

## Ex-Mayor Of Piedmont Kills Himself

SF Chronicle  
10/6/57

Osgood Murdock, former publisher and mayor of Piedmont, took his life yesterday by leaping from his Oakland office into a shopping crowd on downtown Broadway.

Police said the 64-year-old ex-publisher of a trade journal jumped from the fifth floor of the Pierce Building at 1615 Broadway, at the corner of Telegraph, about 11:30 a. m. He died three hours later at Highland Hospital.

There was a big crowd of Saturday shoppers on the street, but no one saw him leap. He narrowly missed striking several pedestrians as he crashed through an awning to the sidewalk.

Shortly before the fatal  
See Page 17, Col. 1

## Death Leap: Murdock 'Despondent'

Continued from Page 1

plunge, his wife, Doris, telephoned Piedmont police to report she had just found a suicide note in their home, 226 San Carlos avenue, Piedmont.

The note was written by her husband and indicated he was going to take his life, she said.

Murdock had jumped before police could reach his office. When they did arrive there, they found the door locked.

Police found Murdock's pen and eyeglasses on his desk, and a window wide open.

Mrs. Murdock said her husband had been despondent lately over financial reverses.

He had published a trade journal in the agricultural implement field and was a distributor of farm tools.

Appointed first to the Piedmont City Council in January of 1950 to fill a vacancy, he was elected the following April to serve a four-year term, during which he served as Mayor for a year, 1952.

He was a graduate of the University of California and was active in the Commonwealth Club, Commercial and Kiwanis clubs.

## OBITUARIES

### Osgood Murdock

Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Osgood Murdock, former mayor of Piedmont who plunged to his death from a downtown Oakland office building Saturday. Police termed the death a suicide.

Mr. Murdock was graduated from the University of California in 1916 and was an editor of the Daily Californian.

A member of the Piedmont City Council from 1950 to 1954, Mr. Murdock served for one year as mayor.

Mr. Murdock's wife, Doris, stated that her husband had been despondent for some time over financial losses in a King City farm tool firm. She told police she found a note in their Piedmont home stating that her husband was "going to end it all."

After serving in World War I, Mr. Murdock became editor of the "Hardware World and Implement Record" in San Francisco and publisher-owner in 1933.

He was a past president of the San Francisco Kiwanis Club and a member of the Commonwealth Club of California.

Also surviving is a sister, Miss Margaret Murdock of Berkeley.

Funeral services will be held at the Piedmont Community Church tomorrow at 2 p.m. Arrangements are by The Albert Brown Mortuary of Oakland.



# OSGOOD MURDOCK

1892 1957

Osgood Murdock's death is almost impossible for us to accept. We are unable to soften the sense of loss and cannot apply the traditional comforting phrases to his family, friends and associates. There is a depth and breadth to Osgood Murdock's absence from the fabric of our lives that reveals his rare strength. He was a truly superior man. At his death, it seems inadequate to rely on words alone to express our remorse. For no matter how honored or how stirring those words could be, the indelible influence of the man would resist their confinement.



To the readers of WESTERN FARM EQUIPMENT Osgood Murdock was for almost 40 years a respected and devoted counselor and friend. The heading: "It seems to me . . ." constantly signalled dealers, manufacturers and all men concerned with agriculture to join the author in always helpful, always honest consideration of a timely problem. Osgood Murdock was a modest man. His talents were of such magnitude and in such variety, however, that his celebrity grew stronger in spite of his own disarming efforts to minimize his stature.

To those of us on the staff of WESTERN FARM EQUIPMENT his death reinforces our feeling of unqualified admiration. Only now, in the knowledge that the most vigorous spokesman the farm equipment industry ever had is silenced, we begin to understand how every segment of this industry depended on Osgood Murdock and to what inestimable degree he responded.

Where we relied upon his knowledge to report and interpret the activities of the industry, no greater guidance could have been offered. When judgments of significant events caused us concern, his dignity and intelligence were available for direction. And in the easily overlooked experiences of fellowship and genuine interest in us as men and women, as friends, Osgood Murdock enriched us by his own noble spirit.

To catalog and classify the range of Osgood Murdock's efforts to upgrade the farm equipment industry would require a review of its history. It is no exaggeration to name him as a legend in this respect. His participation in every activity that promised encouragement or improvement to agriculture is a monument to his dedication. No gathering was too small, no topic too minor, no person too unimportant for his attention.

If there are men in the West, who gain their living from our industry, who cannot pledge indebtedness to Osgood Murdock or recognize his real influence in their business careers, they are few indeed. He knew our industry as a cause. Its struggles were his to conquer. Its achievements served as his nourishment. To a stranger in our field, the capabilities, the loyalty, the accomplishments of Osgood Murdock may appear so vast as to be unreal. And we can understand this. Very few men in this country can meet this man's measure, and his rare qualities are seldom duplicated.

As men who shared Osgood Murdock's greater gift, a far-reaching friendship, the editors of WESTERN FARM EQUIPMENT are left with a treasured inheritance at his death. Osgood believed in his friends and associates. He credited them with immense ambition and dedicated his life to their successes. We hope to reflect our devotion to his memory by following his lead. Osgood Murdock had courage and faith in his friends. He inspired respect and earned our love. To sustain that respect and love we shall always find evidence of his presence, as we live and work in this industry. We are grateful that this can be.





**I**f there is such a thing as a "living legend," Margaret Murdock surely achieved the honor. During her long and abundant lifetime of 91 years, she was known to thousands of students through her lively playing of the Campanile bells; hundreds of other students and townspeople knew her through her multitude of campus and community activities; finally, the nation met her when she and her beloved bells were featured on a national television program.

Margaret's love affair with the bells began in 1923. Her love never wavered. She continued to play the bells for 60 years, until 1983. Although she was a tiny wisp of a lady, she seemed to have the strength and endurance of a Brunnhilde. On Charter Day 1978, Chancellor Bowker awarded her the Berkeley Citation, saying: "Throughout the last 55 years, chimesplayers have come and gone, but Margaret Murdock has remained. Her mastery of the bells has delighted the ears and enriched the spirits of countless generations of students. If I could invent a royal title for her it would be 'Queen of the Bells' or 'Empress of Tintinnabulation.'"

