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ISBN: 978-0-557-00076-0

Publisher: Lulu.com

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Language: English

Country: United States

Edition: First Edition

Version: 5

Hardcover book \$35.96

Printed: 373 pages, 6" x 9", jacket-hardcover binding, 50 interior paper (cream# weight), black and white interior ink, white exterior paper (100# weight), full-color exterior ink

Description:

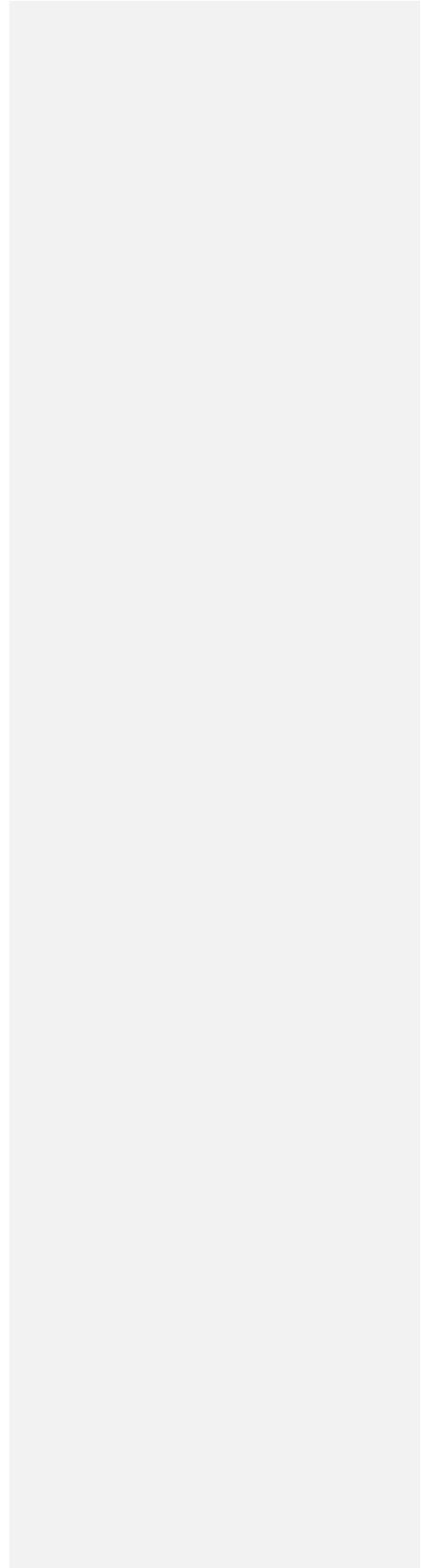
The Gordons of Lochinvar descend from a notable Scot family and later were successful landowners in Chickasaw Indian Territory, which became North Mississippi. The book describes the life of James Gordon and his parents Robert and Mary Elizabeth from mid-nineteenth century to turn of the twentieth century America. It describes Colonel James Gordon's experiences during the Civil War, and transcribes his noteworthy address to the United States Senate long after Reconstruction shattered his fortune. Included are many of James Gordon's own poetry and hunting short stories, and Robert Gordon's diary entries from several years prior to the War Between the States.

Keywords:

[southern gentleman](#), [Farewell Address](#), [Senate](#), [Re-United States](#), [reconstruction](#), [Civil War life](#), [Robert Gordon diaries](#), [James Gordon poetry](#), [James Gordon hunting](#), [photographs historic Lochinvar](#), [Lochinvar](#), [Gordon](#)

Listed in:

[Biographies & Memoirs](#)



GORDONS OF LOCHINVAR



FORREST T. TUTOR

Preview:

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I have researched the Gordon family, known and befriended some of the descendants, bought their house and land in 1966 and collected some of their possessions. Since I acquired the property from the second owners, the Fontaines, and have talked so much about its history, everyone urged me to write a book. So I began more than twenty years ago compiling the published hunting stories, poems, speeches, interviews, scrapbook materials that I have personally acquired along with documents copied from the Department of Archives and History in Jackson, Mississippi.

