

THE MIMS FAMILIES

OF

EDGEFIELD



ADDRESS AND PAPERS
DELIVERED AT ANNUAL MEETING
EDGEFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

June 29, 1951

DEDICATION

The Spirit of Edgefield

(Air: "The Bells of St. Mary's")

The Spirit of Edgefield,
Whatever betide,
Is calling her children
From far and from wide;
In city and village,
Or far out at sea,
They hear her voice calling,
"Come back, sons, to me!"

Refrain:

Old Edgefield, dear Edgefield,
Thy children all love thee;
Thy great men, thy good men,
Wherever they be,
Turn back to the scenes oft'
Remembered in story;
Thy children all come back, come back
To thee, to thee.

The Spirit of Edgefield
Is calling today
Her young men and maidens,
Her youth, to the fray,
To build a great nation
As strong men of yore;
A challenge she offers:
"Go forward once more!"



MRS. J. L. MIMS

IN APPRECIATION OF THE VALUED SERVICE
AND NEVER FAILING INTEREST
OF
MRS. JULIAN LANDRUM MIMS
AS HISTORIAN OF THIS SOCIETY
THE EDGEFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
LOVINGLY DEDICATES THIS PUBLICATION
TO HER MEMORY

PROGRAM

EDGEFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY EDGEFIELD COURTHOUSE

JUNE 29, 1951

MRS. MAMIE NORRIS TILLMAN, President

11:00 A.M.—Registration.

11:15 A.M.—Call to Order.

Invocation—Dr. Howard M. Kinlaw.

Business:

President's Report.
Treasurer's Report.
Report of Nominating Committee.
Communications.

Recognition of Guests.

Family Data by Miss Annie Mae Mims and Miss Helen Wallace Mims.

Introduction of Speaker—Hon. J. Strom Thurmond, Former Governor South Carolina.

Address—"Drury Mims and His Descendants," by Major General Lewie Griffith Merritt.

Adjournment.

1:00 P.M.—Dinner at Edgefield Hotel.

PROCEEDINGS

The Edgefield County Historical Society held its 12th annual meeting Friday, June 29, 1951, in the Edgefield County Courthouse when special honor was paid the Mims family that has made an outstanding contribution to this county. The principal address was delivered by Major General Lewie Griffith Merritt, a descendant of Drury Mims, who was introduced by Former-Governor J. Strom Thurmond.

Papers on different branches of the Mims family were given by Miss Helen Wallace Mims and Miss Annie Mae Mims.

The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Mamie Norris Tillman, president for the past eleven years. Dr. H. M. Kinlaw, Baptist minister, offered the invocation.

During a brief business session officers were named as follows to serve the coming year: President, Mrs. Tillman; vice president, Miss Hortense Woodson; recording secretary, Mrs. M. H. Mims; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Marie Hammond Parker; historian, Mrs. J. L. Mims; treasurer, Mrs. Ruth DeLoach Huggins. The report of the nominating committee was made by Mr. J. Robert Tompkins and adopted by the society.

Mrs. Agatha Abney Woodson, founder of the society, who is now in her 92nd year, was unable to be present, nor was Mrs. J. L. Mims, historian, who had been confined to her bed. Mrs. Mims had gathered much material about the family over a long period of years and this was used in the meeting. Beautiful tributes were paid to her by Mrs. Tillman as well as by General Merritt.

Mrs. Tillman made her annual report.

Governor Thurmond introduced General Merritt as one of the State's greatest military leaders, the first American to be shot down over the African-European theater during World War II. He miraculously survived and won many awards for bravery. General Merritt, now retired, was in the air service of the Marines with thousands under his command.

In his address General Merritt recalled the days of his childhood spent in Edgefield and of his pride in descent from Drury Mims, whose life was treated in his discourse, "Drury Mims and His Descendants."

Members of the Mims family, many from a distance, were introduced.

Following the meeting in the courthouse a delightful turkey

dinner was served to 100 persons at the Edgefield Hotel. Rev. Manney Reid of the Episcopal Church offered thanks. An enjoyable program of music with vocal and instrumental numbers was rendered. Informal talks were made by some of the distinguished visitors.

Assisting in entertaining were Miss Betty Jones, Miss Sarah Fallin, Rev. Bill Burkett, Mr. Mims Mobley, Jr., Mr. Grover Talbert, Jr., little Misses Jessica Eggers, Beth Jackson, Jane Williams, Billie Faye Christie, who danced the Minuet.

Graciously distributing programs, ushering and serving were Misses Sara Timmerman, Margaret Sue Turner, Suzanne Mims, Daisy Smith, Nena Heyward, Sara Norris. Sigrid Hanson served as Mrs. Tillman's page and Julian Landrum Mims in The Citadel uniform of Rev. John Lake, was page to General Merritt. Greeting the guests at the hotel were Mrs. P. M. Feltham and Mrs. B. L. Mims.

The singing of "The Spirit of Edgefield" closed the luncheon.

Colorful flags on the streets of Edgefield were waving in deference to the occasion and in honor of the distinguished speaker of the day.

Open house at the Historical Society building when punch and cake were served and a large number called brought the day's program to a close.

Assisting at the Historical Society Building were Mrs. B. T. Boatwright, Mrs. I. T. Welling, Mrs. P. P. Blalock, Mrs. F. H. Huggins, Mrs. W. S. G. Heath, Mrs. Annie Lou Bobo, Mrs. Edmund Hardy, Mrs. Estelle Hammond Hill, Mrs. Marie Hammond Parker, Misses Catherine Proctor and Frances Paul.

ADDRESS BY GEN. L. G. MERRITT AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY JUNE 29

DRURY MIMS AND HIS DESCENDANTS

(Text of address before the Edgefield County Historical Society, June 29, 1951, by Major General Lewie Griffith Merritt.)

Back in 1906 when we were living in Columbia my father told us that we were moving to Edgefield. While neither my mother, my two brothers nor myself had ever been there, my father was well acquainted in the neighborhood and I had often heard him speak of such friends as Arthur Tompkins, Julian Holstein, McGowan Simkins, Bragg Jones and others. He often spoke with great deference of Governor John C. Sheppard and his valiant fight against the carpet-bag government.

We were told also of our great-great grandfather John A. Gray, Jr., and that our great-great-great grandfather was Drury Mims of Edgefield. So when we found that we were to come here to live, we all felt that we were going to a place where our family roots were deeply implanted and that we would be amongst friends. Nothing that I experienced then or have experienced since has ever caused me to alter the impression of my childhood.

My mother has said on many occasions that she has never lived in any community where the people were as genuinely hospitable and friendly, and more cultured generally than in Edgefield.

There is a question as to how this location happened to be named Edgefield, however we

are more fortunate as to the facts surrounding its founding, for there we are supplied with historical data and ample proof. Before the year 1785, Edgefield County was a part of Ninety-Six District. By an act of the Legislature on March 12, 1785, Ninety-Six was divided into the Counties of Edgefield, Abbeville, Newberry, Laurens, Union and Spartanburg. Chapman in his History of Edgefield County tells us however that there were permanent settlements as early as 1748 within the limits of the territory that later comprised the county.

At one time it was not clear as to just whose property the original town site of Edgefield stood on. This, however, was definitely solved by the discovery of deeds duly signed by Drury Mims and his wife, Lydia. The instruments were dated, one on 30 June 1787 and the other 1 August 1787, and clearly indicate that the property deed was part of that assigned for the public court house and the jail. In this same tract is the location occupied by The Edgefield Advertiser. While The Advertiser has changed owners several times, possession was regained by the Mims family and has now been in their hands continuously for 78 years. The first court house was in the center of the square as it now lies, and the jail is said to have been different from the present one, but on the same side of the square. As a matter of record Drury Mims first owned the land on which the original townsite of Edgefield stood, however, a portion of this was deeded to Arthur Simkins, who is considered a co-founder

of Edgefield with Drury Mims.

Speaking of the present square, that has changed considerably since I was a small boy. Well do I remember the old well that was there then. It was located in the center and had a little well house over it with a green roof and sides mostly enclosed by lattice work. The water was drawn up by what was then a modern windlass.

In the days when Edgefield was founded, an individual to live had to be sturdy, but to live and prosper a great deal more was required, for necessities were few and luxuries were non-existent. One had to possess the pioneer spirit to a high degree. Drury Mims had inherited this from his great-grandfather, Thomas Mims, Sr., who was born in Wales about 1650, and migrated to Virginia and settled in St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County. His grandfather, Thomas Mims, Jr., was born there about 1670. His father, David, was born in Virginia and was baptized in 1703 and died in 1781. David was from Henrico and Geesland Counties and married Agnes Weldy. Drury was their fifth-child and was born in 1720. The natural pioneering instinct of the family seems to have been keener in Drury than in any of the others; he was the only one of them to leave Virginia. He came down to North Carolina and met and married Lydia Jones, daughter of Francis Jones. They migrated further to Edgefield District before the Revolution.

