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Miscellaneous Personal and Family Notes

by

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It seems to me desirable, for various reasons, that information as to one's family and the characteristics of individuals therein should be made of record in order that knowledge of the same should not entirely die with the individual. I have observed that gifted men will labor to elucidate and disseminate facts and knowledge of things other than themselves, when their children would perhaps desire equally some knowledge as to the working life and experiences which animated them and perhaps, had bearing on the fruits of the mind which they did produce.

Moderate pride in family is good: I say moderate, for it is only good when it inspires members of the family to emulate or increase distinction of one's forebears, to set standards of right living or uprightness which must not be departed from and to carry forward a good name, as good or better than it was handed down. Pride of family is good when it is forward looking. It is a detriment to progress and to the individual where it has a tendency to cause one to live on the merits or record of those who have gone before, rather than to depend upon oneself to add to his inheritance of a good name and a record of good citizenship.

I have found, in talking with the older members of my family that the actual knowledge of the Lansdale family is limited. As each generation is born, grows up and passes through life and dies, information as to it largely passes with it. For instance, of the five children of my father and mother I believe that I am the only one who has endeavored to pierce, to some extent, the veil which lies back

of my great-grandfather. Knowledge, back to his day, still exists in the minds of living persons; beyond that records are scarce and we can only judge persons by such things as wills and casual mention of names in publications of a miscellaneous nature. I hope, therefore, that the record of my life, which I hope to set down herein from time to time, will be of interest to my children, John Jr., and Sally, and will be read by them in the knowledge of the fact that I am putting this down, not from a sense of undue pride or for any personal reason affecting my work in the world, but in order that they and their children may, in fact, have some actual knowledge of their father and progenitors. As my children grow in knowledge they will realize how fully they are bound to and by their heredity, and if that transmittal is some source of pride or satisfactory to them I am gratified; if not, my life has not fulfilled its object. This object is for me and for each of us to take the physical body and gifts of mind and character which God has given and use them in such a way as to develop the greatest good. My body, my mind and my character, are what was handed down to me by my good father and mother and by all the generations which have gone before. Nothing that I can do can alter, in any degree, the basic strata on which I have to work or build, but I can, by developing such gifts as I have, perform such work and lead such a life that I can increase my inheritance, just as a plant grows greater than its parent stem, if it is planted in fruitful soil, watered and cultivated. So my children may, by better education and by developing an incentive to grow continually, increase the calibre of the staff of our basic family inheritances for good, and weaken the

unfruitful family characteristics, I hope.

We each receive the burning torch from our parents and, so far as the strength lies in us, we should keep the torch burning brightly while in our charge and pass it on to our children larger and brighter: only thus is good ancestry or pride therein justified.

I was born June 24, 1882, at Triadelphia, Montgomery County, Maryland. Triadelphia, when I was born, and back to the Civil War, was simply the name of a farm and post office.¹ Prior to that time, my grandfather, Thomas Lansdale and his partner, Beverly Miller, had owned and operated a cotton mill at that place. Triadelphia had been a prosperous village: the cotton factory which was standing at the time of my birth was a large stone building with a bell which when rung could be heard for five miles, or as far as Brookeville.² The village had contained a general merchandise store and a grist mill as well as the cotton factory. The grist mill was operated in my time up to 1889 when the dam on the Patuxent river, which flowed through the place and furnished water power for the mill, washed out and was not restored. The village also contained numerous houses where the mill people lived. My grandfather was a farsighted business man for his day and place and owned all land on both sides of the river for a

¹ For more information, see the essays about Triadelphia also posted on pitard.net. "The Personal Recollections of a Lost Village by One Who Knew and Loved the Place" has no author's name attached, but was published in *The Religious Telescope* 77.43 (August 23, 1911) in Dayton, OH. The second is A. Bentley Thomas, "The Story of Triadelphia, Maryland," which was written just before the valley was flooded in the mid 1940s; this is a draft (editor's markings appear throughout), though I do not know where, if ever, it was eventually published. A last essay, Mary Charlotte Crook's "The Tale of Triadelphia, the Town Beneath the Lake," *The Montgomery County Story* 33.3 (August, 1990): 117-128, is available from the Montgomery County Historical Society. The Lansdale family appears in all of them.

² On the Triadelphia bell, see Alice Vedder Farquhar's "Notes about the Triadelphia Bell" which is another of the .pdf documents on pitard.net.

considerable distance and also on both sides of the highway which traversed Triadelphia: this prevented competition by independent merchants in the neighborhood of the factory. Beverly Miller went out of the picture at an early date, though I do not know the exact time; so that when the Civil War came my grandfather was the sole owner of the property. The factory was, of course, dependent upon the South for its supply of cotton and when the War between the States began he necessarily closed down operations. The factory never opened again. It stood a deserted, immense thing in my childhood and my brothers and sisters and I played over its slate roof and climbed into the belfry and grasping the large bell clapper by hand we made the old bell reverberate over the hills and meadows of that beautiful place. My uncle, Richard Hyatt Lansdale, who had the place in his charge as representative of the family, destroyed the factory by explosives about 1910, as through lack of maintenance he considered it dangerous. No one lived in our old house and various people and picnic parties were continually in the factory and subject to injury, either by accident or carelessness.³

The old grist mill had a race leading from the dam, a quarter of a mile up stream and brought the water down over a large wooden wheel. My grandfather, at the time of his death in 1878, operated the farm and either leased out or operated the grist mill. My grandfather died in 1878.

The minutes of St. Bartholomew's Parish Register, Laytonsville,

³ Several of the essays on Triadelphia at pitard.net also all recollect that it was favorite spot for picnics until the vale was flooded in the 1940s.

Maryland, show that Thos. Lansdale, my grandfather, was elected Vestryman in 1843.⁴ He resigned April 13, 1846. He was again elected in April 1857 and was continually reelected through 1877. The interim probably covers the period when he had returned to operate the cotton mill near Savage in Howard County. The minutes also show Thos. Lansdale as Senior Warden in 1876-1877-1878-1879. Thos. Lansdale died in 1878. Therefore, the 1879 record may refer to my father, Thos. Franklin Lansdale. The minutes also show that Thos. F. Lansdale was "voted out" of the Vestry because of removal to another county. Our family moved to Anne Arundel County in 1890.

The minutes also show that Richard H. Lansdale, my uncle, was elected Vestryman in 1873 and Vestryman and Treasurer on April 14, 1875. He was continually reelected Vestryman and Treasurer each year through 1915 and was elected Vestryman through 1919. The minutes of September 18, 1919 contain a resolution of sympathy on the occasion of his death. Frank Lansdale was elected a Warden in 1869 and Vestryman and Warden in 1870.⁵ St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church was built in 1819. I was baptized there.

I had two brothers and two sisters. The two brothers were on each side of me and the two sisters were the youngest. I was, therefore, the second child. My oldest brother, James Strain Lansdale, was born November 15, 1880. My younger brother, Richard Hyatt Lansdale, named for my uncle, was born on October 27, 1883. I was, therefore, about twenty months the junior of my older brother and sixteen months the

⁴ JL Sr. made a copy of these minutes in 1942; see Appendix A.

⁵ This is Samuel Franklin Lansdale, called Frank or Franklin, (13483), another brother of Thomas Franklin Lansdale (and so, JL Sr.'s uncle).

senior of my younger brother. My older sister,⁶ Cornelia Houston Lansdale, was born on July 27, 1885, and the younger sister, Chloe Wimberly Lansdale, was born in February (2nd) 1888, the year of the great blizzard in Maryland.

My father was Thomas Franklin Lansdale and my mother's maiden name was Eliza Wimberly Strain. They were married February 5, 1880, by The Reverend Wm. Laird, at St. John's Church, Olney, Maryland.

My father was also born at Triadelphia, Aug. 8, 1844. He was the son of Thomas Lansdale, born May 19, 1808, died 1878, and Harriet Franklin, born Oct. 12, 1813, died in 1886. This seems a desirable place to set down the family line, so far as I know it.

