

CHAPTER XXIX.

THE BALLENGER FAMILY.

From the best information obtainable, two brothers, Edward and James Ballenger, migrated to the present county of Spartanburg before the outbreak of the Revolution. During that struggle for American Liberty they sided with the patriots, were noted Whigs and objects of hatred by the Tory element, so much so that one of these brothers came very near being murdered by "Bloody Bill" Cunningham and his following during his notorious raid to the up-country of South Carolina in November, 1781.*

In the "Genealogy of the Lewis Family of America," by Wm. Terrell Lewis, page 205, it is stated that Edward (Neddie) Ballenger was a Revolutionary soldier and did good service for his country. He was wounded at the siege of Augusta, was in the battle of Cowpens and many others. He is described as being six feet in stature, was kind and hospitable to his friends, brave and fearless in battle and uncompromising with the Tories. He married Pleasant, a daughter of David and Elizabeth (Lockart) Lewis. They had seven children, viz.: Margaret; James, married Mahala Foster; Pressley, married Nancy Dodd; Larkin, married Elizabeth, daughter of John (Jackey) Wood; Rebecca Lavina married Henry Cothran; Edward J.; and Elizabeth, married Wm. White.†

James Ballenger, brother of Edward, married Dorcas

* See "Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper S. C." Maj. Bomar's letter, pp. 353-4.

† Father of Mrs. Thos. W. Richardson, Inman, S. C.

Dodson in Virginia, and had sons, John, James (Wagoner Jimmie), William, Edward (Neddie), Elijah, and daughters, Frances (Frankee), Margaret (Peggy) and Tabitha. Of these sons, John married Alsie Leachman and had children as follows: Joshua, James, Cormer, John, William and two daughters, Sarah and Alice. Joshua, the eldest, married Mary Davis; James married Margaret (Peggy) Turner; John married Rachel Garrett, and William Tabitha Garrett (sisters); Sarah married Benj. Farmer; and Alice married Thomson Davis.

The children of Joshua and Mary (Davis) Ballenger were eight in number, viz.: Elizabeth, Tinsley, Elijah, Margaret, James, Alberry, David and John. Of these, Elizabeth, aged 86, Tinsley, aged 84, Elijah, aged 80, Margaret, aged 76, and John, aged 66, are all living and residing in Greenville county, S. C. The children of James C. and Margaret (Turner) Ballenger were, Jinsey, who married John Wheeler; Turner, who never married; Dillingham, who married Saphrona Ponder; Margaret Ann, who married Adolphus Turner; and Peyton, who will receive further notice.

James (Wagoner Jimmie), second son of James Ballenger, born June 11th, 1780, married twice: first to Judith Foster, and had five children as follows: Richard, who married Mrs. Elizabeth (Betsey) Snoddy (relict of Isaac Snoddy); William, who married first Mary Goodlett, and afterwards to Virginia Owens; Joel, who married Mary Murph; Edward (Neddie), who married Catharine Montgomery; Thomas, who married first Mary Wingo, and second Mary Landrum; and Sarah, who married Nathaniel Dodd. Mrs. J. P. Jackson, of Independence, Mo., is a surviving heir of Nathaniel Dodd. His second marriage was to Susan Davis—no children.

William Ballenger, third son of the elder James Ballenger, married first a Miss Wilson, and second to Polly

Wingo. The latter surviving, married a second time to Reuben Gramling. By the first marriage there were two sons and one daughter, viz.: Edward (Blacksmith Neddie), Madison and Phateme. The latter married first to Wm. Gentry, and second to Zera Alverson. She had one son by each marriage, viz.: Wm. Gentry of Georgia, and Rev. Edward Alverson.

Edward and Elijah, the other sons of the elder James Ballenger, migrated to Missouri, where they died. Of the daughters, Frankie married Isaac Bishop,* Peggie married David Lewis and Tabitha married a Foster.

The entire families of Ballenger have always been honest, upright and true to their country, both in times of peace and in war. Among those who fell in the civil war between the States were four sons of John (son of Joshua) Ballenger, viz.: Jasper, Lewis, Hamilton and John; Dillingham, son of James C. Ballenger; one son of Benjamin and Sallie (Ballenger) Farmer, and one son (Thomas) of Thomson and Halie (Ballenger) Davis. To this list might be appropriately added the name of J. Smiley Wheeler, son of Capt. John Wheeler and grandson of James C. Ballenger who was a lieutenant in Company B, 22d Regiment, S. C. V., and who was killed in battle at Jackson, Miss.

CAPTAIN PEYTON BALLENGER,

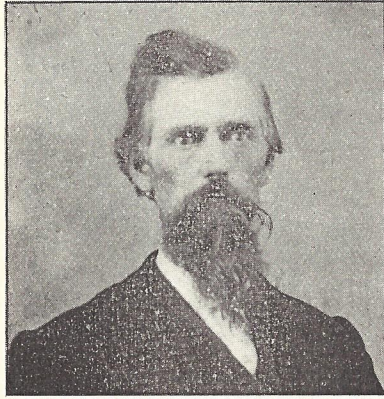
son of James C. and Margaret (Turner) Ballenger, was born near Holly Spring, S. C., December 9th, 1831. He was raised on his father's farm, was educated in the common schools of his neighborhood, and has been all his life a progressive citizen and successful farmer.