When Drury Mims married Lydia Jones he gave to his posterity claim to a lineage from one of the most famous families of Virginia. She was a direct descendant of Edward Bennett, a rich London merchant who settled in Virginia in 1621. His daughter, Mary, married James

Day and their daughter, Elizabeth, married Nathaniel Ridley, and their daughter, Mary Ridley, was the wife of Francis Jones and mother of Lydia. Edgefield is tied still closer to the Bennett family for Ann, the daughter of Richard Bennett, Edward's nephew, married Col. Theodorick Bland, who is the ancestor of Mrs. Harold Norris.

The original site of the Drury Mims' home is about three miles southwest of here. The spot may be identified although the old house has been burned. The grave site may be visited. The stone marker still remains, however time and constant wearing of the elements have almost obliterated the markings.

Drury Mims and Lydia Mims were land owners of considerable extent. In addition to their acres obtained from other sources, Drury Mims received from the State of South Carolina six deeds between 1784 and 1797, all totaling about one thousand five hundred acres. His will is a masterpiece, but the first paragraph I believe particularly worthy of repeating. "I, Drury Mims, of the District of Edgefield and State of South Carolina, being weak in body, but of sound and disposing mind, thanks be unto God for the same, and calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in the manner following:

"First, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that first gave it, and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian-like manner, nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God. And as touching such worldly estate as it has pleased God to bless me, in this life, I

give, devise and bequeath of the same in the following manner." What a wonderful, simple faith in God!

Those of us who have any pretense to a sense of modesty hesitate, at least in public, to boast of our ancestry, however on such an occasion when the memory of so great a patriot and soldier in the cause of the American Revolution is being honored, I trust that I shall be pardoned for my obvious showing of great pride in being descended from Drury Mims. He was made of the stuff that builds nations.

Life was not so complicated in those days, still they had their troubles. Drury owned a fine gray saddle mare and he suspected that someone was riding her at night. I remember when it was quite common to lock the stable at night, not so much to prevent theft as to prevent unauthorized night riding. Often I used to hear the older men saying: "You know I believe somebody is riding my horse at night." Yet now-a-days we seem to think that this practice of joy-riding as it is known to the law, is quite new. That is, the borrowing of someone else's automobile and going for a ride without the owner's permission. There is nothing new about it as we see from Drury Mims' experience.

Having suspected the surreptitious use of his mare, he lay in wait near the stable. Soon a man approached, caught the horse and was about to mount. Drury fired, but unfortunately the shot missed the villain and killed the prize mare. The man was caught and turned out to be a Tory. He promised to work out the value of the horse and was allowed to go. The plan was not satisfactory and sometime later over a disagreement Drury killed the Tory. At this time Edge-

field District still had many Tories, so Drury was tried, convicted and sentenced to be hanged.

Here I think should be related the story of one of the real heroines of the Revolutionary period. Remember, at this time the county was still a wilderness with many hostile Indians and ruffians and with practically no trails and roads. It is the story of the devotion of Lydia Jones Mims to her husband who was facing death on the gallows. The seat of the government was then at Charleston, so Lydia, unescorted, rode to Charleston to plead with the Governor for Drury's life. On arrival she found that the Governor had gone to Beaufort. Without hesitation she changed horses and rode eighty miles to Beaufort, obtained an audience with the Governor and won a full pardon for her beloved husband. Edgefield was still a part of Ninety-Six District where the seat of Government was located. Lydia rode there and arrived a few days before Drury was to die.

The children of Drury and Lydia Mims were: John, David, Britton, Livingston, Matthew, Drury, Tignal, Winnie, Ridley and Lydia. Matthew had more descendants who remained in Edgefield than any other of the children, and probably more will be said about them for that reason.

I am descended from Ridley, who married John A. Gray, Jr., in 1798. Their daughter, Martha, married Augustus Nagle of Columbia, and their daughter, Eliza, married William A. Merritt who was my grandfather. My father used to tell me about a favorite uncle of his, Britton Nagle, who was named for his uncle Britton Mims. Britton Nagle played a violin beautifully and owned a fine German instru-

ment. He willed this to my father and it is still in our family.

Another daughter of Ridley Mims and John A. Gray, Jr., was Elizabeth. She married Dr. Chamberlain L. Goodwyn. One of the daughters of Dr. Goodwyn and Elizabeth, Anna Amelia, married Drury Scurry of Newberry. Their children were Lillian Gray Scurry and Drury Ralph Scurry. Drury Ralph Scurry who married Nannie Bullock was the father of Dr. C. J. and Mr. Ralph Scurry of Greenwood.

It would not be fitting to leave Ridley Mims without doing full justice to the Lycin family of Edgefield who are her descendants, and in particular the late Matthew Lyon. In this day and age, when it seems to be the vogue to look to the government for support, the thrift, energy, and zeal of Cousin Matt Lyon have always been an inspiration to me, and I think could well serve as an example for modern youth. He fathered 17 children and reared and educated sixteen. Yet he found time to help others, without asking any for himself. I may be wrong, but I think he had one of the first cream separators in this part of the country. His children all born and reared here in Edgefield are: Mrs. Lillie Wells, Albert, Mrs. Mattie Wingfield, Mrs. Minnie Lanham, Mrs. Alice Harris, Mrs. Daisy Clark, Thomas Preston, Matthew D., Jr., Claude, Frank, Mrs. Louise Smith, Mrs. Gladys Turner, Mrs. Mary Timmerman, Miss Margaret Lyon, Mrs. Sarah Timmerman and Mrs. Ruth Parker. All are living except Mrs. Daisy Clark, Frank, Mrs. Minnie Lanham and Mrs. Alice Harris. Young Albert, the son of Claude, was a Marine during the last war and his father had told me that he was in the 3rd Division. One day on Guam I learned that his division was there, so I

looked him up and enjoyed a short visit. When away it always does us good to see someone from home, and I had not long before seen the boy's mother and father here, and I knew he would like to hear how they were, first hand.

Drury's oldest son, John, married Mary Gray, daughter of John A. Gray and sister of John A. Gray, Jr., who married sister Ridley. Among their descendants are Mrs. J. D. Mathis, Sr., Mrs. Wallace Wise, the Harrisons and the Moss brothers of Trenton. I understand that Miss Carrie Harrison was famous for her cakes and baked them for the weddings of the daughters of the late Senator B. R. Tillman, and many others of the countryside.

David Mims, the second child, married Sara Scott and built a house on the site where the home of the late B. B. Jones now stands. I remember the old house very well. I watched the workmen dismantling it and noted with great interest that behind the weather boarding the walls were made of logs, thus linking the basic part of the house to an era when construction work was still primitive. It was torn down about 1907. The descendants of David live in Greenville, S. C., and Jackson, Tennessee.

Britton married Mary Ann Edwards and lived four miles from Hamburg at what was later known as the old Rambo place. Mary Ann is buried in Augusta, Ga., in Magnolia Cemetery. Charley Edwards, a sister of Mary Ann, married Drury Mims, Jr., brother of Britton. Louisiana Mims, daughter of Britton, married George Leith Penn, a prominent druggist of Edgefield. Dr. Penn established his drug store in 1845. It was later operated by his son, William Britton Penn. Ann Penn married B. C. Bryan and from them came many

prominent citizens of Edgefield. Their daughter, Annie Laurie, married E. J. Norris. She died and Mr. Norris married Belle Mims, another descendent of Drury Mims. Another daughter, Frances Maria, married William H. Brunson in 1869. Mr. Brunson was a gallant Confederate soldier and for many years was the postmaster here. He is one of the older citizens who is remembered vividly. On many occasions, as a small boy, I used to get our mail from his hands. Mr. Brunson's daughter, Lou Brunson, married Julian Dozier Helstein. Mr. Holstein, with William Britton Penn, operated the old Penn Drug Store which then became known as Penn and Holstein. It was quite an establishment and in spite of the fact that it was ostensibly a drug concern, we used to buy most of our groceries there. Other descendants are the Hartleys of Batesburg and Lucille Cullum. Lucille was the daughter of Loulie Bryan and Dew Cullum. Loulie was the granddaughter of Britton Mims.