The tradition is, and I have this from my aunt, the late Mrs. Chas. R. Hartshorne, nee Lansdale,⁷ that three brothers came from Yorkshire, England, and settled in Prince George's County, Maryland. The county was divided, about 1775, into two counties, and the upper or northern part is now Montgomery County: named for the Revolutionary General who was killed at Quebec. My ancestor is supposed to have been Isaac Lansdale; his son Thomas Lancaster Lansdale who married Mary Taneyhill was my grandfather's grandfather. There is some confusion, owing to lack of family records and lack of interest of our forefathers in setting down the facts as to the identity of this Thomas Lancaster Lansdale. My information is that he was born August 14, 1727 and died either in 1770 or 1789, probably the

⁶ That is, the older of the two younger sisters.

⁷ Ella Maria "Nellie" Lansdale (1330), who married Charles Hartshorne in 1886.

former date.⁸ (See data of my sister, Mrs. Howard C. Hill,⁹ who is making a study of the family. J.L. 8/29/1935.) I think that he had a brother Isaac, who died 1777, who married Eleanor Crabb, who died 1770, and was the father of Major Thomas Lansdale, a distinguished officer of the Revolution. Major Lansdale was, therefore, the nephew of our ancestor.¹⁰ I may record in passing that Major Thos. Lansdale, an infantry officer of the Maryland Line, fought throughout the Revolution, was wounded and was possibly a prisoner of the British. He was born in 1748 and died January 19, 1803, at "Enfield Chase," Prince George's County, Maryland. His widow, Cornelia (Van Horne) was living in 1850 and drawing her pension as the widow of a Revolutionary Major.¹¹ His military record, so far as I have it, from Heitman's Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army, was: First Lieutenant of the Flying Camp, July to December 1776, Captain, 4th Maryland, 10 Dec. 1776, Major 3rd Maryland 19th February 1781. Served until 15th November 1783. He appears to have been a prisoner in March 1780.

Our Thos. Lancaster Lansdale, uncle of the Major, apparently lived and died at a plantation called "New Castle" in Prince George's County, Maryland. According to my aunt, Mrs. Hartshorne, and she

⁸ In Maria Horner Lansdale's *Two Colonial Families: the Lansdales of Maryland, the Luces of New England* (Philadelphia: privately printed, 1938), which JL Sr. apparently obtained in 1946 after these notes were made, Thomas Lancaster Lansdale (13925) was baptized 14 August 1727 in St. Barnabas Church, Queen Anne Parish, Prince George's County, married Margaret Taneyhill, and died in 1788. His father's name was Isaac (13912, born in England), as was his younger brother's (13929). He was the uncle of the Major with the same name.

⁹ Cornelia Houston Lansdale (135) married Howard C. Hill in 1909. JL Sr. preserved some of her work at Essex.

¹⁰ This account agrees with Horner, *Two Colonial Families*.

¹¹ Cornelia van Horne (I4018) is buried at the Quaker Burying Ground, Galesville, MD.

received the information from her father, Thos. Lancaster Lansdale (our ancestor) had six children, as follows:

1. Isaac.
2. Richard (our ancestor, see page)
3. Thomas
4. Martha (Mrs. Orme)
5. Rebecca (Mrs. Samuel Magruder)
6. Eleanor (Mrs. Berry).

I do not have the date of birth, and indeed, I am not sure that there was not another ancestor named Richard between my grandfather's father, Richard, and the son of Thos. Lancaster Lansdale.¹² I am setting this down as it is my present information and if, in future years I am able to entirely clear up the line of descent and it turns out differently, I will make any necessary corrections. It seems to me to be desirable to set down at this time what I have.

My sister, Cornelia Lansdale Hill, is now making a family study as she finds time. She hopes to definitely locate the father of my great grandfather, Richard. (J.L. May 2, 1936).

Richard Lansdale, my grandfather's father, married on November 10, 1804, Jemima Hyatt, the daughter of Seth Hyatt and Jemima Jones Hyatt, at Hyattsville, Prince George's County, Maryland. Of this union seven children were born, as follows:

1. Margaretta, married Samuel Williams and died in Ohio, leaving six children.
2. Thomas, (my grandfather)

¹² He may be right, but there seems to be no evidence for another generation here.

3. Richard Hyatt, married Mary Pope and moved to Olympia, Washington. He had six children and his descendants were living in Washington and Oregon during the latter part of the 19th Century.
4. Alpheus Hyatt, married Sarah King. He had seven children: Agnes M. (McMorris), Eva (Hartman), Abbie, Fannie (Wood), Mary, Arthur, not married. Lillie (McMorris).
5. Addison, married Mary ----- 1 daughter, Florence.
6. Isaac, never married.
7. John Wesley, died young.

The second of the above children, Thomas, was my grandfather, born May 19, 1808. My great grandfather, Richard, was as shown above, the second son. And I have been informed by my uncle, Richard Hyatt Lansdale, that his older brother, Isaac, inherited most of his grandfather's property.¹³ My uncle, Richard, who told me this said it was of considerable extent. At any rate, with a spirit of enterprise that has not been lacking in the family, my great grandfather, Richard, moved with his family to the then new country of Ohio. I have not the date of his death but he died there.

My grandfather, Thomas, was born in Montgomery County, Maryland, before the family moved to Ohio but must have been a very young boy at the time. For some reason, it was decided that my grandfather should return to Maryland and therefore, as a boy of seventeen, he joined

¹³ According to the dates I have, Isaac (I3859, b. 1814) was in fact the younger brother of Richard Hyatt Lansdale (I3857, b. 1811).

with a party driving cattle from Ohio to Maryland, probably Baltimore, and returned on horseback in that manner. I can find no record anywhere of his ever returning to Ohio, though I know some of his people, particularly his brother Alpheus visited him in Maryland. I have record of doctor's bills incurred and paid by Alpheus. My grandfather entered the employ or joined under some arrangement, the staff of a cotton factory near Ellicott City or Savage, Maryland, to learn the cotton manufacturing business. He was apparently successful for when he was about 21 he was superintendent of a factory at Savage, Maryland. (August 10, 1929) He lived near Ellicott City near Catonsville also, in a large and handsome house which is still standing and occupied. My grandmother was devoted to the place and did not want to leave. However, my grandfather was an active man and when he sold out his business near Savage he bought Triadelphia and established a cotton manufacturing business at that place.

As recorded in the forepart of an atlas of Montgomery County, Maryland, my grandfather was a prominent man of character and standing, respected by all who knew him. He was a State Senator from Montgomery County after the Civil War and a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1864. He was the first manufacturer, according to this atlas preface, to heat a factory building by means of steam pipes. Col. T.H.S. Boyd published a small book in 1879 entitled "History of Montgomery County, Maryland".¹⁴ Under Chapter XIV, "Prominent Men", he says that Thomas Lansdale invented the first

¹⁴ T.H.S. Boyd, *The History of Montgomery County Maryland From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879* (Clarksburg, 1879; rpt. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 2001). The quotation following is the whole entry on "the Hon. Thomas Lansdale" from page 101.

wood planing machine and the metallic yoke for swing bells. Boyd says that "In 1842 he became interested in the Triadelphia Mills, remaining five years, when he took charge at the Granite at Ellicott's Mills where he remained 10 years. He was the first to introduce steam into a factory for heating purposes. In 1856 he returned to Triadelphia and by his enterprise and energy succeeded in making it a thriving village containing 400 inhabitants, with a large three story store, cotton factory, saw, plaster, bone and grist mills, stone and mechanical shops. He was a member of the State Constitutional Convention of 1864, and was elected to the Senate in 1865. He died in 1878, universally respected by a large circle of operatives, business men and politicians, with whom he was associated, while he lived in the confidence and esteem of his friends and neighbors."