Margaret's love for the Berkeley campus, like her love for the Campanile, began early and lasted throughout her life. Born in San Francisco in 1894, she received her elementary and high school education in the local schools, then earned a teacher's credential at the San Francisco Normal School. She taught for only one and a half years, then Berkeley beckoned her. Lucy Ward Stebbins, who became the much-admired dean of women, invited Margaret to work in her office. It was Margaret's first campus job and she was overjoyed to accept it. During this period she registered as a Berkeley student and, after only two years, received an A.B. in economics. In 1928 she was appointed credentials counselor in the School of Education and quickly became known for her expertise in helping students get a teaching credential in the shortest, least painful way. During these years, she continued to play the bells on any and all occasions great and small; she sang in the University Chorus and in the choir of the South Berkeley Community Church; she did voluntary duty for the California Historical Society; she supported the Prytanean Society, the Junior Bach Society, and Alpha Phi; she served as an officer of the Women's Faculty Club. She formally "retired" from her position with the School of Education in 1959, but she never slowed her pace in other activities. Rather, she increased them. For example, she became office manager for the Women's Faculty Club.

Margaret Murdock's versatility and enthusiasms were astonishing, and her elfin sense of humor enriched all her activities, even her playing of the Campanile bells. She relished the tradition of rendering, on the night before final examinations, the tune to "They're Hanging Danny Deever in the Morning." In 1933, when old Harmon Gymnasium was being razed, Margaret was in the tower and saw the start of a fire in the rubble. She alerted the campus by clanging out "Scotland's Burning, Look Out, Fire, Fire." On another occasion, she teased the campus gardeners who were on strike by playing such tunes as Walt Disney's "Hi Ho, Hi Ho, It's Off to Work We Go" and "Work for the Night is Coming." When asked if her tunes might have offended the strikers, her answer was characteristic. She said: "I think the program kind of amused them. I've always felt that a little timely humor on the bells is very good."

Widespread celebrity came slowly to the tiny "Miss Murdock." She was modest to the point of being self-effacing. Few people were aware of the scope of her activities, and she never advertised them. When she was asked how she happened to start playing the Campanile chimes, she did not mention her talent or her love of music. She explained that, because she was living in the Women's Faculty Club, the chimesmaster found it "handy" to have someone "who could be called upon on very short notice to fill in for him." On another occasion, when she was asked to explain how she managed to get her A.B. in two years, she did not say that she was a prodigious worker but replied: "By majoring in economics I could kind of double up on courses." She was equally modest about her term as president of the Women's Faculty Club. "I sort of became president by default," she said.

The present writer knew Margaret for 53 years. During my 35 years with Public Ceremonies, Margaret and her fellow chimes players were an indispensable part of countless ceremonies, from Charter Days to bonfire rallies, from commencements to the recognition of visiting dignitaries.

It is gratifying to say that in the later years of her career, this self-effacing little lady was recognized as a kind of prodigy. She received many honors, among them the Centennial Citation in 1968, the Berkeley Citation in 1978, and the California Alumni Centennial Medal in 1975. The Prytanean Society is establishing a scholarship in her name. Many articles and news stories have described her unique career. She literally became that rare phenomenon—a living legend.

—Garff B. Wilson '31

GENEALOGY  
of the  
MURDOCH FAMILY

From 1640 to 1934



Murdoch

Compiled by

Rev. J. D. Leslie, D. D., A. B. D., Dallas, Texas

and

Rev. B. Campbell Synonds, D. D., Lynchburg, Virginia



## GENEALOGY OF THE MURDOCH FAMILY

The Murdoch family is an ancient house of Scotland. The present Duke of Argyll, writing in *The Highlander*, page 5, of *The Ten Bells of Inverary*, said: "The eighth is S. Murdouch; an early anchorite Bishop, who founded the ancient Parish of Kilmorich at the head of Loch Fyne; . . . the patronage thereof was given to the Abbot and monks of Inchaffray in 1241."

In the language of armory the Murdoch arms is described in Fairbank's Book of Crests: "Arg. an arrow fessways pointing to the sinister, charged with or piercing two ravens sa.

"Crest: A raven sa. rising pierced by an arrow in bend sinister.

"Motto: Omnia pro bono—Bookplate of Thomas Murdoch.

"Arg. an arrow fessways piercing two ravens sa.

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Of this Scottish house we trace from Ireland to America some descendants.

### GENERATION ONE

JAMES MORDAH was born in 1640 in County Tyrone, Province of Ulster, Ireland. He emigrated to America, where he died. He had two sons: JOHN MORDAH and Robert Mordah, who emigrated to America.

### GENERATION TWO

JOHN MORDAH, son of James Mordah, was born in 1670 in County of Tyrone, Province of Ulster, Ireland, and died in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1745. His wife's name was Agnes. The children of this John Mordah and Agnes were:

- I. JAMES MORDAH, born 1708, of whom a fuller account will be given later.
- II. Agnes Mordah, born 1712. She married Thomas Rutherford of Ireland.
- III. A daughter born in 1714, who married Henry McKinney.
- IV. Eleanor Mordah, who went with her brother, James, to North Carolina about 1750. *Married Thomas Murdoch*
- V. Henry.

In Abstracts of Lancaster Wills, Vol. II, Page 647, in the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, is recorded the abridgment of the will of this John Mordah, written August 22, 1744, and probated January 9, 1744-5, in which he specifies his wife as Agnes and names three of his children: 1. James, whom he appoints Executor; 2. Henry, and 3. Eleanor.

### GENERATION THREE

JAMES MORDAH, son of John and Agnes Mordah, was born in 1708. In the Pennsylvania Archives, 3rd Series, Vol. XIV, Page 476, dated July 5, 1745, James Murdock possessed 200 acres of land in Lancaster County. He married Agnes ——— and moved to North Carolina about 1750. In Rowan County, Deed Book 2, Page 64, Samuel Baker and Elizabeth, his wife, Roger Lawson and Hannah, his wife, sold to James Mordah, on March 24, 1755, 640 acres of land in Rowan County, N. C., for five shillings sterling. On the second of April, 1764, this James Mordah and Agnes, his wife, sold to John Mordah 300 acres of land, according to the record in Rowan County Deed Book 5, Page 472:

"This Indenture made the second day of April in the year of our Lord 1764 between James Murdah & Agnes his wife of Rowan County . . . and John Murdah . . . Five Shillings . . . three hundred acres . . .

