

---

**Winner:**  
**NGS Family History Writing Contest**

---

**Guarded Pasts:**  
**The Lives and Offspring of**  
**Colonel George and Clara (Baldwin) Bomford**

By Nancy Simons Peterson, CG

**I**n most lives, there are incidents that individuals choose not to share with outsiders, perhaps not even with their immediate families. Genealogists who encounter these cannot help but wonder who was privy to such deeply personal information. Whether the exposed details are positive or negative, they create an intimacy with ancestors and give depth to their personalities. George and Clara Bomford led rich, rather public, and comparatively well-documented lives in the wonder years of the American republic. Yet each sheltered a personal history unknown to most contemporaries. Perhaps their guarded pasts were a common bond that drew them to one another and to a midlife marriage.

#### ORIGINS

Colonel George Bomford, Chief of Ordnance, U.S. Army—inventor, gunnery expert, and eighth graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point—died on 25 March 1848.<sup>1</sup> A resident of the District of Columbia, he journeyed to Boston for an inspection assignment at a cannon foundry, contracted a cold, and sought no medical help until the condition became life-threatening. Newspaper accounts of his death and subsequent biographical sketches chronicle his career, but none cite his parentage. Most accounts state only that he was born in or near New York City about 1780, to a father reputed to have been an officer in the Revolution.<sup>2</sup>

---

©Nancy Simons Peterson; 5416 Crescent Beach Road; Vaughn, WA 98394. Ms. Peterson is a member of the Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society and editor of its quarterly publication, *The Researcher*.

1. George Bomford obituary, *Daily National Intelligencer*, Washington, D.C., 31 March 1848, p. 1; George Bomford certificate of death no. 59487, Boston City Registrar's Office, issued 26 April 1988.

2. Allen Johnson et al., eds., *Dictionary of American Biography*, 20 vols. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928), 2: 427.

Rare is an American of prominent public service whose parentage and origin remain so obscure. In the case of George Bomford, the question of parental identity seems more than the typical genealogical puzzle, *who-begat-who*. That parental identity—and the attending social and professional consequences—may well be the *reason* Bomford allowed the mystery to exist. The man who fathered him during the American Revolution appears to have been a *British* officer.<sup>3</sup>

At the age of twenty-four, George Bomford makes his first known appearance of record. Appointed to West Point from the state of New York on 23 October 1804, he was the oldest cadet among a group of youths as young as fourteen.<sup>4</sup> His graduation in June 1805, made his tenure one of the shortest for a graduate.<sup>5</sup> The memoirs of his mentor, General Joseph Gardner Swift, provide the only known background:

This spring George Bomford was appointed a cadet. My acquaintance with this young gentleman commenced at a country store opposite to West Point, in Warren's Valley, where I had gone to kill trout, and where Bomford had established himself as a dealer, and from the proximity of the marsh he had taken the ague and fever. I invited him to my quarters at the Point, where he regained his health; and on the strength of my acquaintance with General [Henry] Dearborn [U.S. Secretary of War] . . . I wrote an application to him for a cadet's warrant for Bomford, and in a short period the warrant was received. Bomford was well informed on many subjects, ingenious and musical . . . born on Long Island, the reputed son of a British officer.<sup>6</sup>

Would West Point admit the son of a British officer so soon after the Revolution? Apparently so—but discreetly. The musings amid which Swift recorded this possibility remained private until 1890, nearly a half-century after Bomford's death; and even the general shaded the past by appending the word “reputed.” Meanwhile, George did reveal his secret to his son James, who sheltered it still longer. In 1911—nineteen years after James's death and long after most Americans would have ceased to care—the rumored origins surfaced again. A biographical sketch of James, published in a history of his alma mater, Norwich University, identifies James's paternal grandfather as “Thomas Bomford of the 60th Royal Artillery.”<sup>7</sup>

### *Parental Possibilities*

Even with this more specific clue, evidence on the father is inconclusive. The cited regiment was likely Britain's Sixtieth (formerly Sixty-second) Regiment of

3. One sole biography notes this possibility but points to no source. See Roger J. Spiller et al., eds., *Dictionary of American Military Biography*, 3 vols. (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1984), 1: 98–101.

4. Edgar Denton, “The Formative Years of the United States Military Academy, 1775–1833” (Ph.D. dissertation, Syracuse University, 1964), 249.

5. Appointments and Commissions, Corps of Engineers; Army Registers, 1800–1897; entry [collection] 321, vol. 2: unpaginated, chronological order; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Record Group [RG] 94; National Archives [NA], Washington.

6. Harrison Ellery, ed., *The Memoirs of Gen. Joseph Gardner Swift* (Worcester, Mass.: F. S. Blanchard, 1890), 40. Swift dates the appointment in spring 1803. Either his recollection or West Point records err.

7. William Arba Ellis, ed., *Norwich University, 1819–1911: Her History, Her Graduates, Her Roll of Honor*, 3 vols. (Montpelier: Grenville M. Dodge, 1911), 2: 67.

Foot, commonly called the King's Royal Rifle Corps or Royal Americans.<sup>8</sup> A contemporary Thomas Bomford does not appear on filmed rolls or indexes of this famed regiment.<sup>9</sup> The only possibility found for that era is one Thomas Bomford who served as an ensign (1766) and lieutenant (1770) in the Sixty-fourth Regiment of Foot, for two years in Ireland and thereafter in America.<sup>10</sup> The 1776 regimental list draws a single line through his name, with no explanation.

Between 1775 and the 1803–4 appearance of George at West Point, two Thomases of similar surname appear in northeastern U.S. records.<sup>11</sup>

- Thomas *Bemford* of Cambridge, Massachusetts, served in the town's revolutionary-era militia.<sup>12</sup> He is probably the Thomas *Bumford* who wed Ann Ross there on 25 February 1779.<sup>13</sup> The couple then seem to drop from area records.
- Thomas *Bumford* emerged in Bennington, Vermont, some three years later. An April 1782 accounting of the estate of recently deceased John Armstrong cites him as a creditor. On 21 April 1784, as husband of the widow Basmath Armstrong, he accepted guardianship of the younger Armstrong children. Censuses and town records suggest Thomas may have brought to this marriage one son, born 1774–84, and that he and Basmath possibly had three daughters, born 1784–90.<sup>14</sup> One of the latter was probably the Sally Bumford who married twice at nearby Pownal—first to David Barber in 1813 and then to Alfred Oviatt in 1829.<sup>15</sup> Numerous land records for the Bomfords in Bennington and nearby

8. Herbert Fairlie Wood, *The King's Royal Rifle Corps*, Famous Regiments Series, Lt. Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, series ed. (London: Hamish Hamilton, 1967), *passim*.

9. *A List of the General and Field-Officers, as They Rank in the Army, of the Officers in the Several Regiments of Horse, Dragoons, and Foot, on the British and Irish Establishments* (London: Printed for J. Millan, 1771—), available as microfilms 0,852,025–0,852,031, Family History Library [FHL], Salt Lake City. Those for the 60th and 62d Regiments of Foot and the King's Royal Rifle Corps were searched from 1760; indexes covering all regiments were searched for 1766–80.

10. *List of the General and Field-Officers*, FHL microfilm 0,852,025–0,852,026.

11. The scrutiny particularly focused on Dutchess, Ulster, Orange, Columbia, and Albany Counties, New York—for land, probate, church, and (where possible) tax records—as well as church, land, and probate records for the Boston area; Bennington County, Vermont; and New York City and Long Island.

12. Lucius Robinson Paige, *History of Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1630–1877* (Boston: H. O. Houghton, 1877), 428.

13. *Ibid.*; also Stephen Paschall Sharples, comp., *Records of the Church of Christ at Cambridge in New England, 1632–1830* (Boston: Eben Putnam, 1906), 247. Sharples's accuracy has been verified against the originals, which cannot be photocopied but are available for examination as Christ Church Episcopal, Church Records, 1760–1879, Cambridge, Massachusetts, FHL microfilm 1,289,685 (item 7).

14. Bennington District Probate Records, 1778–1812: 36, 154, FHL microfilm 0,027,955; and Bennington Town Records, 1741–1809: 290, FHL microfilm 0,027,813.

The 1790 census of Bennington credits Thomas *Bumford* with 3 males under 16, but only 2 could be Armstrong children whose births are registered locally. The Thomas *Bumford* household in 1800 included 2 boys born 1774/5–1784. All the Armstrong boys but one can be separately accounted for. See *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Vermont* (Washington Government Printing Office, 1907), 16. Also see 1800 U.S. census, Bennington County, Vermont, Bennington, p. 156, line 8; NA micropublication M32, roll 51.

15. Barber-Bumford marriage, Pownal Town Records, Book 2: 171, FHL microfilm 0,028,680; and Bennington District Probate Records, 14: 127, 370 (for reversion of widow's dower), FHL microfilm 0,027,957.

Pownal yield no additional information. Thomas last appears in the March–April 1826 account books of the merchant Charles Knight; but he apparently died before 20 March 1826, when Basmath alone sold land.<sup>16</sup>

No known evidence links either of these Thomases to the officer of the King’s Royal Rifle Corps.

The Massachusetts and Vermont families bear no known connections to Long Island, George’s alleged birthplace, or to Warren’s Valley, where George emerged in 1803 or 1804. While the latter site has not been located on a contemporary map, General Swift’s description of it’s lying “opposite to West Point”—a village on the west bank of the Hudson River in Orange County—suggests that the valley lay on the east bank in old Dutchess (later Putnam) County. There, in the present area of the village called Nelsonville in Philipstown, was the old Warren homestead founded by descendants of the English-born Samuel Warren, who settled there before the Revolution.<sup>17</sup> Migration to that point from either Long Island or Bennington, Vermont, would have been an almost direct route along the Hudson River; and the proximity of a military installation would have been a likely attraction for a “dealer.” Whether or not young George owned the “country store” at which Swift met him is debatable; if so, it suggests a prior inheritance to finance his enterprise or else a family presence in Warren’s Valley.

#### CAREER

Beyond the miasma that clouds George’s origins, the one that caused his “ague and fever” decisively changed the direction of his life. At the time of his enrollment at West Point, the school was but two or three years old. In those early years, eight to fourteen cadets were distributed between the Corps of Engineers and the Corps of Artillerists. The curriculum included only algebra and geometry, drawing, and French. Cadets were temporarily dismissed or reassigned elsewhere during three winter months; they could take examinations for graduation at any time. As a cadet in the Corps of Engineers, George probably received the standard monthly stipend of \$16, from which he was expected to pay for his food and uniform.<sup>18</sup>

In contrast to his origins, George’s army career is a public record.<sup>19</sup> As a second lieutenant in the Engineers, he was assigned to the fortification of New York Harbor

16. Bennington Probates, 13: 150; Pownal Deeds, 1821–1831: 25, FHL microfilm 0,028,677.

17. William S. Pelletreau, *History of Putnam County, New York* (1886; reprint, Brewster, New York: Landmarks Preservation Committee, 1975), 555–56.

