

FAUNTLEROY AND DAVIDSON

The *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* is about to publish a brief sketch of the biography of Robert Henry Fauntleroy prepared by his granddaughter, Miss Ellinor Campbell Davidson of San Francisco. In early American days on the Pacific Coast his name became familiar on account of its being bestowed upon a schooner of the United States Coast Survey. A tender romance was thus brought into historic annals.

Robert Henry Fauntleroy's title to remembrance does not hinge on the romance. He was born in Clarke County, Virginia, on March 23, 1806. He died suddenly of cholera in Galveston, Texas, on December 13, 1849. He wrought well in that span of forty-three years, the last three of which years were given to work for the United States Coast Survey along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. Prior to that he had participated in the primary survey of Indiana and in surveys for railroads and canals. While visiting a sister in New Harmony, Indiana, he met and married the daughter of the famous Robert Dale Owen. That union was blessed with four children. Two sons, Albert and Edward became engineers. One of the two daughters, Constance, married the Rev. Dr. James Runcie, and the other, Ellinor, married George Davidson, who became responsible for the romance mentioned.

George Davidson was born in Nottingham, England, on May 9, 1825. When seven years of age he came to America. While still a school boy he developed great talent in mathematics and astronomy. In 1845 he became secretary of Alexander D. Bache, head of the United States Coast Survey. In this work he became acquainted with the family of R. H. Fauntleroy. In 1850 he was sent to the Pacific Coast and soon named the United States Survey Schooner *R. H. Fauntleroy*. While surveying the shores of Puget Sound in 1857 he named Fauntleroy Cove (now a part of Seattle) after his vessel. At the same time he determined the altitudes of three well known Olympic peaks and named them for members of the Fauntleroy family—Mounts Constance, Ellinor and The Brothers. The next year he went back to New Harmony, Indiana, and married his sweetheart, Ellinor Fauntleroy.

In addition to his scientific surveys, Professor Davidson gained fame by writing hundreds of valuable works, books, magazine articles and monographs. He received many honors, one of which was recently dedicated at Mount Davidson, San Francisco.

It is the highest hill in that city and was named for him before his death a few years ago. His daughter, Ellinor Campbell Davidson, lives at the old family home, at 2221 Washington Street, San Francisco.

Robert Henry Fauntleroy had a brother, Le Roy Daingerfield Fauntleroy, an officer in the United States Navy, who became a landowner in San Francisco as early as 1847. A grandson of this naval officer, Joseph Faunt Le Roy, now lives at 545 Arlington Avenue, Berkeley, California. He has saved a fine document relating to his distinguished granduncle. This consists of a four-page bulletin on blue tinted bond paper issued at the time of Robert Henry Fauntleroy's sudden death.

Mr. Davidson linked the family so intimately with the early history and geography of Puget Sound that the contents of that bulletin were desired for reproduction in the *Washington Historical Quarterly*. Mr. Joseph Faunt Le Roy copied the entire contents which are here published in full. The pamphlet or bulletin is headed: "The Late Robert Henry Fauntleroy, Assistant United States Coast Survey. Correspondence." That correspondence is as follows:

Camp Near Edisto Base,

January 14, 1850.

Sir:—It is my painful duty to announce to the Department the death of Assistant R. H. Fauntleroy, of the Coast Survey, which occurred in Galveston, Texas, on the 13th ult., and has been officially communicated to me by sub-Assistant S. A. Gilbert.

Mr. Fauntleroy was appointed an Assistant in the Coast Survey in 1846 and has served most zealously and successfully in Sections VIII and IX of the work. His attainments as a mathematician and astronomer, and in geodesy were of a high order. His patient and conscientious disposition made him most valuable as an observer. As a chief of a party he had the esteem of all of his subordinates, and the warm affection of those immediately in contact with him. As an Assistant he was invaluable. His labors on the coast of Alabama, Mississippi and Texas have been very arduous, but I had no idea of the extent to which his health appears to have been impaired by them, so as to give way to the first attack. He reached Galveston after a very stormy passage from New Orleans, on the 12th of December, was attacked the same night with Cholera, and died after an illness of thirteen hours.

The loss of this able and estimable man will be deeply deplored by all the officers of the Coast Survey.

His services will be most sensibly missed upon the work to which he had devoted his best energies and remarkable talents.

Mr. Fauntleroy was under instructions to proceed with triangulation of the coast of Texas which he had already commenced, and on learning of his lamented decease I instructed, under authority of the General Directions for the year, Assistant R. D. Cutts, of the Coast Survey, to proceed as early as possible to Galveston and to organize a triangulation party for proceeding with the Survey there.

Very respectfully Your's,
(Signed.) A. D. Bache,
Superintendent U. S. Coast Survey.

Hon. W. M. Meredith, Secretary of the Treasury.

Reply.

Treasury Department,
January 23d,

Sir:—I acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 14th inst., in which you announce to this Department the decease of R. H. Fauntleroy, Assistant on the Coast Survey, which occurred at Galveston, Texas, on the 13th ult., when he was about to resume the prosecution of the Survey of the Coast of that State.