JAMES MORDAH  
AGNES MORDAH."

On August 1, 1774, James Mordah made his will, which original will is on file in the Historical Commission at Raleigh, N. C. among the Rowan County Wills 1743-1868, Vol. XVI, page 64; listed in the Historical Commission as CR 85.025 "The Last will and Testament of James Mordah . . . I James Mordah of the County of Rowan & Province of North Carolina . . . beloved wife Agnes . . . my son John . . . my son William . . . to Allen Alexander my Son . . . my son William Morrison . . . my son Robert . . . my son James . . . my Daughter Jean . . . my Daughter Elinor . . . my son John and my Son James, Executors . . . the first day of August . . . one thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-four . . ."

JAMES MORDAH

HUGH BOWMAN, Jurt.

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JOS. SWAN."

On the original will of James Mordah in Raleigh just quoted, in the upper left-hand corner is the record "May Court 1775," which indicates the time that it was presented for probation. It was copied and recorded in Rowan County Will Book "A," Page 191.

Agnes ———, wife of James Mordah, was born in 1718 and died September 15, 1815. Upon her tombstone in the old cemetery of the First Presbyterian Church of Statesville is the following inscription: "Agnes Murdoch, died Sept. 15, 1815 in the 97th year of her age."

### GENERATION FOUR — DAUPHIN

I. JOHN MORDAH, the son of James and Agnes Mordah, was born in 1736 in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. He came with his father to Rowan County shortly after 1750. He was an elder in the Fourth Creek Church. During the War of the Revolution, John Mordah served as a soldier, according to the accounts of the Comptroller's Office, War of the Revolution, Book "J," Page 189; Revolutionary Accounts Vol. VI, Page 9, Folio 1:

On June 24, 1784, John Mordah entered 50 acres of Rowan County land on the waters of Fourth Creek, according to the record in the land grant office at Raleigh and recorded in Rowan County Book 75, Page 252. This land was issued to him December 20, 1791.

On January 18, 1794, John Murdah entered 199 acres of land on the waters of Fourth Creek as recorded in Book 99, Page 202, which were issued to him on December 14, 1798.

On the third of October, 1810, John Murdoch made his will, which is recorded in Iredell Will Book 1, Page 276, as follows:

"I John Murdoch . . . my daughter, Nancy . . . my son John Murdah . . . my daughter Lilles Steel . . . my son James . . . my son Samuel . . . my son Andrew . . . 3rd of Oct. 1810 . . .

JOHN MURDAH."

Upon the tombstone of John Mordah in the graveyard of the Fourth Creek Presbyterian Church—now called the First Church of Statesville, North Carolina, is the following inscription: "Sacred to the memory of John Mordah who departed this life March the 16th, 1811, in the 79th year of his age."

Vain man thy fond pursuits forbear

Repent, the end is nigh,

Death to the faithful can't be far

On which others thou die."

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II. Agnes Mordah, born 1712. She married Thomas Rutherford of Ireland.

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### GENERATION FOUR—DAPHIN

I. JOHN MORDAH, the son of James and Agnes Mordah, was born in 1736 in Daphin County, Pennsylvania. He came with his father to Rowan County shortly after 1750. He was an elder in the Fourth Creek Church. During the War of the Revolution, John Mordah served as a soldier, according to the accounts of the Comptroller's Office, War of the Revolution, Book "J," Page 189; *Revolutionary Accounts* Vol. VI, Page 9, Folio 1:

"On June 24, 1784, John Mordah entered 50 acres of Rowan County land on the waters of Fourth Creek, according to the record in the land grant office at Raleigh and recorded in Rowan County Book 75, Page 252. This land was issued to him December 20, 1791.

On January 18, 1794, John Murdah entered 199 acres of land on the waters of Fourth Creek as recorded in Book 99, Page 202, which were issued to him on December 14, 1798.

On the third of October, 1810, John Murdoch made his will, which is recorded in *Iredel Will Book* 1, Page 276, as follows:

"I John Murdoch . . . my daughter, Nancy . . . my son John Murdah . . . my daughter Lilles Steel . . . my son James . . . my son Samuel . . . my son Andrew . . . 3rd of Oct. 1810 . . .

JOHN MURDAH."

Upon the tombstone of John Mordah in the graveyard of the Fourth Creek Presbyterian Church—now called the First Church of Statesville, North Carolina, is the following inscription: "Sacred to the memory of John Mordah who departed this life March the 16th, 1811, in the 75th year of his age."

Vain man thy fond pursuits forbear

Repent, the end is nigh,

Death at the farthest can't be far

On think before thou die."

Upon the tombstone of Elizabeth Mitchell Mordah, who lies beside her husband, is the inscription: "Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Mordah wife of John Mordah who departed this life July 20—in the 51st year of her age.

My flesh shall slumber in the ground,  
Till the last trumpets joyfully sound,  
Then burst the chains with sweet surprise  
And in my Saviour's image rise."

The children of John Mordah and Elizabeth Mitchell were:

1. Agnes, born 1761; died 1829.
2. John, born 1764; died ———; married Lucy Lazenby.
3. James, born 1771; died 1813.

II. James Mordah, son of James and Agnes Mordah, was born 1738, and came with his father, James Mordah, to Rowan County, North Carolina, shortly after 1750. He served in the Revolutionary Army, according to Revolutionary Army Accounts Miscellaneous, Book "B," Page 54, Book EG, Page 75; Revolutionary Army Accounts, Vol. 4, Page 99, Folio 3; Vol. 8, Page 87, Folio 4.

James Mordah married Sarah Morrison.

On February 6, 1810, James Mordah and George L. Davidson entered 100 acres of land on the headwaters of I. L. Creek as recorded in Iredel County, Book 126, Page 286, which land was issued to him on December 11, 1811.

This James Mordah, on July 15, 1817, made his will, which is recorded in Iredel County, N. C., Will BOOK 1-A, Page 2:

"I James Mordah . . . this fifteenth day of July . . . 1817 . . . loving wife Sarah . . . my nephew James Murdah . . . my nephew Thomas Mordah . . .

#### JAMES MURDAH."

III. William Mordah, son of James and Agnes Mordah, was born in 1740 in Pennsylvania and came with his father, James Mordah, to North Carolina after 1750. He served in the Revolutionary Army, according to Revolutionary Army Accounts, Vol. 9, Page 108, Folio 2.