18. While the official founding date is 16 March 1802, instruction began earlier. Records of the early years are few and conflicting. The most detailed account is Denton, “Formative Years,” 27–50.

19. George W. Cullum, ed., *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy, . . . 1802, to 1890*, 3d ed., 9 vols. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Riverside Press, 1891), 1: 58; and Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, from Its Organization, September 29, 1789, to March 2, 1903*, 2 vols. (1903; reprint, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1965), 1: 134. The information therein is consistent with the data provided in the previously cited War Department registers of Appointments and Commissions, 1800–1897; Cullum supplies additional biographical detail.

and Chesapeake Bay. From 1810 until the outbreak of the War of 1812, he supervised the construction of Castle Williams on Governor's Island, New York. While there, George also developed a new type of cannon that he named the Columbiad, after the epic poem by Joel Barlow.<sup>20</sup> That expertise probably prompted his promotion to major and his reassignment to ordnance duty at Albany in upstate New York. Rising to lieutenant-colonel by 1815, Bomford continued in ordnance, where in 1832 he became colonel and first chief of the Ordnance Corps. In 1844, in what was perhaps his greatest achievement, he developed the New Columbiad, the most scientifically designed heavy weapon of its time.<sup>21</sup>

## MARRIAGES

### *Louisa Sophia Catton*

Shortly after graduation from West Point, Bomford married Louisa Sophia Catton, daughter of the noted English artist Charles P. Catton. The Cattons had immigrated to New York in 1804 and purchased land in New Paltz, Ulster County (a few miles north of West Point) in 1806.<sup>22</sup> Louisa, whose birth and baptism data remain elusive,<sup>23</sup> died 10 January 1815 at her father's home, where the Bomfords appear to have lived. Either three or four children survived her.<sup>24</sup> Her father's will, written in 1815 and proved in 1819, divided his books, household silver, papers, personal art, and the residue of his estate among his son, Charles; his daughter, Elizabeth; and George Bomford.<sup>25</sup>

---

20. Between 1807 and 1812, Barlow and Bomford were both members of the United States Military Philo-sophical Society. At the time Barlow was elected (2 November 1807), Bomford held the office "Keeper of the Cabinet"; see Barlow Collection, catalog item 56M-52, Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

21. Although not a large weapon, the New Columbiad was instrumental in seacoast defense during the Civil War. A detailed diagram appears in Ian V. Hogg, *A History of Artillery* (Feltham, England: Hamlyn Publishing, 1974), 71–72. For Bomford's career after 1815, see Cullum, *Biographical Register*, 1: 58, and Heitman, *Historical Register*, 1: 134.

22. H. L. Mallalieu, *The Dictionary of British Watercolour Artists up to 1920*, 3 vols. (1976, reprinted, Pough-keepsie, New York: Apollo Books, 1986), 1: 73; *The Dictionary of National Biography*, Leslie Stephen and Sidney Lee, eds., 21 vols. (New York: MacMillan Co., 1908), 3: 19; Ulster County Deeds, 20: 317, FHL microfilm 0,944,753.

23. Charles Catton wed Sarah Clowes in 1779; and the marriage was recorded in the parish registers of either St. Giles in the Fields, Middlesex; or Sherfield-upon-Lodden, Hampshire, according to Boyd's Marriage Index, Series III, Grooms Blaj-J, 1776–1800, p. 368, FHL microfilm 0,472,147. Baptismal records of the Catton children remain unlocated.

24. Death notices, *Ulster Gazette* and *Daily National Intelligencer*, both dated 24 January 1815. Corra Bacon-Foster, "The Story of Kalorama," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* (1910), 108, states Louisa left four children; three have been identified. In 1810, Charles "Cating" and a female, both over 44, were enumerated with one male and female aged 26–44; one male and female aged 16–25; and one male under 10—suggesting that George, Louisa, and their first son may have been living in the Catton household. See 1810 U.S. census, Ulster County, New York, New Paltz, p. 116, line 6; NA micropublication M252, roll 37.

25. Ulster County Deeds, 114: 241, FHL microfilm 0,932,195. The 1859 clerk who recorded this document in the deed book added that the will was probated on 19 May 1819. There is no record of the estate in Ulster's probate records.

*Clara Baldwin*

George remarried on 20 April 1816, in Washington, D.C.,<sup>26</sup> his new wife being Clarissa “Clara” Baldwin, to whom he had been introduced several months before. Born at New Haven, Connecticut, in November of either 1782 or 1784, she was the daughter of Michael Baldwin and his second wife, Theodora Wolcott.<sup>27</sup> Her father, a blacksmith, valued education and sent his sons to college. Her older half-brother, Abraham Baldwin, was a framer of the Constitution and later a U.S. representative and senator; one of many “Connecticut Yankees” who moved South to Georgia, he helped found the University of Georgia. Another brother, Henry Baldwin, became a U.S. Supreme Court justice. Clara’s older half-sister, Ruth, married Joel Barlow, the well-known poet, philosopher, and international diplomat in whose honor Bomford had named his 1811 invention.<sup>28</sup>

Clara, about the same age as her husband, bore her own undocumented past. The New Haven authority Donald Lines Jacobus, one of modern America’s foremost genealogists, implied that Clara had been married before but offered no details or identification.<sup>29</sup> James Woodress, in his biography of Joel Barlow, wrote without citation or clarification that she had been deserted.<sup>30</sup> Evidence of Clara’s 1803 union to Joseph P. Kennedy of Sandersville (Washington County), Georgia, lies in letters written by her brother Abraham, who had been a Georgia resident for some years.<sup>31</sup> Both Joseph and his brother Joshua had come to New Haven to study at Yale; Joseph attended classes there in 1802 and Joshua graduated in 1803. The Kennedys were sons of Dr. Joseph and Mary (Dick) Kennedy of Abbeville District, South Carolina.<sup>32</sup>

26. Wesley E. Pippenger, comp., *District of Columbia Marriage Licenses, Register 1, 1811–1858* (Westminster, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 1994), 52; the marriage is also reported in the *Daily National Intelligencer*, 22 April 1816, p. 3, col. 4.

27. Birth registrations for children of Theodora (Wolcott) Baldwin could not be found. Clara’s November 1782 birth date appears without documentation in Charles Candee Baldwin, *The Baldwin Genealogy, from 1500 to 1881* (Cleveland: Leader Printing, 1881), 421. The 31 May 1789 baptisms of Clarissa and five siblings, children of widow Theodora Baldwin, are recorded among admissions and minister’s notes in Fair Haven Congregational Church and Society Records, 3: 10, FHL microfilm 1,011,941. A headstone erected by descendants in 1882 at D.C.’s Rock Creek Cemetery states she was born in 1784. For background on the removal of her remains to Rock Creek, see Richard Derby to Ruth Bomford Paine, 24 June 1882, Baldwin Collection, Huntington Library and Art Gallery, San Marino, California. Bacon-Foster says 14 bodies were removed in 1892, but does not name them.

28. Baldwin, *Baldwin Genealogy*, 419–21.

29. Donald Lines Jacobus, *Families of Ancient New Haven* (1923; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983), 106.

30. James Woodress, *A Yankee’s Odyssey: The Life of Joel Barlow* (New York: J. B. Lippincott, 1958), 283.

31. Abraham Baldwin to Clara Kennedy and Abraham Baldwin to Joel and Ruth Barlow, both dated 28 October 1803, Baldwin Collection. No record of this marriage has been found in New Haven’s church or civil records. Marriage records of Washington County, Georgia, have been lost. The cited letters imply that the marriage occurred in early-to-mid-1803, most likely in Connecticut.

32. Matriculation and graduation records from *Catalogue of the Officers and Graduates of Yale University, 1701–1924* and *Catalogue of the Members of Yale College in New Haven* were provided the author by Yale University archivist Nancy F. Lyon in letters of 15 May and 16 June 1997. Baptismal records of children from Joseph Kennedy’s later marriage to Joyce Rains identify his parents as Joseph Kennedy and wife Mary Dick; see, for example, Immaculate Conception Church [Mobile], Baptisms, Book 2 (original

Shortly after their marriage, Clara and Joseph Kennedy settled in Sandersville<sup>33</sup> and asked Clara's brother Abraham to use his influence in securing a government position for Joseph. Senator Baldwin replied, in writing, that he could not (or more likely, would not, considering the nature of Kennedy's character that soon becomes evident in the records).<sup>34</sup> Unable to get land in Sandersville, the Kennedys moved to New Orleans in 1804.<sup>35</sup> Family correspondence suggests Clara lived there for the next several years. However, during much of this time, her husband practiced law and operated a store in Washington County, Mississippi Territory (later Alabama), just north of the U.S. boundary with Spanish Mobile.<sup>36</sup>

In January 1806, Abraham Baldwin wrote Kennedy expressing concern over Clara's whereabouts—after Kennedy had reported that his wife left for Connecticut two months earlier. Evidently deterred by weather, Clara was forced to return to New Orleans.<sup>37</sup> Her family then did not hear from her for almost a year.<sup>38</sup> The correspondence ceased with the death of Abraham Baldwin in March 1807. This severance critically affects research because, that July, a New Orleans newspaper published two pages chronicling a Kennedy scandal. The lengthy testimonial of one Lieutenant Francis Small is followed by supporting, notarized statements of others involved. In brief, it appears that Kennedy on at least two occasions that year had swindled a New Orleans merchant of jewelry and miscellaneous goods totaling about \$4,000 and had fled back to Washington County.<sup>39</sup>

At some point during this or the following year, Clara and Joseph separated—apparently without children.<sup>40</sup> Whether Clara left Joseph or vice-versa, it is clear from letters of her sister Ruth that the marriage had been unhappy. No divorce record seems to exist—not in Louisiana (where Clara had maintained a legal residence), nor in Mississippi Territory (where Kennedy practiced law), nor in the

---

register; Spanish entry): 555, 630–31, Chancery Office, Archdiocese of Mobile, Alabama. Dr. Kennedy's will was recorded in 1796; see Willie Pauline Young, comp., *Abstracts of Old Ninety-Six and Abbeville District Wills and Bonds* (1950; reprint, Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 409.