Livingston Mims married Martha Perrin, a daughter of William C. Perrin and among their descendants are Mrs. William Richard Wright of Jackson, Mississippi, and Livingston Mims who became Mayor of Atlanta. Too much cannot be said for the tireless and relentless pursuit of Mrs. Wright in searching out the genealogical details concerning the Mims family. She gathered the necessary data and had intended to write a family history, however illness and death intervened. We are indebted to her for much of the material which is available today.

Drury Mims, Jr., married Charley Edwards and moved to Alabama. Among their descendants is Mrs. Allen M. McNeel of Montgomery, Alabama. Mrs. Mc-

Neel and her husband visited Edgefield several ago. Mary Ann and Charley Edwards were the daughters of Letitia Martin, daughter of Abram and Elizabeth Marshall Martin, known as the Martins of Martintown, and Charles Edwards of Virginia.

Tignal Mims married Nancy Tillman of Edgefield, but there were no children. He died in 1826.

Winnie Mims was the oldest daughter of Drury and Lydia Mims. She married Henry Ware who was born in Maryland and came to South Carolina. After the marriage of Winnie and Henry Ware they moved to Wilkes County, Georgia. From them are many prominent descendants in Georgia, among them is Mrs. A. H. Newman whose husband was a professor at Mercer University; and Mrs. Adela Barksdale Ware of Milledgeville, and Dr. Fritz Ware of Warrenton, Georgia.

Lydia, the daughter of Drury Mims, married John Moss and moved to Washington, Georgia. They had several children.

Edgefield seems to have had unusual appeal for the descendants of Matthew Mims for there are more of them by far than of any of the other children of Drury Mims. He was the fifth son. Matthew married Elizabeth Tutt in 1809. She was the daughter of Captain Richard Tutt, a distinguished Revolutionary soldier. The name of Richard Tutt is found as a witness upon the will of Drury Mims. The Captain is credited with having built the first home in Edgefield which was on the spot where Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Fuller now live. Matthew Mims was magistrate of Edgefield District and was clerk of court of Edgefield County from 1814 to 1822. He and Arthur Simkins were co-founders of the first church to be estab-

lished in Edgefield, the village Baptist Church. Matthew and Elizabeth Mims lived in the fork of the Newberry and Ninety-Six roads, and the place is still standing and is considered the oldest house in Edgefield. It is occupied by the great-great-grandson, Robert Harold Norris.

Matthew and Elizabeth had 8 children: Richard Tutt, Edward Jones, Giles Dozier, James Henry, Sara Manly, Mary Ann, Eliza, and Robert Hayne.

Richard Tutt became a physician and lecturer. He married Teresa Lowe and lived on Main Street in the house which Mr. L. H. Harling moved and now lives in. Their descendants are the Prothro of South Carolina and Georgia, the Livingstons of Athens, Ga., Earl Mims and Catherine Timmons of Birmingham and the Fountains of North Augusta.

Edward Jones Mims married Emeline Addison, the daughter of Allen Bartlett Addison. Matthew Mims and Allen Addison believed in helping their young folks along, so they got together, and one gave the land and the other the house, and provided a home for Edward Jones and his wife, Emeline. Their house was the Mims house next to the Bragg Jones place. Dr. Mims was a physician and established the first drug store in Edgefield, known as "LaBorde and Mims". He moved to Johnston to his plantation which embraced the original townsite of Johnston. His descendants are apparently more numerous than those of any of the children of Matthew Mims. Among many others there are the Walkers (George, Lucas and Mims), and W. A. Mobley of Johnston, Mrs. Sallie Mobley Keesee of Johnston, and the late E. J. Mims, J. L. Mims and Joe Eve Mims of Edgefield and Linie

Mims Allen (Mrs. Hord Allen).

Here I should like to pay tribute to a member of our family who has anticipated this gathering with great pleasure and has worked zealously for its success. That is Mrs. Florence Mims, the wife of the late Julian L. Mims. The diligence of Mrs. Mims in searching out genealogical facts bearing on the Mims Family would match that of any scientist anywhere. The data gathered by her represents the efforts of a life time. Her life has been a full and busy one. Besides rearing a family she found time for matters of state-wide and national interest, and was for years an effective member of the State Board of Education, and an ardent worker in the cause of temperance and was long the president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of South Carolina. She would be here today except for an illness which has confined her to bed for some time.

The third son, Giles Dozier, married Elizabeth Waldo and later Mattie James. They lived near what is now Aiken and among their descendants is Mrs. W. K. Hagler of Augusta.

James Henry married Julia Glenn and later Elizabeth Carwile. He built the house now occupied by B. E. Nicholson. His descendants are James Mims Huiet and others living in Florida.

The youngest child of Matthew Mims was Robert Hayne. He married Isabella Lake in 1855 and they lived in his father's house, having inherited it upon his father's passing. He was an outstanding artist and a successful photographer. Robert Hayne was a highly respected citizen and considered above reproach. His children are Miss Eliza Mims, Mrs. E. J. Norris, and Dr. George F. Mims. Miss Eliza was an artist

of note in Edgefield, and I still remember her as an art instructor with a studio in the old S. C.C.I. main building. I was most anxious to take art from her, but my father said that if I kept up with piano lessons he thought I would be doing well.

The other day I had the great pleasure of a visit with a dear old lady, Mrs. E. J. Norris, who was Belle Mims. In spite of her advanced years, she is mentally quite keen and alert and still possesses a wonderful sense of humor. She remarked that "The Merritts are good people, and the Mims, they are all right too."

Then there is Dr. George Mims. He has just observed his 50th anniversary in the practice as an optometrist and optician, and how well I remember him. My mother was very dependent on her glasses, and she wore the type that were very fragile. On one occasion she broke them and felt quite helpless. Nowadays they could be repaired quite simply anywhere, but then precision instruments for drilling glass were rare and usually the job had to be done by hand. I took them down to Dr. Mims and to my amazement and her delight, he drilled a small hole through the remaining part of the broken lens and assembled the glasses in remarkable shape, so good in fact that she wore them a long time before they were replaced.

There are many, many other descendants of Drury and Lydia Mims, and time does not permit direct reference to them all. By and large wherever they are found, they are good solid citizens of their communities. They are sober, industrious, intelligent, and lovers and builders of homes and churches. Most of them are artists in various lines, and very musical. As a summary of the Mims characteristics it

appears that few pursue the ministry, however many are teachers, and they always respond to the call of their country in war or peace. It is said that there were three things that the Mimses did not do: First, they didn't drink green tea; second, no politics; and third, they did not go to the South Carolina College—they preferred denominational institutions of higher learning which were considered more spiritually inclined than the state school.

Yes we are justly proud of our lineage from Drury and Lydia Jones Mims. They were prominent among those who fought to obtain that freedom and liberty which we now enjoy and at times take for granted. We have about us all the "isms" in the world except "one hundred per cent Americanism." Lines were clearly drawn in the days when our foreparents were here. They were Americans or Tories. Today we are often in doubt and have those about us whose avowed purpose is the destruction of the Government of the United States by force and violence, and with men in high government positions whose loyalty and patriotism are often questioned. With communism running rampant over the earth, we are faced with a situation, the danger of which has not been equalled since the days when our grandfathers fought here in this area to give us the democracy and freedom that we now have and enjoy. I pray to God that the American people will hold to that old fashioned belief in a government for the people and by the people, and will capture the determination not to lose the precious heritage for which Drury and Lydia Jones Mims, with others of their time, fought so valiantly.

THOMAS MIMS AND HIS DESCENDANTS

By MISS ANNIE MAY MIMS

Those who have studied genealogy know that very few families are always great and that most all families are sometimes great. The Mims family, some of whom left glorious deeds recorded on the nation's history, while the majority did not, but as a family they were among the strong foundation stones of integrity and uprightness of social law and order on which the great fabric of Christian civilization rests, and they "were not of those who stoop and lie in wait for place, or fortune, or for worldly state."

Because of the general destruction of a great many of the official records, much dependence must be placed on those of the church.

The Vestry Book of Blisland Parish, Va., contains a photostatic copy of the Blisland Grievances, dated April 2, 1677, from the original, which is on file in the public record office in London, England.

This interesting protest and petition was an aftermath of the open rebellion of the colonists in 1676 under the leadership of Nathaniel Bacon and against the Colonial Government headed by William Berkeley and is known as "Bacon's Rebellion." This rebellion was quickly suppressed but it resulted in a commission visiting Virginia to look into the state of affairs in the colony. On their arrival April 2, 1677, they invited the colonists to file a list of their grievances and among the eighty-seven signatures to this historic document was Thomas Mims.

Thomas Mims died in 1690 in Virginia. His son, Thomas Mims, Jr., died 1711. Thomas Mims III patented land in Virginia 1714-1717.