This Department receives the announcement of the decease of Mr. Fauntleroy with feelings of deep regret, and it cordially concurs with you in your very just and appropriate commendation of the valuable services of that gentleman during his connection with the Coast Survey.

[Official orders follow.—Ed.]

Very respectfully your, obedient servant,
(Signed) W. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Prof. A. D. Bache, Superintendent U. S. Coast Survey,
Washington.

Camp, Near Edisto Base,
January—, 1850.

The undersigned, Officers of the Coast Survey, have learned with heartfelt regret of the decease of their associate, R. H.

Fauntleroy, Assistant in the Survey, while in the discharge of his duty in Texas, on the 13th ult.

They desire to express their sense of his great merits as a man of science, as a skilful observer, as an officer devoted zealously and successfully to the discharge of every duty in the work, as one whose loss to government and to the Survey cannot be replaced. They offer to his family their sincere condolence in this most afflicting bereavement, and ask that they, with the other associates of this excellent husband, father, and brother, may be permitted to unite in erecting a monument, as a testimonial of their esteem and affection for him while living, and of their sincere regret for him when dead.

(Signed) A. D. Bache,
Chas. O. Boutelle,
Charles E. Bolles.

Reply.

To Prof. A. D. Bache, Supt. U.S. Coast Survey,
Charles O. Boutelle, Esq.,
Charles P. Bolles, Esq.
Assistants.

Gentlemen:—The high testimony you bear to the worth of one dearer to me than existence justifies my deep affliction at his loss. Though human estimation and sympathy cannot reach my sorrow, yet I gratefully acknowledge them as influences calculated to strengthen somewhat against the severe trials of a bereaved condition.

I acquiesce in your desire and that of the other associates of my lamented husband to unite in erecting a monument as a token of esteem and affection. My inmost being attests the justice of such sentiments towards him! And it is meet, for the fostering of excellence in living that we point to the virtues of the dead.

I am, gentlemen, respectfully,

(Signed) Jane D. Fauntleroy.

New Harmony, March 7th, 1850.

At a meeting of the Assistants in the Coast Survey employed in the Gulf of Mexico, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we deeply deplore the loss of our late friend and associate, R. H. Fauntleroy, by whose sudden death, in the fullness of manhood and activity, his country has been deprived

of an able and energetic servant, and science of an ardent votary and profound thinker. We, who have known him intimately, lament the loss of the truest and kindest heart, of his calm judgment and ever-ready sympathy; we mourn for the man, the scholar, and the friend.

Resolved, That a badge of black crape be worn by us for thirty days as a token of our regard for the memory of the departed.

Resolved, That copies of the resolutions be transmitted to the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, and to the afflicted family of our lamented friend.

(Signed) F. H. Gerdes,
J. E. Hilgard.

Key West, Fla., January 18, 1850.

Reply.

To the Assistants in the Coast Survey employed in the Gulf of Mexico:

Gentlemen:—I thank you with the earnestness of agonized feeling for your expression of respect and attachment for my late beloved husband. His high qualities, developing most in the most intimate association, I know must have endeared him to you far beyond an ordinary friend, and left behind a memory which cannot fade.

For me, though it entails a sorrow which passes understanding, to have stood in the most sacred relation of life with an individual, combining in his character such rare moral perfection and noble capabilities, is a reflection I would not exchange for aught the world affords.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

(Signed) Jane D. Fauntleroy.

New Harmony, March 7th, 1850.

Note: Attention should here be called to documents entitled, "Captain William Hale Fauntleroy, a Neglected Character in Northwestern History," which appeared in the *Washington Historical Quarterly*, Volume XVIII., No. 4, October, 1927, beginning at page 289.

Another member of the Fauntleroy family is P. C. Fauntleroy, Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired, whose present address is Hotel Brighton, Washington, D.C. On reading the *Washington Historical Quarterly's* documents pertaining to Captain William

Hale Fauntleroy mentioned above, Colonel Fauntleroy forwarded a genealogical table of the Fauntleroys, accompanied by a statement seeking to explain the origin and the various spellings of the name. Colonel Fauntleroy is a grandson of General Thomas Turner Fauntleroy, eighth in the table. His contribution follows:

- a¹ Col. Moore¹ FauntLeRoy, Virginia Militia.
 born 1616 at Crandall, Hampshire, England
 died 1663 at "Crandall" Naylor's Hole, Lancaster Co., now
 Richmond Co. Virginia
 Emigrated to Virginia circa 1643.
 Circa 1650 married Mary Hill, dau. Capt. Thomas Hill and
 his wife Mary Piersey of "Weyanoke", Va.
 They had 2 sons and 1 daughter.
- b¹ William² FauntLeRoy (1651-1686), of "Crandall" Naylor's
 Hole, Va.
 In 1678 married Katherine Griffin (1662-1728)
 They had 3 sons.
- c³ Lt. Colonel Wm³ Fauntleroy (1684-1757), Virginia Militia,
 of "Crandall" Naylor's Hole, Va.
 In 1712 mar. Apphia Bushrod and had 3 sons and 6
 daughters.
- d Wm⁴ FauntLeRoy (1713-1793) of "Naylor's Hole", Richmond
 Co., Va.
 Married 1st circa 1735, Elizabeth — and had 2 daughters
 Married 2d circa 1741 Margaret Murdock and had 5 sons.
- e Joseph⁵ FauntLeRoy born at 'Naylor's Hole', Richmond Co.,
 Va., 1st Dec., —. Died at "Greenville," Frederick
 Co (now Clarke Co.) Va., 1st Dec. 1815.
 Married his 1st cousin, Mary Fouchee Fauntleroy of
 Northumberland Co., Va., and had 7 daughters and
 3 sons.
- f²⁸ Wm Moore⁶ Fountleroy (1787 —) of Natchez, Miss.
 Married Fanny Washington Ball and had 5 sons and 4
 daughters. One of the sons, Wm Bushrod Fauntleroy
 killed at "Alamo", Texas in 1836.