All of my uncles and aunts married and left home prior to my grandmother's death, except my father and my Aunt Nellie, later Mrs. Hartshorne. When my father married, also before her death, Miss Eliza Strain, my mother, he took her to Triadelphia to live. I have a dim recollection of my grandmother and distinctly remember her death and the distress of my father, though I was only four years or age. I remember the three boys, of which I was the middle one, in charge of my little sister, Cornelia's baby carriage. She must then have been about one year old. My father came very reverently and solemnly and told us that our grandmother was dead. He took us to see her lying peacefully in her last slumber.

In 1889 there was an immense flood at Triadelphia, washing out the dam in the Patuxent river above the residence and filling the

valley where our house was situated with some five feet of water.¹⁵ I remember, in my six year old way, trying to save some things out of the house. We all left the house as the water came. We saved some household goods including silver but the lower part of the house was inundated and the furniture ruined. The house was a large stone structure with a brick front. It had a stone wing in the rear which was the kitchen. That wing was undermined and gave way. The house was some 500 feet from the Patuxent and the space between was a fine old garden with flowers, shrubbery, etc. It was entirely washed out and ruined. We stayed at my uncle Richard's for a few weeks and then moved back to Triadelphia. My mother, however, never recovered from her fear of the water and the possibilities of another flood. My father, therefore, looked around for another residence. We had cousins in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, viz. the Franklins, the Waters, the Halls, Dr. Welsh's family, and others. He and my mother, therefore, decided to move 40 miles south to the South River neighborhood in Anne Arundel County, near Davidsonville, which was our post office. In January or February 1890 we moved: strong four-horse teams transported our household effects, farming implements and all the miscellaneous gear of a going household and farm. We moved to a farm purchased from Dr. Thos. Welsh whose wife was father's first cousin. He paid \$1,200 cash; the balance of \$1,400 was not paid off until the place was sold after my mother's death in 1906.¹⁶

My father was apparently a strong vigorous man but it is thought

¹⁵ This was the same event as the infamous Johnstown Flood, which on May 31, 1889 destroyed the town of Johnstown, east of Pittsburgh, and killed some 2200 of its inhabitants.

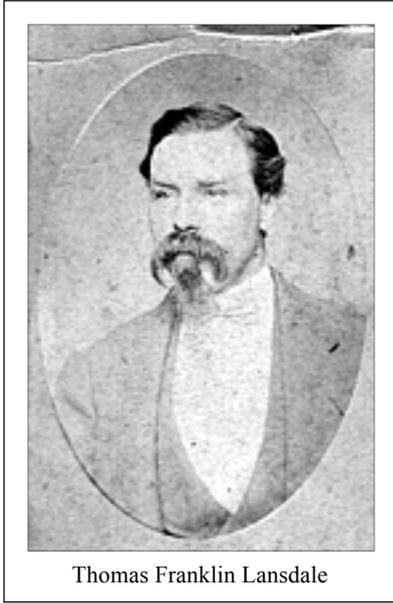
¹⁶ See Appendix C for a copy of the receipt.

that the stress, strain and worry incident to the flood and moving undermined his health. At any rate, he was taken ill early in 1891 and died in February of that year. He had a particularly acute and virulent form of Brights disease. He died at 47 years of age, an upright, high principled gentleman, loved and honored by his brothers and sisters, and adored by my mother who, until the day she died, could not refer to his untimely death without the tears coming into her eyes.

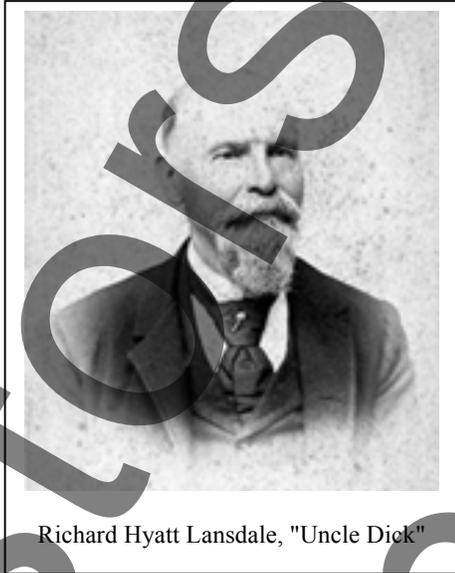
My father was born at Triadelphia, as I have said, in 1844, he was married in 1880 when nearly 36 years of age. I have his diary stating that his wedding day was the happiest of his life.¹⁷ In 1862, when about 18 years of age, he enlisted in the Confederate Army. He served as a private in the 7th (or 9th) Virginia Cavalry and was later transferred to Colonel Mosby's Command in the famous so-called Mosby's Guerrillas.¹⁸ This was a regular unit but used for dashing raids and quick, active service as a separate unit against the Union Army. My father surrendered at Appomattox in 1865, his parole reading that he was 19 years of age, 5 feet, 7 inches, tall, with grey eyes and brown hair, and in the command of General Mosby. He was, though short, a handsome popular man, with many friends. He wore a mustache and goatee. My uncle Richard told me, many years after his death, that he had never loved any man as he did my father.

¹⁷ This diary is, apparently, MISSING!, in case anyone has seen it or knows where it is!

¹⁸ See Appendix D for several documents related to his Civil War service. His name occurs (as "Lansdall") in the Appendix to Jeffery D. Wert, *Mosby's Rangers* (New York: Touchstone, 1990).



Thomas Franklin Lansdale



Richard Hyatt Lansdale, "Uncle Dick"



The Triadelphia farm and post office in 1940.

My mother was left with five children, the oldest 10 years and the youngest 3, with only the mortgaged farm for support. My uncle Richard was the more or less active head of the family for my older uncle, Franklin, never assumed responsibility, as he was not as able a man as my uncle Richard. Uncle Franklin was a widower without responsibilities, so it was arranged that he would go to Anne Arundel and assist my mother. He did go, and lived with us for four or five years, doing the work of the garden, attending the cows, family horses, etc. We were desperately poor, so poor that I still have a dread in thinking of the stark poverty which we all took as a matter of course. The place was rented out to various tenants and through the meager crops, the assistance of Uncle Dick, my cousin, Kate Welsh, and others, we managed to live.

My mother was an unusual woman, with a sweet and cheerful disposition. She always kept up our standard of living, no matter how poor we were. That is, our table manners were looked to carefully, though there many not have been much on the table, our clothes were clean. We were taught that clean bodies, including finger nails, clean clothes no matter how old, polished shoes and good manners were the mark of gentle folk. We were taught that good manners and religion go together, that poverty had nothing to do with one's standing in the community, that good blood, good breeding were obligations and that living up to high standards were the natural things to do. We were taught the love of books and each usually spent the winter evenings around the stove in the airy, cold, old house with his or her books. We had much company, especially in the summer

months when the roads were good and all of our friends' and relations lived to the same code as ourselves. We were, I think, the poorest of all our friends in this world's goods.

No finer people have been produced in this country than the people of the South River and West River communities. Our next farm neighbors, the Thomas Igleharts, headed by the high principled and dignified Judge Iglehart; his large family, Paul now dead was a good civil engineer, Berry, a distinguished doctor of Baltimore, (died in 1936); Tom, the salt of the earth and an example of what a young man should be, (died of tuberculosis about 1933); Miss Maggie, now Mrs. Curtis, my Sunday School teacher, loving friend of my mother, a great heart, a brilliant mind and a character full of love and laughter, of strength of high purpose and a model of all womanly virtues; Miriam, lovely and fine, the companion of my winter evenings when we read together Green's History of the English People and other good books - I a serious boy of 17, she a lovely gracious woman of 25.¹⁹ She later married Meade Holladay of Annapolis and met an untimely death by fire.

