sailed for England, but the vessel on which he sailed was captured as a blockade runner, and he was confined in Fort Warren in Boston Harbor from 29 May until 12 August, when he was paroled. In December he was placed in close confinement at Fort Monroe by order of the Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, but was soon again paroled by General B. F. Butler, and in January proceeded to Richmond, Virginia to be exchanged there for Albert D. Richardson (1833–1869), a well-known correspondent of the New York Tribune, who, however, had escaped before Pollard arrived. During 1867 to 1869 Pollard edited a weekly paper at Richmond, and he conducted the Political Pamphlet there during the presidential campaign of 1868.

His publications include *Black Diamonds Gathered in the Darkey Homes of the South* (1859), in which he advocated a reopening of the slave trade; *The Southern History of the War* (3 vols.: *First Year of the War*, with B. M. DeWitt, 1862; *Second Year of the War*, 1864; *Third Year of the War*, 1864); *Observations in the North: Eight Months in Prison and on Parole* (1865); *The Lost Cause* (1866); *Lee and His Lieutenants* (1867); *The Lost Cause Regained* (1868), a southern view of Reconstruction urging the necessity of white supremacy; *The Life of Jefferson Davis* (1869), an arraignment of the Confederate president; and *The Virginia Tourist* (1870).

There are many biographies of him on the web and each one lists a different birth date. Wikipedia with 1828 was the earliest.

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What about Annie (Sarah)? Where does she fit in this? Going back to the letter from Jane to Clemm we find:

He explained the whole affair very satisfactorily in reference to Sarah. She is with Mrs. Parker, his sister in Macon & on acct of the Railroads being [tom] up he could not proceed to Macon & the mail being cut off, he failed to correspond with her but he states that he met a gentleman in Norfolk who saw her a few weeks ago. He stated to Mr. Pollard that his wife was with a lovely Babe of 9 months old. He speaks of her fondly & affectionately so very troubled by the whole Confederacy being that they have scarcely been able to move in any direction Sherman & all our brave officers have been so Vigilant. He had some tobacco to expect & something else he seemed so truly glad to meet with Father, Samuel, John & self. He assured us that his sister Mrs. Bell was so sincere to him and Annie & begged that they may remain there until Mattes quieted down & he further said situated as he had been it is the best provision he knew for her, so quiet and peaceful there, but he is in hopes by the time he returns to NYk there will be a letter from her & he stated that he would forward them on the us, also if we hear first to do the same. The communications are irregular now but still there is some kind of communication. The traveling is too severe for a female & infant to move sometime in transplants some time one way and sometime another, but he wished her to come on as soon as he can go & fetch her. Mr. Pollard enquired particularly often each one naming you Clemens he said he oft times though of seemed anxious to know exactly what you were doing. Jenny, Emma & Hannah & added tell them love for me I love them all, also say your sister was beloved by all who knows her. He said she was greatly changed become most interesting he says she is very handsome & added I am proud of my wife but I think she has been negligent in writing to us & to him.

Annie and Mr. Pollard were married in Richmond^{iv} on 7 November 1861¹⁷. This was 7 months after the start of the war and 5 months before Jane brought the family to Washington. It must have been tough for Jane to leave her daughter in Richmond and even tougher for her to go through the war with almost no word from Annie. Annie and Edward's child, Eddie was born in October 1864¹⁸ so Annie and Edward must have spent some time together during the war.

Edward Pollard was strongly in favor of the Confederate cause. This means that he was pro-slavery. That explains why Jane seemed so cold toward him. As stated in the letter from William James to President Lincoln, as Methodists, the family was strongly against slavery. They must have not been happy about the wedding. So, why did Annie marry Mr. Pollard? Was she really in love with him? Could she have been rebelling against her parents?

^{iv} I know that this is the famous Edward Albert Pollard because Ira talked about him planning to write a history of the Civil War ("The Lost Cause"). Also, I found the marriage record at the Virginia State Library. According to the records, they were married on 7 November 1861. He was 29 and she was 18 (actually 21 or 22). It lists him being born I Virginia and his Parents as Rich and Pauline which are correct.

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A Marriage in Ruins

Several letters dealt with Annie coming to Richmond, but she didn't finally arrive until the end of September. As for her and her Husband, few of the biographies talk of Edward's wife and those that do talk of his wife talk of Marie Antoinette Nathalie Granier-Dowell who he met and married after the Civil War^v. My guess is that Annie and Edward's marriage didn't last too long. It's not likely that they spent much time together, she being in Macon and he being in Richmond, prison, and New York. And, it doesn't seem that Annie's mother, Jane, was too fond of him. They loved and fully supported Ira and were so proud of what he accomplished during the Civil War. They clearly sided with the North.

But, I was soon to find out what really happened. I was amazed when I read the 11 February 1866 letter from Jane to Jennie and Ira. In the text below, Henry is Edward's younger brother, also a journalist.

On the day I wrote you in pencil Saturday the 3rd your father had another letter from E. A. Pollard from N Yk. Another such as he received asking for a divorce in November last but a higher tone of indignation. Father was effected by it and on Monday morn we went down Annie & self. She saw Henry told him that her Father was going to have her divorced. He still begd not. Told him of the letter. He said it would ruin him even your Father in the Eveng saw him read the letter to him, he said it is terrible Mr. James, I will telegraph to N Yk. See if he is. Then I will go on, but Edward replied to this telegraph by letter telling him that his mind was made up with regrd to Mrs. Dowell & requested Henry never more to write him on the subject. Father went to give Terry who said the Military could not reach him out of the state but said Governor Pierpont & to the Governor we went. The Governor listened for one hour all other business laid aside. He told Father to go to the Commonwealth Attorney and direct him to draw up the case. Father to make his affidavit before the Magistrate or Major who is Emmeline Saunders' Father & she was S Annie's bridesmaid. This was to be returned to the Governor who would forward it on to the Governor of N Yk to arrest E. A. Pollard and Mrs. Dowell & send them in safe keeping to Richmond to be tried for the crime of adultery. Your Father has applied for a Divorce that will be attended to in a little while. Governor Pierpont^{vi} says (I believe) when here he will indite him & her for the case of abortion. That will be tried in Norfolk & it is probable that Ira will have to come on if so. You Jenny must come with him. I can not only just mention this at this early stage of proceedings, I will write you respecting. Do not

^v She was a fairly famous person in her own right. After Edward's death she became an author, lecturer and political activist.

^{vi} Governor Francis Pierpont was born in what is now West Virginia. He had a connection with Ira Ayer. He had attended Allegheny College about 20 years before Ira. He was a strong abolitionist. At the outbreak of the northern and western counties of Virginia sided with the North. Pierpont was elected Governor and in 1863 it was admitted to the Union as West Virginia. After the war he became Governor of Virginia until a military commander took over in 1868.

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forget to pray for Father, that he may receive wisdom & strength to support him in & thro this trial. Pray for each one of us. In his letter to Father he states that he will give him one week to take action. If he did not obtain divorce, he would commence the action therefore he urged Father to take the step.

You will let us know as soon as you possibly can if you think it advisable to return & be stationed here, if so the request must be made to Col. Brown. These things think over, pray over and let us know. It is pleasant to be nigh each other. I wish it could be so, but let us submit it before the Lord & He will guide us with His Council & we shall be resigned.

Jane is very upset with Mr. Pollard. I'm not sure she liked him in the first place, but now he has hurt her daughter and disgraced her at the same time. Not only will William get the divorce for Annie and Mr. Pollard, but they will try to punish Mr. Pollard and the woman who will eventually be his wife as much as possible. First they went to a Edward's younger brother who wanted to stop Edward from disgracing the family. Edward rebuked him. Then the family went to a local general who said he had no jurisdiction outside Virginia. The next step was to go to Governor Pierpont. Pierpont had a grand plan to get Pollard arrested. I doubt that anything came of the plans; otherwise it would show up in Pollard's biography.

Jane is also using this to get Ira and Jennie to move to Virginia with them.

There was another problem too as seen in Jane letter:

Genl Terry said he would invest us with the power to have Annie's babe if they did not willingly give him up. I have been thinking that it is you & Jenny will have to get the babe. Annie does not want to go now for him unless I go with her. I will write more here after respecting. I only mention now in order to give you some little intimation. I can get transportation for you. I can not say more now on that point.

In midst of these things, we are beginning to get Emma & Hannah ready for Lima and Annie wants to go with them. Annie sorrowed very much after your baby Jennie & you. She was low spirited for days. She is very troubled about the affairs. She is pleased at the prospect of going to school out of it. With regard to her babe, I must take care of him. If I am spared pray D^r Children the God will be gracious to me & spare unworthy me among you.

Somehow, Edward ended up bringing baby Eddie to New York with him. It seems also that Edward wanted to keep custody of Eddie. Annie doesn't seem too interested in Eddie. I can understand her not wanting to go to New York given the situation as long as someone she trusts goes for her. But, she wants to go off to school, Genesee College, in upstate New York and leave Eddie with her mother, Jane to raise. At the same time, Jane is being very dramatic trying to convince Ira and Jennie to move to Ashland. When Jane says that William is very upset about the situation, she is really talking about herself. When she says

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that Emma, Hannah, Samuel, or others really miss Jennie and Ira, she is really talking about herself.

In the next letter, dated 10 days later, Jane was still trying to convince Ira to get transferred to Ashland or Richmond. Also, she is considering having Ira and Jennie go to New York to get Eddie. Mr. Pollard and Mrs. Dowell actually came to Richmond and stayed in a hotel. When Jane heard that she and Annie went to the hotel and got the clerk to show them the register:

Edward and Mrs. Dowell were both in the City on Friday last at the Monumental Hotel. I enquired for the book of arrivals, clerk brought it and there I saw his hand writing entering her name, Mrs. Granier evidently much disguised, but I knew it was. The clerk told me that he asked him to enter his own name, but he made the first letter E and then stopped giving as a reason that on acct of his brother's difficulties with the Examiner he declined. It made Annie feel quite bad. She looked quite sad.

We know that they eventually got divorced, but it was probably shortly after that last letter. I don't know when Eddie was back with the James family. Mr. Pollard died in 1872, but the first record I have of Eddie again is from 1879 when Jennie told Ira in a letter what a brat Eddie was. The only other record of Eddie with the family is from the 1880 census when Eddie was living with Jane and his mother in Ashland.

In 1900 Eddie was married with a family and living in Washington¹⁹. He was a college professor. In 1910 and 1920²⁰, the family was living in Upland, PA and Eddie was a minister.

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Reconstruction was a huge part of the lives of the Jameses. As we will see, William was appointed to his job by President Johnson, much to the chagrin of the native southerners. Ira, as an officer in the United States Army was stationed in Virginia. During part of that time, his job was to report on “Murders and Outrages” committed against blacks, cases where injustice was done. Later he was a Special Agent of the Treasury stationed in Virginia.

One story from Grandma was that the family was told to not vote in an election because it would enrage the local people. Ira said that voting was his birthright and voted anyway. Nothing happened to him.

The house across from the Railroad

I think there are a couple reasons the family moved from Richmond to Ashland. First they may have wanted to leave town. From the descriptions above of the city and the people in it, the country may have seemed a much more pleasant place. The country may have been less impacted by the war and the people less angry with Yankees. Also, as you will see below, William’s work took him often to the towns north of Ashland, but his base of operation was Richmond. Ashland may have been a nice compromise.

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Figure 14 - James family home in Ashland, VA – This picture was either taken around 1880 or more likely in the 1920s when William and Jane’s grandkids came to Ashland for a visit.

The only description of the house is from Daisy (Jane’s granddaughter through Jennie) to Daisy’s niece “Girlie” (Carolyn Ayer Morse Clark). The letter was probably written in the late 1940s or early 1950s (Daisy died in 1957). Daisy said (the word “it” refers to a dining room table):

The first memory I have of it was when it was in Grandma James large dining room in Ashland. She called it “the banquet table.” She had two dining rooms; one for daily use, the other for large parties she had. We tiny children were allowed to go in and see it, all beautifully set for some festive occasion. I can see it in my mind’s eye now, how wondrous it was beautifully set with lovely large candlesticks, prisms dangling from them catching the light and casting rainbow lights into the room, beautiful crystal ware and china that would be difficult to find anywhere. These choice things I didn’t comprehend then, but we were thrilled with the glistening, fairy-like vision. I recall too that Grandma gave a birthday party for herself and all the children were invited. What an occasion! We sat rather petrified.

The only other story I know about the house is that there was a large fire where several houses on the street including this one were severely damaged.

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William's Work and Appointment

When William arrived in Richmond after the war in July 1865 with Jane, Samuel, and John he was still working for the Department of the Treasury. I don't know what he was doing at the time. All I know is from Jane, "His business is so important I can not go into particulars of much now only say I have been every day in the office making myself useful."

Then in a letter to Ira on 21 May 1866 Jane says:

I have been quite unable to write you. I have been much engaged during the time I have been here. Some Loyal Rebels have been trying for some months past to obtain Father's Situation. The greatest effort has been made. Delegation after Delegation had come to the President with grave charges against him for disloyalty & a thousand other things. The more flagrant Rebels are the greatest clamors for Union Men position. Lewellyn, the Republic's Editor is one candidate. The time had come for the President to nominate all the officers for Confirmations by the Senate they availed themselves of this & did everything to put him out. But, the Lord Most High & Glorious in whom we trust has pleased for father's cause, turned back the enemy & broken their teeth. The President Nominated him, the Senate Confirmed him specially. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue told me last night that the testimony that arrived from all quarters in favor of your father (when they heard what was going on against him) has immensely out weighed the heavy & vicious malicious charges they crated against him, only intended for the President's ere thinking & hoping he would act upon it without consulting with any one. The President sent for the commissioner of Internal Revenue & who said we know the value of the collector of Richmond to the Government. We have tested his fidelity and found that all the charges are false. The President sent the nomination to the Senate, who made a special confirmation. Thus you see dear Son The Lord has dealt with Father. The opposers were greatly disappointed. They had spent a large sum of money basing their hopes on the Presidents kindness to the Southern Men desiring office in Preference to the loyal Union Men, but he declares that in no instance will he depart from the right & from the intents of the Govt. or Nation. It has been a time on anxiety to all.

I figured that if he was confirmed by the Senate, I may be able to find it on the web. I did a search for "Congressional Record", and found the first 100 years of Congressional Record on the Library of Congress website. I searched for William James and found the following:

To the Senate of the United States:

I nominate William James, of Richmond, to be collector of internal revenue for the third collection district State of Virginia.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

Washington, April 23, 1866.

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The 3rd collection district was north of Richmond and included the towns of Stafford, Spotsylvania, Orange and Louisa. This may explain why the family moved from Richmond to Ashland. Ashland is between Richmond and this area. William's job was to ensure that the businesses in his region paid their taxes. He handled industries such as alcohol, tobacco.

I later on pure luck found a letter on the Library of Congress' website www.memory.loc.gov from William James to President Lincoln. It is in the Abraham Lincoln collection. It's dated 23 January 1865, two and a half months before the end of the war and almost three months before Lincoln was shot. In the letter, William asks the President for the job that he was finally nominated over a year later. The fact that he was asking for a position in Virginia before the war was over, indicates that unlike the present Republican administration, Lincoln's administration was making plans for what to do after the war.

In the letter, he named two senators from Virginia and two from West Virginia who could vouch for him. He also talked of his political beliefs, religious beliefs, feelings on slavery, and some of his history. The letter is included below.

As can be seen above, William didn't get the appointment for more than a year. It may have been delayed by politics or maybe by the accusations mentioned by Jane above. In any case, I believe that the important job that Jane said he was doing was probably acting as the Tax Collector while waiting for the official appointment.

There were several more hits in the Congressional Records search. I looked at the next one and found the following:

To the Senate of the United States:

I nominate John E. Mulford to be collector of internal revenue for the 3d district of Virginia, he having been designated during the recess of the Senate to perform the duties of that office, in place of William James, suspended for misconduct in office.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 2d, 1867.

That was a recess appointment because Congress was out of session. When they were back in session in January, "Mr. Fessenden presented papers relating to the suspension of William James, collector of internal revenue for the third district of Virginia, which were referred to the Committee on Finance." The result was "Resolved, That the Senate hereby concur in the suspension of William James, collector of internal revenue for the third district of Virginia, and do hereby advise and consent to the removal of the said James from his said office, and that the same be certified to the President."

The committee investigated the charges and in June:

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The Senate proceeded to consider the unfinished business of the 2d instant, being the resolution reported by Mr. Van Winkle, from the Committee on Finance, the 10th January last, relative to the suspension from office of William James and the nomination thereto of John E. Mulford.

The question being on the amendment of Mr. Congress, to wit, strike out all after the word "Resolved," and insert: That the Senate do not concur in the suspension of William James, collector of internal revenue for the 3d district of Virginia, and do not advise and consent to his removal from said office,

The question being taken,

It was determined in the affirmative.

So the amendment was agreed to.

On the question to agree to the resolution as amended,

It was determined in the affirmative.

So it was

Resolved, That the Senate do not concur in the suspension of William James, collector of internal revenue for the 3d district of Virginia, and do not advise and consent to his removal from office.

Ordered, That the Secretary lay the said resolution before the President of the United States.

This was amazing. What was the misconduct and why was he exonerated? The online record said nothing about it; however, it did say that some papers were submitted to the committee. I contacted the Library of Congress and they put me in touch with the National Archives. I talked to one of the archivists. I gave him the information that I had. A few weeks later while I was going through security at an airport I got a call from the archivist. He had searched for the file with the papers and found it. So, it was off to Washington I went.

The Accusations

What I found was nothing short of amazing. There were three letters of accusation. The first was from Joseph Segar^{vii}, Senator Elect from Virginia. It was dated 7 April 1867 and addressed to Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury.

Segar wrote a long description of how, in an effort to help a friend named Spotts, Segar went to Mr. James. Mr. James had not accepted a power of attorney that was required for Mr. Spotts to be reimbursed by the government. In Mr. Segar's account, he never asked Mr. James why he didn't accept it. They argued for a

^{vii} [Joseph Segar](#) had an interesting career. Before the war he had served several times as a State Representative in Virginia. During the war, he sided with the North and was elected several times as a Unionist delegate to the U. S. House of Representatives. Even though he had sided with the North, the House never accepted his credentials. In 1865, at the end of the war, he was elected to the Senate by Virginia's loyalist legislature, but still not allowed to serve. This was more out of vindictiveness on the part of the Northern members against anyone from the South than the fault of Segar.

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while. When Mr. Segar thought Mr. James had changed his mind he gave the paper to Mr. James. Mr. James indicated that he hadn't changed his mind. At that point the letter was no longer on the desk and both men claimed to not have it.

But at the latter part of the interview, I thought he had changed his mind and would make the settlement with the attorney, Mr. Spotts, for he remarked, "Senator, put down the power of attorney on the desk, and I will take action on it." I replied, "Certainly, Mr. James." After some further conversation with him in a pleasant way, I discovered that I was mistaken in supposing that he designed to settle under the Power of attorney and asked him what was the action he had promised, to which inquiry he made no response. I then looked to the table for the power of attorney, intending to take it with me that night to Washington at the request of Mr. Spotts to be submitted to Mr. Rollins for his opinion, as Mr. James had himself suggested, but found it had disappeared. I then asked Mr. James for the paper, appealing him that it was in my hands on the trust & that I was responsible for its return to Mr. Spotts; that it was not his paper nor the Government's, it not having been filed in his office as a voucher, and then fretted not belong to its archiver, that I had laid the paper on the table on the implied pledge of himself as a gentleman that he would return it to me when asked for, and that I must have the paper to be returned to the owner.

I repeated the appeals to him for the return of the paper numerous times and great earnestness. But he declined ever to show the paper.

I then frankly informed him that I would have the paper by force if I could not get it peaceably, but he still declined giving it up to me. I then caught him by the collar & made him examine into his own desk which was open and ask his secretary to find the paper, but he would not [thrw] it. I told him then I had not doubt that he had concealed it about his papers and that I would at every hazard have it & was proceeding to execute my purpose by an examination of his person; when a Mr. Harry Smith, an inspector under him whom I had known as a responsible gentleman assured me that if I would let go my hold of Mr. James, he, Mr. S would be responsible to me for the return of the paper. I replied to Mr. S that I wished the return of the paper and appealing to his personal, let go my hold of Mr. James, when he left the office, having first ordered several respectable citizens out of his office.

Mr. Segar never got the letter back, but said he talked to the sheriff of Nelson County, William's region who said he had a similar problem. Mr. Smith (Henry Smith) was the General Inspector of Spirits in the 3rd District of VA from 9 October 1866 until 10 April 1867, three days after this letter was written.

The second letter looks like the author is H. Iothnson Mare. He claims that William bought something at a store and asked the owner to charge the government and charge "two prices because they were for the government." I assume that he means that William was trying to get the store to charge the

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government more than appropriate and keep the difference. Mare goes on to say:

“It’s only being a few weeks since James, the collector of Internal Revenue, was report to the Treasury Department for defrauding the Government, and citizens of Richmond, of a sum of money; and now his is reported for whipping an Honorable Senator of the N. States who attempted to have justice out to one of his constituents. Why don’t the Government turn James out of office? Is it because the President, Secretary of the Treasury, and Congress afraid that he will whip the entire Government.

