



Alexander, William Felix.—No better review of the career of this honored resident of Augusta could be evolved than that which he personally contributed to a publication issued from Yale university, at which celebrated institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1851, and said autobiography is here reproduced, with certain pertinent interpolations: "I was born in Washington, Wilkes county, Ga., May 7, 1832, my paternal ancestors coming from Germany and Scotland, my maternal ances-

tors from Virginia and Connecticut, and for generations back having been people of education and culture. My father, Adam Leopold Alexander, who was born in Liberty county, Ga., in 1803, died in 1888, having been a banker and planter; my mother, whose maiden name was Sarah H. Gilbert, was born in Washington, Wilkes county, Ga., in 1805, and died in 1855. The five living children are: Mary C., wife of George Hull; Harriette V., wife of Wallace Cumming; William Felix; Gen. Edward P., who was General Longstreet's chief of ordnance in the war between the states and who is now a resident of Georgetown; and Charles, a resident of Washington, Ga. My early education was obtained at home, under

the eye of my father, who was graduated in Yale as a member of the class of 1821, and in 1847 I entered the freshman class of the same noble institution. After my graduation, in 1851, I read medicine for eighteen months in the office of our family physician, but in 1852 I abandoned all intention of entering the medical profession, accepting the position of cashier in a bank in my native town. In April, 1853, I married Miss Mary Louisa Toombs, daughter of Hon. Robert Toombs, then United States senator from Georgia, the family being our near neighbors. I lived in their family until March, 1855, when my wife died. I then gave up my position in the bank, and, after a short trip to Europe, settled down on a plantation I had bought in southwest Georgia. For nearly six years most of my time was spent there, studying negro characteristics and analytical chemistry as applied to the production of cotton—a quiet, contented life. But when the Confederate government was formed, in 1861, I felt that my country, as my political faith regarded it, was entitled to use me, mind, body and estate, as might be found best. General Toombs, my father-in-law, had been made secretary of state in the cabinet of President Davis, and at his request I accepted a place as chief clerk in the state department. In that capacity I signed the first lettres de marque issued, and sent to General Scott the famous ear of corn, sample of rations we were ready to fight on. No one at first believed there would be any real war. To us the constitutional right of secession seemed too clear to be questioned. But when the battle of Manassas dissipated that idea I felt that I, an able-bodied, single man, could not remain at home, but must go to the front. I had made arrangements to join an artillery company from my old home, when General Toombs told me he had given up the state department and would take command of a brigade at Manassas and wished to have me on his staff. So I went with him the week after the battle of Bull Run, continuing a member of his staff for nearly two years. War experiences are too common to be worth repeating. My brother-in-law, Gen. A. R. Lawton, had been so severely wounded at Sharpsburg as to unfit him for field service and had been made quartermaster-general of the Confederate States of America. Wishing some one nearest him in whom he could trust entirely, he had me ordered to report to him as his assistant, and for the last two years of the war my desk was at his right hand. It was a most interesting place, for important movements were always discussed there in advance, and I was thrown intimately with all who were

highest in authority. Located thus in the city of Richmond, I was there married to Miss Lucy Grattan, one of Virginia's loveliest daughters, her father, P. R. Grattan, being from the family of the Irish barrister, her mother from the Virginia Pocahontidae. With the close of the war our old regime came to an end for all of us. My negroes were free, my land had no cash value, I had a wife and child to support, and one hundred and fifty dollars in gold, saved by us from the evacuation of Richmond, was our sole visible means of support. At this juncture I was offered a moderate salary to go to Columbus, Ga., there to buy cotton for a large house establishing itself over the South. In my extremity I accepted gladly. For two years I served that house, and then, on and for my own account, continued in the same business, buying cotton for spinners and exporters. I continued in Columbus until 1872, when I removed to Augusta, in order to have a larger market and to be with members of my family who had settled there. Here I have since remained. No brilliant success has crowned my efforts. I have been able to make life comfortable for those dependent on me and to keep a home where God is honored, mankind loved as brethren and intellect cultivated and revered." It may be said further that while in the office of the quartermaster-general Mr. Alexander issued the last order ever sent forth by the Confederate government. He retired from the cotton business in 1895, and is now treasurer of the Augusta cotton exchange and board of trade, of which he was formerly president. He is a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party and is a zealous member of the Presbyterian church, as was also his wife. He has been an active member of the board of charities of Richmond county since 1895, and has been its president since 1903, while he is also treasurer of the Augusta orphan asylum. He is an honored and appreciative member of the United Confederate Veterans. The loved and devoted wife of Mr. Alexander was summoned into eternal rest in 1899, and of their four children only one is living—Elvira Ferguson, who is the wife of Edgeworth Baxter, a representative member of the Augusta bar.

Alford, Julius C., was a native of Georgia and began to practice law at LaGrange. He was elected to the lower house of Congress in January, 1837, as a State Rights Whig, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of George W. Towns, and served to March of the same year. He was defeated for reelection in 1838, but was successful in 1840 and in 1842. He was an able debater and called by his friends "the Warhorse of Troup."