Beyond were the James Igleharts,²⁰ double first cousins of the Thomas Igleharts and equally fine in their own way. Miss Agnes who had a private school and taught us without charge. Miss Lockett, who assisted and who today is an active, vigorous woman, still living in Davidsonville, interested in everyone, and my good and loving friend

¹⁹ "Miriam Iglehart" is not one of the names recorded on the Iglehart window in All Hallows' Chapel in Davidsonville, though all the other siblings mentioned here are. "W. Meade Holladay" served in the Maryland House of Delegates, representing Annapolis, in 1920-22.

²⁰ Double cousins are the children of two siblings who married two siblings in another family. Judge Thomas Sellman Iglehart and his brother James Alexis married two sisters, Margaret Ella Welsh and Maria Deborah Welsh, respectively.

after 23 years. (Moved to Baltimore about 1931). There was also Alexis, Richard, who married our cousin, Mary Kennedy; Bessie of the gentle mind, and lovely Miss Semmie (short for Sellman), later Mrs. Wm. Digges.²¹

The Watkins, powers in the community: Judge Benjamin, Senior,²² being possibly in my boyhood, the leader of thought and certainly of action in the community. His children, Ben, my friend then and now, Katharine, competent, strong in character and in charity, ready to help anyone at any time and lovely woman with all, Nora, a gifted musician, gentle and smart, a quick mind and a nimble tongue, always gentle and sweet.

Dr. Welsh, a good physician, dignified and able and his wife, Cousin Kate, our good angel who looked after us as another mother would, she was what was known in former days as a "great lady".

There were the Sellmans, two families,²³ the Hodges,²⁴ the Howards, the Williams (Bernard Williams later marrying Martha Lansdale, Uncle Dick's daughter) and other families of more or less importance but all of good old English stock, living by the same code and guided by the same ideals of right living and right thinking.

Below us, a short ten miles, were our cousins, the Waters, living

²¹ JL Sr. later mentions that he visits this family in Chicago on his way out west. Richard Iglehart, Miss Semmie's brother, also worked in Nevada (and changed his name to Welsh, his mother's name, and died suddenly in the Spring of 1906). And the Digges had a son whom they also named Alexis, or "Lex," who worked out there with JL Sr. These friends seem to be the key to how he determined to go west in the first place, and where to go.

²² According to the names of his children, this is Benjamin Watkins, Jr. (16754).

²³ It is not clear which Sellmans this refers to. One might be the family of John Henry Sellman and his wife Sophia Stockett (F4721), who are buried at All Hallows' Church; they had children born about the time of JL Sr.

²⁴ I assume that this is the family of John Thomas Hodges and his wife, Ida Kent, who are buried at All Hallows' Chapel in Davidsonville.

at Essex, the old ancestral home of the Battees (our ancestors). The Franklins, living at the old Franklin homestead, Oakland, now owned by our cousin, Harris Franklin. (Oakland sold by Carol Franklin, Harris' widow, in 1942). There was also on West River, the Murrays,²⁵ the Chestons, the Colhouns, the Ellzeys and others.

The West River people were more prosperous than those of South River, but they were all, the upper class families, cultivated and more or less well educated. In all my travels, by land and by sea, I have met and known many fine people in various walks of life, but it is my mature judgment that as a whole the people of Southern Maryland are the most representative of the best in American stock. They are healthy in mind and body, they have a code of morals and a standard of right living essentially sane and right, they are charitable and tolerant of the faults of others without condoning those faults in themselves. In the best of them right living and right thinking are so ingrained that they show up in my background as standards or measures by which other people have ever since been judged. It is only since I have left that gifted community have seen other things, other people and other times, that I have come to so fully appreciate the times and the people among whom I was so fortunate as to grow to man's estate. May their children and my children grow up in accordance with their teachings and their standards. I do not mean to say that there were not unworthy people among our Anne Arundel

²⁵ This I assume is the family of Alexander Murray (1603), who married Eliza Franklin (1602), though his parents remain unclear as yet. He was a Civil War veteran who, according to J. Harris Franklin's notes, kept a diary of his time in the War, though I have not seen it. He served in the same CSA battalion (2nd Battalion, Maryland Infantry) as James Shaw Franklin (14807), another West River resident. The rest of those here (Chestons, Colhouns, and Ellzeys) seem to be unrelated.

population. There were, of course, but the standards were high and the best was the standard by which men and actions were judged.

August 11, 1929

I should go back here to my father's family, that the record may be coherent.

I have stated that my grandfather's father was Richard Lansdale: He married Jemima Hyatt on November 10, 1804. He was the pioneer who moved to Ohio, as before stated, and whose children, except my grandfather, stayed West and lost their connection with their family. My uncle, Richard, went to Oregon during the last year of the Civil War and spent five years there with his uncle, Richard, my grandfather's brother for whom he was named. My great-uncle, Richard, had a mail contract to carry the mails from Portland to The Dalles, Oregon. My uncle, Richard, was engaged in this pony express work for a while, later operating a store before returning to Maryland about 1870. We know nothing of the Oregon family at this time.

My grandfather, Thomas Lansdale, Dec. 11 1834 married Harriet Franklin, daughter of Dr. Samuel Franklin of Prince George's County, Maryland. I will write more of him later.

Of this marriage six children were born, as follows:

Samuel Franklin Lansdale, born 1835, married Fannie

Robinson, died 1908.

Richard Hyatt Lansdale, born July 13, 1857. married (1st)

Mary Ann Griffith, (2nd) Margaret Ridgeley.

Mary Jemima, born January 15, 1841, married Charles Hutton,

died Jan. 8, 1894.

Thomas Franklin Lansdale, (my father), b. August 8, 1844,

D. Jan. 26, 1891, married in February, 1880,

Eliza Wimberly Strain (my mother) born 1852, died
1906.

Elizabeth Franklin, married Dawson Lawrence

Ella Maria (Nellie), born July 14, 1852, died August 10,

1916, married Charles R. Hartshorne.

All of these are now dead. My uncle, Richard, being the last; he
dying in 1919 at the age of 81.

I am not sure of the name of my great-grandfather's father. My
uncle, Richard, and aunt, Mrs. Hartshorne, always thought it was
Thomas Lancaster Lansdale who, in turn, was the son of Isaac Lansdale,
but whether this Thomas Lancaster Lansdale who was born on August 14,
1727 and married Mary Taneyhill, dying either in 1770 or 1789, was the
father or grandfather of my great-grandfather, I am not sure. At any
rate, we are of an old pre-Revolutionary family, there having been
Lansdales in Prince George's County, I am sure, shortly after the year
1700. I have several old wills of the family showing by their
connections, lists of property, etc., that they were of the gentry and
people of standing in their communities. They originated, so far as I
can ascertain, in this country in what is known as the "Forest" of
Prince George's County and the lower part of Montgomery County,
Maryland. I hope, at a later date, to have the time and money to
search back through old records and. positively identify and tie in
the various branches of our old family. One, we know, was an officer

of the Revolution, Major Thos. Lansdale of the Maryland Line. Several of whom I have record took the "Oath of Fidelity" to the Revolution and they were evidently people of standing and property. In one will, that of Isaac Lansdale, mention is made by name of 50 slaves owned and distributed, as well as much land.²⁶

My father's mother was Harriet Franklin, daughter of Dr. Samuel Franklin of Prince George's County. Dr. Samuel Franklin was born at Oakland, on West River, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. His was one of the oldest families, not only of Maryland but of America. The line of descent is as follows: Robert Franklin settled at Oakland in 1641 on land patented from Lord Baltimore. The property is still in the possession of the family, being owned by my cousin, J. Harris Franklin of Washington, D.C. Robert Franklin the first, married Sarah Puddington, daughter of Col. Wm. Burgess and apparently a widow.²⁷ Their son, Robert, the second, married Artridge Giles. Their son Jacob, the first, born 1702, died 1773, married Mary Giles. Their son, Jacob the second, born 1743, died 1819, married Anne Battee. These last were the parents of my great-grandfather, Dr. Samuel Franklin. They educated him well. I have his medical diploma, dated 1804, when he graduated from the University of Maryland: he died on October 21, 1821, when only 41 years of age, he having been born on November 21, 1780. He had an attack of so-called bilious fever and

²⁶ The will he seems to refer to here is that of Isaac Lansdale, Jr. (13911), which was admitted to probate Nov. 19, 1777. He was the owner of "Enfield Chase," among other properties. He was the brother of JL Sr.'s direct ancestor Thomas Lancaster Lansdale who m. Margaret Taneyhill, and the father of Maj. Thomas Lancaster Lansdale.