- f²⁹ Emily⁶ Carter Fauntleroy (1793-1869), married her 1st cousin, 12 March 1811, Joseph⁶ Fauntleroy (son of Capt. Griffin⁶ M. Fauntleroy and his wife Anne Belfield). They had 3 sons and 2 daughters. They moved to New Harmony, Indiana in 1831 and died there.
- f³⁰ Thomas⁶ Turner Fauntleroy (1796-1883), born Richmond Co., Va., died at Winchester, Va.
Ensign, Va. Militia, at Battle of Bladensburg, War of 1812.
Lawyer at Warrenton, Va. 1820-1835.
Major, 2d U.S. Dragoons in 1835, Lt.-Col. 2d U.S. Dragoons, 1847. Seminole War, Mexican War, Indian War in S.W., Commanding Dept. Calif & New Mexico.
Col. 1st U.S. Dragoons, 1851-1861. Brig. General C.S.A.
Married 1821 Ann Magdalene Magill of Winchester, Va. (daughter of Col Charles Magill and his wife Mary Buckner Thruston) and had 4 sons and 2 daughters.
- r³¹ LeRoy⁶ Daingerfield Fauntleroy (born 15 May 1799—died 29 Aug. 1852) born at "Greenville," Frederick Co., Va and died of Yellow Fever at Pensacola, Florida. Lieut. and Purser, U.S. Navy.
Married Margaret Hill of Winchester, Va., who died 20 April, 1855, and had 2 daughters and 1 son, Capt Wm Hale Fauntleroy (died in Calif 30 July, 1909) married in 1860 Ella E. Hamea and had Joseph Faunt Le Roy of Berkeley Calif.
- f³² Lawrence⁶ Butler Fauntleroy (1801-) of Kentucky
Married 1st Sarah Griffin Thompson
Married 2d Matilda Bowman (1801-1874), and had 3 daughters and 1 son.
- f³³ Robert⁶ Henry Fauntleroy, born 23 March 1807 at "Greenville," Frederick Co., Va., and died at Galveston, Texas of Yellow Fever in 1851.
Moved to New Harmony, Indiana in 1831.
In charge of U.S. Geodetic Survey, West of Mississippi until death.
Married Jane Dale Owen, daughter of Robert Dale Owen of New Harmony, Indiana and Lanark, Scotland, and had

g Ellinor⁷ O. Fauntleroy (1838-1901), mar. Mr. Geo. Davidson, U.S. Geodetic Survey and later Prof. Univ. of California, and had

h George Davidson, Thomas Davidson, & Ellinor Davidson of San Francisco.

j⁴⁹ Constance⁷ Fauntleroy (1836-19—)
Married Rev. James Runcie of St. Joe, Mo., and had 2 sons and 2 daughters

f³⁴ Dr. John⁶ Fouchee Fauntleroy (1809-1884) of Leesburg, Va., married Lavinia Turner of "Kinlock," Fauquier Co., Va., and had 3 sons and 2 daughters.

f³⁵ Joseph⁶ Murdock Fauntleroy (1791-1868).
In 1820 married Eliza Belfield Bowman of Va.
They moved to Kentucky and had issue.

"The name probably originated in the 11th century from the marriage of a Monsieur L'Enfant and a Mille. Le Roy of the Provinces of le Maine and d'Anjou. As was the custom then among the Latin races the children were given the name of both their parents, and so in this instance the child was named Jean L'Enfant y Le Roy. This family probably went over to England with other supporters of Henry, Count d'Anjou and le Maine, who afterwards became Henry II, the first Plantagenet King of England (1154-89).

"This long compound name L'Enfant y Le Roy was then simplified and Anglicized, becoming in turn Enfant Le Roy, Fant-LeRoy, Faunt Le Roy and finally Fauntleroy, the last being spelled as it was pronounced in French.

"The first of the name of record was Walter Fauntleroy of Sherburne, Dorset Co., England, who was born about 1275 and married Juliana de Thornhulle of Thornhulle, Dorset Co., England, and had John Fauntleroy born circa 1300; and Adam Fauntleroy born circa 1310, married and had John Fauntleroy born circa 1335.

"From the above data there is an unbroken line to Col Moore¹ Fauntleroy of Virginia."

EDITOR.