

HISTORY
OF
EDGEFIELD COUNTY
FROM THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS
TO

— 1897 —

BIOGRAPHICAL AND ANECDOTICAL; WITH SKETCHES OF THE
SEMINOLE WAR; NULLIFICATION; SECESSION; RECON-
STRUCTION; CHURCHES AND LITERATURE, WITH ROLLS
OF ALL THE COMPANIES FROM EDGEFIELD IN
THE WAR OF SECESSION; WAR WITH MEX-
ICO AND WITH THE SEMINOLE INDIANS.

BY

JOHN A. CHAPMAN, B. M.

Author of SEVERAL PARTS OF ATLANTA IN DECEMBER, A SHORT HISTORY
OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ETC.



V.

THE BUTLER FAMILY.

Passing out from Saluda to the neighborhood of Big Creek, near where Butler Church, Methodist, now stands, we find the old homestead of the Butler family. Capt. James Butler, the founder of the family in Edgefield, came from Prince William County, Virginia, a few years before the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, bringing with him his family.

FROM A. P. BUTLER'S FAMILY BIBLE.

The following entries are taken from an old Bible which James Butler had at his death:

William Butler, son of James Butler and Mary his wife (before marriage a Miss Simpson), was born December 17th, 1759.

James Butler, son of James Butler and Mary his wife, was born March 2nd, 1761.

Thomas Butler, son of James Butler and Mary his wife, was born November 4th, 1763.

Nancy Butler, daughter of James Butler and Mary his wife, was born September 27th, 1765.

Elizabeth Butler, daughter of James Butler and Mary his wife, was born 17th December, 1766.

Sampson Butler, the son of the above, was born February 18th, 1769.

NOTE.—What is found on this page was written by my grandfather before or during his imprisonment in Charleston.

The names of the two sons, Stanmore and Mason Butler, are from some cause omitted.

In another place in the Bible is this: Gen William Butler was born in Loudon County, Virginia, in 1759.

William Butler married Be'hethland Foote Moore June 3d, 1784.

Behethland Foote Moore was born near the Maryland line in Virginia, December 28th, 1764.

Mr. William P. Butler, in some notes that he gave me of the Butler Family, says: "We have no knowledge of Capt. James Butler prior to his emigrating from Virginia between 1680 and

and 1720." This is quite a mistake, as his son William was born in Virginia in 1759. He says also that: "Miss Sarah Butler, sister of Capt. James Butler, killed on Cloud's Creek, by Cunningham's band of tories, married first Capt. Smallwood Smith, by whom she had two children, recollected Jacob B. Smith and Sarah Butler Smith, wife of Ryden G. Mays."

Elsewhere it is stated that Sarah Butler married Jacob Smith of Mount Willing.

The following is a copy from a manuscript written by Hon. A. P. Butler:

FAMILY MEMOIR.

General William Butler, the subject of this memoir, was born in Prince William County, Virginia, in 1759. His father, Captain James Butler, removed with his family to South Carolina and settled in the District of Ninety-Six a few years before the Revolution. They were destined to take their full share in the stormy times that were approaching. Captain Butler, before he had time to attend his private affairs, was called upon to engage in the public concerns of the country. He served in the Snow Camp Expedition under General Richardson and was under General Williamson in his expedition against the Cherokee Indians. In 1779, upon the call of General Lincoln, who had assumed command of the Southern forces, he repaired to his camp near Augusta, Ga., but was taken sick and was unable to follow the army in the subsequent campaign.