²⁷ Daughter of George Puddington and Jane Cornish. See the note under her name (18376) at pitard.net/genealogy for a discussion, with reference to sources. Robert Franklin's second wife was Sarah Gott.

was bled as a cure. This caused his death. His mother was Anne Battee, also of an old Anne Arundel county family. The Battees lived at Essex, of which much will later be said.²⁸ Essex was the original grant to the Battee family or part of same. The property, as now constituted, bears various names, part of it being called "Battees Due", part "Essex", part "Kent", and the last part purchased by my great-uncle, Dr. Franklin Waters,²⁹ was known as "Haylands", being part of the Mercer estate. My cousin, Miss Alice Waters says that it was part of the O'Hara estate (Oct. 13, 1929 Note).

Dr. Samuel Franklin, upon graduation, went to Prince George's County to practice medicine. He there married his cousin, Mary Waters the daughter of Arnold and Rachel (Franklin) Waters. His father, Jacob Franklin, was for his day a well-to-do citizen but left little or no property to his son, Samuel, he stating in his will that he had expended on his education greater sums than he had on his other children and that the education given him was in lieu of other property which he left to his less well educated children. This seems to me a fair proposition. Dr. Samuel Franklin and Mary Franklin had 10 children, of which four daughters grew up and married. One son, Samuel, was drowned in the creek to the rear of St. John's College, Annapolis, which he was attending at the time of his death. He was 17 years of age. The four daughters of Dr. Samuel Franklin all became women of distinction and character. They were Rachel, born 1809, died

²⁸ For more on Essex, see "A History of Essex," also on pitard.net.

²⁹ Dr. Franklin Waters, Jr. was JL Sr.'s great uncle by his marriage to Harriet Franklin, JL Sr.'s great-aunt. By blood, however, he was also JL Sr.'s 2nd cousin, three times removed. Dr. Franklin's daughter Alice Waters, whom JL Sr. called "Aunt Jig," was actually his 1st cousin, once removed,

1889, married Dr. Franklin Waters, also a cousin and an important man in after life. Harriet, born October 12, 1813, died August 10, 1886, married Thos. Lansdale, my paternal grandfather. Nancy, born November 10, 1816, died April 10, 1854, married Dr. Thos J. Franklin of Oakland, Anne Arundel County, also a cousin. The youngest, Maria Waters, married Robert Freeland of Baltimore. She was born October 13, 1821, ten days before her father's death. I remember her as a lovely old white haired lady when my uncle Richard Lansdale took me to see her in Baltimore when I was a small boy.³⁰

All of these people were persons of character and standing in their communities. There have been very few public men among them, however, though my grandfather, Thomas Lansdale, did serve as State Senator from Montgomery County, elected in 1865, and was a member of the Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1864. One of them, Robert Franklin, was a High Sheriff of Anne Arundel County and a member of the Provincial House of Delegates.

The property called Essex was left by will of my great-grandmother's sister, Aunt Elizabeth Battee in 1821, to her nephew, Benjamin Franklin,³¹ born Dec. 4, 1783, a brother of my great-grandfather, Dr. Samuel Franklin. He died without issue Dec. 30, 1822 and left the place to his nephew, Samuel Franklin Jr., my grandmother's brother, who was drowned at Annapolis, as above stated, and his four sisters, in turn, inherited it.

Dr. Franklin Waters bought out the other heirs in 1838 and later,

³⁰ Portraits of this handsome couple hung the parlor at Essex for many years. For more on them, see the essay "The Freelands and Essex" to be posted on pitard.net.

³¹ Benjamin Franklin's portrait also used to hang in the parlor at Essex.

in 1852, he constructed the present house at Essex and moved there in 1855. The Waters family had originally lived in Anne Arundel County, their old homestead having been "Rokeby" near Sudley post office. All of his six children who grew up lived there and at this writing all have died there, except Kate who married Dr. Welsh and died in 1909, and Alice born in 1852, who I delight to say is still alive and a delightful, bright woman of 77. I will say more of her later. (Died Friday, April, 28, 1939).

I should mention also, my devoted cousin, J. Harris Franklin. He is the son of J. Harris Franklin and the grandson of Dr. Thomas J. Franklin. His grandmother was Josephine Harris, the first wife of Dr. Thomas Franklin. He is a handsome man of 50 and the last male Franklin of his section of the county. He has one child only, a daughter, Carol, six years of age and therefore, the property of Oakland will cease to be owned by the Franklin males at his death, unless some collateral branch of the family acquires it. From 1641, date of acquisition, until 1929, the date of this record, is I submit, an unusual record of property ownership under one family and one name for America. (Harris Franklin's widow, Carol Franklin, sold Oakland in 1942). If my children find this mention of names and connection confusing, they should refer to the diagramic tree of the Franklin Family, compiled by Harris' brother, the late Dr. Edmund T.M. Franklin, of Washington, which more particularly shows its ramifications and our direct descent from the first Robert Franklin, Sheriff of Anne Arundel County, member of the Provincial Assembly and a man of character and parts, as have been his descendants down to

this day.

November, 1937

My beloved cousin, Joseph Harris Franklin, died of coronary thrombosis at his residence, 1729 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., on October 30, 1937. I had been in Washington and we had spent a quiet day in the country visiting our respective farms of Essex, Anti Lebanus and Oakland, on the day of his death. May his brave spirit rest in peace. He was a member of the South River Club.

March 23, 1944

A long time has elapsed since I wrote herein. I was elected a member of the South River Club in 1938 to succeed Harris Franklin.

I should have recorded before this that by an arrangement which I made with Cousin Alice Waters (Aunt Jig), for monthly payments toward her support, and also because she and her sister, Cousin Olivia, and their brother, Cousin (Dr.) Franklin Waters, the 2nd, had expected to leave Essex to me by will, she deeded the property to me by deed dated June 25, 1934. She died April 28, 1939. All terms of the arrangement were strictly fulfilled. After acquiring Essex, I also acquired by purchase, the property to the southwest known as Anti Lebanus, from the widow of Samuel P. Chew,³² the farm known as Suffolk, lying directly west of Essex, from John H. Hopkins, 3rd, and the farm I call Cherry Branch, lying south of Essex, from Mrs. Georgie Hunt, et al., altogether 783.67 acres. This additional property was acquired because

³² I assume that this is Samuel Peaco Chew (1874-1937), and his wife Eliza Shepherd Chew.

when I retire from the railroad world I expect to return to Anne Arundel County, Maryland, to live and the management of this extensive property will provide an occupation and an interest for me which, with my active mind and disposition, will be necessary to contentment and happiness. Also, for the last several years the farms have proved a profitable investment, though that is largely because of the high prices of tobacco caused by the inflation incident to World War II now raging.

I take just pride in Essex and in keeping it in the family by an unbroken line from our ancestor, Ferdinando Battee who patented it August 5, 1664, based on survey made July 8, 1665 (Vol. 7. p. 298-9). A small part of Battee's Due was patented in 1667. Portions known as Kent and Sussex were patented 1676-7. Parts of the original Essex have been sold: I have a note that Elizabeth Chew and Samuel Battee deeded 50 acres to Nicholas Watkins July 30, 1733. I think this is part of my place known as Suffolk, lying east of Essex.