On November 4, 1769, William Mordah married Agnes Wasson, according to Rowan County marriages, which listed Joseph Wasson as giving his consent and Jos. Davison as bondsman.

On April 9, 1796, William Mordock entered 160 acres of land in Iredel County on the waters of I. L. Creek, as recorded in Book 92, Page 183, which land was issued to him December 18, 1797.

Upon his tombstone in the Statesville cemetery is the inscription: "William Murdoch, died in 1829 in the 90th year of his age."

They had the following children:

1. Elizabeth, born 1772; died 1860.
2. Agnes, born ———; died ———; married a Means.
3. William, born 1776; died 1811.
4. Sarah, born 1778; died 1780.
5. Sarah (2) born 1781; died 1814.
6. Joseph, born 1787; died 1857; married Dorcas Witherspoon.
7. John, born 1791; died 1857; married Mary Steele; born 1798; died 1866. Both John and Mary Murdoch are buried in the old cemetery, Statesville, North Carolina. (See page 7.)

IV. Elizabeth Mordah, the daughter of James Mordah and Agnes, was born in 1744 in Pennsylvania. She came with her father, James Mordah, to Rowan County, N. C., about 1750. On January 4, 1769, she was united in marriage to

William Morrison, according to the marriage bonds of Tryon and Lincoln Counties—1769-1810—by Fred A. Olds: "Morrison, William, January 4, 1769, Murdock, Elizabeth, James Murdoch."

V. Robert Mordah, the son of James Mordah and Agnes, was born in 1748. In Rowan County Book 11, Page 367, The State of North Carolina granted to Robert Mordah for 50 shillings for each hundred acres 500 acres of land in Rowan County on the waters of Third Creek.

On March 24, 1779, he entered 500 acres of land in Iredel County on the waters of Third Creek, as recorded in Book 67, Page 180, which land was issued to him on August 9, 1787.

On January 26, 1799, Robert Mordah entered 193 acres of land in Iredel County on both sides of Third Creek, according to Entry 443 in the Land Grant Office, Raleigh, N. C.

In the Index to the North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts, Vol. XI, Page 77, Folio 4: "Certificates paid by Charles Bruce Commissioner for Salisbury District, No. 73 Robert Murdoch 11, 5, 1, 3, 7."

On August 28, 1824, Robert Murdoch made his will, which is recorded in Iredel County Will Book 2, Page 52:

"In the name of God Amen I Robert Mordoh of the County of Iredel and State of North Carolina . . . to my beloved wife Jane . . . my children have all received their full pertion . . . my respected friend, Moses Alexander and my son Thomas Mordoh . . . Executors . . . this twenty eighth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and twenty-four . . .

ROBERT MORDAH (Seal).

MOSES BOYD.

THOMAS BOYD."

On November 4, 1769, Robert Mordah married Jane Davidson, according to Rowan County Marriage Record: "Mordah, Robert; Davidson, Jane 1769 November 14. Robert Mordoch, John Oliphant, Jos. Davison."

This Jane Davison was the daughter of Joseph Davidson, who gave his consent on the marriage bond just quoted.

On April 26, 1776, Joseph Davidson enlisted in the First North Carolina Battalion for two and one-half years, as evidenced by Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, Volume 15, Page 718.

"Roll of Colonel Thomas Clark's Company, First North Carolina Battalion, commanded by Colonel Thomas Clark, September 8, 1778—Book of Army Returns, Number 27, page 21; Number 40, Joseph Davidson, April 26, '76, two and one half years."

But this did not determine his period of service, as is evidenced by North Carolina, Revolutionary Accounts: Volume 1, Page 7, Folio 4; Volume 1, Page 19, Folio 4; Volume 1, Page 58, Folio 4; and Revolutionary Accounts, Miscellaneous, W, Number 1, Pages 23, 37 and 50. Joseph Davidson not only served after 1778, but fought to the end of the war, as proven by North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts, Volume 12, Page 100.

"Number, 1475; By Whom Granted, Dickson and Routledge; To Whom Granted, Joseph Davidson; Date, Mch., 1872; Sum, 19-16-6; Interest, 2-9-4; To What Time, 16 April, 1784; Total Amount, 22 5 10."

For his loyalty to the Revolutionary cause, Joseph Davidson had his home sacked and burned by the British.

One of Joseph Davidson's sons was Captain Alexander Davidson of Salisbury, under Colonel Francis Lock. When this son went out with his Company Joseph Davidson had his slaves make shoes for every soldier of his son's Company.

When the Third Creek Presbyterian Church, which ultimately became the First Presbyterian Church of Statesville, was organized, Joseph Davidson was enrolled as one of the charter members.

On August 9, 1778, this Joseph Davidson entered 400 acres of land on the waters of Third Creek in Rowan County, N. C., according to Book 67, Page 12, which land was issued to him October 25, 1786.

On September 15, 1795, Joseph Davidson made his will, which is recorded in Iredel County Will Book I, Page 92:

"I, Joseph Davidson . . . my dearly beloved wife Sarah . . . my son Alexander . . . Joseph Davidson my grandson . . . Thos Davidson my grandson . . . Jas Davidson my grandson . . . Joseph Olephant, my grandson . . . one fifth part given to my son in law Matthew Olifent . . . one fifth part to Robt Mordach . . . one fifth part to Alexander Young . . . one fifth part to Wm. Watts . . . one fifth part to Jas. Young my sons in law . . . this fifteenth day of September . . . one thousand seven hundred and ninety five . . .

JOSEPH DAVIDSON.

SAML HARRIS

MARY HARRIS, *Jurat*

JEAN A. WILSON."

VI. Martha Mordah, the daughter of James Mordah and Agnes, was born in 1751. She married George Morrison.

VII.—Jean Mordah was born in 1757. On March 30, 1819, she made her will, which is recorded in Iredel County Will Book 2, Page 146:

"I Jean Morduh . . . 30th day of March . . . 1819 . . . my nephew John Mordah, son of Wm. Mordah . . .

JEAN MORDAH."