* This was the Isaac Bishop who, in 1776, was stolen by the Indians after his father had been murdered by them near Shiloh church. (See Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper S. C., p. 91.)

He entered the Confederate service as a lieutenant in Company B, 22d Regiment, S. C. V., was in several of the battles in which said regiment was engaged, and was in command of his company for fifteen months. Subsequently he resigned and entered the cavalry branch of the service. He was captured December 1st, '64, at Stony Creek, Va., and was carried to Point Lookout, where he was kept until the 23d of June, '65, when he was released. He then returned to his home.

Before the outbreak of the civil war Captain Ballenger served as a captain in the South Carolina militia for seven years.

He connected himself with the Baptist Church in early life and has been a deacon in the same for a number of years. No man stands higher in the community in which



CAPTAIN PEYTON BALLENGER.

he lives than Captain Peyton Ballenger. He is a popular citizen and a natural born gentleman.

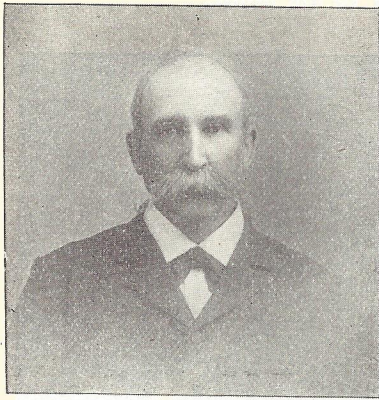
Some time in the fifties he married Carrie, daughter of Colonel Spartan Goodlett of Greenville District, S. C., with whom he lived about twelve years, when she died, leaving six children, viz.: Maggie, who married K. G. Wingo; Carrie, who married P. H. Wheeler; Lula, who married John O. Wingo; Jas. Smiley, who married Alice Ballenger; Mary Emily, single, and Spartan Goodlett, dead.

He married a second time to Emily, daughter of Jason

Wall. By the latter marriage one child is born, Ethel, aged twelve years.

CAPTAIN ADAM WASHINGTON BALLENGER,

son of Edward B. and Cassia Ann (Hempley) Ballenger, was born near the present town of Inman, S. C., January 17th, 1844. He was raised on his father's farm, and soon after the beginning of hostilities of the civil



LIEUT. A. W. BALLENGER.

war between the States he enlisted in Company C, 13th Regiment, S. C. V., and was a sergeant in said company until some time in 1863, when, by order of General R. E. Lee, he was promoted for distinguished gallantry on the battle-field. At the second battle of Cold Harbor, in a charge against the enemy

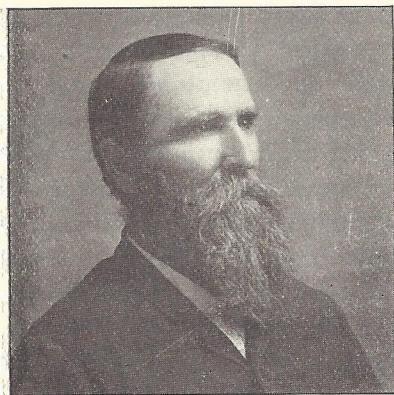
when the latter were thrown into confusion and were in the act of retreating, young Ballenger, separating himself from his command and alone, rushed forward and mounted one of the guns of the enemy's artillery. This bold daring caused the driver of the horses conveying the piece to jump off on the tongue between the horses and make his escape out at the end of the tongue. Ballenger immediately, in order to secure the capture of the gun, jumped off the piece, cut loose the traces and unfastened the off-horse, which he mounted. In returning to his command he met his captain (J. W. Carlisle), who informed him that his brother Joseph was wounded and had been left in the rear. Ballenger then went in

quest of his brother. But in the meanwhile a party of the enemy had whipped around one wing of the Confederate forces, but finding they were liable to be cut off retreated, but carried Joseph Ballenger away with them, who was imprisoned at Point Lookout, and soon died. Lieutenant Ballenger never saw his brother again after he left him before the beginning of the charge.

This gallant conduct on the part of young Ballenger had been witnessed by General McGowen, who sent for him in a day or two afterwards to report to his headquarters. Young Ballenger obeyed orders and reported, having no idea for what purpose he was wanted. On arriving at the headquarters of General McGowen, he was congratulated by the general, who informed him that he had recommended that he be commissioned a first lieutenant. Receiving his commission, he was assigned to Company H of the 13th Regiment, but in a few months thereafter he was appointed to one of the companies of Dunlop's Battalion of Lee's Sharpshooters, three companies of which were made up out of McGowen's Brigade. Here he remained in command of the first company of this organization, rendering distinguished service, until the 27th of March, 1865, when he was severely wounded in the arm and hip on the picket line in front of Petersburg. He was conveyed to Richmond, and was there when the surrender at Appomattox took place a few days afterwards. While in the Jackson Hospital at Richmond still suffering from his wounds, he was taken with typhoid fever, from which he came very near losing his life. During this time he was visited and administered to by three daughters of General R. E. Lee, a daughter of General Ewell, and Miss Rosa Lee Powers. After some four months of suffering he recovered sufficiently to return home. He was ordered to the State capitol building to take the oath of allegiance. Not relishing this,

however, he slipped away, bringing with him his army sword, and after walking several miles out of the city he boarded the train, and after many trying difficulties reached his home in safety.