From this period few events of Revolutionary interest occurred in the upper part of the State until after the fall of Charleston. The capitulation of the town in the city and the dispersion or retreat of the small detached corps, which had kept the field during the siege, was regarded by the Royal commander as a restoration of British authority, and both civil and military organizations were engaged to maintain it. The inhabitants of the State were called upon to swear allegiance to the British authority and to take British protection. The village of Ninety-Six was designated as a place for the surrounding country to appear for the purpose. The proclamation was thought to be delusive and many persons appeared on the day without fully understanding its import.

surprise, notwithstanding the urgent remonstrances of Captain Butler. It was not known then who were the Loyalists they had been pursuing, but the next morning demonstrated the wisdom of his advice. They proved to have been connected with a larger band, and about sunrise, the band amounting to some three hundred men, under the lead of William Cunningham, approached and attacked the camp. Taken by surprise and utterly disorganized, the little party of Whigs, about thirty in number, rallied and took shelter in an unfinished log house without doors or windows. They were fired upon by Cunningham's party, and a demand for surrender peremptorily made. Its terms were enquired by the Whigs and the response of the Tories was that they were unconditional, but that they would receive a communication from them.

Smallwood Smith was selected for the office; Cunningham's first inquiry was who are of your party? On hearing that young James Butler, the son who had been engaged in the affair in which Radcliff was killed was among them, he determined to give no terms that would exempt this young man from his sword. Cunningham was well acquainted with the father, Capt. Butler, having served with him in the expedition against the Indians, to which allusion has already been made. It is said he had rather a partiality for him and would have entertained terms of capitulation with the party had it not been for the presence of the son.

Capt. James Butler sent Cunningham a special message that if he would spare his son he would make an unconditional surrender of himself. The young man, however, learning Cunningham's animosity to himself and entertaining the impression that his father or he would be sacrificed in the event of any surrender, determined to run all the hazards of a contest of arms, and exclaiming that he would settle the terms of capitulation, commenced the contest by firing his rifle and killing a Tory by the name of Stewart. It is said that negotiation had been commenced to save the officers and sacrifice the privates. But be this as it may, this demonstration of courage concluded the parley, and young Butler, but 19 years old, received a mortal wound while kneeling to pick his flint for a second discharge. The gallant but expiring boy called his father, who had gone upon the expedition unarmed in his

character as adviser, to his side, handed him his rifle; and told him there were yet a few balls in his pouch. The father took the gun and discharged it until the ammunition was exhausted. But the death of the young man produced a panic in the little party contending against such hopeless odds, and an unconditional surrender was the result.

They were placed upon a ladder placed as a bench and heard the terrific order given to put them to the unsparing sword of retaliation and revenge, but two of the number escaped; the rest were slaughtered where they stood. Capt. James Butler caught up a pitchfork and defended himself until his right hand was severed by a sabre stroke.

The tragedy did not terminate here. A detachment of Tories, under the command of Prescott, a subordinate leader, was left to meet any burying party that might be sent to inter the mangled victims, and especially to meet the subject of our memoir, then a Captain of Rangers, who, it was expected, would hasten to the spot. But William Butler was too far from the sad scene to be present even at the funeral ceremonial. Women performed the melancholy rites. Mrs. Sarah Smith, a sister of James Butler, the elder, (his widow at the time being in a state of confinement) was summoned to the scene. Her brother's body was recognised by his hand being severed, but the rest could not be identified by their relatives. James Butler, the younger, was supposed to be identified. A large pit was dug, into which the unburied bodies were indiscriminately placed; but a separate grave was prepared by the direction of Mrs. Smith, in which the remains of the Butlers, father and son, were deposited and over which an humble monument with filial piety has since been erected.

WILLIAM BUTLER.

When Lincoln issued his proclamation from his camp near Augusta, William Butler repaired to his standard as a lieutenant of militia. The American leader's purpose was the invasion and reclamation of Georgia. Leaving a corps of observation at Purysburg, under Moultrie, he had scarcely crossed the Savannah River higher up when his sagacious adversary, Prevost, finding the way to Charleston open, made a brilliant dash for the capture of that city, and had nearly succeeded.

When he crossed the Savannah the city was without defences, and Lincoln believing the movement but a feint, delayed to pursue him; but Moultrie, throwing himself in his path, met him at Tulifiny and Coosawhatchie, and by a defensive retreat delayed his advance until field works sufficient to withstand an assault could be thrown up for the defence of the city.