There is no record I have found referring to James defrauding the Government. The statement about whipping is curious. I assume the Senator he is referring to is Segar. This letter is written one day after the letter from Segar and Segar never mentioned whipping. I doubt that it happened.

The third letter of complaint came from the sheriff that Segar referred to. There is no date on the letter. I will go through that letter later.

It seems a little suspicious that there are three letters of accusation that are likely all sent around the same time dealing with different issues by three people who likely have all talked to each other. Also, as far as I can tell, nothing came of the accusations.

The Charges

There are three letters from N. Davidson, Local Special Agent, that represented an investigation into a slush fund/tax evasion scheme that Davidson believed was run by William James. The first letter was to A. B. Johnson Esq. dated 14 April 1867. The second and third were to Hon. E. A. Rollins, Commissioner of Internal Revenue and dated 15 and 17 April 1867.

The scheme was that in exchange for money, he would look the other way for 75% of whiskey produced, not collecting tax. From Davidson’s first letter:

My information is as yet in an informal state but will be embodied in the shape of depositions tomorrow and forwarded to the Commissioner by tomorrow Evening’s train. They will show that on or about last Christmas a fund of about nine thousand dollars was subscribed and paid over by distillers and rectifiers to Messrs. Harveys & Williams who distributed the same to officers of the Revenue Department – at least two thousand dollars having been received by collector James – by the medium of their own cheques. The latter I hope to secure. Monthly stipends have been contributed by the same parties and paid to the same officers since. Under this influence, it is averred and will also appear in proof, that the distillers have been allowed to run off their full capacity of high wines,

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reporting and paying taxes on only twenty five percent of the products – or five barrels in twenty.

On or about the 5th of March last, Col John T. Clarkson, distiller, sent by the hand of a friend one thousand dollars to Collector W^m James, without comment, the latter remarking upon receiving the same that it was in payment for an alcho-meter; of which James is the patenter, and which instrument costs about five dollars.

I write tonight to inform you only of what I am promised tomorrow. How much more of the same sort will be unearthed by the testimony to be taken, it is impossible to say.

That I have been greatly surprised by these statements I must confess, for I did not dream of the wholesale frauds now charged upon merchants through the connivance of Revenue Officers. These all relate to whiskey matters. If there is anything rotten in tobacco I do not yet know it.

I wanted to find out what this alcho-meter was. From what I have found, it was a device that measured the amount of alcohol produced. It may have had some direct part in the scheme, because later it was said that one could devise and insert a key in the meter allowing alcohol to be diverted prior to being measured. Davidson says that the devices cost only \$5 to make, but it was William's contention that the \$1000 was a licensing fee for using his design.

In the next letter, Davidson mentioned William's sons (I assume Samuel and John) in a statement that I don't fully understand:

I expect to prove that collector James has received directly of by the hands of his sons from six hundred to one thousand dollars each for making bonded warehouses and in several instances smaller sums for nominations to offices.

Is he saying that Samuel and John paid their father to allow them to make bonded warehouses and to nominate them for offices? If so, what offices?

In the last letter Davidson said that with regard to getting witness testimony:

It is exceedingly difficult to convey to you an appropriate idea of the terror with which the collector has inspired the men here who he has it in his power to annoy, while his well known vindictiveness of disposition and rashness of temper leads him to exercise that power to the last degree.

I have to say that this statement above all makes me question the validity of all the accusations. After reading many letters from, to, and about him, this mean streak seems totally out of character.

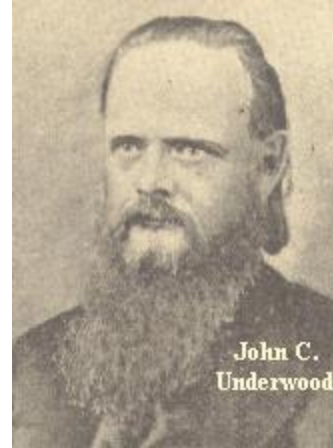
The Trial

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There was a trial, the date of which I'm not sure. Notes from the trial say "U. S. Court, May Term 1867, Judge Underwood^{viii} presiding, United States of America vs. William James".

There were two counts in the Indictment:

First Count for receiving a fee compensation and reward contrary to Law (sum not stated)
Second Count for receiving a fee compensation and reward of One Thousand Dollars.



The first count was thrown out because:

First, no statement made as to the amount the collector was to receive.
Second, no person named who paid the money, it being described "paid by some person unknown".
Third, no statement made as to how much he received more than he was entitled to receive.
Fourth, name not give by whom the money was paid.

Figure 15 - Judge John C. Underwood from Rice University's website on Jefferson Davis

The first witnesses for the prosecution were Henry Smith, the former General Inspector of Spirits in the 3rd District of VA, John Clarkson, one of the Whiskey distillers, Walter Gosden (I think he was the banker who cashed the \$1000 check), William H. Parrish, distiller who managed the joint fund and gave the check to Gosden, These distillers were from the 4th Revenue District, William James' district was the 3rd.

Basically the case was based on a check written by Parrish for \$1000, and cashed by Gosden. Gosden gave the money to Smith to give to James. Smith asked what it was for and Gosden said it was a present. Smith also said that separately, in his official capacity he had heard that much of the whiskey was going to an un-bonded warehouse where no taxes would be collected. When Smith tried to give the money to James, James asked what it was for and Smith said he was told it was a present. James said he would not accept it if it were a present, but if it was for the Separator (Alcho-Meter) he would. James asked Smith to hold the money until he found out. James went to talk to Clarkson and asked what the money was for. Clarkson had testified that he didn't know about the money. When James asked him what it was for, Clarkson asked, "if the

^{viii} Judge Underwood had an interesting carrier. He was a Virginia abolitionist and was named to the U. S. Senate at the same time as Segar and was also denied a seat due to Reconstruction. He then went on to be a judge. At the same time of this case, he was the presiding judge for the Treason Indictment for Jefferson Davis. He [sparred with Salmon P. Chase](#), Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at the time over the Davis case. Chase wanted to let Davis go to help start healing the country.

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object of the money was not sent with it?" James told him it was \$1000 and said if it was for the separators he would keep it. Clarkson said:

I did so treat it and left it with him treating it as for separators. I did so treat it and left it with him treating it as for the separators. Col. James said he would grant the privilege to the Distillers in which I was interested to use his separators. I thought this was fair as there was seven. I made the agreement I should have this privilege, no contract drawn up. It was all among Gentlemen. I represented the Distilleries by whom the money was sent. A bona fide transaction so far as I know, no secret understanding that I know of, nothing had been said to Col. James previously.

This seems pretty bizarre where the money was paid before the negotiating and agreement. Basically, James asked if the money was for the separators and Clarkson said OK. Further testimony implies that Clarkson knew that there would be some kind of payment, just not how much and when.

In testimony by Parrish, he said that James had told him that they were using his design for separators and that if they don't compensate him for their usage, he would sue them. Parrish said that while he didn't negotiate with James, he did write the check with the intension of avoid the lawsuit. Smith was recalled and even he said that the day before he received the money he was aware that James had told the distillers that they needed to pay him for the use of his design.

One other positive thing for James was that Smith said that James had no ability to allow the distillers to avoid paying taxes on whiskey in a district other than his own.

There is no conclusion listed in the trial notes so I contacted the National Archives again. I was told that the records for the mid-Atlantic region including Virginia were held in Philadelphia. I contacted them to find out the result of the case. It turns out that they had no transcript of the trial. What was in the Washington office had more information on the actual trial than they had. However, what they did have was the date, plea, and verdict²¹. The indictment was filed 17 June 1867. It read in part:

. . . he the said William James being at the said time, to wit, on the first day of January A.D. 1867, the Collector of Internal Revenue for the third Collection District of Virginia, not regarding his duty as such collector, unlawfully, and corruptly did receive a fee, compensation, and reward for the performance of his duty as such collector, as aforesaid, such fee, compensation and reward, not being such as is prescribed by the Internal Revenue Laws, or any other laws of the United States of America, but being much larger than he was authorized by law to receive for the performance of any duty as such Collector. . . .

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The trial was held in August in Richmond. William pled “not guilty” and the jury found him “not guilty”. That wasn’t a surprise. If he was found guilty, I’m sure he would have been removed from office on the spot. Instead, he wasn’t removed until December.

All I can figure is that Smith was the star witness. Smith ended his job as General Inspector of Spirits in the 3rd District of VA two days before Davidson started his investigation. I would guess that he was caught doing something illegal and decided to turn states evidence against James as a way to reduce his sentence. It’s also possible that Smith was fired and wanted to get back at his bosses. Davidson seemed so sure of the case, but in the end, it seems that what he thought were facts were actually lies. It’s hard to understand how he was so wrong.

Referred to the Senate

There are two more letters of note. The first is a letter from L. D. Harmon to the President of the United States dated 3 September 1867. Harmon wanted to bring to the President’s attention reports on William James with the office of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Commission of Internal Revenue and a sworn statement by a Mr. Primrose that would suggest that James should be removed from office.

The second is a letter from John C. Underwood, the trial judge vouching for James’ character. The letter is a reply to a note from a General Shanks and is dated 9 December 1867, one week after James was replaced by President Johnson in a recess appointment. Underwood said:

In reply to your note of inquiring as to my impression or view of the evidence against Col. James on his late trial, I have to say that there was no evidence which accounted to a suspicion of guilt, & subsequent developments show clearly that his principal accuser was a [suot] guilty wretch.

The whole case was in my judgment one of the thief crying stop thief – I have no doubt from all the evidence I have seen that Col James is a worthy persecuted & much injured man.

The last document is a summary from the Treasury Department. I don’t have a date or an author. I assume it was put together with to accompany the rest of the document when they were to go to the Senate. It has a very short summary of the trial. It is just a review of the document in the file because it says the transcript ends before the end of the trial and the result is not known. It says that “L. D. Harmon makes affidavit that the distillers have lately paid the Collector \$28,000 as his share of the profits on whiskey on which no tax or duty has been paid.” That is a huge amount of money. If William James received that much, it would have allowed him to significantly improve his lifestyle. The last statement says:

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That Hagerty, appersmith, makes affidavit that the Collector offered him \$3000. if he would make separator (for use in distilleries) for him different from the patent, that is, to make them with a false Key so that the whiskey could be drawn off before reaching the cistern room.

I assume this is how the whiskey in an un-bonded warehouse was separated into declared and taxed barrels and undeclared and untaxed barrels. But, if the warehouse is un-bonded, why do they need this device. Likewise, based on testimony, if the warehouse is bonded, no whiskey can leave without being taxed. So, I have no idea what the purpose of the false Key was.

I assume that even though James was likely acquitted in the trial, the President decided to remove him because there were more accusations, even though there was no more proof.

The Patent

I knew William had a patent for cable supports for suspension bridges issued on 16 April 1867. I got a copy of it from Bliss Clark, down in Texas. According to the investigation and trial, William had a patent for an alcohol separator. Davidson called it an alcho-meter, but then from the trial, it was not clear he fully understood what was going on. I didn't know exactly what year the patent was issued, but it was probably filed after 1865 when William got involved in the business, and issued before February 1867 when William received the money.

I found out that the Newark Public Library has indexes to U. S. Patents for the years in question. When I went there I found that on 8 January 1867 William received a patent for "Attachment for Stills to Test the Proof of Spirits". The invention didn't measure the amount of product. It is designed to help separate the whiskey based on alcohol content. It seems to be an attachment that goes in line between the still and the storage in barrels. Therefore, it has nothing to do with the diverter and false Key mentioned above.

Summary of William's Case

There were three letters of accusation that went nowhere. They never came up again. Two of them were within a day of each other, they knew each other and they were all different. That seems a little fishy. They also came just days before the investigation started for entirely different charges. The one from the Segar, the Senator Elect referred to Smith as "an inspector under him whom I had known as a responsible gentleman". I believe Smith was guilty of something and accused James of wrong doing to lighten his sentence. I believe Underwood was referring to Smith when he said it was "thief crying stop thief".

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The trial seemed to demonstrate that William James couldn't have allowed the distillers in the other district to pay tax on only 25% of their product. The distillers were in a different district than he had jurisdiction over. Also, the only money for which there was evidence he received, was a licensing fee for his patent. And yet, after the trial another person repeats the accusation and says that instead of \$3000, James received \$28,000. It was after this newer accusation that Underwood said that all the evidence since the trial further vindicated William James. He either didn't see the testimony from Harmon or didn't believe it.

I believe that if James did receive \$28,000, he and Jane would have been able to live a more comfortable lifestyle. After William died, Jane had to take a job as Ashland Postmaster to help pay the bills.

Ultimately, the Senate reinstated William James and I know of no further accusations. Remember that when William was first appointed, Jane said:

Delegation after Delegation had come to the President with grave charges against him for disloyalty & a thousand other things. The more flagrant Rebels are the greatest clamors for Union Men position.

With the exception of Segar, a Unionist, the other accusers may have been some of the same people trying to prevent him from getting into office. Unfortunately, we are not likely to find any of those accusations.

An interesting note is that when William asked Lincoln for a job, he listed four senators as a reference. Two were from West Virginia and two from Virginia. One of the ones from Virginia was retiring and the other was none other than Segar. William said he knew the Virginia delegation well and that they knew him well. In Segar's letter, there is no hint that they are old friends.

The Senator elect not mentioned by William as a reference is none other than John C. Underwood, the judge in William's trial. My guess is that at the time of the letter, William didn't know him very well. However, William was in Washington for another six months and in Richmond for another many months later. It's likely that William knew Underwood before the trial. That seems a little odd that Underwood didn't recuse himself. I don't have any evidence that they knew each other; however, they were both mentioned in the same newspaper article in 27 April 1868²². The article said:

Qualified. – Mr. George Rye was duly qualified on Wednesday as State Treasurer, and took the requisite oaths. He gave bond in the sum \$100,000, the following parties entering as his sureties: John C. Underwood, William James, Gaston G. Curtias, Alexander Sharp, Edward K. Snead, E. H. Gregory, James C. Toy, W. R. Dickey, and J. M. Humphries.

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John Underwood and William James are listed first as sureties (guarantors). This is almost a year after the trial and doesn't prove that they knew each other, but it's hard to believe they didn't.

All the accusations started around the beginning of 1867. William's patent for the tester was granted on 8 January 1867. Shortly after that he started demanding money for use of his design. The way patents work in the United States is that you must file for a patent within a year of disclosing the design to the public. However, you can't exercise the patent (prevent usage or charge for usage) until the patent is granted. William probably disclosed the idea as he was developing it. If people heard about it and liked it, they could copy it for free until the patent is granted. When William was granted the patent, he traveled to the distillers outside his jurisdiction and demanded compensation for use of his design (a licensing fee). This is when his problems started. We don't know if he demanded compensation from distillers in his district or any other districts than the one for which he was accused.

But where there is smoke, there is fire. It's entirely possible that William's hands were not clean. There is also the statement from the investigator implicating William's sons. Unfortunately I have none of that information. It may be buried in the basement of the National Archives somewhere, just waiting to be dug up. The Archivist couldn't find any records from the committee explaining why they decided to reinstate William so we may never know all the details.

It is highly unlikely that he was guilty of what he was accused of in the trial; however, I would suggest that he was at a minimum guilty of a conflict of interest. While he had no jurisdiction over the people who paid him \$1000, that seems an excessive sum for this type of invention and they paid it with no discussion. My guess is that they feared if they hadn't paid it, William could have made their lives miserable anyway. If this invention had been that important, and William had gone all over the country demanding compensation in a similar amount, he would have been a very rich man. Or, after what happened in this case, William may have decided to not exercise his patent further.

1867-8 Virginia Constitutional Convention

At the end of the Civil War, Virginia was under the rule of John M. Schofield, a Lieutenant General who had fought under Sherman during the war. He called for a new constitutional convention to meet in Richmond from December 1867 to April 1868. William was elected to represent Hanover County at the Constitutional Convention.

Given the animosity toward him, it might seem surprising that he was elected. However, because African Americans were given the vote many whites boycotted the election. As a matter of fact, by 1830, Virginia was one of only two states that still limited voting to white male land owners. It was not until 1851 that

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they removed that restriction and only then because most of the white male population was in the west and north and many of them did not own land. They were thus under represented. After giving the vote to all white males, the regions that wanted the change ended up seceding from Virginia during the war and forming West Virginia. Now Virginians were told to give the vote to Blacks and that was too much for them.

An election was held in 1867 to first decide if the Constitutional Convention should happen and if so, who the representatives should be. The measure for the convention passed, 107,342 to 76,084. The whites voted 14,835 for and 61,249 against. The blacks voted 92,507 for and 638 against. 55% of the voters were black²³. William's election was even more lopsided:

Table 1 - Hanover County election results for delegate to the 1867-8 Virginia Constitutional Convention

| | White votes | Black votes | Total | Margin |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------|--------|
| William James | 7 | 1460 | 1467 | 818 |
| Alfred Duke | 648 | 1 | 649 | |
| William F. Wickham | 415 | 2 | 417 | |

Presumably, William, Samuel, John, Clemens and Ira represented 5 of his 7 white votes. The votes in the rest of the counties were very similar. For the full election results, see the Notes and Documents section at the end.

Almost all the delegates ended up Republicans and they ran the convention. The leader was none other than William's good friend John Underwood, the judge who presided over William's trial. The constitution became known as the "Underwood Constitution" to some and the "Negro Constitution" to its detractors²⁴. From Wikipedia:

Significant provisions in the Underwood Constitution included extending the right to vote to all male citizens over the age of 21 (thus granting the vote to African American males), establishing a state school system with mandatory funding and attendance, and providing that judges would be elected by the General Assembly rather than by popular election. Controversy over clauses that continued the disfranchisement of former Confederate government members delayed the adoption of the Constitution. However, a compromise was eventually reached that provided for separate voting on the disfranchisement clauses and the rest of the Constitution, with the former failing to win approval. The remainder of the Underwood Constitution was ratified by a popular vote of 210,585 to 9,136, and went into effect in 1870.

Not only did William go to the convention, but he was made chairman of the Committee on Public Institutions. As far as I can tell, the only issue his

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committee took up was how to transfer control of the Eastern Lunatic Asylum in Williamsburg from the military to the state.

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY MR. TOLER (OF HANOVER AND HENRICO COUNTIES) CONCERNING THE EASTERN LUNATIC ASYLUM

Whereas, The institution known as the Eastern Lunatic Asylum, situated at Williamsburg, Virginia, receives the support of the State of Virginia; and, whereas, it is now in the hands and under the management of the military authorities; therefore,

Resolved, That the Committee on Public Institutions be instructed to inquire into the status, funds, and present management of the said Eastern Lunatic Asylum, with the view to transfer to civil authority.

William reported back to the convention but it is not clear what happened to the transfer of control.

The start of the convention coincided with William's removal from office. The two events are very likely related. President Andrew Johnson was a more a Democrat than a Republican and was not a big fan of Reconstruction. While he probably knew nothing of William James, he was probably swayed by people who wanted to discredit William at the time of the convention. William had been cleared of all charges months earlier and his file included a resounding endorsement by his judge, John Underwood. That removal from office was overturned by the Senate six months later.

The end of the convention coincided with the impeachment of Andrew Johnson. The documents of the James/Ayer families include a ticket stub for observing the impeachment hearings. It was assumed that the ticket belonged to Ira Ayer, however, I believe it belonged to William James. After what William went through, partly because of President Johnson, William may have relished in watching the President suffer.



Figure 16 - Ticket stub for President Andrew Johnson Impeachment

Ashland and 1870 census

The 1870 census has been very frustrating. I have found the family in the 1841 Wales census, the 1851 New Brunswick, Canada census, the 1860 Richmond census and the 1880 US census. But, for 1870, I have found only Hannah who had married and moved to Kansas City and Ira who was living by himself in Norfolk at the time. William and Jane were still alive, Jennie, Samuel, and possibly Emma had not moved out yet. Clement and John were still alive. Samuel, Clement, and probably Jennie were living in separate houses. Yet, none of them show up. I've searched a million different ways with any spelling variation with no luck. In 1860 and 1880 the census for the county was split into towns, however in the 1870 census the county was only split into the Upper and Lower Revenue Districts. I searched for many of the people who lived near the Jameses in 1880 in the 1870 census. I could find very few of them. I've even searched every page of the Hanover County census. Either a section is missing or they were intentionally left out. They may have wanted to avoid any official identification or the census takers may have left them out for spite.

Ira's work

While recovering from his severe wound at the battle of the Wilderness in 1864, Ira's three year enlistment ended and he was honorably discharged. When he fully recovered, the first thing he wanted to do was to re-enlist. But it was not that easy. The war was winding down and money was tight so there were few

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positions. In a letter to his brother-law George and his sister Vinnie in January of '65 he writes:

Since reaching here I have been for the greater part of the time awaiting an appointment in the V.R.C. The examining Board reported favorably for my appointment to my former rank; but as there was no vacancy I shall be obligated to take a lower grade until one occurs. I am looking for an appointment as Captain in a few days, with a possibility of promotion soon.

He actually wrote the letter the day after his appointment as Captain came through. However, Ira did not muster in right away. On February 20th he was proposed to Congress to be brevetted to the rank of major and lieutenant colonel (he was listed under both categories). I'm not sure what it meant to have two ranks. The war ended on April 9th and Ira was not mustered in May 2nd.