The Mims family at one time held extensive estates in Herts,

also in Bucks, at Wendover, also in Norfolk, England. They held the Manor of (Mymmes) Mims, before the conquest. They were dispossessed of the Manor at the conquest, but still managed to hold much land and wealth. The Mims' were represented at the battle of Agincourt by Richard Botelier (Mymmes) Mims. The arms were to be seen on an armar tomb in Hertingfordbury church.

The Mims' married into some of the best families in England. Related to the Earl of Warwick and Queen Elizabeth. Reference: "Survey of Popery."

King Edward VI, Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth gave to the Mims' much church property in Norfolk, England.

Sir John Mims, Rear Admiral under Charles I, espoused the forlorn cause of Charles I, and tradition says he joined Prince Rupert and was lost to ken. Sir John Mymms' portrait by Van Dyck can still be seen at Moor Park.

The Mims supported the Stuart line in England and their name disappeared with Sir John in England, and on or about this time we have the record of their appearance in America.

Thomas Mims, born before 1623 in England, died February 1693-4 in Virginia, Middlesex County. His known children: Elizabeth, Thomas Mims, Jr., wife, Melly Ann Martin; Sarah Mims, and Lionel Mims (the forefather of Irving S. Cobb).

Thomas Mims, Sr.'s children: John Mims; David Mims, wife Agnes Wildy; Thomas Mims, born Feb. 1707-8, living 1764, had two marriages; Benjamine Mims; Sarah Mims; Joseph Mims; Robert Mims, born 1714; Ann Mims, baptised 1710.

David Mims and Agnes Wildy's son, Drury Mims, married Lydia Jones (as his second wife, in North Carolina.) He first took up

land grants in Washington Co., Ga. (later lived in Edgefield Co.) along with his kinsmen, John Mims, Shadrack Mims, William Mims, Frederick Mims (Revolutionary soldier. Warrenton, N. C.), Joseph Mims and Martin Mims. (Reference: Ga. Roster of American Revolution.) —

David Mims' brother, Thomas Mims, patented land on Sept. 6, 1765, Bladen Co., N. C. Was living in Charles Co., S. C., St. James Goose Creek Parish.

On July 21, 1768, Thomas Mims was living in Anson Co., N. C. and signed petition to his Excellency, Governor Tryon, about the citizens being unduly taxed, along with Samuel Van and Thomas Swearingen who later came to Edgefield Co., S. C.

Thomas Mims (4th in line) had children known: Thomas Mims; David Mims; William Mims; Drury Mims; James Mims; daughter Mary Mims married Dennis Gilmore of Charleston Co., S. C.; Samuel Mims; John Mims; and a daughter who married a Mr. Parker.

Thomas Mims' son, James Mims, married Mary Ridley Jones (daughter of Ridley Jones and his wife, Miss Kimbrell of Warren Co., N. C., and also a niece of Lydia Jones Mims). Their children as follows:

1. Elizabeth (Eliza) Mims married Asa Holstein, son of Moses Holstein of Edgefield Co., S. C.

2. Margaret C. Mims married Isaiah Burton, son of Nathaniel Burton, Edgefield Co., S. C.

3. Margaret C. Mims married Isaiah Burton, son of Nathaniel Burton, Edgefield Co. S. C.

4. Mary Mims married James Prothro of Edgefield Co., died in Texas.

5. Thomas Mims married Elizabeth Smith of Orangeburg Co.,

6. Joseph Mims married Rebecca Jones of Lexington County.

7. Elliott Mims unmarried.

8. Josiah Mims married Elizabeth Fretwell of Georgia.

9. Needham Mims married Temperance ———?

10. Emily Mims married Jefferson Alford of Pike Co., Ga.

11. Joseph and Rebecca Jones' children: 1. Colonel Alfred Mims (Confederate Army), married Catherine Leibrant Moore widow of George Moore.

12. Children of Col. Alfred Mims and wife, Catherine:

1. Giles Dozier Mims, wife, Sallie H. Whatley.

2. Ann Mims, 1st marriage, to Benj. Yon. 1 son, deceased; 2nd marriage, Dr. James Crosson; 1 son, deceased.

3. Emma Mims married A. Andrew Gage. Children: Dr. Alfred Mims Gage; Dr. Idus Mims Gage; Kathleen Gage.

4. Alice Mims married Fred Cason. 1 son, Mims Cason, deceased.

5. Paul Jones Mims, wife Bessie Major. Their children, Paul J. Mims, Jr., Frank Mims, and John Mims.

6. Caroline Mims married Edgar Blake; daughter Lilla Blake, married Frank Limer, 2 children.

7. Ida Mims married 1st David Carson; 2nd, J. F. Bailey.

8. Joseph Mims unmarried.

9. Giles Dozier Mims and Sallie Whatley's children:

Alfred Mims (deceased). Elizabeth Mims married L. W. Woodward.

Anne Mae Mims.

Emma Lillian Mims married Julian T. Barnes.

Sallie Whatley Mims married 1st, Frederick Andrews, 2 children; Betty Andrews, Ann Andrews; married 2nd, Carl S. Sumerau. No issue.

Betty Andrews married Dr. George Wilcox Brown, 3 children, Frederick Brown, George Brown, Jr., Carol Ann Brown.

Ann Andrews married William Jones Cooper, 2 children, Charles Bradford Cooper, David Cooper.

JOHN MIMS AND HIS DESCENDANTS

By MISS HELEN WALLACE MIMS

Prepared and presented by Miss Helen Wallace Mims at the meeting of the Edgefield County Historical Society June 29th

As I was writing this paper, I was reminded of a remark which was once made by my maternal grandmother, the late Mrs. J. C. Sheppard. My mother on one occasion asked my grandmother a question about her family which my grandmother couldn't answer. Then my mother asked her why was it that she didn't know more about her family. She replied: "My dear, I've always been too busy with descendants to worry about ancestors!"

I think that most of us have been too busy with the demands of modern life to give much thought to the past; but it is good to give pause on such occasions as today to a study of family history—not for the purpose of fostering ancestor worship, but to gain a new appreciation of the sacrifices which our ancestors made and of the courage which they displayed in establishing a democratic America. This renewed appreciation can bring a keener realization of our own individual responsibility in helping to preserve this democracy, for the need has been amplified time and time again during recent months for a more informed, interested and actively alert citizenry.

My topic this morning is John Mims and his descendants. My material was gotten from data which was given to my father by the late Mrs. Susan B. Hill of Edgefield, as well as the late Mrs. Anne Mims Wright of Mississippi. The latter was a descendant of Drury Mims.

The earliest appearance of the name, MIMS, on the extant record of the colony of Virginia

is in 1623 when it appears that Thomas Mims was living in Flower de Hundred, a settlement on the south side of James River which in 1634 at the division of the colony into "Shires" or counties fell within the county of Charles City. In 1702 a subdivision fell within the present county of Pinso George.

On February 3, 1662, Thomas Mims was granted 800 acres of land in James City County on the branches of the Chickahominy swamp, adjoining Thomas Meredith, George Smith, Richmond Terrell and Edmund Price. This land was granted Thomas Mims for transportation of 16 persons from abroad into the colony. It is not improbable that the land granted in 1662 was situated in the vicinity of the dividing line between James City and New Kent County.

Another Thomas Mims, the ancestor of the Edgefield County Mimses and, thought to be related to the first Thomas Mims, was born in Wales around 1660. He immigrated to St. Peters Parish, New Kent County, Va. and died around 1711. Thomas Mims, Jr., his son, born in 1670, married Anne Martin in 1698 and had the following children: David, Benjamin, Thomas, Sarah, Robert and John.

The Act forming Goochland County, Va., was passed March 6, 1727 and was to take effect the 1st of May 1728. It will be seen by records that David Mims (first of the name discovered in Goochland County) entered 358 acres in Henrico County and received patents for the same on October 31, 1726. He was living on this land which was cut off into Goochland County, and spent the remainder of his life there. He married Agnes Wildy of

Goochland County—later Albermarle County.

Benjamin, brother of David, sold some land in Albermarle County and his wife, Judith, signed and relinquished her dowry. Two years later, in 1753, Benjamin sold out, and then we find him in Anson County, North Carolina. Records show that Drury, son of David and nephew of Benjamin went to Court with Benjamin and acknowledged deeds on the same day that he did. John Mims, thought to be the son of Benjamin, returned to Virginia to marry Mary Moss but came back to North Carolina and lived there until the early 1770s when he and his cousin Drury moved to Ninety Six District in South Carolina—the section which later became Edgefield County. John settled on what is now the Cantelou place, and Drury on what we know as the old Butler place. A plat of 1810 shows that they were adjoining plantations.

