

TENTATIVE BIOGRAPHY

of

THOMAS JEFFERSON STOVALL,

ATLANTA, GA.

The surname of Stovall has not escaped the usual confusion and modifications which have attached to English family names. It is found under the form Stawal as far back as 1261, when Sir Henry Stawal was settled in Somersetshire, England. From that time down to the time of Charles I. they held most honorable position, and in the time of that King, Sir John Stawal was one of the wealthiest and one of the most eminent men of his day. The Cromwell party put him in the Tower of London, where he suffered a long imprisonment, and not satisfied with that, they confiscated his property. After the Restoration, Charles II. paid his debts in the usual fashion by making his son a peer of the realm, under the title of Lord Stawal and Baron Stawal of Somerton. In the meantime, during these four centuries, members of the family had indulged in the usual vagaries, and had commenced calling themselves Stowell and Stovell.

Members of the family came to America in the

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early colonial period, one branch settling in Massachusetts and another in Virginia- and here appears another variation, we find them calling themselves Stovaul and Stovall. In Virginia, in the Revolutionary period, the names of Bartholomew, George, James and Thomas Stovall appear as heads of families. Thomas does not appear to have been strong in spelling, for in one case his name appears as Stovall, and in another as Stovaul. In that great movement southward from Virginia and the Carolinas, after the Revolutionary war, some of the Stovalls came from Virginia and settled in the northern part of Georgia. Of this family, comes Thomas J. Stovall, of Atlanta, a prominent business man of that city.

Mr. Stovall was born in Forsyth County, Georgia, on May 16, 1861, son of George Wilkinson and Rosetta Jane (Owen) Stovall. His father was a farmer, and young Stovall, reared on a North Georgia hill farm, gained thereby a strong body and a clean mind. He attended the neighborhood schools and a High School at Chestatee, following which he took a business course in the Eastman Business College, of New York. As a young man, he engaged in the retail mercantile business at Gainesville, Georgia. He prospered in his undertakings, and then moved to Atlanta, where he became a member of the wholesale firm of Stovall Bros., jobbers of dry

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goods and notions. After a successful career of years, the firm was dissolved, and Mr. Stovall, seeing a good opening in the manufacturing business, became President of the Southern Fixture and Cabinet Company, a large concern engaged in the manufacture of interior fixtures for banks, stores and offices. This is his present interest, and he is conducting it with the same judgment and success which attended his former ventures.

He is a Baptist, a Mason and a Democrat. An unassuming man, industrious, persistent and upright, he gives to his business first consideration, and to outside matters only so much of his attention as is demanded by good citizenship.

Mr. Stovall has been twice married. First in February, 1891, to Miss Mattie Callaway, of West Point; and second, on January 10, 1910, to Mrs. Kate Felder Shaw, of Americus. He has three children; George M., Pope and Frances Hill Stovall.

Mr. Stovall is a strong believer in a high standard of Christian manhood and womanhood for the individual; and in the best educational advantages to be extended by the State. He sees, as all thoughtful men do, that we have not that high regard for law and order that we should have, and considers it very essential to the future welfare of the country that such a spirit should be cultivated.