33. Abraham Baldwin to Clara Kennedy and Abraham Baldwin to Joel and Ruth Barlow, both dated 28 October 1803, Baldwin Collection.

34. Abraham Baldwin to Clara Kennedy, 5 November 1803, Baldwin Collection.

35. Abraham Baldwin to Clara Kennedy, 16 January 1804 and 3 February 1804, Baldwin Collection.

36. New Orleans, *Louisiana Gazette*, 7 July 1807, 2–3, cites his store operation. Jean Strickland and Patricia N. Edwards, *Residents of the Southeastern Mississippi Territory, Book 5: Washington and Baldwin Counties, Alabama; Wills, Deeds, and Superior Court Minutes* (Moss Point, Mississippi: Ben Strickland, 1996), especially 52, 73, 74, 81, and 88, treat his law activities and other matters that question his ethics.

37. Abraham Baldwin to Joseph Kennedy, 20 January 1806, and Abraham Baldwin to Clara Kennedy, 10 March 1806, Baldwin Collection.

38. Abraham Baldwin to Clara Kennedy, 21 January 1807, Baldwin Collection.

39. New Orleans, *Louisiana Gazette*, 7 July 1807, 2–3.

40. The town records of Mansfield, Connecticut, record the birth of Thomas Baldwin Kennedy to "Clarissa Kennedy, single woman," 10 October 1806; see Susan W. Dimock, comp., *Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths from the Records of the Town and Churches in Mansfield, Connecticut, 1703–1850* (New York: Baker and Taylor Co., 1898), 121. One Clarissa Canada was born there in 1791, but she died as a child (Dimock, pp. 37 and 308). Some possible avenues for identifying this mother still remain to be explored. Meanwhile, there is no record of Clarissa "Clara" Baldwin Kennedy between March 1806 and January 1807, at which times she was in New Orleans.

District of Columbia (where Clara had lived with the Barlows for some time prior to 1809, according to family letters), nor in Connecticut (where Clara visited family in 1810).<sup>41</sup> By early 1810, Clara apparently had turned down a marriage proposal from someone in Connecticut. In February, her sister Ruth counseled her to “Reflect well before you put on the shackles again. At best matrimony is a kind of bondage. Enjoy a while your liberty with those who love you.”<sup>42</sup> In March, Ruth wrote again that both she and her husband “had reflected a good deal lately” on the propriety of Clara’s reverting to the use of her maiden name and decided that she should do so. “Why!” the sister exclaimed, “should you bear the name of a man who has a wife and is not your husband.”<sup>43</sup>

This remark to Clara raises two questions. Was Joseph Kennedy already married when he wed Clara? Or had Clara heard of Joseph’s intent to remarry and was simply weighing the possibility of resuming her maiden name? In the absence of either a previous marriage record for Joseph or evidence of divorce proceedings separating Joseph from Clara or a previous wife, any conclusion seems premature. On 14 June 1810, Kennedy took out a license to wed a neighbor’s daughter, the fourteen-year-old Joyce Rains. Although Joyce was a baptized Catholic, they were married by a justice of the peace in Baldwin County, Mississippi Territory (present Alabama), on 2 October 1810.<sup>44</sup>

In the fourteen remaining years of his life, Kennedy remained a controversial figure. He was a military leader of the movement to seize Mobile and West Florida from Spanish control, in opposition to the position the United States took in the matter. For terrorizing Spanish supporters along the Tombigbee, Kennedy and his cohorts were arrested and brought to trial. Acquitted by a local jury, he ran for the territorial legislature and was elected. All in all, he was either a local hero or a totally untrustworthy character, depending upon what one reads.<sup>45</sup>

Meanwhile, in that year of Joseph’s remarriage, President Madison appointed Joel Barlow special envoy to France, in part to negotiate a trade treaty with Napoleon. Both Clara and Joel’s nephew, Tom Barlow, accompanied the Barlows to Paris. In December 1812, while trying to connect with Napoleon during his retreat

---

41. Connecticut law required a three-year residency and waiting period for divorce. See Marylynn Salmon, *Women and the Law of Property in Early America* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986), 58–80.

42. Ruth Barlow to Clara Kennedy, 7 February 1810, Baldwin Collection.

43. Ruth Barlow to Clara Kennedy, 10 March 1810, Baldwin Collection.

44. Baldwin County Marriages (original record, page torn and number missing, signed by John Johnson, J. P.), FHL microfilm 1,839,621. The 29 March 1796 baptism of Joyce Rains, daughter of Cornelius and Elizabeth, is recorded in Church of the Immaculate Conception, Baptismal Book 2, 1781–1828 [typed abstracts]: 21, Mobile Chancery Office. At her death about late February 1827, Joyce was said to be aged 30—implying a birth in February or March 1796; see *Death Notices (Local and Foreign), 1820–1829* (Mobile: Mobile Genealogical Society, 1962), unpaginated 59th page.

45. J. F. H. Claiborne, *Mississippi as a Province, Territory, and State* (1880; reprinted, Spartanburg, South Carolina: Reprint Co., 1978); Jacqueline Anderson Matte, *The History of Washington County, First County in Alabama* (Chatom, Alabama: Washington County Historical Society, 1982), 33–35; Clarence Edwin Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States*, vol. 18, *Territory of Alabama, 1817–1819* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952), 118.



from Russia, Joel Barlow died in Poland. Clara and Ruth returned to the States and, temporarily, went their separate ways; but in 1815, Clara joined Ruth at the Barlow estate, Kalorama, on the outskirts of Washington.<sup>46</sup> There, apparently, she met George Bomford.

#### THE BOMFORDS AT KALORAMA

Following their marriage in April 1816, both Clara and George shared Kalorama with the widow Barlow, and Kalorama would be their home intermittently throughout their remaining lives.<sup>47</sup> Shortly before Ruth Barlow's death in 1818, she sold outright the entire property (including "pictures, household furniture, books, and library") to "Josiah Meigs and George Bomford." George, Clara, and Ruth apparently vacated Kalorama, moving to a house in town on I Street between Sixteenth and Seventeenth. Meigs and Bomford then conveyed the property to Clara's brother, Henry Baldwin of Pittsburgh, who leased it out. In 1822, the Bomfords returned to Kalorama—after buying from Baldwin a half-interest and then the whole. This impressive estate, which contained sixty acres and was valued at \$10,000 in its 1831 deed, lies today in the curvature of Rock Creek, bounded by Connecticut and Florida Avenues; the mansion itself is at the modern intersection of S and Twenty-third Streets.<sup>48</sup>

In the ensuing years, the Bomfords were active in the District's social and business circles. One of many references to them appears in a letter by Dolley Madison, who wrote of her "valued acquaintances [in D.C.], among the first of whom is dear Mrs. Bomford."<sup>49</sup> Clara, an avid botanist, filled the grounds of Kalorama with rare plants.<sup>50</sup> George served as a director and trustee of the Bank of Washington<sup>51</sup> and invested heavily in real estate—some profitable, some not. Mortgaging Kalorama in 1832, he built a Georgetown gristmill that was destroyed by fire in 1844. A large cotton factory, built upon the ruins, never returned on the

46. Woodress, *Yankee's Odyssey*, 307.

47. Bacon-Foster, "The Story of Kalorama," 109; John Clagett Proctor, ed., *Washington, Past and Present; A History* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1930), 95.

48. The 1818–31 transactions were exceedingly tangled. Early in her widowhood, Ruth wrote a will (copy in Baldwin Collection) that left Kalorama to her nephew, Thomas Barlow, and entailed it to his heirs. After selling the property, she did not strike that provision from her will. Upon her death, to clear the title, Barlow executed a deed to Henry Baldwin for a token \$1. In 1822, Baldwin sold George one moiety for \$5,000. When Baldwin finally conveyed full title to George Bomford in 1831, he noted that the intervening transactions from him to Bomford had not been "acknowledged in due form of law"—hence, a gap in the trail of evidence that obscures the date upon which Clara and George returned to Kalorama. For this chain of transactions, see District of Columbia Deeds, AQ 41: 107–8 (R. Barlow to Meigs and Bomford, 14 February 1818); AU 45: 129–30 (T. Barlow to Baldwin, 25 November 1818); WB 5: 165 (Baldwin to Bomford, 25 May 1822); and WB 36: 293–94 (Baldwin to Bomford, 21 June 1831); available as FHL microfilms 1,907,828; 0,899,404; 0,899,408; and 1,903,835, respectively.

49. Dolley Madison to Margaret Bayard Smith, quoted in Gaillard Hunt, ed., *The First Forty Years of Washington Society* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1906), 379.

50. Bacon-Foster, "The Story of Kalorama," 110.

51. Resolution of the Trustees of the Bank of Washington, 31 March 1848, providing for bank closure for George Bomford's funeral, Baldwin Collection.

investment.<sup>52</sup> Financially overextended, as millions of Americans were during the Crash of 1837 and the nation's subsequent years of financial depression, the Bomfords sold numerous properties<sup>53</sup> and offered for sale, through a New York fine-arts dealer, over \$6,000 worth of Clara's jewelry.<sup>54</sup> In letters to his wife, George discussed the sale of Kalorama and its furnishings and what they should do next.<sup>55</sup> In June 1846, he wrote:

Whatever shall be your wishes and desires, they will be mine—as by the sale of Kalorama, I shall be relieved from much pecuniary loss & embarrassment. . . . You and I for years have literally been kept upon a committee of ways & means, but on leaving Kalorama my income will enable us to live easier and better, and save out of my income from one to two thousand dollars a year, entirely superceding the necessity attending the many & little vexacious economies that have for years pressed us with care & unceasing labor.

Having been mortgaged at one time for \$36,000, Kalorama was sold in 1846 for \$20,000.<sup>56</sup> The Bomfords returned to the house on I Street.<sup>57</sup> Just one year later, Colonel George Bomford died in Boston while on military business; a daughter, Louisa, was the only family member in attendance.<sup>58</sup> His body was returned to the family home on I Street, from which his funeral was held—with burial at the Barlow-Bomford Mausoleum at Kalorama.<sup>59</sup>

George did not leave a will. Attorney J. B. H. Smith administered his estate, probating it in one of D.C.'s Orphans' Courts. Only the inventory and three accountings have survived. The original inventory amounted to approximately \$3,060 in household goods; six slaves valued at \$1,366; and bank stock valued at \$11,970. Despite the subsequent discovery of additional stock and property in Ohio, the payment of mortgages, liens, and fees by the third accounting in 1853 left only \$246.39 for his heirs.<sup>60</sup>

The few extant letters between George and Clara suggest that theirs was a happy union, even through troubled times. Clara reared George's children from his previous marriage and bore three children of her own. After his death, she moved to Portland, Maine, to live with her daughter, Ruth Paine. Because George's years of distinguished

52. Bacon-Foster, "The Story of Kalorama," 113; Constance W. Werner, ed., *Georgetown Historic Waterfront, Washington, D.C.: A Review of Canal and Riverside Architecture* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1968), 61–63.