John Mims served in the Revolutionary War, records in the office of the South Carolina Historical Commission show that he was paid 6 pounds, 14 shillings, and 3 pence and ¼-pound sterling for his period of military duty.

In 1791, date of the first census of South Carolina, this John Mims was shown with one son over sixteen and three women in the family. These were probably Talton Mims, his only son, wife, Mary Moss Mims, and his two unmarried daughters, Judith and Mary. Judith later married Benjamin Mock, and Mary married William Nibbs in 1806. Nibbs was an attorney at Cambridge, which was then the county seat of the Ninety Six District.

After 1800, John remarried, this time a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Howard, but there were no children by this marriage. John

died in 1804, and was buried on his plantation.

Talton Mims, John's only son, was born in 1765; he married Behetheland of Edgefield County. There were nine children by this marriage—Harriet, Hampton, Sara, Martin, Mary Ann, Martha, John, Amelia and Benjamin Talton. All of these moved to Alabama with the exception of Martha who married Moses Swearingen, Mary Ann, who married Moses Medlock, and Benjamin Talton. The only descendants of Martha and Moses Swearingen today are John Swearingen and descendants of Columbia, George Swearingen and Bobbie Swearingen Smith, children of the late George Swearingen of Trenton, as well as the children of the late Mrs. Sophie Swearingen Swindell.

The living descendants of Mary Ann and Moses Medlock are Henry Medlock, Sr., of Greenwood and descendants, Martin Medlock and descendants and descendants of the late Mrs. Fanny Medlock Townes.

Benjamin Talton Mims then was the only Mims of his family whose descendants remain in the Town of Edgefield today. Benjamin Talton Mims was born in Edgefield on March 4, 1811, and died January 19, 1885. He married twice, his first wife being Mary Williams. There were five children by this marriage: 1. Robert Lang Mims who was killed in the War Between the States. 2. Permelia Williams Mims who married twice—first, Gabriel H. Parks and after his death, John B. Lambkin. 3. Molly Mims who married J. B. Adams. 4. Behetheland, who married Adams after Molly's death. 5. Mark Abney Mims. Living descendants of this branch include: Mr. A. M. Parks and family of Edgefield, Mrs. Alvin Smith and family of Aiken, Mr. Harrison

Parks and family of Columbia and Mr. William Parks of New York City. Also Mr. B. T. Mims and descendants, Mr. L. A. Mims and family, Miss Ellie Mims, Mrs. Mary Mims Brunson and family, all of Edgefield County, and Mrs. Eugenia Mims Rhinehart and family of Saluda.

Benjamin Talton Mims' second wife was Susan Addison. By this marriage in 1851, he had three children: two daughters Lura Charley and Harriet, and one son, James Talton. Lura married W. P. Brunson, and Harriet married T. J. Lanham. Living descendants of these sisters include: T. B. Lanham and descendants of Pickens, Mrs. Horace Dorn, Sr., and descendants of Columbia, and Mrs. John Nixon of Columbia. Also Mr. Luther Brunson, Mr. D. D. Brunson and Miss Harriet Brunson, of Edgefield County.

James Talton Mims was born on May 6, 1857 and died December 29, 1922. While still in his teens, he was a member of the Edgefield Saber Club, a rifle club which helped in suppressing the riots during the Reconstruction period in 1876. In June, 1884, he married Kate J. Hill of Edgefield. There were seven children by this marriage: 1. Martha Hughes Mims, who married Henry Hughes Hill. They have two living children: H. H. Hill, Jr. who married Patricia Kneas, and Kate Hill. 2. Benjamin Lovick Mims, who married Sarah Maxwell Sheppard. They have three living children: Katharine Hill Mims, Helen Wallace Mims, and B. L. Mims, Jr., who married

Dorothy Jeffries Hart. 3. Sophie Hughes Mims, who married Warren N. Fair. 4. Lura Mims who married Pierce Butler Day. They have four children: Annie Day Himley (Mrs. N. E.); Martha Day Steadman (Mrs. W. W., Jr.); Elizabeth Day Butler (Mrs. James) and P. B. Day, Jr. 5. James Talton Mims, Jr. (deceased), who first married Emily Adams. There were two children by this marriage: Harriet Mims Furman (Mrs. Thomas) and Wilhelmina Mims Camp (Mrs. Clinton). 6. Katherine Mims Crawford. 7. John Mims (deceased) who married Flora Bethea of Dillon. The latter was also the second wife of James T. Mims, Jr.

James T. Mims, Jr., and John Mims served in World War I. The other descendants of James Talton Mims, Sr., who served in World War II were: Henry H. Hill, Jr., and B. Lovick Mims, Jr., who served as Captains in the U. S. Army and Air Corps, Katharine Mims who served as Ensign in the Waves, Kate Hill and the writer who served as Red Cross recreation workers attached to the Armed Forces.

I regret that I do not have a complete list of all descendants of John Mims who served in World War I and II, nor do I know the rank of all of those who did, but the following constitutes a partial list: World War I: Luther Brunson and Platt Brunson. World War II: Charles and Leonard Parks, Robert Smith, B. T. Mims, Jr., Thomas Mims, Henry Medlock, Jr., John Swearingen, Jr. and Lt. Colonel A. T. Samuel, Jr., regular army.

REPORT OF MRS. M. N. TILLMAN, PRESIDENT

The annual meeting of the Edgefield County Historical Society in 1950 presented Dr. Francis Butler Simkins, professor of History at the Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La., as the speaker of the occasion. His address was the Simkins Family of Edgefield, of which family he is a distinguished descendant. The first Simkins to settle in Edgefield was Judge Arthur Simkins who was one of the founders of the town of Edgefield, and also a founder of the Edgefield Village Baptist Church. Drury Mims of the Mims Family honored today was a co-founder with Simkins of Edgefield. Numerous descendants of Arthur Simkins attended the meeting and after dinner at the Hotel repaired to the Historical Society Building, which is a gift to Edgefield County by a descendant of the Nicholson Family, Miss Anne Louise Golightly of Memphis, Tennessee.

This building attracts many visitors from far and near. In looking over the Register, it is interesting to note that they came from Ohio, Soochow, China, Georgia, Washington, D. C., Kansas, Louisiana, New York, Illinois, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Ontario, Canada, Michigan, Massachusetts, Vermont, Florida, Maryland, Texas, and Missouri, 340 in number since the last meeting of the Historical Society in the summer of 1950. Our membership has reached 152.

On the walls of the building are portraits of Governors of South Carolina, a bishop, generals and statesmen, a Doctor of Divinity, and a glass case with the uniform and picture of an Admiral, all contributing their part in making illustrious Edge-

field history.

The most recent addition are two oil paintings, "Elaine" from Tennyson's Idylls of the King, and a copy of Landseer's "The Monarch of the Glen", by Edgefield's most gifted artist, Miss Eliza Mims, and donated by her kinsmen, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Norris.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Abney Woodson of Washington, D. C., of the Woodson Family of Edgefield, have graciously donated valuable books of historic value: Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians, Guizot's History of France, and 17 volumes of The American Encyclopedia by Rev. T. J. Conant and daughter. An author, Mrs. Elizabeth Boatwright Coker of the Boatwrights of the Ridge, has presented her book, "Daughter of Strangers".

Of peculiar interest are two books, one of Stories and Facts concerning individuals in Edgefield County and one of the Old Homes of Edgefield made by the research work of Mrs. Flossie Lamb Crouch. Along with these are sketches of some of the old churches of Edgefield District compiled by Mrs. Henry W. Medlock and Mrs. Marie Hammond Parker. Gravestone Inscriptions, family data and Bible records are much appreciated gifts by Mr. Leonardo Andrea.

A scrap book of World War I made by Miss Sarah Collett, and a piano given by Mrs. Sarah Lyon Timmerman, are highly appreciated.

Mr. W. C. Beckham of the Highway Department and Mr. Pierce Timmerman, County Supervisor and Messrs. Joe Hammond and Roy Harling rendered valuable aid in connection with the Longstreet Marker.

Our friend, Mrs. Mary Hemphill Green of Abbeville has sent the book on The Calhoun Settle-

ment in Abbeville County, and Mr. Samuel G. Stoney, president of the South Carolina Historical Society of Charleston, placed in our society photostat copies of letters of Preston Brooks to his brother, J. H. Brooks of Edgefield. It gives a detailed account of his action in the caning of Sumner for derogatory remarks made by him about Judge Andrew Pickens Butler of Edgefield.