In another letter to George, Ira says:

I recd my commissions of Major and Lt. Col by Brevet of US Vols a few days ago, which so far as duty and emoluments are concerned will probably amount to nothing at all. The rank as conferred is simply honorary, not ever entitling one to any claim for promotion in case of vacancy, that I can learn; but after all, as a recognition of service which I have endeavored to faithfully under it is gratefully received.

There is little mention of Ira's duties except that he was busy and living and/or working in barracks in Washington. While still in Washington in November, Ira wrote to George:

It is now believed that Vet Res corps will be retained until the session of Congress; and that it will then be made part of the permanent Army. I am doubtful as to my own course, but shall have decided, I hope, before long. That is to say, I hope that Providence will decide for me; for I certainly feel that I desire His direction.

There is still no word as to what Ira's duties were, but we know from another letter that Ira was thinking of resigning after only a year. He didn't and by 1867 he was stationed in Ashland where all of Jennie's family lived. This was great for the family. Since Ira and Jennie had been married in December of 1864, the most time they had spent together was the 8 months that Ira was recovering from his wound at The Wilderness.

His official brevet promotion to colonel came through in the end of May 1867. So, at this point he was stationed in Ashland as part of the occupying army. April 20, 1867 he was brevetted colonel, Veteran Reserve Corps for "gallant conduct at the Battle of the Wilderness". The award was retroactive to March 13, 1866. In an April 20, 1867 not to Congress, Ira was listed as:

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Brevet Colonel Ira Ayer, jr., captain Veteran Reserve Corps. president of the board of Hanover county

On June 23 another note to Congress said he was "military commissioner, Hanover and King William counties; station Ashland, Hanover county, Virginia".

So, in 1867 Ira was the military commander in charge of first Hanover County, where Ashland is and about 20 miles outside of Richmond, and later both Hanover and adjacent King William Counties.

Not only was Ira part of the occupying force, but he was the local leader. This probably added to the anger toward his father-in-law that led to his temporary removal from office. Ira was probably transferred around the time William's problems started.

Ira did not stay in charge long. He was honorably discharged on January 1, 1868. So, now what to do? I have no idea what he did for the first half of 1868, but for the second half he was reporting "Murders and Outrages" committed against freedmen, cases of injustice against freed slaves^{ix}. There were seven cases he reported on during the last half of 1868. In one case a black man, Powell, worked for a white man, Rice. Rice got mad at Powell, went and got a shot gun and shot Powell. Powell was hit in the eye among other places and was almost blinded. Another black man was also hit. Rice immediately turned himself in saying that he shot one black man on purpose and one by accident. Ira reported:

At the trial the counsel for the defence appealed to the prejudices of the Jury-Rice was "an ex-confederate soldier," a "Virginia Gentleman," a "white man," that Powell was a "nigger" &c. The jury found Rice guilty of unlawful shooting and sentenced him to one cent fine and 12 hours confinement in the County jail.

The rest of the reports can be found in the appendix below. During the war Ira a lot about how just the war was and how the North was fighting a noble cause. But he had never specifically mentioned slaves and their right to be free, only that the North was fighting to exterminate an evil. However, in early 1866, in a letter he wrote about freed slaves, "is a free man, and those who seek to render his condition otherwise must be made to feel the power of the government to protect them in their freedom".^x

^{ix} The Freedmen's Bureau has a website that lists seven cases that Ira reported on between June and December of 1868. There may have been more but that is as far as the website goes.

^x Cimbals, Paul A., "Under the Guardianship of the Nation: The Freedmen's Bureau and Reconstruction of Georgia, 1865-1870", University of Georgia Press, 1997; Excerpt of a letter from Ira Ayer to L Matthews, Mar. 5, 1866

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On April 12, 1869, President Grant sent a pile of nominations to Senate. One of the nominations was:

I nominate Ira Ayer to be deputy postmaster at Petersburg, in the county of Dinwiddie and State of Virginia, in place of R. G. Greene, removed.

Petersburg is about 25 miles south of Richmond and about 40 miles south of Ashland. The nomination didn't last long. Grant withdrew the nomination two days later.

This may be because he got another job offer. In 1869 Ira began the carrier that would be a part of the rest of his life. He joined the Treasury Department. I'm not sure how he ended up with the Treasury but it was probably through his father-in-law, William. William had been connected with the Treasury Department since his visit with President Lincoln early in the Civil War. Ira was stationed in Richmond, not too far from Ashland. In 1870, Ira was promoted to Special Agent, a position he would hold until his death.

From 1870, Ira was stationed in Norfolk. That's where he was stationed when his daughter Alice was born and she believed that she was born in Norfolk. That means that for at least part of the time his family was living with him. But I know that the family spent most of their time in Ashland. So, again Ira and Jennie were living mostly apart.

In 1877 there was a big scandal in the Philadelphia Customs House. To investigate the abuses, the Secretary of the Treasury selected three people, a Republican businessman from Philadelphia, a Democratic businessman from Philadelphia and a representative of the Treasury Department, Ira Ayer. According to the Philadelphia Enquirer of June 15, 1887 Ira had to leave Philadelphia for a couple days to attend a commencement for his children. I'm not sure who it was for, because his oldest, Jennie was only 12.

Ira was not able to finish with the commission because there was a scandal back in his office in Norfolk. A deputy collector of the customs department was accused of embezzling thousands of dollars that he said he lost gambling.

Treasury Department scandals were fairly common; Ira was called to investigate several during his carrier. But this was the only one in Ira's carrier that in any way reflected poorly on him. I've seen about 100 newspaper articles that mention Ira and the only one that negatively reflected on him came out a couple months after the Norfolk scandal broke out. In an October 4, 1877 article in the Chester Daily Times (Chester, PA), a report from Washington contained many news items. One was sort of an editorial, I assume about the investigation of how the collector was able to embezzle so much money.

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It will be remembered that Mr. Ira Ayer was one of the special agents of the Treasury under whose lynx eyed supervision the Custom House at Norfolk was robbed and defrauded of nearly \$30,000, these crooked transactions extending through a series of years. He is said to have uniformly reported everything in apple-pie order. It is now given out that his instructions were so limited that he could not have known anything about the rascalities being perpetrated in his very presence. To those who do not regard this statement as very thin, indeed, the conclusion that it would have been money in Uncle Sam's pocket to have abolished the secret service division, so far, at least, as it related to the Custom House in question, is inevitable, for of what possible benefit can it be to pay officials big salaries to report everything all right, when it is all wrong, and rapidly going to the dogs. It was supposed by many simple minded people that Ayer was stationed at Norfolk to prevent, among other duties, just such theft as were perpetrated.

I wish I had something from Ira that talked about the scandal and how he felt about it. But we know he survived the scandal and that he was very highly regarded for the rest of his career.

After years in Norfolk Ira seems to have been transferred to Baltimore. The 1880 census lists him both in Ashland as the head of the household and in Baltimore as a boarder.

Jane's Work

After William died in 1874, Jane was essentially on her own financially. Tradition says that she took on the position of Post Master to help support herself. The 1880 census confirms she was post master. But, she reminds me of the Dashwoods in "Sense and Sensibility". After Mr. Dashwood died, the family was so poor that they could only afford a fairly good sized house and one servant. The 1880 census says that Jane had only one servant. Jennie, living next door in a smaller house with six kids had two servants (Ira was listed both in Ashland and as a boarder in Baltimore).

The Family Disperses

Virginia, the family's home before and after the war would not be their home for much longer. By 1883, two will have died in Virginia, but the rest will have moved on.

Hannah Gets Married

Hannah, Baby, the youngest was the first to move out of Virginia. According to a letter she wrote to Jennie, she married to Joseph France in October of 1869. She immediately moved to Kansas City, Missouri. He first shows up in a letter from Hannah to her brother Clem on 29 May 1866. She is in Ashland and Clem and Joseph are in Washington. In that same letter she says she likes Christian who is probably Christian Jourgensen, Emma's husband to be.

Joseph was born in November of 1847 in Washington where he was living with his family in 1860. According to the census, they were still in Kansas City in 1870. After that, they lived in upstate New York. In 1880 they were in Lowville (north of Syracuse), in 1900 in Johnstown City (northwest of Albany), and in 1910 in Naples (west of Ithaca). While in Kansas City, Joseph was listed as a school teacher. After that he was listed as a minister.

They had seven children, William, Irwin, Mary, Clements, Ina, Royal, and Margaret. I don't know when either Hannah or Joseph died, but the last record of them is the 1910 census when they were 60 and 62.

Emma Gets Married

Emma was the next to get married and move out. Her husband, Christian Jourgensen, was known by the family for many years before they were married. The first mention of him is in a letter from Jane to Jennie from 21 February 1866, "Mr. Jourgensen sends great love." On 29 May of that year, Hannah talks of liking Christian (I assume this is the same Christian). Then in late 1866 and early 1867, Christian witnessed both patent applications from William. I don't know what he was doing in Virginia at the time. He was definitely there before 1870, but like the rest of the Jameses is absent from the 1870 census. The first census and only census I have seen him in is the 1880 census.

Christian was born in Norway, 15 March 1850²⁵. He probably moved to Virginia shortly after the war. Sometime between 1871 and 1874 Emma and Christian were married. By the time their only child, daughter Emma, was born around 1875 they had already moved to New York²⁶. From at least the time of the 1880 census until the death in 1913, Christian's occupation was listed as "Stationary" (I

The Family Disperses

have no idea what that means). Christian died 1 October 1895²⁷. Emma was still living at 123 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, New York at the time of her death 21 May 1913²⁸.

William Dies 1873

William, who had been put through so much trouble with his trial, only lived a few more years. He died in Ashland but his funeral was in Washington, in the same church that Ira and Jennie had been married in only nine years earlier. This is really the only indication that the family had kept close ties with Washington after William's appointment. Was Washington where most of their friends were or was there so much animosity toward William, an abolitionist, to hold a funeral there?

Fortunately, William's great-grandson Tommy Williams had note card with William's obituary:

*Died at Ashland, Hanover County, Virginia,
on Friday, February 28th, 1873, at 4:30 P. M.,*

Col William James,

In the 66th year of his age,

The many warm friends of Colonel William James, of Ashland, Hanover County, Virginia, in Washington, will hear with deep regret that after a lingering illness of five weeks, he died at this residence in Virginia, of heart disease, in his 66th year.

Colonel James was extensively known in this city and throughout the South. He was a strong Republican, and has filled many offices of trust and responsibility. He was the first collector of internal revenue for the Richmond district, and by his uprightness and strict integrity won the esteem and respect of all the citizens in his district.

He was a gentleman of great refinement of manners, kindness of heart and integrity of character, and was a pure-minded christian, and passed to his reward "like a shock of corn fully ripe."

He was the father of Samuel R. James, Esq., formerly connected with the Census Bureau, in this city, but more recently of the Petersburg "Index."
The funeral services were held at the Foundry M. E. Church, in

The Family Disperses

Washington.

William was buried at Glenwood Cemetery in Washington, again, probably because Washington was less hostile than Virginia.

Samuel Gets Married (draft)

Check out [this book](#):

As can be seen in William's obituary, Samuel worked for the census bureau in Ashland and at the time of William's death was working for the "Petersburg Index", a newspaper from Petersburg, Virginia that is still published today as "The Progress Index".

On 25 January 1876 Samuel married Grace Wallace Campbell at her father's home in Rotterdam, New York, outside Schenectady. I don't know how Samuel and Grace met, but I do know that Clements was engaged to Grace's sister Sarah. Samuel's pension application in 1904 indicates that after leaving Ashland, he moved back to Washington and then he moved to his present address around 1875. Since in 1880 he was living with his father-in-law, I assume he meant that he was at his address since his marriage in 1876.

My only guess about how they met is that maybe the Campbell sisters met Hannah and Emma at Genesee College in Lima, New York. Lima is about 200 miles west of Schenectady.

Both the 1880 census and Samuel's pension application says that he was a Merchant, but I don't know for what. His father-in-law was a farmer. In a letter from Jane to Jennie probably written in 1881 Jane says Samuel was about to leave for Europe. It may have been for business. According to immigration records, Samuel arrived in New York from Liverpool on the Lusitania on 12 June 1908. The Lusitania was famous for being sunk by the Germans 7 May 1915. At the time of Samuel's sailing, the ship was less than a year old. Samuel died on 14 June, just two days later. He may have returned home because he was sick. He was listed as being retired at the time so he must have been there visiting family. He was sailing by himself without any family members.

In a letter dated 25 April 1864 Jennie said to Ira:

Last night I went to Samuel's room to give him a goodnight kiss. He drew me on his knee and put both arms around me. We talked a long time. He said he loved you darling Ira, and that our happiness would be very great if spared to each other. I told him to follow your example, for you were all that was good. He said that he would, that there was no better man than my husband. All love you that

The Family Disperses

know you, dear Ira. I think our brother wishes to become a true child of God. Pray for him dearest.

I think Samuel was a troubled person and Jennie felt that it could be solved by following God. I don't know if it was ever solved, but the only significant writings we have from Samuel show him to be very religious. In 1871 (5 years before getting married) he published a poem in Washington called "A Descriptive Poem". It is eight pages and about Jesus. In a 1 January 1878 pamphlet called "Holiday Journal – New Year's Readings" he wrote a long religious article "Disentangled Threads". The pamphlet also had a short poem. The rest was advertisements for Pond's Extract. Maybe he was the local Pond's Extract distributor. In January of 1891 he published another religious poem called "Morning". So, it seems that he did "become a true child of God" after all.

From a biography on Samuel²⁹:

SAMUEL R. JAMES

Merchant, was born in England, April 6, 1836, and came to this country when seven years of age. He was educated in Virginia, where he remained until the outbreak of (he Civil War being in the tobacco business at that time in Richmond, Va. He left for the North in the last vessel to leave Richmond before hostilities actually commenced. He served in Battery A. U. S. Artillery, filled other important commands and was honorably discharged for wounds and disability. He was then for a time connected with the quartermaster-general's department at Washington, D. C. In 1879 he became a member of the firm of Avery Snell & Company at Schenectady, N. Y. and a few years later succeeded to and enlarged the business, which he carried on for about twenty-five years. In 1888 he enlisted in the 17th Separate Company, N. G. N. Y. and on

January 29, 1890 was commissioned captain of the company. While at Washington, in 1863, he was, with Justin H. Rathbone, instrumental in establishing the Order of the Knights of Pythias, of which he was a brigadier-general and chief engineer on the supreme staff. Colonel James was a staunch Republican and was a member of the Schenectady County Republican Club. On January 25, 1876, he married Miss Grace W. Campbell, daughter of Col D. D. Campbell. Colonel James died June 14, 1908



SAMUEL R. JAMES

Figure 17 - Samuel Reginald James – from New York State Men, The Argus Company, Albany, N.Y., 1910

The Family Disperses

This biography states that Samuel came to this country at age seven. The best I can figure, he went to Canada at age 14 and came to Virginia anywhere between the ages of 15 and 24.

I haven't been able to find out anything on Avery Snell & Company yet. I assume that the 37th Separate Company, N. G. N. Y. was a kind of National Guard. All I have been able to find out on them is that they fought in the Spanish American War without Samuel. He was 52 when he enlisted and was 62 during the Spanish American War so I assume he had resigned by that time.

In the last few years of his life, he was receiving a small pension based on his service in the Civil War. What I find interesting was that after he died, his wife Grace applied for a pension. She said he had been in the army from 29 April 1862 until 17 June 1865. Samuel had been discharged 24 October 1862. Did Samuel lie to Grace? Whatever the case, Grace was receiving a pension of \$30 per month at the time of her death in 1927.

Samuel and Grace had four children, Clemens Campbell born 1878, Reginald Spencer born 1881, Grace Francis born 1886, and Virginia Margaret born 1892.

Clemens Dies



Figure 19- Clement James

There is very little I've found out about Clement. He died 20 September 1876 and was buried with his father at Glenwood Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Tradition says he died in a train accident.

At the time of his death he was engaged to Sarah Campbell, sister to Grace, Samuel's wife. The picture of Sarah Campbell was printed in Richmond and the picture

of Clement says that Sarah never married.



Figure 18 - Sarah Campbell

I don't know who met first or where Clement was living when he died.

John Disappears

John was the most mysterious of the bunch. People seldom mentioned him except to say "John is there" or "John is traveling with Jennie". There were

The Family Disperses

almost no mentions beyond that. We know that John was with the family during the war and went with them back to Virginia.

The second last time John's name was mentioned in a letter was from Annie to Jennie 13 October 1870. In it Annie talks of the death Harry, the son of John and his wife Mary. Then in a letter from 1874, Jane tells Ira that John is thinking of coming home. No one mentions him after that.

The last word about him came in 1884 from Ira while settling the James Estate. John was represented by his daughter and son-in-law Jennie and Andrew Jackson Gregory from Texas:

Your Complainants further aver that the said John F. James, when last seen was a resident of Personville Limestone Co in the State of Texas and when the said trust deed was executed by the other parties it was forwarded to him for execution. In due time it was returned to your orator by the daughter of said John F. James (Mrs. Gregory who resides in Texas) with information that about the 14 day of February 1883 the said John F. James left Texas as for the State of New York. From that time nothing has been heard from him although the most diligent efforts have been made by his family and kindred to ascertain his whereabouts if alive or his fate if dead, but so far all of these efforts have proven unavailing.

So we can assume that John was not only estranged from his family, he was estranged from his daughter. I don't know if they ever found him. Based on this I was able to find John with his daughter Jennie in Denton, Texas in the 1880 census. He is a farmer and she is keeping house. There is no sign of Mary or any other kids. John is incorrectly listed as being from Virginia but both parents are from listed as from Wales. Denton is just north of Dallas and Fort Worth. Personville is about 75 miles south of Dallas. Both Jennie and her husband Andrew Jackson Gregory lived long lives and died in Fort Worth in 1955 and 1932 respectively. A further indication of family estrangement is that on Jennie's death certificate the informant G. E. Gregory (her son Gerald Ennis Gregory) didn't know anything about Jennie's parents.

Jennie moves to New Jersey and New York (1881) (draft)

It's not clear how much time Ira and Jennie spent together during the 1870s. Ira was stationed in Norfolk and the family was in Ashland. We know that Ira was living by himself in Norfolk in the 1870 census, but Alice believed that she was born in Norfolk but there is no way to check that. Virginia did not keep many records

The Family Disperses

from that time. However, Alice and her sisters talked a lot about growing up in Ashland and hardly mentioned Norfolk. Since most of the time the kids were growing up, Ira was stationed in Norfolk we have to assume the family lived separately most of the time.

After spending a year or so in Baltimore, Ira was transferred to New York. This time the family up and moved with him. They all moved to Morristown, New Jersey. First they lived at the corner of Perry and Maple and later at 39 Western Avenue. At first I couldn't understand how, in 1881, you could live in Morristown and work in New York. Even today Morristown is not a big place for commuting to New York. But it was commutable. In a letter from Jane to Hannah while Jane was visiting Jennie and Ira, Jane says, "Dear brother Ira goes daily to N Y duties, leaving @ 7:15 a.m." I found the January 1881 railroad timetable and it says that if you catch the 7:30, you arrive in Manhattan at 8:50, only an hour and 20 minutes later. That's taking a train and a ferry.

So, why did the family move this time? Jane suggests that it was for Jennie health. Shortly after Jennie moved to Morristown, her mother wrote to her, "If Morristown proves beneficial to your health then the main object is attained." While Jennie had often talked about issues with her health she never said what the issue was. I think Jennie suffered from depression. The only evidence I have of this is that they moved from Virginia to New Jersey for health reasons. Usually people move the other way. Her mother was a very dominating person and Jennie lived with or next door to her all her life. I think she wanted to get away from her mother. But if that's the case, even moving didn't help. In 1891 while Ira was visiting Washington he visited where they were married. Then he said:

How many winters and summers have since past! How many changes have since taken place! Those that have passed away, have I doubt not, gone to their heavenly rest. As for our own group of birdlings – one male and five females – it is thanks to the kind father above – unbroken. We are supplied with food and raimment, and all are usefully employed. We ought, therefore, to be happy. If we are not, it is our fault. This probably due principally to two reasons, first, that we have not faith to trust in divine Providence, and to take him at His word; and second that we are ungrateful. We do not appreciate the blessings that we actually enjoy as we should. We must make hast to correct these faults if we have them. We must learn to trust almighty God continuously, and we must be ever and always thankful to Him for His unencumbered mercies. For my own part, I have my sweet Jennie with me just as of yore, so how can I help being happy! I have all my sweet bairns with me, so I am doubly happy.

Ira says "we" should be happy and I think he means "you" should be happy. He says that they have every reason to be happy and the only thing that could make them unhappy is not having enough faith in god. But there is no lack of faith

The Family Disperses

shown in Jennie's letters. I believe that she suffered from depression that brought on other physical ailments.

Jennie was not the only one who had physical issues. When Jane was visiting Ira and Jennie she also said about Ira:

But he suffers with the wounded leg. He has had it examined by one of the most skillful surgeons of the day at N Y. He recommends an operation which will I expect be a severe operation laying him up completely for several weeks. He thinks from it, hence the delay also observing closely the progress of the wounded hand. Ira feels Dr Pierson is careful in watching the wound. Now it is supposed that two weeks hence will decide the operation business. Pray for us here.