53. Over 100 land transactions by George Bomford are recorded in D.C. deed books.

54. Correspondence with Victor Bishop and other creditors, Baldwin Collection.

55. Letters from George to Clara, 14 June 1846 and 14 October 1847, Baldwin Collection.

56. D.C. Deeds, WB 126: 119, available as FHL microfilm 0,903,996.

57. Bacon-Foster, "The Story of Kalorama," 113.

58. Louisa Derby to Clara Bomford, 25 March 1848, Baldwin Collection.

59. *Daily National Intelligencer*, 31 March 1848, p. 1.

60. Second probating of George Bomford's estate, Old Series File 2833, Orphans' Court of Washington County, Entry 117, Records of the District Courts, Record Group 21, NA. The index covering 1837–78 is lost. The probate was reopened by great-grandson George N. Bomford Jr., in order to distribute a government payment of \$100.20 received for undescribed "services rendered by Col. Bomford."

military service did not involve direct combat, Clara lost her bid for a widow's pension.<sup>61</sup> While visiting family members in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she died there on 10 December 1855. Her body was returned to Washington for burial beside that of her husband at Kalorama.<sup>62</sup> In 1892, to make room for the creation of Sheridan Circle, the city razed the mausoleum and moved its contents to Rock Creek Cemetery. There, the remains of Colonel George Bomford; his wife, Clara; and their youngest child, Henry, lie today beneath a single monument on which is inscribed:

Sacred to the memory of Colonel George Bomford, U.S. Ordnance Corps. Died 25 March 1848, aged 66 years. Clara, his wife, died 10 Dec. 1855, aged 71 yrs. And their son,<sup>[p]</sup> Henry Baldwin Bomford,<sup>[p]</sup> died 9 September 1845,<sup>[p]</sup> aged 21 yrs.<sup>63</sup>

## GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

### FIRST GENERATION

1. **George<sup>1</sup> Bomford** (Thomas<sup>A</sup>) was born in Queens County,<sup>64</sup> Long Island,<sup>65</sup> New York, about 1780<sup>66</sup> or 82;<sup>67</sup> and died 25 March 1848 in Boston.<sup>68</sup> His father was a British officer,<sup>69</sup> for whom little else has been established. In 1804 George was admitted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, from which he graduated in 1805.<sup>70</sup> He married first, **Louisa Sophia Catton**, daughter of the British-born watercolorist Charles Catton of New Paltz (Ulster County), New York. Louisa died at New Paltz, 10 January 1815.<sup>71</sup> On 20 April 1816 in the District of Columbia, George became the second husband of **Clarissa "Clara" Baldwin**,<sup>72</sup> daughter of Michael Baldwin and his second wife, Theodora

61. S. P. Waldo, Commissioner of Pensions, to J. B. H. Smith, 17 November 1853, Baldwin Collection. The National Archives staff reports being unable to locate Clara's application file, cited as Old War WA-12310R in Virgil D. White, ed., *Index to Old Wars Pension Files, 1815-1926* (Waynesboro, Tennessee: National Historical Publishing Co., 1987), 59.

62. Clara's death notice in the *Daily National Intelligencer*, 12 December 1855, p. 1, col. 8, is consistent with receipts from a Pittsburgh physician filed with estate papers in the Baldwin Collection; but her death appears not to have been recorded in Pittsburgh. See also "Record of Burial Service,<sup>[p]</sup> 13 December 1855," in *District of Columbia DAR, G.R.C. Report: Church of the Epiphany of Washington, D.C. [Baptisms, Marriages, Confirmations, and Burials, 1842-1870]*, ser. 1, vol. 85 (typescript serial, 1952; in Daughters of the American Revolution Library, Washington), 26; also on FHL microfilm 0,845,801.

63. Bacon-Foster, "The Story of Kalorama," 107. *Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, D.C.: Old Interment Records, 1822-1906*, 4 vols. (Washington: Columbian Harmony Society, 1992), 1: 116, states that 14 bodies from Kalorama were removed on 17 February 1892 to section E, lot 64, of Rock Creek. The new headstone inscription was photographed by Gale Burwell of Ridge, Maryland; a photo is in possession of the writer.

64. Records of Birthplaces of Officers, 1816, entry 339 (alphabetical packets), Records of the Adjutant General, RG 94, NA.

65. Long Island, whose lower end embraces Queens County, is cited as the birthplace by Bomford's mentor, General Swift; see Ellery, *Memoirs of General Joseph Gardner Swift*, 40.

66. Cullum, *Biographical Register*, 1: 59.

67. Tombstone inscription, previously cited.

68. George Bomford certificate of death no. 59487, Boston City Registrar's Office; George Bomford obituary, *Daily National Intelligencer*, Washington, 31 March 1848, p. 1.

69. Ellis, *Norwich University*, 2: 67; Ellery, *Memoirs of Gen. Joseph Gardner Swift*, 40.

70. Appointments and Commissions, Corps of Engineers; Army Registers, 1800-1897, previously cited.

71. *Ulster Gazette* and *Daily National Intelligencer*, both for 24 January 1815.

72. Pippenger, *District of Columbia Marriage Licenses, Register 1*, 52; *Daily National Intelligencer*, 22 April 1816, p. 3, col. 4.

Wolcott, Clara—born at New Haven, Connecticut, in November 1782 or 1784<sup>73</sup>—died at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 10 December 1855.<sup>74</sup>

George and Louisa (Catton) Bomford were parents of three known children:

- 2 i. GEORGE CATTON<sup>2</sup> BOMFORD, born 17 December 1807;<sup>75</sup> died in Florence, Italy, in 1862.<sup>76</sup> Admitted to West Point from New York, 1 July 1824, he resigned on 15 May 1827.<sup>77</sup> No known records exist for him between that date and 1846, the year of his father's death. As a surveyor, he appears on the 1850 census of Clark County, Oregon Territory (present state of Washington),<sup>78</sup> and an 1851 deed recorded in the District of Columbia also cites him as being "of Oregon Territory."<sup>79</sup> A civilian quartermaster clerk in 1853, he resigned that post to run cattle west of Walla Walla.<sup>80</sup> In 1854 he was appointed to the Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners; and he was elected a justice of the peace the following year.<sup>81</sup> After serving as an official witness to the 1855 Stevens Treaty with the Nez Percé,<sup>82</sup> George fled the region several weeks later, with his partners, during a Cayuse uprising, for which some historians assign him a share of blame.<sup>83</sup> At his death he was visiting his sister Louisa, who was living in Italy with a married daughter.

George died unmarried. His will, dated 23 November 1848, was filed in the District of Columbia's Orphans' Court on 24 November 1862.<sup>84</sup> The only named heir, his brother James V., presented it for probate shortly thereafter in his own home county, Union, New Jersey.<sup>85</sup> The inventory consisted

73. Baldwin, *Baldwin Genealogy*, 421, cites Clara's birth in November 1782. The age on Clara's headstone suggests a 1784 birth year.

74. Physicians' bills (Baldwin Collection), together with her obituary, suggest that Clara died in Pittsburgh 10 December 1855. *District of Columbia DAR, G.R.C. Report : Church of the Epiphany*, 85: 26, records a burial service on 13 December 1855.

75. *U.S. Military Academy Cadet Application Papers, 1805–1866*, NA microcopy M688, roll 28, frames 24–27.

76. The 1862 death date and the place "Italy" appear on a handwritten sheet prepared about 1880—compiler anonymous, although its content suggests him to be Richard Derby, son of George's sister Louisa—that has survived in the effects of Adm. M. H. Simons (grandson of George Jr.'s half-sister, Ruth). Hereinafter called 1880 Derby Family Sheet, a copy is held by the author. A daguerreotype of George, in the Matthew R. Isenburg Collection, Oakland Museum of California, includes in its case a small scrap of paper stating that his "hometown" was Georgetown, D.C.; that the daguerreotype was made in 1853 in Portland; and that George died in Florence, Italy. Frank T. Gilbert, *Historic Sketches of Walla, Whitman, Columbia, and Garfield Counties, Washington Territory* (Portland: A. G. Walling, 1892), 164, erroneously says that George died in Italy "about 1868."

77. Edward C. Boynton, comp., *Register of Cadets Admitted into the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, from Its Origin to June 30, 1870* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1870), alphabetical listing.

78. 1850 U.S. census, Clark County, Oregon Territory, population schedule, p. 38, dwelling 21, [no family number], NA micropublication M432, roll 742.

79. D.C. Deeds, JAS 43: 227, FHL microfilm 0,900,151.

80. John C. Jackson, *A Little War of Destiny: The First Regiment of Oregon Mounted Volunteers and the Yakima Indian War of 1855–56* (Fairfield, Washington: Ye Galleon Press, 1996), 30–31.

81. Gilbert, *Historic Sketches of Walla*, 157–58.

82. Charles J. Kappler, comp., *Indian Treaties, 1778–1883* (1904; reprinted, New York: Interland Publishing, 1972), 706.

83. Jackson, *A Little War*, 105–7.

84. Dorothy S. Provine, ed., *Index to District of Columbia Wills, 1801–1920* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992), 18.

85. Union County Surrogate's Court, docket no. 413; also Will Book A: 576 and Inventory Book B: 78.

primarily of paintings, art books, and five \$500 U.S. warrants for reimbursement of expenses incurred in suppressing Indian hostilities in Oregon during 1855–56. In 1892, James and George's former partners, Lloyd Brooke and John Noble, unsuccessfully petitioned Congress for full redress of personal losses totaling \$29,028.75.<sup>86</sup>

- + 3 ii. JAMES VOTEY BOMFORD, born 5 October 1811 on Governor's Island, New York; died 6 January 1892 in Elizabeth, New Jersey.<sup>87</sup> On 21 September 1840, at Sackett's Harbor, New York, he married Louise Victoire Clark.<sup>88</sup>
- + 4 iii. LOUISA SOPHIA BOMFORD, born 3 May 1813 in Albany, New York; died 19 April 1864 in Newport, Rhode Island.<sup>89</sup> On 9 August 1831, Louisa married Benjamin Lincoln Lear;<sup>90</sup> and on 8 September 1835, she wed Richard C. Derby.<sup>91</sup> Both marriages occurred in the nation's capital.