The handiwork of a colored Mammy is a quilt of applique design made for Andrew Jackson Hammond when she nursed him as a baby in 1815. The Hammond family was one of the oldest and wealthiest of the settlers on the Martintown Road of Edgefield County. This quilt was presented by Mrs. Sallie Hammond Matheny of Augusta, Ga.

The outstanding project of the Historical Society was the erection of a pink granite marker denoting the site of the birthplace of General James E. Longstreet in the Martintown section of Edgefield County. Several hundred people witnessed this panoramic presentation of lovely maidens in Colonial costumes standing around the marker, while Mrs. Helen Dortch Longstreet, wife of the General, in a beautiful blue dress of the 60's,

drew aside the veil of patriotic colors while the 35 piece Army band from Camp Gordon, Augusta, played stirring music as the Stars and Stripes waved in the breeze. A masterpiece in tribute to General Longstreet was the address by General Charles Pelot Summerall, president of The Citadel in Charleston. A happy climax of the day was the old-fashioned Southern barbecue at the Governor Pickens River Plantation nearby and now owned by Mr. W. Walton Mims, editor of the Edgefield Advertiser, who contributed much of his time and resources to make the occasion one of the most memorable in the history of Edgefield County.

We would express our great appreciation to his mother, Mrs. J. L. Mims, the Historian of the Historical Society, for her highly treasured contributions to us. We are saddened that illness prevented her from her accustomed place among us today. We miss her and pray God's blessings on her.

It is our aim to preserve the annals of our beloved Edgefield and to promote the secular and sacred history of her future. To that end, I pledge myself and ask the cooperation of all of the citizens of Edgefield County in this worthy undertaking.

MRS. FLORENCE ADAMS MIMS

MARCH 26, 1873-AUGUST 18, 1951

*"Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling."*

Mrs. Florence Adams Mims stepped gently from the world of sorrow into the realms of joy and eternal day during the early hours of Saturday, August 18, 1951. Sleeping the hours of life away she awakened to the dawn of an endless day. Heaven must have rejoiced at her coming and loved ones gone before must have welcomed her in happy spirit. Shall those of this mundane sphere sorrow that a life that was so gloriously, graciously and beautifully lived should have rounded out its allotted span as a ripened fruit, ready for the garnering?

Mrs. Mims was born March 26, 1873, at noon in the Woodson House (where the T. E. Strom dwelling now stands), her parents being Thomas J. Adams and Elizabeth Miller Adams. She joined the Edgefield Village Baptist Church under the preaching of Dr. Wilson of Abbeville in August 1886, and was baptized in the Academy Branch by Rev. Thomas Douglas Dunlap Clark who was then pastor in Edgefield. She studied in Edgefield and also attended school in Laurens (the Laurensville Female Academy) before going to Miss Kelly's School in Charleston where she was graduated in 1891. She was salutatorian of her class and wrote and delivered from memory her speech, in Latin.

As a young woman she became active in church and community work. She organized the Sunbeam Society of her church and

was its leader for eleven years; organized the Infant Class and furnished it, and taught it for a number of years; organized the Woman's Missionary Society and was its president eleven years. She organized the Woman's Missionary Union of Edgefield Baptist Association and served as president twenty four and a half years, until every church had an organization. She wrote a history of the W.M.U. of Edgefield Association which has been published.

A gifted musician, she was church organist for some years, and also taught music for a brief period.

Mrs. Mims' interest in the cause of temperance began in 1905 when she became first president of the local WCTU. In 1907 she became vice-president of the South Carolina WCTU and continued to hold that office until her election as State President in 1928 at the convention in Sumter. She established the Palmetto White Ribbon which she edited from 1907 until 1946.

For 14 years she served as a member of the State Board of Education, from January 1925 until January 1940, serving under three state chief executives, Governors Blackwood, Richards, and Johnson — the only member who was not a teacher. She was appointed by the board as its representative with the temperance organizations of the state, and it was largely through her influence that a program of alcohol education in the schools of South Carolina was adopted. Mrs. Mims exercised courage, tact,

and excellent judgment in handling delicate matters assigned to her by the board.

She was vice chairman of the Edgefield County Democratic executive committee, and the first woman elected to represent this county at the State Democratic Convention. She was three times elected and attended the convention in Columbia each time.

She attended National Conventions of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Atlanta, Ga.; Boston, Mass.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Chicago, Ill.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Birmingham, Ala.; the regional conference in Washington, D. C.; and the World's WCTU convention in Washington in 1937.

The Edgefield Advertiser was bought by her father, Thomas J. Adams, the year of her birth, in 1873. He edited it until his death in 1902, when her husband, Julian Landrum Mims, became the editor and served 35 years, until his death in 1937. Her son, William Walton Mims, succeeded his father and is the present editor. This paper has therefore been in the same family 78 years and Mrs. Mims has been a constant contributor to it since young womanhood. Her writings have covered all subjects of a local nature, but in recent years she has written a special column, "Years Gone By," which is widely read.

Her other writings have included a pamphlet, "Unwritten History of South Carolina W. C. T. U.," "History of the Edgefield Baptist Church," which was published serially in The Advertiser; a chapter in the Haynsworth-Furman Family by Hugh Haynsworth, devoted to her branch of those families; and the

Nicholson Family history.

Mrs. Mims belonged to every civic and cultural organization in the town. In earlier days she promoted the lyceum and chautauqua programs. She was chairman of the Library committee of the Civic League and it was through her efforts that the former bank building on the Public Square was purchased and converted into the present Tompkins Memorial Library.

Mrs. Mims had been a member of the Old 96 District chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution through several lines of descent, among them Wood Furman, through his daughter, Sarah who married Henry Haynsworth. Sarah was a sister of the great Baptist leader, Dr. Richard Furman. She was descended on her father's side from Lieut. Wright Nicholson of Edgefield County, Revolutionary hero. She was active in the United Daughters of the Confederacy, historian of the Edgefield County Historical Society, and a life member of the Caroliniana Society, since its organization. She was an honorary member of the Chi Omega sorority. A sketch of Mrs. Mims appears in Who's Who of American Women.

She loved Edgefield County and visited many times every Baptist church in this section in the interest of missions and temperance.

Mrs. Mims was a fluent speaker, and always responded graciously and readily when called upon to speak. She had the gift of expressing her thoughts in appropriate words at all times.

The sturdy qualities of New England forebears were combined in a remarkable degree with the gentle Southern traits inherited from a long line of men and women who contributed to the

building of the State of South Carolina. She was just in her dealings and in her heart was the law of kindness. Her children and many others arise to call her blessed. Her influence for good reached far beyond the confines of her home and immediate environment.

On October 6, 1897, she was married to Mr. Mims and they were the parents of six children, four of whom survive: Miss Florence Adams, of the department of English on the faculty of Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S. C.; Mrs. Orrie Hanson (Eleanor Mims) of Crockett, Texas; M. Hansford Mims, attorney and former member of the House of Representatives; William Walton Mims, Editor of The Advertiser. She leaves also eight grandchild-

dren: Mrs. Lewis Bryan, Miss Suzanne Mims, William Walton and Thomas Adams Mims, children of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Mims; Julian Landrum, Matthew Hansford, and Marie Crockett Mims, children of Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Mims; Sigrid Hanson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orrie Hanson; and one great-grandchild, Sandra Florence Bryan.

Funeral services were held on Sunday afternoon, August 19, at the graveside in Willowbrook cemetery, with her pastor, Dr. Howard M. Kinlaw, officiating. He read the 23rd Psalm and led in a beautiful prayer. Many lovely flowers were sent by organizations and friends, attesting the high place she holds in many hearts.

H. W.

In Memoriam

Mrs. J. L. Mims (Florence Adams Mims), 1873-1951

While meditating upon the wonders of Heaven, I thought,—
All beautiful Souls by God are wrought;

God giveth, God taketh away,
And God rewardeth on the Judgment Day;

A fine and noble woman in royal robes doth sleep,
Enfolded in white angel wings, in Heaven for God to keep;

By all she was held in high esteem, for her Heart, her Soul,
her Mind;

And to all around about her she was good, sincere, and kind;
We, her friends and kinsmen are sorrowful and so sad;
But knowing that it's God's great plan, we dry our tears, and
try to say (though it is hard): Dear Lord, we're really glad.

And we thank Thee, Lord, for blessing her through this
Christian Temperance age,
And thank Thee, too, for leaving us a noble, Christ-like
heritage.

By Elizabeth Agatha Woodson

SKETCHES OF MIMS HOMES

By MRS. J. L. MIMS

"Drury Mims and his wife, Lydia Jones, came from North Carolina to Edgefield, South Carolina, before the Revolution. He died 1819 as may be seen in cemetery 4 miles west of Edgefield. He lived near that cemetery. She died 1821.

