

GEORGE W. ADAIR, the foremost real estate dealer of Atlanta, is the son of John F. Adair and Mary Slavin, and was born in Morgan county, Ga., March 1, 1823. His father followed the trade of a wheelwright, and settled in De Kalb county, five miles south of Decatur. He resided here until the death of his father.

Memoirs of Georgia, Fulton County Sketches (1895)

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of his mother in 1835, and was then sent to Decatur, Ga., to enter the employ of G. B. Butler. His bright, winning ways soon attracted the attention of those about him and in 1840 Col. J. M. Calhoun, William H. Dabney, Hon. Charles Murphy and Dr. Ephraim M. Poole, desiring to forward his interests, advanced the necessary amount for a two years' course in the Decatur academy. After completing this, young Adair studied law in the office of Judge John J. Floyd and Gen. J. N. Williamson, of Covington, Ga., and after two years' application was admitted to the bar. Being young and inexperienced he found progress slow, and having a debt of several hundred dollars to cancel, he withdrew from his profession and accepted a position tendered him by J. Edgar Thomson, chief engineer, as conductor on the Georgia railroad, running between Social Circle and Augusta, and was in charge of the first train that entered Atlanta. After leaving the employ of the railroad he moved to Covington, Ga., thence to Charleston, S. C., and located permanently in Atlanta in 1854. Under the firm name of Adair & Ezzard he conducted a mercantile store for two years, and then entered the general trading and real estate business, which he still continues. Col. Adair, originally a whig in political belief, vehemently opposed the idea of secession, and was defeated in the race for the secession convention. When, however, war was declared, he placed himself beside his southern comrades, ready to assert the claims of his people. He established in 1860 the "Southern Confederacy," being assisted by J. Henley Smith. The weekly journal issued until the battle of Chickamauga, was bold and decisive in its advocacy of the southern cause. In the last year of the war he volunteered as an aid on the staff of Gen. N. B. Forrest. This association developed a strong and lasting friendship that was broken only by the death of that gallant leader. When the war was over he returned to find his home destroyed and his accumulated fortune well-nigh vanished. In partnership with Messrs. Clayton, Adair & Purse he opened a general commission house, and at the same time resumed his interest in the real estate business. In 1865 he retired from the firm and has since confined himself to real estate and auctioneering. In the latter avocation he has conducted large sales with marked success in Atlanta, Birmingham, Sheffield and Chattanooga, and in all his transactions has never lost a dollar through irregularity of procedure or defective title. Col. Adair has ever manifested his loyalty and love for Atlanta and Georgia. He has been prominently connected with numerous important enterprises, especially the building of railroads. His zeal and energy gave a decided impetus to the rapid growth and prosperity of this city. He was an earnest promoter and vice-president of the Atlanta Street railway in 1870, being associated with Richard Peters. In the financial panic of 1873, followed by the resumption of specie payment, Col. Adair was compelled to make an assignment of all his property. With indomitable determination, possessing the respect, confidence and sympathy of the community, he again began at the foundation, and by honesty, tenacity and ability, has erected a large and handsome fortune over the wreck of his former accumulation. Col. Adair has been connected with the Atlanta Cotton factory, the Atlanta Cotton exposition, director of the Kimball House company, president of the Georgia Western railway, director of the Piedmont exposition and director of Mrs. Ballard's Female seminary. He is a member of the constitutional convention in 1865, of the city council, the board of water commissioners and the board of county commissioners of roads and revenues. He has never sought political honors, but naturally takes a devoted interest in both state and national affairs. Col. Adair as a writer is terse, convincing and logical; as a speaker eloquent and witty, with a gift for repartee seldom equaled; as a business man active, energetic and far-seeing, and a gentleman of kind and attractive disposition, and a character