During the Civil War, Ira had been shot in the arm, just above the wrist at Bull Run in '62 and shot in the leg at The Wilderness in '64. The leg wound was causing him more trouble now. The arm hadn't completely healed.

Annie Gets Married Again

As far as I can tell, Annie lived with her parents after the divorce. Eddie may have been living with them during this time but we don't hear about him until Jennie is visiting home and talks about Eddie's behavior at age 14. In a letter to Ira November 14, 1879 Jennie says:

I have not mentioned Eddie's conduct because I had hoped to see you and disliked to trouble you more than I could help. I cannot go now into the details but he is as bad a boy as can be. Rushing into every [nice]. Our homes are made miserable by it. I despise him sometimes and you know it is the talk of the place for he is almost as daring as an outlaw. Yesterday he was all day playing games and I suppose gambling at [Amgle] kings. He defies every one of us.

P.S. Do not write or say anything about Eddie until you come home. He may go to [Sano] but I pity them.

After Jennie and Ira moved out of Ashland in '81 Jane, Annie and Eddie were the only ones left. Many, many years later in the letter from Ira and Jennie's daughter Daisy to Daisy's niece Carolyn stated, "We left Ashland and moved to Morristown. It was sad, especially for our mother to leave grandma and Aunt Annie."

When Annie is with Jennie in New Jersey, Jane seems to imply that Eddie is with a Mr. Avery and she keeps writing to him. In a letter to Annie on 24 May probably 1881 Jane writes:

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I wrote to Eddie a few days ago, a nice long letter. And today I have written again, a long letter filled up four sides. I also write Mr. Avery this mail. We must still do all we can with Eddie. He is never off my mind.

In a letter to Ira and Jennie on 21 October Jane simply writes "Favorable accounts from Eddie" and a few months later on a date unknown in a letter to Hannah she says Eddie is with Samuel (I assume this is Samuel James).

But, Jane, Annie and Eddie living together did not last long. Jane talks of a Mr. James who had been hanging around Jane's house when Annie was in New Jersey helping out Jennie. Jane mentioned him in several letters, always calling him Mr. Then, in a letter from Jane to her granddaughter Jennie on February 28, 1882 Jane says:

Mr. James wishes to be married at the church. If you dear parents were living here. It should be in that beautiful parlor. I am glad Aunt Annie is to have so excellent a young Man as Mr. James. But these occasions are almost too much for me. If I only had your sweet Mother and Father to consult with. I seem to want and must have more time than Mr. J think necessary.

So Annie was marrying someone named James. Jane was worried that the wedding was coming too fast. On May 2nd, 1882 Annie James Pollard married Dr M James. The marriage records record Dr. James as being 26 years old and Annie as being 35. However, we know that on that day Annie was actually 42 or 43. Dr. M James (also known as Rev. D. M. James, never by a first name) was listed as a Minister and Editor. Dr. James was co-editor of the brand new paper, "American Guest". In a 1971 edition of the paper "The Herald Progress" they said³⁰:

Old-timers once recalled Rev Mr. James – called Dr. James – as a good looking and scholarly man who married Mrs. Pollard, a widow^{xi}, and made his home . . . at the northwest corner of Center Street and Henry Clay Road^{xii}. Although a minister, he did not have a church.

This situation didn't last too long. Dr. and Mrs. James soon moved to Maryland. And, according to Ira during the settlement of Jane's estate, on January 12th, 1884:

Mrs. Annie James the wife of Doctor M James has departed this life in the State of Maryland, [intestall] and leaving surviving her as her sole heir at law but one child, a son (by a former husband)

^{xi} Did Annie tell her husband she was a widow, not a divorcee or was this just a mistake?

^{xii} This is the closest cross street to Jane's house. I'm sure that is where they lived.

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I believe I have found Eddie in the 1900 through 1920 censuses. In 1900 he and his family were in Washington where he was a College Professor. In 1910 and 1920 he and his family were in Upland, PA where he was a Baptist Minister.

Jane Dies

In the documents settling Jane's estate, Ira says, "in the year 1883 the said Jane F. James, the mother of said Clemens James deceased and of your oratrix departed this life while temporarily residing in the City of Brooklyn, New York". According to Jane's death certificate, she died at 124 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, New York. That's Emma's house. She had been there for about 6 months before her death.

"Keeping the Wolf From the Door"

In the letter from William James to President Lincoln, he had said, "I am not well enough provided for to keep the wolf from the door." Well, William was able to keep the "wolf from the door" and so was Jane. But after Jane's death the wolf came to the door. Jane died significantly in debt. Fortunately she had some assets. The creditors wanted to recover their money. In an effort to make the settlement orderly, Ira and Jennie filed a lawsuit against the rest of the family. This was not done to hurt the family, only to settle the estate in an orderly fashion. The whole family were entirely behind this effort. The Hanover County Courthouse has a copy of the lawsuit. When I was there they were restricting access because the records were about to be digitized and the digitizer did not want there to be any extra damage beforehand. I was only able to photograph 10 pages. On June 23, 1883, just after Jane died the property was surveyed. It was about 10 acres and had been split up into 16 lots.

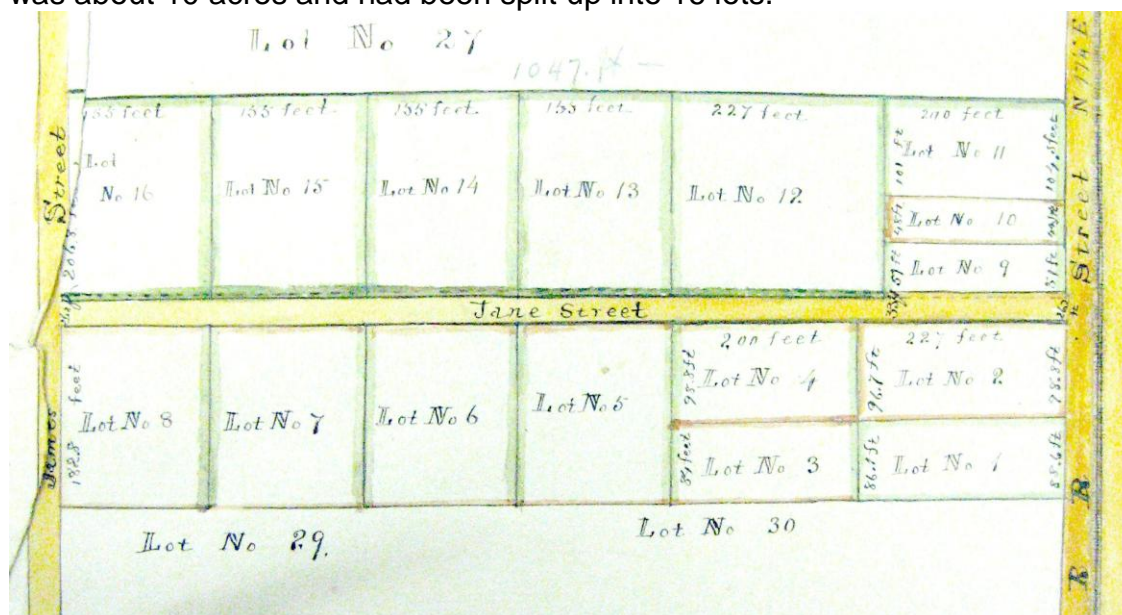


Figure 20 - James property

The Family Disperses

Today Railroad Street is called Center Street. The train still runs. While I was there, there were a couple Amtraks and some freight trains. Jane Street no longer exists and James Street is still called James Street.

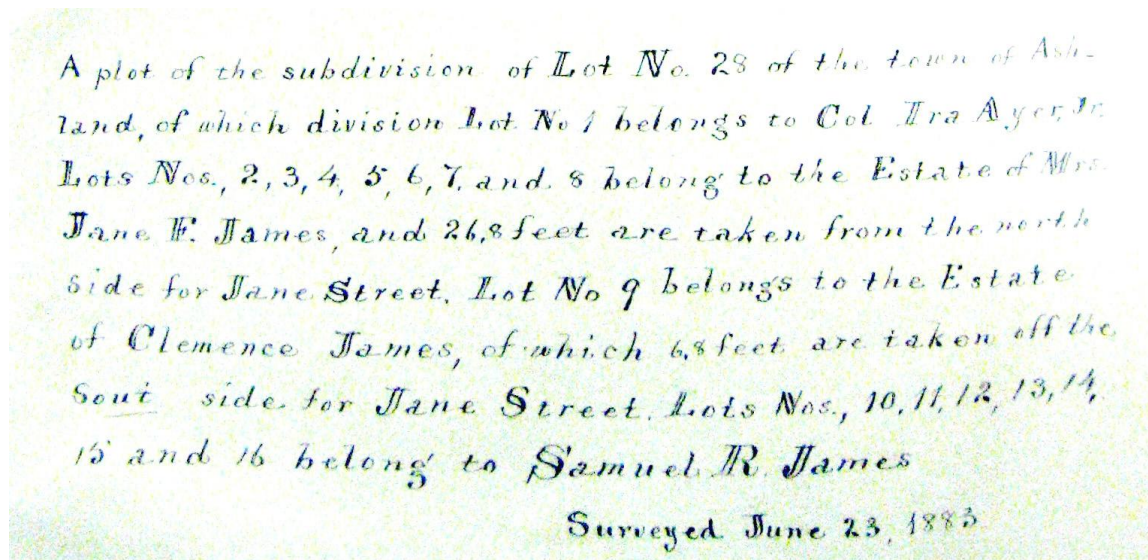


Figure 21 - James Property sub-division ownership

I don't know what happened to all the lots, but lot 2, the one with the big house on, and lot 4 were "sold it at auction to settle debts based on lawsuit" on November 7, 1884. The two lots were resold many times until 2001 when Randolph-Macon College bought it for \$357,000^{xiii}. Today the former James home is used as an office building for professors. Most of the college is across the railroad track, but today the college owns most of what was the James property and none of the rest of it is developed except for one other building. [Here](#) is the Google street view.

Here are some more pictures of the house:

^{xiii} Here is the transaction history for lots 2 and 4 (now 206 North Center St.):

| Date | Book | Page | | From | To | | |
|------------|------|------|-----------------|-------------|----------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 31-Jul-01 | 1753 | 380 | \$357,000 | Schmitt | RMC | | |
| 1-Aug-90 | 827 | 293 | \$10 | Shaw | Schmitt | | |
| 3-Jun-83 | 529 | 655 | \$10 | Blanton | Shaw | 206 N Center St | Has Survey |
| 2-Jul-56 | 173 | 79 | \$10 | Raney | Blanton | | |
| 16-Feb-26 | 82 | 401 | \$10 + 40/month | Harrison | Raney | Lots 2 and 4 in subdivision of lot 28 | |
| 15-Sep-09 | 52 | 184 | \$2,400 | Robinson | Harrison | Lots 2 and 4 in subdivision of lot 28 | |
| 7 Nov 1884 | 18 | 48 | | James, June | Robinson | Lots 2 and 4 in subdivision of lot 28 | Family sold it at auction to settle debts based on lawsuit |

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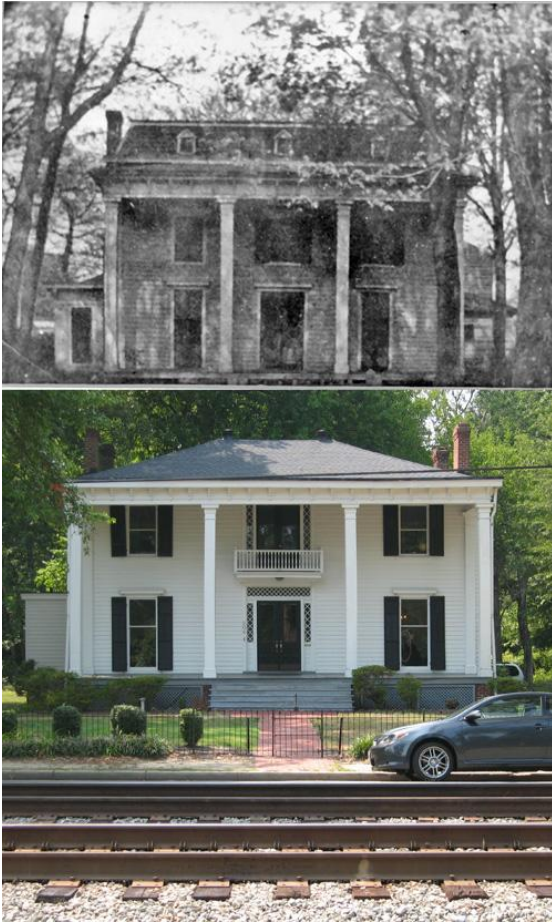


Figure 22 - The house around 1880s or 1920s and 2007



Figure 23 - Train going by

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Figure 24 - Inside



Figure 25 – Inside

Once the digitization was completed there were a couple hundred documents. I've copied them [here](#).

Jennie and Ira in New Jersey

Ira and Jennie moved to New Jersey early in 1881 leaving Annie in Ashland to help take care of their mother who was around 70 years old. But, that situation didn't last long. About a year later Annie got married and soon after that moved to Maryland. Jane's health was deteriorating and by April of 1883 she was dead. It took about a year for Jennie and Ira to settle her estate.

Things were not entirely tough during this time. During the summer of 1884 Jennie and Samuel and their families spent about a week at the luxury Oriental Hotel^{xiv} in Coney Island, New York.

^{xiv} The Oriental Hotel was built in 1883 and torn down in 1916. It had 480 rooms. For more information, see [this website](#).

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Figure 26 - Letter head of a letter written by Samuel while at the hotel

So, now it's the end of 1884 and Ira and Jennie can finally live the life they wanted and focus on their families. Things would continue to get better for Ira, but just for a short time.

Scandals in the Treasury Department were common and on January 9, 1885 one hit Ira's office in New York. The head of the department, Captain Brackett, and another person were relieved of duty. Ira was placed in charge. It turns out that Brackett and the other agent were accused of taking bribes. Brackett had been a Special Agent for 15 years and had an excellent record. The two were tried and acquitted in April. Apparently what had happened is that an importer had been undervaluing his shipments for years to save on duties. Brackett found out about it and put the other agent on the case. Apparently the importer tried to get back by framing Brackett. Even though Brackett was acquitted, his career as a special agent was over.

Ira's tenure in charge of the New York office was short lived. Ira, a Republican, had served under four presidents, all Republicans. Then, on March 4th, 1885 Grover Cleveland, a Democrat, was sworn in. In December of 1885 Ira was transferred to the office in San Francisco. Ira's hometown newspaper, The Jerseyman³¹ believed this was more than a simple transfer:

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By order of the Secretary of the Treasury, Col. Ira Ayre of this Town, who has been a number of years a Special Agent on duty at the New York Custom House, has been transferred to San Francisco. As no hint of dissatisfaction with his discharge of his duties has been given from any quarter, and as he is a one-legged veteran whom it was doubtless thought it might not be good policy to discharge outright, there is a strong suspicion that this change was ordered in the hope of forcing his resignation. A published statement says:

“Much surprise was manifested at the New York Custom House on Monday with regard to a change in the assignments of the special agents made by order of the Secretary of the Treasury. The order was sent directly to the Special Agent Ayre, who has been ordered to San Francisco. Special Agent J. B. Peck, who is a recent appointment of the new Administration, is to supersede Mr. Ayre in charge of the New York division. Colonel Ayre is a Republican who has held the office of Special Agent for many years. He is an old Soldier, with an unsullied record, and no special reason is assigned for making the change. He lives in Morristown, N. J., and has a wife and six children. One inference drawn from this change was that the Department presumed it to be a good way to get rid of a Republican office-holder, and that Colonel Ayre would probably resign rather than accept the detail and be separated from his family. It was rumored several days ago that the Secretary of the Treasury was anxious to have a Democrat in charge of the New York bureau, one who would probably be more pliable to the appeals of place hunters than Colonel Ayre.”

If they thought Ira would resign they were sadly mistaken. Ira took the transfer and the family would be split up again. But first he needed to do something. As Jane had mentioned four years earlier, Ira had been thinking about getting an operation on his leg, and in January of 1886, Ira finally had the operation. According to the New York Times, January 5, 1886:

COL. AYER'S OLD WOUND

Col. Ayer, who was transferred by Secretary Manning, a few weeks ago, from the post of Chief of Special Treasury Service in this city to the chief in the same service at San Francisco, is in the hands of doctors at the Brooklyn Homeopathic Hospital. During the war Col. Ayer was wounded in his right leg by a bullet, and lately the wound has been giving him so much trouble that he resolved to undergo a surgical operation for necrosis^{xv}. Drs. Lewis and Varona, of the hospital corps, removed a longitudinal section of the tibia, and Col. Ayer was yesterday able to see friends who called upon him, and he expects to be so far recovered at the end of this month as to be able to start then for his new post on the Pacific alone.

I don't know how well he recovered from the operation. After recovering from his operation Ira left the family again and moved to San Francisco. In early March Ira took over the San Francisco.

^{xv} [Necrosis](#) is the premature death of cell tissue that can be caused by, among other things, trauma. The tissue does not send proper signals to the blood stream and is, therefore, not properly removed. Ira needed to have dead bone tissue surgically removed.

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Ira's tenure in San Francisco was fairly quiet until February 1888. Edwin and Ephraim Gardiner were arrested in New York State for importing 1,500 lbs of opium. The opium was intended for San Francisco. Edwin had sent some coded messages to the San Francisco Treasury office. According to the New York Sun³²:

A significant fact was when Erwin asked Treasury Agent Winslow regarding a message he sent to Col. Ira Ayer, special agent at San Francisco: "If he answers that I have been working in the interest of Government will you believe it?" he asked. Mr. Winslow responded affirmative, but the answer was that Ayer know nothing of Gardiner.

The officials think it was a bluff to get Gardiner out on bail and let him escape.

Gardiner claimed he was an undercover agent working directly for Ira. Ira said no and Gardiner didn't bother to push it. So, Ira was luckier than his predecessor in New York who lost his job and was taken to court when he was falsely accused of bribing.

Just as this was happening Ira found out he was being transferred back to New York. He would get to see his family for the first time in over two years. There is no word as to how or why Ira was being transferred back but he would not be in his old position as chief. Grover Cleveland was still president. Even so, he was probably happy to be going home.

There was one more hurdle for Ira before getting home. That hurdle would not soon be forgotten. In the 1930s Andy and Fred, grandchildren of Alice and great grandchildren of Jennie and Ira would ask her on every snow storm if it was as much snow as there was in the blizzard of '88. There never was. On March 12, 1888 it started to snow in Morristown and didn't stop for two days³³. The Blizzard of 1888, also known as the "Great White Hurricane" dumped about 40" of snow New Jersey³⁴. This is an amazing amount of snow, especially for a girl who grew up in Virginia. Alice probably remembered the blizzard, not just because of all the snow, but because it delayed the return of her father. She hadn't seen her father for two years. Ten days after the blizzard The Jerseyman

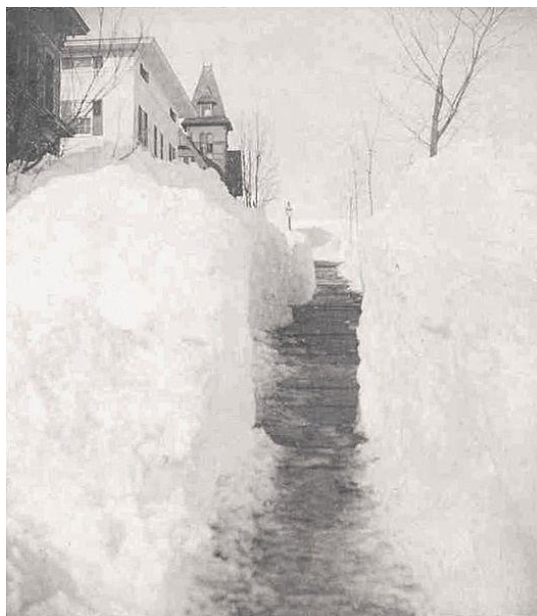


Figure 27 - Blizzard of 1888 in New Britain, CT (Wikipedia) – couldn't find a picture of New Jersey.

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said:

--- Col. Ira Ayer, Custom House officer, returned to his home in Morristown having been absent for nearly three years – most of the time in San Francisco.

Jennie and Ira move to Brooklyn

A few days after Ira returned he posted the following in The Jerseyman:

AUCTION

VAN DYKE & WISE, Auctioneers

The subscriber, who will remove to Baltimore, will sell at Public Venue at

38 WESTERN AVENUE,

MORRISTOWN, ON Tuesday, April 3d.

The following Household Furniture :--- Wm. Knabe square grand pianio, 7 ½ octaves handsomely carved legs : parlor suit, green rep ; walnut book case, walnut marble center table, mahogany child's crib, 100 yrs. Old ; franklin stove, walnut lamp stand, blk. Walnut suit, 7 pieces ; walnut wardrobe, very fine ; bed springs, mantel mirror, pictures, books, curtains, shades and fixtures, bagatelle board, hall, stair and bed room carpets, diningroom Brussels rug, kitchen safe, 2 kitchen tables, glower vases, castor, chairs, step ladder, kitchen utensils not enumerated. Sale to commence at one o'clock sharp, Terms cash. COL. IRA AYER.