George Bomford and his second wife, Clarissa "Clara" Baldwin, had three children also:

- + 5 iv. RUTH THEODORA<sup>2</sup> BOMFORD, born 1 January 1818 in the District of Columbia; died in Portland, Maine, on 28 November 1895.<sup>92</sup> On 29 October 1845, in the District, she married Captain John Stone Paine of the U.S. Navy.<sup>93</sup>
- + 6 v. GEORGE ERVING BOMFORD, born 31 March 1820 in the District of Columbia; died in 1864, while practicing medicine at Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Sometime in 1851, in the Ft. Smith area, he married Martha Arkansas Dillard.<sup>94</sup>
- 7 vi. HENRY BALDWIN BOMFORD, born about 1823 or 1824, presumably in the District of Columbia; died "suddenly" there on 9 September 1845.<sup>95</sup>

## SECOND GENERATION

3. **James Votey<sup>2</sup> Bomford** (George<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>A</sup>) was born of Louisa Sophia (Catton) Bomford on 5 October 1811 at Governor's Island, New York;<sup>96</sup> he died 6

86. A copy of the rejected petition appears in the William C. McKay Papers, Pendleton Public Library, Pendleton, Oregon. McKay, a prominent local, was one of George's neighbors.

87. Cullum, *Biographical Register*, 1: 524; Heitman, *Historical Register*, 1: 229; James Bomford pension application file, invalid claim 384,396 and Louise Bomford pension application file, widow's claim 552,494, certificate 384,396, Records of the Veterans Administration, RG 15, NA.

88. James Bomford pension application and Louise Bomford pension application file.

89. Birth and death information is from Louisa's death record; see Rhode Island Death Records, 64: 760, FHL microfilm 1,839,576.

90. *Daily National Intelligencer*, 11 August 1831, p. 3, col. 3.

91. *Ibid.*, 9 September 1835, p. 3, col. 3.

92. Birth date from 1880 Derby Family Sheet is roughly consistent with her age at death on 28 November 1895—i.e., 77 years, 10 months, 28 days; see Portland Death Records, 8: 251, FHL microfilm 0,012,019.

93. *District of Columbia DAR, G.R.C. Report: Church of the Epiphany*, 28; marriage license, 28 October 1845, according to Pippenger, *District of Columbia Marriage Licenses, Register 1*, 52.

94. Documentary proof of the birth and marriage data has not been found; the above detail is from handwritten notes of their granddaughter, Emily Bomford Gordon, via a copy provided by Wright Bomford Jr. of Houston, Texas. (Emily's father Harry was the brother of Wright's grandfather, George Dillard Bomford.) This source is hereinafter cited as Gordon Family Record. For George Erving's year of death, see Fort Smith District Probate Records, Administration Bonds, 1861–68: 137–39, FHL microfilm 1,034,055.

95. Death notice, *Daily National Intelligencer*, 16 September 1845, p. 3, col. 3.

96. Louise Bomford pension application file, previously cited.

January 1892 at Elizabeth, New Jersey.<sup>97</sup> On 21 September 1840, at Madison Barracks in Sackett's Harbor, New York, James married **Louise Victoire Clark**, daughter of Brigadier General Newman S. and Elizabeth Clark. Born 10 May 1818 at Old Fort Muro (Plattsburgh Barracks), New York, Louise died 17 August 1901, New York City.<sup>98</sup>

James, an 1832 graduate of West Point, served in the Eighth Infantry through the Blackhawk, Seminole, Mexican, and Civil Wars. As a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Eighth Infantry, he was stationed in Texas when that state voted to secede from the union, and his commanding officer, Brigadier General David E. Twiggs, surrendered his federal troops to the state of Texas on the premise that the U.S. forces there were insufficient to resist. Most of the surrendered troops accepted parole in April 1861 and returned to the United States; James refused parole. He was transferred to Libby Prison in Richmond, a Confederate detention point for Union officers, where he was exchanged in May 1862 and rejoined his unit. Gravely wounded at the Battle of Perryville (8 October 1862), he was sent home—but recovered and returned to active duty once again. In 1872, he retired as a brigadier general.<sup>99</sup>

James Votey and Louise (Clark) Bomford had four children:

- + 8 i. GEORGE NEWMAN<sup>3</sup> BOMFORD, born 1841 in New York; died in New York City, 5 September 1897.<sup>100</sup> George was baptized “at age 2” on 14 April 1843, at St. John’s Episcopal Church of Elizabeth, New Jersey.<sup>101</sup> In 1873, at Fort Shaw, Montana, he married Sallie Russell.<sup>102</sup>
- 9 ii. JAMES VOTEY BOMFORD JR., born about 1844 in New Jersey; died 1850–60.<sup>103</sup>
- + 10 iii. ELIZABETH BERNARDINE “LILLY” BOMFORD, born 23 August 1845 at Fort Brook, Florida; died 24 January 1940 in Bennington, Vermont. On 4 November 1871 at Elizabeth, New Jersey, Lilly wed Captain John William French Jr., U.S. Army.<sup>104</sup>

97. *Ibid.*; James Bomford obituary, *Elizabeth Daily Journal*, 6 January 1892, p. 1.

98. Louise Bomford pension application file, previously cited.

99. *Ibid.*; Cullum, *Biographical Register*, 1: 524; Heitman, *Historical Register*, 1: 229. Caroline Baldwin Darrow, “Recollections of the Twiggs Surrender,” in Robert Underwood Johnson and Clarence Clough Buel, comps. and eds., *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, 4 vols. (New York: Century Co., 1887–88), 1: 33–39.

100. New York State death certificate, no. 27643 (1897), FHL microfilm 1,322,934.

101. Florence Evelyn Pratt Youngs, comp., “Records of St. John’s Episcopal Church, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 1750–1873” (undated transcription), 5\_\_ (unreadable page number between 50 and 55), FHL microfilm 1,019,522.

102. Sallie Bomford obituary, *New York Times*, 25 November 1896, p. 5, col. 6.

103. This child appears with his mother in the household of his maternal grandmother on the 1850 U.S. census, Essex County, New Jersey, population schedule, Elizabeth township, p. 6, dwelling 71, family 82 (Elizabeth Clark), NA micropublication M432, roll 449. His mother is there in 1860, but he is not; see 1860 U.S. census, Union County, New Jersey, population schedule, Elizabeth, ward 2, p. 537, dwelling 1381, family 1630 (Newman S. Clark), NA micropublication M653, roll 710.

104. Elizabeth French pension application file, widow’s claim 756,060, file X-C-2,672,920, certificate 539,395, Records of the Veterans Administration, RG 15, NA. See also Youngs, “Records of St. John’s, Elizabeth, New Jersey,” 45; Bennington Deaths, 42: 38, Town Clerk’s Office, Bennington, Vermont; and obituary of Mrs. Elizabeth B. French, *Bennington Evening Banner*, 25 January 1940, p. 1, col. 8.

- + 11 iv. FREDRIKA AUGUSTA BOMFORD, born in Elizabeth on 24 April 1859;<sup>105</sup> died after 1920, possibly near New York City. Married Carl Weidner.<sup>106</sup>

4. **Louisa Sophia<sup>2</sup> Bomford** (George<sup>l</sup>, Thomas<sup>A</sup>) was born of Louisa Sophia (Catton) Bomford on 3 May 1813 in Albany, New York; died 19 April 1864 in Newport, Rhode Island.<sup>107</sup> On 9 August 1831 in the District of Columbia, Louisa became the second wife of the Washington lawyer **Benjamin Lincoln Lear**,<sup>108</sup> who had been born on 11 March 1792<sup>109</sup> to President George Washington's personal secretary and overseer, Tobias Lear, and his wife, Mary Long.<sup>110</sup> Benjamin died the following year, 2 October 1832.<sup>111</sup> On 8 September 1835<sup>112</sup> Louisa wed again, becoming the second wife of **Richard C. Derby** of Boston, who had been born on 18 January 1777 in Salem, Massachusetts, to Elias Haskel and Elizabeth (Crowninshield) Derby.<sup>113</sup> Richard died on 4 April 1854 in Philadelphia, although he was a resident of Newport, Rhode Island, at the time.<sup>114</sup>

Louisa Bomford and Benjamin Lincoln Lear were the parents of

- + 12 i. LOUISALINCOLN<sup>3</sup>LEAR, said to have been born on 1 May 1832, in the District of Columbia;<sup>115</sup> died 30 December 1912, at which time her age was recorded as seventy-nine.<sup>116</sup> About 1856, in Florence, Italy, Louisa married James Wilson Eyre.<sup>117</sup>

Louisa Bomford and Richard C. Derby were the parents of

105. Return of Births; Elizabeth, Union County, New Jersey; entry 111 (1859), FHL microfilm 0,584,583.

106. 1900 U.S. census, New York County, New York, population schedule, Manhattan, p. 127A, enumeration district [ED] 516, sheet 12, dwelling 127, family 216 (Carl A. Weidner household), NA micropublication T623, roll 1105. 1920 U.S. census, Nassau County, New York, population schedule, North Hempstead, ED 76, Supervisor's District [SD] 5, sheet 6, dwelling 134, family 140 (Victor Weidner), NA micropublication T625, roll 1128. The family does not appear on the 1925 New York state census, Nassau County, FHL microfilm 0,528,885.

107. Rhode Island Death Records, 64: 760, FHL microfilm 1,839,576. Louisa's will was filed in 1869, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, case no. 49981, and recorded in Probate Book 167: 353; FHL microfilm 0,494,395.

108. *District of Columbia Marriage Licenses, Register 1*, 52; *Daily National Intelligencer*, 9 September 1835, p. 3, col. 4. Benjamin Lear's first marriage, on 26 July 1826, was to Maria Morris; see *Daily National Intelligencer*, 31 July 1826, p. 3, col. 4.

109. Congressional Cemetery cenotaph, noted in Wesley E. Pippenger, comp., *District of Columbia Probate Records, 1801–1852* (Westminster, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 1996), 178.

110. Dumas Malone, ed., *Dictionary of American Biography*, 20 vols. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1943), 11: 76–77.

111. Benjamin Lear obituary, *Daily National Intelligencer*, 2 October 1832, p. 3, col. 4.

112. *Daily National Intelligencer*, 7 September 1835, p.3, col. 3; Pippenger, *District of Columbia Marriage Licenses, Register 1*, 355.