VIII. Elinor.

## GENERATION FIVE

The children of Robert Mordah and Jane Davidson were:

- I. Joseph Mordah, who married Jane Witherspoon.
- II. John Mordah, who married ——— Williams.
- III. Alexander Mordah, who married Narcissa Watts.
- IV. Thomas Mordah, the son of Robert Mordah and Jane Davidson, and Executor of his father's will, was born in 1783. On August 14, 1812, Thomas Mordah entered 50 acres of land in Iredel County on the waters of Fifth Creek, according to Book 127, Page 246.

About 1848 Thomas Mordah died and was buried at Bethany Cemetery near Statesville, N. C.

The wife of Thomas Mordah was Eleanor Steele. She was born October 10, 1795, and died June 15, 1868. (See page 10.)

Eleanor Steele, who married Thomas Mordah, and Mary Steele, who married John Mordah, were sisters and both daughters of William Steele, who was born in 1763 and died October 19, 1849, at the age of 86.

When 19 years of age, on March 6, 1782, William Steele enlisted for service in the Revolutionary War, as evidenced by Colonial and State records of North Carolina, Vol. XVI, Page 1164:

"Name, Steele, Wm.; Rank, Pt.; Companies, Jones; Date of Enlistment, 6 March, '82; Period of Service, 12 months."

On September 8, 1790, William Steele bought land on Fourth Creek, according to Iredel County, N. C., Deed Book A, Page 223. Later purchases are recorded in Deed Book F, Pages 531 and 569; J. Page 224; L. Page 222; R. Pages 201 and 386.

In Statesville, Iredel County, N. C., Deed Book R, Page 395, we find the following record:

"Know all men by these presents that I William Steel of the County of Iredell and State of North Carolina for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which I have for William F. Steel, Jane Steel my children . . . agree . . . the William F. Steel and Jane Steel should have the use of the plantation that I now live on during my natural life or the natural life of my wife Mary and the said William F. Steel and Jane Steel . . . doth hereby covenant and agree with William Steel to support him said William Steel and wife Mary Steel . . . 21 day of January 1834.

JOHN STEEL.

WM. STEEL.

WM. F. STEEL.

JANE STEEL."

In 1835 William Steele was still living and receiving a pension for his Revolutionary Services, as proven by Colonial and State Records of N. C., Vol. XXII, Pages 55-86: "North Carolina Revolutionary Pensioners under The Acts of 1818 and 1832 as Reported by Secretary of State to Congress in 1835 . . . Steele, William Private . . ."

Mary, the wife of William Steele, was born in 1770 and died July 24, 1838 . . . 68 years of age.

On the first day of November, 1838, William Steele entered into another agreement, this time with his daughter, Mary, who had married John Mordah, not that they should merely have the use of the plantation as had been allowed William F. Steele and Jane, his wife, but that upon his death it would be left to Mary, according to Statesville, Iredel County, N. C., Deed Book U, Page 211:

"Know all men by these presents that I William Steel of the County of Iredell and State of North Carolina for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which I have and leave to my daughter Mary Murdoch, wife of John Murdoch of the County and State aforesaid . . . land . . . on the waters of Fourth Creek and joining the lands of John Steel Andrew Allison Esq. and others containing about four Hundred and fifty acres . . . 1st day of Nov. 1839.

WM. STEEL.

July 21, 1840."

NOTE: This land is still owned by the Murdoch family. Richard Murdoch, great grandson of John and Mary Murdoch, now owns and lives on it.

On October 19, 1849, at the age of 86, William Steele died and was buried beside his wife, Mary, in Bethany Cemetery, near Statesville, N. C. (See page 7.)

## GENERATION FIVE

John Murdoch, son of William Murdoch and Agnes Wasson, born 1793; died 1857. Married Mary Steele, who was born 1793 and died 1866. Both are buried in the old cemetery at Statesville. They had the following children:



## GENERATION SIX

The children of John and Mary Steele Murdoch are:

- I. Amanda, born 1818, died 1847; married L. E. Adams—no children.
- II. Mary Murdoch, married Joseph B. Douglas. They had the following children:
  1. Jane, married James Thompson.
  2. John, married Ida Turbiville.
  3. Walter, married Nannie Couger.
  4. Monroe, died unmarried.
  5. Addie, married ——— Barber.
  6. Joseph Barnette, married Adelaide Cannon.
- III. Sarah Elizabeth Murdoch, married Charles L. Summers. They had the following children:
  1. Mary Eliza—married Elam Morrison. They had the following children:
    - (1) Alda—married Mr. Webb.
    - (2) Gertrude—married Lewis Adams.
    - (3) Lacy—married L. E. Morrison.
    - (4) Edgar Summers—married Notie A. Rufry. They had the following children:
      - a. Dewey M.
      - b. Ralph Wogg.
      - c. Chester Summers.
  2. Claudius, died in the Confederate service.
  3. Ella Virginia, married Thomas Edward Stirewalt. They had the following children:
    - (1) Jacob, married Mary Will Hall
      - a. One son, Jacob.
    - (2) Charles Summers, deceased.
    - (3) Edward Earle, deceased.
    - (4) Neale Summers, physician, married E. Fraser.
      - a. Edward Neale.
      - b. Louise.
    - (5) Julia Edna—married F. A. Rankin.
      - a. One child—born 1874; died 1927.
  4. Charles Lee, physician, born 1894; died 1928; married Bessie Hall. No children. Charles was a physician, a noted child specialist, and at his death was head of the Department of Pediatrics of The University of Maryland.
  5. Metta Victoria Summers, born September 25, 1856; died January 7, 1926; married Walter Perkins Connally November 21, 1877; born December 1, 1855; died November 10, 1900. They had the following children:
    - (1) Clarence Bryan, born January 31, 1879; died February 4, 1920.
    - (2) Ada Summers, born August 7, 1880.
    - (3) Alice Gentry, born September 13, 1883; died January 16, 1923.
    - (4) Walter Perkins, Jr., born October 28, 1884.
    - (5) Bessie Summers, born November 7, 1886.
    - (6) Charles Lee, born October 22, 1888; died June 20, 1926.
    - (7) Ella May, born January 30, 1891; married Starr Neely Knox October 16, 1926; born October 17, 1881. Have the following children:
      - a. John, born October 18, 1927.
      - b. James, born October 27, 1931.
    - (8) Parks Summers, born September 23, 1894; died December 13, 1918.