diately entered upon a large practice which has increased until for years he has had more than he could attend to. For forty-five years he has practiced in Atlanta, his practice growing with the growth of the city. In May, 1861, Dr. Alexander entered the Confederate service as surgeon of the Seventh Georgia infantry, of which regiment L. J. Gartrell was the first colonel. He served six months in the field but returned to Atlanta and was there detailed on hospital duty, in which he was actively engaged until the war closed. He was a member of the secession convention which carried Georgia out of the union in January, 1861, favoring and voting for the ordinance of secession. In fact he was the second man who recorded his vote for that historic measure. He has been a member of the Atlanta city board of health about ten years, being elected its president in 1893 and re-elected in 1894-95. He is also a member of the American medical and Georgia state medical associations and has served as president, vice-president, treasurer and censor of the latter. Dr. Alexander is the only living member of the state medical association who helped to organize that society. In addition to his professional honors he has enjoyed political preferment, having served on the Atlanta city council. He is also a prominent member and steward of the Methodist Episcopal church. Dr. Alexander was married in 1855 to Miss Georgia, daughter of Richard Orme, editor and proprietor of the "Southern Recorder" at Milledgeville. She died in 1876, and in June, two years later, Dr. Alexander married Miss Ada Reynolds, daughter of Permedas Reynolds, Covington, Ga., who was also a member of the secession convention above mentioned. Dr. Alexander's oldest child, Jeannie, the daughter of his first wife, is now the wife of J. P. Stevens. To his second marriage were born a son and a daughter—J. F. Alexander and Ada. Dr. Alexander's father was Dr. Thomas Williamson Alexander, who was born in Greenville district, S. C., in 1791, and was married in Pendleton district of that state to Martha, daughter of William Walker, and some seven or eight years later moved to Lawrenceville, Ga., where he lived until 1847. He was killed in an accident caused by his horse running away. Dr. T. W. Alexander had seven children who lived to maturity, of whom six were sons: John R., now living at Thomasville, Ga.; William W., deceased; Elizabeth, widow of W. W. Lowrey; D. J. F. Alexander; Thomas W., now a lawyer in Rome, Ga.; Wilson R., deceased; and Cicero N. The oldest son, John R., was a soldier in the Seminole war of 1836. Thomas W. was adjutant of a Georgia regiment during the war of the rebellion. Cicero N. entered the Confederate service in a Texas regiment, being a resident of the lone star state when the war broke out. He was mustered in with the rank of captain and was wounded at Fort Donelson. He was then placed on provost marshal duty and served in that capacity until the close of hostilities. Dr. Alexander's grandfather was John R. Alexander, the emigrant ancestor who was of Scotch-Irish parentage. He settled in South Carolina, married a Miss Williamson, and in the service of his country during the revolution attained the rank of major. At a subsequent date he, with his son, Dr. Thomas Williamson, located in Georgia, the grandfather dying in Lawrenceville, about 1830. Dr. James F. Alexander is one of the most famous physicians of Atlanta, holding the respect of the entire business and social circle of the city in which he practices.

MARTIN F. AMOROUS, the prominent lumber dealer of Atlanta, Ga., was born in Savannah, Ga., Oct. 23, 1858. Here his childhood days were passed and here he attended school until about fifteen years of age, when he went to Eastman, Dodge Co., situated in the pine belt of Georgia, and accepted a position in a saw-mill. In 1877 he came to Atlanta and entered the employ of

Anthony Murphy, one of Georgia's great lumbermen (1895) trade in the city. After five years' service with Mr. Murphy, having gained much experience by his constant contact with the traffic, Mr. Amorous received the agency for several large lumber firms, for whom he acted until 1885, when, in connection with Mr. D. C. Bacon of Savannah, another conspicuous dealer in Georgia's great natural product, he organized the Atlanta Lumber company, with a capital stock of \$25,000, since increased to \$50,000. When the company was permanently established Mr. Bacon was elected president and Mr. Amorous general manager. Prosperity has followed in the wake of this enterprise since the day of its organization, and it is now mentioned among the foremost substantial and reliable commercial institutions of the city. In the private walks of life, as well as in the throbbing, thrifty circles of business activity, Mr. Amorous enjoys an enviable reputation for integrity and marked ability. He is a director of the Amoskeag Lumber company of Dodge county, and has other interests that require time and attention. Possessing as he does a nature yearning for progress and advancement, and an enthusiastic advocacy and substantial support of everything promising the forward growth and welfare of the city, it is not surprising that he is one of Atlanta's most popular citizens. This fact is fully attested by his being chosen a director and a member of the executive committee of the Cotton States and International exposition. As another instance of the esteem in which Mr. Amorous is held, he was elected and served one term—two years—as member of the general council of the city. Though a young man, his talent and executive ability were appreciated and he faithfully performed the duties of a city father. During this time he introduced the ordinance, now in force, regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors within the incorporated limits. Under its operation the traffic has been as unobjectionable as it could well be if tolerated and legalized. Mr. Amorous was the original promoter of the electric light company organized in Atlanta; was one of the organizers of the Home bank, now known as the Southern Banking and Trust company, and served some time as its president, was also one of the original members of the Capitol City club of Atlanta. Mr. Amorous was married in 1887 to Miss Emma Kate Williams, daughter of W. H. Williams of Columbus, Ga. Their lives have been blessed with two children: Clinton B. and Emma Kate. Intellectual vigor, energy and generosity have characterized Mr. Amorous' life, and to complete his personality, a genial disposition and an open-hearted nature commend him as an invaluable friend.

DR. LUDWIG AMSTER was born in Iglo, Austria, Nov. 11, 1863, and received his education in the public schools and gymnasium of that city, taking the degree of A. M. at the latter institute in 1880. After graduating he went to Vienna and there took up the study of medicine at the university, attending five and a half years and graduating in 1886. That same year he came to New York and at once took a course of lectures at the university of that city, receiving the degree of M. D. in 1888. Dr. Amster remained in New York over two years, and in January, 1890, went to Macon, Ga., removing from that city to Atlanta in October, 1892, having practiced his profession continuously since taking his degree. He is a member of the Atlanta society of medicine, of which he is a censor and is medical examiner for the following insurance companies: The Northwestern Mutual Life of Milwaukee, Wis.; the Travelers and Mutual Life of Hartford, Conn. He also holds the position of physician to the Hebrew Orphans' home of Atlanta. He is a Knight of Pythias and is affiliated with the B'nai Brith. He was married Feb. 7, 1893, to Fannie, daughter of M. Dinkem-