

Green Buren Adair

ONE naturally associates the Adair name with Scotland, because of the prominence of the Adair family in the southwestern part of Scotland. Good authorities, however, agree that the name was of Norman origin, coming into England after the Norman conquest, and then a branch of the family settling in Ireland in the year 1170, in what is now Queens county. Later, another branch settled in Scotland, and descendants of that family settled in County Antrim, Ireland. The original Irish family sent offshoots into County Monaghan and into County Limerick. Robert Adair, the hero of the well-known song under the name of Robin Adair, is said not to have been a Scotchman but an Irishman. Another Robert Adair was knighted by William III., in 1690. In 1711, John Adair came from Ireland to Laurens county, South Carolina, and became the progenitor of a majority of the southern Adairs. In 1790, there were but nineteen families of this name in the United States, of which eleven were in South Carolina and one in North Carolina. In 1744, James Adair, probably a son of John Adair, the immigrant, took up the vocation of Indian Trader among the southern Indians, making his headquarters with the Chickasaw Indians, and for the next thirty years was the best authority on the southern Indians in the country. In 1775, he published in London a history of the Indians, which was for long years the authority on their manners, customs and traditions.

John Adair, born in 1758 in South Carolina, emigrated to Kentucky, was active in military service, served as United States Senator in 1805, commanded the Kentucky troops at the battle of New Orleans, in 1815, was made a General in the army, was Governor of Kentucky from 1820 to 1824, Representative in the Twenty-second Congress, died in 1840, and buried at Frankfort. Contemporary with this John was another John, who was a captain in the Revolutionary Army, the father of Captain James, who in turn was the father of Green B. Adair, the subject of this sketch.

There is a northern family, which contributed two officers, James and John Adair, to the northern army during our late Civil War—both of whom attained to the rank of General—one of whom, Gen. John Adair, was alive and a resident of Astoria, Oregon, in 1893.

Captain James Adair, son of the Revolutionary Captain John, settled in Talladega county, Alabama, and there was born to him, on July 17, 1835, a son, A. D. Adair, and on Nov. 3, 1837, another son, Green B. Adair, the subject of this sketch. Both of these sons have been for a generation prominent and honored citizens of Atlanta. In addition to these two sons, there were seven other children: Jefferson Haden, Hamilton Weyman, Walter Dean (sons), Emily Tinsley, Amanda Jane, Martha Susan and Sarah Alabama (daughters). All of these lived to maturity, and have occupied honorable positions in their respective communities; and the family bond between them has been through life uncommonly strong.

Mr. Green B. Adair, as a boy of fourteen, joined the Tallaseehatchie Baptist Church, and has been a consistent member of the Baptist Church for sixty years.

Upon the outbreak of the war, a young man of twenty-three, he promptly left his father's plantation as a volunteer in the Confederate armies, and April, 1861, found him in Virginia as a member of the Tenth Alabama Regiment, commanded by Colonel J. H. Forney, attached to Wilcox's Alabama Brigade, Mahone's Division of A. P. Hill's Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. For four long years Mr. Adair followed that immortal army in its career of undying glory, from Williamsburg to Richmond, from Richmond to Manassas, from Manassas to Sharpsburg, from Sharpsburg to Fredericksburg, from Fredericksburg to Gettysburg, from Gettysburg to the Wilderness, from the Wilderness to Petersburg, from Petersburg to Appomattox. He participated in all of the tremendous conflicts of these wonderful campaigns, and on the final day, at Appomattox, was one of the sixteen surrendered out of the original company of one hundred and forty-six.

In May, 1865, the young soldier who had endured the stress of these dreadful four years, and had been fortunate enough to escape with several wounds, which, however, were not serious,

returned to the desolated South to take up the duties of peace. The steadfastness of spirit which had enabled him to stand firm amid all the woes and discouragements and carnage of four years of such strife as the world had never—up to that time—seen, stood him in good stead when he had to meet the adversities which had overtaken his beloved country.

Coming to Atlanta, in November, 1865, he established a wholesale commission business in partnership with his brother, A. D. Adair. They were associated together for thirty-five years, and during those thirty-five years they were not only prominent merchants, but factors in that wonderful growth which built Atlanta from a heap of fire-swept ruins to be the Metropolitan City of the South. The firm of Adair Bros. was not only prominent in a business way, but, as might have been expected from their antecedents, the members of the firm made character second to that of no men in the city. One year after coming to Atlanta, in 1866, Mr. Adair joined the Second Baptist Church, and in 1885 was ordained a deacon of that church. For more than seventeen years he acted as its treasurer, and for forty-five years of consistent membership has always been faithful in the discharge of every duty laid upon him by his pastor and brethren.

His father died when he was a little lad of seven. The death of the father seemed to have drawn only closer the remaining members of the family, and Mr. Adair was strongly devoted to his mother, sisters and brothers. His mother passed away only seven years ago, having reached the great age of ninety-five.

In 1875, Mr. Adair was married to Miss Adelaide Louise, the daughter of the late Col. E. W. Marsh. They have three sons: G. B., Jr., Edwin Marsh and Spencer Stewart Adair. Mr. Adair's home life has been a most happy one. His wife, a true helpmate in every sense of the word, giving him a most loyal and faithful support in all things, has shared with him the credit of rearing a family of such children, that the devoted parents have the satisfaction of knowing that after they have gone to their reward their children will continue to reflect credit on an honored name.

For the past twelve or fifteen years Mr. Adair has been retired from active business pursuits, but he yet continues to

deal largely in real estate and to keep a watchful eye over his investments. Now, as always during his life, he enjoys the highest respect of his fellow-citizens, and his friends among the citizens of Atlanta and the surrounding country may almost be measured by his acquaintances.

Though the Adairs have been so notable in business pursuits in Georgia, the earlier paragraphs of this sketch illustrate their military tastes, which military tastes seem to have come down from a warlike ancestry—for the coat of arms of the family has a decidedly warlike character—and any family which could maintain honorable position in Ireland, during the past eight hundred years, must of necessity have had strong fighting qualities.

Marvin McTyeire Parks

WHILE still in his thirties, President Marvin M. Parks, of the Georgia Normal and Industrial College, Milledgeville, Georgia, has already made a record of constructive achievement in the educational world.

As a student, as a scholar, as a traveller, and as a lecturer, he has accomplished much; but his best work has been as a college president, unusually successful in business administration and effective in promoting educational ideals.

Colleges are public institutions which ordinarily move but slowly, either in progress or in retrogression. Yet, in but a few years, under the administration of President Parks, the Georgia Normal and Industrial College has gone forward by leaps and bounds. The income of the college has been more than doubled; the value of the property has increased from \$15,000 to \$380,000; the number of applications of students has grown in a few years from 332 to about 1200; while the graduating class of the college has increased in numbers from 14 to 120.

But these evidences of material progress do not compare with the far-reaching influences and the powerful stimulus given