113. Elias Haskel Derby is named as Richard's father on Richard's death record; see Rhode Island Death Records, 53: 834, FHL microfilm 1,839,574. His mother is identified as Elizabeth Crowninshield in Sydney Perley, *The History of Salem*, 3 vols. (Decorah, Iowa: Anundsen Publishing, 1928), 3: 146.

114. Rhode Island Death Records, 53: 834.

115. 1880 Derby Family Sheet.

116. Philadelphia Death Index, card 28889, FHL film 1,380,642; if age at death is correct, then Louisa's birth year was 1833.

117. Caleb Cushing Eyre, "Descendants of George and Elizabeth Eyre of England (1658), 1658–1883," (undated manuscript, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia), 35, FHL microfilm 0,388,566.

- + 13 ii. RICHARD CATTON DERBY, born April 1847, in the District of Columbia;<sup>118</sup> died 26 February 1923 in Brookline, Massachusetts.<sup>119</sup> On 14 March 1876 in Newport, Rhode Island, Richard wed Mary Byrd Tucker.<sup>120</sup>

**5. Ruth Theodora<sup>2</sup> Bomford** (George<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>A</sup>) was born of Clarissa “Clara” (Baldwin) Bomford in the District of Columbia on 1 January 1818; she died in Portland, Maine, on 28 November 1895.<sup>121</sup> On 29 October 1845 in the District of Columbia, she wed **Captain John (Jott) Stone Paine**.<sup>122</sup> Born 14 November 1798 in Portland to Josiah and Phebe (Stone) Paine,<sup>123</sup> John died there on 2 May 1859.<sup>124</sup> After rising to commodore in the U.S. Navy, Paine blighted his military career with an 1852 court-martial conviction on two counts: running aground in Havana Harbor and oppressing his men while in command of the USS *Cyane*. He was dismissed from command, reprimanded, and placed on the retired list two years later. Those court-martial proceedings reveal that he had a fiery temper.<sup>125</sup>

Ruth Theodora Bomford and husband John (Jott) Stone Paine were the parents of four children, as follows:<sup>126</sup>

- + 14 i. CLARA BOMFORD<sup>3</sup> PAINE, born 5 July 1846 in the District of Columbia, died 3 August 1886 in Greenwich, Connecticut.<sup>127</sup> On 17 August 1871 in Portland, Maine, she married Dudley Selden Trowbridge.<sup>128</sup>
- 15 ii. ANNA MARIA THORNTON PAINE, born 7 June 1848 in Maine; died 28 February 1903 in Portland.<sup>129</sup> Anna never married. She lived in Portland all her life and reared her sister Ruth’s younger children, following Ruth’s death.<sup>130</sup>

118. 1900 U.S. census, Newport County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Newport, ward 4, ED 221, sheet 11, dwelling 185, family 224 (John N. Griswold household), NA micropublication T623, roll 1505.

119. Massachusetts Death Index, 1921–25, FHL microfilm 0,954,725. Obituary, *Newport News*, 27 February 1922, p. 12, col. 3.

120. Newport Marriage Register, 1: 183; FHL microfilm 0,944,996.

121. 1880 Derby Family Sheet; Portland Death Records, 8: 251. She was buried 30 November 1895 in Evergreen Cemetery, Portland, according to the grave plat the cemetery office supplied the author in July 1997.

122. *District of Columbia DAR, G.R.C. Report: Church of the Epiphany*, 28.

123. A detailed service record of John Stone Paine, prepared 20 July 1939 by the Department of the Navy for Adm. M. H. Simons, is now in possession of the author. Cmdr. Paine legally changed his name from Jott Stone Paine, as noted in a letter of Lt. John S. Paine to Levi Woodbury, Secretary of the Navy, 22 July 1833; *Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy from Commissioned Officers below the Rank of Commander and from Warrant Officers (“Officers’ Letters”), 1802–1884*, p. 22; NA micropublication M148, roll 86.

124. Portland Death Records, 5: 171; John Paine obituary, *Eastern Argus*, 3 May 1858, p. 1, col. 2.

125. *Records of the General Courts-Martial and Courts of Inquiry of the Navy Department, 1799–1867*, case 1388, NA microcopy M273, roll 76, frames 480–589.

126. Birth dates of the Paine children were registered many years after the fact in Portland birth records, Book 6: 134, FHL microfilm 0,012,013, and are consistent with data shown on their death records.

127. Clara Trowbridge death certificate no. 592 (1886), Town Clerk’s Office, Greenwich.

128. Portland Marriage Records, 5: 195, FHL microfilm 0,012,026.

129. Evergreen Cemetery, Portland; cemetery office grave plat, supplied July 1997. Anna’s Maine birth is cited in 1860 U.S. census, Cumberland County, Maine, population schedule, Portland, ward 6, stamped p. 147, dwelling 65, family 1216, NA micropublication M653, roll 436. However, the registration of the Bomford children in Portland states “not born in Portland”; see Portland birth records, Book 6: 134.

130. Recollections of Ruth’s daughter and the author’s godmother, the late Sarah Van Mater, then of St. Helena, California.



- 16 iii. GEORGE ERVING BOMFORD PAINE, born April 1850 in Portland;<sup>131</sup> died there on 6 September 1851.<sup>132</sup>
- + 17 iv. RUTH THEODORA PAINE, born 27 April 1853 in Portland;<sup>133</sup> died there on 12 November 1895.<sup>134</sup> On 1 September 1874, also in Portland, Ruth wed Dr. Manley Hale Simons, Captain, U.S. Navy.<sup>135</sup>

6. **George Erving<sup>2</sup> Bomford** (George<sup>l</sup>, Thomas<sup>A</sup>) was born to Clarissa “Clara” (Baldwin) Bomford on 31 March 1820 in the District of Columbia; he died in 1864, in or near Fort Smith, Arkansas.<sup>136</sup> About 1851, he married **Martha “Mattie” Arkansas Dillard**, who had been born 17 August 1832 at Moore’s Rock, Arkansas, to John Penn and Sallie Price (Moore) Dillard, who migrated there from Virginia.<sup>137</sup> Mattie died on 21 December 1900 in the town of Ft. Smith.<sup>138</sup>

Named for the diplomat George Erving, his mother’s friend,<sup>139</sup> young Erving practiced medicine for several years in the District of Columbia before moving to Fort Smith in 1848. There he served part-time, on contract, as acting assistant surgeon until that military establishment was seized by Arkansas state troops in April 1861.<sup>140</sup> During the prewar years, he shared a practice with one Dr. George G. Shumard, with whom he filed a lawsuit in 1853 to recover medical fees from a local resident who had died without paying.<sup>141</sup> Ft. Smith was devastated for much of the war, and few records survive.

As might be expected, the couple’s loyalties were tested by the war. According to descendants, Mattie was a colorful individual who, as Yankee soldiers advanced past the Bomford home, pushed the piano onto the porch and loudly played “Dixie.” Some descendants are quite certain that *both* Erving and Mattie’s sympathies lay with the South,<sup>142</sup> but contrary evidence exists. One of the surviving documents

131. Portland Birth Records, 8: 221 and 271, FHL microfilm 0,012,014.

132. Portland Death Records, 5: 43, FHL microfilm 0,012,019.

133. Portland Birth Records, 6: 134, FHL microfilm 0,012,013.

134. Portland Death Records, 8: 250, FHL microfilm 0,012,019.

135. Portland Marriage Records, 5: 263, FHL microfilm 0,012,026.

136. Gordon Family Record; Fort Smith District Probate Records, Administration Bonds, 1861–68: 137–39, FHL microfilm 1,034,055.

137. *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwestern Arkansas* (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889), 1291.

138. Record of Report of Deaths Filed with City Clerk of Fort Smith, Arkansas, 1881–1908 [page number undecipherable on film, entries are in chronological order], FHL microfilm 1,034,198; also St. John’s Episcopal Church Register, Fort Smith, vol. 2, 1884–1926: 448, FHL microfilm, 1,022,214.

139. This statement is an assumption, based upon the fact that approximately one-third of the Baldwin Collection consists of letters from George Erving to Clara.

140. Amelia Whitaker Martin, comp., *Physicians and Medicine, Crawford and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas, 1817–1976* (Fort Smith: Sebastian County Medical Society, 1978). The National Archives holds contract records for George Erving Bomford only through 31 March 1861; see Personal Papers of Medical Officers, Entry 561, Box 59; Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, RG 94, NA. No Confederate records have been found for him.

141. *Bomford et al. v. Grimes ad[m.]*, 17 Ark. 567 (1856) and *Clark, Exr. v. Bomford & Shumard*, 20 Ark. 440 (1859).

142. Wright Bomford Jr. ascribes this tradition to Mattie’s grandchildren, one of whom was Wright’s father.

relates a “Grand Ball” held at Fort Smith on 16 November 1863 to honor “Generals Blunt and McNeil,” for which Dr. Bomford served on the invitation committee.<sup>143</sup> Those vaguely identified generals were undoubtedly Major-General (and Dr.) James G. Blunt of Maine and Major-General John McNeil, both of the U.S. forces engaged that fall in the reconquest of Arkansas.<sup>144</sup>

On 29 September 1865, Mattie A. Bomford, as administrator, and two associates were ordered to make an inventory of the possessions of George E. Bomford, deceased, who had died intestate “on or about the [blank space] 1864.”<sup>145</sup> Financially ruined by the war and Reconstruction, Mattie appears to have considered applying for a U.S. pension as the widow of a Union veteran. A letter dated 21 October 1879, written by a former Union ordnance officer, asks if “Dr. G. M. [sic] Bomford, who was post surgeon at Ft. Smith during the winter 1863–4,” was carried on army rolls. The government’s reply was that he was “Acting Ass’t. Surgeon in 1861.”<sup>146</sup> No pension application materialized. At Mattie’s death in 1900, she was buried beside Erving in Oaks Cemetery, Ft. Smith.

George Erving and Martha “Mattie” Arkansas (Dillard) Bomford were the parents of

- + 18 i. GEORGE DILLARD<sup>3</sup> BOMFORD, born at Ft. Smith on 5 June 1853;<sup>147</sup> died 31 July 1910 at Manila, Philippine Islands.<sup>148</sup> About 1880, in LaVaca, Arkansas, George married Claudia Keziah Wright.<sup>149</sup>
- 19 ii. JOHN BALDWIN BOMFORD, born at Ft. Smith in 1855;<sup>150</sup> died 1 May 1876 in Little Rock, Arkansas.<sup>151</sup>
- 20 iii. ERVING JESSUP BOMFORD, born at Ft. Smith on 8 October 1858; baptized

143. Carolyn Pollan, “Fort Smith under Union Military Rule, September 1, 1863–Fall 1865,” *The Journal* (Fort Smith Historical Society) 6 (April 1982): 8.