The approach of Lincoln's force, as well as Governor Rutledge with militia from Orangeburg, forbade regular approaches, and Prevost commenced his retreat by way of the islands to Savannah. The militia from the up country were then discharged, but William Butler, who had been of the detachment engaged in the action of Stono, remained and attached himself to Pulaski's Legion, in which he remained during the campaign of 1779. He was with the gallant Pole until his death at the siege of Savannah, and always spoke of him as a bold, dashing dragoon officer. (He complimented his memory by naming one of his grandsons after him.)

During the captivity of his father in Charleston all the responsibilities of family obligations devolved upon William Butler. It was at that time, too, the time immediately succeeding the fall of Charleston, that that brilliant race of partisan leaders, whose achievements threw so much of romance over the war at the South, sprung into existence. And when General Greene took command of the Southern army in 1780, the depression which had followed the fall of Charleston disappeared entirely from public sentiment and South Carolina was once more the most warlike State of the Confederacy.

General Greene's movement upon Milledgeville is a matter of history. At that time William Butler was serving under General Pickens on the Carolina side of the Savannah River near Augusta. He was at the siege of Augusta, and after the fall of that place, having been detailed by General Pickens to attend Colonel Lee at Milledgeville, then also besieged, he was present at the interview between Greene and Lee, upon Lee's arrival, in the which the latter suggested the attack upon the stockade. General Butler always expressed himself with emphasis in speaking of this interview, repeating the words of Lee, that "the spring must be taken." Greene replied: "How can it be done without a general assault?" Lee responded: "Allow me to take the stockade on the opposite side

and my guns will then drive them from the water." The stockade was then taken and the garrison deprived of the use of the spring, an operation which it has been conceded by military critics if accomplished at an earlier period of the siege would have resulted in the fall of the place before it could have been relieved. As it was, Cruger, commanding the garrison, managed to prolong his defence by sinking wells in the star redoubt. Terms of capitulation had been proposed which Greene refused, believing he could still take the place by pushing the sap against the star redoubt under Kosciusko's directions. The approach of Lord Rawdon with the relieving force blasted his hopes.

A corps was detached to meet Rawdon while an assault upon an incomplete breach was ~~hazardous~~. Some skirmishing between Rawdon's advance guard and this corps took place near Saluda Old Town, in which some were killed and several wounded. A young lieutenant from Virginia by the name of Wade was shot, and as he fell from his saddle, with a genuine trooper's care for his steed, forgetting himself, exclaimed to his comrades: "Don't let my horse fall into the hands of the enemy." He was carried to the house of Samuel Savage and finally recovered. The Americans fell back and the combatants had not long swept by when a young dragoon officer with a white plume and the cockade of the Whigs in his hat, and accompanied by an orderly, rode up to Mr. Savage's and learned from his step-daughter, who had just returned from the vicinity of Ninety-Six, that the siege was raised and Greene in full retreat had crossed Saluda at the Island ford, with Lee's legion bringing up the rear. The young officer was William Butler, and this was his first meeting with the lady whom he subsequently married. He had been detached from the army of Ninety-Six upon some separate service under General Henderson, from whom he derived his first commission as captain in 1781. He at once determined to join the retreating army, and being told that two stragglers from Rawdon's force were down in Savage's low grounds, taking the plantation horses, he took them prisoners, mounted one of them behind himself and the other behind his orderly, swam Saluda near what is now called Boazman's Ferry, and joined Lee about ten miles from the Island

ford on the Newberry side. He had learned from the prisoners that Rawdon had rushed forward a strong light corps, embracing both cavalry and infantry, in hot pursuit of the Americans. When William Butler came up with Lee he informed him of the pursuit, and the information came none too soon. Lee had halted his command and was lying on his saddle-blanket, making a pillow of his saddle. His prompt direction to Armstrong, one of his captains, was: "Form your troops in the rear and fight while we run." The legion was barely again on the march when the enemy appeared; but Armstrong made the required demonstrations with such gallantry and confidence that the enemy, apprehending an engagement with a stronger force, paused for reinforcements and Lee was enabled to put himself in close communication with the main body, which was then halted at Bushes Creek.