I don't know why the notice said they were moving to Baltimore. They were in fact moving to Brooklyn, 398 Clermont Avenue.

A small note in the New York Times of January 16, 1889 says that Ira has been placed in charge of the New York office again replacing the retiring head. According to the article the appointment is only temporary. It's a month and a half from when Grover Cleveland will be replaced by Benjamin Harrison, a Republican like Ira. As far as I can tell, Ira retains this position for the rest of his life; through Harrison's administration, Cleveland's second administration and those of two more Republicans.

The next big event in Ira's life is an operation on his arm. This must have been a real big deal because I've found accounts of it in three different newspapers; from New York, Maine and San Francisco. Here is the one from the June 24, 1891 edition of the Maine Wig and Courier:

A Rare Surgical Operation.

A New York despatch says: Col. Ira Ayer, who served during the war in the Tenth Regiment, Pennsylvania Reserves, and for many years was a special agent of the Treasury Department at this port, has just undergone a painful surgical operation at the Seney Hospital, Brooklyn. At the second battle of Bull Run the colonel, who was a

The Family Disperses

captain of Company I, received a gunshot wound in the left forearm. The ball entered the radius about five inches above the wrist and glanced upward, lodging near the elbow. It was removed at the time at the point of contact.

At the operation, and in subsequent explorations of the arm, the presence of any other foreign substance was not detected. For nearly thirty years the wound has been a source of constant irritation and danger. Dr. George R. Fowler, of Brooklyn, who performed the operation, detected the presence of the metal by the use of the telephone probe. He removed a piece of the tin about the size of a ten cent piece, which together with pieces of cloth, was found completely imbedded in the bone. It seems that the ball passed through the Colonel's canteen, carrying with it the tin and cloth in question. The operation was successful and promises relief.

For the next few years, Ira's name was plastered all over the newspapers and he was even mentioned by President Harrison in his 1892 State of the Union message. Ira had become the Treasury's expert on the Tin Plate industry and especially on the drawbacks (taxes returned when the Tin-Plate is exported). Just as an example, when Ira was assigned to the Tin-Plate industry a one half column article in the New York Times has the headline, "Col. Ayer's Tin-Plate Figures: His System for Securing Reports of the 'Industry'". You can find the article in the Appendix below.

Alice and George 1897

Alice Ayer, daughter of Jennie and Ira married her next door neighbor on Cambridge Place, George Williams, on 20 October 1897. George was living at 35 Cambridge Place with his family and Alice was living at 37 Cambridge Place with her family. This was probably one of the last times the four surviving James children, Samuel, Jennie, Emma, and Hannah were to get together. The wedding was officiated by Hannah's husband, Joseph France. All Alice's siblings were there along with her cousins Mattie Jourgensen and Grace and Clemens James. From a local newspaper (Brooklyn Daily Eagle):

The Family Disperses

WILLIAMS-AYER

The marriage of Miss Alice Wadsworth Ayer, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Ira Ayer and George A. Williams, son of Ramon O. Williams, former United States consul to Havana, was celebrated yesterday afternoon at the home of the bride's parents, 37 Cambridge place. The Rev. Dr. Joseph France, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Johnstown, N.Y., and uncle of the bride, performed the ceremony. The decorations were in pink and green and the bridal couple stood beneath a canopy formed of pink roses and foliage.

Miss Clementine Ayer, sister of the bride, acted as maid of honor and Robert A. Williams, brother of the groom, was the best man. The ushers were Ernest Baldwin and Lord Mead, both of Orange, N.J. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a gown of white satin and point lace, with tulle veil caught with orange blossoms and carried bride roses.

Mrs. Ayer, mother of the bride, wore heliotrope poplin and point lace and Mrs. Williams, the groom's mother, wore black satin.

A reception followed the ceremony. After their wedding tour Mr. and Mrs. Williams will live at 37 Cambridge place. Among those present were:

Colonel and Mrs. Samuel R. James of Schenectady, the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Joseph France, Mrs. Emma Jourgensen, Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Beard, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon O. Williams, Mrs. John D. Lord of Baltimore; Miss Julia F Ayer, Miss Jennie Ayer, Miss Edith L. Ayer, Dr. and Mrs. Ira Ayer, Miss Mattie Jourgensen, Mr. and Mrs. William Disbrow, Miss Grace James, Clemence James.

Thoughts on the Family Traditions

There are many traditions about the family that are clearly not true. Some may have been simple mistakes in passing stories down from one generation to another and some are more likely false stories or lies. Here I will address many of the traditions.

William James was the youngest son of the Earl of Carmarthen:

There was never an Earl of Carmarthen and furthermore, no James has ever held a peerage. So, where did this story come from? I have it from notes from Alice Ayer Williams and Clementine Ayer Morse, granddaughters of William. The never knew him. He died just after Alice was born and before Clementine was born. I have no other source for the story. It could have been made up by William to help him in business or society. It could have been made up by one of the other family members as a joke. I doubt that Alice or Clem made it up.

Jane Francis James crossed the Atlantic 24 (or 18) times: Again, I have this from notes by Alice and Clem. The note says 24 times but Grandma remembers Alice always saying it was 18 times. My first thought on that is since the number is even, that means that she would have died in England or Wales. Unfortunately, I don't know where she died, but it was likely in Virginia. It's very likely that she maintained close ties with family members back home, but given the times and the family circumstances, it is hard to believe she could have made 24 passages. The passenger lists are fairly incomplete for that period. I can only find evidence of three trips and only one where she is listed in a passenger list. The trip are 1850 when the family arrived, 1855 when she sailed to Liverpool on the Lillies, and since she was in Richmond in 1860 she must have made at least one more trip. She may have made several more, but I think 24 is very unlikely. If she had made many more, I would think I could find her name on more passenger lists.

Jennie James Ayer was born while her mother was crossing the Atlantic: Tradition says that Jennie was born while Jane was crossing the Atlantic. Most censuses during Jennie's adulthood list her as being born "at sea". The censuses from 1851 and 1860 simply say England. The records at Greenwood Cemetery further state that she was born off the Virginia coast. Since the family was living in Wales in 1841 it's hard to see how Jennie was born at sea two years before. They didn't move to the Canada until 1850. 1839 was before steam ships and crossing the Atlantic could have taken more than a month in pretty harsh conditions. It is possible that Jennie was born at sea, but I doubt it.

The family was told to put their furniture in storage by their friends Robert E. Lee and his wife during the Civil War: One of the family traditions was that before the James family left Richmond the Lees told them to put their furniture in a warehouse instead of leaving it in the house. The

Thoughts on the Family Traditions

warehouse was burned and their house was untouched. This is a story that I have no reason to doubt or support. Nothing was mentioned in any of the letters about the condition of their house or even if they had a house. Nor was anything mentioned about knowing the Lees. And nothing was mentioned about furniture or any positions. However, according to Brad, the Lees moved to Richmond from Arlington during the war. Their address was 707 E. Franklin St., 5 blocks east of Linden Row.

I believe that the most likely situation is that the Lee and James family either did not know each other or barely knew each other. The recommendation may have been made in passing or the James family may have heard of the recommendation.

Samuel James escaped from Libby Prison during the Civil War:

As far as I can tell, this is purely fiction. The story comes from Alice who knew Samuel. Libby Prison was an infamous prison in Richmond for Union Officers held by the Confederate. Conditions there were horrible. But, what Libby Prison is most noted for is an escape in February 1864. The escape is almost word for word the same as the WWII movie "The Great Escape". How they built the tunnels and distributed the dirt and came up short and how most of the escaped prisoners were recaptured is virtually identical to the movie. The only thing is that at the time of the escape, Samuel hadn't been in the army for a year and a half. Also, Samuel was never listed as missing during the time he was enlisted. Maybe the story was confused with the story about Samuel's brother-in-law Edward Pollard who was in Castle Thunder, not too far from Libby Prison. But Alice never knew Edward Pollard and he didn't escape.

What is more likely is that this is a story that Samuel made up. I don't know why he would have made it up because Alice's mother and father would have known it wasn't true. It's hard for me to believe that Ira, an incredibly honest person, would go along with a story like this about the Civil War.

But what is even more amazing is that when Samuel died, his wife applied for a Civil War pension and in her application she said Samuel was enlisted for more than three years. I don't think she was trying to scam the Federal Government because they knew what Samuel's record was. Samuel must have lied to her.

Letters and Documents

Stansas



Figure 28 - The header of the poem Stansas

STANSAS
Written on board the "Lillies"
on a passage from St John NB for
Liverpool

In the "Lilies" from the port of "St John" we set sail.
Towed out by the steam boat, with a southerly gale,
Around the bluff headlands where the winds wildly blow
Away! far away! to the Eastward we'll go

||

Three cheers 'from the gallant ship soon rose on high
And rang through the vapour that obscured the sky,

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But twill soon clear away and Norwesters will blow
Bound away to the East ward in the "Lillies" we'll go,

III

Night soon came on and the winds wilder blew
We stood by and up our top gallants did clew
While the tempest tossed ship lay rolling to and fro
Bound away to the East ward in the "Lillies" we go

IIII

We beat down the bay for two days or more
Till the winds drove us down on the bold Yarmouth shore
Our foresail to pieces while we "ware ship" is rent
But another good sail in it's place soon is bent,

V

The wild "Petite "passage" lay under our lee
Either we must run through it or lost we shall be
Either we must run through it from the frost and the snow
Or away to the Eastward we never shall go

VI

So now then Lay aft-every soul of our crew
Stand by your "Clewgarnets" your mainsail up Clew
Jump start your main Jack and let your wheel flow
And flying away to the passage we go.

VII

We near it hope in each sailors heart now beats high
Alternately "luff" and "Keep away" is the cry
We clear it. We fly from the frost & the snow.
And in triumph away to the Eastward we go.

VIII

But still there Cape Sable looms out on our lee
Board your main tack and we'll stand out to sea
And now let the west winds more wildly blow
For before them in triumph to the Eastward we go

IX

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Still wilder and wilder the good west wind blows
Think our good starboard anchor is adrift from the boat
And our boatswain washed away with a wild [Gyfar - may be Gybe or Jibe **Geefor**
or Geefaw]
Still away far away far away to the Eastward we go

X

Our anchors secured we snugged every sail
And ran 'fore the fury of that western gale
Away from New Brunswick and the [ice] & the snow
In the wild Ocean "Lillies" to the Eastward we go

We run fore the fury of that western sea
Till our bulwarks are stove and life boats washed away
But the west wind is Blowing. so let each sheet flow
And away! far away! to the East ward we go.

Let her ride o'er the foam let her bend to the blast
Thirteen knots are counted as each hour is past
Blow good wind and we fly from the frost and the snow
And in triumph away to the East ward we go

But Hark! the ship popps she is struck by the sea
Our wheel is all smashed and taffrel rail washed away
Our foresail is split [Dump **Jump**] and up it blew
As flying wildly away to the Eastward we go

Lay aft with your tackles lay aft all our crew
Quick with your helm up before we come to
There away she goes off 'fore her deadly foe
Like lightning away to the East ward we go

These lines are most respectfully dedicated to the Captain & passengers of the ship "Lillies" and will be concluded on arrival in the Mersey.

- Clew-garnet is the tackle used to furl the lower square-sails.
- Boatswain is a noncommissioned officer or a warrant officer on a ship in charge of the maintenance of the vessel, its boats, and other equipment
- "Till the bulwarks are stave" means till the bulwarks are broken.
- Taffrel rail or taffrail is the rail around transom of a ship.

The Letter to the Father of Edwin B. Pier

Washington DC, 12th July 1862

Wm. B. Pier, Esqr.

Sir,

It has become my painful duty to communicate the final history of your Son Edwin B. Pier, a corporal in Co. I 10th Regt. Pa reserved Corps, who departed this life, for his sure and Eternal reward at 6:50 a.m. of this date 12th July 1862.

While you have to lament the loss of your good and brave patriotic Son from the happy circle of home and its tenderest associations, let it be remembered that not a Sparrow falls to the ground without the permission of the divine will; and much more So an immortal Germ. of Intelligence who is to ripen and enlarge in the being of "God" for ever. Sit on the throne in his Kingdom and adorn the Halo of his presence will Song in the highest relations of Son and Father! He my Sorrowing hearted Sire is passed away under Special appointment of Him whose will decides and speaks our destiny "Happy Soul thy days are ended" "Come up hither". Then all the work of redemption, and providence is accomplished, then the joy if full; the Garments washed White, the Crown prepared; and the command is given.

"Enter into my joy and Sit down on my throne"

Such, and more than words can Express in the limits of a Sheet. I can, with others testify to be the blessed position of Edwin B. Pier. He was wounded in the right arm on the 27th June, the shot passing through his Elbow and Shattering the Small Bone and tore out near the wrist, his arm being in bended position when the Ball Struck him a rifle or a Minnie Ball. (of these Battles I do not comment as papers are replete with such information but confine myself to the case of the Soldier) He had to March in the retrograde movement with his Shattered Arm Exposed to inclement weather to the James River, harassed and Wet, and privations which human history cannot justly reveal. On the 29th being Sunday he embarked on board a Jeansport to be removed to Washington; when on board the Small bone of his Arm was removed by Surgical operation, but from exposure and length of time, and combined circumstances incidental on War, inflammation had set in and when on his passage from Fortress Monroe on board the Steamer Louisiana. It was decided by the attending Surgeons necessary to Amputate the Arm above the Elbow accordingly. He with others arrived in Washington on the 4th July and was appointed to the 13th Street Hospital (I will here digress and describe to you the Hospital and his position in it. This is a large Baptist Church, and the Government has taken it with other Churches until the have enough, and the most Commodious; and have fitted them up most carefully for health and comfort in the most approved manner; we have in addition to this leading men, whom, by promoting the comfort of the wounded Soldier, gives a popular feeling and interest, So, that attendants from the best circles wait upon them day and night, and I will name the Hon Salmon P., Secretary of the Treasury, to whom your thanks, as far as human things are right, is especially due, for his personal attention to his laudable work, the Clerks

Letters and Documents

and their Ladies are fired with an unequaled zeal in aiding the wounded expiring patriot that does honor to the Country and the great cause it Sustains. By such powerful examples, much is done and your Brave Son received from the best and most tender hands unrelenting attention day and night, and I can assure you that never was more tenderness manifested by the dearest relations than was to your Son to the moment he expired. Doctors and Ladies always in attendance and no human Effort was Spared to restore him; but the author of his destiny is above us –and led him away-) To return it was our lot to be found nearer in relations to him than others, we live opposite this Hospital and when the wounded were brought in our duties were enlisted in their cause. Mrs. James is and Exceedingly Matronly Lady, has much experience and tenderness in the case of the Sufferer, and Edwin was always happy when She was in attendance, last evening we had conversation with him as it appeared for the last time, as Mrs. James was up the night before and a change of ladies was necessary. She left him with myself about 10 o'clock when we bid him our final farewell in his life, to meet again, in that "bright world". S.....issed him for his Mother. I called him by name, and he recognized me. Is it peace in Jesus? Yes. Are you upon the Rock? Yes. And so he smiled his farewell, and all hearts were softened and eyes suffused with Tears. He lingered till the time named in the preceeding Not a complaint or murmur escaped his lips, He was possessed of rare Christian fortitude, and endurance, when we knew his pains to be acutely Severe, all was well, no impatience. When I saw him first in his bed at the extreme end of the Hospital, most convenient for air and separate. I spoke to him on the subject of religion, he asked Mrs. James what profession I was. She told him I was a Methodist, from that time a near union was formed, and mutual confidence which can no where be found but in the family of Heaven, and I had every opportunity of knowing the State of his mind. I said to him a Short time after he was settled and as comfortable as he could be made Edwin. God will answer prayer, he has promised to give us what we ask him for, will you pray to be healed? No said he not unconditionally, I will only pray let the will of the Lord be done, he will do right. Beautiful and intelligent Submission, all his conversation I admired, it was not much, but good, he was. As brave and heroic, possessed with calm courage, fortitude, and endurance as ever stood in defiance of her cause; warm with the War blood of a Patriot in his heart, he was firm in the hour of Emergence without passion or malevolence, Kind to his f..... energetic in the cause of his Country laws for which. He ardently S.....edly died!

So farewell my unknown..... and I thank our heavenly Father permitted to Stand in a Parents pla..... those affectionate Survices in the last hours of our dear Son and Brother Edwin B. Pier. My private residence is 403 13th St. Washington, DC.

I remain yours Respectfully
William James

Edwin B Pier
Soldier in McClellans
Command Army Potomic

Letters and Documents

10th Regt. I Com of
Pa. R.C.
wounded 27th June
died 12th July 1862

Copy sent to Father
Wm B Pier, Esqr
Columbus Warren Co
Penna
By Wm James

Notes:

This is the letter that led to Ira Ayer, II and Jennie James meeting and getting married. Edwin B. Pier was in Ira Ayer's company and was also a fellow student at Allegheny. From *The Flag of the Allegheny College Civil War Company* by Jonathan E. Helmreich, College Historian, Allegheny College:

Company I's losses were the highest of any company in the tenth regiment. In reporting the death of Corporal Edwin Pier, who died as the result of the shattering of his right arm, Captain Ayer wrote eloquently of Pier as one of the most promising students of Allegheny College. Of fine mind and devout and refined feelings, he was a devoted Christian and an earnest patriot. He was an excellent Greek and Hebrew scholar, and spent much of his time while off duty in the reading of Greek Testament. Of modest deportment, he was as courageous as he was humble.

After hearing about how well Edwin was treated by the Jameses, Ira stopped to visit them when in Washington. That is when he met their daughter Jennie. They were married in December of 1863.

Salmon P. Chase was United States Secretary to the Treasury from 7 March 1861 until 30 June 1864. From Wikipedia

Chase articulated the "slave power conspiracy" thesis well before Lincoln did, and he coined the slogan "Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men." He devoted his enormous energies to the destruction of what he considered the Slave Power, the conspiracy of slave owners to seize control of the federal government and block the progress of liberty.

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The Letter to Mrs. Lincoln from Jane James

Washington D.C.
403 13th St
August 19th 1862

To the Honorable
Mrs. Lincoln.
Honored Madam,

May it please you to permit me the favor of addressing you, under some circumstances of embarrassment.

Upon my arrival in this City from Richmond I felt very desirous of Waiting upon You and the President to offer my warmest, truest, and most grateful thanks, for the President's Expression of Kindness toward my husband in the hour and time of his greatest trouble and trial, separated from his family for whose safety he suffered intensely deprived of the means for his support in his sorrowful and sad condition, he applied to the President at once received him kindly, heard and entertained his application, [Balsamed **Balsa med**] his wounded heart, gave him his Card by and through which he immediately received an appointment to the Treasury Department which position he holds today. It may afford the President some satisfaction to know that he had faithfully and satisfactorily performed all the duties assigned him.

Not any thing I can possibly say will convey our sense of gratitude as a family for such a manifestation of feeling and kindness.

I arrived in this City from Richmond in March with my Children having passed through much trial. The affliction of your Sweet Boy, prevented me waiting upon the President, to render him my grateful feeling. The Mournful Bereavement has ever, prevented me doing so, how sweet to contemplate seeing Your lovely Boy again in the lovelier form of a glorified Resemblance to the son of God, how his body lies Mouldering in the dust, but his Spirit in perfect life before God.

But you Miss him. Your sweet Willie.
Morning noon tide, and at Eve,
Fondest Memory clings around him,
Closer and yet closer [cleare],
Oh that Home of Sweet Reunion
Where Your parting will be ov'r
When in holy sweetest Union,
You shall miss him no, no more.

May I be permitted to say, You have had our deepest sympathy, while we too have been passing through deep affliction. We have been called to resign to the supreme Lord of Life and Death, our lovely son, cut off like an early bud as, its beauties began to unfold, but Alas! Alas! Under other and exceedingly more painful circumstances, than sweet Willie. The dark and Sullen Waters gathered over our lovely Boy. But his bright immortal Spirit winged its way to Realms of Joy our sweet Boy was drowned.

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Only

“Jesus knows our silent weeping.
“When before His throne we bow,
“Never Never is He Sleeping,
“Where He Reigns in glory now,
“If the world is dark before us,
“or its billow rolling o’er us,
“or our hearts with trouble filled,
“Hear Him, whisper peace be still.

While we remember our lovely son with all fondness, we forget not Him, who Committed him for a short Season to our charge, and has resumed the precious treasure, while we continue to pay a tribute of affection to the Memory of the loved dead, we endeavor not to withhold, the reasonable and commanded of Reverence and Resignation due to the loving God, our flower is not destroyed, but only removed to a better Soil, and Milder climate,

Honored Madam.

My Husband has written a poem expressly for your Album and with your permission will wait upon you Thursday Evening should you be pleased to receive it. You will confer a pleasurable favor.

With your further permission Honored Madam I intend sending some interesting account of some of our Brave Patriotic Soldiers in their Sickness and Death in the Hospital on 13th Street and [cloe] where Never Shall I forget such dying. Scenes I ever have, and ever shall feel it a privilege to have been with them.