Many people have been of great help to me in getting together this tribute to the Gordons (and the Fontaines) of Lochinvar. When I first wrote it, my secretary, Patricia Hamilton Long typed the whole thing several times on my old selectric typewriter. A publisher could not be found, and it lay idle for several years. My wife, Dr. Janis Burns Tutor, scanned it and had it posted on the internet website: www.gordonsoflochivar.com in the late 1990's. It was mostly her efforts that recently produced the final product for publication. My children, Jeanine Tutor Gregory, Jerrilyn Tutor Hobson, Julianne Tutor Mills, Forrest Travis Tutor, II and Gordon Fontaine Tutor have all been supportive.

The Department of Archives and History has been very helpful in sharing Robert Gordon's original diary and the James Gordon photo album of Lochinvar from the 1890's. The University of Mississippi from which Col. James Gordon graduated in 1855, later to be a faithfully devoted alumnus, University poet, member of the Institutes of Higher Learning, and Gordon Hall honoree, loaned us the portrait of Col. Gordon. Our dear friend Caroline Willis Gordon of Virginia Beach, Virginia, a master Gordon historian, supplied us with much Gordon historical material.

For the untold thousands of people that have honored our efforts to preserve Lochinvar by attending the many open house tours we have conducted, as many as 1853 in 8 hours at our first in 1985, to the over 1100 who came through in 3 ½ hours after the 5 year restoration following the terrible destructive tornado in 2001, we acknowledge them for the time they spent standing in line and listening to our stories. But probably our most enjoyable experiences have been from the thousands of school children who have entertained us with their written expressions of gratitude.

The Fontaine family deserve a great amount of credit for attempting to save Lochinvar from further deterioration after the early years of the last century when it was abused by tenants and bootleggers. I have done my damndest to live up to Mrs. Fontaine's confidence in me to be a "caretaker of Lochinvar".

Heed the words of John Ruskin: “Watch an old building with an anxious care; guard it as best you may, and at *any* cost, from every influence of dilapidation. Count its stones as you would jewels of a crown; set watches about it as if at the gates of a besieged city; bind it together with iron where it loosens; stay it with timber where it declines; and do this tenderly, and reverently, and continually, and many a generation will still be born and pass away beneath its shadow.”¹

¹ Chauncey B. Tinker, Ed. *Selections from the Works of John Ruskin*. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1908).

INTRODUCTION

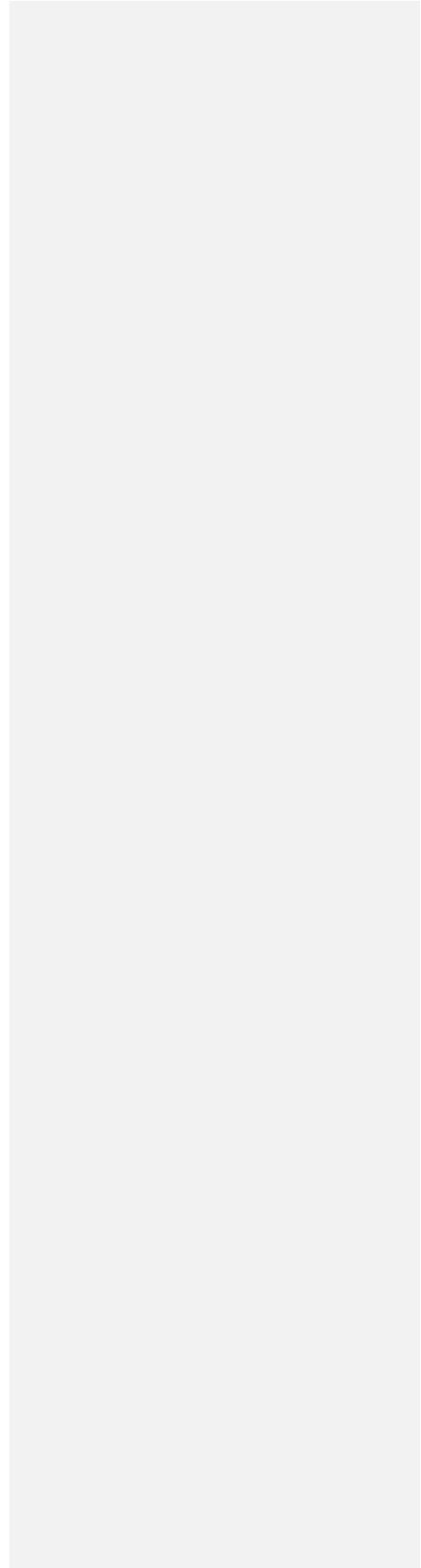
The Gordons of Lochinvar were descendants of a famous Scot family that arrived in the U.S. in the early 19th Century. By industry, intelligence and courage they were to become very successful and wealthy. They took full advantage of opportunities afforded them in the young developing country. The senior Gordon settled in Chickasaw Indian Territory and became a shrewd Indian trader. By the time the Chickasaws were moved westward, and a large amount of land became available for sale, Gordon had become wealthy enough to take advantage of the low priced land and became a very large landowner. His land speculations resulted in much more wealth and he felt the need to build a house in keeping with his social and financial status. His sentiments for his native land led him to name the house Lochinvar. His wealth also allowed him to take advantage of the institution of slavery to man his several plantations. Things were going his way until the Civil War but he was devastated by the War and died a ruined man in a ruined land with all the fruits of his long years of labor gone to waste.

