

# Memoranda for Biographical Sketch of

Ancestry.com. Alabama, U.S., Surname Files Expanded, 1702-1981 Original data: Alabama Department of Archives and History. Public Information Subject Files—Surname files, 1901-1984 available via microfilm in reference, SG002624-2652 and 13361-13362, containing the materials added from 1984-2005. Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

Great care should be exercised in filling the blanks which follow. Data should be full and accurate. The facts given will form the basis for sketches, and if wanting in detail or if carelessly prepared, the sketches will be correspondingly deficient. The facts called for have reference to the subject of the sketch. Collect all data and examine blank carefully before attempting to fill. Attach sheets of this size for additional data.

1. Full name (do not use initials): Howard Melancthon Hamill

2. Present P. O. (give last address, with date of death if dead): Nashville Tenn

3. Exact date and place of birth: on Aug. 10 at Soundesboro  
in the county of Soundes State of Alabama in 1847

4. Full name of subject's father: Edward Joseph Hamill

who was born at Glasgow Scotland in 1817 day not known

in the county of \_\_\_\_\_ State of \_\_\_\_\_

He lived at New York in youth; in Alabama from 1840 to 1875;

Give also any particulars concerning him, as official position, war services, etc., books written by, etc.

in the West in Mo the remainder of his life. He  
died on train near Evansville Ind. Dec 19 1891.

en route to Alabama. Buried at Marshall Illinois He was the son of

John Hamill Full name and his wife of North of Ireland Full name

who lived near Belfast

5. Maiden name in full of the subject's mother: Anne Jane Simmons She was

the daughter of Col. R. F. Simmons Full name and his wife Sarah Burns Simmons Full name

who lived near Galladeaga Ala on their Plantation

6. Remarks on Ancestry. Give here any and all facts possible in reference to subject's parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc., not included in the foregoing, as where they lived, offices held, Revolutionary or other war service; what country the family came from to America, where first settled, county and State; *always giving full names (if possible) and never referring to an ancestor simply as such without giving the name.* It is desirable to include every fact possible, and to that end the full and exact record from old Bibles should be appended on separate sheets of this size, thus preserving the facts from loss:

Col. Simmons and my mother (his daughter) were  
of direct Revolutionary stock. two officers named Hobman  
of the Revolutionary Army being his uncle and great-  
uncle. On his side also we are blood kin to Governors  
Pickens and Bibb of the early Alabama Governors.  
My mother's grandmother on the maternal side  
was a lineal member of the Robert Burns  
family & blood the name passing thru several  
generations. along with family souvenirs.

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS MARGIN

For 2 years have been Chaplain-General U.C.V Army Tennessee

12. Military offices held—exact rank, name of command, and dates of service, as full as possible:

Enlist 9th Fla Regiment C.D. at Gainesville Fla  
in 1864 and was transferred to Finnegans Brigade,  
Molones Division at the Surrender in Va. Was Orderly  
Sergeant, and for a long time was Gen Secy Orderly

13. Political party—official position, committee work in, etc.:

Democrat. I backslided on the many question  
once with Mr Bryan. Got around & came back  
cubans my sons & calling paguenefo.

14. Church connection—with official position, if any:

My degree of D.D. was conferred by Bryan's old College  
the Illinois College, Jacksonville Ill. Am for 13 years past  
connected as general officer U.F. Church South

15. If a member of the Masons, Odd Fellows, or other secret order, give names, with official position, if any:

Am Blue Lodge, Chapter, Temple, Shrine & Odd  
Fellow

16. Titles of books written or edited. Give exact copy of title page, with the number of pages the book contains:

I have written a number of books "The Old South",  
now in 30th edition, "The Bible & its Books", "The S-S.  
Teacher" (about 35 editions) "Leader-Training" and  
several others. They are all small books of about  
150 pages. Chiefly Sunday School works.

17. Maiden name in full of the subject's wife, with date and place of marriage:

First name. First in 1871 to Gertrude Dillard of  
Alabama Ala. Second to Adas L. Sherman of Jacksonville  
Ill. in 1885  
My first wife was the daughter of Col Frank Dillard of Ala & Ga and his

wife

Full name

who lived at

Give also other and full particulars of wife's ancestry, as far as possible:

1569

HAMILL, HOWARD MELANCTHON, Methodist minister and Sunday School field-worker, was born August 10, 1847, at Lowndesboro, and died January 22, 1915; son of Edward Joseph and Anna Jane (Simmons) Hamill, the former of Glasgow, Scotland, later prominent as a Methodist minister in Alabama, 1840-75, and chaplain of Cleburne's division in the War of Secession, ~~and~~ and the latter of Alabama; grandson of John Hamill of Belfast, Ireland, and of Col. H. F. and Sarah (Burns) Simmons, of the planter class residing in Talladega County. Other lines of relationship include Governors Bibb and Pickens of Alabama, and Robert Burns, the Scotch poet. He received his early education at the old Tuskegee and Auburn academies; later attended the East Alabama male college at Auburn, now the Alabama Polytechnic institute, where he graduated, A. B., 1868, and A. M., honorary, 1900, and the D. D. ~~degree~~ from Illinois college at Jacksonville, 1900. He began his career as a private tutor in families near Opelika, 1877; taught for several years in Clay County; superintendent of city schools in Missouri and Illinois 1880-85; president of the Missouri State teacher's association, 1881; entered the Methodist ministry at the age of thirty-five; held various offices in the Illinois Sunday School association; was international Sunday School field secretary, 1896-1902; superintendent of training work, M. E. Church, South, 1900-15; and chairman of the committee on education, International Sunday School association, 1902-15. He entered the C. S. Army as orderly sergeant of Company <sup>X</sup>~~X~~, 9th Florida regiment, and for a short

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L.T.P.