August 25, 1944

I should make record of my mother's family, Strain. I have the family Bible of Allen Strain, my mother's grandfather. The Strains were of Scotch-Irish descent. From the best information I can get, I find they came from Northern Ireland to Pennsylvania before the Revolution. The Allens were a branch of the family and an old lady of the Strain name who lived in Rockbridge County, Virginia, as late as 1930, wrote to me that Allentown, Pennsylvania, was named for the

family.³³ Members of the family still live in Lexington, Virginia. Allen Strain was born in Rockbridge or Augusta County, Virginia (Rockbridge was split from Augusta) on July 28, 1786.³⁴ His family emigrated from Virginia to Maryville, Tennessee, and my grandfather, James Strain was born there October 2, 1815. His mother's maiden name was Jane Higgins. Captain John Strain, the oldest son, for whom I am named, was born in Blount County, Maryville, or near there, November 10, 1812. The family was John Higgins - Allen. James, my grandfather, Robert Bogle, William Trotter, Mary, Martha and Nancy Jane.³⁵ Captain John Higgins Strain, the oldest, was in Texas in 1841; participated in the ill-fated Santa Fe expedition as Captain of E Company, (See Kendall's book on the Santa Fe expedition), of the Texas troops, was captured by the Mexicans, was imprisoned in Mexico for a year or more and was released through the intervention of the American minister. Texas was then a republic. He was later an Indian Agent in the Indian Territory; went to Washington where he married Cornelia Nancrede Houston of the Sam Houston family,³⁶ and died in Montgomery County, Maryland August 5. 1888. After the death of my grandfather, James Strain, January 31, 1873, my mother lived with Capt. John Strain until her marriage to my father.

My grandfather, James Strain, born October 2, 1815, married on

³³ Letter from Eva L. Strain, 4 July 1933. She traces back her family from a David Strain (her great-grandfather) who married Elizabeth Allen in Pennsylvania before moving to Augusta Co., VA. She says, however, that she knows "nothing about Allen Strain."

³⁴ Rockbridge Co., VA was formed from Augusta and Botetourt Counties in 1786.

³⁵ He seems to leave off here one other of Allen Strain's children, Joseph Allen Strain (I192).

³⁶ The relationship to Sam Houston, if there is one, is via a common ancestor, though this seems doubtful. Sam Houston lived 2 Mar. 1793-26 July 1863, and Cornelia Houston was born 23 Nov. 1834.

October 15, 1851,³⁷ Eliza Chloe Wimberly, daughter of Abner Wimberly and Eliza Chloe Childress Wimberly. My mother was born in Memphis, Tennessee, January 16, 1853. Her mother died January 23, 1853, one week after my mother's birth. Her father never married again, but kept my mother with him until she went to Uncle John Strain's in or near Washington to attend good schools.

My grandfather, Strain, of whom I have a Daguerreotype,³⁸ was a fine looking man. I have never checked the records but my mother always understood that he was a man of prominence in Tennessee. He was called "Colonel" and had some connection with the Confederate Army during the Civil War.³⁹ She also told me that at different times he was Land Commissioner of the States of Arkansas and Tennessee. There was a place on the Arkansas River in Arkansas, called "Strain's Landing" which was his property at one time. Uncle John Strain had red hair and there was a strong red haired tendency in the family, as most of his children had firey red hair. Uncle John, or Captain Strain as he was always called, was prominent and much respected in Montgomery County, Maryland. I dimly remember him as an old man with a close, cropped white beard. His wife, Aunt Nellie, was much younger. My sister, Cornelia is named for her. Do not know how

³⁷ In DeSoto Co., MS.

³⁸ There were several daguerreotypes (or ambrotypes) of young men preserved at Essex which might be this one, but none were identified, in case anyone knows which it is. Other documents related to him are also preserved. There is a deed, dated January 1852, selling land in Tippah Co., MS to a James and Martha Fort. A letter from him o his sister Mary. One, 24 Sept. 1871, is from Brookeville, MD, and mentions Eliza, well before marrying Thomas Lansdale. Two other letters to his sister Mary are dated June and December, 1872, written from Memphis, TN, containing news of family; these are apparently where JL Sr. gets his information about the family which he describes below.

³⁹ I can find no "James C. Strain" in any Confederate soldier database. A "James B. Strain" served in two separate units of the Tennessee Mounted Infantry as a Private ("Colonel" may very well have been an honorific or a veteran's organization title); see <<http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss/index.html>>.

"Nellie" is derived from "Cornelia", but Nellie she was always called.

August 24, 1944

The oldest son, Truxton, moved to Portland, Oregon, where he married.⁴⁰ He is now dead, leaving one daughter. James Strain, a younger son, moved also to the Northwest, probably Washington State. I understand he married but I have no record of his family. Nellie, the oldest daughter, married Dr. Chas. Farquhar of Olney, Maryland, and died some years ago leaving no children. Gertrude, the second daughter, a most brilliant and charming woman, married a New York newspaper man named Garrison. She is now dead, leaving two sons who have lost connection with the family. Our family had no connection, except a most casual one, with any other members of the Strain family and I have lost track of them at this time.

My oldest brother, James Strain Lansdale, died in 1938. All other members of our immediate family are living and have kept our close family connection during all the years of our busy separate lives.

When my father died in 1891, we lived on a farm some two miles northwest of Davidsonville, Maryland. This contained only 152 acres. My father named it Enfield, after the ancestral place in Prince George's County.

Uncle Franklin Lansdale moved there from my Uncle Richard's, where he was then living, to look out for us. The farm was rented to

⁴⁰ That is, the oldest son of John Higgins Strain (though not the oldest child—Cornelia and Sally were older); the following are his children. Truxton apparently married a Rosena Dekum (11048).

various people, the Tydings family, white people, and old Jim Pindell, a respectable negro. We children walked about two miles to the Davidsonville public school which was situated about one mile west of the village of Davidsonville. When I was fourteen and Jamie nearly sixteen, Miss Agnes Iglehart, James Iglehart's daughter,⁴¹ who kept a private school of about High School standing, took us, together with our two younger sisters, and gave us the rudiments at an education. When my brother, Richard, was 12 years of age he went to live with my Uncle Richard and never returned to live permanently in Anne Arundel County.

I might say here, that my brother, Richard Hyatt Lansdale,, the 3rd, now lives at Sandy Spring, Maryland, in Montgomery County. He is the most prominent member of the family and in every way a good citizen. He owns a substantial milling business at that place and is an excellent business man. He is a director Of the First National Bank at Sandy Spring. He has been, for approximately 30 years, Vestryman and Senior Warden of St. John's Church at Olney, Maryland. He has served in the Maryland Legislature, as Sheriff of Montgomery County, Maryland, as Chairman of the Board of County Assessors, as Clerk to the County Commissioners, and two terms as a member of the County Commissioners Board. He is at this time a member. He has two farms of about 776 acres, in the northern part of Montgomery County, in which he is much interested and is an all around good citizen. He has three children, Margaret Lindsay, now Mrs. Richard Pue, Richard

⁴¹ This is the Iglehart family whose relation as "double cousins" to the Thomas Igleharts, and whose relation to JL Sr., I have not yet been able to identify.

Hyatt Lansdale, Jr., and Thomas Franklin Lansdale, Lieutenant, U.S. Army, named for my father. His wife, Olivia, nee Lindsay, died many years ago and he never remarried, bringing up most satisfactorily his three children. Margaret graduated from Western Maryland College, Richard Jr. from the University of Maryland, and Tom had two years at the latter place before going to the Army in 1942. He was a partner with his father in the milling business. Richard is now a law clerk in Washington, D.C. He is also attending law school at Georgetown University and has one year more until he will graduate in law. He has a leaky heart valve and has therefore, been unable to enter the armed services during this war, though he made five attempts to do so.