After this time William Butler was a partisan, sometimes serving as second in command under Ryan, and sometimes in the same position under Watson—both partisan leaders of local distinction. At a subsequent period he raised and commanded a company of mounted Rangers, under a commission from General Pickens, confirmed by the Governor of the State. While serving under Watson he was engaged in an expedition against a band of Tories, who had organized themselves at Edisto. The expedition rendezvoused at the Ridge, Edgefield District. Michael Watson, the leader, was a determined and resentful man, and resented too much the counsel which these feelings suggested. When they met the Tories at their strong position the latter were stronger than had been expected, and though greatly outnumbered and the Tories occupying a strong position he declined a retreat. The Edgefield militia, however, the frontier with symptoms of good will, offering no opposition to the order to charge. But few obeyed, with the few who did they were wont to welcome it. Many returned to the call. Agitated and back, the stern old war-horse would only exhort them to stand to their duty. But about fifteen came up to the call. They had originally gone into the fight against superior numbers, and the Tories strongly posted in the swamp, which position they still maintained. Watson was mortally wounded by a ball through the hip while loading his rifle behind a tree. William Butler then

assumed the command, giving his lieutenantcy to John Corley, and, the danger of the party requiring a resort to desperate measures, placed him in rear with an order to cut down the first man that gave way. It happened that Joseph Corley, among others, was about to give way, which would have left the small remnant of the Whigs to certain destruction. John Corley, true to his instructions, with drawn sword menaced his brother with instant death unless he returned to his post. Joseph did return and behaved well afterwards.

Vardell had been killed, and before his breath left him he begged his comrades not to let his body fall into the hands of the Tories. The wounded Watson, lying between the contending parties, had made a similar appeal, specially to William Butler: "Billy, do not let them take me."

The Whigs made one more charge and carrying off their comrades retreated, but found time to bury poor Vardell under a clay root and cover him with their swords. At some little distance from the scene of conflict they took refuge in a wooden outhouse, being pursued, but circumspectly, by the Tories. Watson, severely wounded, and the sudden apprehension of death, still maintained a military resolution. A woman happened to be in the house in which they entered whose infant, some three weeks old, was in a dwelling some distance off. Watson insisted she should be detained; that their weakened condition required concealment and she might betray them. They found, means, however, to get information of their perilous situation to Orangeburg, and Captain, subsequently General Rumph, hastened to their relief. Under his escort Watson was carried upon a litter in a dying condition to Orangeburg where he expired and was buried. William Butler superintended the military honors of his funeral.

While serving with Ryan the subject of our memoir was engaged in another expedition against the Tories in Orangeburg District. They were in force near the Court House. A number of Tories, finding their condition desperate, deserted to the Whigs, and Ryan, distrusting them, placed them in front with instructions to his men to shoot them if they proved false. In the fight which ensued his chief was again disabled and William Butler assumed the command. The Tories were defeated.

In 1782 Cunningham made a second incursion into the Ninety-Six District. Perfectly familiar with the country in his youth, possessed of great sagacity, fertility in military expedients and endowed with all the physical qualities so essential to the partizan, he was no mean adversary to contend with. A favorite manœuvre with him was to divide his command upon the march into small detachments, to be concentrated by different routes near the point at which the blow was aimed. In this manner he had concentrated his force at Caradine's ford on Saluda. William Butler then was commanding a company of Rangers under the authority of General Pickens and, with a portion of his company marched to meet him. With a view to ascertain the enemy's position he resorted to a ruse. Approaching the residence of Joseph Cunningham, near the junction of Little Saluda with Big Saluda, he sent forward his brother, Thomas Butler, with Abner Corley to the house at night. Thomas Butler was an excellent mimic and, imitating the voice of one of William Cunningham's men, called Whitlets, asked from without where our friend Cunningham was. The wife of Joseph Cunningham replied that he had crossed at Caradine's ford. With that information William Butler himself rode up to the house and mounting Joseph Cunningham on a horse compelled him to guide the party across the ford.