~~12. 1570-1599~~ <sup>OK</sup>  
~~missing~~ 1600

time served as orderly to Gen. Robert E. Lee. He was chaplain-general, U. C. V., 1913-15. Author: "The Old South;" "The Bible and its books;" "The Sunday School teacher;" "Legion of Honor normal course of study;" "International lesson history;" and various other books on the Bible and Sunday School. Married: (1) In 1871, to Gertrude, daughter of Col. Frank Dillard, of Auburn; (2) July 7, 1885, to Ada L. Tuman, of Jacksonville, Ill. Children, all of first wife: 1. Henry Barnes, d. unmarried; 2. Anne Carson, d. in infancy; 3. Frank Scott, resides in Chicago, Ill. Last residence: Nashville, Tenn.

*He was a democrat; a mason and an Odd Fellow.*

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HOWARD M. HAMILL was born in Lowndesboro, Ala., where his father, Edward J. Hamill, was pastor of our Church, on August 10, 1847, and passed to his reward from Tate Springs, Tenn., where he had gone seeking the restoration of his shattered health, on January 21, 1915. His father was long a member of the Alabama Conference; his mother, Anne J. Simmons, was from the prominent Georgia family of that name. They were a devout couple of fine intelligence and literary tastes, and young Hamill had the inestimable advantage of being reared in a refined Christian home. As a boy he was sent to the private school at Auburn, Ala., conducted by that well-known educator, Prof. William Slaton; afterwards he graduated from the East Alabama College, now the Polytechnic Institute of Alabama. Early in 1864 he volunteered and became a soldier of the Confederate States in the Army of Northern Virginia, where, though but a boy, he rendered valiant service and was promoted to the position of orderly sergeant, in which rank he was commanding his company when the surrender came at Appomattox. This service interrupted his college course; but, wiser than many of us who were in like case, he returned to his Alma Mater and graduated in 1868 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Dr. Hamill was twice married. In 1870, to Miss Gertrude Dillard, of Auburn, Ala., who lived only six years after their marriage. To them were born two sons, of whom one survives. In 1885 he married Miss Ada L. Tuman, of Jacksonville, Ill., who still lives and is well known to all our Church as an eminently qualified and talented connectional Sunday school worker. With a zeal equal to that which consumed him she entered Sunday school work with her husband and labored by his side as long as he lived, continuing the labor of love with unabated earnestness and faith when he had left her to go to his reward. Dr. Hamill was a man of rare mental power, of high and varied attainments and broad service. Though the Sunday school was the special department of Christian work to which his life was devoted, he escaped the narrowness toward which specialization sometimes so powerfully tends, and was not only an interested but an effective laborer in many fields of activity. He was a preacher of uncommon clearness and force, always evangelical and earnest and at times rarely eloquent. As a platform



## ALUMNI NEWS

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## AUBURN LOSES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS.

With the death of Dr. Howard M. Hamill, on January 21st, Auburn lost one of her strongest and most loyal alumni, and his place in the hearts of all Auburn men can never be filled. Though memorial services throughout the south have been held over the departure of this great and good man, a special significance is attached to the services held in his honor in his old home town, Auburn, Ala., for in his words "this is the place dearest to my heart."

Dr. Hamill was too well known and loved for us to go into the details concerning his life and work, but we are sure that all the alumni of Auburn will appreciate the following tribute from a speech by President Thomas Bragg of the Auburn Alumni Association, which he delivered before a large gathering of Auburn students and citizens at the special Memorial exercises held in the Methodist Church on the evening of January 31st.

A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD M. HAMILL, '67.

*By Thos. Bragg.*

Death, which knocks alike at the door of the rich man and the peasant, has again been busy at his accustomed task and on last Thursday one of Auburn's honored and most beloved Alumni, Dr. Howard M. Hamill of the class of 1867, passed away.

I am called upon on this occasion, due to my connection with the Alumni Association, to say a few words concerning our lamented friend and brother. I know it is customary for all of us to say pleasant things concerning those who die, but it was not necessary for Dr. Hamill to pass away, for those who knew him to heap encomiums of praise upon him.

There are many in this audience tonight who have often heard many kind and favorable words spoken concerning this good and great man prior to his death on January 21st. And should I attempt, on this memorial occasion, to sing his praises or laud his name, I can at least feel that I am not doing so because it is the customary and expected thing, but that I am only saying in public what I have often said in private to those who knew how I loved him.