IV. JANE MURDOCH, born 1828; died 1909; married Thomas B. Leslie, born 1832; died 1915.

1. Mary Bettie, born 1858; died 1906.
2. John Douglass Leslie, D.D., LL.D., Presbyterian minister, Licensed 1883; pastor at Atoka, Tenn., Water Valley, Miss., Weatherford, Paris, Temple, Ballinger and Cisco, Texas, 1883-1921. Stated Clerk two Presbyteries, two Synods; Permanent Clerk, General Assembly, 1910-1922. Stated Clerk General Assembly 1922—. Author Presbyterian Law and Procedure, and History Presbyterian Church, U. S., 1861-1935. Born June 1, 1860. (See Who's Who.)
 

First Marriage—Gertrude Mattison, September 6, 1885. Gertrude was born Oct. 26, 1862; died February 27, 1896.

  - (1) Mattison Douglass, born May 28, 1887.
  - (2) Gertrude Mattison, born February 22, 1896; died July 3, 1931.

Second Marriage—Alma LeGrand, June 28, 1898. Alma was born 1873; died February 5, 1909.

  - (3) John LeGrand, born October 10, 1899.
  - (4) Bonnie Louise, born April 1, 1903.
  - (5) Francis Claudius, born October 16, 1905.

Third Marriage—Ella Ragland, July 2, 1913. Ella was born November 25, 1871.

  - (1) Mattison Douglass Leslie, married Lillian Riley, June 3, 1914.
    - a. Gertrude, born February 12, 1925.
  - (2) Gertrude Mattison Leslie, married Fred N. Bell, May, 1923.
    - a. Richard Bell, born November 2, 1924.
    - b. William Douglass, born August 10, 1926.
  - (3) John LeGrand Leslie, married Addie Caplen, February, 1920.
    - a. John Douglass, Jr., born September, 1924.
  - (4) Bonnie Louise Leslie.
  - (5) Francis Claudius, married Elizabeth Nichols, October 6, 1929.
    - a. Frank Nichols, born February 7, 1932.
3. Claudius Monroe, born 1866; married 1900, Margaret Grace Holderman, died 1931.
4. William Bayne, born 1870; married 1892 Mamie F. Blankner, born 1873, died 1928. Children:
  - (1) Ruth Blankner, born 1893; died 1919.
  - (2) William Neal, born 1897; died 1927—married Marjorie ———.

V. Ellen Lavine Murdoch, born 8-13-1830; died 7-10-1900. Married Thomas Cowan Graham, September 14, 1853; born 9-8-1812; died 11-4-1881. They had the following children:

1. Charles Edgar Graham, cotton manufacturer, generous contributor to Foreign Missions, Ministerial Relief and other Presbyterian causes; born 11-16-1854; died 8-23-1922, Summit, N. J.; married Susan Jordan, 6-6-1883. Children:
  - (1) Ellen Lavine Graham, born 8-23-1883; died 8-8-1910.
  - (2) Allen Jordan Graham, cotton manufacturer (See Who's Who). Born 3-30-1884; died 11-25-1931. Married Anne Isabel Kilpatrick 12-29-1908. Children:

- a. Susan Jordan Graham, born 1-7-1911, Greenville, S. C.
  - b. Allen Jordan Graham, Jr., born 4-4-1912, Greenville, S. C.
  - c. Thomas Kirkpatrick Graham, born 8-17-1918, Greenville, S. C.
- (3) Susan Graham, born July 13, 1886, Summit, N. J. Married Richard Early Reeves 4-15-1908. Children:
- a. Richard Early Reeves, Jr., born 10-16-1909, Summit, N. J.
  - b. Charles Edgar Graham Reeves, born 9-12-12, Summit, N. J.
  - c. Susan Robertson Reeves, born 9-8-15, Summit, N. J.
2. Mary Adelaide Graham, born December 16, 1858; died Johnson City, Tenn., July 29, 1925. Married Adam B. Bowman, born Johnson City Tenn., Jan. 12, 1853, died November 6, 1922. They had the following children:
- (1) Mabel Graham, born Johnson City, September 20, 1891; died January 5, 1894.
- (2) Adam B., lawyer, born September 28, 1893; married Zeph. McLeod, Pineview, Ga., December 15, 1923. They have the following children:
- a. Mary Jane, born September 26, 1924.
  - b. Susan Frances, born July 19, 1926.
  - c. Zeph McLeod, born May 26, 1929.
- (3) Ellen Rebecca, born February 7, 1896; married Frank L. St. John, Johnson City, Tenn. They have the following children:
- a. Frank Bowman, born May 4, 1921.
  - b. Mary Ellen, born April 12, 1925.
  - c. Julia Adelaide, born April 28, 1927.
- (4) Mary Adelaide, born November 28, 1897. Married Alfred L. Spengler, Charlestown, W. Va. They have the following children:
- a. Mary Adelaide, born October 28, 1924.
  - b. Frank Joseph, born January 16, 1932.
3. William Jefferson Graham, born 11-9-1860; died 2-18-1905. Married Ida Lyons Heap, born 2-14-1863; died 9-4-1891. Had the following children:
- (1) Minnie Grace Graham, born 4-23-1885, Charlotte, N. C. Married Lorenzo Dow McPhail, 5-6-1908. They had the following children:
    - a. Grace Graham McPhail, born 6-27-1910, Charlotte, N. C.
    - b. Lorenzo Dow McPhail, Jr., born 5-27-1912, Charlotte, N. C.
    - c. Ernest Frederick McPhail, born 5-26-1914, Charlotte, N. C.
  - (2) Frederick William Graham, born 1-9-1888, Greenville, S. C. Not married.
  - (3) Ada Lee Graham, born 12-25-1886, Union, S. C. Married John Rowland Pittman, 4-25-1910. Had the following children:
    - a. Margaret Elizabeth Pittman, 2-9-1911, Union, S. C.
    - b. Ada Lee Pittman, 5-26-1912.
  - (4) Ernest Heap Graham, born 2-18-1891; died 3-9-1932. Married Mary Carrow Borden, 4-25-1917, Goldsboro, N. C. They had the following children:
    - a. John Borden Graham, born 1-26-1918, Goldsboro, N. C.
    - b. Mary Borden Graham, born 8-18-1919, Goldsboro, N. C.
    - c. Rena Micks Graham, born 11-13-1923, Goldsboro, N. C.
    - d. Ernest Heap Graham, Jr., born 10-16-1927, Goldsboro, N. C.