I pray you will pardon my lengthy communication and suffer me only to say my family being a large family, and now depending entirely upon M^r. James’ salary of Twelve Hundred Dollars for annum, I have been and still am very anxious to receive employment too, I applied to Mr. Newton Chief of the Agricultural Bureau, that Gentleman received my application, with every possible respect and promised me writing or some other employment. I made application in April last but from some change taking place in that department, the regular proceedings have been interrupted. Is it too much Honored Madam for me to expect your interest with Mr. Newton, it would [bide] my application, and enable me to obtain Employment, of some description, without further loss of time, as I understand they are engaged in packing [secdle] in that department.

If I have requested anything not perfectly in accordance with yr feeling I pray [Jon **you**] will pardon me.

With very many wishes for the happiness of The President and his Family, May he continue to be sustained and supported, by that Divine Power, Council and [pridance] which he had ever depended upon, and which alone can sustain him, in these Momentous times, is the continual divine and prayer of Yr. Most Faithfully re

Jane F James

Ira's Father

Ira's father, Ira Sr., couldn't have had more different views on temperance and courting than Ira. In Ira Sr.'s memoirs "Reminiscences" he talks of meeting his first wife, Ira's mother.

I was on a visit to Sister Martha's in Hamburg and who should come around but the prettiest girl I had ever seen. As soon as I had opportunity I enquired of Sister Martha what girl that was? (This enquiry was made in a whispering tone of course) She told me she was their school teacher. So much the better, I thought in my own mind, and finally it was established to myself at least that she should be my wife some day if my efforts could bring it about, for she was my prettiest girl. As it happened she went out the same after noon to pick currants for tea, as a chance thing I happened to come around where she was picking, and said a few words suited to the occasion, and finally one word led to another, until I ventured to say I would be happy to call to see her sometime if she pleased. My prettiest girl with a slight blush and with hesitancy said if you please; the time was agreed upon that I should call. I was true to meet the engagement, and I found the girl was as true to meet me, at the time and place agreed on. Time passed on, I made frequent calls on my prettiest girl, for a few months, until the time of Marriage was agreed upon. I think it was December 26th 1828 that Julia Mariah became the wife of Ira Ayer.

Ira Sr. did all his courting himself. No third parties were involved. Ira decided he was going to marry her even before he introduced himself to her.

A story that Ira Sr. left out of Reminiscences would have shocked and horrified his son. This is probably why he left it out. Fortunately for us, Ira Sr.'s friend did not leave it out of his memoirs. The following excerpt is from a biography of Ira's friend Joseph Bennett³⁵ and takes place during the winter of 1823-4 when Ira was 21.

During this winter he and his friends came up with an idea for winter fun that was a little out of the ordinary. To carry it out, five yoke of oxen were produced by Joseph and three of his friends, Ira Ayer, James Reed, and "young Bates." Also produced was a quart of whiskey, to which was added a quart of molasses to make a large jug of blackstrap. A bag of some "johnnycake and dryed [sic] beef" was packed up, whether to ward off the effects of the cold or the blackstrap is not clear. A driver, one Harlow Rowley, was hired to ride, but would be required to walk with the oxen all night on the planned eight-mile round trip. His compensation would be fifty cents and unlimited blackstrap access.

"All arrangements being made," wrote Joseph, "we now ordered the driver to bring up the carriage." The harnessed oxen, forming a line nearly fifty feet long, were now brought to the door and the sled box filled with straw. There were no seats. Piling into the box with the jug, their provisions, and a five-foot long tin boat-horn, the revelers gave the orders to move on. "Away we went," said

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Joseph, "at the rate of 3 miles to the hour." The cold was intense, he recalled, but, burrowed into the straw, all were "comfortable and happy."

Driving west from today's Roat Acres area along the stump-filled lakeshore road, they stopped first at the house of town supervisor James Aldrich, near present-day Bennett Beach. One suspects that their stops were decided on the basis of whether young females were at home. They took "peaceable possession" of the Aldrich family home, remembered Joseph, the family seeming to "enter into the spirit" of the festivities. The family was reluctant, however, to enter completely into that spirit. "Had to almost force them to drink out of the jug," wrote Joseph, "but they did."

Heading back to their "sleigh" and their doubtless shivering driver, they moved on to the house of O. H. Dibble, Joseph's employer of the previous summer. "Mr. Dibble was not in the house but Mrs. Dibble entered into the spirit."

On we went. The snow being very deep, our driver became very tired and begged to ride. Would not have him in the sleigh with us but consented to let him ride astride the sled tongue. The passengers took turns at blowing the horn.

The merrymakers' next stop was at Whiting Cash's, near Point Breeze. "At all our stopping places they had large fires," recalled Joseph. "They were also very pleasant at this place, as at others." But at Cash's a serious accident befell the group: someone knocked over the jug of blackstrap. Ira Ayer drew cleanup duty, but the floor was reportedly already too dirty, pre-spill, for this operation to succeed. (The Cash family having a number of young children in a log cabin, wrote Joseph, the floor was not "in perfect order.") At 10PM they moved on to "old Mr. Cash's," where they found that the "2 Misses Cash" had tuned in. (By "old Mr. Cash," Joseph is presumably referring to William Cash, who was just over 60 at the time.) Upon the visitors' "strong and urgent requests," the Misses Cash got up to join in the revelry. "We had a nice time," wrote Joseph, "proved ourselves liberal with our refreshments."

Just after midnight, they turned their patient oxen homeward, four miles through snowy darkness, arriving home nearly two hours later.

Ira Sr. not only partook in the spirits, he was not against getting drunk. On top of that they took two young ladies in the sleigh with them. Contrast that with Ira Jr.

Eight years after Ira Sr.'s wife Julia died, he married a second time to Bessie Cronkite who was 38 years his junior and the same age as his kids.

The Letter to President Lincoln from William James

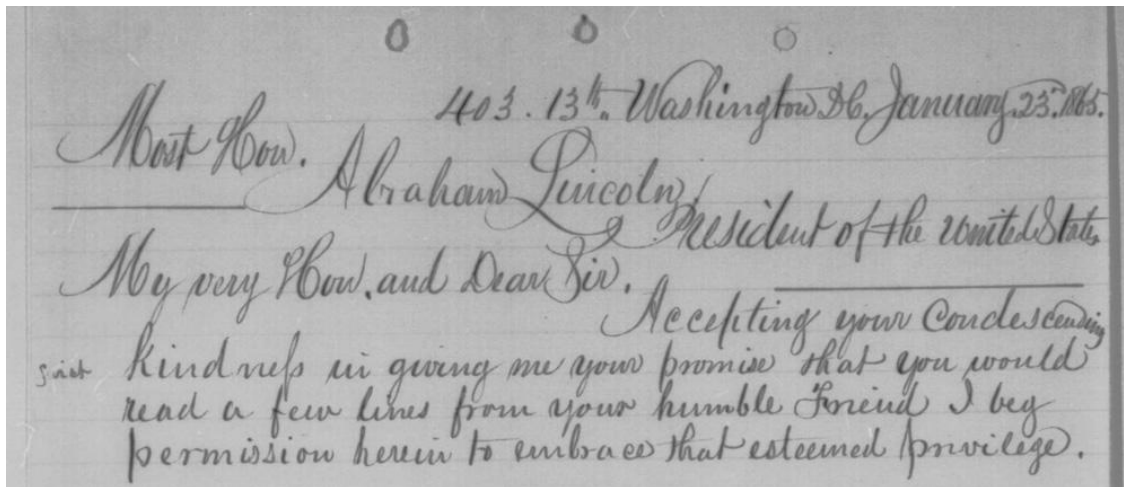


Figure 29 - Letter from William James to President Lincoln

403 13th Washington DC. January 23rd 1865

Most Hon.

Abraham Lincoln

President of the United States

My very Hon. and Dear Sir,

Accepting your condescending kindness
ingiving me your promise that you would read a few lines from your humble
Friend I beg permission herein to embrace that esteemed privilege.

There is a point which I hope you will permit me to notice, and that you will
regard; the same will ever seal upon my heart a sense my obligation to you
which will cherish that fidelity which neither life nor death can change.

I am not well enough provided for to keep the wolf from the door. I
therefore most earnestly solicit that you will consider an appointment for me as a
Collector of Revenue, or a Tax. or Pension Commissioner.

In support I can obtain the Virginia delegation, Senators Willey, Carlile,
Segar, Vanwinkle. Willey & Carlile know my devotion to the cause. (to the
Union) in Richmond at a great hazard. (but of John Carlile I do not seek any aid
we differ in politics) but of the others named I can obtain support in anything you
will please confer. And it will ever by my effort to please you by being faithful to
my charge.

And to you Sir in unfailing fidelity
I shall ever promptly obey and
affectionately regard
most truly
W^m James

P.S. Appended is a Brief Statement which may bequite a few leisure minutes.

WJ.

first

Letters and Documents

second

I hope, Sir, I shall never become in any way whatever obnoxious to your displeasure.

third

But positively, always regardful, and growing in your good pleasure.

The foundation of the expression is a firm innate ruling principle of Truth and duty, as a rule of practice, and cause of action demonstrating (as I have endeavoured to do) a decision of character toward you Sir, and the Nation at large, by joining, supporting, sustaining, and in fidelity declaring my allegiance to the Union Government and constituted by those acts of the Fathers whose deliberations were guided by divine inspiration, and thereby provided with a firmness, and wisdom equal to conform. Conform and indubitably seal a written Constitution, which is a sound and morally infallible constructive base for the organization of laws, adapted to perpetuate bonds indissoluble: progressive entanglement; Development of National, and industrial resources abundant for a growing people in all time; and also the intelligence of the human mind by education in Religion Belle Settre's, Science and Arts. . and every accomplishment whereby power can be increased by knowledge.

----- ("knowledge is power") -----

producing equal rights. Unanimity in the Union of States upon the universal principal – that well disciplined intelligence can be extended, and united under one General Government to the whole Estate of Mankind.

Such was understood, or at least was the intuitive principal governing the act of conceding the individual States Governments into one general constituted body by viva vow of their people; by which act they once and for ever placed upon the Alter piece (viz. the Constitution) their individual State's rights, and united in one Congress, one Grade, one degree; So that a common vote by a Majority Should decide and enact laws for the general good. And to which the minority were bound by a Solemn Act of Concession adjuring before the higher power of Heaven (to whom all things are subject) to united fidelity.

Sir, I have considered these things, and believe that the American Union Government is the one indorsed by Almighty Power for this Country (absolute)

fourth

I have been Americanized from my earliest life – associated with American Citizens, and Institutions, and from an innate love of Liberty in law, and Religion. I believed from my first ability to judge, that America was the Country for my issue to flourish, and hence with my Young wife, and Babe's I repaired hither.

fifth

In reference to **Slavery**. It would be impossible for me to indorse any action for its support, and not to act strenuously for its extermination; because I am religiously convinced of the Truth of the Doctrines of John Wesley, of which

Letters and Documents

denomination I am (as well as firm conviction) a flesh and blood member. And he denounced Slavery in the most unqualified manner.

Slavery to me, Sir, is the worm at the Root of the American Institutions!!!
Obliterate it – and the Union will progress and prosper, till the South Cape, and the Arctic Pole, with the Contingent Islands of the Atlantic and Pacific – will send representatives to Congress!
And the world will emulate!!!

My life was for some time of a Nomadic character as in the case most emigrants, but at length as if led by providence I settled in Virginia: Much as I had heard and read, I never had that repugnance to Slavery as when I saw it. – It was then if felt it – and witnessed it's demoralizing influence upon mental and physical resources of the most beautiful Country under Heaven which seemed to freeze my usual energies.

I have traveled and am associated with the unclouded Sky of Italy, and its rich productions: France and its general clime and resources: Holland with its uniform verdant Level: Belgium with its interior and rural character. England with its mercantile fame, Aristocratic pride, and agricultural resources. Wales with its peculiar Geological formation, and Mineral Stratas, and Basins. And the Green Isle (Erin). The Eastern parts of this Continent. – But with this panorama before me I am positive no such country is to be found.

I have rejected Australia with its Golden discoveries.
And It is here that I am come!

It was a pecuniary overthrow to me when the rebellion broke out, but withal, I regret not, nor shall if the sacrifice will leave to my issue (whom I present to you as all I can give as my perpetuating pledge) a clean, clear unmixed, and uncompromising free, and moral Government: Sir, you and I, will ere long Comparatively Stand on the platform of Eternal Realities: It has been my practice where, and when no eye could see but one, to offer my prayer for you , as so it is this day. “God bless the President” – !

Most respectfully
W^m James

Letters and Documents

P.S. I shall feel it a privilege to give a further relation of myself if it would be pleasing to you. W. J.

Recapitulation

| | |
|--------|---|
| First | My Apology and application for appointment |
| Second | My expression of respect and fidelity |
| Third | My political Sentiments, duty, truth, action, therein |
| Third | My decision of character, allegiance and |
| Third | My fidelity to the President and Government |
| Fourth | Americanized from early life |
| Fifth | Views and principals affecting Slavery |
| Sixth | Travels and comparisons of Country |

William James

Application for appointment
Expressions of –
Respect and Fidelity
Political Sentiments
Allegiance to the
President & Government
on Slavery
his religion
Travels and
comparisons
of Country

Notes:

Waitman T. Willey, John S. Carlile, and Peter van Winkle were Senators from West Virginia. West Virginia was formed from the northern and western counties of Virginia during the Civil War since they sided with the North. It was accepted into the Union in 1863. Willey was Senator from Virginia from 1861 until 1863 and from West Virginia from 1863 to 1871. Carlile was Senator from West Virginia from

Letters and Documents

John S. Carlile and Joseph Eggleston Segar were Senators from Virginia who was not allowed to serve during or after the war due to Reconstruction issues even though they were elected by Virginia's Loyalist Legislature. Carlile was Senator-elect from 1861 until 1865. Segar was Senator-elect from 1865. Segar later accused William James of misconduct. The interesting thing is that the only Senator-elect that William didn't mention was John C. Underwood who later became the Judge in Williams trial.

Belle Settre is French for Beautiful Letters.

Adjuring: commanding solemnly.

Indorsed: same as endorsed.

John Wesley is one of the founders of the Methodist movement. He is from England in the 18th century and spent some time in Savannah, Georgia. He was a firm believer in the abolition of slavery.

Verdant: with lush green growth.

Pecuniary: involving money or financial penalty.

Patents

In 1867, William was granted two patents. The first, granted on 8 January 1867 was for testing the proof of alcohol. The patent number is 61,072. This is related to one of the industries he was monitoring, Whiskey, but has little to do with anything I know he has done in the past. Remember that the jobs he held, as far as we know, are:

- Mine Merchant in Wales: probably sold mine equipment.
- Farmer in New Brunswick, Canada
- Baptist Minister Richmond: If he had been a minister it would likely have been a Methodist.
- Employee of the Treasury Department in Washington
- Tax Collector in Virginia.

Maybe he picked up some chemistry while in Wales. The patent is reproduced below.

On 23 February 1867 William applied for his second patent. This one was for the design of a support for a suspension bridge. The patent was granted on 16 April 1867 with the number 63,901. This one requires a Mechanical or Civil Engineering background. Again, the only place I could see him getting it would be back in Wales.

One thing I found interesting was that, at least the second patent was granted in less than two months. I've had one patent granted in six months, but most take between two and five years.

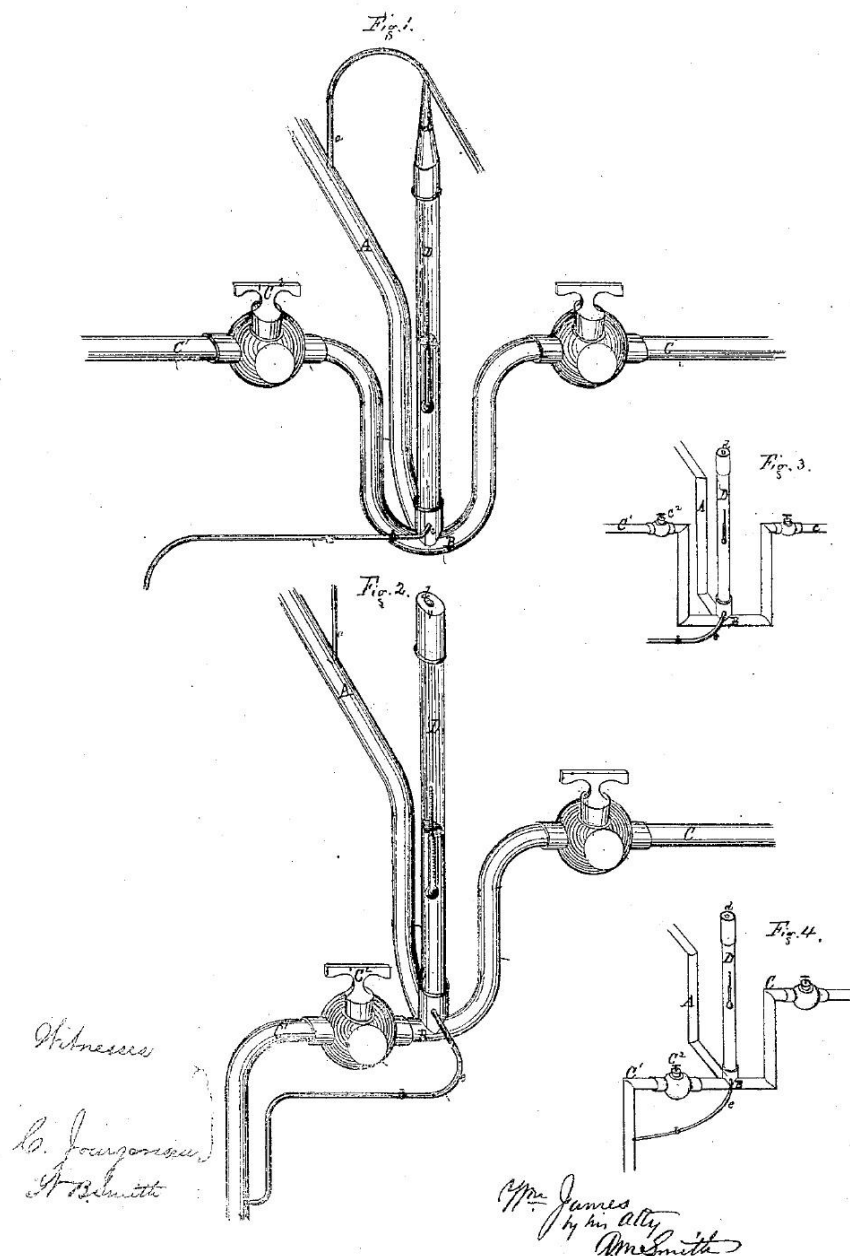
61,072 William James, Attachment for Stills to Test the Proof of Spirits

W. JAMES.

ATTACHMENT FOR STILLs TO TEST THE PROOF OF SPIRITS.

No. 61,072.

Patented Jan. 8, 1867.



United States Patent Office

WILLIAM JAMES, OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

Letters Patent No. 61,072, dated January 8, 1867.

IMPROVED ATTACHMENT FOR STILLS TO TEST THE PROOF OF SPIRITS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM JAMES, of Richmond, Henrico county, Virginia, have invented a new and useful apparatus for testing or indicating the strength or proof of spirits, which I call a Hydrostatic Pipe; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved apparatus.

Figure 2 is a similar view, representing a modification of the apparatus, with the low-wine pipe turned downward; and

Figures 3 and 4 are diagrams, also showing modifications in the form of the pipe, &c, hereinafter explained. Similar letters of reference denote corresponding parts in the several figures.