144. Johnson and Buel, *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, 3: 447–48, 4: 376–77.

145. Fort Smith District Probate Records, Administration Bonds, 1861–68: 137–39, FHL microfilm 1,034,055.

146. J. L. Miles, “Act’g. Ord. Officer, 1863–4,” under the letterhead of Slimer & Raibe, Dealers in Fresh & Salt Meats, Cincinnati, to J. K. Barnes, U.S. Surgeon General; Personal Papers of Medical Officers, entry 561, box 59; Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, RG 94, NA. The Bomfords were not among the South’s Union sympathizers who filed claims with the U.S. for reimbursement of property losses in the wake of the Civil War; see Gary B. Mills, *Southern Loyalists in the Civil War: The Southern Claims Commission* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1994), under variant spellings.

147. George D. Bomford personnel application, in “Record of Employees, Office of the Depot Quartermaster, Manila, P.I., December 1905.” A photocopy of the original is held by Wright Bomford Jr., inherited from his uncle, the late George Erving Bomford, who evidently sent to the government for all records on his father, George Dillard Bomford. This source is hereinafter called the George Dillard Bomford Papers.

148. Government death notification, 5 August 1910, signed by C. Metcalf, Capt. and Quartermaster, U.S.A., Office of U.S. Burial Corps, Manila, P.I., George Dillard Bomford Papers.

149. Marriage information is from grandson, Wright Bomford Jr. The couple and 3 sons are listed among communicants on 1 January 1887, in St. John’s Episcopal Church Register, Fort Smith, 2: 20.

150. 1860 U.S. census, Sebastian County, Arkansas, population schedule, p. 1135, city of Fort Smith, p. 183, dwelling 1313, family 1273; NA micropublication M653, roll 50.

151. Burial, St. John’s Episcopal Church Register, Ft. Smith, 1: 252.

there on 12 August 1860;<sup>152</sup> He died, unmarried, on 1 June 1918 in Howard County, Arkansas.<sup>153</sup>

- 21 iv. JAMES MOORE BOMFORD, born 4 March 1861; buried 12 August 1867.<sup>154</sup>
- 22 v. CLARA BOMFORD, born 1863; died before 1866, presumably at Ft. Smith.<sup>155</sup>
- + 23 vi. HENRY (“HARRY”) CLARK BOSSERT BOMFORD, born at Ft. Smith on 17 April 1864;<sup>156</sup> apparently died between 1913 (when he was named an heir of Colonel George Bomford)<sup>157</sup> and 1920 (when his second wife was enumerated as a “widow” in Tampa, Florida).<sup>158</sup> Harry married Emily “Emma” Janett Nicodemus in 1890 and Margaret Ann Bayless in 1892.<sup>159</sup>

### THIRD GENERATION

8. **George Newman<sup>3</sup> Bomford** (James<sup>2</sup>, George<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>A</sup>), born in 1841 in New York;<sup>160</sup> died on 5 September 1897 in New York City.<sup>161</sup> In 1873 at Fort Shaw, Montana, he married **Sallie Russell**, who had been born about 1849 to the New York City judge Abram D. Russell and his wife, Eliza. Sallie died in that city on 23 November 1896.<sup>162</sup> When the Civil War erupted, George immediately enlisted in the Forty-second New York Volunteers and was decorated for bravery at Antietam and Fredericksburg. After the war, he followed the family pattern, becoming a career officer. Retiring on a disability in 1890 with the rank of major,<sup>163</sup> he settled with his wife in New York City. George N. and Sallie (Russell) Bomford had one son.<sup>164</sup>

10. **Elizabeth “Lilly” Bernardine<sup>3</sup> Bomford** (James<sup>2</sup>, George<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>A</sup>), born 23 August 1845 at Fort Brook, Florida; baptized 26 October 1849 in Elizabeth, New

152. Baptism, St. John’s Episcopal Church Register, Ft. Smith, 1: 82.

153. *Arkansas Death Records Index, 1914–1923* (Conway, Arkansas: Arkansas Research, 1996), 44; St. John’s Episcopal Church Register, Ft. Smith, 2: 458.

154. Baptism and burial, St. John’s Episcopal Church Register, Ft. Smith, 1: 86, 250.

155. Gordon Family Record lists Clara’s birth in this year but gives no date. St. John’s was closed from March 1863 to January 1866; no records were kept. There is no burial record for her after this gap. She does not appear in the family household on the 1870 U.S. census, Sebastian County, Arkansas, population schedule, city of Fort Smith, ward 2, p. 224, dwelling 19, family 21; NA micropublication M593, roll 64.

156. Baptism (as an adult), St. John’s Episcopal Church Register, Ft. Smith, 1: 88.

157. Second probating of George Bomford estate.

158. 1920 U.S. census, Hillsborough County, Florida, population schedule, Tampa, ward 3, ED 40, SD 1, sheet 26, dwelling 418, family 578 (Harry B. Bomford household), NA micropublication T625, roll 222.

159. Sebastian County Marriage Records, Fort Smith District, 1889–1895: unnumbered, chronological order, FHL microfilm 1,034,043.

160. Youngs, “Records of St. John’s, Elizabeth, New Jersey,” 45. FHL microfilm 1,019,522.

161. George N. Bomford obituary, *New York Times*, 6 September 1897, p. 7, col. 7; New York State death certificate 27,643 (1897), FHL microfilm 1,322,934.

162. *New York Times*, 25 November 1896, p. 5, col. 6; New York State death certificate 38,354 (1896), FHL microfilm 1,322,921.

163. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of New York*, NA microcopy 551, roll 12. William H. Powell, ed., *List of Officers of the Army of the United States from 1779 to 1900* (New York: Hammersley, 1900), 200; *New York Times*, 6 September 1897, p. 7, col. 8.

164. Receipt of Distributee, George N. Bomford, in second probating of George Bomford estate.

Jersey;<sup>165</sup> died 24 January 1940 in Bennington, Vermont; buried in the military cemetery at West Point.<sup>166</sup> On 4 November 1871, at Elizabeth, Lilly married **John William French Jr.**, who had been born 2 June 1845 in the District of Columbia; and died 11 November 1901 as commanding officer at Fort McPherson Barracks, Atlanta.<sup>167</sup> Colonel French was the son of a West Point professor and chaplain, John W. French, and his wife Clara Miller. His paternal grandmother was Sally (Baldwin) French, a younger sister of Clara (Baldwin) Bomford—making Lilly and her husband second cousins.<sup>168</sup> After the death of Colonel French, Lilly lived at various times with her married daughters. She and John had two daughters and a son.<sup>169</sup>

11. **Fredrika Augusta<sup>3</sup> Bomford** (James<sup>2</sup>, George<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>A</sup>) was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, 24 April 1859,<sup>170</sup> and died after her appearance on the 1920 U.S. census.<sup>171</sup> Fredrika married a portrait artist named **Carl C. Weidner**, who had been born in New Jersey during March 1865.<sup>172</sup> Until 1904, both were listed as artists in Manhattan directories. Fredrika and Carl had one son.<sup>173</sup>

12. **Louisa Lincoln<sup>3</sup> Lear** (Louisa<sup>2</sup> Bomford, George<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>A</sup>), born 1 May 1832,<sup>174</sup> in the District of Columbia; died in Philadelphia on 30 December 1912.<sup>175</sup> Louisa's husband was **James Wilson Eyre**, a Philadelphia lawyer, who had been born in Pennsylvania in 1822 to the shipbuilder Manuel Eyre and his wife, Ann Connelly;<sup>176</sup>

165. Youngs, "Records of St. John's, Elizabeth, New Jersey," 56, FHL microfilm 1,019,522. Birth data also appear in Elizabeth French pension file, Widow's Claim 756,060, file X-C-2,672,920, certificate 539,395, Records of the Veterans Administration, RG 15, NA.

166. Elizabeth French death registration, Bennington Deaths, 42: 38; obituary, *Bennington Evening Banner*, 25 January 1940, p. 1, col. 8; burial records, John William French and Edwin Styles Curtis files, U.S. Military Academy Archives, West Point.

167. Elizabeth French pension file, previously cited; obituary of Col. French, *New York Times*, 13 November 1901, p. 9, col. 7; burial records, USMA Archives, West Point.

168. Charles Candee Baldwin, *Supplement to the Baldwin Genealogy* (Cleveland: P.p., 1889), 1084.

169. 1920 U.S. census, Westchester County, New York, City of New Rochelle, ED 127, p. 121A, SD 6, sheet 10, dwelling 178, family 204 (Francis M. Wilson), NA micropublication T625, roll 1278. Also, Elizabeth French pension file, previously cited.

170. Return of Births; Elizabeth, Union County, New Jersey, entry 111 (1859), FHL microfilm 0,584,583.

171. 1920 U.S. census, Nassau County, New York, population schedule, North Hempstead, ED 76, sheet 6, line 96 (Victor Weidner), NA micropublication T625, roll 1128. The family does not appear on the 1925 New York state census, Nassau County, FHL microfilm 0,528,885.

172. 1900 U.S. census, New York County, population schedule, Manhattan, ED 516, p. 127A, SD 1, sheet 12, dwelling 127, family 216; NA micropublication T623, roll 1105. No marriage record has been found for Fredrika to Carl C. Weidner. However, the second probating of the George Bomford estate, previously cited, includes a Receipt of Distributee signed by Fredrika Weidner as "niece of George C. Bomford and a daughter of James V. Bomford, deceased sons of George Bomford."

173. *Trow's New York City Directory*, annual ed. (New York: Trow City Directory, 1891–1900), FHL microfilm 1,000,863–1,000,867; *Trow's General Directory of the Boroughs of Manhattan and Bronx, City of New York*, annual ed. (New York: Various publishers, 1899–1905), FHL microfilm 1,377,206–1,377,208, 1,606,123–1,606,125. Identification of a son is from the 1900 U.S. census cited in prior note.

174. 1880 Derby Family Sheet.