- 4. Ada Foster Graham, born 8-2-1862; died 3-18-1912. Married Kerr Wilson, 2-3-1887. They had the following children:
    - (1) Sarah Ellen Wilson, born 6-16-1891, Greenville, S. C. Married John Edward Hart, 4-7-1923. No children.
  - 5. Robert Lee Graham, born 10-3-1865; died 5-15-1915. Married Marion Louille Williamson, 4-23-1890, Greenville, S. C. They had the following children:
    - (1) Robert Burroughs Graham, born 5-26-1891; name changed to Robert Lee Graham, Jr. Married Elizabeth Agnes Snyder, Greenville, S. C., 8-11-1920. They had the following children:
      - a. Robert Lee Graham, Jr., born 8-31-1921.
      - b. George Graham, born 6-21-1926.
      - c. Irine Elizabeth Graham, born 4-4-1928.
    - (2) Marion Williamson Graham, born 11-6-1893, Greenville, S. C. Not married.
  - 6. Metta Lavinia Graham, born 2-23-1869. Married Ernest Franklin Young, 6-12-1889; live at Charlotte, N. C. Children:
    - (1) Ernest Franklin Young, Jr. (adopted).
- VI. William Murdoch married Jerusha Crawford. Had the following children:
- 1. Walter; married Ada McLaughlin. Children:
    - (1) Richard; married (a) Ollie Shoemaker; (b) Mrs. Myrtie Jones.
    - (2) Nell; married Ed Brookshire.
  - 2. Lettie; married Oliver Connelly. They had the following children:
    - (1) Ruth.
    - (2) Mary Belle.
    - (3) William.
    - (4) Ollie.
  - 3. Thaddeus Crawford; died as a child.
  - 4. Belle; died unmarried.
  - 5. Julia; married Eugene McLaughlin, physician, Statesville, N. C. They had the following children:
    - (1) Edith; married Dr. J. S. Talley. They had the following children:
      - a. John Banks.
      - b. Julia Rebecca.
    - (2) Esther; died unmarried.

#### GENERATION SIX

The children of Thomas Mordah and Eleanor Steele were:

- 1. Robert Alexander Murdoch, born March 22, 1822, in Iredell County, N. C. He moved to Okolona, Mississippi, where he died October 26, 1904. (The following account appeared in the Christian Observer: "A very aged and worthy elder in Israel has fallen in the death of R. A. Murdoch. He was born in Iredell County, N. C., in March, 1822, and died in Okolona, Miss., October 26, 1904.")

Like so many of the "Sons of the Covenanters," he was liberally educated, and made teaching his profession. In his twenty-first year he came to Tennessee County, Miss., and was chosen principal of the male academy at Fulton, the County Seat. While teaching at Laumburg, Tenn., he began the study of medicine, but was providentially hindered from completing his medical studies. He was



to Okolona, Miss., and established a drug store. He was soon appointed Postmaster, a position he held for a few years. Closing out the drug store, he established a dry goods store, which was his business for many years.

He was twice married, first to Miss Betty Short of Pulaski, Tenn., and afterwards to Mrs. Laura Waller of Okolona, Miss., who survives him.

By his first marriage he was the father of ten children, seven of whom are still living. Of these, one is the wife of Rev. Jere Witherspoon, D.D., of Richmond, Va.; one, Harvie, a consecrated young minister, laboring in the "Mountains" of Kentucky; three sons in business in Jackson, Tennessee, and one son and one daughter, Mrs. Alice Gideon, in Okolona.

He had been a member of the Presbyterian Church for many years, and occupied every position of trust in its gift; at his death he was the senior elder of the session and superintendent of the Sunday School.

The wife of Robert Murdoch was Elizabeth (Betty) Short, born March 30, 1833, at Pulaski, Giles County, Tenn. She died December 12, 1888. This Elizabeth Short was the daughter of John Turner Short, born 1793 and died 1875, Giles County, Tenn., and who on May 20, 1819, had married Elizabeth Abernathy, who died 1872 in Giles County, Tenn. This John Turner Short was the son of William Short, Jr., who died in January 1830 in Brunswick County, Va., and his wife Mary, who died in 1851 in the same county. This William Short, Jr., was the son of William Short, who died in 1787 in Brunswick County, Va., and his wife Sarah. This William Short was the son of William Short of Brunswick County, who died in 1769. This William Short was the son of William Short, who, before 1725, lived in Prince George County, Va.

I. The children of Robert Alexander Murdoch and Elizabeth (Betty) Short were:

1. Laura Jane Murdoch, born May 21, 1855, and died February 16, 1933, in Richmond, Virginia. She married Rev. Jere Witherspoon, D.D., born April 28, 1849, and died October 27, 1909. A sketch of the life of Dr. Witherspoon is found in the Minutes of the Synod of Virginia, October, 1910, Page 45. They had the following children:

- (1) Preston, born July 28, 1877. Married in 1914 Miss Ruth Stallings, born December, 1891; live in New York. Have the following children:

- a. Jane Witherspoon, born November 24, 1917.
- b. Anne Abernathy, born November 3, 1922.

2. Mary Alice, born September 12, 1856; died January 5, 1934. Married January 25, 1882, D. H. Gideon. Had the following children:

- (1) Harvey; unmarried.
- (2) Howard; married Miss Brown; had no children.
- (3) Robert, born February 5, 1890; married Karene Briggs, born January 7, 1893. They have one child:
  - a. Robert, Jr., born July 28, 1916.

3. Ida King, born November 6, 1858; died June 5, 1862.

4. Millard Franklin, born April 26, 1860; died March 12, 1927. Married Minnie Belle Neely, born August 10, 1861; died December 19, 1929. Had the following children:

- (1) James Bradford, born April 3, 1885; married April 7, 1908, Annie May, born February 8, 1887. They have the following children:

- a. Neely Henderson, born February 5, 1914.
- b. James Bradford, Jr., born January 22, 1917.

- (2) Millard, a daughter who received her father's name, born January 25, 1897, in Jackson, Tenn; married October 26, 1920, Rev. Francis Campbell Symonds, D.D., Presbyterian Minister; licensed 1917; pastor Huntsville, Texas, Thomasville, Ga., Fayetteville, N. C., and First Church, Lynchburg, Va.; 1932—. Born November 29, 1894. They have one child.