They crossed the ford at 12 o'clock at night and next morning halted in a peach orchard near Banknight's Ferry. The horses were unbridled but with the saddles on feeding upon peas out of a cune when a grey mare, which Cunningham was known to have taken out of the neighborhood, was observed passing back, having escaped from his camp. This incident disclosed in some measure the state of affairs, and the Rangers received the orders to march. The Rangers numbered some thirty and Cunningham's men about twenty. The bloody scene of Cloud's Creek animated any encounter between Butler and Cunningham with more of the feelings of the duello than the battle-field. Approaching the Tory position unobserved, John Corley was detailed with eight men to gain their rear and upon a concerted signal to commence the attack while the main body advanced under cover of a hedge. The Tories were drying their blankets by their camp fires; Cunningham, himself, was at a little distance off from his band. As it after-

wards appeared, Butler's person being at one time exposed in advancing before the signal was given, he was observed by the Tories, but taken for their leader, for there was a striking personal resemblance between the two men.

Corley's furious assault, himself foremost in the charge, was the first intimation to the Tories that their exasperated foes were at hand. Cunningham was promptly at his post, but, taken by surprise and attacked by superior numbers, thought only of safety. Having no time to saddle his horse, but with partizan quickness seizing his holsters sprang to his seat, while Butler, singling him out, dashed in pursuit. Both men were remarkably fine riders and tradition has preserved the names of the horses they rode. Cunningham was mounted on a mare which had become celebrated in the service as "Silver Heels," while Butler rode a horse called "Ranter." As Butler carried only a sabre and Cunningham only pistols that had been rendered useless by the rain of the night before, for he snapped them repeatedly over his shoulders at his adversary as he fled, life or death hung upon the speed of the horses. As long as the chase was in the woods "Ranter" maintained his own, but when he struck an open trail in which the superior strides of Cunningham's thoroughbred could tell, turning in his seat and patting with triumph and confidence the noble animal that bore him, he tauntingly exclaimed, "I am safe," and dashing rapidly away from his adversary, he escaped by himself swimming the Saluda near Lorick's ferry. When William Butler returned from the pursuit of Cunningham he found a portion of his command assembled at the Tory camp under circumstances which gave him great concern. Turner, one of his prisoners, had been deliberately shot through the head after he had surrendered. When Butler sternly rebuked the act Seysin, who had done the deed, justified himself by reciting an outrage the unfortunate Tory had inflicted upon his mother. The verdict of the corps was in Seysin's favor and no court martial was held upon him. There was certainly strong palliating circumstances in the case. The Tory had stripped Mrs. Seysin to the waist and tying her had severely whipped her to force her to disclose where a party of Whigs, among whom was her son, were.

A pursuit of Cunningham's men was ordered for the pur-

pose of capturing or dispersing them, and some were overtaken while crossing the river. Butler, finding his men disposed to fire upon them, ordered De Loach, who was raising his rifle, to desist. Sherwood Corley was then in the river, had snapped his pistol at the retreating party, not heeding the order, he deliberately primed it afresh while in the water and killed a Tory named Davis while he was ascending the Edgefield bank. The result of this action was the dispersion of Cunningham's famous band. He, himself, retired to Cuba where he died, being prevented from returning to his native State after the war by a proscriptive proclamation of the authorities. He was awarded something like an ovation by the British. Goudy, a gallant partizan of the Revolution, visited Cuba after the war on account of his health. Cunningham, in the true spirit of hospitality, called upon him with an invitation to dinner. Whether Goudy accepted the invitation or not we cannot say; but Cunningham told him that on one occasion he had ridden up with an escort at his back to a house near Ninety-Six, in which Goudy and others were playing cards, with a view to ascertaining if William Butler was among them. "Why did you not fire upon us?" asked Goudy. "I had no temptation to kill you," said Cunningham, "but if Billy Butler had been there you would have had the floor flooded with blood."

From this time until after the close of the war, William Butler continued at the head of the Rangers, under command of General Pickens, and was considered his favorite captain. He had, however, very little duty other than patrol to perform. His company of Rangers was not discharged until 1784, more than a year after the peace.

