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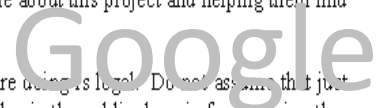
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# Men of Mark in Virginia

Ideals of American Life

A Collection of Biographies of the  
Leading Men in the State

LYON G. TYLER, LL.D.

President William and Mary College  
Editor-in-Chief

VOLUME III.

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Illustrated with many Full Page Photo-Steel Engravings

MEN OF MARK PUBLISHING COMPANY  
Washington, D. C.

1907

0125

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## THOMAS CLAIBORNE CREASY

**C**REASY, THOMAS CLAIBORNE, was born near Evington on Buffalo Creek, in Campbell county, Virginia, October 6, 1839. His parents were George Creasy and Malinda Arthur, daughter of Thomas Arthur. His ancestors were among the first settlers in Bedford county, Virginia; and two of his great-grandfathers served in the Revolutionary war. His father's father was Claiborne Creasy. George Creasy, the father of the subject of this sketch, was by profession a farmer, and was noted for his industry and his fine crops.

Thomas Claiborne Creasy passed his childhood and youth on his father's farm, where he had no time to idle or play. Fortunately his physical condition was fair, and hard work strengthened his health and taught him the value of continuous effort. What education he received in these early days was obtained from an old field school, and in after years he had no opportunity for technical or collegiate work.

In 1858 he began to work for himself, and thinking that he could do better at selling goods than at farming, he went to Lynchburg and was a salesman in a store in a merchandizing establishment. When the War between the States broke out, he joined the Confederate army March 12, 1862, as private in the 11th Virginia infantry and served in all the battles in which the regiment had a part, till the fateful day of the surrender, April 9, 1865. He was twice wounded, and was once a prisoner.

After the war he began merchandizing on his own account at Hill Grove in Pittsylvania county, Virginia, and remained at that place till 1884. Then he removed to Elba, in the same county, where he continued in the merchandizing business till 1900, when he retired from merchandizing, and now confines himself to his duties as postmaster.

He has served the public in various offices: Justice of the peace from 1872 to 1884, mayor of Elba from January 12, 1903, and postmaster at Elba, from March 5, 1898 to the present time.



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*Yours Very Truly,  
J. C. Greasy*

## FLEMING SAUNDERS

**S**AUNDERS, FLEMING, soldier and farmer; was born on a farm in Campbell county, Virginia, July 18, 1829. His father, Judge Fleming Saunders, whose marked characteristics were brilliancy of intellect, fairness, firmness, and good judgment, was one of the most distinguished members of a judiciary which won for the Virginia courts a wide reputation for even-handed justice. He was judge of the general court for thirty-two years, and many of his decisions are still regarded as beacon lights in the troubled waters of Old Dominion litigation. His mother, Alice Watts Saunders, was a lovable and estimable woman, whose influence on his intellectual and moral character, especially the latter, was strong and lasting.

He is descended from some of the most prominent families in England, such as the Hydes, and the Dudleys—names appearing upon the brightest pages of English history. One of the earliest members of the family in America was Reverend John Hyde Saunders, who was ordained to the ministry of the Church of England in Westminster Abbey, London; had a glebe in Powhatan county, Virginia, and was an enthusiastic patriot of the Revolution. The first of the family to come to Virginia was John Saunders who died in York county in 1700.

Fleming Saunders has always been fond of the active outdoor recreations of country life, especially hunting, and to that fondness he doubtless owes his vigorous constitution and the good health he has always enjoyed. Severe athletic sports have never appealed to him. His preparatory education was obtained at the New London academy, from which he went to the University of Virginia, where he was graduated A. B. in 1852. Duty has been one of the guiding lights of his life. When he entered college it was his intention to become a lawyer, and he took one year of the law course at the University of Virginia. But the health of his father, who owned and operated an extensive estate, with many slaves, became infirm. Consequently, instead of returning to college to complete the law course, he, from a sense of duty

and in deference to the wishes of his father, took up the management of the estate, which was to become his life-work; and he has never regretted obeying that call to duty.

Previous to the Civil war he was an old line Whig, and as such opposed the secession of the state; but when Virginia seceded and cast her fortunes with the infant Confederacy he felt it to be his duty to stand by the state he loved so well, and at once entered the Confederate army, in which he served until the surrender at Appomattox court-house, and with such gallantry and efficiency that he received the personal commendations of Generals Robert E. Lee, and Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson—honors that every Confederate soldier knows were never lightly or undeservedly bestowed.

After the war he returned to his home, and courageously took up his work where he had left it off to become a soldier. He found many difficulties, but he proved himself more than able to carry all the responsibilities devolved upon him by the vicissitudes of war.

No man has the esteem and respect of the people among whom he has spent his life to a greater extent than has Mr. Saunders. He is a fair example of the Virginia type of gentleman farmer, whose occupation is regarded as one of the most independent on earth. He has never aspired to a public career, but such offices as magistrate, supervisor, road commissioner, and school trustee, have been held by him as a part of the duty of a good citizen. He is a lay reader in the Protestant Episcopal church in which he was reared. Since the war he has been a Democrat in politics.

He thinks the strongest influences in his life have been home and family, particularly the latter, and, from his own experience, suggests the following precepts to aid in strengthening sound ideals of life among the young: "Be honest and brave; what you attempt, do well; respect the rights of others and be unselfish."

He was married July 30, 1874, to Mary Gwathmey. Five children have been born to them, four of whom are (1906) living.

His address is Evington, Campbell County, Virginia.



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*Yours Truly  
Fleming Saunders*