The object of my invention is to provide a means for ascertaining the strength or proof of spirits in its passage from the still, through the ordinary pipe by which it is conveyed to the tanks prepared for its reception; and to this end, it consists in forming a curve or bend in the pipe, and combining therewith at its lowest point, and in front of the upward bend or deflection, a glass tube, in which the liquor naturally rises to, and rests at the height of the elevated portion of the curved pipe, in its passage to the tanks, beyond the tube which contains the hydrometer, thereby affording a continual indicator, in a manner hereinafter explained. It further consists in the employment, in connection with the above, of certain valve or vent arrangements, whereby the formation of a vacuum is prevented, and a change of the spirits in the testing or indicator tube is effected, as hereinafter explained. In said drawings, A represents the end of the pipe proceeding from the still or condensing chamber, and which, in this instance, is connected to the lowest point of a bent pipe, B, the branches C C' of which are designed to convey the spirits to the high and low-wine tanks, as desired. C may represent the branch or arm which conducts it to the high-wine tank, and C' the one which connects with the low-wine tub or tank. The arm C is shown curved or turned upward from the point of connection of the pipe B to worm-pipe A, to any desired height, causing the spirits, in being forced into the high-wine tank, to rise and pass through each elevated portion of the pipe before it can escape into the tank. At or near the depressed or lowest point in the pipe, I attach a glass tube, D, containing the hydrometer, as shown in the drawing; said tube should be of a length sufficient to cause its upper end to rise considerably higher than the elevated portion of the pipe through which the liquor must pass, and the liquor, in being forced through the elevated portion of the pipe, is caused, naturally, to rise in the said tube to a level therewith. The tube D is provided with a valve or vent, *d*, which allows the escape of air or gas in the tube as the liquor rises therein; the still or worm-pipe is also provided with a small pipe or vent, *a*, in advance of the point of attachment to the indicator tube; this may be connected with the vent or valve *d*, in the manner shown in fig. 1, and the two, by allowing the free action of the atmospheric air from a point above the level to which the spirit rises, serve to prevent the formation of a vacuum in the indicator tube, and all danger of the bursting thereof is consequently avoided. These valves or vents may be provided with screens or other means for preventing the withdrawal of any portion of the spirits through them, or they may be extended, either separately, or after being united, as shown in fig. 1, and made to terminate in the tank-room, which is inaccessible except in the presence of a Government inspector, and all danger of an unauthorized removal or abstraction of spirits is obviated. The pipe C', which conducts to the low-wine tank, is shown in fig. 1, as arranged in a manner similar to the pipe C; and under this arrangement, the apparatus would indicate at all times, whether the high or low wines were passing, the strength of the spirits. But it only being necessary to know when the low wines are passing, for the purpose of separating them from the high wines, and running them off into the low-wine tank, to be returned and redistilled, this arrangement, in connection with the low-wine pipe is no longer needed, and the low-wine pipe or branch may consequently be turned downward, as shown by figs. 2 and 4 of the drawing; and the cock C², being turned to allow the escape to the low-wine tub, the tube D is emptied of its contents, and the hydrometer ceases to act until cock C² is closed and the liquor again rises in the arm C and tube D. *e* is a small vent or pipe at the bottom of indicator tube C', by means of which said tube may at any moment be emptied of its contents, should there be any apprehension that the liquor or spirits in the tube was not changing with the flow of the same through the main; this vent or pipe should be made to connect with the low-wine tub or tank, so as to prevent its being tampered with. The high and low-wine pipes

Letters and Documents

and vent pipe *e*, are provided with suitable cocks, whereby the apparatus is placed under the control of the attendant. The operation of the apparatus will be readily understood. The liquor is caused, in its passage from the still, to find in the glass tube its natural level, or, in other words, the same level with the point of its escape beyond the tube to the tank. The instrument known as Traill's hydrometer, which is generally used, or any ordinary instrument for indicating the strength or proof of the spirits, is placed in the tube, as indicated in the drawing. The advantages of the construction hereinabove set forth may be stated as follows, viz: The act of Congress dated July 13th, 1866, (Internal Revenue Laws,) prohibits distillers from access to the spirits, except in the presence of a Government inspector, and it becomes necessary, therefore, to provide some means whereby, without having access to the tanks, they may readily and at all times ascertain whether the high wines are passing, and when they are exhausted, in order that when so exhausted, and the low wines are found to be passing out, they may be immediately directed to the proper tank, from which they may be withdrawn for the purpose of redistillation. By the construction and arrangement hereinabove described, this object is attained, in a simple, effectual, and inexpensive manner, while at the same time all access to the spirits or tampering therewith is effectually prevented.

Having now described the principle of operation, together with one good, practical way in which my invention may be carried out, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the indicator-tube with the bend or depression in the pipe through which the spirits is conveyed, whereby I am enabled continuously to test the strength or proof of the spirits passing through said pipe, substantially in the manner and for the purpose described.

I also claim the arrangement of the valves or vent pipes, in combination with the still or worm pipe, and the indicator-tube for preventing the formation of a vacuum and equalizing the pressure, substantially as described.

I also claim the employment of the vent or discharge pipe, at or near the base of the indicator-tube, substantially as described.

WM. JAMES.

Witnesses:

CHRIS. JOURGENSEN,

NORMAN B. SMITH.

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Election results for Virginia Constitutional Convention³⁶

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

| No. | Election districts. | Names of candidates. | Whites. | Colored. | Total. | Plurality. |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1 | Richmond city (5 delegates.) | James W. Hunnicutt..... John C. Underwood..... James Morrissey..... Lewis Lindsey..... Joseph Cox..... Marmaduke Johnson..... N. A. Sturdevant..... William Taylor..... Thomas J. Evans..... Alexander H. Sands..... Scattering votes..... | 48 49 48 48 48 4,782 4,767 4,785 4,760 4,788 47 | 5,169 5,170 5,170 5,170 5,170 24 20 25 20 22 3 | 5,217 5,219 5,218 5,218 5,218 4,806 4,787 4,810 4,780 4,810 50 | 407 409 408 408 408 |
| 1 | Norfolk county and city of Portsmouth. (3 delegates.) | James H. Clements..... Luther Lee, jr..... George Teamoh..... William S. Butt..... F. W. Lemosey..... Daniel Collins..... N. R. Wilkinson..... W. J. Hodges..... H. A. Pierce..... Scattering votes..... | 126 117 74 1,203 1,086 837 370 2 2 4 | 2,643 2,643 2,145 2 2 236 765 268 | 2,769 2,760 2,219 1,205 1,088 1,073 370 767 270 4 | 1,564 1,555 1,014 |
| <i>Counties and cities electing two (2) delegates.</i> | | | | | | |
| 1 | Albemarle county..... | C. L. Thompson..... James T. S. Taylor..... William H. Southall..... Alexander Rives..... Scattering votes..... | 19 7 1,491 1,413 5 | 2,074 2,088 285 297 6 | 2,093 2,095 1,776 1,710 11 | 317 319 |
| 2 | Augusta county..... | Powell Harrison..... Joseph A. Waddell..... Charles D. Gray..... David Fulty..... Scattering votes..... | 1,626 1,631 229 226 19 | 9 9 1,024 1,024 | 1,635 1,640 1,253 1,250 19 | 382 387 |
| 3 | Bedford county..... | Gaston G. Curtiss..... David Staley..... Benjamin H. Moulton..... William V. Jardon..... | 48 49 1,631 1,618 | 1,877 1,877 23 23 | 1,925 1,926 1,654 1,641 | 271 272 |
| 4 | Campbell county..... | Samuel D. Williamson..... Samuel F. Kelsoe..... John C. Murrell..... Samuel D. Presland..... | 13 9 2,041 2,032 | 2,577 2,580 31 31 | 2,590 2,589 2,072 2,063 | 518 517 |
| 5 | Halifax county..... | William L. Owen..... David Canada..... William H. Watten..... Elisha Barksdale..... Gordon Garrett..... Joseph R. Holmes..... Bedford Gray..... Scattering votes..... | 788 10 72 1,042 3 6 | 470 2,550 1,176 147 150 127 429 7 | 1,258 2,560 1,248 1,189 150 127 432 13 | 10 1,312 |
| 6 | Loudon county..... | Narburne Berkeley..... George E. Plaster..... William Williams..... John G. Viall..... Scattering votes..... | 1,533 1,530 577 574 3 | 13 13 899 885 | 1,546 1,543 1,476 1,459 3 | 70 67 |

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

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| No. | Election districts. | Names of candidates. | Whites. | Colored. | Total. | Plurality. |
|-----|--|--------------------------|---------|----------|--------|------------|
| 7 | Mecklenburg county.... | Sanford M. Dodge..... | 1 | 2,547 | 2,548 | 1,679 |
| | | John Watson..... | 1 | 2,557 | 2,558 | 1,639 |
| | | Nathaniel Alexander..... | 808 | 61 | 869 | ..... |
| | | Albert Dodgson..... | 361 | 69 | 430 | ..... |
| | | Thomas Thrackson..... | 367 | 17 | 384 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes..... | 3 | ..... | 3 | ..... |
| 8 | Pittsylvania county.... | Levi C. Thayer..... | 68 | 2,684 | 2,752 | 1,383 |
| | | Herbert A. Wicker..... | 62 | 2,629 | 2,691 | 1,322 |
| | | Langhorn Scruggs..... | 1,318 | 51 | 1,369 | ..... |
| | | J. J. Lamkins..... | 1,054 | 42 | 1,096 | ..... |
| | | W. H. Wooding..... | 115 | 2 | 117 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes..... | 5 | ..... | 5 | ..... |
| 9 | Rockingham county.... | John C. Woodson..... | 1,038 | 10 | 1,048 | 447 |
| | | Jacob N. Leggett..... | 1,042 | 9 | 1,051 | 450 |
| | | John F. Lewis..... | 297 | 304 | 601 | ..... |
| | | George K. Gilmer..... | 241 | 304 | 545 | ..... |
| 10 | Norfolk city..... | Henry M. Bowden..... | 62 | 1,815 | 1,877 | 352 |
| | | Thomas Bayne..... | 9 | 1,768 | 1,777 | 252 |
| | | Gilbert C. Walker..... | 1,503 | 22 | 1,525 | ..... |
| | | Warren W. Wing..... | 1,471 | 6 | 1,477 | ..... |
| | | James H. Hall..... | 71 | 38 | 109 | ..... |
| 11 | Petersburg city..... | James H. Platt, jr..... | 53 | 2,423 | 2,476 | 1,315 |
| | | Peter G. Morgan..... | 52 | 2,422 | 2,474 | 1,313 |
| | | David May..... | 1,156 | 5 | 1,161 | ..... |
| | | J. P. Williamson..... | 1,138 | 5 | 1,143 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes..... | 3 | ..... | 3 | ..... |
| | <i>Counties electing one (1) delegate.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | Alexandria county..... | John Hawxhurst..... | 64 | 1,487 | 1,551 | 506 |
| | | Lewis McKenzie..... | 946 | 99 | 1,045 | ..... |
| 2 | Amelia county..... | Samuel R. Gray..... | 12 | 1,150 | 1,162 | 821 |
| | | C. R. Irving..... | 315 | 26 | 341 | ..... |
| | | Richard A. Anderson..... | ..... | 188 | 188 | ..... |
| 2 | Amherst county..... | John W. Broadus..... | 1,161 | 28 | 1,189 | 6 |
| | | J. C. Deane..... | 2 | 1,181 | 1,183 | ..... |
| 4 | Botetourt county..... | Lewis Linkenhoker..... | 790 | 8 | 798 | 147 |
| | | Robert L. Flaherty..... | 77 | 574 | 651 | ..... |
| 5 | Brunswick county..... | William Leahy..... | 15 | 1,641 | 1,656 | 1,172 |
| | | George W. Field..... | 480 | 4 | 484 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes..... | 3 | ..... | 3 | ..... |
| 6 | Buckingham county.... | Frank Moss..... | ..... | 1,535 | 1,535 | 887 |
| | | John Spencer..... | 623 | 25 | 648 | ..... |
| | | J. H. William..... | 282 | 13 | 295 | ..... |
| | | J. Hill..... | 98 | 6 | 104 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes..... | 4 | 8 | 12 | ..... |
| 7 | Charlotte county..... | Edward Nelson..... | ..... | 1,867 | 1,867 | 1,211 |
| | | Henry A. Carrington..... | 626 | 30 | 656 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes..... | 1 | | 1 | |
| 8 | Culpeper county..... | Fayette Mauzy..... | 858 | 18 | 876 | 60 |
| | | John M. Botts..... | 8 | 808 | 816 | |

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

| No. | Election districts. | Names of candidates. | Whites. | Colored. | Total. | Plurality. |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------|--------|------------|
| 9 | Cumberland county | John Robinson | 1,203 | 1,203 | 1,203 | 780 |
| | | J. H. McRae | 383 | 40 | 423 | ..... |
| 10 | Fairfax county | Orrin E. Hine | 240 | 909 | 1,149 | 360 |
| | | Mothone D. Ball | 777 | 12 | 789 | ..... |
| 11 | Fluvanna county | James D. Barrett | 2 | 851 | 853 | 50 |
| | | Abram Shepherd, jr | 774 | 29 | 803 | ..... |
| | | Scattering vote | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| 12 | Frederick county | Norval Wilson | 977 | 5 | 982 | 75 |
| | | David Tufton | 430 | 477 | 907 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 2 | ..... | 2 | ..... |
| 13 | Goochland county | William P. Moseley | 1,284 | 1,284 | 1,284 | 1,053 |
| | | Richard G. Banks | 157 | 74 | 231 | ..... |
| | | John S. Saunders | 193 | ..... | 193 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 3 | ..... | 3 | ..... |
| 14 | Hanover county | William James | 7 | 1,460 | 1,467 | 818 |
| | | Alfred Duke | 648 | 1 | 649 | ..... |
| | | William F. Wickham | 415 | 2 | 417 | ..... |
| 15 | Henrico county | George W. Swan | 4 | 1,514 | 1,518 | 1,065 |
| | | Massena Beasley | 452 | 1 | 453 | ..... |
| | | Franklin Stearns | 263 | 84 | 347 | ..... |
| 16 | Henry county | C. Y. Thomas | 182 | 901 | 1,083 | 758 |
| | | Lewis Gravely | 321 | 4 | 325 | ..... |
| | | Scattering vote | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| 17 | Louisa county | John B. Eastham | 72 | 1,592 | 1,664 | 1,120 |
| | | Henry W. Murray | 541 | 3 | 544 | ..... |
| 18 | Lunenburg county | Samuel Fuqua | 6 | 1,106 | 1,112 | 625 |
| | | D. C. May | 373 | 14 | 487 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 1 | 7 | 8 | ..... |
| 19 | Montgomery county | Adam H. Flanigan | 333 | 504 | 837 | 157 |
| | | Jonathan T. Evans | 678 | 2 | 680 | ..... |
| 20 | Nansemond county | William J. Parr | 6 | 1,056 | 1,062 | 318 |
| | | John D. Brittain | 744 | ..... | 744 | ..... |
| 21 | Nelson county | Adolphus W. Harris | 3 | 1,121 | 1,124 | 532 |
| | | C. T. Smith | 574 | 18 | 592 | ..... |
| | | Wm. C. Carrington | 223 | 6 | 229 | ..... |
| 22 | Nottoway county | William H. Robertson | 35 | 1,302 | 1,337 | 1,256 |
| | | A. B. Jones | 81 | ..... | 81 | ..... |
| 23 | Orange county | Frederick W. Poor | 4 | 981 | 985 | 294 |
| | | Uriel Terrill | 686 | 5 | 691 | ..... |
| 24 | Princess Anne county ... | Willis A. Hodges ..... | ..... | 807 | 807 | 198 |
| | | Francis M. Whitehurst | 608 | 1 | 609 | ..... |
| | | William A. Harding | 40 | 35 | 75 | ..... |
| 25 | Southampton county | John Brown | 1 | 1,242 | 1,243 | 838 |
| | | Luther R. Edwards | 405 | ..... | 405 | ..... |
| | | John Pretlow | 221 | ..... | 221 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| 26 | Wythe county | James Gibboney | 922 | 11 | 933 | 301 |
| | | William Marsh | 234 | 398 | 632 | |
| | | Scattering votes | 1 | | 1 | |

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

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| No. | Election districts. | Names of candidate. | Whites. | Colored. | Total. | Plurality |
|---|---|------------------------------|---------|----------|--------|-----------|
| <i>Election districts electing three (3) delegates.</i> | | | | | | |
| | Chesterfield and Powhatan counties. | Charles H. Porter | 16 | 3,088 | 3,104 | 2,004 |
| | | Samuel F. Maddox | 16 | 3,088 | 3,104 | 2,003 |
| | | James B. Carter | 15 | 3,088 | 3,103 | 2,003 |
| | | William W. Cosley | 1,098 | 2 | 1,100 | ..... |
| | | William H. Abel | 1,070 | 2 | 1,072 | ..... |
| | | Christopher C. McRae | 969 | 3 | 972 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 6 | ..... | 6 | ..... |
| | Caroline, King George, and Spottsylvania counties. | John L. Marye, jr. | 2,593 | 32 | 2,626 | 56 |
| | | Frederick S. C. Hunter | 2,589 | 33 | 2,622 | 52 |
| | | John J. Gravatt | 2,595 | 33 | 2,628 | 58 |
| | | Peter Couse | 54 | 2,516 | 2,570 | ..... |
| | | John H. Thomas | 54 | 2,516 | 2,570 | ..... |
| | | W. H. Stephens | 49 | 2,515 | 2,564 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 1 | 1 | 2 | ..... |
| <i>Election districts electing two (2) delegates.</i> | | | | | | |
| 1 | Accomac and Northampton counties. | Edward K. Snead | 48 | 2,188 | 2,156 | 445 |
| | | James C. Toy | 25 | 2,114 | 2,139 | 426 |
| | | E. P. Pitts | 1,706 | 5 | 1,711 | ..... |
| | | J. R. Reed | 1,689 | 5 | 1,694 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 10 | 3 | 13 | ..... |
| 2 | Bath, Highland, and Rockbridge counties. | William McLaughlin | 1,402 | 19 | 1,421 | 298 |
| | | Joseph Mayse | 1,410 | 18 | 1,428 | 305 |
| | | James M. Seig | 164 | 959 | 1,123 | ..... |
| | | George A. Baker | 135 | 967 | 1,102 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 47 | 42 | 89 | ..... |
| 3 | Carroll, Floyd, and Grayson counties. | William R. Dickey | 693 | 216 | 909 | 106 |
| | | F. A. Winston | 1,439 | 309 | 1,748 | 945 |
| | | John Walsh | 719 | 94 | 803 | ..... |
| | | Lewis F. Waltz | 726 | 2 | 728 | ..... |
| | | R. F. Carson | 718 | 3 | 721 | ..... |
| 4 | Fauquier and Rappahannock counties. | R. Taylor Scott | 1,899 | 16 | 1,915 | 242 |
| | | J. C. Gibson | 1,873 | 16 | 1,889 | 216 |
| | | R. H. Bashaw | 102 | 1,571 | 1,673 | ..... |
| | | Solomon Hoge | 105 | 1,550 | 1,655 | ..... |
| 5 | Northumberland, Lancaster, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties. | Ephraim Nash | 107 | 1,977 | 2,084 | 739 |
| | | Richard S. Ayer | 123 | 1,977 | 2,100 | 755 |
| | | F. A. Davis | 1,342 | 3 | 1,345 | ..... |
| | | W. F. Dunaway | 1,332 | 3 | 1,335 | ..... |
| 6 | Patrick and Franklin counties. | W. F. B. Taylor | 648 | 1,050 | 1,698 | 1,278 |
| | | M. F. Robertson | 327 | 800 | 1,127 | 707 |
| | | R. J. Webb | 409 | 11 | 420 | ..... |
| | | James Patterson | 357 | 2 | 359 | ..... |
| | | George Finney | 333 | 15 | 348 | ..... |
| | | Mordecai Cook | 278 | 1 | 279 | ..... |
| | | Daniel Flora | 109 | 4 | 113 | |
| | | Daniel Blevins | 67 | 112 | 179 | |
| | | G. L. Stone | 109 | 34 | 143 | |
| | | Scattering votes | 14 | | 14 | |

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

| No. | Election districts. | Names of candidate. | Whites. | Colored. | Total. | Plurality. |
|--|---|----------------------------|---------|----------|--------|------------|
| 7 | Prince Edward and Appomattox counties. | Edgar Allen | 1 | 2,305 | 2,306 | 1,309 |
| | | James W. D. Bland | 1 | 2,352 | 2,353 | 1,356 |
| | | F. N. Watkins..... | 973 | 24 | 997 | ..... |
| | | J. P. Fitzgerald..... | 888 | 12 | 898 | ..... |
| | | James Mickle..... | 146 | 17 | 163 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes..... | 2 | 8 | 10 | ..... |
| 8 | Prince George and Dinwiddie counties. | David C. Carr | 67 | 2,429 | 2,496 | 2,106 |
| | | William Reed | 68 | 2,429 | 2,497 | 2,107 |
| | | Isaac S. Keeler | 389 | 1 | 390 | ..... |
| | | Thomas H. Daniels | 93 | ..... | 93 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 2 | ..... | 2 | ..... |
| 9 | Lee, Scott, and Wise counties. | Andrew Milbourn..... | 901 | 126 | 1,027 | 21 |
| | | Charles Duncan | 1,278 | 33 | 1,311 | 305 |
| | | Joseph Culbertson..... | 879 | 127 | 1,006 | ..... |
| | | Patrick Hagan..... | 726 | 2 | 728 | ..... |
| | | William A. Taylor | 709 | 49 | 758 | ..... |
| 10 | Page and Shenandoah counties. | Moses Walton | 1,350 | 7 | 1,357 | 805 |
| | | George W. Rust | 1,352 | 7 | 1,359 | 807 |
| | | George Rye | 279 | 273 | 552 | ..... |
| | | Wade W. Hampton | 205 | 149 | 354 | ..... |
| | | Jacob Baker..... | 78 | 125 | 203 | ..... |
| 11 | Smythe and Washington counties. | Joseph T. Campbell | 1,915 | 13 | 1,928 | 650 |
| | | John H. Thompson..... | 1,900 | 13 | 1,913 | 635 |
| | | Gaylor G. Goodell..... | 550 | 728 | 1,278 | ..... |
| | | Henry C. White | 541 | 726 | 1,267 | ..... |
| <i>Election districts electing one (1) delegate.</i> | | | | | | |
| 1 | Alleghany, Craig, and Roanoke counties. | Hugh H. Lee..... | 859 | 14 | 873 | 101 |
| | | John W. Woltz..... | 141 | 631 | 732 | ..... |
| 2 | Charles City and New Kent counties. | Lemuel E. Babcock | 22 | 987 | 1,009 | 684 |
| | | Edmund D. Waddill | 321 | 4 | 325 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes..... | 15 | ..... | 15 | ..... |
| 3 | Clarke and Warren counties. | Joseph McK. Kennerly | 915 | 6 | 921 | 260 |
| | | Abram T. Beecher..... | 49 | 612 | 661 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes..... | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| 4 | Elizabeth City and Warwick counties. | David B. White..... | 34 | 1,683 | 1,717 | 1,71 |
| | | Joseph Segar | 5 | ..... | 5 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes..... | 12 | 2 | 14 | ..... |
| 5 | Gloucester and Matthews counties. | John W. Dixon..... | 76 | 1,054 | 1,130 | 215 |
| | | Baker P. Lee, jr..... | 911 | 4 | 915 | ..... |
| 6 | Isle of Wight and Surry counties. | William H. Andrews | 2 | 1,117 | 1,119 | 53 |
| | | George T. Clarke..... | 1,062 | 4 | 1,066 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes..... | ..... | 4 | 4 | ..... |
| 7 | King and Queen and King William counties. | Edward W. Massey..... | 19 | 1,488 | 1,507 | 812 |
| | | William R. Aylett..... | 690 | 5 | 695 | ..... |
| 8 | Madison and Green counties. | Robert S. Beasley..... | 947 | 62 | 1,009 | 252 |
| | | Richard B. Sullivan..... | 44 | 713 | 757 | ..... |
| 9 | Middlesex and Essex counties. | William Breedlove..... | 3 | 1,402 | 1,405 | 749 |
| | | William G. Jeffries..... | 653 | 3 | 656 | |