The son was the antithesis of the father. He was born to wealth and became the typical gay, fun loving, carefree scion of the wealthy plantation owner with the time and wealth to pursue his great love of the outdoors and field sports. His parents had the good sense to provide him with a very good education for the times in rural Mississippi. The son was to rush headlong into the Civil War where he had a very colorful career. When the South's cause became desperate, he resigned his military command and became a Confederate agent. However, it was after the war that the son's true mettle became evident. He did much to help restore his devastated Southland and in doing so became a famous man after he had lost his millions and his beloved Lochinvar. The son's life reads like a romance. He died a poor, happy man with a national and international reputation.

A former Colonel of Confederate Cavalry made a farewell speech to the United State Senate in 1910. This person was U. S. Senator from Mississippi, Senator James Gordon. His speech was to make Gordon famous overnight and for the remaining two years of his life the most talked about man in the United States. He was later to give a speech in Atlanta entitled "The Re-United States" for which he was introduced by the President of the United States, William Howard Taft. Gordon was 77 years old at this time and until his death in 1912, he was in constant demand as a speaker for very auspicious occasions. The events of Gordon's life that led up to his farewell speech to the U. S. Senate, and the consequences of the speech, played a very significant role to the South and to the country as a whole. The life of this remarkable old knight reads like a romance.

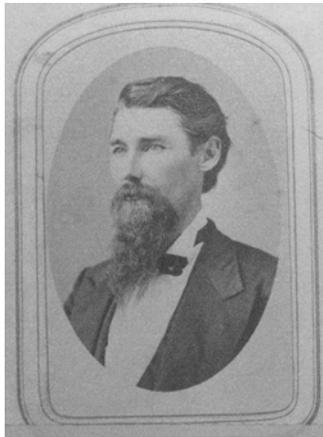
The Gordons played an important role in Mississippi and Southern history encompassing the Chickasaw Indian, Antebellum, Civil War, Reconstruction, and recovery periods. They left their footprints

on the sand of time and certainly, in the son's case his footprints led in the right direction. In the senior Gordon's case, any conclusion must be made in the context of the times of his life in Mississippi.





Robert Gordon, builder of Lochinvar,
witness to the Treaty of Pontotoc Creek



Colonel James Gordon, as a young man
(from portrait)



Mary Elizabeth Walton Gordon,
portrait as a young woman, descendant
of Lord Walton of England and relative
of George Walton, signer of the US
Declaration of Independence



Daguerreotype of Colonel James
Gordon sent home to parents with the
inscription: "To my Dear Old Father
from his Affectionate Son and
Soldier Boy"



Mrs. James Gordon, Carolina
Virginia Gordon



Colonel Gordon with
second wife, Ella Neilson
Gordon

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