In 1866 Lieutenant Ballenger married Miss Emma Victoria Wingo. They have had fourteen children, twelve of whom are living, viz.: Melton, married Miss Mattie Morgan; Joel M.; Mamie, married John Poole, Esq.; Minnie, married Rev. W. F. Sorrels (deceased); Alfred,



married Miss Bessie Hurt; Horace, married Miss Swain; Carl, Grace, Clarence, Leila, Fred, and Joyce.

LIEUT. JAMES SPARTAN
BALLENGER.

Among those who served their country with conspicuous gallantry during the civil war between the States was Lieutenant James S. Ballenger, son of William and Mary (Goodlett) Ballenger, who was born December 13th, 1835. He was raised, for the most part, on his father's farm, near Wellford, S. C., and was educated in the schools of his neighborhood.

At the outbreak of the civil war he enlisted in the service of his native State, and was a sergeant in the Morgan Light Infantry, which was mustered into the service April 13th, 1861, as a part of the 5th Regiment, S. C. V. Six weeks later, however, this company reorganized on Sullivan's Island, S. C., for the Confederate service, electing Alfred H. Foster, captain; John M. Ben-

son, first lieutenant; and Robert A. Snoddy and Jas. S. Ballenger, senior and junior second lieutenants. The company was known as F, 5th Regiment, S. C. V. At the end of twelve months' enlistment the company again reorganized in Virginia, re-electing A. H. Foster captain. Lieutenant Benson was promoted in another service, Lieutenant Snoddy was made first lieutenant, and James S. and Richard D. Ballenger, senior and junior second lieutenants. The company, known afterwards as Company D, formed a part of Colonel Jenkins's regiment of Palmetto Sharpshooters. In 1863 Lieutenant Snoddy died of wounds at Campbell's Station, Tenn., and James S. Ballenger rose by promotion to first lieutenant of his company, which position he held to the end of the war. He was never wounded, but participated in nearly or quite all the battles in which his regiment was engaged. Limited space will not allow here a detailed account of the heroic service he rendered his country in her time of greatest peril.

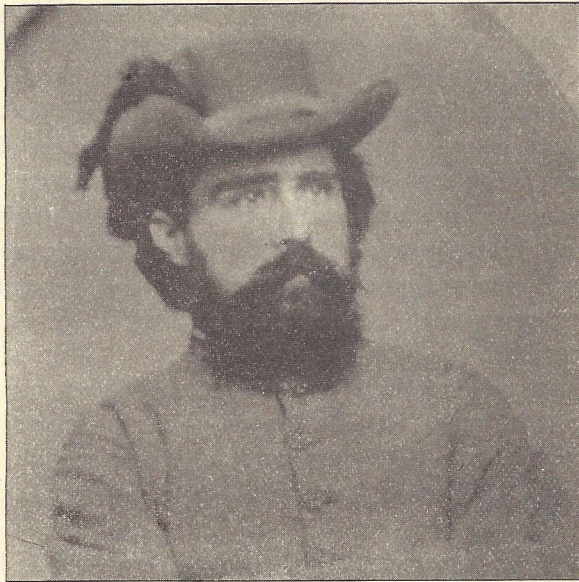
Returning home from the army he settled down, and has lived the quiet life of a farmer, never having aspired to political life. He is, however, an honest, upright and progressive citizen and exemplary deacon of the Baptist Church.

In 1863 he married Mary Amaryllis, daughter of Rev. J. G. Landrum. They have four living children, viz.: Minnie (Mrs. Hester), Carrie (Mrs. Smiley Ballenger), Broadus, and Lida (Mrs. John Jones).

LIEUTENANT RICHARD D. BALLENGER,

son of William and Mary Ballenger and brother of James S. Ballenger, was numbered among the long and countless list of gallant heroes that gave up their lives in defense of the "Lost Cause." He was born in 1837, and had reached the best years of his manhood when he en-

listed in the service of his country, being among the very first to volunteer. He was elected second lieutenant of Company D, Palmetto Sharpshooters, upon the reorganization of the Southern army in Virginia in 1862, and participated in all the battles in which his regiment was engaged, including the great battle of the Wilderness, where he was mortally wounded May 6th, 1864.



LIEUT. R. D. BALLENGER.

He died from his wounds at Orange Court-house a few days afterwards. No braver spirit ever offered up his life to his country. Let not his memory be forgotten in the annals of his country's history.

SILAS BENSON

was born in Greenville District, S. C., in the year 1800, his parents being among the early settlers of that dis-