Parentage Birth and early education

Chapter 1st 1855 1

(My Dear Children

(I know not that my life and character forms a proper subject for delineation, yet as biography has been always esteemed and often rendered entertaining and instructive I know not why some real advantage might not result from a general history of my life to you if to no other. then with an humble hope that God may aid and own this one more effort for his glory and your comfort I commence a work that I consider due from every parent to their children.) and although I am well aware that in the statements of events and incidents your literary tastes will observe many errors yet I hope the endearments of friendship and meltings of love will plead my cause and in the language of my beloved Lord you will be led to say "She hath done what she could". and although it may be wanting in matter and style yet I hope it will fix the attention more closely and make its way more directly to the hearts and what is lost in respect to sublimity will be gained in perspicuity force and if rightly appreciated duration; and as I always admire a life most, in which the individual is their own biographer and hence the greatest value is set upon a work when the writer tells their own story I shall therefore bring before you such thoughts as will on some occasions lead your thoughts into domestic privaces and display before you the details of daily life while by the aid of divine grace I shall endeavor to remember that I am under the eye of God. and while I touch the history of others connected with my own, it will be in the fear of God

nd for the promotion of his glory in the
ischarge of duty. and should the humble
ttern of my life arouse any of you to
advance, and excel, and animate others
to greater diligence; I shall not have
undergone this labour of love in vain
and in touching the character of others
I shall endeavor to avoid embelishing
facts by description or magnifying by
admiration. and though none of you
my dear Children (that I recollect) except
Mary my eldest daughter has ever expressed
a wish to see my life extended to this
period drawn out by my own hand yet
I suppose your reasons were good; for
my life has been too inconsiderable to
attract the attention of the public;
yet in the early history of the Hebrews
every man was considered the head of
a race: and if in our day every individ
-ual is not a history to themselves it is
on account of inattention, in which
the most humble are not justifiable;
and although in reviewing my own
life I feel much cause of deep humi
-liation before God; yet in view of my
association with the world I have
endeavored to follow a course of strict
propriety and honor I have therefore
endeavored so far to make you happy
by a consistent, uniform, and endear
-ing conduct. I shall commit what I
have to say for your use, and for you
to dispose of as may please you all;
as I am now in my fifty fifth year
and fast declining I feel that what
I do must be done quickly: and while
I am old and grayheaded I pay to my
God to direct my thoughts and inspire
~~my~~ ~~his~~ every line by his light and

truth. It would be unnecessary for me, and uninteresting to you to have in detail all the events of my life, but I hope to relate those of the greatest importance. I have but a very limited knowledge of my ancestors, indeed my dear children had they done for us, what I am now trying to do for you, it would have rendered the above remark in relation to them unnecessary; but what little I know of them I will gladly relate. My grand father on my father's side was of english descent and was born and raised in Virginia, where he married a miss Sanders, whose mother's maiden name was Jones, I have been told they were a french family. Some time ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ previous to the commencement of the revolutionary war between America and Europe my grand-father with a number of others removed to the frontier of South Carolinia; while its rich vallies was an uncultivated forest except along the banks of the Seneca and Togalloo where the small patch was connected with the indian wigwam. It is evident to my mind that my grand-father was an enterprising and enegetic man from what I can recollect seeing, which had once been in his possession. I have been informed that he was wealthy in negro property but in time of the revolutionary war those of them that were not stolen by the tories he sold for continental money which soon depreciated in value until it was worthless. My grand-father's name on my dear mother's side was Guthrie, and my grand mother's maiden name was Garrat she was a Germon but I never

learnt of what race her husband was for very soon the devastating cours of war like an avalanche from the mountains came sweeping over the emigrants, and drove the men from their quiet homes and well cultivated feilds, to turn their ploughshares into weapons of death and face the fierce discharge of the gleaming canon while it scatered its thundering balls among their small armies who not-withstanding, was often victorious; though by the sacrifice of their own lives; while their wives and children were forced to take shelter in a fort to save themselves from the scalping knife of the indian; and the no less savage treatment of the tory. Among those who were out in their country's cause was my grand father Guthrie he lost his life in battle, and left a widow and two infant daughters the eldest of which was my own dear mother. I have been told my grand mother was aided by her brothers to raise her two daughters and that they both married young my mother married first of the two sisters to my father mr John Haynie, and her sister married a man by the name of Lyons and they moved west before my birth which was on the 28th of April 1801, in South Carolina, old Pendleton. From information received from my friends I suppose my parents anticipated a bright future, young, lovely and loveing, in a new fertile country, well watered and abounding in game while the green grass mixed with a great variety of flowers made a carpet for their feet while the many hued enamelings of the wild eglantine with

which the low lands abounded stood forth in fellowship refined and free and made musical by the songs of the birds of the forest. My ancestors were then free as the eagle that soared above the mountains, for the tide that had flooded America with an english army had its ebb; their sun that seemed for a short time in its meridian was at Gods command directed to set; and they returned to crouch down at the feet of despotism: while they left the little flock of Americans holding up their heads because of their redemption from under the yoke of tyrany was vibrating from mountain and plain, above all the clashing arms, and thundering artilery, and falling thrones of Europe. Oh! liberty, though dearly bought, at thy anouncement visions of whatever is lofty in intellect noble in virtue, fine in enthusiasm and beautiful in holiness rise up. Oh it would seem as if there could be nothing wanting in these groves of enchanting beauty to make my dear parents happy except the enduring presence of sinless beings to grace their home and make it a second paradise. But alas! alas! in less than three short years death came with his fatal scythe and cut short all their prospects for life, my dear father was killed while assisting in raising some machinery and he died in two hours after recieving the fatal stroke that was on the seventh of august 1802; the second day after his burial my beloved mother gave birth to a son to whom she gave my fathers name. My uncle Antony Hagnie then