With the resumption of the pursuits of civil life, the soldier's thoughts reverted to the young girl of Saluda with whom his meeting during Green's retreat from Ninety-Six has already been mentioned. Nor had she forgotten the young officer of the cocarde and plume, for when the household rejected him, (the stepfather forbade him to visit her), she told him to come, she would see him. They were married the 3d of June, 1784.

Miss Behethland Fort Moore, whom William Butler had thus selected as the partner of his life, was a woman of strong, and in many respects remarkable traits of character. She al-

ways exercised great influence with her husband and he relied much upon her judgment and advice. He seemed to have inspired her with a deep feeling, almost amounting to a fascination; of itself a high tribute to his memory.

In 1794 William Butler was elected by the Legislature of South Carolina Sheriff of Ninety-Six District. He discharged few of the ministerial duties, however, leaving them to his brothers, Thomas and Stanmore, who were his deputies; but he always conducted the military escort of the Judge coming into the District and presided as High Sheriff during the sitting of the Court.

The sheriff of that day was an officer of distinction and was generally detailed upon offices of honor. William Butler, as Sheriff of Ninety-Six, received General Washington when upon the Southern tour, from the authorities of Georgia, and conducted him by the Pine House to the Ridge, which was near the termination of his territorial jurisdiction. At the Ridge, General Hampton, then sheriff of what was called Camden District, received and conducted him by Granby, through Camden and thence to Charlotte, North Carolina, where the authorities of that State received the illustrious patriot. (There is certainly an error here. Washington passed through the District in 1791).

In 1796 General Pickens resigned the office of Major-General of the upper division of South Carolina militia and through his recommendation William Butler was elected by the State Legislature to fill the vacancy. In 1800 General Butler became a candidate for Congress against Robert Goodloe Harper, the incumbent from the Ninety-Six District. Mr. Harper had been elected as a Republican, but from conscientious motives joined the Federalists and supported what was peculiarly unpopular at the South—Jay's Treaty. This raised opposition to him at home and General Butler was selected as the opposition candidate, his old commander, John Ryan, moving the nomination. He succeeded in the election and took his seat in 1801.

When the resolution, charging General Wilkinson with complicity with Burr, in his attributed treason, was moved and adopted in the House of Representatives, the occasion gave rise to great sensation. A discussion took place upon the floor as

to the chairman of the Committee of Investigation. A ballot was called for by Wilkinson's friends, the motion was overlaid and the duty of making the appointment devolved upon the Speaker. He appointed General Butler. Wilkinson made some offensive remarks. Something of this kind, that he was not only to be tried by a militia general, but that he was condemned before he was tried. This being reported to General Butler he resigned his position on the committee. Roger Bacon being appointed to succeed him and unfriendly communications were made between him and Wilkinson. They were, however, fully reconciled.

In 1813 General Butler resigned his seat in Congress, distinctly in preference to Mr. Calhoun, saying to him, "You can meet Mr. Randolph in debate, I cannot." His admiration for Randolph was very high, and notwithstanding they differed in opinion as to the war of 1812, they still continued to entertain friendly relations. Butler once spent some time with him at his house by invitation in returning from Congress.

In 1814 General Butler was called by Gen. Clinton, in a very complimentary Order, on record in Washington, to command the troops of South Carolina at Charleston.

President Madison had, in 1802, offered him the commission of brigadier general in the United States service, but he declined it, saying he was a major general at home.

General Jackson was appointed to command the forces at New Orleans, while General Butler was to command in Charleston. They had been comrades in early life and Jackson sent him word that they were both called militia generals, but he knew whichever was attacked would do his duty. General Pickens desired to prescribe the mode of defence of Charleston. His plan was to allow the enemy to land and fight them in the streets from behind barricades. Butler's response to him, when he assumed the command, was that he expected to consult the dictates of his own judgment, and they should meet them in the water. An incursion was made upon one of the islands for the purpose of supplying provisions to the fleet off the coast, and a slight affair occurred in which Captain Dent of the navy was principally engaged. The incursion was repelled. This was the only engagement with the enemy of any portion of General Butler's command. It had fallen to the lot of his

friend Jackson to vindicate the ability of militia generals. The war terminated with the battle of New Orleans and General Butler became a private citizen.