"David Mims, his son, built and lived in home at Edgefield C. H. where Mrs. Dr. Elbert Bland formerly (Rebecca Griffin) now lives."

(This home was torn down by Mr. B. B. Jones and he built the present home on Main St. which at present belongs to M. H. Mims, 1950.—F.A.M.)

This old house built by David Mims was a one story home, very nice, with spacious rooms and wide hall. On either side of the house was an octagonal room. One of these octagonal rooms is stading behind the home of Mr. E. E. Wates near J. C. Sheppard house and seems to be in good repair. This was bought by S. McGowan Simkins when he took into his home his nephews and niece as a help to housing. I have been in this David Mims home as a child and later when Mrs. Bland was living there.—F.A.M.

None of the Mims's named are listed chronologically and all are sons of Drury and Lydia Mims.

"Drury Mims, Jr., lived about a half mile west of John Mims' not far from their father. This location bought by Seth Butler and Drury Mims, Senior's grave and others are on this plantation.—F.A.M.

"Britton Mims married Mary Ann Edwards. He built, lived and died at what was known as the Rambo place our miles this side of Hamburg." (This place is still standing in 1947 right on left side of the road going to

Augusta. Mr. W. S. G. Heath told me that it once had a hedge a mile long in front of it. It was formerly right on the old road towards Hamburg, but changing of roads has made it farther but very visible to persons passing on Augusta highway to Edgefield. It was probably the handsomest home on the road. Britton Mims lived there over 100 years ago.—F.A.M.)

"John Mims, Sr., married Mary Gray. He lived at the place known as the Moss House, near his father's home."

(Quotations are exact words of James Henry Mims in his Diary, copied in these House sketches.—F.A.M.)

Livingston Mims married Martha (Patsy Perrin), daughter of William and Mary Clopton Perrin.

They built and lived in the present home of Mrs. Susie Dobson Strom, which is now the original house with some additions put there by Wm. A. Strom, her husband. This was one of the best homes in Edgefield. It is brick veneered.

James Henry Mims describes the place thus: "Livingston Mims lived on the next lot south of the Gray house that is on the lot recently known as Bushnell lot, which has a front brick wall." (W. A. Strom's home. This home was never torn down but was brick veneered by W. A. Strom, husband of Mrs. Susie Strom.—F.A.M.)

"Matthew Mims lived at Edgefield Village in the forks of the Newberry and Ninety-Six roads." occupied now by R. H. Norris, his great grandson, 1947.

(Robert Hayne Mims, son of Matthew Mims, was born, lived and died in the same room in

this house. He married Isabella Lake, daughter of Dr. John Lake and Sophia Blocker.—F.A.M.)

The house built by Matthew Mims was constructed around 1800. The home fronted on both roads as well as on the south, where there was a garden with old-fashioned shrubs and flowers. The plantation extended north and south and is now a residential section of Edgefield.

Both ends of the long hall have double doors with fan lights facing east and west. A door opens into an inside stairway leading to the upper half-story, and the hall separates the bedrooms from the large reception and dining rooms which face on a long porch. These rooms are wainscoted with wide water saw boards ornamented with hand-carved detail and double doors with arch connecting the two rooms. The floors are original pine boards.

Matthew Mims was born in 1780, son of Drury Mims who gave the land on which the Court House was built. He was Clerk of Court of Edgefield from 1814 to 1822 and was co-founder with Judge Arthur Simkins of the first church (Baptist) established in the village in 1823.

Robert Hayne Mims was a portrait photographer and studied painting under Scarborough, a famous South Carolina artist.

Eliza Morrison Mims, daughter of Robert Hayne Mims, also a portrait artist, owned the house until it came into the possession of Robert Harold Norris, the son of E. J. Norris and wife.—Garden Pilgrimage Notes 1951.

"Ridley Mims married John Gray, who was brother of John Mims' wife. They lived at the house in Edgefield Village just across the street from the Ryan Hotel" (same place as Edgefield Hotel, west from the hotel where Reel's store is now, 1950, and

Reel's house.—F.A.M.)

"Tignall Mims lived about 3½ miles west of Edgefield Village on the Abbeville road where the Scott's Ferry comes into Abbeville road at the place now known as the old Jimmie Griffin place. The said Griffin married Tignall's widow, Nancy Tillman, daughter of Stephen Tillman and Nancy Hatcher. They left no children."

(This house was on the road to Antioch church, cut off when highway was built and the house burned. It was old and of wood, black with age, two stories high.—F.A.M.)

"Lydia Mims married John Moss and died near Washington, Georgia.

"Winnie Mims married Henry Ware and lived at Beech Island, S. C."

Second Generation Who Lived in Edgefield

None of David Mims' descendants.

None of Drury Mims, Jr.

Tignall Mims had no descendants.

None of Livingston Mims.

A number of descendants of Ridley Mims and John Gray are now living in Edgefield.

Descendants of Major B. C. Bryan and Harriet Gray.

The home of Mr. John Quarles was built by one of the Grays, descendant of Drury Mims. I think it was Henry Gray, a Jeweler in Edgefield, who was Allie Day's grandfather at Trenton, S. C.

Most of the descendants in second generation who lived in Edgefield were of the family of Matthew Mims.

The home of Sheriff L. H. Harling was the home of Dr. Richard Tutt Mims who lived and died there. His wife was Teresa Lowe, the daughter of Nancy Simkins Youngblood Lowe and her hus-

band, Henry Lowe.

Dr. Richard Mims' brother, James Henry Mims, built and lived at the home occupied by B. E. Nicholson, II, and B. E. Nicholson, III, on the hill, also owned formerly by General M. C. Butler. The architecture of this characteristic single dwelling is most unusual with its lattice posts and five large rooms across the front. The heart-pine floors are in excellent condition and the very large folding doors are outstanding. B. E. Nicholson, III, who is the present owner, has recently restored and redecorated this house. "East Hill."

James Henry Mims also built and lived later at the Hulet place, still standing, occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Mary Ann Hulet, so well known and beloved and a teacher in Johnston for years.

James Henry Mims also lived in Augusta, Ga., and was highly esteemed, and I am told was on Education Board of Augusta. His portrait can be seen somewhere there. He made the family tree of which Mrs. Belle Mims Norris has a copy. From this tree I began my story of the Mims family, adding newer generations, incidents and research antedating the tree.—F.A.M.

Edward Jones Mims lived in

and owned, and his father and his wife's father built the Mims house on Main St. Matthew Mims was his father and her father was Capt. Allen Bartlett Addison.

Giles Dozier Mims inherited lands in Aiken Co., S. C. and lived there once. He later lived and died in Augusta, Ga.

Mrs. Mattie Hagler is his descendant.

The only Mimses, direct descendants of Drury Mims, who have sons are Matthew Hansford Mims and William Walton Mims, sons of Julian Landrum Mims, son of Matthew Hansford Mims, son of Dr. Edward Jones Mims, son of Matthew, son of Drury:

1. William Walton Mims.
2. Julian Landrum Mims.
3. Thomas Adams Mims.
4. Matthew Hansford Mims.

On these the family name will depend.

F. A. M.

(Note: William Walton Mims and Thomas Adams Mims, 1 and 3 above, are sons of William Walton Mims, Sr., and Sue Padgett Mims; Julian Landrum Mims and Matthew Hansford Mims, 2 and 4 above, are sons of Matthew Hansford Mims, Sr. and Nancy Crockett McCarty Mims.)