175. Philadelphia Death Index, entry 28,889 (1912), FHL microfilm 1,380,642.

176. Eyre, "Descendants of George and Elizabeth Eyre," 35. Wilson's birth year is extrapolated from his age at death and his reported age in the 1850 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania,

he died 4 September 1901.<sup>177</sup> Louisa and Wilson are said to have married at Florence, Italy, where Wilson was a consular officer; however, that service has not been confirmed.<sup>178</sup> About 1869 they retired to Newport, Rhode Island,<sup>179</sup> where they lived for at least nineteen years.<sup>180</sup> They lie interred at The Woodlands in Philadelphia, beside four of their five children.<sup>181</sup>

13. **Richard Catton<sup>3</sup> Derby** (Louisa<sup>2</sup> Bomford, George<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>A</sup>), born April 1847, in the District of Columbia;<sup>182</sup> died 26 February 1923 in Brookline, Massachusetts.<sup>183</sup> On 14 March 1876 in Newport, Rhode Island, Richard married **Mary Byrd Tucker**, who had been born during June 1851 in Charleston, (West) Virginia,<sup>184</sup> to Henry G. and Mary E. Tucker; she died at Newport on 22 June 1918.<sup>185</sup> A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, class of 1868, Richard resigned in August 1884<sup>186</sup> to pursue a career in real estate at Newport.<sup>187</sup> They had two sons.<sup>188</sup>

14. **Clara Bomford<sup>3</sup> Paine** (Ruth<sup>2</sup> Bomford, George<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>A</sup>), born 5 July 1846 in the District of Columbia; died 5 August 1886 in Greenwich, Connecticut.<sup>189</sup> On 17 August 1871 in Portland, Maine, Clara wed **Dudley Selden Trowbridge**,<sup>190</sup> son of Dr. William Henry and Sylvia (Peck) Trowbridge.<sup>191</sup> During his marriage to Clara, Dudley published the *Stamford Standard* and the *Norwalk Express*.<sup>192</sup> Clara and three of her seven children died of diphtheria within one week in 1886.<sup>193</sup>

population schedule, Philadelphia, Walnut Ward, p. 444B, dwelling 210, family 278 (Manning Kennard household), NA micropublication M432, roll 813.

177. Philadelphia Register of Deaths, 1901: 140, FHL microfilm 1,011,830.

178. Eyre, "Descendants of George and Elizabeth Eyre," 35. Wilson's name does not appear on *List of U.S. Consular Officers, 1789–1939*, microcopy 587, roll 7, available also as FHL film 0,830,452; but this source does not list all attaches and other employees.

179. Biography of son Wilson Eyre, in Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, eds., *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects* (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing, 1956), 202.

180. The Eyres were "of Newport" in 1888 when their son Lincoln married; see *New York Times*, 21 June 1888, p. 5, col. 3.

181. The Woodlands Cemetery Office records, supplied by employee R. Earl Hood to writer, January 1998.

182. 1900 U.S. census, Newport County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Newport, ward 4, ED 221, sheet 11, dwelling 185, family 224.

183. Massachusetts Death Index, 1921–25, FHL film 0,954,725.

184. Newport Marriage Register, 1: 183, FHL microfilm 0,944,996. 1900 U.S. census, Newport County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Newport, ward 4, ED 221, sheet 11, dwelling 185, family 224.

185. Rhode Island Death Index, 1916–20, FHL microfilm 1,906,586; *Newport News*, 24 June 1918, p. 10, col. 2.

186. *United States Naval Academy Alumni Association, Register of Alumni*, 81st ed. (Annapolis: The Academy, 1966), 14.

187. *Newport News*, 27 February 1923, p. 12, col. 3.

188. Obituary of Mary Derby, *Newport News*, 24 June 1918, p. 10, col. 2; obituary of Richard Derby, *Newport News*, 27 February 1922, p. 12, col. 3.

189. Clara Trowbridge death certificate no. 592 (1886), Town Clerk, Greenwich.

190. Portland Marriage Records, 5: 195.

191. Francis Bacon Trowbridge, *The Trowbridge Genealogy: History of the Trowbridge Family in America* (New Haven, Connecticut: Tuttle, Morehouse and Taylor Co., 1908), 496.

192. *Ibid.*

193. The death records of the three Trowbridge children are in Greenwich Deaths, 2: 594, Town Clerk, Greenwich.

17. **Ruth Theodora<sup>3</sup> Paine** (Ruth<sup>2</sup> Bomford, George<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>A</sup>), born in Portland, Maine, on 27 April 1853;<sup>194</sup> died there on 12 November 1895.<sup>195</sup> On 1 September 1874 also in Portland, Ruth married **Dr. Manley Hale Simons**, Captain, U.S. Navy, son of Joseph and Amanda (Gillett) Simons.<sup>196</sup> A graduate of the University of Michigan<sup>197</sup> and a career naval surgeon,<sup>198</sup> Dr. Simons retired to St. Helena, California, where he died 29 August 1922. They had seven children.<sup>199</sup>

18. **George Dillard<sup>3</sup> Bomford** (George Erving<sup>2</sup>, George<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>A</sup>), born 5 June 1853 at Ft. Smith, Arkansas;<sup>200</sup> died 31 July 1910 at Manila, Philippine Islands.<sup>201</sup> About 1880, George married **Claudia Keziah Wright**, who had been born at Rome, Georgia, on 17 April 1861, as daughter of Gabriel and Martha (Woodruff) Wright.<sup>202</sup> Claudia died on 17 August 1932, Santa Monica, California.<sup>203</sup>

George, who left Claudia in the late 1880s,<sup>204</sup> worked at various occupations: first as a carpenter, then as a railroad postal clerk, and then at the U.S. prison in Muscogee, Indian Territory.<sup>205</sup> Eventually joining the army, he served as a corporal in the Third Texas Volunteers and the Twenty-second Infantry. Sent with the latter troops to the Philippines in 1899 and 1900,<sup>206</sup> he remained there, after peace was made, as a civilian employee of the U.S. government.<sup>207</sup> Meanwhile, about 1895, Claudia and her three sons relocated to southeastern Oklahoma, where she operated a boardinghouse before retiring to California.<sup>208</sup> A daughter died in childhood.<sup>209</sup>

23. **Henry “Harry” Clark Bossert<sup>3</sup> Bomford** (George Erving<sup>2</sup>, George<sup>1</sup>, Thomas<sup>A</sup>), born at Ft. Smith, Arkansas, in December 1864;<sup>210</sup> he is presumed to

194. Portland Birth Records, 6: 134.

195. Portland Death Records, 8: 250; Evergreen Cemetery Office records.

196. Portland Marriage Records, 5: 263.

197. *University of Michigan, General Catalogue of Officers and Students, 1837–1911* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1912), 310.

198. *Abstracts of Service Records of Naval Officers (“Records of Officers”), 1829–1924*, vol. 15: 334–48, 476, 492; NA micropublication 1328, consulted as FHL microfilm 1,579,079.

199. M. H. Simons obituary, *St. Helena Star*, 1 September 1922, p. 1; Evergreen Cemetery Office Records.

200. Quartermaster’s employee record. George Dillard Bomford Papers.

201. Government death notification, 5 August 1910, George Dillard Bomford Papers.

202. Undated transcription from Wright Family Bible (now lost), made by Claudia’s nephew, the late Gabe Sharpe of San Juan Capistrano, California; copy provided to author by Wright Bomford Jr.

203. Claudia Wright death record, certificate 42,972 (1932), California State Registrar of Vital Statistics, Sacramento.

204. Family tradition reported by Wright Bomford Jr.

205. George D. Bomford discharge papers, 22 February 1899 and 7 May 1900; Quartermaster’s employee record; both in George Dillard Bomford Papers.

206. George D. Bomford discharge papers, George Dillard Bomford Papers.

207. Quartermaster’s employee record, George Dillard Bomford Papers.

208. 1900 U.S. census, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, population schedule, Shawnee, ED 201, SD 219, sheet 7, dwelling 137, family 138 (Mrs. C. M. Whittock household); NA micropublication T623, roll 1342.

209. Emily Gordon to Wright Bomford Sr., reported to present author by Wright Bomford, Jr.

210. Adult baptism, St. John’s Episcopal Church Register, 1: 88, FHL microfilm 1,022,214. 1900 U.S. census, Hillsborough County, Florida, population schedule, Tampa, ward 3, ED 68, p. 302B, SD 2, sheet 8, dwelling 146, family 162 (Harry C. Bomford household).

have died, place unknown, before 1920, at which time his wife is identified as a “widow.”<sup>211</sup> Harry was a plumbing contractor and likely the proprietor of Bomford Plumbing, which submitted a bid for running gas lines to the Fort Smith jail in October 1887.<sup>212</sup> On 26 January 1890 at Van Buren (Crawford County), Arkansas, he wed **Emily “Emma” Janett Nicodemus**, daughter of J. W. Nicodemus of Van Buren.<sup>213</sup> Emma, who had been born in Ohio on 9 December 1872, died on 30 or 31 January 1891, following the birth of a daughter, who survived.<sup>214</sup> In 1892, Harry married **Margaret Ann Bayless**, who had been born in April 1871 in Tennessee.<sup>215</sup> They relocated to Tampa, Florida, where they had two children.<sup>216</sup>

## CONCLUSION

Most lives are marked with ups and downs; those of George and Clara Bomford were no exception. In his last letters to Clara, George looked to an end of their financial woes and the start of a comfortable, if not luxurious, retirement—with the yoke of embarrassing debts finally removed from their necks. This was not to be, as his probate file shows. The payment of debts consumed all but an inconsequential portion of his estate. Throughout these travails and those of their children in decades to come, one theme endured—one set by George himself: a commitment to public service and national defense. Out of the post-Revolutionary sentiment that convinced George to bury his past and out of the scandal that was forced upon the youthful Clara by a husband who betrayed the public’s trust as well as hers, the Bomfords created a life and a legacy of note.

---

211. 1920 U.S. census, Hillsborough County, Florida, population schedule, Tampa, ward 3, ED 40, sheet 26, line 9 (Harry B. Bomford household). Florida’s State Bureau of Vital Statistics reports no death record for Harry.

212. Edwin Bearss, “Furnishing New Federal jail and the 1888 Report on Marshal Carroll’s Activities,” *The Journal* (Fort Smith Historical Society) 3 (April 1979): 30.

213. Sebastian County Marriage Records, Fort Smith District, 1889–1895: unnumbered, chronological order.

214. Record of Report of Deaths Filed with City Clerk of Fort Smith, 1881–1908 [page number undecipherable on film, entries are in chronological order], records her death as 30 January 1891. Her tombstone in Oaks Cemetery gives death date as 31 January, a date consistent with her burial record in St. John’s Episcopal Church Register 1: 442.

215. Sebastian County Marriage Records, Fort Smith District, 1889–1895: unnumbered, chronological order.

216. 1900 U.S. census, Hillsborough County, Florida, population schedule, Tampa, ward 3, ED 68, p. 302B, SD 2, sheet 8, dwelling 146, family 162.

---