

Jack Gordon visited James in Mississippi for a time in the winter of 1833, no doubt to investigate the business. James had gained quite a reputation and had angered several individuals whom he had bettered in slave trades. It could have been that the elder Gordon had begun to wonder whether he was realizing all the proceeds he should have from the business. An 1836 agreement registered in the Smith County deed book shows that Jack had required that James account for the affairs of the firm since the opening of the plantations in Louisiana. Both are listed as "of Smith County"; therefore, James may have moved back home at least for a time.

Certain evidence indicates that the younger Gordon was leading a lifestyle of which Jack did not approve and that the elder Gordon was determined to make his son repay any money which may have been due their business. James and his father were estranged when John wrote his will in 1849. The language of the document would seem to indicate that it was written directly because of the situation between the two. John stated in his will, written on 1 Nov 1849, "my son James G. Gordon shall be allowed for his share the amount as charged against him on my Books and no more, as the Ballance on my books with facilities he has already received will be equal to any of the shares of my other legatees."

Apparently, James had pressed the generosity of his father past its limits, but it would seem that John was prevailed upon later during the day to rethink his decision concerning James. That afternoon he wrote a codicil to his will, witnessed by the same men who witnessed the signing of his will, which is very enlightening. "I executed my note to James G. Gordon for a sum somewhere about fifteen thousand dollars due the first of January next, and on a more mature consideration and examination, I am convinced said note was given without a valid consideration. Therefore instruct and direct my Executor not to pay said note, until a full and fair statement be made of all the monies he has expended for his use and benefit out of money which should have been applied to the payment of debts. How much for furnishing his house with rich furniture. How much in travelling with wife and Servants as far as Philadelphia and New York in the year 1835. How much going to Kentucky and returning home every year with Family and Servants. How many Servants has been kept about the house that should have been in the farm, and what their value would have been in the farm. How much his wife has given annually to her relations. How much was paid for Grand Gulf Bank Stock. How much was taken in his wife's name. How much has been expended annually for the support and fine dressing of his family & house servants and for Refurnishing his house. How much he paid B. R. Owen out of the firm for an Individual debt of his own. If all the above expenditures had been paid to the Debts of the firm, what an amount of Interest might have been saved."

It is not known whether the two ever reconciled their differences, but the partnership was definitely dissolved in 1852 when John Gordon sold the Louisiana plantations in 1852 for the sum of 50,000 dollars. The livestock was also sold for an additional 12,000 dollars. Fifty-five slaves were transported to Smith County, where the elder Gordon gave some to his children and added the remainder to his estate.

James G. Gordon died in 1854. James' children have not been identified; however, the following are possibilities and are placed here in the Gordon family history for the lack of a better place. There is absolutely no direct evidence to connect any of these particular Gordon children with James. It does seem likely that he had some children as his family is referred to on several occasions. Possible children:

- 1.(4). George M. Gordon b. 1826 mar. Minerva \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 2.(4). Telitha Gordon b. 1835
- 3.(4). Adam Gordon b. 1838
- 4.(4). Newton Gordon b. 1846 mar. Pricilla Horne
- 5.(4). Julia Gordon mar. \_\_\_\_\_ ? Sargent

1.(4). George M. (W.) Gordon was born in 1826 in Tennessee. He is present for the first time in the Smith County, Tennessee Census in 1860 (Dixon Springs District). His parentage is unknown, but it would seem logical to believe that he was a son of James. John Harrison Gordon had a son named George, but he would have been ten years too young to have been this man. This George married Minerva \_\_\_\_\_ ? who was born in 1826. George W. is a very common name in the Gordon family. Also, George is not listed in John Gordon's will, and since he was the son of practically disowned son, James, he probably would not have been named. This couple had at least four children, as well as an Ann Williams, age 15, living with them at the time of the 1860 Census. Neither George nor any of his clan appear to have been in Smith County at the time of the 1870 Census. This George M. (W.) Gordon may not be a member of the family, but a George W. Gordon witnessed the will of Elizabeth Harper Gordon on 28 June 1857, along with John W. Bowen and Stockard W. Coffee, which could have been this George but probably was Harrison's son.

#### WILLIAM M. GORDON

B.(3). William M. Gordon was the second of the children of John and Alice Gordon and was born in 1800, not long before his parents began their migration from Hawkins County to Smith County. He married Elizabeth Harper, daughter of Mathew and Sarah Boon Harper, born 1804 in Smith County. William began trading horses and slaves at an early age, and in 1830 and 1831, he made trips to Mississippi and Louisiana selling horses purchased in partnership with his brother, John H. Gordon.