- a. Francis Campbell Symonds, Jr., born November 24, 1926, in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

5. Edward Carson, born January 31, 1862; died January 13, 1915; never married.

6. Robert Lee (Bobbie), born May 26, 1865; died December 26, 1901; never married.

7. John Turner, born April 14, 1867; died December 18, 1922; married Jennie Lyon; no children.

8. Lula Florence, born June 14, 1869; died November 26, 1904; married Joseph Chilton, Comanche, Texas. Had the following children:

- (1) Ewing M., born August 17, 1896; married Eleanor Cooper, 323 N. Waverly Drive, Dallas, Texas. They have one child:

- a. Roseman Chilton.

- (2) Elizabeth, born April, 1895; married George E. Hicks, 207 N. Rosemont, Dallas, Texas. They have one child:

- a. Richard Chilton.

- (3) Laura May, born July, 1903; married C. T. McCutcheon, 710 South Spruce, Wichita, Kansas; they have one child:

- a. Bettie Lou.

9. Rev. Harvey Short Murdoch, D.D., a Presbyterian Minister, born April 12, 1871, in Okolona, Miss. Now living in Buckhorn, Ky. Married:

- (1) Louise Saunders—no children; (2) Mary Coke of Auburn, Ky. Live in Buckhorn, Ky.

10. Bardwell, born June 16, 1873; married Lena Lacy, born April 20, 1879. No children.

II. Monroe Murdoch, the second child of Thomas Murdoch and Eleanor Steele, died at an early age.

III. Joseph Murdoch, who died in young manhood.

IV. Carson Murdoch, who never married.

V. Sarah Murdoch, who married, first, William Simonson and, second, Alexander Lawrence. One child by first marriage:

1. Eleanor, born 1841; died November 30, 1931; married William Henry Morrison. Had the following children:

- (1) James Edgar, born April 24, 1865; died September 2, 1865.

- (2) Harvey Lee, born December 4, 1866; died October 24, 1919.
- (3) Octavia Woods, born September 21, 1871; married James Stocker.
  - a. Eleanor, born February 10, 1901; married Everett B. Reece.
    - (a) James Stocker, born June 3, 1924.
    - (b) Mary Eleanor, born June 7, 1926.
    - (c) Sarah Lee, born July 4, 1929.
2. Jane Octavia, married (1) Mr. Rudesil, (2) George Parchman.
  - (1) William Rudesil.
    - a. Clarence; married ———. Has family in Memphis, Tenn.
    - b. Edgar; lives in Oklahoma.
- VI. James Murdoch, who moved to Mississippi.
- VII. Dr. John Turner Murdoch, who married, but left no issue.
- VIII. Franklin Murdoch, who moved to Arkansas.
- IX. William.
  - X. Albertus Pharr, who was born February 23, 1835, and died April 6, 1903, in Statesville, N. C. He married Margaret Crawford, born February 13, 1834; died November 20, 1880. He then married a second wife, Katie Gray. He had the following children by his first wife:
    1. Thomas, married Annie McKenzie; had two children; both dead.
    2. Margaret Annette Murdoch, born April 26, 1865; died June 12, 1921. On December 20, 1883, she married William Ross Mills, born April 26, 1859, and still living. Their children are:
      - (1) Mittie Albertus Mills, who on March 12, 1903, married James Emmet Bryant. They had the following children:
        - a. Margaret Mills Bryant, who on July 27, 1925, married William Grady Morris, and they have two children, Margaret Annette Morris and William Grady Morris, Jr.
        - b. James Emmett Bryant, Jr.
        - c. Sarah Helen Bryant, who on March 22, 1929, married Charles Henry Sipple, and they have two children, Helen Jeanene Sipple and Charles Henry Sipple, Jr.
        - d. Richard Gatling Bryant.
        - e. Billy Charles Bryant.
        - f. Julia Hannah Bryant.
      - (2) William Ross Mills, Jr., second child of Margaret Annette Murdoch and William Ross Mills, married Octa Horn. They have one daughter, Mary Annette Mills.
      - (3) Angie Clarice Mills, a third child of Margaret Annette Murdoch and William Ross Mills, married Allen Young Alexander. Their children are: Allen Young Alexander, Jr., William Presly Alexander and Harold Vance Alexander.
      - (4) Charles Crawford Mills, fourth child of Margaret Annette Murdoch and William Ross Mills, married Elsie Horn. They have four children: Charles Crawford Mills, Julia Mills, Jane Mills and Annette Mills.
3. John T., married Rosa Lee Brawley, Statesville, N. C.

4. James E., married Lettie Blakey, Ennis, Texas. They have the following children:
  - (1) Margaret, married Freddie Brooks. They had one child.
    - a. Mildred Joan.
  - (2) Blakey.
- XI. Mary Jane Murdoch, born July 10, 1838, and died July 28, 1901; married Richard McLaughlin.
 

A reference is made to these last named children of Thomas Murdoch in Guardian Bonds, Book 2, Page 55, at Statesville, N. C.: "23rd Aug. 1848 . . . Thomas Murdoch . . . appointed Guardian of John T., Franklin, W; Fielding, C; Albertus, P; and Mary Jane B. Murdoch minor heirs of Thomas Murdoch.

THOS. MURDOCH.  
C. A. CARLTON.  
FIELDING WATTS."

1. Mary; died unmarried.
2. Eugene; married Julia Murdoch. Had the following children:
  - (1) Edith; married Dr. Talley. Had the following children:
    - a. John Banks.
    - b. Julia Rebecca.
3. Ada; married Walter Murdoch. Had the following children:
  - (1) Richard; married first Allie Shoemaker. Had the following children:
    - a. Ada Belle; married Mr. Cline.
    - b. Sue.

Married second time Mrs. Myrtle Jones.

Had the following children:

    - a. John Eugene.
    - b. Julia Elizabeth.
4. Richard B.; died 1920; married Maud Robbins. Had the following children:
  - (1) Martha; married Frank Stanley. Had the following children:
    - a. Frank, Jr.
  - (2) Richard R.; married Lissie Ashe. Had one child:
    - a. Lissie.
  - (3) Frank R.; married Elinor Tornalin.
  - (4) John R.; married Sarah Johnston.
  - (5) William R.