My sister, Cornelia Houston Lansdale Hill, has the brightest mind of the family. She won a scholarship and graduated from Western Maryland College, thus having a better education than any member of the family. She taught in the High School in Cumberland, Maryland. In 1909 she married Howard C. Hill, at that time principal of the High School. He is now Executive Secretary of the Prisoners Aid Society of Maryland, and for many years they have lived in Baltimore. It is a most happy marriage; they have two sons and five daughters.

Elizabeth, now Mrs. Edward Cagle, Chloe, now Mrs. Andrew Conaway, Cornelia, now Mrs. Walter Savage, Howard P. now a Lieutenant in the Army, serving in England, Thomas Lansdale, now a Lieutenant (j.g.) in the Navy, serving on the heavy cruiser Wichita in the South Pacific, Nancy, unmarried, and Janet, now a school girl of 14, promising to be the beauty of the family.

My sister, Chloe, married in 1911 Douglass Howard Riggs of

Montgomery County, Maryland. She has lived since her marriage near Brookeville, Maryland. Her husband has been a farmer. She has five children, four sons and one daughter, Katherine, whose husband, Justin Meyer, a former schoolman, is now a Lieutenant (j.g.) in the Navy, Douglass Jr., married with two children, an engineer, Thomas Franklin, a temporary sailor, Robert Darrington, a Lieutenant in the Tank Destroyer Corps of the Army and John Hamilton, a sailor on an airplane carrier in the Pacific.

My brother, James, the oldest, married first, Anne Fitzhugh Hodges who died very young. One child, James Jr. was born, who died at five years of age. His second wife was Blanche Duvall.

When our mother died suddenly of peritonitis in February, 1906, my sister, Chloe, and I were the only members of the family living at home.

When I was 16 and Jamie 18 we had left school and taken over the operation of the farm. Jamie decided to take up other work. He wanted to get married and there was no reasonable outlook for him without capital or equipment either on our farm or another. Therefore, through Clarence Pue, whose wife Retta (Hutton) Pue was our cousin,⁴² he went to Fairmont, West Virginia to take a clerical position with the Consolidated Coal Company. As soon as he could he came home and married Nannie Hodges. Cornelia was teaching school in Cumberland and Richard was at Uncle Dick's in Montgomery County.

Under the circumstances Chloe and I could not well live at

⁴² Henrietta "Retta" Hutton (I4079) was a daughter of Mary Jemima Lansdale, who in turn was a daughter of Thomas Hyatt Lansdale and Harriet Franklin.

Enfield alone. It was therefore, decided to sellout. This we did at an auction sale. The farm was sold later. Chloe went to live with Cousin Kate Welsh, later with Uncle Dick after Cousin Kate's death.

I decided, at this time, to give up farming. I had always had an idea I wanted to be a civil engineer but I did not have enough background of an education to realize that I was not equipped for it. Our friend, Allen Bowie Howard, wanted to get me work with an engineer in Baltimore. However, I wanted to get away and after doing a little fruit orchard inspection work for the Agricultural Department of the University of Maryland, I went, in May 1906, to Tonopah, Nevada. I stopped on the way in Chicago where I stayed all night with "Miss Semmie", Mrs. Wm. J. Digges and Mr. Digges.

My friend, Richard Iglehart, who had changed his name to Welsh, had been Chief Engineer of the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad Company. However, he had died suddenly in the spring of 1906. His nephew, Alexis Digges, was still in Tonopah and I went on out. He joined me on the train before entering Tonopah and we went on to Goldfield where, he was working as timekeeper on a railroad construction job. About all I knew was farm work so I got a job driving two grey mules in a wheel scraper, cleaning out a railroad cut. I only weighed about 125 pounds and there was much rock. I was, therefore, tossed about quite freely. The tents where the laborers slept looked too dirty for me, so I spread my bed on bales of alfalfa hay and did very well sleeping under the clear desert skies.

In a few days Alexis came to me and said the Railroad Company was sending a "line wagon" to an engineer party then near Rhyolite, some

80 miles south and asked if I would like the job of taking the team down and working with the party and caring for the team. I accepted at once and that was the beginning of my engineering work.

This was my first experience in desert travel. I drove this span of horses in the line wagon 80 miles south through the desert, taking food and water for myself and the horses. I camped out one night, arriving at camp the second day.

I worked that summer of 1906 with Mr. Doddridge's engineer party. It was 120 degrees in the shade and there was a saying that there was no shade within 100 miles. In that party I formed lasting friendships. Fred T. Armistead, a sterling man with much roughing experience principally in Alaska, and Burwell H. Boykin of South Carolina, were my principal friends. Fred Armistead was later best man at my wedding and died in Arizona two years ago.⁴³ Burwell Boykin went back to South Carolina in 1910 and managed his father's plantation. He was a great horseman. Some years ago a young horse that he was training as a steeplechaser threw him at an obstacle and his hoof struck him back of the neck crushing part of his vertebrae and causing paralysis from the waist down. He is now living at Manning, South Carolina and we maintain a correspondence. His brother, Richard M. Boykin, also my good friend, was manager of the water company at Tonopah. He now lives at New York where he is a sponsor for some of the Electric Bond and Share companies.⁴⁴

⁴³ Fred Armistead was best man at JL Sr's wedding in 1912. For many years JL Sr. wrote an year-end letter to Fred Armistead that became annual summaries of his life.

⁴⁴ Richard Manning Boykin and JL Sr. also shared an interest in genealogy. He wrote a history of an ancestor entitled *Captain Alexander Hamilton Boykin: One of South Carolina's Distinguished Citizens*

I learned how to run levels, rod, carry a chain and compute cross sections on this job. All of my time not required for driving or caring for the team I put in doing engineering work; this turned out quite profitably for me, as it gave me a background for my future work. The company building this railroad was the Amargosa Construction Company, taking its name from the local Amargosa desert. The railroad extension was the Bullfrog-Goldfield Railroad Company.⁴⁵ Chapin was Chief Engineer, succeeding Richard Welsh⁴⁶ and Riching was his assistant; a wild pair they were, thinking only of drink and women. The free life of new mining camps and the loose spirit or atmosphere was too much for their characters. Doddridge did the work and they gave it cursory attention only. They both went to pieces. Chapin died later in Portland, Oregon. Do not know what became of Richings when he was released when the depression of late 1907-1908 came on.

I worked on this job for a year; in the fall of 1907 the company organized a new field party under Doddridge to run a preliminary railroad line from Tonopah to Ely, Nevada. Most of the same party was involved. I gave up the team and was made head chainman. Boykin was levelman and Armistead instrumentman. We had a big outfit with a four horse team for moving a line wagon and saddle horses.

This was a most interesting and instructive work. We crossed seven mountain ranges, all barren except for some juniper and stunted timber near Ely. We ran across several lonely ranches built around

(New York: privately published, 1942) and sent an inscribed copy to JL Sr. dated May 3, 1946. Boykin family papers are kept in the Manuscripts dept. at UNC Chapel Hill.

⁴⁵ See Appendix C for copies of stock certificate which JL Sr. owned in this and other mining companies mentioned here.

⁴⁶ That is, Richard Iglehart who had changed his name to Welsh; he had died suddenly in 1906.

the waters of springs or small streams. One ranch was on the waters of a hot stream. The water came from a large spring and formed a pool too hot for the body to bear. There was a little snow on the ground but the members of our party bathed in the hot stream - we simply followed it downstream until it cooled to a fitting temperature, then we went in. There was also a fine hot spring near Gold Center, Nevada, where I had camped. This is also near Rhyolite. We reached Ely on January 1, 1908. Elevation was about 8,500 feet and the thermometer zero. Burwell Boykin and I had the same tent and we took alternate mornings getting up and making the fire. One day before we got to Ely, on the flat desert floor, Boykin as levelman and I as rodman covered eleven miles. We took level generally every 100 ft. and never less than 200 ft.,⁴⁷ and that that seems to me to almost entitle us to a record of distance made in such work.