From this period to the close of his life he confined himself principally to the business of his farm. During the time he was in Congress his seat was twice contested, first by Dr. Scriven, a man of high character, and afterwards by Edmund Bacon, a man of mark. The last contest gave rise to the unfortunate issue known as the "old and new parties of Edgefield." It was bitter and led to many painful controversies. Mr. Bacon not only became reconciled with, but was afterwards a warm friend of General Butler's and frequently entertained him with a hospitality that would scarcely be recognized at the present day.

General Butler was a member of the convention held in Charleston in 1787 to consider the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and with General Sumter and others, whose names are to be found on the journal, voted against it. He was subsequently a member of the convention which framed our present State Constitution. (Constitution previous to 1868).

General Butler's brothers were Thomas, who was regarded a man of military talent; Sampson, who was Sheriff of Edgefield, and for many years represented that district in the State Legislature; Stanmore, who was a captain in the United States army during the time a war was expected with France, and was Clerk of the Court of Edgefield when he died; and James, who was killed in the Revolution, as already described. He had two sisters, Nancy and Elizabeth. The first married Elisha Brooks, who was a lieutenant in the Revolution; the latter married Zachariah Brooks, who was also a lieutenant in the Revolution and subsequently a colonel of State cavalry.

He had eight children. James was Sheriff of Edgefield and a colonel of State cavalry at his death. George Butler was a lawyer, and during the war of 1812 served as major in the regular army. William was a physician and was a surgeon in the army at New Orleans. He also served one term as Representative in Congress. Frank Butler was a lawyer. Pierce M. Butler was an officer in the regular army; was President of the Bank of the State; was Governor of South Carolina, and fell at the battle of Cherubusco at the head of the Palmetto Regiment.

Emmala, the only daughter, was married to General Waddy Thompson, who was a lawyer, a member of Congress and Minister to Mexico. Leontine died young.

Andrew Pickens Butler, the sole survivor, has been a lawyer, a Judge, and is now the senior United States Senator from South Carolina. (Judge A. P. Butler died May 25, 1857. A biographical notice of him is given elsewhere in this book).

General Butler was a handsome man, about six feet high, a good shot with a rifle, and excellent in woodcraft and horsemanship. His fondness for horses amounted to a passion, and he would have none but the finest blood upon his place. He considered it a defect in his sons not to ride well, and was in the habit of making them break his colts until, upon one occasion when a "Dare Devil" filly was to be mounted and two of the boys, Pickens and Pierce, were drawing lots to see who should do it. Mrs. Butler could stand it no longer. She interposed, telling her husband that they were her children as well as his, and if the horses were to be broken, put the servants at it. He yielded, carelessly remarking, "it would not hurt them to get thrown, the ground was plowed."

At one time he was engaged upon the Turf and ran his horses generally with success; but upon one occasion a demand was made upon him for a stake which he was unable to put up. Under the demand, however, he put up his family servant, Will. He won the race and it was his last. Returning home he told his wife what he had done and gave her a positive pledge, which he kept, never to run another race or to play another card. General Butler was a man of strong impressions and of great self-reliance. Though his connection with most of the events narrated was a subordinate one, he always had his own and decided opinions. He had not literary attainments, but in the school of experience he was a scholar that stood high. One strong peculiarity marked his character—an aversion to long letters and long speeches. He always spoke of John Rutledge as the best speaker he had ever heard; commending him chiefly for his brevity. He, himself, seldom wrote over a page, and that laconic and dispatchful. His sheriff's books, now in the possession of Hon. A. P. Butler, is a model of official neatness.

In his domestic relations he was absolute; making his sons

entirely subservient to his commands. His wife was devoted to him.

William Butler died in September, 1812, and was buried at the family burial ground at Big Creek, in Edgefield District. He died with remarkable calmness. While he has left little that is remembered, save through tradition, he was a man of mark in his day.

Peace be to his ashes.