I first met Dr. Hamill in June, 1907 when he came to Auburn to attend commencement, and like all Auburn men I was attracted at first sight to this splendid man, and as the years passed by I could feel myself being drawn closer and



HOWARD M. HAMILL, '67.

*The late Chaplain-General U. C. V.*

closer to this great character and knightly gentleman.

He was a mere lad when as an Auburn student, back in the 60's, he laid aside his cadetship and enlisted under the Stars and Bars of the Confederacy and fought bravely under that splendid banner until the conclusion of the war. After the war he engaged in the noble professions of teaching and preaching. At the time of his death he was not only President of the International Sunday School Association but was one of the leaders of the organized Sunday School work of the world, and was known and honored wherever christians live.

Dr. Hamill was an active member of our Alumni Association and was always ready to do his part in the work of the alumni.

We shall miss him more than I can tell you and no commencement in the future will be the same without the presence of this loyal and beloved son. No Home-coming or Alumni Banquet will be as brilliant without the eloquent voice of this charming speaker.

I remember several years ago, at an Alumni Banquet, Dr. Hamill was the Toast Master, and those of you who ever heard him speak can easily imagine that

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H. M. Hamill Deed  
~~WILL~~

Probated Feb 3 1915

Minute Book 17 page 385-9

Recorded in Will Book 38 page 505

Rev. Edward Joseph Hamill, D.D.

Born in Glasgow Scotland, 1819, came to New York  
a babe, Educated in a University of N. Y.  
Married Miss Anne J. Simmons of a prominent  
Virginia-Georgia family, D.A.R. thro' her grandfather  
Holman Freeman of Revolutionary fame.  
Rev E.J. Hamill was many years connected  
with the Ala M.E.C.S. Conference, holding  
good pastorates & with the East Ala Male  
College, at Auburn, now the Polytechnic  
He was versed in German, Greek, Latin  
and Hebrew. To his marriage there  
were born eight children, all born in Ala.

(You know Dr. Howard Hamill etc.)

1. Edward Holman Hamill M.D.  
Forty years Chief Medical Examiner of the  
Prudential Life Ins Co. of Newark N.J.  
Married Miss Josephine Clock of Brooklyn N.Y.  
who now lives in Chatham N.J. Dr Hamill  
died in 1910, leaving large estate.

2. Howard M. Hamill. — — —  
was the second son, his <sup>only living</sup> son Frank Scott  
Hamill, married Miss Nellie Todd of  
Birmingham Ala, has fine Government  
position in Chicago, one little daughter  
"Ada Jean" one year old 1916.

3. Senator Chamber of Hamill was  
prominent ally of Birmingham and Ala  
Senator when he died. His widow, who  
was Miss Belle Hudson of Blountville Ala,  
his son, E. N. Hamill, attorney, three daughters  
Annabelle, Gertrude, and Maude, all survive  
him and have beautiful homes in  
Birmingham, Misses Maude and Gertrude  
hold life certificates and teach in Birmingham  
City schools.

4. George Hamill died in boyhood at  
Auburn

5. Mary Hamill died in infancy



Col. Simmons ( H.F.) was of direct Revolutionary stock. Two officers named Holman of the Revolutionary Army being his Uncle and great uncle. On his side also we are blood kin to Governors Pickens and Bibb of the early Alabama Governors. My Mother's (Sarah Burns) grandmother on the maternal side was a lineal member of the Robert Burns family & blood, the name passing through several generations. Col. Simmons was a prominent contractor and owner of finely trained artisan slaves, one of whom was a noted bridge-builder. He was prominent in Alabama politics as a Whig.

Edward Joseph Hamill was born J<sup>n</sup>. 17, 1818 in Glasgow, Scotland. On Jan. 17, 1842, he married Anne Jane Simmons daughter of Holman Freeman Simmons and Eliza (Burns) Simmons. Holman Freeman Simmons and wife were born in Virginia and settled after marriage in Georgia.

Miss Anne J. Simmons of a prominent Virginia-Georgia family, D.A.R. thought her grandfather Holman Freeman, of Revolutionary fame.

(Above information furnished by Julia Hamill Gillespie, Cullman , Ala., in 1916.)

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Col. Holman Freeman, one of the first settlers of Broad River, a Whig leader under Gen. Elijah Clarke.

Gilmer's Georgians, p. 111

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Wilkes County Ga., Records.

V. 1, p. 6

Liberty to settle on land: Holman Freeman, of Va. County, wife, two sons, three daus., between the ages of 20 and 12. acres at a place called Mcfaddian's camp on Chickasaw creek where is a tree marked I.F. Page 1, Sept. 27, 1772

Wills, 1781-83, Folio 17, p. 40, v.1,  
Freeman, Holman, Sr., late of this county, decd. died intestate.  
To Holman Freeman, Jr., merchant. (all of this record)

Holman Freeman Wills, 1818-1819, v.1, p. 94

Wife Pereinah (Pewinnah)

Sons: John W.

Fleming

William W. Bibb

George B. Bibb

Granddaughter: Edny Freeman, d. of son Fleming

(This must be the father of Mary, who m. Wm. W. Bibb.)

D.A.R. 23028, 26045, 35688, 36117