I learned much from Doddridge about railroad location. He would go to a summit in a mountain pass, assume a cut of reasonable depth at the crest, then adopt his percentage of grade and run angle lines with the transit down both sides. After finding where his approximate line would be, he would run in a preliminary line with curves and, where necessary, plat contours so he could make a paper location when his notes were platted.

Ely was a great copper camp. Copper ore was excavated by steam shovels. We finished our survey, then went back overland to Tonopah, 225 miles, as I recollect. I reached Tonopah in January or February with a beard, reddish in tint, and an ugly sight I expect: at any

⁴⁷ *Sic*—does he mean “never *more* than 200 ft.”?

rate Alexis Digges, who was there, immediately rushed me to a barber shop to have it removed.

We found the depression of 1907-1908 in full swing; also Doddridge in bad grace with Richings for having talked too much back home in Ohio, where they both originated, about Richings' manner of life, and Doddridge was released. The Brock family of Philadelphia at that time controlled the Tonopah & Goldfield R.R. Co. and the Tonopah Mining Company, a large silver mine at Tonopah. They were interested in developing more mining properties, and a prospect for copper at a place called Greenwater at that time looked good. It was in Eastern California on the edge of Death Valley near the summit of the Grapevine range of mountains. They also controlled the Bullfrog Goldfield Railroad, extending at that time from Goldfield to Rhyolite and Bullfrog. The same railroad I had worked on in 1906-1907.

The principal part of our party was put under an engineer named Geppert, a fine man and high grade engineer, and we went to Greenwater by wagon to first survey some mining claims for patent and then run a preliminary line for a railroad to a junction with the Bullfrog-Goldfield at Gold Center. I then had my first and only view of that great depression called Death Valley, looking down from a 6,500 ft. elevation to a minus, as I remember it, of 250 ft. It was an awe inspiring sight with the white clouds well below us where we stood on the eastern summit, with the Panamint range across the valley. Strips of alkali looked like white rivers on the bed of the valley. We ran the preliminary line for a railroad which was never built, down the mountains and north over the Amargosa desert to a connection at Gold

Center. We saw many rattlesnakes and a queer lizard called a "Chuckawalla." I had a narrow escape from being bitten by a rattler.

When we returned to Tonopah we found all new work stopped or suspended and economies necessary. Armistead, Boykin and I went to work in the Chief Engineer's office of the T.&G. at Tonopah. Chapin and Richings were released and an engineer named Holt, who also was dissipated, was put in charge of the engineering work of the railroad. The Brocks lost control, a new management came in, wages of section men were reduced and a strike was called of the track men. Holt quit and Armistead was made Engineer-maintenance-of-way. Boykin and I did the office work under him.

The mines at Tonopah were on a mountain side and the mill which reduced the ore was 20 miles away in the valley where water could be obtained. Ore was loaded on cars daily and sent down to the mill. The grades were very steep, so much so that a switchback was necessary to get cars to the mines. The trainmen sympathized with the striking section men and did all they could by reckless operation of their switching work to derail the heavy ore cuts of cars. They were fairly successful, so much so that in the alternate freezing and thawing weather of the winter they could and did slam cuts of loaded ore cars around sharp curves so fast that frequent derailments occurred. Our office force moved out to get the cars back on the rails and to repair and maintain the track. After various trials where union leaders frightened away our foremen, I volunteered to run the track gang. This I did until matters settled down. I heard rumors that as Tonopah was a strong union community I would have to leave. However, no

actual threats were made to me personally and I continued keeping the tracks in order and incidentally learned much of the practical work of maintaining railroad track. A German draftsman, Reiger,⁴⁸ definitely refused to help with the track work through fear of the strong unions. He was soon released. I ran across him several years later doing drafting work for the Southern Pacific Company in San Francisco. About that time Boykin also left and went with the Tonopah Mining Company. I was thus, by being the only technical man left in the Engineering Department besides Fred Armistead, precipitated into doing all the instrument work necessary to run in tracks, set grade stakes, give elevations for bridges and buildings and all other field work. Also, I had to do all the drafting work that was done in the office. It was hard work and I studied many nights learning how to do things I did not heretofore know anything about, and learning short cuts and improvisations that have helped me all my subsequent life. We managed to get the work done.

We lived at an engineers' mess where we kept an excellent Chinese cook named Joe. We had a cook and mess shack, so-called, a small wooden building and a group of one room bedroom shacks. Fred Armistead and I lived in one and were quite comfortable. Tonopah has an elevation of some 6,500 ft. and the thermometer reached zero in the winter but we were comfortable with a small coal stove and outside toilet.

⁴⁸ *Sic*—I assume "Rieger," as later.

In the meantime Lex Digges⁴⁹ had left railroad work. He worked for some contractors, McLean & McSweeney, and was later secretary to the Elks Club. Lex was gay but a devoted Roman Catholic. He had a perfectly charming personality. He died some years ago in Chile where he was doing technical work for a copper company.

Near the end of the depression in 1908 or 1909, a Mr. Edmund French van Hoesen, Deputy State Engineer for New York and a former Division Engineer on the New York Central Railroad, came out as Chief Engineer. Armistead and I continued in our respective positions. Mrs. van Roesen had a heart ailment and could not live in a high altitude; she, therefore, went to Los Angeles and Mr. van Hoesen soon resigned and also went to Los Angeles to live. He was my devoted friend as long as he lived. I later lived in Los Angeles and saw much of him. He died some years ago: A fine gentleman and a good engineer, indeed the best type of Knickerbocker Dutch stock of New York.

My sister, Cornelia, wrote me early in 1909 that she was engaged to Howard C. Hill and expected to be married that year. She was to be married in St. John's Church, Olney, Maryland, where our father and mother were married, and wanted me to come home and give her away. I, therefore, returned to Maryland in the spring of 1909, took part in Cornelia's wedding to a fine man, and after visiting our friends and relatives in Anne Arundel County, returned, via Albany, New York, to Tonopah. The van Hoesens were living temporarily in Albany and I visited them for a day or two. Mrs. van Hoesen had been a widow when

⁴⁹ "Lex" Digges is the same as the "Alexis Digges" who JL Sr. has mentioned several times, the son of William Digges and "Miss Semmie" Iglehart Digges.

she married my friend. She was a physician. She had two children, one of whom it is of interest to note, Herbert Rogers, is now an engineer with the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Washington and I have frequent contact with him on matters concerning depreciation of railroad property.

I began to feel that unless I wanted to live in the desert all my life it was time to leave. I, therefore, resigned in January 1910 and got rate orders to go to Spokane, Washington, where I was thinking of settling. In leaving on the train for Reno I recall seeing Halley's comet in all its glory. I will not live long enough to see another as it only recurs every 76 years. Halley's comet was first discovered in 240 B.C.

I stayed all night in Reno, then took the Southern Pacific for San Francisco where I had never been and where I expected to remain but a few days. In the hotel where I stayed I ran across Rieger, the draftsman previously mentioned, who told me that the Southern Pacific was looking for engineers to handle field work in a revaluation survey which it had undertaken.

I went down to the Flood Building, where the Southern Pacific General Offices were then located, interviewed J.B. Pope, the engineer in charge of the revaluation survey and, somewhat to my surprise, was employed as assistant engineer and assigned in charge of a field party. Owing to my lack of a technical education and limited experience on a minor railroad, I accepted with some degree of feeling that I might not be adequate to the work in hand. I had an inexperienced party but several were good men and by industry and

strict attention to the work at hand we did well. When I left Tonopah snow was on the ground and the thermometer hovered around zero. I found myself, less than ten days later in Southern California surveying the line from Saugus to Montalvo and eating lunch near Piru under orange trees; quite a contrast and a most pleasant change. I could well see how the climate and physical characteristics of California could take and retain a hold on people.



John Lansdale Sr. is second from the left. This picture was taken in 1910 in Southern California (Piru) when he was employed by Southern Pacific.

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