

JAMES BOZEMAN BAIRD, a prominent medical practitioner of Atlanta, Ga., was born Jan. 5, 1849, in Columbus, Ga. He was reared and received his early education in that city on the banks of the Chattahoochee river. He exhibited remarkable precocity in his primary studies and advanced from grade to grade in the common schools with wonderful rapidity. At the age of fifteen years, though hardly able to carry a musket, he enlisted in the Confederate army in 1864, and served irregularly until the surrender. During the first four years of reconstruction he was engaged in various mercantile employments, devoting his leisure hours at night to the study of medicine. In 1869 he was enrolled in the Bellevue Hospital Medical college of New York city, and was graduated after a two years' course of diligent application. Having moved to Atlanta in 1868 he returned after obtaining his diploma, in the spring of 1871, to pursue the active practice of his profession. In acquiring the knowledge of his chosen science Dr. Baird's advancement has been phenomenal, covering a wide scope and embracing many branches. He is a member of the State Medical association, the Atlanta Society of Medicine, the American Medical association, the Atlanta Obstetrical society, member of the regular medical examining board of the state of Georgia and other medical organizations, has served as secretary and orator of the State Medical association and secretary of the health board of Atlanta. The last position he occupied for seventeen years—a splendid testimonial of the confidence reposed in his superior ability. Dr. Baird for several years was lecturer on physiology and nervous diseases and performed many operations in surgery in the Atlanta Medical college. Subsequently he filled the chair of principles and practice of medicine in the Southern Medical college of Atlanta. His talents have not been confined to practice alone, but he has written numerous articles that commanded widespread interest in different medical journals of the country. Dr. Baird was married in 1879 to Elizabeth, daughter of Gen. L. J. Gartrell, who was a member of both the Confederate and national congress, as representative from Georgia. Dr. Baird's father was Dr. John B. Baird, a native of Charleston, S. C., born in 1806. He graduated when twenty-four years old at the Charleston Medical college, moved to Columbus, Ga., a few years later, practiced there for fully forty years and came to Atlanta in 1868, where he continued practice a year or two, and died in 1871. His wife was Mary L. Bozeman, a native of Scottsboro, Ga. Dr. Baird's grandfather was Capt. James R. Baird, who fought in the war of 1812, and is buried in Charleston, S. C. Dr. Baird is highly esteemed for his long experience and extensive learning, and has frequently been called upon to pass judgment on the sanity of criminals.

of his personal and official intercourse with that distinguished military chieftain whom, he says, he found to be fair-minded and free from prejudice, and at all times and under all circumstances a courteous gentleman, and anxious and ready in his official position to do everything in his power or that was necessary to be done to preserve good order and promote peace and the welfare of law-abiding citizens. During his administration of the affairs of Atlanta, and largely through his instrumentality the original removal of the state capital from Milledgeville to this city was effected. When the constitutional convention of 1867 was in session a resolution was offered proposing to embrace in it the removal of the capital. He immediately called the city council together, which authorized a proposition to be made which was accepted by the convention securing the removal; and when the legislature met which was elected under the new constitution, after further negotiations the agreement was complied with. During the year 1868, his last year in office, the building of two most important lines of railroad—perhaps the greatest factors in the city's growth—namely, the Atlanta & Charlotte Air Line and the Georgia Western (Atlanta to Birmingham, Ala.) were secured by subscriptions of \$300,000 to each [www.georgiapioneers.com](http://www.georgiapioneers.com) were enthusiastically advocated by him and the immense benefits of which he has had the good fortune to live and see. From 1869 to 1880 Mr. Williams engaged in such general trading in grain, provisions, etc., as would employ his time and capital with fair promise of profitable returns. Since 1880 he has not been actively engaged in business, devoting his years to his family and home, residing at this time at the Terraces, the large and lovely residence which he built in 1866, then at the terminus of Forest avenue, now at the corner of this avenue and Fort street, the latter street, by the way, having been named in his honor by the city authorities, the name Fort being used because there was already a street bearing the name of Williams. Mr. Williams was married in 1852 to Miss Sarah Elizabeth Lovejoy, of Chattooga county, Ga., who is still living. Miss Lovejoy was of the same North Carolina stock as the Williams and Fort families, her ancestors, the Hintons and Bradfords, having come to Georgia from Carolina about the same time as his went to Tennessee. To them eight children were born, all of whom are living: William Fort, Etheldred, Thomas Humes, Jr., James Edward, Martha Lovejoy, Sarah Elizabeth, Cornelia Catherine and Samuel Copeland, Jr. Mr. Williams is a master Mason, past master of Fulton lodge, now a member of Georgia lodge, and affiliates with the Protestant Episcopal church, of which all his children are members. He is also a member of the Fulton County Confederate Veterans' association, and is now serving his third term as the honored president of the Pioneer Citizens' society of Atlanta. Mr. Williams is a man of progressive ideas, public spirited and large-hearted, and in the highest degree sympathetic. During the most trying portion of his mayoralty the city was sorely stricken with smallpox (1895) when he was unremitting in his efforts to check its progress and alleviate the distresses of those afflicted. No citizen of Atlanta is held in higher esteem for public service faithfully and self-sacrificingly rendered and for unblemished business and private character.