upon the eve of marriage, attended to my mothers business, and after her crop was secured, carried her, brother and myself to my grand-father Haynie's * her mother having married a widower by the name of Salors, soon her daughter's (my mothers) marriage; and moveing far off leaving them siping at the crystal stream bordering the happy union of new made friends; deprived forever of the smiles of her face my mother however was taken to a wrong place to relieve her sorrows for my grand father's family burying ground was in full view of his door: and as she was then suffering from a broken heart, on account of my father's suden death, that the remembrance of former joys only produced a more overwhelming flood of grief. My friends have told me that she was sensitive and sympathetic and by nature capable of the strongest attachments: that no effort of theirs could relieve or allay ~~their~~ her sorrow. and none of them knew anything about religion. oh, could they have directed my precious mother to the foot of Calvary's cross there she would have receaved a balm for every wound there she might through the power of the resurection have read her own immortal title to endless glory. there she might have said "though he slay me yet will I trust in him." or in the language of Montgomery

"Each care, each ill of mortal birth,
Is sent in pitying love,
To lift the lingering heart from earth
And speed its flight above.
And every pang that rings the breast,

And every joy that dies,
Tells us to seek a pure rest,
And trust to holier ties."
But her suffering was of but short duration for in the latter part of the ensuing august she was taken sick and after eight days sickness expired, early in September 1863 leaving me two years and four months old; and my brother about thirteen months old; we were in the embrace of our family, in the house of our grandfather who thought he would have suffered naught but death to have taken us from him; but it was so; The keen perception of his neice and her husband saw that we were sprightly promising children and could soon be made serviceable to them and as she had no child and her husband but one a daughter then grown. They united their efforts to tease him to give us to them, to which he consented one year after my mother's death; I can recollect the occurance for I was then in my fourth year and refused to go with them, and finding that persuasion and hireing was alike unavalable they resorted to stratagem. we was dressed in our finest suit and as we thought went a visiting with our step-grand mother; but where should we find ourselves but in the presence and house of those for whom my little self had the greatest aversion; but I was with my little brother and my step grandmother the only objects on earth that I really loved; and though there was something even with them on that day that rendered me unhappy yet I determined not to leave my

grandmothers side for a moment: my brother could be coaxed to look around but there was no attractions there for me and though I could not detect anything from what I heard said, yet I well recollect that I was unhappy. In the evening my grandmother steped out I attempted to follow but was forced to remain my screams were as loud and long as I could give they drove my grandmother to tears as she ran to get out of hearing and no wonder for any one not possessed with a demon would have been moved to pity with a spirit completely subdued and broken I laid myself down on a large chest and cried till I fell asleep; when I awoke I was sad, as well I might be, for from that time trouble began to accumulate as years increased. That portion of life to man the most happy, was to me made miserable by oppression and cruelty it was impossible to please them at one hour we must appear as servants at another in a different character as their company or ambition led them to prefer; and if I escaped a whiping while company was there I was sure of one afterwards for my so called mother fully believed that was the way to raise children; there was something ever displeasing and we paid the penalty which we were ever studious to conceal from every one, for we felt it was a very great disgrace to us for people to think we were not well treated: from infancy I possessed a love of character and even when my heart was almoste breaking I would dry my tears

controle my voice, and appear cheerful not for my own sake alone; but it alw-ays gave me pleasure to make others happy. I have often thought that in my childhood that in my childhood when I have been called in from my work to sing for the amusement of the company, that I must have felt somewhat like the Jews did when a song was required of them in a stran-ge land. Yet I consider my musical talent (with a thankful heart) as a gift from God. I could always sing well untill recently, I now have to deny myself that pleasure and means of grace because my lungs are effecte-d. The first song I ever recollect havin-g sung was the hymn comencing "This day my soul has caught new fire" glory be to God I have since been able to sing it realizing its truths with an understanding heart; from infa-ncy there was something of devotional cast given to my mind that true as the needle to the pole would ever turn with undeviating prec-ision to the only source to which my soul could look for help. My brother beautiful as the rose of Sharon ever seemed to lack that faith which directed us to look for present aid in common occurrences; but I believe I was led to understand something of the providence and power of God, from the answer given to my many inquiries respecting the death of my beloved parents, which was ever before me, and as I was told it was God that had taken them, and that he had a right to take them

and that he had a right to take them while he spared the parents of other children, it led me to fear him and although he had deprived me of that much desirable earthly comfort, yet from infancy I felt that a being of such power and goodness would as a father bless me also. The daughter of the gent-leman by whom we were raised for a while made my life miserable by telling me about ghosts and witches, she made me believe they throng-ed the earth and ruled it; but in my fifth or sixth year the Lord made use of a boy of I suppose twelve or fourteen years old to greatly relieve my mind; he and his brothers and sisters past our house to school whi-ch was something over a mile from our place of residence. They were then pretending to send me to school some times one or two or three days in a week as suited their convenience but my morning service could not be dispensed with until long after the Elexander children (for that was the name of the children above alud-ed to) had past, so that when I did go, it was alone; tho' I had their company on my return which as I suffered so much from fear was a great relief; but when I went alone I never broke my run (unless compelled for a minute from pain in my side which sometimes occured when I ran very fast) untill I reached the school house. After performing my morning task which was by no means light and then running all the way to school I was sometimes very near fainting which