Mims House on Main Street in Edgefield, first occupied by Edward Jones Mims and his wife, Eseline Addison Mims



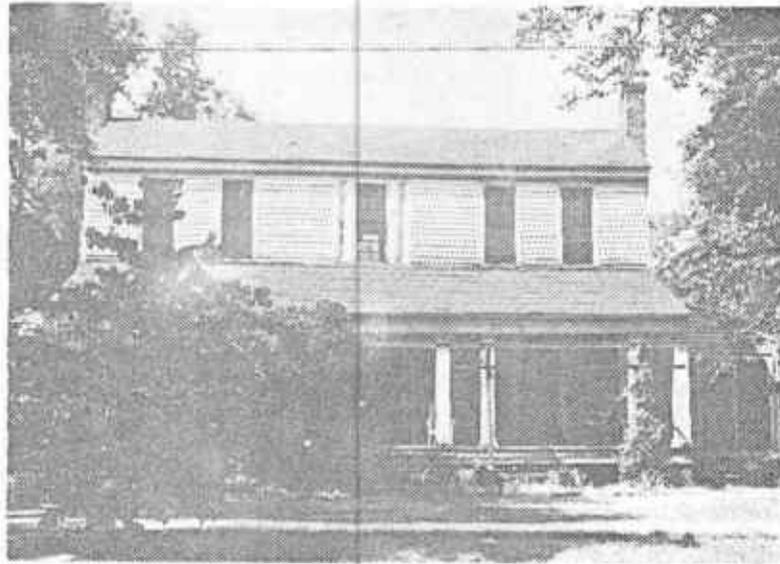
Residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Quarles, built by a member of the Gray family, descendant of Drury Mims

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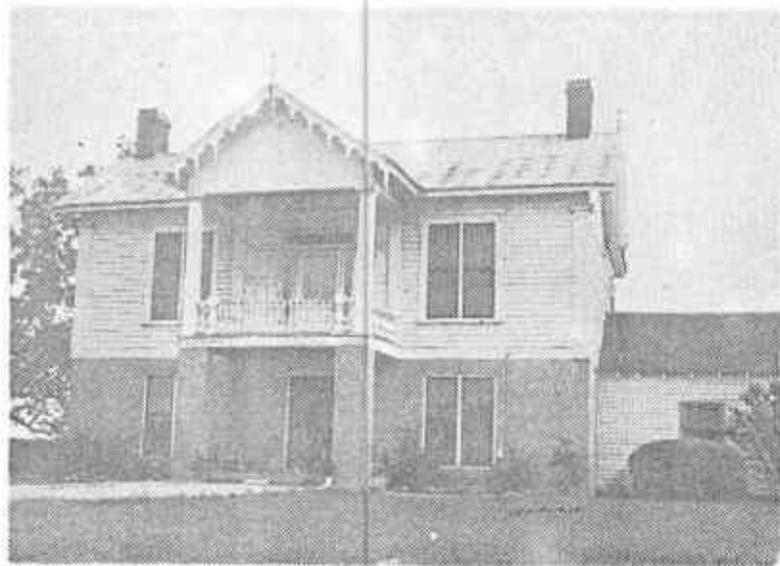
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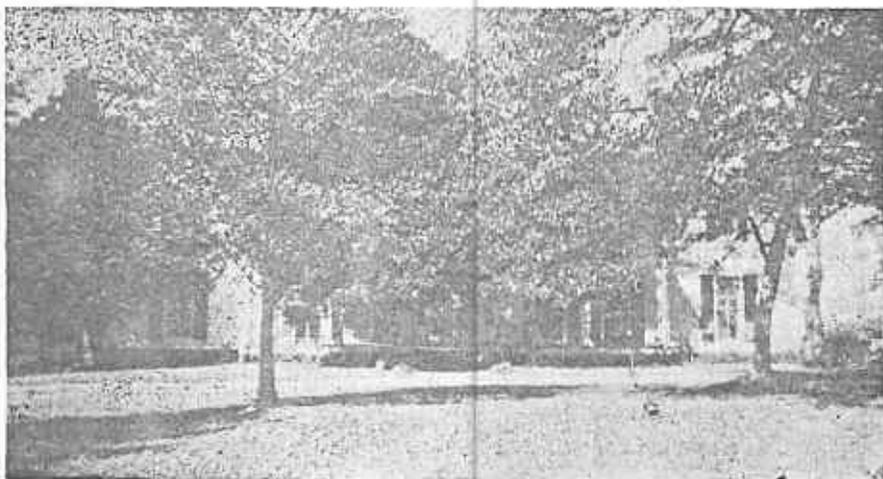
Mims House on Main Street in Edgefield, first occupied by Edward Jones Mims and his wife, Emeline Addison Mims



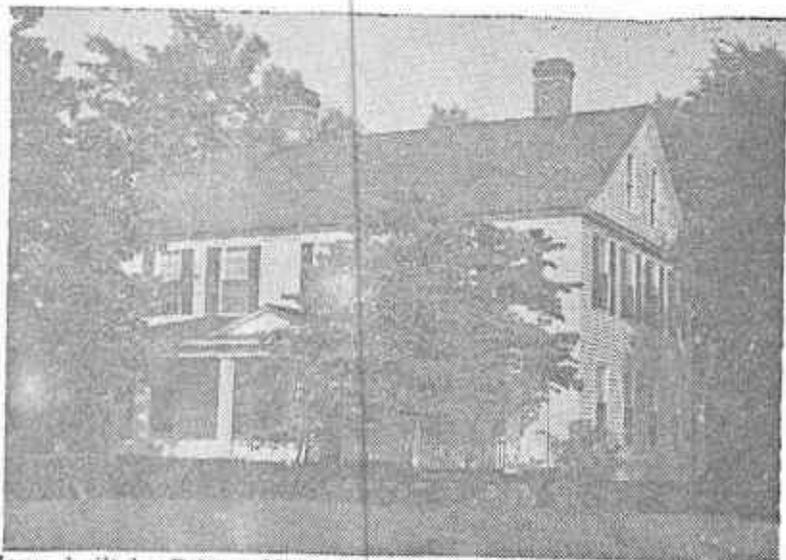
Residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Quarles, built by a member of the Gray family, descendant of Drury Mims



Home built by Matthew Mims about 1800 in the Buncombe section of Edgefield, now the residence of his great-grandson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harold Norris



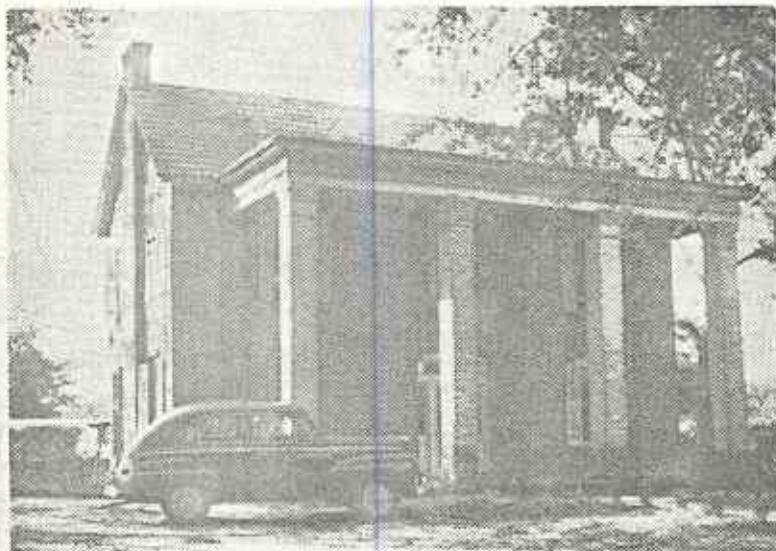
Home on Columbia Road in Edgefield, known as "East Hill," built by James Henry Mims, now owned and occupied by B. E. Nicholson and family



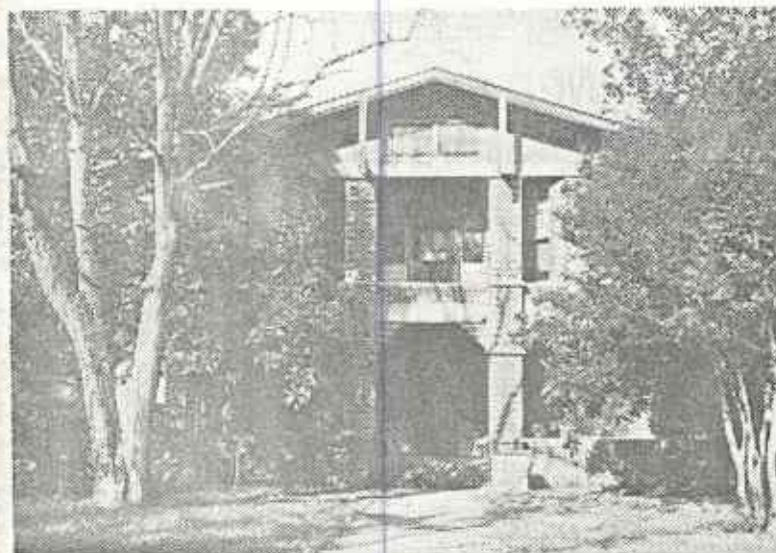
House built by Britton Mims, known as the Rambo Place, four miles from Hamburg, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alex Haskell



Richard Tutt house, which was moved from site of the W. W. Fuller house on Penn Street, It is said to be the first built in Edgefield.



House on Addison Street in Edgefield, built by the late Edward Jones Mims, Jr., where he and his family lived for some years. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. McKie.



House built by Livingston Mims where he and his wife, Patsy Perrin Mims, lived. Renovations were made by the late William A. Strom, Sr. His wife, Mrs. Susie Dobson Strom, and family live there.