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Letters and Documents

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

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| No. | Election districts. | Names of candidate. | Whites. | Colored. | Total. | Plurality. |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|---------|----------|--------|------------|
| 10 | Pulaski and Giles counties. | Eustace Gibson | 573 | 4 | 577 | 248 |
| | | Joseph H. Winston | 25 | 304 | 329 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 4 | ..... | 4 | ..... |
| 11 | Russell and Buchanan counties. | George R. Cowan | 368 | 3 | 371 | 43 |
| | | William J. Dickenson | 250 | 78 | 328 | ..... |
| | | Robert P. Vickers | 119 | 77 | 196 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 50 | ..... | 50 | ..... |
| 12 | Stafford and Prince William counties. | B. F. Lewis | 1,110 | 12 | 1,122 | 546 |
| | | Isaac P. Baldwin | 136 | 440 | 576 | ..... |
| 13 | Greenville and Sussex counties. | Peter K. Jones | 5 | 1,344 | 1,349 | 1,018 |
| | | T. A. Fields | 330 | 1 | 331 | ..... |
| | | J. W. Grant | 1 | 251 | 252 | ..... |
| | | Pierson Jones ..... | ..... | 93 | 93 | ..... |
| | | J. H. Shelton | 57 | ..... | 57 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 11 | 11 | 22 | ..... |
| 14 | Bland and Tazewell counties. | James Milton French | 780 | 3 | 783 | 434 |
| | | Adam Clarke Waggoner | 146 | 203 | 349 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 6 | ..... | 6 | ..... |
| 15 | James City and York counties. | Daniel M. Norton | 8 | 1,398 | 1,406 | 1,190 |
| | | Edmund C. Darlington | 211 | 5 | 216 | ..... |
| | <i>Counties together electing one (1) delegate.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | Alexandria and Fairfax counties. | Lewis M. Nickerson | 382 | 2,444 | 2,826 | 1,128 |
| | | Edward Snowden, sr. | 1,654 | 44 | 1,698 | ..... |
| 2 | Amherst, Buckingham, and Nelson counties. | J. Henry Williams | 2,128 | 141 | 2,269 | 1,146 |
| | | Douglas J. Harris ..... | ..... | 1,123 | 1,123 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 135 | 11 | 146 | ..... |
| 3 | Campbell and Pittsylvania counties. | William H. Lydeck | 45 | 4,270 | 4,315 | 957 |
| | | Robert E. Withers | 3,268 | 90 | 3,358 | ..... |
| 4 | Charlotte and Halifax counties. | Joseph R. Holmes | 3 | 3,681 | 3,684 | 1,828 |
| | | Wood Bouldin, jr. | 1,738 | 128 | 1,856 | ..... |
| | | Gordon Garrett | 1 | 215 | 216 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 11 | 160 | 171 | ..... |
| 5 | Hanover and Henrico counties. | Burwell Taler | 7 | 2,043 | 2,050 | 536 |
| | | John Bacon Crenshaw | 1,412 | 102 | 1,514 | ..... |
| | | Scattering votes | 1 | ..... | 1 | ..... |
| 6 | Augusta, Albemarle, and Louisa counties. | James C. Southall | 3,344 | 276 | 3,620 | 44 |
| | | F. S. Tukey | 201 | 3,375 | 3,576 | ..... |
| | | William F. Gordon, jr. | 283 | 135 | 418 | ..... |
| | | T. W. Savage ..... | ..... | 149 | 149 | ..... |

Letters and Documents

Murders and Outrages reported on by Ira Ayer

After getting out of the army in 1868, Ira Ayer started reporting on “Murders and Outrages” committed on freed slaves. Here is a list from the [Freedmen’s Bureau website](#).

No. of case: 30. **On whom committed:** Freedman. **White or colored:** ---. **By whom committed:** Leroy Mallory. **White or colored:** white. **Where:** Hanover Co., Va. **When:** June 1868. **By whom reported:** Ira Ayer Jr. A. S. A. C. **Character of the outrage and action in the case:** Report under Cir. 10 for mo. ending May 31st/68. Assault and battery on Freedman by Mallory. Case tried before two Magistrates, Wm. Carpenter and Dr. Rd. Berkley. Case dismissed and costs thrown on plaintiff. From evidence the decision was most unjust and in violation of law and evidence.

Sworn statement of plaintiff with names and addresses of witnesses sent to Military Commissioners.

No. of case: 54. **On whom committed:** John Lewis. **White or colored:** colored. **By whom committed:** Robert Doswell. **White or colored:** white. **Where:** Hanover Co., Va. **When:** Aug. 10, 1868. **By whom reported:** Ira Ayer Jr., A. S. A. C. **Character of the outrage and action in the case:** H. 220 R. F. & A. L. Va., 1868, dated Aug. 19th, 1868. Reports murder of Lewis by Doswell. Lewis was an old family servant of the Doswell family and aged 65 or 70 years. It appears that Lewis gave some directions to some of hands working in the garden which young Doswell considered an assumption of authority and resented. After some words Doswell struck Lewis on back of head with a hoe from which he died almost instantly. A coroners inquest was called and brought a verdict that the deceased came to his death substantially as above stated, but that the deed was committed "without malice or premeditation." A preliminary trial was held before Justice J. A. Smith, who committed the accused to bail in the sum of \$2000. Forwarded to Hd. Qrs. 1st Mil. Dist. Aug. 22nd, 1868 requesting arrest of Robert Doswell by the Military Authorities.

Referred from Hd. Qrs. 1st Mil. Dist. Aug. 22/68 to Attorney Genl. Ste. of Va. to know if the offence is bailable. Returned to Mil. Head Qrs. by Atty. General stating that the offence in his opinion was bailable. Returned to Asst. Comr. Aug. 30, 1868 inviting attention to endorsement of Attorney General Ste. of Va. Filed.

Ira Ayer Jr., A. S. A. C. Reports under Cir. 6 for month ending Aug. 31, 1868. Reports further on Doswell case and encloses certified copy of verdict of coroner's jury by clerk of County Ct.

Ira Ayer Jr. A. S. A. C. H. 345 R. F. & A. L. Va., dated Dec. 11, 1868. Submits report in case of Robert Doswell giving evidence to show that Doswell was insane and upon which plea he was acquitted. Filed.

W. A. Coulter, A. A. A. Genl. LS 813, R. F. & A. L. Va., dated Dec. 17, 1868. Addresses Ira Ayer Jr. A. S. A. C. and calls for report of full names of Justices trying this case, and their disqualification, if any, under the 14th amendment to the Constitution of the U. S.

No. of case: 78. **On whom committed:** Anthony Pierce. **White or colored:** colored. **By whom committed:** Civ. authorities. **White or colored:** -----. **Where:** Hanover Co., Va. **When:** Sept. 1868. **By whom reported:** Ira Ayer Jr., A. S. A. C. **Character of the outrage and action in this case:** Report under Cir. 6 for mo. ending Sept. 30th, 1868. Reports that James D. Benson (white) was sentenced to one hour in Jail and \$50 fine for stabbing Pierce.

Jany. 1867. Ira Ayer Jr. Report under Cir. 6 for mo. ending Feb. 28, 1867. Reports stabbing of Anthony Pierce (colored) by James D. Benson (white). Wound about 3 inches long and 4 inches

Letters and Documents

deep. Assault unprovoked. Pierce formerly belonged to the 1st US C. C. which fact was known, and is believed to have been the cause of the assault. Filed.

No. of case: 86. **On whom committed:** Robt. Winston. **White or colored:** colored. **By whom committed:** Civil authorities. **White or colored:** white. **Where:** Hanover Co., Va. **When:** Dec. 12th, 1868. **By whom reported:** Ira Ayer Jr., A. S. A. C. **Character of the outrage and action in this case:** H. 33, R. F. & A. L., Va. 1868, dated Dec. 12th, 1868. Reports that in January last, Winston rented a house and lot of Thos. Stanley at \$30 per year - he also rented of the same person some land, he to pay 1/4 of crop and find one horse. A Mr. Mark Harlow had been renting some land from Stanley, occupying a house & lot, for which he paid no extra rent, each finding a horse and dividing the crop equally. After Winston had entered into the contract, Stanley sent him word by Harlow that if Winston was willing they would annul first contract, and he might cultivate the place on the same terms as Harlow. To this proposition Winston agreed & each found a horse & the crop was satisfactorily divided about December 1st, 1868. Winston states that up to that time he understood he was to pay no extra rent for the house and that Stanley had never called on him for rent, altho by the first contract \$15 was due the latter part of June. Stanley demanded rent and was refused. When asked why he charged rent he told Winston that it was because he had not made as large a crop as anticipated. Stanley brought suit for \$15, which was given against Winston. The property of Winston has been attached by the Constable and he appeals to the Military for protection. Forwarded to Col. Chalfin, A. A. Genl. 1st Mil. Dist., Dec. 17th, 1868 requesting reference of the within to the proper Mil. Comr.

No. of case: 87. **On whom committed:** Jacob Powell. **White or colored:** colored. **By whom committed:** Robert F. Rice. **White or colored:** white. **Where:** Hanover Co., Va. **When:** Nov. 23rd, 1868. **By whom reported:** Ira Ayer Jr. A. S. A. C. **Character of the outrage and action in this case:** Reports under Cir. 6, Series 1866 for mo. end. Nov. 30/68. Reports that Rice shot two colored men, one on purpose the other accidentally, that he afterwards gave himself up, and was committed in default of bail for \$500. Extract of report returned to Ira Ayer Jr. Dec. 3rd, 1868 for the names of the colored men injured and a more explicit report of the within case.

Ira Ayer Jr., A. S. A. C. H. 346, R. F. & A. L. Va. 1868, dated Dec. 10/68. Reports fully on above case, and states that Rice was employed by Major Archer, that he went to the kitchen premises to eat his breakfast, that after eating he was sitting by the kitchen fire, preparing to smoke, when Jacob Powell, colored, entered and kneeling down between a col'd man & woman presently remarked in a jocular way that he could "knock down any man in the room." Rice got up, walked into middle of room and said "come out here" - after a few passes Powell knocked Rice against the wall, when the latter became enraged, seized an axe and drew it as if to strike Powell - here the other colored men interfered and begged Rice not to strike. Rice went out to a pile of bricks and took up one and threw it at Powell; he then went to a building where he procured a shot gun, which was loaded. Returning with this, he saw Powell standing in the door of the kitchen and immediately drew and fired at him. Several shot struck Powell, one in the eye destroying his sight - with this exception he has recovered. The other colored man was also hit, but not materially injured. After the shooting Rice went immediately and gave himself up to Dr. T. G. Lumpkins, J. P., stating that he had shot Powell intentionally &c. At the November term of the County Court that Grand Jury found a true bill against Rice for shooting Powell. At the trial the counsel for the defence appealed to the prejudices of the Jury-Rice was "an ex-confederate soldier," a "Virginia Gentleman," a "white man," that Powell was a "nigger" &c. The jury found Rice guilty of unlawful shooting and sentenced him to one cent fine and 12 hours confinement in the County jail.

W. A. Coulter, A. A. A. Genl. L. S. 813, R. F. & A. L., Va., dated Dec. 17, 1868. Addresses Ira Ayer Jr., A. S. A. C. and calls for a report of full names of Justices trying this case, and their disqualification, if any, under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the U. S.

No. of case: 89. **On whom committed:** Jack Parker. **White or colored:** colored. **By whom committed:** Civil auth. **White or colored:** ----- **Where:** Hanover Co., Va. **When:** Nov. 1868. **By**

Letters and Documents

whom reported: Ira Ayer Jr. A. S. A. C. **Character of the outrage and action in this case:** H. 349, R. F. & A. L. Va., dated Dec. 14th, 1868. Civil authorities at November term of Court refused to find a true bill against Peter McGhee (white) for stabbing Parker. Gives particulars of case. Forwarded to Col. Chalfin A. A. Genl. 1st Mil. Dist., Va., Dec. 23rd, 1868.

No. of case: 90. **On whom committed:** Andrew Jackson. **White or colored:** colored. **By whom committed:** Calvin Bullock. **White or colored:** white. **Where:** Hanover Co., Va. **When:** Dec. 1868. **By whom reported:** Ira Ayer Jr., A. S. A. C. **Character of the outrage and action in this case:** H. 350, R. F. & A. L., Va., dated Dec. 15th, 1868. Reports beating of Jackson by Bullock over the head with a stick. Case has been referred to a Magistrate. Filed.

Article About Ira Ayer and the Tin-Plate Industry

New York Times, December 15, 1891:

COL. AYER'S TIN-PLATE FIGURES.

HIS SYSTEM FOR SECURING REPORTS OF THE "INDUSTRY."

Col. Ira Ayer, special agent appointed by Secretary of the Treasury Foster to collect statistics on tin plate, has begun sending out requests for information on that subject. He said yesterday that he expected to have some official information, which he would forward to the Secretary about Jan. 1.

Mr. Ayer has headquarters at the Public Stores. He has recommended to the Treasury a system of reports to be made quarterly. Col. Ayer explained that this work was being done in order that the Government might have information on which to act on that provision of the McKinley tariff law which provides that

"On and after Oct. 1, 1897, tin plates and terne plates lighter in weight than 63 pounds per 100 square feet shall be admitted free of duty, unless it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the President (who shall thereupon by proclamation make known the fact) that the aggregate quantity of such plates lighter than 63 pounds per 100 square feet, produced in the United States during either of the six years next preceding June 30, 1897, has equaled one-third of the amount of such plates imported and entered for consumption during any fiscal year after the passage of this act and prior to said Oct. 1, 1897, provided that the amount of such plates manufactured into articles exported and upon which a drawback shall be paid shall not be included in ascertaining the amount of such importations."

The statistics which Col. Ayer is after include points enough to settle all the questions which may be raised under this section. He has recommended to the department for adoption a system of reports which prescribe that the forms of invoice shall embrace the brand, number of boxes, size, number of sheets per box, weight of box, total weight, quantity lighter than 63 pounds per 100 square feet, and 63 pounds and over per 100 square feet. Statements from all the rolling mills showing the names of the manufacturers to whom sheet iron and steel have been sold will be asked for. The stamping companies will then be asked to make affidavits as to the amounts which have been stamped into articles and afterward tinned or terne plated.

Mr. Ayer said yesterday that he had received reports from the "Tinned Plate Manufacturers' Association of America," which gave the names of concerns engaged in making tinned plate and those which were preparing to do so.

"Will these reports be used in making the official statement to the Government?" he was asked.

"No, they will not," he said. "In making the report to the Treasury nothing will be considered except the sworn statements of the parties making the goods."

The list of concerns counted by the association as engaged in the "tin-plate industry" makes an imposing array—on paper. It includes twenty-three firms. An examination of this list, however, shows that the greater proportion are still doing a business in "futures." The total capacity of these plants, which are to be completed "soon," or which "propose to make tinned plates," is put down by the association at 300,000 boxes a week, which is regarded as a very comfortable figure by those whose enthusiasm on the subject has led them to earn a reputation as "tin-plate liars." Closer examination of this same summary of the association shows that the statement is made that only five of the twenty-three concerns are actually making tinned or terne plates. The five, on their own showing, have a capacity of 3,150 boxes per week, which is said to be barely enough for samples for use in the trade.

Links

Links

Library of Congress

Letter from [William James to President Lincoln](#) or go to www.memory.loc.gov, enter William James in the search box and find the first response.

[William's Appointment](#) from the Library of Congress's [A Century of Lawmaking](#) website.

Links for William's removal [here](#) and [here](#) from the Library of Congress's [A Century of Lawmaking](#) website.

Links for William's reinstatement [here](#) and [here](#) from the Library of Congress's [A Century of Lawmaking](#) website.

Links for Patents:

Links to see the source of the patents are:

For the [Alcohol Proof Tester \(61,072\)](#) and for the [Bridge \(63,901\)](#)

Endnotes

Endnotes

- ¹ The number 24 comes from notes from Jane's granddaughters Alice Ayer Williams and Clementine Ayer Morse. However, Grandma says Alice always said it was 18 times.
- ² Civil War Pension Application for Samuel R. James.
- ³ Civil War Pension Application for Samuel R. James.
- ⁴ This is from a copy of a letter that Jane Francis James wrote to Mrs. Lincoln on 19 August 1862. In it she told of losing a child to drowning. At that time her other seven children were still alive. The letter is transcribed in this document.
- ⁵ Birth Record, Recorded ????? 1845, Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales.
- ⁶ Birth Record, Recorded ????? 1847, Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales.
- ⁷ Birth Record, Recorded 23 April 1849, Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales.
- ⁸ New York State Men: Biographic Studies and Character Portraits. Frederick S. Hills, Compiler Editor; The Argus Company, Albany, N.Y., 1910 (<http://www.darcisplace.com/darci/james.htm>)
- ⁹ James William, Letter from William James to President Lincoln, 23 January 1865.
- ¹⁰ New York State Men: Biographic Studies and Character Portraits. Frederick S. Hills, Compiler Editor; The Argus Company, Albany, N.Y., 1910 (<http://www.darcisplace.com/darci/james.htm>)
- ¹¹ Johnson, Robert Underwood, and Buel, Clarence Clough, "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Volume 2", The Century Company, New York, 1887
- ¹² Bates, Samuel P., "Martial Deeds of Pennsylvania", PHILADELPHIA: T. H. DAVIS & CO., 1876
- ¹³ Bates, Samuel P., "Martial Deeds of Pennsylvania", PHILADELPHIA: T. H. DAVIS & CO., 1876
- ¹⁴ Bates, Samuel P., "Martial Deeds of Pennsylvania", PHILADELPHIA: T. H. DAVIS & CO., 1876
- ¹⁵ Ayer, Ira, Jr. Civil War File, National Archives.
- ¹⁶ Price, Angel, "Whitman's *Drum Taps* and Washington's Civil War Hospitals", <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~CAP/hospital/whitman.htm>.
- ¹⁷ Virginia Marriages on Microfilm at the Virginia State Library.
- ¹⁸ 1900 Census for Edward B. Pollard, 1900, Washington, D.C. and the letter from Jane F. James to Clemm dated 8 July 1865 where she refers to Annie's child as being 9 months old.
- ¹⁹ 1900 Census for Washington, D.C.
- ²⁰ 1910 and 1920 Censuses for Upland, PA.
- ²¹ Records of trial on file at the National Archives in the Philadelphia office.
- ²² "The Petersburg Index" Newspaper, Petersburg, Virginia, 27 April 1868, Page 2.
- ²³ From "Annual Report of the Secretary of War, Volume 1, 1867", [pages 401-9](#).
- ²⁴ Wikipedia "Constitution of Virginia"
- ²⁵ Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York, Cemetery Plot.
- ²⁶ 1880 census says Emma Jougensen was born in New York around 1875.
- ²⁷ Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York, Cemetery Plot.
- ²⁸ Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York, Cemetery Plot.
- ²⁹ New York State Men: Biographic Studies and Character Portraits. Page 170, Frederick S. Hills, Compiler Editor; The Argus Company, Albany, N.Y., 1910
- ³⁰ Shalf, Rosanne Groat, "Ashland, Ashland", Brunswick Publishing Corporation, 1994
- ³¹ The Jerseyman, Morristown, NJ, Friday December 18, 1885 – Page 3, top of 2nd column
- ³² New York Sun, March 1, 1888
- ³³ The Jerseyman, March 16, 1888
- ³⁴ Wikipedia "[Great Blizzard of 1888](#)"
- ³⁵ Siepel, Kevin H., "Joseph Bennett of Evans and the Growing of New York's Niagara Frontier", Spruce Tree Press; First edition (November 1, 2006)
- ³⁶ From "Annual Report of the Secretary of War, Volume 1, 1867", [pages 401-9](#).